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BLACKBURN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX ESCAPE STUDY - 1978

SUPPLEMENTAL

Since the release of the preliminary report on escapees from the Blackburn Correctional Complex (12-4-78), several requests have been received for additional or more specific information. This supplemental report includes information on: the housing assignment at the Kentucky State Reformatory, institutional assignment at time of parole deferments, county in which the escapee was apprehended, criminal behavior while on escape and an examination of the population movement at Blackburn. In addition, the escapee file has been updated to include eight more escapees so that findings now include all escapees through December 31, 1978.

Housing Assignment at Transferring Institution

As reported in the preliminary study, the greatest portion of Blackburn's escapees were received from the Kentucky State Reformatory (81.1%). A request was made to examine whether the transfers from the Kentucky State Reformatory were made from the Reception (Admissions and Orientation) Unit or from units housing the general prison population. The primary supposition was that those inmates transferred from the "yard" or main prison population would "appreciate" more the privileges accompanying the minimum security at Blackburn. The Reception Unit (A & O) houses new arrivals at the Kentucky State Reformatory and involves regular work assignments but no contact with the main prison population. Unit One (Dorms 4, 5, 6) or the "Bottoms" is considered the toughest unit at the Kentucky State Reformatory and houses the most sophisticated offenders and transfers from the Kentucky State Penitentiary. Unit Two (Dorms 1, 2, 3) is specialized housing by work assignments and for offenders with a low degree of sophistication. Unit Three (Dorms 7, 8, 9) is the honor unit and is occupied by

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those inmates with good institutional adjustment. In addition two other areas at the Kentucky State Reformatory will be considered as units for the purpose of this study: the Forensic Unit and Segregation. As Table 1-A indicates the percentage of escapees transferred directly from the Reception Unit has increased since Polsgrove.

In addition to the housing assignment prior to transfer, Table 2-A shows the housing assignment at Blackburn of those transferred directly from the Reception Unit at the Kentucky State Reformatory. By its nature, the First Offender Unit at Blackburn is expected to receive transfers directly from the Reception Unit; however, the other units are designed to receive inmates with specialized needs which would not normally be assessed in the short stay in the Reception Unit.

Parole Deferments

Parole deferments were received by 31.9% or 44 of the escapees within six months of their escape. The question arose as to which institution the escapee was housed at the time of his deferment. One major concern was that if the escapees received their deferment at Blackburn, perhaps in the future residents receiving deferments should be considered for transfer to a higher security facility. Table 3-A shows a higher percentage of escapees have received a deferment at Blackburn, especially since Polsgrove.

Where Escapees Were Apprehended

It has long been thought that since many of the Blackburn residents are considered unsophisticated, if they escape they are likely to return to their homes. The apprehension reports of the escapees were reviewed and it was found that 50.7% or 70 escapees were not apprehended near their home, 35.5% or 49 escapees were apprehended near their home and 13.8% or 19 escapees were still at large. These findings indicate some support

to the idea that Blackburn's escapees were likely to return home because the largest group, those not apprehended at home, includes those that were apprehended quickly and not able to get home and those that voluntarily turned themselves in after a short time on escape.

Crime on Escape

The files were also examined to determine how many escapees committed a crime while they were on escape. Only 10.9% or 15 of the escapees committed a crime while at large. The crime committed was usually the passing of a bad check or the theft of an auto.

Population Movement at Blackburn

One apparent result of the Polsgrove Decision reported in the preliminary study was that Blackburn experienced a rapid turnover in population which may have led to instability in the institution. Therefore, the admissions and releases to Blackburn were analyzed and are displayed graphically (Figure 1-A) by quarters which allows more appropriate trend comparison. The earliest effects of the Polsgrove Decision would have occurred with the April Parole Board in the second quarter of 1978 assuming the normal lag time between the time parole is granted and the actual release from the institution. The rapid increase in admissions and releases in the third quarter, supports the idea that a rapid turnover occurred at Blackburn following the Polsgrove Decision perhaps leading to instability at the institution.

TABLE 1-A
 ESCAPEES BY TRANSFERRING INSTITUTION AND
 KENTUCKY STATE REFORMATORY HOUSING ASSIGNMENT

	<u>All Escapees</u>		<u>Since Polsgrove (March 1978)</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Kentucky State Reformatory**				
Reception (A & O)	36	26.1	16	50.0
Unit One (Bottoms)	20	14.5	2	6.3
Unit Two (Specialized)	32	23.2	7	21.9
Unit Three (Honor)	16	11.6	2	6.3
Forensic	2	1.4	1	3.1
Segregation	<u>6</u>	<u>4.3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Totals - KSR	112	81.1	28	87.6
Kentucky State Penitentiary	18	13.0	1	3.1
Any minimum	7	5.1	3	9.4
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Totals	138	99.9*	32	100.1*

*Rounding error

**The dormitory configuration for Units One, Two, and Three at Kentucky State Reformatory was established on April 5, 1977.

TABLE 2-A
 KENTUCKY STATE REFORMATORY RECEPTION UNIT
 TRANSFERS BY BLACKBURN UNITS

	<u>All Escapees</u>		<u>Since Polsgrove (March 1978)</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>
First Offender Unit	27	75.0	9	56.3
On-the-Job Training Unit	5	13.9	4	25.0
Career Development Unit	3	8.3	3	18.8
Governmental Services Unit	<u>1</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Totals	36	100.0	16	100.1*

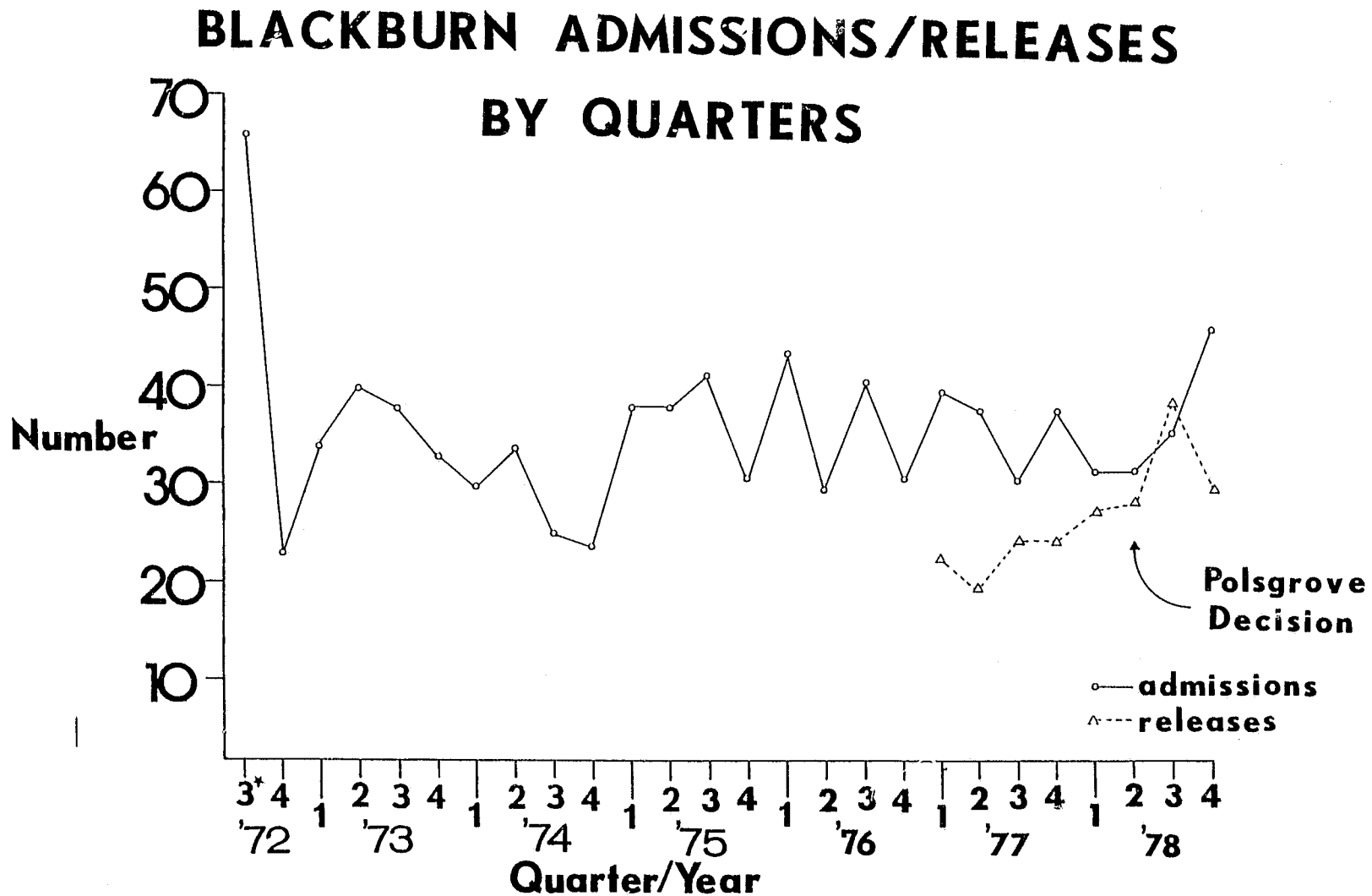
*Rounding error

TABLE 3-A

WHERE ESCAPEES RECEIVED THEIR PAROLE DEFERMENT

	<u>All Escapees</u>		<u>Since Polsgrove (March 1978)</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Blackburn Correctional Complex	24	54.5	7	70.0
Kentucky State Reformatory	10	22.7	3	30.0
Kentucky State Penitentiary	8	18.2	0	0.0
Frenchburg Correctional Facility	1	2.3	0	0.0
Harlan County Forestry Camp	<u>1</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Totals	44	100.0	10	100.0

Figure 1-A



*only two months

END