

**Looking Back
at
DCNY's
Old Green
'Tuna Can'**



on NY Correction History Facebook group page.



John Landers

New Member · · April 1 at 12:42am

Who remembers the old green tuna cans?



Fred Bacchi We called them..... THE VAULTS



Charles Raimondi Paddy wagons



Nigel Hayle There was one parked in a TD bone yard for years. The one at the end of Hazen St. By the water and West facility.



Jim Schott Yes ... and I used to ask all the time why didn't they attempt to restore it for any of the parades all I heard was crickets smh



Nigel Hayle But yet they bought an old tank to tow around on a trailer that had nothing to do with our job. Smh



Frank M Esposito Remember them well.



John McMahon one of the last times it was used



Fred Bacchi Use to drive the one assigned to Rikers Hospital.... If you hit every POTHOLE.....It was a real KIDNEY BUSTER At Roll Call (RIH) Captain asked if anyone can drive a stick . . . was the only one that said yes.....Found myself on the 0400 tour in the KK or Receiving Room.... OH....AND NO AIR CONDITIONING.....



John McMahon i remember sitting in that in the winter....outside patrol for c-76.



Sidney Schwartzbaum Yes I do [remember]. When I started the job.



Julius Vasquez Those vans were a rough ride but they were tanks



Jim Sollitto The closed body vans were the best most secure way of transporting prisoners. Drove the one pictured 97V many times. 102V was assigned to me as my steady vehicle regardless of tour. Department should never have stopped using them!!



John Landers To use such a secure vehicle today would surely be challenged as cruel and overly harsh as well as sensory deprivation as the inmates couldn't view the sights as they made their court trips. Sad thing is today a judge might hear the case rather than tossing it in the trash upon receipt.



Tom Betts A few were in use as utility vehicles / SSD when I started in 1989



Tony Critelli Hi Jimmy. I remember driving BLA in 102 with police escorts. Built like tanks.



Does anybody remember Paulson one of the best drivers in transportation. I drove with him a few times. The inmates said they wish they had him driving on their robbery.



Ira Finkelstein I was on the escort car with NYPD major case. Cinotti was with us sometimes



Larry Coletti They were in use when I came on the job in 78



George A. Chillak They still had one in use at "The Pen" in 81.



Stephen Licata I remember them from 83 still on island



Thomas McCarthy [Accompanying the image of DCNY's Old Green 'Tuna Can' in the original FB group post was the above B&W photo of such a van entering a Department facility from a street.] Someone commented [in this FB conversation thread] that the B&W photo showing an old DCNY van entering a jail facility through its big doorway manned by two COs "looks like the sally port at BKHD." The right borough but different jail.

If one looks closely at the street background visible in the photo through the jail facility opened door, there is a business sign on the building across the way. It reads "Joseph G. Pollard Co., Inc ... Equipment." After some research, we find in the April 17, 1909 issue of "The Metal Worker, Plumber and Steamfitter" on Page 65 a blurb about "chisels for cutting through brick and stone" being specialties for a firm of that name at 141 Raymond St., Brooklyn.

I am sure some smart inmate in the old Raymond Street jail would have tried to figure out how to get his hands on one of those specialty chisels, perhaps through a friend willing to attempt to smuggle in the contraband. The firm now has its hq in New Hyde Park, LI.



John McMahon transporting the son of sam to court



Elio Mormando When I got to Trans. in 1978, they were still in use. We used them on the last load to close out night court.



Fred Bacchi I think in the end they were just used on RIKERS ISLAND.....83, 84 and I think 85 we used it at RIH.....After that the only time I saw it was in the BONE YARD or in Trans when they tried to re-store one as a museum piece when Kerik was the Commissioner.

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WEBMASTER NOTE: Below are images from and links to pages on the Correction History website relevant to DCNY old-style inmate transport vans FB group discussion thread and the original post photos.



Raymond St. Jail virtual tour

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/museum/gallery/raymondst/rayfoto2.html>



<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/museum/gallery/raymondst/rayfoto20.html>

Raymond St. Jail virtual tour images above/below

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/museum/gallery/raymondst/rayfoto21.html>





Raymond St. Jail virtual tour

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/museum/gallery/raymondst/rayfoto22.html>



DCNY Transportation Division circa 1968

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/html/oldtrspt.html>



Ret. Asst. Chief Pagan Collection Page #3 Photo O: "Photo of the Old Tombs vehicles. Looks like taken on Baxter St. Tenement building behind vehicle far right is where the new Tombs is now situated."

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/pagan-pix/Chief-Pagan-DOC-Photo-Collection-Page-3.htm>



Search



Kiss Of Death - 1947 Film

It's YouTube. Uninterrupted.

Twenty-seven minutes and 20 seconds into the classic crime film *Kiss of Death*, a DCNY inmate van is seen on screen delivering to the Tombs/Criminal Court complex the movie's central character from Sing Sing. Victor Mature did a creditable job in that role. But Richard Widmark stole the show as the giggly psycho killer.

The link below accesses the movie on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0m5UpSTk>

To www.correctionhistory.org home page