

ESCAPE is sheriff's way of saying 'Welcome'

Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen's jail is open to any high school or junior high school student who wants to take a look.

"I want them to come in the front door as guests, so they don't come in the back door as clients," says Spreen. The back door of the sheriff's headquarters in Pontiac is the inmates' entrance.

The front door is being held open by Spreen as part of a new public relations program whose primary target is the junior high school student.

THE PROGRAM'S catchword, "ESCAPE," means "Enroll in the Sheriff's Crime and Accident Prevention Education" program.

The program includes a guided tour of the sheriff's building in the county service center on Telegraph Road, an explanation of what sheriff's deputies do and free refreshments.

"I hope there will be a rapport created" between youth and police officers in general, says Spreen. "I believe the police can be an educational force."

"The old systems are not working. Too often we only respond to crime after it occurs and very little is done to prevent its occurrence."

The program will use no county funds other than the sheriff staff's time. Spreen has donated \$1,000 of his own money to get the program started. In a presentation for the press last

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week, the sheriff displayed 10 checks he has received the past few years for speaking engagements and other honorariums. All the money, said Spreen,

will be donated to the ESCAPE program.

"OUR MONEY seems to be spent

mostly on juvenile delinquents," said Spreen. "Let's have some programs to show these youngsters, who are the good kids, that they too can be considered and, most importantly, before delinquency sets in on them."

Asked if he requested funds for the program from the county Board of Commissioners, Spreen said, "I don't ask the county board for anything."

As the only countywide elected Democrat, Spreen has had his share of disagreements with the Republican-controlled county board. Like all county

officials, Spreen faces re-election this year.

The sheriff plans to notify every junior high and high school principal in the county about the ESCAPE program. Teachers will also be invited for a tour.

Spreen has named a three-man finance committee to raise money for the program and oversee spending. The committee includes county clerk Lynn Allen, county treasurer Hugh Dohany, and James Clarkson of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Oakland.

Dusty road help's on the way

Communities wanting road dust control measures from the Oakland County Road Commission should get their orders in as soon as possible.

"We are accepting orders and we expect to get more than ever before," said Paul Van Roekel, county highway engineer.

He noted that some townships and some private groups have taken out applications but have not yet returned their orders, which are needed to set up schedules.

"There is a May 1 deadline. Communities which get all their orders in earliest will be scheduled for earliest applications," he said.

"We can fill a virtually unlimited number of orders, either with our own crews and stockpiles or by expansion of our subcontracting with private

companies, which, in either case will apply calcium chloride," said Van Roekel.

"Spreading of calcium chloride began this week and will continue for about six weeks until all orders have received their first application," he said.

"We do not accept orders for road segments which have been previously oiled, unless the surface has been disturbed by recent sewer construction," said the county highway engineer.

To order chloride applications through the road commission, apply at the agency's Department of Citizen Services, 2400 Pontiac Lake Road (adjacent to the Oakland County Service Center) in Pontiac.

Van Roekel said the road commission is issuing permits to private companies for road oiling and calcium chloride, if anyone wishes to contract directly with such companies.

OU center offers gerontology study

Men and women who work with older adults are invited to apply for a training program offered by the Oakland University Continuum Center under a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Counseling the Older Adult: A Program for People in the Field of Aging, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 7 through June 11, at the Continuum Center for Adult Counseling and Leadership Training. The only fee is \$10 for materials. Trainers will be expected to attend all six sessions. The training program combines gerontological

information with the development of a one-to-one and group counseling skills and techniques.

Trainers will discuss the physical, emotional and social aspects of aging as well as support systems, and death and grief. Participants will be given a chance to apply these techniques to their own personal job situation.

For registration information, contact the Continuum Center for Adult Counseling and Leadership Training at Oakland University in Rochester, or call 377-3033.

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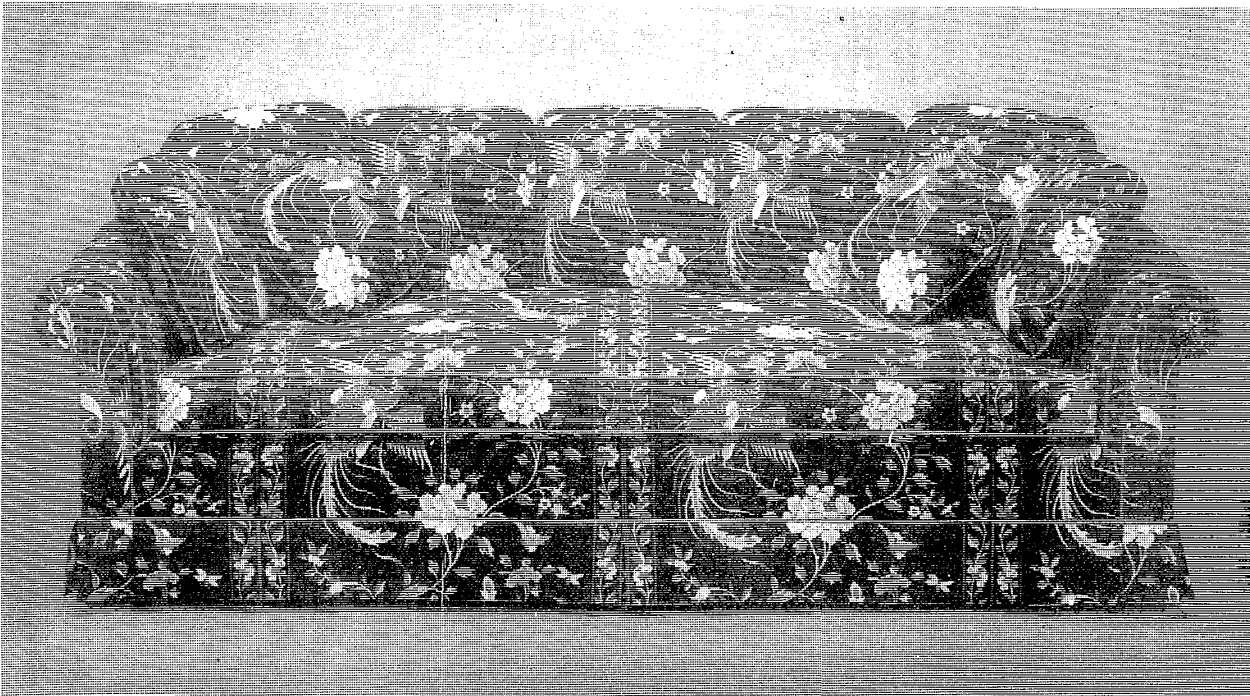
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