

D.O.C. RETIREE NEWS

PEOPLE WHO BUILT THE D.O.C. TO THE LOFTY STATURE IT ENJOYED THROUGHOUT THE NATION
FOR CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE #1 DEPT.

SINCE 1996

#112 JULY 2014

MCF STILLWATER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS BUILT IN 1914, NOT IN THE PENITENT FORMAT BUT RATHER LARGE CELL HALLS, IN THE 1970'S IT WAS THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE CLOSED.

ARTICLE FROM THE MPLS TRIB IN THE '70s

Schoen supports Stillwater Prison closing

By Steven Dornfeld
Staff Writer

Minnesota Corrections Commissioner Kenneth Schoen gave his support Thursday to the recommendation of a special legislative committee that Stillwater Prison be closed by June 30, 1977.

Schoen said that some of the adult male offenders incarcerated in the 61-year-old prison could be

absorbed by St. Cloud Reformatory, which now is used for men between the ages of 16 and 24, and by the state Correctional Institution for Women at Shakopee.

He also recommended that the juvenile facilities at Lino Lakes and Red Wing be transformed into medium-security adult institutions. The state still would have two juvenile facilities — the Minnesota Home School at Sauk

Centre and Thistledeew Camp near Togo.

Schoen outlined his recommendations to a Senate subcommittee studying the possibility of closing state prisons and hospitals, and providing more community-based treatment programs.

The only major difference between Schoen's recommendations and those of a special legislative committee that studied the state's

correctional system last year involved the commissioner's suggestions for Red Wing Training School.

Schoen said the recommendations of that committee, including using Lino Lakes for adults, would leave his department with a capacity for 990 adult offenders, a number he described as "dangerously low."

He said that transforming

Red Wing into an adult institution would increase that number by 200.

In the last decade, the number of adult and juvenile offenders in state institutions has dropped from 2,500 to just over 1,500. Stillwater, with 670 inmates, is currently operating at less than 50 percent of its capacity. St. Cloud is at 60 percent.

Prison
Continued on page 2B

LOOK UP THE DOC WEB SITE FOR MORE & VIDEOS



TRADITION...

SOMEWHAT LIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE MOVIE. "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" - ERNIE MELBY AND HIS WIFE, MARY JANE HAVE ESTABLISHED A 'TRADITION'.

THEY BOTH WORKED FOR THE D.O.C. IN CENTRAL OFFICE AND ARE RETIRED. THEY HAVE FOUR ADULT CHILDREN AND EIGHT GRANDCHILDREN.

DAUGHTER LORA MARRIED A MAN FROM NORWAY AND LIVES THERE WITH TWO SONS.

DAUGHTER ANN LIVES IN MONTANA WITH HER HUSBAND AND THREE CHILDREN.

CARDIOLOGIST SON, DAN LIVES IN THE METRO AREA WITH HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN.

SON STEVE IS SINGLE AND WORKS FOR THE METRO COUNCIL

ERNIE AND MARY JANE LIVE IN THEIR ROSEVILLE HOME AND WANTED TO HAVE A WAY TO HAVE THEIR FAMILY TOGETHER ONCE A YEAR.

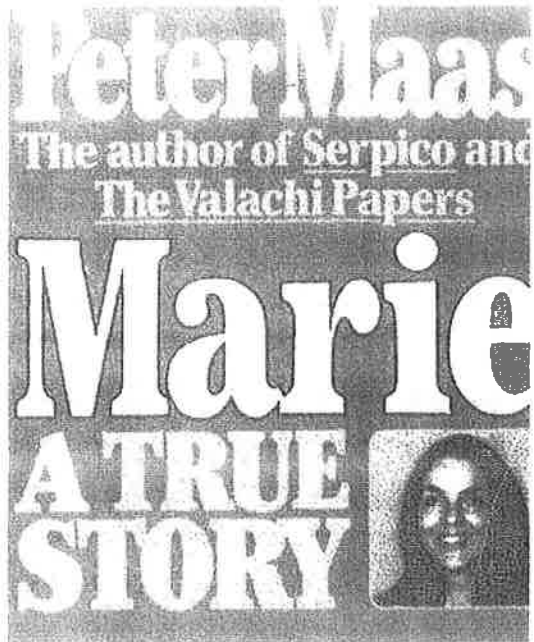
SO, THE MONTH OF JUNE IS DESIGNATED FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO COME AND LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS. IT IS A FULL HOUSE OF COURSE! BUT SONS DAN AND STEVE LIVE IN THE TWIN CITIES AREA AND ARE CLOSE BY.

HERE IS THE INTERESTING PART- ONE OF THE WEEKS IN JUNE THE WHOLE BUNCH ARE AT RENTED CABINS ON LEECH LAKE AND THEY HAVE BEEN THERE FOR 38 YEARS!

AND IT IS 'TRADITION-

PHYLLIS MCCORMICK PASSED AWAY JULY 4TH.

SHE STARTED MANY YEARS AGO AS A CLERICAL WITH THE OLD YCC AND LATER WAS MY SECRETARY IN PERSONNEL. I ESTIMATE THAT SHE HAD WORKED FOR US FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS.



"MARIE", A LONG AND INVOLVED TRUE STORY OF CORRUPTION IN CORRECTIONS IN TENNESSEE IN THE '70s.

IT IS IN PAPERBACK AND MANY LIBRARIES HAVE IT. IT WAS ALSO MADE INTO A MOVIE WITH THE TITLE, "MARIE".

THE HERO IS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR INTO STATE EMPLOYMENT. SHE BECOMES INVOLVED IN CLEMENCY CASES AND PARDONS WITH HIGH LEVEL PEOPLE INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR, ACCEPTING MONEY FOR CONSIDERATION.

I WROTE TO THE FOLLOWING RETIRED EXECs IN CORRECTIONS IN MINNESOTA AND ASKED ABOUT IT - THEY WERE:

ORV PUNG, DICK ALSTAD, JIM BRUTON, HOWARD COSTELLO, BOB ERICKSON, FRED HOLBECK, DICK MULCRONE, CONNIE ROERICH & JACK YOUNG.

I ALSO ASKED IT OF CURRENT EMPLOYEES: JOHN KING, RON SOLHEID AND TOM ROY.

I RECEIVED SOME RESPONSES THAT BASICALLY SAID - "NEVER HEARD OF SUCH DISHONESTY IN THE DEPT.!"

JIM BRUTON INFORMED ME THAT A MOVIE STARRING SISSY SPECEK HAD BEEN MADE OF THE BOOK AND HE'D ATTENDED A CONFERENCE YEARS AGO WHERE 'MARIE' WAS A SPEAKER.

SPEAKING OF ANNIVERSARIES-

THE WELFARE INSTITUTION AT FARIBAULT WAS TURNED OVER TO THE D.O.C. 25 YEARS AGO AND MADE INTO 'MCF FARIBAULT' (1989)

MIKE SMITH, FORMER ADULT P.O. IN RICE COUNTY WRITES, "MY OFFICE WAS IN THE ADMIN BUILDING OF WHEN IT WAS A (DPW) INSTITUTION FOR ADULT, MENTALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS. I WOULD OFTEN SEE STAFF CHASING 'SIX " YEAR OLD ADULTS ACROSS THE CAMPUS LAWN OUT FRONT AND TRY TO GET THEM BACK TO THEIR BUILDING. I ADMIRE THOSE WORKERS, WHEN I SAW THEM GET THE WORST OF IT BECAUSE OF RESTRAINING RULES AND CONDITIONS. HAVING THE D.O.C. USHER IN A NEW INSTITUTION AND THE OPENING OF GROUP HOMES FOR ADULTS WITH MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS WAS THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE CITY OF FARIBAULT AND ALL CONCERNED."

THAT IS ALSO THE YEAR THE EDITOR RETIRED AS 'PERSONNEL DIRECTOR' FOR 23 YEARS (30 IN DOC) AND MY WIFE AND I MOVED NORTH TO A LAKE NEAR PARK RAPIDS, A DECISION WE STILL ENJOY

ELLENBECKER - STILL NO WORD

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF RETIREE NEWS WE REPORTED THE DEATH OF FORMER STATE AGENT, MICKEY ELLENBECKER. HE WAS FOUND IN HIS HOME, SHOT IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD!

NO FURTHER INFORMATION HAS COME TO US.

DONATIONS

DICK JOHNSON
KEN SHIMOTA
HAROLD HANSEN
BARBARA ROWAN
LEW LINDE,
JIM BRUTON

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

DOC RETIREE LUNCHEONS

MEET THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT PERKINS RESTAURANT AT 694 AND LEXINGTON. DUTCH, OF COURSE.

MAY- ATTENDING- MYRON JOHNSON, ARDYS HEILIG, LOIS GELBMANN- ACROSS TABLE - TOM FOSTER AND WIFE, BOB NELSON AND BETTY ELHOLM.



IN JUNE - ATTENDING-MYRON. JIM ZELLMER, BOB NELSON, BETTY ELHOLM - ACROSS - PAT BERGLUND, LORRIE AND DEL LEAF.

MICHAEL VEZNER HAD BEEN A CASE MANAGER AT STILLWATER PRISON AND THEN AT THE LINO LAKES INSTITUTION. HE PASSED AWAY MAY 20, 2014

MEMORIES FROM 1966 MCA NEWSLETTER

CORRECTIONS AGENTS III's ARE APPOINTED

The following State agents were promoted to a new classification called Corrections Agent III which is a promotion and salary increase. The salary range is from \$616.00 to \$751.00. General qualifications are three years of service as an agent and a general high level of performance on the job:

Alton Anderson
James Cashman
Robert Childs
Joe Corona
Dick Larson
Jim Lyle
Merle Micheau
Jim Novak
Clarence Quanrud
Phil Ryden
Mrs. Jan Sullivan
James Donohue

Milt Conrad
Al Arnold
Tom Lehman
Jerry Mihock
Ken Neustel
Eugene Pollard
Gale Beccue
F. E. Kershaw
Glen Olson
Frank DeMars
Phil Jorgenson
Robert Aufderhar

CONGRATULATIONS

OLD TIMERS HEARD FROM

LEW LINDE SERVED ON THE PAROLE BOARD. HE RECENTLY TRAVELED TO NORWAY AND DELIVERED A PAPER HE WROTE ON FORMER GOVERNOR KARL ROLVAAG.

KEN SHIMOTA WAS A PAROLE BOARD AGENT BACK IN THE EARLY '50s COVERING THE TWIN CITIES AREA. CURRENTLY LIVES IN FARGO. HE WRITES: "ENJOY YOUR NEWSLETTER ALTHOUGH FEW NAMES ARE FAMILIAR. HOWARD COSTELLO AND BETTY ELHOLM BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF OLD 'ROOMIES', FRANK ROSSEL AND JOHN ELHOLM. ROBERT MUNSON, JOHN ELHOLM AND I BOUGHT 20 ACRES IN ITASCA COUNTY IN ABOUT 1956. I'M IN THE PROCESS OF GIVING MY PART TO A NEPHEW.

WHEN YOU GET OLDER THE MOTTO IS 'PANIC-STRESS & CHAOS'. JUST ANOTHER ROUTINE DAY!

COLONEL NEMEC - LONG TIME PERSONNEL MGR AT THE REFORMATORY - HAD TO WRITE ABOUT BILL MCRAE'S PASSING. THEY WERE CLOSE. HE WRITES- "I GOT THE PAPER LAST WEEK AND PEEKED IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER FOR DEATHS AND I THREW THE PAPER CLEAR ACROSS THE ROOM! BILL DIED SUNDAY!

AS FOR BILL'S SERVICE, HE'D CORRECT YOUR CHARACTERIZATION. HE WAS IN THE ARMY AIR CORPS! AIR FORCE CAME AS A SEPARATE -1947- WHEN THEY DID AWAY WITH THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND SET UP DEFENSE DEPT.

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT BILL KEEPING HIS 'COOL'. I ALWAYS KEPT NOTES ON DISCIPLINARY THINGS. HE BELIEVED IN DISCIPLINE - "YOU DON'T HAVE KILL THE GUY JUST CHANGE HIS BEHAVIOR! ONLY TWO PEOPLE LEFT HIS OFFICE AFTER WITHOUT THANKING HIM".

CHECK THE DOC WEB PAGE - INTERESTING

I FOUND A 'DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE STAFF'. THAT'S WHERE YOU FIND THE STATE AND COUNTY AGENTS ALONG WITH THEIR SUPERVISORS.

SANDY LATURNEAU WAS IN THERE! SHE MUST HAVE A LOT OF YEARS. AND SHE WAS LISTED UNDER COMMUNITY SERVICES!

THE 'DOC RETIREE NEWS' IS ON A BASIS OF EVERY OTHER MONTH. NEXT ONE SHOULD BE SEPTEMBER 2014 - 'IF THE CREEK DON'T RISE...'

THE EDITOR IS TED SPENCER, A PAROLE/PROBATION OFFICER, A FIELD SUPERVISOR AND 23 YEARS A DEPT PERSONNEL DIRECTOR - RETIRED 1989.

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I INVITE YOU TO CONTACT ME WITH YOUR STORIES AND COMMENTS.