LETTERS (continued from page 9)

...I pulled a stupid stunt in 1960 in Manhattan (bank robbery) and ended up at the infamous Matteawan State Hospital for 20 years. I just got out in December and will have to stay in this jail until 3-5-81 which completes my 20 year sentence. My great fear is that the administration will bug me out again as schizophrenic and civilly commit me. They got me on the phenothiazine called Thorazine here, 800 mg. Tid. That is to slow me down as I'm a jailhouse lawyer and a good one. I have 73 law school credits I got while I was allegedly psychotic. I've won 6 federal actions and numerous state court actions to get guys out of the hospital. By 42 USC Civil Rights action I won us the right to 1) have typewriters; 2) be free of straitjackets used for rule infractions; 3) carry our own matches; 4) receive uncensored mail; 5) use knives & forks instead of just spoons at meals; and 6) have unsupervised visits. Not bad for a burnt out-low and leveled schizophrenic, is it?

I am worried about getting tardive dyskinesia though (from all that Tharazine). I get $875 from the V.A. for having my ass shot up in the Korean conflict (1950). I'm looking for pen pals...I'm not a kook and do not write dirty letters...

I need to be cajoled or pushed into writing a book on my experiences in Matteawan Hospital. I know first hand of 6 boys and men and one girl beat and/or smothered to death in the 60's. One attendant pushed a crippled man in a wheelchair under a boiling hot shower and got away with it.

--Henry Purcell Jr.
Onon County Jail
511 S. State St.
Syracuse, New York 13202

PEN PALS

A Pen Pal Club has been formed by ON OUR OWN, a new support group sponsored by the Bay Area Committee for Alternatives to Psychiatry (BACAP). Psychiatric inmates and former inmates who are interested in becoming pen pals are invited to fill out the form below and mail it to us.

We think that an open communications line such as this could have extremely beneficial effects. In this way, we can render moral and social support to one another, friendships could be formed, news and information spread, and new ideas developed and shared.

From time to time, we will send an updated list of club members to all the newsletters and journals in the psychiatric inmates' liberation movement, which they will be asked to publish. And, upon request, club members will be furnished with a copy of this list.

We hope you like this idea and will be able to participate.

On Our Own Pen Pal Club Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

List your interests in ten words or less (to be published as space allows) _____

_____

_____

Mail to: BACAP, 944 Market Street, Room 701
San Francisco, CA 94102

(Please notify us of any address changes)

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER (continued from page 2)

Incidentally, present subscribers to the ALMP Newsletter whose address label on this issue bears the code number 79 are hereby reminded that your subscription runs out with this issue. Why not resubscribe now and save us the necessity of writing you a personal reminder?

People who helped with the writing, production, and distribution of this newsletter are Diane Baran, Bob Harris, Lenny Lapon, Brian Linder, Mary McDonald, and Larry Weychert. (List does not include last-minute volunteers.)