FLORENCE PRISON & THE HOLLYWOOD TV CONNECTION

Silent Era

Life in a Western Penitentiary (1914)

No Poster Available — add poster

1. LIFE IN A WESTERN PENITENTIARY – 1914. This was a documentary film about prison life in the west. There was very little information to be found about this film.

The Honor System

Rating: PG
Genre: Drama
Movie Type: Prison Film
Director: Raoul Walsh
Release Year: 1917
Country: US
Run Time: 5rl minutes

Plot

This socially concious, well-wrought silent drama made an earnest plea for prison reform over two decades before it became a national cause. The film's message still remains powerful today. In order to truly understand the subject, director Raoul Walsh and his buddy Jack Pickford actually stayed (by choice) in a real penitentiary. The story follows the grim experiences of an innocent man convicted of murder. He did kill the victim; but it was strictly self-defense. The prison itself is run by three corrupt administrators. This film includes performances by actors Johnny Reese, James Marcus, and George Walsh, among others. - Tracie Cooper, All Movie Guide

Cast

Gladys Brockwell - *Trixie Bennett*
P.J. Cannon - *James Phelan, Warden*
Charles Clary - *Charles Harrington*
Miriam Cooper - *Edith, His Daughter*
Cora Drew - *His Mother*
Mrs. Arthur Mackley - *Steven Holt, the Sheriff*
Johnny Reese - *Mugsy*
Roy Rice - *'Three Fingered' Louis*
Milton Sills - *Joseph Stanton*
George Walsh - *Jack Taylor*
Carrie Clark Ward
James Marcus - *Gov. John Hunter*
William Eagle Eye

Modern Jails Become Western Penitentiaries

Excellent Pictures At Prison "Movie."

"A 'Movie' is the latest at the state prison. This innovation in prison life is in keeping with Governor Hunt's prison reform policy, and is one that is highly enjoyed by those permitted to witness the photoplays.

On Monday night the new machine was tried out in the new building which is now nearing completion and which is to be used as a library, reading room and dormitory. Besides some fifty prisoners about a hundred visitors were present at the show Monday night when three reels were given showing the every day life within the prison walls, and road construction by convicts under the honor system. These pictures were taken by A. C. Taylor of the Vitagraph Company, who it will be remembered spent two or three weeks here during the past season. The pictures were exceptionally good and are quite interesting, even to those who have been through the prison often. These pictures will be shown on the Vitagraph circuit and will no doubt prove a revelation to many people who see them.

Another reel taken by J. F. Stevens, the prison photographer and Arizona moving picture man, was quite interesting because of its local color. The El Paso to Phoenix races were shown arriving and leaving Florence, the school children filing out of the Florence school, a few scenes along the state highway and an excellent scene on the Nuhlan ranch seven miles west of Florence completed an excellent and interesting show.

Jan 15, 1914 Arizona Blade Tribune

The Honor System

(1917) American
B&W - Ten reels
Directed by Raoul Walsh

Cast: Milton Sills, Cora Drew, James A. Marcus, Arthur Mackley, Miriam Cooper, George Walsh, Charles Clary, Gladys Brockwell, Roy Rice, Pomeroy J. Cannon, Johnny Reese

Fox Film Corporation production; distributed by Fox Film Corporation. / Produced by William Fox. Scenario by Raoul Walsh from the novel by Henry Christeen Warnack. Set design by George Gessner. Assistant director J. Gordon Cooper. Cinematography by Georges Benoit, George Richter and Len Powers. Intertitles by Hettie Gray Baker. Edited by Hettie Gray Baker. Music score by S.L. Rothapfel. / © 4 December 1916 by William Fox [LP9260]. Premiere: 6 February 1917 at Lyric Theatre in New York, New York. Released February 1917. / Standard 35mm spherical 1.33:1 format. / A special release. Prison sequences shot in the Arizona State Prison. The film was rerelessed in 1920 by Fox Film Corporation.

Drama.

In 1930, Raoul Walsh, the director who made the first outdoor western, In Old Arizona, was contracted to the Fox Studios. He was about to make another western, The Big Trail. A young trail scout was needed. No one could be found to play the role. Discussing the matter with Ford, Ford suggested that he look at a tall young fellow by the name of Marion Morrison. Walsh liked what he saw. A screen test was arranged. Duke passed with flying colours. There was one problem: his name. It would be difficult to convince the American public that Marion Morrison was a tough trail scout. Duke Marrison was considered and dropped. The name of a General from the American War of Independence was suggested. "Mad" Anthony Wayne. Anthony was replace with John. Consequently, without any say in the matter, Duke acquired his screen name: John Wayne.

In late 1930, The Big Trail, starring Marguerite Churchill, Tyron Power Snr, and John Wayne, was released. It had been shot in both 35mm and 70mm (known as

Three Sevens (1921)

Poster Not Submitted — add poster

Directed by: Chester Bennett

Writing credits: Calder Johnstone, Perley Poore Sheehan (novel)

Credited cast:
Antonio Moreno ... Daniel
Jean Calhoun ... Craig Joan
Emmett King ... Gracie Major Jerome Gracie
Geoffrey Webb ... Gary Lee
DeWitt Jennings ... Samuel Green
Starke Patteson ... Brewster Green
Beatrice Burnham ... Amy Green
(more)

Country: USA
Color: Black and White
Sound Mix: Silent

Antonio Moreno (1887-1967)

Handsome silent star leading man Antonio ("Tony") Moreno, born Antonio Garride Monteagudo in Madrid, Spain, on September 26th, 1887, started his motion picture career in the early silent era, generally playing romantic and 'Latin lover' types opposite all the top female stars of the period, including Mary Pickford,

Man under Cover

Plot Synopsis by Janiss Garza

Universal bragged that this standard crime melodrama was written by Louis Victor Eytinge, a "lifer" at the Arizona state prison. Herbert Ravilmson plays Paul Porter, who has just gotten out of the joint and, along with his pal Daddy Moffat (George Hernandez), goes back to his home town in a search for "easy money." But then Porter runs into his childhood sweetheart, Margaret Langdon (Barbara Bedford). When he discovers she is being swindled by oil sharks, he decides to go straight and help her out. The better part of the townsfolk, in fact, have been tricked by conman Junes Wiley (George Webb), but Porter outdoes him by putting up a fake oil well on the land of Colonel Culpepper (Willis Marks). Wiley buys the "gusher" from Porter for a cool hundred thou, but when he discovers he's been had he steals the money back. Porter gives chase, gets the money and returns it to the folks it belonged to in the first place. He's now a hero in his home town, and wins Margaret's hand.

Year 1922
Run Time
AMG Rating

Louis Victor Eytinge in Phoenix, March 1907.

Did You Know.....

■ Several scenes from the 1970 *Run, Simon Run* were filmed at ASPC-Florence. Burt Reynolds stars in this made-for-TV movie as a Papago Native American, who returns to society after serving a long sentence for a murder he didn't commit. To clear himself of the murder of his own brother, Reynolds begins a search for the actual killer. Florence prison Warden Frank Eyman plays himself in the film.

■ The opening scenes from *The Way to the Gold*, a 1957 20th Century-Fox Production, were filmed at ASPC-Florence. Following his release from prison, an ex-con heads for gold buried somewhere in a small village. The film stars actor Jeffery Hunter and former Arizona State Prison Captain Leo Hochstatter and Warden Frank Eyman.

■ *Riot*, the 1969 Paramount film starring Jim Brown and Gene Hackman, was filmed inside ASPC-Florence. Gene Hackman plays the mastermind of a prison riot/escape attempt, and Jim Brown is an inmate reluctantly drawn into the breakout. Paramount used the services of 56 inmates to film the movie and prison Warden Frank Eyman.

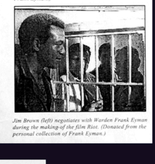
■ Prison scenes from the movie *Raising Arizona*, the 1987 black comedy written and produced by Joel and Ethan Coen, were filmed at ASPC-Florence. The film stars Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter as a kidnapping couple who are unable to have children of their own. Cage plays an ex-con who wants to make his wife happy by giving her a baby.

■ *Stir Crazy*, the 1980 film directed by Sydney Poitier, was filmed at ASPC-Florence. Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder play a wannabe actor and playwright who get arrested while wearing woodpecker costumes for a promotional event. The pair are mistaken for a pair of bank robbers and are sent to prison.

A photo of Burt Reynolds during the making of Run Simon Run. (Donated from the personal collection of Frank Eyman.)

Frank Eyman shakes the hand of actor Jeffrey Hunter as he leaves Florence prison during the making of The Way to the Gold. (Donated from the personal collection of Frank Eyman.)

A photo taken from inside Florence's Cell Block 2 during the making of Stir Crazy.


Jim Brown (left) negotiates with Warden Frank Eyman during the making of the film Riot. (Donated from the personal collection of Frank Eyman.)

1930'S – 1950'S

Lana Turner was known as the "sweater girl". She was a popular pin up girl during World War II. Her beauty and sex appeal made her a famous actress in the 1940's and 50's. She starred in over 50 motion pictures including the original "The Postman Always Rings Twice" and "Imitation of Life". She received an Academy Award nomination for best actress for her performance in "Peyton Place." Her connection to Florence Prison is an unusual one. There was an inmate in Florence that was one of her seven husbands. She knew him as Ronald Peller but he preferred his stage name of Dr. Ronald Dante. Doctor Dante was a stage hypnotist who performed in night clubs around the country. After six months of marriage to Lana, he left her after defrauding her of $35,000 cash and thousands of dollars in jewelry. During divorce proceedings he was ordered by the Court to pay her back. He then left California and moved to Tucson, Arizona. It was there that he started performing as a hypnotist in a night club known as the Pirate's Den. He also plotted to kill his stage hypnotist rival Dr. Michael Dean. Dr. Dean had accused Dante of stealing his act and had feuded with him for years. Dr. Dante wanted to get Dean out of the way so he could take over his lucrative show in San Diego. Dr. Dante made the mistake of hiring an undercover police officer to kill Michael Dean. Dante was convicted and sentenced to 7 to 20 years for attempted 2nd degree murder. He served three years and was released on Parole.

DR. DANTE AND FRIENDS . . . HYPNOTIST TO THE STARS

DANTE'S WIFE LANA TURNER | HUMPHREY BOGART | TOM JONES | JOHNNY CARSON | ELVIS PRESLEY

One of the most recognized of the smart, slick and slippery 'boss' villains is Tristram 'Tris' Coffin, and his film career began around 1939. He did about 125 films, of which 55 were westerns and 14 were chapterplays. His work at Republic Pictures amounted to about 35 films during a period from 1939-1957, and these were a mix of oaters, cliffhangers and some other films. At Monogram, he did about three dozen movies, mostly B westerns, from about 1939-1951.

He often portrayed a gangster, gambler or spy, and you can see him in some meaty roles in Republic and Columbia cliffhangers such as HOLT OF THE SECRET SERVICE, SPY SMASHER, THE PERILS OF NYOKA and FEDERAL AGENTS VS. UNDERWORLD, INC.

As the B western and serial faded, Coffin moved to TV and appeared in numerous shows during the 1950s and 1960s, including I LOVE LUCY, SUPERMAN, WILD BILL HICKOK, CISCO KID, and lots more.

Occasionally, Coffin was allowed to portray a hero ... and he did a respectable job. He had the lead as 'Jeff King' in Republic's KING OF THE ROCKETMEN chapterplay. And he was Captain Tom Rynning in the 26 MEN TV series of the mid 1950s which co-starred Kelo Henderson and was churned out by Russell Hayden's production company. Also among his TV jobs was the role of 'Captain Reid', the Texas Ranger brother of the Lone Ranger, who gets gunned down by Butch Cavendish (Glenn Strange) and his gang in the series opener titled "Enter the Lone Ranger".

Blackcatter's World of: TV THEME SONG LYRICS

26 Men

by Russell Hayden

Original Air Dates: 1957 - 1959 (syndicated)

Location: Arizona

Saddle up, saddle up. Saddle up, saddle up, saddle up.

This is the story of 26 Men who rode the Arizona Territory.
High is the glory of 26 Men, who's courage helped to build the Territory.

26 Men who saddled up and then rode out to answer duty's call.
26 Men who lived to ride again and fight for the rights and the liberty of all.

This is the story of 26 Men enforcing law within the Territory.
Praise be the Glory of 26 Men who rode the Arizona Territory.
Ride on. Ride on. Ride on.

Thanks goes to Stu S. (who's grandfather ran a work camp up in Morencie for the Territory of Arizona.) for help with the lyrics.

Warden Thomas Rynning was the last Territorial and the first State Prison Warden. Prior to being appointed Warden he was an Indian Fighter with the U.S. Cavalry. He was present at the Surrender of Geronimo & participated in the chase of Sitting Bull & his band as they escaped to Canada after the Battle of Little Big Horn. He also rode with Teddy Roosevelt & the Rough Riders during the Spanish American War. He then became a Captain of the Arizona Rangers. As an Arizona Ranger he is credited with the most arrests and convictions of anyone in Arizona. His exploits were many and the Rangers helped bring law and order to the Arizona Territory especially in the area near the Mexican border. From 1957-1959 there was a television series called "26 Men." It was about the adventures of the Arizona Rangers and many of the scripts were based on actual cases from Arizona Ranger history. One of the main characters in the series was Captain Tom Rynning, played by little know actor Tristram Coffin

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1 9 5 7 (USA)

This is the story of 26 men who rode the Arizona territory
26 men who lived to ride again
rode out to answer duty's call
26 men who lived to fight again
rode out for the right and the liberty of all...

The pounding beat that pulsed through that theme song said it all: these guys, idealistic and high-minded though they were, were not to be trifled with. If Texas had its Rangers and gun smoking Dodge City had its Marshals - rest assured, Arizona would be kept orderly by its 26 Men.

The half-hour show's premise was based on a true-life 1901 event, in which the Arizona Territorial Legislature authorised an armed force consisting of one captain, one lieutenant, four sergeants, and 20 privates.

Tris Coffin *(left) played* the captain, Kelo Henderson the team newcomer, and as for the remaining 24 - though a few lucky riders were occasionally seen and heard from, aside from Coffin and Henderson, there were no regulars. It was shot on location in Arizona, frequently using the Grand Canyon State's residents in small supporting roles.

Producer Russell Hayden was a well-known part of that Hollywood factory which churned out B-movie Westerns. He was famous for his Hopalong Cassidy films and was also known to act, playing the original Marshal in *The Marshal of Gunsight Pass*. This time, he was content to preside over *26 Men's* syndicated run, bringing frontier justice into suburban living rooms across the USA.

1960'S – 1970'S

A.S.P. HOSTS WORLD PREMIERE OF "THE RIOT"

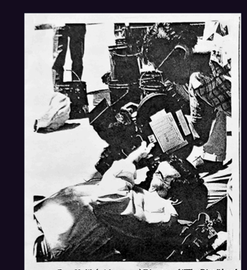
EL SAGUARO — December 13, 1960

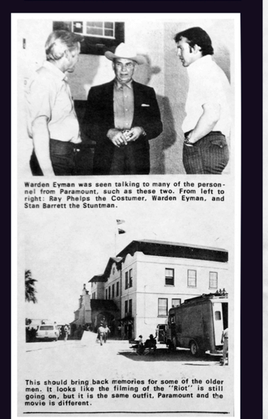
The world premiere of Paramount Pictures "The Riot," was held at the Arizona State Prison December 3. A William Castle Production, "The Riot" is the first motion picture ever filmed entirely within the walls of an active prison.

The film stars Jim Brown and Gene Hackman. In other top roles are Mike Kellin, Ben Carruthers, Gerald O'Loughlin and Clifford David. A. S. P. inmates enact all but a few of the roles with several playing featured parts. Several of the prison staff have roles in the movie. Warden Eyman plays the warden; Director of Education, Jack Dillard is cast as a guard; and Assistant Director of Education Jerry Thompson plays the part of Assistant Warden.

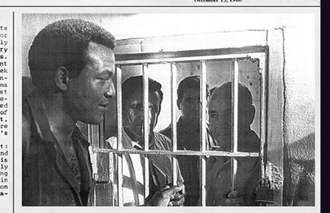
Nearly 400 convicts were screened by Director Buzz Kulik before finally selecting about 80 to try for the various parts. Those selected underwent a rigorous, five week course in acting, conducted by Paramount Drama Coach Bob McAndrews. Most of the convicts that received roles are pictured on the reverse side of this special supplement. The convict actors were paid regular Actor's Guild salaries.

To quote Paramount: "....in filming, cast and concept, 'The Riot' is entirely, frighteningly authentic." "....a daring experiment, not only in film-making, but in prison therapy and rehabilitation."


Buzz Kulik (with camera) Director of "The Riot," hard at work.


Warden Eyman was seen talking to many of the personnel from Paramount, such as these two. From left to right: Ray Phelps the Costumer, Warden Eyman, and Stan Barrett the Stuntman.

This should bring back memories for some of the older men. It looks like the filming of the "Riot" is still going on, but it is the same outfit, Paramount and the movie is different.


Above we see a picture of Jim Brown, Jerry Thompson and Warden Frank A. Eyman. But the circumstances of the picture are quite different than usual. Jerry Thompson plays the Assistant Warden, Warden Eyman plays the Warden and Jim Brown plays a convict, and look at the lock on that cell door, yes it's locked. What a change of pace, the con on the outside looking in and the one's that should be, are looking out. I'd be willing to bet this is the first time a picture has ever appeared of a warden on the inside looking out.

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Paramount & A.S.P.

By Ron Burridge

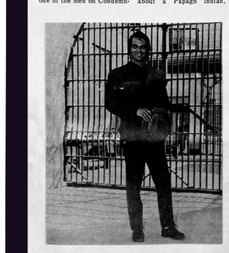
On Monday, February 14, the front gate looked as if the movie "Riot" was still being made. But to the dismay of the rumors, and there were many, it was not. And speaking of rumors, if one had listened to them all, the activity at the gate was the filming of a documentary, a movie about one of the men on Condemned Row, or even "snakes" of the "Riot". But in an exclusive interview with the star, we learned that Paramount Studios was using our front gate for the beginning of one of it's latest TV movies.

The "Tradition of Simon Zuniga" is a half-million dollar Television movie about a Papago Indian, played by Burt Reynolds, and an attractive young female Indian agent, played by Miss Inger Stevens. After 15 years in a white man's prison for a murder he did not commit, Zuniga seeks an Indian's revenge by killing the real killer, played by James Best. He also encounters problems of prejudice against Indians.

Portions of the movie were filmed here, the Mission of San Xavier del Blac, Mount Lemmon, and the rodeo grounds at the Buckskin Bar in Tucson.

Burt Reynolds is credited with several major roles, including "100 Rifles" and "San Whiskey". Miss Stevens is perhaps most noted as the daughter in the "Farmer's Daughter" TV series a few years ago.

The 90 minute Movie of the Week (ABC) series film which is scheduled for airing in September, is an Aross Spelling Production, directed by George McCowan, director of TV's "Mod Squad".


Recognize him? Burt Reynolds. Remember him in "100 Rifles" and "San Whiskey"? Look for him in "The Tradition of Simon Zunigua". Portions of it were filmed at the front gate of ASP.

MORE PICTURES PAGE 8

This lovely lady is the co-star of "The Tradition of Simon Zunigua" and was gracious enough to pose for this photograph. Inger Stevens is well known in television and movies.

1980'S TO PRESENT

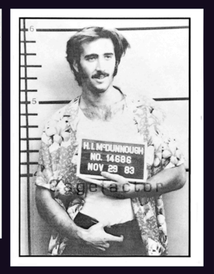
Stir Crazy (film)

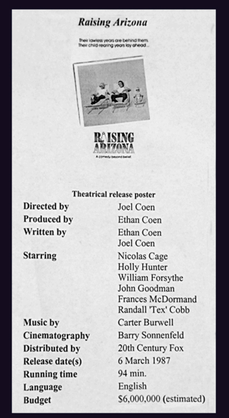
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Stir Crazy is a 1980 American comedy film starring Gene Wilder & Richard Pryor as two men framed for a bank robbery and each ending up with a 125 year prison sentence, alongside Puerto Rican actor, Miguel Angel Suarez. In 2000, *Total Film* magazine voted it the 22nd greatest comedy film of all time.

Stir Crazy DVD cover

Directed by	Sidney Poitier
Produced by	Hannah Weinstein
Written by	Bruce Jay Friedman
Starring	Gene Wilder Richard Pryor Miguel Angel Suarez
Distributed by	Columbia Pictures
Release date(s)	December 12, 1980
Language	English





Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Joel Coen
Produced by	Ethan Coen
Written by	Ethan Coen Joel Coen
Starring	Nicolas Cage Holly Hunter William Forsythe John Goodman Frances McDormand Randall 'Tex' Cobb
Music by	Carter Burwell
Cinematography	Barry Sonnenfeld
Distributed by	20th Century Fox
Release date(s)	6 March 1987
Running time	94 min.
Language	English
Budget	$6,000,000 (estimated)

ASPC-Florence Hosts Feature Film

A scene from the *Wild 7*, a modern day drama set in the old west, was filmed at the entrance of Arizona State Prison Complex-Florence.

Wild 7 is a tale about two simultaneous bank robberies. The majority of

Actor Robert Forster (left), Correctional Officer Jose Carrion (center) and Actor Richard Roundtree (right) take a break from filming.

Forster has appeared in such motion pictures as *Jackie Brown*, *Mulholland Drive* and *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*. Also appearing in the film is Richard Roundtree who has been in such productions as *Shaft*, *George of the Jungle* and *Earthquake*.

Correctional Officer Jose Carrion of ASPC-Florence has a small role in the movie. In the film, Carrion is working the main gate when the inmate is released.