

# Rehabilitation Facility-Glorified Holding Camp

By JAY SHORE  
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You can find his look-a-like on any college campus in the country. Hair down to his ear lobes, not quite touching his collar. Faded jeans, work shirt, and scuffed hiking boots.

Washed hands, shaved face and wisp of a moustache. A gaunt build, friendly smile and take-it-easy manner.

Tuesday, he worked on the grounds at county center. Picked

up trash, picked up weeds, picked up new friends.

During the day four people looking for work, noticing how nonchalantly he went about his business, asked: "How'd you get that job?"

"It's easy," he said. "Just get busted."

In other words, he landed his job by first landing in the Sheriff's Rehabilitation Facility, east of La Selva Beach.

The young man doesn't mind the work, but he could argue for

a higher salary. He, and other inmates who go out on work crews, are paid one pack of cigarettes per day.

They don't get 50 cents to purchase cigarettes; they don't get 2 cents. Just a pack of weeds, Marlboro or Pall Mall.

Another inmate — a Vietnam veteran who got turned on to marijuana in the war, became a pot dealer back in the States and was busted for it in the county—said he never smoked cigarettes until his in-

carceration. Now, he's a tobacco fiend.

You can say a lot of good things about the rehab facility, but the fact remains that it's nothing more than a glorified holding camp, a jail, which offers prisoners very little in the way of rehabilitation.

The facility's two obvious high points are the structure itself and the deputies in charge of operation.

The 22,400-square-foot building cost \$630,000 and looks like a

roller rink or bowling alley with its oblong shape and arched ceilings.

It is less than two years old and shows more improvement than wear. The kitchen, dormitory and bathroom facilities are all spotless, roomy and bright.

Two plots of grass are as well kept as a country club's. A small farm cultivated by the inmates has produced a remarkable harvest considering its irrigation system consist-

merely of hoses. All the vegetables they've eaten in the last three months have been home grown, said the cook.

This is an honor farm. You won't find any bars; the men don't sleep in cells. The deputies don't carry guns.

Usually, there are two deputies on duty all the time. Sgt. Carl Kuebler, who's in charge, said he once had to watch 50 men by himself.

There are only seven deputies

and if one is on vacation and another is sick, the place is obviously short staffed.

Still, Kuebler has no cause to worry. Not one of the 51 inmates spoke ill of him, and most said he was a great guy.

Kuebler and most of the other deputies have had a number of years experience in detention facilities. Their practice is enlightened. For example, they listen to the inmates' complaints

(Continued on page 6)

## Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Fair except local fog or low clouds Sunday morning becoming partly cloudy Sunday night and Monday. A little cooler Monday. Low Sunday night in mid 30s to low 40s. High Sunday in mid 60s to low 70s and Monday in 60s. Light wind.

Temperatures for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. Saturday: High 76, low 37. For period ending at 5 p.m. Saturday: High 79, low 39.

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# Santa Cruz Sentinel

## Amchitka Explosion



# Rehabilitation Facility—Glorified Holding Camp

(Continued from page 1)

and try to fix their troubles. They are sincere.

They address the prisoners by "mister" or use their first or last name in a friendly manner.

The prisoners respect this. "This is the funniest jail I know of because you're treated like a person, not an animal," said one prisoner.

One deputy is disliked because inmates claim he changes the radio station or television channel to suit his own whimsey, and because he generally treats the prisoners as though they were his inferiors.

Watching television or listening to the radio is an important activity to many prisoners who would otherwise be completely bored after dinner.

A media schedule is posted each week. If something is changed arbitrarily, it upsets the inmates. "It may sound petty to you, but it's important to us," said one prisoner.

"The programs developed within this new facility," wrote Sheriff Doug James in a pamphlet distributed at dedication ceremonies, "will provide the inmates with an opportunity to develop better work habits, to learn a trade or skill, to improve their education, and perhaps most importantly, to recognize that they can become

self-sufficient members of community to which they will return."

Baloney.

The rehab program includes no training in plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, auto mechanics—you name it.

Unless you include unloading trucks at the Watsonville Service Center, cutting grass and picking up trash for county parks and recreation, mopping floors and washing dishes and bathroom fixtures.

There is a leather shop. But you have to buy your own tools and \$20 worth of leather. Money is hard to come by when you can only be given \$10 a week.

Only one of two dozen inmates interviewed could claim to have been rehabilitated. The middle age man was the cook's helper, and a good one too, who had many times been complimented by the cook and inmates.

The man said he had always wanted to be a cook, but never had the self confidence. Now, he said, he was going to be one when released, which will be in 15 days.

The other inmates, most of whom were arrested for drug or alcohol related crimes, say they won't change their habits.

"It's called rehabilitation, but where is it?" asked one inmate. The Vietnam vet who pushed

dope said, "I made money from pushing and now I'm doing time. I won't push again. But I won't give up smoking (grass)." Another dope user echoed the vet's thoughts.

A 59-year-old alcoholic was asked if the rehab farm would make him stop drinking. "It's part of my life. It hasn't hurt me so far. I don't see no reason to stop," he said.

A 32-year-old man who's been in the merchant marines since he was 16 said, "I'm not a regular drunk. Every two, three, four months I get really drunk. Last time I got involved with this broad who was an alcoholic and it was just a matter of time before I got drunk."

The judge can give you 40 days for drunk in public. And that's what he gives repeaters.

Varying estimates, from 20 to 40 per cent, were given to show the number of repeaters in the rehab farm.

There's one man whom they say will retire at the facility. "Little John" is about five-foot three-inches; he works in the kitchen; and has had something wrong with his foot since World War II.

His GI disability goes back to the war because he hasn't touched a dime of it. One of the deputies said, "He's afraid to touch the money because he

wouldn't know what to do with it. He'd probably get drunk." Which is how he ends up in the rehab farm so often.

He's been there, off and on, since the place opened. Once, when he was sent up 90 days and received 20 days off for good behavior, he denied the 20 days so he could stay on the additional three weeks.

"It's his home," said a prisoner.

An 11-year veteran of jails said, "This place is like a country club without the booze or women." His only complaint was that in other camps he said you could smoke in your racks.

Actually, booze and women are available. Sgt. Kuebler said he knew it was easy for friends of inmates to slip them some pills or alcohol on their work crews.

Prisoners work at the county hospital, Watsonville Service Center, on road crews and with county parks and recreation aside from working around the facility.

A few inmates told why they liked working at the hospital. There was no pressure, the work was easy, and there were nursing students to hustle.

Tuesday nights, Jim Page's Cabrillo criminology class has a two-hour rap session with all the inmates who want to participate.

"It's bull," said a prisoner. So why does he do it? "To hustle the chicks." Sgt. Kuebler agreed that's why the inmates go.

The kitchen — Everything folds into the wall, benches and chairs. It smelled all Tuesday like the underground truck delivery entrance to the government center. Pungent and not very appetizing.

Yet the place was spotless. And the food was better prepared than most other jails.

Two coffee breaks during the day where pineapple, grape and tomato juice are served. Extra sandwiches sometimes, too. For dinner you can have milk. You can choose from French, white and wheat bread. Fresh.

Delicious fruit cocktail. Mashed potatoes and gravy, or mud, whatever you want to call it. Chopped and pressed turkey meat not bad. Plenty to eat. Most prisoners are happy with it. If they don't like it, they're assigned to the cook and told to do better.

The dormitory — Can't go in till 7 p.m. Once you're in, you can't leave it except to relieve yourself.

Reason: lot of rip-offs lately. Tooth paste, razors, cigarettes, money. Inmates are given lockers without locks. Locks should have been issued late last

week. Some inmates said they've heard the tale before.

Mattresses are as narrow as cots, and about as thick as three Santa Cruz County phone directories.

Two long rows of bunk beds. Everything is open. Sgt. Kuebler can't recall any homosexual activity.

The library and recreation room — Plenty of "Reader's Digests" and "National Geographics." Two "Playboys," "Consumers Reports," "Better Homes" and Funk and Wagnals.

A magazine called "Banking." A paperback called "Super Karate Made Easy."

Rec room has ping pong table and card table. Radio music is fed into it. Men would like softer chairs, instead of folding chairs. But you can't have everything.

Facts and Figures — Budget is \$201,458. "We're able to operate, but we're in trouble when an emergency arises," said Deputy Barney Smith.

"We feel we're self sustaining," said Smith. "In six months we logged 90,310 man hours. At \$2.05 an hour that equals \$185,000."

In a year's time that's almost double the budget.

Major problem, said Smith, is drug abuse. "Some fellows will take drugs in the morning and



What you see is about all there is to the rehab's library. Included are Reader's Digests and condensed versions of books, the Bible, various magazines, paperback westerns and mysteries, and Funk and

Wagnals encyclopedia. The inmates can use the library after dinner until 10 p.m. during the week and all day on weekends. Two pay phones, not pictured, are also available.

they are, are good. Personnel, for the most part, is excellent.

Smith said average stay was 72 days. Most inmates are there for minor offenses. No killers.

At least 35 per cent of the prisoners were in their early 20s. At least 30 per cent of the inmates were Chicanos. Most of them had hair over their ears.

Inmates have a great baseball team. "Last spring we beat seven or eight teams. Church groups, clubs, the A league. We only lost once. That's pretty good since we have a high turnover," said Smith.

Smith would like more donations, like sporting equipment, from businessmen's associations. "County isn't going to

Conclusion — Facilities, as fork over the money," he said.

## Controversy Over Peaceful Use Of Atom

(Continued from page 1)

The AEC appears confused on what the rulings mean, too, and just what will be needed to comply with the court ruling."

The AEC decided against fighting the Calvert Cliffs decision, the commission's new chief, James R. Schlesinger saying, "We intend to be in a position to be responsive to the concerns of conservation and environmental groups as well as other members of the public."

In a more recent statement, Schlesinger said that while the AEC has in the past "fostered

lions of dollars are tied up in the hiatus and some could be lost.

With brownouts and power shortages becoming more a threat in many parts of the United States and electric power demand doubling every 10 years, the nuclear power stalemate involves much more than AEC officials and the board rooms of power companies.

The basic question is not only what the peaceful atom has done to the environment. Opponents of nuclear power concede that as yet the pollution problem is miniscule compared to other industries, and especially

nificant release of radiation into the atmosphere from any private plant, officials say.

A spokesman said private power plant license applicants have to "show the worst, and I mean worst, accident possible in their plant and convince the AEC they have adequately designed to prevent it. We know equipment will fail, people will make mistakes. We can't prevent this. But we can insure that minor malfunctions don't cascade into major accidents."

The safeguards are both massive and multi-layered. A concrete dome or other structure

And will what is safe now still be safe when several hundred nuclear power plants are in operation as is forecast for the next 50 years?

The AEC might have an easier time with such questions if it had not dramatically reduced its "safe" radiation minimums so recently. That action followed by about a year a statement by former AEC Chairman Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg that it would be "just as wrong for us to arbitrarily lower the standards that have been set by experts not only in this country but all over the world, as it would be

mine. Not all Kansans like the idea which was described by one environmental attorney in the Calvert Cliffs fight as "a direct environmental threat."

The AEC says absolutely not, that the wastes will be absolutely safe. A spokesman said AEC research showed that a large nuclear power plant over a period of 30 years would turn out only enough solidified waste to fill a two-car garage.

Salt mines were picked, a spokesman added, because they are water free and could not wash wastes into subsurface streams and rivers and ulti-

waters to engineer around them.

The anticipated problem of thermal pollution will remain in all probability whether the nuclear power age comes about or not. It also is part of the broad question of, if not nuclear power, then what?

A source at the Environmental Protection Agency summed up the alternative as: "Coal, that's all there is." He added, however, "The environmental impact of coal is massive compared to nuclear energy."

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