

CALIFORNIA
STATE
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
NUMBER 149
2026

Bulletin





CALIFORNIA
STATE
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
NUMBER 149
2026

Bulletin

EDITOR

Brittneydawn Cook

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Amanda Espinoza

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenneth B. Noack, Jr.

President

Marilyn Snider

Vice-President

Joe Peters

Secretary / Treasurer

Greg Lucas

State Librarian of California



Andrea Catania-Stephenson

Katherine Weedman-Cox

Jennifer Basye Sander

Paul Luscher

Shelley Blanton-Stroud

Lewis Buzbee

Christopher Fluetsch

Jasmin Hakes



Brittneydawn Cook

Executive Director

Amanda Espinoza

Foundation

Administrator

Shelley Ford

Bookkeeper

The *California State Library Foundation Bulletin* is published when we are able. © 2004-2026.

Opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of their institutions, the California State Library, or the Foundation.

The *Bulletin* is included as a membership benefit to Foundation members. Membership rates are:

Associate: \$40–\$99

Contributor: \$100–\$249

Sponsor: \$250–\$499

Patron: \$500–\$999

Institutional: \$500

Corporate: \$750

Pioneer: \$1,000

Lifetime Member: \$5,000

Subscription to Libraries: \$30/year

2.....Voices from the Inside: The Digitization of the California Prison Press Collection
By Catherine Wesenfeld, Government Publications Librarian

12.....Sounds from the Library: Historical and Documentary Approaches to the Musical Manuscripts of the Sutro Library
By José Luis Segura Maldonado, 2025 Kibbey Fellow

35.....Foundation Notes

36.....Contributors

Front Cover: MMS M5, Quaderno de Música de guitarra, Mathias José Maestro, 1800-1810. Courtesy of the California State Library, Sutro Branch.

Back Cover: The Wall City News, Volume 5 No. 1, August 16 1930. San Quentin, California. Courtesy of the California State Library, Government Publication Sections.

Illustration and Photo Credits: Courtesy of the California State Library and Jose Luis Segura Maldonado.

Design: Angela Caldwell | www.angelacaldwell.art

California State Library Foundation

1225 Eighth Street, Suite 345, Sacramento, CA 95814

tel: 916.447.6331 | web: www.cslibdn.org | email: admin@cslibdn.org

FP800
F8
V. 35
no. 1

JOHNNY CASH SHOW SMASH HIT!

THE



B F O L S O M O B S E R V E R

CALIFORNIA
STATE LIBRARY

JAN 3 1968

GOVERNMENT
PUBLICATIONS

Volume 25 No. 1

The Folsom Observer — Represa, California

January, 1968



STOCKTON CHILDRENS HOME "DELEGATION" receiving Christmas Cards from the men of Folsom via the Inmate Advisory Council. Shown left to right are: Ray Branch, Vice Chairman; Stockton Delegates, John Quinones, Vicky Marine, Vicky Arroyo, Little John John and Kurt Thompson. Also shown is I. A. C. Secretary, Ray Menter and Chairman Rudy Enriquez.

Men of Folsom Give Colorful Christmas To Stockton Childrens Home Youngsters

Not all stories about Christmas have a happy ending. Not all are the least bit colorful. But in this case, because of the efforts of imprisoned men, the ending of the story is one so chuck full of happiness and color that no amount of writing could do it justice.

It began several weeks ago with the Fall Art Show and the more than \$800 collected there for the Stockton Childrens Fund. Next came the IAC Blood Drive which saw many blue-clad men roll-up their sleeves and give, in the only way they could. This was topped-off with the special, Thanksgiving Day Variety Show and the donations of a nickel and a dime there from the men on the Main Yard, who appreciated the entertainment.

What was all this combined effort worth? Over \$1600! The largest amount of money ever collected by the men of Folsom Prison to be used to purchase Christmas presents for the kids at the "Home."

Were the gifts colorful? You bet they were!

First, there was the purchase of two 24-inch RCA color television sets—one for the girls' and another for the boys' dormitories—at a total of \$1045. Not wanting to give the youngsters an imperfect gift an additional \$75

Please turn to page 5

Holy Name Party Pleases Gathering

Members of the Holy Name Society staged a Christmas reception December 24, during which the Catholic choir sang a number of traditional favorites followed by a medley of several Spanish songs by the *Marichis* and a pair of solos by vocalist Eddie Liscano.

Arrangements for the annual Christmas party were capably handled by the Society's president, Frank Galindo in conjunction with Pete Vella, program chairman and John Chaine, the Society's secretary, and Julian Trujillo, vice president.

Ex-FBI Agent Lynum To Adult Authority

Retired FBI Agent Curtis O. Lynum, who investigated the kidnappings of Frank Sinatra Jr., and former State Finance Director Hale Champion, has been appointed to the adult authority by Governor Ronald Reagan.

June Carter, Tennessee Three Statler Brothers & Carl Perkins Headline Hit Country Musicale

Johnny Cash, Folsom's favorite entertainer, and his talent laden entourage of country-western recording artists: Carl Perkins, June Carter, the Statler Brothers, Luther Perkins and the Tennessee Three with Marshall Grant and W.S. Holland, presented a tremendous show to an S.R.O. blue-clad audience in No.2 Dining Hall on Saturday, January 13.

With Hugh Cherry officiating as the Master of Ceremonies, the show opened with Tennessee Three playing a medley of old tunes, including "Nine Pound Hammer" and "The Old Spinning Wheel."

Carl Perkins, the sensational guitarist who wrote several songs for Elvis Presley, and making his first appearance in Folsom brought the crowd to its feet with his lively rendition of "What A Way to Go." Perkins then acceded to the shouted requests of the men and sang his all-time favorite, "Blue Suede Shoes."

The Statler Brothers comprised of brothers Don and Harold Reid, along with Phil Balsley and Lew DeWitt, turned in their second sterling performance here at Folsom by singing such out-standing numbers as "You Rascal You," "This Old House," "Flowers On The Wall," and the beautiful spiritual,

Please turn to page 5

Alco Anon Group Hold Semi-Annual Officers Election

General elections were held by the local Alcoholics Anonymous membership December 9 with successful candidates officially assuming their duties on January 1.

Modesto V. was reelected Secretary and was joined by Don E. General Chairman; Wheeler A. Conference Chairman; William L. Jim D., and Bill H. Service Committeemen.

John C., again will chair the Beginners Group while Charles C. was named to edit the *A. A. Folsomite*.

Thirteen Steering Committee members were also seated, comprised of: Saul M., Robbie S., Carl B., Russell C., Marc S., Floyd W., Bill N., Riley W., Rudy R., Grant H., Spencer O., Oscar B., and Larry T.



Voices from the Inside

The Digitization of the California Prison Press Collection

By Catherine Wesenfeld, Government Publications Librarian

On a Saturday night, in January 1968, music spills from the No. 2 Dining Hall at Folsom State Prison. “Johnny Cash, Folsom’s favorite entertainer, and his talent-laden entourage of country-western recording artists” (Observer 1) are performing for inmates and recording what would become Cash’s first live album. The performance was memorialized in *The Folsom Observer* that same month, with the headline “Johnny Cash Show Smash Hit!” The reporter writes about “June Carter spicing things up when she joined Johnny Cash on stage”, his performance of *The Greystone Chapel*, a song written for Cash by Glen Sherley, an inmate at Folsom State Prison, and how the night’s festivities ended with the presentation of a prison peacoat and cap to the singer as a memento of his visit (Observer 5).



Prison periodicals like *The Folsom Observer* offer a rare glimpse into daily life and special events that occurred behind the walls of California prisons. Now, years later those stories and events are being preserved and made available through a digitization project undertaken by the California State Library’s Government Publications Section. This overlooked collection of government documents reveals how incarcerated authors and prison staff documented experiences that were rarely captured in official reports or documents.

The Forlorn Hope is thought to be the first prison periodical published in the

Catherine Wesenfeld is a librarian in the Government Publications Section. Catherine has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz and a Master of Information Studies from the University of Toronto. Catherine spent 10 years in public libraries before joining the California State Library in 2023.

LP800
F8
v.24
no.4
c-2

The Folsom Observer

Vol. 24, No. 4

Thursday, February 23, 1967

Represa, California

HOLLYWOOD TO MAKE FILM HERE



VISITOR FROM BEHIND IRON CURTAIN: Yugoslavia's famed criminologist, Dr. Dragomir Davidovic, is escorted around Folsom during a recent visit by Warden Arthur L. Oliver (right) and Associate Warden (C&T) Stanley P. Faustman.

Noted Criminologist Tells Of Prison Life Behind Iron Curtain

By Rig Rigby

Yugoslavia, one of the most progressive countries behind the Iron Curtain, has an innovation in its prison system that should appeal to the inmates not only of California but throughout the nation. It is, without a question of doubt, a most unique concept—perhaps the only one of its type in the world.

So aptly entitled "Vacation Time," the novel plan was unfolded to *The Observer* in an exclusive interview with Dr. Dragomir Davidovic, chief of the Criminological Research for the Institute of Criminology in Belgrade, Yugoslavia during a recent tour of Folsom. The distinguished, universally known criminal expert is on an extended visit to the U. S. under the auspices of an International Program sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

Imagine being permitted to take a 14 day vacation to your home regardless of where it is located in the United States after each year of your sentence! Or if you don't have a home some special friends or relatives can visit with you in private cottages provided for the occasion over a two week period. Such is the rule in Yugoslavia's state prisons, says Dr. Davidovic.

Must Earn Privilege

"Vacation Time," according to the

(Please turn to page 4)

Universal Selects Folsom As Scene For Part Of Motion Pix

Universal TV Studios, one of the giants of both the TV and motion picture industries, will film a part of their multi-million dollar picture, "Red Is The Color Of Snow," in Folsom Prison. The *Observer* has learned from Grant Salzman, Administrative Assistant to Warden Oliver. Production is scheduled to start here the middle of next month.

With Executive Producer George Santoro and Director Richard Irving at the helm, a cast of some 100 actors, and crew workers from Hollywood will open shop here perhaps as early as March 13 according to the latest reports.

The decision to make part of the top two hour TV - Theatre picture here was made by Universal following a recent scouting trip to Folsom by executives of the film, which included not only Santoro and Irving, but location manager Pierre Valin and unit production boss Willard Sheldon.

World Premier

The picture will be one of Universal's planned 120 shows to be filmed first for TV and then for theatre distribution. It will be a World Premier stunt. In the past pictures have opened at various theatres throughout the country and later shown on TV.

"Universal is making this first run production exclusively for initial TV showing by NBC. TV has been allotted first showing of this two-hour major picture before it reaches the theatres," Santoro told your correspondent on his recent visit to Folsom. "The idea is receiving considerable attention by the press all over the country," he added.

At press time the names of the stars of the film were not available although reports say it will be a star-studded Hollywood array. Both Santoro and Irving are considered outstanding figures in the producing and directing fields.

The cast will be on location locally for a period of one week, which should make for plenty of excitement around these parts. When they are finished here, the "Red Is The Color of Snow," contingent will move to a mountain location near Reno for the completion of the film.

First Since 1961

This will mark the first film to be produced in Folsom since 1961 when such stars as Sammy Davis Jr., Broderick Crawford, Rod Steiger and Ben Gazzara appeared here for the flicker entitled "Convicts Four," which was the story of the book, "Reprieve," written by Johnny Resko, then a prisoner at New York's Sing Sing Prison.

Other previous major pictures to be shot here were "Riot in Cell Block 11," starring Neville Brand, and "Inside The Walls of Folsom Prison," a Warner Brothers Production featuring Steve Cochran and David Brian.

—Rig Rigby

Two Custody Changes

Captain R. C. Thomas has announced two changes in the Custody Office. Lieutenant Bud Moriarity comes in from the Ranch to serve as relief lieutenant and Lieutenant B. D. Jones goes to the Ranch.

Back To 8 Next Edition

With the next edition, *The Observer* will get back to its regular eight pages of news, features and sports. Thanks for bearing with us on the skeleton four page paper of the past two weeks.



Many of the wardens present were opposed to introducing outside newspapers because of their coverage of crimes and other events considered unsavory or unsuitable for prisoners to read.

United States. In 1800, inmate William Keteltas published *The Forlorn Hope* while incarcerated in a New York State debtor's prison. His goal was to end imprisonment for debt in the United States (Baird 19). While Keteltas established the first prison newspaper, the concept of prison journalism did not emerge until approximately 80 years later and owes its beginnings to the prison reform movement of the late nineteenth century (Morris 31). Reformers, prison officials, and philanthropists gathered for the first American Prison Congress in October 1870. It was during this meeting of 130 delegates, from 24

states, that Joseph Chandler, of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Prisoners, first raised the idea for an inmate newspaper explaining:

Inmates crave newspapers – they ask guards for them and request that visitors bring them. The strong desire of every man who can read to have a newspaper seems to justify the idea that a paper is a desirable, almost necessary, means of reaching the affections and thence the conscience of one who is suddenly and temporarily withdrawn from social intercourse (Morris 34).

Many of the wardens present were opposed to introducing outside newspa-

pers because of their coverage of crimes and other events considered unsavory or unsuitable for prisoners to read. One warden, Zebulon Reed Brockway, took this idea from the American Prison Congress and implemented it when he became the warden of the New York State Reformatory in Elmira; *The Summary* was published in 1876.

The Summary contained only "sanitized news from the outside, flattering coverage of activities inside the prison, and a healthy dose of inspirational copy to encourage inmates to reform" (Morris 40). Others took notice of *The Summary*, and in the following decade close to a