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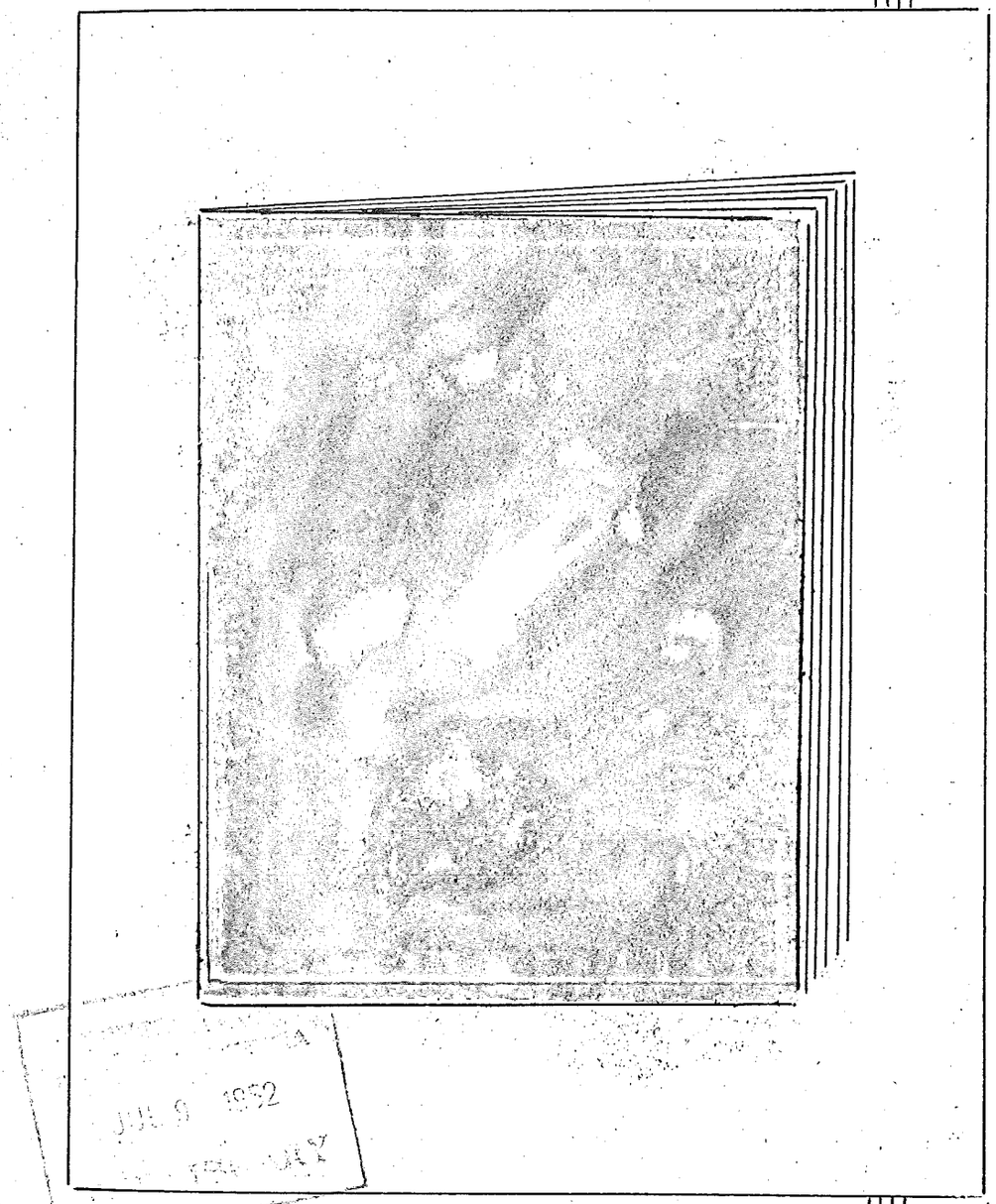

JUL 9 1952

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Commissioner of Penitentiaries

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Deputy Commissioner

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This month's cover by Gagnon

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

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Gerald Haughey Jim Ripley
Vic Ashton Fred W.
Eddie Burns

PENISTICS

January 22, to February 21.

Population of main prison		449
Doukhobors		40
Total population		489
New arrivals		25
Discharges		16
Tickets of Leave...	Douks.	6
	Others	1
Deaths		1
High Number		7409

TRANSITION

Published monthly by the men of the British Columbia Penitentiary, New Westminster, British Columbia.

Vol. 1 No. 1 March 1952

AB INTRA

OUR AIM

The purpose of "Transition" is to act as a medium of expression for the men in the British Columbia Penitentiary; to furnish an outlet for hitherto latent talents; to add a little sunlight to their lives; and to provide food for thought. If at any time its efforts should contribute toward the reformation and rehabilitation of even one of the men confined within these walls, all concerned with its publication will be more than repaid.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors.

Permission for the republication of material in this issue is cordially granted. Such permission does not extend to the use of inmates' names which may be obtained upon request. TRANSITION is a project of the Prisoners' Recreation Fund, and any profits derived from its sale go into the Fund.

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New Westminster, B. C.

EDITORIAL

OF GREEKS AND GIFTS

By Arnold Abrams

Canadian penitentiaries have now embarked on a long overdue venture into the realm of penal reform. How far it will go and how successfully it will operate will depend to a great extent upon the actions and the reactions of the inmates themselves. As this is the first of an intended series of editorials, it would perhaps be best to give our readers a clear understanding of where we stand on this most important issue.

Almost always when a discussion arises as to what innovations should be introduced or what practices in our Canadian penitentiaries abandoned, various American prisons are cited as exemplary models. This department is well aware of the great strides made in the Penal System of some states; we can appreciate the feeling of envy it arouses in the inmates of our Canadian penitentiaries, and we are in general agreement with those who wish to see the same reforms instituted here, but we would like to caution the overenthusiastic with a pointed reminder: when the natives of the South Sea Islands started accepting the white man's beads they soon found themselves with a venereal disease. When a nation borrows indiscriminately from the genius of its neighbor then that nation must, whether it likes it or not, acquire its benevolent neighbor's sins, as well.

The line of demarkation between the legal system and the penal system is too fine for this writer's eyes; we are not even sure that such a line exists. Our criminal code with all its ambiguities and inequalities is nevertheless one of the best legal systems in operation in the civilized world today. There is a great danger that if this country should decide to copy the penal system of some of the American states we will wind up copying their legal system as well; we do not believe that any reader with firsthand knowledge of their mandatory punishments, astronomical sentences and duplication of charges would welcome such a change.

There is a common fallacy that the U. S. has an advanced and corrective penal system. While we agree that there are many, many things in their country to be admired, we do not believe their penal system is one of them. The only accurate criterion of corrective penology is not its apparent effect upon the subject, but its ultimate effect upon society as a whole. Judging the American penal system by the bursting thermometer of the U. S. crime rate, it must stand condemned.

Therefore, while advocating progress, let us not follow blindly in the footsteps of our cousins to the south. If we feel that there is a wrong to be righted, let us look for the solution here. If the natives had decided to make their own beads it would have taken a little longer but they would have at least remained healthy.

"THREE R's"

A week or so ago we decided to do a little sketch on one of the educational facilities of the penitentiary, so we shined our shoes, tilted our hat, straightened our English, and nonchalantly dangling a participle from our wrist, dropped into the library to see Mr. Helmer, the school teacher.

Mr. Helmer came to our little college just under a year ago. Though he is qualified to teach as high as grade 12, his regular classes start at grade 2 and end at grade8. While school is not compulsory those lacking a grade 8 education are asked to attend. Most of the students are in the 21-22 year age class with the occasional 17 or 18 year old. The oldest student in the past year was 45.

There are several novelties used to break what apparently still is and always will be the dull routine of school work. Foremost among these is Visual Education. Moving pictures are shown three times a month on such varied subjects as "The Historical Developement of Canada," Scenic Views," "Championship Basketball," "Salmon Fishing" and "Ski Holiday."

The classes, up to and including grade 5, are held three mornings a week; 6, 7, and 8 twice a week. The average is 20 students to a class but this number also includes a few taking high school correspondence courses. Mr. Helmer assists the latter in their studies and supervises their examinations.

When asked how long he intended to be with us Mr. Helmer replied, "I would like to make a career of penitentiary teaching and hope to see in the years to come an expansion of the educational facilities in the prison." He then went on to speak of the difference between teaching here and outside, and said, "It is a great opportunity for me to develope my knowledge in the field of human relationships, but that is not my primary interest. I am here because I feel that the need is greater, and from a purely selfish viewpoint the results tend to be more gratifying than comparable ones achieved on the outside."

So, as in one of his scenic travelogues, we say good-bye to Mr. Helmer. If you haven't got your grade 8 diploma, we have no hesitation in recommending his class to you. He appeared sincere and sincerity is a prime requisite of a good teacher.

What the Peasants are Doin'

THIS MONTH: SARTOR RESARTUS

by Pat Mahoney

When you step into the Tailor Shop the buzz of the machines and the buzzing of conversation reminds you of the ceaseless activity around a beehive. It is no illusion, for here are between forty and fifty of "T.O.'s best" busily engaged in their various activities of manufacturing the smartly tailored uniforms and sundry other garments their labors produce.

As you saunter through the shop, on the right aisle busily planning at their tables, may be seen, Red Goodrick, Blackie Lyons, and Frank Risby. What scheme is afoot I cannot say, but from the looks of Stan Lowe, Wilf Kelly, et al., it bodes no fun for their victim. Close by in the language of Confucius, Sammy Mah, How Yee and Yen Shee are 'cutting it up.

Now, the right aisle, and no kidding either, for it is really right with the master shirt makers, Bob Green and George Mitchell, both really doing their stuff. Little or no opportunity here for play, for these boys master mind the production not only of all shirts worn in here, but the dischage ones likewise. The high point being the making of all Officer's shirts for all other penitentiaries.

The store room now gives the impression of having moved from skid row to the more select locale of Granville and Georgia. At least so we would imagine from the smug complacency with which the old master, Al LePlante, displays his new material. No longer do men creep into his den for measuring and fitting with a scowl on their jowl. With the vast improvement in the material now available for discharge suits, may be noticed a similar change in their now smiling faces. In a shop as large as this, one cannot give mention to all they would like to in so short an article, but rest assured that these will get their honourable mention in an early issue.

This 'cut-up' could not be concluded without a reference to the inseparables, Bobby Wakefield, and, Bobby Singleton, whose brotherly love for each other has been made manifest since Singy made the ball team. It would appear that two "A" league teams are fighting over him. The argument they saygoes like this- "You can have him, I don't want him ." Be that as it may, your correspondent believes that "Singy" is an "A-1" model for one of those classy new uniforms—BUT-- for form, well I just would not like to put myself out on a limb.

The Dreamer

by Vic Ashton

A LIFER LAY A'SLUMBERING
IN HIS LONELY PRISON CELL,
WHEN MORPHEUS, THE FASHIONER
CAME IN TO WEAVE HIS SPELL.
AND IN HIS DREAM THE LIFER 'ROSE,
STOOD GAPINGLY AMAZED,
AS THE WARDEN AND THE DEPUTY
PRANCED IN WITH LOADED TRAYS.

OBSEQUIOUSLY THEY BOWED AND SCRAPED,
AND IN A FESTIVE MOOD
BEGGED PARDON FOR INTRUDING,
AND THE SCARCITY OF FOOD.
BUT THE FARE WAS SIMPLY SCRUMPTIOUS,
MADE UP OF[illegible] THINGS,
FROM CAVIAR TO PIGEON BREASTS,
AND TENDER THRUSH'S WINGS.

DELICIOUS CAKES AND COOKIES,
CHAMPAGNE AND RARE OLD WINE.
IMPORTED JAVA COFFEE,
A PRINCELY WAY TO DINE.
AND AFTERHE HAD GORGED HIMSELF,
AND SETTLED BACK IN PEACE,
THE WARDEN BEGGED FORGIVENESS
AND GAVE HIM HIS RELEASE.

BUT THE LIFER SMILED AND SHOOK HIS HEAD,
AND PUFFED AT HIS CIGAR,
"LET'S NOT," HE TOLD THE WARDEN,
"CARRY THIS THING ON TOO FAR,
"LET'S LEAVE IT AS IT IS RIGHT NOW,
THAT RELEASE I WILL NOT TAKE,
FOR I'VE HAD THIS DREAM A THOUSAND TIMES,
AND IF I TAKE IT ..... I'LL AWAKE!"

Publicity Before And During Trial.

by Gerald Haughey

Considerable prominence is being given today to the matter of penal reform, and to the study of penology in general. Recommendations have been forthcoming as to reforms which should be instituted and practices which should be followed, but the implementing of these reforms and carryingout of these practices is dependent largely upon the passage of certain legislation by Parliament.

There is one question, however, which has to do with penology and more particularly the administration of justice, which does not have to await the passage of legislation nor the reports of committees in order to be given the attention which it deserves, and that is the very important and serious matter of the effect which publicity attached to the commission of an offence has upon the impartial administration of law and justice.

The dictionary gives as part of the definition of "Justice," these words "The principle of rectitude and just dealing of men with each other and the impartial administration of law and justice." It is my opinion that the publicity attached to the trial of persons charged with an offence is something which has a very grave bearing upon the aforestated impartiality which is required in trial proceedings, if justice is to be impartially administered.

It is very difficult for anyone, conversant with the type of "crime" news which is published by the press and broadcast over the radio, to escape the conclusion that it would be almost impossible for anyone who has read such news or heard such broadcasts to remain absolutely impartial in his or her judgment of the innocence or guilt of an accused person, charged with the commission of an offence.

In exercise of the privilege of "freedom of the press," and under the guise of news-worthiness, before an accused comes to trial in a court of justice, there are broadcast by printed and spoken word, reports of the alleged commission of an offence, details of the offence, theories of the police, the name, address, business, personal details of family and business life and other private affairs of anyone suspected or accused of the commission of the offence, and any story which anyone who claims to have some "information" may wish to recount, and which may place the accused person in an unfavorable light. The evidence which it is alleged exists against the accused creeps into these newspaper reports

and radio broadcasts, and all this before the person so accused has had an opportunity to defend himself, or to present his answers before a court of competent jurisdiction.

It is my submission that by this publicity the mind of the public is definitely influenced to form an opinion which has the effect of removing any impartiality of opinion which might originally have existed.

And who is this public whose minds and opinions are subjected to the unquestioned influence of the press? Who are these people for whom impartiality can no longer be claimed, because of the effect of press and radio reports upon their attitude towards the accused? This public is every man and woman who reads a newspaper and listens to a radio broadcast, and includes the magistrates and judges who must preside, the witnesses who must give evidence and the jury who must decide in a court of law as to whether or not the accused person is guilty of the charge upon which he is being tried. These are the people who will sit in judgment and whose impartiality is an absolute requisite to the proper and fair administration of justice in our courts!

Without endeavoring to delve into law and legal procedure, it is quite possible to cite instances in court where in the case of a "trial within a trial," the press was not permitted to publish anything which was said during that "trial within a trial," until judgment of the court had been passed upon the point at issue, this being because the matter was "sub-judice" that is, "before a judge or court; not yet decided."

But surely such provision for impartiality, and others which have been established, are all nullified and swept aside by the publicity given to every angle of the case before it comes to trial and by the regular reports and comments made by the press and radio regarding the trial, the evidence, the appearance of the accused, etc. etc., at and during trial! How can any person obtain an impartial trial, if the news-reports before trial have created in the minds of those responsible for the trial, verdict, and sentence, a certain opinion with respect to the innocence or guilt, without even having heard the evidence?

That this is a serious matter is supported by the written judgment of Justice Robert H. Jackson of the U. S. Supreme Court, as reported in an April 1951 issue of "Time" magazine, in which he gave as one of his reasons for concurring in the setting aside of a verdict against two accused, the following, "A fair trial would have been an impossibility because of the inflammatory newspaper stories. The trial was but a legal gesture to register a verdict already dictated by the press."

Not only is the trial of the accused almost certain to be influenced by the opinion which those concerned with the trial have formed before sitting in judgment and as a result of the news reports they have read

(continued on page 23)

PENITENTIARY: 1952

by Jim Ripley

I'll speak again:
this lonely tier's great silence frightens me
like some dread spectre's.
These cells of men who know that action's name
cannot be understood, yet still acclaim
its virtues and venerate its lies,
while the night looks on with a thousand eyes
and every sense aches from its depth with hunger.
The pulse of time has stopped and night's blind sun
beams its black light on this concreted horror;
but now across the sea of quiet
the slender shadows flicker and bring
the basilisk's wink of reality:
the weary procession of empty days
and futile ways
And a penance that is merely a gesture.

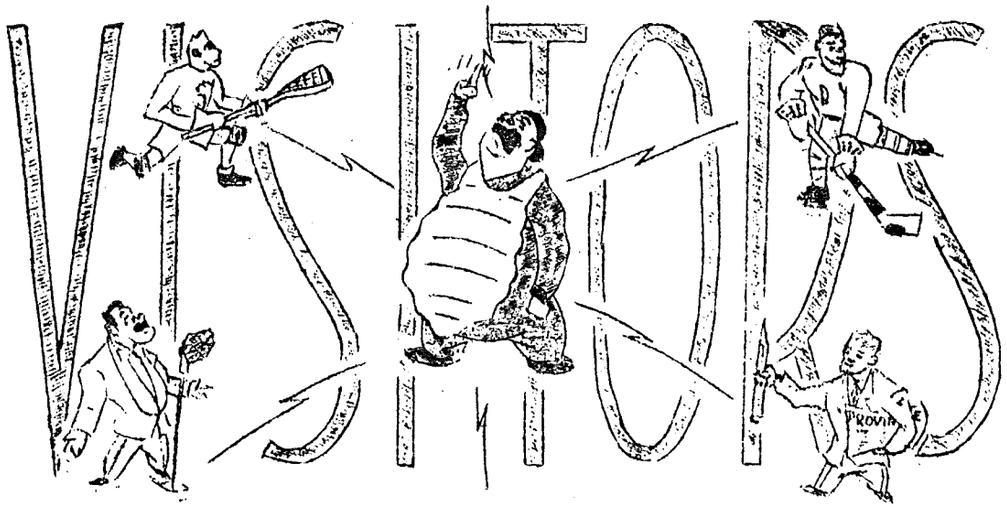
SPORTLITES

by Bill Hodges

The editor asked for someone who could turn out a sport's column with punch in it; I thought he wanted a sports columnist who was punchy so I accepted. This being the first issue it might be best to start with a revue of last year's activities.

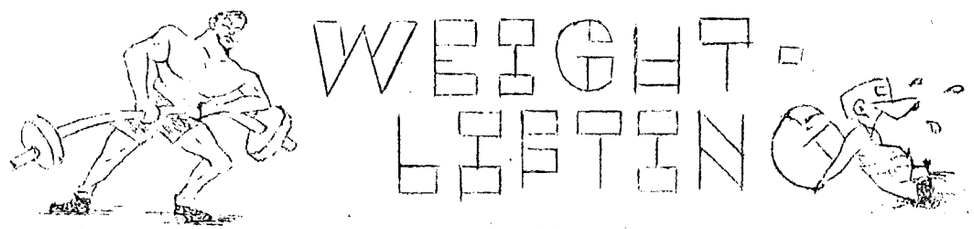
The SEALS, our All Star Team, wound up on the winning end of an 11-5 record, and, as a result, a thumbnail sketch of the team seems indicated.

In FRANK "CURLY" BELL we undoubtedly had the bulgiest back-stopper in baseball... The brilliant pitching turned in by KENNY BURNS effectively spelled any gloom that might have been generated by the parole of his fire-balling predecessor.... JIM "HAIRLESS JOE" MCDONALD, SEAL left-fielder operated on the bear-trap principle, if it was in the glove that was it, brother...While on the subject of outfielders we might also focus attention on the sterling performances turned in by center-fielder WALLY SMOKLER and right fielder BLACKIE LYONS... Add the sparking defensive play of WELDON D. at short, LEFTY NEWTON at first, BOB WAKEFIELD at second and LLOYD KALMACOFF at third, andyou have an infield combination which made even the tough ones look easy... Bench strength in the persons of ART "HAGGIS" RENNIE, VESSIE BRANDELISE and PETE NOVIS, plus the relief pitching of LEN GABLE, combined with the above mentioned regulars presented a formidable obstacle in the path of victory for the visiting teams...Hats off to "CURLY" BELL for the fine job he turned in as manager before relinquishing the reins of authority to JOHN S. who proved he was well qualified to carry on as a winning manager.



Many personalities from the sport and entertainment worlds visited us during the season and helped liven the proceedings..Ex-National Hockey League star, WALTER "BABE" PRATT now with the Tacoma Rockets, played the part of guest umpire at first base...During the same game, the competent third base decisions of "BLACKIE" BLACK, one of Western Canada's lacrosse greats, guaranteed him a hearty welcome should he visit us again ...TONY LESWICK of the Detroit Red Wings made two appearances as catcher-captain of the Dunsmuir Ball Club, and added much to his reputation as an all-round sportsman...No ball game is complete without the familiar strains of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," but what price a seventh inning stretch with music by the popular "Rhythm Pals,"MARK WALD, MIDE, JACK JENSEN. Shades of Bill Veeck, we really made the big time..Another welcome guest was radio and night club entertainer,TERRY MOORE, who besides umpiring obliged with songs and impressions... The Irish Fuselier Band, led by Mr. Bob Cawston also helped brighten another Sunday afternoon ball game, with their stirring music... A popular umpire may be as rare as truth in a politician's campaign promises, but around here Fred Larkins was strictly the people's choice every day of the week and twice on Sundays. Labour Day was set aside in honour of the rotund little arbiter who mixes showmanship with an eagle eye. He was presented with a beautiful, inlaid coffee table, designed and built by the inmates, plus two illuminated scrolls, designating him Honourary Inmate and Honourary Warden, both sentences to run concurrently..To Eric Whitehead, Vancouver Daily Province Sports Columnist, the heartfelt thanks of all for his two fine columns outlining our sports programme. Come again any time, Eric.

Last summer civilization finally caught up with us in the form of tennis rackets, no less. According to Dinny Annuzziello and "Black Jack Dillon, two of our better hand-ball players, it just goes to show that the younger generation ain't what it was in their day. Dinny won't be playing baseball this year--says he doesn't want to participate in a sport where his storm and strife has a higher batting average.

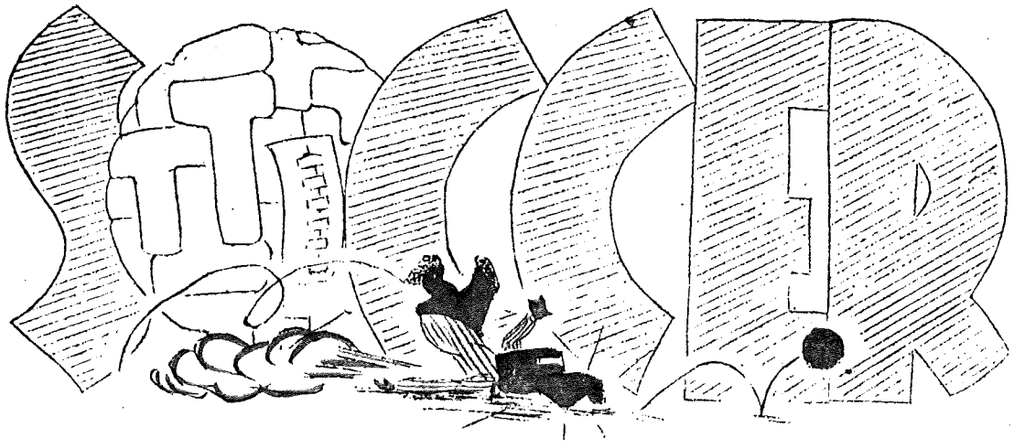


Took a stroll down along "Muscle Alley" the other day to watch the heavy men in action and came away feeling like the proverbial ninety - eight pound weakling. What beats me is where Pat Miller, Vic and Rudy S., Pat Mahoney, et al., get all that energy. Personally, I have a tough time hoisting a fork full of Dave Perry's pancakes in the morning.

Installation last summer of high and parallel bars, plus the acquisition of tumbling mats, added gymnastics to our ever-growing sports list. The aid of Max Bennett and Ernie Raymond in training those who wished to learn the sport was invaluable and it is hoped that under their able tutelage the sport will attain even greater popularity during the coming summer.

Horseshoes, checkers, chess, and volleyball, also added much to the recreational facilities and have filled the gap for those who neither watch nor indulge in the other games available. Interest in chess is especially keen and the players are looking forward to a proposed visit from the chess expert of the Vancouver Daily Province.

As soon as the weather gets nice, table tennis will be set up in the big yard. Let's hope the wind doesn't blow away the ball.



The popularity of soccer as a fall and winter sport has, to some extent, compensated for the temporary, (we hope!) cancellation of permission to continue with plans for the promotion of boxing, and as a spectator sport, seems to provide more in the way of thrills and entertainment than did basketball which has now been virtually abandoned due to a combination of inadequate coaching and cold weather. Prior to the formation of an eight team league, complete with referees, linesmen and Commissioners, several weeks of preliminary skirmishing took place during which time the weak fell by the wayside as everyone gleefully operated on a "hit him again, the referee ain't lookin'" principle. Still, four months of league play under the capable refereeing of Lee Presley and Red Forster has worked wonders, and the teams are now turning in some fairly polished performances. In fact, the change has been so great that the players are starting to apologize for knocking each other down. Ah well, it's all good clean fun, and a fine time is had by both players and spectators alike.

The addition of soccer to the sports programme, plus the inability of our basketball team to win against outside competition, has graphically illustrated the need for more serious and effective coaching. If as the Commissioner of Penitentiaries has stated, sport is an important link in the chain of rehabilitation, such a need is indeed paramount. There may be a few who will deny this, and contend, with a certain amount of truth, that sports in an institution of this kind are not conducted on a "win or else" basis, yet who will deny the feeling of confidence generated by association with a well coached and winning team. It is, therefore, the general consensus of opinion that the time has come when a choice between mediocrity and competency should be made.

RECORD OF PENITENTIARY "SEALS," 1951 SEASON

Date	Winner	R.	Loser	R.	Winning P.	Losing P.
27/5/51	Seals	12	Firemen	6	Burns	Aitken
3/6/51	Anavets	10	Seals	2	Wald	Burns
10/6/51	Seals	5	Dunsmuir	1	Pinky	Hammersley
17/6/51	Seals	3	Premier	2	Pinky	McComb
24/6/51	Seals	2	Anavets	1	Pinky	Wald
17/7/51	Seals	3	Dunsmuir	1	Burns	Favelle
8/7/51	Seals	9	Kamloops	8	Burns	Thomas
15/7/51	Seals	8	Aldergrovel		Burns	Dreiger
29/7/51	Firemen	5	Seals	2	Ford	Burns
5/8/51	Higgins M.	10	Seals	8	Wood	Douglas
12/8/51	Seals	16	Black M.	1	Burns	McFaralane
19/8/51	Seals	7	Anovets	3	Burns	Carlson
26/8/51	Seals	12	Dominion	5	Burns	Callahan
3/9/51	Seals 7		N.W. All Stars	6	Burns	Hammersly
9/9/51	Premier	16	Seals	2	Briscoe	Burns
16/9/51	Premier	8	Seals	3	Campion	Burns

Prison League Play-offs (1951)

"A" League

Series "A"----Bears defeated Stars 2 games to 0.
Series "B"----Seals defeated Tigers 2 games to 0.
Finals--------Bears defeated Seals 2 games to 0.

"B" League

Series "A"---Cubs defeated Indians 2 games to 0.
Series "B"---Dodgers defeated Pirates 2 games to 0.
Finals-------Cubs defeated Dodgers 2 games to 1.

Soccer League Standings (1951-52)

Team	P.	W.	L.	T.	Goals for	Goals against	Total Points
Blacksmiths	31	17	5	9	G. F. 39	20	43
Kitchen	30	16	7	7	50	28	39
Carpenters	31	16	7	8	37	20	40
Masonites	30	10	7	13	40	32	33
Royal Scots	29	8	9	12	37	42	28
Rough-Riders	31	10	11	10	42	42	30
Mercurys	31	6	14	11	26	36	23
Shoe Shop	30	1	23	6	6	66	8

'It Flowed Like Wine'

A quite lengthy letter has been received by the Warden, thanking the men for their generous donations to the Red Cross Blood Clinic. It is signed by Mr. M.D. Robertson, Divisional Director of the B. C. Division of the Canadian Red Cross. We regret that we have not sufficient space to reprint Mr. Robertson's letter in full, however, we would like to quote a few of MR. Robertson's remarks.

The most recent donor clinic to be held in this institution took place on January 4th of this year. It so far exceeded the two previous clinics that it seems obvious the men have become increasingly conscious of the tremendous service the Red Cross is rendering through their Blood Clinics. Two hundred and seventy-two men registered and donated their blood, compared to one hundred and sixty seven at the first clinic and one hundred and ninety three at the second.

Speaking of the first clinic, Mr. Robertson says "We were particularly impressed with the good state of health and high haemoglobin content of every man there. Many of the men asked us if we would come back again.

The efficient operation of the clinic is something to marvel at and on the last visit they were able to complete their entire operation by 3:30 in the afternoon despite the large increase in the number of donors. Mr. Robertson, in his letter, makes no mention of those clever and beautiful movie stars disguised as nurses, so we are unable to settle the argument as to whether or not that was Lana Turner. He does say they will be back in July and, with the Warden's permission, twice a year thereafter.

Mr. Robertson ends his letter on this note: "I would like to use the opportunity presented by the publishing of the Penitentiary magazine to extend, on behalf of the blood service, our very great thanks and appreciation to all those who gave their blood on that occasion. I do hope they will get as much satisfaction from the knowledge of a good deed done at that time as we did, and we hope that we will see them again when we next bring the mobile clinic in July."

We in turn wish to thank Mr. Robertson and his staff for having given the men of this prison an opportunity to make a small contribution toward the welfare of those beyond the wall, and to assure them that we will all be looking forward to their next visit.

ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

We have noticed a tendency, by writers of both the penal and free press, to advocate indeterminate sentences in our Federal Prisons. There is a further tendency to confuse the imposition of these indeterminate sentences with the establishment of an active parole system. With the latter we are in full sympathy and will have more to say about it in the future, but this month we will deal with the former.

Stripped of all superfluities the problem is simply this: will the inmate and society benefit from indefinite sentences? In order to arrive at a reasonable answer let us view this problem from three directions.

Most American penologists recommend indeterminate sentences. Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck would have the sentencing of convicted persons taken completely out of the hands of a judge and placed in those of a board composed of criminologists, sociologists, and psychiatrists. The prisoner would be examined periodically by a similar board and he would remain in prison or be freed entirely at their discretion. A man in for stealing a dollar would, if the board so desired, remain in prison for the rest of his life. Conversely, a man in for killing his mother might be freed in thirty days. The Gluecks contend that the length of sentence should not be determined by the crime, but rather by the prisoner's response to psychiatric treatment.

There are several, and at present insurmountable flaws in the policy the Gluecks and other leading criminologists advocate. Psychiatry has not reached the stage where it can tell whether or not the patient is lying. Almost every week somewhere in the world there is the spectacle of an accused pleading insanity, and while the prosecution produces half a dozen psychiatrists to testify that the accused is sane, the defense produces six to swear that he is insane. From this we can see that if the Glueck's plan were initiated into the penal system, the inmate who could dissimulate best would be released quickest.

Secondly, and even more to the point, where is the staff to come from? The insane asylums throughout Canada are understaffed and surely no reasonable person would approve of the imprisonment of thousands of men on nothing more than the recommendations of a few part-time psychiatrists. A further rebuttal comes from Dr. Lindner, eminent American criminologist, and author of "Stone Walls and Men," in which he admits the present inability of psychiatry, except in occasional instances to effect a cure.

We have now arrived at the third aspect--what effect have indeterminate sentences upon those who have been subject to their imposition? We have interviewed almost all the men serving indefinite sentences here

(Continued on page 23)

As it is too soon for the postman to have rung even once, we thought you would be amused, as we were, by a note sent to one of the chaps in the library.

Dear Jim:

If you recall I mentioned to you that I had received the same copy of "Standard" two weeks in a row. The mentioning of this unimportant detail immediately brought forth a forty-minute oratory on your part denouncing the moron who was the perpetrator of such an outrage, and furthermore was garnished with intonations detrimental to the high classification of my own intellect; because I apparently allowed twenty-four hours to elapse before reporting this incident.

Following this unnerving incident your office and my cell have shuffled the same "Star" back and forth between us until the paper, my card and the bag are just about in tatters. I am convinced that if this cycle of events doesn't stop immediately it will be my mental undoing. I have arrived at the stage, where I find myself thinking continuously about the "Star."

Morning is not too bad, but as the day wears on I start mumbling and running into furniture and people. By four o'clock in the afternoon my body is bathed in sweat, and trembling beyond control. I rush blindly from work, snatch my supper tray and hurtle headlong down the tier. Two doors from my cell I stop. Suppose it's there again.....? I shudder, start trembling and slowly creep towards the door. Now I can see the complete door and-- thank God-- no "Star." My eyes fill with tears of happiness. With a choked cry of thankfulness, my heart bursting with gratitude I rush forward the last two steps; then I see it! It's on the floor! With a scream of horror I sink to the floor, my body wracked with heart-wrenching sobs. I am completely undone. I crawl into my cell, dragging my supper behind me and sob convulsively for a few hours. Then completely worn out I fall asleep only to dream of "Stars" in huge paper bags ten feet long, and inthe morning I wake up faced with another day of horror.

You can see what this is doing to me. In the name of all that's humane and decent I beg of you .....Please keep this "Star" there. Use any method you deem necessary to keep it. I will take complete responsibility; only, keep it, keep it, keep it!!!!

Frustratedly,

Fred W.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In June of last year a Prisoners' Recreation Fund was established. Each shop selected a representative, who then became a member of the Recreation Committee. The original Committee consisted of a five man executive board, and an advisory board made up of all the shop representatives. The executive board members were: J. Campbell, Wally Smokler Pete Novis, Colin Newton and D. Simpson.

In July the original Committee disbanded and a new one was chosen. This time a general election was held and a seven man board was elected. They were Ted Brash, Abe Abrams, Pancho Chiovitte, Danny Gasberini, Charlie B., Art Renny and Darrell Simpson. In January Charles B. and Danny Gasberini retired.

The money in the fund accrues through donations from the inmates. If others wish to donate they may do so. The inmate donations are not to exceed a total of $10. per man, once every six months. The money is used to purchase additional sports equipment, for which there is no government allotment, and to provide any entertainment or recreation that can be obtained by permission of the Warden.

The fund has purchased complete baseball uniforms, including baseball shoes, for our All Star Team. It has purchased the ingredients to provide soft drinks for the ball games on Sundays, ice cream bars and bulk ice cream, plus tobacco for prizes for everyone on July 1, when we had our big field day. During the winter season, moving pictures were bought by the fund, along with other things too numerous to mention.

It is unfortunate we didn't foresee the damage the cold weather would do to the chess and checker tables, but when they are repaired we'll see they are covered with tarpaulins.

The only thing stopping the formation of a prison orchestra is the lack of instruments. The musicians are here but their instruments were found not guilty. A donation in this line would sure be welcome.

The total collections up to date were $1,171.10. Expenditures were $749.45. Balance on hand $421.65.

D. Simpson, Secretary
RECREATION COMMITTEE

by L. S.

When I walked out the gate last time there was a delegation waiting for me--a few dignitaries plus the leading merchants from my old neighborhood. Before I knew it they were wringing my hand and slapping me on the back. Speechless, I found myself bundled into a Cadillac convertible with mink windshield wipers. Shortly afterwards we were cruising through flower laden streets and ahead I spied a huge neon sign with the words, "Welcome Back Len Sturdley. We knew you could do it."

Eventually we stopped and I was conducted to the throne of honour on a speaking platform. It was with some difficulty that I reached it at all, for about me milled beautiful girls eagerly attempting to lick my hands. The M.C. finally brought the multitude to order and commenced to introduce me. In my nervous state I was only able to catch a few phrases---anybody can make a mistake-after all what are a few bank hold-ups---never really had a chance--and so on. When he finished there was much yelling and clapping. Comely matrons kissed roses and threw them upon the platform at my feet. I managed to mumble a choked up, "Thank you." We made our way through the mob and I was taken to a huge office above the local bank. The president rushed in and grasping my hand told me how happy he was to have me on his staff. I remember him telling me that in spite of my shifty eyes and tight-bottomed trousers he was sure my police record was exaggerated. It seems my duties were to check the vault regularly to see there was always plenty of money in it. Life, I can tell you, was la vie en rose.

Everything went fine until one morning I took a newspaper out of a street vending box and forgot to put in a nickel. I pled guilty and got eight years, appealed, got seven more.

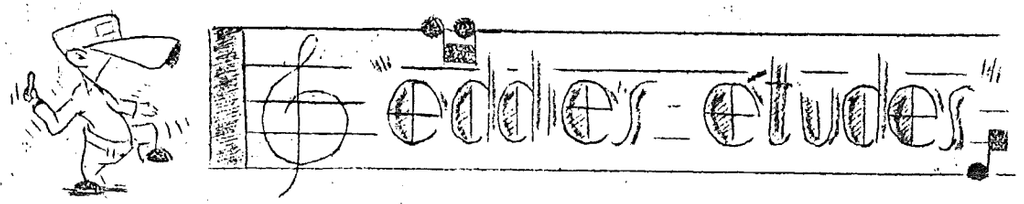
But, what with the earphones, ball games and newspapers, etc., I'm kind of glad to be back.

:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:_:

ON THE PROSPECT OF TOMORROW'S RELEASE

by J. I. C.

'Twas thorns and boulders all the way;
And yet-- (this may sound queer)
The going-out is almost worth
The price of being here.



by Eddie B.

In this column I will attempt to define the topsy-turvy music world and give my views on records, musicians, etc. So pick up the down-beat and here we go.

First let's look in on Louis "Satchmow Armstrong--the man most likely to succeed Gabriel on the Horn. What this writer would like to know is, what is happening to the august Louis of old? I for one do not appreciate the brand of music, if you can truthfully call it music, that the great Satchmo is waxing these days. I'm also convinced Louis doesn't enjoy recording these humdrum, dime a dozen songs.

Methinks the solution to this problem is the all important dollar shortage that jazzmen are facing in all parts of the country. But whatever Louis' Nemesis happens to be, I'd wager remission most of us would prefer to hear Satchmo put the emphasis back on his fine relaxed style and by doing so forget those tedious novelty things. If Louis doesn't soon return to the fold I fear he will be playing his own elegy.

The name of Monty McFarland is becoming a household word around these parts with his amusing and idle chatter minutes of Monty's Music on the "Captain Spalding Show." To those who are pondering over the "Captain Spalding" rib--it's a poetic gem along the lines of an African explorer which, I believe, he picked up from the man of many voices, Sammy Davis Jr.

Did you know a Canadian boy is making big news in jazz circles across the line? In a recent poll Oscar Peterson received top billing and in another popular contest was rated second, bowing only to that great jazz stylist George Shearing. Some folks compare him with Art Tatum, but personally I don't believe he has yet achieved the keyboard finesse that Tatum displays.

I recall his personal appearance out here in '46 when he drew a meager five or six hundred, where there was room for five thousand, but given time the public will stand in line to hear Oscar Peterson.

I'll wrap up this patter now with a plug for the record collection. As you know it is still very small so get with it man, surely you have a few sides gathering dust somewhere. Have 'em shot in and Chas. will spin them.

BOOK NEWS

"BREAD AND ROSES"

It is said that "man does not live by bread alone" and this is never more clearly demonstrated than when we are in prison; especially if the majority of the time of that imprisonment is spent in the dull solitude of a cell. The respective functions of the kitchen and the library are to fill our stomachs and our minds. This column is being written to make the task of feeding the mind easier for both librarians and readers and to show books in their proper perspective--as a means of escape-escape from boredom and monotony, iron and concrete, the banal idiocy of commercial radio-- and escape into other peoples, other lands, and the other worlds beyond the wall.

First in the field of fiction we have a new copy of Phillip Wylie's, GAUS 85, (W. 177) in which the author is the hero of his own novel and which may have been designed to shock the reading public into further acceptance of his own well-known ideas on sex and psychology, society and its short comings, religion and its failings. But however widely it departs from the average novel(or perhaps because of that)it is a brilliantand startling achievement guaranteed to keep the reader in a state of nervous excitement and a sure antidote to those "goolhouse blues." If you enjoy fiction plus Jung's psychology plus a vehement attack on conventional thinking, Mr. Wylie is your man.

We are also carrying copies of this author's NIGHT UNTO NIGHT (W. 176), THE BIG ONES GOT AWAY (W. 175) and his very latest novel THE DISAPPEARANCE(W.220) a fantasy about a not-too-distant atomic world of men without women and vice-versa.

Whilst on the subject of fantasy we also have Anthony West's ON A DARK NIGHT (W. 225) A rather confused satiric of heaven and hell set against a European background in the post-war period.

For those who like their fiction reading to be embellished with action and struggle and 'Scarlett O'Hara-ish' females, Frank Yerby's FLOODTIDE (Y.26)is to be recommended. Written by the author of PRIDES CASTLE (Y.12) and the FOXES OF HARROW (Y.3) this book shows signs of becoming a 'floater' around the tiers.

In the same class we have Dennis Wheatley's, THE RISING STORM (W. 222) which explbits the period of the French Revolution for a story of intrigue and violence.

AND VIEWS

by Jim Ripley

In the non-fiction department we have a number of new books covering a wide field of reading. First is the BIRDS OF AMERICA (N. 535) by John Audubon. This is a reprinting of the most famous of all books on American birds (the 1st. edition is worth around fifteen thousand bucks so let me know if you know of a copy!) and contains 435 coloured and plain illustrations of American birds.

Second on the list is BOSWELL'S LONDON JOURNAL (B. 578) which contains selections from the hitherto unpublished diaries of Mr. Boswelland they give us side lights on his life and loves (varied and profuse as they were!), and of the London social life of that period.

For modern history--Winston S. Churchill's third and fourth volumes of his classic history of the last World War, THE HINGE OF FATE (599) and THE GRAND ALLIANCE (W. 598). What an illuminating picture of the machinations of the power-politicians both before and during the war!

It is but a short step from politicians to neurotics so next we will deal with THE GOD THAT FAILED (1. 565) compiledby Richard Crossman an English Labour M. P. This contains the apostate confessions of six intellectuals who found Soviet Communism not to their liking because it wasn't as pure as they had presupposed.

By contrast to the confused thinking evidenced in this volume, we also have Fulton Sheen's COMMUNISM AND THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WEST (X. 6 63)a disturbing and controversial bookby a leading Catholic philosopher

In this review I have tried to cover a representative selection of the new books recently purchased by the Library. In the limited space at my disposal it is obviously impossible to suit every taste, but in this respect it is well to remember that the Library consists of some 4000 volumes covering a wide field and variety of subjects--from Zane Grey's flazen-haired heroines to the procreative habits of Alaskan fish! and the library personnel-- from its officers and Nick Clark perched on his high chair issuing a hundred and thirty thousand magazines a year to yours truly handling the P.S.'s and newspapers--we are all doing our best to see that you receive the best of all possible reading and to provide that necessary balance in our lives, the balance between Bread--and Roses.

LISTENING POST

Well here we are at last. After all the running around and worrying it's nice to be able to sit back and write this column, knowing that when it's finished, TRANSITION is ready to go to press. Some of you may be a little disappointed in the fact we were unable to run any photographs in this issue, but we hope to be able to do so within the next few months.

We want to go on the record that when Jim Ripley won the contest for the name of our magazine he was not connected with the staff. However, after he graciously turned over his winnings plus three decks of weed, we made him the official book reviewer.

We wish to thank the staff of the K. P. TELESCOPE for their invaluable advice on our subscription policy and other matters relevant to getting TRANSITION ready for print. And about their slogan-- "Don't serve time; make time serve you"--our research editor points out that over 300 years ago a chap called Will Shakespeare, wrote, "Make use of time, let not advantage slip."

There's certainly been a lot of changes around this little jail in the past year but the one we liked best was the installation of earphones. We were beginning to believe that the loudspeaker blaring in our ears all evening was part of a grand design to drive us insane. And while we are on the subject of earphones--Gertrude Ederle may have been satisfied with one channel, but most of us would prefer two or three.

Saw Stan Lowe the other day, walking along with his head down---- probably worrying about whether it's true that plumbers and painters go into the women's prison.

Our reporters have been trying to get some--pardon the expression, dope, on the new group, Narcotics Anonymous. Two or three members were interviewed about the group's objectives but they were rather vague, (vague--that's "completely in the dark" spelled backwards). Perhaps by next month we'll be able to tell you more about it.

We wish to mention, at this time, the new typewriter which now adorns our office. It was presented to TRANSITION through the kind offices of the JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY and Mr. J.D. Hobden their representative here. Our sincerest thanks go out to the Society and to Mr. Hobden for their kindness in furnishing us with this machine and for the good wishes for our success which accompanied the gift.

(cont. from page 7)

or heard, but surely the judgment of the sentencing jurist must also be so affected. More than than once, such a sentencing jurist has been heard to comment, when passing sentence, "there has been too much of this sort of thing, the newspaper are filled with these cases every day, etc., etc." and other similar comment which has been used to explain the severity of the sentence which was being passed. Surely this is prima facie proof of the effect of such newspaper comment upon the minds of those who try the accused and sentence the convicted.

And what of the accused who in court proves his innocence, only to find that by unfavorable publicity he has lost that which he strove in court to retain, his reputation and good name? He has found his family humiliated and disgraced, ostracised from their regular circle of friends and acquaintances, because they are the family and relatives of one who has been prejudged in the public opinion as a result of the influence of the news reports having to do with the offence and his trial.

News is valuable to the public. Freedom of the press is essential. but discretionary use of that freedom is necessary. I submit that THE PUBLIC DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND, THE PRESS DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH, NOR DOES FREE SPEECH EMPOWER THE USERS OF IT WITH THE RIGHT TO GIVE VOICE TO ANY WRITTEN OR SPOKEN WORD WHICH WILL PREJUDICE THE INHERENT RIGHT OF ALL ACCUSED PERSONS TO A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL AND TO TH PROTECTION OF BEING CONSIDERED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY.

I respectfully submit that Justice, real Justice, demands that publicity given to offences committed, persons charged, and trials of such alleged offences should come AFTER the courts have impartially disposed of the case, AND NOT BEFORE THEN.

(continued from page 15)

and each one has unhesitatingly stated he would prefer to be doing a definite sentence. We have not sufficient space, at this time, to explore fully the effects of indefinite sentences on society as a whole, but we do know that eminent judges across Canada have spoken out against them and we are informed that the Province of Saskatchewan refuses to prosecute men under the Habitual Criminal Act.

This department feels that there should be greater equity in sentences but we do not believe the problem would be solved by making them indefinite.

The following correction appeared in a small town paper; "Our paper carried the notice last week that Mr. John Jones is a defective in the police force. This was a typographical error. Mr. Jones is really a detective in the police farce!

Lawyer, reading client's lastwill and testament to circle of expectant relatives: "And so, being of sound mind, I spent every damn cent I had before I died."

A floorwalker, tired of his job, gave it up and joined the police force. Several months later a friend asked him how he liked being a policeman. "Well, "he replied, "the pay and the hours are good, but what I like best is that the customer is always wrong."

In Birmingham, Ala., cruising police cars got a radio call: "Car X-Y-3, go to Third Avenue and 14th Street--- a nude woman running down the street.....All other cars remain on your beat. That is all."

In a night club one evening, a very pretty girl was wearing, around her neck, a thin chain from which hung a tiny golden airplane. One of the young men in the party stared at it so that the girl finally asked him, "Do you like my little airplane?" "As a matter of fact," he replied, "I wasn't looking at it. I was admiring the landing field.

In Jersey City, one Thomas unwisely reported the theft of his car to police, who discovered that it had been stolen once before---by Thomas.

ABILITY IS OF LITTLE ACCOUNT
WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY.

---NAPOLEON