

Lock Down

By Suzy Hopkins

Folsom Prison was built in 1849 during the Gold Rush in California. It was built by the inmates. These men were unpredictable, ruthless and violent. The cell block of 20 cells had two convicts each. They would yell at each other across the walkway and through the walls. When it was mealtime two guards, one at each end, would raise the lock bar which rested across all the cells, releasing all 40 angry men at the same instant. The guards were instructed to shoot to kill if the inmates weren't following orders. This either maintained order or kept the inmate population from growing too large for the facility. This kind of lock is where the term 'lock down' comes from.