April 22, 1927

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was April 22, 1927, the day the Intermediate Reformatory for Young Men At Algoa was formed.

Before Missouri had an official prison system, most of the offenders held at the Missouri State Penitentiary worked on state-operated farms. Two of these prison farms were in, or near, Jefferson City. By the 1920s, Prison Farm No. 3 was expanded to 779 acres that was used for raising hogs and growing food. The actual buildings were completed in 1932.

It was this area, just east of the Capital City, that was selected to serve as the Intermediate Reformatory for Young Men. This would serve as the place where first-time offenders — who were younger — would go, rather than the state pen.

By 1980, the capacity at Algoa was 470 people, but it held 606. Also by this time, the age range of offenders was 17 to 25.

The institution has also undergone names changes over the years, and is presently known as Algoa Correctional Center.

But, it started on April 22, 1927, the date marking the founding of the Intermediate Reformatory for Young Men At Algoa, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Somewhere in Time*, by Mark Schreiber; National Criminal Justice Report)