

Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it everyday, and at last we cannot break it.—H. Mann

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## Days Off Reason Convicts Ask Penitentiary Sentence

EDMONTON (CP) — Observers of magistrates' courts in Alberta are familiar with requests of many convicted persons: "Please send me to the penitentiary so I can learn a trade."

This is not the real reason, says Walter Lemmon of Calgary, executive director of the John Howard Society in Alberta.

The real reason for the request lies in a paradox of provincial and federal grants of days off for good behaviour.

In a federal penitentiary, prisoners sentenced to a minimum of two years are accepted. But they receive six days a month off for good behavior in their first year and 10 days a month in their second year, for a total of 192 days for a two-year term.

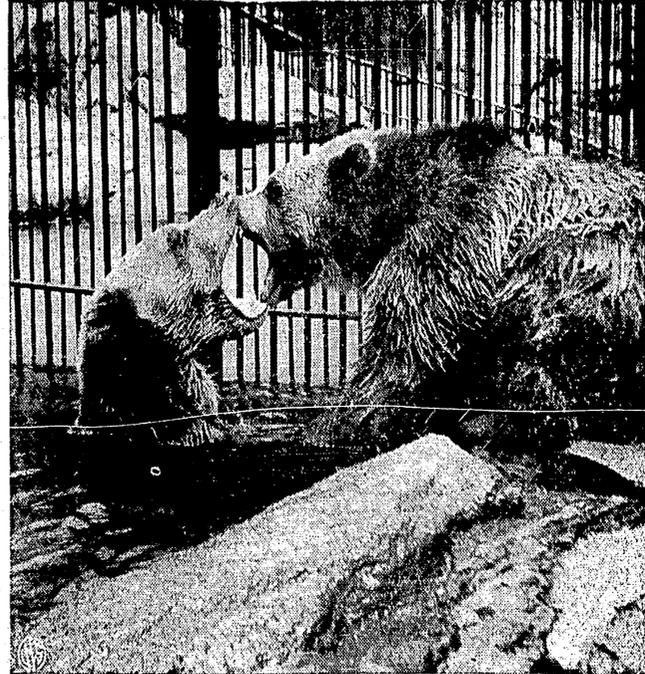
**GAIN 10 WEEKS**  
Provincial jails take prisoners sentenced to two years less a day, or shorter, but grant only five days a month off for good behavior, a maximum of 120 days.

Thus, said Mr. Lemmon in an interview, a prisoner anticipating a two-year sentence will ask for the penitentiary because he could be released up to 72 days, or 10 weeks, earlier than in the provincial jail.

Only one person in six sentenced in Alberta today will hire ex-convicts," said Mr. Lemmon.

Before a youngster starts school, he should have a very thorough medical checkup to ensure that he is in sound health. This should include examination of eyes, ears and teeth, and immunization or booster shots against contagious diseases.

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**KISSIN' COUSINS**—A pair of bears get pretty mouthy over who has the right to cool off in the pool in their cage in New York City's Central Park Zoo. The twosome's frolicking gets a lot of attention from zoo visitors, but sometimes the bouts between the bears get pretty grizzly.

In case of fire, if trapped upstairs, the door of the room should be kept closed if the fire has reached the hallway outside. To prevent flames licking under the door, a rug should be pressed against the crack. Jumping from the window should not be attempted unless there is no chance at all of getting help.

## Family of 10 Takes Advice To "Get A Bus" For Travel

OTTAWA (CP)—Dr. Frank Read and his wife find travelling is best by the bus load, when you have a family of eight children.

Dr. Read said everyone told him he really needed a bus when they saw him trying to pack two adults, eight youngsters and a dog into a six-passenger car.

"So that's what I got," the department of agriculture veterinary surgeon told a reporter.

Last November he found a 10-year-old vehicle once used to transport workers from Pembroke, Ont., to the atomic energy plant at Chalk River, Ont.

With elbow grease and ingenuity, he and Mrs. Read went to work converting the 35-passenger bus into a mobile motel.

Out went the bus seats and in went two folding double beds, two seven-foot bunk beds and a folding army table which, with a mattress, also serves as a bed. A 50-pound refrigerator, a propane gas stove and two four-gallon water cans completed the furnishings.

Now, with gay curtains over the windows and the words Ottawa Clipper painted across its green body, the Read family bus clips along at 45 miles an hour for comfortable journeys and holiday outings.

There is plenty of space for the five boys and three girls—and the cocker spaniel—to play inside the remodeled bus. The youngest Reads can take their afternoon naps and the cooking facilities give Mrs. Read a chance to start meals before the bus stops.

Dr. Read said that eventually the Ottawa Clipper will rest permanently at their summer cottage near Ottawa, where it will be used for additional sleeping quarters.

A child suffering from rheumatic fever can best be cared for in a hospital during the acute stage. Special tests must be made and the child requires complete rest and care which may not be available in his home.

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**YOUNGEST SPOTTER?**—The youngest aircraft spotter in the United States is believed to be nine-year-old Kathy June Johnson of Lodi, Calif. The blonde fifth-grader has already earned a pin for 100 hours of duty with the Ground Observer Corps. Her father and sister are also sky watchers at Lodi.

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## BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

### "Countable" Hands Needed For An Opening Two Bid

This hand illustrates a sound piece of advice about opening two bids. Don't open with a two bid when your long suits are shoddy, as Mr. Muzzy's heart and diamond suits were in today's deal.

Have countable hands. And by "countable" I mean hands containing suits that are solid enough so that you can gauge their trick-taking ability with reasonable accuracy.

### MUZZY'S HAND

Look at Mr. Muzzy's hand. How can you possibly tell how many tricks it will take? You can't. It depends on many factors: how the outstanding high cards are distributed among the other three hands, how the suits are distributed around the table, etc.

When you open with a two bid you are supposed to be saying that you don't care what the distribution is (barring extreme freaks, of course), and that your hand will probably make game with very little help from partner.

Even with fairly normal distribution around the table, Mr. Muzzy's hand could win anywhere from six to ten tricks. And that is figuring on playing opposite the actual dummy Mr. Champion put down.

I can't say why Mr. Muzzy insisted on playing hearts in this hand. Not that he had reason to like no trump, but at least the hand would have been better played by Mr. Champion—and three no trump probably would not have been doubled.

### MR. DALE'S DOUBLE

Mr. Dale's double of four hearts was a somewhat lucky shot. Based on his cards alone he had no double. But he knows Mr. Muzzy's two bids and he hoped his was one of the weaker ones.

It looked as though he could win two hearts and a club so that there was little danger of a redouble or of Mr. Muzzy making overtricks. And then there was the likelihood that Mr. Muzzy would drop at least one trick in the play.

Right. Mr. Muzzy won the opening spade lead with the queen and, seeing no entry to dummy short of overraking the king of spades with the ace, banged down the ace and another heart. He went down three, losing three hearts, two diamonds and a club.

Mr. Muzzy had an "uncountable" hand. Note how much better he would have done if he had held a countable hand something like this:

S-7 6 5 H-A K Q J 9 7 D-A K Q C-2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♥ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3♥ Pass 3 NT Pass  
4♥ Dbl. All Pass

**Corked Bottles Thwart Crown**

VANCOUVER (CP)—A charge of unlawfully importing 374 bottles of whiskey and six bottles of brandy was dismissed in police court Friday when the crown failed to prove the nature of the contents of the bottles.

Charges against Notts Zervas, 29, were withdrawn after Magistrate Gordon Scott noted that customs men had never opened the bottles to prove the contents.

He said identification under the Customs Act must be more than stating where the liquor came from or where it was seized.

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