

Overcrowding

Who's to blame for Oakland jail's woes?

By Mike Scanlon
staff writer

County Executive Daniel Murphy says the Oakland County Jail's biggest problem is the man who runs it — Sheriff Johannes Spreen. But the sheriff says the biggest problem is too many crooks — and the next biggest problem is Murphy.

Called on the carpet Thursday by a board of commissioners subcommittee investigating unauthorized deputy overtime, Spreen held a press conference Friday at which he issued a summary of eight years' worth of studies and letters which he says indicate the jail lacks both cells and guards.

Spreen then shut the jail down for the weekend, barring new prisoners because the jail was well over its 485-inmate capacity. New jail prisoners were again allowed Monday, but only under restrictions limiting new admissions to felony suspects who had already been arraigned, Spreen said.

THOSE STUDIES demonstrating a need for more jail space were conducted by "self-serving agencies on behalf of law enforcement," Murphy said.

"He doesn't have a group of citizens coming in who don't have anything to do with the county and doing a study of the jail," Murphy said.

"We are in anticipation of having to do some things because there's just more people," Murphy added. "But we're not growing as fast as the jail seems to be filling up. It just seems to me growth is a little too heavy in an institution that's only nine years old."

The county jail was built in 1972.

"What people should know about (Spreen) is just how bad a manager he is. That's why his overtime is so high," Murphy added. "There's something that we've got to look at that says 'Why?'"

"I'M SICK and tired of Mr. Murphy," said Spreen.

"There's documentation over the last six years for the overcrowding and the last eight years for the understaffing. Mr. Murphy says better management? I say he should manage the county better," said Spreen.

"I have requested for seven months to see Mr. Murphy and all to no avail. Thirty phone calls were made. And he told me point blank at a Birmingham parade last week he would not see me. And if he cannot see the sheriff who was elected by the citizens as was he, then I think he is mismanaging."

Spreen was also critical of Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, implying a

link may exist between the riots at Jackson Prison and a meeting he said occurred shortly before between Patterson and prison guards.

"Was there any triggering factor there? I think that ought to be checked into. It's curious that the riots occurred after that meeting," Spreen said.

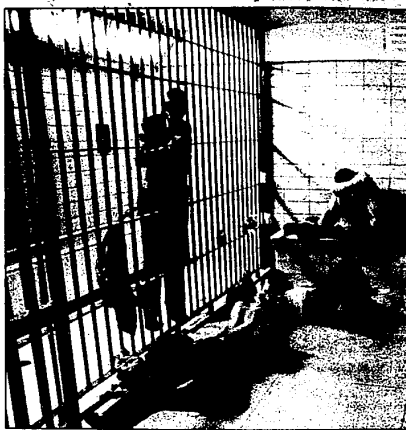
THE MEN AGREED, surprisingly, on one thing: Some kind of new jail space for minimum or medium security inmates is probably necessary.

"I think expansion has to be done at the trusty camp," said Murphy. "And I think we need better management." Apart from the main jail facility in Pontiac, the county also operates a work-release lockup where prisoners leave each day and sleep each night, a trustee camp and a women's lock-up.

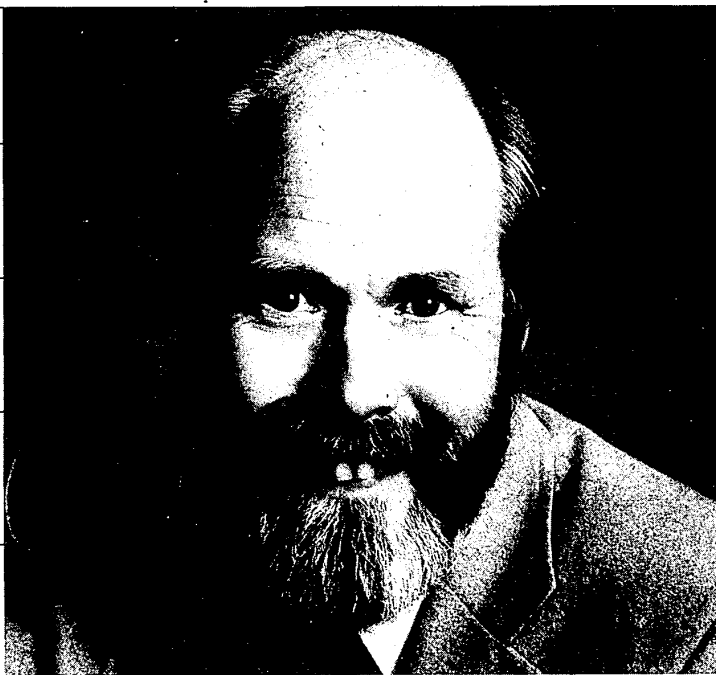
Sheriff Johannes Spreen says the jail is over its capacity of 485. This is a typical holding tank.

Thursday, June 4, 1981

(D8A



"Take the blizzard of '78. We saw that one coming and forecasted it Nobody else did"



Mal Sillars has been Chief Meteorologist for WDIV since September, 1980. Previously, he was known to thousands of Detroiters as the morning weatherman on the J.P. McCarthy Show on WJR. Mal's professional experience includes seven years as Vice President of Commercial Weather Services, Inc. of Flint, and a two-year term as President of the Weather Center, Inc., also of Flint. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and an associate member of Sigma Xi, honorary society for scientific research. For the past 16 years, Mal has lived in Flint, Michigan. He is married and has a 12-year-old son.



Mal, how did you become a meteorologist?

SILLARS: I was always interested in weather and began as kind of an observer from a scientific standpoint. Then I got into environmental control technology in the late '60s which deals with a lot of meteorology. I have both a B.S. and M.S. Degree in Physics and did post-graduate work in Meteorology.

What are the responsibilities of a meteorologist, and in particular of a TV weatherman?

SILLARS: Well, I think you can divide it into two parts:

First, the meteorologist part. This means analyzing and interpreting meteorological data and developing a forecast. Second, the weatherman deals with informing the public. Most people are very interested in the weather, probably more so than we tend to realize. They want to know the why's and wherefore's, not just the forecast. And I think this is important, especially in this part of the country where so much of our life-styles seem to revolve around the weather. I think the information needs to be presented in a manner that people can understand.

Do you have special weather equipment that provides you with information?

SILLARS: Our color radar is one of the most advanced systems of its kind in Michigan. It enables us to track storms all over the country and put that information directly on the air. We also receive computerized and teletyped information that updates conditions happening right now.

What goes into planning your report?

SILLARS: Every day at about 2:00 p.m. I plot my own map. Maps come off the national weather service machine regularly, and I analyze all of them. I also plot my own Great Lakes maps. On News 4 we offer a five-day forecast. This provides continuity. We add today's information to yesterday's and make adjustments. It's a continuous service, day after day. It's forever a refining process.

How much of your forecast is actual data and how much is guessing?

SILLARS: Most of it is scientific, but a large part can be intuitive. Sometimes the data available is limited. In that case you have to project and come up with the best forecast you can. Then, other days, you have a better handle on it, even beyond what the computer



says. Take the blizzard of '78. We saw that one coming and forecasted it. Nobody else did. I don't know why more people didn't hit it. How others underestimated what was so apparent to me, was really a big surprise.

Your record for forecasting is pretty high, isn't it?

SILLARS: Well, it's a lot like baseball. Sometimes forecasters get into a rut and can't come up with an accurate forecast. At other times, predictions are right on. We have verification sheets, and I guess I have a pretty good record. But that's my job. It's not something I laugh off. It's my responsibility and I take it personally. If I tell someone before they go to bed that it's going to rain the next morning and then the sun comes out, it doesn't make me happy and I don't believe it increases anyone's confidence in me, even though they might not mind the sunshine.

Do you think Detroit has difficult weather to predict because of our location?

SILLARS: Most of our weather comes from the west, and we do have the Great Lakes with which to contend. Large bodies of water like these can have a major effect on weather conditions. To forecast Michigan weather it takes someone who understands the effects of the lakes.

What do you like to do when you're not forecasting the weather?

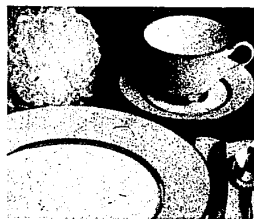
SILLARS: Well, I guess I just like to be out in it. I have a 27-foot sailboat, and my family and I spend as much time on the lakes as we possibly can. We spend our vacations on the boat, and many weekends. It's become a floating cottage for us—a place where we



enjoy entertaining friends, as well as relaxing by ourselves. My wife is navigator, and first mate, and my son is chief fisherman, unless the winds really pick up. Then, we're all sailors.

News 4
WDIV/DETROIT

... PLAZA SUITE ... MIDNIGHT MADNESS



ENTIRE STOCK
DRASTICALLY REDUCED
Friday, June 5th, 'til Midnight

Lenox Royal Doulton Oneida
Noritake Wedgwood Farberware
Mikassa Orrefors Lucite

and many, many more items

... PLAZA SUITE ...
29113 Northwestern Hwy. at 12 Mile
In the Franklin Shopping Plaza
357-1121

50% OFF
ON GIFTS FOR DADS & GRADS
The Chinon Automatic Compact for
35mm Pictures at a Pocket Camera Price.

SALE \$49⁹⁵

(A-96-14) Regularly \$100. Model #35F

Automatic
Frame Counter

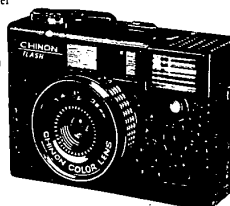
Big, Bright Viewfinder

Accepts both
ASA 100 &
400 Film

Fast 38mm
f4.0 Lens

3-Speed
Metal Shutter

To order by mail, send to 1580 South Woodward, Birmingham, MI 48012, or by phone, call (313) 642-6970. There is a \$2. delivery charge, sorry, no C.O.D.'s. Sale price for the camera is in effect through Wednesday, June 10, 1981.

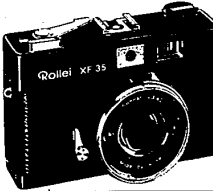


Pop-Up
Electronic Flash
With Low-Light
Indicator

Auto exposure
so you can
just focus &
shoot

Remember Dads & Grads with a Special Lasting Gift.

Rollei XF35



The Rollei XF35 has many convenient features, ranging from the programmed CDS exposure system to a coupled rangefinder. This lightweight 35mm camera makes great picture taking very simple. It's a gift that will keep on giving!

\$68⁸⁸

WITH CASE AND STROBE

WORLD
camera
VISA & MASTER CARD

BIRMINGHAM — 842-1985
1580 South Woodward
Monday, Thursday & Friday 10-6; Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 10-6; Sunday Birmingham Open 12-4
ROCHESTER — 275-8670
Westwood Village Mall
Watkins Glen, New York
DETROIT — 296-3622
Renaissance Center, Tower 10, Level 1
Ann Arbor (P.O. Box 630) 661-5000
LYNNMA — 825-8110
3555 Plymouth Road
SOUTHFIELD — 386-4774
Fountain Square, Westwood at Lake
Mon. thru Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-6
TROY — 885-8666
Oakland Mall, 1778 N. 14 Mile
Mon. thru Sat. 10-6
PRICES GOOD THRU JUNE 10, 1981