

25 year veteran has seen Monteith come full circle

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1981

Ed Baptiste of Monteith celebrated 25 years of service with the Ministry of Correctional Services at the Monteith Correctional Institute January 21.

Baptiste started as a correctional officer and has been in charge of the jail at Monteith for the past three years.

Don Smith, deputy Superintendent, presented Baptiste with a letter of congratulations

from the Minister of Correctional Services Gord Walker and a 25 year pin.

Twenty five years ago Monteith was an Industrial Farm and had no vocational or academic training. As the Institute evolved more emphasis was placed on vocational and academic training and less on agriculture.

Although Monteith has never totally been out of agriculture,

Baptiste has seen the Institute come full circle as it is now returning more to agriculture and cost avoidance programs.

Smith says that agriculture is a positive program providing another dimension for inmates not inclined towards academic programs.

A new program at Monteith is cement block making. Smith said the blocks will not be sold but are for the Institute's use. He said it is a positive program for the inmates and a saving for the taxpayers.

When Baptiste started he was involved with the construction of such buildings as the brick laying shop, part of the vocational training program that includes carpentry and the trial trade shop, the heifer barn which is now an implement shed, and the first duplex built at Monteith. Inmates were also involved with land clearing and cutting pulp.

Baptiste was born and raised in Timmins and says he enjoys being in charge and that his job provides satisfaction because employees provide program input.

He is married and has four children, Larry and Gary at home, Lynn, Mrs. Mike Mineault and Doreen who is employed by the Ministry of Health in Timmins. Baptiste and his wife Claudette will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in May.