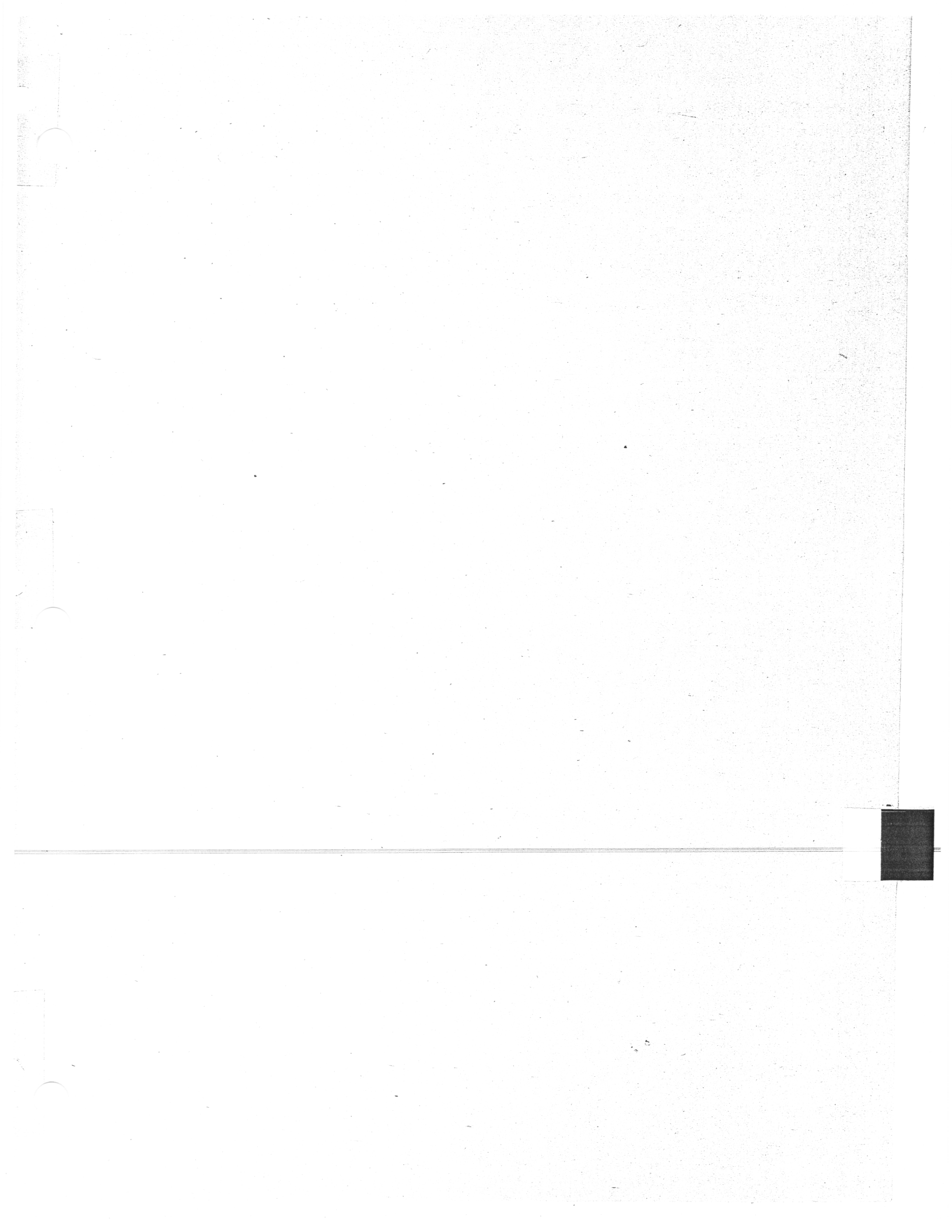


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Volume 6

1970-----



January 15th, 1970

The Columbian

INDIANS TO GET POSTS AS GUARDS

Forty Native Indians are to be recruited and trained as Prison Guards and Parole Officers in the four Western Provinces, Solicitor General George McLlraith announced in Ottawa today.

Tom Hall, Western Regional Penitentiary Director at New Westminster added that probably ten will eventually be allocated to Penitentiaries of each of the four provinces.

The policy stems from a 1967 recommendation that Indians be hired to help rehabilitate those of their own race who ran afoul of the law. Since then, the Federal Government has instituted a plan by which it pays for on the job training of Indians and Eskimos in Federal Departments, and the Solicitor General's Department will be the first to take advantage of the offer.

Hall said the Indians will be hired and trained in two classes with twenty from Manitoba and Saskatchewan being selected now for a start of training at Kingston in mid February.

After seven weeks of schooling, they will be assigned as trainees to Penitentiaries in their home provinces.

Another twenty selected from Alberta and British Columbia will attend the same school starting in April, and will then work as trainees in their provinces.

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The Indians will be treated exactly as any other members of the Penitentiary Staff, not as members of a special ethnic group, Hall said.

When vacancies occur in the permanent staff, they will fill them if they have reached the required proficiency.

There are almost no Indian prisoners in Penitentiaries east of Manitoba, and only one Eskimo in prison in British Columbia.

There has been no discrimination against hiring Indians for Penitentiary work, another official said. They have always been welcome to apply for jobs, but few do.

They seem to hold themselves aloof from the law enforcement side of society.

A few Indians are on staff in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but in order to recruit them in quantity, the Solicitor General's Department has had to ask help from the Indian Affairs Department and Northern Affairs Department.

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January 20th, 1970

The Columbian

PAIR SCALE WALL AT PENITENTIARY

Two dangerous B.C. Penitentiary inmates are still at large today, following a dramatic over the wall escape Monday night, January 19th, using a secretly made canvas rope to climb the twenty-five foot wall by the prisons' north-west Tower.

The escaped prisoners are Raymond Joseph Palmer, 33, and Murray Allan Boyd, 31. Prison Officials believe the pair escaped between six and seven-thirty p.m. Both men were described as dangerous.

They were reported missing by guards conducting a regular seven-thirty p.m. head count after the evening recreation period which follows supper.

A thorough check of all areas in the Maximum Security prison turned up a canvas rope equipped with an iron hook dangling from the North-West Tower adjacent to Cumberland Street.

Boyd, serving five years for theft, has a previous escape record. Palmer has a long criminal record and was currently serving a six year sentence for possession of stolen bonds.

Last man to escape from the prison was twenty-nine year old convicted murderer Rodger Fulton, who scrambled over two fences from an exercise yard in March 1969. He was recaptured two days later outside a Vancouver gun store.

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Boyd was shot and killed by Vancouver Police April 21st,
1970.

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August 8th, 1970

The Columbian

B.C. PEN REBELLION QUELLED WITH GAS

One shot was fired and tear gas was used early today to win an eight hour protest by about two hundred and eighty convicts in the B.C. Penitentiary exercise yard.

More than two hundred duty prison guards, R.C.M.P. Officers and New Westminster Police were called in to help end the disturbance.

Rocks and wood were thrown, and at times through the night, convicts charged against the ten foot mesh fence surrounding the yard.

Warden Eric C. Atkins said the open air sit in was apparently staged over three issues.

The prisoners were protesting the death Tuesday of inmate Walten Brass, 26, who was pronounced dead in Royal Columbian Hospital. A New Westminster Coroner's Jury ruled his death was due to a cerebral hemorrhage.

The convicts, a prison spokesman said, claimed that Brass had been beaten by guards and his death was murder.

Brass was transferred to the Penitentiary six months ago from Saskatchewan.

In addition, the inmates said they wanted an end to "Skin-

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Frisks", a prison procedure in which inmates were stripped during searches for contraband or drugs.

The convicts also demanded that prison authorities get in touch immediately with the Federal Justice Committee which has been probing conditions in Canadian Penitentiaries.

All three points were rejected by the B.C. Penitentiary staff.

Several fires were lit by the convicts throughout the night in the yard area and the New Westminster Fire Department was called in.

Some injuries were reported during the clearing of the yard. None were believed serious.

A Penitentiary spokesman said the decision was made to "wait out" the prisoners, but at 3:20 a.m. when the inmates showed no sign of returning to their cells, tear gas cannisters were lobbed into the yard.

About two thirds of the men returned voluntarily to their cells while the remaining men, about one hundred strong, were lined up against the wall and escorted back.

The prison spokesman said all exercise periods have been cancelled for today.

The demonstration which ended today was the second staged at the prison this year.

In late May, members of the Allied Indians Metis Society

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demanded better treatment for inmates after a brief sit-in was staged in the exercise yard. There was no violence and the men eventually returned to their cells.

In early June, the twelve member Parliamentary Justice Committee described the prison as "ancient, medieval, outmoded and ill equipped".

On August 10th, the Columbian reports all is quiet on B.C. Penitentiary front. British Columbia Penitentiary was reported calm Sunday following an eight hour sit down protest that ended early Saturday when some two hundred and eighty prisoners were chased from the exercise yard with tear gas and high pressure hoses.

Officials at the Penitentiary said that there had been no trouble since the men returned to their cells about 4:30 a.m. Saturday.

Warden Eric Atkins, described the mood of the men as "Obscene, violent, dangerous, unreasonable and very ugly".

Some one hundred and twenty men in the Field Squadron At Chilliwack, were put on standby but were not needed.

A few prisoners returned to their cells when police reinforcements appeared on the outside of the chain link fence, topped with barbed-wire surrounding the yard.

About two hundred and fifty prisoners stood their ground, they threw rocks, baseball bats, and horseshoes at the police

lines hitting some officers and smashing some police car windshields.

On August 11th, the Columbian reports: New Westminster M.P. Doug Hogarth Monday issued a statement regarding the recent protest at the B.C. Penitentiary.

"I am disturbed about what happened at the Penitentiary Friday night. It is obvious that the Penitentiary cannot continue to exist as a maximum security Institution without a repetition of similar incidents taking place".

No blame can be attached to the Penitentiary staff. Nonetheless, it appears that within the Penitentiary, trivial grievances are building up into major complaints.

On August 17th, 1970, the Columbian reports a singing, chanting, jeering mob of over one hundred yippie revolutionaries marched on the B.C. Penitentiary in New Westminster Sunday and left gifts for the Inmates outside a prison gate.

The Yippies came to show support for the prisoners who staged an all night sit-in protesting the death of an inmate.

Sunday's march was a non-violent demonstration starting at Queens Park, they marched in an orderly fashion down Sixth street and turned right on Cumberland Street until they reached a gate along the outer wire fence of the Penitentiary.

Here they placed two boxes of articles donated by the Yippies

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for the prisoners, we hope the prison officials will give these articles to the men, said the spokesman.

In the boxes were assorted candies, cigarettes, magazines including one guerilla warfare tactics from Brazil, a transistor radio, apples and carrots.

A group of the demonstrators crossed Cumberland Street and made for the wire fence where they were warned back by a Yippie with a bullhorn. The demonstration broke up and the Yippies made their way back to Queens Park leaving their offerings at the gate.

October 1st, 1970

The Columbian

LAST DOUK TERRORIST FREED FROM AGASSIZ

Bill Babakaeff will be a free man today, marking a milestone in the history of British Columbia and of Agassiz Mountain Prison.

Babakaeff, 56, is the last of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors to be freed from sentences for terrorist crimes in the Kootenay region in the early 1960's.

A former Doukhobor prison has been converted to quarters for elderly and disabled prisoners from other prisons in the Penitentiary System.

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December 9th, 1970

The Columbian

CONVICT TRIO TO FACE THREE CHARGES

Three B.C. Penitentiary inmates have now been charged in connection with an incident last Sunday in which a guard was allegedly held at knife point. (This would be on December 6th.)

Tupholme, 22, White, 24, both of Vancouver and Dwyer, 25, of Ottawa were charged in Montreal.

The trio will be brought back to New Westminster to appear in court. All three are charged with forceably confining the unidentified guard, with possession of an offensive weapong and with common assault.

The incident involving the guard apparently occured when the inmates decided to force prison authorities to speed up a transfer to St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary.

The guard was held at knife point for two and one-half hours.

Friday, December 17th, 1970

The Columbian

THOMAS HEADS PEN GROUP

A former B.C. Penitentiary Instructor, Larry Thomas, was elected President of the newly formed Retired Federal Prison Officers Association at an inaugural meeting.

Association member Bill Reed said the main objects of the organization will be to keep in contact with all retired Penitentiary Officers and to give advice and assistance.

Other officers appointed were Harry Collins, Vice-President and Jabe Auton, Secretary Treasurer.

Reed said the next meeting will be held in February, 1971, when the matter of by-laws, dues and incorporation will be decided.

All retired officers wishing to attend should contact Jabe Auton, the Secretary Treasurer.

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Wednesday, August 18th, 1971

The Columbian

FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM WINS AWARD FOR B.C. PENITENTIARY

New Westminster's ninety-three year old B.C. Penitentiary has been given the top award for its Fire Prevention Program. The Penitentiary was awarded the Howard Green Trophy for the best annual fire prevention program in multi-building complexes of Federal Government Civil Departments and Agencies.

The B.C. Penitentiary also placed third in an International Competition held by the National Fire Protection Association.

Every staff member in the prison has been trained to operate fire extinguishers and other apparatus as well as rescue procedures for emergencies.

Special Safety Campaigns are also carried out at various times of the year.

Warden F.C. Atkins said fine co-operation by the New Westminster Fire Department had helped maintain the high level of fire protection.

The Penitentiary is almost as big as a small town, with a population of between seven hundred and eight hundred, including officers and inmates.

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Friday, January 21st, 1972

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY GUARDS TOLD "SEW UP OR SHIP OUT"

At the last count, about twenty-five per cent of B.C. Penitentiary Correctional Officers are still defying an edict from on high to replace existing shoulder flashes with bilingual ones.

But the numbers are dwindling and by weekend, it seems only a few die-hards will still be resisting. The crunch came Wednesday when a senior keeper was instructed to take the names of all those who are still holding out. At the same time, the guilty ones were told "Sew up or ship out" or words to that effect.

I question the Federal Government's steam roller approach to the switch, since the correctional staff was simply presented with the flashes and ordered to change forthwith.

No explanations were given, and in any case, the existing English language flashes are barely two years old.

Still, one can't help feeling this particular dispute is much ado about nothing. The French and English titles, saying, Solicitor General, and Soliciteur General, are so much alike, I wonder why the change was necessary in the first place.

The Nation-wide Guards beef centres around the fact that the French line is given top billing over the English, and this,

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say the Guards, is the thin end of the wedge. Solicitor General Jean-Pierre Goyer is out to French-Canadianize the Service, and they want no part of it.

Although the Penitentiary Service is para-military in concept, the fact remains the guards are civilians, and as such, one would have thought somebody on Parliament Hill might have taken the time and the trouble to explain what the change was all about.



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Friday, January 25th, 1972

The Columbian

ESCAPEE FROM B.C. PENITENTIARY CHARGED IN AUSTRALIA

Raymond Joseph Palmer, one of Canada's most wanted criminals, was charged in Sydney, Australia, Thursday with illegal possession of fire-arms, and was remanded in custody until March 3rd.

Palmer escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary in January, 1970, while serving a six year sentence for possession of stolen bonds.

Australian Police say Palmer and his brother, both of whom were arrested in a police raid early Thursday, are being questioned by Australian narcotics agents. Honolulu police have been asked to be on the lookout for a third man who left Sydney by air for Hawaii earlier this week.

The bearded Palmer, 35, surrendered without a struggle but armed police burst into a home in a Sydney suburb. The brother, who was not named was arrested in a nearby house.

Two loaded .38 calibre revolvers, a quantity of ammunition and several hundred dollars in Australian currency were found in the house where Palmer was living with Canadian born Joyce Kruissen and her two children.

State Police began questioning Palmer about a series of armed holdups in Sydney area, and narcotics agents were called in later.

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Palmer has been on the R.C.M.P. list of most wanted criminals since his 1970 escape with Murray Boyd. Boyd was shot by Vancouver Police April 21st, 1970, while resisting arrest.

After his death police linked Boyd through weapons of close associates with four murders committed during his one hundred and two days of freedom. All four killings were said to be connected with the struggle between two crime syndicates for control of the hard drug trade in Vancouver.

From Penitentiary Service Headquarters

March 2nd.1972

Employment of Ex-inmates and Parolees

1. We believe the Canadian Penitentiary Service should have a clear policy with regard to the employment of ex-inmates and parolees. If we are to ask employers to hire ex-inmates, we especially must be ready to do so; This progressive step has already been taken in other jurisdictions and has been proposed by many authorities in the field of corrections. Apart from the rehabilitation aspect, the point is made that many ex-inmates are the very individuals who have had valuable experience as recipients of the correctional program and are well suited to communicate with inmates.
2. The Service's traditional position that ex-inmates could not be employed and, indeed, that any member of the staff who ran afoul of the law for whatever reason was required to terminate his employment, is going to be extremely difficult to maintain. The Department is sponsoring after-care agencies which are seeking to rehabilitate ex-inmates and assist them in finding gainful employment. Parole Officers are engaged in the same activities. Our own programs aim at the rehabilitation of inmates and their eventual return to gainful employment in normal society. In the light of these common objectives, it is rather incongruous that we do not employ ex-inmates; it places the Service and its Officers in a position whereby they are urging outside employers to do what they themselves will not do.
3. The Penitentiary Act provides that "every officer of the Service" is a peace officer. It has been suggested that a person who has been an inmate of a penitentiary is prevented from becoming a peace officer. Our legal advisor states there is no provision of the law that would preclude an ex-inmate from becoming a full-time employee of the Service and thus automatically becoming a peace officer.
4. The Public Service Commission, as the employing agency of the Federal Government, encourages Government Departments to assist in the rehabilitation of ex-inmates, having due regard to the nature of the

offence committed and the type of work proposed. Here again, the Canadian Penitentiary Service is the exception as we do not accept ex-inmates on our staff.

5. The management policy committee came to the decision that there was no objection to the hiring of ex-inmates provided they possess the necessary qualifications and the right attitudes.

However, before implementing this change in policy, we want to be sure that all aspects of the question have been considered. Accordingly, we are asking you to discuss this matter with-

- (a) your officers
- (b) staff
- (c) labour-management committee, and
- (d) the inmate committee

to ensure that every shade of opinion has been considered. Unless you completely reject the proposition, we would like to recommend-

- (i) the type of inmate you consider should be employed;
- (ii) the type of work in which inmates should preferably be employed
- (iii) any area where they should not be hired.

Please give reasons for your recommendations.

6. It is recognized that if this policy is to be successful and bring worthwhile results, we must proceed with care to ensure that the initial appointments are carefully selected and are placed in situations where there is high likelihood of success, otherwise a few failures at the beginning could destroy the program. For these reasons, we solicit your frank and constructive comments.

Commissioner of Penitentiaries.

Monday, May 8th, 1972

The Columbian

PENSIONS SAY NO TO GOYER'S PLAN

Not a single citizen has volunteered to room and board paroled prisoners under the recently announced Federal Government Program, Solicitor General Jean-Pierre Goyer, said over the week-end.

If vast number of senior citizens reject our program enlisting their help in rehabilitating the convicts, then we will look to other citizens, Mr. Goyer said in an interview.

There are 1.7 million senior citizens in Canada today and of these at least one million need supplementary income. If only a few came forward to take part in our scheme and give it a chance, then I am sure it would be off on a successful start, he said.

Mr. Goyer recently announced in Ottawa the plan for placing paroled prisoners in the homes of senior citizens, as a step towards rehabilitation. He said the program is entirely voluntary.

Mr. Goyer was in Victoria Friday to announce plans for a \$278,000.00 construction project at the William Head Minimum Security Institution.

Five prisoners, who are within a year of being released, will be employed in the project and will be paid the Federal Minimum Wage of \$1.75 an hour for a forty hour week with time and a half for overtime. They will be required to pay income

tax, Canada Pension and unemployment insurance deductions.

The inmates will also pay \$25.00 a month for room, \$50.00 a month for board, and \$2.00 a week for clothing.

Mr. Goyer said similar projects would be carried out at prisons throughout Canada if the construction project proved to be successful.

Tuesday, July 18th, 1972

The Columbian

PRISON-VAN ESCAPE BID FOILED

An escape attempt by two men being escorted to Vancouver to face Bank Robbery charges was foiled Monday following a fight between the pair and B.C. Penitentiary guards in a prison Van speeding through Burnaby.

The men, Conrad Gratton and James Cyril Ashton, both believed to be from Eastern Canada, were being taken to Provincial Court to face charges in connection with the armed robbery of a Toronto Dominion Bank Branch in Vancouver.

The men, said by prison officials to have been wearing restraint equipment, are alleged to have attacked the guards and tried to commandeer the van. The driver put out a distress call to Burnaby R.C.M.P. and police cars converged on the van. By the time police arrived on the scene the guards had regained control, cruisers escorted the van back to the prison.

On the 20th July, the two inmates were charged with attempting to escape from Penitentiary guards who were escorting them to Vancouver for a court appearance. They are also charged with assaulting a Peace Officer, Ashton and Gratton recently escaped from Cowansville prison in Quebec.

Thursday, August 10th, 1972

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATE ESCAPES ON WAY TO SEE DOCTOR
A 27 year old inmate serving a nine year sentence for armed robbery escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary late Wednesday morning.

Ted McConnell managed to slip away from a prison escort on Blue Mountain Road in Coquitlam about 11:00 a.m. while on his way to a medical appointment and tests.

Penitentiary official Allan Scowcroft explained as far as he can tell McConnell just bolted and ran, but specific details are not yet available. He said an investigation is being conducted.

Coquitlam R.C.M.P. report that he was last seen entering a red Datsun with chrome mag wheels near the area of his escape.

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Monday, August 21st, 1972

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATES HOLDING WOMAN

Two inmates today held a woman staff member hostage inside the B.C. Penitentiary. A woman was seized shortly after 10:00 a.m. in the inmate administrative building.

The two refused to specify what their demands were, but ordered that all negotiations must be between themselves and a R.C.M.P. representative. Prison officials said they had no idea what the men wanted.

Officers from Vancouver R.C.M.P. detachment were sent into the prison to speak with the inmates. Names of the prisoners and their hostage were not released.

On Tuesday, August 22nd, the Columbian reports a national parole board officer flew from Ottawa today for a conference with two inmates who surrendered Monday night after holding a woman hostage for nearly eleven hours, much of the time at knife point.

Kyle Stevenson was meeting this afternoon with the prisoners. The meeting was the price Penitentiary Officials paid for the safe release of Penitentiary Classification Officer Jean Young.

The two prisoners, Ken Unwins, 26, and Paul Petit, 28, had begun their holdout drama by demanding full pardons, erasure of their records and immediate release from the Penitentiary.

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They had also at one point threatened suicide if these demands were not met. They had overpowered two prison workers about 9:00 a.m. in the prison classification building at the Penitentiary. Acting Deputy Director Hugh Grest was released shortly after he was seized, but Mrs. Young was held throughout the long tense day. Mr. Grest was freed when Penitentiary officials agreed to allow an inmate committee representative to sit in on negotiations.

Mrs. Young was detained in a classification record vault from 9:00 a.m. until 7:41 p.m., when the inmates surrendered to police and Penitentiary employees.

On her release, Mrs. Young's first words were, "I pity the poor boys, they were more scared than I was".

Monday, August 28th, 1972

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATES GRADUATE

Graduation ceremonies with a difference took place Sunday within the barred closely guarded doors of the B.C. Penitentiary. The forty graduates have taken the first opportunity ever available in a Canadian Maximum Security Institution to receive a year of University education.

In the eyes of the educators it was an experiment and Sunday's ceremonies were the celebration of its effectiveness.

The next problem for the educators and the inmates who took part is to convince the politicians to continue the program.

The Donnor foundation provided \$35,000.00 and the Federal Government matched it. One of the largest grants the foundation had ever provided, it paid for an initial outlay which will not be necessary to continue the program.

To educate forty-five inmates only \$35,000.00 will now be needed, he said, and he hopes this will be provided by the Federal Government.

The Valedictorian for the inmate graduation during the ceremony, Jean Lachapelle, was chosen by his fellow prisoners.

Friday, November 3rd, 1972

The Columbian

PEN MEN PROTEST CITY TRAFFIC SIGN

Security Officers at the B.C. Penitentiary plan to challenge the conviction of one of their members of making an illegal left turn onto East Columbia Street.

The charge was upheld by Judge R.R. Holmes, Tuesday, when Roy Tapp-Cowan, a Penitentiary security officer, appeared in New Westminster Provincial Court after being served with a traffic violation ticket by a New Westminster Police Officer.

Defence Council Edward Chaisson claimed that the sign prohibiting a left turn out of the Penitentiary driveway was not properly installed and discriminated the Penitentiary staff.

He pointed out that it forced staff members to drive around the Penitentiary perimeter to get home, a drive of some twenty minutes. After the hearing the President of the B.C. Penitentiary local of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, said the conviction would be appealed.

He said also that a presentation would be made on behalf of Penitentiary staff to New Westminster Council asking for the removal of one of the signs and the installation of a traffic light at the intersection.

On Friday, April 6th, 1973, the Columbian reports, workers at the B.C. Penitentiary have won a decision in support of the left hand turns. Mr. Justice I.G. Reetans of the New Westminster Appeal Court ruled Thursday that the City Council

did not have the power to pass a bylaw establishing "no left turn" signs on Federal property at the B.C. Penitentiary.

Mr. Justice Reetan's decision came down after the court heard the appeal of Roy Tapp-Cowan, a Penitentiary guard who was ticketed for making a left hand turn out of the Penitentiary grounds.

The sign was erected by the city about two years ago and prohibited left turns from Penitentiary property on to Columbia Street.

The city engineer said the signs were placed on the Penitentiary property after discussion with prison officials and done as a safety measure. Mr. Justice Reetan ordered the city to pay \$100.00 costs.

Monday, November 17th, 1972

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY WORKERS PROTEST TO GOYER

Dissatisfaction among staff members at other Federal prisons is reflected in action taken by the Public Service Alliance of Canada members at the B.C. Penitentiary.

Letters expressing dissatisfaction with procedures at the Penitentiary have gone to the Solicitor General Jean-Pierre Goyer and Commissioner of prisons P.F. Faguy, following a meeting of the employees last week.

Jack Vegt, secretary treasurer of the New Westminster Local 20016 of the P.S.A.C. said today members are "extremely dissatisfied about some administrative procedures, one being overtime pay".

Mr. Vegt said guards could mount a mass book-off if the situation doesn't improve, and warned "if things aren't straightened out we could have another Millhaven or Collins Bay here" (a reference to unrest at two Ontario Institutions recently).

Staff has been consistently made to work overtime, he said, because of a manpower shortage which never seems to end.

Overtime pay (which comes from Ottawa) is sometimes twenty-one and one-half weeks late. Grievances are not getting satisfactory hearings, at least half a dozen have been

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sitting at "the fourth level" (the desk of Mr. Faguy)
for up to seven months without action.

The locals spokesman also charges inconsistencies in
sentences handed out to inmates by the disciplinary board.

Wednesday, November 22nd, 1972

The Columbian

UNIVERSITY COURSES FOR B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATES

The Federal Government has awarded the University of Victoria a contract to provide University level credit courses to inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary.

The University had conducted courses on an experimental basis during the past year for forty-three inmates completing one or more courses at the first year University level.

Under the Federal contract between forty and fifty inmates will receive first year University level courses plus remedial education.

University courses are provided at some other penal Institutions in Canada and the United States but usually only on a course-by-course basis. We are aiming at total commitment and this explains, at least in part the requests from prisoners for more study time, study areas and evening sessions.

Dr. Ayers said another major purpose of the program not provided by single courses is to have each man develop a more mature set of standards once he is released.

Thursday, December 21st, 1972

The Columbian

WEAPONS FOUND IN B.C. PENITENTIARY

B.C. Penitentiary Warden F.R. Graves confirmed today a routine contraband search of the prison a few days ago uncovered a quantity of hidden weapons.

The items found, a knife and mechanisms designed for assembly into a handgun, indicate somebody was planning an escape Mr. Graves said. As a result, five inmates have been segregated from the rest of the inmates and will be held in segregation until an inquiry has been completed.

Mr. Graves said he could not reveal where the arms were found but commented that the inquiry into the discovery, now going on, would hopefully be concluded Friday.

Saturday, December 23rd, 1972

The Columbian

TURKEY DINNER SET FOR PEN INMATES

Inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary will get some extra amenities this weekend, and a special Christmas menu for the three meals on Christmas day.

The inmates were treated to a special Christmas concert last Sunday and inmate parcels were distributed Friday, Salvation Army sunshine bags will be handed out at lunch hour on Christmas day and the Institution will also give out gift bags of chocolate bars, gum, and toffee.

Christmas day breakfast will be chilled sugared grapefruit, cornflakes, bacon and eggs, toast and fruit bread, coffee or milk.

Lunch will consist of chilled apple juice, sliced ham, potato salad, pickles, salad, cookies, Christmas cake, japanese oranges, an apple, a bag of chocolate bars, bread and butter and coffee.

Dinner will be turkey noodle soup, roast turkey with dressing and gravy, creamed cauliflower, corn niblets, sesame rolls, celery sticks, cheese fingers, Christmas pudding with rum flavoured sauce, bread and butter, coffee.

Christmas services will be held on Sunday, December 24th, with the choir of the Christian Reformed Church singing in the Protestant Chapel, and Father M.J. Barry officiating

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in the Roman Catholic Chapel.

On Christmas day, there will be a service of Holy Communion for those who wish to attend in the Protestant Chapel.

To celebrate New Years, hot dogs and coffee will be served on New Years Eve and indoor and outdoor recreational events.

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Wednesday, February 21st, 1973

The Columbian

COUNTERFEITS MADE IN PRISON FORMER B.C.P. INMATE SAYS
An Edmonton policeman says a former inmate of the B.C. Penitentiary made and passed counterfeit fifty and one hundred dollar bills while he was serving a term in the prison.

The bills were good enough to make it all the way to Ottawa before being detected by Bank of Canada employees.

The convicted forger is alleged to have told the detectives he made the bills, and passed them while an inmate of the Royal City Prison.

The detective said he understood the chemicals used were obtained from the Penitentiary hobby shop on the pretext they were needed for a hobby the inmate claimed to be working on.

Penitentiary Warden Richard Graves said he had never heard of counterfeit bills made in the prison.

"But if it were even rumoured I am sure we'd have heard about it by now. There is nothing to lead us to believe the bills were actually manufactured in the Penitentiary", he said.

The Warden said prison officials are checking to see what chemicals are being issued to inmates from the hobby shop.

The question of whether the inmate ever had weekend passes is no longer part of the B.C. Penitentiary records, Mr. Graves said. The inmate's files have been transferred to Prince Albert Penitentiary where he is serving time for the Edmonton forgeries.

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Friday, May 4th, 1973

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY DRUGS RESEARCHER ON POT CHARGE

A Federally employed Penitentiary Service Research officer who recently completed a study of drug-use among prison inmates has been charged with growing marijuana at his Surrey home.

Charged are Brian Murphy, 42, a member of the Penitentiary Service Regional Staff, and his wife Jeannette, 34, a temporary employee of the Penitentiary Service who is assisting her husband on an inmate profile study to determine the type of future Penitentiaries required in B.C.

Mr. Murphy and his wife are scheduled in Provincial Court in Cloverdale May 22nd, to answer police accusations that they cultivated one hundred and seven marijuana plants at their home. After an initial appearance in Court March 29th, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy were released on their own recognizance.

A statement issued Thursday by Al Hadvick, President of the B.C. Penitentiary Local of the Public Alliance of Canada, blasted Penitentiary authorities for refusing to restrict contact between the accused couple and Penitentiary inmates.

The prison management, at local and national level, have refused to agree to a Union demand that contact should be restricted, Mr. Hadvick said.

Morale at the prison has suffered because of the management's lack of action, the union is not demanding that these people should be dismissed or suspended only that contact with inmates should be restricted until they have answered the charge against them in court.

The accused couple have not been suspended, suspensions occur only when they are deemed necessary to present jeopardy to the Penitentiary Service or when the nature of the incident is such that it affects matters within that service.

On May 23rd the two charged were remanded to August 21st.

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Saturday, May 12th, 1973

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY CONDITIONS SHOCK M.P.

Burnaby-Richmond-Delta M.P. John Reynolds emerged from a tour of the B.C. Penitentiary Thursday and said he was "shocked" by the conditions inside the prison.

The Government is always telling us how much they spend on rehabilitation for prisoners when they leave prison and yet there is none when they are inside.

The Pen is just a big machine shop turning out welders, with a few guys sticking patches on mail bags but that is all he said.

If the Government is so sincere on rehabilitating prisoners "where the hell is the rehabilitation in the B.C. Penitentiary" he asked. He said the Government should order an inquiry into prisons across Canada but with it being conducted by a Parliamentary Committee not a Royal Commission.

While inside the Penitentiary, the M.P. met with prisoners and he said he had some good ideas about the weekend pass system. For one thing the prisoners should be involved in granting weekend passes. They know better than the prison authorities which of the guys released are going to stay clean while they are out.

The cons can fool the authorities but they can't fool the other cons. They know which one is going out to rob a bank over the weekend.

On Monday May 4th, an editorial in the Columbian as follows:
Burnaby-Richmond-Delta M.P. John Reynolds took his first tour of the B.C. Pen on Thursday and predictably, came out an instant expert.

The Pen is nothing but a big machine shop turning out welders, what is needed, according to Mr. Reynolds, is a Parliamentary Committee to examine prison conditions, and that Solicitor General Warren Allmand visit the place he said.

For those who have forgotten and we doubt that Mr. Reynolds is among them, endless Parliamentary Committees have investigated conditions at the Pen, the most recent one only a year or two ago. Then New Westminster M.P. Doug Hogarth was a member of that committee.

Further, one of the first things Warren Allmand did after being appointed Solicitor General was to tour the prisons, B.C. Penitentiary was among them.

No great flipping priority is going to be put on prison reform and rehabilitative programs, because the public isn't ready for it. Look what happened to Mr. Trudeau when his government tried to make some basic reforms in parole and rehabilitative procedures.

While the programs made some silly errors and there were regrettable security lapses, in principle the liberal reforms were sound and went a long way toward overcoming the very things Mr. Reynolds, and every other politician on the publicity trail professed to be 'shocked' by.

Tuesday, May 22nd, 1973

The Columbian

CELL DUMMY FOOLS GUARDS

A widespread manhunt is continuing for a convicted bank robber who escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary Saturday after leaving a life like dummy in his cell.

The search for John Emmitte McCan, 25, continued as it was reported that two guards assigned to check his cell had no job training and less than three months experience.

The dummy, complete with hair from the prison shop, shoes sewn on stuffed trousers and a set of ear phones on a papier-machee head, fooled the guards making a head count.

The escapee scaled a barbed wire fence and eluded New Westminster police called to the area after residents reported seeing a man with bloodied hand running through Fraserview cemetery.

On May 23rd, 1973, the Columbian reports a union spokesman worried about the possibility prisoners taking hostages, says more armed guards should be posted on the prison perimeter and those in the Auditorium and the Exercise yard should be removed.

The Union, representing two hundred and eighty men in the Penitentiary, also feels that two guards should accompany any prisoner temporarily outside the prison.

Among other recommendations made by the guards are;

Full mechanical restraint equipment in addition to two officers should be used on prisoners in court or receiving outside medical attention.

Correctional Officers should receive more support from prison management in disciplinary matters involving inmates.

Temporary absences from Maximum Security Institutions should be discontinued, except for grave family illness, and then only with security escort. This practice provides a means to smuggle in weapons, drugs and money, with inmates often being threatened by other inmates to transport contraband.

Towers should be manned on a twenty-four hour basis.

A good incentive work program for inmates should be instituted.

Methods of training and deploying new correctional staff should be changed.

The practice of excluding senior staff for promotions has led to dissatisfaction and resentment among the staff.

Monday, May 28th, 1973

The Columbian

THIRTY-FOUR GRADUATES AT THE PENITENTIARY.

Some thirty-four classmates, received University Certificates Sunday in a special University of Victoria ceremonies in New Westminster.

The men completed an eight month course of University study with courses in English, History, Sociology and Psychology. For the men the highlight of the day was the chance to meet family and friends inside the prison auditorium, the inmate who gave the valedictory, told the audience "the people that you will meet and talk with here range from men doing three years, ten years or fifteen years, and to your surprise you will find men doing life".

Commenting on the risks of dealing with maximum security prisoners, he said the men spend eight months under the three visiting University teachers, with frequent visits by other instructors and professors.

There were no locks, no uniforms, no rattling of keys and no charges he said.

It was the first graduation under a continuing program funded by Federal Correctional Service and the University.

Last year an experimental program was started with a Conner Foundation Grant and inmates who were near release took part.

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This year's program was in contrast, with many students in prison serving life terms. A prison spokesman said that if the program expands as it is hoped some long term inmates could receive University degrees in future years.

Funds have been provided for next years course at the B.C. Penitentiary.

C.P.S. STAFF KEEP IN TOUCH

GARDONS CONTACT



Executive of the Retired Federal Prison Officers Association from left: H. A. Collins, president; joined C.P.S. in 1948 as a guard, retired 1970 as deputy warden; secretary, J. A. Auton, a guard from 1932, later a clerk until retirement in 1972; past president, L. E. Thomas, also a guard when he joined the Service in 1933, became plumbing instructor and retired in 1969. All three worked at B.C. Penitentiary.

Voici les membres du conseil d'administration de L'Association des agents de correction fédéraux à la retraite. De gauche à droite: M. H. A. Collins, président; entré au S.C.P. en 1948 (gardien), était sous-directeur lorsqu'il a pris sa retraite, en 1970; M. J. A. Auton, secrétaire; (1932) gardien, puis commis, jusqu'à sa retraite, en 1972; M. L. E. Thomas, ex-président; gardien (1933) instructeur de plomberie jusqu'en 1969. Tous trois travaillaient au pénitencier de la C.-B.

It began three years ago. A group of retired federal prison officers agreed getting together, saying "How do!", and offering a helping hand, are all-important gestures. So much so they formed their own association, and get together regularly to recall old-times and help each other.

Funds to cover organizing expenses were donated by the New Westminster Component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, and a minimal yearly fee keeps the association operating.

Interest is high. Close to 50 retired Canadian Penitentiary Service officers, most from B.C.'s lower mainland, others from scattered areas throughout the province, are members. Welcome also are retired staff from other provinces who reside in British Columbia.

The informal get-togethers are held at the Western Region Staff College of C.P.S. Knowing how Joe and Bill are getting on after retirement, and if Jim has recovered from a severe bout of flu is centre to the conversation at the friendly gatherings. When a member is sick, the executive keeps in touch by mail or telephone. Sometimes a visitor goes out to cheer up the patient.

Keeping in touch with work-friends when you're retired is as important as when you are together on the job, the association says. Because members are often separated by many miles, a bimonthly newsletter keeps them up-to-date between get-togethers. Most times the newsletter publishes minutes of previous meetings, with special messages to individual members. Sometimes Joe or Bill cannot get to a meeting — their apologetic letter is published in the next newsletter and tells its own story.

The association would like to see similar clubs formed across Canada. Former employees of C.P.S. and those planning to retire in B.C., or elsewhere, should contact H. A. Collins, President, Retired Federal Prison Officers Association, Suite 401, 621-8th Avenue, New Westminster, B.C.. He welcomes enquiries. ▲

C'était il y a trois ans. Des employés de prison à la retraite décidèrent qu'il fallait se réunir, voir comment chacun allait et, à l'occasion, s'entraider. Ils formèrent donc leur propre association et depuis, se réunissent régulièrement.

Les frais d'organisation ont été payés par l'élément de New Westminster de l'Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada. En plus, on demande aux membres une cotisation annuelle peu élevée qui couvre les frais d'exploitation.

L'idée n'a pas manqué de plaire à beaucoup et près de 50 anciens agents du Service canadien des pénitenciers, la plupart du sud de la Colombie-Britannique, d'autres de diverses régions de la province, ont adhéré au mouvement. On accueille également les anciens agents du S.C.P. qui ont travaillé dans d'autres provinces et qui maintenant habitent la Colombie-Britannique.

Ces réunions amicales ont lieu au Collège du personnel de la région de l'Ouest. Bien sûr, tout le monde veut savoir comment Joe et Bill s'arrangent depuis qu'ils ont pris leur retraite. Quand un membre est malade, le comité lui écrit ou lui téléphone. Il arrive même qu'un visiteur aille lui remonter le moral.

Il est aussi important, nous dit l'association, de garder contact avec les anciens compagnons de travail durant la retraite, qu'il ne l'était au cours de leur emploi. Comme les membres sont souvent éloignés les uns des autres, on les tient au courant en leur envoyant deux fois par mois un bulletin d'information.

L'association aimerait que soient formés d'autres clubs semblables au Canada. On demande aux anciens employés du S.C.P. et à ceux qui se proposent de se retirer en Colombie-Britannique, ou ailleurs, de communiquer avec M. H. A. Collins, président, Retired Federal Prison Officers Association, Suite 401, 621-8e avenue, New Westminster (C.-B.). Il répondra volontiers à vos demandes de renseignements. ▲

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Friday, June 1st, 1973

The Columbian

EXPERIENCED PENITENTIARY OFFICERS

Efforts are being made to meet demands for adequately trained and experienced security officers at the B.C. Penitentiary, Warden Richard Graves said today.

He warned that it was a slow process and an improvement in the prison staff situation wouldn't happen overnight.

Mr. Graves was commenting on a recent complaint of the B.C. Penitentiary Local of the P.S.A.C. THAT MORE TRAINED STAFF WAS NEEDED to ease the workload of the existing prison security staff and to improve morale.

The Warden said that a shortage of trained staff at the prison was the result of a number of factors. The opening of Matsqui a year ago, promotions to the regional service, and the normal turnover of Penitentiary staff had drained existing prison staffs, creating the need for replacements.

Mr. Graves said that of the two hundred and eighty people employed at the prison, approximately one hundred and twenty-eight are employed as security officers.

Of these, I would estimate that about one-third of the officers have been at the Penitentiary for less than a year, we are operating at less than full strength at the moment which necessitates the men working overtime on all three shifts, this is also adding to our morale problem.

Finding enough men of the right qualifications and calibre

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for the service is of necessity a long and slow process, the
Warden said.

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Finding enough men of the right qualifications and calibre

783

Monday, June 18th, 1973

The Columbian

INMATE BEATEN TO DEATH AT PEN MOVIE SHOW

An Inmate of the B.C. Penitentiary has been charged with murder in connection of the beating death Sunday of another prisoner.

Charged is Jacques Bellemare, 30, said to be from Eastern Canada and sent to the B.C. Penitentiary after sentencing in Prince George in February, 1972.

Gilbert Piche, 42, died in Royal Columbian Hospital Sunday, four hours after he allegedly was hit on the head with an iron pipe while inmates were watching a movie in the prison auditorium. Warden Richard Graves said the incident occurred just after the movie began at 2:00 p.m.

At the time the slaying was revealed Penitentiary officials report another inmate had been seriously injured in an earlier assault incident.

Carl Robishaud is in satisfactory condition in the Royal Columbian Hospital after he was stabbed by another inmate.

Warden Graves said the two incidents are not related, the man himself claims he doesn't know the assailant or the reason for the attack. This may or may not be true. Both investigations are said to have been hampered by what Warden Graves termed 'the code' or prison inmates. We do not always have the co-operation of other inmates in these circumstances, he said.

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Gilbert Piche was in jail, not for a violent crime but for overstaying a pass from the West Georgia Centre, a halfway house in Vancouver. He overstayed a pass while on a pre-release program in Vancouver and was returned to the Penitentiary for an additional sentence. Jacque Bellemare was eventually sentenced to twenty years for the murder of Piche.

784

Friday, June 22nd, 1973

The Columbian

PEN GUARD CHARGED

A B.C. Penitentiary Guard was arrested by Vancouver City Police this morning outside the prison gates on charges of theft and possession of dangerous weapons.

Gunther W. Schlieper, 24, of Parkdale Drive, Burnaby, was reporting to the prison for his night shift when he was taken into custody at 12:30 a.m.

He appeared in Vancouver Provincial Court today charged in connection with a June 8th theft of \$100.00 from a Vancouver woman.

He was also charged with possession of a hand gun and a bottle of acid.

Mr. Schlieper has been a guard at the prison since April.

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Saturday, June 23rd, 1973

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY DEPRESSING STANFIELD

Opposition Leader Stanfield took his first ever look at life behind the bars of a maximum security prison.

The Penitentiary is obviously an old institution and this is presenting the staff with problems, Mr. Stanfield said. Also there is an obvious shortage of qualified and experienced staff.

Interviewed outside the main entrance to the prison Mr. Stanfield said the visit had not affected his abolitionist views on the death penalty question and although he felt the Penitentiary fulfilled an effective roll he was not able to make any comparisons with other maximum security institutions elsewhere in Canada.

This is the first time I have been inside a maximum security prison, it was informative, interesting and I now plan to visit other institutions in other parts of the country.

I am not a penology expert which is why I plan to take further looks at other institutions in other areas of Canada. I will be in a better position to make suggestions for improvements when I know a little more about the problems involved.

786

Thursday, July 19th, 1973

The Columbian

PAIR FLEE PENITENTIARY

Two inmates escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary sometime overnight by cutting holes in the two fourteen foot high chain link fences surrounding the prison's recreation yard.

Prison officials say the two men apparently were aided by another inmate who locked the two in an equipment shed sometime during the evening recreation period Wednesday. The yard was cleared at 8:15 p.m. and when darkness fell, the two then smashed open the door of the shed and armed with what prison officials assumed was some sort of cutting tool, cut through the two fences and escaped.

The escape was discovered at about 2:30 a.m., when a guard checked the inmates' cell and found dummies stuffed under the bedclothes on their cots.

On July 20th five guards were suspended pending the outcome of an inquiry into the escape of the two prisoners Wednesday night.

B.C. Penitentiary Warden Richard Graves said today he hoped the guards will be back on the job tonight but he will not know the degree of negligence involved until the inquiry is complete.

Indications of some negligence showed up during this inquiry by a senior staff member of the Penitentiary into the prisoners' escape. This led to the suspensions.

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The staff disciplinary board would convene to investigate the guards' negligence and decide what action is to be taken if today's inquiry proves they have been negligent.

On July 30th, 1973, the Columbian reports; Burnaby R.C.M.P. today reported that one of the two men who escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary on July 18th has been arrested in Regina.

787

Thursday, September 30th, 1973

The Columbian

KILLER, RAPIST, STILL AT LARGE

A full police alert is out for two prisoners who escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary Wednesday, a citizen reported that the two men were picked up on Cumberland Street by a woman driving a blue station wagon.

Penitentiary officials said they are baffled as to how the two prisoners managed to climb the twenty-five foot wall.

On the 21st September the Columbian reports the two inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary, sought by police after they were reported to have escaped over a wall on Wednesday were found inside the prison late Thursday night.

Earlier the two men, both considered dangerous, were reported to have scaled the prison wall and made off in a waiting car driven by a woman.

Warden Frank Graves said "we ourselves never believed they had escaped". He said no clear proof was found that the men had climbed the walls and the inside search was intensified.

Shortly after 11:00 p.m. the men were found hiding in a crawl space under an old army H Hut (This was not an army H hut but was building B-9) which is used as a library, class room and meeting room for prisoners.

The inmates had slipped into the bricked in crawl space through

787 A

a floor ventilator under a cupboard in the hut.

The crown prosecutor has been consulted as to what charges against the two inmates.

(The two built a false wall under the building, they took the concrete blocks into the building under the pretense that they were building a planter, no one thought to question their operation.)

788

Saturday, October 6th, 1973

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY RESTORES ORDER AFTER TEN HOUR REVOLT

B.C. Penitentiary guards and officials restored order today after a ten hour rebellion by some inmates.

Trouble began following the evening meal Friday when prisoners refused to leave their cells for recreation period. The inmates of two cell blocks began shouting and banging on their cell doors. Then tossed burning articles and food trays from the cells, and in one block installations and windows were broken.

Prison authorities called in off duty guards to help put down the disturbance. An inquiry will be held into the protest. No injuries to guards or prisoners were reported.

All activities have been stopped at the prison except for meal distribution an official said. Privileges would be restored to prisoners not involved in the incident as soon as possible.

On October 12th, the Columbian reports that M.P. John Reynolds charged Thursday that the recent riot at the B.C. Penitentiary was not due to weather conditions, as authorities maintained.

The M.P. said the riot was touched off when the inmate committee resigned to protest changes in recreation activities in the prison.

Officials blamed weather conditions which had curtailed

788 A

recreational activities. The riot had resulted in slight damage to some cell blocks they said.

Mr. Reynolds said his information was that the damage was extensive. Mr. Reynolds said he would do "all in my power" to seek an independent inquiry into the prisons administration.

Prison Director Richard Graves said Thursday an inquiry had been held into the disturbance and he couldn't comment on Mr. Renold's charges.

On the 16th October the Columbian reports more than a week after the three day rebellion was put down, tempers of both guards and prisoners are said to be still near flashpoint.

Concerned about the situation, the Citizens' Advisory Committee scheduled a meeting today at the Penitentiary to stave off trouble.

Despite official efforts to minimize the extent of the weekend riot it is now known that at least twenty-three cells on 5A in the prison's east wing were totally wrecked during the disturbance. In addition, cement covered brick dividing walls between the cells were hacked down by rioters to give them free movement from one end of the floor to the other.

Until last Friday eighty-nine inmates involved in the riot were detained in the prison's correction unit (SCU, an extra secure building intended to accommodate only forty-four.)

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In the past few days at least one hand gun has been discovered and a search is on for another.

Those interviewed said even if inmates win back all withdrawn privileges, it is likely that there will be big trouble, as one put it, in the foreseeable future.

On October 17th, an editorial in the Columbian backed John Reynolds, M.P., in an inquiry into the administration in the B.C. Penitentiary.

On Thursday, November 18th, the Columbian reports a little more information about the October 5th riot at the B.C. Penitentiary emerged Wednesday in Ottawa.

Solicitor General Warren Allmand disclosed that sixty inmates had been transferred to other institutions since the riot to relieve accommodation at the prison.

Mr. Allmand's comments in an interview supported M.P. John Reynold that as many as forty-four cells were damaged during the three day riot, he said that repairs had been undertaken.

The Solicitor General was not sure whether all inmates transferred to special security cells have gone back to their own cells. Nor was he sure what demands the prisoners had made, although there were demands.

(The damage in the October 5th riot at the Penitentiary was not

788 C

as severe as quoted by the media, repairs were made by prison staff and the inmates occupied their cells ten days after the riot.)

789

Tuesday, October 23rd, 1973

The Columbian

PEN ACTIVITIES RESTORED

B.C. Penitentiary Director F.P. Graves said he feels it should be left to the Solicitor General Warren Allmand to decide whether an investigation is necessary into the October 5th riot at the Penitentiary.

He spent all day Monday visiting cell blocks and talking to guards and inmates.

He said all prisoners are now getting regular meals and exercise periods, but although it had been necessary to keep those involved in the riot locked in the cells during the weekend because prisoners working in the kitchen were "pressured" by other inmates in refusing to work there. John Reynolds, M.P., and other Tory M.P.'s visited the prison on the weekend, he said that after the tour eighty-nine prisoners were involved in the revolt and all of them are confined to their cells twenty-four hours a day, getting "two sandwiches three times a day" through the bars.

Herb Reynette, Deputy Regional Director of Penitentiary Services in Vancouver, conducted an investigation into the riot and his report was forwarded to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries in Ottawa last week.

Al Hadvick, President of the Local of the P.S.A.C., said that the Union's Local executive and members employed at the prison are co-operating with Penitentiary management to get conditions back to normal.

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On Thursday, October 25th, 1973, the Columbian reports that the B.C. Penitentiary inmates' strike in its twenty-first deadlocked day, the prison guards' union has telegraphed Solicitor General Warren Allmand demanding that he reduce overcrowding and institute an independent inquiry into the October 5th riot. Members of the Local for the P.S.A.C. sent a telegram to the Solicitor General stating "members of this Local are extremely dissatisfied with the inaction of management to get conditions back to normal at the B.C. Penitentiary".

Supervisors and other ranks in the correctional staff are not being given adequate direction from all levels of management. As a result, the situation at the Penitentiary appears to be deteriorating.

To keep inmates not involved in the disturbance locked up for twenty-three hours a day can only create more tension and bitterness towards staff and Institution administration.

Two guards who spoke to the Columbian on Wednesday said some members of the Penitentiary staff are demanding the suspension of prison Director F.R. Graves and three other senior officials pending the outcome of an independent inquiry.

On October 27th the Columbian reports, statements smuggled from the B.C. Penitentiary inmates say a \$100,000.00 wrecking orgy, which ended in the destruction of forty-four cells October 5th began as a mild protest.

The real reason for the full scale riot, one prisoner says,

789 B

was the over reaction by the prison administration under the direction of F.R. Graves.

Mr. Graves said inmates refused to go to the yard on Friday evening October 5th, one statement says "this is not true, they could not have refused because it is their privelege to either go to the yard or stay in their cells. Some inmates exercised this privelege as a mild form of protest, this does not constitute a riot".

The inmate said another tier of cells, (4F) was opened and as no one wished to go to the gymnasium, Mr. Graves ordered lock-up for the entire population.

The complaints the inmate lists are as follows;

A Protestant Prison Chaplain is acting as Deputy Warden and Officer of Court. The inmates say that because of this, prisoners do not have a confidential service of an actual Minister in time of need, because the Chaplain is regarded as a member of the security staff.

Prison medical facilities are not always available to those in need.

Dirty kitchens, poor food preparations, sloppy service, dirty trays, insufficient trays, cups, etc., poor kitchen staff.

Extremely poor recreation facilities.

Poor visiting arrangements, with inmates called late when visitors are waiting, abusive language to visitors.

789 C

Illegal censorship of mail, and mail arriving many days late.

Abusive treatment by staff, not necessarily violent but calculated to cause trouble.

Staff exercising powers when not warranted.

Poor living conditions in East and North wings of prison.

Other grievances listed are; unjust treatment of prisoners, promises made and not kept. Unnecessary use of force by guards. No recourse for inmates when charges are made by officers.

On October 29th (The Columbian). The Director of the B.C. Penitentiary said prisoners probably used a closed circuit radio system to transmit information during the October 5th riot at the institution.

Mr. Graves said prison authorities suspected it at the time of the riot and their suspicions were confirmed in an unsigned letter to the Columbian.

Mr. Graves said that charges that he ordered cells locked when inmates refused to go to the exercise yard was incorrect, because he was at home at the time and arrived at the Penitentiary later in the evening after a call from his staff.

Mr. Graves said cells were locked shortly after the disturbance began not because prisoners refused to go to recreation, but because food trays were not returned and prisoners in two

789 D

wings began throwing them.

On Wednesday, October 31st (The Columbian) A number of handguns have been found hidden in the B.C. Penitentiary (false) in a two day search by prison staff and army personnel equipped with metal-detectors.

The Regional Director declined to specify the number of weapons recovered. He said they were hidden in the structure.

The search turned up several pistols. We believe they were smuggled into the prison before the security clamp-down.

A comment by Solicitor General Warren Allmand led to confirmation that Penitentiary Director Frank Graves is retiring soon. Mr. Graves said his plans to step down had been submitted in September before the Penitentiary riot. At 56, with thirty-five years of service, he leaves on full pension.

The Regional Director emphasized that Mr. Grave's retirement had no connection with the recent outbreak.

On November 2nd, 1973.(A Columbian Editorial) An independent inquiry into the situation at the B.C. Penitentiary is as urgently needed today as when the post-riot furore was in full force. At the same time, we confess to a sinking feeling that those demanding such a probe are in danger of being out-manoeuvered.

During the past few weeks, the Columbian has published inside

789 E

reports, during and subsequent to the October 5th riot, these reports came from numerous persons, both guards and prisoners.

It is interesting, despite their differing orientations and goals, of the accounts of conditions and events by guards and prisoners tally so completely while the official statements issued by acting Regional Director differ in significant areas from those accounts.

Wednesday, December 14th, 1973

The Columbian

On page eleven of the Columbian there is a picture taken in front of the B.C. Penitentiary with the following comment.

Jack Harder, Chief Engineer at the B.C. Penitentiary, receives merit certificate and \$1000.00 award for his efforts which placed the Institution first in a recent fire prevention competition. On the left of the picture is W.J. McCutcheon, A/D, (S & S); centre, J.R. Stone, Director of the Western Region, C.P.S., and on the right with a twelve month grin is our Chief, Jack Harder.

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Friday, December 21st, 1973

The Columbian

NEW WARDEN, REMODELLING AND LIAISON PLANNED AT PENITENTIARY

The B.C. Penitentiary will get a new Warden sometime in January. Named but not officially appointed to the post is Dragon Cernetic, who is presently Assistant Director of Services at Millhaven Institute, Ontario.

He will replace veteran penal officer Frank Graves who officially retires in February after 35 years service.

The Columbian has learned that forty additional staff members have been hired at the Penitentiary, bringing the staff complement to about two hundred and ninety. The workers will fill positions among the correctional, classification and recreation staff.

The Protestant Chapel will be turned into a second recreation area at a cost of about \$150,000.00, and also provide for installation of showers in the North and East Wings.

The Penitentiary is now being supervised by Acting Director ~~Jim McCutcheon~~, who has served as Assistant Director Services, under Mr. Graves since 1969. (McCutcheon transferred to this position from Matsqui in 1970)

Prior to his post at Millhaven, Mr. Cernetic served as a Probation Officer in Prince George.

January 21st, 1974

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY PRIORITIES SECURITY, MORALE, COMMUNICATIONS

You would expect a man who has spent better than two years as a political prisoner in Yugoslavia to have some definite view on jails, convicts, parolees, and their role in society. Such is the case of 42 year old Dragon Cernetic, who has just taken over the reins of the B.C. Penitentiary.

Mr. Cernetic wasted little time in asserting his priorities, up-grading security and staff morale and in improving communications with the media.

If we are doing our job right then we should have nothing to hide he said during an interview.

Our objective must be the protection of society and that means preventing escapes, at the same time we must introduce programs which are constructive in nature and control by proper security measures.

Public opinion seems to be rather hard against the correctional worker, sooner or later the correctional worker must be recognized as part of the Peace Officer Community. He has little status, is poorly paid and is over-worked.

The overcrowding problem has been temporarily overcome, the inmate count is down to five hundred and thirty from six hundred and we no longer have the situation of inmates

791 A

sleeping in the hallways.

The inmates are back to work and have their yard exercise periods, in addition the groups are going again.

January 23rd, 1974

The Columbian

A prisoner, Ronald James Sinclair, 25, was stabbed in the back at the Penitentiary in New Westminster during the lunch hour Tuesday, he was taken to Royal Columbian Hospital where he was listed in a serious condition. It is not known who stabbed Sinclair, an administration inquiry has been ordered.

February 5th, 1974

The Columbian

POLICE PROBE PENITENTIARY HANGING PUZZLE

New Westminster Detectives and Officials of the B.C.

Penitentiary launched a full scale investigation today into the hanging death of a 23 year old inmate, James David Bilton, found dead in his cell late Monday. They are trying to determine how Bilton was able to fashion a noose in a length of sash cord, tie one end to the bars above his cell door and hang himself, apparently in full view of the inmates adjacent cells, within sight of the duty officers' station and while a prisoner in an adjoining cell listened to music on his radio.

Saturday, February 23rd, 1974

The Columbian

PRISON ROW LEADS TO SECOND STABBING

A B.C. Penitentiary inmate was stabbed three times in a row with another prisoner Friday.

The 26 year old inmate, whose name is being withheld, is listed in satisfactory condition in Royal Columbian Hospital.

A Penitentiary official said an administrative inquiry is being conducted into the stabbing, the second such incident at the prison in the past month.

The Columbian

B. C. PENITENTIARY TO LAUNCH RECREATION PROGRAM

A new physical fitness program will begin next week at the B.C. Penitentiary, the program is an effort by the Canadian Penitentiary Service to break the circle of monotony and idleness that led to last October's riot protest. The new physical education instructor said he hopes to offer a full range of recreation, and competitive sport to individual, non-competitive involvement.

He has been working at the down-town Y.M.C.A., where he set up a fitness testing program, conducted fitness classes, taught skin-diving, squash director.

The prison equipment for sports is not bad, but added that he is concerned at the lack of ventilation in the gymnasium.

I feel that a person who is physically fit has a lot more going for him in general terms. If you are fit you have a better attitude.

The Columbian

ANGRY PEN GUARDS SAY ALLMAND, FAGUY MUST GO

Guards at the B.C. Penitentiary want Prime Minister Trudeau to fire their boss. And while he is doing that they say, he can also fire their boss's boss.

Their demand for the immediate firing of the two men was cabled to the Prime Minister in Ottawa late Thursday.

If Mr. Trudeau doesn't act on the demand, the guards promised that some form of united action will follow.

The decision to cable Ottawa was taken at a meeting of the guards called late Thursday and held a few hours later. The cable was sent in the name of the members of the Penitentiary Local of the P.S.A.C.

The Local President said the meeting had been called on an emergency basis because of a statement made in Ottawa Wednesday by Mr. Allmand. Mr. Allmand told the Commons Justice Committee that a small group of guards at the Millhaven prison are taking a punitive approach to prisoners and are opposed to prison programs. He also said there was an atmosphere of confrontation between long term prisoners and old-line at the B.C. Penitentiary.

The President stated, the prison staff are being used as political scape-goats by the Penitentiary service to cover its own inadequancies.

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The problems in the Penitentiary are not the fault of the staff, they are the fault of the service which introduces prison programs without having the staff or the facilities to make them work. He also said there have been a record number of resignations recently among older, experienced officers at the prison.

In the past eighteen months one hundred and twenty officers out of a staff of one hundred and forty-seven have resigned, they have been replaced with young inexperienced officers almost without exception.

797

April 18th, 1974

The Columbian

A man convicted of the beating death of a fellow B.C. Penitentiary inmate has been found dead in his cell at the prison.

He was 31 years old Jacque Bellemare, who was convicted of beating Gilbert Piche, 42, to death with an iron bar during a movie show in the Penitentiary June 17th last year.

Fred Leech, Deputy Director of Security for the prison, said Bellemare's death was due to strangulation by his own hands and occurred about 8:00 p.m. Wednesday.

He used strips of bedsheet to hang himself.

798

May 30th, 1974

The Columbian

PEN GUARDS SLAP BAN ON OVERTIME

The President of the B.C. Penitentiary Local of the P.S.A.C. says one hundred and nineteen guards of the institution are refusing to work overtime. The Penitentiary requires at least twelve guards to work double shifts each day.

The New Westminster Institution has fifty fewer guards than its full complement. The men are concerned because the overtime cheques received Wednesday contained numerous errors and omissions and the cheques for March overtime contained payment for only 85% of the hours worked.

Officers have waited over two months for this pay, and unless they receive accurate cheques with written assurance that future overtime will be paid on time and without the customary mistakes, they will continue this ban on overtime.

The Union has assured the Institution's management that security will not be jeopardized during the overtime ban.

Wednesday, June 12th, 1974

The Columbian

EIGHT PEN PRISONERS ALLEGE "CRUEL" PUNISHMENT, SUE.

Eight prisoners of the B.C. Penitentiary say in a Federal Court action that they are being subjected to "Cruel and Unusual Punishment" under indefinite solitary confinement.

The prisoners are suing the Queen and Dragon Cernetic, the Director, for a declaration that their confinement, allegedly without charges or hearings, deprives them of the rights guaranteed by Penitentiary service regulations.

In a statement of claim filed in Federal Court Registry, they say tear-gas has been discharged into solitary confinement cells where the prisoner has no chance to escape; light bulbs in the 10 X 5 foot cells burn twenty-four hours a day; there is no adequate ventilation and heat, and that only running cold water is provided, and a pint of hot water twice a week for shaving.

They say that their confinement in the special correctional unit has been ordered in some cases by persons other than Mr. Cernetic and that he has improperly delegated the authority given to him to order such confinements.

Medical inspections, the claim says, have not been carried out as required by the Commissioner of Penitentiaries and in two cases the prisoners have not received essential medical and dental care.

As a result of the confinement they say they have loss of all

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priveleges enjoyed by other prisoners, including movies, television, vocational training, hobbies, sports, open air exercise and unscreened visits.

They also say that officers of the Penitentiary Service have used weapons and other prison control aids in a completely improper manner, including the use of tear gas when its use was excessive.

800

Friday, June 21st, 1974

The Columbian

PEN GUARDS SAY OVERTIME OVER

A long-simmering overtime dispute by guards at the B.C. Penitentiary peaked Thursday as guards informed Penitentiary officials they will not work overtime as of today.

The President of the Local of the P.S.A.C. said guards will no longer tolerate "continual and frequent delays and errors" in payment of overtime.

The Penitentiary has been requiring overtime shifts of from eight to twelve officers daily, yet overtime pay has sometimes come more than three months after the actual shifts.

Both the President and the Director said the ban will not affect prison security, but many programs will have to be curtailed.

The Director said daytime shifts are fully manned, so only the evening "shift" will have to be curtailed.

The President of the Local said the ban on overtime would continue until the outstanding cheques are received. He added that a meeting had been scheduled with regional officials to discuss the situation.

801

Saturday, June 29th, 1974

The Columbian

CRASH TRAINING PROGRAM PROPOSED TO INCREASE PENITENTIARY STAFF

If the guards approve, the B.C. Penitentiary will institute a two week crash training program for new personnel.

The training program proposed by prison officials involves about fifty new guards.

Fred Leech, director of the prison security staff, said the course could be held in the second and third weeks of July.

He said it would be the first time such a mass training program was tried in a Canadian Penitentiary. He said the program is needed because the prison staff is over balanced with new people in the service.

The program requires the co-operation of experienced staff and some rescheduling during the two week training period.

If the program goes on, then a revision of schedules will allow inmates to be on a two week suspension of work.

He said the prison's essential services and security system would be unchanged during the program.

Tradesmen Instructors not on the security staff will be encouraged to take their holidays during the training course.

802

Monday, July 29th, 1974

The Columbian

CONVICT CAUGHT IN MEAT TRUCK

A red hot escape bid by a B.C. Penitentiary inmate early today was cooled when the driver of a refrigerated meat truck noticed that he was carrying more than sides of beef. The inmate, Ralph Cochran, 40, hopped into the back of the meat truck at about 8:15 a.m. while the driver was delivering meat to the prison kitchen.

The guards checked the truck before it left, but there were hundreds of pounds of meat inside and they didn't find Cochran, Mr. Cernetic said.

When the driver opened the truck back door at his next delivery in Coquitlam he noticed two feet.

Slamming the door shut he called the Coquitlam R.C.M.P. and Cochran was arrested and returned to the prison.

On August 16th, 1974 Cochran was sentenced to nine months in prison for his attempted escape.

803

Tuesday, November 26th, 1974

The Columbian

TRIAL OF PENITENTIARY GUARDS ON IN ROYAL CITY

Trial of nine guards of the B.C. Penitentiary of common assault on a Penitentiary inmate, laid after they were reportedly sought to get him to shave in conformity with prison regulation, is proceeding in New Westminster Provincial Court.

The inmate, William George Brown, claimed the guards attempted to shave him against his will August 19th when he had a two month growth of beard. They were reported to have given up the attempt when he resisted.

Documents listing the duties of Correctional Officers, rules of conduct for inmates, outlines of prison offences, and orders in council setting these up, were entered as exhibits.

A Warrant was ordered for the arrest of one of the accused when he did not appear for trial. He is reported to have obtained other employment and is at present in the United States.

Called as a witness, the Director of the Penitentiary, said the inmate came to his attention early in April when he attempted to commit suicide, he was given psychiatric treatment.

The Director said he was contacted in April by a prison officer when the request for instructions in connection with Brown. He said the inmate was in a filthy condition and his cell was in disarray. He told the officer that Brown was to shave like the other inmates.

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Cross-examined by Doug Hogarth, acting for the accused guards, the Director said it would be fair to say that Brown consistently refused throughout his stay in the prison to obey rules of the Institution.

The trial is continuing.

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Wednesday, December 4th, 1974

The Columbian

SEARCH BEGINS FOR ESCAPEES

A police manhunt is in full swing today after two B.C. Penitentiary inmates scaled the prison walls early this morning.

Ivan Horvat, 21, and Wayne Gary Farkas, 28, were found missing during an inmate check. It appears the two men stayed behind in the gymnasium after a recreation period finished at 10:00 p.m. Thursday.

The men apparently hid in the gymnasium until making their escape about midnight.

Horvat and Farkas and two unidentified men and a woman were arrested about 4:00 p.m. in a raid on a house in Vancouver. A loaded rifle was seized but there were no shots and no one was injured. (December 5th, 1974)

Thursday, January 9th, 1975

The Columbian

B.C. Penitentiary Director Dragon Cernetic declared that 1975 was definitely the year of the inmate, not the administration.

Wednesday, February 17th, 1975

The Columbian

SEVEN GUARDS GUILTY OF ASSAULT

Seven B.C. Penitentiary Guards have been found guilty of assault on an inmate following an incident last year in which they tried to shave him against his will.

Provincial Court Judge gave his decision today and will pronounce sentence on February 28th.

Nine guards were originally charged with unlawful use of force in trying to shave inmate Brown on April 19th, 1974. In the Judge's written statement he says "I pause here to make two observations, it is ironic the guard who wielded the razor was wearing a beard as did the Director, Dragon Cernetic". The Judge said there can be no doubt the use of force against Brown was an assault unless it was justified.

He concluded, I hold that there is no authority either by statute or at common law to justify the trespass to the person of Brown, and further that the use of force was unreasonable to enforce a mere regulation of this sort.

The Columbian reports on the 20th of February; Guards and Prison Officials at the B.C. Penitentiary were meeting this afternoon in an effort to iron out differences after the guards staged a study session.

According to guards' representative, they are concerned about the implications of the conviction Wednesday of seven fellow guards on an assault charge.

In light of the decision guards have asked Solicitor General Warren Allmand to define their authority to hand out discipline.

An official statement on the guards' position would be released after his meeting with Warden Dragon Cernetic.

On Saturday March 1st, 1975, the Columbian reports; Seven B.C. Penitentiary Guards, previously found guilty of assault for forcefully shaving a prisoner, were given absolute discharges Friday when they appeared before Provincial Judge for sentencing.

The absolute discharge, a recent amendment to the Criminal Code, has the effect of erasing criminal records against the guards which they acquired when they were found guilty of assault on February 19th.

Before announcing the discharge, Judge Govan and Defense Lawyer Doug Hogarth adjoined in a scathing denouncement of the Penitentiary Service and conditions at the B.C. Penitentiary which they agreed compelled guards to use occasional force against inmates.

Mr. Hogarth said his clients resented the strong language Judge Govan used in his written Judgement, February 19th, but he suggested the language was directed against the Penitentiary Service, not the seven guards.

Judge Govan interrupted and said this was true.

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Since the beginning of the Penitentiary Service in Canada, force has been used, Hogarth contended. My clients are not responsible for the fact that about 40% of the inmates have mental problems. There are inmates who are so malcontent that they refuse to obey prison regulations. It is an accepted practice in the Penitentiary Service that force has to be used to enforce the rules.

The guards who used force in the shaving incident thought they were acting under orders, Hogarth insisted. They are advised that they must continue to obey orders, whether they involve the use of force or not.

Judge Govan, said he had a rather sleepless night coming to court on Friday, commented that he agreed with Hogarth's criticism of the Penitentiary System, to the seven guards he said; your occupation is to treat the very worse people in our society, you do your very best to work under difficult circumstances. But in my opinion the penal system enforces this type of conduct on you. He concluded with the suggestion to the guards who still work at the Penitentiary to get written instructions if they get orders which they hesitate to follow.

805

February 18th, 1975
Tuesday

The Columbian

HOSTAGE SAFE AFTER FOUR HOUR DRAMA

For more than four hours a B.C. Penitentiary Physical Training Instructor was held hostage in a prison shower room Monday when an inmate held a homemade knife across his eyes.

While prisoners were confined in a recreation area reporters and photographers waited in another part of the prison and New Westminster Police cars circled the Institution, while prison officials bargained for the hostage's safety.

The ordeal came to an end when the Director agreed to the Inmate's demand for an immediate transfer to the Regional Medical Centre in Matsqui, a safe conduct to the centre and no medication when he got there.

He also agreed to a demand that no charges would be laid against the inmate as a result of the evening's events.

Mr. Leech said an investigation into the circumstances leading up to the incident will be started by prison officials today.

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Wednesday, March 12th, 1975

The Columbian

INMATE DEMANDS TRANSFER

A native Indian prisoner held two Carpentry Instructors hostage at knife point on Tuesday, March 11th, in the B.C. Penitentiary and demanded a transfer to another Institution.

The prisoner grabbed the two Instructors at 3:00 p.m. in the main workshop and forced them into an ante-room.

He held them there for almost an hour until prison officials promised to consider his request to be sent to Manitoba's Stoney Mountain prison. Names of those involved in the incident are being withheld.

No one was hurt in the incident Tuesday, Officials said the prisoner was "calm and rathional" and surrendered quietly.

(The two Carpenter Instructors were Ed. Peterson and Mr. Schaffer.)

Monday, June 9th, 1975

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATES HOLD FIFTEEN AS HOSTAGES

Three B.C. Penitentiary inmates grabbed fifteen prison officers and were holding them hostages today in a fireproof vault. The three inmates are all serving life sentences.

R.C.M.P. and New Westminster Police surrounded the prison and ambulances were brought into the side streets near the Penitentiary.

According to Prison Director Dragon Cernetic, the three entered the classification section at about 8:00 a.m. brandishing what appeared to be kitchen knives. They took two inmates hostage, fourteen classification officers and one guard. First reports said that a woman was also grabbed but she escaped. The two inmate hostages were released soon after.

The inmates have demanded that prison officials summon a number of people prominent in legal circles and a journalist.

The prisoners were identified as Andy Bruce, 26, Claire Wilson, 25, and Douglas Lucas, 20, of Winnipeg.

On the 10th of June the Columbian reports; Negotiations were continuing early today with the three inmates for the release of fifteen hostages they hold captive.

The Regional Director said everybody spent a comfortable night. Hostages were allowed out of the vault and walked around in the

classification building. We are in constant communication with the three inmates and hope to report something very soon.

The three inmates demanded that they be given passage out of the country with the hostages. They have asked for a helicopter to carry them to the Vancouver International Airport, from which they want to be flown to a foreign country. They have not specified the country.

(On page four of the Columbian there is a whole page devoted to the actions of the inmates holding the hostages.)

Mr. Cernetic said the inmates have performed two moves that please him and indicated that they were acting in a rational manner.

First of all the release of one of the hostages was a bright spot, then late Monday night the inmates allowed the hostages to speak by telephone with some of their relatives. In addition the rest of the prison population has remained responsive and very responsible.

On Wednesday, June 11th, the Columbian reports; In a sudden and desperate burst, fifteen hostage turned on their knife wielding convict abductors early this morning, bringing to a brutal and tragic end of a forty-one hour seige at the B.C. Penitentiary. In the melee that followed the attack prison employee Mary Steinhauser, 32, was slain in revenge after being trapped in a room with the trio, two of whom were serving life sentences for murder.

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The sudden turn of events occurred at the prison at 1:00 a.m. when several of the hostages jumped one of the convicts clubbing him twice with a metal tripod.

The fourteen then barricaded themselves in the vault in which they had been held captive since 8:00 a.m. Monday.

As prison tactical squad members burst into the room Ms. Steinhauser trapped outside the vault, apparently asleep from drugs convicts had forced her to consume.

Early reports indicated that she had been stabbed and may have received a gunshot wound. She was pronounced dead at Royal Columbian Hospital.

One of the three abductors Andrew Bruce, was wounded twice and is listed in serious condition. The other two were unhurt and were transferred to New Westminster city jail where charges of non-capital murder are expected to be laid later today.

The hostages inside the vault had been planning most of the day, trying to think of some way to make a rush. It had been discussed earlier and had been called off they said. The escape attempt began when one chap with the tripod hit Lucas over the head. He said Lucas turned around but didn't fall so the hostage picked up the tripod and hit him again but still Lucas didn't fall. Lucas didn't go down and started after them with a knife, Bruce started coming toward them as well. They slammed shut the door of the vault. It was a sliding door

which divided them from the two inmates with the knives. They locked themselves in rather than making a break to get out.

The scuffle in the doorway brought the armed guards who were waiting outside for the first sign of trouble. They came charging in just as the door shut.

On Friday, June 13th, the Columbian reports; Prime Minister orders probe of B.C. Penitentiary ordeal. The Government announced today the appointment of a Judge, and a Penitentiary Service Official to conduct a restricted public investigation into the attempted breakout at the B.C. Penitentiary this week. The inquiry will start soon under Chief Justice J.W. Farris of the British Columbia Appeal Court. The Chief Justice will be assisted by Jack Lynch of the John Howard Society of British Columbia, a former convict, and H.E. Popp, Director of Operational Security for the Penitentiary Service.

(There would be four inquiries into the hostage taking incident at the B.C. Penitentiary; The Farris Commission, the Inquiry by the B.C. Penitentiary, an Inquiry by the Regional Director's Office, and the Inquest into the death of Mary Steinhauser.)

On Tuesday, June 24th, the Columbian reports! Fifteen hostages held in the B.C. Penitentiary two weeks ago were told they were on death row, one of them said Monday at the Federally appointed Farris Inquiry into the incident. One classification officer has told of being kicked repeatedly, having a knife

held at his throat and stuck in his eye, of clothing being slashed with a knife while he was wearing it and of being forced to take overdoses of drugs. His glasses were taken from him and smashed and glasses were also taken from other hostages. This officer said some mercurochrome was tipped over his eyes and the prisoner, Claire Wilson told him to wipe it off. He said that he and other men were deprived of their jackets which were piled on the floor and later slashed by Lucas with some assistance from Wilson.

After the jackets were removed, the hostages were deprived of their watches, rings except wedding rings, wallets and other valuables and shoes. He said Wilson and Lucas went through some of the wallets, making comments about the contents, and he saw Wilson light a cigarette with a twenty dollar bill, I was told to removed a jade ring, I was told to take it off or we will cut your finger off by Lucas.

He said that any time that there was any activity, movements or noise from the outside, he would be grabbed by the throat by Lucas and the knife would be stuck against it.

This is not in the Columbian article. On the afternoon that the hostages were taken they ordered a portable toilet, this was rented and brought to the Institution and delivered to the classification building where the hostages were being held. The following day the prisoners demanded the portable chemical toilet be taken out and emptied, this request was complied with

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but it was thought that this was unusual because we had been assured that the toilet would not need to be emptied for several days. The toilet was removed and taken to the edge of the ravine where it was emptied. The officers who were emptying the toilet noticed several shining objects on the ground, they sorted through this and came up with the rings and watches that had been taken from the hostages and thrown into the toilet, these were later returned to the owners.

During the time the hostages were being held in the classification building the Institution's fire quipment was manned in case it was needed to fight fires. Also, a small squad stood by with equipment ready to break down a door or whatever else was required.

Monday, June 30th, 1975

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY GUARDS ISSUE WALKOUT ULTIMATUM

Guards in forty-nine Federal Prisons, including the B.C. Penitentiary, will stay off work Wednesday unless Prime Minister Trudeau or Solicitor General Warren Allmand state before them that the law of capital punishment will be respected by the Cabinet,

Paul Gascon, Executive Secretary of the Solicitor Generals Component of the P.S.A.C., said a reply must be made by noon Tuesday or it will be too late to cancel a National day of Mourning for our brother, Paul Gosselin.

Paul Gosselin was shot and killed in Montreal Friday as he and another guard escorted a prisoner to hospital. He is the fourth prison employee to be killed on duty during the last year.

The President of the B.C. Penitentiary Employees local said today the local is waiting for instructions from P.S.A.C. headquarters before taking any action. He said he was aware the Wednesday walkout was being considered.

He said Paul Gascon and other directors of the P.S.A.C.'s Solicitor Generals component were meeting this morning in Ottawa with Andre Therrien, Commissioner of Penitentiaries.

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Wednesday, July 2nd, 1975

The Columbian

COMBAT READY TROOPS ON GUARD AT B.C. PENITENTIARY

Combat ready Infantrymen from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry took up stations outside the B.C. Penitentiary today as the prison guards' one day strike began.

Inside, four hundred and fifty inmates were being guarded by off-duty R.C.M.P. Officers, prisoners are being confined to their cells until the strike ends.

Members of the P.S.A.C. are observing the strike at the Penitentiary called by the Union's National Executive to protest the Federal Cabinet's decision not to execute killers of policemen and prison guards.

The President of the P.S.A.C. said the guards were asked to go to the memorial service held today at Burnaby Lake Pavillion for Paul Gosselin, the Montreal prison guard killed Friday escorting a prisoner to hospital. Similar observations are scheduled across Canada.

The President of the local said the walkout was complete except for staff manning hospital, the kitchen and emergency departments which the union had agreed to staff. One guard was left behind at the Penitentiary in case of emergency so he could call the union members back to work.

(Squad leaders also remained in the prison to supervise the R.C.M.P..)

Troops from the third field squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers are guarding the prisons at Matsqui and Agassiz.

Solicitor General Warren Allman rejected the guards' demands that the Federal Cabinet commit itself to the death penalty for killers of prison employees and prison guards, except where juries recommend clemency.

Playing the lament, flowers of the forest, a piper moved slowly down the ranks of two hundred and fifty guards and policemen gathered Wednesday in Burnaby to honour a slain comrade.

Held outside Burnaby Lake Pavillion, the service conducted by Oakalla Chaplain, The Rev. Ross Manthorpe, was brief. The Rev. Manthorpe told the assembled ranks that the service would have to be short because of the situation in Oakalla where inmates were staging a sit-down situation.

The service was one of many held throughout the country Wednesday organized by the P.S.A.C., the union which represents Federal Prison Guards.

Following the ceremony, B.C. Penitentiary President, said the walk-out was not directed against the management of the prison system just the Cabinet and the Solicitor General who won't order the execution of convicted killers of police and prison guards.

Presbyterian Minister said we are upholding law and order but we

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are pawns between Government and the people who wish to do something for the inmates and those who don't.

Friday, July 4th, 1975

The Columbian

A B.C. Penitentiary inmate took a barber instructor hostage at about 11:30 a.m. Assistant Director Fred Leech said at noon today that the inmate is holding the man in the prison barber shop with a manufactured knife, probably obtained during one of the meal periods.

I am in constant communication with the inmate, Mr. Leech said, I am talking to him every fifteen minutes. So far everything seems cool.

Mr. Leech identified the inmate as Robert Gary Hume who is serving time for armed robbery, theft and breaking and entering.

On Saturday, July 5th, the Columbian reports the second hostage incident at the Penitentiary within a month ended peacefully Friday night when an inmate received a guarantee of psychiatric treatment.

Hume released the barber instructor at 7:15 p.m. in exchange for a written promise of prolonged psychiatric treatment.

Wednesday, July 23rd, 1975

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY SEALED OFF AS INMATES GO ON STRIKE

Prison officials sealed off the B.C. Penitentiary today as three hundred inmates began the first day of a two day work stoppage aimed at getting prisoners' rights.

The inmates will stay locked in their cells for the duration of the strike, they want to form a prisoners' union. Inmates not participating in the demonstration also are being kept in their cells.

Members of the Prisoners' Union Committee, an organization on the outside tried twice today to enter the prison and negotiate on behalf of the inmates. They were refused both times.

The main points of the prisoners' demands are their rights to form a Union, plus basic economic and democratic rights.

Prisoners' Union Committee members returned to the prison at 9:15 a.m. along with newsmen, they were ordered off the prison property by guards posted at the entrances on Columbia Street.

Later Assistant Director J. Bultitude came out and met with the six person delegation only to tell them that there had been no sanction from Regional Headquarters for negotiation with P.U.C.

He said all was quiet inside the Penitentiary with the prisoners being given meals at the regular times.

On Thursday, July 24th, the Columbian reports that B.C. Pen

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inmates have snubbed a demand that they cut short their forty-eight hour strike and return to normal prison duties.

The directive came from Andre Therrien, Canadian Penitentiary Service Commissioner, and was coupled with the refusal to recognize a trade union style prisoners' group for dealing with complaints.

Inside the prison, J.P. Bultitude said the inmates remained locked in their cells. They are being fed and everything is quiet and orderly, there is no disruption of any kind.

The Ottawa spokesman said the Penitentiary Service does not see the need to supplant the existing grievance procedure, which also operates on an individual level, with a new trade union style system.

The P.U.C. planned another demonstration tonight at 7:30 in front of the prison. The rally is an attempt to show the inmates there is someone outside who cares, a P.U.C. spokesman said today.

On Friday, July 25th, the Columbian reports; B.C. Penitentiary inmates continued their strike today despite the expiry of a forty-eight hour work stoppage and sit in to protest conditions in the prison.

On Tuesday, July 29th;- Striking prisoners at Matsqui Institution ended their sit-in strike early today but inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary continue to remain in their cells

today.

It had been thought that the inmates would end the sit-in at midnight Monday or early this morning. However, the officials said at noon, the prisoners have refused to return to work.

Continuation of the strike followed what prisoners union committee called a victory celebration on the steps of the Penitentiary Monday. The Committee and inmates are demanding that inmates be allowed to form a union within the Institution. The Solicitor General and the Commissioner of Penitentiaries have said that the prisoners union committee was completely unacceptable and they would not discuss it with them in British Columbia or anywhere else in Canada.

Saturday, August 2nd, 1975

The Columbian

PRISON SECURITY QUESTIONED

Blueprints showing the layout of the B.C. Penitentiary maximum security section, including wall thickness and construction details have fallen into the hands of the inmates.

M.P. John Reynold said Friday that the blueprints, three sheets of them drawn by a Vancouver Engineering firm were passed to him by an inmate in the protective custody section.

Reynolds said the episode explodes the belief that there is any "real security within the prison."

He also said it shows that the Federal Government isn't serious about phasing out the Institution because the blueprints include planned renovations to B-7 Block.

Some of the guys in the maximum security section are doing time for safe cracking and breaking into banks.

Penitentiary Director Dragon Cernetic said the blueprints don't pose a threat to prison security.

(Private opinion, there has always been inmates working in the Works Office, these inmates have had access to plans, and the inmates working in the maintenance division are concerned with repairs to buildings, equipment, machinery, plumbing and electrical work therefore they probably know as much about the Institution as any officer or Engineering firm.

Monday, August 11th, 1975

The Columbian

INMATE HUNGER STRIKE DIDN'T SURVIVE LUNCH

An announced hunger strike by the prisoners' union committee failed to get any support from inmates in the B.C. Penitentiary and the Matsqui Institution on Sunday.

The P.U.C. had organized the strike to coincide with the ending of the eleven day work stoppage by inmates in Ontario Millhaven Penitentiary.

But instead of giving up their meals the inmates in B.C.'s to main Federal Institutions turned up to be fed.

There was a "No" comment from P.U.C. headquarters today in response to questions about how the strike would affect the committee decision.

Inmates went on strike to back demands for the formation of a prisoners' union which could bargain with the Penitentiary Service for better conditions and prisoners' rights.

Members of the P.U.C. who said they would be available to negotiate an end to the strike were ignored by prison officials and the Solicitor General's office.

Prison officials reported that everything was "normal" within the prisons.

Wednesday, August 27th, 1975

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY INMATE ESCAPES FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.

A sprained ankle foiled the escape attempt Tuesday morning of a B.C. Penitentiary prisoner who enjoyed only fifteen minutes of freedom before being recaptured.

Two shots were fired into the air by prison guards in number one and number four towers on East Columbia Street site of the maximum security Institution.

The shots were only an attempt by guards to stop a 21 year old inmate of Kamloops from his escape.

The inmate was being transferred from Kamloops to the B.C. Penitentiary. He bolted at 9:40 a.m. and ran across the front lawn of the Institution as soon as Sherriff's Officers opened the rear of the van he had been travelling in.

In crossing the railroad tracks below Columbia Street the inmate sprained his ankle and was recaptured soon after.

Saturday, September 6th, 1975

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY GUARD MOVED AFTER DEATH THREATS

A. B.C. Penitentiary security officer has been transferred from the prison because of threats to his life, Doug McGregor of the Canadian Penitentiary Service said Friday.

Albert Hollinger is now working in the Service's Vancouver Office on recruitment and training.

During an investigation into a hostage taking incident June 9th, to 11th, at the prison, Chief Justice John L. Farris said Mr. Hollinger deliberately mixed up the weapons used by a prison tactical squad.

Mr. McGregor said after Hollinger was identified he received a number of threats "not only in the Institution but in letters to him."

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Saturday, December 27th, 1975

The Columbian

PROTESTORS PICKET PENITENTIARY

Demonstrators calling for better prison conditions picketed Christmas Day outside Oakalla prison and the British Columbia Penitentiary in New Westminster.

Nine members of the Prisoners' Rights Group picketed in the rain at the Correctional Centre for an hour, then moved on to the Penitentiary where about fifteen more protestors joined the demonstration.

Picket signs outside the Institution read "Guards holiday-prisoners hell day," but spokesmen for the Correctional Centre and the Penitentiary said full staffs were on duty and special preparations were being made for Christmas dinner. A spokesman for the Prisoners' Rights Group wanted to know if a Christmas dinner would be included in the restricted diet given prisoners in solitary confinement.

Wednesday, December 31st, 1975

The Columbian

COURT RULES SOLITARY CRUEL AND UNUSUAL "PENTHOUSE" PRISONERS
DENIED RIGHTS

Prisoners kept in solitary confinement at the British Columbia Penitentiary were victims of cruel and unusual punishment, Federal Court of Canada said Tuesday. Mr. Justice Darrel Heald ruled that seven of eight prisoners held in the 11 X 6 ft. cells of the "penthouse" at New Westminster were denied the protection of the Canadian Bill of Rights.

I think the treatment would be cruel and unusual because it is not in accord with public standards of decency and propriety, since it is unnecessary because of the existence of adequate alternatives, Judge Heald said in a fifty-six page ruling.

The Ruling supported the civil suit of seven prisoners, some of whom were kept for period exceeding one thousand days in what they called the "penthouse" at New Westminster, but what was described by prison authorities as Special Correctional Units.

Judge Heald said defendant Dragon Cernetic, Director of the Penitentiary and the Crown gave no evidence that conditions in solitary confinement at the prison were similar to other Institutions in the country, he said the plaintives provided evidence that the conditions at the B.C. Penitentiary were much more severe.

B.C. Penitentiary Officials are waiting to see a copy of the ruling before deciding what action to take.

We haven't received word from the Justice Department on what to do, said the Deputy Director.

The report is fifty odd pages long, will have to get a copy first before we can respond to it, he said.

On Friday, January 2nd, 1976, the Columbian reports: There will be no immediate changes in conditions in the B.C. Penitentiary's solitary confinement unit, says prison Director Dragon Cernetic.

The Director said that nothing will be done until ordered by the Commissioner of Penitentiaries, Andre Therrien, or by Parliament, which could change the laws covering prison operations.

On January 8th, the Columbian report; Director of the British Columbia Penitentiary, Dragon Cernetic, said today he has seen many worse segregation units than the unit ordered closed by Canadian Federal Court Judge.

I have recently returned from visits to San Quentin in California and MacNeill in Washington and I say our cells are as good as any. However, we do have solid doors, something that was not prevalent in other prisons.

Mr. Cernetic made the observations at a morning news conference called "to discuss the solitary confinement unit" at the B.C. Penitentiary.

The S.C.U. will be converted to a protective custody unit the Director said. "The segregation unit will remain but in a different format. The cells will be revamped to contain all the amenities of normal detention cells.

Mr. Leech, Assistant Director of Security, said Mr. Justice Heald's decision has not adversely affected the morale of the prison staff.

They were a little raw around the edges when proceedings were first instituted, but now that things have been properly explained to them there doesn't appear to be any problems.

Thursday, January 22nd, 1976

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY SERVICE BACKS TACTICAL SQUAD

The Canadian Penitentiary Service issued a statement on Wednesday expressing full support for all the guards tactical squad at the British Columbia Penitentiary in their actions at the hostage taking incident last year which resulted in the death of a prison social worker.

The statement came after the conclusion Tuesday of a preliminary hearing for three convicts charged in connection with the incident. The three were committed for trial by Judge Philip Govan of B.C. Provincial Court on five charges.

The Penitentiary Service said all members of the tactical squad performed their duties according to regulation and to the best of their ability. Consequently, they have the full support of the Canadian Penitentiary Service and no disciplinary action will be taken.

Wednesday, February 11th, 1976

The Columbian

DRUG OVERDOSE SUSPECTED INTO B.C. PENITENTIARY DEATHS

Two B.C. Penitentiary Inmates are dead following a suspected drug overdose, a prison official said today.

Michael Arsenault, 22, was the first to die. He collapsed Saturday in the prison's exercise yard shortly after 3:00 p.m. and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Royal Columbian Hospital.

The second death occurred Monday and at 5:20 p.m. guards found Gerrard Gosselin slumped in his cell. He was rushed to Royal Columbian Hospital and was pronounced dead at 6:00 p.m.

The Columbian of Tuesday, April 27th, reports that Analysts have been unable to determine the cause of death for two prisoners, Michael Arsenault, and Gerrard Gosselin, who died as reported by the Columbian on the 11th of February, 1976.

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Thursday, February 19th, 1976

The Columbian

INMATES DEMAND DRUGS

The B.C. Penitentiary was thrown into its fifth hostage taking incident in a year early this morning when three prisoners grabbed three guards at knife point.

The Canadian Penitentiary Service told the Columbian that Lucas and Bruce, two of three inmates involved in a hostage taking incident last June, were involved in today's incident along with Dwight Low, who is serving a prison term for robbery and drug offences.

Herb Rennett, Assistant Regional Director of Security, said, we are in a holding pattern at the moment, the only thing they have asked for so far is the pain killing drug demerol.

The guards were taken about 8:20 a.m. this morning in the P-7 area below the "penthouse" where they work. We can't release the names of the hostages until we have contacted their families.

They asked for any intermediaries or anything else except the drugs. We haven't taken any action about sending in a tactical unit because we don't know whether it will be necessary. The hostages were released at 11:15 p.m. Thursday after a tense fifteen hour ordeal. The hostages were Maurice Ford, 48, and Vincent Steve Jarvis, 20.

A third hostage, Donald Crawford, 56, was released unharmed shortly after a three person negotiating team of lawyers met

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at the Penitentiary.

The three inmates made nine demands as follows:

1. Hot and cold water piped into isolation cells.
2. Segregated inmates be given the privilege of outside yard exercise.
3. A medical specialist examine Lucas concerning a hernia condition and Bruce concerning a jaw bone graft.
4. Changes to be made as to procedures governing the inmate disciplinary court.
5. That outstanding disciplinary charges, if any being considered, be dropped.
6. That no disciplinary charges be laid in regard to the current incident.
7. That Hogan phone Mrs. Lucas.
8. That the three inmates be granted a transfer to the Dorchester Penitentiary and be returned for court appearances as scheduled in local courts.

The transfer of the inmates in question will take place tomorrow, February 20th.

After another hostage taking incident at the B.C. Penitentiary, one now must wonder what the future holds for Prison Director Dragan Cernetic.

In all fairness the entire blame cannot be put on Cernetic's broad shoulders. The entire Justice System in Canada seems to be in a chaotic mess.

It would not be fair to say that Cernetic is incompetent.
He has the training and experience to perform effectively.
But, maybe like a sharply horned athlete he needs a change of
scenery to operate effectively.

Monday, March 22nd, 1976

The Columbian

PRISONER WALKS OUT

A B.C. Penitentiary inmate walked out of the prison's back gate today and escaped.

New Westminster City Police quickly organized a manhunt for Leonard David Clemens, 23, who escaped between 8 and 9:00 a.m.

Penitentiary spokesman, Jack Stewart, said the guard manning the gate on the prison's North Side (West Side) mistook the prisoner for an Instructor.

Clemens was dressed in heavy coveralls and had been working in the paint shop.

Clemens, who walked away from the B.C. Penitentiary will likely never be returned to Canada. Clemens was recaptured in Sacramento, California, yesterday and is being returned to San Diego to complete a sentence for attempted murder. He then must face a robbery charge in Oregon.

A member of the B.C. Penitentiary staff indicated, "I don't really think we want him back here all that badly."

Saturday, April 3rd, 1976

The Columbian

DANGEROUS ESCAPEE REMAINS AT LARGE

Lower Mainland Police are still searching for a B.C. Penitentiary inmate who escaped from custody Friday in Whalley.

He escaped when he was allowed to use the washroom of the Whalley Bowling Centre without supervision by a prison employee he was helping.

MacDonald and the employee were making rounds outside the prison (they were picking up goods from Matsqui to be delivered to the B.C. Penitentiary) in an Institution truck to pick up items needed for the prison.

The driver let MacDonald go into the bowling centre to use the washroom, and the inmate, dressed in prison clothes, was able to escape. MacDonald had been assisting the driver for several months.

MacDonald was recaptured by Surrey R.C.M.P. on April 4th, 1976.

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Thursday, April 8th, 1976

The Columbian

PEN GUARDS, STAFF, TOLD NO MORE LEAKS

The Canadian Penitentiary Service has cracked down on leaks to the press from prison guards and staff working at the B.C. Penitentiary.

Orders, issued in the form of a directive from Acting Director for C.P.S., Doug McGregor, were sent to regional representatives of the P.S.A.C. on February 25th.

Guards and prison staff were told not to release information to the press without prior clearance from C.P.S. officials.

The Directive was released after guards and staff at the Penitentiary called for the resignation of prison Director Dragon Cernetic after a hostage taking incident where two prison guards were held at knife point by three inmates for fifteen hours.

Monday, April 26th, 1976

The Columbian

SPECIALLY PROTECTED INMATES SEIZE GUARDS

An investigation is under way today in the B.C. Penitentiary into the latest in a series of hostage taking incidents.

Canadian Penitentiary Service Officials, expressed surprise at the drama, the sixth in fourteen months, took place when it did.

The thirteen hour ordeal began at 9:30 p.m. Saturday when three guards, a standard night shift in the unit, were seized by four prisoners.

I am a little disappointed to say the least that these people who we are obliged to protect from the general prison population would put the guards in that kind of jeopardy, said Acting Director from the Pacific Region.

The prisoners were armed with knives, Jack Stewart, Regional Public Relations Officer for the Penitentiary Service, would say only that "it is a possible security problem and I can't talk about it."

The three guards were; Mr. Frew, Mike Dobich and Dale Lengwel.

Wednesday, April 28th, 1976

The Columbian

AN EDITORIAL:

There were more than a few disturbing aspects to last week-ends hostage taking incident in the B.C. Penitentiary, the least of which was the overriding desire by local Penitentiary Officials to hush the whole episode up.

There is no doubt that the situation inside the Penitentiary has deteriorated to the point that no one seems to know what to do about it. Prisoners, Guards, Officials, all seem to be at each others throat with the various factions alternately blaming the others for the power-keg they are all sitting on.

It is no longer convenient to foist all the blame on the prisoners for the scenes which seem to occur monthly in the prison.

The situation is so serious within the Penitentiary that the community outside has to be alarmed by the events taking place there. Whether prison officials like it or not the public has a right to know what is happening. To try and censure or muzzle the press is neither wise nor worth while. Eventually the story gets out one way or another.

In the latest incident, the press was met by armed guards patrolling the perimeter. As there was little likelihood of any of the inmates holding the staff hostaget getting out, one has to wonder what the purpose was of putting these armed guards outside the prison walls.

We don't think the residents of this area regard any of these criminals as being worth of adulation, we certainly don't. These people have been confined for very good reasons and prison is certainly the safest place for them. But even so they have rights. Mr. Justice Heald ruled that complaints by inmates against solitary confinement as practiced in the Penitentiary was cruel and unusual punishment.

The Penitentiary Service has to be judged by the results of its labours and in the B.C. Penitentiary those results have been disasterous. Instead of trying to erect a wall of silence around the prison, officials would be better off spending their time finding an answer to what is causing so much trouble within the Penitentiary.

Thursday, April 29th, 1976

The Columbian

PRISON SECURITY TIGHTENS

The trouble-plagued B.C. Penitentiary moved Wednesday to control dangerous prisoners by setting up a super-maximum security unit.

Dragon Cernetic, Director, said that the former segregation area known as the penthouse, has been designated a super-maximum security unit with a population of thirty-five prisoners. The unit has forty-four cells.

Sufficient changes have been made in the penthouse area so that we can function within the Federal Court Ruling.

The Director said, the new security unit will be staffed by a permanent team of twenty-eight security officers who will not rotate through other positions in the prison.

There was no permanent team under the previous system.

Saturday, May 8th, 1976

The Columbian

TOP CONVICT-STUDENT RIPS PENITENTIARY SYSTEM

Framed by iron bars, a lone tulip propped in a plastic orange cup sits on the window sill in the hallway between the reception room and the library.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured Guests, Faculty Members, and my Fellow-what."

How should I address my fellows? Should I say fellow students or should I say, fellow prisoners?

In what is the first cautious, foray by members of the public inside the beleaguered walls of the B.C. Penitentiary in almost a year, invited guests mingled with inmates on Friday during a special awards and certificate ceremony for seventeen Penitentiary inmates who are also University of Victoria students.

The prison University course program set up four years ago offers full credit courses in Anthropology, English, History, Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology for convicts.

But that program, according to inmate and student Frank Guiney, who delivered the valedictory address, "Survives in spite of - not because of the prison existence."

Outside this room, out there all around us, is functioning a sick monstrosity, a prison, where society tries to hide all its problems and mistakes.

I have no interest in bitching or grouching or twisting the lion's tail or should I say, the dragon's tail. I simply wish to point out to you that I have much difficulty at this moment separating my two identities. "I have nothing - repeat - to say about prisons. They are sick; are useless; they are destructive."

Though he admitted a very real sense of gratitude for the University program, which he called "one of the few breaths of fresh air available to us," Guiney said it is not really part of the prison, the prison program does not bend much to suit the University purpose.

Calling himself "Canada's oldest living juvenile delinquent," the forty-three year old Guiney said he first entered the Pen when he was nineteen. "There wasn't a University program in those days." The prison existence trains people to think like prisoners, to act like prisoners and to react like prisoners, that is the deadly paradox society has set for itself, he said.

The Prison Administrator's task is an "impossible" one, expecting them to produce normal people while forcing them to conform for long periods of time to an abnormal environment. It can't work. It is an exercise in futility.

"At the same time, I would be less than honest if I said that I was not grateful for this University program, consciously, personally thankful that it is here," said Guiney.

Guiney received three awards for academic accomplishment in History, Philosophy and Psychology, as well as a certificate for completing fifteen and twenty-nine credits.

During the socialization hour held in the reception room after the ceremonies, Guiney who still has six years left to complete his sentence, said he would like to study law when he gets out.

"I might be the first senior citizen to be called to the bar," he said.

Wednesday, July 7th, 1976

The Columbian

INMATES, GUARDS, BLAMED IN PENITENTIARY DEATH

The actions of inmate Andy Bruce and the Tactical Squad caused the "unnatural and accidental" death of prison classification officer Mary Steinhauser, a seven man New Westminster County Coroner's Court Jury decided Tuesday. The Jury, which took eight hours to finish its deliberations found that the six man squad was justified in opening fire because officers were convinced Steinhauser's life was in jeopardy.

It took Coroner Doug Jack five minutes to read out the Jury's verdict and recommendations as a marathon inquest drew to a close.

The Juror's statement read: The bullet which killed Mary Steinhauser came from the gun of a member of the Tactical Squad; Their action was precipitated by inmate Andy Bruce because he held Miss Steinhauser between himself and the Tactical Squad in a manner leading the squad to believe that her life was in immediate jeopardy from his knife.

"Although this attaches responsibility to both the Tactical Squad and Bruce, we find that the Tactical Squad was justified in their actions inasmuch as they acted in the line of duty in the firm belief they were acting to save Miss Steinhauser's life.

This is the article in part.

Monday, July 19th, 1976

The Columbian

PRISON INMATE HURT IN KNIFING

A twenty-four year old B.C. Penitentiary inmate was in satisfactory condition today in Royal Columbian Hospital following a stabbing incident in the prison auditorium.

The stabbing occurred after lights were turned out prior to the start of an evening movie attended by one hundred and fifty-seven inmates. The inmate either doesn't know or won't say who inflicted the wounds. Police are still investigating.

Tuesday, August 10th, 1976

The Columbian

PRISONERS JOIN NATIONAL HUNGER STRIKE

Only seventy-two of four hundred and fifty prisoners at the B.C. Penitentiary ate breakfast today as most joined in a twenty-four hour hunger strike to protest the use of solitary confinement in Federal Institutions.

A National support group called the hunger strike to commemorate the deaths of two prisoners at Millhaven Penitentiary, Kingston, Ontario. One died in 1974 and the other earlier this year.

Seven prisoners rights supporters were parading outside the B.C. Penitentiary this morning to support the prisoners inside.

They erected a large card on the cairn listing the names of fifty people who they claimed died during the past five years while being confined in various B.C. Institutions.

Director of the William Head Correctional Centre, said everything was normal at the Institution near Victoria.

A Penitentiary Service spokesman said many prisoners were not aware the hunger strike had been called,

Wednesday, September 1st, 1976

The Columbian

GUARDS FOIL ANOTHER PENITENTIARY HOSTAGE TAKING

A B.C. Penitentiary inmate with only six months of a two year sentence left to serve now faces a possible five more years behind bars.

Penitentiary spokesman, Jack Stewart, said today that Richard Alexander, 21, grabbed a guard Tuesday night in the East Wing of Tier 1 B.

Ten minutes later, prison guard, John Lakusta, grabbed Alexander's hand and with the help of other guards, disarmed him. Alexander was armed with a dull butter knife, said Stewart.

Charges of unlawful confinement and possession of a dangerous weapon have been laid against Alexander.

Tuesday, August 10th, 1976

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Friday, September 10th, 1976

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

Penitentiary Officials have declared a state of emergency at the Penitentiary following demands by guards for operational changes within the Institution.

The guards backed up their demands by refusing to work overtime Thursday and the prison service responded ordering them to stay on the job or face disciplinary action.

The confrontation was apparently set off by the recent stabbing death of inmate John Fouts who was stabbed Sunday by a number of fellow inmates.

M.P. John Reynold said he has information from an anonymous guard "it was sheer negligence" on the part of the prison administration which led to the man's death.

Reynolds, spoke to the guard today, said certain inmates - who shouldn't have been there - were loose on the tier as Fouts and others were going back to their cells after watching a Canada Cup game.

The lapse of security, the lack of action by Penitentiary officials to correct the situation forced the New Westminster Local of the P.S.A.C. to declare an overtime ban at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, said Reynolds.

Penitentiary officials, however, declared an emergency situation at 3:00 p.m. the same day which allows them to order the guards to work overtime to maintain normal prison routine.

Under the emergency conditions all necessary positions will be staffed to maintain security.

Vocational and educational programs will be cut back. John Lakusta, President of the P.S.A.C. Local, said he had been directly ordered by Cernetic, not to make any comment on the situation.

Tuesday, September 21st, 1976, the Columbian reported; A twelve day emergency situation at the Penitentiary ended Monday when guards agreed to lift an overtime ban.

The actions are a direct result of a meeting Monday between Prison Director and Guards' Union Representatives, of the P.S.A.C.

The guards are convinced that management is taking action on twenty-four demands made to the prison administration in early September.

Tuesday, September 28th, 1976

The Columbian

B. C. PENITENTIARY INMATES RIOT, GRAB HOSTAGES

Heavily armed soldiers from the Canadian Forces Base in Chilliwack, took up positions around the B.C. Penitentiary today while inside two hundred rampaging prisoners finished demolishing the prison's East Wing.

The army arrived at about 11:15 some twenty hours after the prisoners overran the East Wing forcing prison guards to evacuate the two hundred and forty cell section.

This incident occurred at 3:00 p.m. Monday as the prisoners were let out of their cells for showers.

At 7:00 p.m. ten inmates took two hostages, a guard and a kitchen employee, and held them in the kitchen area.

At first prison authorities believed they were dealing with two separate incidents but later Penitentiary spokesman Jack Stewart, admitted that both were related.

Fifty combat ready troops took over perimeter patrols and external security from prison guards shortly after their transport brought them to the prison gates.

This morning, R.C.M.P. Officers serving in the tactical squads, riot control units had sealed off the East Wing from the rest of the prison.

In a press release handed out to reporters the prisoners, speaking through their inmate committee, said the rampage

through the East Wing was part of a deliberate attempt to demolish the prison. The statement said "the inmate committee wants it made public how this incident came about and to expose the corruption in this Institution."

No demands to escape have been made by anyone including the inmates who are holding hostages in the kitchen area. The cause of this incident lies other than the prisoners, and we want to prove this to the public. This Institution will probably never function again as it was because we stop here. The East Wing will never be used again. It is destroyed. The Institution started getting demolished Friday but it was kept under cover this long, there was only more agitation by a small group of guards.

On Friday all the toilets in empty cells were destroyed, on Saturday all furniture in the empty cells were destroyed and on Sunday the railings along the tiers went.

The hostages were identified as Walter Day, food services officer, and guard Wayne Culbert, both were unharmed at press time and were being held at knife point.

Inmates being held in the super-maximum security section of the prison were not involved in the riot and were under tight security.

Throughout the night, R.C.M.P. patrol cars were constantly driving up to the prison and around a side road to the gate of No. 2 tower.

On Thursday, September 30th, 1976, the Columbian reports the rebellion inside the walls of the Penitentiary could end today if inmates and prison negotiators can reach agreement on the last three inmate demands.

In Ottawa, Solicitor General Francis Fox said he will recommend acceleration of a building program to replace old prisons such as the B.C. Penitentiary.

Fox also said force at the Penitentiary would be used only on his orders.

Meanwhile a large segment of the prison is still controlled by two hundred prisoners who have now spent three days barricaded in the East Wing.

A statement by the Inmate Committee announced that the prisoners' main demand was to get the guards off the tiers and turn effective control over to police or the army. We want someone on the tiers who won't pepper the place with shotgun blasts.

The inmates fear for their lives on a mass scale. The situation is desperate. We feel the control of the prison must be taken away from the custodial staff, maybe with the Army or the R.C.M.P..involved things can get under way in a practical manner.

Friday, October 1st, an eighty hour revolt to protest conditions at the strife torn B.C. Penitentiary ended early this morning with the release of guard Wayne Culbert.

Culbert was released following negotiations between inmates' spokesman and the administration that resulted in a nine point agreement, guaranteeing, among other things, a public inquiry into the prison's future.

The agreement also means that two hundred prisoners who had barricaded themselves into the badly damaged East Wing will be moved to other areas of the Institution.

The six inmates who were holding the young guard hostage turned themselves into the R.C.M.P. and were taken to the Burnaby Detachment cells.

Negotiating for the prison was Jim Murphy, Regional Director, and Ken Petersen, Acting Prison Director for Dragon Cernetic who is in hospital.

The agreement was signed by the administration, the inmate committee, the R.C.M.P. and the citizen's advisory committee.

A two page document was called "victory" for the inmates by the prisoners' union head Ivan Horvat, a convicted murderer.

The agreement to keep the R.C.M.P. on hand reflected the prisoner's distrust of guards who had been seeking beefed-up security measures at the prison.

About one hundred and twenty-five policemen in riot gear are now on duty at the Penitentiary.

The agreement also provides that all inmates seeking

voluntary transfers to another prison will be referred to a committee consisting of a general transfer board and the citizen's advisory committee for a decision.

Prison spokesman, Jack Stewart, said two hundred and forty cells were wrecked at the prison, and when combined with the destruction from a riot at Laval prison there is now a shortage of maximum security accommodation in Canada.

Murphy said the disturbance showed that while the system has improved in the last few years, the change is still too slow for some people. He supported the concept of R.C.M.P. officers manning the prison, saying it will relieve recent long periods of staff shortages.

During the riot a request was made to medical staff at the Royal Columbian Hospital to go on an emergency standby to treat tear-gas victims. (Tear gas was not used.)

New Westminster M.P. Stuart Leggatt said today it is time the prison was moved and reduced into smaller Institutions.

"I don't condone the inmates' destruction of the Penitentiary" said Leggatt, but I think the Solicitor General has a golden opportunity to move the Penitentiary.

Saturday, October 2nd, the Columbian reports; Guards at the B.C. Penitentiary are threatening to resign en masse or to walk off the job in the wake of this weeks riot and hostage taking.

John Lakusta, President of the P.S.A.C. Local which represents guards at the prison said, if the authorities had taken action once the riot got under way, they should have sealed off the area and locked up all inmates, should have used tear-gas. "Preserving property is important because the public is footing the bill."

David Vickers, Deputy Attorney-General, said in Victoria Friday afternoon that charges would be laid as the result of the insurrection at the Penitentiary, he said it would take a week to ten days for R.C.M.P. and the Crown Prosecutors to lay charges.

The guards are tense and I am sure the inmates are still tense said Jack Stewart, C.P.S. spokesman. "It takes awhile to come down from this four day high." About one hundred and fifty armed forces personnel will continue to patrol the prison until noon Wednesday.

The prisoners were taken to the gymnasium, searched, photographed, and given medical check-ups if requested. Prisoners in the gymnasium were given mattresses and guarded by R.C.M.P. and prison staff pending transfer.

On October 4th; A citizen's advisory member said Penitentiary Service Spokesman is **inflaming** the current situation at the B.C. Penitentiary, by referring to 'death threat' signs aimed at the prison guards by some of the three hundred and fifty prisoners now sequestered in the prison gymnasium.

Stewart denied that his statements were inflammatory and said he would not release the names of the security staff who appeared on the posters Sunday.

The clean-up of the wrecked East Wing which began Saturday by the Surrey based Seaward Construction Ltd., continued Sunday and today.

October 5th; Jack Stewart said, damage to the B.C. Penitentiary following last weeks disturbance is now estimated at \$1.5 million, he said officials in Ottawa haven't yet decided what damaged areas of the prison will be re-opened, it hasn't been finalized how much of that amount will be spent.

Stewart said eighteen prisoners have been transferred out since the disturbance, and another twenty-four would be sent to Agassiz Mountain prison later this week.

October 6th, Columbian reports; Prison guards at the B.C. Penitentiary could take job action several weeks if the Penitentiary Service doesn't cancel the pact that ended last weeks eighty-one hour seige.

A lawyer for the inmates union, warned Tuesday that revoking the agreement between prisoners and the administration representatives could destroy the bargaining process at any further disturbances.

The Penitentiary guards met Tuesday and voted to go along with

their National Executive and remain at work for the present.

Some points of the agreement include:-

1. A full public inquiry into conditons at the Penitentiary.
2. R.C.M.P. to take control of the inmates who held the two hostages and transfer them to another Institution.
3. R.C.M.P. to remain within the prison for two weeks.
4. Inmates wanting to transfer from the Penitentiary will have their requests considered by regional transfer board and citizen's advisory committee.
5. There is to be no physical punishment of any inmate involved in the disturbance and no internal disciplinary charges laid until after the public inquiry has concluded and a report published.

Stern, a lawyer for the inmates, said he couldn't understnad the guards reaction because none of the points in the pact pose any security problem or put guards in danger. He also said the agreement wasn't legal because it was negotiated under duress, but said the Commissioner could not cancel it if the administration is to maintain any credibility with the inmates.

Saturday, October 9th, 1976 the Columbian reports: Complains about sanitary conditions at the B.C. Penitentiary by prisoners forced to sleep in the prison gymnasium after a riot in which they wrecked their cell block got little sympathy from Penitentiary service officials Friday.

The more than two hundred prisoners complained of the lack of toilet paper and clean laundry and said more than a ton of rain soaked putrid garbage "has accumulated at the side door of the gymnasium."

A spokesman for the Penitentiary Service, said there were problems at the Penitentiary, but many of them were caused by the prisoners themselves. "If there are hardships, it's unfortunate" said Stewart, "but I can't sympathize with them a great deal."

The shortcomings of the dormitory-style living were outlined by the prisoners in a letter written in defence of prisoner's rights advocate Clare Culhane, barred from the Penitentiary for acting as an unauthorized carrier of prisoners' letters.

On Saturday, October 16th, the Columbian reports; a lone R.C.M.P. officer is all that remains of the police squads called into help guard the rioting prisoners two weeks ago at the B.C. Penitentiary.

The other officers were withdrawn Friday morning and replaced by prison guards. They are guarding approximately two hundred inmates still housed in the prison's gymnasium.

About fifty prisoners have been transferred to medium security Institutions since the riot that ended October 1st.

Canadian Armed Forces Personnel who were also called in during the incident are still manning guard towers at the Penitentiary.

It is not know when the troops will be withdrawn from their duties there.

About one hundred prisoners at the Penitentiary could stay in the gymnasium until January. We are now looking at the first week in January for the transfer of the inmates to Mission.

There are many reasons for this, including a need for new staff to go through an orientation period.

Thursday, October 21st, 1976

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY TO BE REPAIRED: CERNETIC REMOVED.

The Canadian Penitentiary Service has decided to renovate the the Penitentiary and remove Dragon Cernetic from overall command.

Regional Director, Jim Murphy, said there is nowhere else in Canada to put the inmates who rioted in late September and destroyed the East Wing, they will have to stay and the structure be repaired. As for Cernetic, the latest victim of events at the seething Institution, the place that has become the graveyard for more than just a few careers in the Penitentiary Service.

His job will be temporarily filled by Bob Swan, a former guard at the Penitentiary and now Assistant Security Director at the new Mission prison.

A competition will be held by the C.P.S. to find a candidate to fill the job full time.

Swan seems to have the backing of the guards and two spokesmen have already said they welcomed the announcement.

Cernetic's reassignment to the Vancouver Regional Office where he will be in charge of special projects was a mutual agreement between Cernetic and Murphy.

The new position is not a demotion and had nothing to do with Cernetic's performance in the past three years.

Saturday, October 23rd; Seven inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary were removed from the gymnasium for their own protection after a disturbance early this morning. The seven are being housed in another part of the prison "where they will be safe."

Comment was refused this morning on reports the fighting this morning was sparked when prisoners learned of the decision to rebuild the East Wing.

Three of the inmates were roughed-up by other inmates, one was taken to Royal Columbian Hospital suffering from what may be a skull fracture. There is no report on his condition. Another inmate suffered a broken nose and was treated in the prison hospital. The third suffered minor facial cuts.

To prevent further outbreaks, the prison administration asked the prisoners' committee to tell the inmates more violence would be considered a breach of the agreement which ended the recent riot.

On Friday, October 29th, the Columbian reports a number of hostage grabbing inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary is about to be increased by two as prisoners who took part in Dorchester hostage taking will be transferred here.

On Monday, November 1st, from the Columbian: A spokesman for the B.C. Penitentiary, said Sunday, prison authorities believe they have foiled a bid by prisoners in the gymnasium to tunnel out through the concrete floor.

Jack Stewart, Penitentiary spokesman, said "when we became

aware of what they were doing, Acting Director Bob Swan told them that if any broke out of the gymnasium, he would use whatever force was necessary." In effect he told them it was up to them to control their own people.

About one hundred and fifty prisoners remain in the gymnasium after more than two hundred and fifty were moved there after they destroyed their cells. Stewart said we heard the chipping last week and it did not take us long to determine what they were doing, we have not heard any more chipping since we confronted them with the situation.

On Friday, November 12th tenders have been called for the reconstruction of the East Wing in the B.C. Penitentiary.

The spokesman said one hundred cells in the wing will be refurbished and enlarged, while one hundred other cells will be eliminated.

November 23rd; Prisoners removed from the B.C. Penitentiary auditorium on Monday, set fires behind the stage, doing an undertermined amount of damage to the auditorium.

The fire followed the explosion of a pipe bomb early Monday morning which did no damage but caused an eardrum injury to a guard who was close by when it exploded.

The C.P.S. spokesman said that the bomb, which exploded at 3:15 a.m. was intended to annoy the guards and not to do any real damage.

Someone just rolled it along the floor to one of the barrier

doors where it went off. The guard who slightly injured was standing behind the door.

Acting Director Bob Swan went into the auditorium and told the fifty-five inmates, that they would have to get out and back into the damaged East Wing. Prison officials were prepared to eject the inmates forcibly if they refused to move.

The transfer was observed by the citizen's advisory committee and the R.C.M.P.

Seconds after the prisoners were moved out flames shot out from behind the stage. Guards manned fire hoses in an effort to contain the blaze while units of the New Westminster Fire Department rushed to the prison.

Preliminary observation indicated the fire had been set in a mattress and cardboard boxes. Chief Powell credited the prompt action by the guards for containing the blaze before we arrived on the scene. A search of the charred area by prison officials revealed a quantity of home brew, some home made knives and other sharpened pieces of metal to be used as weapons by the inmates.

At present all fifty-five inmates are being kept in separate cells in the damaged East Wing, portable toilets have been placed in each cell, along with water pails.

Hot meals are being served and plastic coverings have been placed over the damaged windows to keep in as much heat as possible. Portable heaters should be in operation later today

to help heat the place.

On Wednesday, November 24th, the Columbian reports: B. C. Penitentiary gymnasium (auditorium) turned into "cesspool." Scrawled on the gymnasium wall was the message "what we want and what we don't want we destroy."

Tuesday, December 7th: Inmates on hunger strike. Nearly half of the prison population of three hundred and forty-nine at the B.C. Penitentiary is on a hunger strike to protest living conditions in the riot-damaged East Wing of the Institution, said Jack Stewart.

Of the demands, Stewart said the minimum wage idea is a pilot project underway in some Institutions across Canada, and as such is still being considered. He said it can't be brought into effect in New Westminster now. The wage is about \$1.95.

Forty-two prisoners now housed in the bottom tiers of the East Wing have not eaten since Friday to back up complaints for lack of proper bedding, inadequate washing and toilet facilities, and lack of exercise, he said.

The prisoners were joined in their hunger strike Monday by one hundred and twenty-three prisoners in the B-7 Wing of the prison. Mr. Stewart said the prisoners in the super-maximum section, those in protective custody and those in the North Wing had not participated in the protest.

On Tuesday, December 7th, the Columbian reports: Ninety-five prisoners in the North Wing joined the fasting protest, this brings the number to two hundred and sixty.

Prison officials said the new fasters made no demands, but earlier prisoners demanded a \$3.00 an hour minimum wage for any work and reconstruction of the prison and some cell blocks.

The five day hunger strike involving two hundred and sixty prisoners at the B.C. Penitentiary ended Wednesday. All three hundred and forty-nine prisoners sat down to dinner Wednesday night. The convicts had decided continued fasting would serve no useful purpose.

Jack Stewart said prison authorities had agreed to make superficial repairs to the gymnasium, to improve exercising facilities.

Although earlier reports said the prisoners were calling for an increased minimum wage for prison work, Stewart said the inmate committee never made that demand during the strike.

Thursday, December 16th, in the Columbian: A prison activist holding a ten day hunger strike at the B.C. Penitentiary was arrested and carried out of the Institution's offices by police Wednesday after she refused to leave.

Clair Culhane was charged with trespassing after she told Acting Prison Director Bob Swan she wouldn't leave until eight demands for improvement in the Penitentiary were met.

When Swan refused to discuss the first, that certain members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee witness the talks, New

Westminster Police were forced to carry her out of the building to a patrol car and later into the police station.

Released a short time later, Culhane said she will picket outside the prison and go without food until Christmas.

Jack Stewart, said Swan is not prepared to debate prison conditions with Culhane and a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

A press release printed before Culhane went into the offices said she intended to remain there without food until the eight demands were met. Some of them were: A transfer of all men out of the damaged East Wing to corridors, T.V. Lounge and Gymnasium. The reinstatement of visiting right. Inmates in the super-maximum unit should be allowed to spend several hours a day among the general population. A press conference with the inmate committee and representatives of the super maximum unit.

Tuesday, December 21st, 1976

The Columbian

BLEAK CHRISTMAS AT PENITENTIARY, "AFTER A DIFFICULT YEAR"

Inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary will have a very quiet Christmas this year, according to Penitentiary spokesman Jack Stewart.

The three hundred and sixty-five prisoners will dine on turkey and all the trimmings Saturday, that will be just about the extent of their celebration.

Christmas at the Pen wasn't always so bleak, Stewart said, but this year things have been just too difficult. We have been able to offer more in the past, and maybe we will again next year.

Prisoners did receive "Sunshine Bags" containing fruit, candy and a Christmas card from the Salvation Army, along with \$8.00 to \$30.00 worth of personal hygiene or specialty food items which the inmates are allowed to order from outside.

Tuesday, December 28th, the Columbian reports; A Christmas Eve "tension getting stunt" to obtain drugs from the B.C. Penitentiary Hospital resulted in sixteen prisoners being treated for self-inflicted minor cuts and scratches, Penitentiary spokesman Doug McGregor, said on Monday. He said the sixteen prisoners demanded but didn't receive tranquilizers. The sixteen were among those responsible for the gymnasium fire earlier this year, and refused their Christmas dinner when their

demands were not met.

The prisoners also created a disturbance on Sunday, and an afternoon shift of guards stayed on duty until all was quiet. The disturbance coincided with the demonstration outside the prison, organized by a prisoners' rights group.

In 1976 the Federal Government appointed a Sub-Committee to inquire into and bring in recommendations in the Penitentiary System in Canada.

The Committee arrived in Vancouver to interview Staff and Inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary and other Federal Institutions in British Columbia.

On February 14th. 1977 the Sub-Committee met with a delegation from the Retired Federal Prison Officers Association of B.C., who presented a brief and answered questions.

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee also met with the Regional Director, Regional Headquarters, and his Staff and in a later meeting with the Vice President of the PSAC for the Pacific Region.

The evening of the 14th. the Sub Committee met with the John Howard Society of British Columbia, The Indian Homemakers Association of British Columbia and the Prisoners Rights Group, all at separate meetings.

On February 15th. the Committee met with the Citizens Advisory Committee of the B.C. Penitentiary and later a representation from the PSAC of the B.C. Penitentiary Local.

February 16th. the Committee met with Inmate Committee of the General Population of the B.C. Penitentiary and representatives of the Protective Custody Unit. Long Service committee of the B.C. Penitentiary Staff and the Classification Officers of the B.C. Penitentiary. Director, Regional Reception Centre and the B.C. Penitentiary Administration.

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee on the Penitentiary System in Canada made sixty five recommendations to the Solicitor General at the conclusion of their sittings.

Friday, March 11th, 1977

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATES GUILTY OF EXTORTION

Three B.C. Penitentiary inmates were given maximum fourteen years sentences Thursday when they were found guilty in a June, 1975, hostage taking.

Andy Bruce, Dwight Lucas and Claire Wilson had been charged with unlawful confinement of fifteen hostages and attemption to extort transportation to a foreign coutry from a prison officer without lawful justification.

The guilty verdict followed almost eight weeks of testimony in B.C. Supreme Court in New Westminster.

The Judge said he imposed the maximum fourteen year term as a deterrant to others but called it, "totally inadequate."

The Judge said the prisoners "spurned every hand in the Penitentiary" except for Steinhauser and Louise Stratten, another classification officer who was taken hostage.

He said he admired the respectful and dignified conduct of the inmates during the lengthy trial and urged them to work their way out of the prison system.

Five B.C. Penitentiary inmates were sentenced on Monday, April 25th for September hostage taking. Only inmate will serve extra time because of a hostage taking last September in which two prison workers were held during the three and one half day incident.

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All sentences will run concurrently and only one inmate will serve extra time. This inmate who was due to be released next January, was given one year concurrent terms on each count, also to run concurrent with his previous sentence.

Saturday, May 14th, 1977

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY EAST WING WILL SOON BE RESTORED

The Penitentiary service announced Friday that the East Wing of the Penitentiary will be partially restored.

Jack Stewart, Penitentiary spokesman, said the Public Works Department has been authorized to proceed with drawing and specifications for repairs to the wing, wrecked by rioting prisoners last September.

He said the plans called for reconstruction of ninety-six cells on the first two levels of the wing, slightly less than half the cells that existed before the riot. Other parts of the wing will remain sealed off.

The rebuilding job includes provision for showers on each tier of the wing and for hot water in each cell, neither of which was available in the wing before. (Showers were installed on each tier of the wing in 1973.)

This project will increase the Penitentiaries capacity to four hundred and ~~twelve~~ compared with three hundred and sixteen since the riot and relieve the present shortage of maximum security accomodation. Work is expected to start by mid-July and finish by the end of the year.

Stewart said the decision to go ahead with the partial restoration does not mean the service has abandoned plans to phase out the B.C. Penitentiary.

One project that will permit the phase out of the B.C. Penitentiary is the maximum security prison now being built near Agassiz, B.C., but it will not open until December, 1978, and its capacity is one hundred and ninety-two and will not be reached until 1979 Stewart said.

Wednesday, June 8th, 1977

The Columbian

REPORT BLAMES STAFF FOR RIOTS AT B.C. PENITENTIARY

Spokesman for the B.C. Division of the Canadian Penitentiary Service and the Public Alliance of Canada had no immediate comment today to highly critical remarks about them in the House of Commons Sub-Committee report on prison reforms released on Tuesday.

The Commons report said the \$1.6 million damage at the Penitentiary last fall was caused by prisoners "seeds of trouble" were laid by management and staff.

It said friction was caused by guards trying to curtail week night recreation periods and to eliminate recreation entirely on week-ends for prisoners. The report also raps staff for not observing warnings of the riot and for allowing "forceful minority" of prisoners to gang-rape and strong-arm others.

Jack Stewart, spokesman for the Penitentiary Service, declined comment saying senior staff had not yet seen the report. He said comment would be forthcoming after Regional Senior Management met this week to formulate a regional paper on the Common's report.

The President of Local 20043 of the P.S.A.C. representing prison guards refused to comment on the reports contention that guards were in part responsible for the riots.

A few things came out in the papers and on television that are not true, not factual and I am not saying anything until I have seen the report he said.

The reports says the Citizen's Advisory Committee made an outstanding contribution to settling the hostage-taking that accompanied the B.C. Penitentiary riot.

The report says no deals should be made in hostage-takings and outside committees should not be involved in settling such matters. The Prison Director should be the authority.

Thursday, June 9th, 1977

The Columbian

ENTIRE PENITENTIARY POPULATION BEGINS HUNGER STRIKE

Today at 7:00 a.m. exactly two years after the start of the hostage-taking which resulted in the death of a classification officer, the entire inmate population of the B.C. Penitentiary began a twenty-four hour hunger strike.

According to Regional Penitentiary spokesman George Moore, the three hundred and twenty inmates are protesting prison policy regarding open family visits and conditions in the super-maximum security section.

A family visit section has been of some concern for some time among the inmates. Unlike most prisons in Canada, the B.C. Penitentiary does not allow the type of family visits where prisoners meet with their immediate families in an open situation, free from constraints and separation involved in regular visits.

The super-maximum unit is not unlike the former solitary confinement section. During the summer inmates in Super-maximum are entitled to one hour a day of exercise time and during the winter that time is reduced to one half hour.

Moore said the prison administration is taking a wait and see attitude toward the present inmate strike.

They said it would be for just twenty-four hours, so we will just wait until tomorrow morning and see what happens. For

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today, the prison will simply be locked up with no visitors allowed inside.

Wednesday, August 10th, 1977

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY INMATES JOIN HUNGER STRIKE

Inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary today joined in a twenty-four hour, nation-wide prisoners vigil commemorating the deaths of inmates in solitary confinement.

All but eleven of the three hundred and twenty inmates reported for breakfast at 7:30 a.m., a half hour before the protest began.

However, the prisoners refused to report to their regular work stations following the morning meal and they have been confined to their cells all day. The inmates will have no recreation or visitors today and will not be paid according to prison Director Herb Reynett.

Prison officials will offer lunch and dinner to the inmates, but it is expected they will refuse to eat for the twenty-four hour period.

Early reports indicated the protest was against the slowness with which the Federal Government is implementing prison reforms in a recent government report.

Reynett rejects the suggestion however, saying that fifty of the sixty-five recommendations are either in place or in the process of being implemented.

On Thursday, August 11th, the Columbian reports: A few flowers may have wilted and some dirty clothes piled up but for the most

part life is back to normal following a work stoppage by inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary yesterday as part of a National Day of protest aimed at forcing prison system reforms.

According to prisoners' rights group here, the national twenty-four hour strike was to protest the use of solitary confinement and to commemorate the deaths of people who have died in prison.

Reynett said the affect of the work stoppage at the B.C. Penitentiary was minimal, with some flowers suffering from the heat or some laundry left undone.

Only eleven prisoners refused to eat breakfast, but joined the rest of the prison population for lunch. Prisoners who refused to work will be docked a days pay, between ninety and one dollar and forty cents for maintenance and industrial duties, they were also denied visiting and recreational priveleges during the day.

Tuesday, September 4th, 1977

The Columbian

CAPTURE ENDS BIZZARE B.C. PENITENTIARY ESCAPE

An inmate who stabbed himself stole an ambulance and kidnapped a prison guard Monday evening was captured early today on the banks of the Fraser river in Richmond.

The inmate Stephen Hall's four hour bid for freedom began shortly before 9:00 p.m. Monday when he apparently stabbed himself in the abdomen with an eight inch skewer type knife while in his cell.

He was taken to the prison hospital where it was decided to leave the knife in the wound, to be removed surgically in the Royal Columbian Hospital.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Hall apparently pulled the knife from his wound and began slashing about. The ambulance driver George High and attendant Doug Beckett were forced out of the vehicle and the accompanying guard was forced to drive it away.

Police followed the ambulance through New Westminster and eventually to Richmond in a high speed chase.

The inmate was not familiar with the area and had the guard drive him down a dead end street near the Surf Cabaret at No. 3 Road and Sea Island Way.

Hall then fled on foot along the river bank into the industrial area behind the Richmond Keg Restaurant, and left the guard behind unhurt.

Hall was located by a tracking dog team about 1:00 a.m. on a barge tied up on the river about one hundred yards from where he left the ambulance. He was soaking wet when he was found, indicating that he had been in the Fraser river during his bid for freedom.

Hall offered no resistance during capture. He is being held in New Westminster pending charges.

September 16th, 1977

The Columbian

PRIEST REFUSED ACCESS TO PENITENTIARY INMATE

A Roman Catholic Priest wishing to offer spiritual counselling to an inmate at the B.C. Penitentiary was refused access to the prison during visiting hours Wednesday, September 14th.

Father Mel Cropley of Ucluelet told the Columbian he went to the New Westminster facility at about 3:00 p.m. to meet with an inmate to whom he is a spiritual advisor.

He explained his mission to the guard at the main prison entrance. The guard told him simply "they won't bring him down".

Cropley said he did not press the issue with the guard, assuming he was merely following orders.

According to Cropley, he, as a priest, can go to any hospital at any time and be admitted to minister to a patient.

"But there I was treated like a dog and told to go to my corner", he said, "while other people were inside the prison holding visits".

Cropley will not release the name of the inmate he intended to visit, fearing that he will be "mistreated" by the guards if he is identified by the media.

He said there could have been no question in the guard's mind that Cropley was a Priest because they had met before on several occasions.

"I wonder that if they treat me, a Priest, like that - how do they treat the men inside who have no protection, no power and no access to the news media?" asked Cropley.

Penitentiary Service Public Relations spokesman Jack Stewart said Thursday that no prisoners are brought down for visits after 2:45 p.m.

He explained that since visiting hours end at 3:30 p.m., the inmate and the visitor could become upset when their visit was cut short.

Asked if such a rule could be waived if a Priest sought to visit with a member of his parish, Stewart said there would likely have to be exceptional circumstances for such special treatment.

Penitentiary Director Herb Reynette said that he has not heard of the incident but that in his nine months at the prison there have been no complaints about visiting access.

Cropley is a former prison Chaplain, having worked in the Provincial Jails and Federal Penitentiary for about six years.

On Monday, October 3rd, 1977, Jack Stewart, Public Affairs Administrator for the Penitentiary Service writes the Editor.

Regarding your September 16th story about Father Mel Cropley

and his attempt to visit an inmate recently at the B.C. Penitentiary, it has come to my attention that the inmate had not placed Father Cropley on his visitor's list, another "regulation" that is followed at our Institution.

I do not wish to debate this matter further but in fairness to our staff they were criticized for just doing their job, and statements regarding possible reprisals by the guards I find most objectionable.

Father Cropley knows the procedures that we follow and his request can be accommodated by simply adhering to visiting regulations.

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Friday, September 23rd, 1977

The Columbian

CHARGES AGAINST TWO B.C. PENITENTIARY GUARDS DROPPED

Assault charges have been dropped against two of four B.C. Penitentiary Guards charged with beating an inmate in solitary confinement last January.

Charges again Gerald Wolokoff were dropped Thursday for lack of evidence while similar charges were dropped against Iother Werk Wednesday.

Two other guards, will continue their Preliminary Hearing on the charges in New Westminster Court September 29th.

The four were charged with assaulting inmate Ronny Miller when he refused to leave his cell for a Doctor's visit last January.

Earlier, a guard was found not guilty of turning a fire hose on a prisoner during last September's riot at the Penitentiary.

The Judge ruled in the case that there was reasonable doubt that the prisoner was not blasted with a stream of water while the prisoner, who was no involved in the riot, was in his cell.

Four convict witnesses testified that Miller, was bleeding from the nose and had a welt under his eye when the guards carried him by his arms, legs and hair to an appointment Miller had with the prison Doctor.

The witnesses said they were in their cells at the time and did not see the alleged being carried away. None of the witnesses could positively identify Wolokoff as being involved in the incident.

On Wednesday, October 12th, 1977, two B.C. Penitentiary Guards were found not guilty in New Westminster Provincial Court of assaulting an inmate at the Institution January 6th.

Victor Albert Tupper and Stephen Lowry were charged with assault causing bodily harm after a complaint from inmate Ronny Miller.

In his Judgement Wednesday, Provincial Court Judge dismissed the story told to the court by Miller as "a complete fabrication concocted for the purpose of feeding his own publicity seeking ego".

The Judge found only the minimum amount of force necessary to get Miller to the Doctor was used, he was never punched or kicked by the guards. The Nurse and the Doctor testified that Miller was carried bodily, but was presented to him standing on his feet. The nurse said that Miller looked at the Doctor and said "" don't want any of your help" and returned to his cell.

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Friday, October 14th, 1977

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY REPAIR BIDS TOP \$500,000.00

Bids range from \$531,981.00 to \$598,136.00 to repair damage caused by rioting prisoners in September, 1976.

The bids opened Thursday provide for rebuilding of the kitchen area, hospital and the cell block, as well as a new fresh air exercise area for prisoners in the super-maximum unit.

Alex Kee, Project Manager for the Federal Department of Public Works, said the bids are in addition to the \$35,000.00 spent on the clean-up following the riot.

He said the next phase of construction on the prison could cost several million dollars if approved.

Ottawa has promised to abolish the hundred year old Penitentiary and replace it with maximum security Institutions in other parts of British Columbia.

Thursday, December 1st, 1977

The Columbian

TROUBLED PENITENTIARY TO BE PHASED OUT

The ninety-eight year old B.C. Penitentiary will be phased out over the next year and turned into a Regional Reception Centre, Solicitor General Francis Fox announced today.

In a report to the Parliamentary Justice Committee which toured the facility and came out with a condemnatory report this year, Fox said the Institution will be converted by November, 1978. All Maximum-Security prisoners will be moved to the new \$13.2 million Kent Institution at Agassiz.

New Westminster Mayor Muni Evers told the Columbian today he is very excited about the announcement and the city will enter into negotiations with the Federal Government as soon as possible for acquisition of the land.

He said the 65.5 acre site or part of it would be a shot in the arm for the planned redevelopment of the Royal City's Down Town.

A spokesman for Legatt's office there is some speculation that super-maximum security prisoners may be sent to a new super-maximum unit.

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Saturday, January 28th, 1978

The Columbian

THIRTEEN VISITORS HELD IN PENITENTIARY

B.C. Penitentiary prisoners are holding thirteen visitors hostage, in an incident that began late this morning.

The incident began about 11:00 a.m. with the prisoners, Andy Bruce, Steven Hall, Ralph Summers, Richard Wright and David Bennett.

In a melee, a guard was stabbed, and Bruce was apparently shot in the leg. The prisoners are demanding legal council, and medical attention for Bruce's leg.

This morning, New Westminster police spokesman said little was known about the incident although a special team was at the scene. We have a team out there a spokesman said but I can't get in touch with them until they report back.

The incident surfaced when a spokesman for the inmates telephoned a local radio station to announce the hostage taking.

The inmate, did not give his name, said the prisoners were armed with a 38-calibre pistol, apparently taken from one of the guards.

The victims of the hostage taking-all-visitors are being held in the visit and correspondence area of the prison.

He said the inmates' demands are non-negotiable, and asked that radio station personnel request the prison administration begin negotiations. So far the administration hasn't made

any effort to get medical attention for the wounded inmate.

The inmates want to speak to a lawyer, Marguerite Jackson, and possibly others the spokesman said.

Monday, January 30th. A hitch in negotiations may be holding up the release of ten hostages including a pregnant woman, in the Penitentiary visitors' area where they have been held by five inmates since Saturday.

Police negotiators and the inmates reached a tentative agreement Sunday to allow two of the five to be transferred to Millhaven Penitentiary in Ontario. All that needed was the approval of Solicitor General Francis Fox.

Prison guards and police surrounded the fortress like structure. Penitentiary vehicles patrolled the perimeter of the walls and heavy security at all entrances ensured that no one entered the grounds without authority.

On Saturday a group of inmates in the visiting area overpowered a guard, the inmates smashed the glass partition between the prisoner and visitor sections and raced for the door. A guard got there ahead of them and locked the door trapping the inmates and eleven others in the visiting area.

Two inmates refused to take any part in the events and became hostages along with the eleven visitors.

Guard Roy Yasuda, 32, with three years in the Penitentiary Service was stabbed in the neck in the attempt to escape. He is in stable condition at Royal Columbian Hospital

Officials of the Institution have not released the names of the hostages although a telephone call to a local radio station from the sister-in-law of an inmate identified them.

Three hostages were freed over the weekend in exchange for food, cigarettes and the drug demerol. The first release came late Saturday when Laurie England was let go in exchange for some fried chicken and cigarettes.

A car was found outside the prison with several changes of clothing, ammunition and drugs, leading to a speculation at least, some of the hostages were willing participants and accomplices in the attempted escape.

Negotiations with the inmates are being conducted by New Westminster Police Inspector Ed Cadenhead and Vancouver Lawyer Marguerite Jackson, named by the inmates as an negotiator. Sunday afternoon a forty-five minute negotiation session between the officer in charge of the operation, R.C.M.P. Superintendent Bruce Northrop, and inmate spokesman Ralph Saumners. It was during these talks the two sides came to a tentative agreement regarding transfer to Millhaven.

At the beginning of the incident the inmates were communicating direct with local radio station by telephone, the R.C.M.P. later cut the telephone link.

On Tuesday, January 31st. Three of the five inmates holding ten people hostage have announced they are willing to surrender

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to R.C.M.P. in return for transfer to Millhaven Penitentiary in Ontario. They are willing to move immediately into an R.C.M.P. lockup and to remain there pending the transfer.

There was speculation over the weekend following the seizure of a car from the front of the prison that some of the visitors may have been involved in the escape attempt.

On Wednesday, February 1st, R.C.M.P. were still negotiating with the hostage takers at the Penitentiary. The hostages were all reported to be in good health.

Thursday, February 2nd. Two female hostages have been released, one because she was ill and another in exchange for food. The number of hostages has now been reduced to eight as the seige is well into its sixth day.

An unidentified woman was released at about 10:00 a.m. today after the hostage takers reported she was ill and would be better off in hospital.

R.C.M.P. Inspector, Roy Packell said that the five hostage takers were not convinced by the press reports that wounded guard Roy Yasuda was still alive. Yasuda was reported up and around at Royal Columbian Hospital after being in serious condition.

The R.C.M.P. supplied the inmates with a photograph of the guard and Superintendent Northrop.

Friday, February 3rd. Two B.C. Penitentiary hostage takers

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surrendered and two hostages were released Thursday in the biggest breakthrough since the incident began almost one hundred and fifty hours ago.

Inmates Saumner and Bennett walked out of the visitors' area of the prison to the waiting R.C.M.P. at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday. Two inmate hostages were released at the same time and were interviewed by the police.

The hostage taking which is now close to a week old is the troubled history of the Institution. The more than three hundred inmates in the prison have been locked in their cells since Saturday except for brief meal and recreation periods.

The week long hostage taking drama ended Saturday, February 4th.

Shortly before noon a blue Solicitor Generals' Van escorted by two R.C.M.P. squad cars, their lights flashing, whisked one of three prisoners to an R.C.M.P. lockup somewhere in the lower mainland.

The end came this morning when the three prisoners and prison officials agreed to an eighteen point program to end the incident, which began last Saturday.

The main points of the program are:

The three prisoners are guaranteed the right to phone their lawyers and be visited by their lawyers when they are taken to R.C.M.P. jails at the conclusion of the hostage taking.

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Each of the three will be allowed a personal phone call to a person of their choice after they are in a R.C.M.P. jail.

Herb Reynett, Director of the F.C. Penitentiary, has guaranteed there will be no reprisals or internal disciplinary action as a result of the hostage taking, immunity was not granted for any criminal charges which might arise from the incident.

R.C.M.P. were to control the surrender and the Canadian Penitentiary Service has agreed that prisoners will receive physical examination by Doctors immediately after the surrender.

Surrender of the three is to take place after the hostage takers heard Northrop read the agreement over Radio Station C.K.N.W.

Monday, February 6th. For hostage Laura Hailes, the end of the seige Saturday was an end to seven days of fear combined with moments of tenderness among the group of inmates and hostages.

During one episode, there was the terror of prisoner and hostage taker Andrew Bruce lashing out as she removed a bullet from his leg.

At another moment there were tears and joy, holed up in the visitors' area, made a birthday cake out of paper and scotch tape for Mary Wildgrube's 23rd birthday.

Mrs. Hailes became a captive for seven days while five inmates carried out tense negotiations with the R.C.M.P.

Describing her ordeal to reporters, Haile said she was terrified

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Bruce would react while she needed a bullet from his leg. I was so scared that he would grab me by the throat any minute, I kept telling him I didn't mean to hurt him. The bullet, fired by an unknown person during the escape attempt lodged in Bruce's leg near the shinbone.

The hostages said their greatest fear was not about the hostage takers but that police or guards would charge the visitors' area shooting.

Penitentiary Service spokesman, Jack Stewart, said activity has returned to normal at the prison today, but visitors are not being permitted.

The visitors' area, damaged during the seige, has been cordoned off by police for investigation purposes.

Tuesday, February 7th. The Columbian reports; Two women accused of attempting a prison guard at the start of the seven day hostage taking incident at the B.C. Penitentiary have been remanded in custody at New Westminster Provincial Police Court. The two women are Petsy Wood, 47, and Gay Hoon, 31, and have been refused a bail application.

They are charged with the attempted murder of Roy Yasuda, who is recovering in hospital from a knife wound in the neck. Also charged with the attempted murder are five inmates.

Damage caused to the B.C. Penitentiary's visitors' area could be as high as \$20,000.00 according to a New Westminster Police Detective.

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The place looked like a hurricane had swept up everything and smashed it to pieces. Desks, filing cabinets, office furniture, typewriters and radios were smashed and scattered throughout all the rooms.

Possibly the worst sign of damage done lay in the middle of the floor:- The charred remains of prison records, which had been used to heat the rooms by the hostage takers.

The files contained information on inmates allowing visiting rights, names, addresses of members of prisoners' families and other information, all of which can't be duplicated. He feared the destroyed files could have an adverse impact on visitors' rights.

On February 11th, 1978, Saturday from the Columbian: Blood spattered walls, furniture torn and topples, ashes from burned files four inches deep in spots, rotting food, and pained, bitter graffiti, that is how the visitors' area of the B.C. Penitentiary still looked Friday as police and the prison security service continued to sift through the rubble.

The door into the visitors side is riddled with bullet holes as someone tried to shoot off the lock from inside the visiting area. The shots missed every time because the lock on that door is one of the few in the prison that is not at the top of the door, where the shots were directed.

The guards, trying to stop the prisoners from getting out the last door barring their way to freedom, had to run down the hallway, open a wooden door, slip the key into the lock of an

847 H

iron barrier, open it, close it with the key still on the inside, reach through the bars, turn the lock and remove the key. They were lucky a security officer said, and it took a lot of guts.

Ralph Saumner, Richard Wright and Dave Bennett were sentenced to five years in prison on Monday, September 11th, 1978. They will begin the five year term following sentences now being served. All three are presently serving at least twenty years.

Inmate Steven Hall earlier pleaded guilty to attempted murder and other charges in connection with the hostage taking January 28th to February 4th. He was sentenced to life in prison. He is already serving a life term for attempted murder and armed robbery. Bruce, the fifth inmate involved will face trial sometime this fall.

Gay Hoon and Betsy Wood, the two women who were in the visitors' area when the attempted escape took place, are charged with aiding a prison escape and attempted murder.

848

Monday, February 20th, 1978

The Columbian

INMATE STABBED IN NECK

New Westminster City Police are investigating the stabbing Sunday of a prisoner held in the maximum security unit of the B.C. Penitentiary.

Harold Allen Lapointe, 23, was stabbed in the neck with a ball-point pen during an exercise period. He is listed in satisfactory condition at the Royal Columbian Hospital.

A Penitentiary spokesman would not say why Lapointe is in prison.

Saturday, February 25th, 1978

The Columbian

A roll-call of names familiar to followers of B.C. Penitentiary hostage takings was called Friday as witnesses to testify for the prosecution in New Westminster County Court in the assault trial of a Penitentiary guard.

Ronald Brown is charged with two counts of common assault and one of assault causing bodily harm involving two incidents in the prisoners' super-maximum unit (SMU) October 15th and 16th, 1976.

Inmates Andy Bruce, Dwight Lowe, Clair Wilson and complainant Ronald Miller, all took the stand to accuse Brown of twice hurling hot water at Miller and of beating him up.

According to their story Brown and another guard entered the 5-H tier about 8:00 p.m. and Brown began filling a pail with hot water from a tap, the water is given to the inmates once each evening so they can make coffee or some other hot beverage.

Miller apparently asked Brown to let the water run for awhile so it would be hot. Sometimes a guard will get vindictive and not let it get hot, testified Wilson. Lowe, whose cell was beside Miller's, said Brown filled the pail and walked over toward Miller. He made a motion that he was going to pour him some water and then threw it in his face. He said the guard then stormed down the tier and announced to all the inmates that they would get nothing. Lowe said that at about 11:00 p.m. the

849 A

the same day several guards, including Brown, came onto the tier. Brown had a bucket of hot water and he walked over to Miller's cell and threw the water in.

Testimony from all the inmates indicated that Miller asked the guards if he could have dry bedding and clothes but was ignored. He apparently slashed his wrists later that night and was taken from S.M.U.

The next day, according to Miller, several guards came to his cell in another section of the prison and he was dragged out into the exercise yard, he was handcuffed and he said Brown punched him in the face, kicked him in the groin and after he fell to the ground continued to punch and kick him. The witnesses all testified that Miller called out to Bruce that he was being beaten and asked Bruce to call a lawyer for him.

Miller told the court that Brown was well known in the Penitentiary as being sadistic toward inmates.

Miller admitted under cross examination that he had laid a similar charge against another guard and it was termed a complete falsification by Judge J.K. Shaw.

On Friday, June 9th, 1978, the Columbian reports;

PENITENTIARY GUARD FOUND NOT GUILTY

A smiling and relieved B.C. Penitentiary guard was found not guilty of assault charges brought against him by an inmate eighteen months ago.

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Ronald Brown, 27, said just moments after County Court Judge C.M. Hyde found him not guilty: "I'm very glad, very glad to have this over with. It's been a hassle".

Charges of assault causing bodily harm were brought against Brown by prisoner Ron Miller who alleged Brown kicked him in the head and groin and punched him in the ribs during a skin frisk on October 16th, 1976.

On reviewing the evidence brought before him in four days of trial, Hyde said the prisoners and guards "not surprisingly" told different versions of the same event.

Hyde said he attributed the most weight to testimony from two disinterested witnesses; a registered nurse who examined Miller the day after the incident, and a University of B.C. Professor who saw Miller three days after the event.

The nurse said she saw no bruises consistent with being kicked or punched. Miller did not show any signs of difficult breathing or muscle pain, she said.

Professor Dr. Michael Jackson, a member of the citizen's advisory committee examined Miller two days later. Jackson told the court he observed bruises on Miller's face, a cut on the right side of his chin and redness around the ribs.

Hyde said he had "grave doubts" about the truth of Miller's statements as to the nature and timing of his injuries.

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In taking the stand as last defence witness Brown described Miller, serving time for armed robbery, as "one of the most hard-to-handle and dangerous inmates in the Penitentiary at the time". "Miller was a hostage taker, an escaper, and he threatened many officers at the prison" Brown said.

Outside the courtroom Brown said he was glad the trial was over. "You have enough on your mind just being a guard without this. If I had lost, the officers at the Penitentiary would have had to pay. They would have been reluctant to use any force at all to keep order", Brown said

850

Wednesday, July 12th, 1978

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY ASSESSMENT TO BE APPEALED

The City of New Westminster may appeal the Federally imposed assessment on the B.C. Penitentiary property.

Taxed at 15%, the rate at which the city taxes its residential properties, the Penitentiary land is under-assessed, the Mayor said Monday.

Referring to the Canadian Penitentiary Services refusal to pay costs incurred by the city during the hostage taking incidents, the Mayor proposed the property be classed as commercial and taxed the city rate of 25%.

He said he would bring the re-assessment to the attention of the Federal Government.

The B.C. Assessment Authority is recommending that the Penitentiary be taxed at 30%, but city treasurer said appraiser has the final say in setting tax rates for Federal lands.

The Federal Government considers its prisons to be residences, and each year the appraiser rearranged the assessment figures accordingly.

If the Penitentiaries were taxed at a residential rate, it would pay just over \$48,000.00 in city taxes and about \$49,000.00 in school taxes.

Thursday, August 10th, 1978

The Columbian

PROTESTING PRISONERS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE

Inmates at prisons throughout Canada launched a one day hunger strike today in observance of what a spokesman calls National Prison Justice Day.

"The strike is being held in memory of people who died while in solitary confinement", explained Claire Chulhane. She said the groups immediate aim is abolition of solitary confinement.

Prisoners are not eating or working in prison shops in a bid to publicize the deaths of more than one hundred prisoners in Canada during the past eight years.

B.C. Penitentiary Spokesmen would not comment on the situation in their Institution.

On August 11th. Prison activities returned to normal, about one hundred and sixty-five out of three hundred and thirty inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary refused meals and refused to work.

Herb Reynett, Director, said he thought it was regrettable that the strike occurred. The prisoners who took part in the protest lost all privileges and recreation and they may also wind up serving an extra day in jail, he said.

If Canadian Penitentiary Service decides the day of protest cannot be applied towards earned remission, they'll spend an extra day in jail at the taxpayers' expense. I wonder if the people who organized this show know what they are doing.

Friday, September 1st, 1978. A convicted murderer at the B.C. Penitentiary who claims his life is threatened at the Institution has called off a hunger strike and agreed to eat again for the first time in fifteen days.

Marcel Neveay, convicted of murder in Vancouver went on a hunger strike after prison authorities denied a request for transfer to another prison, his brother said on Friday.

Neveau began eating again this week after Penitentiary officials agreed to reconsider his request for a transfer to either Matsqui minimum security Institution or a Quebec Penitentiary.

Friday, December 1st, 1978

The Columbian

OPEN VISITS AT PENITENTIARY NOT VERY POPULAR

Open visits at the B.C. Penitentiary will not be increased in the foreseeable future because the demand for them has been lower than anticipated, says prison Director Herb Reynett.

Introduced at the beginning of September, the open visits permit prisoners to meet their girl friends, wives and families in a living room type setting under the watchful eye of guards.

Ten inmates were permitted to be in the room at any give time for one hour visits which are held two days a week.

This innovation was intended to complement the old set-up in which prisoners are separated from visitors by glass partitions.

There are only a small number of inmates who have taken advantage of it. Of the three hundred and seventy prisoners in the Penitentiary at present, Reynett said only about one hundred prisoners receive guests on a regular basis.

He said the only advantage to this slack demand is that prisoners who receive guests from out of town can spend more than their allotted time with them. (This information is false, open visits in the Penitentiary began in the early 1970's when the Warden's office and the administrative officer were moved and this space was renovated to provide the inmates with open visits.)

Friday, January 19th, 1979

The Columbian

B.C. PENITENTIARY PROBES BATTLE BETWEEN GUARDS, INMATES

An internal inquiry is under way at the Penitentiary to determine the cause of a fight between a guard and an inmate which resulted in a confrontation between eleven inmates and the prison's tactical squad.

The incident started at supper January 7th, when an inmate threw his dinner into the garbage and was challenged by the guard.

Following the exchange eleven inmates barricaded themselves into the lobby leading to their cells. The prison tactical squad in riot gear was called in to smash through the barricades three hours later.

The guard suffered facial lacerations over his eye and some loose teeth. He is still off the job.

No details of the incident were released to the press until the Columbian was tipped off by an inmate's wife. Penitentiary officials initially denied knowledge of the incident.

The prisoners and prison officials are giving different versions of the incident. The inmates claim the guard threw the first punch hitting the inmate on the jaw.

Penitentiary Director Herb Reynett says the guards claim the inmate hit the guard with a metal cup when he was told to pick up the dinner tray.

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The inmate and another inmate set fire to his mattress during the incident and have been sent to the Regional Psychiatric Centre. The wives of several inmates have called on Ottawa prison officials to hold an outside inquiry into the incident. They claim an internal inquiry will be biased and unfair.

Reynett said the barricades were erected by tearing shelves off the walls. Guards were greeted with gallons of paint when they broke through the barricades.

On Monday, January 29th, 1979, the Columbian reports: Violence triggered the friction between guards and inmates and bad prison conditions will continue to rock the Penitentiary unless the situation is corrected by a full public inquiry, a prisoners' committee has warned.

The demand for such an inquiry is contained in a report written by a protective custody unit chairman. A copy of the document was smuggled out of the Penitentiary and delivered to the Columbian by an inmate's wife.

Prisoners in the protective unit are not happy with their food, lack of recreation, and lack of medical care, and harrassment by guards.

Bickering over food sparked the January 7th incident, the inmate who threw his dinner tray into the garbage was challenged by a guard, as a result the guard received the facial lacerations and was off the job for a number of days. Charges have been laid against the inmate on several counts of assault and disobedience.

853 B

Another complaint is that morning visiting hours make it impossible for families to visit. Inmates want families to be allowed in during the afternoon. Penitentiary Director Herb Reynett said he will study demands outlined in the report.

Friday, February 2nd, 1979, the Columbian reports: B.C. Penitentiary Director Herb Reynett says there is no foundation to inmate allegations of mistreatment outlined in a report smuggled out of the prison to the Columbian last week.

Reynett sees no need to hold the public inquiry demanded by inmates in the protective custody unit.

Reynett says complaints by the inmates are nothing new, he hears the same complaints all the time.

As a result of the fight on January 7th, an internal inquiry has been going on and the food department is being investigated as well.

Each officer on duty in the kitchen is required to consume three meals prepared in the kitchen every week and said guards were always on supervision duty when the food is being prepared and served.

Reynett admitted inmates have grounds to complain about inadequate recreation, but I have only one gym.

Reynett also revealed that during another incident last month a guard had acid thrown on his face in the laundry by an inmate and is still off the job as the result.

Friday, February 23rd, 1979

The Columbian

TWO PENITENTIARY INMATES MISSING

Police and prison officials are still not sure that the two prisoners who went missing from the B.C. Penitentiary on Thursday have escaped.

Penitentiary spokesman said this morning that the men may be hiding somewhere inside the prison.

The men were reported missing at noon Thursday during a head count. Prison officials assumed they were hiding inside the Institution because there is no evidence of escape.

On Saturday, February 24th, 1979, the Columbian reports: The two B.C. Penitentiary escapees are in police custody while authorities try to piece together how they got out of the prison in the first place. They were arrested Friday night without resistance at a home on Hastings Street in Burnaby.

A foot-long home-made knife was confiscated at the scene. The two escaped sometime on Thursday.

The two inmates were found guilty of escaping lawful custody on Wednesday, March 29th, 1979, and were sentenced to six months to be served concurrently.

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Monday, March 12th, 1979

The Columbian

PRISONERS MOVED FROM B.C. PENITENTIARY

The B.C. Penitentiary will definitely close within three years, Jack Stewart said today.

More than forty prisoners have been moved to smaller Institutions in the Fraser Valley in the past few weeks, and by June only one hundred and seventy-six prisoners will remain in the prison.

By November that number will drop to about ninety, these are protective custody prisoners who would probably suffer harm if placed in a normal prison population. It will take some time to find alternative prisons for protective custody prisoners, but they should be out of the Penitentiary by 1982, he said.

Solicitor General Jean Jacques Blais, said in New Westminster Tuesday, March 28th, that the B.C. Penitentiary will close by the end of next year.

This is the first time we have ever had a firm date, said the Mayor, the only real problem facing the city now, is what to do with the existing prison structures.

Some proposals have some of the walls and some of the buildings remaining. It would probably take a small hydrogen bomb to take the walls down.

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Saturday, April 28th, 1979

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY INMATE DIES OF INJURIES

A B.C. Penitentiary Inmate dies Friday night following an incident in the Auditorium.

New Westminster Police said the incident occurred just after 7:00 p.m. The inmate was taken to Royal Columbian Hospital with head injuries and was pronounced dead a short time later. Penitentiary officials would not comment.

Tuesday, May 1st, 1979, the Columbian reports: Charges are expected to be laid in connection with a fight among B.C. Penitentiary inmates which resulted in the death of David McDonald on Friday. There were apparently no guards in the immediate area when the incident took place, Police are awaiting results of an autopsy and are continuing their investigation.

A convicted murderer serving a life term at the B.C. Penitentiary was charged Tuesday, May 1st, of first degree murder in connection with the death of a fellow inmate, David McDonald, last Friday.

Meanwhile forty-one prisoners will have to pay for damages done to plumbing facilities in their cells following a demonstration just before midnight Friday.

The demonstration in the East Wing, followed the beating death of McDonald and the removal of McWhinney from his cell to segregation.

The forty-one inmates will be charged Eighty dollars each to repair toilets and sinks in their cells, the money would likely come out of the inmate fund.

On Thursday, May 10th, 1979, the Columbian reports: B.C. Penitentiary guards were aware of the April 22nd incident, which resulted in McDonald's death, for about twenty-five minutes before they were able to intervene, a spokesman confirmed Wednesday.

Jack Stewart said Wednesday the staff became aware of the incident and "were involved to trying to resolve the situation for about twenty-five minutes".

He refused to comment on why guards were unable to intervene more quickly, saying the matter is now before the courts.

The Columbian

Monday, June 4th.1979

British Columbia Penitentiary Guard Charged.

A prison guard accused by a prisoner of involvement in an aborted escape and hostage-taking at the penitentiary in 1978 has been charged with perjury and assisting an escape.

New Westminster Police said Konstantin Pondilicek has been charged following an investigation which began after he was named by Andy Bruce during the trial earlier this year of prison activists Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon.

On Wednesday June 20th.1979, Konstantin Pondilicek of Burnaby appeared in New Westminster Provincial Police Court, his trial date was set for September 19th. and 21st.

On October 19th.1979, the British Columbian reports that the second charge of assisting an escape was dropped against Konstantin Pondilicek at the close of preliminary hearing into the charges earlier this month.

Pondilicek is charged with perjuring himself in the March trial of prisoner-rights activists Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon on counts related to an attempted escape by five inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary in January 1978.

During the trial Bruce testified that Pondilicek agreed to hide a gun in the prison's visiting area, where the escape attempt began, in exchange for drugs and money. Bruce said the guard sent him a postcard to confirm the deal, Pondilicek denied writing the postcard. Bruce was flown from Ontario's Millhaven prison to New Westminster to testify at Pondilicek's preliminary hearing but refused to do so, telling Provincial Court Judge J.K. Shaw "I have nothing but contempt for the court".

Pondilicek was transferred from the B.C. Penitentiary to a correctional service office in Abbotsford after the charges were laid.

On Wednesday, December 5th. Pondilicek was found not guilty in the B.C. Supreme Court of perjury during the trial in February of two women charged with aiding in an attempted escape from the prison.

In his reasons for acquittal Justice S.N. Toy said Pondilicek unknowingly gave false testimony during the trial of prison activists Gay Hoon and Betsy Wood.

Bruce told the court that a guard, in exchange for \$1,200.00 and an ounce of cocaine was to hide a gun in the wash room adjacent to the visitors area to help the escape plan. According to Bruce, Pondilicek sent a coded postcard to Bruce's cell to indicate he would go along with the scheme. Pondilicek denied the claim, but after police obtained an expert opinion that the words on the postcard were in his handwriting Pondilicek was charged with aiding in the attempted escape and with committing perjury.

Aiding an escape charge was dropped when Bruce refused to repeat his allegations at Pondilicek's trial, Judge J.K. Shaw committed the guard to stand trial on the perjury charge. The Crown has failed to obtain conviction of anyone aiding the prisoners.

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Thursday, August 9th, 1979

The Columbian

BRUCE SLASHES GUARD

Just hours before his transfer to Millhaven Penitentiary, Kingston, contract killer and hostage-taker Andy Bruce attacked three B.C. Penitentiary guards with a razor blade in his solitary confinement cell.

As Bruce packed his belongings Wednesday evening, he pulled out a blade attached to a piece of wood and struck out at the guards.

One of the three was treated at Royal Columbian Hospital for severe cuts to his arms.

Prison spokesman, Jack Stewart said today it is not known how Bruce came into possession of the weapon.

Chained hand and foot and surrounded by extra heavy security, Bruce was taken by sherriff's van early today to the Vancouver International Airport, put aboard an R.C.M.P. aircraft and shipped to Millhaven Penitentiary.

Bruce had been scheduled to move to Millhaven since that Institution was designated a special handling prison inmates involved in hostage-taking anywhere in Canada.

October 20th, 1979

British Columbian

B.C. PEN TRIAL MOVED

The B.C. Supreme Court trial of eight convicts charged with the murder of a fellow B.C. Penitentiary inmate has been moved from New Westminster to Vancouver.

Defence Lawyer Henry Sarava, one of several lawyers on the case, said the change of venue was made for security reasons.

The old New Westminster courthouse has only two holding cells, which with eight accused would cause security problems and would make it impossible for lawyers to have private interviews with their clients, Sarava said.

The trial, scheduled to begin Monday, Nov. 26, is expected to take a month to complete.

The convicts were charged with first degree murder following the April 27 death of inmate David Sydney McDonald, 40, in the penitentiary auditorium.

McDonald, a former Loomis guard, was serving five years for theft after \$100,000 disappeared from a Loomis armored car.

He died of head injuries.

Seven of those charged are still serving prison terms in the B.C. Penitentiary.

Sarava's client, Donald Robson, 25, finished his penitentiary term two months after McDonald's death and is being held in the remand unit of Okalla on the murder charge.

The other seven charged are: George Gallichon, 50, in preventative detention as a habitual criminal; Richard William McWhinney, 33, serving life for murder; Robert Charles Smith, 36, serving life for non-capital murder; Michael Joseph Newman, 25, serving three years for theft and possession of a restricted weapon; Allen McLeod, 25, serving 12 years for manslaughter; Archie Beck, 29, serving eight years and one month for armed robbery; Gary Lee Penner, 25, serving four years and four months for armed robbery.

November 20th, 1979

British Columbian

MURDERER ESCAPES

A prisoner serving a life term for robbery and second-degree murder is on the loose from the maximum security wing of the B.C. Penitentiary after escaping through a hole in a fence sometime Monday.

New Westminster police said Anthony "Bunny" Frank Gerein, 27, is considered dangerous.

He is described as white, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, of slim build, with brown hair and eyes.

He apparently escaped from the prison yard during an exercise period Monday afternoon, after leaving a dummy in his bed.

On Monday, November 26th, 1979, police say authorities in Hayward, California, are holding escaped prisoner Anthony Gerein, who bolted last week from the B.C. Penitentiary

Gerein, was serving a life sentence for murder when he escaped November 19. He was convicted for the murders of Milton Lampopolous and John Witz, who were stabbed during the hold-up of a pizza parlor in Vanouwer's east end in March, 1977.

Authorities said Sunday that Gerein was with a female companion in Hayward when police there were tipped off that he was staying at a motel. They said he was arrested Saturday without incident and was awaiting extradition back to Canada.

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"He was arrested in the motel parking lot, he wasn't armed and there wasn't any problem," Hayward police Lieutenant Robert Souza said Sunday.

No money or weapons were found in the motel room, Souza said.

Gerein's female companion was tentatively identified as Belva Russell, 24, of Victoria and both were turned over to the immigration authorities, Souza said.

The two apparently travelled by bus from the Seattle area to Oakland, California, police said, because bus tickets were found in the motel room.

On December 6th, 1979, Anthony Gerein, took advantage of international prisoner transfer loopholes to scramble to freedom.

"He's been placed on a a computer (wanted) sheet...but there's not much more we can do," a spokesman for the Richmond R.C.M.P. detachment said Wednesday.

The official conceded it was "like looking for a needle in a haystack" and agreed police were not sure whether Gerein has remained in the Vancouver area.

Gerein bolted from two unarmed American deportation officers as he was being escorted through the Vancouver airport's international arrivals corridor following his deportation from the U.S.

"(Border crossing) officials have been notified," the Richmond

569B

police official said Wednesday.

The official added that the immigration officials had "probably" been reminded that Gerein has slipped through their hands before.

Friday, November 30th, 1979

The Columbian

INMATE TRANSFERS CALM KENT

A total of twenty-five prisoners left on a chartered aircraft from Abbotsford Airport under escort by Penitentiary Officials.

Thirteen of the inmates were from the B.C. Penitentiary, four of them were moved to Eastern prisons as part of a scaling-down of the prison, while four others were prisoners recently returned to Canada from the United States, as part of a prisoner trading agreement.

Under the arrangement, the four will be moved to prisons in the Province of their choice, Jack Stewart said.

He said B.C. Penitentiary's remaining population should be moved by the end of the year, leaving about eighty protective custody cases.

December 4th, 1979

British Columbian

TWO PRISONERS FAIL IN BID TO ESCAPE PEN

A pair of well-equipped prisoners were taken into custody Monday night after an unsuccessful escape attempt at the B.C. Pen.

A penitentiary spokesman identified the pair as Steve Ladouceur, age unknown, serving seven years for armed robbery, and Donald McLean, age unknown, awaiting trial on a first-degree murder charge.

The spokesman said the attempt occurred just before 10 p.m., when the pair managed to saw their way through steel bars on the exit door of the prison auditorium, where about 25 prisoners were watching a movie.

"We don't know what they used to saw through the bar...but they were spotted just outside the auditorium door," said spokesman Jack Stewart.

Stewart said that when they were taken into custody, guards found the inmates had a crudely-fashioned, home-made grappling hook and braided sheets to scale the prison walls. They were also carrying sharpened dinner knives.

Meanwhile, police and prison officials are still confused over reports of gunshots at the west wall of the prison about the same time as the escape bid.

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New Westminster Police and R.C.M.P. officers with a dog searched the area immediately after the escape attempt, but came up empty.

January 14th, 1980

The Columbian

PEN GUARDS SAY THEY'RE LOSING OUT ON JOBS IN B.C.

Worried guards and support staff at the phased-down B.C. Pen have written to the Public Service Commission (PSC), accusing the Canadian Penitentiary Service of "blocking us out of new jobs."

At an emergency union meeting over the weekend, the 150 guards, classification officers, clerks and support staff - represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada - demanded a "full PSC investigation into the layoffs and job redundancies following the closure of the B.C. Pen.

According to a union source, the guards' problems began almost as soon as the penitentiary service decided the B.C. Pen would have to be replaced and construction began on the new Kent maximum-security prison at Agassiz.

"We were told at the time that because of the phasing out of the prison, many of our jobs would become redundant, said the source, who asked his name be withheld because "I'm still trying to get a transfer."

The source says that in 1978 the guards were assured that the penitentiary service would institute a hiring freeze, to allow B.C. Pen guards to bid on openings at other Fraser Valley prisons and penitentiaries.

"They actually instituted a hiring freeze, but about six months

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later they lifted the freeze for a week, hired all the people they'd need for a while, and then slapped the freeze on," the guard said.

Since then, the source added, many positions have opened up in Valley institutions but the vacancies have either been hidden by appointing temporary staff which is later upgraded to full-time, or by rejecting B.C. Pen applicants as "unsuitable."

The guard admitted that requirements at Kent were different from B.C. Pen, where the accent was on "detention and punishment."

"We realize that at Kent the guards are called "living unit officers" and they're unarmed and they're supposed to take the role of almost being social workers," he said.

"But even at Kent, there's still perimeter security, where the guard takes a gun and sits in the tower or patrols the fence for eight hours," he said, "You can't tell me that we can't do that."

The spokesman said the largest group affected by the situation are the 110 guards that remain at B.C. Pen, many of whom have 20 or more years of experience.

After more than 10 years of discussion on the subject, the penitentiary service began transferring inmates from the troubled B.C. Pen last year. All of the "general population" prisoners have now been moved out, the majority of them the Kent Institution.

However, a large number of prisoners remain as "protective custody unit (PCU)" inmates - sexual offenders, prison trouble-makers or other individuals who prison authorities judge would be in danger if they were allowed to mix with the rest of the inmates.

The source said that the affected guards have been offered positions in other Canadian institutions.

"Sure, they've suggested there are other openings in Canada," the source said, "But many, if not most of us, have been in the region for some time."

"It's not that we wouldn't transfer out if we had to...if the system were really full up in this region," he said, "we just don't want to have to move to somewhere else in Canada, when there are openings in this region."

January 23rd, 1980

The Columbian

PEN GUARD CHARGES WILL BE INVESTIGATED

The director of investigations for the federal Public Service Commission and a PSC investigator will hold an informal meeting next week to look into charges by guards at the phased-down B.C. Pen that they are being blocked out of new jobs.

Claude Morrissette, director of investigations for the PSC, told The Columbian Tuesday that he would arrive from Ottawa next week to hold a preliminary investigation into the allegations.

"This is a fact-finding process," Morrissette stressed, "I have received communications from the (guards) union and I don't have as much information as I would like."

In an interview Tuesday, Morrissette said that "without getting into specifics, it appears the complaints bear looking into."

He said the investigations branch does not have the power to order changes in employment practices in the public service, but it is often "possible to apply very strong moral persuasion."

"We can make conclusions in a report ...and ministries most often follow our conclusions or recommendations," he said, adding that his department's investigations and conclusions are confidential.

January 19th, 1980

The Columbian

20 PEN INMATES MOVED TO SASK.

Convicted baby killer Walter Bayko was one of the 20 B.C. Penitentiary inmates flown to Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert Friday.

Bayko's lawyer Bert King had unsuccessfully applied for an interim injunction Thursday to keep Bayko here pending a bail application later this month.

His conviction and life sentence will be appealed sometime in the spring.

King said today that the transfer "is a joke" because of the situation and said he will apply to have him brought back for the bail application.

Bayko, 23, was convicted by a Supreme Court jury in New Westminster last March on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of his infant daughter. He was told he would not be eligible for parole for at least 10 years.

The victim, 10-month-old Charlene Harder, died in March of 1978 as a result of a severe skull fracture. Multiple bruises were found on her forehead, eyelids, neck and back and retinal hemorrhages on her eyes.

Bayko has maintained that he did not kill the baby and is innocent.

He has been in solitary confinement in protective custody since

his conviction.

B.C. Pen Warden Herb Reynett said today that all remaining prisoners at the pen were asked what their preferences would be in transfers. He said many agreed to go to Prince Albert "voluntarily" and Bayko said he "would go reluctantly."

The remaining 80 prisoners in the Pen will be transferred on Jan. 28, Feb 4 and the last on Feb. 11.

The official closing ceremony for the century-old prison is scheduled for sometime in May.

January 29th, 1980

The Columbian

MOVE SCARES PCU INMATES

The warden of the B.C. Penitentiary said today Protective Custody inmates at his institution would only be transferred to the new Kent Institute as "a last resort."

"The only reason Kent's being considered at all is because they have about one dozen beds which might be free when we're down to our last prisoners (over the next month)," Herb Reynett said.

But a relative of a prisoner in the B.C. Pen Protective Custody Unit said Monday prisoners in the section are "worried as hell" over possible transfers to Kent maximum-security penitentiary, because the new prison has no "real PCU unit."

"These guys are in PCU for a reason," said the source, who

asked her name be withheld to "protect my relative."

"They're there because they can't be placed among the general population because they'd be beaten or perhaps worse," she said.

Several of the prisoners have threatened to destroy their cells if the transfers take place, the woman added.

The inmates are worried over possible transfers to Kent maximum-security institute near Agassiz because the brand-new prison has no protective custody unit and they fear they will be at the mercy of general population inmates holding grudges.

Half of the approximately 50 PCU prisoners at B.C. Pen are incarcerated for sex crimes, placing them low on the prison pecking order.

Others, however, are placed in protective custody after they testify against fellow inmates. At least one of the PCU inmates at B.C. Pen was put there to protect him after he refused to participate in a riot at Kent Institute last year.

PCU prisoners are all who remain at B.C. Pen, which is scheduled to close in May. The general population inmates were transferred over a period of about four months.

Prison activists and prisoners had complained last year that the penitentiaries service was contemplating a plan whereby all of Canada's PCU inmates would be transferred to either Prince

Albert, Sask., or Laval Institute, north of Montreal.

This was scotched following complaints from Prince Albert, activists say, and the plan is now for the PCU prisoners to be shipped off to "wherever there's a bed."

February 6th, 1980

The Columbian

THINGS WERE LOOKING UP IN THE PEN'S PROTECTIVE UNIT

One week ago about eight prisoners in the Protective Custody Unit (PCU) of the B.C. Pen were in the prison's TV lounge, minding their own business at about 8 p.m., when the guard in the elevated observation cage accidentally dropped his fully-loaded Remington pump-action shotgun into the room.

It lay there on the floor...the chamber empty as a precautionary measure, but five other shells in the magazine just waiting to be pumped into action...the inmates looking at it in a kind of stunned silence for two full minutes.

And then, one of the prisoners laughed.

"Everybody just broke up, they were rolling on the floor, it was incredible," a PCU witness said in an interview.

"Nobody could believe it, a shotgun lying there on the floor, just waiting for somebody to pick it up. But nobody was the least bit interested," the PCU inmate said, smiling at the memory.

"The screw (guard) was going nuts, he was crazy, he was screaming at us not to touch the thing, to back off."

"But the thing was, he couldn't have stopped us if he wanted to. He was eight feet up in the air in the cage, and one of the guys could have just strolled over, used one shell to blow the guard away, and have four left to play with. There was nothing

to stop a guy from doing that, and in normal times, somebody would have."

"The thing is, everybody's mellowed right out nowadays. Nobody wanted that gun because it was trouble. We just laughed at the screw and told him he was fired," the prisoner said.

Penitentiaries spokesman Jack Stewart confirms the incident occurred and said a "thorough investigation is underway" but denied the unidentified guard has been fired. He conceded however, that dismissal was a possibility in the case.

A year ago - perhaps even a couple of months ago - a situation like that could have, and most likely would have, caused a dreadful tragedy.

Saturday, February 9th, 1980

The Columbian

P.C.U. INMATES WILL GO TO KENT "FOR SHORT PERIOD"

The Penitentiary Service will be forced to use a portion of the new Kent Institution to house protective custody (P.C.U.) cases for short periods of time.

One of the twenty-four (cell) living units will be set aside for protective custody cases who are attending court appearances or who are awaiting transfers to (Eastern) Institutions. But these would necessarily be of short duration, just for as long as it takes to complete their court appearances or for a transfer to be arranged.

Nine P.C.U. inmates from the B.C. Penitentiary will be moved to Kent while they complete their court obligations.

They will be moved to Eastern Penitentiaries when their court appearances are finished.

At the B.C. Penitentiary, twenty odd remaining P.C.U. inmates have been in temporary paradise in recent weeks with the general population all moved to the Kent Institution, the P.C.U'ers have had the run of the B.C. Penitentiary and according to one inmate, "for the first time we've got the opportunity to just do our time, quietly and without worrying about somebody sneaking up behind you".

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Tuesday, February 12th, 1980

The Columbian

CASE FOR PRESERVING PENITENTIARY PUT TO NEW WESTMINSTER COUNCIL
New Westminster has authorized Curator Archie Miller to prepare a detailed list of items which should be saved when the B.C. Penitentiary closes this spring.

"We have been assured by the Commissioner of Penitentiaries that nothing will be altered until they hear from us", the Mayor told the council Monday night.

"The Solicitor General will be with us (on official closing-down ceremonies) May 4th, so we should have our list ready for presentation to him at that time".

"We should be ready for our main pitch at that time, and we should have it in detail", the Mayor said.

Archie Miller told the city council that "there are an incredible number of things which could be looked at before somebody is allowed to randomly destroy them.

Miller held a fifteen minute slide presentation of old photos, drawings and maps of the Penitentiary and New Westminster dating back to the mid 1850's.

Miller's presentation was the first official look council has had of the history of both the Penitentiary site and its buildings, and Miller took the opportunity to show archive photo's of the prison's development as well as the history of the Royal Engineers.

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The Penitentiary itself, Miller explained, as an important edition to New Westminster in 1878, because it followed the moving of the Provincial Cabinet to Victoria and helped to identify New Westminster as a city.

The original Penitentiary building stands in the North-West (this should read South-West) corner of the prison yard and now serves as office space.

In addition to the guarding of the original building, Miller suggested a large part of the Penitentiary's front wall and main building be saved, as well as the rown of antique street lamps inside the grounds, the original bell and the recently refurbished power plant. Miller told council that he was of the opinion that most of these items could be saved without stopping future developments on the site of the prison.

(Jim Johnston was appointed by the Retired Federal Prison Officers' Association to accompany Miller and list artifacts.)

The last inmate to be processed out of the British Columbia Penitentiary, left at 0912 hours, February 15th. 1980 for Kent Institution and was 0110, Robert James Watson.

B.C. PENITENTIARY

Date 15 FEB 1980

TO THE DIRECTOR

Prison count at NOON hrs.
as indicated below

OUT

COURTS

KITCHEN

OFFICER'S MESS

LOCKED

1st Wing Southside (A) _____

2nd Wing Northside (B) _____

3rd Wing Eastside (C) _____

4th Wing Westside (D) _____

11 Block B-7 E & F _____

11 Block B-7 G & H _____

C.U. _____

C.U. _____

Hospital _____

TOTAL _____

for SECURITY F. Patterson

- i/c Prison-night _____

- i/c Prison-morning _____

CERTIFY THE PRISON COUNT AT:

~~A.M.~~

NOON

~~P.M.~~

[Signature]

Officer i/c A&D

On March 8th.1980 a plaque was unveiled on the front grounds of the British Columbia Penitentiary and is inscribed as follows.

ROYAL ENGINEERS BASE OBSERVATORY 1859-60

At this site the Royal Engineer Detachment determined an absolute value for Longitude of New Westminster,namely,

8 hrs.,11 min.,33.3 sec. west of Greenwich from a series of Lunar Observations at Latitude 49 deg. 12 min. 47 sec. North.

Relocated in commeration of the beginning of Cadastral Surveying and Mapping in British Columbia by the survey class of B.C.I.T. for the 75th.anniversary of the corporation of land surveyors in the Province of British Columbia.

January 1980

Thursday, April 24th, 1980

The Columbian

CONS PICK SKIN FLICKS FOR B.C. PEN CINEMA

Sex film "revelations" from Delta M.P. Benno Friesen over the cinema habits of recent occupants of the closed down B.C. Penitentiary, are nothing new to officials of Canada's penal system.

The inmates choose the films they would like to see, Penitentiary Officials said, once the films in question are cleared by the B.C. Classifier, with all the editing the Classifier deems appropriate, the movie will usually go on the list of acceptable movies.

In a recent visit to the Penitentiary, before it's closure, a Columbian reporter saw a list upon which two upcoming movies were classified as "completely concerned with sex".

The Regional Penitentiary spokesman said these "vivid" movies are available and "if there is a choice between Bambi and the Pom-Pom Girls, I think the guys in the Penitentiary are going to choose the Pom-Pom Girls, it's more their speed".

I would say the inmates responsible for choosing the film entertainment have done a fair and balanced job and sex films were by no means the only movies shown, he said.

In Ottawa Tuesday, Solicitor General Robert Kaplan promised to check whether it is the policy of the correctional service to show such films to prisoners. Kaplan was replying in the

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Commons to Friesen who said the film "The Night of the Voyeur" containing "explicit sex" was shown last fall to prisoners in the B.C. Penitentiary.

Friesen quoted prison officials as saying it's policy is to provide an environment to prisoners that "emulates the normal".

The following is taken from the adjournment debate in the House of Commons, April 24th, 1980, Benno Friesen's remarks in part.

The film is so classified that it is restricted from Drive-In Theatres, it is so classified that any theatre wishing to show it has to get permission every time they want to show it.

Do we need to wonder why we have problems in the correctional service of this country when the officers in the Penitentiary gave in to prisoners requests to show these kind of movies. Is it any wonder that the officers in the Penitentiary Service are worried about what will happen in the Penitentiaries when these kind of movies are shown to the inmates.

Apparently Mr. Friesen's question came about because of an unsigned letter from the B.C. Penitentiary.



BRITISH COLUMBIA PENITENTIARY

OPEN HOUSE MAY 4-9, 1980

British Columbia Penitentiary is closing after 102 years of operation and the public is invited to visit this historic institution.

The penitentiary will be open during the week of May 4-9, 1980.

Visitors will follow a route through the Institution which will let them experience what life was like in this unique prison community. Featured among the displays will be the 1980 Prison Arts Exhibit, a showing of artistic works by inmates from institutions across Canada.

Admittance on Sunday, May 4, will be by ticket only.

No tickets or reservations are required Monday, May 5, to Friday, May 9. To apply for free tickets to the Sunday, May 4 Open House send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Tickets
British Columbia Penitentiary
Box 150
81 E. Columbia St.
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 4Y5

Enclose a request for a maximum of 4 tickets allowable per household. On Wednesday, April 14, a drawing for 8,000 tickets will be made from all written requests.

You will receive your tickets by return mail or be notified that the Sunday, May 4 Open House has been over-subscribed.

No telephone requests please.

British Columbia Penitentiary Open House Schedule, May 4-9, 1980

	Gates Open	Gates Close
Sunday, May 4	9:30 a.m.	8:30 p.m.
Monday, May 5	9:30 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6	9:30 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 7	12:00 noon	8:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 8	12:00 noon	8:30 p.m.
Friday, May 9	9:30 a.m.	4:00 p.m.



Service Correctionnel
Canada

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Tuesday, May 6th, 1980

The Columbian

EMPTY DUNGEONS

Thousands of the curious have been strolling through the tiers of the B.C. Penitentiary this week as the prison holds an open house before it closes forever.

The inmates have been moved to newer, more sophisticated lock-ups. When the prison is officially closed later this month, a one hundred and two year long chapter in Canadian Penal History will come to an end. The prison is open to the public today until 4:30 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 7:00 p.m. and Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9th, 1980

The Columbian

GUARDS WERE AS TOUGH AS CONS IN "GOOD OLD DAYS"

After one hundred and two years of housing some of Canada's most dangerous and notorious criminals, the B.C. Penitentiary is closing its doors forever.

This week the prison has been open to the public wishing to stroll the tiers of the cold concrete fortress, and the public response has been overwhelming. Close to 10,000 people per day have lined up, at times for two hours to get inside.

Federal Penitentiary Officials are considering opening the prison to the public for another week in view of the response.

The following is taken from an interview with members of the Retired Federal Prison Officers' Association, by a Columbian reporter.

Eighty-six year old Bill Reed can remember clearly when the Canadian Penitentiary system started to go down the drain. It started with Davie Fulton, says the twenty-eight year veteran of life behind Penitentiary walls.

It is not so much the inmates who started these troubles, he adds, it was the committees, and the protest groups and all of those various isms, they were the ones who really started the problems.

The six veterans seated around the room in the Warden's office of the closed-up Penitentiary nod in agreement, a couple of them chuckling a bit. All of them, Bob Taylor, a youngster

of 54, to Reed served more than 20 years behind Penitentiary walls. But they all agreed that they served during a different age.

They seemed to miss the action, these retired officers, and now the closest they come to similar feeling is when they get together in their semi-formal Association of Retired Federal Officers and Associate Members, which they hope will soon become a National Organization. They were remembered by the prison recently and asked whether they would like to attend the official closing ceremonies and take up their old positions for the benefit of tourists.

Quite a few of them have volunteered, perhaps hoping that the memories will come back more clearly at their old spots. Memories they have.

It was a time when you knew your place if you were a convict, you had a little respect for the guards. You worked, no excuses, and if you kept your nose clean, you didn't have any trouble. If you wanted trouble, you got it in a hurry.

I honestly believe that things went down hill quite a bit when they outlawed capital punishment and corporal punishment to, the paddle and the lash, said Jim Johnston, 63, who left the Penitentiary in 1977 after twenty-eight years.

"If you screwed up, it was the hole and sometimes a few strokes of the paddle or the lash", he said. Most of the cons were

were tough, could take the lash, but I never saw anyone who liked the paddle.

Bill Laporte "I was the first Frenchman they hired here" remembers one inmate who was aware that there was no more capital punishment. He had nothing to lose, Laporte, 74, said. I was taking my gang down towards the old incinerator and and this inmate, he was an Indian who had killed a couple of other Indians, he was getting bugged by some of the others. He called me over and says Monsieur Laporte, you see this axe, he had one of those double bit axes, sharp as a razor, because he was on wood chopping detail, I am going to use this on the first guy that bothers me, he said.

"My God, I told him, you will chop his head right off". That is right, he said, I am doing a couple of lifes now, why not. Well nobody bothered him any more.

All six officers broke up.

Those were the days, when the guards were called correctional staff, (a term they never liked) were about as tough as the cons, in some cases tougher. I remember, I was in the Militia, and there was a sign up in the hall that they required guards at the Penitentiary, remembers Reed. I thought to myself, that's a job for the future, so I came down and passed the exams, he said.

Reed's next move, somewhat to his surprise, was being led into

the main yard, handed a billy club and being told to go to it. I didn't know where anything was, they handed me a big ring of keys and told me to do the East Wing. I asked directions all the way and fortunately, someone helped me that day. Anyway it went better from then on.

The others around the table nodded as he went over each point of his history. They all had the same basic training.

For Laporte, life was good because he and his colleagues were among the few people who had work during the tough times. The work was tough. The tower was thirteen hours night shift and eleven hours day shift and you stayed up there, he said. The guards weren't allowed to leave, even for the bathroom, but there was what we called the "honey bucket" where we went to the bathroom and lowered it down by rope. Our lunch came up the same way, and we just had to hope they didn't mix the two up, he laughed.

There were periods in the 30's and 40's when Doukhobors from P.C.'s Interior were in the midst of internal struggle that resulted in burnings and beatings and a good number of the Doukhobor menfolk spent time at the P.C. Penitentiary special camp outside the prison walls.

I was on outside duty one day, when the Warden comes running down to say these Doukhobors had started another damned fire, Laporte said, I went running down with the Warden and another guard who spoke Russian, so we could talk to them. Laporte

remembers being flabbergasted when he got to the scene, they were all in front of the building, bare-naked, nothing on and they didn't care, the Warden was really upset and he threatened them with everything - the hole, bread and water, extra work - but they didn't seem to care.

We knew we understood because the Russian guard had spoken to them before, and they understood, finally the Warden just got fed up and told them to do what they wanted, he said he didn't care. They didn't say a thing. I never could deal with those people, Laporte said.

There haven't been many escapes from the Pen over the years, but when it happened there was no rest for the staff.

I remember when this prisoners escaped it was in the 40's, and I was at home in the garden, said Laporte. "My son came up to me and asked whether I knew this guy in the prison and when I said yes, he said, well he is not there anymore".

I rushed down to the prison and in those days you picked up sealed orders out of the Keeper's office, telling us where we were supposed to go, My job at that time was to go down to the rail yards in Coquitlam and check out every car on the train a mile long. How the hell were you supposed to do that?

When the assignment was over, Laporte was switched over to a road block where he was to check out the occupants of cars and look inside trunks.

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This one guy pulls up, a real sweetheart, and he says right to my face, I hope you never catch the guy, never. I couldn't believe it and I told him "I hope when you get home the guys in bed with your wife". That shut him up, he said.

Friday, May 9th, 1980

The Columbian

WITH CIVILIZATION CAME PRISONS

Once upon a time in the Canadian West, a simpler time when Western officialdom actually welcomed easterners migrating west nothing better signified permanence in a settlement than government construction.

Apart from working government buildings in Ottawa and the provincial capitals, government construction generally consisted of hospitals, insane asylums and prisons.

In the 1870's here on the lower mainland things were in an absolute tizzy. Col. Richard Clement Moody and his Royal Engineers, who had done an amazing amount of pioneer work in the region, had either mustered out or returned to England, depriving the area of its largest single industry.

The seams of gold which had brought so many people here in the first place, had pretty much been played out and prospectors had for the most part moved up country.

There were things like good quality farm land and logging and fishing opportunities, but all these required a long term commitment on the part of the farmer, loggers or fishermen, a commitment many people were not ready to make, unless the government showed some initiative and confidence in the area by spending some of its money to put up buildings.

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Local officials realized this very quickly and lobbying began. First through the Governor Douglas, and then to the Federal Government, for a sign that the government believed in New Westminster.

The infant municipality did have a hospital, but the locals figured this would not be enough to talk people into moving at least two thousand miles from Central Canada to make a new life on the West Coast.

It would be amazing if things could be handles so easily today.

The history books are a bit sketchy on days and dates, but it appears that less than two years after the first cries were sent up, construction was begun on both the Woodlands "Asylum", and what is now known as the B.C. Penitentiary. New Westminster had respectability.

1. This is just a portion of the article in the Columbian.

Friday, May 9th, 1980

The Columbian

FIRST-COME MAY NOT BE FIRST-SERVED FOR PENITENTIARY LANDS

With more than sixty-seven acres of choice water-front property, most of it easily serviceable, it is easy to see why the B.C. Penitentiary property is one of the most sought-after pieces of land in the region.

The line-up starts Monday among the estimated fifty Federal and Provincial Departments, and the city of New Westminster, to see who gets what. New Westminster, led by the Mayor, was undisputable the first group out of the blocks for the phased-out prison. The Royal City's application began a dozen years ago, almost from the moment the Federal Correctional Officials let it slip that the B.C. Penitentiary didn't figure in their long range planning.

But first come is not necessarily first served in matters involving the transfer of Federal properties, and New Westminster, despite it's tidy little plans and presentations, find itself out in the cold.

The Federal Government disposes of property and material for which it no longer has any use, by transferrins ownership to either the Department of Public Works and/or the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. From there, the procedure gets complicated.

First off, any Federal Department is allowed to bid on the property, usually for the "nominal" purchasè price of \$1.00.

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If more than one department or agency bids, the choice is made according to the department's ranking on the government's protocol list.

An official at the Public Works Department said last week, among federal agencies, only the Department of National Defence has so far expressed an interest in the property, looking for a training ground and reserve headquarters.

There was one unofficial call from someone in the Corrections Branch, apparently just checking whether the Pen could be used to replace Oakalls, said the federal official, I told him he was free to apply if he liked. A spokesman for the B.C. Attorney-General's office denied there was any move to replace Oakalla.

Finally, there is the matter of the bets among people still working at the Penitentiary, there are more than couple of people who are laying down their money on the possibility that the Pen will be reopened as a prison as early as this fall.

Its the most logical thing in the world to me, said a senior official at the Penitentiary who says he is so sure the prison will reopen that he has bet \$500.00.

If the official wins his bet, it would be good news for the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which represents the guards who used to work at the B.C. Penitentiary.

868 B

According to the Union presentation it would cost about twelve million dollars to refurbish the Penitentiary to meet the O.C.U. and Reception Centre standards. We haven't heard a thing, and I don't really expect to hear anything the President said, they have closed the prison.

869

Friday, May 9th, 1980

The Columbian

WILL BUREAUCRATS "FILE" BOOT HILL?

There is a popular joke that suggests there is nothing that strikes a bureaucrat's fancy more than sitting in his lonely little office and dreaming up unnecessary, wasteful and costly things to do with his time.

There are quite a few veterans at the B.C. Penitentiary who are more than a little upset over what they see as the latest make-work project among Federal Civil Servants.

It is to do with the Penitentiary's "boot hill", a little known and no longer used gravesite at the extreme west end of the property next to Woodlands School.

Because the Penitentiary is due to be torn down over the next few months and the property will revert to some new owner, the bureaucrats are reported to be leaning heavily towards the idea of "Inventorizing" the thirty odd gravestones in the little meadow and moving them to some other site.

I have heard that, and all I can say for the moment is that the Pen is coming down and they will want to hand the whole property over to someone, said a Penitentiary spokesman in Ottawa.

Its not sure at this time whether the new users will want a graveyard in the bargain.

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Prison officials with a sense of history, and others with a sense of religion, look upon the little site as hallowed ground and one which has a definite historic spot in the area.

It is a quiet, hard-to-find meadow at the top of grassy road and on clear days the cemetery overlooks the Fraser River.

Every inmate buried here had a burial service, although many of them were non-denominational services mainly because the inmate had no declared faith or because he was not a church-goer.

It is a shame that they are thinking of moving the headstones because it is such a rich part of the Penitentiary past, a spokesman said.

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Tuesday, May 13th, 1980

The Columbian

SUGGESTIONS FLOWING IN ON USES FOR THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

Public and private groups have been lining up with recommendations for future use of the historic B.C.

Penitentiary site, the Mayor told New Westminster Council Monday.

But he said, council will not publicly endorse any proposal until the matter has been fully discussed with Federal Government Departments which control the property.

The Mayor said the Department of Public Works Officials have agreed to meet city planners within two weeks to discuss the future of the 67.5 acre site.

The Mayor met Solicitor General Robert Kaplan on the weekend and found him "very much impressed" with the historic value of the one hundred and two year old Institution.

The Federal Government has designated the site a Federal historic area and the city planning department has prepared a twenty-five page information paper noting that the historic aspects of the site will be a significant factor in determining which areas will be made available for development.

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Thursday, May 15th, 1980

The Columbian

CLOSED-DOWN B.C. PENITENTIARY HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN

As incredible as it may sound, the long-awaited official closing of the notorious B.C. Penitentiary is being held over, as they say in show business, popular demand.

Its new run starts May 26th, befitting its new-found-status as a show biz landmark, free tickets are available starting this afternoon in the Accounts Building, the small white building on the west end of the property for the Pen's week long engagement, but you had better hurry.

Because of what prison officials term "extraordinary public response" to last weeks open house, only 35,000 tickets (5,000 per day) will be made available for the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. tours.

Safety and line-up reasons were cited by authorities as reasons for the limited access.

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June, 1980

Time Expired;

Time expired for the B.C. Penitentiary on May 10th, 1980 when the Solicitor General, Bob Kaplan, officially closed the institution and turned it over to the Department of Public Works to be disposed of.

The institution served as a Maximum Security Prison for 101 years, 7 months, 1 week and 5 days, it had its ups and downs in the early and late years but it was considered the best and cleanest Penitentiary in Canada from the 1920's until the 1960's when a change in policy saw the easing of discipline, this resulted in many infractions of prison rules, hostage taking and riots, the staff being helpless to take prompt action to restore order on their own initiative.

The last inmate left the B.C. Penitentiary on the morning of February 15th, 1980 for the new Kent Institution located near Agassiz.

The closing ceremony on May 10th, 1980 was a huge success, the day began with a Chapel service followed by a meeting of the Mayors and a press conference, following this the platform guests assembled in front of the main hall, which was the original building, and were piped to the platform by Piper Jim Johnston, retired, and a member of the Retired Federal Prison Officers Association.

At the conclusion of the platform ceremony Jim proceeded to the front gate where he played Amazing Grace and then to No. 1 Tower to play the Lament.

There was a barbecue for the 600 guests and those who had not toured the institution during the week went for a last look at the institution where they had worked for many years.

All retired members of the Retired Federal Prison Officers Association had received an invitation to the closing ceremony, Gordon Ferguson and Alex Wilson received special mementos, a prison barrier key mounted on a wooden base and inscribed "British Columbia Penitentiary, 1878-1980," Gordon Ferguson, age 90, being the oldest retired officer and Alex Wilson for the earliest service, 1914.

The retired officers attending the ceremony received a pen and pencil holder made from the bars of a cell, mounted on a wooden base and inscribed "British Columbia Penitentiary, 1878-1980".

At a meeting of the Retired Federal Prison Officers Association, February 17th, 1980, Mr. J. Murphy, Director General Pacific Region; Mr. J. Stewart, Public Relations, Pacific Region; Mr. Colin Crutch, Supervisor Industry, Kent Institution, attended and asked for ideas and assistance from the association.

Helen Gooderham requested some of the early history of the B.C. Penitentiary that had become available through the research of the R.F.P.O.A.'s efforts, this was for a special issue of "Lets Talk". This information was provided.

A committee was appointed to work with the Penitentiary officials in planning and manning various posts during open house week, May 3rd through May 9th.

May 3rd was family day, Penitentiary employees, former employees and their families and friends passed through the gates for a last look at the institution.

The gates of the Penitentiary were opened to the public at 9 a.m. on May 4th and until closing time each day there was a steady stream of people moving along the route. The tour was so popular that a second tour was arranged for from May 26th through June 1st.

At the closing ceremony there was a snapshot taken as the crowd moved from the platform toward the bell, in that picture there are the Solicitor General; the Commissioner of Penitentiaries; D.M. McLean, first Regional Director, Ontario; T.W. Hall, first Western Regional Director and H. Reynett the last Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary.

The interval between tours was used to replenish the supply of printed tour guides and issue tickets in an attempt to cut down on the long line of people waiting outside the gates, 5,000 tickets were issued for each day but many more were allowed through when ticket holders had passed through the gates.

It was estimated that about 80,000 people passed through the institution during phase 1 and phase 2 of the open house.

Nineteen retired officers took part in the tours, they were at fixed posts and passed along information and answered questions asked by the public, it was their knowledge and experience in the institution that made the tour interesting for those who passed through and availed themselves of this opportunity to ask questions. These officers worked a total of 856.75 hours while the prison was open to the public.

Many of the people passing through the institution could find no fault with the Penitentiary as a prison, and thought it was a waste to build new institutions when the B.C. Penitentiary could serve the purpose as well if not better.

I believe the old timers from the staff were a little sad to see the institution close, they remember when it was a well run institution, they had many happy memories of the prison, there were some anxious times as well, but we seem to remember the good times best. T.W. Hall said in his remarks

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from the platform during the closing ceremony "Work and discipline are the most important ingredients in a well run Penitentiary".

The Retired Federal Prison Officers Association, formed in 1970, grew out of that comradeship that we knew, the Penitentiary Service is unique, there is no other calling or profession anywhere that requires its staff to be as alert and dedicated as a well run Penitentiary.

The Officers of an earlier day were loyal to the service and loyal to one another and that was the reason for the many years of an escape and riot free institution.

Only time will tell, I suppose, which system is the best.

J. Lawson

Wardens of the British Columbia Penitentiary.(confirmed,Deputy Wardens
often in acting position)

A.H.McBride	June 1878.....August 1895
W.Moresby	August 1895.....December 22nd.1896
J.C.Whyte	December 23rd.1896....October 9th.1907 died in office
J.C.Brown	Nov,23rd.1907September 1921
W.A.Patchell	October 21st.1921.....December 31st.1923
W.H.Cooper	January 1923.....February 1928
E.R.Jackson	February 25th.....August 6th.1929 (Inspector)
E.D.Edgett	August 7th.1929.....December 1931
W.H.Cooper	June 1932March 1935
W.Meighen	April 1935.....November 15th.1946
R.S.Douglass	January 1947..... October 6th.1955
F.C.B.Cummins	October 7th.1955.....September 1960
T.W.Hall	September 1960February 1964
J.Maloney	February 1964July 1965
C.E.DesRosier	August 1st.1965.....May 12th.1969 Died in office
E.C.Atkins	August 15th.1969..... 1971
F.R.Graves	1971February 1974
D.Cernetic	January 1974.....October 1977
H.Reynett	1977.....May 1980

Deputy Wardens of the British Columbia Penitentiary

James Fitzsimmons	1880.....1895	(Chief Keeper until appointed Deputy Warden in 1880, first Deputy Warden)
D.D.Bourke	August 12th.1895.....	November 3rd.1907
W.H.Carroll	December 5th.1907.....	November 1920
W.A.Patchell	January 1921.....	October 20th.1921
G.W.Trollope	1923.....	May 1928
R.M.Allen	May 1929.....	1930
R.S.Douglass	1930.....	1946
J.L.Goss	1946	August 1950
F.C.B.Cummins	August 23rd.1950.....	June 30th.1955
T.W.Hall	July 1st.1955	February 1956
G.G.Foulkes	May 17th.1956	
John Grant	1960.....	April 30th.1963
J.Maloney	May 1943	Feb.1964
H.A.Collins	April 1964.....	October 1970

Harry Collins was the last Deputy Warden of the B.C.Penitentiary to hold that title,thereafter heads of departments were Assistant Directors.

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The B.C. Penitentiary, its Buildings and intended uses.

Date	Facility	Building No.
1876	The Penitentiary completed 1878	B-4
1895	Dome---Hub of Cell Blocks	B-1
1904	North Wing Cell Block	B-2
1906	Shops Vestibule	C-1
1906	Laundry	C-4
1906	Shops First used as a Temporary Cell Block	C-2
1906	Shops	C-3
1906	Barn	F-1
1914	East Wing Cell Block	B-3
1922	West Wing	B-5
1924	Kitchen---Protestant Chapel	B-6
1924	Perimeter Wall	
1930	Greenhouse	F-2
1931	Administration, Stores	A-1
1931	Chimney	C-6
1931	Water Tank, Underground	C-10
1932	Power House	C-5
1932	Coal Storage	C-7
1933	Cell Block B-7	B-7
1933	Corridor, connecting B-1 to B-7	B-8
1936	Firehall	C-9
1945	Boat building and storage, later Masons shop	A-7
1949	Weight Scales	A-8
1951	Exercise Yard (3 1/2 acres outside west wall)	J-5
1951	Barber Shop and Shower Room	C-4
1954	Dormitory	B-9
1954	Chief Keepers Residence (begin Apr. 1954, Occupied Aug. 1956)	H-14
1956	Dormitory	B-10
1956	Maintenance Shops (Carpenter, Sheet Metal and Paint)	C-12
1958	Visiting Area, Extension to A-1	A-1
1958	Oil Storage	A-11
1958	Incinerator (rebuilt and relocated)	C-8

The B.C. Penitentiary, its Buildings and intended uses continued.

Date	Facility	Building No.
1959	Warehouse	A-9
1962	Auditorium (Gymnasium) completed 1963)	A-12
1963	Offices, Inmate training, Classification, etc. (x-Doukhobor)	A-13

Major Structural Changes.

1940	Dome floor (B-1) lowered to same level as wings.
1951	South Wing (B-4) alterations to second floor to accommodate prison hospital.
1958	South Wing (B-4) third floor renovations, Psychiatric Department.
1963	Cell Block B-7, floor added to provide Special Correctional Unit, 44 cells. By outside contract.

Note

Auditorium, foundation and outside shell by outside contract, inside work and finishing by inmates.

Cell accommodation:

North Wing	B-2	118 cells
East Wing	B-3	258 cells
Cell Block	B-7	176 cells
S.C.U.	B-7	44 cells
Hospital	B-4	10 cells
Induction	B-3	18 cells

Total 624 cells

Chimney, Building C-6, 1931

The chimney for the Power House was built in 148 working days, overall height is 136 ft.9 ins.

Height from top of base is 104 ft.4 ins. and was built with inmate labour as were all buildings until the 1960's. The exception being the original penitentiary building, B-4.

The first inmate canteen as such, was built in the Dome, Building B-1, date commenced, September 15th. 1952, completed November 12th. 1952 at a cost of \$743.26.

The Officers Lounge, in the basement of the South Wing, Bld. B-4, was started November 1948 and completed July 20th. 1950. Cost; \$4639.77.

Building B-9 was built as a dormitory, footings poured November 10th. 1953, Occupied January 30th. 1954.

Building B-10, built as a dormitory, construction started August 11th. 1954, completed December 1955, considerable delay during the winter months.

B-9 and B-10 accommodated 50 inmates each.

Staff House, Bldg. H-14, built as the Chief Keepers residence, construction started March 1954 and completed August 1955. Cost; \$10,012.00, this included all service lines.

Tinsmith Shop, Bldg. C-12, started December 1954, completed June 1956.

Auditorium, Bldg. A-12, excavation started January 1961, completed April 1963. Foundation, exterior shell and roof erected by outside labor, by contract, all interior work by inmate labor.

The Segregation Area, built on the roof of cell block B-7 was commenced in June 1963 and completed in October 1963. This addition was built by outside contract. It was known as the Special Correctional Unit (SCU).

A letter to the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary dated June 10th. 1950 from the Chief Engineer in Ottawa, states, authority has been granted for the expenditure of \$67,925.00 for the purchase of materials for the construction of a separate camp in the ravine in the penitentiary reserve to accommodate male Doukhobor convicts.

There being little skilled labor required it is considered that erection can well be carried out by convict labor with considerable economy. All that will be required is a gang of suitable convicts and the necessary guards who should be chosen for their ability to help in directing the work. This camp was later burned by the Doukhobor convicts.

The times shown to complete some of these projects may seem very long, but it must be remembered that the maintenance of the institution was a priority, also other projects were being done at the same time, very often by the same gang that were involved in the major projects. Fog and inclement weather kept the gangs from working outside, when this occurred the inside work was taken in hand.

B.C. Penitentiary Fire Awards;

In 1965, at the request of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries, British Columbia Penitentiary and all other Major Penitentiaries entered International competition in the National Fire Protection Association Contest.

Government Facilities compete internationally in three groups as follows

- A.-Single Building Units
- B -Multi-Building Facilities
- C -District Administrative Operations

Listed below are the awards won by the B.C. Penitentiary

Year	<u>International Contest (NFPA)</u>	<u>Gov't of Canada (Howard Green Trophy)</u>	<u>Inter-Penitentiary Competition</u>
1965	Nil.	Placed 11th.	Placed 1st.
1966	Honourable Mention.	Placed 4th.	Placed 1st.
1967	Placed 3rd.	Placed 2nd.	Placed 1st.
1968	Placed 1st. (Group Shield)	Placed 1st. (Howard Green Trophy)	Placed 1st.
1969	Hon. Mention	Placed 2nd.	Placed 1st.
1970	Placed 3rd.	Placed 1st. (Howard Green Trophy)	Placed 1st.
1971	Placed 3rd.	Placed 1st. (Howard Green Trophy)	Placed 1st.

And a bar in every room

Province Staff Reporter

"Mansion for sale" reads the advertisement, like so many others these days.

"Spacious, 750 bedrooms, all with en suite plumbing."

Huh?

"Exercise room, cathedral entrance, lots of privacy. Room to roam!"

Complete with pictures, the ad occupies a spot in the window of Wall and Redekop Realty Ltd.'s Kingsway branch.

If it all sounds a little suspicious, it

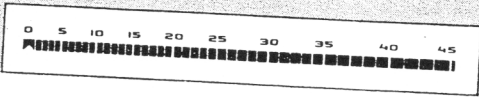
should. The "mansion" listed is the B.C. Penitentiary. Office workers Linda Caldwell and Roger Thompson dreamed up the idea one day as a joke.

"We did it as an eye-catcher," Caldwell said. "Just a little fooling around. But people have been believing it. They come in and ask 'Hey, you've got the B.C. Pen up for sale. How much is it?'"

The Pen, by the way, isn't for sale, although it has been replaced by the Kent Institution. It's scheduled to be torn down to make room for housing.



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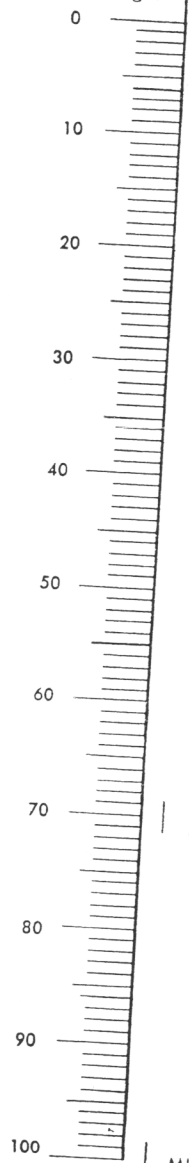
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