



Lifers' Unlimited Club Newsletter Oregon State Penitentiary

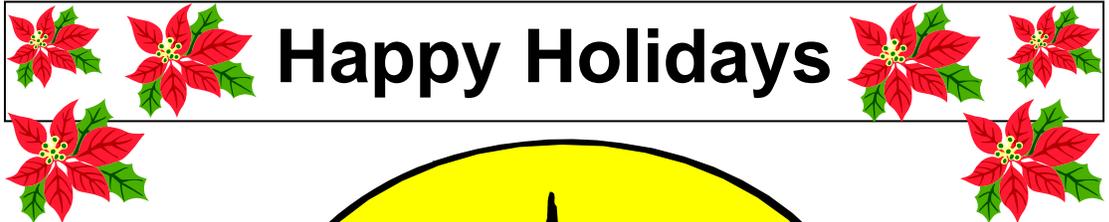
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Edited by Robert P. Langley

December 2020

As your club, please know that we look to serve you, its members. Therefore, we invite your feedback on how we can best do so. Thank you for your feedback.

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Lifers' Club 2020 Wrap Up



As the year comes to a conclusion, we want to take a moment to bring our membership up-to-date on the Lifers' Club activities. Initially, we'd like to thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation, as we've all had to face the many challenges that 2020 brought with it. As you're aware, the ongoing pandemic has caused a lot of disruptions throughout the entire institution and, not being immune, setbacks relating to the club's ability to hold its regularly scheduled meetings, classes and events.

On the other hand, in spite of these challenges not everything has been so bleak. For example, this past summer the Lifers' Club was able to get its Pop-Up BBQ up and running and, although we experienced some growing pains, we've learned from them and we're expecting to be back with improved services around April 2021.

Other successes include getting the administration's approval to purchase and install three microwave ovens in the Rec. Building for AIC to use when they go to the yard. Additionally, after decades of trying, the Lifers' Club was finally able to get the administration's approval for AIC and their friends and family to purchase Holiday Packages from Union Supply. This alone was an enormous undertaking that had a lot of moving parts; all of which, would have been impossible to overcome without the progressive mindset of Brandon Kelly, Tonya Gushard, Mike Gower, Mike Yoder, David Wilson, Kurt Wagner, William Bellman, Clayton Borden, Theresa Olsen, Brianna Elisara, Jaime Rodriguez, Courtney McFadden as well as several others. Typically, Holiday Package programs are planned in September and ordering is completed in October. We didn't gain approval to begin until early November, and yet, we were able to organize and launch with just enough time to get the packages here by Christmas. It's been a phenomenal success. 230 participated inside OSP within our week of in-house ordering, with about a thousand orders in all between AIC and outside friends and families (generating \$138,371 in sales). Of course, this didn't come without some hiccups and perhaps the product choices didn't fulfill all of our wishes. But given the short notice, coupled with all of the challenges we faced, we pulled off the improbable. It's our hope, given the success of this year's Holiday Package program, that we'll be able to carry its momentum forward into next year and beyond.

On a different topic, the Lifers' Club 2020 fundraisers have also been a success. These fundraisers benefited the AIC community by providing them with items (backpacks, coffee, raincoats, etc.) and services (BBQs, restaurant food, etc.) that they would not have otherwise received; and, in return, allowed the club's membership to enrich the lives of others, which, is in keeping with its Mission Statement of "improving the quality of life for those inside and outside of these walls." Often time people confuse the "profit" that our club's fundraisers generate with "money." However, a different and perhaps more consequential way to view the club's profit is to remember that when you're in the visiting room and you see Santa Claus passing out candy to children - or - visitor's children picking up free backpacks full of school supplies - or - you hear about the Lifers' Club providing free meals and blankets to Salem's homeless population - or - presenting checks to the Salem Fire Department, etc., this is the Lifers' Club real profit. The fact is the Lifers' Club doesn't make any money. Ultimately, when someone participates in a Lifers' Club fundraiser they're really participating in a reciprocal event. Simply put, the participant receives the benefit of their purchase while - at the same time - contributing to the well-being of others; which, in turn, allows the Lifers' Club to continue to hold fundraisers. Importantly, all of the club's

“profits” actually flow from you into the communities that our friends and families inhabit. And, in the end, it’s this symbiotic relationship that allows the Lifers’ Club fundraisers to exist in the first place.

Therefore, the Lifers’ Club would like to thank all of its members and AIC participants who – as a result – “profited” along with us by extending charitable services throughout the communities inside and outside of these walls. Here’s wishing you and yours a cheerful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. ~ Peace ~ (RPL).

Desiderata (Latin: "things desired") – Words for Life by Max Ehrmann (1927)

“Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.



Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and



loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.”



About the Author: Max Ehrmann of Terre Haute, Indiana, wrote the above poem in the early 1920s, starting in 1921, but he did not use any title. He registered for his US copyright in 1927 via its first phrase. In 1933 he distributed the poem in the form of a Christmas card, evidently entitling it "Desiderata" because a few days later he wrote in his *Journal* that a Kansas editor criticized his "Desiderata." Several years before 1942 a depressed woman gave psychiatrist Merrill Moore a copy of the poem without the name of the author, allowing him to hand out over 1,000 unattributed copies to his patients and soldiers during World War II. After Ehrmann died in 1945, his widow first published the work in 1948 in *The Poems of Max Ehrmann*. (RPL).

Why Is Measure 11 Still the Law in Oregon? (By Rachel Saslow)

In the 26 years since Oregonians passed Measure 11, lawmakers have chipped away at it, bit by bit.

The Oregon Legislature passed bills in 1997 and 2001 that reduced the number of crimes that qualified for Measure 11 sentencing. Those tweaks had little practical effect, however. What did change the law significantly: a 2009 Oregon Supreme Court decision that a found Measure 11 sentence for a person convicted of her first crime was “cruel and unusual” punishment.

Lately, lawmakers have gotten more traction. In 2019, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1008, which softened Measure 11 penalties for juveniles in response to national trends and advances in neuroscience. All youth now start their cases in the juvenile court system. They also get “second look” hearings halfway through their sentences to see if they could possibly be released. The law prohibits life without parole for children under 18.

Oregon Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene) has been the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee since 2009. He is now drafting a bill that would further gut Measure 11. The bill would create a “presumptive sentencing” structure in which the mandatory would be only a suggested sentence and the judge would be given back discretion. It would only apply to crimes committed on or after the date of the bill’s passage. “This is the next step in criminal justice reform,” Prozanski says, “One size should not fit all.”

Wholesale repeal of Measure 11 does not seem in the cards to Prozanski, despite passage of the drug decriminalization Measure 110 are serious “person crimes,” such as rape, murder and robbery – and he has seen polling more than once that suggests a repeal of Measure 11 would be hammered at the ballot box. “The blood and guts in the first five minutes of the 11 o’clock news,” he says, “are all it would take to shut it down.”

Retired Multnomah County Chief Criminal Judge Edward Jones says his advocacy for Measure 110 this year has made him think the political will to get rid of Measure 11 might exist. “It’s not hard to see that out on the horizon,” he says. “There is a current mood that we’ve gone too far and been too tough and not gotten the results. Whether that gets you all the way to armed robbery is another question.”

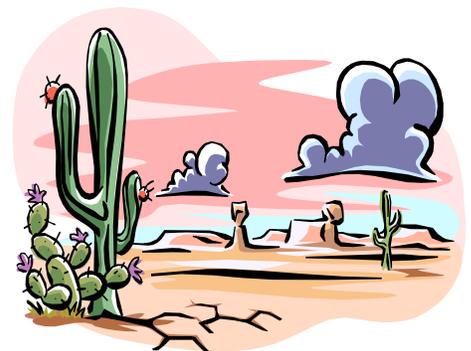
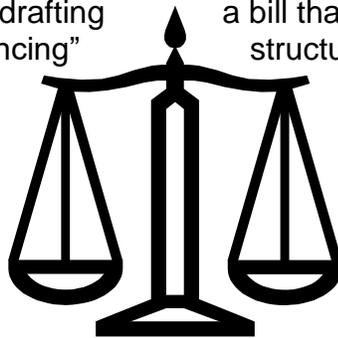
Lewis & Clark College law professor Aliza Kaplan says the holdup for repealing Measure 11 is, in a word, “money.” Ballot measure campaigns require a lot of it, as well as public support, to have a chance. A more realistic path, Kaplan says, is to dismantle Measure 11 through the Legislature, as painstaking as that process is.

“We’ve ruined enough lives,” she says. “It’s great that there has been a lot of reexamination and some movement for change, but it’s not fast enough.” (11/23/20 Willamette Week) (RPL).

The Dude Rancher...

A successful rancher died and left everything to his devoted wife.

She was a very good-looking woman and determined to keep the ranch, but knew very little about ranching, so she decided to place an ad in the newspaper for a ranch hand. Two men applied



for the job: a well-dressed dandy who looked like he'd never worked a day in his life, and the town drunk. She decided to hire the dandy, figuring it would be safer to have him around the house than the drunk.

Surprisingly, he proved to be a hard worker who put in long hours every day and knew a lot about ranching. For weeks, the two of them worked, and the ranch was doing very well.

Then one day, the rancher's widow said to the hired hand, "You have done a really good job and the ranch looks great. You should go into town and kick up your heels." The hired hand readily agreed and went into town one Saturday night.

One in the morning came, however, and he didn't return. Two o'clock, and no hired hand.

Finally, he returned around 2:30 a.m. and, upon entering the room, he found the rancher's widow sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine, waiting for him. She quietly called him over.

"Unbutton my blouse and take it off," she said. Trembling, he did as she directed.

"Now take off my boots." He did as she asked, ever so slowly.

"Now take off my stockings." He removed each gently and placed them neatly by her boots.

"Now take off my skirt." He slowly unbuttoned it, constantly watching her eyes in the firelight.

"Now take off my bra." Again, with trembling hands, he did as he was told and dropped it to the floor.

Then she looked at him and said, "If you ever ware my clothes into town again you're fired!" (RPL).

FAILURE vs. SUCCESS

John Pierpont died of organ failure. In 1866, at age 81, he came to the end of his days as a government clerk in Washington, D.C., with a long string of personal defeats abrading his spirit.

Things began well enough. He graduated from Yale, which his grandfather had helped found, and chose education as his profession with some enthusiasm.

He was a failure at school teaching. He was too easy on his students. And so he turned to the legal world for training.

He was a failure as a lawyer. He was too generous to his clients and too concerned about justice to take the cases that brought good fees. The next career he took up was that of dry-goods merchant.

He was a failure as a businessman. He could not charge enough for his goods to make a profit, and was too liberal with credit. In the meantime he had been writing poetry, and



though it was published, he didn't collect enough royalties to make a living.

He was a failure as a poet. And so he decided to become a minister, went off to Harvard Divinity School, and was ordained as a minister of the Hollis Street Church in Boston. But his position for Prohibition and against slavery got him crosswise with influential members of his congregation and he was forced to resign.

He was a failure as a minister. Politics seemed a place where he could make some difference, and he was nominated as the Abolition party candidate for governor of Massachusetts. He lost. Undaunted, he ran for Congress under the banner of the Free Soil party. He lost.

He was a failure as a politician. The Civil War came along, and he volunteered as a chaplain of the 22nd Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteers. Two weeks later he quit, having found the task too much of a strain on his health. He was 76 years old. He couldn't even make it as a chaplain.

Someone found him an obscure job in the back offices of the Treasury Department in Washington, and he finished out the last five years of his life as a menial file clerk. He wasn't very good at that, either. His heart was not in it.

John Pierpont died a failure. He had accomplished nothing he set out to do or be. There is a small memorial stone marking his grave in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The words in the granite read: POET, PREACHER, PHILOSOPHER, PHILANTHROPIST.

From this distance in time, one might insist that he was not, in fact a failure. His commitments to social justice, his desire to be a loving human being, his active engagement in the great issues of his times, and his faith in the power of the mind – these are not failures. And much of what he thought of as defeat

became success, education was reformed, legal processes were improved, credit laws were changed, and above all, slavery was abolished once and for all.

Why am I telling you this? It's not an uncommon story. Many 19th Century reformers had similar lives – similar failures and successes. In one very important sense, John Pierpont was not a failure. Every year, come December, we celebrate his success. We carry in our hearts and minds a lifelong memorial to him.

It's a song.

Not about Jesus or angels or even Santa Claus. It's a terribly simple song about the simple joy of whizzing through the cold white dark of winter's gloom in a sleigh pulled by one horse. And the company of friends, laughing and singing all the way. No more. No less. "Jingle Bells." John Piermont wrote "Jingle Bells."

To write a song that stands for the simplest joys, to write a song that three of four hundred million people around the world know – a song about something they've never done but can imagine – a song that every one of us, large and small, can hoot out the moment the chord is struck on the piano and the chord is struck in our spirit – well, that's not failure. One snowy afternoon in deep winter, John Pierpont penned the lines as a small gift for Christmas – the best kind – not the one under the tree, but the invisible, invincible one of joy. (RPL, RLG).

"QUOTABLE QUOTES"

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." – Mark Twain.

"Be careful when you follow the masses...sometimes the 'm' is silent." – Anonymous

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." – Oscar Wilde

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator" – John Bright

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." – Oscar Wilde



Over Thirty Years In The Making (by Robert P. Langley)

In 1984, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measures 6 and 7 reinstating the death penalty. Five years later – with 23 men sentenced to death – the below letter was sent to Governor Goldschmidt outlining the conditions on Oregon's death row.

July 21, 1989

Governor Goldschmidt

254 State Capitol

Salem, OR 97310

RE; Conditions on Death Row, Oregon State Penitentiary

Dear Governor Goldschmidt:

Several weeks ago John Potter, Director of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer Association, called me and reported that OCDLA and a number of other organizations had received complaints from death row prisoners that their living conditions were degrading and indecent. Mr. Potter asked whether I would investigate death row conditions on behalf of the OCDLA and the Oregon Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (OCADP). I have extensive expertise in this area. I am very familiar with the Oregon State Penitentiary (having had the system declared unconstitutional in 1980 by federal Judge James Burns). I accompanied Senator Dick Springer, Representative Mike Burton, OCDLA Director John Potter, OCADP representative Theresa Wright and Deputy State Public Defender Steve Williams on a tour of death row last week. What follows is a report of my findings.

Introduction:

My review of the conditions on death row is based upon the standard: "cruel and unusual punishment". This term evolved in reaction to the barbaric forms of execution used during the medieval period. Courts have interpreted the term "cruel and unusual" punishment to mean conditions which are "degrading" or "against modern concepts of decency"; those tending to cause physical or mental deterioration; and other similar phrases which characterize appalling conditions of confinement. The term is of particular significance when discussing confinement conditions of condemned prisoners. They are sentenced to execution. They are not sentenced to any additional punishment.

Findings:

Oregon prisoners who are sentenced to die are housed in a cellblock on the ground floor on the maximum security unit at the Oregon State Penitentiary. The rest of the housing units in this three-story building are reserved, mostly for prisoners serving disciplinary segregation sentences for serious violations of prison rules. Others are housed there because they can't get along with other prisoners. This housing unit has been and remains the most onerous at the Penitentiary and is administered in a punitive manner.

Prisoners' cells are approximately 48-63 square feet. Almost half of these units have two men each. After discounting double bunks, toilets and sink, there is approximately 12-18 square feet for movement. In shared cells this space is half. Inmates spend 23 hours, 40 minutes in these cells each day. They are allowed out of their cells four days each week for 20 minutes: to shower, shave and exercise. Three days a week they are allowed out for one hour. Outdoors recreation consists of what must be described as dog cages: several 5 x 7 outdoor cells.

I had not visited the unit for over eight years. I was shocked. There was long term buildup of dirt and grime. Paint was chipping and floorboards were rotting. The surfaces on all areas were so

deteriorated adequate sanitation would not be possible. Plumbing back ups in the toilets and runs onto the floors; apparently disciplinary segregation prisoners stuff up their toilets causing water to overflow into cells - - occupied by death row prisoners - - below. The day we toured, they were mopping up water that had overflowed into death row prisoners' cells.

We had been told three television sets mounted in the hallway of the cell block were turned on at 6:00 am, off at 10:00 pm and that the constant noise was nerve wracking. Apparently, the day before our tour, inmates were provided with headphones (which provided relief from the noise,) though some said many of the headphones did not work.

Prisoners are required to shave with an electric razor shared among them. This unsanitary condition greatly increases the chance spread of infectious diseases. Crowding two prisoners into an extremely small cell likewise increases the likelihood of spread of infectious disease.

Prisoners are not allowed recreation, meals or to socialize together. The justification is, apparently, they are considered too dangerous to be together. (The argument loses vitality in light of the fact some are double celled.) Prisoners have no access to prison programs or meaningful access to law library material. They remain confined in extreme idleness for extraordinary long hours. They are denied frequency of visitation available to other inmates (apparently death row inmates are only allowed 30 minute visits twice a month.) and they are only permitted to see family members.

Conditions much less onerous than Oregon have been declared unconstitutional. To require human beings to live in such incredibly small spaces for prolonged periods of time - - without meaningful activity and outdoor recreation - - causes them to suffer both physical and mental deterioration. My tour and discussion with inmates convinced me that they are currently suffering the ill effects of such degrading confinement.

While I have not conducted an exhaustive study of other states and how they treat death row inmates, I note the average daily outdoor recreation time for death row inmates is three (3) hours. In Maryland, prisoners sentenced to die can be housed in the general population. In Arkansas, (if they have no disciplinary infractions after six months,) death row prisoners may reside in the general population. In Texas, they are out of their cells for 16 hours per day (the hours that non-death row prisoners in most states are out of their cells). In Georgia, death row prisoners are permitted to associate in groups and to recreate with other prisoners. Recently, one of the experts I used in a death row case, testified that the worst death row state was Louisiana where they required prisoners to exercise in dog runs, very similar to the dog cages used in Oregon.

Each of the conditions described above has a deteriorating effect on the physical and mental health of these prisoners. The conditions as a whole are subtle forms of torture and must be considered unfit for human habitation under modern standards of decency.

Based on my 20 years experience, the conditions here are the worst I have seen anywhere, including Mississippi State Prison (which I declared unconstitutional in 1972). Even in the Texas prison system (declared unconstitutional in 1979) the conditions for death row prisoners are much more humane.

There is no valid government purpose in continuing to house these prisoners under such debasing conditions. Security requirements don't mandate such treatment. There is no other justification. American Correction Association standards, Justice Department standards, American Public Health and other standards all condemn these practices.

Death row prisoners are being held for execution. They are not guilty of violating rules of the prison yet they suffer restrictions similar or worse than inmates in disciplinary segregation. Oregon can house prisoners condemned to death in a unit apart from other prisoners, but it should not be a disciplinary unit, and it should not be at the expense of human dignity.

Governor Goldschmidt, these conditions developed over the past years and are not your doing. However, it is within your power to remedy these violations. Long term, an improved separate unit should be used. Short term, there are remedies possible that will greatly improve conditions without creating security risks. Changing the punitive attitude toward inmates would work wonders. Of course, some changes will require money. I have the following suggestions:

1. Physical Changes

- A. Move the unit to the top floor. Then disciplinary confinement prisoners, who cause sewage overflow into floors beneath them, do not abuse death row inmates.
- B. Renovate the unit. Approximately \$100,000 would be needed to do two (2) tiers. Sandblast the ceilings, walls and floors. Cover the floors with a latex, epoxy surface (similar to the hallway floors at OSCI). It holds up well. Sinks and toilets should be completely refitted. Plumbing should be upgraded to prevent overflow.
- C. Open a second renovated section to alleviate overcrowding. Housing only one prisoner to a cell.
- D. Tear down degrading "dog cages". Permit prisoners' reasonable daily communal outside exercise.

2. Treatment and Policy Changes:

- A. Use hallways outside cells as a "common area" for prisoners to socialize together. Permit prisoners to spend their daytime there. It could be fitted as a day room by including indoor recreation equipment tables and chairs.
- B. Allow communal dining. (Currently prisoners eat sitting on the bed or the floor of their cell. This reinforces isolation.)
- C. Provide a minimum three-hour outdoor recreation time daily during April-November. Provide outdoor equipment for games such as basketball, volleyball and hacky sack. During winter months allow two hours daily.
- D. Permit participation in educational activities and prison programs.
- E. Assure meaningful access to law library materials. Alternatives to direct access to the library are possible. I can provide a number of proposals.
- F. Allow three (3) day visitation weekly. Permit visitors other than immediate family.
- G. Provide additional books and magazines.

In Oregon, we do not need to add to the suffering these condemned men live with daily, by making the conditions of their confinement additional torture. The death sentence is the ultimate punishment. The jury that imposed that penalty did not also require that while these prisoners exhaust their last appeals and wait for execution, they would be forced to live in conditions so humiliating and degrading as to cause them to deteriorate physically and mentally and to lose their last vestiges of human dignity and self-respect.

The brief suggestions above are not detailed. I am prepared to further articulate the problems and provide guidance for effective solutions. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Roy S. Haber

30, plus, years after Mr. Haber sent the above letter to Governor Goldschmidt, Oregon's "death row" is now housed in general population, a housing assignment that none of the original 23 death

row prisoners could have imagined back in 1989. That said, I've been living in general population for almost six months and, like my friends from the row, I've found the transition to be – at times – challenging. Although, I've read a number of studies discussing the effects long-term isolation has on death row prisoners, it wasn't until my friends and I transitioned to population that I realized those studies were about us.

Fortunately, and due in large part to the support of the Lifers' Unlimited Club, Asian Pacific Family Club, Uhuru Club and many others, our transition to population has been successful. Clearly, being on death row imagining what it would be like to live in general population and actually *transitioning* to population are two very different things. It's also worth noting that our transition into general population isn't unique to us. There are a number of death row prisoners who have preceded us and, I would argue, paved the way for us. In many ways, their conduct allowed us make an argument (for being in population) that we couldn't make for ourselves, so, for that we're grateful.

Most importantly, though, the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) is also learning to overcome the "conditions" of death row. It's one of the ways in which "the Oregon way" has manifested itself in both of our lives. Strangely, after being adversaries for so many years, it's both weird (ODOC is still charged with carrying out our executions) and wonderful (we've been given an opportunity to flourish) to now think that our interests are aligned; namely, we both want death row's transition to be successful.

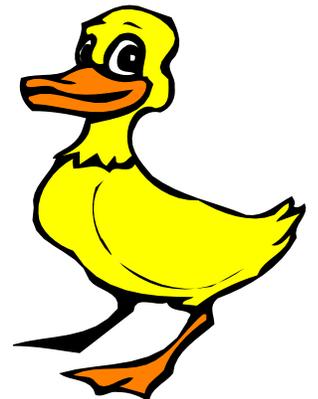
Speaking for myself, if the choice comes down to being bitter because the recent changes have taken so long – or – being grateful that they've arrived, I choose the latter. And, although my friends and I are still sentenced to death, I can honestly say that over the past six months we've never felt more alive. Therefore, I would like to extend a "thank you" to all of the people and universal forces that brought us to this day; a day where I'm no longer confined to a cell on death row; but in its place, I'm sitting at a desk in the Activities Department preparing this newsletter. Likewise, my appreciation extends to knowing that

once I leave work today, my friends and I will be meeting up to make plans for how we're going to celebrate our first Holiday Season off the row in over 30 years. As it is often said, it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness... Even though 2020 has brought a lot of darkness, I sincerely hope that, like us, everyone finds the ability to light a candle this Holiday Season. ~ Peace ~ (RPL).



DUCKS IN HEAVEN...

Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, "We only have one rule here in heaven: Don't step on the ducks!" So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck. And although they try their best to avoid them, one of the women accidentally steps on one. Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest man she has ever seen. St. Peter chains them together and says, "Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man."



The next day, a second woman accidentally steps on a duck and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing. With him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them

together, too. The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps. She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes on... very tall, long eyelashes, muscular. St. Peter chains them together without saying a word. The happy woman says, "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all eternity?" The guy says, "I don't know about you, but I stepped on a duck." (RPL).

Origins of the 21-Gun Salute

Salute by cannon or artillery is a military tradition that originated in the 14th century. The 21-gun salute, commonly recognized by many nations, is the highest honor rendered. The custom stems from naval tradition, when a warship would signify its lack of hostile intent by firing its cannons out to sea until all ammunition was spent. The British navy developed the custom of a seven-gun salute because naval vessels typically had seven guns (and possibly also due to the number seven's Biblical and mystical significance). Because greater quantities of gunpowder could be stored on dry land, forts could fire three rounds for every one fired at sea – hence the number 21. With the improvement of naval gunpowder, honors rendered at sea increased to 21, as well. The 21-gun salute eventually became the international standard.

In the United States, the custom has changed over time. In 1810, the War Department defined the "national salute" as equal to the number of states in the Union (at the time 17). This salute was fired by all U.S. military installations on Independence Day and whenever the president visited a military

installation. In 1842, the 21-gun salute was designated as the "presidential salute," and in 1875 the United States followed Britain in adopting the 21-gun salute as its international salute.

Today, the U.S. military fires a 21-gun salute in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the president, ex-president and president-elect of the United States. The 21-gun salute is also fired at noon on George Washington's birthday, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and the day of the funeral of a president, ex-president and president-elect.

Gun salutes for other U.S. and foreign military and civilian leaders vary in number, based on the protocol and the honoree's rank. These salutes are always in odd numbers.

The 21-gun salute is not to be confused with the three-volley salute (or three-rifle volley) rendered at military honors funerals, which you might see or hear at Arlington National Cemetery. (RPL)

SALT-WATER TAFFY ~ What is the reason we call the taffy candy "salt-water taffy"?

This taffy is so labeled by the manufacture because we have all come to associate it with the little stands that sell it along the boardwalks of salt-water resorts. But, according to old legend, even this association was accidental. In 1818, so the story goes, a small candy store situated on the boardwalk in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was damaged in the middle of the summer by a heavy storm. After the storm was over, the proprietor came back to his stand to discover that water from the ocean had splashed over all the taffy in his case. So he put up a sign "Salt-water taffy – 10 cents." The name caught the fancy of the public and has been used ever since. (*Why do we say it?* Castle Books). (RPL).

Please know that the Lifers' Club executive body and clerks wish its entire membership a safe and happy Holiday Season. Here's looking forward to productive 2021.

Lifers' Unlimited Club
Newsletter

Oregon State Penitentiary
Activities Department
2605 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310-0505

Lifers' Unlimited Club 2020 Calendar

Unfortunately, all events are closed until social distancing restrictions are lifted. The Lifers' Club will do our best to keep everyone advised as events and/or circumstances develop. Thank you for your patience.

NOTICE: The Union Supply Holiday Packages are scheduled to be "picked-up" by AIC on Dec. 21-23. The Lifers' led Holiday Bags (for all AIC) are scheduled to be passed out on Dec. 24. Please enjoy your Holiday Season!

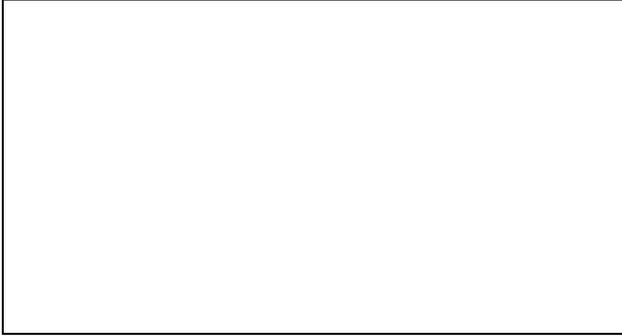


Just a reminder the Lifers' Pop-up BBQs will return in April 2021. If you have any ideas and/or suggestions on ways to improve these events please send them to the Lifers' Club. Thank you.

WE ALL HAVE UNLIMITED POWER

Lifers' Unlimited Club Executive Body

President:	Robert Kelley
Vice President:	Marty Wendt
Secretary:	Juan Solis
Treasure:	Jeff McCarty
Facilitator:	Stephen Weavill



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Lifer's Unlimited Club is to unite the incarcerated men of OSP with a goal of improving the quality of life for those inside and outside of these walls. The club will work with charity programs, informational services, youth speaking panels and other positive programs. We cannot change the past, however, we believe through rehabilitation and pro-social behavior we can create a more productive future.