Summary Information:

Collection Title: Illinois State Penitentiary Collection

Collection Number: MSS.28

Date Range: 1878-1996, 2000

Size: 7.5 Linear Feet

Location: RR.06.04, CO.06.01, CO.OS.02, CO.OS.05, CO.OS.06

Creator: Illinois State Penitentiary: Joliet Branch and Stateville Branch, Illinois Department of Corrections

Abstract: The Illinois State Penitentiary Collection contains labor contracts, correspondence, invoices, employee policies and procedures, training modules and materials, inmate records, inmate publications, newspapers, scholarly publications, and photographs pertaining to the history of the Illinois State Penitentiary, specifically the Joliet and Stateville branches.

Acquisition Information: This collection has been composed of various accessions relating to the history of the Illinois State Penitentiary. There was no reasonable original order for these materials, so an order has been created for research purposes. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

Separated Materials: None.

Restrictions: Majority of the records in Series 3: Inmate Records are not available for research to the public. Prison records are legally restricted for 75 years from the date of the last entry in the record or file. These records will become available for research when they bypass the 75-year mark.

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History:

The first penitentiary in Illinois was built in Alton in 1831. The privately managed Alton prison quickly degraded as the inmate population outgrew the penitentiary. Dorothea Dix, a noted champion for prison and asylum reform personally petitioned the Illinois General Assembly to construct a new penitentiary after inspecting the Alton prison in 1847. To address the problem of over population, the General Assembly appropriated funds for a new 1,000 cell prison at Joliet. in May of 1858, 53 inmates were transferred from Alton to a small structure on the property that would become the Joliet Penitentiary. The inmates began the work of constructing the larger penitentiary around themselves. This included the quarrying of limestone from the vein which runs through Will County just a few hundred feet from the prison. The Alton prison was turned over to the federal government and used as a military reservation for Confederate prisoners.

In June of 1871, the Illinois State Reform School at Pontiac opened, the first facility for first time male offenders under the age of 26. The facility became the Illinois State Reformatory in 1892 and changed names again in 1933 becoming the Pontiac Branch of the Illinois State Penitentiary.

Menard was the next penitentiary to be built in Illinois. The penitentiary was primarily built by prisoners transferred to the site from the Joliet Penitentiary, completing the first cellhouse in 1878 and the second in 1890.

With a second Illinois State Penitentiary open, in 1889 the General Assembly passed a law requiring all female inmates be sent to the Joliet Branch. They originally housed all female inmates on the fourth floor of the Administration building, but by June 1895 a women's prison was opened across Collins St. from the Joliet prison. This facility was used until the 1930s when the State Reformatory for Women was opened in Dwight.

Beginning in 1909 reports of unsanitary and dangerous conditions at the Joliet Penitentiary emerged and calls for closure were made. The state began funding for acquisition of lands for a new prison near Joliet. The new institution would house the Joliet inmate population and the old site could be abandoned. The Stateville branch opened in 1926, but it did not lead to the closing of the Joliet Branch. The Joliet Penitentiary remained active until 2002.

Scope and Content Arrangement:

The Illinois State Penitentiary Collection contains labor contracts, correspondence, invoices, employee policies and procedures, training modules and materials, inmate records, inmate publications, newspapers, scholarly publications, and photographs pertaining to the history of the Illinois State Penitentiary, specifically the Joliet and Stateville branches. The collection has been arranged into 6 series by document type and organized alphabetically.

There are several oversized materials in the collection. They have been listed in Series 6 of the collection and are listed in the finding aid with their original series number as well. All newspapers can be found in oversized storage drawer 6, blueprints are housed in oversized storage drawer 2, and all other materials are housed in oversized storage drawer 5 located in the Curator's Office.

Series 1: Documents and Records, 1878-1908, 1936-1996

Series 2: Illinois Department of Corrections Training Manuals, 1970-1987, 1991

Series 3: Inmate Records, 1899-1959

Series 4: Photographs, C.1900-1940s, C. 1950s-1970s

Series 5: Publications, 1882, 1931-1972, 1981-1996, 2000

Series 6: Oversized Materials

Related Materials:

Archival Collections:

MSS.02 Dr. William Dougall Papers MSS.14 Joliet Postcard Collection Chief Klima Digitized Photographs MSS.29 Edward G. "Foxy" Powers Collection MSS.31 Dr. Robert Sterling Photographs

Library Holdings:

Altman, Jack and Marvin Ziporyn. *Born to Raise Hell: The Untold Story of Richard Speck: The Man, The Crime, The Trial.* New York: Grove Press, Inc., 1967.

Cox, Stephen. *The Big House: Image and Reality of the American Prison*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009.

Erickson, Gladys A. Warden Ragen of Joliet: Famous Warden of One of the World's Toughest Prisons. New York: E.P. Dutton & Company, 1957

Higdon, Hal. The Crime of the Century: The Leopold and Loeb Case. New York: G.P Putnam's Sons, 1975.

Jacobs, James. *Stateville: The Penitentiary in Mass Society.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1977.

Leopold, Nathan. *Life +99 Years: The Record of his Prison Life by Nathan Leopold of the 'Leopold and Loeb Case'*. London: Lowe and Brydone Limited, 1957.

Persicketti, Robert J. *True Crime: Horror and Hilarity.* Plainfield, IL: A Professional Development Inc., 2005.

Persicketti, Robert J. *More True Crime: Horror and Hilarity*. Plainfield, IL: A Professional Development Inc., 2006

Touhy, Roger. The Stolen Years. Cleveland, OH: Pennington Press, 1959

Illinois State Penitentiary Rules and Regulations: For the Government of Officers and Employees. Joliet: Vocational School, Stateville.

Illinois Unified Code of Corrections. State of Illinois: Council on the Diagnosis and Evaluation of Criminal Defendants, July 1972.

The Joliet Prison Post, 1914: Devoted to Prison News. Vol. 1. Joliet: Illinois State Penitentiary, 1914.

Civil and Criminal Identification and Investigation: A Study of Finger Prints, Their Uses and Classification. 33rd Edition. Chicago: Institute of Applied Science, 1971.

Content Listing:

Series 1: Documents and Records, 1878-1908, 1936-1996

Location: RR.06.04

Scope: The materials contained this series include institutional statistics, correspondence from Warden

Joseph E. Ragen, records relating to labor contracts with the Joliet Penitentiary, policies, and procedures for employees of the Illinois Department of Corrections, and additional records pertaining to the history of the Illinois State Penitentiary. Materials in this series have been arranged chronologically.

Of note, is an inmate labor contract and catalog for Ratan and Reed Co., a wicker furniture manufacturer, who had a factory located inside the Joliet Penitentiary. Companies such as Ratan and Reed Co. were allowed to contract labor from inmates for a set fee each day, creating a surplus of income to the penitentiary. By 1904 private businesses contract prison labor for profit was abolished.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Employee and Contractual Labor Statistics, 1878	1	1
Ratan and Reed Co. Inmate Labor Contract, 1890	2	1
A.J. & Fish Company Oven Receipt, 1892	3	1
Execution Invitations, 1894, 1915, 1918	4	1
Correspondence, W.C. Bruce and CO. Inmate Labor Contract, 1898	5	1
Booth Furniture Company Correspondence and Invoices, 1898-1899	6	1
Illinois State Penitentiary Ball and Card Party Invitation, 1899	7	1
West Cell House Alteration Invoices, 1903	8	1
Report of the Commissioners of the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, 1908	9	1
State of Illinois, A Handbook of Information for Penal and Correctional		
Institutions, 1936	10	1
Employee Identification Cards, 1937, 1942	11	1
Joliet Branch, Institutional Statistics, 1938-1940	12	1
Joliet Branch, Descriptive Price List of Items Manufactured by Inmates,		
Jan-Mar. 1940	13	1
Warden Joseph E. Ragen Presentations and Programs, 1940, 1948-1959	14	1
Warden Joseph E. Ragen Correspondence, 1945-1955	15	1
Emergency Procedures, Joliet and Stateville Branches, C. 1950s	16	1
CBS News Interview with Joseph E. Ragen on "Person to Person", 1955	17	1
Warden Joseph E. Ragen Papers, 1962-1965	18	1
State Reformatory for Women, Dwight, IL, Rules and Regulations		
Governing Correctional Employees, 1965	19	1
Will County Probation Report, 1974	20	1
Resident Orientation Manual, Joliet Correctional Center, 1976	21	1
Resident Orientation Manual, Stateville Correctional Center, C. 1976	22	1
Joliet Correctional Center, Historical Background, C. 1980s	23	1
Joliet Correctional Facility, Asbestos Abatement Project Final Report, 1993	24	1
Joliet Correctional Center Lifers Ltd. Treasurer's Monthly Report, 1996	25	1
Warden Frank J. Pate Business Cards, Joliet Branch	26	1
Folger Adam Co. Advertisement for Security Equipment	27	1

Series 2: Illinois Department of Corrections Training Manuals, 1970-1987, 1991

Location: RR.06.04

Scope: The materials contained in this series include Illinois Department of Corrections training materials from the 1970s and 1980s. Materials include training modules, policies, a correctional officer application, and training materials for the tactical officer unit. All materials in this series were donated to the museum by Illinois Department of Corrections officer Mike Johnson, who worked at the Joliet Branch beginning in the 1980s.

The materials in this series begin with the training modules, and the remaining materials are organized chronologically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Module #1, Orientation, C. 1980s	1	2
Module #2, Physical Fitness, 1983	2	2
Module #3, Use of Force, C. 1980s	3	2
Module #4, Use of Firearms, C. 1980s	4	2
Module #5, Report Writing, C. 1980s	5	2
Module #6, Security, Custody and Control Part 1, 1982	6	2
Module #7, Security, Custody and Control Part 2, 1982	7	2
Module #8, Use of Radio, 1982	8	2
Module #9, Use of Restraints, C. 1980s	9	2
Module #10, Drug Awareness, 1983	10	2
Module #10, Suicide, 1980	11	2
Module #11, Time Issues, C. 1980s	12	2
Module #13, Personal Search, 1982	13	2
Module #14, Cell, Area and Vehicle Search, 1982	14	2
Module #15, Discipline, 1982	15	2
Module #16, Supervision of Inmates, 1982	16	2
Module #17, Gangs and Special Group Awareness, 1991	17	2
Module #17, Legal Issues, C. 1980s	18	2
Module #18, Suicide, 1982	19	2
Module #19, Riot Procedures, 1982	20	2
Module #20, Hostage Situations, 1982	21	2
Module #21, Use of Chemical Agents, 1983	22	2
Module #22, Fire Emergency Procedures, 1982	23	2
Preservice Correctional Officer Administrative Directives, C. 1970-1985	1	3
Joliet Correctional Complex, Employee General Rules, 1972	2	3
Additional Training Materials, C. 1980s	3	3
Correctional Officer Application Materials, C. 1980s	4	3
Disciplinary and Incident Report Forms, C. 1980s	5	3
Emergency Aid Techniques, C. 1980s	6	3
Evidence and Crime Scene Integrity, C. 1980s	7	3
Firearms Training Program, C. 1980s	8	3
Training Academy Information Bulletin, C. 1980s	9	3
Policies and Memorandums, 1980-1983	10	3
Stress Management for Correctional Employees, 1983	11	3
Corrections Training Academy Training Schedules, 1984	12	3

Joliet Correctional Center Security Orientation, 1984	13	3
Tactical Unit Training Materials, 1987	14	3

Series 3: Inmate Records, 1899-1959

Location: RR.06.04

Scope: The materials contained in this series includes inmate intake records, correspondence, and case records. Intake records are not available for research to the public. Prison records are legally restricted for 75 years from the date of the last entry in the record or file. These records will become available for research when they bypass the 75 year mark.

Of note, the series contains a sketchbook belonging to inmate, Frank Fanta, who resided at the Joliet Penitentiary in the early 1900s.

Materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by inmate's last name.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Chilton, Cecil Inmate #41161, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	15	3
Cohen, Milton #9307, Inmate Records, 1934-1937 (R)	16	3
Collins, Melvin Inmate #40985, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	17	3
Derrig, Robert Inmate #42320, Intake Records, 1958 (R)	18	3
Dubiel, Vincent #9356, Inmate Records, 1934 (R)	19	3
Fanta, Frank Inmate #7265, Sketchbook, C. 1900s	20	3
Gaskill vs. Davidson, Correspondence and Records, 1899-1900	21	3
Hayes, Hosea Inmate #40645, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	22	3
Izzo, Thomas Inmate #41176, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	23	3
Jackson, Oscar Inmate #6831, Information Request, 1945	24	3
Jones, Robert Allen Inmate #41164, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	25	3
Katana, George #9357, Inmate Records, 1934-1954 (R)	26	3
Leopold Jr., Nathon vs. State of Illinois, Statement for Case #33623, 1924	27	3
Loy, David Inmate #41171, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	28	3
Lozann, Matt #9304, Inmate Records, 1934 (R)	29	3
Meyers, George #9309, Inmate Records, 1934-1942 (R)	30	3
Norton, Michael D. Inmate #5634, Correspondence Regarding Escape, 1920	1	4
Olson, Robert #9377, Inmate Records, 1934-1939 (R)	2	4
Polan, Elmer #9305, Inmate Records, 1934-1935 (R)	3	4
Poshek, Ronald Inmate #41165, Intake Records, 1957, 1959 (R)	4	4
Ross, Del Inmate #40628, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	5	4
Sammons, James #8838, Inmate Records, 1904-1943	6	4
Sandel, James Inmate #40981, Intake Records, 1957 (R)	7	4
Snow, Raymond #9370, Inmate Records, 1934-1935 (R)	8	4
Spector, Harry #9359, Inmate Records, 1933-1935 (R)	9	4
Wade, Charles #9378, Inmate Records, 1934-1936 (R)	10	4
White, Robert P. Inmate #41188, Intake Records, 1957, 1959 (R)	11	4
Winnick, Sol #9354, Inmate Records, 1934-1937 (R)	12	4

Series 4: Photographs, C.1900-1940s, C. 1950s-1970s

Location: RR.06.04, CO.06.01

Scope: This series contains photographs of the Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Stateville and Pontiac branches. Photographs are both exterior and interior images of the penitentiaries. The series also contains Illinois Department of Corrections employee photographs, inmate intake images, and additional inmate photographs.

All materials are organized alphabetically.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Bertillon System Photographs	13	4
Blues Brothers Photographs	14	4
Electric Chair Photographs, C. 1950s	15	4
Illinois State Penitentiary Art Show Photographs, 1968-1971	16	4
Joliet Branch, Bath House Interior Photographs, C. 1900s	17	4
Joliet Branch, Baseball Photographs	18	4
Joliet Branch, Cell House Interior Photographs	19	4
Joliet Branch, Cemetery Photographs	20	4
Joliet Branch, Chapel Interior Photographs	21	4
Joliet Branch, Dining Hall Interior Photographs	22	4
Joliet Branch, Employee Photographs, C. 1900-1940	23	4
Joliet Branch, Exterior Photographs	24	4
Joliet Branch, Factories Interior Photographs	25	4
Joliet Branch, Fourth of July Celebration Photographs	26	4
Joliet Branch, Honor Farm Photographs	27	4
Joliet Branch, Hospital Interior Photographs	28	4
Joliet Branch, Inmate Photographs	29	4
Joliet Branch, Inmate Mugshots	30	4
Joliet Branch, Kitchen and Bakery Interior Photographs	1	5
Joliet Branch, Library Interior Photographs	2	5
Joliet Branch, Prison Band Photographs, C. 1915	3	5
Joliet Branch, Quarry Photographs	4	5
Joliet Branch, Riot Photographs, 1931	5	5
Joliet Branch, Solitary Confinement Interior Photographs	6	5
Joliet Branch, Women's Prison Photographs	7	5
Pontiac Branch, Exterior Photographs	8	5
Stateville Branch, Baseball Photographs, C. 1960s-1970	9	5
Stateville Branch, Chicken Fry Photographs, 1970-1971	10	5
Stateville Branch, Construction Photographs, C. 1925	11	5
Stateville Branch, Electric Chair Negative	12	5
Stateville Branch, Employee Photographs	13	5
Stateville Branch, Exterior Photographs	14	5

Stateville Branch, Funeral Procession Photographs	15	5
Stateville Branch, Furniture Factory Fire Photographs, 1953	16	5
Stateville Branch, Harold Riggins Stabbing Photographs, 1969 (R)	17	5
Stateville Branch, Inmate Photographs	18	5
Stateville Branch, Interior Photographs	19	5
Stateville Branch, Jimmy Stewart Filming Photographs	20	5
Stateville Branch, Riot Photographs, 1931	21	5
Stateville Branch, Warden Ragen Photographs	22	5

Series 5: Publications, 1892, 1931-1972, 1981-1996, 2000

Location: CO.06.01

Scope: The materials contained in this series include inmate publications, magazine and newspaper articles, scholarly publications, Illinois Department of Corrections publications, programs and press releases. Of note, are publications of *Joliet Stateville Time* from 1939 through 1971. *Joliet Stateville Time*, was a publication produced by inmates in the Vocational School at Stateville, with articles, statistics, poems, artwork and more produced by inmates at both the Joliet and Stateville branches.

The materials in this series begin with the *Joliet Stateville Time* in chronological order, and are followed by the remaining materials in chronological order.

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Joliet Stateville Time, July-Nov. 1939	1	6
Joliet Stateville Time, FebDec. 1940	2	6
Joliet Stateville Time, JanMarch, Oct., Dec., 1941	3	6
Joliet Stateville Time, June 1953, Feb. 1955, Jan., NovDec. 1957	4	6
Joliet Stateville Time, May, July, Aug., OctNov. 1959	5	6
Joliet Stateville Time, FebMar., May, Aug., Oct. 1960	6	6
Joliet Stateville Time, Jan. 1961, Feb., June 1967, Sept. 1968, NovDec. 1969	7	6
Joliet Stateville Time, MarDec. 1970	8	6
Joliet Stateville Time, JanAug. 1971	9	6
Joliet Stateville Time, Farm Detail Supplement	10	6
Joliet Stateville Time, Loose Articles	11	6
"Behind the Bars at Joliet," By S.W. Wetmore, 1892	1	7
"Again, Riot," Time Newsmagazine, 1931	2	7
ISP Publications, 1936	3	7
"Don't Fence Them In," Magazine Article by Joseph E. Ragen, 1945	4	7
Warden Joseph E. Ragen Newspaper Articles, C. 1945-1950s	5	7
Filming of Northside 777 at Stateville, Newspaper Articles, 1947	6	7
"The Penal History of Illinois," A Statement by W.W. Hodgdon, 1948	7	7
"A Labor of Love by a Prison Artist," 1948	8	7
ISP, Joliet-Stateville Branch Publications, C. 1940s-1950s	9	7
"The Devil Stoned: The History of an Institution" by Joseph E. Ragen, C. 1950s	10	7
"The Wall" Audition Script, C. 1950s	11	7

WJOL, Warden Ragen Interview Script, C. 1950s	12	7
Press Release on Malaria Studies at Stateville by Warden Joseph E.		
Ragen, C. 1950s	13	7
The Franciscan Fathers at Joliet and Stateville, 1952	14	7
"A World of it's Own: Inside Stateville Joliet Prisons," Articles from the Chicago		
Daily Tribune, 1955	15	7
"Prisons: \$4.5 Million Specialties Producers," 1958	16	7
"Warden with a Heart: Warden Joseph E. Ragen," by John Kuenster, 1959	17	7
Dimensions in Corrections, Published by the Illinois Department of		
Corrections, 1971-1973	18	7
The Pen, Joliet Correctional Complex, AugSept. 1972	19	7
"The Joliet Prison Photograph" Columbia College Exhibition Program, 1981	1	8
Perspectives, Published by the Illinois Department of Corrections, 1983	2	8
"Chicago History" Magazine of the Chicago Historical Society, 1987	3	8
"Doing Time at Joliet," Illinois Quarterly Article, 1996	4	8
Article Regarding a hanging at ISP, Joliet Branch by John Whiteside, 2000	5	8
"Joliet and Stateville: The Twin Prisons," Will County Historical Society		
Publication, 2000	6	8
"Inside our General Kitchen," By LaFave	7	8
"New Illinois State Penitentiary at Stateville"	8	8
Newspaper Articles	9	8
"Trail of Murder Thriller Leads to Stateville"	10	8

Series 6: Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.02, CO.OS.05, CO.OS.06

Folder Title: Original Series:

Joliet Branch, Blueprints

Series 1 : Documents & Records

Illinois State Penitentiary Photographs

Series 4 : Photographs

Series 4 : Photographs

Fall Supplement, Joliet Rattan and Reed CO., 1891

Newspaper Articles

Touhy Newspaper Articles, 1943

Series 5 : Publications

Series 5 : Publications