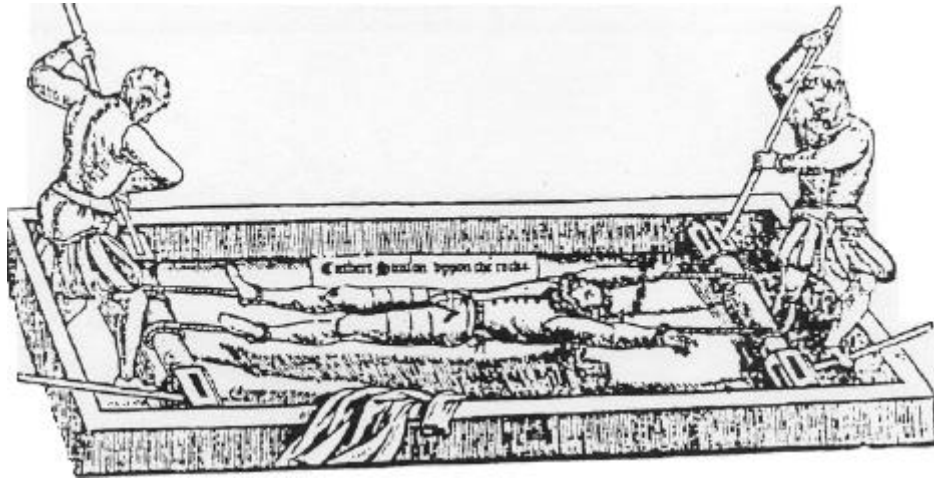

JAIL BULLETIN

NUMBER 19

JULY, 1986

The Jail Bulletin is a monthly feature of the Crime Commission Update. The Bulletin may be used as a supplement to your jail inservice training program if officers study the material and complete the attached "open book" quiz. The Bulletin and quiz may be reproduced for use by your staff. We welcome any jail training material you would like to contribute to the Bulletin.

HISTORY OF INCARCERATION - PART I



Incarceration as a form of punishment for crimes is a relatively recent development in western society. Early jails were usually used to house political prisoners, slaves, and pretrial inmates. Those found guilty of crimes were sentenced to a variety of methods of punishment that usually included torture, dismemberment, or death.

One of the earliest records of a formal prison or jail is the Mamertine Prison in Rome. This jail consisted of a large system of dungeons built under the Cloaca Maxima (the sewer system) of Rome in 640 B.C.

European jails in the Middle Ages (500 A.D. to 1500) were often makeshift affairs. Fortresses, rooms in castles, town gatehouses or cages in courtyards were used. Some fortresses were used primarily to hold political prisoners. The Tower of London and the Bastille in Paris are famous examples.

The Christian church developed the concept of sanctuary or virtual imprisonment in monasteries during the 4th century. This alternative to the death sentence included isolation in a cell that was supposed to bring upon penitence (sorrow for one's sins).

THE FATHER OF JAIL REFORM

In 1777, an English sheriff named John Howard published a book called State of Prisons. He was one of the first effective prison reformers. Howard visited jails and prisons in Europe and pushed for legislative reform to lessen abuses and improve sanitation. Due to his influence, many jails initiated some classification procedures, removing insane inmates, separating men, women, and children, and abolishing fees for basic services.

John Howard's name is now synonymous with jail and prison reform. He introduced the word penitentiary, representative with showing penitence for one's crime. Howard is viewed as the first person to use the empirical method (observation) to bring about social change. His influence in North America is felt to this day. There are numerous John Howard Societies pushing for jail and prison reform in the United States and Canada.

SOLUTIONS FOR OVERCROWDING

The European jails in the 18th and 19th centuries had at least one of the same problems ours have today, overcrowding. Back then they had an option that is no longer available. They were able to banish convicted criminals to the colonies. Spain and Portugal sent theirs to Africa. England's prisoners were sent to the American colonies and following American independence, to Australia (approximately 134,000 between 1787 and 1875.)

France deported thousands of convicted prisoners to its penal colonies in French Guiana and New Caledonia. The notorious Devil's Island, off the coast of French Guiana, was probably the world's most dreaded penal colony. Of some 70,000 offenders sent there, only 2,000 lived to tell their story during the 99 years of that institution's operation.

Even with the use of banishment, England had problems with prison overcrowding. As a "temporary" solution, old war or merchant ships were converted into jails in the late 1700's. Stripped and anchored in bays or rivers, these "hulks" as they were called, were unsanitary, vermin infested, unventilated and run by keepers who used the whip, sweatbox, and other means of torture to enforce the rules. This temporary solution lasted 80 years.

It's interesting to note that in 1976, the states of Washington, Maryland, and Louisiana made extensive plans to use old U.S. Navy warships as prisons to reduce overcrowding in their state prisons.

Next month: THE UNITED STATES EXPERIMENTS

Resources: "History of Corrections"
From the Nebraska D.C.S. Training Manual
The American Prison: From the Beginning
a Pictorial History, The American
Correctional Assoc., Publishers

QUIZ

Nebraska Jail Standards require that jail staff receive eighteen (18) hours of inservice training each year. The Jail Bulletin may be used to supplement inservice training if an officer studies the Bulletin, completes the quiz, and this process is documented by the jail administrator for review during annual jail inspections.

SUBJECT: HISTORY OF INCARCERATION
PART I

NAME _____

DATE _____

1. What two famous fortresses mentioned in the article were used to house political prisoners? _____
TOWER OF LONDON, BASTILLE
 2. What is sorrow for one's sins? PENITENCE
 3. What was a gibbet used for? PUBLIC DISPLAY OF EXECUTED PRISONER'S BODY.
 4. What were the English work houses called? BRIDEWELLS
 5. Who is considered the father of jail/prison reform?
JOHN HOWARD
 6. What is a "hulk"? A SHIP USED TO HOUSE PRISONERS
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CREDIT: 1/2 HOUR CREDIT FOR JAIL INSERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENT

ANSWER SHEET SHOULD BE RETAINED BY JAIL ADMINISTRATOR OR TRAINING OFFICER