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Bank job suspect was out on parole

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—One man arrested for the Sept. 27 robbery of a Farmington Hills bank and another man being sought for questioning have provided Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson more fuel in his criticism of the state parole board.

John Phillip Witherow, 24, of Detroit, who was arrested and charged for the robbery, had been paroled three times within the last four years, Patterson said.

Norman Alan Blackburn, a Troy man in his twenties, who is being sought for questioning in the robbery, previously faced a manslaughter charge and was paroled, an FBI spokesman reported.

THE TWO MEN. Patterson said, are the latest examples of persons charged with—or suspected of—new crimes after being paroled.

FBI agents also arrested 23-year-old Nancy Mabee, of Rossville. Mabee is charged with receiving the stolen funds from three men after last Friday's robbery of the Bank of the Commonwealth, Middlebelt Road north of 10 Mile.

The name of a third suspect sought by the FBI for the robbery has been withheld. Information on how much was stolen, and whether or not it has

"Every week I'm fed evidence of the parole board's inability to make a decision."

—L. Brooks Patterson

been recovered, was also not available this week.

WITHEROW, who was arrested following the robbery and a shoot-out with a Farmington Hills patrolman, faces charges on local and federal levels.

In Federal Court, he is charged with armed robbery, which carries a maximum sentence of 25 years. He also was arraigned last week before 47th District Court Judge Michael J. Hand on a charge of assault with intent to murder, which carries a maximum life sentence.

Witherow is being held in Oakland County jail, unable to meet either the \$50,000 bond set on the federal level or the \$100,000 bond set by Judge Hand. Miss Mabee was released on \$5,000 bond.

THE CHARGES against Witherow and the suspicion of Blackburn led Prosecutor Patterson to renew his blasts against the leniency of the state parole board.

"Every week I'm fed more evi-

dence of the inability of the parole board to make a decision on who's dangerous and who's not dangerous," Patterson said.

Witherow was most recently paroled July 17 after serving less than 14 months of a 1½-2½-year sentence for attempting to carry a concealed weapon.

He was paroled in 1970 after serving an armed robbery sentence. He was charged later in 1970 with attempt to carry a concealed weapon. He escaped prison less than a year later, was sentenced to 1-5 years for that escape, then paroled within a year.

THE COUNTY prosecutor argued this "latest example strengthens his case against the state parole board."

Last month Patterson filed suit against the parole board in an attempt to stop the issuance of more paroles until tougher state standards are imposed.

A hearing on that suit is scheduled for Wednesday before Circuit Court Judge William P. Hampton.



This is a businessman at work? (Evert photo)

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How Michigan looks from foreign countries

By DIANE H. BEL

FARMINGTON—What does Michigan look like to someone here the first time from a foreign country?

Five exchange students at Farmington High school each had a different idea of what they would find here, and have picked up new impressions of the area since they've been here.

The five students, Ilse Florez, Columbia; Per Hogberg, Sweden; Teruichi Itsuki, Japan; Pilar Lotta, Columbia; and Mervi Saari, Finland came to Farmington this summer just before school started.

Miss Florez, who admits to being a little homesick, misses the parks which are plentiful in her native country.

"THERE ARE just no places to take walks here," she said.

Miss Saari said she likes Farmington, and prefers being in the suburbs to actually living in Detroit.

"I like being here," she said. "It is nice to have all the activities that are in Detroit, but I wouldn't want to live there. It is too big, there are too many people."

Hogberg said that before he came to the States all he knew about Michigan was that there were "cars and crimes in Detroit."

Miss Lotta said that although she likes Farmington, she "misses her family all the time."

Hogberg and Miss Saari, who have



ILSE FLOREZ



PER HOGBERG



PILAR LOTTA



MERVI SAARI



TERUICHI ITSUKI

a good command of the English language have had the least problem adjusting to the different culture.

Both said they haven't gotten homesick since they've been here.

"I HAVE been so busy and there have been so many things to do that I haven't had a chance to become homesick at all," Miss Saari said.

Hogberg said he missed Sweden a little during his second week here. At that time his American brother was still in Germany as an exchange student from this country, he hadn't

started school yet and there wasn't too much to do.

Since school started he hasn't had any trouble adjusting to the differences and has joined the community band and orchestra.

ALL THE STUDENTS thought their classes in Farmington were easier than the ones they took at home.

However, the foreign exchange counselor, Miss Virginia Carley, said the students are often placed in the basic classes because of the language barriers they have to cope with.

"Since there is a language barrier, we usually do not place them in the more advanced classes we offer," she said.

"Things may seem easy to them, but that could be because we make allowances for them. They may find that the classes are comparable to their classes at home if they were in some of our advanced courses here."

THE TWO STUDENTS from Columbia have had a more difficult time picking up the language than the

Swedish and Finnish students have.

However, according to Miss Carley their English has "improved tremendously" since they've been here.

The language barrier has proven to be a problem for them in some of the classes.

"When the teacher speaks fast I do not understand, then it becomes bor-

ing, boring, boring," Miss Lotta said.

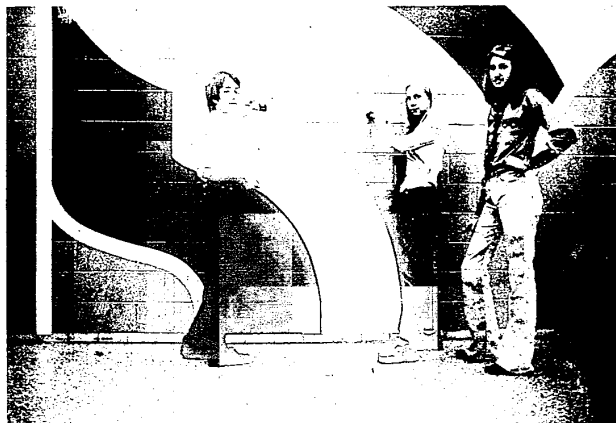
Miss Saari said that although she never has trouble understanding the Americans when they talk to her, she thinks they may have trouble understanding her.

Miss Lotta and Miss Flores have found one custom here that makes them uncomfortable—they do not like

it when girls are treated the same as boys.

In their country the girls are treated much more delicately, according to Miss Lotta.

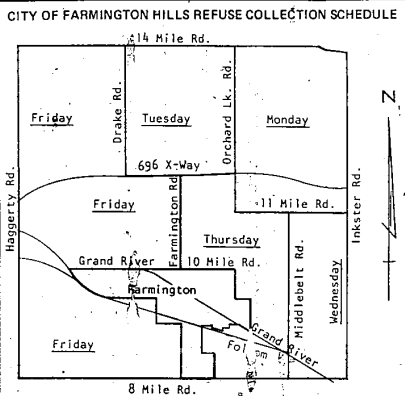
All the students will be in Farmington through the school year as exchange students through the Youth For Understanding Program.



Super - Graphic

Three North Farmington High school students (left to right) Gretchen Nill, Krista Lohr, and Maria Yasnich spent their summer vacation altering the appearance of their school by painting a gigantic "super-graphic" on the wall near the school cafeteria. The girls first had the task of convincing a sceptical principal that their idea for the orange and brown geometric design was a good one. After they won him over, they

had to draw the entire design in charcoal on the cinder block wall and finally paint the whole thing. They spent an entire summer on the project, beginning the week after school let out for the summer and completing it just before it reopened for the fall term. Other North Farmington students who helped paint the wall were, Jay Neil, Mary Ann Smith, Arlene Stoler, Melinda McGowan, and John Hundley. (Evert photo)



A reminder

The schedule followed by the new Farmington Hills collection service is indicated on this map. Papers must be separated to be recycled.

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