

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

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Strange Way to Start a Career in Corrections

BY HOWARD COSTELLO

Near the end of World War II, I was a twenty year old Military Police Officer in the U. S. Marine Corps assigned to a unit which first occupied the southern island of Kyushu, Japan. Soon after we landed and set up a base camp, I was assigned to over-see the operation of a Japanese civilian prison because as my commanding officer said, "you're the only one in the unit that has taken a course in Criminology". Can you believe that? I informed him that I knew nothing about prisons, but that didn't matter. I spent the next nine months as the Military Warden of the Fukuoka Prison. Along with the assignment, I was given a large black sedan, with a Japanese driver. It was his function to drive me back and forth from camp to the prison every day and also to act as my interpreter. I was also given a large office next to the wardens office, use of the wardens pleasure yacht and crew, access to his wine cellar and other amenities I won't mention.

The prison was a 2500 'bed' facility built in the late 1800's without plumbing in the cells or other modern conveniences. So, each morning the prisoners would march out of their cells with their buckets and dump the contents in a "honey wagon", which was used as fertilizer for the prison crops. As you can imagine, the odor was oppressive!

All cells had two to four inmates with a separate building which housed solitary confinement and those awaiting trial or sentencing. To "save face" the inmates wore straw baskets over their heads when out of their cells.

About two thirds of the prisoners worked in a factory manufacturing parts for the Japanese Air Force. During the Occupation the industry was converted and started producing metal furniture for the Japanese and U.S. government offices.

Much to my surprise, the prison had a rudimentary classification system with several caseworkers and psychologists on staff, along with a few teachers who taught basic education classes.

In spite of my inexperience, I found myself enjoying the assignment and I guess it was a stepping stone for my eventual career in the Minnesota Prison System.



Deputy Commissioner, Division of Adult Corrections

Howard J. Costello, Stillwater. Born and raised in Minnesota. Attended Murray High School, St. Paul. Graduate of University of Minnesota, B.A. Occupied as State Parole and Probation Agent (State Board of Probation and Parole), 1949-52. Granted leave of absence, 1952-54, to secure Master's Degree in Social Welfare from University of California on a scholarship from the Hill Family Foundation. Returned to State Board of Probation and Parole as Supervisor, a position he held until 1957. Named Associate Warden in charge of Training and Treatment, Stillwater State Prison, 1957; Associate Warden in charge of Custody, 1960. Married, three children. Appointed Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections, June 1961.

Howard retired as deputy commissioner in 1992 after serving 42 years in the department.

YES, THAT IS HOWARD!



HOW ERNIE MELBY GOT INTO CORRECTIONS
(ERNIE WAS AN 'ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST' IN C.O.)

I WAS ABOUT TO BE CUT FROM AN ELECTRONICS FIRM DUE TO A LOST CONTRACT AND STARTED EXPLORING FOR A JOB. 1964.

A STATE CIVIL SERVICE PERSON LINED ME UP TO TAKE THE 'ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST' TEST. I CAME OUT #1 AND WAS REFERRED TO JOHN SCHORN IN D.O.C. CENTRAL OFFICE FOR AN INTERVIEW. (JOHN - NOW DECEASED, WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FUNCTION IN THE D.O.C. AND A GREAT GUY, I FOUND OUT.) HE HIRED ME!

IN 1968, UNIVAC TOOK ME OUT TO LUNCH AND OFFERED ME TWICE WHAT I WAS MAKING WITH THE STATE BUT MY WIFE WAS VERY ILL (AND LATER DIED) AND I'M GLAD I STAYED WITH THE D.O.C.! UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES I JUST COULDN'T JUMP INTO A NEW JOB.

IN 1978 I LEFT THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE SUPPORT OF SCHORN, JIM ALEXANDER AND RAY LAPPEGAARD TO JOIN THEM IN THE D.O.T.

I MET SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE IN THE D.O.C. AND NEVER REGRETTED MY TIME THERE.

ERNIE MELBY

WE LOST:

MARILYN HARRIS- CC3 EMPLOYEE OF SAUK CENTRE INSTITUTION HAD A BRAIN ANEURISM LAST YEAR AND DIED. (FROM DENNY RYKKEN, FORMER ASST. SUPT.)

DAVID SCHWELLING- A 26 YEAR EMPLOYEE OF OPH DIED OF CANCER. HE WAS PART OF THE FIRST CLASS OF 'CORRECTIONAL COUNSELORS' IN 1982 ALONG WITH BRUCE REISER AND JOHN KING (NOW ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER!)

BUT NOT COLONEL NEMEC! OF SRM

I HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE NAME (COLONEL). APPARENTLY COLONELS' DAD WAS A CAREER SOLDIER WHO MUST HAVE WANTED RESPECT FOR HIS SON! AND NAMED HIM 'COLONEL' - WHO ALSO BECAME CAREER ARMY AS AN ENLISTED MAN.

WHEN HE FINISHED HIS 20 YEARS HE HAD HIS DEGREE AND WAS HIRED AS THE 'PERSONNEL MANAGER AT THE ST CLOUD REFORMATORY UNDER WARDEN BILL MCRAE AND TED SPENCER FROM WHERE HE RETIRED.

LAST YEAR, COLONEL LOST HIS WIFE, PHYLISS TO A.L.S., LOU GEHRIG DISEASE.

HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LIVER CANCER AND TOLD BY HIS DOCTOR THAT HE HAD ONLY 1 DAY TO 4 WEEKS TO LIVE! AND MANY MONTHS LATER -IS IN REMISSION AND LOOKS GREAT!

HERE IS COLONEL WITH SOME OF HIS PERSONNEL COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS. HE HAS LOST WEIGHT! GOD BLESS, COLONEL!



...AND MARY JANE HARTMAN MELBY

GRADUATED FROM THE U OF M AND WAS SECRETARY TO THE FIRST COMMISSIONER, WILL TURNBLADH, ABOUT 1960. AFTER HE LEFT SHE SERVED OTHER ADMINISTRATORS IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE - BECAME THE STENO POOL SUPERVISOR AND THEN PROMOTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST.

IN 1971, MARRIED AND BECAME 'MARY JANE MELBY'.



DOC MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

RETIREES, SPOUSES, OR WHOEVER - MEET THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 'PERKINS RESTAURANT' ABOUT NOON AT 694 AND LEXINGTON.

FROM BETTY ELHOLM. (JOHN'S WIDOW): ATTENDING IN JULY - BETTY, (WE HAD A NICE LONG LUNCH) WITH PAT BERGLUND AND HER DAUGHTER, BARB, LOIS GELBMANN, MYRON JOHNSON.

IN AUGUST: TEN PEOPLE! PAT BERGLUND, BETTY ELHOLM, DEL AND LORI LEAF, BOB NELSON, ARDYS HEILIG, TOM FOSTER, LOIS GELBMANN, AND MYRON JOHNSON.

MYRON WRITES THAT HE AND HIS WIFE ARE BUSY CLEANING OUT THEIR HOUSE IN WHITE BEAR LAKE AND HOPE TO SELL NEXT SPRING- AND HAVE A SMALL CONDO IN WBL AS WELL AS THEIR NAPLES, FL. CONDO. QUITE A CHANGE!

MIKE SMITH & HIS SOUTH MN D.O.C. FACTION KNOWN AS 'MCRF' ARE MEETING SEPT 19TH FOR LUNCH AT DANGERFIELD'S IN SHAKOPEE. CALL MIKE AT 507-317-3828 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. ORDER OFF THE MENU.

(HEY! THAT'S OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY- CATHY AND I- SORRY, WE WON'T BE THERE.)

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**DONATIONS SINCE LAST
RETIREE NEWS**

DICK FRITZE	BILL NELSON
LYLE PEARSON JR	ERNIE MELBY
BERT MOHS	ORV PUNG
BILL WEBER	COLONEL NEMEC

THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

**WHO WERE THE NEW DYC FIELD
SUPERVISORS IN 1961?**

TOM HOULE AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER THEM. THE 1959 LEGISLATURE WHO CREATED THE DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS GAVE 7 NEW SUPERVISORY POSITIONS TO THE YOUTH DIVISION.

- #1 TOM HOULE - ROCHESTER
- #2 TED SPENCER - MANKATO
- #3 ROGER LEE - WILLMAR
- #4 WARREN JOHNSON - CROOKSTON
- #5 HAROLD HANSEN - ST CLOUD
- #6 MILT OLSEN - DETROIT LAKES(?)
- #7
- #8 JOHN ELHOLM - CENTRAL OFFICE
- #9 RALPH NELSON - C.O. *
- #10 BILL QUICK - C.O. *

#11 WARREN PETERSON - DULUTH
ONE MORE MISSING - WHO WAS THE 7TH ONE?
** DURING THE PROBATION PERIOD FOR THE NEW CLASS, NELSON AND QUICK WERE NOT CERTIFIED!
RALPH WAS LATER APPOINTED WILLOW RIVER CAMP SUPT. I BELIEVE BILL QUICK RESIGNED.

ROGER LEE, A CASEWORKER FROM THE PRISON LEFT TO JOIN THE FBI.

DO YOU SEE SOME ERRORS? LET ME KNOW.
MAYBE HAROLD REMEMBERS WHO THOSE VERY FIRST DYC SUPERVISORS WERE?
JUST CURIOUS.

AH! I RECALL A RAMSEY CO. AGENT WHO WAS APPOINTED AND DURING PROBATION PERIOD TOOK IN A BALL GAME DURING BUSINESS DAY. HE WAS TO BE AT WORK - SOMEONE SAW HIM AND REPORTED.

JACKIE HERRON

DAUGHTER OF WARREN & 'TEEN' JOHNSON WROTE A BOOK OF HER EXPERIENCE WITH HER MOTHER AND SENIOR HOMES. SHE IS HAVING 'AUTHOR SIGNING' SESSIONS AT BOOK STORES OVER HER BOOK 'SINGING SOLO'. WE MISSED TWO SESSIONS THAT WERE HELD RECENTLY.

LOOK FOR THEM.

**CORRECTIONS DISPLAY AT THE STATE
FAIR?**

THE STATE FAIR IS GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION ON TV THESE DAYS. REMINDS ME OF ABOUT 1967 OR SO. THE D.O.C. HAD A DISPLAY WHERE FAIRGOERS COULD PASS THROUGH CELL DOORS AND LISTEN TO THE CLANG OF THE GATES LIKE 'STILLWATER'. I THINK PAUL KEVE WAS COMMISSIONER.

MARY WOLD



"Those of you who worked in central office or field services between 1978 and 1983 may remember Mary Wold, who was the payroll clerk in central office during that time. Leanne Phinney still keeps in touch with her, and tells me that Mary (now Mary Foster) retired this past January after 35 years of state service. She retired from the Dept. of Public Safety as a Grants Coordinator."

(EDITOR- SHE LOOKS TOO YOUNG TO RETIRE!)

HI MARY!

**LETTER FROM BILL WEBER, RETIRED
FIELD SUPERVISOR**

"MARY JO & I ARE DOING GREAT. THE MOVE TO CASTLE ROCK, CO. HAS BEEN GREAT AS WELL. WE'VE HAD SO MUCH COMPANY AND WORK TO DO ON THE NEW HOUSE THAT WE'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEND MUCH TIME LOOKING FOR ROCKS AND GOLD. WE'VE JOINED 3 GOLD MINING CLUBS AND ONE GEM AND MINERAL CLUB. WENT WITH ONE CLUB TO A GOLD CLAIM OVER MEMORIAL DAY - WORKED HARD AND HAD A LOT OF FUN BUT FOUND A SMALL AMOUNT OF GOLD. I HAVE TO THINK OF TERMS 'THE FUN IS IN THE HUNTING'.

OUR FRIENDS FROM MANKATO AND FAIRMONT VISITED US LAST WEEK & ENDED UP BUYING A HOME ABOUT A BLOCK FROM US. LITTLE BY LITTLE WE HOPE TO MOVE OUR OTHER DAUGHTER & FAMILY AND FRIENDS OUT HERE AS WELL.

LAST NIGHT WE REMINISCED ABOUT LYLE PEARSON. YOU AND HE WERE SO IMPORTANT TO MY CAREER WITH THE DOC. ... IN 1964 I WAS IN A SOC. CLASS WITH (CPO) GLEN JUST WHO TOLD ME OF HIS JOB AS A CPO AND INVITED ME ALONG FOR A VISIT TO ST. CLOUD.- INTERESTING/ EXCITING. I STOPPED IN YOUR OFFICE IN MANKATO ABOUT AN INTERNSHIP. YOU INTRODUCED ME TO CPO, LYLE PEARSON. I HAD A GREAT INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE.

YOU LATER WERE IN C.O. AND ARRANGED FOR ME TO TAKE THE AGENT EXAM. UPON PASSING AND GETTING ON THE LIST, HARVEY AKERSON INTERVIEWED ME AND REFERRED ME TO JUDGE PETERSON AT ALBERT LEA WHO OFFERED ME THE JOB. SIX YEARS LATER I INTERVIEWED WITH MORRIE HEILIG FOR THE VACANT FIELD SUPERVISORY POSITION IN MANKATO WITH A GOOD RECOMMENDATION FROM LYLE. THE REST IS HISTORY." BILL.

LIFE - RETIRED AT THE LAKE

WHEN I RETIRED FROM THE D.O.C. IN 1989 WE HAD BOUGHT A SIMPLE 2 BR 1 BATH LAKE HOME ON 5TH CROW WING LAKE (5 MILES SOUTH OF NEVIS MN). WE SPENT TIME AND MONEY HAVING IT REDECORATED AND ENLARGED. BUT WE LOVE IT AND THE AREA.

WE ENJOY THE WILDLIFE AND LIKE TO OBSERVE IT- THE MALLARD DUCKS WHO SIT ON OUR DOCK. WE CAN SIT ON OUR DECK AND CALL, 'COME AND GET IT!' UP TO 5 DUCKS START WADDLING UP TOWARD THE DECK AND WE THROW OUT CORN WHICH THEY GOBBLE UP.

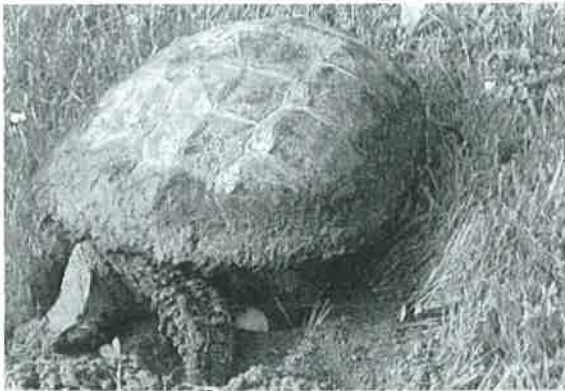
SOME PEOPLE DON'T APPRECIATE THE CHIPMUNKS. WE DO AND PRESENT THEM BY HAND WITH UNSALTED PEANUTS WHICH THEY LEARN TO APPRECIATE (HOWARD COSTELLO HAD ONE JUMP UP HIS PANTS LEG - HE DIDN'T CARE FOR THAT!)

THE INTERESTING THING, TOO, IS THE ANNUAL WALK OF FEMALE TURTLES EVERY SPRING TO COME 200 FEET OR SO UP FROM THE LAKE TO DIG A HOLE AND LAY EGGS - COVER UP THE SPOT AND GET BACK TO THE LAKE. MOST TIMES THEY ARE DUG UP THAT NIGHT BY PREDATORS.

IN JUNE WE SAW A 15 TO 20 POUND ELDERLY SNAPPING TURTLE HAD COME UP TO LAY EGGS AND CHOSE A SPOT IN THE GRASS NEAR OUR DOOR.

SHE DUG A HOLE (WE TOOK PICTURES) AND WHEN SHE LEFT FOR THE LAKE - WE COVERED HER SPOT SO PREDATORS WOULDN'T DESTROY IT.

ON THE INTERNET IT CLAIMS IT TAKES 45 TO 90 DAYS TO HATCH! 90 DAYS IS UP SEPT 5TH - NO SIGN OF BABY TURTLES! BUT WE'LL KEEP WATCHING.



SEE THE EGG?



NUMMY-UNSALTED PEANUTS!



FRIENDLY RABBITS AT THE DOOR



TURTLES ONLY HAVE ABOUT 200 FEET TO CRAWL