

1953

# Information Regarding the Maine State Prison, Thomaston, Maine, 1824-1953

Allan L. Robbins

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# Information Regarding the Maine State Prison

THOMASTON, MAINE

1824 -- 1953

1824

127



COMPILED BY ALLAN L. ROBBINS, Warden



## DEDICATION

This booklet is dedicated to the two groups of men who are responsible in large measure for whatever success is being achieved in the field of penology today.

First is the prison personnel who seldom receive thanks or commendation for a trying, at times dangerous, job well done, but on whom is heaped all kinds of condemnation for the slightest disorder, even though it might have been completely beyond their power to prevent.

Second are those men who have served their sentences, have returned to their community, and have become respected, law-abiding citizens. Blaring headlines proclaim the parole violator; anonymity is the fate of the man who re-establishes himself.

To both of these groups of men this book is humbly dedicated.

BANDOR  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
JAN 10 1964

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ROCKS  
GLASS  
METALS  
WOOD




## PROLOGUE

There has been a tremendous upsurge in public interest recently concerning the relationship between law-enforcement officials and the so-called "underworld", the nation's criminal element. Penal officials all over the country have noted an increase in the number of letters asking about the operation of prisons. Administrative visitors have increased at a corresponding ratio.


In the vast majority of cases this heightened interest is welcomed by penal administrators. All of us realize very strongly that institutions for the housing of delinquents are a community problem; that we are merely administering these institutions on behalf of the members of the community.

In this booklet we have attempted to give some insight into the operation of the Maine State Prison, showing the place of the state prison in the over-all picture of law enforcement, and we hope to clear up many of the misconceptions which exist concerning the institution, its officials, and the men committed thereto. We do not presume that the Maine State Prison is an acme of progressive penology. This is one field in which no institution will ever reach perfection; however, we do feel that enlightened public interest will go a long way toward helping us reach that goal.


The Maine State Prison is an average state institution insofar as size, type of inmate and facilities are concerned. We feel that many of the problems we have are common to almost all of the prisons in the country, and that a perusal of this booklet will give you a thumbnail sketch of present-day penology.



Conventional Crime, \$500,000,000.



Organized Crime, \$7,500,000,000.  
Racketeering



Gambling, \$20,000,000,000.

RELATIVE COSTS - conventional crime, organized  
crime, and gambling.\*  
FIG. 1

\*Harry Elmer Barnes, Negley K. Teeters, *NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY*, 2nd Ed.,  
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of the publisher.



It would be impossible to cover the entire field of penology in one book, and no attempt has been made to do so in this pamphlet. One of the most comprehensive books on this subject is NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY (2nd ed.) by Harry Elmer Barnes and Negley Teeters (Prentice-Hall, Inc., NYC, 1951) and I am deeply indebted to these two authors for many of the facts and figures relating to penal institutions outside of the State of Maine, and to Dr. Teeters for the information contained in his treatise EARLY DAYS OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON AT THOMASTON.

It must also be pointed out that the administration of a penal institution is a task which requires the full-time cooperation and coordination of every single individual employed within the institution, as well as of various federal, state and local, social and law-enforcement agencies. It is important to me to stress the excellent cooperation I have received from every one of these individuals and agencies, only a few of whom we have been able to mention in this booklet.

The Maine State Prison is an average state institution insofar as size, type of inmates and facilities are concerned. We feel that many of the problems we have encountered are almost all of the problems in the country, and that a survey of this booklet will give you a thumbnail sketch of present-day penology.

Conventional Crime 250,000,000

Organized Crime 27,500,000,000  
Racketeering

RELATIVE COSTS - conventional crime, organized crime, and gambling  
Fig. 1



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	P A G E
HISTORY OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON	1
Pennsylvania System of Confinement	3
Wardens of the Maine State Prison	4
The Problems of Alcoholism Recognized	5
Dedication of the New Prison--1924	6
The Welfare and Honor League	7
THE MEN	9
THE INSTITUTION	13
Guard Room and Visiting Room	14
Cell Blocks	15
Medical Department	15
Optical Care	16
Dental Care	17
Industrial Office	17
Classification Department	18
Classification--General Information	18
Classification at MSP	19
Interviews by Staff	20
Kitchen	21
Bakery	21
Laundry	22
Blacksmith & Tin Shop	22
Wood Shop	23
Paint & Upholstery Shop	24
Sanding Room	24
Wood Sign Shop	26
Harness Shop	26
Tailor Shop	26
Plate & Metal Sign Shop	27
Print Shop	28
Cobbler Shop	28
Machine Shop	29
Commissary	29
Pipe & Electrical Shop	30
Boiler and/or Engine Room	31
The Yard	32
Recreation	33
Indoor Recreation	34
Radio	34
Library	35
Education	36
Spiritual Guidance	38
Alcoholics Anonymous	39
Novelty Manufacture	40
PAROLE AND RELEASE PROCEDURES	41
PRISONER AID SOCIETY	42
THE GARAGE AND STORE ROOM	43
THE PRISON FARM	47
Hennery and Piggery	51
The Cannery	52

## ILLUSTRATIONS

<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1	Relative Costs of Crime (Graph)	Prologue
2	Ground View of Maine State Prison 1824	2
3	Original Cell, Maine State Prison	3
4	Typical Modern Cell, M.S.P. (Plate - facing page	4
5	Inmate Population, M.S.P. (Graph)	8
6	Average Age of Inmates When Committed (Graph)	10
7	Offenses for which committed 1946-1950 (Chart)	11
8	Inside the walls, Maine State Prison (Plate-facing	
	page	18
8a	Work Flow Chart, Prison Industries	25
9	The Yard, Maine State Prison (Plate--facing page	32
10	Ideal Rehabilitative Program	37
11	The Garage - Store Room	45
12	The Cow Barn and Dairy Shed	49



## HISTORY OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON

(All quotations shown in this chapter unless otherwise noted, are from "Early Days of the Maine State Prison at Thomaston" by Dr. Negley K. Teeters as published in the JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY of Northwestern University. Vol. 38, No. 2, July-August, 1947)

When Maine separated from Massachusetts and became a state in 1820, one of the first problems facing government officials was the erection of an institution for the incarceration of convicted felons.

A Commission, consisting of Dr. Daniel Rose of Boothbay, Benjamin Ames of Bath, and Thomas Bond of Hallowell, was appointed on February 10, 1823, to make arrangements for the purchase of a site "in the town of Thomaston on which to erect such prison and other buildings necessary for the employment of convicts".\* "The reason for Thomaston being selected was because it 'was halfway between Kittery and Eastport' and was in the thickest populated part of the state at the time."\*\*

"An act was passed by legislature on February 1, 1824, calling for the complete administration of the newly-established prison as well as for the appointment of two Chaplains, the Rev. John H. Ingraham and the Rev. Job Washburn. The diet of the prisoners--the so-called 'hard-labor' men--was also provided for at that time."

It is indicative of our changing mores that smoking was forbidden in the early Maine State Prison, but spruce or hop beer was a normal part of the diet.

The official opening of the prison took place on July 1, 1824, and two weeks later there were 35 inmates in the institution, 14 of whom were brought by boat from Massachusetts. Up until the time of the completion of a local railway, almost all traffic to and from the institution, especially supplies, was conducted via a wharf originally built beside the Georges River - which wharf has now been completely eradicated by time. Dr. Rose was the first warden appointed to administer the Maine State Prison, after having had so much to do with its original construction.

"A writer, reminiscing on the early days of the prison, recorded in the Rockland-Gazette that Dr. Rose, Esq. had entire liberty to make the prison 'after his own heart' and added cryptically: 'The structure bore internal evidence that safety, and surety to keep a prisoner, was the controlling idea in his mind, all sanitary and humanitarian considerations being kept in abeyance.'"

\*Council Records, February 9, 1822.

\*\*Stated in Warden E. H. Waterhouse's report of 1915.



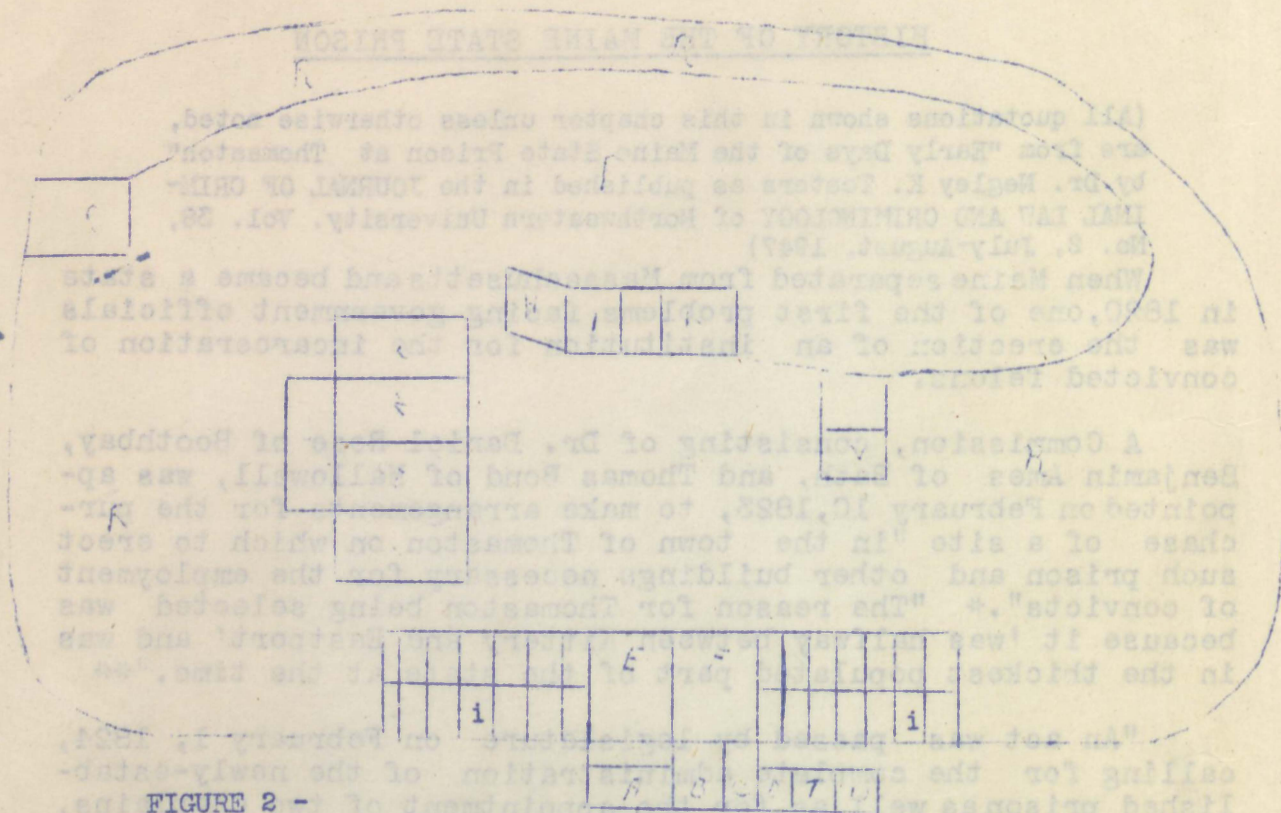


FIGURE 2 -

# GROUND VIEW OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON - circa 1824

A, B, C, E, F - apartments in the keepers house, which was 40 feet by 50 and was two stories high; D, T, U - storerooms in a one story building; i, i - cells about 9 feet long,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  wide and ten feet high; H, I, J, K, V - small shops; L, M, N, O - apartments in a two story building used for a kitchen, dining hall, store rooms, shops; R, R - yard; P - Quarry; Q - entrance to the quarry and yard.

The original construction of the Maine State Prison has been described variously as "unique" and "fantastic". Each of the wings shown in the above drawing "consisted of two rows of cells, which were in reality holes in the earth and were 4 feet 6 inches wide, 8 feet 9 inches long, and 9 feet 8 inches deep. The only entrance to these holes was a two-foot square aperture in the top so that a ladder could be inserted by which a prisoner could descend to his subterranean abode.

"The commentator mentioned above stated:

'They (the holes) were literally jugs in which the prisoner could fully and fearfully realize that he was truly juggled. The only communication with the outside world for light and ventilation was an upright aperture in the wall some three feet in length by two inches in breadth. The apertures were always open even in the most inclement weather unless a prisoner could contrive to stuff his clothes therein. Whenever a driving snowstorm came on his side of the prison he had therefore no choice but to let the rain and snow blow on his head."



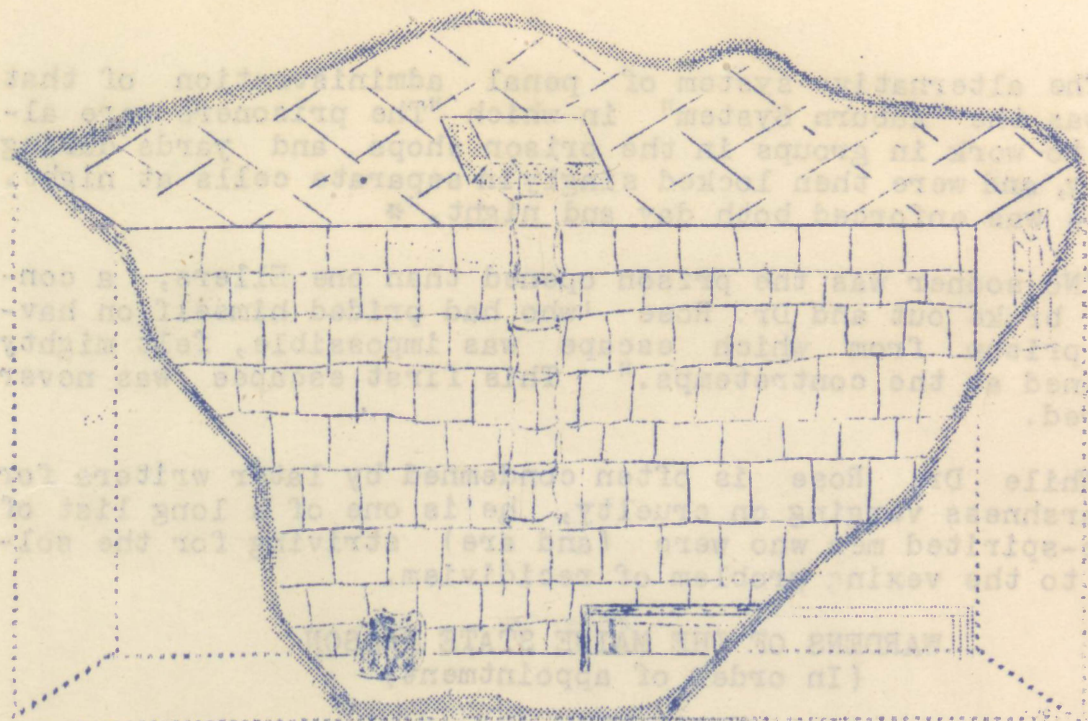


FIGURE 3 - CUT AWAY VIEW - ORIGINAL CELL  
MAINE STATE PRISON, circa 1824  
(Contrast with modern cell, next page.)

Well might an inmate of those dark days have quoted Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol":

"Each narrow cell in which we dwell  
Is a foul and dark latrine,  
And the fetid breath of living Death  
Chokes up each grated screen,  
And all but Lust is turned to dust  
In Humanity's machine."

#### PENNSYLVANIA SYSTEM OF CONFINEMENT:

"The system under which the Maine State Prison was constructed and administered was that known as the Pennsylvania or separate system, which called for continuous, separate (or solitary) confinement, one prisoner from another. Nevertheless, many convicts were not thus sentenced and were put to work quarrying stone in association as soon as the institution was opened."

Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, and Rhode Island (in addition to Maine and Pennsylvania) experimented with this system of continuous solitary confinement (as opposed to congregate hard labor), and in each of these states it was abolished by law within a few years as it was in Maine in 1827, three years after the prison opened.



The alternative system of penal administration of that time was the "Auburn System" in which "The prisoners were allowed to work in groups in the prison shops and yards during the day, and were then locked singly in separate cells at night. Silence was enforced both day and night."\*

"No sooner was the prison opened than one Ellers, a convict, broke out and Dr. Rose 'who had prided himself on having a prison from which escape was impossible, felt mighty chagrined at the contretemps.'" This first escapee was never captured.

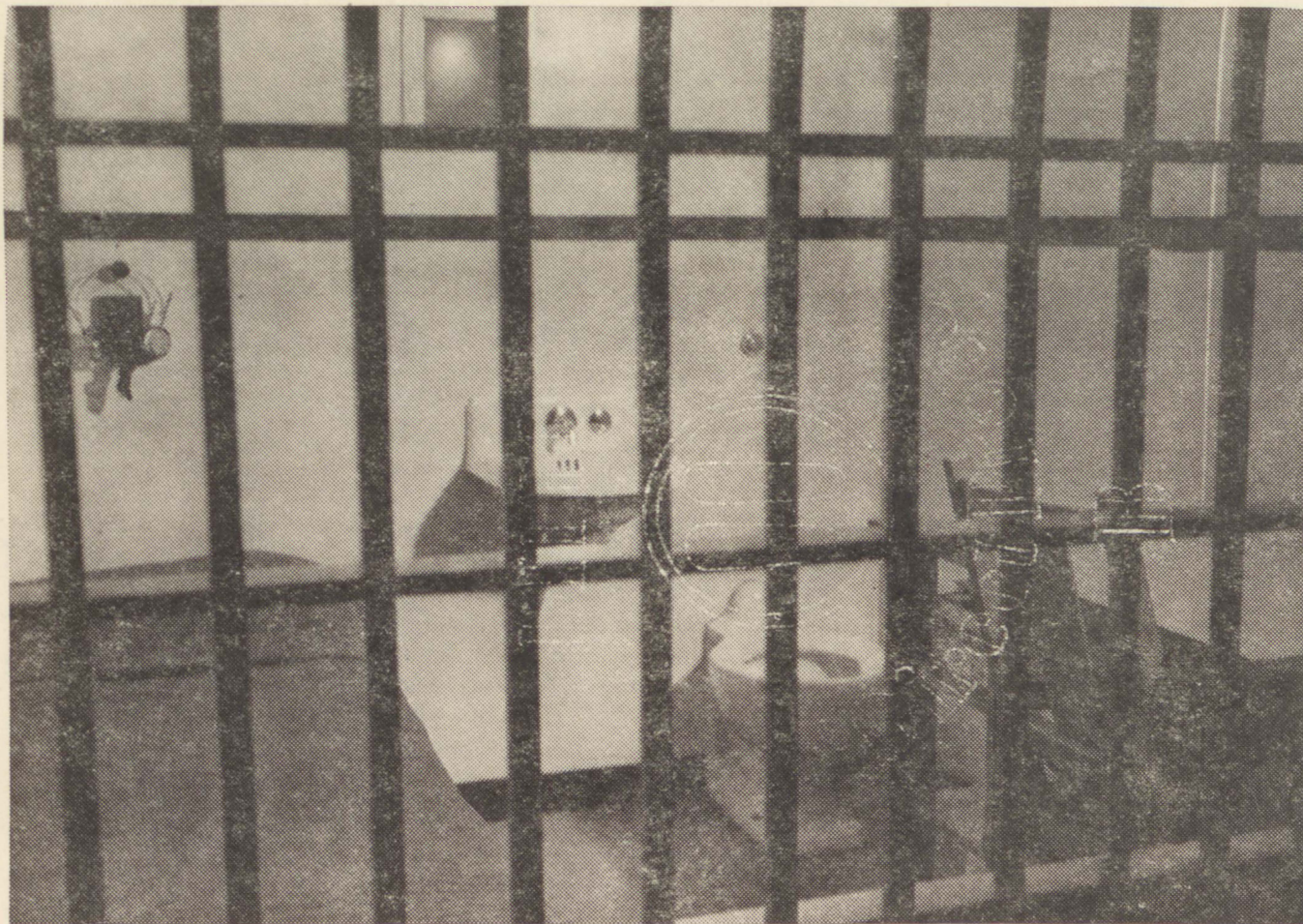
While Dr. Rose is often condemned by later writers for his harshness verging on cruelty, he is one of a long list of public-spirited men who were (and are) striving for the solution to the vexing problem of recidivism.

WARDENS OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON  
(In order of appointment)

1. Dr. Daniel Rose
2. Joel Miller
3. John O'Brien
4. Benjamin Carr
5. William Bennett
6. Thomas W. Hix
7. William Bennett (2nd term)
8. Thomas W. Hix (2nd term)
9. Richard Tinker
10. Warren W. Rice
11. George Tolman
12. James E. Morse
13. Gustavus S. Beans
14. Samuel Allen
15. Hillman Smith
16. Bernes O. Norton
17. Fred B. Wiggin
18. Frank J. Ham
19. E. H. Waterhouse
20. Frank J. Ham (2nd term)
21. Lester Eaton
22. F. Maurice Fish
23. George A. Buker
24. Charles E. Linscott
25. Raymond M. Thurston
26. Edward P. Johnson
27. John H. Welch
28. Francis J. McCabe
29. J. Wallace Lovell
30. Allan L. Robbins

\*Harry Elmer Barnes, Negley K. Teeters, NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY, 2nd Ed. (Copyright 1943, 1945 by Prentice-Hall, New York) p. 409. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.





*FIG. 4 - A TYPICAL CELL, MAINE STATE PRISON, 1952*



## THE PROBLEM OF ALCOHOLISM RECOGNIZED:

Alcoholism is currently being recognized as something akin to a disease, not a form of criminal behavior, but even in 1826 Dr. Rose conducted a unique experiment. As reported in the "Boston Prison Discipline Society Report" (2nd) June 1, 1827:

"An important experiment has been made.....of the effect on health, of cutting off habitual drunkards, at once, from the use of spirituous liquors, in every form, and confining them to cold water. It has been found to be invariably beneficial. They soon renew their youth; and a more hale, healthy, muscular body of men cannot be found, in prison or out of prison, than the cold water convicts in the quarry of the Maine Prison. As evidence of this, it is only necessary to see these men handle rocks."

Within 11 years of its construction there was considerable dissatisfaction on the part of the Governor and Legislature about the expense of maintaining a State Prison at Thomaston. A Commission appointed by Governor Dunlap reported that "a new prison should be erected in the vicinity of the State House at Hallowell". "In 1837 Governor Dunlap stated in his message: 'The prison seems to have been constructed with a view to inflict the greatest punishment in the shortest time and at least expense.' In 1842 the inspectors say: 'The cause of humanity calls aloud for reform and in vigorous and emphatic words asks for, or demands, a new prison.'"

A new wing was built in 1843, and for a while was felt to be the answer to many of the criticisms which had been raised, but the wing did not last very long. On December 22, 1850, a fire destroyed most of the prison.

Reconstruction began immediately, and "the prison management attempted to carry on with a patched-up plant until the famous Blaine report of 1858(\*) which excoriated legislatures, wardens, and boards of inspectors for many preceding years." Still, however, little constructive planning resulted.

During the succeeding years the old quarry was filled in, provision was made for the segregation of mentally-ill prisoners, and in "1907 it was reported that the prisoners were making carriages, sleighs, harnesses and brooms."

In 1923 another fire swept the institution and razed it to such an extent that a complete renovation was mandatory. Most of the present-day buildings date from that time.

\*REPORT ON THE DISBURSEMENT, LABOR AND DISCIPLINE IN THE MAINE STATE PRISON - Report of a Commission appointed March 27, 1858 and published in 1859 (Hon. James G. Blaine).



## DEDICATION OF NEW PRISON--1924:

The dedication of the rebuilt prison took place on September 11, 1924, by curious coincidence, one hundred years after the dedication of the original prison. The dedication was attended by high dignitaries from all over the state, including Governor Percival P. Baxter who spoke at the proceedings.

To get a clear picture of the official attitude that day, one must realize that the fire almost destroyed the entire institution. The industrial shops were completely burned out, one entire cell-block wing was burned to the ground, and the fact that the entire institution was not fully destroyed was credited to the way in which the entire inmate population threw themselves into the task of fighting the holocaust. As Henry H. Hastings, Chairman of the Board of Prison Commissioners, expressed it at the dedication: "All that was best in the human breast manifested itself among the men, came to the surface, and their conduct was an inspiration."

On that day the officials of the State of Maine moved into a new era of penology, many years ahead of their time. Before the fire the Auburn System of silent congregate employment had been practiced. At the dedication the silent system was abolished, and has never been resurrected. The inmates were given complete self-government. It is interesting to note the innovations of that momentous (as far as Maine's penological development is concerned) day.

"During the summer months, on Saturday afternoons and on Sunday after (Chapel) service, men will be taken to the Athletic Ground, where they will be free to enjoy themselves as they may elect and under their own direction.... They shall have such additional recreation hours on working days as may be found feasible."\*

"If at any time the weather forbids outside recreation, and on every Saturday and Sunday afternoon during the cold season, the officers will endeavor to present some sort of indoor entertainment."\*

"We have full faith in the uplifting influence of music; it is therefore provided that one evening in the week the men shall be assembled in the Chapel for mass singing."\*

The men were granted monetary compensation for their work at the rate of from 30 to 50 cents per day. A rather unique arrangement was set up whereby one portion of the monthly wage

\*Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Maine State Prison. 1924



went to the family of the inmate, a second portion went into a fund pending his release, and the remainder could be used by the inmate for day to day use. This has now come to be a standard arrangement in many of our nation's penal institutions. However, somewhere down through one of the nine administrations since 1924, this plan dropped by the wayside. Maine is now one of the very few states which pays no compensation to penal inmates for honest, diligent, toil and turns them loose with ten dollars and a suit of clothes.

#### WELFARE AND HONOR LEAGUE:

In addition, on that day in 1924, there was set up a "Welfare and Honor League" which was to be the mainstay of the entire new program. In brief this was a system whereby the inmates governed themselves through a board of five "Governors" who were to be elected from the inmate body once a year.

A rather elaborate system of inmate Monitors was included in the Honor League. These Monitors supervised cell blocks, one was assigned to the head of each table in the dining hall, and in general they were responsible for maintaining order and discipline among the inmates.

Charles S. Hichborn, a member of the Board of Prison Commissioners, explained to the inmate body at the dedication, "You see, therefore, why we call it an Honor and Welfare League, because every man will be on his honor, and every man will be interested that not only how own conduct, but the conduct of every other man, be such as will promote the welfare of all,--even as mis-conduct will discredit all.

"It is organized not for our benefit, but for your benefit,--for the benefit of your families, and for the benefit of organized Society, of which you will yet come, we trust, to be an honorable part."

The Welfare and Honor League lasted for four years. The reasons for its demise can be gleaned from the discussion by Drs. Barnes and Teeters concerning the Mutual Welfare League organized in New York by Thomas Mott Osborne in 1914 and subsequent attempts by penal administrators to introduce inmate self-government.

"There are many criticisms of self-government in a prison. First we might state that it should not be applied to all convicts now imprisoned in our penitentiaries. One weakness of the Osborne scheme was that he applied it to the non-reformable as well as the reformable. xxxx Nonreformable convicts must be ruled decently but firmly in a separate institution. xxxxx The self-government plan, if it is used at all, should be utilized only with the distinctly reformable types.

xxxxxx



"Secondly, self-government by convicts is exposed to the danger of a few inmates utilizing important offices for personal advantage. This is likewise true outside prison. It can be coped with in a free society but it is difficult to surmount when found inside prison. xxxx"\*

The only primary physical changes in the Maine State Prison since 1924 has been the addition of the West Wing and the installation of additional cells in the East Wing. As can be seen from the chart below, the population has spiraled upward from year to year so that it became a matter of absolute necessity to find additional sleeping quarters for the men; but concomitant facilities such as the dining hall, recreation hall, facilities for education and reformation, etc., have all stagnated.

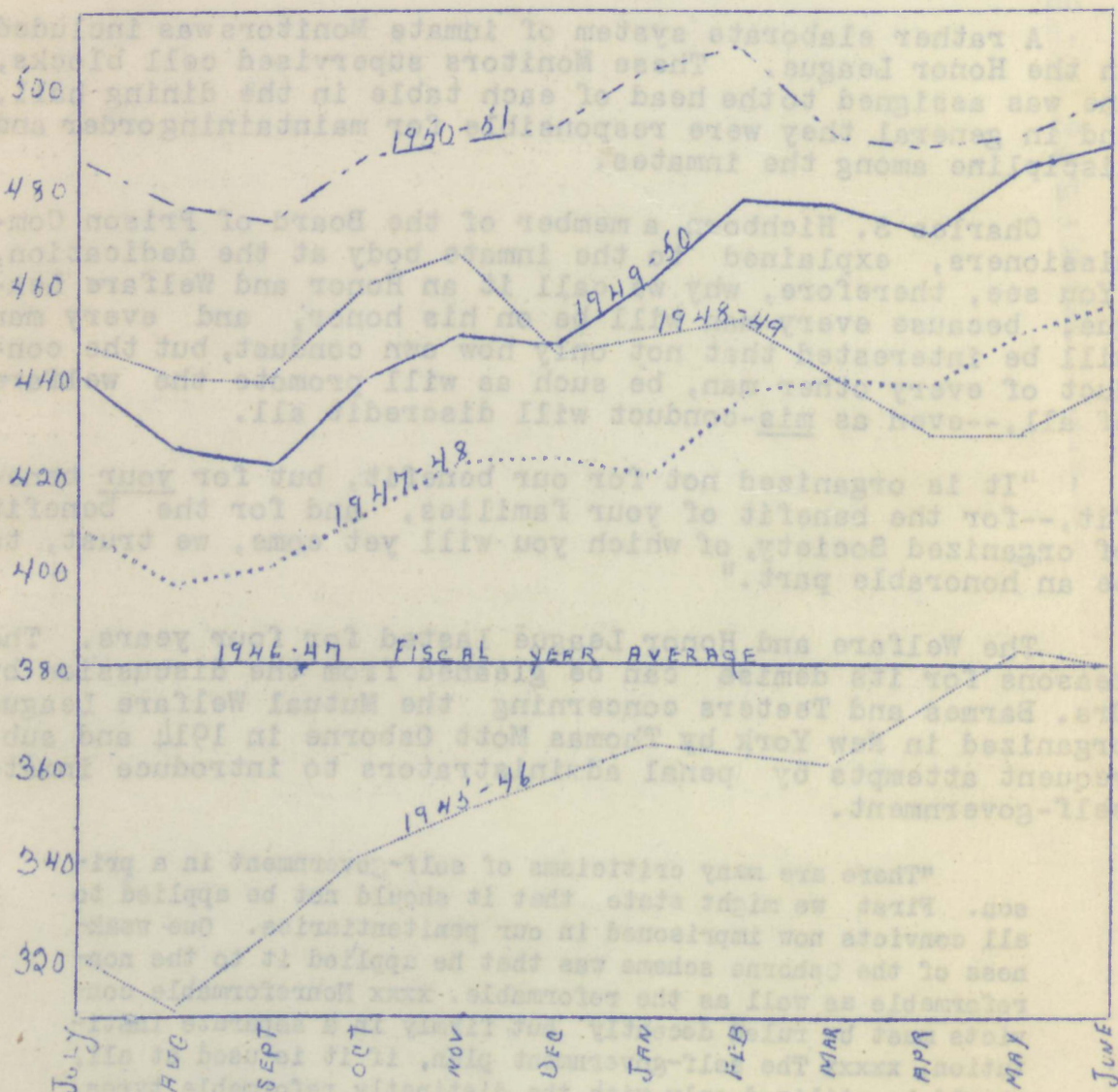


FIGURE 5 - INMATE POPULATION, MAINE STATE PRISON

\*Harry Elmer Barnes, Negley K. Tecters, NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY, 2nd Ed. (Copyright 1943, 1945 by Prentice-Hall, New York) p. 694. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.



## THE MEN

At some time or other every person connected with penal administration is asked the question: "What are those men in your institution like?"

Years of comic-strip, radio and movie-thriller indoctrination have led the average person to believe that the typical prison inmate is a burly, grizzled, uncouth ruffian who daily shuffles in lock step to his assigned task, muttering from the side of his mouth to his horizontally-striped companions. Even a recent best seller, which was supposed to be a factual report of the operation of the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, fostered this erroneous impression.

Myrl E. Alexander, Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, speaking before a Lion's Club luncheon at Danbury, Connecticut, a few years ago lucidly answered this oft-repeated question about prison inmates. "If you were to stand at the corner of 42nd Street and Broadway in New York City - reputed to be the world's busiest intersection," he told his audience, "and picked out every tenth male who passed, you would have a group which is fairly representative of the average prison population."

Behind prison walls you will find men who are Rhoades Scholars rubbing elbows with illiterates. This latter group is, on the average, present in lower numbers percentage-wise than will be found to be the case in the neighboring communities. You will find skilled artisans working harmoniously with unskilled laborers, country lads from the most remote farms joking with sallow-cheeked youths of the country's worst city slums.

The teen-ager who is serving a sentence for car theft appears very much like the youngster you know down the street. The middle-aged delinquent you see walking briskly on his way to his assigned task in the prison appears very little different from any local white-collar worker you might know.

This is the one feature which seems most to impress the majority of prison visitors and new employees.

Men behind prison walls have only one thing in common. They have been found guilty, before a court of law, of having violated the statutes of their state. This is almost the only trait they have in common, and one which is certainly, physically at least, not an identifying characteristic.

The ages of the inmates of the Maine State Prison run from the early teens to the late 70's. The largest age group is between 20 and 24. More than half the inmate population



is under 35. About one-fifth of them are serving their first sentence in any type of penal institution. Statistics show that one-quarter of them will never become involved with the law again following their release from confinement.

The crimes for which the men have been sentenced to the Maine State Prison range from drunken driving to rape and murder. There are 147 men serving time for sex offenses. More than three-fourth of the men under 24 years of age are serving sentences for auto larceny and/or breaking and entering. For a more detailed break-down of these offenses see the chart on

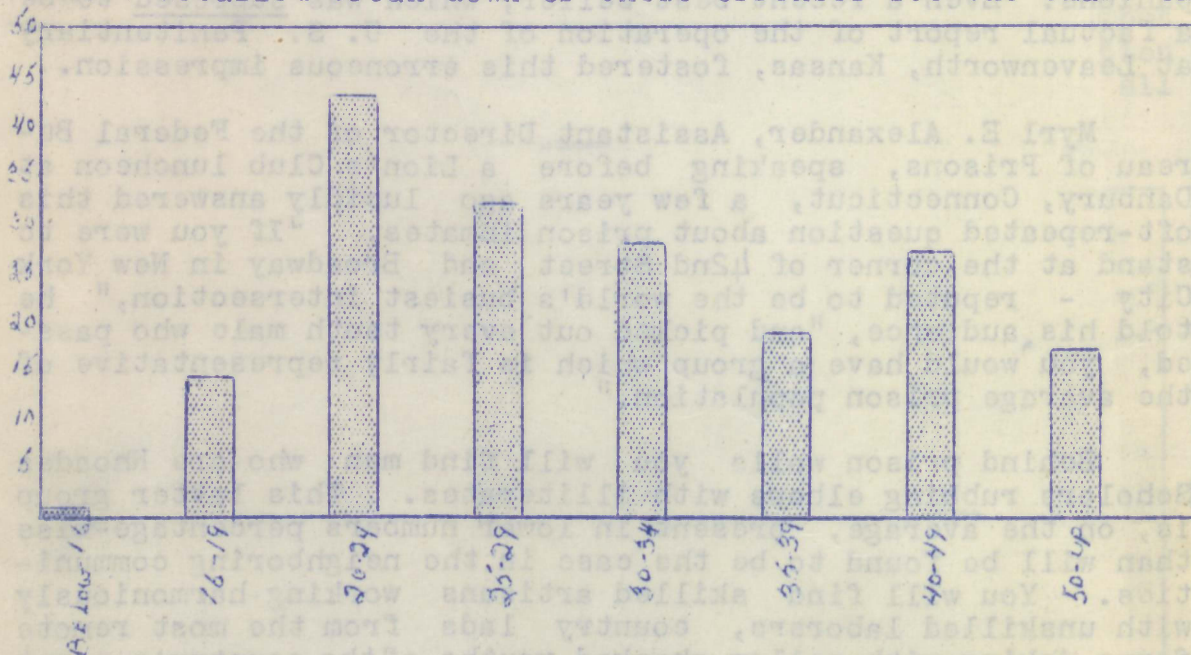


FIGURE 6 - AVERAGE AGE OF INMATES AT TIME OF COMMITMENT  
(Covering the years 1945 - 1950)

the next page.

In 1952 there were 45 men serving life sentences at the Maine State Prison. Unlike many states, these men are never eligible for parole. Their only hope of ever being released lies in the hands of the Governor and the Executive Council who act as a pardon board for the State of Maine. However, very few men die in prison, and this is a vital factor in the planning of all penal administrators who are striving to improve the over-all picture of law enforcement. Recent federal statistics show that 98 per cent of the men currently serving sentences behind prison walls will eventually be released.

How will these men act? Will they return to the course of action which brought about their original incarceration? Or will they assume the role of normal, law-abiding citizens.



<u>CRIMES COMMITTED:</u>	<u>46-47</u>	<u>47-48</u>	<u>48-49</u>	<u>49-50</u>
Rape	26	8	5	19
Indecent Liberties	21	13	11	19
Sodomy	9	3	11	11
Incest	1	3	-	2
Procuring an Abortion	-	-	-	1
Assault with Intent to Rape	5	-	-	-
Crime Against Nature	-	1	1	-
Cohabitation	-	1	1	1
Polygamy	1	-	-	1
Adultery	3	-	1	1
Breaking Entering & Larceny	55	40	37	68
Larceny	30	34	30	32
Forging & Uttering	17	24	8	26
Embezzlement	8	11	4	6
Receiving Stolen Goods	1	-	1	2
Defrauding Insurance Company	1	-	-	-
Non-support	-	1	-	2
Robbery	13	12	8	9
Aggravated Assault	2	6	9	4
Arson	1	1	1	-
Assault & Battery	5	-	-	1
Assault with Intent to Kill	3	9	2	8
Common Thief	2	-	-	4
Manslaughter	7	4	4	3
Escape	10	1	3	1
Murder	-	1	-	1
Killing While Hunting	-	-	1	-
Concealing Human Body	-	-	1	-
Killing Domestic Animal	-	-	-	2
Extortion	-	-	-	1
Mayhem	-	-	-	1

FIGURE 7 - OFFENSES FOR WHICH COMMITTED, 1946 - 1950

In looking at the inmate population of the Maine State Prison - and this is true of the population of any prison or penitentiary in the country - one can't help but be impressed by the large number of persons who have spent most of their lives behind prison walls. Over two-thirds of the men at Thomaston have been previously committed to either the State School for Boys at South Portland or the State Reformatory for Men in South Windham, and about half of that number have been in both. One young man, in his early twenties, has been at the State School, Men's Reformatory and has served three terms at the Maine State Prison. Since his original commitment to the State School as a lad, he has been a free man for a total of about eight months - in one case he remained free for the prolonged period of four months!



There lies the primary problem of prison administrators. What can be done for a person with this background? By the time he reaches the State Prison his behavior pattern is firmly established. It would take a long course of individualized treatment, utilizing the latest psychiatric, psychological and sociological facilities, to change this pattern, an enterprise which is far beyond the capabilities of any penal institution which exists today.

In the next few pages will be found a description of the facilities which exist at Thomaston and the use that is being made of all these facilities in an effort to stem this rising spiral of recidivism. No attempt is made to give a glorified picture of this institution. There are many desirable features which we do not have, an organized education program being the most important. Lack of space and funds, coupled with our record-breaking population is primarily responsible.

It must be further stressed that the State Prison is only the "hospital" in the field of crime prevention - the inmate's "convalescence" (the most critical period) is in the hands of his local community. (See the subheading PRISONER AID SOCIETIES under PAROLE AND RELEASE PROCEDURES.)

FIGURE 7 - OFFENSES FOR WHICH COMMITTED, 1950

In looking at the inmate population of the Maine State Prison - and this is true of the population of any prison or penitentiary in the country - one can't help but be impressed by the large number of persons who have spent most of their lives behind prison walls. Over two-thirds of the men at Thomaston have been previously committed to either the State School for Boys at South Portland or the State Reformatory for Men at South Windham, and about half of that number have been in both. One young man, in his early twenties, has been at the State School, Men's Reformatory and has served three terms at the Maine State Prison. Since his original commitment to the State School as a lad, he has been a free man for a total of about eight months - in one case he remained free for the prolonged period of four months!



## THE INSTITUTION

The Maine State Prison is situated on U. S. Route No. 1, just west of the main business district of Thomaston. Each day hundreds of persons sail by on this busy highway with no conception of the teeming activity behind the redbrick facade of this unpretentious building; yet within the seven acres encompassed by the greywalls which stretch out from this main building, 500 of Maine's adult delinquents are currently spending a portion of their lives, and one out of every 300 residents of the State of Maine has spent at least one year.\*

The first thing that strikes one's attention as he enters the front door of the prison, is the Administration Office - much like any regular business office. Here are handled all of the many details concerned with the financial aspects of the institution, the technicalities involved with the admittance and discharge of inmates, and the hundred and one other administrative details of a diversified organization of this type. Here we see the office of the Warden, the office of the Record Clerk and the two Chief Clerks whose responsibility it is to see that the institution and Prison Industries are operated according to sound business principles.

As we turn from the Administrative offices to proceed down the hallway leading into the Guard Room, we receive our first touch of prison security - our first clash with steel bars.

For many years the Guard Room-Visiting Room entrance had been regarded as one of the weakest links in the entire security system of the prison. Visiting prison officials, and experts from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, had all instantly spotted this essential weakness, as had many "prison-wise" inmates. Extreme vigilance had to be maintained at all times to foil attempts to break through this weak link.

During 1952, however, this weakness was remedied by the installation of an electric gate, controlled by a guard within a bullet-proof cage.

\* This figure is based on the following:

Population of Maine.	approximately	900,000
Number of former inmates of MSP		
still living in Maine		3,000

RATIO 300:1

(Although there have been over 6,000 admittances since the oldest inmate now serving time at MSP was received, it is estimated that about half of that number were repeaters or have died.)



Prison administrators are often accused by idealistic penologists and sociologists of being governed by a "lock-psychosis". The Legislature has enacted into law only one directive outlining the purpose of the Maine State Prison, ie, 'it will be a place in which inmates will be confined for the period for which they are sentenced, and the Warden shall be responsible for their custody.' While it is admitted that only a very minute number of inmates are of the type which require maximum security, as long as no provision is made by the Legislature for their segregation from the main body of inmates, every security measure promulgated for the prison as a whole, must be set with this minority ever in mind.

### THE GUARD ROOM AND VISITING ROOM

Now let us enter the Guard Room-Visiting Room. Under ordinary circumstances this room is the limit of an "outsider's" excursion into the prison.

In this room the family and friends of the inmate have their visits. Here the new inmate is checked in, and the man who has completed his sentence says farewell to confinement. Every person entering or leaving the prison proper must pass through this room.

A glimpse into this Visiting Room on a weekend gives us our first indication of overcrowding. When this building was built in 1924, a population of 200 to 300 was visualized, a far cry from the 500 or more which are now housed within this institution.

This building is really one unit of four sections. On each side of the central unit (which contains the Guard Room, Chapel-Auditorium, offices, etc.) are the wings in which the inmates are housed. This central unit is called the Administration Building, and the wings are designated as the East Wing, Center Block and West Wing. All of these units comprise the main building which fronts Route No. 1.

Plans have been drawn up for the construction, above the Guard Room, of an x-ray room, an operating room, and rooms for critically-ill inmates, and will be executed as soon as the necessary funds are allotted by the Legislature. This is in accordance with recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the Warden of the Maine State Prison for 1950-1951. Further details of this construction are available in that report.

The Guard Room is on the second floor of the prison. Stairs lead down the outside of the building to the main part of the institution.



On the first floor of the Administration Building is the combination Chapel - Auditorium (which will be referred to in this booklet as the Auditorium). Here too, we find that time and events have run away from the original plans. When the Auditorium was first opened in 1924, after the fire, it was one of the outstanding features of the rebuilt prison. Today it is woefully inadequate for an inmate population twice that for which it was built. This large population makes it impossible to get all the men into the Auditorium at one time, necessitating two shifts for every indoor group activity.

### THE CELL BLOCK

The entrance to the wings lead from the Auditorium. The East Wing has a total capacity (all individual cells) of 258 inmates. This includes the 66 new cells which were added during 1951-1952, indicative of the recent growth of the institution being met by an increase in cells only, ignoring all the other facilities.

The upper portion of the Center Block and the entire West Wing are likewise devoted to cells, bringing the total number of cells to 418.

The first floor of the Center Block contains the Dental Clinic, Dispensary and Hospital, as well as the Dormitory.

### THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

With the present acute shortage of professional medical personnel and lack of available funds, it has been impossible to obtain the services of a resident physician. However, the institution employs the services of a local doctor, who holds sick call daily and is always on call for emergencies.

The Hospital was completed in April of 1952 and compares favorably with any hospital ward in any comparable institution. It has facilities for 15 beds, and is supervised by a Correctional Officer with medical training.

At the present time all x-rays, and major surgical operations, are performed at nearby hospitals, but it is expected that by the end of 1953 the facilities being constructed above the Guard Room will be completed, and the institution will be medically self-sufficient.

The health and sanitation of the prison are the responsibility of the Medical Department. Each man in the institution must take a shower at least once a week. Men working on the coal pile, for instance, get a shower every day. Men on



other details are allowed to take showers according to their needs. A clean set of clothes is issued after every shower.

An outstanding feature of the daily routine of any prison is the daily sick call.

"The 'sick line' is anything but an incidental feature of the daily routine of any prison. It is as important and distinct a function in the whole hospital program as the out-patient department of the modern city hospital and serves much the same purpose for the prison's community. Here the doctor meets not only exasperating problems of minor ailments, the petty irritations of human ills which are relatively so unimportant and yet loom so large in the individual life, the malingering, the hypochondriac, the old and the weak; but here he meets and defeats if possible, the onslaught of contagious disease, the beginnings of serious disciplinary problems, the correction perhaps of whole criminal careers. It is the first medical service needed, and the last to be abandoned."\*

Within 24 hours after an inmate enters the prison he is checked by the Medical Attendant, an officer trained in this field. The Medical Attendant then schedules him immediately for a thorough physical examination by the Physician. A blood test is taken during the initial medical interview (within 24 hours after the man is received) and he is checked for any sign of contagious disease or vermin. If he requests, or the Medical Attendant uncovers the slightest indication of any medical deviation, the man sees the Physician at once.

A tuberculosis suspect is given a sputum test and/or a Mantoux test, and if deemed necessary, an x-ray. Once a year the Field X-ray Unit of the State Health Department visits the institution and gives every inmate an x-ray.

During the year the Prison Physician, and/or outside doctors, may be called upon to perform anywhere from 25 to 50 minor and major surgical operations, running the gamut from a simple excision of a cyst to a complicated appendectomy or leg amputation. During the 1950-1951 fiscal year there were 9,251 requests for treatment at the Prison Hospital.

#### OPTICAL CARE:

Approximately twenty-five per cent of the inmate population wear glasses, and the services of a local optometrist are secured for some of the more urgent cases requiring his services. Important as this care admittedly is, here too we feel

\*The Attorney General's SURVEY OF RELEASE PROCEDURES, Vol. V, "Prisons", p. 164 (The Government Printing Office).



the stricture of inadequate funds and spiraling population figures.

During an average year, even under present restricted circumstances, the Optometrist treats over 100 inmates annually.

#### DENTAL CARE:

Adjoining the Dispensary we find an anciently-equipped Dental Clinic. A local Dentist holds dental sick call once a week and is available for any emergency.

During the course of a year the Dentist performs over 600 extractions and fillings, as well as taking x-rays, repairing dentures, taking impressions and the innumerable services connected with providing dentures.

At the present time the institution is sharply limited in funds available for proper dental care, but it is hoped that future contractual allotments will alleviate this situation.

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An intra-institutional, crushed-rock road separates the Administration Building from the other major building of which the Maine State Prison is comprised. (See Figure 8)

The second building, like the Administration Building, is composed of many units, primarily industrial shops but also including the Classification Department, Industrial Office, Kitchen, Bakery, Dining Room, Laundry, Shower Room, and maintenance units. (See Figure 9)

This long, rambling, red-brick structure stands under the shadow of the Guard Room. If one were to stand in the window of the Guard Room, and were to check the various units of this building from right to left, he would find:

#### THE INDUSTRIAL OFFICE

This is the primary administrative office which controls and correlates the activities of the nine shops or factories which comprise Maine State Prison Industries, an enterprise which does an annual gross business of approximately \$140,000 and employs the major portion of the inmate population, thereby supplying needed vocational training, worthwhile employment, and a source of revenue to the state. Each of these shops will be described in detail later in this booklet.



All orders for work to be performed by Maine State Prison Industries are processed through the Industrial Office. Here the job is analyzed and the work is allocated to the various shops. All production is controlled by the Industrial Supervisor. Cost estimates by the various shops are checked and prepared for final billing. A perpetual inventory is maintained of all stock items carried in the Commissary, for both the Prison and Industries. In short, the Industrial Office is the control point for the entire Prison Industries.

### CLASSIFICATION DEPARTMENT

The Classification Department is located adjacent to the Industrial Office.

#### CLASSIFICATION - GENERAL INFORMATION:

"The past few decades have witnessed decided changes in the philosophy and practices of penal and correctional institutions. Although reformation, rehabilitation and individualized treatment are words and phrases which have been much discussed during the past 75 years, it has been during the past 20 or 30 years that these ideas have been tried in institutions . . . . .

"Increasing emphasis is being given to the concept that the fundamental purpose of prisons is the protection of the public welfare. This means not only good custody but that the public welfare can best be protected by returning as many prisoners as possible to the community, fitted educationally and vocationally, in physical and mental health, and through changed attitudes and ideals, to take their places as law abiding citizens."\*

It can be readily understood that not all offenders could benefit from a treatment program. At one end of the scale you have those inmates whose criminal behavior pattern is so firmly entrenched that it would be impossible to change them with present facilities, while, on the other hand, we have those men who have committed an offense in the heat of passion or because of some other momentary lapse which, in the course of a normal lifetime, would probably never occur again. It therefore became necessary to determine which prisoners would benefit most from the facilities available, thus was born the diagnostic phase of Classification.

\* HANDBOOK ON CLASSIFICATION IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS prepared by The Committee on Classification and Case Work of the American Prison Association. 1947



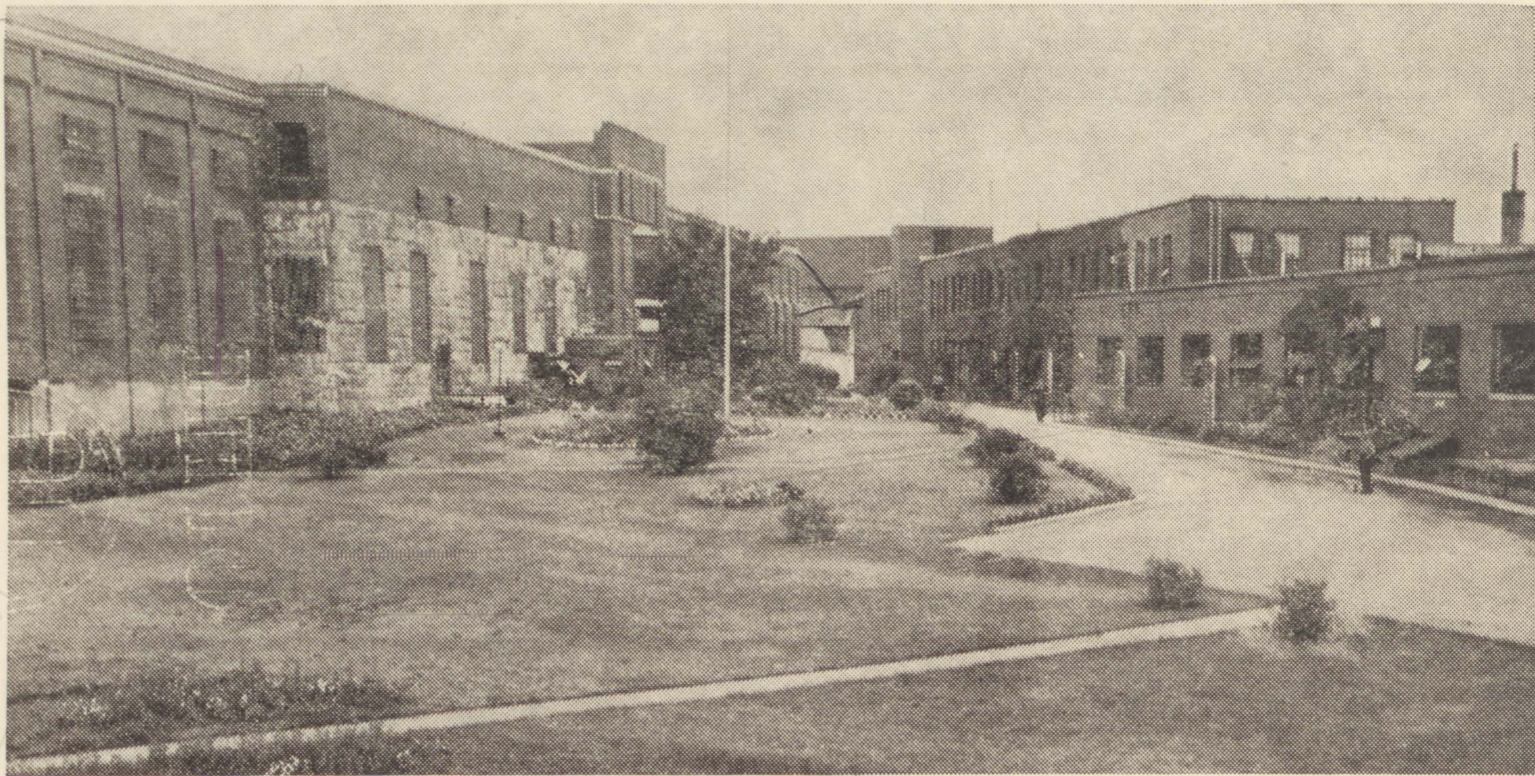


FIG. 8 - INSIDE THE WALLS, MAINE STATE PRISON

The Administration Building is on the left; the Industrial Buildings are on the right. On the extreme left is the West Wing, added in 1940. *Note the difference in construction.*

The long, low building on the extreme right contains (*from right to left*) the Dining Hall, Bakery, Blacksmith & Tin Shop. This is the building, planned for renovation.



We also find, in some instances, a complete lack of co-ordination among the various rehabilitative facilities. In one instance, an inmate of this institution a few years ago was diagnosed by a psychiatrist as completely unstable, not to be trusted in a minimum security assignment. Because of lack of co-ordination this man was placed on the Prison Farm, from which he ran away, despite the fact that he had only two days to serve until he would have been released. It was a combination of these, and other situations, which led to the development of classification.

"Classification includes not only diagnosis, but also the machinery by which a program fitted to an offender's needs is developed, placed in operation and modified as conditions required."\*

The American Prison Association goes on to list the ten most obvious advantages of classification - (1) Proper segregation of different types of offenders, (2) more adequate custodial supervision and control, (3) better discipline, (4) increased productivity of inmates, (5) more effective organization of all training and treatment facilities, (6) greater continuity in the training and treatment program, (7) higher personnel morale, (8) better inmate attitudes, (9) reduced failures of men released, and (10) better guides in long range planning of building requirements.

#### CLASSIFICATION AT M.S.P.:

A new man is barely settled in his cell before he begins to feel the effect of our classification program. Immediately upon reaching his cell he is given a booklet outlining the rules and regulations of the Institution. He is also given a questionnaire which seeks to elicit background information from him. Right from the start he is impressed with the fact that his rehabilitation entails his cooperation, that he has not been dumped into a storage bin to await the completion of his sentence but that he is part of an individualized program looking toward his eventual return to his community as a normal, law-abiding citizen.

Leads are developed from this questionnaire which bring to bear on his case all of the facilities of the social and law enforcement agencies in the country which are applicable to his individual circumstances.

Correspondence is conducted with the community in which the man resided at the time of his offense, with the community in which he was reared, the schools he attended, his former employers, any mental, medical or penal institution in which he may have been confined, the law-enforcement officials con-



cerned with his arrest, the county attorney who prosecuted his case, and with any person or agency which might throw some light on any of the interrelated factors from which the man's criminality has developed.

The assistance of the inmate's immediate family is enlisted in this effort to bring about his improvement as a social being. Immediately following his arrival a letter is sent to his closest relative reassuring them that the man will receive adequate food, clothing and medical care, and informing them of the rules regarding visits, correspondence, etc. They are informed of our desire to work out a program for the man, and are asked for assistance in getting at the causative influence which brought about his incarceration.

#### INTERVIEWS BY THE STAFF:

The man himself is interviewed by the Supervisor of Classification. He receives a thorough physical examination from the Medical Department. He is interviewed by either the Catholic or the Protestant Chaplain.

Following his two-week quarantine period, he is assigned on an Orientation Detail for thirty days, performing routine housekeeping chores around the institution. During this time he is carefully observed by the Correctional Officer under whom he is assigned, and at the end of that period the officer submits a detailed report to the Classification Department on the inmate's behavior, attitude, work habits, abilities, etc.

At the same time, Parole Officers of the State Division of Parole, have been conducting a social, case-work investigation of the individual, and their report is also submitted to the Classification Department through the Chief Parole Officer.

All of this material is correlated, studied and analyzed by the Classification Supervisor and an Admission Summary is compiled therefrom.

This Admission Summary covers the man's entire social and criminal background and contains, as its name implies, a summary of all of the material the Classification Department has received on the man through correspondence, personal interviews, observation, etc.

Thus can be seen that the Classification Department is the diagnostic, correlating and coordinating center of the entire rehabilitative program.



## THE KITCHEN

As we continue our tour of the prison, we find on the first floor, under the Classification and Industrial Offices, the Kitchen, Bakery, and Dining Hall.

The Kitchen is one of the most important facilities of the institution, as far as the individual inmate himself is concerned. A prison inspector once remarked, that all he had to inspect to determine the morale of any institution was the kitchen and the menu.

It is significant to note that in the outbreak of penal unrest which swept the country during 1952, better food was the issue in almost every instance. The primary reasons for these incidents, as advanced by the various institutional officials concerned, was the over-crowded condition of the different prisons, coupled with a failure on the part of the various legislatures to allow sufficient funds to operate the prison, and failure to cope with this expansion.

It is a penological axiom that men will put up with a lot of discomfort, strict - even harsh - discipline, if they are fed well. The Kitchen at the Maine State Prison serves over 10,000 meals each week. These meals are prepared by inmate cooks working under the supervision of a trained chef, and when considered en masse, illustrate the staggering load this facility has to handle. Over 16,000 quarts of milk are consumed each month, together with 5,000 pounds of meat, 20,000 pounds of potatoes, 7,000 loaves of bread, and 30,000 pounds of vegetables.

The Kitchen operates its own butcher shop in which all the meat is cut for cooking. An average month will see six whole cows processed through this little shop, together with at least 16 pigs. Two inmates do all this butchering under the supervision of the chef.

In addition to the "main line" the Kitchen also prepares all of the food for the men who are on a medical diet. Menus are prepared well in advance by the steward and chef to insure variety, and are closely checked by the Prison Physician to make certain the meals have proper caloric content.

### BAKERY:

The bakery is an important part of the Kitchen's facilities. Operating with one, small, coal-burning oven, this bakery makes all the bread, pies, cakes, biscuits, etc., which are served in the institution, using over 300 pounds of flour each day. Two inmates perform this monumental baking chore.



The Dining Hall is an outstanding example of how the increase in cells has run away from our other operating units. As the population of the prison increased, an attempt was made to meet this growth by converting a room in the basement of this building into a "sub-dining hall". However, these two dining halls combined will seat a total of 326 inmates, making it necessary to feed as many as 50 inmates in their cells or in shifts, a decidedly unsatisfactory arrangement.

Present plans call for renovating this building to enlarge the dining hall, and together with the installation of cafeteria style feeding, should eliminate this problem.

### THE LAUNDRY

Below the kitchen we find the laundry. Here some five inmates process a quarter-million sheets annually, as well as over a million pieces of inmates' wearing apparel, including 150,000 pairs of pants, 150,000 shirts, etc. Here too we find antiquated equipment. This prodigious task is performed with the aid of two out-moded washing machines and two extractors!

The big problem in a unit of this type is to process the material quickly without allowing a bottleneck. Naturally, the time-consuming element in any laundering is the drying of the material which has been washed.

Once again we come to a facility which has been swamped by our spiraling prison population. Since funds were not made available to purchase a regular dryer, one had to be constructed many years ago, of steam pipes enclosed in a huge box-like structure. Under present conditions this is decidedly unsatisfactory since it cannot adequately handle the vast amount of work which it is called upon to dry, yet it is a tremendous drain upon our already over-burdened steam plant. It is hoped that funds will soon be allocated to remedy this deficiency.

### BLACKSMITH AND TIN SHOP

Leaving this unit on the end of the semi-circle, we proceed toward the center of the arc. Here we find the Blacksmith & Tin Shop.

In this shop is performed all the metal maintenance which is a necessary part of any penal institution.

The Tin Shop, which employs two inmates, manufactures various types of metal kitchenware tubs, funnels, etc. In addition, they turn out 150 to 200 water pails each year, repair gutters and drains, sinks, and other galvanized metal appurtenances around the institution.



The Blacksmith Shop, which employs three inmates, takes care of all of the heavy metal maintenance in and around the institution. Repair of grates, large hinges, metal parts on motor vehicles and farm implements, etc., form a large portion of the work done in this shop. In addition, they manufacture wheel bands for wheelbarrows, hinges, fire escapes and convert worn-out files into tools for use around the institution.

### THE WOOD SHOP

As we leave the Blacksmith & Tin Shop and enter the central part of the main industrial building, the scream of power saws, the figures of saw-dust covered inmates planing, routing and finishing boards, make us instantly aware that we are surveying the Wood Shop.

In the back of this shop stairs lead down to the Dryer where vast piles of unfinished lumber are stacked, some awaiting drying in the big kilns, others dried and ready to be processed into furniture.

The new kiln has a capacity of 25,000 to 30,000 board feet, and 150,000 to 200,000 board feet of unfinished lumber is normally dried on a run.

As we return upstairs to the main floor of the Wood Shop we see work benches and machines stretching in seemingly endless array along the 244 feet of the shop. The din of electric saws, buzz planers, tenon machine, surf planer, boring machine and other equipment gives an air of orderly confusion as we see rough boards being steadily processed, in assembly-line fashion, into finished furniture ready for sanding and painting.

Several types of chairs, beds, tables, bookcases, stools, filing cabinets, bureaus, benches, cabinets, stands, (a total of some 70 different items) are manufactured in this versatile shop which supplies employment and vocational training to some 75 inmates. In addition, they repair literally hundreds of different items to customer's specifications.

There are many special jobs performed by this shop for various private and state agencies. Last year they made a complete, portable dark-room for the Department of Health and Welfare.

This shop is one of our most important vocational training centers since it provides a trade that is in constant demand in this area. Any inmate, who so desires (and this is a natural prerequisite for any type of training) may enter this



shop without any previous training, and if he has any aptitude at all, will receive sufficient training to enable him to secure employment in any industry in which a knowledge of wood working is required.

Almost all of the institutional maintenance - such as the repair of furniture, installation of shelves, repair of wooden doors or window frames, etc. - is performed by the inmates in this shop.

### PAINT AND UPHOLSTERY SHOP

The Paint and Upholstery Shop is located directly above the Wood Shop and, with the latter, operates in assembly line fashion as a complete wooden-furniture factory. (See Figure 8a on opposite page)

In the Paint & Upholstery Shop there are employed some 64 inmates who learn the intricacies of painting, varnishing and staining, as well as caning and upholstering, of many types of furniture, running the gamut from plain wooden chairs to overstuffed davenports.

### SANDING ROOM:

A Sanding and Furniture-Finishing Room is operated as an adjunct to the Paint & Upholstery Shop. Thus, furniture is manufactured from the raw material in the Wood Shop, goes to the Sanding Room where it is sanded and prepared for varnishing or painting, proceeds thence to the Paint & Upholstery Shop where it is made into the finished product ready for the customer.

The Sanding Room employs some 60 inmates, primarily the unskilled, who graduate to either the Paint or Wood Shop as their skills progress.

It is superfluous to list the type or amount of work performed in this shop, but it is interesting to note that this one activity does a gross business of over \$10,000 annually, with a net profit during 1950-1951 of more than \$3,000, a profitable dollar-and cents return to the State of Maine.

While it might appear that this shop could have no rehabilitative value, in reality, the very nature of the work involved will quickly pinpoint those men who develop good work habits, and provides productive employment for those individuals who are completely unable to develop skills or are basically antagonistic to any attempt to rehabilitate them.



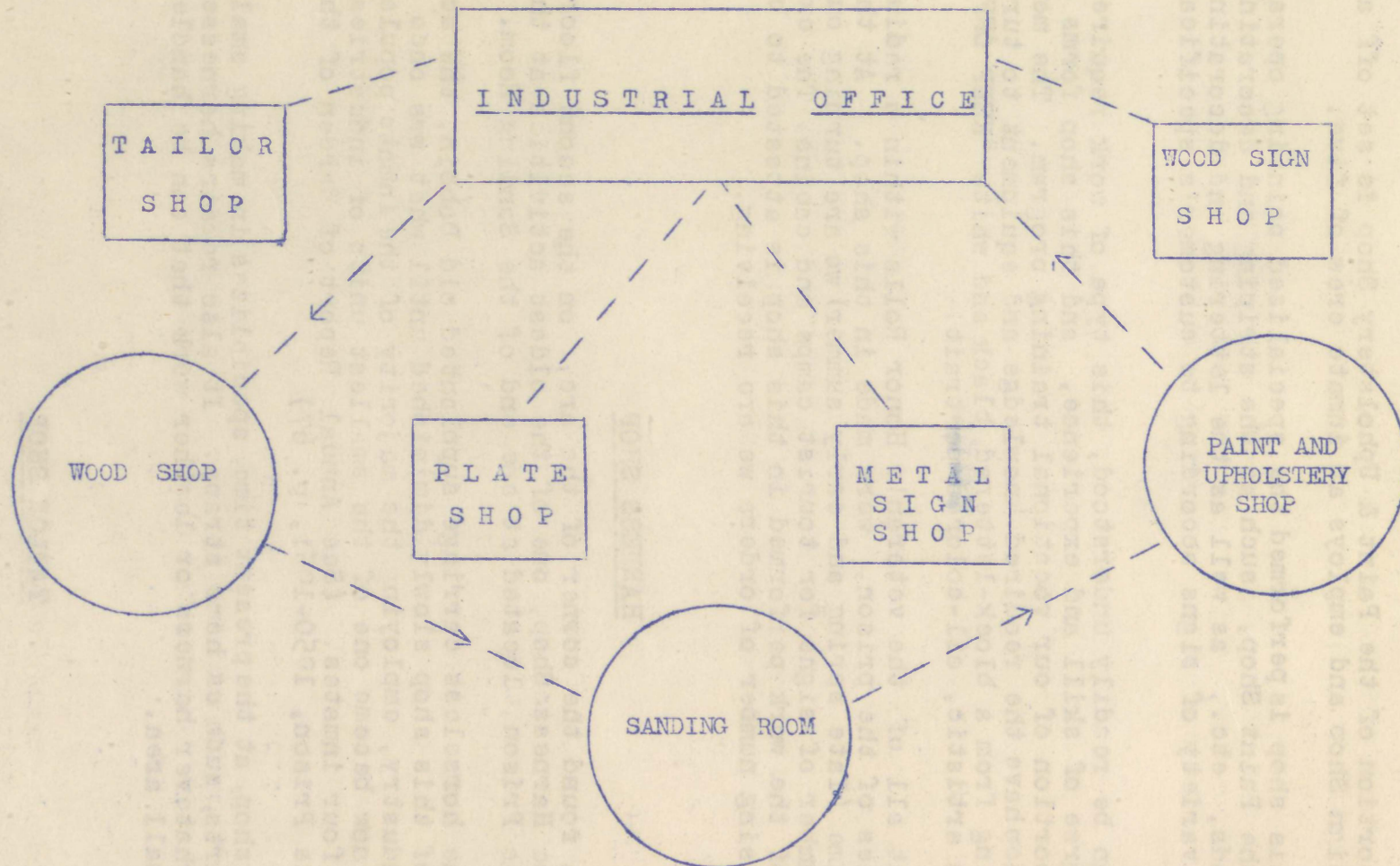


FIGURE 8a - WORK FLOW CHART  
Maine State Prison Industries



## WOODEN SIGN SHOP

One portion of the Paint & Upholstery Shop is set off as a Wooden Sign Shop and employs an inmate crew of five.

In this shop is performed the specialized painting operations of the Paint Shop, such as the striping and decorating of bedsteads, etc., as well as the lettering and decorating of a wide variety of signs according to customer's specifications.

As can be readily understood, this type of work requires a high degree of skill and experience, and this shop forms a valuable portion of our vocational training program. The men in this shop have the required knowledge and equipment to turn out anything from a block-lettered, black and white "KEEP OFF" sign to an artistic, oil-colored portrait.

Almost all of the veteran's Honor Rolls within a radius of 200 miles of the prison, were made in this shop. At the present time (late spring and early summer) we are turning out a large number of signs for tourist camps and cabins. The excellence of the work performed in this shop is attested to by the increasing number of orders we are receiving.

## HARNESS SHOP

As we round the corner of the arc, on the second floor, we find the Harness Shop, one of the oldest activities at the Maine State Prison, located at one end of the Sanding Room.

As the horseless carriage supplanted old Dobbin, the activities of this shop slowly diminished until what was once a primary industry, employing the majority of the inmate population, has now become one of the smallest units of industries, employing four inmates. (See Annual Report of Warden of the Maine State Prison, 1950-1951, p. 67)

This shop, at the present time, specializes in making small harness parts, such as hame straps. It also repairs harnesses and does whatever harness or leather work that can be handled in this small area.

## TAILOR SHOP

At the end of the semi-circle, on the second floor next to the Sanding Room, we find the Tailor Shop.



This activity employs some 40 inmates, both skilled and unskilled, manufacturing dungaree pants, shirts, officer's uniforms, mattress covers, sheets, undershorts, etc., all of which are processed in this shop from bolts of cloth to finished product.

The quiet purring of the 26 regular sewing machines, and the specialized machines which make and sew buttonholes, etc., are a sharp contrast to the screams and whines of the machines in the Wood Shop.

Inmates in the Tailor Shop are trained in the operation of the above machines, as well as the two steam presses and the hand irons. The unskilled apprentice starts at the bottom of the ladder by sewing buttons on the finished clothes.

All of the work in this shop is supervised by a trained overseer who cuts all the material into the correct patterns which the inmates assemble.

This activity does an annual gross business in excess of \$20,000, almost all of which is work performed for the State, the Maine State Prison, and the other institutions which come under the Department of Institutional Services.

### PLATE AND METAL SIGN SHOP

Two floors directly below the Tailor Shop are the last two of the Maine State Prison Industries - the Plate Shop and Metal Sign Shop, both of which are supervised by the same officer.

These two shops have a combined crew of some 30 inmates who operate such diverse machines as punch dies, paint sprayers, huge presses, "Scotchlite"\* applicators, conveyor dryer, roller-coating machines, etc.

In the Plate Shop are manufactured the more than 330,000 license plates which are used by Maine motorists annually.

The Metal Sign Shop manufactures a wide assortment of metal signs such as those used by the Highway Department.

These two shops do an annual business of almost \$10,000 all of which represents services to the State, since no sales are made to the general public. Therefore, while it shows little

\*Registered brand name of the Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co. St. Paul Minn.



or no net profit, the saving to the State is far more than the gross sales - to say nothing of the inestimable value of this shop in supplying inmates with a trade which will go a long way toward starting them on the road to becoming useful, law-abiding citizens, which, after all is supposed to be the primary purpose of any penal, correctional institution.

### THE PRINT SHOP

On ground level, almost at the end of our theoretical semi-circle, and below the Sanding Room and Tailor Shop, are housed the Print Shop, Cobbler Shop, Machine Shop and Commissary.

The Print Shop employs three inmates and is an exceptionally ideal vocational training unit. Here are printed all of the forms used by the institution itself, Maine State Prison Industries, the State Board of Parole and several of the other departments of the State. Although not normally considered a part of Prison Industries, this shop serves as an important adjunct to the industrial organization, for example, all the license plate envelopes for the Motor Vehicle Department are printed in this shop.

Using two flat-bed presses (one of which was acquired in April of 1952), a large Address-o-graph duplicator and the normal supplementary print shop equipment, this shop puts out an average of over 200 different printed forms annually which means more than 1,500,000 separate impressions, at enormous savings to the state. In addition to printing the forms, the men are trained in putting them into two, three, and as many as five unit pads.

An unskilled apprentice working in this shop for a minimum sentence, would be qualified to seek employment in any job print shop in the country.

### THE COBBLER SHOP

Two men are steadily employed in the Cobbler Shop to keep the inmate population well shod. The slap of a leather cutting knife keeps time with the hum of the stitching machine as soles are repaired, heels replaced, or torn uppers stitched.

This shop is equipped with a stitching machine, a finishing machine, and a regular sewing machine, but a good deal of the shoe repairing is, of course, performed by hand.



Since Maine is one of the leading states in the production of shoes, any "graduate" of this shop is almost certain of employment upon his release - one of the best incentives for vocational training.

### THE MACHINE SHOP

As we step out of the Cobbler Shop, the sight of an inmate bending over a steel lathe, metal shavings rising in a pile at his feet as he deftly machines a piece of metal, meets our eye.

The Machine Shop is one of the primary units of the institutional maintenance group. Here are made replacements for worn-out parts of our many machines. Many of our machines, as well as a good deal of our plumbing and sanitation facilities, are so out-dated that parts are no longer obtainable on the open market. Hence, parts for this equipment have to be tooled in our Machine Shop.

Equipped with two steel lathes, a light duty and a heavy duty drill, an electric saw (made in the Machine Shop) and a milling shaper, this shop, which is staffed by an inmate who is a skilled machinist, can quickly duplicate almost any small part of our many mechanical devices. The savings which ensue to the institution, and therefore the state, in both time and money, is easily apparent.

### THE COMMISSARY

The silent bustling activity which greets us as we leave the Machine Shop and enter the Commissary is startlingly noticeable. On every hand we see shelves stocked with the many pieces of equipment and the myriad items needed to supply our teeming prison community. Hundreds of pairs of shoes, thousands of pieces of wearing apparel, industrial supplies of every kind, and a hundred-and-one other items stretch in endless array before us. Altogether, we learn, over 5,000 separate items are stocked in this cavernous store-room.

Taking the average community, with its grocery stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, and pharmacies, coupled with the store-rooms of eight or nine small industrial shops, lump them all together in one vast room, and you have some idea of the monumental task which confronts the supervising officer and his crew of six inmates who operate the Commissary.



Every purchase made by the institution and its industries must be processed through the Commissary. Its staff must keep track of every bolt, nail or screw, checking them in when received, entering them on the inventory, issuing them out to the various units of the institution, keeping constantly alert that the supply of material on hand is adequate for the normal needs of the various departments, and reordering needed supplies.

Shipping tickets have to be checked against the incoming packages, bills have to be checked against orders. A perpetual inventory is maintained so that any department may know in a moment exactly how many, of any particular item, is on hand.

Even in this corner of our institutional organization is felt the impact of our vocational training program. An inmate who completes his sentence in this department is well equipped to seek employment as a stock clerk, typist, or supply room employee in any community business.

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As we leave the Commissary by way of the vehicle ramp, we turn and pass through an archway which opens out into the Yard - the recreational center of the prison.

One side of this open archway is now used for storage purposes, but plans call for its remodelling into an institutional maintenance unit in which all of our maintenance shops will be housed. The superiority of this centralization is easily apparent.

### THE PIPE AND ELECTRICAL SHOP

Standing at the entrance to the Yard, the Pipe and Electrical Shop is on our right, directly under the Wood Shop.

The Pipe and Electrical Shop is a division of our prison maintenance organization which includes the Tin Shop, Blacksmith Shop, and Machine Shop. The Pipe Shop is constantly at work repairing, replacing and installing our wide-flung plumbing system. Water pipes, sanitation facilities, and heating pipes demand incessant attention. This is supplied by the six inmates employed in this maintenance unit. The vocational training aspects of any of these shops is obvious.



The Electrical Shop is responsible for keeping our electrical system in first class condition - of paramount importance in any penal institution.

Worn wire fittings are continually in need of repairs or replacement. The recent relocation of the Classification and Industrial offices, the hospital, and the library necessitated considerable rewiring and the installation of outlets, sockets, etc. The four inmates assigned to this task did a really commendable job, while keeping engaged at work which will make their eventual adjustment to worthwhile community activity easy, another primary penological objective.

### THE BOILER AND/OR ENGINE ROOM

Directly across the Yard from the Pipe and Electrical Shop, on our left as we stand in the archway surveying the Yard, is the power plant of the Maine State Prison - the Boiler and/or Engine Room. This unit is housed in a separate building. Let's walk over and take a look inside.

Gleaming brass fittings, the spotless walls and floors, and the shining mechanical devices puffing and chugging, give us the impression of entering the spotless engine room of a newly-commissioned ship.

On our left we see pumps which distribute throughout the institution the steam and hot water from the two boilers. On our right are two steam-driven, electric generators which are always in a state of readiness to take over in the event there should be a local power shortage.

All the electricity and water used in the institution are purchased from local utility companies. Experience has shown this to be the most economical arrangement. However, it is easily apparent that a power shortage with its accompanying blackout, could be an extremely dangerous security situation in a prison. In the event of such a contingency, the Engine Room is equipped and ready to manufacture our own current in sufficient quantity to operate our lighting system at full capacity.

Whenever such a contingency arises the Chief Engineer throws a switch and the two generators take over, but he does so with his fingers crossed. Although one of our boilers was retubed and repaired a couple of years ago, the other needs retubing badly and an extra load is put on it with trepidation. In addition both of our generators are of ancient vintage and will not stand up for a prolonged period of use. The big job



of the Chief Engineer, the Assistant Engineer and the six inmates employed in this facility is the keeping of this equipment in operating condition. The gleaming condition of the Engine Room amply attests to the fine job they are doing in spite of the handicaps of depreciated equipment and startlingly inadequate boiler facilities.

### THE YARD

Let us stop for a moment as we leave the Boiler Room and let's really look about us this time as we re-enter the Yard.

This site is the incongruous welding of disciplinary punishment and recreational privileges. Between the Boiler Room and the Industrial Shops are four curious-looking rows of tub-like "work benches" with hard-rock tops. This is the Maine State Prison's historic rock-pile - all that remains of the once vast quarry upon which the institution was constructed.

Productive employment is not only a prime objective of penal administrators, it is a privilege which is cherished by most inmates. "Time" is paramount on any prisoner's mind. "Tough time" is his nemesis, "easy time" his goal. Productive employment makes time go faster, thus is extremely desirable. This is what makes solitary confinement punishment - the slow dragging by of second after second, minute after minute, hour after hour.

The rock pile is not arduous labor, since the men use small two or three pound hammers, but pounding away, hour after hour, crushing fist-sized rocks into pebbles or rock dust is a task which is monotonous in the ultimate, and a fitting way in which a man may expiate a disciplinary lapse.

In any institution there are many housekeeping chores which require unskilled manpower, such as cleaning windows, unloading lumber from trucks, hauling coal, shoveling snow, etc. All this comes within the purview of the Yard Crew.

The Yard Crew is the catch-all of the institution. Disciplinary cases, men who by reason of physical, psychological or emotional deficiencies cannot be assigned to regular jobs, and men coming out of quarantine - all are assigned to the Yard Crew.

When a new man enters the institution, as has previously been explained, he spends two weeks in his cell in quarantine, during which time administrative and medical processing takes place. After that two weeks he is assigned to the Yard Crew





FIG. 9 - "THE YARD", MAINE STATE PRISON

The small annex on the far left is the Dining Hall and Blacksmith Shop (*front is shown in Fig. 8*). The large, four-storied building, reading from left to right, contains the Industrial Shops, Commissary, etc. The archway can be seen in the right center background immediately over the Engine-room. The entrance to the "Recreation Hall" is in the left foreground.



for an orientation period. During the next three or four weeks he gets to know the institution and the staff gets to know him. At the completion of this period the Yard Supervisor compiles a report on the man's capabilities, behavior and attitude, and makes recommendations concerning him. This becomes part of the inmate's Admission Summary, previously discussed under "Classification".

### RECREATION

(It should be noted at this point that all expenditures for recreation are made from profits which accrue to the Inmate's Benefit Fund from the Inmate Canteens. No request for funds for recreation has been made to the State Legislature.) *this is nicely stated*

Turning our back on the rockpile we see the "Athletic Field", the Yard. The present state of this area is a remarkable exhibition of how much can be accomplished through time and effort, with very limited funds.

In the late 1800's every investigation committee and prison inspector included a section in their report excoriating prison officials for allowing "a cesspool" to exist within the prison walls. "Cesspool" and "eyesore" were two of the mildest invectives used to describe the yawning hole which is now the Yard. In 1901 this quarry excavation was filled in and the occasion was described in contemporary annals as a "happy day for the Maine State Prison". It was some 400 feet long, 145 feet wide, and 70 feet deep. Lacking any drainage facilities it became a miniature lake into which much of the prison's sewage seeped.

Over the years since 1901 this filled-in quarry has been leveled and worked, until in 1924 it was in use as an athletic field. By the middle 1920's just about all that could be done to the field without the expenditure of vast amounts of money had been done. The Yard today is essentially the same as it was at the dedication of the rebuilt prison in 1924.

Here it is that all the prison's athletic exercises take place. In the summer the various shops make up intra-institutional baseball teams which compete among themselves. A varsity or institution baseball team has a game with an outside team each weekend during the summer months. The outside baseball teams come from all over the state at their own expense, another sign of awakened community interest in rehabilitation.

In the Yard there is a dirt-floor basketball court, a handball court, facilities for boxing and horseshoes and space where the inmate may just sit or walk around if he so desires.



Holidays during the summer months are celebrated with a round of athletic events, wholesome outdoor sports. Track and field events, boxing, and baseball usually comprise the program.

In an institution of this type a great deal of tension often develops over relatively minor differences between inmates. A fight between two inmates in a congested area can quickly develop into a serious disciplinary and security problem. Naturally the participants in an affray of this kind must be dealt with severely.

During the years, the custom has developed of allowing evenly-matched disputants to settle their differences in the ring on the summer holidays. Often the difference of opinion has faded by the time the holiday rolls around. Otherwise it is definitely understood that it ends when the final bell is rung.

These holiday-sports activities allow the men to let off a lot of excess energy and steam, which might otherwise be a serious custodial problem.

### INDOOR RECREATION

While our outdoor athletic program might be termed adequate, our greatest sore spot lies in our indoor recreational facilities. As pointed out in the 1950-1951 Annual Report, "Our Recreation Hall is an ill-lit, ill-ventilated, room in the basement of our industrial building (with an entrance leading off the Yard). While it might adequately accommodate some 150 inmates, it is totally inadequate for the accommodation of the 400 or so inmates who are forced to seek its shelter on days of inclement weather when they are not working."

This is an important deficiency! Remedial action has been recommended repeatedly and it is hoped that favorable action will be taken in the near future on these recommendation

During the winter months our primary problem has been to provide wholesome recreation without using the Recreation Hall any more than absolutely necessary. Movies in the Auditorium are used to accomplish this aim. On Sunday a regular 35 MM motion picture is obtained from national distributors (M.G.M., Paramount, etc.) and, because of our limited auditorium space is shown to the inmates in two sittings. Last year we purchased a 16 MM projector, and pictures are shown to half the institution's inmates each Saturday afternoon.

### RADIO

Since the inmates spend almost 16 hours of each day in



their cells, some activity was needed to allow them the most profitable use of this leisure time. This was done through the installation of radiocarphones and through the facilities of our Library.

Maine was one of the first institutions in the country to install earphones in the cells, the first broadcast heard being the second Dempsey-Tunney fight on September 22nd, 1927. This system of radio-earphones has spread into almost every penal institution in the country.

The early part of 1952 this radio-earphone system was expanded to three channels. This was felt to be desirable due to the wide range of intellectual, cultural, and social backgrounds represented among our large inmate population. The cost of the entire installation was paid by the Inmate Benefit Fund which is supported by the small store supplying the inmates with tobacco, shaving equipment, etc. The expansion of this system is considered one of our major achievements in recent years.

## LIBRARY

"It was stated in the 1830 (Fifth) report (of the Boston Prison Discipline Society) that a Sabbath School was established during the year and the warden wrote that the legislature had appropriated \$75.00 to purchase books for the use of the prisoners. He added that he noted the convicts had 'become more industrious and obedient' because of it!"\*

Although the legislature ceased appropriating funds for recreation or education of inmates several years ago, this library has grown to some 4,500 volumes (a far cry from its small beginning in 1830). This growth has been made possible through contributions by public-spirited citizens and through purchases by the Inmate Benefit Fund.

Fiction, biography, autobiography, books on travel and adventure, classical literature and religious literature - all may be found on the shelves of the Library or in the men's cells. In an average year over 34,000 withdrawals are made from this small library.

An attempt is made to add at least 400 new books each year, paid for entirely by the Inmate's Benefit Fund. In addition, this Fund purchases current popular magazines - Collier's, Saturday Evening Post, etc. - for the men's perusal, education, and entertainment.

\* EARLY DAYS OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON AT THOMASTON by Negley K. Teeters, as published in The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology of Northwestern University, Vol. 38, No. 2 July-August, 1947.



It must be pointed out that The Reader's Digest has shown an admirable interest in the rehabilitation of prisoners and furnish the prison with 30 copies of their magazine each month free of charge. They have also sent us several books for our library.

The Maine State Library in the State House at Augusta has also cooperated with the prison to the fullest extent in providing books for inmates, as has The Library of the University of Maine.

### EDUCATION

It is in the field of education that the Maine State Prison shows its greatest deficiency. While there is no denying the therapeutic advantages to be derived from a well-organized education program in prison, space is just not available for school rooms. This is a perennial cry at this institution.

In 1915, Warden E.H. Waterhouse pointed out in his annual report the importance he and other penologists attached to a worthwhile educational program and proudly listed the educational achievements of the institution during the preceding year, including the full time use of a regular school room.

With little or no appreciable change in the facilities of the institution since that date - except the addition of more cells - the inmate population has more than doubled. A few years ago, in a frantic search for space in which to install beds, the School Room was converted to a dormitory, giving us two dormitories, in addition to the three cell blocks. With the addition of the 66 new cells it was hoped we would be able to reinstate the school, but once again expediency decided otherwise, and the erstwhile School Room is now the Prison Hospital.

In our previous discussion of Recreation, mention was made of various recommendations contained in the 1950-1951 Annual Report. One of these is for the construction of a building which would be a combination Recreation, Education, Chapel building. If authority for the construction of such a building is forthcoming, the Maine State Prison's rehabilitation program will be second to none of comparable size.



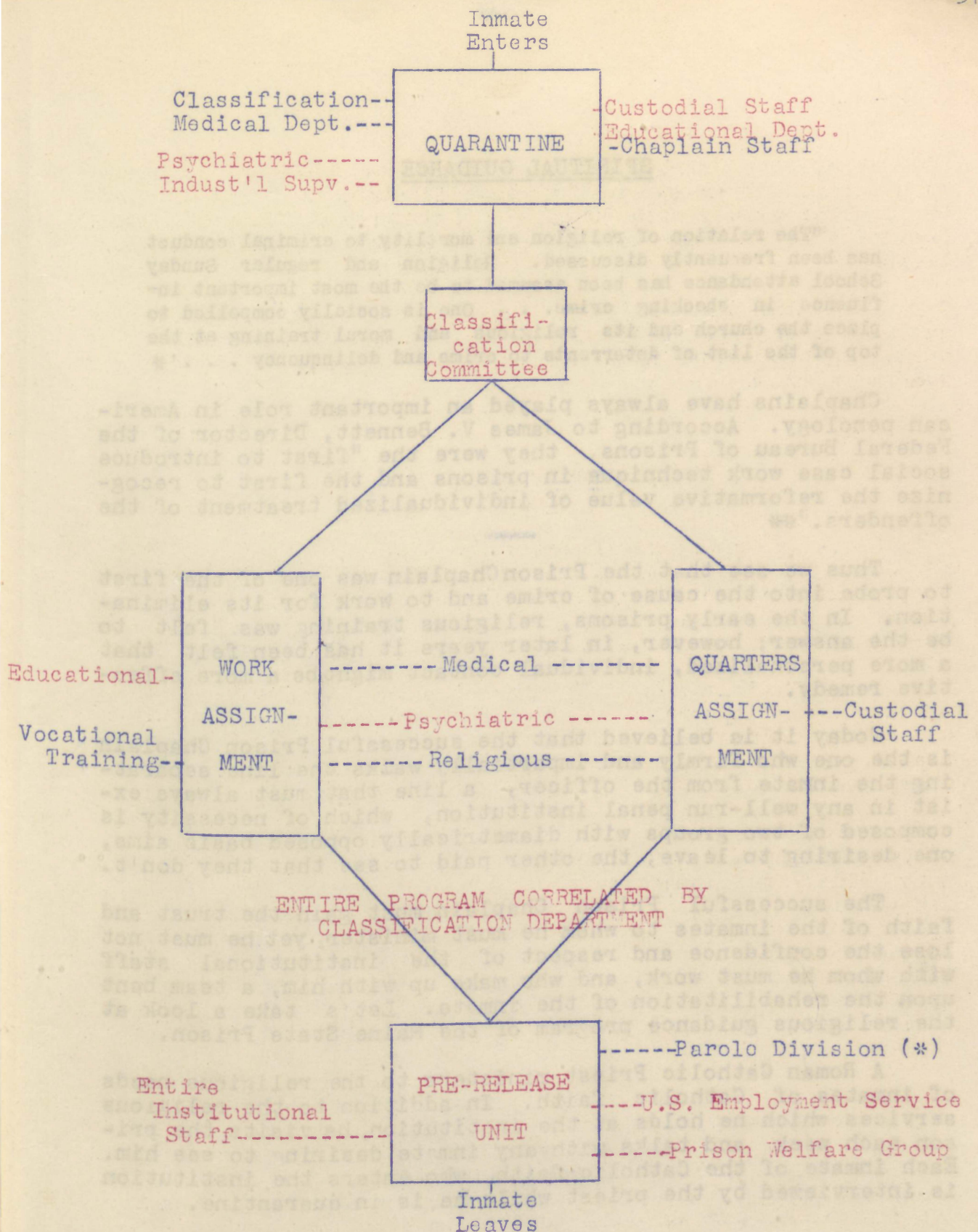


FIG. 10 -- IDEAL REHABILITATIVE PROGRAM AS EXISTS IN FEDERAL PENAL INSTITUTIONS AND IN THOSE OF SOME OF OUR LEADING STATES

Items in blue exist at Maine State Prison

(\*) In Maine, the Chief Parole Officer contacts each inmate before he goes up for parole and prior to his release.

Items in red do NOT exist at M. S. P.  
Dashes indicate individual staff contact with the individual inmate.



## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

"The relation of religion and morality to criminal conduct has been frequently discussed. Religion and regular Sunday School attendance has been assumed to be the most important influence in checking crime. . . . One is socially compelled to place the church and its religious and moral training at the top of the list of deterrents to crime and delinquency . . . ."

Chaplains have always played an important role in American penology. According to James V. Bennett, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, they were the "first to introduce social case work technique in prisons and the first to recognize the reformatory value of individualized treatment of the offenders."\*\*

Thus we see that the Prison Chaplain was one of the first to probe into the cause of crime and to work for its elimination. In the early prisons, religious training was felt to be the answer; however, in later years it has been felt that a more personalized, individual contact might be a more effective remedy.

Today it is believed that the successful Prison Chaplain is the one who firmly and impartially walks the line separating the inmate from the officer, a line that must always exist in any well-run penal institution, which of necessity is composed of two groups with diametrically opposed basic aims, one desiring to leave, the other paid to see that they don't.

The successful Prison Chaplain must gain the trust and faith of the inmates to whom he must minister, yet he must not lose the confidence and respect of the institutional staff with whom he must work, and who make up with him, a team bent upon the rehabilitation of the inmate. Let's take a look at the religious guidance program of the Maine State Prison.

A Roman Catholic Priest ministers to the religious needs of inmates of Catholic faith. In addition to the religious services which he holds at the institution, he visits the prison each week and talks with any inmate desiring to see him. Each inmate of the Catholic faith who enters the institution is interviewed by the priest while he is in quarantine.

\*Harry Elmer Barnes, Negley K. Teeters, NEW HORIZONS IN CRIMINOLOGY, 2nd Ed. (Copyright 1943, 1945 by Prentice-Hall, New York) p. 183. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

\*\*THE ROLE OF THE MODERN PRISON CHAPLAIN, proceedings American Prison Association, 1937, pp. 379-388.



For the first time in many years we have been able to employ a Protestant Chaplain to minister to the needs of the men who are not of Catholic faith. He performs essentially the same functions for the Protestant inmates as the priest does for his flock. He interviews all of the new inmates not visited by the Catholic Chaplain.

As a result of these interviews, the new man's religious training and background is outlined in the Admission Summary, together with the Chaplain's recommendations as to the best means of furnishing him with religious and spiritual guidance.

An Episcopalian priest ministers to those inmates of Episcopalian faith. He holds periodic services and furnishes the men with religious or personal counselling. Since there are few Episcopalian inmates in the institution, the Episcopalian priest is not a member of the staff, but renders his excellent services as part of his normal pastoral duties.

Services are held at the institution every Sunday according to arrangements made by the Prison Chaplains. These services are conducted by outside religious groups as well as by the Chaplains themselves. Once each month they are conducted by the Salvation Army.

It must be pointed out that the Salvation Army performs many services during the course of the year for the inmate population. In addition to granting personal interviews and giving religious and personal guidance, they render, in many individual instances, personal assistance to the inmate or his family. Each year at Christmas, the Salvation Army presents a basket containing candy, cigarettes, fruit, and a message to each inmate of the prison.

The service rendered by the Chaplains, Salvation Army and several other public-spirited ministers exemplify the highest spirit of Christian teaching.

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The establishment of an Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter at the Maine State Prison several years ago, as a regular part of our rehabilitative program, marked a tremendous stride forward in the penological maturation of the State of Maine.

As the Federal Bureau of Prisons point out in their booklet about the United States Penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia, basic principles of AA can well be applied to penal rehabilitation - (1) that a person who has conquered his own personal problem can in turn, help others; (2) that a man strengthens himself through helping others; and (3) that new behavior



patterns are accomplished through a reasoned change of mind and heart.

The AA group meets each Sunday during the entire year. The Chapter has outside speakers, who come from all over this section of the country - some coming from as far away as Washington, D. C. On days on which there are no outside speakers the inmates themselves plan and execute a program.

Since the meetings are open to every inmate in the institution, the benefits to be derived from the excellent precepts of this organization are available to every one of the men in the prison.

### NOVELTY MANUFACTURE

While the aim of this booklet is to avoid controversial subjects, it must again be stressed that the primary purpose of penal institutions is to release men who have a desire and a chance to resume their place in society as useful law-abiding citizens. Turning him out penniless, or with only ten dollars in his pocket, defeats this program before it starts. For many years officials of the State of Maine have studied the problem of compensating inmates for honest, industrious, diligent toil during the period of their incarceration. This is done in almost every well-run penal system in this country, but to date has not been provided for through legislation in this state.

To offset this lack, the inmates are permitted to manufacture various novelty items on their own time (when in their cell or after working hours) and these items are sold for them in the Prison Show Room.

All types of table lamps, jewelry boxes, cigarette boxes, toys, pin cushions and a host of other items are manufactured by the inmates. They purchase all of the necessary materials themselves through a Novelty Canteen provided for that purpose (the profits from which accrue to the Inmate Benefit Fund).

The money the inmates obtain through the sale of these items offset a little the lack of industrial compensation and supplies them with funds for the purchase of toilet articles, cigarettes, candy and other items, as well as providing funds to be used against the day they are released.

In addition, it provides the men with a gainful use of leisure time, and, in many cases, supplies a hobby which is developed through later years.



## PAROLE AND RELEASE PROCEDURES

The release of men on parole is governed entirely by the State Board of Parole and the men on parole are supervised by the Parole Division of the Department of Institutional Services.

When a man completes the minimum portion of the term to which he is sentenced, the Classification Department of the prison brings his case history up to date with the inclusion of a report received from the various parole officers through the Chief Parole Officer.

These officers have checked all the factors in the man's local community bearing upon not only the commission of the offense itself, but upon his release - such as employment, residence, community attitude toward the offender, family relationships, etc.

The State Board of Parole meets monthly at the prison, and after carefully weighing all the factors concerned with the man's offense and his subsequent incarceration, determine whether the time has come when he can safely be released to resume his place in "the outside world".

If the man is granted parole, he is carefully instructed on his privileges and responsibilities while on parole. This instruction is given by both the Chief Parole Officer and the Classification Supervisor. Upon his release he reports to the local parole officer who will supervise him on parole. This officer reviews these instructions and offers his services to assist the man in re-establishing himself in the community.

It is interesting to note that while national figures show that 85 per cent of men imprisoned in penal institutions throughout the country become embroiled with the law some time within 20 years after their release, the experience in this state has been that less than 25 per cent of the men released on parole violate that parole, and that of this 25 per cent, over half are returned for technical violations, drunkenness, failing to report to parole officer, leaving the state, etc., only a minute number violate by the commission of another offense.



## PRISONER AID SOCIETY

It might also be pointed out at this time, that Maine is one of the states that does not have any form of community help to former prisoners, such as the Osborne Association in New York, The Howard Association of Chicago, The United Prison Association of Massachusetts, The Pennsylvania Prison Association, etc.

These associations are Community Chest sponsored, and most of them started out with the central idea of serving the individual prisoner and helping him to become re-established in society after his release. In the case of the Pennsylvania Prison Society (which dates back to 1787), they have persistently focused on that aim since their beginning, and in recent years have developed a staff of professional caseworkers who go to nearby prisons and work with the men who seek their assistance.

There are other prison societies such as The United Prison Association in Boston, which, although it includes in its program helping prisoners, has had its major emphasis, in recent years, on community organization, promotion of legislation, and other means of bringing about better correctional administration.

Mr. Albert G. Fraser, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Prison Society (to whom I am indebted for most of the foregoing material on prison societies) states: "I think it is imperative, however, in thinking about a new agency, to decide at the start which of these functions you wish to emphasize. Having done that, then I think one should proceed in the same way that one would in organizing for any social service in the community, by setting up a committee of a few interested individuals. This committee should certainly be affiliated with the other social and civic agencies to assure the best community support."



## THE GARAGE - STORE ROOM

As we return to the outside of the prison, we might take a walk over to the newly-completed Garage-Store Room which is located to the right of the Administration Building.

This new building solved several problems which had been a source of annoyance to officials of the institution for many years. Its construction now permits us to store and service our motor vehicles outside of the prison, allowing us to keep motor traffic within the institution to a minimum and practically eliminating the ever-present possibility of their being wantonly damaged or sabotaged.

The ground floor provides storage space for five vehicles as well as a large grease pit and work area for servicing the trucks. (See Figure 11, next page.)

Below the garage is an excellent storage basement in which the canned goods processed at the prison cannery are stored pending shipment by Prison Industries, either to the prison itself, or to the other state institutions.

Above the garage are two floors which provide approximately 5,400 square feet of floor space. This will be used for the storage of furniture which will be sold at the Show Room. One of our big problems in the past has been the lack of this storage space. Our primary selling season has been during the summer months. Our sales far outdistanced production during these months and when the small stock piles packed into the then-existing storage spaces were depleted, we were unable to meet the demand, with a consequent loss to the state.

It is interesting to note that this entire building was constructed solely with inmate labor under the supervision of a local contractor. The inmates even made the cement bricks of which the building is constructed. It is easily apparent that this saved the state a considerable sum, and points up the value of the proper use of inmate productive capacities.



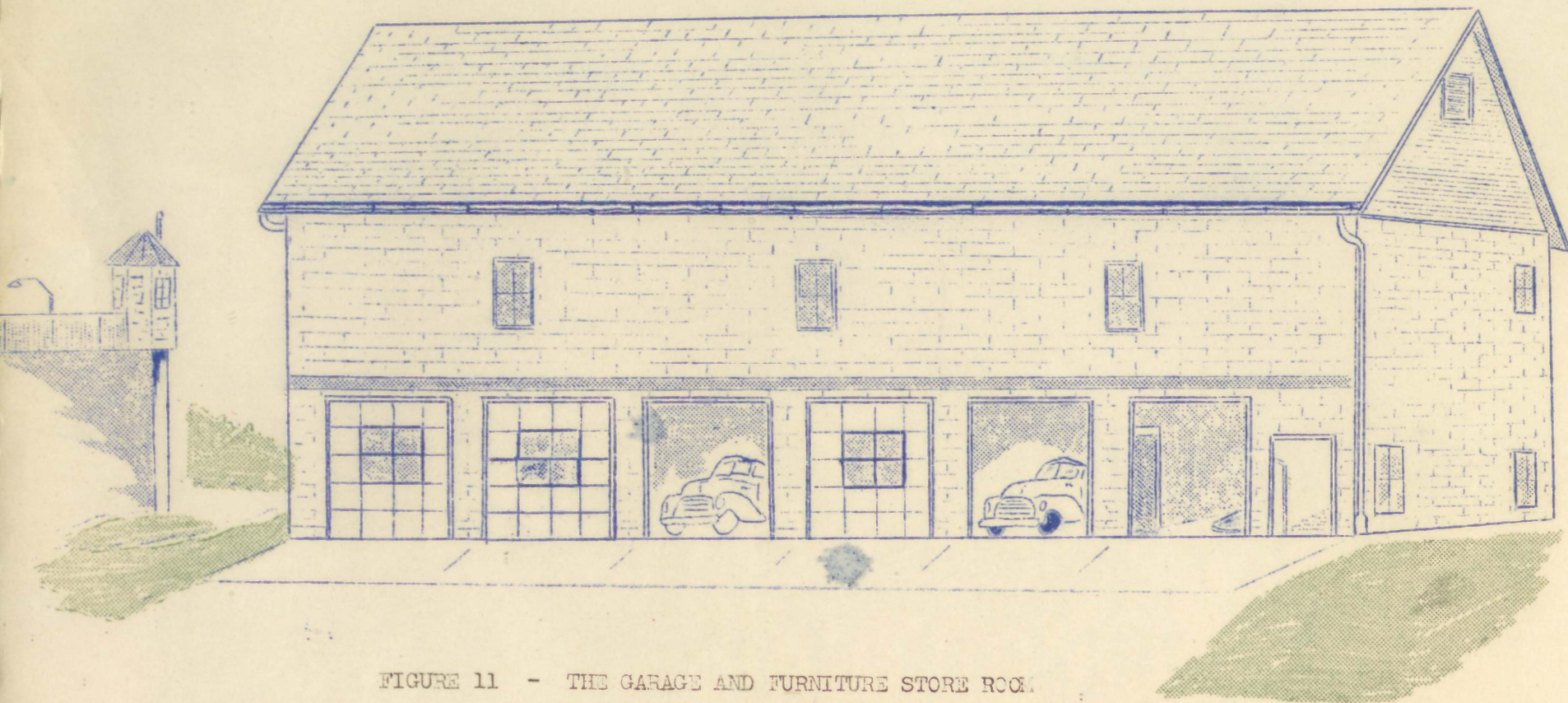


FIGURE 11 - THE GARAGE AND FURNITURE STORE ROOM

On the right can be seen the service and grease pit. The wall and guard tower on the left overlook the spot inside the prison from which the picture Fig. 8 was taken.



## THE PRISON FARM

The Prison Farm represents one of the more advanced stages of penological development in the Maine prison system. As we have mentioned several times, the primary purpose or objective of a prison is to turn back into society, the men who are ready, willing and able to assume their place as useful, law-abiding citizens. Harsh, repressive brutality behind prison walls never has, and undoubtedly never will, accomplish that objective. Neither will long periods of unproductive imprisonment. Thus has developed the penological maxim that men are sent to prison AS punishment, not FOR punishment. By that is meant, the mere fact of conviction and imprisonment, with its accompanying "convict" stigma, the deprivation of privileges which have come to be a part of our normal daily lives, the necessary regimentation which is involved in any institutionalization - all of these are the punishment involved in imprisonment. Attempts by short-sighted prison administrations to impose punishment in the form of corporal punishment, the lock-step, striped clothing, etc., defeats the very purpose of the prison, and turns back into society individuals who are broken, embittered and bent on revenging themselves on the community.

Naturally there are some men who are so deeply rooted in anti-social behavior that nothing modern society has developed will change them. For them, all we can do is to keep them safely and humanely in a place where they cannot vent their anti-social spleen - but these men are far in the minority. For the remainder, the prison-farm concept is the ideal method of rehabilitation. As an illustration let us take a trip out to the Maine State Prison Farm. Let us assume that we are taking this trip on a sunny day in June, in the early afternoon. Let us try to imagine how an inmate, who has been imprisoned behind walls for some time, might feel on being told that as a result of exemplary behavior, he is being given a position of trust at the Prison Farm.

Any prison which is more than 20 years old picks up an atmosphere that can't help but depress a discerning individual - although this depression might be temporarily alleviated by the newness or novelty of seeing the inside of a penitentiary for the first time. Driving down the highway, going west from the prison, one unconsciously notices a new freshness about the sunlight, a brighter green in the fields.

About a mile from the prison we turn onto the Friendship Road on which the Prison Farm is located. Before us stretches the beautiful New England countryside. Rolling hills, their slopes studded with trees whose bright foliage



absorbs the hot sunshine and give a feeling of coolness and cleanliness, undulate to the horizon on every side.

On our left we notice a typical, well-kept group of farm buildings, the glistening white structures forming a pleasing contrast to the verdant greenness of the fields surrounding them. It is with surprise and a feeling of incongruity that we notice the large silver and black sign, MAINE STATE PRISON FARM.

Looking about us we see another building a short way down the road, more in keeping with our concept of a penal institution, the red-brick, "T"-shaped, Prison Farm Barracks.

The first clapboard quartet of buildings include quarters for one of the officers and his family, the horse barn, the garage, and a storage shed.

The Barracks Building is the only concession we find to the stereotyped notion of imprisonment. Its steel, glass and red brick seem entirely out of place in its fresh, rural setting. Suffice it is to say that this building contains a large dormitory, recreation hall, kitchen, dining room, commissary, and boiler room. Here it is that the administrative details pertaining to the inmates and the farm are handled.

Leaving the barracks and continuing down, and across, the road, we pass a typical, up-to-date, rural dwelling house in which the Farm Superintendent resides, and come to the new cow barn which replaces the one destroyed by fire in 1950.

The lowing of cattle, the pleasant smell of new mown hay, the stomping of cows as they are brushed and curried, transport us far away from any feeling of imprisonment.

As we enter the door of the Dairy Shed, jutting off the side of the barn, we see two long rows of fine Holstein's contentedly munching their feed. On the left are small pens which house new-born calves and a three-and-a-half year old bull recently rented by the Farm. Here we see men industriously performing the endless chores which are connected with the operation of a large, modern, well-kept dairy barn.

It is here we first notice the benefits which may be derived from the "trusty" or "honor" system which is the only successful method of operating a Prison Farm. Farm work is far from easy. In most cases it is downright hard labor from sunup to sunset. The belief that prison labor (work performed by inmates behind bars) is cheap, is a common fallacy which has been disproved time and time again.



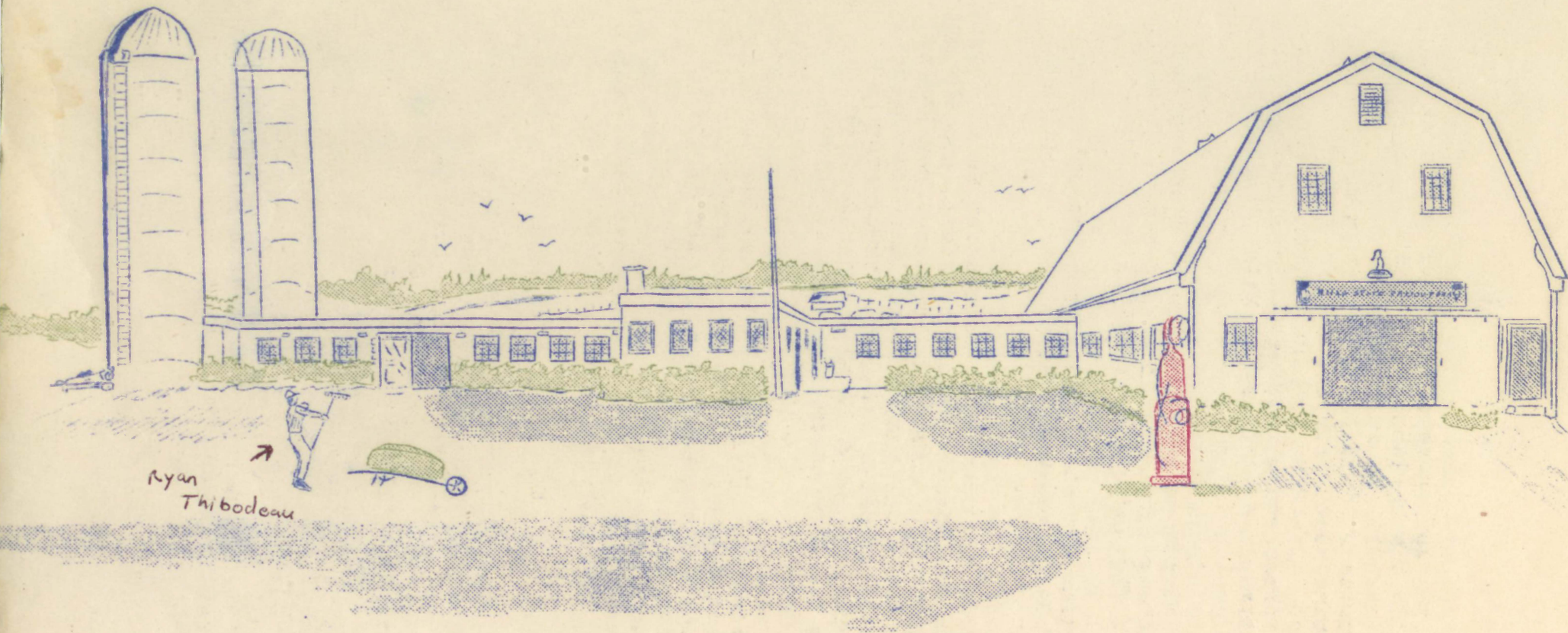


FIGURE 12 - THE PRISON FARM CO. BARN AND DAIRY SHED

In the background may be seen the chicken range. This entire group of buildings - the barn, dairy shed, and silos was constructed entirely with inmate labor.



Behind prison walls men are closely supervised. This supervision is extremely expensive, yet absolutely necessary because of the wide range of psychological, emotional and criminal backgrounds of the many inmates lumped together in a shop. Under supervision of this type, men have a tendency to do just enough to get by. A farm cannot operate on this basis.

At the farm we see the inmate working with a minimum of supervision. Animals require constant care, and men with a feeling of responsibility, will naturally get the best out of them. In the Dairy we see evidence of that feeling of responsibility. It would take a corps of guards to force prisoners to keep the animals and buildings in this spotless condition. No guard is present here, yet we notice each man is busily engaged - one is lugging bags of feed, another scrubbing the floors, yet another industriously brushing and cleaning a cow. This pays off in cash return to the state.

We look through the doorway of the milk room where all the milk is prepared for shipment to the prison and other institutions. Our impression of spotless cleanliness is intensified as we gaze into this room. Gleaming racks of milk cans surmount the two, large milk coolers and reflect the sunlight streaming through the large windows which cover every side. It is with surprise that we learn that the entire cowshed, the huge barn, and the milk room were all constructed entirely with inmate labor.

Back of the barn is a small, weather-beaten shed, its charred timbers mute evidence of the fire which destroyed the old barn. As one gazes at this gaunt shed from the back doorway of this beautiful structure, it is difficult to keep from reflecting on how many improvements to our prison system have been brought about because of what at the moment appeared to be a devastating loss caused by fire.

#### THE HENNERY AND PIGGERY:

Raising our sights we see the hennerly and piggery perched well up the slope of the hill over-looking the barn.

Trudging along the road leading to these two farm units we pass fields which have been made into outdoor enclosures for hundreds of chickens. A stately Rhode Island Red rooster struts arrogantly among the clucking hens, scratching and pecking at invisible seeds or worms. The grunting and "oinking" across the road calls our attention to the occupants of that field.

Suckling pigs, fat sows and massive boars, each in their own enclosure, snort and grunt as an inmate lugs and pours



barrels of sustenance into their troughs. Like the lamb that followed Mary, one little pig has adopted the inmate who takes care of the piggery, following him from pen to pen as he laboriously performs the myriad tasks involved in raising fat, succulent pork for the market.

The honnery itself is a large two-storied wooden structure, exactly the same as any well-built hen house anywhere, except for its immensity.

Just to give an indication of the size of the Prison Farm units, there are over 3,400 chickens, with facilities for over 5,000; more than 150 head of cattle and more than 250 pigs. In dollars-and-cents value, the livestock and chickens run around approximately \$20,000, which provide an annual gross income of over \$55,000 through the sale of milk, dairy products, beef, hides, fowl, eggs, etc.

### THE CANNERY

The Cannery, located in back of the Barracks, processes a good percentage of the crops harvested each year. This activity can produce for not only the Maine State Prison, but for other institutions throughout the state.

Running from July through November, the Cannery employs eleven inmates cleaning vegetables, preparing them for cooking and canning, doing the actual canning, labeling cans, packing them, and loading them into the trucks to be sent to the many institutions in the state.

A glimpse of this unit during the canning season once again impresses us with the vast amount of hard work entailed on a farm. The steady thump of cutting knives, the hissing of escaping steam, the grinding of canning machines, all blend as the eleven workers steadily pile box after box of canned goods into the waiting trucks.

Peas, corn, beets, beans, spinach, carrots, tomatoes, squash, and pumpkins are a few of the many products processed by this busy unit.

In 1951 this small unit packed over 25,000 cans for the Maine State Prison, and half again as many for other institutions, doing a gross business of over \$20,000.

The profits from the Cannery, coupled with the other activities already described, represents a considerable saving to the prison and the state, a far cry from most penal activities in this country which represent a continuous drain on the pocketbook of the taxpayer.



One of the Prison Farm's vegetable storage cellars is located a short distance from the Cannery. As we survey this squat structure, such an indispensable adjunct to any farm, the chugging roar and grind of a bulldozer greets our ears.

Off to the side of the vegetable storage cellar we find a deep gravel pit, the scene of bustling activity. A massive bulldozer gouges huge chunks of dirt and gravel from the sides of the yawning excavation as a group of prison farmers heave shovelful after shovelful of gravel onto a waiting truck. As the truck claws its way up the steep embankment, the men wipe their sweating brows and grin cheerfully up at us. We wave and take off to follow the loaded truck.

Across from the first group of farm buildings which heralded our arrival at the Maine State Prison Farm, is located a small, man-made pond or "Fire Reservoir". Here we find the recently-loaded truck dumping gravel onto a newly-constructed roadbed. As soon as the truck pulls away, the gang of robust young prison farmers who have been taking a breathing spell dig in, spreading and leveling the gravel.

Proceeding up this road in the process of construction, is reminiscent of travel in the days of the wagon trails. A short distance from the pond it winds through the woods for a hundred yards or so, and then opens out onto a clearing about a quarter-mile wide, stretching as far as the eye can see. This is the Farm's new 400-acre land development project.

At the present time much of the farming for the institution is done on rented farms scattered all over this area. Not only is the rental of these farms an unrewarding expenditure of money (unrewarding in the sense that no matter how many years they are leased, they still belong to the original owners) but much time and money is spent transporting inmates to and from them. The new land development will completely eliminate this expenditure.

Almost all the new land has been cleared of timber and some of it is being used at the present time for grazing land. Certain small sections of it have even been planted, and have yielded a good return. However, the immensity of the task of improving this land into productive acreage is staggering to the person standing and surveying this vast territory. Much has been accomplished to date and if carried forward with the same enthusiasm and vigor which has marked its present progress, should be in good shape in a relatively few years.

Returning down the rough trail, we return to the Friendship Road, again passing men spreading dirt, carrying rocks, and fixing the road. Here on the Farm we don't feel the wide disparity of ages, background and physical characteristics so



noticeable at the prison. The men seem to carry their heads higher, broad smiles are prevalent - Friendship Road seems an apt title for the byway upon which the Prison Farm is located.

We leave the Maine State Prison Farm with a feeling of having seen men who have transgressed our social and legal codes, but men who are working hard, in fresh air and under God's canopy, to prepare themselves to once again resume their place in society - law-abiding, useful and well adjusted.

- THE END -



## EPILOGUE

You now have a fair idea of the workings of the Maine State Prison. It would be illuminating if we could sketch each person's reaction as he reaches this point. Most readers will have found it to be of some interest, but in most cases that will be as far as it will go.

We hope that we have told you enough to make you want to know more. No penal administrator can accomplish much unless he has public interest and support behind him. Public apathy is the cause for the rise in crime and the deterioration of prison conditions. The mere fact that you have read this far shows you have the interest. For that we are grateful.

We assure you that the officials of the Maine State Prison will continue to do their part in trying to curb our present rising spiral of crime with every means made available to us. With your help we know we can succeed.