

VICTORIA ROAD JAIL

In 1912 the Provincial Government made plans to replace the old Vancouver jail with Casside Prison Farm in New Westminster, and the old Victoria city jail on the Topas Hill with a new building in Esquimalt.

Colinist, Sep-28, 1912. "Canadian Prison Farm is being used for prisoners transferred from the old Provincial Jail in Victoria."

Colinist, Dec-20, 1912. "£100,000 is preliminarily provided for the new Provincial Jail here (on the Esquimalt Car line extension). The plans were prepared several months ago by Col. G.S. Wilson."

1914 Provincial Ledger records that £100,000 was voted by Parliament for the new Provincial Jail.

Colinist, 4 July 1914. "Provincial Jail almost empty".

Times, 19 Aug. 1914. "Occupying new prison within 2 weeks".

Colinist, 24 Sept. 1914. "Prisoners transferred to Casside".

During the 1914-18 war the Vancouver Road Jail was used to house prisoners of war and offenders against the Naval Discipline Act.

The records show concentrations of dates when prisoners occupied prison. One newspaper reported that the prisoners were in the new building only 4 weeks before being transferred to Casside at the outbreak of the war. But the Colonel of Sept. 24, '14 suggested that they were installed at the Prison Farm at that date.

1917- The prison was closed and inmates were sent to Casside.

1918-1919.- 20 acres of the Farm lands were used by the Provincial Game Board for a Mountain Farm. This operation was later moved to property near the present Royal Oak Mountain Farm.

March 28, 1920. - One male originally insane person was brought from Esquimalt to the "Esquimalt Provincial Mental Home".

WILKINSON ROAD JAIL (COLONIAL PROVINCIAL MENTAL HOME)

- Wilkinson Road

In 1912, the Provincial Government made plans to replace the old Vancouver Jail with Oakalla Prison Farm in New Westminster and the old Victoria City Jail on the Topaz Hill with a new building in Saanich.

Colinist, September 14th, 1912 - "Saanich Prison Farm is being used for prisoners transferred from the old Provincial Jail in Victoria".

Colinist, December 22, 1912 - "\$100,000 is preliminarily provided for the new Provincial Jail here (on the Saanich Car line extension). The plans were prepared several months ago by Col. W.S. Wilson".

Provincial Inquiry, 1914 - Records that \$100,000 was voted by Parliament for the new Provincial Jail.

Colinist, July 4, 1914 - "Provincial Jail Almost Ready".

Times, August 13, 1914 - "Occupying New Prison within 2 weeks".

Colinist, September 13, 1914 - "Prisoners transferred to Okalla".

During the 1914-1918 war, the Wilkinson Road Jail was used to house prisoners of war and offenders against the Naval Discipline Act. The records show contradictions of dates when prisoners occupied the prison. One newspaper reported that the prisoners were in the new building only six weeks before being transferred to Okalla at the outbreak of the war. But the Colinist of September 14, 1914, suggested that they were installed at the Prison Farm at that date.

1917 - the prison was closed and inmates were sent to Okalla.

1918-1928 - 25 acres of the farm lands were used by the Provincial Game Board for a pheasant farm. This operation was later moved to property near the present Royal Oak Burial Park.

March 27, 1918 - Nine male criminally insane persons were brought from Esquimalt to the "Colquhoun Provincial Mental Home".

1918 - 79 patients confined in the home.

1919 - 282 patients present.

Throughout this period of use as a mental home, the farm was operated by the inmates.

1944 - The Colquhoun Mental Home was closed after 45 years in operation. The remaining patients were housed to Esquimalt Mental Hospital.

1944-1946 - The jail unit and farm housed prisoners again as part of the Esquimalt Prison Farm, Vancouver Island Unit.

1946-1970 - Vancouver Island Unit.

1970 - Vancouver Island Regional Correction Centre.

The Wilkinson Road Jail is an imposing stone building with a massive stone fence along Wilkinson Road, forming a landmark in the area. The Provincial Jail was planned and construction started in 1912, was sufficiently completed to be operational by the end of 1913, and was used as a jail until the beginning of World War I, when the building was taken over by the Navy and used as a Detention Barracks.

References: Colonial and Times Newspapers - BCC Microfilm Library;
Provincial Archives files.
Seasonal Reports for 1912, 1913, 1914, 1918, 1919, 1931.

Architect: Col. William McQueen Wilson lived 78 years in Victoria, where he designed many private homes and public buildings. He died here in 1944 at the age of 94 years.
Public Buildings: St. John's Church, Langford Street before South Park School, Victoria West School, Bay Street Arsenal
Wilkinson Road Jail.

Colquhoun Provincial Mental Home.

Dec. 22, 1912. The Colonist- \$100,000. is provisionally provided for the new Provincial jail here: see the Spanish war line extension, from plans prepared by E.S. Wilson."

Sept. 14, 1912. The Colonist- Spanish Prison Farm- for prisoners transferred from the old Provincial Jail in Victoria. ¹⁹¹²⁻²³ ^{opened} during the 1904 war- for prisoners of war and offenders against the Naval Discipline Act.

1917- closed. Prisoners sent to Oakalla Prison Farm.

1918-1919- a pleasant farm, run by the Provincial Game Board.

1920- male criminals brought from Hazelton.

1922- 50 patients.

1925- 200 patients.

1934- closed again. 30 patients moved to Hazelton.

This institution was operated as a farm throughout it's history.

Has a maximum security, prison-tempory!

Over the main driveway or entrance is cut in the stone "1912".

The building is an imposing edifice of stone, with a superb stone fence around the grounds. Somewhere on the grounds is a total pole, served by a Guide Chief.



AN EARLY PHOTO OF WELINGTON ROAD PROVINCIAL MENTAL HOME

Pioneer Prison Became Pheasant Farm

Special Star (Feb. 22, '12)

And Now Serves as Provincial Mental Home

Built originally as a jail in 1843, the large but brick structure on the west side of Wellington Road has, since 1923, been operated by the provincial government as a branch of the mental hospital at Dunedin.

Surrounded by well-tended park-like grounds the appearance of the mental home belies the substance of its purpose. The ground upon which it stands was originally purchased from John Jones and the intention of the government was to erect a jail similar to those in lines of Otago,

The structure was completed in 1843 and was operated as a jail until the beginning of the First World War.

Prisoners were then transferred to Okaihia and the building taken over by several institutions as a detention hospital. Scores of soldiers who were sent there were still crowded on the walls and the number of days still to be served started off an important calendar when the provincial government took over the building in 1923. At that time, staff members since the early days of the mental

home. It also has its own laundry, central and greenhouse.

Extensive Staff

Dr. O'Brien leads a staff of approximately 60 members, which include the services of a medical practitioner, Dr. P. T. McKean. The medical superintendent also is kept busy by his work with the Civil Defence Corps which calls for his services in the Queen Victoria area as well as Island points.

The Mental Home also receives the services of a visiting physician, Dr. George Hall.

Man Once Hanged In Colquitz Yard

A medieval castle-like structure on Wilkinson Road in Saanich, now known as the Provincial Mental Home, was built as a provincial jail and was used in that capacity for about seven years, a former jailer said yesterday.

One man was even hanged for murder on a gallows erected beside the building's imposing walls, said Robert G. Smith, 2389 Glyn Road.

JAILER THERE

"I was a jailer there for seven years and I remember that at least one man was hanged there. It was built for a jail, not for a mental home," he said.

Mr. Smith couldn't re-

member the exact years that the jail was in operation, but he recalled that it was closed during the First World War, when prisoners were transferred to Okalla.

NEVER USED?

A mental home official said Monday following the fatal shooting of Const. Ronald Kirby by an escaped inmate, that although the maximum security building was constructed in 1933 as a provincial jail, it was never used for this purpose.

He said that the building which now houses nearly 300 mental patients was turned over to the navy during the First World War and then used as a mental home in 1918.

(Continued)



Bill Phillips, holder of the license for 15 years, who usually is pulled on his pike and has many days he must be seen.

Colquitz Doors Shut Dreary Story Ends

By ANN MORGAN

I was a frequent customer in the history of Bill Phillips' South business and Bill Phillips.

Bill, an elderly man, built the store, which included what is now known as the corner building on the corner of South and Second streets in the city. Bill, who was a carpenter, was a good man and a good worker.

When Bill was the "manager" of the store, he was a good man and a good worker.

Bill was a good man and a good worker. He was a good man and a good worker.

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Bill was a good man and a good worker. He was a good man and a good worker.

Bill Phillips had a good and good worker.

I was a good man and a good worker. He was a good man and a good worker.

Bill was a good man and a good worker. He was a good man and a good worker.

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Bill Phillips' store, which was a good man and a good worker.



Bob Endeman, director of the home for 22 years, bids goodbyes to patients as they pack and for busy trip to residential hospitals.



Staff member carries records from offices over empty maximum-security cells as transfer of patients begins.

Colquitz Doors Shut Dreary Story Ends

Continued From Page 1

By JIM DEAN

I saw a dreary chapter in the history of B.C. mental health services end here Wednesday.

With an emphatic crash, Health Minister Martin slammed shut the doors, forever closing one of the Colquitz mental hospital for the criminally insane on 5th Avenue West and behind the building, grey housing care to "White Mountain" Court.

Please tell her its "temporary" use as a prison.

History repeats itself. Half a century ago, the building—with its two open rows of double-paned windows built for use as a maximum security prison.

From then, up to the criminally insane mental patients it a great have been housed within Colquitz hospital.

Wednesday, the last patients—20 of them—huddled a bus for transfer to the Vancouver mental health complex on the mainland.

I watched as they said goodbyes to the only home many of them have known for 20 years and more.

The name of the patients, the busy wife was a rare look at the changing times.

I noticed on the tongue of one patient a label, his date read, June 2, 1958. He had

been at Colquitz for 27 years and eight months.

I live a short distance from the hospital—and in the 20 years I have been a newspaper photographer I have never been allowed inside. I've always wondered just what is inside this.

Wednesday, I found out.

It was a strange and striking experience. I saw the open fire doors, rows high of small cells in the two wings of the building. They contained two cots—a bed and a toilet.

My last column as I walked along the empty corridors.

I was told the building could house up to 200 patients, and over the years has been well almost to capacity. It was described as one of the most-constructed and most-used buildings of its type in the province.

As I left, a patient was pointed out to me.

He had been at Colquitz for 20 years. The word "colquitz" would be a strange experience for him.

I thought to myself that 20 years, I've wanted to look inside Colquitz. . . but how many of the patients would have wanted to change places with me and look at it from the outside?

A great many, I imagine.



Health Minister Weston (center) stands before
door of Federal Mental Home which was then
underway when the picture was taken. (Left
hand photo.)

Victoria Times

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

News 50¢ (GST)
Classified 20¢ (GST)

VICTORIA, B.C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1974 P.M.

15 CENTS DAILY, 30 CENTS SATURDAY

FIRST STEP IN WILKINSON ROAD PHASE-OUT

Convicts to Jordan River

By **CLAREN MERRITT**
Times Staff

State prisoners likely will move to a new facility along near Jordan River in the first major transfer of inmates out of overcrowded Wilkinson Road and to the west of the city.

But the following, deputy director of the prison, said Wednesday the construction budget is approaching \$10 million. In the provincial budget, an annual increase would depend on

the state of the road to Port Alberni.

The next four years will be developed into a complete reworking of disciplinary rules, and the 40 of the 50 years at Wilkinson Road, as well as transfer for working, recreation, education and savings.

Initial action by the province is expected to be \$200,000. The figure does not include costs for clearing or demolishing former structures.

Additionally, who is likely, meeting the program, and he hoped to complete a budget by next week.

It will be announced by a special three-member panel which the attorney-general's department report last month to consider alternative programs for the men in Victoria and Road 101.

The members include the justice, provincial attorney in the Victoria area, Martin Mc-

Call, a University of Victoria graduate student, and Ted Strickland, a Victoria lawyer.

McCallum's legal work on the site would begin within two weeks.

"There is a study already on the grounds, he said.

"We would like to be able to start the program by the end of November ... although it could be possible because we just finished."

The transfer ... all men

move to another facility state and marine sentences at the Road two years ... will not be involved in writing out the camp, but will make improvements to the property.

Support of Canada holds a low level of interest in the transfer site and transferring from the Road will be transferred to the construction contract. The transfer will be funded by the state in 1977.

By **Investigation** Page 1
10/30/74

Wilkinson Move Set

Continued from Page 1

He said the committee's original schedule will be changed to include the three cases and beginning of 1955 work.

"The work will be being continued continuously," a spokesman declared. "Specifically, they will get along satisfactorily with it."

"The delay will be viewed as unusual but of an entirely different and lesser type than the 10-year-old suspension," announced Committee chairman W. C. Clegg.

Although the exact reasons will be considered and announced whenever a final report will be made on the matter, no firm action has been taken.

"In addition, however, they will determine the relative merits of the 'transfer' procedure of the case."

The case was referred to the committee's jurisdiction.

"It will definitely produce a final report," a spokesman declared. "The work will be completed in the next few days. This includes the final report stage."

Regarding the delay, he said it is being held open because "there is a delay," he said.

"It will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction," he said. "The work will be completed in the next few days. This includes the final report stage."

"The case will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction," he said. "The work will be completed in the next few days. This includes the final report stage."

He said the committee will be continuing to work on the case and will be continuing to work on the case and will be continuing to work on the case.

light. They would receive the same delay and be required to pay for a day's work and board.

The nature of the procedure was that it is to be done. There has not yet been a final report but it is expected to be completed within three weeks.

John Harbo, head of the case and development for the committee, said that there are several possibilities for the remaining three cases involving trial and one in jail because they are unable to make trial, as they had not received an "official" statement. More than 20 per cent of the cases are being held over the general category.

He said a study completed in January and released in the next few days will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction. It will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction.

The work will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction. It will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction.

Another study might be completed in "the next few days" and will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction.

A number of private cases will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction. It will be referred to the committee's jurisdiction.

The committee will be continuing to work on the case and will be continuing to work on the case.

He said the committee will be continuing to work on the case and will be continuing to work on the case.



BURO
... Diagram

PHILLIPS SUES SUN, COLUMNIST

PHILLIPS SUES SUN, COLUMNIST
PHILLIPS SUES SUN, COLUMNIST
PHILLIPS SUES SUN, COLUMNIST

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Bid to rebuild jail fought

County's Heritage Advisory Commission wants the Millerton Road jail moved instead of expanded.

"The U.S. Building Corporation will come out eventually with building plans to expand expansion."

"They're talking about modernizing the old building, or putting new one along at the rear of the jail," County Board Chairman said.

"The government is completely uninterested in expanding the jail. I completely get the impression they would not be interested in expanding the jail," he said.

Opened Sept. 15, 1964, in the County Prison Farm, the jail used its program area to house inmates to be sent to prison.

Chairman said "If the plan is to build a new jail, then we want to preserve the facility. In new buildings, there is no historical interest in building."

Building contractor John Pyle said the jail is in the county prison farm, Millerton Road, which he called the number one of the town.

"There is plan for such an addition," he said. "If they want the land they're better off to build a new prison-like jail."

The architectural plan of the jail is the plan to include the jail, the historical building, and the historical building to be used as a museum. The plan is to build a new building, which will be used as a museum.

"It's a new project, and we will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county."

"We are going to build a new jail, which will be used as a museum, and we will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county."

"We are going to build a new jail, which will be used as a museum, and we will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county."

"The fact of reality is that the county will have to build a new jail, which will be used as a museum, and we will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county."

"We will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county, and we will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county."

"We will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county, and we will not give up on going to other historical buildings in the county."

TC 29 Feb 1992

Age of 'blue house' at jail disputed by longtime residents of Saanich ^{PM}A-10

By Katherine Dedyne

Times-Colour staff

The so-called "blue house" next to the provincial jail on Williams Road isn't as old as some people seem to think, says a lifelong Saanich resident.

While authorities including owner B.C. Building Corporation, which wants to tear the blue house down, have pegged its probable age at about 78 years, Doris Evans, also 78, begs to differ.

"It was built about 80 years ago," says Evans, who relies on her family history.

"I lived right there the year my son was born. There was just a little bit of fence between the house and the prison."

Pregnant with her first child at the time, Evans hardly think she's mixed up her dates. And she double-checked with an old friend who remembers the same thing.

"Saanich archives can't pin it down for the time being," archival assistant Jack McIntyre acknowledged Friday.

There's a big gap in its archival material that stretches from 1920 to 1968.

Until it was built, Evans said attendants for the adjacent prison for the criminally insane had to sleep in the same building as the inmates.

"It was a horrible place. You could hear them howling."

But there was a good side.

Her husband worked there during the Depression, and the better-behaved prisoners would hold

her baby Verae, now 81, while Evans played tennis on the institution's courts.

"Some of the tennis players were good," she recalled, adding she was just 17 at the time and that a guard was always nearby.

"We didn't worry about that in those days. I'm more worried to day about what's around town. It's a different lifestyle altogether."

BCBC has applied for a demolition permit for the building, citing it as a seismic risk and fire hazard that is too contaminated by asbestos to refurbish.

Saanich council has put a 30-day hold on the permit to allow the municipal heritage committee to have a closer look.

Jens van Dray, of Parksville, added some long-distance outrage to the notion of demolition.

"If Europe thought like that, they would have torn everything down," he said. "This house is absolutely beautiful. It's just as pretty as Williamsburg, Va. If they tear it down, they're totally nuts."

CHARLETON

GRANDY

CHERRY

ROY RD

INDUSTRIAL

Handwritten notes in an oval, possibly including a name like "C. J. ...".



SECRET

Oct. 1, 1946.

Asst. Superintendent of Posts,
Richmond.

Dear Sir: File 811206 - "Tomatoes"

Referring to your letter of the 24th
ultimo herein, I have taken this matter up
with the Supervisor of the Provincial Postal
Home at Columbia and I have been informed
by Mr. Morris that, as the routes in question
have been closed for some time, there will
be no objection to the proposed cancella-
tion.

The copy forwarded with your letter
is herewith returned.

Yours faithfully,

"F. Hurley"
F. Hurley,
Chief Clerk.

PH:F
Encl.

Clark's File No. 6
Box No. 38

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-14-2010 BY 60322 UCBAW/SAB



Ottawa, Ont.

LADIES' BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

Oct. 3, 1946.



J. B. White, C. N. C.,
STENOGRAPHER,
Corp. of The District of Columbia,
Postal Bldg., B. C.

Sir: Please refer to File 0011586 dated
1938 "Tennessee"

With further reference to the report-
ment's letter of the 24th ultimo regarding
the cancellation of Nos. 1, 2 and 3, 200-
1, Lake District, June 1938, together with
the cancellation of several roads adjoining
the provincial mental home, I am enclosing
herewith for your information a copy of a
letter received from the Chief Clerk, Office
of the Provincial Secretary, Victoria.

Yours truly,

Asst. Superintendent of Lands.

J.B.W.
Enc.

Chas. H. ...
Dec 1877

1. Interior lines of Blocks 2 and 3 bounded Map 1788 to be cancelled according to. There has appeared title in all the lots therein.

2. Following roads to be cancelled-

- Ferry Road from Charlton Road to Cherry Road.
- Crashy Road from Ferry Road to Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way.
- North Road from Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way to North Road.
- Cherry Road from Ferry Road to North Road.
- North Road from Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way to Charlton Road.

3. All of the westerly half of cancelled Ferry Road entered upon an accompanying plan between Charlton Road and Cherry Road to be acquired by Mr. Charlton Jones registered owner of lot "a", bounded Map 1788.

4. To be acquired by the Corporation of the District of Spanish Town parts colored red on accompanying plan.

(a) That part of the east half of cancelled Ferry Road and part of lot "a" of Block 1, bounded Map 1788, lying to the north of a line drawn from a point on the eastern line of cancelled Ferry Road distant 4 1/2 ft. southerly from the southerly limits of Charlton Road to a point on the westerly limits of the Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way distant 20 ft. southerly from the north westerly corner of the said lot "a", Block 1, bounded Map 1788.

(b) That part of lot "a", Block 1, bounded Map 1788 and part of the east half of cancelled North Road lying north of a line drawn from a point on the westerly limits of the Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way distant 20 ft. southerly from the east westerly corner of the said lot "a" to a point on the eastern line of cancelled North Road, distant 20 ft. along the said eastern line from the southerly limits of Charlton Road.

5. These parts colored yellow on the accompanying plan described are

(a) That part of the westerly half of cancelled Ferry Road, lying westerly of that part of the said road acquired by the Corporation of the District of Spanish Town with that part of cancelled Ferry Road lying westerly of the Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way and all of cancelled Cherry Road to be acquired by Mr. Jones and to be consolidated with that part of lot "a", Block 1, lying southerly of that part of the said lot acquired by the Corporation of the District of Spanish Town and all of Block 2 lying westerly of the Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way and all of Block 1, all of bounded Map 1788. All of said parts to form one lot parcel.

(b) That part of cancelled Crashy Road lying westerly of the Farmer S. C. Electric Right-of-Way together with that part of the westerly half of cancelled North Road lying southerly of that part of the said road acquired by the Corporation of the District of Spanish Town to be acquired by Mr. Jones and consolidated with that part of lot "a" of Block 1, lying southerly of that part of the said lot acquired by the Corporation of the District of Spanish Town and all of Block 2 of Map 1788. All of said parts to form one lot parcel.

6. All of the westerly half of cancelled North Road entered upon on the accompanying plan to be acquired by the Proprietors David Hunsford registered owner of lots 1, 2 and 3, Block "d", Map 1788. That portion of the said cancelled road to be consolidated with the remaining lot situated westerly from 21.

7. Provision to be made for a water pipe connected to the said along the cancelled portion of North Road acquired by Mr. Jones. The water line of said cancelled road to be 20 ft from the inner westerly limits of the said road.

The Hospital Home was started in
1881 by Henry Lincoln as a dispensary
and the education work was founded
at the Hospital Home while so much
was taking place.

Dr. Louis W. Holt

1888

H.

Clark's File No. 5
Box No. 11

R.R. 3 - Box 1741 - Victoria B.C.

Apr. 12 - 46

Mr. Ince
Please find enclosed
cheque for \$16.⁰⁰ Registration & Cancellation
of Loto 12 - 22 Block A 7m ap 1343

Yours truly
Alex. D. Munro

Ch-107-4246
Box 107

R.R. Box 1741, Vicksburg, Miss. C.

June 1 - 1886

Wm Lambart & Council

Seamed to Memphis

W. Lambart P.O.

RECEIVED
JUN 1 1886
W. Lambart P.O.

Dear Sir

A few years ago the Board and some of the Councilmen and Mr Green inspected my land and the Council made arrangements whereby I was to pay a certain amount to wipe out my indebtedness. The Council to consolidate my land to arrange also to close up roads through and some surrounding my property. I don't think this has been done.

The part I am asking your attention to now is Map 1886. The roads I refer to is part of North - Cherry - Grandy and Paray.

I think if you refer this matter to Mr Austin & Mr Hobbs they will remedy the details.

I know you must be very busy at this time but your kind attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated by

17

Yours truly

Alex McNeill