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**Memoir Reveals Life Inside Prison Walls**

*Stories from a maintenance worker at Missouri State Penitentiary*

KIRKSVILLE, MO - On his first day working at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Larry E. Neal stood in a small holding space as the front door of the prison slammed shut behind him. He was locked in, unable to leave the prison or proceed further.

“I looked at the officer in the bubble, and if he could’ve heard me, I would’ve told him, ‘If you will open that door back up and let me out of here, I'll leave and never bother you all again,’” Neal writes.

Neal did not leave however, and his memoir, “Unguarded Moments,” the first by a worker who was neither a prisoner nor a guard at the Missouri State Penitentiary, gives readers a rare insider’s view of prison life.

As a maintenance worker for nearly thirty years, Neal interacted daily with both prisoners and prison staff. His memoir, co-authored with his daughter Anita Neal Harrison, presents a collection of anecdotes from his time at the Penitentiary, highlighting the unexpected humor that existed at the prison.

“These stories about life in the Missouri State Penitentiary are funny, insightful, and thought-provoking,” said Gary Kremer, Executive Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri. “Read this book; you will never think about prison life in the same way again.”

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