

Pop-Up Museum: Prison Breaking News

April 8 – April 17, 2017

Locked safely away in Eastern State Penitentiary's old darkroom, just a few steps from here, hundreds of numbered artifacts rest in neatly organized drawers. Thousands of photographs, also carefully numbered, fill museum storage boxes. Rare books line the shelves.

The darkroom has been fitted with modern climate control systems to preserve the collection. Each object—from a weapon hidden by an Eastern State inmate to a photograph developed in the darkroom where it is stored today—is irreplaceable. It tells part of Eastern State's story.

Officers and inmates saved most of these rare artifacts. Many of them took keepsakes when Eastern State closed as a state prison in 1970. We thank these men and women for returning these fascinating objects to the historic site. Other artifacts were discovered here, abandoned with the penitentiary itself.

Plans are currently under way to build a museum-quality exhibit space inside the penitentiary. Until then, visitors can view photo reproductions (hundreds appear on signs throughout the building), while scholars carefully study the original artifacts.

And, once a year, here in the historic site's climate-controlled conference room, we'll display some of these precious artifacts for our visitors. Join us next year at *Pop-Up Museum!*



On Screen:

Newsreel films:

Convicts win silver cup for heroism—outtakes, 1929.
Eastern State prisoners received the award for saving horses during a barn fire at the farm branch of Eastern State: Graterford Prison.

Eastern Penitentiary Sports, 1929.

Al Capone, underworld personality—outtakes, 1930.
A crowd gathers outside Eastern State to witness Al Capone's release, but he had been transferred to Graterford the previous day.

Newsreels courtesy of the University of South Carolina's Moving Image Research Collections.

Other than the films, all items in this exhibit are from Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site's collection.

**Parental Advisory:
Adult Subjects**

Case 1: *That Was a Crime?*

What makes something a crime?

The people featured on this table faced incarceration for acts involving drugs, alcohol, sodomy (same sex activity), and abortion—all “crimes” at various points in history. Some of these acts remain restricted in certain places, though many people do not consider them “criminal” anymore.

Reporters documented these offenses, often adding a tone of moral judgment to their stories. Individuals convicted of these crimes were labeled “revolting,” “indecent,” and “unnatural.”

Today, most of these crimes are obsolete. What crimes might be outdated 50 years from now?



Go explore: About 70% of American adults have committed a crime that could lead to prison. Yet most of us will never experience arrest, prosecution, or imprisonment. Explore crime and punishment today in our Prisons Today exhibit, near the baseball diamond.

Please ask any staff member for directions or more information about the artifacts.

In Case 1:

Mug shot page, 1911 (inmates B-5820 to B-5824). Alfred Demmy (inmate B-5820) served time for “open lewdness.” According to a newspaper account, Demmy had been “harassing women on the street, and insulting girls after nightfall.” Gift of an anonymous donor.

Mug shot of Morris Unangst (inmate B-6047), 1912. Unangst’s crime was “seduction.” In this era, men faced seduction charges if they enticed previously chaste women—by trickery, bribes, or the promise of marriage—to engage in sex. Found on the property by historic site staff.

Large lock, c. 1937. Gift of Katharine W. Sharp.

Two pestles and small box of medicinal vials. Drug trafficking, particularly in the post-1913 congregate era, posed a major problem for Eastern State officials. In the 1920s, as many as 500 prisoners (out of a total population of 1,700) were addicted to drugs, primarily heroin, which was smuggled into the institution. Gifts given in honor of Howard H. Haines, Captain of the Guards.

Bertillon (intake) card for Frank Dyanick (inmate C-8186), convicted for manufacturing, sale, and possession of liquor, received in 1932.

Aspirin bottle, two baseballs, and ball of string. Baseballs with illicit drugs hidden inside routinely landed in the prison yard, tossed over the walls by people passing by. Found on the property by historic site staff.

Bertillon (intake) cards for inmates convicted of abortion: Laura Fellis (inmate C-9698), received in 1934, and Llewellyn Gordon (inmate D-5773), received in 1941.

Trial photographs, 1956. Newspapers were captivated by the elopement of the “beautiful heiress” Doris Jean Ostreicher with her husband, describing their marriage as a “story-book romance.” Doris’ story ended soon after in tragedy, however. She died during an abortion, illegal at the time. Her mother, Gertrude Silver, and the couple who assisted, the Schwartzes, were tried for criminal abortion. Milton Schwartz (inmate E-6188) was sentenced to 10 years at Eastern State Penitentiary. United Press (Getty Images).

Mug Shot Book, 1904-1906 (inmates B-2375 to B-3374, open to pages featuring B-2705 to B-2714). Albert Fry, James Doyle, and Henry Fortna (inmates B-2707, B-2708, and B-2709) were sentenced to one year each at Eastern State for “vagrancy” (being homeless). Vagrancy statutes remain on the books in many places, though arrests have declined in recent years. Gift of the Scheerer Family.

Mug shot page, 1921 (inmates C-995 to C-1004). Horace Bair (inmate C-996) and William Clayburn (C-1000) were both convicted of drug possession. Gift of an anonymous donor.

Bertillon (intake) cards for Edward Staples (inmate C-6004 and E-3533), twice convicted for sodomy: once in 1930 and again in 1953. Staples’ multiple arrests and convictions for sodomy reflect the long reach of the law into the lives of LGBTQ Americans before the modern gay rights movement.

Case 2: *All is Forgiven?*

Eastern State's founders believed that anyone who had committed a crime could be redeemed through silent, solitary reflection. Life sentences were nearly unheard of when the prison opened in 1829. But in September of 1873, newspapers announced that Jacob Jones was sentenced to life for murder—the first sentence of this kind at the penitentiary.



By the time Eastern State closed, hundreds of “Lifers” had passed through its corridors. A dozen others, condemned to death, stayed here before they were executed at other institutions.

Many Eastern State Lifers, including some featured on this table, got a second chance when they secured a pardon—a highly political process that attracted media attention. Today pardons are rare. Most Lifers will die in prison.

Does enforcing longer sentences mean that Americans no longer believe people can change? Does anyone deserve forgiveness?

Go explore: Learn more about Sydney Ware, an inmate who won pardons for two murders, at audio stop 50.

Please ask any staff member for directions or more information about the artifacts.

In Case 2:

Inlaid jewelry box with mirror, c. 1940. Inmates made crafts and sold them to the public in the prison's "curio shop" in the front gatehouse. Earnings from these sales and other jobs in the penitentiary helped prisoners restart their lives after release. Gift of Barbara E. Smith.

Photograph of Jacob Pensendorfer (inmate B-1381) with wooden handicrafts. Pensendorfer, nicknamed "Lifetime Jake," served 25 years of a life sentence at Eastern State for murder before being pardoned in 1926. Pensendorfer built up a woodworking business while imprisoned. He sold it for \$6,000 upon his release.

Inlaid Wooden Box.

83rd Annual Report of the Inspectors of the State Penitentiary for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the Year 1912. The report features a clock designed and built by Jacob Pensendorfer (inmate B-1381).

Photograph of the woodworking factory in New Jersey owned by "Lifetime Jake" Pensendorfer (inmate B-1381), 1928. Pensendorfer opened the factory to employ former prisoners. Acme (Getty Images).

Marion Kapelski (inmate D-4811) pondering a problem of atomic science, September 1955. Kapelski

was 18 when he was sentenced to life in prison for his part in a murder that occurred during a holdup. Despite having only a 9th grade education, he became a rocket scientist and inventor while incarcerated. After the judge who sentenced him pleaded on his behalf, he was released in December 1955. United Press (Getty Images).

Photograph of rocket designed by Marion Kapelski (inmate D-4811).

Pardon for David Sonis (inmate C-1837), 1925. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that Judge Harry McDevitt, who sentenced Sonis to 10 to 12 years for arson, was "manifestly disgusted" when he heard of Sonis' pardon after serving just three years. McDevitt stated, "I am now going to exert every energy at my command to have him deported. ... Why not go to the limit and swing open the gates of the penitentiary and let all the bandits, thieves, and thugs walk out to prowl and prey upon the community?" Gift of an anonymous donor.

Gerald Wentzel (inmate E-294) being greeted by his wife on his release from Eastern State, 1951. Wentzel was convicted for the murder of Miriam Green in 1947. Newspapers reported that Green's family, the Board of Pardons, and the governor all felt he was innocent. Acme (Getty Images).

Francis "Birdman" Phelan (right) handcuffed to a police officer outside a Philadelphia court, 1965. Phelan was found guilty of the murder of Judith Lopinson and Joseph Malito and originally sentenced to death. He is still incarcerated. Associated Press.

Mug shot page, 1912 (inmates B-6395 to C-6404). Salvatore Bartona (inmate B-6395) was released after serving five months of a three to 10 year sentence for "white slavery" (the entrapment of women and girls into prostitution). He was pardoned on the condition that he be deported to Italy where his family lived. Gift of an anonymous donor.

Bertillon (intake) card for Arthur Bruno (D-1818), 1936. Bruno and five of his family members were incarcerated for killing political rivals on the eve of an election in Schuylkill County. All five were eventually released from Eastern State.

Joseph Bruno (inmate D-2381) having his mug shot taken, 1937. Bruno was a Republican leader in Schuylkill County before being convicted for his role in the election eve massacre. Acme (Getty Images).

Bruno family members entering Eastern State Penitentiary, 1936. Acme (Getty Images).

Handcuffs and lock. Gifts of the Scheerer Family.

Case 3:

All the News That's Fit to Print?

A majority of Eastern State inmates barely made a dent in the news cycle. Still, each of the 80,000 people imprisoned at this “city within a city” had an individual story. Of the diverse cast of prisoners who lived here, about 1,000 were women and 600 were children.

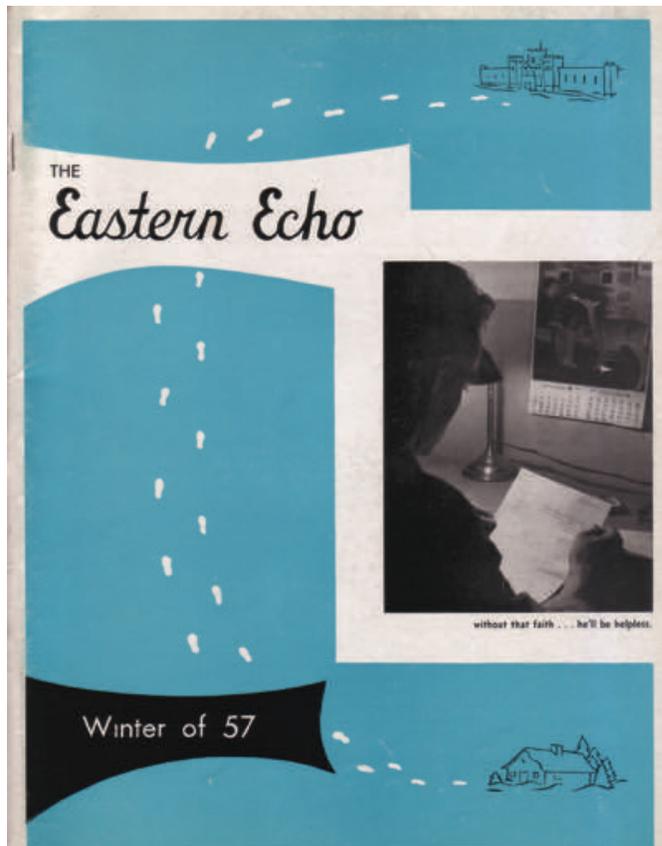
Mary Ash, one of the youngest known inmates, was just 11 years old when she arrived at Eastern State in 1876 with an arson sentence. She died of tuberculosis at age 13 while incarcerated. The prison’s death ledger, open to the year 1878 on this table, records her passing.

The stories of young people captivated the public’s attention, and the press eagerly reported on the causes and consequences of youth crime. Meanwhile, the media alternately sensationalized and ignored the crimes of Americans of color. Finding historic records of victims and perpetrators alike is a challenge.

Historical absences in the media prompt all kinds of questions: Who is considered “newsworthy” and why? Who gets left out of the news?

Go explore: Learn more about Eastern State’s female inmates at audio stop 43 in Cellblock 7. Cindy Stockton Moore’s artist installation “Other Absences” (in Cellblock 11) features a hand-drawn portrait of Edith Snyder and dozens of other murder victims.

Please ask any staff member for directions or more information about the artifacts.



In Case 3:

Death Ledger (1830-1896, 1904-1936).

Open to the year 1878. Mary Ash (inmate 8491) was the youngest inmate to die at Eastern State Penitentiary.

Willie Cavalier (inmate C-3259), 15, entering Eastern State Penitentiary's front gate, 1926.

Cavalier was originally sentenced to death for killing his grandmother. The Pennsylvania pardon board saved him from execution by commuting his sentence to life imprisonment. Cavalier was transferred to Farview Hospital, an insane asylum, in 1933. His fate beyond that is unknown. Acme (Getty Images).

Myron Semunchick (inmate D-8561), 13, reads the Bible at Lackawanna County Jail, 1945.

Semunchick confessed to the murder of 9-year-old Mae Barrett. He was the youngest "Lifer" ever sentenced to Eastern State. Acme (Getty Images).

Elmer Washburn (inmate C-2132), 14, who killed Cyrus Payne, 75, for \$2,500, 1922.

Underwood & Underwood, N.Y.

Key. Gift given in honor of Howard H. Haines, Captain of the Guards.

Fifteen-year-olds Aaron Gore (inmate D-9528) (right) and Keith Donaldson, under arrest for the death of Philadelphia Policeman Henry Hicks, 1946.

Gore was sentenced to life at Eastern State,

while Donaldson received a 20-year sentence to the Pennsylvania Industrial School at White Hill. Gore received a pardon 12 years later. International News (Getty Images).

Green padlock. Gift of the Scheerer Family.

"Staff Members of the *Eastern Echo*," Spring 1957. Robert Heineman, featured in the middle of this table wearing a bow tie, served as editor of the *Eastern Echo* in the 1950s. All *Eastern Echos* in this case are gifts in memory of Retiree Bernard M. Sekula, Correction Officer I.

"...Speaking Editorially," by Robert Heineman, from the *Eastern Echo*, Fall 1956.

Eastern Echo, Winter 1957,
Eastern Echo, Summer 1957, and
Eastern Echo, Fall 1956.

Robert Heineman (inmate D-4943), 16, during his arraignment for the fatal shooting of Edith Snyder, also 16, 1940. Heineman confessed that he fired the fatal shot. The press said he was "mad with love" and wanted to scare Snyder, apparently because she had transferred her affections. Heineman was pardoned in 1958. Acme (Getty Images).

Edith Snyder, victim of Robert Heineman (inmate D-4943), 1940. Acme (Getty Images).

Bertillon (intake) card for Lucy Stewart (inmate C-1450), 1922. Stewart, a 20-year-old from Elmore, Alabama, was implicated alongside her husband in the murder of a taxi driver.

Photograph of William Yun (inmate D-4345) and Warden Smith. Yun composed a solo in Chinese and performed it during the prison's 1939 Christmas broadcast on radio station KYW. Warden Herbert Smith is pictured on the right. Acme (Getty Images).

Mug shot page, 1895-1896 (inmates A-8047 to A-8682). A native of China, Lee Gum You (inmate A-8527) was sentenced to death for murder. Officials commuted his sentence and he served 12-and-a-half years. Gift of the family of John D. Shearer.

Bertillon (intake) card for Chief Running Wolf, also known as Carl Taylor (inmate C-8819), 1933. Chief Running Wolf is one of two known Native Americans to serve time at Eastern State. Prison officials and newspapers made note of the fact that his wife was white. While inter-racial marriage was illegal in many parts of the country during Chief Running Wolf's life, Pennsylvania became the first state to repeal such a law in 1780.

Case 4:

Power and Control

Though Eastern State inmates almost always outnumbered guards, they wielded little power. Allegations of abuse of prisoners occasionally made front-page news, but Eastern State officials rarely faced punishment. Not until the 1920s, when Deputy Warden Charles Santee was found guilty of beating James Fraley (inmate B-7965), did an official face prosecution for assaulting a prisoner.



But those incarcerated here were not the only ones to suffer harm in the penitentiary. During the early era of solitary confinement, prisoners acting alone damaged cells and injured or killed several employees. During the congregate period, organized inmate uprisings and escapes captured the public's attention.

As the 20th century stretched on, newspaper coverage fueled the sentiment that a maximum-security prison in the middle of a bustling urban community was illogical and potentially dangerous.

What kinds of power do you think prison guards should have?
What about prisoners?

Go explore: Visit the exhibit *Beyond Capone: Prison Gangs Then and Now* to learn more about power dynamics between prisoners and officials.

Please ask any staff member for directions or more information about the artifacts.

In Case 4:

Warden Cassidy on Prisons and Convicts, 1897. Warden Cassidy was the longest serving warden at Eastern State (1881-1900). Cassidy distrusted the media, writing in his journal, "No more unprincipled class of people ... exist in any community than news reporters." He added later, "News gatherers for newspapers are ... often viciously dangerous."

Damaged dye house interior after a riot, November 1933. Prisoners smashed machinery and set fire to the dye house, kitchen, and chaplain's office before being subdued. Newspapers reported that the riot was caused by discontent over the removal of privileges after another riot in September 1933. Acme (Getty Images).

Hundreds of police and state troopers guard Eastern State Penitentiary's gate during a riot, November 1933. International News Photos (Getty Images).

Keys to Cellblock 14 Cellar. The basement of Cellblock 14 housed dark, remote isolation cells, one of several places in the prison called "the hole" or "Klondike."

Keys, inmate-made knives (also called shivs or shanks), and silver bullet. Unless otherwise noted, all of the keys, shanks, and bullets in this case are gifts of the Scheerer Family. The Scheerer Collection was donated in memory of Andreas Scheerer, Captain of Maximum Security from 1946 to 1971. It is the largest collection donated by one family to Eastern State Penitentiary.

Thompson Guns Catalog, 1929. In 1923, two high-profile escapes inspired construction of guard boxes at the tops of the corner towers, outfitted with

Krag repeating rifles and Thompson submachine guns. Gift of the Biedermann Family.

Deputy Warden Robert Myers' grandson Franklin Hespell (left) with babysitter James Fraley (inmate B-7965) and another child, 1922. Although James Fraley was serving time for a murder conviction, he was a trusted inmate who was allowed to interact with the deputy warden's family that lived in the front administration building. Courtesy of Franklin Hespell.

Keys to Cellblock 13. Cellblock 13, also called "Klondike," consisted of 10 dark isolation cells.

Badge in leather case with pad of paper. Gift of Amy, Rachel, and John—great grandchildren of Milton Sloan.

Large Key. This key may have fit in the pedestrian door in the penitentiary's front gatehouse. Gift of an anonymous donor.

Officer's gold hat pin. This brass insignia, showcasing the Pennsylvania state seal, once adorned an officer's hat at Eastern State.

Board of Trustees pin, c. 1945.

Report to the Governor in re Eastern State Penitentiary Investigation Covering Period from June 17 to June 26, 1924. In 1923, a grand jury reported a culture of self-government among inmates, including rampant drug abuse, bootleg liquor stills, and prostitution. A flood of criticism aimed at administrators and inmates followed, and the warden resigned. The 1924 report praised the new administration.

Two officers near the doorway of Cellblock 4 in 1961, when a group of 30 inmates rioted.

Portrait of Warden Herbert "Hardboiled" Smith, c. 1930.

Pennsylvania State Policemen and Warden Herbert J. Smith, with head bandaged, September 1933. Warden Smith was severely beaten by prisoners during a riot before guards rescued him. Newspapers reported that prisoners rioted and set fires in a demonstration against the alleged brutality of the guards. Acme (Getty Images).

Press, residents, and law enforcement officials gather outside Eastern State during a riot, November 1933. International News Photos (Getty Images).

Black bullet. Found on the property by historic site staff.

Butter knife shank with black sheath. Gift of the Boone Family.

Portrait of Warden Robert J. McKenty, c. 1920. Gift of the McKenty descendants, the Banks, Myers, and Calkins Families.

"The Spirit of McKentyville," from *The Umpire*, May 15, 1918. Prisoners expressed their interest in the news by publishing their own weekly newsletter, *The Umpire*. It highlighted sports, entertainment, poems, and other items of interest inside the penitentiary and the world outside. Some scholars suggest that the overwhelmingly positive articles in *The Umpire* were the result of official control and were actually propaganda intended to support the administration at that time.

Handcuffs.

Counter Cases:

Tunneling Out and Pitching In

When officials discovered two incomplete tunnels within days of each other in 1940, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* proclaimed on its front page that 200 inmates were plotting to escape. The real story was far less exciting: just nine men were implicated in the digging.

As some prisoners crafted meticulous escape plans, others directed their labor toward prison industries.

They built model ships, rolled cigars, and made stockings. They toiled as stonemasons, electricians, cooks, and couriers. Inmate labor built Cellblocks 10, 11, 12, and 14, as well as several other structures inside the walls.

Despite these opportunities, idleness plagued the prisoners. They regularly asked for work but remained at the whims of prison officials and the labor market. Trade unions objected to prison labor, claiming they could not compete with the under-valued, below-market work performed in prisons. By the early 1900s, Pennsylvania law dictated that only one-tenth of all prisoners at an institution were allowed to work, severely limiting labor at Eastern State.

What role should labor play in prisons today?

Go explore: Learn more about Eastern State's most notorious jailbreak, the 1945 tunnel escape, in Cellblock 7. As you investigate the prison, take a look at Cellblocks 10, 11, 12, and 14, all built by prisoners.

Please ask any staff member for directions or more information about the artifacts.



In Case 5:

“Rush Machine Guns to Eastern Pen after 200 Plot to Tunnel Way Out,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, pages 1 and 3, February 15, 1940. Gift of Paul Abner.

Metal bucket. Found on the property by historic site staff.

Escape ladder on Corinthian Avenue, July 1923. The Fire Department had to be called to detach ropes used by the inmates. Acme (Getty Images).

Officers looking into sewer grate in prison courtyard after escape, 1934. Acme (Getty Images).

Cover of *Finger Print and Identification Magazine*, featuring inmates Martin Farrell (inmate C-8359) and Francis Wiley (inmate C-8825), October 1934. Farrell and Wiley escaped from Eastern State in July 1934 via a sewer with three other inmates. While the others were caught immediately, Farrell and Wiley remained at large for several months and participated in a murder while on the run. Once recaptured, the two

received the death penalty for the killing. They were executed at Rockview State Prison in 1935.

Man holds a pair of inmate trousers discarded near a sewer, 1934.

Newspapers reported that startled street crowds saw the five escaped inmates emerge from a manhole and run toward nearby train tracks. One prisoner was nude while the others were clad only in underwear. Acme (Getty Images).

Standing mug shot of James Grace (D-7270), April 11, 1945. Grace astounded reporters when, after escaping through a tunnel on April 3, 1945 with 11 other inmates, he rang the bell of the penitentiary and asked to be let back in because he was hungry. Gift of Leonard Bojanowski.

Two staff members in Cellblock 10 tunnel, 1940. Gift of John P. Farley, Mary B. Maiden, James J. Farley, Kate Farley, and Bernard C. Farley.

Inmate-made knives (also called shivs or shanks) and a zip gun. A “zip gun” is an improvised handgun that uses ground-up match heads as firing powder. This example is made from wood and a length of threaded plumbing pipe. Gifts of the Scheerer Family.

Guards inspect escape hole, 1945. During Eastern State’s most famous escape, 12 inmates, including bank robber “Slick Willie” Sutton, crawled through a 97-foot tunnel leading from Cellblock 7 to Fairmount Avenue. Six of the inmates, including tunnel mastermind Clarence Klinedinst, were recaptured within two hours. The remaining six were caught over the next two months. AP Wirephoto.

A member of the prison board examines a mask, fake gun, and knives made by escapees, 1945. Acme (Getty Images).

In Case 6:

Magazine stand, c. 1967. All objects in this case are inmate-made. Gift of Roy Glover.

***Life Magazine*, January 12, 1953.** One of the featured articles is "Willie 'The Actor' Talks: Candid Memoirs of a Crook." Willie Sutton escaped from several prisons, including Eastern State, over the course of his criminal career. Gift of Edward F. Peters and Irene Dooley born and raised here in Fairmount.

***True Detective*, April 1946.** One of the featured articles is "The 12 Who Failed," detailing the 1945 tunnel escape.

Wood carving: cowboy, c. 1960. Gift of John A. Eastman and Pamela Pertgen.

Wood carving: hobo.

Miniature rocking chair, c. 1920.

Wooden piggy bank, c. 1960. Gift of Rev. and Mrs. Anthony DiBenedetto, Jr.

Prisoners engaged in calisthenic exercises near the Industrial Building, 1924. United Newspictures (Getty Images).

Silver Trophy presented to Hedda van den Beemt, Bandmaster of the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, Christmas 1922. This trophy is similar to the one presented to inmates in the film above. Gift of the van den Beemt Family.

Miniature bone cutlery set, 1856. It is possible that Robert Cooper, who served six terms at Eastern State, made this set. A newspaper article mentions that he "made knives, forks and other

articles from the bones which were served in the soup furnished to the convicts. These trinkets were sold for his benefit, and many who have now grown to maturity will probably remember having purchased his curiosities."

Guard William Green directs a prisoner hose squad in a fire drill at Eastern State, 1942.

Associated Press.

Wood carving: three men, c. 1945.

This item was donated to Eastern State thanks to recent news coverage about our historic artifacts. Gift of the McGraw Family.

An Eastern State Labor Industry worker inspects a batch of 4,000,000 tent pegs that prisoners created for the Marine Corps, 1942. Inmates turned out 16,500 tent pegs a day to support WWII efforts. Acme (Getty Images).

Pastel landscape by Paul Gluz (inmate E-8066), 1965.

Brown hand-tooled leather purse, c. 1948. Made as a gift for Margaret Martin Atkinson, whose father later became warden. Gift of Suzanne Campbell.

Wood carving: antelope, c. 1930. Gift of John P. Farley, Mary B. Maiden, James J. Farley, Kate Farley, and Bernard C. Farley.

Shaped like the prison's original front door, this inmate-made bookend features a heavy bolt from that door, c. 1937. Gift of Katharine W. Sharp.

Cigar shop, c. 1945. Gift of the Scheerer Family.

Inmate and staff member in the print shop, c. 1960. Gift of the Scheerer Family.

Model Cavalier ship.

Wallet made from Kool and Pall Mall cigarette packs. This wallet was said to be created by David Aiken, one of the 1945 tunnel escapees. Gift of Richard Griffin.

"Bossing a Hundred Workmen from a Cell," *Everybody's Magazine*, c. 1924. Lewis Edwards, featured in this article, escaped from the penitentiary in 1923. Recaptured in Honolulu, Hawaii, and returned to Eastern State, he oversaw a successful boat-building enterprise while imprisoned. The media loved documenting Edwards' exploits—from his booming business to his encounters with reformation and criminality. Edwards' story embodied the fascinating contradictions of being an Eastern State inmate: the potential to turn one's life around through constructive labor and the desire to escape.

Creamed corn can. Gift of Retiree Bernard M. Sekula, Correction Officer I.

***Should Prisoners Work?*, 1931.** Louis Robinson, who led Eastern State's Board of Trustees in the 1930s, advocated that prisoners be allowed to work in decent labor conditions.

Louis Robinson standing outside the prison's front door, 1933. Acme (Getty Images).

**EASTERN STATE
PENITENTIARY**
America's Most Historic Prison