

P 931 we
1979

Merry



Christmas



CONNECTICUT
STATE LIBRARY
DEC 20 - 1979
HARTFORD
CONNECTICUT

From Weekly Scene

H.V.B.

State of Connecticut

John R. Manson -Commissioner

Connecticut Correctional Institution Somers

Administration

Carl Robinson
Warden

George Bronson
Asst; Warden
Treatment

Alexander Cybulski
Asst. Warden
Operations

Staff Advisory Board

Charles J. Jones

Richard Orszak

John Reardon

Weekly Scene Staff

Frank Barretta -Editor

Nestor L. Torruella -Asst. Editor

The Weekly Scene Is a weekly publication, by the inmates of the Connecticut Correctional Institution here at Somers, Ct.

The views herein are intended to be those of the contributors, with the supervision of the staff Advisory Board and not necessarily reflect those of the prison Administration or the department of Corrections.

We encourage participation and articles for possible publication. Please include inmate name and number with each article. Please give credit to author and source when submitting all articles. Constructive criticism is desired from our readers. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense any articles submitted.

Mailing Address: The Weekly Scene
P.O. Box 100
Somers, Ct. 06071

Current Circulation 1300

*At this Christmas Season
And throughout the New Year
May you be blessed with
every Happiness*

Let The Coming Year be a Short & Sweet One

The Time is Already Done. You Only Have To Make Good Use of It.

CHRISTMAS DAY

1979

WARDEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I wish to extend to you and your loved ones our hopes that your Christmas will be blessed with positive aspirations for the future. As we approach the New Year, may we all in our own way seek Joy and Everlasting Peace on Earth and a brotherhood of Man.

Carl Robinson
Warden

December 17, 1979

CHRISTMAS DAY

1979

BREAKFAST

Orange Juice
Fried Ham & Eggs - Buttered Toast .
Dry Cereal
Coffee - Milk

DINNER

Grilled Sirloin Steak or Roast Beef
French Fried Potatoes - Catsup
Green Peas w/Mushrooms
Tossed Salad - Hot Rolls
Strawberry Shortcake w/Topping
Assorted Fruit
Coffee - Milk

SUPPER

Vegetable Soup w/Crackers
Assorted Cold Cuts
Macaroni Salad
Ice Cream
Coffee - Milk

HONOR TO GOD



Christmas, the Birthday of Christ; for today a Savior has been born to you who is Christ The Lord. The joyous message of Christmas is known to all, and on this day we sing the praises of our new born King. On this day we pay homage to GOD, whose Son became man, in order that we might be saved.

Let us in our quiet, prayerful way give honor to God, let us also keep Christ in Christmas, for this is His day. Without a spirit of love, without Christ, Christmas is meaningless. It is only he who loves Christ, who will enjoy the real meaning of Christmas.

To show our devotion to Christ we could read the story of His Birth, we could attend the church of our faith, and we could make Christmas the day it should be. It is more than a legal holiday, it is a religious Holy Day. Let us strive to keep this day holy.

Forgive us O'Lord, and grant us peace, so that we might enjoy this wonderful day. Let us see in this day your great love for us which runs like a swift stream through our very breath. Let us finally, O'Lord, remember that we will be ever restless until we rest in thee.

May God bless you all this Christmas Day and throughout the New Year.



FATHER

MATTHEW R. SHANLEY



THE KEY OF FAITH



Christmas is more than the twenty-fifth day of December. Christmas, and this birth knows no season, no day, no time. With this birth comes a light leading man's way, not the light of a far off star, but the light of truth that is finding the faith to carry it's banner. You and I hold the key that unlocks the power of Christmas. The key is our having faith enough to believe that men can work together, doing all in their power to be kind, tolerant, patient, avoiding all action that might inflict pain, or make others feel insecure, or frustrated. It is our having faith to believe that men can break through and communicate with eachother, understand problems and seek their solution.

"Now faith is substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrew 11-1)

May each of you have this faith and this "key" and find out what infinite possibilities for good, will be discovered in this meaningful Christmas celebrations.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OF YOU.

Rev. Jesse Barber

Somers Inmates Meet Visiting Youngsters In Unique Playroom

By JOANNE BALL

The Connecticut Corrections Institution at Somers is a bleak place. It's a maximum security prison complete with overcrowding and clanging metal doors. Currently more than 1,000 men are jailed inside. There have been a few escape attempts — some successful. Mostly it's a place for losers and there's no escaping that fact.

Or is there?

Seven inmates, a day care director, members of a family support agency, and even a guard think there is. The escape, ironically enough, is found, well within the walls of the prison and is called the Sesame Street Play Room.

"This is like our social time," said Joseph Liberatore, one of seven inmates acting as the play room's caregivers.

It's a time when some of the psychological shackles of prison life can be brown off, he said. Toys, games and books are their tools and children are the focus of their energy. "It means a lot to the inmates," Liberatore said.

Liberatore regrets that the time — a couple of hours on the weekends — isn't long enough. But one of caregivers cherishes that time, however short, saying that while he is in the play room he feels human. In the play room prison bars are replaced by posters of Big Bird and the Cookie Monster.

Sesame Street Play Room is in its first month at Somers, marking the first time that such a project has been tried in a maximum security institution. It has successfully operated in minimum security prisons throughout the country. Sponsored by Women in Crisis, a support group for the families of inmates, the play room provides an educational and well-supervised setting for children between the ages of 3 to 7 while their parents are visiting.

In addition to entertaining the children, having the play room around can bring their parents a sliver of time together. Liberatore said that an inmate whose wife visits infrequently from Boston now may send the child to the play room and perhaps begin to straighten out his marital problems.

Do inmates make suitable companions for young children? Deputy Corrections Commissioner Raymond M. Lopes has no problem with that idea. "It's a controlled situation," he said recently, "and every effort is made to in-

sure the safety and well-being of the children."

The program has the full cooperation of the state Department of Corrections and has been the recipient of contributions from the town of Bloomfield, the Children's Television Workshop (producers of "Sesame Street") and Lego Systems Inc., the manufacturers of popular building blocks for children.

An \$8,600 grant from the Junior League of Hartford covers the coordinator's salary.

"We don't have enough children now. When we get more we'll be able to see what kind of effect we'll have on them," Arthur Davis said.

Susan Fishman, executive director of Women in Crisis, said recently that about 70 children have been registered for the play room, but unfortunately only a few have participated so far.

Because of that, the caregivers have cooled their heels but not their enthusiasm.

"It's a great thing," said Kenneth Schaffer. "It's something that you really want to get into. For myself, I want to see the children enjoy life."

And a guard who has observed the activity in the play room said he feels good about the inmates' interaction with the children. Until now, "we only got to see our failures," he said.

In preparation for the scores of children who will be using the play room in coming months, Ms. Fishman is now looking for more volunteers. These people escort the children from the visiting room, where they are with their parents, down the hall to the play room. These people should enjoy children and have an understanding of how it feels to be young and in an alien environment.

During the 10 weeks of intensive training that preceded the program, the inmates were exposed to volumes of material on child psychology and educational games. Based in the tested model devised by the Children's Television Workshop, the Somers play room relies heavily on Sesame Street television programs for many project ideas.

Initially, the inmates were suspicious of each other. "During the first week they didn't talk," said play room project director Juanita Dennis who, along with Gwen Peters of Children's Television, ran the training sessions.

"In about three weeks things pulled

together. Now we really complement each other," Ms. Dennis said. The caregivers purpose is to make the child feel welcome and secure in a situation that at first may strike that child as hostile and threatening, she said. If I were a kid ...I'd feel loved and good about myself " with the caregivers.

She and some of the caregivers told of their first success story...the story of Nancy Latham.

Nancy who's 6, was very frightened when she first entered the playroom a few weeks ago. Ms. Dennis said she was a little hesitant." Davis said she was shy, didn't know what to expect and consequently didn't want to do anything with anybody.

After the first visit, " We spent a half hour talking about Nancy." Ms. Dennis said, and with the caregivers she suggested ways they could bring Nancy out, comfortably. Two Sundays ago Nancy's defences were gone. She and Davis spent their time together talking and playing.

Then there were Jeff And Louie, Who on the same Sunday afternoon took to their caregivers without the need for warm-up exercises. Louie McDowell and caregiver Wesley Burke were quiet in one corner of the playroom, intent on a word game Burke had devised. Louie, another 6 year old, was determined to succeed --sharp for his age according to his tutor-for-the hour.

Jeffrey Payne was the most at ease of the three children. He was the conductor of a freight and passenger train, made with plastic building blocks. Later, he switched his captain's hat to a conductors cap, emphasizing his new found role. And with a quick role change, he, Burke and Davis set the playroom rocking with steady beat of makeshift drums and authentic maracas.

Article Taken From:

The Hartford Courant....

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

TO ALL PARENTS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS:

On Saturday, November 24, the Sesame Street Play Group Project began at Somers Correctional Institution. The concept for the Sesame Street Program originated in 1974 at the Federal Correctional Institution in Fort Worth, Texas.

The program has been successful in operation in various institutions throughout the country, under the guidance of Children's Television Workshop and sponsorship of community, government and private foundations.

The Sesame Street Program at Somers is funded by the Junior League of Hartford and sponsored by Women in Crisis, Inc. a private agency which provides support services to families of offenders from the Greater Hartford area.

The purpose of the program is (1) to provide children of inmates at the institution with an opportunity to participate in creative activities during their visit, (2) to provide an opportunity for the families members and inmates to communicate in a positive emotional climate without having to worry about the behavior of their children in the visiting room, and (3) to create stronger, healthier family ties beneficial to both the inmate and his family.

The program is designed, under the supervision of representatives from the children's Television Workshop, Women in Crisis, Inc. and the Connecticut Department of Corrections, to care for and teach the visiting children basic skills according to his or her age group.

A group of inmates have been selected and have undergone training to work with the children as volunteer child-care givers. They are:

- WESLEY BURKE
- ARTHUR DAVIS
- JOEL LaBRECK
- JOSEPH LIBERATORE
- THOMAS OLER
- KENNETH SCHAFFER
- RALPH SEGURA

Your cooperation and support is needed in making this program possible. Please inform your visitors about the project. Community volunteers are available in the visiting room to register children. PLEASE HELP

MR. GEORGE BRONSON, ASST. WARDEN-TREATMENT

NOTICE***NOTICE***NOTICE

Please be advised that the Biography section in the library has been re-arranged in alphabetical order for your convience. They will still be found in the same 920 section. Due to the sometimes complicated numerical system that has been used in the past, we felt this change would make it much easier for you to find what you are looking for.

Mr. Paul Rosa
Institutional Librarian

HIGH COURT DEFINES COVERAGE OF SEARCH WARRANTS

A warrant to search a public place, such as a tavern, does not also give police the right to automatically frisk patrons who just happen to be there, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a 6-3 decision, the justices said police must have "probable cause" - a reasonable suspicion that a crime has been committed - before they can search persons not named in such a warrant.

They reversed a state appeals-court ruling upholding the constitutionality of Illinois' law permitting police executing a search warrant for a public place to detain and search any person on the premises.

Arizona, Kansas, Georgia and the District of Columbia have similar laws designed to help police protect themselves from attack or uncover items described in the warrant.

"A person's mere propinquity to others independently suspected of criminal activity does not, without more, give rise to probable cause to search that person," Justice Potter Stewart wrote for the majority.

In two other 6-3 opinions, the court also ruled:

-A person who wants to sue the government for medical malpractice must go to court within two years of discovering an injury - not within two years after becoming aware that it might have been caused by negligence.

The government could deny New York City \$3.5 million in special education funds without proving that the school board intentionally in teacher assignments,

The search case arose in 1976 when state and Aurora, Ill., police obtained a warrant to search the Aurora Tap Tavern and its bartender to check an informant's tip of heroin trafficking.

Police also searched a dozen customers for concealed weapons, and found six tinfoil packets of heroin in Ventura Ybarra's pocket during a padown.

Ybarra was convicted of heroin possession and sentenced to two years' probation.

The high court Wednesday ruled the search of Ybarra violated the Constitution's Fourth and 14th Amendments, and it returned Ybarra's case to lower court where he could clear his name.

"Each patron who walked into the Aurora Tap Tavern on March 1, 1976, was clothed with constitutional protection against an unreasonable search or an unreasonable seizure," the majority held.

In Ybarra's case, "the state is unable to articulate any specific fact that would have justified a police officer at the scene in even suspecting that Ybarra was armed and dangerous," Stewart wrote.

Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Harry Blackmun and William Rehnquist argued in dissent that the majority had done damage to a 1968 ruling letting police pad down persons for weapons reasonably believed to be in their possession.

The majority now requires a "particularized and individualized suspicion that a person is armed and dangerous," the dissenters said. This overlooks the practicalities of a situation which no doubt often confronts officers executing a valid search warrant."

Burger said the new ruling is "but another manifestation of the practical poverty of the judge-made exclusionary rule," which bars courtroom use against a defendant of evidence obtained illegally by police.

MOVIES

Foul Play

- **Producers** Thomas L. Miller, Edward Milkis
- **Director** Colin Higgins
- **Screenwriter** Colin Higgins
- **Cast** Goldie Hawn, Chevy Chase, Burgess Meredith, Rachel Roberts, Dudley Moore

Apply

118 min.

Color

PG

"Beware of the Dwarf," whispers the hitchhiker to the beautiful librarian (Goldie Hawn) as he dies midway through a screening of "This Gun Is Mine." Suddenly Goldie is propelled into a world of wild chases, bizarre attempts on her life, and deadly encounters with an assortment of weird underworld characters. Academy Award winner Goldie Hawn teams with Chevy Chase in his first starring motion picture assignment — and with hilarious results. Chase plays the handsome San Francisco detective who becomes personally and professionally involved with all the odd things happening to Goldie.

Heaven Can Wait

- **Producer** Warren Beatty
- **Directors** Warren Beatty, Buck Henry
- **Screenwriters** Warren Beatty, Elaine May
- **Cast** Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, James Mason, Jack Warden, Dyan Cannon, Charles Grodin, Buck Henry, Vincent Gardenia

KING OF THE GYPSIES

®

Paramount (8868)

112 Minutes

Eric Roberts, Sterling Hayden, Judd Hirsch, Shelley Winters, Susan Sarandon, Brooke Shields.

Heaven Can Wait is a romantic fantasy about Joe Pendleton (Warren Beatty), a Los Angeles Rams quarterback who is accidentally summoned to Heaven by an overly zealous celestial escort. Pendleton is returned to earth in the body of another man, who is a corporate giant. While practicing to once again play for the Rams, Pendleton must escape attempts on his life while romantically pursuing a beautiful Englishwoman (Julie Christie) who protests the destruction caused to her village by one of his many corporations.

"What **Heaven Can Wait** preserves and presents is a wonderful innocence... It is a fantasy that works beautifully, and that in itself is fantastic."

Charles Champlin, Los Angeles Times

* * * * *

These men who received military discharges other than honorable, who have filed application for a military discharge upgrading, and who would like to appear before the Army Discharge Review Board should forward a request form to Jesse DeLoach stating what your present discharge status is, the date of your military discharge, and the branch of military service which you were discharged.

Upon receipt of your request an interview can be arranged with the American Red Cross and a subsequent hearing with the Army Discharge Review Board will be arranged. The hearing will be held at Somers CCI and only those men who have received discharges from the United States Army should apply.

Mr. Jesse DeLoach

*INDICATES PORK OR PORK PRODUCT

DINNER

Orange Juice
Hot Cereal
Pastry
Coffee
Milk

Pineapple Juice
Dry Cereal
Waffles W/Syrup
Coffee
Milk

Orange Juice
Ham & Eggs
Teast
Dry Cereal
Coffee
Milk

Dry Cereal
Griddle Cakes
W/Syrup
Coffee
Milk

Fresh Fruit
Hot Cereal
Pastry
Coffee
Milk

Blended Juice
Dry Cereal
French Toast
W/Syrup
Coffee
Milk

Fresh Fruit
Hot Cereal
Pastry
Coffee
Milk

DINNER

Baked Chicken
Spanish Rice
O'Brien Corn
Cranberry Sauce
Fruited Jello
Coffee- Milk

Veal Parmesan
Shells W/Tomato Sauce
Buttered Wax Beans
Fruit Cocktail
Coffee-Milk

Grioled Sirloin Steak
French Fried Potatoes
Buttered Peas & Catsup
Tossed Salad-Hot Rolls
Strawberry Short Cakes
W/Whip Topping
ASST. Fruit-coffee Milk

Hash Brown Potatoes
Buttered Fresh Carrots
Ice Cream
Coffee
Milk

Cheeseburgers
French Fried Potatoes
W/K Corn
Jello W/ Whip Topping
Coffee-Milk

Deep Fried Fish
W/Tartar Sauce
O'Brien Potatoes
Butter Nut Squash
Ice Cream
Coffee-Milk

Beef Stew W/ Vegetables
Buttered Noodles
Cole Slaw
Chilled Peaches
Coffee-Milk

SUPPER

Fish Sticks/Tattar Sauce
French Fried Potatoes
Buttered Peas
Catsup
Ice Cream
Tea-Milk

Grilled Franks
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Pineapple Chunks
Tea-Milk

Veg. Soup W/Crackers
Assorted Cold Cuts
Macaroni Salad
Ice Cream
Coffee
Milk

Grated Cheese
Garden Salad W/Oil and
Vinegar Dressing
Pastry
Tea-Milk

Italian Sauceage
Lyonnaise Potatoes
Lettuce & Tomato Salad
Pastry
Tea-Milk

Sloppy Joe
W/Tomato Sauce & Onion
Boiled Rice
Mixed Vegetables
Pastry
Tea-Milk

Fried Bologna
Blackeye Peas
Lettuce Salad W/French Drs.
Pastry
Tea-Milk