

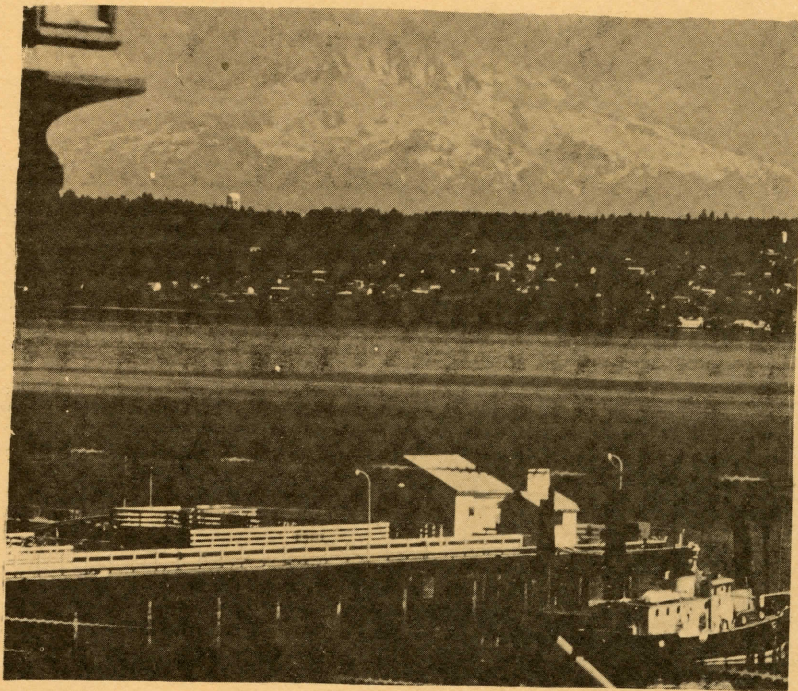
1980

# NEWS BUOY

MAY 1980

FINAL ISSUE

SINCE 1944



ON  
THE  
INSIDE

# Final Days



# NEWSBUOY



The NEWSBUOY Newspaper is the published voice of prisoners at the United States Federal Prison Camp on McNeil Island, P.O.Box 500, Steilacoom, Washington 98388. It's written and produced by prisoners under supervision of local administrators in the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Expressions, comments and opinions found in this newspaper are those of individual writers under regulations designed only to insure orderly operation of the prison and positive endeavors by its charges.

## ADMINISTRATION

D.D. Grey  
Superintendent

John Meacham  
A.W. Programs

J.S. Palmquist  
Sup. Educ.

Ed Riley  
Programs Coordinator

MEMBER  
INTERNATIONAL  
PENAL PRESS

## NEWSBUOY STAFF

Jim L. Persons  
Editor-in-Chief

Wally Watkins  
Executive Editor

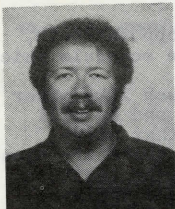
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Dwight Jurgens  
Sports Editor

Ron Lyman  
Associate Editor

John Kochli  
Photographer

James Short  
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# GOING HOME

## Editorial: Final

When a man leaves McNeil Island, whether on parole or on mandatory release, his boat ride to freedom comes at 9:30am.

Even though I am scheduled for release through a halfway house in Portland, the 9:30 boat-rule still holds. I must say that for this past month I have been a neves wreck. I can't speed up the time, so I have spent the past month taking finals' in school, packing and saying last goodbyes to old friends.

These last weeks I am sure I felt like nearly every man feels when he leaves prison after several years of confinement—a sense of relief and the determination to make every adjustment demanded of him in a new enviroment.

But unlike many of my friends who I am sure will follow soon that same path in the future, I wasn't apprehensive at all about going to the halfway house. O at one time I had questions about restrictions, rules, and regementation but I have been writing the halfway house I hoped to go to for over a year and a half and have visited their once. They have been most helpfull in answering all my questions and I would highly suggest anyone who will be going to a halfway house to think about doing the same.

The Portland Progress House in Portland, Oregon which I hope to be going to, is nestled in a park-like setting in a large old home in a residential district. The entire building consists of a two-story home, which can house over 12-men.

When you arrive at Progress it's much like any other halfway house around the country. Your first few hours are spent in orientation. You are acquainted with the procedures for obtaining work and social passes, assigned to your room, given a tour, and generally made to feel like you are being welcomed in the community rather than confined. Should you be scheduled for social therapy, you will be introduced to your counselor and advised of the hours he will be available to you. From



then on it is your responsibility to keep all appointments, get to work on time, and generally maintain the schedule which you help set up.

It seems to me that the Progress house, much like other halfway houses philosophy is: Give a man a job and he will rise to the occasion. And it is a philosophy that works.

If a man does have an adjustment problem, there are plenty of counselors - both female and male to whom he can turn. And of course, there are also lots of guys around who have gone through the same thing and with whom you can always feel free to talk. Most men who have been to a CTC have told me that everybody is helping and encouraging each other to develop the security and know-how to lay a good foundation for a free future.

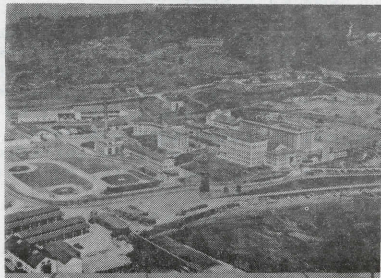
At Progress like most halfway houses, you will be given social passes for the weekends so that you may be with your family and friends. You will find that the halfway house can be a most "positive" time spent before your full release to the community.

For the past year, as editor of the Newsbuoy, my favorite campaign was the promotion of community treatment centers and halfway houses.

This being the last issue of the Newsbuoy I would like to thank the many people who have helped me this past year on publishing the paper. I hope that some of the information you have found in the paper has been of help to you. Best of luck for a free future.

*Jim L. Persons*

Jim L. Persons  
Editor



McNeil Island 1967



# FINAL GRADUATION

## THE EX-CONVICT'S STORY

BY EDGAR GUEST

*I was tired of the small vexations, the merciless urge of care,  
The dull, drawn face of my duty and its constant ghost of despair;  
I had wearied of dreading disaster, grown sick of the petty fears  
Which follow the hopes we cherish and snarl at the passing years,  
When a man who had been in prison came into my room and said:  
"It's good to be out in the open and look at the hills ahead.*

*"It's good to wake up in the morning and wonder what night will bring  
And whether you'll miss your dinner and whether you'll curse or sing.  
It's good to have doubts and worries, it's good to be on your own  
When failing or winning matters—why, I've sat in my cell alone  
And wished for a bit of trouble, a bill that I couldn't pay,  
A fright or a hurt or something just to make it a different day.*

*"I've been out of the world, I tell you, three years in a prison cell,  
Fed morning and noon and evening when somebody rang the bell,  
And never a storm could catch me, I was under a roof, and yet  
I've envied the shivering newsboy the pleasure of getting wet.  
I've had shelter and food and clothing, and never a cent to pay,  
But the curse of it is tomorrow is doomed to be like today."*

*"I laughed when I started out there and said, for a stretch of time  
With never a care to fret me I'll pay for my foolish crime.  
But inside of a week I hungered for trouble or pain or care—  
So I say, thank God for your burdens, thank God for the hurts you bear;  
Be glad for your doubtful future, rejoice that you do not stay  
In a place where each tomorrow is doomed to be like today."*

**Hire the  
ex-offender.**



The National  
Alliance  
of Businessmen

POEM IS A RE-PRINT FROM  
ISLAND LANTERN - APRIL 1927

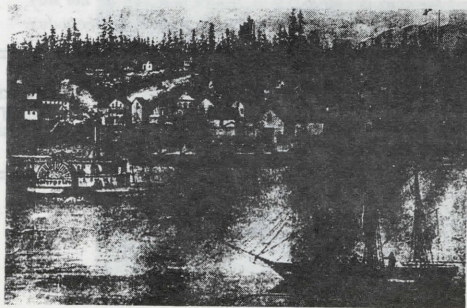
*If you think that you are beaten, you are;  
If you think that you dare not, you don't.  
If you like to run, but you think you can't,  
It's almost certain you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose, you've lost;  
for out in the world you'll find,  
success begins with a fellow's will,  
It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you are outclassed, you are;  
You've got to think high to rise;  
You've got to be sure of yourself,  
Before you can ever win a prize.*

*Life's battles don't always go,  
to the stronger or the faster man,  
But sooner or later, the man who wins,  
is the man who thinks he can.*

*Author Unknown*



Steilacoom - 1862



# FINAL GRADUATION

by Jim L. Persons     Wally Watkins

On Thursday, April 24, 1980 a high point in the educational endeavors of 112 inmates at the United States Federal Prison Camp was held. Approximately 200 outside guests were attendance to watch the students receive the final(the institution will be closing after over 105 years of use in October of 1980) diplomas and awards to be given at McNeil Island. In addition, there were numerous educators from Tacoma Community College, University of Puget Sound, and Pacific Lutheran University who participated in the program.

The first class offered at McNeil Island was in 1961 by Pacific Lutheran University and since that time almost 1,000 men have received completions through the institutions Education Department.

"It's kind of sad to see this thing go down," commented Joe S. Palmquist, supervisor of education.

"The community has been very supportive and this is one of the few United States prisons that has such a complete college program."

Together with Mr. Clem O'Neil, former McNeil college coordinator, who has been transferred to a federal prison in Texas, Mr. Palmquist help broaden the curriculum from the handful of classes in early 1972 to 25 classes per quarter this past year.

In addition to the college programs at McNeil, there were vocational training in such fields as barbering, electronics, small engine repair and welding. Businessmen and labor representatives from the Tacoma community area served as teachers.

Thirty-eight men graduated in this program and received certificates for their efforts. Other inmates completed high school equivalency studies(38 received diplomas) with two inmates Robert Burnett and Dennis Hunt scoring 65.6 on the G.E.D. test.

With the early closure of McNeil, it's uncertain what opportunities the men will have to study, Mr. Palmquist said. The men will be sent to a variety of federal prisons and will have to take the initiative in seeing what classes are available.

Mr. Palmquist himself will become supervisor of education at the prison in Leavenworth, Kan.

"But I don't think I'll ever see another program like this one," he said.

One of the many success stories of students from McNeil is Clifford Lee Tucker Jr. who is pursuing an education at the University of Washington prisoner resident release program.

"I'm a firm believer in education now," said Tucker in a recent interview with the Tacoma News Tribune. "That's a far cry from me before."

Tucker noted that he skipped classes a lot while attending Renton High School and eventually "got kicked out" in his senior year.

He said he got his graduation equivalent degree in the U.S. Army. Later, he was sentenced to prison on a drug charge.

But his first college classes were at McNeil Island through Tacoma Community College.

While Tucker candidly admitted taking the classes "was a way to get out" of prison, he said he found that with his job as a driver for the prison guards and his own hours of homework, "time went fast."

The period was one of great "soul searching" for him. "Thinking of myself in college, I said to myself, 'No way.' But then I decided I wanted to get my life straight. I'm an art major but I'm considering sociology."

Consequently, Tucker believes education is the avenue for success in his life. What's more, he enjoys it.

"Oh, you cannot believe what a rush it is to get A's when I used to get D's," he said.

As the 1980 Commencement began the Master of Ceremonies Mr. Joe S. Palmquist introduced Dr. Kenneth E. Christopherson, Professor of Religion and Chairman of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University who gave the invocation.

Superintendent D.D. Grey of the prison camp told of his thoughts on the commencement, "There has been an excellent program available here but it was vital importance that we have the community support and it has been great help in our programs. Our educational program is second to none and in my 23 years with the prison system in 8 different institutions I have never seen a better one than this one at McNeil. I applaud Joe Palmquist and his educators, along with the students for a job well-done."

Mr. Palmquist then introduced Dr. William O. Rieke, President of Pacific Lutheran University who gave the Commencement Address. Dr. Rieke said, "Commence, the word, means the beginning and for many here tonight it will be just that! Also commencement means an ending and for some it will be that. Keep up the spirit of beginning and ending and your new found education will lead to a future of hope, understanding and compassion - with you able to have a smile on your face and courtesy in your voice and the primary tools to success and have a future without fear."

After Dr. Rieke address messrs J.A. Meacham and W.M. Barrows from the institution presented diplomas for vocational training to:

- VOCATIONAL TRAINING DIPLOMAS -

(VT) BARBERING

Lucius Maxey

Ronald Miller

William Murphy

(VT) ELECTRONICS

Stanley Arney  
Johnnie Hogland

Billie Smith  
Arthur Williamson

(VT) SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

Kenny Gillihan

(VT) WELDING

Odus Barton  
Terry Gibson

Andre King  
Raymond Leffard

Lincoln Parker  
Haxhi Khaferi



(VT) XEROX

Andre King

Eugene Lemon

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - O.J.T.

JOURNALISM

David Orlob

PHOTOGRAPHY

Michael Ludwig

PRINTING

James Short

- The following students have completed the prescribed course listed below and are graduated in absentee.

(VT) BARBERING

Omar DeVerse

Alan Neves

Ernest Roman

(VT) ELECTRONICS

Morris Ferguson  
Gary Feurstock

John Folkerts  
Robert Fultz

Bruce Jackson  
Walter Wells  
James Wilkey

(VT) SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

Robert Clark  
Leon Guidry  
Steven Helbert

Andres Meraz  
Jerry Osterberg  
Anthony Robideaux

James Smith  
Rubin Sandez  
Stanley Walters

(VT) WELDING

Armando Gutierrez

Rodney Newby

(VT) XEROX

Ernest Tousant

Mr. Palmquist then introduced Mr. Elmer E. Clausen, Washington State Director of Adult Education and Community Schools who gave special recognition to the G.E.D. graduates, "This is your night of recognition graduates. Your previous greatest recognition was probably negative as a loser but tonight you have proved yourself a winner! You can stay a winner. You can do it if you really try. With education you are no longer a loser. Think positive and think well of yourself and use this new recognition in the rest of your life for positive action." At the conclusion of Mr. Clausen's address he and Mr. Meacham and Ms C. Huntington the G.E.D. instructor at McNeil presented certificates to:

- GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (G.E.D.) DIPLOMAS -

James Briceno  
Robert Burnett  
Michael Christie  
Oscar Cordova  
Terry Deshner  
Burleson Gipson  
Dale Hansard  
Clarence Hansen  
Willie Harrison

Dennis Hunt  
Gerald Inouye  
Grey Jones  
Joaquin Ninette  
Michael O'Neal  
Kyle Scharnhorst  
Carl Sims Jr.  
Robert Snyder  
Adolph Spears

Students graduating in absentee (continued).

G.E.D.

George Bodnar  
Paul Clanton  
Thomas Cleveland  
Mario Diaz  
Felix Dominguez  
Bernard Harris  
Martin Harris  
Karl Henderson  
Elmo Garrett  
Matias Lopez

Antonio Lara  
Nelson Mitchell  
Andrew Montoya  
Randy Munson  
James Nero  
Jerry Raney  
Stanley Smith  
Juan Solis  
Irin Weitman  
Lester Yellowolf

Dr. L.P. Stevens, President of Tacoma Community College who spoke to the graduation class and guests. He told of his own feelings of the McNeil Island program, "The students here at McNeil equal or exceed those on our own campus. Education is your bright hope, your key to personal intellectual growth. Tacoma Community College has been proud to be a part of this fine program

and with over 200 Associate and AA Degrees given. McNeil's program has been a model for programs throughout the United States Prison system."

Dr. Stevens and Dr. Barbara Wesley then presented degrees to the following:

- TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE -

ASSOCIATE OF TECHNICAL ARTS

James Day  
Donald Galbert

Lucius Maxey  
Ronald Miller

\* William Murphy  
Roger Padie

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Allan Bailey  
\* Donald Chase  
Bill Cross  
Roy Dorn  
Roy Harris

Johnnie Hogland  
Carlos Holder  
John Kochli  
Paul McJunkin  
\* William Murphy

Roger Padie  
Wilford Pulawa  
Gary Stevens  
Paul Williams  
\* Arthur Williamson

\* Member of the "President's List"

The Following Students received Associate Degrees in absentee

James Davenport  
Charles Griffen  
Henry O'Brien

Harry Shinn  
Robert Shoulders  
Ernest Tousant

With the introduction of Dr. H.J. Clifford, Vice-President for Student Services at the University of Puget Sound he told of the challenge he saw ahead for the graduating students, "We must view this commencement as a beginning to become the latter part of "homo-sapiens", sapiens meaning wise. Ask "Who am I", and "How do I fit in to the picture." The ideal point of view is that it will put you in the market place as a more valuable commodity by virtue of your new degree and skills. Treat it as a challenge to continue to pursue what you have begun. We at UPS feel we have gained every bit as much as we have given. We thank you all for that."



Dr. Clifford and messrs M.E. Randall and D.D. Grey presented degrees to the following men:

- UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND -

BACHELOR OF ARTS - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Harry Chard  
Andre King

John Kirby  
Eugene Lemon

Marshall Martin  
Carl Moore

The final degrees — for the commencement — were given by Dr. Rieke, President of Pacific Lutheran University and messrs D.D. Grey and J.A. Meacham of the institution to:

- PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY -

BACHELOR OF ARTS - SOCIOLOGY

Hector Duran

Cleophas Kearney

+John Kirby

MASTER OF ARTS - SOCIOLOGY

Milton Battle

Luis Rosado

Member of Cum-Luade

In the closing remarks for the first time, an inmate was allowed to speak to both students and guests. Luis Rosado who had received his Master of Arts - Sociology from PLU earlier, told of his feelings about graduation, "Some of us use their sentence as the passing of time while others search for knowledge. This experience of learning is special and can never be taken away from us. I am grateful for the opportunity to get an education and start a new future. I want to express all our thanks and appreciation to our instructors, for a job well-done."

As the Commencement came to a close the students and their families and friends were treated to a reception held in the prison chapel. With the end of the reception, the education program of almost 20 years at McNeil Island came to a close. This most unusual program that brought together community, education and prison leaders to form one of the most successful positive educational programs in the country. The almost 1,000 graduates and thousands of other students who started their educational endeavors at McNeil will remember their experiences for the rest of their lives.

TOTAL GRADUATES SINCE 1973...

- 207 Associate Degrees by Tacoma Community College
- 34 B.A. Degrees Awarded by Pacific Lutheran University
- 8 B.A. Degrees Awarded by the University of Puget Sound
- 9 M.A. Degrees Awarded by Pacific Lutheran University
- 294 Certificates of Completion in Vocational Training
- 24 Apprenticeship Awards
- 384 G.E.D. Awards

## For Whom the Bell Tolls - 15 Years

By Wally Watkins

April 25, 1965 stands as a significant day in the history of McNeil Islands Mt. Tahoma Chapel for on that day 15 years ago the Chapel was dedicated. This ceremony brought to fulfillment the ground breaking ceremonies that began construction on August 30, 1962. On that occasion Fr Francis Prange, who served McNeil for 20 years, spoke these words: "To-day's ceremony is also a welcoming ceremony to a dream come true, to a hope fulfilled to a faith rewarded. Today's ceremony is an expression of exultant thanks by the whole of McNeil Island, past, present and future, staff and inmates alike, to all those devoted outside friends who so generously and energetically dedicated themselves to the building of this Chapel."

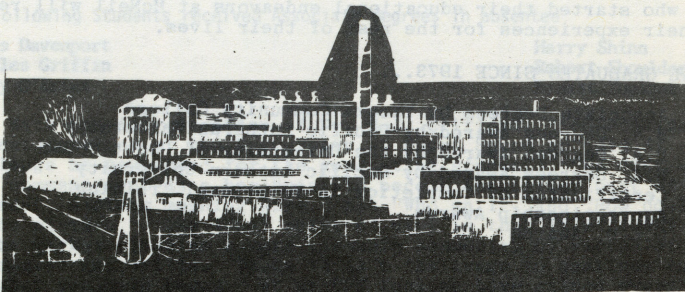
Under staff supervision the men of McNeil put forth some 70,460 man hours a total of 465 working days, 121,800 California bricks were cemented into the walls and bell tower, 15 laminated wood beams from Oregon forests were hoisted in to place, altar furniture and pews from McNeils carpenter shop were cut, planed, treated and polished. Finally a 3300 pound bell from Holland was lifted into the belfry to announce mid-day and evening hours.

In these 15 years the Chapel has ministered to the men of McNeil in a variety of religious services that have been strengthened and enhanced by the faith commitment from the nearby Seattle-Tacoma communities. From Sunday to Saturday friends of the Chapel have shared in song and prayer, in service and witness the yearning of the human heart in answer to the eternal questions, "Who am I and where am I going?"

As plans are made for closing of the Chapel and the transfer of property to others I would like to thank the friends of Mt. Tahoma for sharing their living faith with those who came here to pray. From Easter to Christmas with with Passover and Ramadan in between the Chapel has been a center of praise and worship serving many religious traditions. As we close the doors and turn to other journeys I would ask that the prayer of John Henry Newman be with you -

"May He support us all the day long  
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes  
And the fever of life is over and the work is done  
Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging  
And a Holy rest and peace at the last"

Father John Patrick McBride, Chaplain  
Mt. Tahoma - July 9, 1971 to 1980





# editorial

WALLY WATKINS

Given the opportunity to do an editorial for this issue of Newsbuoy, I decided this was probably my last opportunity to write something about what appears to me to be one of our nations most pressing problems and one I have only recently, since my incarceration, been made aware of. It is the subject of prison problems and subsequent hopes of reasonable reform. I have deep feelings on this matter, at this point in my life, and felt quite inadequate to really do a meaningful article that anyone would really think I knew what I was talking about. Sure, I wrote the Pre-Release Programs, did many interviews, wrote "There Must be a Better Way", "Happy New Year" and others but these were mainly about rehabilitation, attitudes and things I knew something about being in business for 30 years.

In setting out to find the best on prison reform, I read some of many authors and writers including, Syndicated Columnists, Sydney Harris, Coleman McCarthy, Bill Russell and many others, however, the ones that touched me and my associate Ron Lyman more than the other fine articles and was most thorough and to the point was one by Eric W. Allen Jr., Editor of the award winning paper, Medford Oregon Mail Tribune, entitled "The Shame of our Prisons" which was an editorial of March 2, 1980. Mr. Allen granted us permission to use this article. The other thought provoking one was by the famous Dr. Karl Menninger, M.D., M.A.C.P., founder of the Menninger Psychiatric Clinic in Topeka, Kansas. This famous man and author wrote "Christians Belong in Jail" for the AD-79 Presbyterian, Volume 8, Number 2, Pages 20-26 and it is outstanding in its concept. I wrote and received his permission and we are using the major portion of his article.

Here then is Eric Allens article -

## THE SHAME OF THE PRISONS

Would you venture a guess as to the three nations which, on a per capita basis, have more persons imprisoned than any others? The answer, sadly enough, is South Africa, the Soviet Union - and the United States. We're in poor company indeed.

IN BOTH THE others, a high percentage of prisoners is incarcerated for political reasons. In the U.S., virtually all of them are there for crimes committed. And it is a sad commentary on our ability to keep down prison populations at the same time as we protect the peace and safety of our law-abiding citizenry.

Perhaps through our legitimate fears of violent crime, we have as a nation, adopted a sort of "lock 'em up and throw the keys



away" philosophy, and many judges, against their better judgment, have been giving longer sentences to avoid accusations of being "soft on criminals."

The result has, predictably, been overcrowded prisons, which in turn have resulted in a downgrading of never-adequate rehabilitation efforts, and mounting frustrations at the crowding, unsanitary conditions, internal violence, and attendant evils that have led to such things as the Attica and New Mexico prison riots, and all their horrors.

In 1976 a federal judge found Alabama's prisons to be so bad that they constituted "cruel and inhuman punishment" in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Among other things, he ordered psychological examinations for inmates to see if re-classifications would be in order.

Before the examinations, 40 per cent of the inmates were classified as needing maximum security; after the examinations that figure dropped to 3 percent. Before the examinations, 9 percent were judged to be eligible for work-release or halfway house programs; after the examinations, 32 percent were found to be eligible.

There are now some 540,000 persons confined in America's prisons - a staggering figure. And the plain fact is that most of them will be back on the streets sooner or later, having completed their post-graduate courses in criminality.

Just as an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, the nation would save itself untold grief, and uncounted millions of dollars, by finding ways of averting imprisonment of those convicted of crimes but who, under proper programs of alternative sentences, restitution programs, halfway houses, probation, fines and other devices, could be salvaged.

There will always be some convicts who, by their very nature, must be confined for the safety of society. But we would hazard the guess that our prison population (and its excessive costs in human talents and cold cash) could be drastically reduced, perhaps even by as much as half or more - and at no increase in danger to society.

COLUMNIST Coleman McCarthy of the Washington Post writes: "Politicians, judges, corrections officials and legal strategists have known for decades, by way of reports, surveys, and investigations, that our treatment of prisoners is both morally indefensible and tactically wrong-headed. Yet the philosophy of imprisonment goes on. Worse, it grows....."



If, as a nation, we spent one-half of the amount we now do on building and operating prisons on alternative methods of crime prevention and appropriate sentencing, the nation would, within a matter of a year or two, cease to share the shame of being classed with the U.S.S.R. and the Republic of South Africa as the most imprisoning nations in the world.  
--E.A. (The Mail Tribune - Medford, Oregon - Sunday, March 2, 1980. )

The following is from Dr. Karl Menningers article -  
CHRISTIANS BELONG IN JAIL

"Our corrections system is cumbersome, ineffective, slow, cruel and expensive. To overhaul it, we - the owners - will have to get involved."

-Dr. Karl Menninger-

Crime control in this country is generally regarded as a wretched failure. We want better protection but we don't know how to get it. All prisons seem to be crowded and the federal government continues to build more of them. Changes are being introduced here and there. Some of them even sound encouraging. However, the fact remains that the machinery we have devised to protect us from crime has instead become an aggravation of crime.

Prisons are manufacturing criminals constantly. Prisoners are made more dangerous by the prisons that are supposed to control and contain them. Our system of corrections does the opposite - it injures and damages already injured, damaged and bleeding persons. The community is taxed heavily to pay for the mishandling and mismanagement and then is led to believe it is being protected. The sad thing is that most people, including Christians, don't know what is happening or they don't care. The system is not consonant with the ideals of most church people, yet they don't know what to do about it. What is the Christian response to the chaos in our system of crime control?

Our system of corrections may be improving slowly, in some respects, but it is still too cumbersome, ineffective, slow, cruel, expensive and unjust. It is in great need of public attention and help. Yet most people are not very interested in the problem. They read in the papers or hear on television of a particularly terrible crime and they react emotionally. But it is like a mystery story to them; perhaps intriguing or even alarming, but not personally relevant. It happened yesterday, somewhere else. Of course it could happen again. It could even happen where they live. But they have people to protect them from the possibility. They think it's none of their business how the job is done.

It is our business and we deceive ourselves if we think otherwise. You and I own that system. We sponsor it. Indirectly we run it. We pay for it. The people who run the system are employed by us; we own the jails and prisons. If that system ever gets the overhaul and remodeling it needs, it will take the wholehearted support of its owners, including all conscientious, intelligent, unselfish citizens - including some Christians.

Most church people are too far away from prisons to visit them. However, jails are often nearby. My second suggestion is that after becoming more familiar with the problem of crime and crime control, church members should visit their local jail. Christians belong in jail.

After reading this and studying and then visiting jails, you will see things that disturb you and raise questions for which there are no good answers. You will want to think and talk about what you have seen and heard. Perhaps you will want to try some specific projects, like the guardianship of a discharged or paroled offender, or making the jails more humane, or sharing little gifts of food or reading material with the prisoners. These are little things, to be sure, but they add up to a visible concern for prisoners and their keepers. They may get the message that someone actually cares.

"There is actually only one just, intelligent, humane reason for locking up human beings - to prevent them from hurting others. All the other reasons are excuses for retaliation and vengeance. Vengeance is never good. It may bring some satisfaction to the avenger, but it is evil and futile. It is also expensive and it feeds upon itself."

Imprisonment for the purpose of punishment for a specified length of time was an American invention which started in Pennsylvania a few years after the Declaration of Independence. Other states and countries followed our bad example. Research by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency has found that our greater harshness in the length of imprisonment as compared with other countries is both irrational and ineffective. Some other countries are far ahead of us in public safety and the successful handling of prisoners.

People interested in reform are often called meddlers, mollycoddlers, or bleeding hearts. If that means having sympathy for wounded, hurting people whom others dislike, so be it. I think such an attitude is supported by Christian principles. To the charge of being a bleeding heart I would answer, "Yes, What we have seen in jails and prisons is enough to make hearts bleed. If, indeed, one has a heart - and eyes to see and ears to hear."



Heartache will not cure the wretched system. Church visitors will find many things wrong, things that could be affected by some obvious and simple changes. They will be shocked at the callousness of so many toward change. They will despair at the role graft and greed play in keeping things from change. Penal reform has become a kind of war, and there are many on the side working against change. One place to begin reforming the penal system is preventing criminal reactions from developing in our young people. Do not assume it is being taken care of in your community. It rarely is.

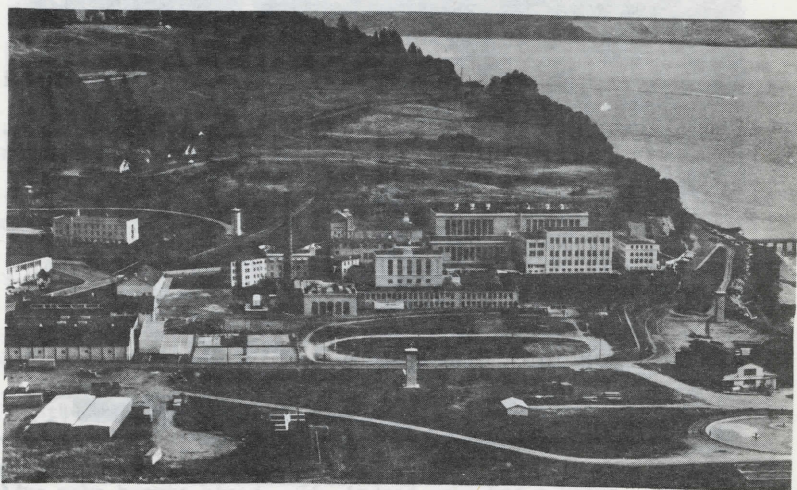
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Well there it is, the experts have spoken, in my opinion and many thanks to Eric W. Allen Jr. and to Dr. Karl Menninger for not only the use of their fine articles but also for their nice letters to me. In addition, a special thanks to Ron Lyman, Associate Editor, who assisted in the selection as well as doing the typing and correlation of the articles. Many thanks, Ron Lyman.



# Prison 1875 Without to Walls 1980

A Photo History...



Present view of McNeil Island compound

McNeil Island, Washington 18



# "PRISON WITHOUT WALLS"

The History of a Federal Prison , McNeil Island, 1875-1980

Compiled and Edited By

Jim L. Persons, Editor  
Newsbuoy Newspaper

Staff Advisor

J.S. Palmquist  
Supervisor of Education

## ADMINISTRATION

D.D. Grey, Superintendent  
McNeil Island Prison Camp

John Meacham, Asst. Supt. Programs  
McNeil Island Prison Camp

J.S. Palmquist, Supervisor Education  
McNeil Island Prison Camp

Ed Riley , Programs Coord  
McNeil Island Prison Camp

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Newsbuoy

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Newsbuoy

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Institution

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Institution

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TITLE- "Prison Without Walls" taken from the "First History of McNeil Island" published in the institution - Island Lantern- in 1931.



In the far distant northwest there is a prison set upon the gently sloping hillside of a beautiful island.

Towering firs mark the boundaries of its reservation and at its feet a magnificent arm of Puget Sound fades into the hazy distance.

On the eastern horizon rears majestic Mount Ranier. West-erly are visible the perpetually white Olympics.

All nature has united to provide a scenic masterpiece as a setting for one of the most unique institutions of its kind in America --- The United States Penitentiary at McNeil Island Washington, "The Prison Without Walls."

This ancient island on the edge of an eternal sea which for thousands upon thousands of lifetimes has had no name, no identity, was just an island in an ocean on the edge of an eternal sea.

Then some wild and primitive creatures came to its shores and sheltered themselves among the trees and rocks and they stayed there.

As they died and other creatures came upon its shores and stayed and lived and died and their bones became a part of the sand and rocks, and their lives and deaths built the identity into something known near and far.

Present view of McNeil Island compound



Then other creatures came and they stayed and they used the bones and sands and rocks and trees and gave the island a new identity. It became an island called McNeil.

But the new creatures who gave this island an identity were destroyers as well as builders and they had to remove all signs of the ancient things, and in their places they built new things.

They called their dwellings cabins and houses and they called themselves pioneers. They were good men and with bright-eyes and their souls reached past the stars to their creators.

Then one day over a hundred springtimes ago a tall man walked up from the sea and looked around with his eyes like granite stones in an icy pool. He did not see the sunset or the treasures of the sea or the small living creatures who have been in the island bosom since eternity began. He did not see the beauty, he saw something else, something no one else had ever seen on this island called McNeil. And he stayed.

Late in the 1860's it had been deemed necessary to provide a federal prison for the far northwest, then so isolated as to be almost a separate dependency of the nation. The agent of the Attorney General of the United States was to choose the site for this penitentiary and was compelled to journey by steamer to the Panamanian Isthmus, passing through the treacherous jungles to the Pacific side. By steamboat to San Francisco and by another to Portland, Oregon thence, by the stern-wheeler Bessel to what is now Kelso, Washington. From there he traveled by stage to Olympia and then the last step was made by the Bateau, a flat-bottomed boat of the period, to Fort Steilacoom, then a thriving village and now the site of the Western State Hospital.

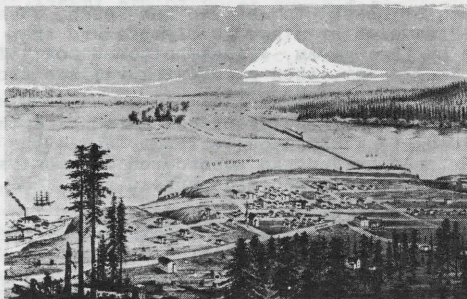
When he arrived, the agent consulted with the federal judges then sitting in Washington Territory as to the site for a penitentiary. An island was considered the most suitable location, and the news of this decision spread among the citizens of the surrounding country.

Ketron Island, about a mile southwest of present Steilacoom, was offered in part to the United States by a Mr. Gove, who was willing to accept a nominal sum for his portion. Acquisition of the entire island was deemed necessary: but the owner of the remaining acreage, a woman resident of California found after considerable search, demanded an exorbitant sum for her holdings. Efforts to reach an agreement failed; and at this point appeared a settler from McNeil Island who offered in gift a tract of approximately twenty-seven acres on that island.

The task of the search had been troublesome. The officials charged with the selection of federal judges who were very busy in those days must have been impressed with the location of McNeil Island, being much further from the mainland and of great natural beauty.

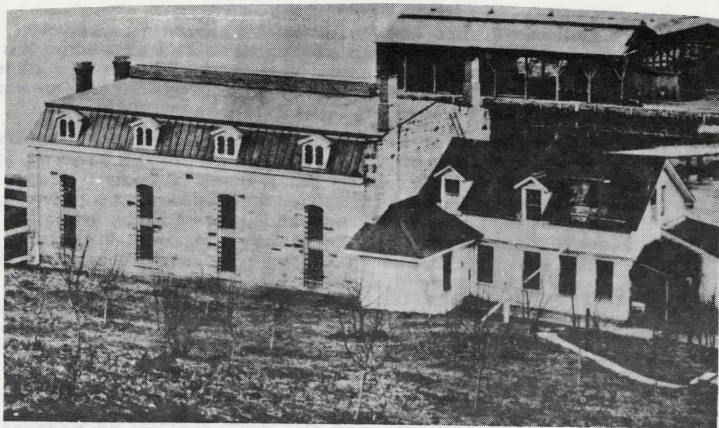
Although the available supply of fresh water and scarcity of arable land seem to have been overlooked in the choice. Also the lack of necessary depth of water for the berthing of boats at low tide, which later involved the construction of costly docking facilities was a greater drawback.

On September 17, 1870, 27½ acres of land known as The McNeil Island Trach was bought from Jay Emens Smith by the United States of America. The sum of one hundred dollars paid to Mr. Smith made the transfer binding, and the deed covering the site of the present buildings of the main prison was registered in what was then known as New Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington Territory.



New Tacoma - 1878





Early picture of territorial prison, McNeil Island

The first cellhouse, torn down in the early 1930's, was known as No. One Cellhouse. It was built of brick and stone by a private contractor after the plans of the highly favored "Auburn System," that is, a cell block completely enclosed by an outer, roofed structure. It contained forty-eight double cells with massive walls and was indicative of the prison builders of the period. In an adjoining frame structure were quartered the guard force which consisted of two men; and in this building also were confined occasional female prisoners, of which there were three at one period in the early history of the institution.

Entries in long-hand are the only records available to show the number of prisoners. The first being Abraham Gervais, born at French Prairie, Oregon, a half-breed sentenced to twenty months for the sale of liquor to indians and admitted to the penitentiary on May 29, 1875. He was delivered by U.S. Marshall E.S. Kearney with two other prisoners. Ten prisoners was the total of that year's arrivals.

Many names distinguished in the Old Northwest were recorded in the first period as sentencing judges. Chief among them was that of Melville W. Fuller, then U.S. Circuit Judge, later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The names of judges Hoyt, Green, Wingard, Turner and the famous "Hawk-Eye" Lewis appear.

Heavy sentences were the rule rather than the exception, even by comparison with modern standards. The offender who sold liquor to indians was very severely punished. The majority of prisoners of those earlier days seem to have been what were known as "Squaw-Men," mostly half-breeds.

The U.S. Marshall for Washington Territory was the officer in charge of the prison in those early days. The list of incumbents in this office also includes names famous in early territorial history, among them Charles Hopkins and his son, C.B. Hopkins as well as Tom Brown and James Drake, pioneer federal peace officers in the territory. It was during the term of U.S. Marshall Brown that fees of the office were abolished and that they were placed on a straight salary basis.

Captain Neil Henly, an officer of the prison for many years and in 1882 a Deputy U.S. Marshall in the territory was the authority for the statement that the office of the U.S. Marshall was his hotel room or wherever he hung his hat. In fact, until the abolition of the fee system, it was common custom for the marshall to serve papers, make arrests, and deliver prisoners to various courts and the penitentiary as necessity required thus, saving the employment of numerous deputies with whom the fees would have to be shared. Federal courts sat in various sections of the territory at stated intervals and it was required that the marshall attend all of them. Frequent entries in the old records show that the marshal not only appointed guards for the penitentiary but delivered prisoners and witnesses to it for safe-keeping. One entry in the old log tells of the arrival of U.S. Marshal Charles Hopkins and four prisoners from Port Townsend via a sailing sloop. Other colorful pages of territorial history remain in these old records.

The famous case of the sailing ship "Challenger" appears in these records which show brutality to the crew and charges against the captain and two mates. Mates and crew were confined in the prison, the latter witnesses; there is no indication that the two factorians were separated, although the record does show that one of the crew was later convicted of perjury. The captain was finally acquitted and the two mates received sentences of five years and six months and four years and nine months respectively. One of them was later unconditionally pardoned by President Cleveland.

The new prison had informal rules of classification of new inmates and only a prisoner's religion was recorded, (a Chinaman was invariably noted as "Heathen." One Celestial, Wong Bing, appears as having an alias owing to the fact that he was known by the generic name of Chinaman. Odd and descriptive names would occur, such as Blackbeard Indian, presumably from



the lack of an interpreter. Sentences during the first year of the institution range from seven years for manslaughter to thirty days for selling liquor to indians. The penitentiary was also the place of confinement for all men awaiting grand jury action, pending trial and unable to secure bail and for witnesses in default of bail.

From the day the first prisoner was received, a policy of hard work was followed in which all prisoners participated whether convicted, awaiting trial or witnesses. The Attorney General provided only sufficient funds for actual expense of food for prisoners and necessary clothing for the inmates serving sentences. Tobacco was not supplied, and, as the majority of the prisoners were penniless, a serious problem arose as to provision of funds for that and other small necessities, such as soap and matches. Captain Henly, whose appointment as guard at the institution was dated January 11, 1883, tells how the problem was at last solved by the purchase of timber from which shingles were made by the prisoners. The product was sold and the net proceeds, after deducting the cost of the timber, became a prisoner's fund. Receipts were small but the work provided the prisoners with occupation and tobacco and kept them out of mischief.



PRISONERS ON WOOD CUTTING DETAIL - CIRCA 1900

On May 14, 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed an Act of Congress creating the United States Bureau of Prisons. The legislation directed that the Bureau of Prisons develop the federal prisons into an integrated system of classified institutions providing a program of treatment and custody based on the individual needs of offenders. Other statutes soon followed. To relieve overcrowding in the prisons, the Bureau was authorized to deploy prisoners to open camps. Within a year, nine camps employed more than 1500 prisoners. The camps demonstrated that a large proportion of the prison population could be handled safely in open institutions.

McNeil Island retained its status as an official United States Penitentiary, while the Bureau of Prisons went through a period of growth and development. There were soon penal institutions spread across the face of our nation operating under the Bureau of Prisons, each programmed for specific types of treatment. In addition to prisons, there were correctional institutions for juvenile offenders and for youthful offenders, medical centers, and detention centers. The mandates of Congress were being realized.

With the building and acquisition of a variety of institutions, it was now possible to effect a true system of classification and treatment throughout the vast penal complex known as the Federal Prison System. It became a practical matter to provide separate housing for the physically ill and the chronically disabled. Special handling of the mentally unstable and moral offenders became reality. Men of all ages were no longer forced to live in close quarters, which often placed young offenders at a disadvantage.

"Treatment and Rehabilitation" became key working words in the new philosophy of penology, replacing the hard work, total isolation, and despair system of imprisonment practiced so long on this island of McNeil.

It might be said that the story of McNeil Island as a prison and as a philosophy for treatment of offenders may be found in the Wardens who have served as leaders of McNeil Island.

Prior to the establishment of the position of "Warden" (in 1893) the jail on McNeil had been administered by the U.S. Marshall for the Washington Territory. As I explained before, there were many famous peace officers who served in that position from 1853 through 1886 when the Washington Territory became the State of Washington.

McNeil Island's first warden was Gilbert L. Palmer, who served here from 1893 until 1900. Warden Palmer carried out the instructions of the Attorney General, Richard Olney, and cleared away more land, built more small buildings and a residence for his family on the hill immediately to the north of the only cellhouse. The warden's residence had a large



porch, and its recorded that Warden Palmer dealt with interviews with prisoners, and, if necessary, meted out punishment to the men who had violated the rules.

Warden Palmer was also accredited with starting work on the filling of the inlet which occupied the bottom of the ravine to the southwest of the main buildings. Today, this filled-in land is the institution recreation yard, named "Babe Ruth Field" in honor of the great baseball player.

McNeil's second warden was B.C. Miller, who was appointed by the President in 1901 and served as warden until 1904. Very little is known about Warden Miller, except what can be found from old newspaper clippings. His prison administration was plagued by overcrowding, and in 1902, Warden Miller transferred nineteen prisoners from McNeil Island to the California State Prison at San Quentin on the famous old coast-wise steamer, City of Pueblo..

Warden Miller was replaced in 1904 by O.P. Halligan who has the distinction of having been the warden of McNeil for the longest period in the Island's history - 15 years. During Warden Halligan's administration, many significant changes were accomplished.

Plans were drafted in 1905 for the construction of a new cellhouse. It was designed to house 112 men and in 66 cells. The cellblock was to be three tiers in height and 11 cells in length. The cells were to be placed back to back away from the outside walls, thus affording maximum security situations as called for by prison architecture of that era. Construction began in 1906. The exterior was completed in 1907. The cellhouse was completed in 1909. This cellblock is today known as Number Two Cellhouse.

Warden Halligan installed electric lighting in each cell, built a new kitchen and dining room. Under his direction, many boats and tugs were constructed in the boat-building facility he created on the island.

As 1909 drew to a close, the Federal Penitentiary on McNeil Island was pointed in the direction of growth and maturity.

In 1919, T.W. Maloney was appointed warden and became the fourth warden for a period of three years. At the time of his appointment, the count of men was 250, but before he left there were 535 prisoners in the institution. The startling increase can be attributed to the enactment of stringent postal regulations, income tax laws, and new legislation covering narcotic abuses.

It was during Warden Maloney's tenure that groundbreaking ceremonies took place for the construction of the housing unit now called Number Three Cellhouse. Warden Maloney was also responsible for the construction of the government dock

at Steilacoom which accomodates McNeil's fleet of boats and tugs. He also placed construction priorities on an auditorium and a large dining room and kitchen.

The dining room and kitchen is still in use today on McNeil and was of Warden Maloney's concept and design and it was partially constructed during his term in office as warden of McNeil.

Finch R. Archer was appointed warden in 1922. He was the chief administrator of McNeil Island for 12 years and he has been called the "Building Warden" on the pages of the Island Lantern, the institution magazine which was started in 1924 with Warden Archer's permission. The magazine was named by Mrs. Finch Archer, the warden's kind and lovely wife who was known as the "Mother" of McNeil.

Overcrowding was so great a problem during the early years of Warden Archer's administration that he had to house some prisoners in pup tents on the prison yard. The population grew so fast that there were 596 prisoners sleeping in quarters designed for 540.

During Warden Archer's term in office, he was allowed to purchase the entire island of McNeil, thus making the entire island of McNeil a Federal Prison Reservation. He also had built the hospital unit which is still in use today. Warden Archer also was able to solve the fresh water problem on McNeil. This solution came about in a most unusual way.

In 1924, an inmate, apparently using scientific methods, convinced officials that he could put an end to the dilemma of fresh water supply for the island. With official approval, the prisoner engineered a tunnel through 213 feet of clay and gravel into the side of a hill. At that point, a quantity of running water vindicated his predictions, and the spot became known as Ellison Springs.

During Warden Archer's administration, the administration building was designed and constructed (in 1928). The three-story construction, with basement. In this building is located the present visiting room, business office, personnel office, warden's office, large conference room, mail room and other offices, including the print shop.

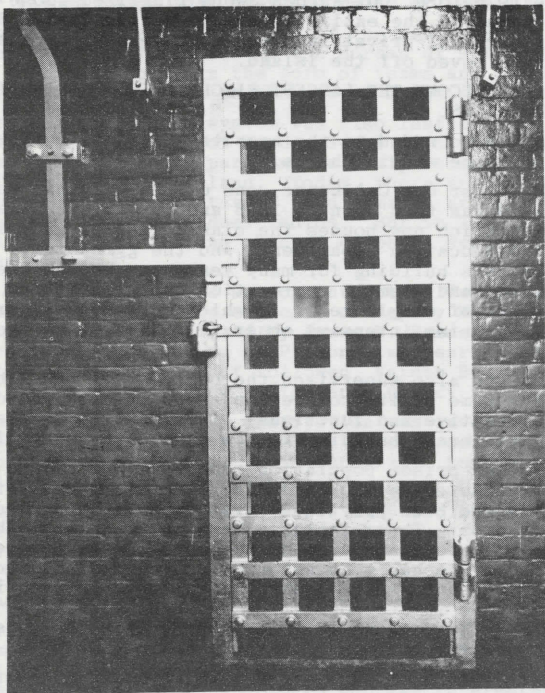
Number Four Cellhouse was designed and constructed during Warden Archer's tenure to accommodate the ever increasing prisoner population. By 1927, the population of McNeil had reached an all-time high of 800.

When one looks back over the trends in the system of prisons operated by the Federal Government, it becomes increasingly apparent that along with many general changes in life itself, there was evidence of leadership of the type that



aimed at correction rather than punishment. In the late 1920's and 1930's, this was not much more than an idea, but the seeds of change were there.

Warden and Mrs. Finch Archer started a philosophy of treatment of the men of McNeil based on rehabilitation through fair treatment, education, honor and vocational training that has lasted unto this date.



Cell Door 1875-1920

When E.W. Swope became Warden in 1934, the prison population was at a low point of 810. The new Bureau of Prisons was moving ahead, but the country was still in the middle of a depression.

Perhaps the most notable achievement at McNeil Island during the wardenship of E.W. Swope was the final acquisition of the entire island (Warden Archer had made the "arrangements" several years before, but Warden Swope finalized those arrangements and acquired the entire island). During Warden Swope's six year tenure all privately owned acreage was purchased and all civilians moved off the island.

MCNEIL HAD BECOME THE LARGEST SINGLE PRISON RESERVATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

New wings were added to the hospital facility during the time Warden Swope was in charge.

The old Number One Cellhouse, one of the original buildings built in 1875 was torn down in 1936 and on its site was raised the building which now houses the classification and parole section, the education department, and the gymnasium. In the basement of this building for many years was housed the drug-abuse program, and a small segregation unit consisting of a limited number of single cells in which were housed certain prisoners requiring intensive observation away from the general population.

Warden Swope also supervised the building of the library... which at the time of its completion and operation was one of the most attractive and functional library units in the prison system. The library building is now used as a recreation area.

In 1938, the prison population rose to 1,000. This increase has been attributed to the fact that Congress made certain crimes which had been previously prosecuted in state courts, Federal offenses. These included kidnapping (the Lindberg Law), bank robbery, interstate transportation of stolen property, with particular emphasis on automobiles, checks and securities. Also, there had not been a Federal institution opened in five years though the inmate population had been increasing at a steady pace. Thus, plans were implemented for the construction of several new Federal penal institutions.

At McNeil Island, plans were completed and funds were approved for the construction of a new cellhouse. It would become known as Number One Cellhouse, and was designed to serve a purpose different from that of the old Number One Cellhouse, and a new purpose in prison operation. Essentially, it would be separate from the rest of the institution. The unit would operate as a receiving building where new commitments would be separated from fellow prisoners for a period of time immed-



imately upon arrival at the institution. The purpose of this procedure was to reduce the likelihood of exposing the main population to communicable diseases carried by men arriving from county jails.

In the early 1970's this practice was discontinued and the new arrivals were integrated immediately into the prison population. Number One Cellhouse then became a regular but preferred housing facility.

The system of "classifying" prisoners was instituted shortly after Warden Swope took over the reins of McNeil.

Classification represented one of the new looks in penology that came with the formation of the Bureau of Prisons. This concept continues today in the form of teams and committees and in the last few years in the use of functional units.

The two-channel radio system was also installed on McNeil in 1938 under the direction of Warden Swope. In those days radio listening played a large part in the daily recreation of the new confined on McNeil Island. Today, there are color televisions throughout the institution, and inmates are allowed to purchase their own individual radios. But in 1938, the big thing was radio via the two channel earphone system installed by Warden Swope.

Paul J. Squier received an appointment as Warden in 1939, after having served in the capacity of deputy Warden for several years. He was appointed by James V. Bennett, who had become Director of the Bureau of Prisons two years before; and, during the eleven years that followed, Warden Squier aided in the administration of a new enlightened policy in penology.

During the war years the institution was involved in many constructive projects which were designed to contribute to the war efforts of our country. More important, however, was the new positive approach to penology.

Warden Squier was responsible for many decisions that had a positive influence on the institution for many years after his retirement.

The changes in penology during Warden Squier's tenure brought about many changes in the guard force also.

The first steps toward creating correctional specialists were taken and wages were increased commensurate with skills, costs of living and personal development. New emphasis was placed in the value of the employee who was interested in a career with the prison service and who could help in the processes of rehabilitation. It was no longer possible for the prison employee to function as a turn-key and survive in prison work.

Penalogy was rapidly becoming a science.

The new penal philosophy was further refined on McNeil Island by Fred T. Wilkinson, a Bureau of Prisons career man, appointed to Wardenship in 1951. He was destined to remain on the island for only three years, but during that time he was actively involved in the advancement of modern penal methods. Before his appointment as Warden, Mr. Wilkinson had worked closely with James V. Bennett, implementing many of the changes throughout the prison system which qualified it as modern.

The changes which occurred on McNeil were not necessarily physical. Actually, they were psychological in nature. There was tremendous change in the administrative attitude toward felony commitments and thinking behind the responsibility of prison officials in preparing prisoners for return to civilian life.

Warden Wilkinson was responsible for one major change that could be considered both physical and psychological in nature. He directed that the old traditional-drab gray prison paint be replaced with bright colors throughout the institution. He also emphasized the need for having well-groomed lawns. The eye appeal created through these simple changes had a very positive effect in inmate morale.

David M. Heritage replaced Fred Wilkinson as Warden in 1954 and served in that position for six years. Like Warden Wilkinson, he was a Bureau of Prisons career man who was transferred to McNeil Island. During the years that he was chief executive there were several changes in the area of rehabilitative attitudes, and emphasis was no longer on the simple matter of housing the increasing prison population.

One of the changes for which Warden Heritage was responsible, and for which the inmates at that time were thankful, was the removal of the large uncomfortable 10-man tables in the dining room. They were replaced with four-man square tables, where men could eat in some comfort and enjoy one another's conversation. The psychological aspect of this civilized move can hardly be estimated but the freedom of choosing one's own table partners and sitting where one wants marked a great difference in inmates attitudes. Before this innovation, men filed from the steam tables to their seats and were not free to leave the dining room until all men were finished eating. With the new seating arrangement, a man could select his own time to leave the dining room.

A new laundry building was completed between the large cell-house and the dirt bank to the north in 1957. When finished most of it was underground with a graded access for truck deliveries. A walking access was located under Number



Three Cellhouse in the area that housed the inmate clothing supply unit. Thus, clothing supply and laundry became a single area for all intents and purposes.

The building that had housed the old laundry sat at the bottom of the west hill, on a level with the recreation yard. It was also joined to the powerhouse at one end. Shortly after it was vacated, a remodeling project began and the building was converted into a minimum security housing unit, complete with individual cubicles. It has a capacity of 110 men in clean, airy, well-lighted, comfortable quarters. "Cascade Hall" remained one of the most desirable housing units in the institution.

Other changes which were of considerable importance to the inmates during Warden Heritage's stay at McNeil included the installation of showers on each tier of the two large cellhouses. Prior to this renovation, men were permitted to shower only twice a week, unless, of course, they worked on a particularly dirty job or where strict sanitation was required.

The new facilities meant that men could shower nightly if they so chose. At this point in history, the clothing room began supplying clean underclothing, socks, handkerchiefs, and towels daily which also added to prisoner morale.

Under the administration of Warden Heritage, the Self-Improvement Program had its beginning on McNeil Island in 1958. The idea was conceived and presented by the late Catholic Chaplain, Father Francis Prange, S.J. But Warden Heritage was quick to see its value and encourage its development while other prison officials stood by crying, "It won't work." It did work, and over the years the inmates who have taken part in the self-improvement program, a community centered activity, only a small percentage have returned to prison. Father Prange's philosophy of penology was, "Men are our most important product, why not have time serve the men."

It was simple but effective.

McNeil's tenth Warden was Donald M. Byington. He remained at the institute for only a short time before retiring in 1961, and was not responsible for any major changes.

Paul J. Madigan arrived at McNeil Island in 1961 to assume the job of Warden. He was a career correctional man who achieved recognition and distinguished himself during his tenure as Warden of the now infamous Alcatraz Prison.

Mr. Madigan was behind the drive to build a new Chapel that he knew there was a real need for. The need was also pointed out by Father Francis Prange, S.J. who spoke at the groundbreaking ceremonies and said, "Today's ceremonies puts an end to 90 years of worship in improvised settings and inaug-

urates a new era of worship and dignity."

Although an active educational program had been in effect in the prison dating back to about 1912, it was in 1962, under the Wardenship of Mr. Madigan that college classes were first taught in the prison school. Pacific Lutheran University of Tacoma, Washington furnished instructors for the first two courses which included accounting and psychology.

Since that early beginning hundreds of inmates have earned their Associate Arts Degree while in confinement on McNeil Island through the Tacoma Community College. Many other men have gone on to earn their B.A., M.A. and even Doctorates while at McNeil or through the Resident Release Program at the University of Washington.

Shortly before Paul J. Madigan retired in 1964, Raymond W. May's appointment as Warden of McNeil was announced by the Bureau of Prisons.

While at McNeil Island as Warden, Raymond W. May succeeded, perhaps more than any other Warden, in the development of a public awareness of the institution. He felt that the public was entitled to know and understand the goals of the administration on McNeil Island and those of the Bureau of Prisons. Thus, he was responsible for a great deal of public acceptance of the ex-inmates and their acceptance of the necessity for humane treatment of the offender.

During the decade preceeding the appointment of Raymond W. May as Warden, the Bureau of Prisons was enlarged. The Federal Correctional Institution at Terminal Island, California, was returned to the Bureau of Prisons by the State of California in 1955. The Reformatory at Lompoc, California, was taken over from the U.S. Army in 1959. A correctional institution at Sandstone, Minnesota, was returned to Federal use by the State of Minnesota in 1959. A new prison was under construction at Marion, Illinois: (the first in many years) and was planned according to the revised attitudes of modern penalogists. It was small in comparison to older facilities, housing some 500 prisoners and designed with individual treatment as a positive goal. Alcatraz was phased out in the midst of the growing conviction that rehabilitation was possible, thus a move in itself that signaled the end of an era.

When Warden Raymond W. Meier took over the reins at McNeil Island in November, 1966, he also inherited some 70 years of penal tradition.

The institution operated smoothly under the direction of Warden Meier, although he was faced with one major handicap. About the time he took office, Bureau policy was changed with regard to the type of inmate that would be housed at



McNeil Island. There was a sudden influx of hardened recidivists received from other institutions via transfers. The majority of the arrivals were men in their early 20's, impetuous, hostile, undirected, and in dire need of correctional experience available in the institution. The population count went up from 1064 to 1380 causing overcrowded conditions. It wasn't long, however, until these special cases found themselves involved in such programs as education, self-improvement, vocational training, and group therapy.

Warden Meier encouraged inmate programs such as the Self-Improvement Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, Group Counselling, Yokefellows, Interaction, Gavel Club, Black Culture, Mexican-American Self-Help, Brotherhood of American Indians, and others. While more and more people in the outside community were being made aware of the institutional goals and functions through such programs which brought about a thousand civilians a year to the island, Warden Meier was busy developing new and better methods of communications and public relations.

Without the help of the public, programs of rehabilitation cannot possibly succeed. Until they are willing to accept a man as rehabilitated, or as having been punished enough by his imprisonment, and allow him gainful employment, that man is a probable recidivist.

Jacob J. Parker assumed the Wardenship of McNeil Island in June, 1970.

While under his leadership, McNeil Island for the first time in its long history, had a prisoner strike, which lasted for eleven days. Although tempers ran hot through the prison population, no one was hurt or abused.

Demands were made by the prisoners, considered by Warden Parker, and decisions were rendered. In every respect, those decisions have since proven to be the right ones, decisions that have resulted in a more correctionally oriented institution.

The reason for the strike could be traced to a handful of self-professed "political prisoners" with a degree of skill in group agitation. They understood the force of threat and the art of emotional manipulation. The strike was perhaps a reflection of the times which led to campus riots across the country. No Warden was immune from the anti-system attitudes of the time. It is reasonable to believe that Warden Parker's decisions kept McNeil from becoming another Attica --- an accomplishment worthy of recognition.

Warden Parker left McNeil Island in 1971 to accept a position with the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in Seattle. On January 10, 1972 L.E. Daggett assumed the Wardenship of McNeil Island.

Under Mr. Daggett's administration many major and significant changes in programming were made on McNeil. Perhaps the three most important events from a prisoner's viewpoint were the advent of open mailing (the privilege of writing to whomever a prisoner wants without prior approval or censorship), the enlargement of the visiting room facilities, and the increased number of visits from three to four a month.

Seven days after Mr. Daggett assumed assignment as Warden, a therapeutic community opened at McNeil under the direction of DR. Owen A. Kennedy and Dr. Thompson, staff psychologist. Much of the groundwork for the community had been completed prior to his arrival, but Warden Daggett gave it his full support, even though it was a bold experiment in the combining of group therapy and self-government in a prison setting.

The year 1972, on McNeil Island, under the direction of Warden Daggett and J.S. Palmquist gave birth to another major development. The education program was expanded to include a broad selection of college-level courses for those prisoners wishing to earn a two-year associate arts degree. A day program was started for inmates who wished to earn a General Education Development diploma and time spent in the day-school program was considered in the same manner as a work assignment by the institution staff.





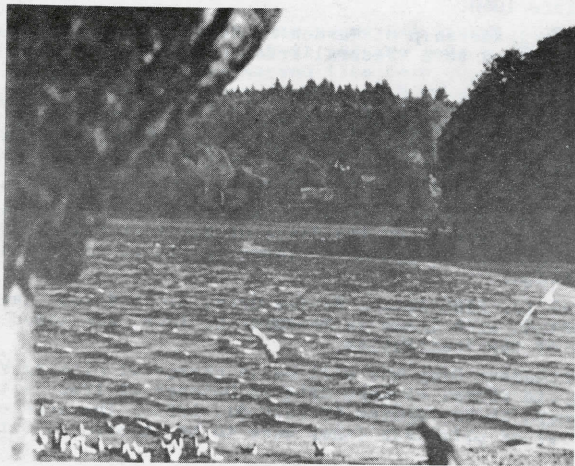
In the area of apprenticeship training, a major breakthrough came when Warden Daggett received support from the Veteran's Administration for those trainees with honorable military service. For the first time in McNeil's history entitled veterans could use those benefits of military service to offset the personal cost of apprenticeship training.

During the summer of 1972, Warden Daggett directed that work begin on the redesigning of the open, military-type dormitories at the McNeil Island Prison Camp. When completed, the dormitories featured small living cubicles which gave each inmate a reasonable degree of privacy with room for a bed, locker, and writing table.

Another 1972 first happened during the summer when Dr. Thomas M. Doody reported to his post at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital on McNeil as the first full-time psychiatrist.

On July 1, 1972, Warden Daggett left McNeil Island to become Warden of the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Mr. William Hardy Rauch became the next Warden in 1973. Upon his assignment as Chief Executive Officer of McNeil Island, the Director of the Federal Prison System, Mr. Norman A. Carlson instructed him to accomplish specific objectives which were of special interest to Mr. Carlson and the Bureau of Prisons.



These specific assignments were:

- 1) Reduce friction with the community.
- 2) Improve relations with the courts, attorneys, and legislature.
- 3) Develop harmonious relationships with the news media.
- 4) Reduce staff-inmate tensions.
- 5) Increase communications with colleges and universities.

Warden Rauch accomplished many of these goals as he worked under a basic philosophy that, "We have nothing to hide and we welcome the interest of community leaders in our affairs and operation of this Federal prison."

In response to questions asked him by reporters during a "Press Open-House" conducted on McNeil in April, 1974, Warden Rauch replied, "We don't have anything particularly newsworthy, but we just want you to see what we are doing here."

This statement seems indicative of the philosophy of Warden Rauch. He was an open, frank and honest person. He did not see any reason to be otherwise either as a person or as a prison warden.

The last warden to serve at McNeil Island before its close in October 1980 was Lawrence Putman who took over Wardenship in June, 1976. A local native of Washington (from Yakima, Washington) who had been a case management specialist at McNeil from 1961 to 1965. Mr Putman had been an employee of the Bureau of Prisons since 1959.

Under the leadership of Warden Putman the long-time penitentiary was reduced to a "Federal Prison Camp" status with fewer than 700 prisoners.

Even though under this administration community furloughs were increased few men failed to return and escapes were almost non-existent from the island. Also, under the Wardenship of Mr. Putman many more women were brought into the institution as staff members which also included women guards.

With the interest of both state and local officials on the possible use of McNeil by the State of Washington as a state prison, he opened the prison to these people to visit and evaluate the prison.

On March 12, 1980 Acting Warden Grey, since Warden Lawrence Putman went on sick leave in November of 1979, was named superintendent of the institution.

Superintendent Grey who will be in charge of closing McNeil Island by its formal closure date of October of 1980, with all prisoners to be removed by July 31, 1980. The accelerated removal of prisoners (they were to be removed in Octo-



ber) will allow the prison staff to shut down and dispose of equipment earlier.

"As long as we have inmates here, we have to have full service," superintendent Grey explained.

Under Mr. Grey's guidance, the inmate population is being reduced gradually, through paroles, work-release programs and transfers. Some paroles and contract-treatment center schedules have been moved up, releasing prisoners earlier than previously scheduled.

The upcoming closure of McNeil Island after over 105 years of use will save the Bureau of Prisons \$2,701,000 next year, according to figures presented at a recent Senate budget hearing.

Since Mr. Grey's career began with the Bureau of Prisons at McNeil in 1957 as a correctional officer, he now finds himself as the final chief of staff.

There you have it. A short history of a Federal Prison that a lot more could have been said of. But the photos we feel, will help complete this short history of the "Prison without Walls."

Truly, we could have presented a much more thorough and much better story... that is, if you will excuse the expression, if we had had more time. We didn't have more time and we tried to present a panoramic view of a prison during its not only 105 years of history as a prison but before and even a little to the future.

Maybe, someday, someone will come along and present a better story about this island called McNeil and the people who served the nation and people who have served time here on this unique island. Maybe, someday, another person, with more time, will come along and spin another tale about this place and its future as the island that has been the "Prison without Walls" for over 105 years comes to an end and a new story begins.

