

it's because there aren't very many of them in here yet," one man said. "Still, it's better than looking at sourpusses and pinups."

The centre has developed a new atmosphere since it started to house men and women, Mr. Brenner says.

"The females have a good effect on the male inmates. The guys are getting more haircuts and shaves and their clothes are cleaner. Their general conduct has improved."

The change at the jail came in April of this year in an attempt to break down the artificial environment that usually surrounds such centres, Mr. Brenner says.

"We were snickered at by the rest of the institutions in the programme. They kept asking us who was going to perform the first marriage and when the first baby was going to be born, but I think the programme has proved itself," Deputy Warden Barry Rafuse says.

Another change that came with the women is street clothes instead of prison uniforms. "This is just another way to break the artificial environment and to let the people become people," Mr. Rafuse says.

One of the major benefits of the new system is a lack of tension, female prisoners say.

"It's unbelievable. It's like going to another world. You no longer have the tension that you had in an all-broad jail," one woman prisoner says. "You can only talk to another woman about your problems for so long before you go snaky. With guys it's different — they understand and they'll listen longer."

A new type of unit leader has emerged, Mr. Brenner says.

The correctional centre has six units, five that house men and one that houses women.

"The old tough guy is no longer the dominant figure in a unit. A suave, well-educated man has emerged. Usually a guy who is big with the women in the jail has become the leader. I guess it's a status thing," Mr. Rafuse says.

A woman prisoner says: "I enjoy having guys around, especially at work in the laundry and tailor shops — it makes you feel more relaxed. I only wish we had more integrated programmes. We go to the library together and we have our exercise programme together. We also go to church and to shows but the guys sit on one side and the girls on the other. I guess that's because of a lack of supervisory staff."

One woman expresses the desire to play more sports with the men. "I played floor hockey with the guys a couple of times then I was told that I couldn't any more. I guess they thought it was too rough for me, but that is the way I was brought up."

A male prisoner summed it up best when he says: "It's great. It's 100 per cent better. It certainly is better than working with a bunch of guys every day in the shops." ♦

Economic Digest

Unemployment

Women were dropping out of the Canadian labour force in larger-than-expected numbers in September as unemployment levels rose, Statistics Canada reported at mid-October.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month was 5.8 per cent, up from 5.3 in August.

The return of students to school left the work force more than 500,000 smaller, but many young people remaining in the work force were unable to find jobs. While the number of men with jobs increased, discounting the effects of seasonal factors, there was a decline in the number of women with jobs.

The actual number in the work force was 9,649,000 and 431,000 or 4.5 per cent, were unemployed. Actual unemployment in August was 4.4 per cent of the work force and in September, 1973, it was 4.6 per cent. (Seasonally adjusted figures generally are considered to be more indicative of performance of the economy.)

The report qualified the one-half of a percentage point jump in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September. "Similar increases have been recorded in September in recent years, but have been subject to subsequent downward revision as more complete information on current seasonal patterns is incorporated into the seasonal adjustment process."

There was a drop of 143,000 in the actual number of women with jobs and this was due in part to students returning. The number of women over 25 taking jobs as younger women left the work force was not as high as expected.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment level for women 25 and older declined to 3.6 per cent from 3.8 and for men 25 and older rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8 per cent.

Regionally, there were increases in unemployment in all areas except British Columbia where the rate in September was unchanged from August at 6.5 per cent. In the Atlantic provinces the September rate was 10.3, up from 9.6 in August; in Quebec, 7.3 per cent from 6.8 per cent; Ontario, 4.5 per cent from 4.4 per cent, and Prairie provinces 2.8 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

Cost of Living

The Canadian consumer price index recorded the lowest increase of the year in September, Statistics Canada reported at mid-October.

At the end of September, the index stood at 170.6, which is 10.9 per cent above the level a year ago and six-tenths of one per cent higher than at the end of August.

This means that a mix of consumer items that could be bought for \$100 in 1961 cost \$170.60 in September, up from \$169.60 in August and \$153.90 in September last year.

Higher mortgage costs and rent increases pushed up the housing component of the index, accounting for four-fifths of the over-all rise.

Natural Gas

The first official estimates of natural gas reserves in the Mackenzie River delta show an accumulation of more than three trillion cubic feet of fuel in one field alone.

According to Imperial Oil Ltd. of Toronto, evidence from the Taglu area would indicate "much promise for future discoveries in comparable structures in the unexplored (tertiary) sediments of the Beaufort Basin. (Taglu is one of several gas fields found on land in the Delta.)

At those reported reserve volumes, Taglu ranks as one of the major gas fields found in Canada. It contains about one-fifth of the estimated threshold gas reserves needed to warrant further development of the region and a pipeline to markets.

Industry sources say discoveries in the delta so far have yielded at least 15 trillion cubic feet of gas. Crude oil prospects — about five billion barrels in reserves are needed for commercial purposes — are somewhat less spectacular. There has been only one oil occurrence in the Taglu field, in an area isolated from the main gas-bearing sand reservoir.

The Taglu field disclosure was made at the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists conference on frontier and off-shore exploration in Calgary, Alberta in October.

Energy

Canada's increased crude oil requirements this year were supplied 99 per cent from domestic sources, Statistics Canada figures show.

Canadian crude oil requirements — based on anticipated and actual refinery receipts of crude — rose to 1,837,000 barrels a day in 1974, up 155,000 or 9.2 per cent from 1973.

Only 1,000 barrels a day of this increase was supplied from abroad, as the other 154,000 barrels a day came from domestic sources.

This year's estimated requirements are 19.6 per cent higher than in 1972. Imports of crude will account this year for 47 per cent of requirements, down from 51 per cent last year, the figures show.

In 1974, western Canadian oil wells will supply an average 973,600 barrels a day, eastern Canadian wells 2,800 barrels a day, and foreign wells 860,500 barrels a day. ♦