Plantation Life Is Nearby, but Not Part of La. Prison

3,656 Convicts Are Held in Penitentiary

By C.M. Harbough

Angola, La. — The prison lines and troop skirts are brought out only for costume events, but embellishments still exist in the free world not many miles from the gates of Louisiana State penitentiary.

They are the last vestiges of the days of profitable operation of feudal plantations, a day which ended for most of them with the abolition of slave labor. Not so with Angola, a sprawling 29,000 acres by count of its chief executive, Institution Director W. D. White.

While estimates 7,000 of these acres lie in the Tunica hills, another 9,000 acres under cultivation the remainder in pasture or prison buildings.

3,656 PRISONERS

As of March 15, there were 3,656 prisoners held at Angola in the main prison continued at the mid-190's, and in the assorted outlying prison camps which prison reformers thought would eventually be done away.

The new prison, only designed to house 2,010. There are 14 dormitories assigned to minimum custody and 14 to maximum custody. Actually only 10 of the 14 cells are being used in use such affairs have been turned over to be for the prison's program.

At some times of the year depending on the activity in the courts in sending them, and the purple and the pardon boards in releasing them—dorros housing as many as 23 to 78 in space intended for 10 prisoners.

It is not the full story, however. On March 23, the daily report showed on death row with four others originating from Cabildo.

HOUSING PICTURE

— The housing unit (the old hospital) which is rated at 360 beds, has 249, with the possibility of crowding 250 if we ever get caught really tight... they'll be almost on top of each other, you see. — Dean Grimes, associate warden.

— Correctional custody is rated at 104, said Grimes.

— The receiving unit has room for 120, said Grimes. There are few other men, some 18 inmate guards, kitchen help and a few other guards, said Grimes, are only intended for protective or disciplinary reasons.

— Camp A, an all Negro camp of trustees, holds 106, can hold to 26 to 22 more without being seriously overcrowded, barely have room to walk between beds there now, said Grimes.

— Camp H has a count of 90. I personally would put my camp as it should not hold over 100 men, said Grimes.

— Camp B, one of the Negro camps, holds 84, said Grimes.

— Cell blocks A and B and one Negro hold 110 and C and D hold 98.

— The fold of 350, the 350 inmates ranging from gambling to possession of a knife or other weapon.

Shower Stall in Crowded Angola Dormitory

50-200 PRISONERS

The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA. Monday Morning, April 10, 1943

LIFE AT ANGOLA PENITENTIARY

Continued from Page 1...

The Times-Picayune, April 10, 1943

(Formerly

three years

1943-

As one prison warden expressed it, "Thank goodness I have an office job here." It is at least less tiring than being on the magic carpet for four in the morning or the night watch at Angola. There is an active interest in the Felician school.

Shower stalls and toilets are located downstairs in such a position that it can be reached by first floor inmates only by going upstairs and descending according to it. The showers are made for as many as 8 or 10 men at a time and a half to two hours trip one way, with 22 of those miles over a circuitous route.

As one prison official said, "Thank goodness I have an office job here." It is at least less tiring than being on the magic carpet for four in the morning or the night watch. There is an active interest in the Felician school.