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A FIRST HAND REVIEW OF UNITED STATES PRISONS

by the
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PRISON INDUSTRIES

During last August I had both the pleasure and opportunity to undertake a study tour of United States Prisons. Whilst that tour was primarily related to the review of Prison Industries at each Institution, the opportunity was also taken to review various aspects of general Correctional Administration.

The United States is faced with horrendous problems in coping with the dramatic increase in their prison populations. Up to one million prisoners are currently incarcerated and this is increasing at the rate of 800 prisoners each week.

Despite these difficulties many exciting initiatives are taking place in Prison Industry expansion, private sector involvement and the privatisation of prisons generally. Human resource development programmes are an area of particular initiative.

In the months ahead I hope to have the opportunity of relating many of my positive observations during the tour, to meetings of Departmental officers and individual officers. Please feel free to contact me however, if there is any specific component of United States Correctional administration you would like to canvass.

WAYNE RUCKLEY
Executive Director of Prison Industries

Construction
Cost Savings
Using
Prison Labour
at Silverwater

A new workshop, to be used as a Building Maintenance and Storage area is currently under construction at Silverwater, using inmate labour for the bricklaying, concreting, carpentry, welding, painting and labouring work, and for the electrical and plumbing work under the supervision of licensed contractors.

On average the site employs 20 prisoners and the project demonstrates a considerable degree of co-operation between officers and inmates.

The building was designed by A.S.J. Bill Tough and is being constructed under his supervision and that of Senior Overseer (Maintenance), Peter Franz, for an estimated cost of $45,000, which compares very favourably with a Public Works cost of $200,000 for a similar building of the same dimensions (30m x 10m x 3m high to eaves).

It is anticipated that the building will be completed early in 1990 and that its construction will point the way for similar developments elsewhere in the system, where prisoner labour can be used effectively to achieve reduced costs.

On completion, the building will be used by 35 prisoners, supervised by three overseers in the Building and Ground Maintenance areas.

CONGRATULATIONS
INDUSTRIAL THERAPY UNIT
AT LONG BAY

Two subcontracts from QANTAS Airways have been secured, which will provide meaningful employment for the inmates of “A Ward” Long Bay Prison Hospital.

The subcontracts involve the refurbishing, assembly and packaging of the Electronic Headsets used as part of QANTAS inflight entertainment, as well as packaging of Economy Class over-night kits. This operation represents the first INDUSTRIAL THERAPY UNIT established in the New South Wales prison system. Plans are currently underway to extend the venture to Parklea.

The Nursing Unit Manager of the Prison Medical Service Mr Paul Dimond, wrote to formally express his appreciation of the efforts of the staff of Prison Industries, and in particular Ms Judy Hart, and to especially commend their co-operation in bringing the venture together.

...A Job Well Done
TEXTILE PRODUCTS

A letter of appreciation was recently received from Ms Mary O’Kane, the Purchasing Officer of Ensign Services Pty. Limited (our biggest textile purchaser from outside New South Wales) commending the Textile Products Division for their assistance in fulfilling a large and urgent order for the opening of a new hospital in S.A. The performance of Cooma Textile Products, which produced special non-stock theatre items, was instrumental in meeting the order.

The text of the letter, which reflects extremely highly and positively upon all officers of the industry, is reproduced below:

“I would like to extend my thanks to Mick Pendry, Ron Jackson, John Norman, Doug Thom, the Supervisors, Cutters and Sewers for their invaluable assistance over the last two months. Your co-operative attitude and willingness to help have been major contributors in assisting the Materials Department through a difficult period.

I am very grateful for all you have done. Thank you.”
OFFICER PROFILES...

RETIREMENTS

JOHN MCKECHNIE

John McKechnie, the Officer-in-Charge of Emu Plains Pigs/Poultry, retired at the end of September 1989, after 11 years of productive service with the Department.

John became a Market Garden Overseer at Emu Plains in 1960 and then the Senior Overseer in 1984. With his impressive knowledge, expertise, and management approach, John’s record as Officer-in-Charge of the Market Garden was commendable. More recently, John became the Officer-in-Charge of Poultry at Emu Plains and for approximately 18 months prior to his retirement, he managed the poultry operations in a similarly professional manner and drawing upon his many years of previous experience with Ingham Industries.

Retiring to the Central Coast, John has no intentions of ‘sitting back’, but will be maintaining his keen interest in harness racing and fishing, as well as working casually in the security industry, having obtained his Security Licence.

John’s retirement function was held at the Emu Plains Sport and Recreation Club and was well attended by his fellow officers, and local police.

On behalf of the Executive Director and the Officers of Prison Industries, your loyal service, good humour and conscientious and versatile efforts for Prison Industries have been very much appreciated. John. Good luck in your retirement.

JACK PEARSON

In February 1990, Corrective Services Industries will bid farewell to Mr Jack Pearson, Assistant Superintendent Officer in Charge, Cabinet Shop Cessnock, who will be retiring to the Central Coast.

Jack joined the Department in February 1960 as a Prison Officer at Goulburn, after emigrating from England in 1984 and working in the Building Trade in Canberra for 16 years. He was promoted to Overseer, Building Maintenance in May 1980, and transferred to Cessnock as Overseer, Cabinet Shop, in November 1980. Jack exhibited rare management qualities that were quickly recognised and was promoted to Senior Overseer in mid 1981 and to Principal Industries Officer, in charge of the Cabinet Shop in late 1981, a position which he still holds.

In his time in the Cabinet Shop, Jack has strived to improve the quality of products and has participated in achieving ever increasing invoice figures averaging over $500,000.00 P.A.

Jack will concentrate on his lifetime love of fishing, golf, bowling and crafts. Through his friendships with fellow workmates, Jack will have no shortage of visitors to assist him in his sporting activities.

His workmates at Cessnock, and in fact all who know him, wish him well in his retirement.

Profile submitted by Ron Hayman, Manager of Industries, Cessnock.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Several new staff members have recently joined the team at the Emu Plains Administration Complex, Regents Park.

KAYE ADAMS

recommenced with Prison Industries on 30.10.89 as SENIOR CLERK, with accounts receivable and administration responsibilities. Kaye has been with the Department for six years. Many Officers would remember Kaye from her previous four years working as a clerk for Texcon.

BRIAN McNAMARA

SENIOR PRODUCT DIVISION MANAGER responsible for Metal, Plastic, Timber, General and Agricultural products, joined the Division on 9.11.89. Brian had previously spent 11 years with the Public Service’s Industrial Engineering group.

JENNY TRIGGELL

commenced on 27.10.89 as SENIOR ACCOUNTS CLERK, with accounts payable and administrative responsibilities. Jenny has had 15 years’ experience with the Department of Health, Analytical Laboratories, most recently as a Creditors Clerk.

In addition, the following appointments have been confirmed:

PETER COOK

was appointed to the PLANNING & PROJECTS MANAGER position, responsible for the planning and development of new buildings and industrial undertakings.

ALEX PATTIE

was appointed to the position of SALES MANAGER responsible for promoting the sales of all Prison Industries products.

JOHN PAYNE

was appointed to the position of DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (PRISON SERVICES) responsible for the monitoring and development of prisoner employment.

MICK PENDRY

was appointed to the position of SENIOR PRODUCT DIVISION MANAGER responsible for Leather, Canvass, Textiles and Upholstery products.

DOUG THORN

was appointed to the position of PRODUCT DIVISION MANAGER (TEXTILES) with production responsibility for textiles products.

MANAGERS OF INDUSTRIES APPOINTED

Six of the Managers of Industries positions have now been finalised. The appointees are:

Ron Hayman   Cessnock
Fred Hucker   Goulburn
Andrew Wilson Grafton
Jim Cowan    Long Bay, Training Centre
Rod Hillion   Parklea
Jim Kirby   Silverwater

Mr Jim Sachs has resigned from the Bathurst position to take up employment in Queensland and this position is currently being advertised.

With the finalisation of the Manager of Industries appointments and most of the Divisional restructuring in place, the CSI Corporate Management team can now, in earnest, tackle the many challenges arising from the revitalisation and expansion of Prison Industries which is currently underway.

The first CSI Corporate Workshop (for Senior Managers) was held on 26th October 1989 and will be reported on in the December issue of the Newsletter.

GOLF DAY

As a promotional activity Corrective Services Industries provided $500 of farm produce to the Departmental Golf Day held at Bathurst on 13 and 14.11.89.

The produce was supplied by Emu Plains Training Centre, on the basis that appropriate acknowledgement be given during the conduct of the Golf Day and at the dinner presentation.

96 YEARS’ SERVICE

Mr Angus Graham, Director-General and Mr Ross Nixon, Deputy Director-General presented Service Awards to the following Officers of the Prison Industries Division, at the Presentation Ceremony held by Parramatta Gaol on 30.10.89.

Peter Cook   15 years Service Medal
Jim Cowan    15 years Service Medal
20 years Meritorious Service Medal and the National Medal
Alex Patti   15 years Service Medal and the National Medal
John Payne   15 years Service Medal and the National Medal
Mick Pendry  15 years Service Medal

The total service of these five Officers is 96 years, which adds up to considerable correctional experience and substantial prison industry knowledge and expertise.