

# HOW SUBURBANITES FIGHT INCREASE IN BURGLARIES

The robbery problem is different in the suburbs than in Detroit's inner city, where store owners are buying pistols.

In the suburbs, businessmen and even many homeowners are going to big dogs — and they're glad they did.

A look at some of the crime statistics explains their concern. Bur-

gary is one of the fastest growing in the suburbs — and population increase isn't the only reason.

The City of Farmington, which hasn't had quite the population explosion of other areas, nevertheless shows an increase in the breaking-and-entering category from 39 in 1965 to 65 in 1966 and a whopping 92 last year.

In Livonia, there were just under 400 burglaries in 1962 and the same in 1963, but by 1965 this had risen to 569, and last year it jumped to 754.

**NOR IS THE** increase a statistical one due to better crime reporting. Livonia's Det. Lt. George Gilbert says the department has had the same supervisors for eight years and that reporting has been pretty uniform.

Businessmen are not the only persons who have begun using big dogs for protection.

A Plymouth woman, who asked that her name not be used, bought a dog for companionship and protection. On her way to South Lyon a few weeks ago, four youths attempted to run her car off the road. The dog reared its head from the back seat — and the youths raced away.

In Farmington a few weeks ago, a hamburger stand at Nine Mile and Farmington Road was burglarized, and a nearby service station was held up the same evening. But burglars were thwarted at a second service station at the corner.

John Gutekunst and Chuck Juleff, owners of the Standard station that opened, give credit to Rex, a year-old German shepherd they brought to the station last October.

Juleff doesn't know how many burglars Rex may have scared off, but he does say having the dog saves on his night light bill.

In Livonia, William Wright,

manager of Wright & Sons West Point (Standard-Service at 33463 Seven Mile, says that station was broken into twice before he took over four years ago. But he has several dogs, and he hasn't had any trouble since.

"My dogs are trained to let anyone come and go during the day. But at night, that's another story," Wright says.

Marvin Kemp, manager of American Hardware & Supply Co. at Eight Mile and Merriman says, "I was hit here about five times within a year. The insurance company recommended I get a watchman or some dogs."

So he got three dogs two years ago. They are fenced in during the day and have the run of the lumber yard at night. They will challenge anyone who approaches. Kemp's business has had no burglary problems since they arrived.

**HIS DOGS** were trained, incidentally, by a Plymouth man — Chuck Art of 9721 Brookville. Art was the subject of a recent metropolitan newspaper feature a few months ago.

Steve Agdonay, who has a Standard station on Ford Road just west of Canton Center, has a good deal of merchandise and has been worried about the crime wave, so he got his big dog a couple of months ago. So far, so good.

Dogs have many virtues as guardians.

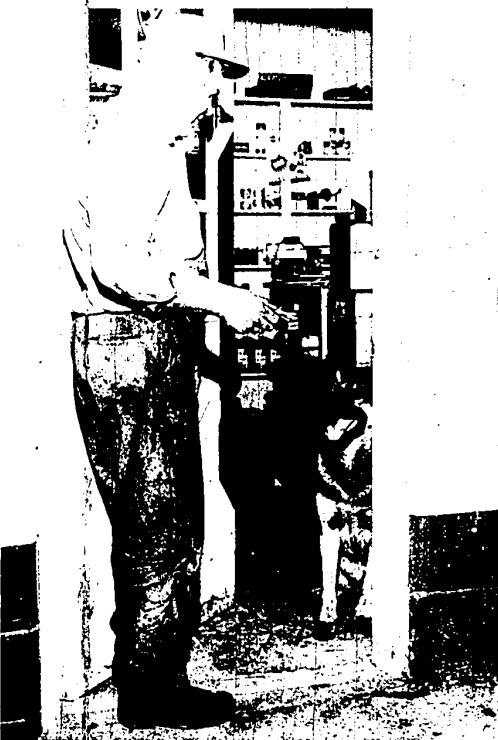
They're cheaper than hiring a watchman. They're as good protection as a pistol—better, perhaps, because they don't have malfunctions. Their value is difficult to measure because burglars simply don't try anything with a dog around.

And if you're a customer, why their tails will usually wag a happy and curious greeting.



**NO TROUBLE WITH BURGLARS** at American Hardware & Supply, Eight Mile and Merriman, since this fellow and two of his breed joined the staff as watchmen two years ago.

**PERSONAL** guardian scared off four men who tried to force this Plymouth woman's car off the road.



**WILLIAM WRIGHT** says "good night" to his handsome watch dog who has a perfect record at the Standard Station on Seven Mile Rd. in Livonia.

**RAY SWIKOSKI** holds this bright-eyed fellow who guards Steve Agdonay's Standard Station on Ford Road.

