

Under Bannon, DeHoCo fed poor

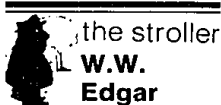
THE DEBATE now going on regarding the future of Detroit House of Correction — whether it should become a full-time prison or a workshop again — recalls the days when Bill Bannon was its superintendent.

Bill was a former head of Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson when he was hired at DeHoCo, and he had his own ideas of how the place could be run and show a surplus.

Bill was a friendly sort of fellow, and the one thing he didn't want was a clubhouse where the inmates sat around all day and seemed to enjoy themselves.

So he put them to work in a big way. Under his watchful eye, they raised cattle, grew large vegetable gardens and raised chickens.

So successful was this plan, a few decades back, that the cattle sales drew large gatherings. The day of the



the stroller
**W.W.
Edgar**

sale was like a county fair. People came from miles to bid on the cattle, and no one enjoyed it more than Bill.

Floyd Kehrl, the well-known Plymouth banker, made his reputation at these cattle sales. He always was on hand to arrange loans to the winning bidders. And it wasn't long until he became the leading banker in western Wayne County.

IT WAS MUCH the same with the orchards. And herein lies one of the

best stories about Bill Bannon's regime at DeHoCo.

One evening over a weekend, one of Detroit's leading bowlers was involved in an auto crash that cost a man's life. The bowler was arrested by police and eventually sent to prison at Jackson.

That didn't sit well with the bowling fraternity. They didn't want one of their own in Jackson. So a move was started to get the bowler released.

This seemed to be asking too much. But when Bill Bannon heard about it, he took action in a rather unusual way.

He called attention to the powers-that-be that the fruit in the orchard at DeHoCo was ripe, and he needed some tall men to pick it.

Well, the imprisoned bowler was a tall fellow. And it wasn't long until the hands that controlled a bowling ball were picking the choice fruit from the trees. It was one of the best bowling stories at the time.

NOW ANOTHER has come to the front in the present debate. This time Bannon isn't around, for he went to his final resting place several years ago.

The argument now being advanced is that chickens could be raised in quantities that would help in a great way to feed the hungry in these trying economic times.

When Bannon was at DeHoCo, he was a pleasant fellow to visit. A great story-teller, he always saw the odd side of cases and was good for a laugh, come rain or snow.

Too bad he isn't around today. He could sell the officials on a plan where DeHoCo wouldn't be known as a jail but as a workshop that showed a surplus and helped to feed the poor.

It would pay the present debaters to look up his record and copy enough of it to make the area an asset again.

Health offices giving flu shots

The Oakland County Health Department urges residents to be inoculated against influenza at either of two county offices.

"Because the elderly are prone to develop pneumonia along with the flu, it is recommended that they receive flu shots in the fall," said Doris Schuchter, R.N., influenza program coordinator.

"This year's vaccine protects against three viral strains: A/Chile, A/Philippines and B/USSR. There is a charge of \$2. However, no one will be turned away because of inability to pay," she said.

COUNTY HEALTH offices are in the Service Center complex on N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac and at 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield. Questions on influenza may be called to the offices: 424-7000 in

Southfield and 858-1280 in Pontiac.

"Flu is a viral infection of nose, throat and lungs," Schuchter said. "It spreads quickly from one person to another, particularly in crowded places."

"Sneezes and coughs should be covered with tissue. If flu strikes a family member, those tending the patient should be sure to wash their hands. Tissues should be disposed of in a paper bag that is frequently replaced."

"SERVING FOOD and beverages in paper and plastic disposable plates and cups — used only once by one person and then discarded — can help reduce the risks of cross-infection."

"Influenza infection produces such symptoms as fever, chills, headache, dry cough and aches in the back, legs and arms."

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December 14, 5-8 P.M.

"Esprit De Cuisine" demonstration by a representative from Mirro cookware.

Braun representative demonstrates a variety of kitchen appliances and specialty items.

December 15, 2-5 P.M.

Maxim representative demonstrates a variety of time-saving and unique kitchen appliances.