

County to renovate the Orange County jail in Hillsborough, said Joe Bradshaw, assistant county commissioner.

The jail, which was built in 1925, has problems which include faulty plumbing and lighting fixtures. "It's just dilapidated and old," said Orange County Sheriff Buck Knight.

The jail was designed to hold 40 prisoners but averages 18 now, because part of the jail cannot be used due to its age, Knight said.

An architect is working on a plan for the renovations, but a problem lies in getting money to finance the renovations, Bradshaw said. The county defeated a bond referendum last November which would have helped finance the renovations, he said.

North Carolina's Correction Center for Women, in Raleigh, is also overcrowded but this is not a problem, said Kenneth Harris, the center's correctional administrator.

The state has field units throughout North Carolina for male inmates, Harris said, so men usually are imprisoned near their home.

But women from across the state are sent to the correction center for women because it is the only major institution in the state for women. So, many women are in prison far from their home, Harris said.

This is a special problem for the correction center, he said, because many women have to deal with adjustment problems and being away from home. But Harris said this is one of the few problems at the correction center.

*'We're very concerned about it (the Joan Little case) because it reflects poorly on jails throughout the South.'*

*Woodburn Williams*

Even without overcrowding, a riot is still a possibility anywhere in the nation, Garrison said. But North Carolina prison officials say inmate cooperation has helped keep order and control in North Carolina's prisons.

"I wouldn't want to underestimate the value of inmate cooperation," Kautzky said.

But Shadbolt said inmate cooperation varies a great deal. "It's (prison) not a summer camp," he said. Some inmates want to take advantage of all available opportunities while others simply want to sit around and play cards, Shadbolt said.

An example of inmate cooperation in the state is the restitution program which Gov. Jim Hunt recently endorsed.

Restitution payments are made by inmates, as well as by persons on parole and probation, to the victims of their crimes. During January, about \$333,000 was collected in restitution in the state and more than 13,000 individuals and businesses benefited from this total.

The state also collected about \$231,000 in fines in January from persons on parole and probation. Fines are paid to the courts, which pass the money on to the general funds of the counties for distribution to the public schools.

Prison officials expect more than \$3 million to be paid in restitution in 1980.

A victim compensation bill, which is similar to restitution, was defeated in the state in 1977 but will be presented again in 1981, said Brent Hackney, Gov. Hunt's deputy press secretary.

The governor said in a January press conference that "he would support it (victim compensation)," Hackney said.

The programs that the North Carolina prisons offer inmates vary according to custody level and the location of the prison, Shadbolt said. For example, more resources are available to a prison in an urban setting, such as Raleigh, than to one in a rural setting, he said.

## It happened in '68

Very few people in North Carolina remember April 16, 1968. That was the date of the state's last prison riot, which left six inmates dead and 77 other persons wounded. When the whistle blew at 12:30 p.m. that day, signaling the end of the noon meal break, 450 inmates gathered in the prison's southwest yard instead of returning to work. After the inmates began to burn a building and threatened prison officials with handmade weapons, the violence began in earnest and lasted into the morning hours of April 17. V.L. Bounds, North Carolina's commissioner of corrections, at the time said a whole series of demands led to the riot. Foremost among these demands, Bounds said, was the release of certain inmates he had earlier placed in closed confinement at the prison.



Photo courtesy of N.C. State Archives

Throughout the state, the prison system offers inmates 19 industries to work in. These industries include a paint plant, a mattress plant, a sewing plant, a furniture plant and a meat processing plant.

"The idea is to put them (inmates) to work to occupy their time," Shadbolt said. And in time, he said, inmates learn skills which they can use when released.

The state pays inmates an incentive wage which varies from 75 cents to \$1.10 a day, depending on the inmate's skill level, Shadbolt said. Most of the money is put in the inmate's trust fund and each inmate is allowed to have no more than \$15 in his possession at one time, he said.

The prison system offers inmates other programs such as the work-release and study-release programs at minimum-custody prisons. These programs allow an inmate to leave the prison during the day to work or attend school. These programs help prepare the inmate for society, Shadbolt said.

The state's prison system has begun to stress inmate individuality, Shadbolt said, which helps the inmate gain self-esteem.

The "I Can" motivational training program, founded at Sandhills Youth Center in June, 1978, is one such

program. The course is designed to help the inmate become more aware of himself, focus on the importance of helping others and then set specific goals in these areas.

"I can see an improvement in people who take the course," said F.D. Hubbard, Sandhills Youth Center superintendent.

"We try to give them (inmates) confidence," he said. Many inmates have talent and ability but just need motivation and confidence to bring it out, he said.

"Through the course, we want to excite young men about themselves and others," Hubbard said. "It (the 'I Can' course), or any other program, doesn't stop crimes but it gives them (inmates) the tools that would help them deal with their fellow man, whether it be his peers or his supervisor," he said.

If America's prisons are to do their jobs and return to rehabilitation and reform, they must continue to focus on the prisoner himself, as well as the prison he must live in. Only then will the nation be rid of shocking news of inhumanity and violence in these institutions. It appears that North Carolina is on the right track.

*Phil Wells is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.*



Construction at N.C. Central Prison in Raleigh

DTH Scott Sharpe