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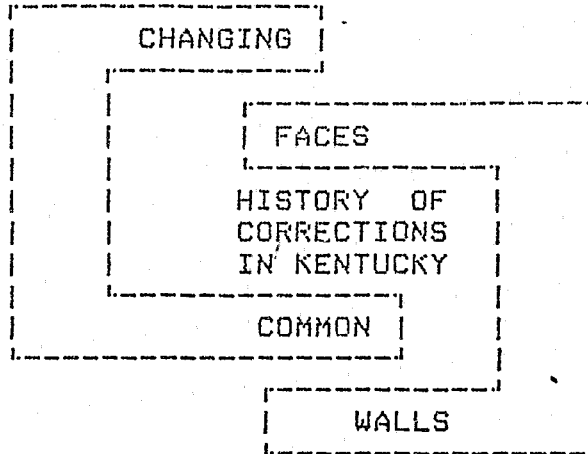
HISTORY OF
CORRECTIONS
IN KENTUCKY

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These facts about corrections in Kentucky were collected by the Kentucky Corrections Cabinet, Office of Corrections Training. If you have photos, articles or artifacts of interest to corrections, we would appreciate the opportunity to make copies or photographs.

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It should be noted that much of the information for the years 1800 to 1937 was found in the dissertation "A History of the Kentucky Penitentiary System 1865-1937" by Robert Gunn Crawford, University of Kentucky, 1955.

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INTRODUCTION

Eight years after Kentucky became a state it opened a penitentiary in Frankfort. Twenty-five years later the entire Kentucky State Penitentiary along with its inmates was leased to a private businessman. Private businessmen continued to lease K.S.P. for the next 55 years. Several of these businessmen, or lessees, made fortunes and several were unable to pay their "rent" and were excused from payment by the General Assembly. In 1880 the lessee system was replaced by the warden system but private business maintained control of inmate labor as late as the 1920's or early 1930's. Results of private sector influence and the reactions of "free" laborers can be seen in this chronology.

Overpopulation has been another theme emerging in a study of Kentucky's Corrections System. Seventeen years after opening its doors Kentucky State Penitentiary was overcrowded and the Governor requested a new prison to meet the needs of the next 50 years. Instead the General Assembly added 40 new cells to the existing facility. In the 15 years following the Civil War inmate population increased from 201 to 951. Over half of these inmates were black which leads one to believe that slavery was continued under the prison system after the Civil War. Overcrowding also resulted in the lease of many inmates to private employers who housed and worked these inmates outside the penitentiary. The threat of returning these inmates to an already overcrowded penitentiary gave these businessmen the political clout necessary to influence the General Assembly and prison administrators. Governor Blackburn responded to population pressures by pardoning 850 inmates during his term. Finally, 16 years after a Kentucky House Committee recommended building a new prison, the Kentucky Branch Penitentiary at Eddyville, Kentucky was opened. During the 1930's the overcrowding problem appeared once again. From 1930 to 1935 prison population increased by 2000 inmates to a total of 4300 by 1935. During this astounding population increase, federal legislation took effect which effectively idled over 2000 inmates who were employed by private contractors. In response to population pressures, over 700 inmates were pardoned by two governors between 1931 and 1935.

Reformation efforts began after the Civil War when the Governor called for a reformation of the entire prison system. Similar requests were made in 1870, 1873, 1876, 1880 and 1897. There is a notable similarity between reforms proposed by Governor A. B. Chandler in 1936 and several reforms proposed in 1984.

Reform efforts have always played against realities of political pressure. This historical digest may provide a yardstick to judge the amount of effort necessary to effect real change in the corrections profession. Without knowledge of where we have been and why, we are in danger of fostering repetitive correctional solutions to recurring problems of society as a whole.

HISTORY OF CORRECTIONS IN KENTUCKY

- 1792 Kentucky becomes a state. Penalty for all felonies is death. Misdemeanor penalties include burning the hand, whipping, pillory, and dunking.
- 1799 Kentucky State Penitentiary in Frankfort is established on one acre of land. First prisoner arrives in 1800.
- 1800-10 A total of 128 inmates serve time at the Kentucky State Penitentiary.
- 1802 Two inmates escape.
- 1808 Inmates produce: nails, log chains, plow irons, axes, hoes, shoes, boots, copper and tin ware.
- 1813-14 Forty-six British Officers are imprisoned as retaliation for forty-six Americans held in British prisons.
- 1817-19 Three or four convicts are housed per single cell. Legislative Committee and Governor recommend building a new prison to meet the needs of the next fifty years.
- 1822 General Assembly authorizes addition of one acre and forty new cells.
- 1825-34 Penitentiary is leased to Joel Scott for a percentage of the profits from prison labor. As lessee, Scott makes \$40,000 in nine years. Scott adds chair making, shoe making, cooperage, wagon making, sleighmaking, and weaving to prison industries. Two-thirds of inmates are employed making rope from hemp. The private sector maintains control of the penitentiary for the next 55 years.
- 1828 Eight solitary confinement cells are built. Each cell is 3 feet wide, 4 feet high, 7 feet long. Lashing remains the primary punishment. A recaptured escapee might receive 70 to 80 lashes.
- 1833 All but two inmates have cholera. Twenty percent of the inmates die.
- 1834-44 Lessee Thomas Theobald makes \$200,000 profit from prison labor.
- 1835 Twin towers are built at the entrance to the Penitentiary to provide suitable offices for the lessee and his assistants. These towers stand until 1950.
- 1840 240 new cells are added to the penitentiary.
- 1840's Mandatory shaving of inmates heads is ended.
- 1844 Delia Webster is convicted of helping slaves escape and gets a two year sentence. Lessee Newton Craig takes her to his home near Georgetown to serve as governess. Webster is pardoned after two months. Ten years later she provides "The Louisville Democrat" with letters Craig has written to her. These letters are published and Craig is not reappointed-as lessee. The Craig home, built with convict labor, still stands.
- 1845-58 Female prisoners are housed in a 20 foot square building, ten feet from the men's cellhouse, without a wall separating them.
- 1845-69 Penitentiary fails to show a profit and lessee does not pay the required annual rent to the state treasury for years: 1845, 1846, 1848, 1854, 1856, 1861, and 1869. The governor is empowered to remove any lessee who fails to comply with the law but politically no governor dares use this power.
- 1846 Legislature authorizes the building of a chapel at the penitentiary. A full-time chaplain is not hired until 1883.
- 1847 An Indiana prison in Clarksville, across the Ohio River from Louisville, is enlarged to become Indiana's major penitentiary. Like Kentucky, the Indiana State Penitentiary also used the lessee system but ended use of lessees in 1856. In 1897 this institution is renamed the Indiana State Reformatory. In 1921 this prison is sold to Colgate-Palmolive Co., its present owner, and inmates are moved to Pendleton, Indiana.
- 1851 Large stone cellhouses containing a total of 320 cells are added to Jefferson County's Workhouse at Lexington Road and Payne Street in Louisville. The Workhouse is in use until 1954. A public swimming pool now occupies this site.
- 1855 Sixty inmates are treated for scurvy.

- 1855 A large stone house is built at the town of Airdrie on the Green River in Muhlenberg County, about one mile from Paradise, Kentucky, and used as a machine shop. In 1884, inmates were kept a few weeks at this house while they quarried stone to build the Branch Penitentiary at Eddyville. This structure still stands, and is "the abandoned old prison down by A'drie Hill" in John Prine's popular song "Paradise". The full story of Airdrie is lost in the passage of time and folklore.
- 1856-72 Penitentiary costs \$337,000 more than it receives in rent from lessees.
- 1857-59 Two-thirds of inmate labor is devoted to the manufacture of hemp. During a fifteen month period, three inmates cut off a hand in order to escape from the task of making hemp rope. Hemp is the state's largest cash crop, and Kentucky produces more hemp than any other state.
- 1859 Jeremiah W. South is elected by the General Assembly to serve a four year term as Lessee.
- 1860 William C. Sneed, penitentiary physician from 1844 to 1863, publishes a book on the history of the penitentiary from 1798 to 1860. Sneed predicts that the Lessee System would make the penitentiary into the "engine of political ambition and the pest house of moral corruption".
- 1860 An armed mob of citizens rounds up convicts working outside the walls at the Indiana State Penitentiary at Jeffersonville and returns them to the penitentiary to protest their competition with free labor.
- 1862 Law stipulates that lessee be fined \$100 for every inmate worked outside the penitentiary walls. When the law goes into effect in 1872 it is discovered that the penalty of the 1862 act is "inadvertently" left out. Inmates continue to work outside walls on farms in Franklin and adjoining counties.
- 1863 General Assembly reduces the amount of rent charged the lessee from \$12,000 to \$6,000.
- 1863-70 Lessee Henry Todd keeps 50-75 inmates working on his farm and building his house in Frankfort.
- 1864 Fourteen prisoners escape. Lessee Todd states that the ease of joining the Army makes escapees difficult to recapture.
- 1865-80 Kentucky is the only state free from direct responsibility for its convicted criminals.
- 1865 Inmate population at Frankfort is 201. This figure grows to 653 by 1870 and to 951 by 1880.
- 1868 The prison population is 38.5% black. By 1879, this figure rises to 54.8%. Negroes make up over 50% of the inmate population for approximately 30 years.
- 1869 Governor John Stevenson calls for a thorough reformation of the prison system, establishing: a House of Reform; classification system; payment of a portion of earnings to the inmate upon his release. A commission is appointed to investigate prisons of other states and report their findings. The commission recommends re-establishing state control of prisons, but the Legislature votes this down.
- 1870 Outgoing lessee Henry Todd recommends use of a classification system to separate the young convicts (one was ten years old) from the hardened ones.
- 1870 Legislature elects Jeremiah South to a second four-year term as Lessee and he remains in power until his death in 1880. South gains a reputation by providing 25 legislators with cheap boarding, cheap washing, and free drinks, and as many as 50 guests for meals. One-third of the legislators are reported under his control and he is considered the most influential man in eastern Kentucky.
- 1870 Governor John W. Stevenson urges that families of convicts receive a share of the profits from prison labor.
- 1870-80 Louisville Courier-Journal conducts a vigorous campaign to employ inmates on public works projects. Only after the lessee is promised a share of the profits is legislation passed allowing this.
- 1871 There are 35 female inmates at Kentucky Penitentiary. All but two are black.
- 1872 Legislature approves \$45,000 for building female quarters at the penitentiary to replace quarters in a large room over the hospital. Male staff remain in charge of female inmates until 1917.
- 1872 Penitentiary inspectors urge that whipping be discontinued.
- 1872 Part of the hemp factory burns. One convict dies, and damage is estimated at \$29,800.

- 1873 Governor Preston H. Leslie sends a committee to the Prison Reform Congress in Baltimore. The committee's report is strongly critical of the lessee system and recommends use of the warden system. Governor Leslie joins with his committee, calling the lessee system a "reproach to the commonwealth". The General Assembly rejects these recommendations and re-elects Jeremiah South to another four year term as lessee.
- 1873 Convicts are being leased for 5¢ each per day. Editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal writes that Kentucky is the only state where convicts are sold into "absolute slavery."
- 1874 Kentucky House Committee recommends building a 500 cell branch penitentiary in Covington to relieve overcrowded conditions in Frankfort and to make classification possible. The General Assembly fails to act.
- 1875 One of every five inmates has pneumonia. One in twenty-four die of the disease. The prison physician blames overcrowding in the cellhouse for the outbreak.
- 1875-1900 Cost of feeding an inmate is less than 10¢ per day.
- 1876 At Frankfort there are 911 convicts in 648 cells. Governor James McCreary calls for an expansion of the penitentiary; lowering the population by raising from \$4 to \$15 the value of articles whose theft constitutes grand larceny; and employment of convicts on navigable rivers. The legislature appropriates \$25,000 for expansion; raises grand larceny limit to \$10; and provides 5 days per month reduction in sentence for good behavior.
- 1876 Courier-Journal carries an account of an inmate who died as a result of whipping and other mistreatment.
- 1878 Frankfort is flooded with counterfeit coins made by enterprising inmates.
- 1878 Free laborers petition the General Assembly to keep inmate labor from competing with them inside or outside the walls.
- 1878 Penitentiary houses 960 men and 40 women. There are only 740 cells for male inmates and penitentiary workshops are designed for only 500 men. The General Assembly is now faced with proposals for: enlarging the penitentiary; creating a branch penitentiary; hiring inmates for public works; or leasing inmates for labor in iron and coal mines.
- 1878 General Assembly passes a bill allowing up to 500 inmates to be leased to contractors carrying on public works with the state. Contractors are to provide food, housing, clothing, and discipline of inmates and pay nothing for their use.
- 1878-79 One hundred six inmates die of scurvy and other diseases.
- 1879-81 Governor Luke Blackburn pardons 850 inmates and later justifies his actions citing overcrowding.
- 1880 A ten year old boy is sentenced to life imprisonment.
- 1880 Reports show that inmates are punished by means of a wooden door placed over their cell door. This confines the inmate to a space 6 feet 8 inches long, 3 feet 9 inches wide, and 6 feet 3 inches high without light or air. The "shower bath" is also used to punish inmates. The prisoner's arms and legs are restrained to a wall and he is hosed down with a force-pump powered by four large inmates to 180 pounds of pressure.
- 1880 Frankfort correspondent for the Louisville Courier Journal writes, "We must slowly murder our convicts or give up their reformation because it will cost a great deal to build a branch penitentiary".
- 1880 Two weeks after the death of lessee Jeremiah South, the General Assembly adopts the Warden System and state government re-accepts responsibility for prisoners. Warden is to be elected by the General Assembly for a 4-year term. William S. Stone, who had been a strong supporter of South, is elected Warden.
- 1880 The state moves toward the "fair" use of convict labor by adopting the contract system. The first contractor fails to pay the amount owed the state for using prisoners as laborers.
- 1880 The first contingent of 110 convicts leaves the Penitentiary to work on the Big Sandy Railroad near Mount Sterling.
- 1880 Kentucky Senate committee recommends establishment of new prison rules describing plainly each offense, the penalty, and the method of inflicting punishment. Rules of the Ohio State Penitentiary are ordered into effect.
- 1880 Kentucky legislature authorizes the parole of inmates and sets up a board of directors to hear cases.

- 1880 Governor Luke Blackburn appoints a three-man commission to visit penitentiaries in other states and report on a location and plans for a new penitentiary in Kentucky. General H.R. Lyon of Eddyville is on the committee and a site on the Cumberland River in Lyon County is chosen for a fortress-type prison modeled after the Illinois Penitentiary at Joliet. It is to have 320 mens' cells and 32 womens' cells and cost \$233,753. The legislature fails to provide funds.
- 1881 Commissioners of penitentiary order that no physical punishment be administered without the presence of a physician. This order is rescinded two months later.
- 1882 Investigating Committee is appointed by the Legislature and a prison camp at Triplett and Means Tunnel near Grayson is visited. One contractor, C.R. Mason, admits that 25 of 50 convicts at Triplett's Tunnel died. Other reports show that convicts are forced to work in waist-deep water in winter, that several were killed by cave-ins, and that beatings are the mainstay of discipline. At Camp Shearer (on Kentucky River, 2 miles north of Boonesboro) the Committee finds no one who knows how many convicts are there, how many are sick, or how many had died. No records were kept. Dead inmates had been placed in boxes and covered with the "dump of the railroad". The committee recommends abolition of the contract leasing system. No changes result from their recommendation.
- 1882 Editor of The Louisville Commercial urges a sweeping investigation of the Penitentiary and the entire lease system.
- 1883 Governor Blackburn informs the Legislature that the Penitentiary will not hold one quarter of the prisoners working on the railroad and that these prisoners might be returned to the Penitentiary at any time by the contractor. The threat of returning large numbers of inmates to an overcrowded penitentiary gives contractors great power over penitentiary administrators.
- 1884 C.R. Mason, principal contractor of convict labor, announces he will not renew his contract when it expires. The Attorney General complains that Mason is attempting to secure the convicts at a reduced rate. The attempt succeeds and the new contract pays the state only the expenses of maintaining the convicts.
- 1884 Remedial reading and writing is taught by the chaplain.
- 1884 Five hundred thirty-two out of 1074 convicts are in railroad camps.
- 1884-89 A total of 436 inmates are reported to have escaped from work sites outside the walls of the penitentiary. It is likely that many of these inmates died from mal-treatment and unsafe working conditions.
- 1884 Contractor threatens to return 150 convicts to the Penitentiary in order to pressure the General Assembly into passing an amendment permitting employment of convicts in coal mines outside of incorporated towns.
- 1884 A DuPont subsidiary, Central Iron and Coal Co., leases 600 convicts from C.R. Mason Company to work in coal mines at Central City. Large scale protest results in convicts being shipped back from the mines. Free miners who struck in protest return to work the next day, ending a bitter 2 months strike.
- 1884 Lexington City Council contracts for 600 to 700 convicts to dig a water-works reservoir. Two weeks later contractors are accused of beating two convicts to death and attempting to secretly bury them in a Negro graveyard. Discovery of this incident is accidental. The county attorney, coroner, and a reporter had gone to the camp to investigate rumors of a prisoner mutiny, and saw the coffins being removed as they entered the compound.
- 1884 A 400 cell penitentiary is approved and \$150,000 is appropriated. Construction of Kentucky Branch Penitentiary continues for 6 years and \$270,000 in additional funding is necessary.
- 1884 At Frankfort 3 convicts overpower a guard at the gate and obtain guns. Two guards are wounded and one convict is killed. The remaining two escapees are cornered in a Fayette County cornfield by a posse from Lexington. The two inmates and one member of the posse are killed.
- 1885 Mason and Foard Company, a contractor, obtains rights to work inmates outside the penitentiary on railroads, mines, waterways, and levees. Inmates convicted of murder, arson, attempted rape or rape, or having longer than 5 years to serve are not eligible. Death rates are high for inmates working outside the walls.
- 1885 DuPont purchases stock in Mason and Foard Company which, in turn, sublets convicts to Beaver Creek and Cumberland River Coal Companies for work in Greenwood mines in Pulaski County, and to the Main Jellico Mountain Coal Company (DuPont owned) for its mines at Kensee in Whitley County. An armed mob of citizens at the Greenwood convict camp demands return of the convicts to Frankfort. The mob is persuaded to wait two days while the Governor makes a decision. Governor Knott sends 5 companies of the State Guard and a Gatling gun to protect the convicts and the stockade.

- 1885 One thousand fifty-two inmates are employed by contractors.
- 1886 Mason and Foard Company employs three hundred ninety-four inmates building railroads, 235 in coal mines and 122 in building a branch penitentiary. Inside the Penitentiary the company employees 33 inmates in the broom factory, 110 inmates in the furniture factory, and 40 inmates in the shoe factory.
- 1886 Warden Barry South (son of the late Jeremiah South) is replaced because the contractor threatens to cancel the prison labor contract. South had been accused of lax enforcement of prison discipline by failing to whip the prisoners enough.
- 1886 Twelve convicts serving sentences at Frankfort are under 15 years of age.
- 1887 Population of the Frankfort Penitentiary is 1,052 and commitments in the preceding two years total nearly one thousand.
- 1887 Penitentiary commission advertises in Kentucky and 5 surrounding states to solicit bids for a new prison labor contract. Mason and Foard is the only company to submit a bid.
- 1888 A statute on parole is passed. Convicts who are serving their first term, have good conduct records, and are not sentenced for rape or incest are eligible. Murderers must serve ten years prior to parole, and any parolee who did not leave the state was required to report to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund every six months. The number of paroles granted per year is limited to 5% of the inmate population. A total of 50 convicts are paroled in the first 18 months.
- 1889 Convicts complete a 440 foot railroad tunnel near Natural Bridge. Today, Natural Bridge State Resort Park Lodge stands above the tunnel and graves of six inmates are nearby.
- 1889 Fayette Hewitt, a member of the Penitentiary Commission, uses his position to award a convict labor contract to Mason and Foard Company, who, in turn, sublet convicts to Midlands Construction Company to build a railroad. (Hewitt is a stockholder in Midlands.) Five months later, the State National Bank is established in Frankfort. Mason and Foard Company and Governor Buckner are major stockholders in this bank and Hewitt resigns his position to become the bank's president.
- 1890 Kentucky Branch Penitentiary, Eddyville, Kentucky, officially opens on Christmas Eve.
- 1890 Governor John Young Brown calls the Kentucky Branch Penitentiary a "stupendous mistake".
- 1890 Four hundred fifty-seven convicts work in six railroad camps, although there has been no legal justification for lease since 1886.
- 1890 The limit on paroles to 5% of the inmate population is removed.
- 1891 A new State Constitution (Article 253) prohibits leasing of convict work outside the penitentiary.
- 1891 Governor William O. Bradley is the first Republican elected governor. All Democratic employees of the Penitentiary are replaced.
- 1891-92 In east Tennessee, use of convict labor to break a coal miner's strike results in a long term confrontation known as the "Tennessee Convict War".
- 1891-1919 Forty-eight percent of inmate deaths at Frankfort and Eddyville are due to tuberculosis.
- 1892 Overcrowding remains a problem at Frankfort. The chapel is converted for use as temporary cell space.
- 1893 General Assembly is displeased with contractor's observance of rules governing feeding and clothing of inmates and enacts a law leasing only the labor of inmates. The state assumes sole responsibility for maintenance of inmates.
- 1893 Commissioners of the Penitentiary are forced to file suit against the contractor in order to secure pay for officers at the Branch Penitentiary.
- 1893 Sixty-eight to one hundred inmates per month are whipped. During the month of August, inmates receive 1,263 lashes. Nineteen inmates escape.
- 1894 Warden Henry George surveys other states and finds that Kentucky uses the lash 300 times more often than the next highest state, Louisiana. Warden George whips 23 prisoners and confines 381 to their cells during the year 1895.
- 1894 Governor John Y. Brown assures the legislature that the Penitentiary in Frankfort will be self-supporting if broom manufacturing is started. Machinery is purchased to employ 100 to 150 convicts, but the building which was to be used for the broom factory has to be used as a dormitory for overflow of inmates.

- 1895 A new cellhouse with 408 cells is completed at Frankfort. Two years later additional cell space is requested.
- 1895 Twenty-four inmates die, all of them black.
- 1896 R.A. Hancock becomes Warden at Kentucky State Penitentiary, Frankfort, and reinstates whipping for the female as well as male prisoners. Hancock uses a leather strap 18 inches long, 2 inches wide and 1 1/2 inches thick, attached to a 10 inch wooden handle. Solitary confinement on bread and water, deprivation of light and air, loss of "good time", hanging by chains, the ball and chain, and the thumb stall are used. An average of 190 convicts per month are punished during 1897.
- 1896-1915 Use of the strap remains prominent at the Kentucky State Penitentiary/Reformatory in Frankfort and use continues into the 1930's despite legal prohibitions against its use. The strap is sometimes soaked in water and dragged through sand before being used.
- 1897 Legislature establishes a House of Reform on a 200-acre tract at Greendale in Fayette County. Both boys and girls are sent to this institution in ages ranging from 8 to 21. Children are worked on the farm and in the rock quarry. (Vocational training did not begin until the late 1940's and early 1950's.) Whipping, "the hole", and leg chains with thirty-five pound weights are used to control inmates. This institution is later renamed Kentucky Village, and is now known as Blackburn Correctional Complex.
- 1897 Governor William O. Bradley urges that institutions be run on a non-partisan basis to minimize turnover in personnel. In addition, Governor Bradley calls the General Assembly into special session to secure the abandonment of the Branch Penitentiary at Eddyville. A committee investigates and recommends continued use of the Branch Penitentiary.
- 1897 Two women become pregnant while serving their sentences. A female inmate tells a committee investigating the Frankfort institution that she has personal knowledge of guards having sexual intercourse with female inmates. The warden requests a matron to supervise female prisoners, but no females are hired until 1917.
- 1897 The effect of convict labor on free labor intensifies due to monopolies. One furniture company controls furniture output from 7 prisons in 5 states. Another company manufactures clothes from 8 prisons in 6 states.
- 1897 Louisville Board of Trade protests introduction of labor-saving machinery into the Penitentiary, and requests that all prison-made goods be labeled "convict made."
- 1998 An inmate caught drunk loses seven days good time and receives thirty lashes.
- 1899 Inmate population in Frankfort decreases. The Board of Commissioners learns that the decrease in prison population is nationwide and is attributed to the ease of finding employment and the enlistment of many in the Army.
- 1900 Governor J.C.W. Beckham proposes an entirely separate facility operated by women for female inmates.
- 1900 General Assembly vests paroling authority in the Board of Prison Commissioners and rules that murderers must serve 5 years to be eligible for parole.
- 1900-03 Total inmates paroled is 205. Six violate their parole.
- 1902 General Assembly requires separation of youthful and hardened offenders as long as this does not interfere with the contractors use of inmates.
- 1902 A legislative committee learns that guards are accepting presents and money from the contractor as a supplement to their salaries.
- 1903 Population of Kentucky Branch Penitentiary, Eddyville, is 184 white inmates and 365 black inmates, a total of 549.
- 1904 Sixteen hundred eleven inmates are employed by contractors and inmate labor is valued at over half a million dollars. Contractors pay the state \$190,587 for inmate labor.
- 1904 State pays \$99,305 to maintain its two penitentiaries.
- 1905 Disgruntled guards at Frankfort protest compulsory contributions to prison Commissioner Edward Fennell's campaign for re-election. Fennell denies exerting pressure.
- 1906 The first prisoner is sent to Kentucky Branch Penitentiary for execution.
- 1907 George P. Chinn is appointed warden at Kentucky State Penitentiary, Frankfort. The new warden opposes use of corporal punishment. This displeases the labor contracting company, and Warden Chinn is soon replaced.
- 1907 Warden Mudd of Kentucky State Penitentiary, Frankfort, has picture shows and baseball games for inmates.

- 1909 At Frankfort, the Bertillon System of inmate identification is installed.
- 1910 Two "Parole and Employment Officers" are hired.
- 1912 Kentucky State Penitentiary in Frankfort is renamed Kentucky State Reformatory. Kentucky Branch Penitentiary at Eddyville is renamed Kentucky State Penitentiary.
- 1912 Each prisoner begins to receive a share of his earnings.
- 1912-29 John B. Chilton serves 17 years as warden of the Kentucky State Penitentiary. This unusually long period may be credited to the distance between the Penitentiary and the Capitol.
- 1913 Board of Prison Commissioners authorizes regular school. Cell houses are used as classrooms. Two years later claims are made that illiteracy among inmates has been abolished.
- 1913 Due to an outbreak of typhoid fever at KSP, Eddyville, all cooking and drinking water must be boiled.
- 1913 Black inmates make up 54.6% of the total inmate population. Of 51 female prisoners, nine are white.
- 1913 Whipping is forbidden at Kentucky State Penitentiary, Eddyville.
- 1913 Total parolees at large is 1,763. Fifteen are returned for violation.
- 1913-15 Seventeen hundred twenty convicts are paroled.
- 1915 Chairman of Prison Commissioners requests a new cell house at Frankfort and suggests construction of an entirely new penitentiary on a farm.
- 1915 At KSR Frankfort, attendance at church services is mandatory and 1,225 inmates attend services.
- 1916 A road camp with 75 convicts is established in Bell County.
- 1916 Legislature orders juvenile girls moved from Greendale (Kentucky Village) to a farm to separate them from the boys. No funds are provided to accomplish this. The Kentucky Woman's Clubs give 189 acres in Shelby County near Pewee Valley, and an army-type barracks is built for the girls. Six years later, the girls are returned to Greendale.
- 1916 All convicts, except those sentenced for life, must serve half their sentence. Life sentences require serving eight years before parole eligibility.
- 1916-17 One hundred fifty-nine convicts are pardoned by Governor Stanley. An investigation reveals that pardons are being sold.
- 1916-18 Two hundred thirty-four convicts are sent to road camps and 21 escape. The operation fails to show a profit.
- 1917 Matrons are hired to supervise female inmates at Kentucky State Reformatory, Frankfort.
- 1917-19 The number of people sentenced to prison drops 24.4%. This reduction is credited to the World War and prosperous times.
- 1919 Inmates are working on highways in nine counties: Franklin, Pike, Bell, Henry, Whitely, Owen, Nelson, Rockcastle, and Harlan. Approximately 290 convicts are used.
- 1920-21 Ninety-four inmates escape from road camps; 67 are recaptured within the year.
- 1920 Board of Charities and Corrections assumes control of institutions and finds a backlog of 350 inmates eligible for parole, some of whom had been eligible for more than 10 years. 482 inmates are paroled in two years, 90% of whom succeed. Anyone deemed capable must learn to read and write before being paroled. Personal interviews are held with eligible convicts. Attorneys, family and friends are rigorously excluded from these hearings. Each convict receives a copy of the rules governing parole when he enters the institution.
- 1920 Three men and one woman are hired as Parole Officers for the entire State.
- 1920 Joseph P. Byers, General Secretary of the American Prison Association, is chosen as Commissioner of Public Institutions. This important event marks the first real attempt to professionalize the administration of corrections.
- 1920 General Assembly provides \$59,000 to purchase a 465-acre farm to be operated by Frankfort inmates for support of the Feeble Minded Institute. Frankfort Career Development Center is located on this property in 1976.

- 1921 State Board of Charities and Corrections rules that no inmate can be paroled if illiterate. Many inmates enroll in school.
- 1921 Convicts in Frankfort, using assembly-line methods, turn out a weekly product of: 10,309 pairs of shoes, 14,544 shirts, 8,019 brooms, and 3,198 chairs.
- 1921 Each convict can receive a maximum of 10¢ per day minus fines for misconduct or bad work.
- 1921 Total inmate population at KSR and KSP is 1,101. This figure grows to 3,167 by 1930 and 4,024 in 1935.
- 1921 Venereal testing at Frankfort discloses that 41% of inmates have syphilis.
- 1922 Legislature ends employment of convicts on highways.
- 1922 A reward of \$100 is offered for the capture of an escaped convict. Guards would sometimes take civilians along on a manhunt because guards could not collect this award. The inmate paid for the award out of his earnings.
- 1922 Byers fires Kentucky State Reformatory Warden L.R. Davis because he had replaced prison employees with those of his own political faction and recommends appointment of an experienced warden from New York.
- 1922-24 Investigating committees urge Byers' dismissal, recommending replacement of this "carpetbagger" by a Kentuckian.
- 1923 There are a total of 206 employees of penal institutions: 78 at Frankfort, 46 at Eddyville, and 82 at the Kentucky House of Reform at Greendale.
- 1923 KSP Eddyville operates at a loss of \$27,498.77 despite receipts of \$128,037.94. Reformatory operates at a net loss of \$41,139.09 despite receipts of \$339,259.62
- 1923 At KSP, three convicts obtain guns, kill three officers, wound a fourth officer, and barricade themselves in the dining room. The Fifty-Fourth Machine Gun Squadron is called to the scene from Hopkinsville. They fire at various intervals into the dining room. Tear gas is used, but the gas grenades fall outside the building and roll back into the crowd. The siege lasts from Wednesday morning until Saturday night. After 81 hours of almost uninterrupted firing, the assaulting army discovers that the three convicts had been dead since Wednesday. Two had killed themselves and left suicide notes, and the third inmate died of wounds received when he entered the dining room.
- 1924 Board of Charities and Corrections forbids guards working inside KSP to carry firearms until inmates are in their cells.
- 1924 Board of Charities and Corrections learns the "shower bath" has been revived and orders use discontinued.
- 1925 After a long and intense public battle, Byers resigns his position as Commissioner of Public Institutions.
- 1925 Jefferson County Jailer, Tom Dover, has radio installed for inmates. A favorite program is the "Piano Concert" broadcast from the Missouri State Penitentiary.
- 1926 General Assembly appropriates \$50,000 for a building to house insane criminals at Central State Hospital at Lakeland.
- 1926 Governor Fields states that cells at Kentucky State Reformatory, Frankfort, are "unfit for cattle" and proposes a tax increase to pay for improvements.
- 1926 The office of Commissioner of Pardons is created to assist the Governor.
- 1926 There are a total of 674 inmates at KSP; 335 are white, 339 are black.
- 1926 Total cost of operating KSR and KSP is \$99,313. Cost per inmate per year at KSP is \$322.24; cost per year at KSR is \$316.93. Revenue from sale of goods reduced these figures to \$71.17 and \$70.52 respectively. Governor Sampson calls for the two prisons to be self supporting.
- 1927 Despite overcrowded female quarters, the state contracts with the federal government to accept women prisoners for \$1.25 per day and use of their labor.
- 1928 The State Board of Charities and Corrections hires four Parole Agents to cover the Frankfort and Eddyville institutions. A total of 666 men are paroled in one year, and 93 of these are declared violators.
- 1928 Kentucky State Penitentiary, Eddyville, has a total of 52 employees on the payroll. Thirty-eight are guards appointed by the warden. The guards work a 12 hour schedule, seven days a week, and have 14 days off per year. There are 750 inmates.

- 1928 Kentucky State Reformatory, Frankfort has 88 employees on the payroll. Inmate population is 1,649, of whom 85 are females. There are 1,056 cells necessitating the use of dormitories to quarter 400 inmates. The shoe factory employes 618 inmates.
- 1928 Inmates in the punishment section of the Kentucky State Reformatory, Frankfort, have one hand cuffed to their cell door and the other hand cuffed to a post supporting the upper gallery. They remain standing in this position during working hours for periods of five to twenty days.
- 1928 Worthy Manufacturing Company of Chicago, Illinois, employs 325 inmates at KSP in the manufacture of shirts.
- 1928-38 Forty-nine men are executed at Kentucky State Penitentiary.
- 1929 Congress passes the Hawes-Cooper Act limiting inter-state shipment of prison-made goods. Other laws are passed which effectively end unfair wage and price differences between convict labor and free labor. The effects on inmate employment over the next six years are devastating. In 1930, income from convict labor was over \$600,000 per year but by 1935 income was approximately \$60,000 per year.
- 1930 Board of Charities and Corrections announces plans to spend \$1.2 million to modernize the Kentucky State Reformatory in Frankfort. This proposal is strongly criticized by the American Prison Association, which asserts that the prison is beyond repair.
- 1930 Myer-Bridges Company renews its prison labor contract, hiring 75 inmates to manufacture brooms at KSP. This agreement is to stay in effect until the Hawes-Cooper Law takes effect in 1933. The Kentucky Whip and Collar Company at KSP asks to reduce its labor contract from 150 inmates per day to 75 inmates per day.
- 1930 At Frankfort there are 2,314 inmates and only 1,128 cells. One hundred sixty-five inmates sleep in a single dormitory. Warden Roach tells large counties to send no more prisoners until provision is made to house them.
- 1930 Governor Flem Sampson calls for: probation of prisoners by trial courts, before or after trial; a probation and parole service under trained personnel for every county; introduction of indeterminate sentences; establishment of academic and vocational schools; mandatory attendance in classes in citizenship; acquisition of a 1,500-2,000 acre prison farm; and State use of prison-made goods.
- 1931 Total parole caseload is 3,367, almost double the 1927 caseload of 1,786. Twenty-four percent violate their parole.
- 1931 Contractors employ 2,325 of a total of 3,100 inmates.
- 1931 Eddyville merchants protest the opening of an inmate canteen at KSP because it diverts \$1500-2000 worth of business.
- 1931 KSP is so crowded that inmates sleep on cots in corridors.
- 1931 Board of Charities and Corrections requests the courts to place convicted criminals in county jails until a sufficient number of prisoners can be released to provide bed space.
- 1931 Governor Flem D. Sampson pardons 187 inmates at KSP on the day before he leaves office.
- 1932 Governor Ruby Laffoon creates the Department of Public Welfare, a 5 member board, to replace the Commissioner of Institutions. This change solidifies political control of institutions.
- 1933 The two penitentiaries receive 2,656 convicts, an increase of 125.9% over 1922 figures. In 1922, 188 inmates had been paroled. In 1933, 2,025 convicts are paroled. In spite of these efforts, total prison population increases from 1,559 in 1922 to 3,499 in 1933.
- 1933 At KSR, Frankfort, two rooms in the shirt factory are converted for use as a 300-bed dormitory.
- 1934 Adult probation law passes, but judges fail to use it.
- 1935 Of all Kentucky convicts, 27.7% are serving sentences for murder or manslaughter. Only Tennessee approaches this high percentage.
- 1935 There are 54 female inmates at Frankfort, 53.7% of whom are serving sentences for murder or manslaughter.
- 1935 Inmates serving sentences of five years or less make up 60.2% of the population.
- 1935 U.S. Public Health Service Hospital opens in Lexington, Ky and is known as the "Federal Narcotics Farm".

- 1935 Total population of KSR, Frankfort, and KSP, Eddyville, is approximately 4,300 but capacity is only 2,240. Governor Lafoon pardons 276 inmates at Frankfort and 282 inmates at Eddyville.
- 1935 A.B. Chandler is elected Governor and the State Department of Welfare is created. Penal institutions are placed under this department.
- 1935 Of 1,099 prisoners who are employed, contractors employ only 110 inmates and 2,848 are idle.
- 1935 Unruly inmates at KSP are put in stripes and chains with weights attached for the duration of their sentence.
- 1936 Governor Chandler recommends use of convicts for upkeep of county roads. Five hundred inmates are used for this purpose.
- 1936 Governor A.B. Chandler's State Planning Board recommends: abandonment of Kentucky State Reformatory; modernization of Kentucky State Penitentiary for housing hardened inmates; serving minor offenses in county jails; raising the grand larceny limit from \$20 to \$50; examination of all inmates by a psychiatrist; construction of a hospital for insane criminals; a new medium security institution; minimum age of eighteen for admission; portable barracks for road and forestry work; a receiving and hospitalization unit for all new arrivals; passing a probation and parole law; penalties for theft of livestock limited to value only; introduction of vocational guidance and training; and, production of goods needed by the state.
- 1936 Counties are asked to submit offers for a new prison to replace KSR Frankfort.
- 1936 New probation law goes into effect. A written Pre-Sentence Investigation Report by a Probation and Parole Officer is required.
- 1936 Legislature increases the field force of Probation and Parole agents to thirty-eight.
- 1936 Legislature appropriates funds for a 2,800 acre farm one mile west of LaGrange, on the L&N railroad as the first step toward erection of a medium security institution to replace the reformatory at Frankfort.
- 1936 Thirteen hundred ninety-one inmates at KSP, Eddyville, eat in relays in the chapel after the kitchen and mess hall burn.
- 1937 Kentucky State Reformatory, Frankfort, is flooded. Water is 6 feet high within the walls, and the din of rioting prisoners can be heard for blocks outside the walls. Male inmates obtain keys to the women's cellhouse. Approximately 600 National Guardsmen and Army troops guard the walls. Twenty-nine hundred six inmates are evacuated in one day and taken to jails, a tent city, the United States Public Health Service Hospital and other sites. Twenty-four inmates try to escape, none successfully.
- 1937 Kentucky State Reformatory at Frankfort is demolished. This site is now occupied by the State Office Building. Terrace walls surrounding this building are made of stone from the Reformatory walls. An old Reformatory building is later converted for use as the State Office Building Annex.
- 1937 Kentucky State Reformatory at LaGrange is under construction at a cost of \$3 million. Inmates are living in corrugated tin buildings lined with celotex during construction of the permanent buildings. By November 1937, the population is 2,660 inmates. A Correctional Officer's salary is \$100 per month.
- 1937 In Kentucky State Penitentiary dining room three inmates overpower the Deputy Warden and take his gun. Two inmates are killed as they try to escape and one guard is shot in the leg. Inside officers relinquish their guns as a result of this incident.
- 1937 Population at KSP, Eddyville, reaches an all-time high of 1,528 inmates. Construction of Number 5 Cellhouse begins.
- 1937-83 In Boyle County, near Burgin, work begins on a \$2,500,000 hospital for the mentally ill. Fifty inmates from KSR, La Grange, are used to prepare the site. In 1941 the Army takes over this facility, completes construction in 1943 and names it Darnall General Hospital. In 1945, sixty prisoners of war arrive and an electrified fence is used for security. In 1946 the State takes control of the 126 building facility and renames it Kentucky State Hospital. One hundred State prisoners are kept on the grounds for hospital duty. In 1948 there are 1,029 patients and by 1957 there are 1,475 patients. By 1967 patient numbers are reduced to 1,086 and by 1977 there are only 320 patients. In 1977 the Hospital closes and is replaced by a juvenile detention facility, Danville Youth Development Center, which operates until 1982. In 1983 the Corrections Cabinet opens Northpoint Training Center at this site under Warden Dewey Sowders.
- 1938 First issue of the prison paper, "The Rehabilitator" is published at KSR, LaGrange.

- 1938 Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women at Pewee Valley is built and is known as "Pine Bluff" or "Women's Division, Kentucky State Reformatory."
- 1939 On October 9th, the Kentucky State Reformatory, LaGrange, is dedicated before a crowd of three to four thousand spectators.
- 1939 Population of Kentucky prisons is 4,584. KSP houses 1,569 of these inmates.
- 1940 U.S. Census figures show 2,845,627 as the total population of Kentucky.
- 1940 Federal Correctional Institution Ashland opens at Ashland, Kentucky.
- 1940-45 Staff of Kentucky State Reformatory numbers 50, necessitating the use of inmates in civilian jobs.
- 1940-49 At KSR, music and inmate talent programs are broadcast to dormitories over an inmate-operated radio station.
- 1941 Cellhouse #5 is completed at KSP providing approximately 363 new cells.
- 1942 Inmate population at KSR is approximately 3,000 inmates. Six hundred inmates are paroled to enter the Armed Services.
- 1944 A.S. Nunn, a former sheriff, is appointed warden at KSR for a salary of \$3,600 a year.
- 1944 Kentucky Attorney General authorizes an investigation of KSR. Irregularities in the prison canteen fund are found. Also discovered are: premature release of inmates (inmates had altered record cards); drugs in the institutions; inmates and guards arrested together drunk in the town of LaGrange. Warden Nunn is fired.
- 1944 Compulsory for all KSR inmates to attend Sunday School and Academic School (elementary grades only).
- 1944 At Kentucky State Penitentiary, inmate population is 1,078 and total staff is 86.
- 1944 Five hundred seventeen inmates are paroled (27.7% of all inmates who are eligible). Forty-two are returned as parole violators.
- 1945 An inmate at KSP obtains a smuggled gun and kills Deputy Warden L.R. Gumm and wounds a Correctional Officer.
- 1945 The "bullwhip", a stick with leather thongs attached, is ordered out of Kentucky Village and paddling takes its place as a means of punishment.
- 1946 Harold Black is hired as first psychologist at KSR. (He is appointed warden in 1970.)
- 1946 Oldham County Grand Jury recommends hiring of more alert guards at KSR due to the large number of escapes (117 escapes in one year).
- 1946 Classification Committee is set up at KSR and full-time chaplain is hired.
- 1946 Total population of the Women's Division of the Kentucky State Reformatory is 41, and the total staff is 17.
- 1946 At KSR, an inmate breaking the rules might have his head shaved and be marched to the rock quarry to work "under the gun". The "dark hole" is also used. Population of KSP is 860 inmates.
- 1946-47 Total Corrections budget is \$995,000.
- 1947 40.2% of inmates meeting the parole board make parole.
- 1948 Honor detail is allowed to work outside the fence at KSR.
- 1948 Hickory canes carried by correctional officers are done away with, causing a rift between old line staff and administration.
- 1950 Inmate population at Women's Division, Kentucky State Reformatory is 67. Total staff numbers 15.
- 1950 It is not unusual for 15 to 20 officers to be replaced at KSR immediately following an election.
- 1950 Officers at KSR are dismissed or suspended for having drinking parties in their time off from the job.
- 1950-51 Probation and Parole Officers attend three days of annual inservice training in Frankfort.

- 1950-51 Rock quarry at KSR produces 7,861 tons of crushed stone. Auto license tags are made at KSR.
- 1950-51 Three hundred sixty cases are probated in Kentucky.
- 1951 Inmate canteen funds are used to purchase a television set at the Women's Division, Kentucky State Reformatory.
- 1951-52 Total staff at KSP is 110 and total inmate population is 1,122. A prisoner rebellion causes \$10,000 damage.
- 1952 At KSP, one officer and 10 inmates are injured as 75 inmates riot for 8 hours. Institutional Chaplain successfully negotiates release of the garment factory superintendent who is held hostage. Three more uprisings occur before calm is restored.
- 1953 The Parole Board stops hearing juvenile cases at Kentucky House of Reform (Kentucky Village.)
- 1954 A three year drought causes a water shortage at KSR. Five miles of water pipe are used to connect KSR to the L&N Railroad lake west of LaGrange.
- 1955 Governor Chandler states that conditions at KSR are deplorable, rehabilitation is lagging and inmate gangs are active.
- 1955 Over one-half of the 1,020 inmates at KSP are first offenders.
- 1955 KSR receives 200 men from KSP because of major renovation.
- 1956 Total parole caseload numbers 1,090; total probation caseload numbers 862. Probation and Parole Officers earn \$210-270 per month. The General Assembly passes legislation implementing a merit system governing the selection and dismissal of Probation and Parole Officers
- 1956 Population of KSR is 2,265. Each of the evening shifts is run by 35 officers. Warden Porter Lady proposes building a second security fence, electrification of both fences, hiring thirty new officers at \$180 per month, and building a cell block to expand the number of segregation cells.
- 1956 Kentucky hires a three-member Parole Board.
- 1956-57 Correctional officers at KSP are placed in uniform and an inservice training program is started. Annual report recommends renovation of cellhouses #1 and #2 at KSP. These cellhouses have no plumbing and still use the "bucket system".
- 1957 Governor A.E. Chandler attempts to sell KSP to the Federal Prison System as an "Alcatraz type" prison.
- 1958 Population at KSR is 2,423.
- 1956-60 At KSP, Warden Dan Grey uniform correctional officers, initiates weekly staff meetings, stresses officer training, initiates a classification board and stresses inmate orientation into the system, starts a pre-release program and doubles farm production.
- 1960 Oldham County Grand Jury recommends: minimum security inmates be put to work in road camps; more cell blocks be built; constructive employment be found for idle inmates; and continued use of the Merit System to remove unqualified personnel.
- 1961 Outgoing Probation and Parole Director, Elmore Kyle, states that a Probation and Parole Officer cannot be employed or dismissed "without approval of the the county chairman or patronage dispenser".
- 1961-63 National Council on Crime and Delinquency studies the Kentucky Correctional System and reports that the administration is not in control of the institutions and that the "big operator" type of convict dominates. Problems also noted are: overcrowding, intermingling of all types of offenders, political patronage, failure of judges to use probation, lack of a reception area to evaluate incoming inmates, and inadequate treatment facilities. The NCCD team notes that Kentucky is releasing 39% of its prisoners on parole compared to the national average of 59%. This study strongly recommends building farm dormitories at KSR and KSP; separation of inmates with special problems such as mental illness, senility or tuberculosis; hiring additional custody staff; drawing up a written policy manual for the Division of Corrections and restoring its Research and Statistics section.
- 1961 Total inmate population is 4,000 inmates. By 1969 this figure is reduced to 3,290.
- 1961 Three Classification and Treatment Officers and several vocational and academic teachers are added to the staff of KSR. Rifts between "Treatment" and "Custody" develop.

- 1962 Department of Corrections is formed, moving Institutions and Community Services (Probation and Parole) out of the Department of Welfare.
- 1962 Full time Parole Board is established. Up to this time the only full time position was the Chairman of the Parole Board.
- 1962 Executions cease at KSP. A total 162 men had been executed.
- 1963 Starting pay for probation and parole officers is raised from \$270/month to \$308/month.
- 1963 Governor Bert T. Combs appoints an Executive Task Force on Corrections to follow up recommendations of N.C.C.D. report.
- 1963 Joe Cannon, Director of Social Services in Ohio is appointed Commissioner of Corrections.
- 1963 The "silence system" in institutional dining rooms is abolished and inmates are allowed to use forks. Correctional officers pay is raised to \$266 a month.
- 1963 Position of Associate Warden for Treatment is established at KSR and Social Workers are hired.
- 1963 Pre-Service training is held at Kentucky State Police Academy.
- 1963-65 Bell County Forestry Camp is established for use as a minimum security institution. By 1979 there are six minimum security institutions for men and one for women. Correctional officers are on a six day work week because adequate staff cannot be recruited. Unmarried inmates cannot receive visits from unrelated females.
- 1964 Female facility at Pewee Valley is officially named Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women.
- 1965 Staff members at KCIW are placed in uniforms for the first time. A training program is established.
- 1965 Warden's salary is \$9,850 a year. Inmates may earn up to 20 cents per day.
- 1966 Key control system is established at KSR. Glass partition in the visiting room is removed.
- 1966 Inmate population at KCIW is racially integrated.
- 1966 Riot squads are established at KSR and KSP.
- 1967 Reception and diagnostic center begins at KSR.
- 1967 Western Kentucky Farm Center is completed at a cost of \$600,000. It remains empty for months due to lack of funds to hire personnel and operate the facility.
- 1967 Inmate script is removed at KSR in favor of using commissary cards. Tear gas is used to quell the resulting disturbance involving 100 inmates. Damage is \$7,000 to 8,000.
- 1969 Salaries for Classification and Treatment Officers are raised to \$530 a month.
- 1969 A Job Corps Center at Frenchburg, Ky is acquired by the Department of Corrections for use as a minimum security institution for first offenders.
- 1969 At KSR 800 inmates are involved in a racial riot. Two inmates are injured and \$15,000 damage done. KSR dormitories are still segregated at this time.
- 1970 At KSR a racial confrontation causes \$2,000 damage.
- 1971 There are twenty escapes from KSR. Average inmate population is 1,772.
- 1971 Average turnover for Correctional Officers is seven months; for treatment staff: 1.5 years; for administration: 2.9 years.
- 1972 Five inmates hold three employees hostage at KSP for 12 hours.
- 1972 On Sunday, August 6, at KSR, groups of black and white inmates arm themselves with homemade weapons. After several violent incidents these groups "square off" on either side of the railroad tracks. An armed emergency squad is used to keep the inmates separated. After 8 days of negotiations, several "lock-downs" and "weapon turn-ins" KSR gets back to "normal" routines.
- 1972 Kentucky House of Reform at Greendale (Kentucky Village) is converted from use as a juvenile facility to use as a minimum security institution by the Bureau of Corrections. This facility is later named Blackburn Correctional Complex in honor of Governor Luke Blackburn who pressed for prison reform in the 1880's.

- 1972 A staff residence building at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women is remodeled for use as a Corrections Department "Staff Development Center". Fifteen correctional caseworkers attend a training course on group counseling skills. Plans are made for new staff members to receive a one week Corrections Orientation course before they are put on the job and for all staff members to have 60 to 80 training hours per year.
- 1972 Staff Development Center established at Blackburn Correctional Complex to train new employees.
- 1972 Clearinghouse for Ex-Offenders is established in Louisville to assist in finding jobs for ex-offenders. Similar programs are started in Lexington and Northern Kentucky,
- 1972 First black caseworker is hired at KSR.
- 1972-75 At KSP there are ten inmate suicides, nine murders, and five accidental deaths.
- 1973 The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission reports that the Department of Corrections fails to protect society, prevent crime or rehabilitate offenders. KSR is labeled brutal and abusive and its treatment programs grossly inadequate. Inadequate and ill-trained staff is also an issue. Community based correctional programs are emphasized. The report also recommends abolishing the prison farms.
- 1973 At KSR the "unit concept" is planned.
- 1973 Harlan County Forestry Camp is opened. Minimum security inmates perform forestry work and community projects such as building sidewalks, digging graves for indigents, janitorial services for geriatric homes and construction work on community buildings. The institution is closed in 1981 for financial reasons. Local citizens petition a Federal Judge to keep the facility open, to no avail.
- 1973 Five inmates use a pocket knife to hold a Correctional Officer hostage at KSP.
- 1976 After a thirteen month study, the Governor's Select Advisory Commission on Prisons releases its report sharply criticizing Bureau of Corrections leadership, especially at KSP. Superintendent Henry Cowan is fired.
- 1976 Daniel Boone Career Development Center opens in northern Kentucky to relieve overcrowding at KCIW and to provide a minimum security institution for 40 females, with emphasis on vocational and academic education. In 1981 this institution is closed to save money.
- 1976 Honor Unit at KSR is the first living unit to be racially integrated.
- 1976 Roederer Farm Center opens at La Grange with 150 minimum security inmates. Garland Beyerle is appointed as the first superintendent.
- 1976 Plans are unveiled for a new institution on KSR property (Luther Luckett Correctional Complex). Oldham County residents react unfavorably.
- 1977 KSR hires females for Correctional Officer and Classification and Treatment Officer positions.
- 1977 All of KSR is integrated. In spite of "dire predictions" 1,000 inmates move to different dormitories without incident. Detailed planning and the unusually cold and overcast weather in early Spring on "moving day", helped to maintain order. The operation is completed by noon, four hours ahead of schedule, without any serious incident.
- 1979 Population of KSR exceeds 2,000 inmates.
- 1979 Total Probation and Parole Caseload is 7,200. (By 1985 caseload rises to 10,400.)
- 1980 Dismas House of Louisville, a Halfway House operated by a non-profit corporation, accepts inmates in addition to the parolees already in residence there. By 1984 there are 60 inmates in residence at Dierson Center, a Community Residential Center run by Dismas House in addition to the men housed at Dismas House.
- 1980 After 4 years of litigation, inmates and correctional officials settle a KSP/KSR class action suit. Settlement includes de-population of both institutions, pay raises for staff, extensive construction and renovation, and changes in the classification system. Improvements mandated by this settlement are expected to cost \$40 million.
- 1980 A daily average of 3,719 inmates are serving time in Kentucky's institutions.
- 1980 U.S. Census figures show Kentucky's population is 3,260,257.
- 1980 There are 79 inmates serving sentences under the Persistent Felony Offender law. This number increases to 1,142 inmates in 1984.

- 1981 Luther Lockett Correctional Complex and Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center open. Bill Seabold is appointed as the first Warden of Luther Lockett Correctional Complex. The Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center is staffed by the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources.
- 1983 Northpoint Training Center opens at Burgin, Kentucky.
- 1984 State correctional institutions house 4,784 inmates. Over 600 inmates are backed up in county jails awaiting entry into state institutions. Governor Collins appoints a Task Force on Prison Options to study ways of dealing with prison over-crowding. Recommendations of this task force include: raising the threshold for felony theft from \$100 to \$500; urging judges to make greater use of restitution, pre-trial diversion, weekend confinement and probation; placement of alcoholics in facilities other than jails; placing inmates in renovated county jails across the state; placing 200 inmates in a privately renovated facility; placing 150 inmates into intensive parole supervision; allowing inmates to work for private firms by day and return to prison at night; repeal of law requiring certain offenders in medium or maximum security institutions; placement of 60 inmates at Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center; placement of 60 inmates in a proposed geriatric facility near LaGrange. Final recommendation is for emergency release of prisoners through gubernatorial commutation if all else fails to solve the over-population problem.
- 1984 At KSP, Pat Ross, Food Service Instructor, is killed by an inmate.
- 1985 Over 875 inmates are backed up in county jails awaiting admission to state correctional institutions. Eleven county jails have obtained court orders forcing acceptance of their inmates. Corrections officials predict that, if current inmate population trends continue, a new prison will have to be built every two years until 1995.
- 1985 Bids are solicited for a 200 bed minimum security institution to be owned and operated by private business.
- 1985 Corrections Cabinet officials consider a plan calling for the State's five penal farms to be managed privately under contract with a farm management corporation.