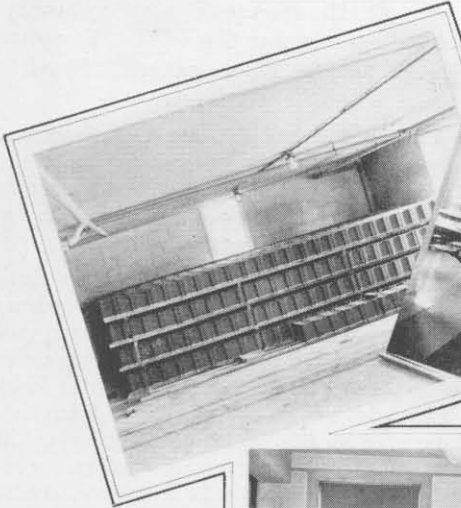




INTERIOR VIEWS CEMENT BLOCK PLANT
AND DORMITORY



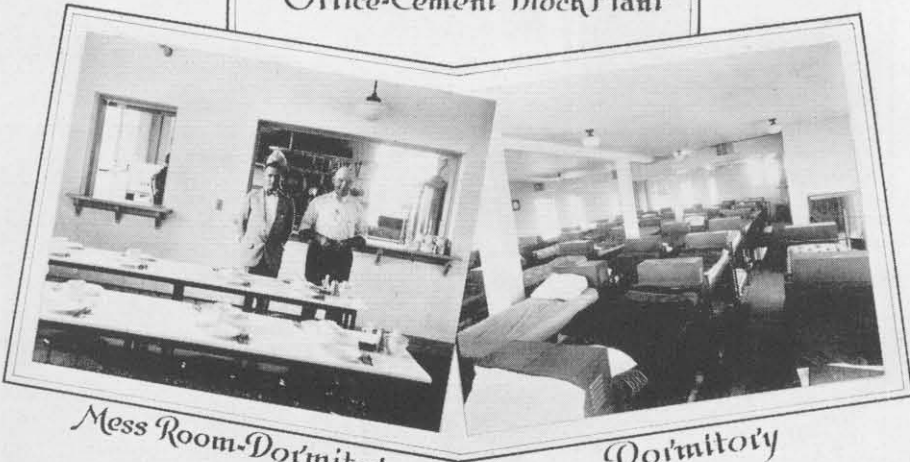
*Curing Room
Block Plant*



*Dining Room of
Dormitory*



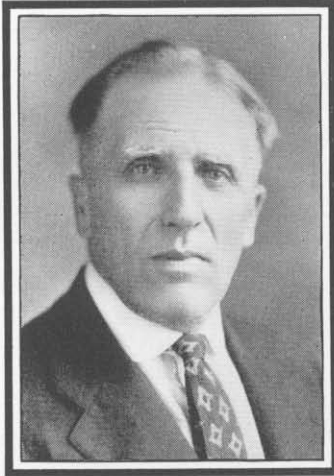
Office-Cement Block Plant



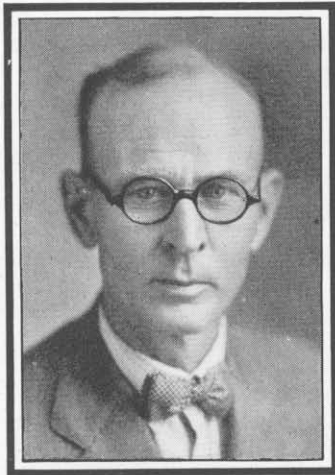
Mess Room-Dormitory

Dormitory

The Cement Block Plant



ROBERT J. MCGILL
Superintendent



PHILIP COVENTRY
Sales Manager

THE dedication of the County's newest buildings, Cement Block Plant, Dormitory and Central Storage Plant, occurred March 1, 1928.

The Cement Block Plant and Dormitory are especially adapted for the purpose for what they are intended; to provide outdoor employment for county prisoners, and a place to house and feed them, comfortably and economically.

The manufacture of cement blocks by prison labor has been a success from the first when a temporary try-out of the proposition was made in 1923, when a small plant was leased and a three months' experiment revealed a net gain in blocks made and sold of \$1,209.11. The Supervisors were interested on this showing and believing that the only solution to an over-crowded jail, was a place where prisoners could be employed, authorized the Board of Auditors and Special Committee to go ahead and equip a building with necessary machinery to manufacture cement blocks. The old infirmary building was used, and finally the new buildings were erected and are now in successful operation. The year 1927 has shown a net profit of \$13,162.36. The plant is equipped with two block machines that manufacture 8x8x16, 8x12x16 and 8x4x16 blocks, which find a ready sale in Oakland County.

Approximately 30 prisoners are working in the block plant at all times.

At the present time 70 prisoners are confined at the Block Plant Dormitory and 20 at the T. B. Farm Dormitory.

A railroad siding discharges merchandise and supplies at the door of the plant.

Robert J. McGill is Superintendent of the Units and Philip Coventry is Sales Manager. Mr. McGill has supplied the following report covering the year 1927 and the first six months in 1928:

MONTH	BLOCKS SOLD	NUMBER BLOCKS MFG.
January 1, 1927 to April 30, 1927	72,221	73,137
May	18,234	23,359
June	24,739	22,237
July	21,973	13,075
August	38,219	26,376



MONTH	BLOCKS SOLD	NUMBER BLOCKS MFG.
September	30,572	26,743
October	22,361	33,828
November	24,433	22,808
December	9,983	19,425

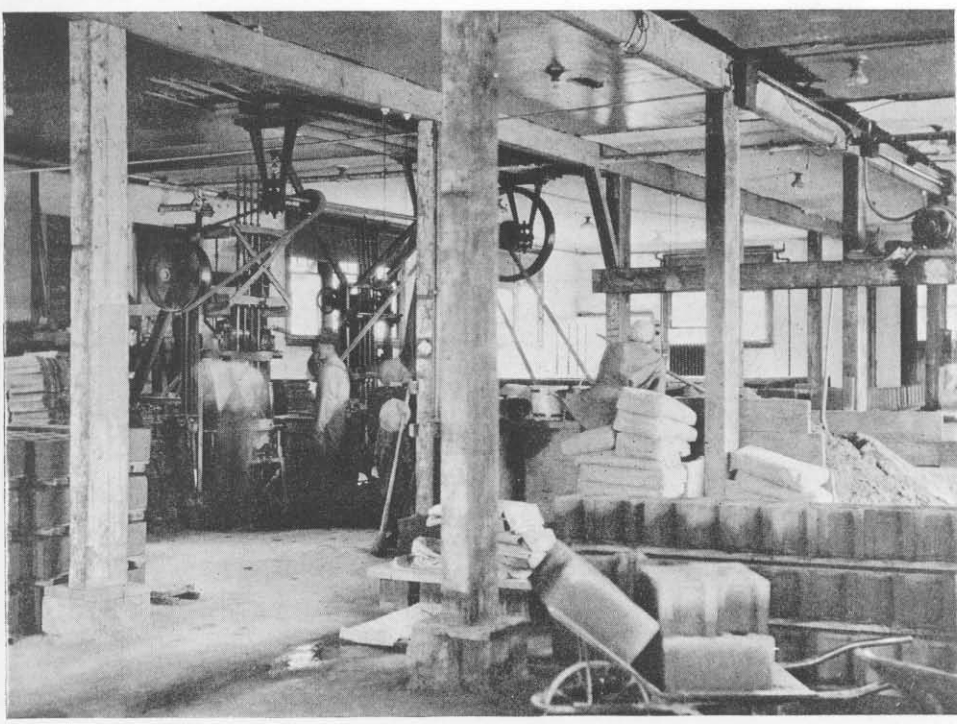
Average profit for 1927, per month, \$1,096.86.

1928—

January	6,349	17,585
February	13,925	16,025
March	22,113	25,570
April	33,229	25,126
May	31,732	33,868
June	20,700	35,238

Average profit for first *five* months of 1928, per month, \$570.35.

1



AN INSIDE VIEW OF CEMENT BLOCK PLANT





The New Dormitory

The New Oakland County Dormitory is situated just off Telegraph Road on White Lake Road. The main part of the building is 41 feet 4 inches by 78 feet. The wing is 24 feet by 30 feet. The building is used for housing prisoners.

As you enter the building, thru the main entrance, you first come into the vestibule where the guard station is located. All prisoners pass before the guard for inspection.

At the right of the guard station is a First Aid and Medical room where the prisoners are given medical aid, etc. Back of this room we have a Strong Room where all unruly prisoners are kept. This room consists of four walls, two windows and lavatory. There is nothing on the floor but concrete paint. The reason for the scarcity of furniture is that prisoners are placed here for punishment and when they will not work. Going from the hallway you enter the dining room, which is 38 feet by 41 feet, with a seating capacity of 94 prisoners and an officers' dining room of 12 plates. The tables in the main dining room are of solid iron construction, bolted to the floor, with seats attached to the table, thereby doing away with a large quantity of chairs.

The kitchen is 17 feet by 25 feet with a tile floor and is modern and up to date in every manner.

To the left of the guard station is the supply room and office which is 22 feet by 27 feet. In this room is kept all supplies such as clothing, shoes, etc.

The prisoners, before entering the building, pass a physical examination by the County Health Doctors and as they come into the building they are taken to the supply room where they are fully equipped with clothing. They then go to the bath room which is on the third floor of the wing and is 22 feet by 27 feet, and all given a bath and allowed to put on their prison clothes. Their discarded clothing is taken to the locker room and locked up until they are released.

After the men have been fully equipped they are assigned to their bed and locker. This locker is used to keep their clothing and personal belongings.

The sleeping quarters of the dormitory is a very large airy room, 39 feet by 76 feet, with a very high ceiling for extra good ventilation. A ventral fan system was installed in order to give them fresh air, whether they wish it or not. The beds are the double deck type with good springs, mattresses, sheets, blankets and pillows.

Before the men are put to work, they are questioned as to their several vocations and assigned to the kind of work to which they are best suited. We find this much more satisfactory than by assigning them to work haphazardly. The work consists of labor at the Cement Block Plant, T. B. Farm, construction work, gardening and landscaping. They also do kitchen work and take complete care of janitoring and various buildings.

It will be interesting to know that the three new buildings were erected with prison labor.

