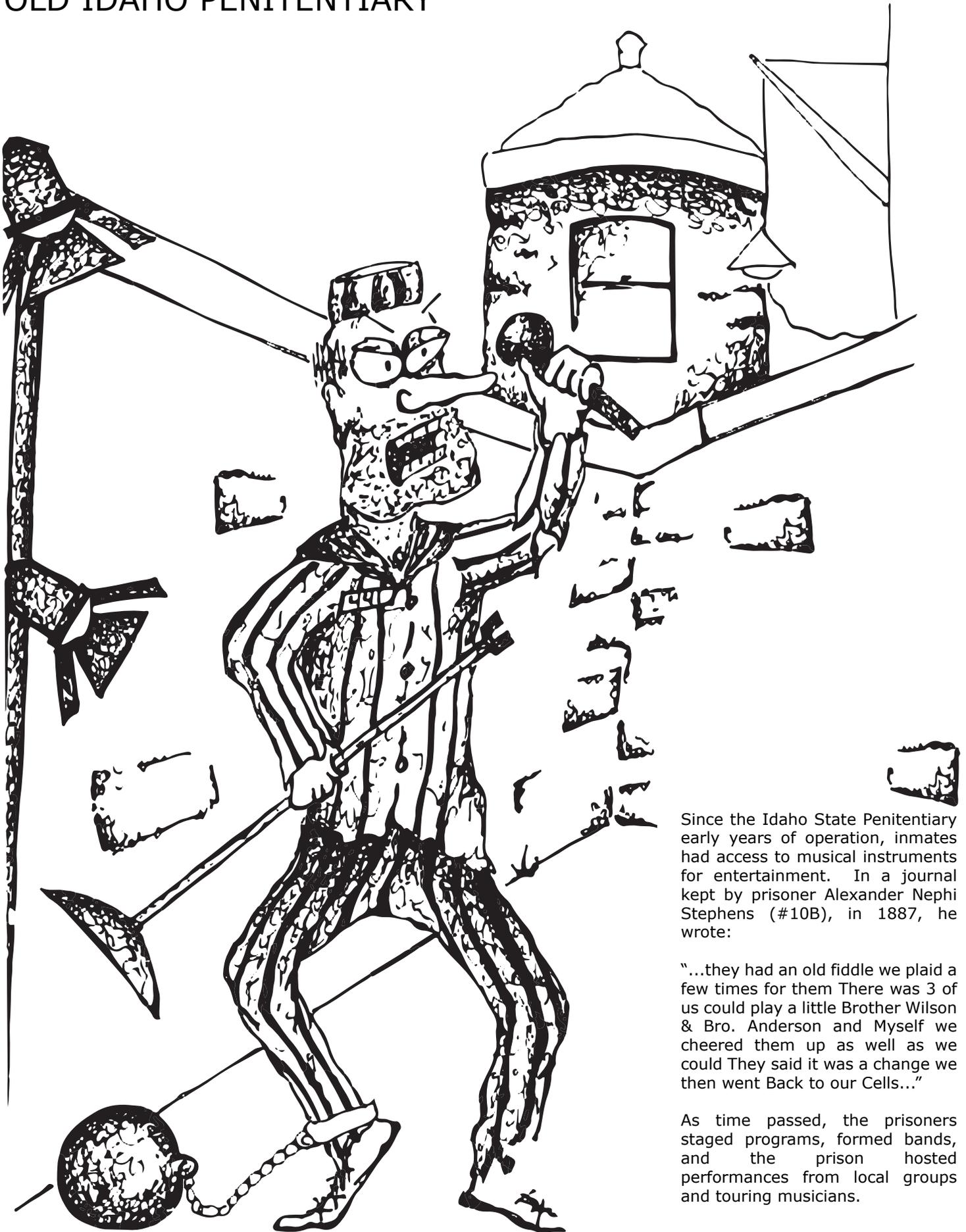


# OLD IDAHO PENITENTIARY



Since the Idaho State Penitentiary early years of operation, inmates had access to musical instruments for entertainment. In a journal kept by prisoner Alexander Nephi Stephens (#10B), in 1887, he wrote:

"...they had an old fiddle we plaid a few times for them There was 3 of us could play a little Brother Wilson & Bro. Anderson and Myself we cheered them up as well as we could They said it was a change we then went Back to our Cells..."

As time passed, the prisoners staged programs, formed bands, and the prison hosted performances from local groups and touring musicians.