Overview of Occupational Medicine within Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Disclaimer
I have no financial disclosures

Creation of the Federal Prison System

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Attorney General and Secretary of the Interior be, and are hereby, authorized and directed to purchase three sites...and cause to be erected thereon suitable buildings for the confinement of all persons...

opening line of the "Three Prisons Act" - 1891
The First Prison
USP Leavenworth, Kansas
- Opened in 1895
- Original prison on the grounds of Fort Leavenworth. Limited space led to the construction of a new civilian prison several miles away.
Federal prisoners provided much of the manpower used to build the prison, which took more than 20 years to complete.

USP Atlanta, Georgia opened in 1902

USP McNeil Island, Washington
Originally a U.S. Territorial Prison, opened in 1870's, became the third Federal prison in 1909.
During the 1910’s, many new Federal laws were created, including:

- Harrison Narcotic Act
- Mann Act (Transporting Women Across State Lines for Immoral Purposes)
- Dyer Act (National Motor Vehicle Theft Act)
- Volstead Act (Prohibition)

This led to a dramatic increase in the Federal prison population.

Mabel Walker Willebrandt
Assistant Attorney General
1921-1929

“If Mabel had worn trousers, she could have been President.”
- John Sirica

Highest ranking woman in the Federal government

Federal Reformatory. Chillicothe Ohio
1926-1966
Federal Reformatory for Women
Alderson, West Virginia

New York Detention Headquarters
aka “West Street Jail”

Maxwell Field, Alabama
Federal Prison Road Camps, 1936
FPC Montgomery, AL today
“An Act to reorganize the administration of Federal Prisons, to authorize the Attorney General to contract for the care of United States prisoners; to establish Federal Jails, and for other purposes...”

Sanford Bates

- Superintendent of Prisons, 1929-1930
- Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 1930-1937
- FPI Board Member, 1934-1972

“Society is more fully protected through the restoration of prisoners to society as better men.”

Sanford Bates

“The Bureau’s philosophy is not predicated on fear of a man’s past so much as it is expressive of hope for his future.”

- Take Politics Out of Corrections
- Make Corrections as a Career/Improve Training
- Relieve Overcrowding
- Treat Prisoners as Individuals
- Expand Programs
- Establish Prison Industries
This was the place where the legend of the Big House would live the longest and die the hardest. Alcatraz was never without a sense of mystery.

James B. Bennett

Maximum-Security Prisons

USP Marion, IL

ADX-Florence, CO

Metropolitan Correctional Centers

1974 - MCC San Diego
1975 - MCC New York
1975 - MCC Chicago
1976 - FCI Butner
MCFP Springfield, Missouri opened 1933

Partnership with U.S. Public Health Service began

Offenses

1930

- Liquor Law, 49%
- NMVTA, 13.90%
- Drug Law, 16.70%
- Other, 13.70%
- Postal Law, 6.79%

Offenses

1970

- Robbery/Larceny/Theft, 23.7
- Liquor Law, 2.6
- Auto Theft, 21.9
- Immigration Law, 3
- Counterfeiting/Forgery, 8.1
- Drug Law, 16.3
- Other, 13.70%
Federal Prison Industries

- Relieve Inmate Idleness
- Provide Meaningful Work and Job Training Skills
- Legislation passed in 1934.
- Began operations in 1935.

1927 - USP Leavenworth Shoe Factory opened.

USP Atlanta - Duck Mill Textile Factory; oldest prison industry
Occupational & Environmental Medicine Issues

- Aged Buildings
- Former DOD sites
- Industrial Setting
- Varied workforce
- Security