

Patterson wants 'stay' in paroles

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, a persistent critic of parole practices in the state, filed suit Thursday to stop the parole board from issuing additional paroles until tougher standards are imposed. The suit, filed in circuit court, calls the Michigan parole law unconstitutional and charges that the parole board lacks the authority to release prisoners.

Parole powers should not be returned to the board, the suit insists, until the state adopts parole guidelines to better protect the public from the early release of possibly still dangerous criminals.

The current guidelines, Patterson charged, are "vague and indefinite" and fail to provide such protection. Patterson filed the suit within hours

of the latest in his series of attacks on the parole board.

AT A MEETING of the Michigan Commission on Criminal Justice, Patterson said that, based on current trend releasing prisoners, "My only advice to the citizens of Oakland County is to lock your doors because the parole board won't lock theirs."

"We are being raped, robbed and murdered by the same people the parole board says are cured," Patterson vowed to sue the parole board Sept. 9 after obtaining a warrant for murder and arrest against Jack Kenneth Humphries.

Humphries, who had been paroled under Michigan's "good behavior" law, was formerly committed to a state hospital as a criminal sexual psychopath and also was sought in another county on a separate rape and assault charge.

Patterson said the Humphries parole was the latest example of the "reckless, callousness and criminal misconduct" of the parole board. He cited nine other examples of prisoners who, paroled early, were charged with committing violent crimes.

AMONG PATTERSON'S examples were the two men accused of the May 22 shooting of a Troy gas station attendant, Joseph Molinar and Gordon Stockman. The men walked away from a minimum security trustee farm in Marquette.

Another instance, Patterson said, was James Etel, charged with sexually assaulting an 18-year-old Bloomfield Township girl this June. Etel had been paroled after serving 10 years of a 24-45 year prison term—earning "good time behavior credit" for the early release.

Patterson's suit was filed against the five members of the parole board, the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Corrections Commission.

Leonard McConnell, chairman of the parole board, admitted that the early parole of Humphries and others were a mistake.

PROBATIONS, however, are made on the recommendation of a parole center clinic reports, McConnell said.

"This is not such an exact science," he added. "When you parole thousands each year, obviously you're not always going to be right."

A hearing on the Patterson suit has been set for Oct. 2 before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge William P. Hampton.

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Meet the Studebaker Wheelers

The Bruce Wheeler family takes its name literally.

Four Studebakers, two "Brand X" cars, a motorbike and two bicycles make an any hour traffic jam at their Inkster Road residence, on the border of West Bloomfield and Bloomfield townships.

All but the Studebakers are mere necessities of life, as far as Wheeler and his wife Maggie are concerned. Around them, all aspects of their life style revolve, including hobbies, social life and travelling.

The Wheelers are the proud owners of a 1928 Studebaker, a 1953 Loewey Coupe, a 1962 Tourismo and a 1963 Avanti.

THREE of them are "at home," the '53 model resides in a barn near Clarkston.

"We like Studebakers," Wheeler understates. He thinks the cars are the best designed and best engineered.

"They were ahead of their time," he said of the company's final collapse in 1966.

Most of his leisure time is spent either working actively on the cars or shopping for parts.

"This means all the time he doesn't spend eating, sleeping or at work," according to Mrs. Wheeler.

BUT, SHE is hardly a "car widow." For her, the Studebakers are almost an equally important part of life.

"She spends lots of time cleaning and polishing the insides," reports son Church, 11.

Mrs. Wheeler can't trace a love of cars back to early childhood. "Only since I learned to drive," she said.

"If Bruce and I ever split up, we'd argue about custody of the cars," Mrs. Wheeler laughingly

acknowledges. "The three kids would have to take second place."

MANY of the couple's friends are Studebaker owners and Mrs. Wheeler describes "a common bond" among car collectors.

"I don't know anyone who has just one Studebaker," she continued.

She reports good friends in Royal Oak who have 20, and another family in Southfield who has eight.

Both Wheelers say that it is not always the purchase of an added car which is the problem, but the storage.

"You have to learn to park like a puzzle," Mrs. Wheeler laughed.

Many of their family trips are to Studebaker or other antique car meets. Families from all over the country will gather to "show" their cars and exchange parts and information, Wheeler said.

Bell offers \$1,000 reward

Michigan Bell is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the May 28 theft of 1,009 feet of cable and a cable reel from 38900 Ten Mile Road.

Student activities offered

BIRMINGHAM—An after-school activities program for children will begin its second year at Evergreen Elementary School next month with 11 different activities planned.

Registration for the School Community Improvement Programs (SCIP) for Birmingham and Southfield students will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, and from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the school, Evergreen and Thirteen Mile roads.

Advance registration is required. Classes will meet from 3 to 4 p.m. and/or 4 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday for eight weeks beginning Oct. 1.

Course offerings include beginning guitar for students who have no knowledge of the instrument and guitar II for those with knowledge of the basic skills.

POP ART using various media, ballet I and II, puppetry, basketball, gymnastics, bread dough sculpture and conversational Spanish also will be offered.

In the puppetry class children will make their own puppets and present a puppet show with their creations. The gymnastics class will include the fundamentals of tumbling and apparatus.

Bread dough sculpture is for children from kindergarten through second grade and the bread dough plus class is for children in grades three through six.

Emphasis in the Spanish class will be on learning to speak and understand everyday phrases.

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Insurance FACTS

by Robert H. Bergstrom, CPCU

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