

Door latch defect leads to prisoner escape

By ROBERT KIPPER

tion of the two sheriff's deputies in charge of delivering the prisoners.

RATHER THAN a conspiracy, Nichols feels the other prisoners unwittingly aided the escape simply by the usual noise and confusion that takes place when prisoners are transported together.

"The individuals who escaped could have taken advantage of the natural clamor that goes on," Nichols explained. Then too, persons arrested by police aren't overly concerned about being helpful in reporting an escape in progress, he added.

The transport van can accom-

modate as many as 14 prisoners with only two deputies in attendance, Nichols said.

When the van is functioning properly, the sheriff's deputies can lock the prisoners in back and then take their seats in front, confident that the door can't be opened from the inside, according to Nichols.

SHERIFF SPREEN, who has prided himself on the prisoner transport service, attended a conference in Florida early in the week and was unable to comment on the escape. Baldwin is described as black, six feet tall, 170 pounds, with a short Afro haircut and a light mustache. Mess Johnson is described as black

five foot three, 110 pounds, medium complexion and braided hair. The previous van escape occurred in October when two prisoners escaped outside the Troy Police Department. One of the deputies manning the van accidentally locked himself in the security garage after opening the rear door of the van.

OAKLAND COUNTY—The county transport van, designed to transport prisoners from local jails to the county jail, isn't supposed to open from the inside where prisoners are kept. Yet that's what happened Friday as an apparent defect in the door latch of the van allowed two prisoners to escape while the van was stopped in traffic.

As of Tuesday afternoon, police hadn't recaptured James Baldwin, 26, and Alma Johnson, also known as Beulah McBride, 24, who managed the escape somewhere between Millford and Pontiac.

The escape marked the second break-out from the county van since Sheriff Johannes Spreen introduced the service seven months ago.

BALDWIN AND Miss Johnson had been arrested by Farmington Hills police and charged with larceny from a building.

Undersheriff John Nichols said the faulty door latch had been repaired.

Although nine other prisoners were being carried in the van at the time of the escape, none joined the couple in their escape. However, Nichols said the other prisoners may have aided in the escape by diverting the at-

16 Winners named for fellowships

Sixteen Oakland University faculty members have been awarded prestigious Research Fellowships for 1975. The awards of \$1,600 each are the largest made by the university's Research Committee.

The fellowships are awarded competitively to encourage research among the younger faculty members. Fifteen of the recipients received an additional \$450 to \$500 each for research expenses. The funds are made available by the university and awarded through the Research Committee.

Area winners, their disciplines and research projects are listed below: Birmingham—Ina Michael Solomon, history, "Study of a Merchant Buddhist Community in Medieval Japan."

ROCHESTER—David P. Doane, economics, "Case Weighting Techniques and Modern Court Management." Paul M. Doherty, physics, "A Measurement of the Molecular Weight of Proteins in X-ray Induced Cataracts." Richard F. Ewing, mathematics, "Solvability Equations." Thomas B. Friedman, biology, "A Strategy for Obtaining a Vertebrate Cell Line Possessing Crataegus DNA." Douglas Gregory, economics and management, "An Evolutionary Model of Hospital Growth." Yun Yun Hung, engineering, "Further Exploration of the Speckle Shearing Interferometry for Strain Analysis." Charles B. Landemann, biology, "Flagellar Motility in Mammalian Sperm." Richard M. Stevens, economics and management, "Employee Attachment and Performance in Health Care Organizations," and Alfred W. Stransky, education, "The Effects of Physical Training and an Anabolic Steroid on Endurance Performance, Organ and Muscle Weights and Selected Hematological Measurements in Female Rats."

Southfield—J. V. Malloy, physics, "Relativistic Self-Consistent Field Theory for Muon Atoms."

Veterans eligible for bonus

Vietnam veterans from Michigan are now eligible for the Vietnam Veteran Bonus approved by voters in November.

To qualify, the veteran must have been a Michigan resident for at least six months before entering the service and must have been on active duty for at least 180 days between Jan. 1, 1961, and Sept. 1, 1973.

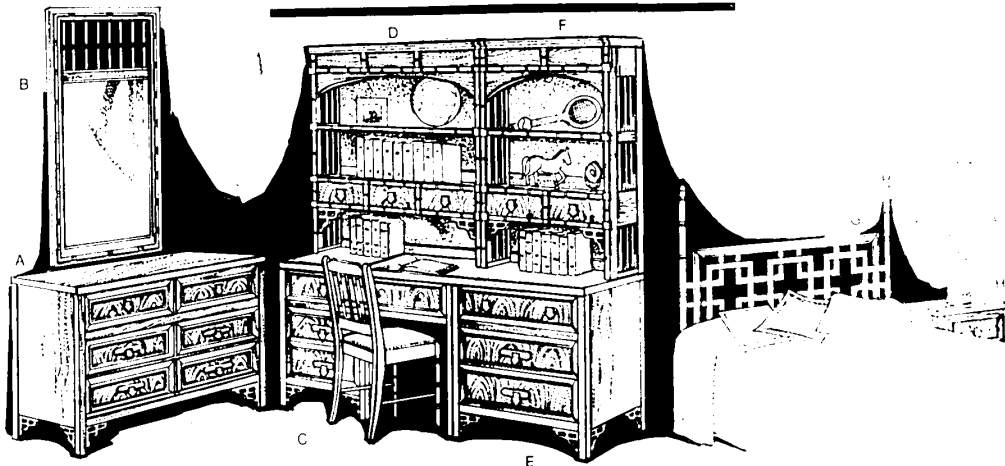
Combat veterans are entitled to receive a \$500 cash bonus and are defined as those eligible to wear the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Those who served did not entitle them to wear these medals are entitled to draw a bonus of \$15 for each month of service, up to a maximum of \$450. Beneficiaries of veterans who died of service-connected causes would be eligible for the same cash payments.

These bonuses will not be taxable. Applications are expected to be available for distribution throughout the state by the end of the month. Specific sites and dates for distribution will be released to the public then. Points of distribution will be heavily publicized and easily accessible to veterans and beneficiaries, it is reported.

2 FINE QUALITY, FAMOUS MAKE
BEDROOM GROUPINGS NOW AT
SPECIAL SAVINGS, LIMITED TIME!

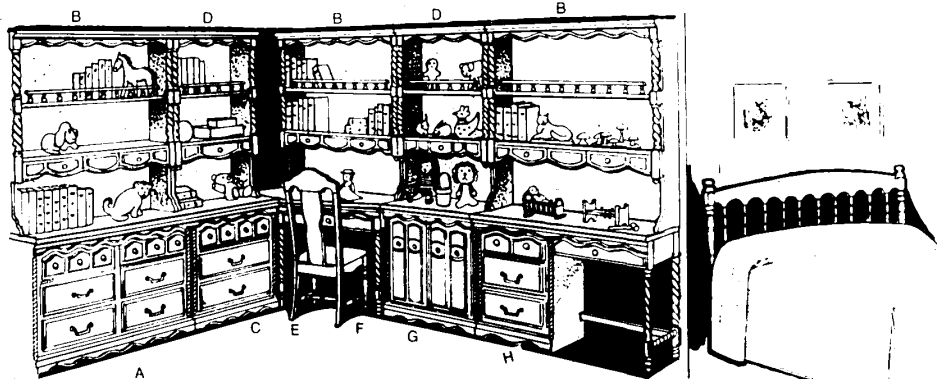
20% off!



Handsome "Shangri-La" boy's bedroom at 20% off!

Beautifully styled bedroom grouping with bold lines and authentic brass drawer pulls. Warm-tone oak for rugged use is ideal for that active boy... durable Formica tops make this an ideal boy's bedroom. Many pieces available for versatile arrangements.

- A — Double dresser, orig. \$275 \$184
- B — Vertical mirror, orig. \$25 \$44
- C — Student desk, orig. \$174 \$139
- D — 46" Hutch with desk top, orig. \$185 \$148
- E — Bachelor chest, orig. \$109 \$103
- F — 30" Hutch, orig. \$130 \$111
- G — Twin size headboard, orig. \$114 \$116
- H — Night stand, orig. \$74 \$87



Charming "Lemon Tree" girl's bedroom at 20% off!

Enchantingly designed bedroom furniture with its graceful lines and dainty details combined with so-practical Formica tops is a favorite for teens and younger girls. Many pieces with plenty of storage space helps to keep her room organized.

- A — Double dresser, orig. \$159 \$127
- B — Drawer deck, orig. \$159 \$127
- C — Bachelor chest, orig. \$109 \$87
- D — Open deck, orig. \$109 \$87
- E — Corner desk, orig. \$114 \$91
- F — Desk chair, orig. \$59 \$47
- G — Door chest, orig. \$119 \$95
- H — Student desk, orig. \$159 \$127
- I — Twin headboard, orig. \$74 \$59

Other Boys and Girls correlated bedroom groupings now being offered at comparable savings!

Use our convenient charge plan or your BankAmericard or Master Charge

Towne & Country furniture

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—4107 Telegraph Road—at Long Lake Road—MI 2-8822

DEARBORN—23600 Michigan Ave. East of Telegraph Road—LO 5-3400

BOTH STORES OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-9