Prison problems

Halfway houses frustrate suburban police

ICHAEL JOSEPH Mrozek and Perry Vincent Bradley, on the prowl for a bouse to burglarize the might of Feb. 9, 1933, burst into a Biomilield Township executive's house while the executive and his family watched television.

They ordered family members to the face down and robbed them before the state of th

HALFWAY HOUSES and extended furloughs — programs designed to ease immates back into society before they're paroleck into society before they're paroleck and alleviate the state's overcrowded prisons — pose problems for police and society.

Although they don't keep records on the numbers, police officials from Troy, Southleid, Bloomileid Township, Beverly Hills and West Bloomileid and they irequently arrest prison inmates who are halfway-house residents or living in their own homes in Oakhand County — many times for the same crimes that put them in jail in the first place.

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One community which does keep such statistics — Bloomfield Hills — said 12 of its 32 break-ins in 1983 and nine if its 24 break-ins in 1984 were committed by halfway-house residents or inmates living in their own



More than 100 state prison inmates, still technically serving jall sentences, are living in Oakland County in helitway houses or their own homes to reduce evercrowding in Michigan's jails. Local police

homes. "We had one guy last year who was working at a restaurant. He'd pull a break-in every single day either on his way to or from work, said Bloomfield Hills Det. Joe Kerr. "Anytime you put an inmate back on the street, it poses problems," Lt. George Reed of Troy Police Department said. "We've arrested people who are on inmate status for larceny, UDAA, (auto theft) B&E and armed robbery. When a person is sent to prison for one crime, he shouldn't be back out on the street committing another (even before he's finished serving timo). The problem has led to a surveillance of two Pontiac halfway houses by officers from Bloomfield Township Birmilgham, West Bloomfield, Southfield and the Michigan State Police officers even the state of the

lice, according to area police offi-

WHILE THEY'RE living at half-way houses, or in their own homes on

extended-furlough status, prisoners are supposed to be employed, encolled in a vocational-education program or looking for work. But "what they're looking for is house to break into (in the wealthy suburbs surrounding Pootlate), said West Bloomfield's Sgt. Mike Messina.
Martin Mott, 22, twice convicted of burglary and living for the second time in a halfway house on Sagnaw Road in Pontine, supports what police say.

Road in Pontine, supports what powersay.

He estimates half of the immates he lives with are committing break-ins rather than looking for work. "It's so hard to find jobs, they'll go out and commit crimes. I did the same thing too. They've got to support their alcohol and drug (habits)."

Mott said he committed about a dozen break-ins, moetly in the Millord area, durip his lirist sitt in a half-way house before he was caught and sent back to juil. He served 30 days behind bars following his first convic-

say the inmates aren't looking for jobs as they're supposed to be, but are seeking houses to burgiarize. Bloomfield Hills estimates that 12 of its 32 break-ins in 1983 were committed by such inmates.

tion, and two years after his second, before going to live at the halfway house.

The inmates are supposed to fill out forms daily, giving the names, addresses and phone numbers of buistnesses they personally visited while looking for work. But Mott said the immates aimply put down business names and addresses they find in the yellow pages, and corrections officials don't bother to check them out.

The inmates have a curfew. The time depends on whether they're employed, looking for work or enrolled in a vocational-education program. They're supposed to be checked hour-ty after curfew, but Mott said corrections officials make checks only about three times every 24 hours.

JOHN CLARKE, the halfway-house aupervisor, could not be reached late last week for a response. But parole/ probation officer Lance Schuhmacher

said he verifies job-search sheets filled out by the inmates he's in charge of, and corrections officials can document their bourly checks.

As a rehabilitative measure, the haliway-house program only works if the individual wants it to, Mott said. "It doesn't do nothing for you. They don't care about you, the department of corrections or the officers. The houses are the pits. . They're raggetly, the halirooms, the showers. They don't give you no money. They don't give you no money. They don't give you no transportation."

Mott, who said he's "straightened up" because he doesn't like going to jail, now is working for a restaurant. He gets to work by bus. "To me, it (the program) is working fine," he said. "(But it only works) if you let it."

Gail Light, information director for the state corrections department, said the halfway-house and extended-furlough programs, though not fool-

NIMATES ARE acreemed before being allowed to participate in either program, she said, and only the ones are chosen. Once they're in hallway houses, the immates must follow certain rules, including being in at designated times and not drinking.

And those on extended-furlough status must report once a week to a corrections officer.

percent accurate."

Agreed parole/probation officer
Schuhmacher, "You're always going
to get one or two that slips through,
thout of these people are going to de
what they want to do anyway."

Light cited statistics from a 1983
Corrections department report called
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their first year, after being released from prison.
Out of 590 immates who lived in halfway houses, or in their own homes on extended status during at least part of the first year following their release from prison, 24 (4.1 percent) committed misdemeaners, 74 (12.5 percent) committed non-violent crimes and 18 (2.2 percent) committed violent felonies, the study sald.
Out of 537 immates who were paroled directly from prison, 30 (5.7 percent) committed non-violent represent) committed non-violent crimes and 44 (6.4) percent committed non-violent crimes and 44 (6.4) percent committed non-violent felonies.

crimes and 44 (8.4) percent committed violent feloules.

WHILE THE corrections department initiated and still uses the half-way-house program to "decompress" prisoners as they go from being inmates to free citizens, it now uses halfway bouses and extended furloughs as "safety valves" to keep the prisons from becoming too over-crowded, Light said.

To house all of the inmates behind hars, the state would need at least three more prisons, she added.

As of Aug. 15, 1984, the state had 14,512 prisoners and less than 10,000 "secure bods." Light said. Consequently, 1,649 of the 14,513 prisoners were living in halfway houses or in light own homes.

The week of Sept. 3, 1984, there were 47 Innates living in Pontlac's foor halfway houses and 53 living in their own homes throughout Cathand Comty, according to Schmimacher.

The corrections department follows a few state laws and many more department policies in deciding who's eligible for the halfway-bouse or extended-furlough programs, Light said. No sex offenders, majer drug farmer may participate. Most innates are a few months away from being paroled from prison.

School district eyes capital improvement

Despite last month's concern, the Walled Lake Board of Education approved a \$250,000 equipment purchase list last week.

Trustee Patricia Jackman said the board received assurances from the business office that a districtivel inventory of equipment would be completed and that the district would move toward equity in equipment between buildings.

The purchase list was approved in a 5-1 decision. Trustee Kenneth Tucker, who questioned the need for the video cassette recorders requested by four elementary buildings, voted no. Trustee Ronald Sesvold was absent.

Director of elementary education High Davies responded to Tucker's concern over the VCRTs requested by Decker, Loos Lake, Oakley Park and Wixom schools, Davies described the equipment as will be useful in playing back docational teaprists on the video can be sufficient to the continuate of the Realier than a movie projector, he added, noting that the machine can be stopped and started easier, and segments can be replayed. In addition, the equipment will be useful evolution, the equipment will be an aid for professional staff development, Davies sald.

IN PRESENTING the capital outlay listing last

alonal staff development, Davies said.

IN PRESENTING the capital outlay listing last month, assistant superiotendent for business Patrick Docohus said the 1984-55 purchases would be part of a three-year plan. Although different buildings have been allocated different amounts in the first year of the plan, equitable dollar amounts will have been estended to all buildings over the three-year plan be explained.

Several board members, as well as members of the andience, expressed a need to see that three-year plan — in order to evaluate the first year requests. At last week's meeting, Superintendent Don Sheldon said the three-year plan will be presented in Docember, along with the districtived inventory and additional budget projections.

Sheldon noted some changes may be made in the 1984-35 list when the \$55,000 gymnasium floor for Western High School is moved to another part of

the budgel. The gym floor replacement should be considered a "contracted service," he noted. The adjustment may allow additional funds for equip-ment at Western High School, Sheldon said. Western Principal Richard Smith said more sci-ence equipment may be requested if there is more money available. On the original list, Western's purchase requests included only the gym floor and \$5,000 in replacement science equipment. Smith said he has estimated the school needs \$15,000 in science equipment.

Central High School is scheduled to receive \$28,510 in new equipment, including 200 new class-room desks, 30 cafeteria tables and 200 cafeteria

The junior high schools will receive more than \$40,000 in new equipment, most of it (\$3\$4,000) at \$40,000 to new equipment, most of it (\$3\$4,000) at Walled Lake Junior High, Walled Lake's 1984-85 requests include science class furniture, media center carpeting, bandroom decis and miscellaneous industrial equipment. Clifford Smart's requests include deak chairs, musical instruments, tumbling mats and microscopes.

Elementary purchase requests for 1884-85 total about 488,400. They range from 124,000 at Commerce (film projectors, tape recorders, movie screens, maps and a printer) to 89,400 at Loon Lake (a \$5,000 dty copler, a VCR, camera and television; filmstrip projectors and an \$800 typewriter).

Busy day for Owens

American runner Jesse Owens is probably best remembered for his success during the Olympics in Hilder's Germany in 1936.
However, Owens racked up some remarkable, less beraided records in his life. He's the only athlete to have his name entered in the record book six times in one day. He broke world records for a variety of 100-yard and 220-yard runs on May 23, 1933.

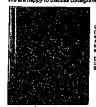


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David Bates (British 1841-1921) oil on canva 20" x 30".









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