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# Perspectives

November 1988

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## Stateville employee murdered

Stateville Commissary Supervisor Suon "Sonny" Troeung, 53, died October 27th from injuries sustained during an attack and robbery in the inmate commissary at the prison.

Troeung started his career at Stateville in 1978 as a correctional officer. A dedicated and hard-working employee, Troeung rose quickly through the ranks at the prison. He was put in charge of the inmate commissary in 1985.

Charged in the attack on Troeung is a 28-year-old Chicago inmate serving a 40-year sentence for murder. Wesley Robinson is the inmate indicted on the murder charge.

Robinson is also serving a 15-year concurrent sentence for armed robbery. He has been in the custody of the department since August 25, 1983. Department investigators believe robbery of commissary items to be the motive in the attack.

Troeung is the first Stateville employee killed at the prison since Lt. Peter Burd was murdered in 1977.

"Mr. Troeung's death was a grim reminder of the plight of those individuals who we charge with the responsibility of managing inmates on a daily basis. It is devastating when one of our courageous and dedicated employees loses their life in the line of duty. During my administration of this agency, the murders of seven employees has left a mark that will last a lifetime. Joseph Cushman, Cecil Harbison, Freida King, Virdeen Willis, Henry Washington, Robert Taylor and Suon Troeung are lost forever to us and their families.

**"We've been eroding the system for too long. There is no fat left in it. Every budget cut . . . compromises our ability to operate a safe prison system."**

"In the ten years before I became Director another seven colleagues lost their lives at the hands of inmates. Their memory must make us constantly vigilant for the safety of those who must live and work in correctional facilities. We must make sure that our facilities have the resources to do the job," Lane said.

### Staff cuts

"For example, at Stateville alone, we are operating with 50 less staff now than we had in 1984," said Lane.

The staff shortage at Stateville is not unique. From fiscal years 1986 through 1989, the department will have gained about 3,000 inmates. During that same time, only five staff positions have been added across the entire adult prison system.

New prisons at Danville and Galesburg were staffed by pulling money budgeted for employees at other prisons across the state.

"We've been eroding the system for too long. There is no fat left in it. Every budget cut we take now compromises our ability to operate a safe prison system," said Lane.

During the four year period of



Suon "Sonny" Troeung

FY1986-1989, the department has experienced a cumulative budget shortage of \$48.9 million. This is the difference in budget requests by the Governor and actual appropriations by the General Assembly as signed by the Governor.

"We've been forced to manage a growing system with no growth in our workforce. Now we are being asked to perform another miracle -- keep doing it with an actual decrease of another 250 employees," Lane said.

For the first time since he has been Director of the agency, Lane has gone to the General Assembly for a supplemental appropriation to the budget.

The \$9.0 million request will eliminate the need to layoff 256 employees dictated by the current budget. The money also will provide start-up funding for new prisons at Mt. Sterling and Canton, and adequate money to feed prison inmates during the last weeks of the current fiscal year. □

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# Advocates solve problems, reduce tensions

The Advocacy Office of the department is in the business of feedback, communication, problem solving and sometimes, says Chief Advocate Marvin Manar with a quick smile, "We call ourselves the customer service representatives of the prison system."

Customer service for inmates? Not exactly, but the comparison isn't entirely off the mark, according to Manar.

"A prisoner advocate is someone who can help inmates with problems. There are set programs for grievances and complaint resolution that most inmates will use. But, if these avenues leave an issue unresolved in the mind of an inmate, we are there as a last resort. If an inmate knows he can still approach one of our advocates with the problem, maybe he won't decide to try to take the matter into his or her own hands.

"We are here to help the inmates, sure. But we are also employees of the department. We are concerned with the safety of the correctional officers and others in our system just as much as we are trying to assist inmates with legitimate complaints," he added.

Legitimate complaints, those are two key words in the world of the advocate. Valid problems between an inmate and the department are, according to Manar, the only issues his unit can help bring to resolution.

"Most complaints are over transfer requests, applications for work release and the administration of discipline. We get about 300 letters every month. That's a lot of follow-up for six people to keep on top of," said Manar.

With an agency as big as corrections, there are going to be some honest mistakes made in the day-to-day supervision of inmates in the Adult Division and the young men and women in the Juvenile Division, according to Manar.

"We are a big outfit. And, we are here because the department realizes some issues are going to slip through the cracks from time to time," said Manar.

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**"We are here to help the inmates, sure. But we are also employees of the department. We are concerned with the safety of the correctional officers and others in our system just as much as we are trying to assist inmates with legitimate complaints," he added.**

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## What's legit?

"That's a tough question that can only be answered, if at all, in one way. You have to start digging into allegations. When that happens, it sometimes makes employees feel put on the spot. In some isolated cases they may feel like the department is turning it's back on them.

"Different people deal with it better than others. Overall, we end up having fewer problems with employees being upset with what we do than you might expect. I'd say 90% of the time we really get excellent cooperation," said Manar.

"Dealing with auditors, inspectors, our own internal investigators and others who review our work is not always pleasant either," says Manar. "But as a public agency, we operate in a fishbowl. There's no way out of it."

Manar says he coaches his people to be aware of these issues as they go about their work. By developing a sense of professionalism and objectivity in the way they ask questions and carry out their work, he hopes the process moves as smoothly as possible.

"Most of the time, the complaint is not with people -- it's with procedure.

One good example is the loss of records from a fire in Cook County several years ago. The records for county jail time served by some inmates before they were sent to prison were damaged.

"Time served in the county while awaiting trial or sentencing is credited to a person's prison term. When there is no proof in the records, you can't credit the time. Sometimes we can help in this situation. Sometimes not. But, at least the inmate has somewhere to go with this problem," he said.

## Easing tensions

Adult Division Deputy Director Leo Meyer has observed the work of prison advocates in the department since their inception 15 years ago.

"The advocates provide invaluable help to the prison system in two ways. When tensions are high at a facility in an overall sense, they often come to us and say there is a problem that needs immediate attention.

"Secondly, when we have a facility locked-down after a disturbance we often will check with advocates to gauge tensions before coming of lock-down," said Meyer.

"One thing you have to say about the advocates' dedication is their willingness to work long hours and spend extra time on problems whether they are the day-to-day variety or a special situation. We value their input and advice," he added.

## Advocacy issues

"When will my transfer come through? What happened to my good time or MGT? Why was I punished for this? Where is my property?" are the questions most often directed to the Advocacy Office, according to Manar.

The annual summary of complaints handled by the Advocacy Office is broken down to 20 categories. Here are the top 10 in order of frequency:

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# Pontiac employees raise money for transplant surgery

Lori Tull, the 18-year-old daughter of Pontiac Correctional Center Unit Superintendent Dan Kelly and his wife Kathy, needs a second heart transplant. The initial heart transplant operation at a Pittsburgh hospital in 1982 seemed to be a success. However, Lori developed rejection symptoms recently that hospitalized her in "critical but stable" condition.

Lori and her parents found out in September that she needs another heart transplant soon.

"The heart was doing fine, but she was suffering from chronic rejection," said Kelly.

Lori was flown to Pittsburgh Oct. 11. She is currently waiting for a suitable donor heart. She and her mother are staying at the Ronald McDonald House near the hospital.

When the second operation is done, Kelly estimates he will have bills of about \$80,000 left after insurance benefits are paid.

Medical costs for the first operation also were high. Of \$380,000 in bills for the first operation, nearly \$40,000 remained to be paid. State insurance has paid about 80% of the

bills. About \$27,000 has been raised in the community to help the Kellys.

"I would like to thank everyone at Pontiac who has helped with our bills through their generous donations. They're a great bunch of people. I think being in corrections maybe makes people understand adversity a little more," said Kelly.

"Lori is a little lonesome and she really appreciates the cards and letters sent by everyone," he said. Mail can be sent to her at the Ronald

McDonald House, 500 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

Donations to help Dan Kelly with the tremendous medical bills he faces can be sent to Lori's benefit account at Champion Federal Savings and Loan, 110 West Water, Pontiac, IL 61764. □

## obituary

A. Frank Bledsoe, a former chief of security at Menard Psychiatric Center, passed away Oct. 2. Funeral services were held Oct. 5 in Chester.

Bledsoe was employed by the department for nearly 25 years. His son Frank is the current Dietary Manager at Menard Psych.

Bledsoe began his career with the department as a correctional officer at Menard Correctional Center on Dec. 9, 1949. He was named chief of security there on April 1, 1974.

Bledsoe transferred to Menard Psych. as chief of security on July 1, 1974. He retired Aug. 1, 1984. □

## Statistics

Inmates in adult institutions	20,281
Inmates in federal prisons	5
Work release inmates	688
Total adult inmates	20,974
Adult parole	12,627
Juveniles in residence	1,207
Juvenile parole	1,156
Department employees	10,157

## Advocates

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\* Transfers;

\* Good time credits and time lost, meritorious good time, sentence calculation, parole eligibility and county jail time credit;

\* Disciplinary action;

\* Inmate property complaints;

\* Safety and harrassment;

\* Legal assistance;

\* Medical/dental/dietary/clinical services complaints;

\* Loss of privileges;

\* Money - inmate pay, trust fund balances, bond returns, and;

\* Program status and security grade designation.

In FY1988, the Advocacy Office handled 5,171 complaints. They resolved 85% of them within the first 30 days. About 93% were dealt with in 60 days, and almost all issues are closed out by the office at the end of

90 days.

"With the amount of complaints coming in all the time, and the fact that right now we are short one position, I think my people deserve a lot of recognition. They work long and hard at the job," said Manar.

The benefits of that hard work can be measured in many ways, according to Deputy Director Bill Craine of the Bureau of Employee and Inmate Services.

"Easing tensions is, of course, something that advocates provide for the Adult and Juvenile Divisions on a regular basis. Easing those tensions by simply providing an avenue of further communication between the inmate and the department is one of the real benefits the Advocacy Office provides," said Craine.

Both Craine and Meyer believe the advocate's job will become increasingly important as the inmate population continues to out-distance the prison system's

capacity.

Each agrees that by monitoring the number and concentration of complaints to the advocates, a feeling for more than just the level of tension at a prison can be judged. A concentration of complaints in a category out of sync with historic occurrences can signal a problem to administrators.

In listening to Manar, it is clear that the issue of confidentiality concerning inmate complaints is important to him.

"We offer to shield inmates from possible reprisal as a result of their complaint. But, sadly enough, some inmates attempt to use the advocates to further their own agenda sometimes," said Manar.

One promise Manar firmly makes, again and again, is to help those with legitimate claims.

"We will assist and protect the identity of all who approach us in the spirit of justice. It's that simple. You can count on it," said Manar. □

# Quarterly report to legislature is call for funding

## comparison

The department's first quarterly report to the General Assembly in FY1989 outlines the attempt underway to manage an increasing inmate population with diminishing resources. The report indicates significant problems are inevitable if a supplemental appropriation is not passed by the legislature.

**"... the current budget will force the layoff of about 250 employees."**

According to the document, the current budget will force the layoffs of about 250 employees. The budget also fails to include sufficient resources to do repair and maintenance work, or provide sufficient food for the entire inmate population.

The report indicates that the new prisons under construction in Canton and Mt. Sterling will soon be ready for operation. However, no funds for opening or operating those facilities have been budgeted.

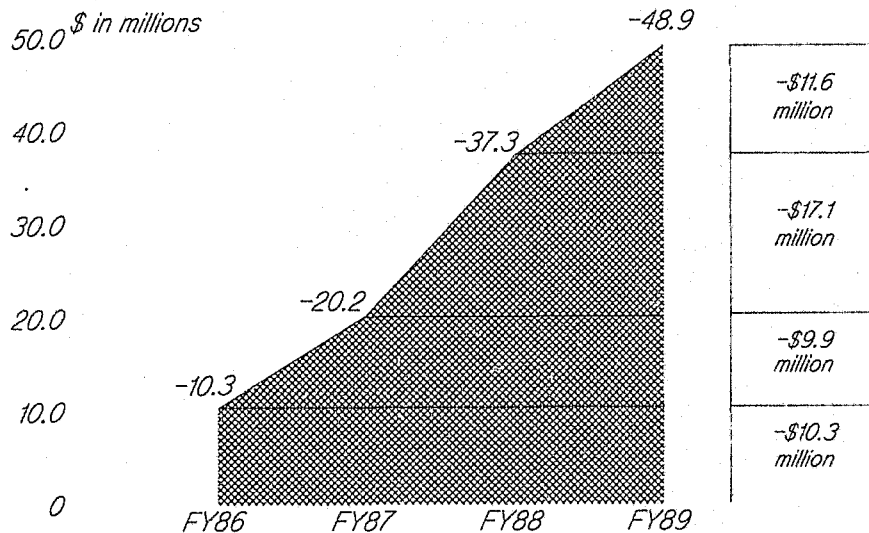
As a result of these issues, the department will seek a supplemental appropriation for FY1989.

Some significant facts concerning the inmate population in the Adult Division include:

- Total prison population increased by 760 inmates in the last year.
- The security staff ratio on Aug. 31, 1988 was .281. This is the lowest correctional officer to inmate ratio since quarterly reports to the legislature began in January, 1984.
- Capacity has increased by 539 beds in the last year.
- The maximum security prisons are overpopulated at 150% of design capacity. Systemwide, the Adult Division is operating 697 inmates above rated capacity and 4,420 inmates above design capacity.

In the Juvenile Division, 33% of the population is convicted of either murder, Class X or Class 1 felonies. □

## Cumulative Corrections budget cuts from introduced levels since FY 1986



## letter

Dear Editor,

Recently, a crew of men from the Springfield Work Camp performed some heavy cleaning in the Illinois State Armory Building for the Department of Central Management Services.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to use these men. They did an excellent job. We heard many good comments on their job performance and conduct.

Please extend our thanks to Major Marston and Officer Morgan who coordinated the work and accompanied the men to the Armory. They both were very cooperative, which helped to make this project go so well.

Sincerely,  
Michael Tristano  
Director, CMS

## Perspectives

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# honor roll

## Centralia C.C.

Correctional Lieutenant Dean Keister was selected September Employee of the Month for performing his duties in a competent and conscientious manner.

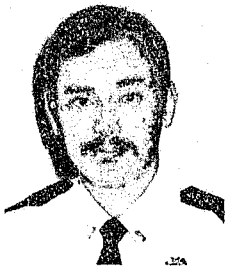
Keister is a knowledgeable and dedicated employee who completes his assigned duties in an exemplary manner. He is currently assigned to the 11-7 shift as Patrol/Zone #2 Lieutenant where he is responsible for the north cluster. He also is assigned to the Emergency Medical Team, Crisis Intervention Team and floor maintenance program. In addition, he has assisted with ACA and external audits.

Keister has been employed by the department since 1972 when he was hired as a Correctional Officer at Pontiac C.C. He was promoted to his current position in 1979 and transferred to Centralia C.C. in September, 1980.

Correctional Officer Donald Benjamin was selected October Employee of the Month for his alertness and professionalism on the job.

On August 20, while working in Tower #7, Benjamin thought he heard and saw an escape in progress. His immediate response spoiled an escape attempt by two inmates who were apprehended before they could reach the fence.

Benjamin, currently assigned to the 11-7 shift, maintains a good attendance record and is always willing to assist other staff as needed. He has been employed by the department since April, 1984.



Dean Keister



Karen Brown

## Danville C.C.

LPN Karen Brown has been named October Employee of the Month for her dedication and commitment to providing quality health care.

Brown has worked for the center's Health Care Unit since March 17, 1986. She has taken on the added responsibility of taking charge of one of the chronic clinics. This requires extra time, effort and patience in dealing with individual inmates.

Brown's attitude and personality re-

flect genuine caring and dedication. On many occasions she has gone beyond what is required of her to assist in the day-to-day operation of the Health Care Unit.

## Dixon C.C.

Assistant Engineer Gordon Dempsey was selected August Employee of the Month for his high performance standards and dedication to his job.

Dempsey is a responsible, professional and competent employee who can be counted on to complete jobs in a timely manner with minimal difficulty. No matter how awesome the job seems, Dempsey garners the resources necessary to accomplish the task at hand.

Dempsey is responsible for the supervision of a large number of staff and inmates and his insistence on quality work is well known throughout the institution. He began employment with the department on July 1, 1983.



Gordon Dempsey



John Zuend

Corrections Supply Supervisor John Zuend was selected September Employee of the Month for his enthusiasm and dedication to the department.

Zuend is assigned to the General Store and Inmate Commissary. Since his employment, he has served on the Employee Benefit Fund Committee, the Internal Audit Team and the facility's Accreditation Team. He is known as an efficient, effective, professional employee who gets the job done no matter what it takes to do so.

Zuend was previously commended for work done on special projects, for serving as tour guide for the employee family tour for the past three years, and for the excellent job he has done as a member of the Internal Audit Team.

Correctional Officer Maria Juarez has been selected October Employee of the Month for her professionalism and versatility in expertly handling any post assigned.

Juarez has received several commendations for giving assistance with the external audits and for uncovering contraband while completing searches of

maximum security and segregation inmates' property. She also has assisted numerous times in the mailroom and as Program Hearing Officer.

Juarez was most recently commended for her part in the transition of personal property from the General Store to the Health Care Unit. She has an excellent attendance record and maintains a good rapport with staff and inmates alike. She began employment with the department in August, 1984.



Maria Juarez



Cynthia Willis

## Dwight C.C.

Correctional Officer Cynthia Willis has been selected October Employee of the Month for exhibiting a high degree of motivation while demonstrating professionalism and a positive attitude toward her job.

Willis is an excellent employee who manages her assigned duties and completes her work efficiently. She has good job knowledge and requires little supervision. She displays a great deal of initiative and assists the institution by providing additional coverage when needed.

In addition to her regular duties, Willis serves as a member of the Emergency Medical Response Team. She joined the department as a Correctional Officer Trainee at the facility on July 9, 1984, and was promoted to her current position in July, 1985.

## East Moline C.C.

Correctional Counselor II Art Gillen has been selected October Employee of the Month for excellent job performance.

Gillen's work is timely and accurate and his contribution to extra-curricular activities serves as a hallmark to all employees. His most recent accomplishment was the successful Drug Awareness Week which hosted notable speakers in the field of substance abuse. The program offered focused insight to inmates, DOC staff and local criminal justice and education representatives on this pressing social issue.

(Continued on page 6)

# honor roll

(From page 5)

Gillen began State employment as a Youth Supervisor II at Mississippi Palisades and transferred to East Moline June 14, 1982, in his current position.



Art Gillen

Sheila Dowdy

### IYC-Harrisburg

Clerk Typist Sheila Dowdy was named October Employee of the Month for executing her duties in a highly organized and productive manner.

Dowdy works in the Clinical Services Department where she completes assignments correctly and in a timely fashion. She is a very competent employee whose enthusiasm for her work serves to motivate others.

### Hill C.C.

Clerk Typist II Karen Lafferty has been designated October Employee of the Month for her positive attitude and conscientious efforts in the security department.

Lafferty has proven to be a self-motivated individual who completes her assigned duties with accuracy and thoroughness. She continually strives to accomplish tasks expeditiously using the team effort approach which promotes harmony not only in the security area, but also with other departments.



Karen Lafferty

Tina Isringhausen

### Jacksonville C.C.

Clerk Typist II Tina Isringhausen was selected September Employee of the Month for her highly motivated, professional attitude.

Isringhausen is assigned to the Health

Care Unit where she assists nursing and dental staff with required typing as well as maintaining an ongoing computer file of dental exams. In addition to her assigned duties, she has assumed the duties of the Medical Records Assistant for the past two months.

Isringhausen diligently completed all tasks outstanding in the Medical Records Office, making suggestions to streamline procedures in that area. She has also assisted in providing clerical support and training for the Health Care Unit Administrator.

Correctional Officer Earl Wittmer was selected October Employee of the Month for carrying out his duties in an exemplary manner.

Wittmer serves as the Central Control Officer on the 11-7 shift where he performs his assignment in a highly proficient and professional manner. He arrives at work early and maintains an excellent attendance record. Wittmer gives freely of his time to ensure accuracy and completion of work loads.

Wittmer has organized the shift paperwork functions to ensure timely completion and performs his duties with only minimal supervision. He is a voluntary member of the Emergency Response Team and faces each task as a challenge to be overcome through knowledge, skill and perseverance.



Earl Wittmer

Greg Stewart

### Lincoln C.C.

Correctional Officer Greg Stewart was named October Employee of the Month for his high performance standards and conscientious attitude.

Stewart has worked practically every post in the institution and performs professionally in every task he undertakes. In prior assignments, he streamlined mailroom procedures and completely revamped the filing and record system in Personal Property. He is currently assigned as Fire Safety Officer where he strives for excellence and continually seeks ways to improve his post.

Stewart has often used his own time to ensure compliance with A.C.A. and de-

partment rules. In addition, his straightforward, consistent and conscientious approach to his role as Local Vice President of AFSCME is commendable. He began employment with the department in November, 1983, as a member of the First Academy class hired at the center.

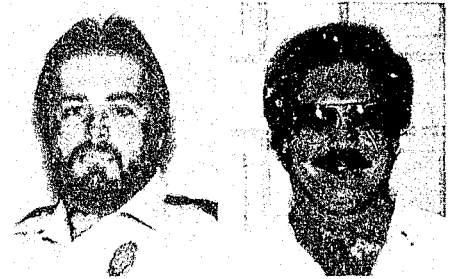
### Menard C.C.

Correctional Officer Donald Gaetz was selected October Employee of the Month for exhibiting dedication and professionalism in the performance of his duties.

Gaetz was assigned to Two Gallery, SCH, in April. Since that time, the area has begun to run more smoothly and efficiently. Gaetz was purposefully assigned to this hard-to-control, unassigned area to resolve the problems existing there.

Gaetz handles inmates with a fair but firm manner while at the same time earning their respect. He has a special ability to control and discipline inmates without causing unnecessary unrest.

Gaetz has demonstrated considerable knowledge of the operating procedures, schedules and functions of the SCH. On several occasions he has served as Acting Sergeant within the unit, performing his duties in an excellent manner.



Donald Gaetz

William Bates

### IYC-Pere Marquette

Youth Supervisor II William Bates has been selected September Employee of the Month for his enthusiasm and dedication to the department.

Bates, who works the 7-3 shift, is a conscientious and competent employee whose willingness to assist others for the betterment of the center and agency makes him a valuable asset to the department. He has functioned as Acting Shift Commander on many occasions and has done an admirable job.

In Bates' latest contribution, he coordinated the painting of B-Dormitory. He and several youth took a roughly finished construction project and turned it

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# honor roll

(From page 6)

into one of the center's proudest accomplishments. In addition, the cleanliness of the floors at the center has improved tremendously through his efforts. Bates began his career in security at the center March 10, 1982.



David Elliott

Jimmy Johnson

## Shawnee C.C.

Correctional Officer David Elliott has been designated October Employee of the Month for performing his duties in a competent and conscientious manner.

Elliott, who works the 3-11 shift, relates exceptionally well with both staff and inmates and maintains his uniform dress in an outstanding manner. He has never used an accumulated sick day in his 41 months of service with the department. He began employment at the center on April 22, 1985.

## Stateville C.C.

Correctional Lieutenant Jimmy Johnson has been named October Employee of the Month for his outstanding job performance and professional attitude.

Johnson executes his duties in an efficient manner which contributes greatly to the smooth day-to-day operation of the Segregation Unit. He is firm, but fair, in dealing with inmates and has an exemplary attendance record. He came to Stateville as a correctional officer in 1978, was promoted to sergeant in 1984, and to his current rank in 1986.

## IYC-Valley View

Educator Oneda Bunton was selected September Employee of the Month for 25 years of dedicated, professional service to the department.

Bunton serves as an algebra and general mathematics instructor who was recognized as School District #428/IYC-Valley View's outstanding employee for 1986. She also was inducted into the facility's Century Club (distinguished for accruing a balance of 100 or more sick days) in December, 1986. She has worked on special assignments within the academic unit along with having



Oneda Bunton

Kathryn Sayles

served on a number of school and institutional committees throughout the years.

Bunton most recently served as an interim Assistant Principal. She began

state employment with the Illinois Youth Commission in October, 1963, as a teacher at the Illinois Training School for Girls in Geneva and transferred to Valley View in October, 1977.

## Retired

Lincoln C.C.

Corrections Food Service Supervisor II Kathryn Sayles retired October 29 after serving the department for 12 years. Sayles is commended on her consistent, dependable attention to duty at the Urbana C.C.C. and in the opening of the Lincoln C.C. Her consistently punctual, regular attendance through the years should serve as a model for all employees. □

## Galesburg

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melon and cantaloupe.

"A lot of people thought we wouldn't be able to grow the watermelon and cantaloupe, but they're starting to turn over. We've got a lot of good stuff ahead of us," he said.

Marilee Miller of FISH said her organization is ecstatic over the success of the garden.

"They've helped us quite a bit, since we don't have to worry so much about how to get fresh vegetables. We get a lot of calls every day for vegetables and we use every one we get from here," she said.

Meanwhile, several other organizations are to be thanked for helping put the garden together in the first

place, Hillyer said.

"The garden originally started last year as a plan of the prison chaplain, Rev. Lane Andrist, who approached FISH and said we'd like to donate all our vegetables to them if they provided us with money for the seeds," he said. "That garden was kind of small and didn't do too well.

"But this year, we got about \$200 worth of seeds and plants from the Galesburg Council of Churches, the Galesburg Ministerial Association, some of the churches in the Knoxville area and Wade's Greenhouse in right next to our plot, to donate their time and equipment to plow the field."

And the results speak for themselves, Hillyer said. □

## Gardens

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pounds.

*Drought conditions this year reduced or completely wiped-out yields at most vegetable gardens, according to the wardens. Vienna only produced about 250 pounds of vegetables. Gardens at Pontiac, Vandalia, Graham and Menard were total losses according to wardens of those prisons.*

*Wardens at Dwight, Joliet, Menard Psych. and Stateville reported no garden projects.*

*How much is 14 tons of potatoes, onions, sweet corn, cabbage, cauli-*

*flower, broccoli, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, radishes, green beans, peas, squash, turnips, watermelons and beets? At an average value of \$10 per bushel, it comes to \$11,200.*

*"I'm very proud of the inmates and staff who sweated out the hot summer helping our senior citizens and other people throughout the state in need with this gift of food. I would like to see this program grow even larger in 1989," said Director Michael Lane.*

*"The concept of giving is in keeping with our desire to be a good neighbor to the residents in the communities where our facilities are located," Lane said. □*



# Inmates help raise food for those in need

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This story appeared in the Galesburg Register Mail. It was written by Tom Jackson and is reprinted here with the permission of the Register Mail.)

GALESBURG -- A project initiated to benefit a local food pantry in need of vegetables has resulted in the cultivation of a bumper crop of inmates able to perform services for local non-profit organizations.

The Henry C. Hill Correctional Center's vegetable garden has already produced 22 bushels of assorted vegetables for FISH, a non-profit food pantry organization in Galesburg.

The inmate crew working the garden spends its days -- and nights, on some occasions -- working on the garden located on an acre plot just outside the west fence of the prison, according to Captain Dave Hillyer of the prison.

"These guys work very hard out there, some of them seven days a week including evenings just to get something growing out here," he said.

"With the heat and lack of rainfall, it's taken a lot of work just to produce something. But it's going very well."

Hillyer said that the garden includes sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans, zucchini squash, cucumbers, red, yellow and green peppers, brussel sprouts, cabbage, water-

(Continued on page 7)



## Operation FISH

Workers from the Galesburg area FISH food pantry accept a donation of fresh vegetables from Hill CC inmates.

## Garden produce donated across state

A survey of vegetable production from gardens tended by inmates across the state indicates more than 14 tons of produce were grown and donated to charitable causes this year.

The vegetables were grown in plots of one to two acres in size at 11 prisons across the state. Inmates supplied all the labor in tending the gardens. Community and inmate groups donated seeds and young plants to start the gardens in most cases.

Charitable groups that received the produce ranged from senior citizen and low income food pantries,

to soup kitchens and religious aid societies.

Jacksonville grew the most food donated to charity with a harvest of about 6,200 pounds, according to Warden Ken McGinnis. Other big contributors included Sheridan with 3,850 pounds, Shawnee with 3,350 pounds and Danville with about 3,000 pounds.

Centralia, Logan and East Moline also donated more than 2,000 pounds each. Galesburg ended the year with 1,750 pounds donated. Dixon inmates produced 1,680

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