

CLICK

THE NATIONAL PICTURE MONTHLY

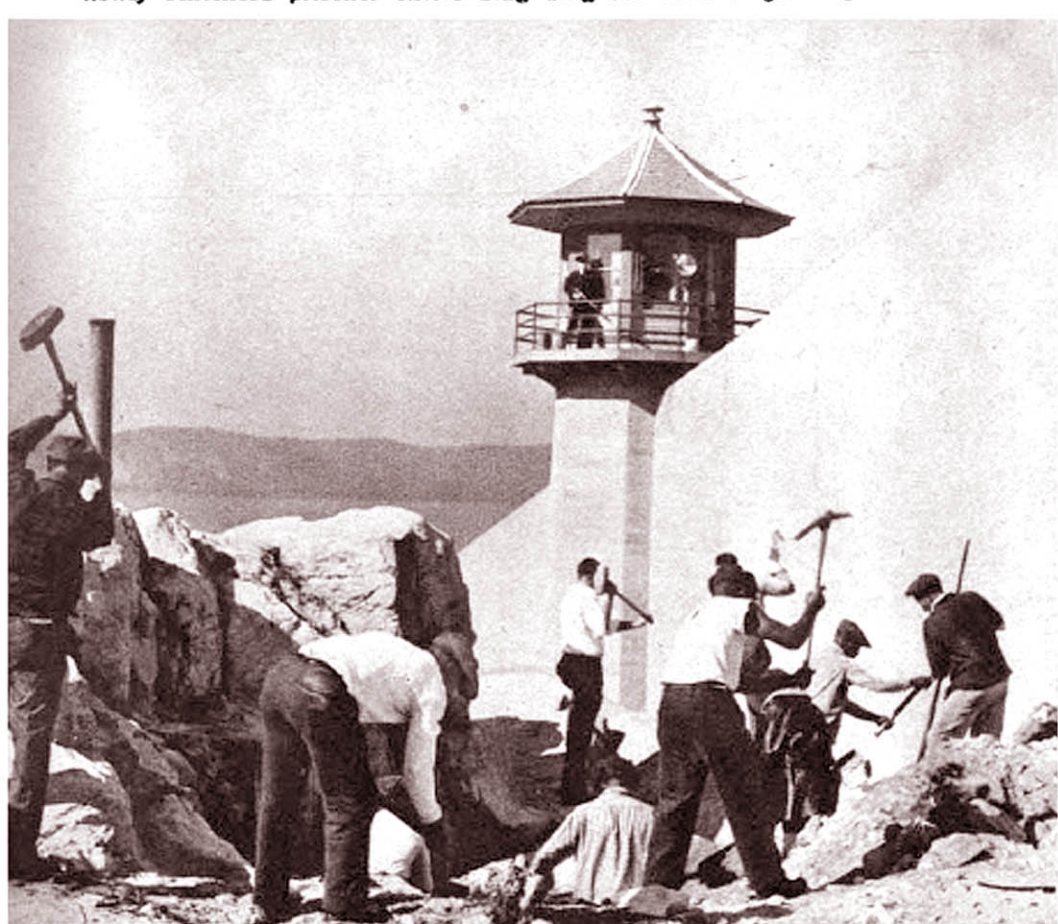
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INSIDE SING SING: FIRST COMPLETE PICTURE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MEN "SENT UP THE RIVER"

[NOTE: THIS STORY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITH THE AUTHORIZATION AND CO-OPERATION OF WARDEN LEWIS E. LAWES.]



THE LAST STEPS on the trip "up the river." Handcuffed to a sheriff, a newly sentenced prisoner enters Sing Sing for an average six-year term.



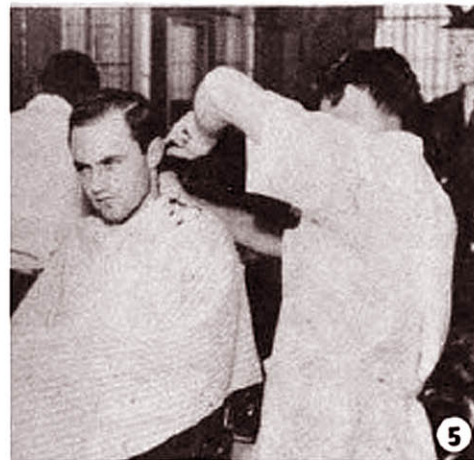
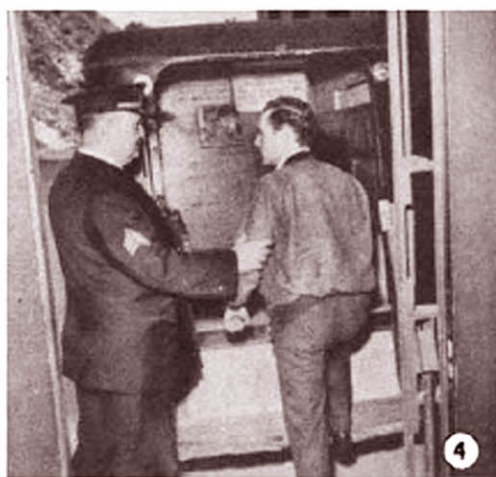
THE TRADITIONAL "rock pile" is now a quarry. Prisoners still swing picks at the sandstone bluffs, but are allowed to use dynamite for heavy boulders.

Murderers and felons . . . rogues and embezzlers . . . an average of 2750 of them, inhabit Sing Sing Prison at Ossining, N. Y., on the bank of the Hudson River. Theirs is a world apart. A world bounded by gray stone walls and steel bars. When the gates clang shut behind them they enter upon a life scientifically regulated by Warden Lewis E. Lawes, whose aim is to restore them to a useful place in the outside world . . . a difficult job, but one in which Lawes excels. He looks on his charges as just people whose lives have been switched over to the wrong track by poverty, bad company, liquor, women, or the inability to adjust themselves to a normal way of living. He considers it his job to make real men of them if it is humanly possible. **CLICK** takes you inside the grim walls and shows you what happens to the convicted criminal from the day he is committed to Sing Sing Prison until the day, years later, he leaves as a free man. You will see how prison life is based on rigid routine . . . like the Army or Navy, only more so. You will see how work, play, diet, exercise and education are extended to develop latent manhood—correction, not punishment, is the theme.



SINCE 1834, THESE GRIM, gray barracks on the Hudson at Ossining have been the "Big House" to the criminals of New York State. The average inmate learns a profitable trade; his health is improved; he may learn self-discipline; he struggles constantly to retain his personality.

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INSIDE SING SING



(1) **INSIDE** the walls his name, record and background are filed and he gets a number. (2) Fingerprinting comes next. (3) Then the rogues' gallery pictures. (4) Next, a ride in the prison bus to the Reception Building. (5) There he gets a haircut, but his head is not shaved. (6) Flannel clothing—no stripes. (7) Thorough physical examination, including a Wasserman test. (8) Finally a talk with Asst. Principal Keeper Keeley about the rules.



6 FT. HIGH . . . 7 ft. deep . . . 3½ ft. wide—that's the size of the cell in the old block where he spends his first two weeks, or longer.



AS SOON as there is room he is moved to the new cell block. Like a giant filing case, cells are arranged in tiers to assure maximum ventilation.



CELLS in the new block are 5 ft. by 8½ ft. Walls of sheet steel use the space efficiently. Plumbing fixtures are included.



A ROOM with a view is the reward for years of perfect behavior. A glimpse of trees and blue sky is reserved for "Grade A" long termers.

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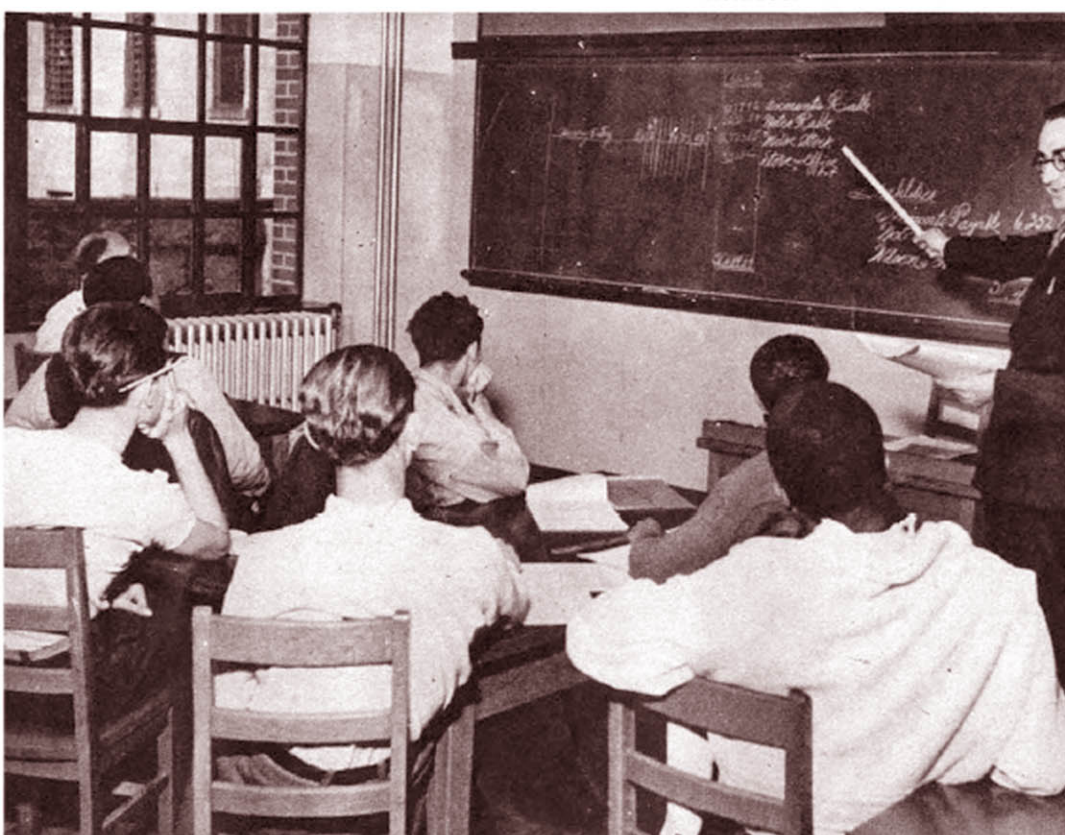
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INMATES are permitted to decorate their cells. Pictures of movie stars and sweethearts on the outside give the cubicles a more homelike appearance.



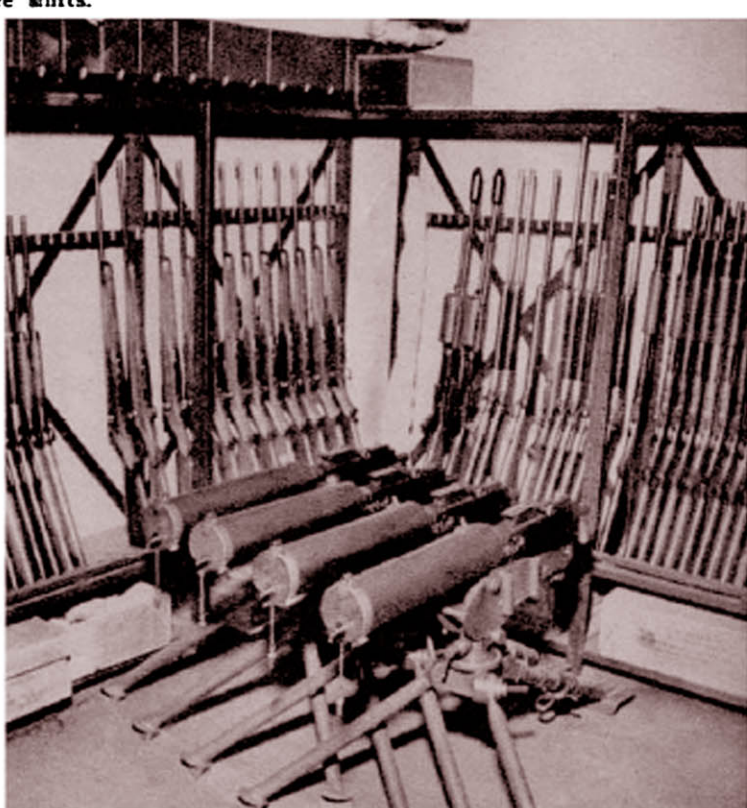
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IF AN INMATE is illiterate he must go to school. There are also courses in accounting, law, book-keeping, mechanical drawing, etc. Teachers are inmates—but not this one who heads the school—and it is not uncommon to find an embezzler bookkeeper teaching the art of balancing books correctly.



ON OR OFF DUTY, prison guards must be ready for action at all times. Admission to the force is by civil service examination and the candidates accepted go through a vigorous training at Walkkill, N. Y., prison. There are 300 guards at Sing Sing. They work in three shifts.



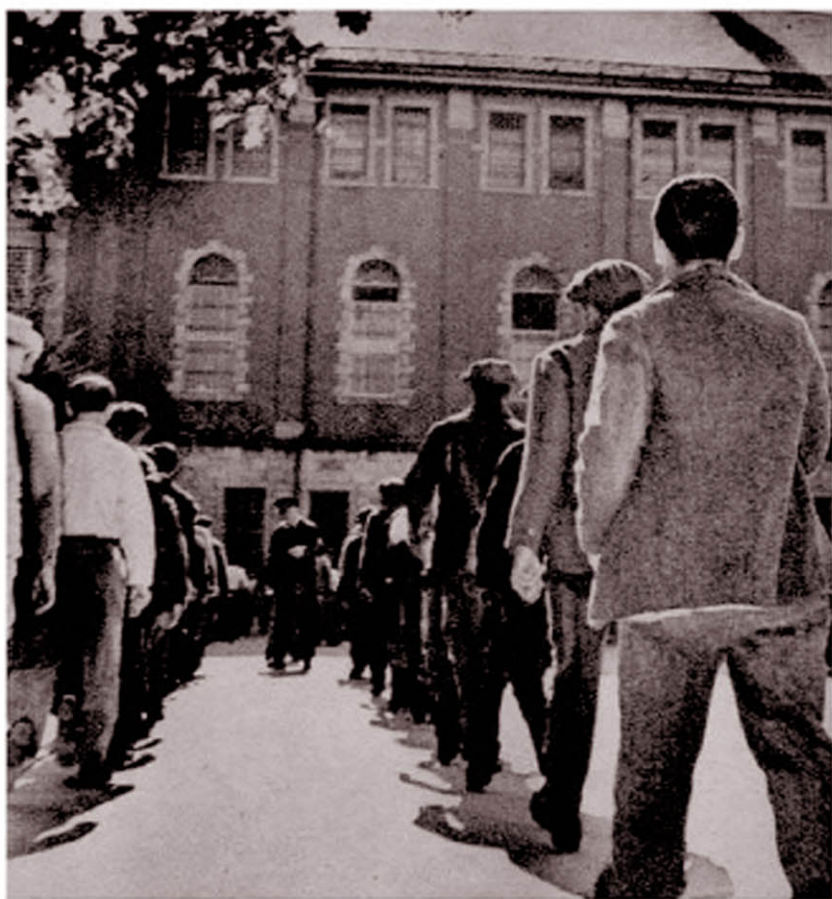
THE ARSENAL presents a formidable hazard to the convict who wants to escape or start a riot. It hasn't been necessary to use the weapons in years.

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INSIDE SING SING



ONLY ONE visit every fortnight from a relative is allowed. There is no screen or barrier between prisoner and visitor.



THERE'S NO "prison shuffle" anymore. The lock step is obsolete along with stripes and shaved heads. Convicts step briskly to music of the prison band.

CENSUS	
POPULATION	2 5 9 1
CONDEMNED	7
LIFERS	5 0
COLORED	
AT COURT	
ESCADED	

NO INMATES have escaped from the "Big House" in the last four years. Colored prisoners total about 30 per cent.—Harlem supplies many.



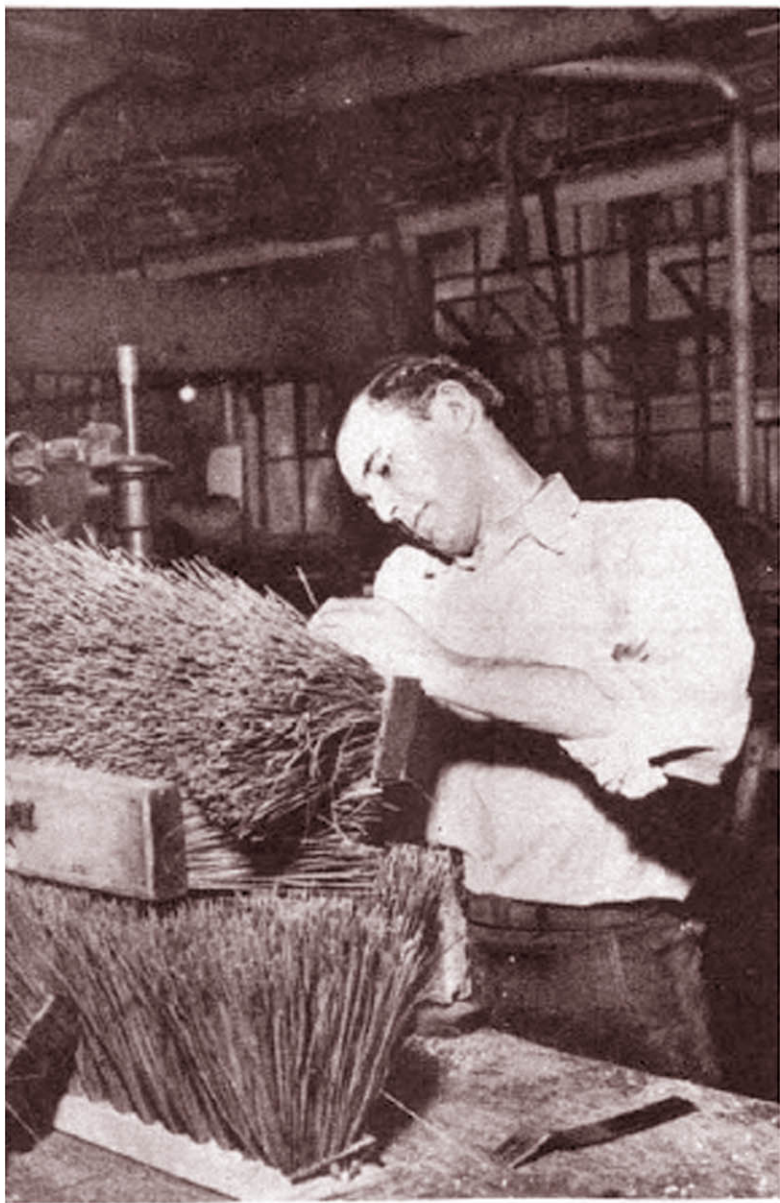
WHEN Lewis E. Lawes became Warden in 1920, Sing Sing was one of the worst prisons in the country. Now it is considered one of the very best.

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INSIDE SING SING



EARLY in his confinement a prisoner usually starts his autobiography. It is stored with other personal effects in his private locker.



EVERY inmate is put to work. His pay starts at 5c a day and may rise to 30c. Sing Sing's workshop earnings gross about \$600,000 yearly.