San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

Vol. LI, No. 15 | TAMAL, CALIFORNIA 94964 | Friday, Apr. 17, 1981

Wedding Bells Toll In Garden Chapel

By Casey Burke

San Quentin's Garden chapel was the site of an inspiring Christian wedding last Tuesday. Joined in matrimony were Matilda Caranta and Frank Rocha, a very nervous, but nonetheless most charming couple.

The SQ News was in attendance at this truly joyous event at the request of the Rev. Howard in order to better illustrate the beauty of having a Christian wedding, with sincere hopes that other marriage-minded couples will consider the same type wedding.

Matilda and Frank have been going together for 2½ years. They met and started dating before Frank's incarceration. Their great love for each other and newly found life with Christ was the deciding factor for their Christian wedding. Raymond Marina gave the bride away and Ed Hiner was the best man. Chaplain Howard performed the wedding.

Rays of happiness radiated from the hearts of the charming couple as they spoke their vows of love, honor, and trusted devotion for one another. Unknowingly, each resident of SQ was touched with magical energy because of the intensity of the love vibes escaping from the Garden Chapel. Well, those of us that had on our awareness scanners that is to say.

MATILDA CARANTA and FRANK ROCHA, a happy couple after their wedding.

Hire an ex-con

Ex-Con Runs For Sheriff

A former San Quentin prisoner believes there is a whole new future for ex-cons—make county sheriffs out of them.

Leslie J. Richardson, a twice-convicted felon, recently announced his candidacy for sheriff of Jackson County, Ind.

Richardson said in a campaign announcement that he is "eminently qualified" for the office and lists the following qualifications:

- Two felony convictions; an escape from Indiana State Farm and a felony wife-beating conviction in California.
- Served time here at San Quentin and at an Indiana prison farm.
- For formal education he lists that he was "tested as having the equivalent of four years of college."
- Insofar as experiential education, he claims skills in a variety of fields from accounting to computers to the oil industry. He also proclaims "an extensive background in law enforcement and penology."
- With a heavy emphasis on his newfound Christian interests, he lists his hobbies as "religious and social writer" and his vocations as "politician and preacher."
- Richardson is apparently serious about his candidacy and asks voters "How many times have you elected a thief who in hindsight was a Dillinger who robbed you in more subtle ways"

Where all the "honest" politicians turn out to be crooks these days, perhaps this "crook" politician might turn out to be honest.

New Reporter Joins SQ News

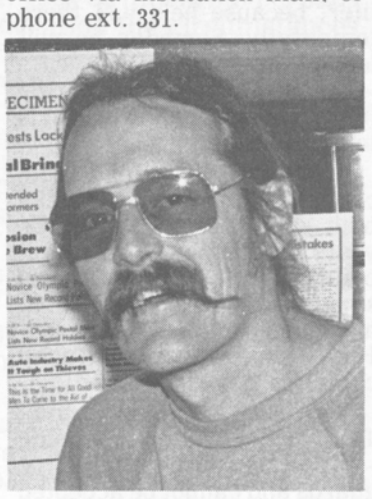
The San Quentin News, having recently been left with two openings in its reporting staff, hired Ken "Casey" Burke as a reporter.

Casey, 29, who is from Castro Valley, will be furthering his interests in journalism and creative writing — while at the same time striving to bring an understandable and clear form of reporting.

Our new reporter is currently attending College of Marin courses during the evenings and is working towards an M.B.A. degree, while finishing out the remaining four years of his 10 year sentence. He will be applying his obtained business knowledge to designing more efficient agricultural systems of plant growth and food product distribution.

In his new position, Casey hopes to bring more human interest stories to the reading public. He welcomes ideas from both the members and staff of the "University of San Quentin," as well as from members of the "free society."

Please feel free to contact him at the San Quentin News office via institution mail, or phone ext. 331.



CASEY BURKE

The News still has an opening for a non-white reporter. Applicants must have a working command of the English language and be able to type.

Law Library Hosts Seminar

Mr. Meyer Halpern, Marin County law librarian, has indicated he is interested in coordinating another law seminar for SQ prisoners. He has contacted the institution's senior law librarian, assuring him there are enough seasoned lawyers and law students who are willing to volunteer their services.

A successful law siminar was conducted here in 1975. It was Halpern's enthusiasm that inspired the participants to learn how to do legal research properly.

Mr. Halpern is a graduate of the Lincoln University Law School in San Francisco. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree and has successfully administered the program of the Marin County law library for several years.

Sessions will be conducted on the first and third Tuesday of each month. This will cover a period of four months for a total of eight sessions.

Those having custody for night movement and wishing to participate, sign up in the law library. Anyone not having custody for night movement can participate by correspondence. Send all questions for the panel through institutional mail to the law library.

POPULATION COUNT
2,975
Friday, April 17

Holiday Masses at Catholic Chapel

Father John O'Neill announced there will be a Holy Saturday Mass and confession at 10 a.m. Saturday.

He said also that Easter Sunday Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. in the Catholic chapel.

The Catholic chapel staff welcomes all who can attend.

On Lower Yard

Minor Scuffle Slams Mainline

San Quentin was placed on total lockdown status April 12, following an incident between a white prisoner and a black prisoner at 9:50 a.m. on the lower yard, said a spokesman for the warden's office.

Information Officer Mike Madding said that the lockdown was ordered as a "precautionary measure" because of the racial difference between the two men. He indicated, however, that subsequent investigation revealed the incident to be a non-racial, personal dispute.

Madding offered the following account of the incident:

The black prisoner was jogging around the ballfield and the white prisoner was involved with baseball practice. Apparently they "bumped into each other" and a verbal argument took place, after which they each went back to their separate activities.

When the jogger had taken another lap, however, they met again and reportedly renewed their argument. In the heat of the dispute, the ballplayer then allegedly assaulted the jogger with a baseball bat.

A loweryard gunman observing the incident then fired one warning shot from his Mini-14 rifle. When the assailant did not respond, the gunman then fired five more rounds into the nearby ground and halted the incident.

The victim was admitted to the prison hospital and treated for contusions of the back, shoulder and side of his face. He also suffered a broken thumb. He was released from the hospital the following day.

The assailant was placed in a lock-up unit.

Because the incident was determined to be a non-racial dispute, the west block was released from the lockdown that evening and the remainder of the mainline population was released the next day.

Chicanos Freed — SQ Unlocks Again

After nearly a week on lockdown, the Mexican-American population in the east block was released Apr. 14.

The entire east block population had been placed on lockdown status Apr. 8 due to information received by staff that "an inmate was going to be killed," according to prison spokesman Mike Madding.

That information was apparently investigated and the threat was felt to no longer exist.

The lifting of this lockdown status meant that the entire mainline population was back on normal schedule again.

10 Rounds Fired; Seven Cons Shot

A total of 10 rounds were fired by gunmen covering the C Section yard Apr. 9 to break up a fight involving six prisoners, according to a prison official.

Mike Madding, prison information officer, said that four warning shots were fired when two white prisoners were observed being attacked by four other white prisoners during yard exercise.

Six rounds of birdshot were then fired, striking all six men, said Madding — who added that another nearby prisoner was also struck by several pellets.

One of the men involved in the incident suffered a cut on the lower buttock and upper back part of his leg. Madding said that a peice of broken mirror found at the scene was apparently used to inflict this injury. No other weapons were reported found.

All but one of the men were treated and released from the prison hospital that day. The one man was held another day for observation. Madding said that the incident is being treated as a personal dispute.

Tennis Tourney Set for Weekend

The first West Block Semi-Annual Tennis Tournament will be held over the Easter weekend, April 18 and 19, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Participation is open to all mainline prisoners. Sign-ups are being taken by George McKinney, 1-W-12, the tournament director.

Prizes will be awarded. The tournament is sponsored by the recreation department and the west block.

Package Slips Unavailable

There seems to be no quarterly package authorization slips available around the institution.

Until new slips can be obtained, Sgt. Kennedy at receiving and release has advised the News that prisoners should have their family or friends simply mark "No Package Slip Available" on the packages.

All packages clearly marked in this way will be accepted, said Kennedy.

Movie List 2nd Quarter, '81

Apr. 11 — "Casa De Las Palomas," (Mex) PG, 90 min.
Apr. 18 — "The Idolmaker," PG, 119 min.
Apr. 25 — "Schizoid," R, 89 min.
May 2 — "Shogun Assassin," R, 86 min.
May 9 — "Roadie," PG, 106 min.
May 9 — "El Circo De Capulina," (Mex) PG, 89 min.
May 16 — "Flash Gordon," PG, 110 min.
May 23 — "The Gong Show Movie," R, 89 min.
May 25 — "California Dreamer," (Hol) R, 92 min.
May 30 — "The Big Red One," PG, 111 min.
June 6 — "Scanners," R, 94 102 min.
June 13 — "Private Benjamin," R, 110 min.
June 13 — "Flor De La Mafia," (Mex) PG, 91 min.
June 20 — "Bad Timing," R, 120 min.
June 27 — "Hollywood Knights," R, 91 min.

WEEKEND MOVIE

'The Idolmaker'

This film is about the music business in the late 1950s and early '60s; it shows how teen idols were created, promoted, and discarded by fast-buck artists cynically manipulating the young audience. Stars Ray Sharkey. Rated PG.

USPS 480-700

Joan Lisetor
251 Clorinda Ave.
San Rafael, CA.

Early Release To Ease Prison Overcrowding

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A state senator is proposing early release for some prisoners to relieve overcrowding in state prisons, but officials said today they question whether that would help maximum-security facilities like San Quentin.

The proposal was made by Sen. Nicholas Petris, D-Oakland. He said his SB855 would help avert prisoner uprisings by defusing potentially explosive overcrowding without jeopardizing public safety.

The measure would require the release of lower-security-level youth and adult prisoners 90 days before their parole dates when prisons or Youth Authority institutions exceed 90 percent of capacity.

If the institutions were still over that limit, releases would be moved up to 180 days before parole dates.

The bill is supported by church groups and the Committee Against More Prisons.

The state prison system for adults now has 24,803 prisoners in facilities designed for 23,514. The Youth Authority has about 5,500 youths in institutions built for a maximum of 5,200.

Phil Guthrie, Department of Corrections spokesman, said today that he doubts the measure would be of great help in institutions like San Quentin. He said the department already has policies of putting low-risk prisoners in minimum-security facilities like prison camps and increasingly in work-furlough programs, including one in Oakland.

Guthrie said the worst conditions are at the maximum-security prisons like San Quentin. He doubted whether men with histories of violence and long sentences could be put into the camps.

Thus the result of an early-release program might be empty beds in minimum-security prisons and continued overcrowding at San Quentin, Folsom and other maximum-security prisons.

Guthrie said 60 percent of those in prison in California are serving time for robbery, rape or murder.

Another legislative measure has been introduced to ease overcrowding in the state's county jails, many of which are targets of lawsuits alleging violations of health and safety standards and failure to provide equal facilities for women.

The $280 million construction and renovation plan came from Sen. Robert Presley, D-Riverside.

But Norma Lammers, executive director of the state Board of Corrections, told a hearing chaired by Presley that the counties need about $500 million to bring jails up to proper standards.

The hearing of jail subcommittees of the Senate and Assembly was being held to recommend rules for doling out $40 million in Brown's proposed budget for jails. The governor deleted the same amount from a bill last year but agreed to put it in his new budget.

The legislators suggested that counties be required to put up at least 10 percent of the money for a jail project and match another 15 percent with recent expenditures on jails or alternatives, such as work-furlough programs.

Grand Jury Report:

Pay Prison Nurses More

The wage scale for nurses at San Quentin's acute-care hospital should be increased to counter chronic shortages in staff, the Marin County grand jury has recommended.

According to a report, released last week and signed by Grand Jury Foreman Benton A. Sifford Jr., wage scales at San Quentin's Neumiller Hospital are not competitive and should be increased because of the "dreary, oppressive and depressing atmosphere at San Quentin, coupled with profane, hostile and often violent prisoners."

This has put the hospital at the "bottom of the list of desirable places to work" for nurses, the report states.

It says that the state, in a "Band-Aid attempt" to obtain nursing staff, has contracted with two local nursing employment agencies to fill five vacancies on the 24-member nursing roster. The state is paying the agencies $1,700 a month for their services.

The document does not recommend what the pay for prison nurses should be but says that registered nurses at other local hospitals average $1,800 a month.

According to Mike Madding, prison information officer, the salary range for registered nurses at the prison hospital is $18,936 to $24,048 a year.

The report also warns that the state prison system may be courting danger if more psychiatric care is not provided for San Quentin inmates.

It blames an increase in psychiatric problems on the practice of double-celling inmates in small cubicles because of lack of space.

In addition, the manpower shortage at the hospital forced the closing of its 14-bed psychiatric unit.

Inmates with mental problems are supposed to be sent to Vacaville Prison Hospital, but in the four months since the unit was closed only four inmates have been accepted at Vacaville.

Many more are in need of such care, the report quotes hospital and prison officials as saying.

It adds that a state Department of Corrections official hopes that beds will be added at Vacaville sometime this month to help relieve the problem.

San Quentin Question Man

How do you feel the living conditions in your cell block could be improved?

K. Burke: By making available more single cells.

Jesse Casanova: To begin with, I think everyone here should have his chance to have a single cell. Also, I think we should be able to enjoy cable TV programming. I'm sure the majority of us would rather see a movie on TV instead of walking to the north dining hall. Especially since half of the time we never get to see the movies — because of lockdowns.

Larry E. Jones: I feel that all the blocks need individual circuit breakers and a complete electrical overhaul. One or two breakers for a tier just isn't enough! Plus, some of the cells you move to during your stay here are real dangerous!

F. J. Allen: By explaining what noise pollution is to some of the long-winded *!/?!!'s who enjoy the sound of their voice over the loudspeakers.

Jay Capra: Co-educational double celling, and maybe even wash the windows once in a while so we can see out.

F. L. "Wizard" Hutts: We who live here should find a way to agree amongst ourselves to hold the noise level of the cell blocks to a minimum. Lockdowns should not be used as a security measure for anything other then the most serious disruptions.

Steve Miller: For jail its ok, but it's hard to stand by and see your neighbor slammed for no reason other then petty personal games played by staff. It could be improved if staff could find a better form of entertainment than playing games that only help put tension and hatred in a man's heart. We already have enough problems of our own to deal with. We don't need more from the bulls!

Albert Ellis, Jr: Hot water should be installed in each cell. The guards should do their job and quit harrassing the convicts. In other words, quit producing problems. Also, stop double celling. These cells are far too small for double occupancy.

Raymond Mack: Many residents presently living in the west block are frequently subjected to demeaning reports and infractions (which has an adverse effect on those presently housed in the west block). In order to improve conditions, I would hope that assigned staff and their respective counterparts would take into account that with the new changes and recent directive to make SQ a lockup, maximum prison — using those inmates for institutional job assignments and SQ's overall work force — many of the presently-assigned staff are constantly subjecting those of us to meager write-ups and displinary reports. The greatest change or improvement needed here is to evaluate the performance of those assigned as correctional officers in such units is to rotate those officers periodically, rather then compound the problem.

Bart Chandler: In west block one of the main negative factors is the trouble of leaving from the block to get to work. If the back ramp (kitchen ramp) were left open for entering and exiting the block, it would greatly improve the conditions.

Reentry Program Spurs Opposition

State corrections officials have begun moving prisoners into an east Oakland convalescent home they plan to convert into a rehabilitation facility, over "substantial opposition" from Oakland residents and City Hall.

Nine prisoners were moved into the former St. Joseph's Home for the Aged at 2647 East 14th Street to the surprise and anger of city officials and nearby residents.

Corrections officials said that up to 150 state prison inmates will occupy the facility in coming weeks.

The prisoners'occupancy capped a weeks-long controversy over the state's expressed desire to use the site for a corrections department reentry program.

According to City Council member Wilson Riles Jr., the East Oakland community had residents are concerned about security," Riles said. He added that there were also questions raised about the process of screening the prisoners who would be admitted into the rehabilitation program.

Riles said several groups that had tried to acquire the building had been told it was not earthquake-safe.

James Roten, director of the corrections department reentry programs, conceded yesterday "there has been substantial opposition from the beginning" to setting up the rehabilitation facility at the 14th street site.

But Roten said state corrections director Rushen met with an advisory group made up of community residents last Monday "and decided on the basis of that meeting to proceed with the project."

The City Council was notified by Oakland Police Chief George Hart at its meeting last week that prisoners had been moved into the building.

Several members of the council were shocked "at the way all of this was done," Riles said. He said the council felt that state officials had ignored their opposition to the location of the program.

Additionally, the city planning director has refused to issue a zoning permit to the program—a permit the city insists is needed to place a correctional facility in that neighborhood.

However, state officials contend the permit is not necessary because the facility is for a reentry program, not a correctional facility.

Roten said that despite the council's requests that the project be halted, "They did not take any action that was binding on this department."

Roten pointed out that the department had initially planned to begin moving prisoners into the program last December but postponed that decision because of the neighborhood outcry.

Editor's Note — On April 15 the Oakland residents objecting to the implementation of this program were granted a preliminary injunction by an Alameda county superior court judge. The order prevents the Department of Corrections from transferring any more prisoners to the facility until the Apr. 29 hearing which will be held to determine the legality of using the facility for a work furlough center.

One Man's View

Portrait of a Lifer

By David Pocrnich

Anyone who's ever done serious time in a heavy joint — a maximum-security prison — will tell you that one class of prisoner stands competely apart from all others, he is the lifer.

So different is the lifer that any attempt to speculate upon his thinking and feeling after years of uninterrupted confinement is impossible without some appreciation of what it means to be confined behind the walls for good.

Some lifers' families, expecting an eventual release, thought of redecorating so they could welcome their loved ones home to start life anew amidst cheerfully repainted walls, brand new carpeting, and color-coordinated draperies.

If so, they were mistaken. A lifer holds in his mind a detailed picture of his home as he knows it. A vision into which he can and does escape to dwell for hours in imaginary union with his family. He loves those faded drapes, that familiar worn carpet, even the sound of the cranky old refrigerator. He yearns to see, touch, hear and smell them once again; it's part of the reward he promises himself if he ever returns home. Change any of those things and, no matter how he praises what has been done, he'll feel cheated and his real reaction will run from disappointment to resentment strong enough to be expressed in unconcealed rage.

But most lifers feel they're never coming out and what they remember of home is long gone. Lifers don't live mentally on the outside. Physically and mentally, they dwell exclusively inside. They own their prison, possessing it as much, if not more, than it possesses them. It constitutes their universe. The sun and moon do not exist until they are above the wall. A lifer can glance at the shadow of the sun on his wall and tell you the month, week and time of day. It is any change there — in prison — that the lifers resent.

It isn't that the lifer doesn't care about the rest of the world. (For him there is no other world.) Only what happens inside has any importance because that is the only life he has — or ever will have.

A nonlifer has no right to disrupt the environment of a lifer, because he's just there temporaily. Someday he will leave — even if it takes 10 years — but the lifer never will. So the lifers' claim upon the prison is infinitely superior.

A lifer knows every little collection of mineral residue built up on the wall over the years because he's watched it build up, grain by grain. He has so adapted to the prison, that any change at all is disturbing. His life's rhythm is attuned completely to his prison.

Guards are nothing to him. They have no human meaning — first, because they are guards and cannot be accepted into his company and, second, because they come and go.

For the lifer, time governs his life. Someday he will govern time.

Laws

We enact many laws that manufacture criminals, and then a few that punish them.

— Benjamin R. Tucker

San Quentin News

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The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the administration, nor the inmate body, and should be considered solely as the opinion of the individual author unless otherwise specified.

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G. W. Sumner ..... Warden

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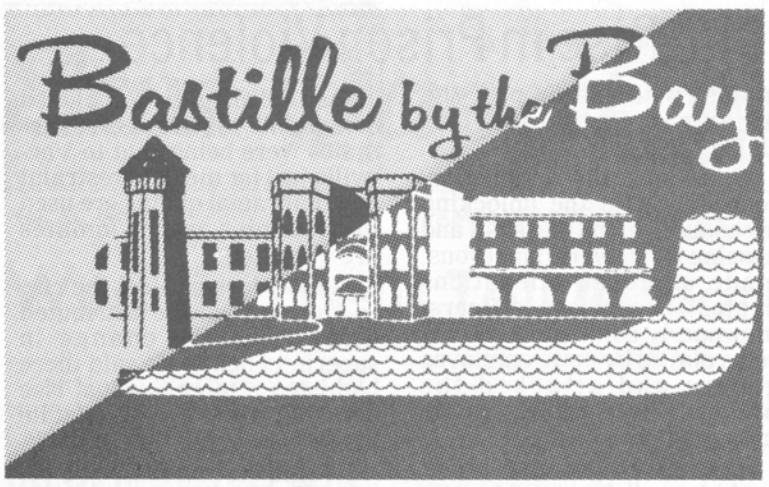

By Joe Morse

This has been one of those weeks so don't expect anything witty this time around, folks. A solid week of failure after failure tends to be exhausting, and I feel like I was just chased 12 miles by a gay sumo wrestler.

Ever have a rotten week? Well, mine was rottener than yours believe me. The run of bad luck began five days ago — when I was told of my annual appearance before the Board of Prison Terms.

"Aha!" I cleverly chuckled. "I think I'll do a profile about myself in this week's paper. That way the board will be stunned by my innumerable qualities and give me a RUAPP."

I quickly put my plan into operation. I assigned the best writer on the news to write up a profile, listing some of my positive achievements. I even called in the cameraman to do a full spread of flicks of me in the process of happily being rehabilitated.

Amazing how such a well-thought-out plan can go awry so quickly. Would you believe that the fool I assigned to write my profile spent three days researching — and claims he could find nothing positive in my jacket to write about? And this dummy calls himself a reporter.

Well, I still had my pictorial spread being developed. Or at least I thought I did. I must have a few kinks in my karma or something. It's either that or an outright conspiracy — and right now I tend to think the News staff isn't capable of formulating a conspiracy.

If my comments about the News staff seem harsh, It's because they're intended to be. Who the hell feels obligated to use a civilized tone when speaking of a cameraman so stupid he forgot which container he set his pruno up in and ended up trying to develop three rolls of film in some fermented tomato puree?

Life sure ain't easy for the weary editor of your local rag. My PR ploy went up in smoke, so it looks like I make another appearance — minus the planned fanfare. I'm sure it will prove to be just as interesting an experience as it was the other eleventeen times I've gone in to throw myself on the mercy of the Board. I might have to try another approach one of these days. Instead of mercy, each year I'm given a new set of brogans and told, "Try again when you wear these out." That's always the tipoff. When they tell me that, I usually start thinking I may not have presented my case well enough.

Things will be different this time. I'm taking a lawyer in with me. Not just a lawyer, mind you. This dude is supposed to be some well known mouthpiece from Pismo Beach, the renowned haven for lawyers and other shysters. The guy must be a real scrapper. One news clipping I read said he was the only lawyer in history to ever lose a client to the gas chamber on a burglary charge. There's no way in hell some run-of-the-mill lawyer could even attempt such a feat. Anyway, you can all rest assured that I'll be in good hands.

April 21 is the fateful day. I'll keep all my devoted fans posted as to the results. Till then, I'll take this opportunity to thank the people who sent in letters of support. The two from friends in segregation provide a great deal of insight. My other letter of support doesn't say as much, but perhaps the board will take into consideration the circumstances under which it was written. It's not easy to write a proper letter of support running from the FBI for nine counts of bank robbery.

* * *

Our phone keeps ringing, so perhaps this would be a good time to dispel some of the rumors which seem to be flourishing at the moment.

First off, there's nothing to the rumor that California plans to convert *all* its State universities into medium-custody prisons. At last report, the campuses at Davis, Berkeley, and San Diego will not be affected by the transformation.

This next trip is more of a clarification than dispelling a rumor. It seems many men are asking about the status of the initiative to stock inflatable rubber dolls on the canteen. True, the MAC's relentless efforts resulted in an approval being granted, but the canteen had to cancel the first order because of a court injunction. It seems a small faction of activists in our midst obtained a court order stopping the sale of the dolls on the grounds that only female dolls would be sold and, therefore, would be discriminatory towards the prisoners wanting to order male dolls.

That's your weekly issue, folks, and you gotta admit you got your money's worth.

Quentin Claims Title As Largest Walled Pen

Here is a little bit of trivia for those who are interested in the facts and fables of San Quentin.

Last month a Michigan state prisoner wrote a letter to San Quentin's Warden George Sumner, advising the warden that Jackson prison in Michigan claims to be the "largest walled prison in the nation," and asking for information regarding San Quentin's population and land area.

Leslie Moran, the Michigan prisoner, offered that Jackson's population was 2,838 prisoners actually inside the walls on Mar. 6, and that the area inside those walls was 52 acres.

Well, Sunmer is not about to go letting some back-east hoosegow spout off claims where a national title might be at stake, so he wrote back to Moran the following information:

On March 27, San Quentin had 2,964 prisoners on its 444 acres. The actual population inside the walls on that day, however, was 2,847 — just slightly over Jackson's count — and the walls of the old Bastille enclose 80 acres.

Tough break, Jackson.

Letters

Dear Editor:

On Apr. 6 there was an incident on the Max B yard involving the inmates living on the "non-affiliated" tier in the north block.

As a result of the incident my husband and I were required to visit on the phones . . . although he was not involved in the altercation. When I protested the phone visit I was told that the officials of the institution have the authority to "racially" lockdown the institution if it is deemed necessary for security reasons.

The Max B incident was deemed a personal dispute! Why, then, was it necessary for those not involved to have their visits disrupted by being put on the phones?

Apparently it matters little to the administration that discrimination, segregation by race, and punishment without due process is illegal. Or is it okay if state officials break the law without fear of reprisal? I think not!

Perhaps at the next MAC Banquet the warden might be presented with a pair of denims instead of a jacket. At least he would be dressed in a more appropriate manner when he applies his "double-standard" policies.

Sincerely,

— Barbara Searcy

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter in response to the Bastille by the Bay, written by Joe Morse and printed Apr. 10.

He's said something in his column about a "new breed" here at San Quentin. All I can say to this is that when Ruth Rushen started her experimental point system for California correctional institutions, what did they expect? All the nice guys in Quentin and the violent ones in camp?

I think they should have looked far enough into this experiment before they started it. I imagine they should be happy with what they have now. It's going to get a lot worse in the future.

— Rodney Marcum C-18496

Dear Editor:

I just realized that I had been thinking about applying for the job you have open — the one as a reporter. Then I decided that I couldn't work in an area where I'd be damned if I did and damned if I didn't. Let me explain.

I have worked in prison publication offices before, but there we had some control over what is to be printed — and what is not. We didn't have to worry if we stepped on some toes of some lieutenant's friend. We weren't subjected to any retaliation by the lieutenant.

I would like to say that I commend your diplomacy. I see it evident in several pieces that are written. I can tell when the anger is held back, and that you sugar-coat the articles written about the Man — who has friends in all sorts of places and doesn't want their toes stepped on. And, yet, if you don't write something about this Man once in a while the cons damn you. Like I said, you can't win for losing.

Well, I don't know if many folks tell you they appreciate your work, but I do. I can see the true artist showing through.

Well, brothers, nuff said

Later,

— Bags C-11711

Family Day Worship Service

The men of the institution are privileged to invite their fathers and mothers to attend Family Day Worship Service with them in the chapel of their choice Sunday, May 10. Before the service, the sons may accompany their parents to the dining hall for breakfast. Fathers and mothers planning to attend the breakfast and service must arrive by 7 a.m., May 10, to allow time for clearances prior to the chapel services and breakfast. No parent will be processed for this program after 8 a.m.

If you plan to come for the breakfast and the religious services, please do the following:

Fill out the bottom of this form (Section No. 2) and return it to the institution before April 27.

Fill out (Section No. 1) and bring it with you on Family Day; present this section when you sign in.

You must bring with you positive picture identification such as a California Driver's License or a Department of Motor Vehicle Identification Card. (Es Necessario traer una identificacion con fotografia como licencia de manejar o identificacion del Departamento DMV). This will enable us to plan for your visit in advance and avoid extended delays the morning of the occasion. If the form below (Section No. 2) is not filled out and returned in time, you will not be permitted to attend the breakfast or the religious service. (Si la forma (Section No. 2) no llega antes del 27 de abril, no podra entrar.)

After the service you may visit with your son in the area designated. At this time, other family visitors may join you. Nonparents must wait outside East Gate until breakfast and services are completed (approx. 11:45). Neither wives nor children or grandparents are authorized to attend the breakfast or service. Those who have accompanied you (family and friends) will be directed to the visiting area after the service is completed. *There will be no provisions for child care* during the breakfast or services. On this day, for faster processing, please leave your purse at home or locked in the trunk of your car. Wear as little jewelry (metal) to speed up passage through metal detectors. No blue denims, blue jeans, or attire similar to blue jeans should be worn. Inmates with Medium B and Minimum custody will be allowed to visit on lawn area adjacent to visiting room.

— G. W. Sumner, Warden

Section No. 1 — Complete and bring with you on Mother's Day to present with your identification card.

Son's Name _____ A, B, or C Number _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Section No. 2 — Complete and return by mail immediately.

I plan to attend the: Protestant ( ) Catholic ( ) Church of Christ ( )

Mother's Day Service

Son's Name _____ A, B, or C Number _____

Address _____

I will arrive at the East Gate by 7 a.m., on Sunday May 10.

Mail to: C. H. Wilson
Activities Director
California State Prison
San Quentin, CA 94974

Mother ( )
Father ( )

My Address is

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send Your Kid to Camp

The Salvation Army operates summer camping programs for children aged 8 through 12. If any SQ residents have children in this age group who would enjoy a summer camping experience, please complete the appropriate form and return it to The Salvation Army, Northern California /Nevada Division, Correctional Services, P.O. Box 3465, San Francisco, CA. 94119, or the Protestant Chaplain's office.

We cannot promise every child a camping experience. Camp attendance is based upon the available resources of the Salvation Army located near your family.

Forms will be available in Prerelease and in the Protestant Chapel office.

Deadline is May 1.

Please Send the San Quentin News to me for the following:
☐ 1 Year, $2.00 ($4.50 outside Continental U.S.)
☐ 2 Years, $4.00
Make all checks payable to the Accounting officer.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

Mail To: Accounting Office, San Quentin, CA 94964

Supreme Court Denies Hearing on Death Laws

By Jim Mann

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court gave its authorization last week to the resumption of capital punishment in California, refusing to hear arguments that the state's death penalty law is unconstitutional.

The justices voted 7 to 2 to let stand a death sentence imposed upon Earl Lloyd Jackson for the brutal 1977 murders of two elderly widows in Long Beach. Jackson's is the first death sentence to be cleared by both the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court in more than nine years.

The action does not automatically mean that the 23-year-old Jackson or any of the other 52 men on death row in San Quentin Prison will be put to death soon. If he chooses, Jackson could delay his execution, perhaps several years, by filing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus challenging his conviction, first in state courts and then in federal court. His attorney, Joseph Shemaria, said yesterday that he would press these legal challenges.

Jackson could also seek clemency or a commutation of his sentence from Governor Brown, an avowed opponent of capital punishment.

Nevertheless, the justices' refusal to review Jackson's case carries considerable legal significance for California's death row inmates. It leaves in effect a decision by the California Supreme Court upholding the death penalty law that was passed by the state's Legislature over Brown's veto in 1977.

The Supreme Court, which has zigzagged on capital punishment law several times over the last 15 years, could still some day switch direction and strike down the California death penalty statute. But yesterday's action indicates at least that the justices have no general or fundamental objections to the law.

California has the fourth largest death row population in the nation and the largest outside the South. The states of Florida (153 condemned persons), Texas (138) and Georgia (93) have by far the largest numbers awaiting execution.

No one has been executed in California since 1967. In that year, Aaron C. Mitchell died in San Quentin's gas chamber for the shooting of a Sacramento policeman after Governor Ronald Reagan denied Mitchell's last-minute appeals for clemency. Mitchell was the 501st person to be executed by California.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear Jackson's case was announced in a routine one-line order. The justices listed the California case along with appeals from two other death sentences in Georgia and Arkansas and said that they would leave the lower court decisions standing in all three cases. As usual, they wrote no opinion to explain these actions.

Justices William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall objected in all three cases. They did so with a one-sentence dissent, using words that have become a litany for these two justices in capital punishment controversies for the past five years.

"Adhering to our views that the death penalty is in all circumstances cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments, we would grant certiorari (review) and vacate the death sentences in these cases," Brennan and Marshall declared.

Garden Chapel Easter Services

Due to last Sunday's lockdown, the Marin Covenant Church Adult Choir's appearance here at San Quentin was postponed to Saturday, Apr. 18, at 1 p.m. in the Garden Chapel.

On Easter Sunday the Crusaders for Christ will be featured at 9:15 a.m and Christian Discipleship will begin at 1 p.m. for close custody prisoners and at 6:20 p.m. for other mainline custodies.

The Christian Discipleship group will maintain that same schedule through Wednesday.

Circuit-Riding Judges Return

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California will be getting circuit-riding judges again — but this time they'll be traveling on freeways instead of horse trails.

The idea is to bring the Courts of Appeal to the cases in their jurisdictions, rather than making those involved travel to the courts' permanent locations in all cases.

The California Judicial Council on Mar. 23 announced the experiment, pending comments, but didn't say how long it might last.

Under the council's rule, each Court of Appeal — there are five around the state, in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego-San Bernardino and Fresno — would adopt its own procedures.

Vacaville Critics Cite Rise in Prison Violence

VACAVILLE (AP) — An unprecedented wave of inmate violence has followed controversial changes in the administration of the California Medical Facility here.

While acting superintendent Hal Watts says the prison's operation is among the "smoothest" in the state, there have been several recent problems:

• Four sucides, one killing, four attempted suicides and 11 assaults have been reported at the facility since Jan. 1.

• Inmates have filed a lawsuit charging the prison's 20-year-old award-winning newspaper was censored and finally shut down by officials because of critical articles.

• The Northern California Psychiatric Society and the California Psychiatric Association both have adopted a position paper highly critical of recent changes at the facility.

Watts, a veteran prison administrator, left his third retirement to take control of Vacaville last November. He is the prison's first superintendent without a medical background.

Dr. T. L. "Larry" Clanon, who had been at Vacaville almost 20 years and served as superintendent the last eight, asked to be transferred rather than step down to a secondary position.

About the same time, inmate-journalists submitted the Christmas edition of the Vacavalley Star for approval. Watts asked that several articles and a Prisoner's Union ad be deleted because they "were not within department policy and were also somewhat inflammatory."

The articles were removed, replaced by editors with the word "censored." Watts ordered 1,600 copies burned and shut the paper down. The inmates, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, filed suit.

Watts said the articles erroneously said the unlocking procedures in the messhall and housing wings were dangerous, made unproven allegations against two prison officers, improperly commented on the roles played by state employee groups and attacked the prison's use of behavior modification.

He said the word "censored" could have led to trouble with the 1,500 prisoners, who include 200 psychotics and some 600 inmates participating in group psychotherapy.

The facility, 50 miles east of San Francisco, is California's only medical prison. Mentally ill inmates are sent to other facilities, but the most severe cases are sent to Vacaville, said William Guthrie, spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

The criticism from the psychiatric groups includes statements that Vacaville is not complying with state licensing requirements and that the facility should have a superintendent with a medical background.

Watts agreed Vacaville does not comply with licensing standards. He said the proposed state budget for 1981-82 would add 40 medical personnel to bring the facility into compliance. He said he feels it is advantageous to have a layman in charge who is familiar with all the different operations at the prison.

Dr. Elaine Jones Knutsen, director of the northern California group, said the position paper was drafted after her group received letters from physicians at Vacaville concerned about alleged "unethical practices."

She said allegations included complaints that dangerous inmates were being sent to Vacaville just for medical restraint and that racial quotas are used to determine which inmates are admitted.

Clanon does not feel the rise in violence can be attributed directly to the change in superintendents. He said there had been a more gradual rise over the past few years that he attributes to several factors.

He said the prisoners had become more violent, there had been no increase in the professional staff, the determinate sentencing law took away hopes for an early parole and the public had adopted a "lock 'em up and throw away the key" attitude toward criminals.

Watts also said inmates had become more violent. But he suggested overcrowding as another cause. He said Vacaville currently is making room for 300 more prisoners.

The most recent fatalities at the facility occurred last weekend.

Timothy Patrick Murray, 31, was found hanging from a bed sheet in his cell 30 minutes after he was checked by a guard, said prison spokesman Bill Taylor.

Murray, convicted in Fresno county of lewd and lascivious conduct with an infant girl, had been taken off "suicide watch" two days before his death.

Coroners officials said the second suicide, Christopher Cowsar, also 31, apparently killed himself by swallowing a pillow case. He had been convicted of second-degree murder.

The two suicides on Saturday followed Friday's fatal stabbing of inmate Roy Dunn, 34.

The five fatalities so far in 1981 contrast with 12 fatalities in all 12 state prisons last year. Vacaville has averaged less than three suicides during each of the last six years.

Despite the grim figures, Watts remains confident.

"In my opinion, since we started operating in November, its been a very healthy arrangement," he said. "That's my own personal opinion and, I'm sure, it's that of our psychiatric staff."

CANTEEN PRICE LIST

April 17, 1981

FOODSTUFFS	
A-1 Sauce	$1.00
Bean Dip, Jalapenos	.60
Beef Sticks	.30
Candy, Bags	.65
Candy Bars & Lifesavers	.25
Candy Bars, lg.	.85
Cheese, Sliced	1.25
Cheese, Loaf, 2 lb.	3.85
Cheetos	.85
Chile Con Carne	.60
Chile Peppers	.95
Chile Sauce	.65
Chunky Beef Soup	.70
Cookies	1.15
Crackers, Graham	.90
Crackers, Ritz	1.20
Crackers, Saltine	.80
Cupcakes & Fried Pies	.40
Dill Pickles	1.15
Donuts, Assorted	1.20
Dry Cereal	.20
Fritos	.70
Funyuns	.70
Honey Butter	.90
Honey Natural	1.05
Hot Sauce, Louisiana	.40
Ice Cream Novelties	.25
Ice Cream, Pint	.60
Jalapenos Peppers	.60
Jam	1.25
Marshmallows	.50
Mayonnaise, Miracle Whip	.65
Menudo Stew, 7½ oz. can	.40
Mustard	.40
Onion Rings	.70
Peanuts, Spanish, Salted	.45
Peanut Butter	1.60
Peacan Pies	.40
Pico Pica Sauce	.45
Popcorn	.15
Potato Chips, Bar-B-Que & Plain	.70
Pretzels	.70
Rolls, Assorted	1.30
Salami	1.15
Sardines	.75
Soup, Cup of	.15
Sugar Cubes, 1 lb.	.80
Top Ramen Soup	.35
Tortillas, Floured	.90
Tuna Fish	1.15

BEVERAGES	
Breakfast Drink	1.40
Cocoa Mix, 1¾ lb. bag	2.60
Coffee, Hills Brothers, 2 oz.	.95
Coffee, MJB, 10 oz.	3.75
Coffee, Tasters's Choice	3.75
Dairy Creamer, Maxwell	.80
Egg Nog, qt.	1.05
Kool-Aid, 2 qts.	.65
Lemonade, qt.	.45
Milk, Chocolate, qt.	.75
Milk, Fresh, qt.	.65
Milk, Powdered	1.30
Ovaltine	1.65
Soda Pop, Canned	.30

BEVERAGES CONT.	
Tea Bags, 100	$2.85
Tea, Instant	.25
V-8 Vegetable Juice	.35

TOBACCO & ACCESSORIES	
Beechnut Tobacco	.60
Borkum Riff, 1.5 oz.	.65
Bond Street	.60
Bugler, 7 oz.	2.10
Cigarettes, Carton	6.00
Dutch Masters Panatellas	.95
Garcia y Vega Cigars, 5-box	.35
House of Windsor	.20
King Edward Imperials	.45
King Edward Specials	.30
Lighter, Butane	.70
London Dock	.55
Mixture 79	.55
Papers, B&W	.15
Papers, Yorkshire Long	1.05
Pipe Cleaners	.30
Pipe Filters	.15
Pipes, Doctor Grabow	2.55
Pipes, Kaywoodie	6.50
Prince Albert	.40
Prince Albert, lg.	3.85
Red Dot	.60
Roll-ese Reg. & Menthol	1.20
Rolling Kit, Bugler	1.95
Snuff, Copenhagen	.60
Top, 7 oz. tin	1.95
Top, Kite	.30
Velvet, lg.	4.30
Velvet, sm.	.50
White Owl Panatellas	.75

SUNDRIES	
Aerogrammes	.30
Alarm Clock	7.30
Album, Photo	2.45
Album, Refills	.55
Art Corners	.45
Bags, Zipper, Canvas	6.00
Batteries, AA (4)	.45
Batteries, C-size, D-size	.40
Batteries, 9-volt.	.60
Binder, 3-ring, 8½×11	3.70
Binder paper, 3-hole	.80
Can Openers	.40
Christmas Cards, Box 1.69 to	3.29
Christmas Cards	5.00
Cards, Greetings .25, .35 &	.50
Cards, Greetings .15 to	2.50
Decanter, Plastic	1.85
Dissolution, Regulatory	3.00
Divorce, Summary	5.00
Envelopes, Blank	.02
Envelopes, color 24	.55
Envelopes, Expanding	1.60
Envelopes, Plain, Manila	.15
Envelopes, Stamped	.20
Fingernail Clippers	.40
Ink, Refills, Shaeffer	.15
Handkerchiefs	.80
Padlock, Combination	2.90
Paper, Blue Bond 16 lb.	5.30

SUNDRIES CONT.	
Paper, Bond 16 lb.	$4.70
Paper, Bond 20 lb.	5.45
Paper, Legal 26-line 10 for	.13
Paper, Legal 32-line 10 for	.16
Papermate Refill	.75
Pen, Lindy, Ballpoint	.25
Pen, Papermate, Ballpoint	.85
Pencil, Lead	.10
Pencil, Mech	.90
Plastic Containers, 4/set	2.20
Pocketbook & Magazines 75 to	3.90
Postcards, SQ (5-pict)	.90
Postcards, Standard	.10
Room Freshener	.80
Scripto Lead	.45
Shoe Polish, Blk. & Brn.	.40
Shower Slippers, sm., lg., x-lg.	.80
Spoons, Plastic 2 for	.05
Stamps	.18
Sun Glasses	2.40
Sun Glasses, Clip-on	2.50
Tablet, Colored	.95
Tablet, yellow, ruled	.75
Tablet, white, ruled	.60
Toenail Clippers	.90
Tumblers	.80
Tweezers	.55
Watchband, Exp.	1.80
Watchband, Nylon	1.35
Watch, Pocket, Westclox	9.45
Watch, Wrist, Timex	17.90

TOILET ARTICLES	
Afta Shave	1.10
Brush, Shaving	3.80
Brut 33 Cologne	1.55
Brut 33 Deodorant Stick	1.15
Copper Tone Tan Lotion	1.30
Cocoa Butter	.85
Chenti Panthenol Lotion	4.25
Colgate Shaving Soap, cup	.30
Colgate Rapid Shave	.90
Intensive Care Baby Oil	1.20
Jergens Direct Aid Lotion	1.15
Magic Shave	.65
Mennen Cream, Brushless	.65
Mennen Cream, Lather	.65
Mennen Deod. Stick, 1¾ oz.	1.00
Noxema Cream, Brushless	1.05
Noxema Skin Cream	1.30
Pond's Milk Skin Care	1.20
Powder, Casmere Bouquet	.80
Powder, Magic Shave	.70
Powder, Mennen, Bath	1.15
Powder, Mennen, Face	.60
Razor, Double II	1.45
Razor Blades, Double II	1.25
Styptic Pencil	.30
Soap Dish	.50
Washcloth, White	.40

HAIR ACC. & CONDITIONERS	
Alberto VO-5	1.80
Breck Cream Rinse	.90

HAIR ACC. & CONDITIONERS CONT.	
Brut 33 Hairspray	$1.55
Chenti Panthenol Rinse	1.65
Combs, Natural	.60
Combs, Regular	.45
Comb, Natural Pick	1.00
Combout	1.25
Dixie Peach, lg.	1.15
End Paper	.90
Hair Brush	1.40
Hair Food	1.65
Hair Glo	.95
Hair Oil Hqz	.65
Magnetic Hair Rolls, med. & lg.	.90
Mustache Wax	1.05
Proline Combout	1.30
Proline Cond.	1.10
Proline Cond., Gel	3.35
Protein 29	1.15
Roller Pins	.35
Ultra Sheen Kit	6.35
Vitalis, Super Hold	2.30
Wave Rods	1.20

SOAPS & SHAMPOO	
Shampoo, Chenti Panthenol	1.65
Shampoo, Head-n-Shoulders	.85
Shampoo, Prell	.85
Shampoo, Pro-Line	.90
Shampoo, Sebutone Tar	2.80
Shampoo, Subulex, Med.	2.30
Shampoo, Sulphur 8	2.00
Shampoo, Woodbury, 16 oz.	.75
Soap, Cocoa Butter	.80
Soap, Dial	.50
Soap, Irish Spring	.40
Soap, Palmolive	.40
Soap, Sestid	1.45

DENTAL SUPPLIES	
Binaca Breath Drops	1.15
Cepacol Mouthwash	1.75
Dental Floss	.65
Denture Brush	1.20
Efferdent Cleaner	1.80
Polident Cleanser	1.65
Poligrip Adhesive	.75
Toothbrush	.30
Toothpaste, Colgate 7 oz.	1.45
Toothpaste, Pepsodent, sm.	.30
Toothpaste, Topol, 3 oz.	3.25
Toothpicks	.45
Toothpowder, Colgate	.90

DRUGS	
Alacer Multi-Vitamin, 7 oz.	10.10
Alka Seltzer, Pkg. of 2	.10
Clearasil	2.20
Cough Drops	.30
Hoffman's Energol, 8 oz.	4.80
Hoffman's Hi-Pro Pwd., 1lb.	3.45
Lip Ice	.50
Quinsana Footpowder	1.45
Tums	.30
Vicks Vapo-Rub	1.35
Visine Eye Drops	1.70

The main canteen will accept whole $1 ducats during the first week in months that have two dead weeks.

—W. Riebling, Canteen Manager II

New Cries for Gun Control

WASHINGTON (AP) — The movement that has been fighting with little success for two decades for gun control announced April 1 that it will launch a new offensive because of the shooting of President Reagan.

"There are too many lives at stake," Pete Shields, chairman of Handgun Control Inc., said at a news conference. "I am not going to give in even if the President doesn't change his position (against gun control)."

Shields said his organization is undergoing a renaissance after the murders of rock star John Lennon in New York and heart surgeon Michael Halberstam in Washington.

The group now has about 130,000 members, Shields said, compared to the one million-plus members of the chief pro-gun group, the National Rifle Association.

He said he "plans to recruit a national citizens' force of one million Americans" to rally behind the gun-control bill sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino, D-N.J.