

# D.O.C. RETIREE NEWS

PEOPLE WHO BUILT THE D.O.C. TO THE LOFTY STATURE IT ENJOYED THROUGHOUT THE NATION  
FOR CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF THE #1 DEPT.

SINCE 1996

**#112 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**JACK YOUNG PASSES AWAY**

**TWO CORRECTIONS ICONS!**

**TOM DOWDLE**

**AFTER A LONG ILLNESS, JACK YOUNG PASSED AWAY AT 87.**



**HE WAS THE COMMISSIONER OF MN CORRECTIONS FROM 1979 TO 1982, APPOINTED BY GOV. AL QUIE.**

**HIS CAREER STARTED AS A PROBATION OFFICER IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY AND ROSE TO COURT SERVICE DIRECTOR THERE. WILL TURNBLADH AND HOWARD COSTELLO GOT HIM TO BE THE SUPERINTENDANT AT ST CLOUD REFORMATORY FROM 1963 TO 1968 WHEN COMM. PAUL KEVE MOVED HIM TO BE WARDEN AT STILLWATER PRISON. HE BECAME AN EXECUTIVE FOR THE WILDER FOUNDATION COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS AND FROM 1982 TO 1989 HE WAS DIRECTOR OF RAMSEY COUNTY CORRECTIONS.**

**MN CORRECTIONS ASSN. GAVE HIM THE 'EXCELLENCE IN CORRECTIONS' AWARD IN 1989.**



**TOM STARTED HIS CAREER AT STILLWATER PRISON 9-14-59 AND LATER BECAME A FIELD AGENT UNDER MORRIE HEILIG. PROMOTED TO FIELD SUPERVISOR OVER METRO AGENTS IN 1966. HE TOOK AN EDUCATION LEAVE TO OBTAIN HIS MSW FROM THE U OF MISSOURI. HE RETURNED UNDER HAROLD HANSEN IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THEN BECAME ASSOCIATE WARDEN AT MCF STILLWATER - LATER MOVING TO OAK PARK HTS PRISON AND BECOMING THE 'CORRECTIONAL FACILITY DIRECTOR' THERE, WHERE HE RETIRED IN 1998. TOM PASSED AWAY, SUDDENLY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2014. HE WAS 78.**

**SEPT 15- MORE BAD NEWS!  
FORMER DEP. HOWARD  
COSTELLO PASSED AWAY  
THIS A.M. HAS BEEN IN POOR  
HEALTH. WATCH FOR OBIT IN  
PAPERS. TED**

**DOC LUNCHEONS...**

ARE HELD THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH. DUTCH TREAT, OF COURSE.

**JULY LUNCHEON- JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Pat Berglund, Betty Elholm, Tom Foster, Lois Gelbman, and Myron Johnson.

by Betty Elholm

**AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>-**

Betty Elholm, Pat Berglund, Del & Lorrie Leaf, Tom Foster, Ardis Heilig, Lois Gelbmann and Myron Johnson. by Betty Elholm

THE LUNCH IS HELD AT PERKINS RESTERANT 694 AT LEXINGTON

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**FORMER SAUK CENTRE INSTITUTION CHANGED AGAIN**

THE 'MN HOME SCHOOL FOR GIRLS' WAS CLOSED A FEW YEARS AGO. A DULUTH PERSON HOPED TO DEVELOP IT AS A 'PRIVATE' CORRECTIONS INSTITUTION. APPARENTLY, THAT DIDN'T WORK AND IT STOOD EMPTY FOR AWHILE.

BUT NOW, IT HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A RESIDENTIAL HOUSING FACILITY FOR VETERANS SUFFERING FROM THE EMOTIONAL WOUNDS OF WAR AND NEED A PLACE TO STAY UNTIL THEY CAN REINTEGRATE BACK INTO SOCIETY.

THE LONG PRAIRIE NEWSPAPER, THE "LEADER", REPORTS THERE ARE 40 VETS RESIDING THERE.

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**REPORT FROM 'DR' JERRY O'ROURKE**

JERRY, FORMER SUPT. AT THE RED WING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, SAYS, HE DID FINISH HIS LIFE LONG PURSUIT OF A PHD. "JUVENILE JUSTICE 1955-2005".

HE SAYS HIS WIFE, KAREN AND HE COMPLETED THEIR 'BUCKET LIST' OF SETTING FOOT ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS.

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RETIRED PAROLE/PROBATION AGENT SAM KNUTSON, ST CLOUD, ANNOUNCED HE AND HIS WIFE WERE GOING TO TAKE A 'NORWAY TRIP'.

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**DONATORS**

**AUGUST -SEPTEMBER 2014**

WILL NAJJAR BRUCE BESSE  
JERRY O'ROURKE JIM HULBURT

MANY THANKS FOR THE HELP!

**'ARIZONA REPUBLIC' NEWS REPORTED "2-hour execution took 15 attempts"**

IN A HEADLINE OF AUG. 2<sup>ND</sup>.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC STATED THAT CONVICTED KILLER, JOSEPH WOOD WAS SENTENCED TO BE EXECUTED ON JULY 23 BY LETHAL INJECTION.

HE DID DIE BUT THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS IT TOOK 15 INJECTIONS OF THE LETHAL DRUGS OVER A 2 HOUR PERIOD TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

ARIZONA CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR CHARLES RYAN ASSERTED THE EXECUTION WAS NOT BOTCHED BUT THE MATTER IS UNDER REVIEW.

THESE EXECUTIONS TAKE PLACE AT THE STATE PRISON AT FLORENCE AZ.

ANOTHER ARTICLE IN THE NEWSPAPER RECOUNTED THE HISTORY OF EXECUTIONS IN ARIZONA:

SINCE IT STARTED IN 1910 100 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN DIFFERENT FASHIONS. THE STATE USED TO HANG MURDERERS. MOST OF THE 100 DIED IN GAS CHAMBERS, 35 BY LETHAL INJECTION AND 28 HANGED.

THE PAPER SAYS A WOMAN IN 1930 WAS HANGED FOR MURDER AND THE ROPE CAUSED HER TO BE DECAPITATED! IT CAUSED ARIZONA TO SWITCH TO A GAS CHAMBER.

THE PAPER SAYS 32 STATES HAVE THE DEATH PENALTY AND 18 STATES ABOLISHED IT. MINNESOTA WASN'T MENTIONED.

(THANKS TO MY ARIZONA REPORTER FOR ALL THE INFO).

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**EDITOR'S COMMENT - HAVING KNOWN MANY OF MINNESOTA'S WARDENS - I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE ANY WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING THE 'DEATH PENALTY'.**

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**HERE IS A NEWS ARTICLE**

**FROM THE 'BILLINGS GAZETTE-**

**"AFTER RETIRING FROM TOP PRISON JOBS IN MINNESOTA, DENNIS BENSON AND JESSICA SYMMES BENSON CHOSE TO MOVE TO BILLINGS AND BUY A CASINO.**

**THE COUPLE RENAMED 'COLBY'S CASINO' ...**

**IN HONOR OF THEIR PARALLEL CAREERS IN CORRECTIONS, CALLING IT "THE WARDEN'S CASINO"**

**THEY FILLED ONE CORNER WITH PRISON ARTIFACTS SUCH AS OLD LEG IRONS, PRISON LOCKS AND KEYS.**

**STARTING OUT AS A CLERK TYPIST AT THE STATE PRISON IN STILLWATER MINN. IN THE 1970'S, THE 5 FOOT TALL JESSICA ADVANCED TO THE TOP JOB OF MINNESOTA'S MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, OAK PARK HTS.**

**DENNIS BENSON WAS A WARDEN AT NEARBY STILLWATER STATE PRISON AND RETIRED AS THE NO. 2 GUY AT THE MN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.**

**THEY PURCHASED THE BILLINGS CASINO FROM BENSON'S COLLEGE ROOMMATE AND FRIEND, JOHN HERNANDEZ. THE MEXICAN IMMIGRANT BECAME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND EVENTUALLY SAVED ENOUGH MONEY IN 1999 TO BUY THE 'STATELINE RESTAURANT BAR & CASINO' LOCATED A FEW FEET INTO MONTANA JUST WEST OF WILLISTON, N.D. BEFORE THE BAKKEN OIL BOOM HIT, DENNIS BENSON SAID. "NOW IT IS THE HIGHEST-GROSSING CASINO IN MONTANA", HE SAID.**

**OIL FIELD WORKERS ARE KEEPING THE 'STATELINE' SO BUSY THAT HERNANDEZ' SON, COLBY, BUILT AN ADJOINING CASINO, CALLED 'COLBY'S' THAT SHOULD OPEN JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**A LOVE OF MONTANA BROUGHT THE BENSON'S WEST, AND BUYING A CASINO IN FEBRUARY PROVED TO BE A WISE CHOICE, AT LEAST WEATHER-WISE.**

**"WHEN WE GOT OUT HERE, THERE WAS NO SNOW AND MINNESOTA HAS HAD FOUR OR FIVE MORE SNOWSTORMS" HE SAID.**

**THE WARDEN'S CASINO IS SPECIAL BECAUSE IT IS COMFORTABLE" HE SAID.**

**"PEOPLE HAVE ROOM, IT'S CLEAN AND NICELY DECORATED." BENSON SAID. IT'S A DECENT PLACE, NOT A ROWDY BAR."**

**NATURALLY, THE BENSON'S CHOSE THREE PADLOCKS FOR THEIR WINNING LINES ON THE SLOT MACHINES. "THAT'S GOING TO BE OUR SHTICK: TWO RETIRED PRISON WARDENS," HE SAID."**

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**(A GROUP OF DOC RETIREES SHOULD CHECK THIS OUT!)**

**CAPTAIN BILL WALKER RETIRES**

**HE STARTED AS A C.O. AT OPH IN 1983 AND TRANSFERRED TO MCF FARIBAULT WHEN IT OPENED UP IN 1989 AND ROSE TO LT. THERE. HE LANDED A PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN AT MCF SHAKOPEE WHERE HE RECENTLY RETIRED FROM (7-23-14)**

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**MANKATO FREE PRESS REPORTS COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS BETWEEN DOC AND CITY OF MANKATO**

**AS THE NEWS STORY RELATES IT, IT SEEMS THAT THE DOC SET UP A HOUSE IN MANAKTO TO RELEASE ADULT OFFENDERS TO -WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF CITY OR COUNTY OFFICIALS. THE WORD FINALLY CAME FROM THE DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IT SEEMS.**

**SINCE JULY, SOME HAVE CONTACTED THE DOC WITH SOME CONCERN AND COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN BACK AND FORTH.**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY! OR HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! MCF FARIBAULT IS 25 YEARS OLD! NUMBER OF INMATES**

<b>FARIBAULT</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>LINO LAKES</b>	<b>1290</b>
<b>OPH</b>	<b>425</b>
<b>RUSH CITY</b>	<b>1024</b>
<b>ST CLOUD</b>	<b>977</b>
<b>STILLWATER</b>	<b>1612</b>
<b>MOOSE LAKE</b>	<b><u>1056</u></b>

**THAT IS A LOT OF PEOPLE!**

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**NOW! THINK OF THE NEXT BIG PROBLEM TO FACE THE D.O.C.!**

**THE SEXUAL OFFENDER! HOW IS THE D.O.C. GOING TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR THIS TYPE OF INMATE? IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY!**

**THE 'D.O.C. RETIREE NEWS HAS  
BEEN COMING OUT SINCE 1996.  
THE EDITOR IS TED SPENCER,  
FORMER PROBATION/PAROLE  
OFFICER (AND PROUD OF IT)  
FORMER SUPERVISOR OF FIELD  
AGENTS IN THE MANKATO  
REGION. THEN, 23 YEARS AS THE  
D.O.C. PERSONNEL DIRECTOR  
(HR) TO SOME. RETIRED 1989.  
25 YEARS IN RETIREMENT!**

**I ENJOY YOUR LETTERS AND  
E-MAILS TO KEEP ME INFORMED  
AND UP TO DATE.**

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