

New levy on horizon

Many Preston County schools use funds for repairs. Page 1-B

Man injured in I-79 wreck

Truck flips over rail, goes down hill. Page 5-B



Post

Celebrating Lucky 13

WVU women's team defeats DePaul, 64-57, in overtime. Page 1-C

Men lose to Notre Dame

Coverage of 70-68 defeat. Page 1-C



Morgantown, West Virginia

www.dominionpost.com

Newsstand: \$1.50

SUNDAY

Jan. 10, 2010

TODAY'S WEATHER



Cold with clouds and sun. High 23 Low 16

TO FIND OUT about school closings or delays, go to dominionpost.com.

Video links

Taliban to CIA bombing Man sat next to new chief of group. Page 8-D

Obituaries

BOWSER, Larry A. Sr. COOLEY, James Robert FOWLER, Garnetta Glendening GALUSKY, Edward Paul GARRETT, James Alan LEWIS, Eva Claire Hawley MCDONALD, Delbert F. "Pudge" SELBY, Susan Elizabeth Fox TERANGO, Virginia R. "Whig" DeFazio

Page 7-A

Markets

DOW + 190.14 NASDAQ + 48.02 S&P 500 + 29.88

Page 3D-4D

Report: Slight cost hike in

Senate health bill Officials: Dems to drop government-run insurance. Page 7-D

Cashmere 101

Know how to buy and care for this fine fabric. Page 1-E

Contractor wins award for home

Page 1-F

COMING TOMORROW

State lawmakers

2010 interims begin.



Inside

AUTOMOTIVE 1H-6H BUSINESS 1D-6D CAMPUS LIFE 8B CROSSWORD 6E EMPLOYMENT 1G-6G LOCAL 2A-6A, 1B-7B LIFE & LEISURE 1E-10E MINIPAGE 7E MOUNTAIN STATE OUTDOORS 8C NATION 7D-8D OPINION 1D-2D REAL ESTATE 1F-10F SENIOR NEWS 3H, 5H SPORTS 1C-7C TV SCHEDULE 8A WORLD 8D

For home delivery: 304-292-6301 For news: 304-291-9425



Area bankruptcies up

Experts: Trend to continue in bad economy

BY ALEX LANG The Dominion Post

Bankruptcy filings in 2009 in Monongalia and Preston counties were up from 2008.

Mon County had a 55 percent jump in bankruptcy filings in 2009, 195 up from 126 in 2008.

Preston County's were up by 65 percent, or 111 filings in 2009 and 67 in 2008.

"I'm sure it's all economy based," said Michael Sturm, clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Northern District of West Virginia.

Some of the factors that could lead someone to file for bankruptcy are loss of job, an unexpected family incident like a major medical bill or excessive spending, Sturm said.

The number of bankruptcy filings tends to follow the economy, Sturm said. When the econ-

omy is doing well, the number of cases is down, and when the economy slows, it goes up.

Area attorneys have also seen an increase in the number of people filing.

"Yes, we've certainly had more cases," Tom Hazlett said.

Hazlett, of Harper & Hazlett, said he also believes the reason is economic.

His firm has offices in Westover, Wheeling and Ohio.

Dave Jecklin, of Gianola Barnum Wigal & London in Morgantown, said they saw an

increase in the number of bankruptcy cases and in the number of people requesting information about bankruptcy.

In the past year, the region began to see the impact of the recession, Jecklin said. The unemployment rate increased, and the housing prices went "topsy-turvy."

The primary reason for people filing for bankruptcy is still credit card debt, Jecklin said. They have seen more people come in because they lost their jobs, but

SEE ECONOMY, 3-A

WORKING IN ALCATRAZ

Former Kennedy Youth Center employee recalls time on 'the rock'

BY MALINDA REINKE The Dominion Post

From his position on the wall, Correctional Officer Joe Santos, 32, his big carbine rifle strapped across his shoulder, stared down into the prison yard at what was happening between the guard and the inmate.

A standoff was brewing. They were at a checkpoint by the old model building, a concrete structure at the northwest tip of the island where some of the most trusted inmates worked making gloves and brooms and other items.

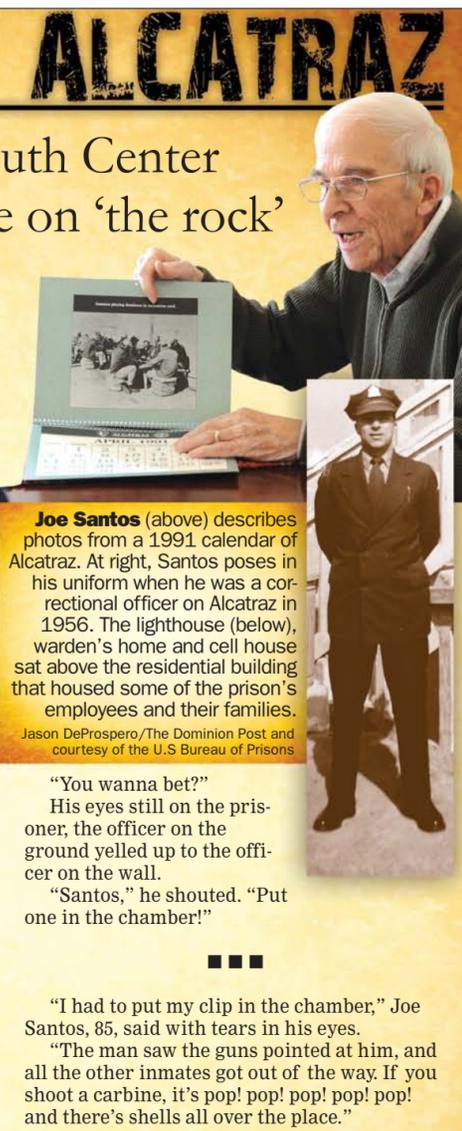
To pass between the model building and the yard, inmates had to be "shaken down" — their arms stretched straight out from their sides while the officers on duty patted them down for makeshift weapons or contraband. Most days it was a routine that took place without incident.

But not this day. On this ordinary afternoon at Alcatraz in 1956, an inmate looked the officer in the eyes and refused.

"You're not gonna shake me down anymore." And the officer glared back.

Decades later, when Santos described the incident from the quiet of his Morgantown home, he'd say that he thought the officer was picking on the inmate, "a big black fellow." But in that moment — standing guard on the wall at the most celebrated maximum security penitentiary in the country — Santos was on the job.

"I'm gonna shake you down," said the officer below. "No, you're not," said the inmate.

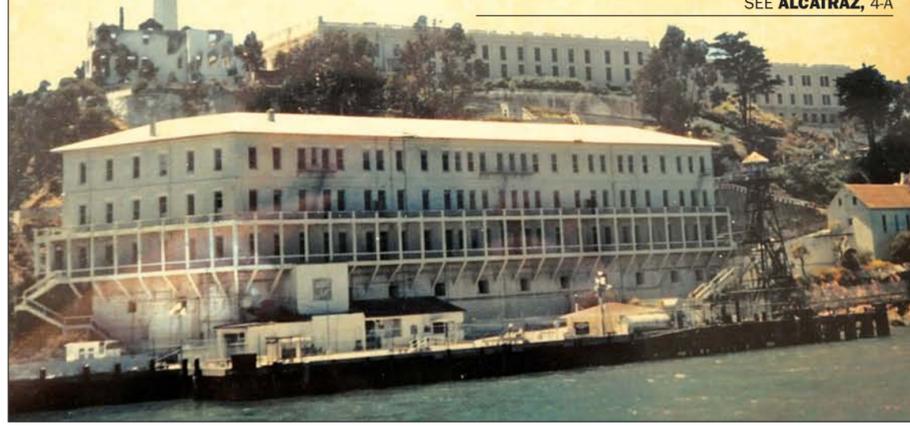


Joe Santos (above) describes photos from a 1991 calendar of Alcatraz. At right, Santos poses in his uniform when he was a correctional officer on Alcatraz in 1956. The lighthouse (below), warden's home and cell house sat above the residential building that housed some of the prison's employees and their families. Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post and courtesy of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons

"You wanna bet?" His eyes still on the prisoner, the officer on the ground yelled up to the officer on the wall. "Santos," he shouted. "Put one in the chamber!"

"I had to put my clip in the chamber," Joe Santos, 85, said with tears in his eyes. "The man saw the guns pointed at him, and all the other inmates got out of the way. If you shoot a carbine, it's pop! pop! pop! pop! and there's shells all over the place."

SEE ALCATRAZ, 4-A



Obama promotes health care overhaul

REPORT: SLIGHT cost hike in Senate health bill. Page 7-D. GOVERNMENT insurance option may be cut. Page 7-D.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Congress struggles for final agreement on health care, President Barack Obama is getting a head start on promoting a permanent ban on "the worst practices of the insurance industry" and other changes in the overhaul he's eager to sign into law.

Obama acknowledged it would take several years — until 2014 in some instances — for some of the changes to be fully in place, and that has disappointed consumers and their advocates. He used his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to play up the brighter

side of the overhaul he hopes to sign in time for his first State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in a matter of weeks.

"Now, it'll take a few years to fully implement these reforms in a responsible way," the president said. "But what every American should know is that once I sign health insurance reform into law, there are dozens of protections and benefits that will take effect this year."

Among them, Obama said: ■ People with illnesses or medical conditions will be able to buy affordable health insurance. ■ Children with such conditions will no longer be denied coverage. ■ Small-business owners who can't afford to cover their employees will get tax credits to help

them do so.

■ Insurance companies will be required to offer free preventive care to their customers and will be prohibited from dropping coverage when someone becomes ill.

"In short, once I sign health insurance reform into law, doctors and patients will have more control over their health care decisions, and insurance company bureaucrats will have less," Obama said. "All told, these changes represent the most sweeping reforms and toughest restrictions on insurance companies that this country has ever known."

House and Senate versions of the overhaul would require nearly all Americans to get coverage and provide subsidies for many who can't afford the cost, but they differ on the details.

ELECTION 2010

Filing begins Monday

Many federal, state, county offices open

INCUMBENTS ponder another run for Westover council. Page 1-B.

BY DAVID BEARD The Dominion Post

Candidates will begin filing Monday to run for office in this year's primary and general elections.

They will have until Jan. 30 to file for local, state or national elections.

Candidates filing for offices that serve more than one county and those running for the state Senate and the House of Delegates must file with the secretary of state, according to the secretary's office.

Those running for offices in just one county must file with their county clerk.

Some candidates have already filed precandidacy papers with the secretary of state. This allows them to test the waters and begin fundraising.

The primary is May 11; voter registration deadline is April 20.

The general election is Nov. 2; voter registration deadline is Oct. 12.

Independent and minor party candidates do not appear on primary ballots. They must gather signatures on a nominating petition to have their names placed on the general election ballot.

Here is a rundown of offices up

SEE FILING, 3-A

Court stalemate ends Civil War re-enactors' fight

Associated Press

STANARDSVILLE, Va. — A judge in Virginia said it's a draw between two Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors who got into a tussle on the battlefield.

A judge found each man not guilty of assault Wednesday after they pressed charges against each other over the dispute last September.

The men were playing cavalry officers in a re-enactment of the Battle of Stanardsville. The Confederate re-enactor claims his Union counterpart knocked his hat off. The Confederate was accused of firing a blank round, of which the powder charge injured the Union re-enactor.

Both men said their actions were accidental. The judge concluded he could not find either man guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt."

WORKING ON ALCATRAZ



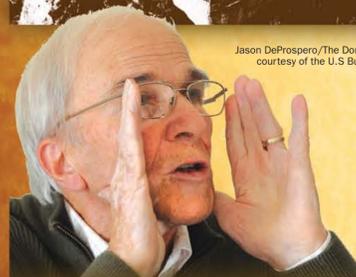
Correctional officer Joe Santos poses outside one of the residential buildings at Alcatraz.



Santos reminisces about his days working on Alcatraz Island.



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post and courtesy of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons



ALCATRAZ FACTS

How big was the average cell?

Each cell in B & C block was 5 feet by 9 feet. Cells at Alcatraz had a small sink with cold running water, small sleeping cot and a toilet. Most men could extend their arms and touch each wall within their cell. The cells in D Block (maximum security or segregation) were more spacious, but still the least popular. In D-Block, inmates were confined to their cells 24-hours per day, with the exception of one visit per week to the recreation yard, and those visits were alone.

How many cells were there?

There were 336 cells in B & C Block. There were originally 348, but 12 were removed when stairways were installed at the end of each cell block. There were 36 segregated cells, and six solitary confinement cells in D-Block.

Were Alcatraz inmates allowed visitors?

Yes. Inmates were granted one visit per month, and each visitation had to be approved directly by the warden. No physical contact was allowed, and rules dictated that inmates were not allowed to discuss current events, or any matters concerning prison life. Inmates talked with visitors via intercom and a correctional officer monitored the conversations.

Were executions performed at Alcatraz?

No. Alcatraz had no facilities for capital punishment, and this process was usually left to state institutions. For Alcatraz, inmates who had been served a death sentence were transferred to San Quentin State Penitentiary for execution in the gas chamber.

ALCATRAZ'S MISSION

Alcatraz's mission was unlike that of any other Federal Prison — take the most troublesome and dangerous inmates from throughout the entire Federal prison system, confine them all in one prison, and through a highly regiment-

ed daily routine, teach these inmates how to behave and live in prison.

— "Monday Morning Highlights," an internal newsletter of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, on the 40th anniversary of the closing of Alcatraz.

ALCATRAZ

FROM PAGE 1-A

Sitting with his wife, Sharon, at his dining room table, with photographs and mementos of Alcatraz scattered at his fingertips, the years fell away and, once again, Santos was the officer on the wall.

He saw the stalemate below him. He felt the rifle in his hands.

"I prayed to God I wouldn't have to shoot him. I didn't want to kill him," he said, his voice full of memory.

Sharon came behind him, laid her hands on his shoulders. Then Santos wiped away his tears and sat up straight. He said: "I'm getting emotional because I'm an old man now. Twenty-five or 30 years ago, you couldn't make me feel this way. I'd say, I'd shoot the son of a gun, the hell I wouldn't."

The inmate backed down that long ago day, and Officer Santos never fired a shot. But he came close enough that, more than 50 years later, he could still feel the weight of the gun.

"You have to adjust your brain and your emotions," he explained. "Prisons are not pleasant places. You're watching people who break laws, who hurt people, rape people, kill people.

"That's Alcatraz."

On an April morning in 1955, newly hired Correctional Officer Joe Santos boarded the 65-foot launch, the Warden Johnston — Alcatraz's shore boat, used to transport staff, family and prisoners a mile and a half across the San Francisco Bay from the city to Alcatraz Island.

He carried a small book that contained his reporting papers and sat down beside a well-dressed gentleman in a suit and tie.

"Doing research?" the man asked, glancing at the book.

"No," Santos replied. "I'm reporting for work."

"Where you from?"

"Rhode Island."

"Me, too," the man said with a smile.

"I'm from a small town called Bristol," Santos added. But when the stranger mentioned his own hometown, Santos felt comfortable enough to grin.

"Oh," he said, "you were a hick. You lived out in the sticks!"

Once they landed at Alcatraz, Santos lost track of the stranger. Instead, he and three other new officers were escorted up the ramp to the prison for their physical exams and their dark gray uniforms.

"But before we could even put them on, we were invited to the warden's office," Santos recalled. "The warden's name was Paul Madigan. He was a wonderful man. So we walk into his office and he says, 'You fellas are lucky today. We have a very special guest. This is James V. Bennett, director of the Bureau of Prisons.'"

Santos glanced up to see the small-town hick from the boat ride to Alcatraz.

Telling the tale that day in his Morgantown dining room, the old guard laughed and laughed. It was the first Alcatraz story he told and perhaps his favorite.

"I was so embarrassed," Santos said. "I said, 'What a way to start!' I said, 'This is gonna be a short term of duty!'"

"But [Bennett] laughed and said, 'Not so.' And he and I were

friends for many years."

■■■

First day notwithstanding, Santos settled into ordinary life as a correctional officer at Alcatraz.

There were inconveniences. Alcatraz operated on DC power, so residents used converters that allowed them to run their radios and electrical appliances. Since there was no water on the island, barges from the Army base at Fort Mason made daily trips to transport water from San Francisco for everything from drinking water to toilet use to the laundry duties performed by the inmates.

The Warden Johnston transported Alcatraz employees who lived on the mainland back and forth to work, and the children of the residential officers back and forth to school in San Francisco.

Once in a while, Santos was the officer in charge of escorting the children on the boat — one of his favorite duties.

"We put life jackets on 'em," he said. "Sometimes the water was rough and we worried a lot. If it was too dangerous, there was no going to school.

"That water's very cold. It comes under the Golden Gate Bridge — very cold and very rough. They tell you stories about these fellas that escaped from Alcatraz. Well, they drowned. Don't let anybody tell you different ... because that water's too cold to swim."

Santos picked up the commemorative calendar and let the pages fall open to photographs of things in his memory — the Warden Johnston, the schoolkids, an inmate at a sewing machine making gloves.

Photo: Typical inmate cell circa 1955 Santos: "This is what a cell looked like," Santos said. "Inmates did not have radios. The music was piped in, and they were all given earphones they could plug in. They could just get two stations. They could hear the news, and they could hear music. At 9:30 at night, everything was turned off. No radio. Nothing. We had to be able to hear them sleeping.

"That's inside a cell block, one on either side. That's B-block and that's C-block. And the center [aisle] was called Broadway. There were inmates on the first deck, the second deck and the third deck.

"To get up there, they had to climb the spiral staircase — and there's a reason for that. If they came down straight, they could jump on an officer. But coming around, they have to hold their balance." Santos grinned. "So we don't trust them coming down — comprehend?"

Photo: Inmate band in band room Santos (singling out band members): "This kid was a famous saxophone player. This kid was related to Orrin Tucker, the big band leader — that's his big brother serving time. A big gangster."

(Tucker did admit to having at least a musical connection to some of Chicago's underworld racketeers. In the May 2000 issue of *Jazz Connection Magazine*, he was quoted as saying, matter-of-factly, "I worked for a few of those people. One of those people was Bugsy Siegel, the guy who eventually owned all the original hotels in Las Vegas.")

Photo: Inmates playing dominoes in recreation yard Santos: "Three officers went down to the yard to supervise the recreation. That's dominoes. There was no cardplaying because of gambling. They were given cigarettes by the day and tobacco. But they

LIFE ON 'THE ROCK'

The Dominion Post

A correctional officer on Alcatraz in the mid-1950s, Joe Santos, of Morgantown, remembers life at the infamous penitentiary. These are a few of his observations:

Meal times

"At the end of Broadway [The center aisle between B and C blocks], at the top of each building, were gun galleries: West Gallery and East Gallery. The only time they were manned was when the inmates went to eat. The inmates didn't go in big groups. They went by number of cells. They were escorted. The guy in the West Gallery was up there with a shotgun and a gas gun.

"The inmates went one table at a time.

They had to stand behind a place — five on one side, five on the other. They don't have any knives. No forks. Everybody ate with a spoon. All the food was cut up for them, bite size.

"Some of the inmates didn't go to the dining room. The food was brought in to them [and passed] through a grill. They weren't people in solitary. They were in segregation [maximum security]. But they were not allowed to eat with the group because I'll tell you why; some of 'em wanted to kill each other. Any chance the got to kill each other, they would — and they did.

Books

"The librarian was not an officer. He was a civilian. He had a Ph.D. from Yale

University, of all things. He loved books. "Whitey Franklin was the [inmate] who went around the cell blocks and helped the librarian. He made his rounds. He would go around to all the cells, escorted by an officer. Sometimes that would be me. He drop off a list of the books that they could check out. He'd say, 'I'll be back in 20 minutes.' He'd go down Broadway, all around cell blocks B and C.

"Then if the book they wanted was available, Whitey Franklin would bring it next time he went around, probably in a day or two.

"Many of the inmates read a lot. Their salvation was reading. They did not get magazines. They did not get newspapers. No television. All they had was books and the radio."

Christmas

"We put up a Christmas tree in the dining hall with some very simple decorations. Nothing they could cut themselves with. All the decorations were plastic or paper. People made them.

"The ladies on the island made some of this stuff and brought it up to them. They appreciated that."

Alcatraz's decline

"Alcatraz was in bad shape. All they did was keep making repairs. You could see it even when I was there. When the wind blew and the fog came in, pieces of the top of the structure kept blowing away. They finally did put a new roof on there. But the people in Washington were against it."

were not allowed to gamble it. If they did, they got thrown in the hole.

"When they were in the yard, music was piped in for them, and every weekend, they could request records. Every weekend they requested one record over and over. It was Doris Day. I can still hear her voice — (Santos croons.) "Once I had a secret love." And the other one was, "I'm walking behind you on your wedding day."

He smiled. "They loved Doris Day. I always wanted to write to her and tell her that."

■■■

If there's a single question people ask when they hear that Joe Santos worked at Alcatraz, it's always about the Birdman, he said.

"It was difficult to get people who wanted to work on Alcatraz. If you could read the records on the inmates, you'd want to get off the island. And that's the truth."

"I was awestruck. Names like Alvin Karpis, Harmon Waley — these were Public Enemy No. 1 in the '30s and '40s.

"And so was the Birdman of Alcatraz."

Santos said Robert Stroud suffered from poor health during his years in the penitentiary at Alcatraz and was kept in solitary confinement at the hospital. But every day, the Birdman took a bath.

Three officers — a custodial officer, a lieutenant and a medic — would walk him to the bathing area. Some days that custodial officer was Joe Santos.

"We put him in the tub, and he bathed himself," Santos said, describing the setup. "An officer was here, a medical officer here, and a lieutenant stood here — three people to supervise the Birdman of Alcatraz."

Stroud killed a bartender in Alaska in 1909. Reports indicate Stroud was a pimp and he shot the man for not paying a prostitute.

Santos said Stroud did most of his research on birds at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., and was transferred to Alcatraz in 1942.

"He was an old man," Santos said. "He was called the Birdman of Alcatraz, but he never saw a bird on Alcatraz. The only birds he saw were when he looked out over the ocean for seagulls. That's the closest he came to birds.

"That movie with Burt Lancaster is so embellished. [Stroud] was in Alcatraz because he was dangerous. He killed an officer years before. He killed another inmate. Then they brought him here.

"These were lousy people, these inmates." One day, Frank Loveland, assistant director for Inmate Programs with the Bureau of Prisons, came to Alcatraz and Santos asked for permission to speak with him.

"I told him who I was and about my education. I told him I wanted to work in a youth institution,

specifically Englewood [in Littleton, Colo.]. He said, 'Why did they send you here?' And I said, 'That's where they said they had a vacancy.'

"A year and a half later, I got a letter that said: Ship Joe Santos to FCI Englewood — my dream job."

Santos thrived at Englewood. He became a teacher there. Then he taught and directed programs at three other youth institutions — the last one in Morgantown, where he retired.

Santos, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and graduated from the University of Wyoming with degrees in sociology and psychology, had always wanted to work in the prison system — but he wanted to work with troubled youth.

He'd grown up in a small town in Rhode Island not far from a naval base. It was the Depression era, and small crimes committed by children were not uncommon.

"It was nothing to go into Pat Mahoney's shop and steal bubble gum," he said. "Some of those fellows did have to go to the reformatory. But they were my neighbors, good kids in trouble.

"Some of 'em had good backgrounds, religious backgrounds ... but just couldn't hack it. Didn't have enough clothes. Didn't have enough food. And they'd steal bicycles, they'd steal scooters."

Once he joined the Navy, Santos met some of those troubled kids who had been rehabilitated through their stints in the service. He decided that someday he, too, would be part of that rehabilitation. If he could work with youngsters in reformatories and youth facilities, he could make a difference in their lives.

During his career with the federal prison system, Santos worked at four youth facilities. Ultimately, he ended up at Kennedy Youth Center in Morgantown where, in 1973, he was appointed director of education and vocational training at the prison. Now a minimum-security Federal Correctional Institution, it was then a correctional facility for young offenders.

"Joe's a very humble kind of guy," said Monongalia County Commissioner Bill Bartolo, who worked with Santos at Kennedy back in the mid-1970s. "He has the personality, sort of like a father or an uncle — not just to the kids, but to the young staff. When Joe would give some words of wisdom, you'd be smart to listen."

"I think he believed in people." So Santos' dream was fulfilled. He became a teacher and a guiding force for the youth and the young adults he wanted to help. Many of them, he shook their hands, put them on a bus at the end of their time served, and watched them ride away into successful lives. But first came Alcatraz.

■■■

"That was me in 1955, maybe 1956. I'm standing by Building 77. I lived in Residential Building 64, but later moved to 77." He held up a picture of a young man in a dark gray uniform.

"I'd just got off duty," Santos

tos said, smiling.

Then he flipped through a commemorative calendar filled with grainy photographs of life inside Alcatraz. There was a postcard. There was a newspaper travel piece from several years ago.

Officially closed on March 21, 1963, Alcatraz is now a tourist attraction run by the Golden Gate National Park Service.

Seven days a week, people with brochures climb the ramp from the boat dock to the old fortress on the hill. They enter "The Rock." They stroll down the cell blocks and through the shower room. They see the photos on the walls — notorious former residents like Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly — and they hear the piped-in sounds of cell doors slamming and the recorded voices of guards barking orders.

"They shop for Alcatraz souvenirs." Santos said, nodding toward the postcards and the articles on the table. They depicted ghostly images of an infamous past. Tales of escape. A shadowy empty prison cell. A white spiral staircase rising toward tiers of more empty cells.

"My nephew just came back [from there] two months ago," the old guard said. "He thinks he's seen the real Alcatraz."

He glanced at a sheet of paper on which he had typed a few things he wanted to remember to say and his eyes shone as, detail by detail, he put the color and the sound back inside the old prison walls.

As for his stint on Alcatraz, Santos said there were rumors even then that the fortress on the rock — with its storied history and its decrepit walls — was becoming a liability the government could no longer carry. After 29 years hosting the country's most dangerous criminals, the real Alcatraz closed in March 1963.

"It was too expensive," Santos said. "Bringing the water over, transporting people back and forth, using generators to convert DC to AC power. It was all too expensive for what we were doing."

"People had the idea that Alcatraz should have been self-sufficient. But it just wasn't."

Sharon Santos comforts her husband Joe as he shares an emotional memory.



ALCATRAZ FACTS

What was the average stay?

About eight years. Men were never directly sentenced to Alcatraz and usually had to earn their way. Only two men were ever paroled directly from Alcatraz to the free world.

How many people died while at Alcatraz?

There were eight people murdered by inmates on Alcatraz. Five men committed suicide, and 15 died from natural causes. Seven men were shot and killed trying to escape.

How many people escaped?

The National Park Service records indicate that 36 prisoners were involved in various attempts. Two inmates actually successfully made it off the island but were quickly captured. Seven inmates were shot and killed trying to escape. Two drowned and five inmates have been unaccounted for, presumed drowned. The most famous escape was that of Frank Morris and the Anglin Brothers. All three were successful in swimming off Alcatraz, but all three are believed to have drowned.

Why did Alcatraz close?

Primarily because of rising costs and deteriorating facilities. Operationally, Alcatraz was the most expensive prison of any state or federal institution.

Where did the families of the guard staff live?

At any given time, there were about 300 civilians living on Alcatraz that included both women and children. The primary living areas for families were Building 64, three apartment buildings, one large duplex and four large wooden houses for senior officers. Families enjoyed their own bowling alley, small convenience store and soda fountain shop for the younger island residents. Families did most of their shopping on the mainland since the prison boat made 12 scheduled runs to the Van Ness Street Pier each day.

