

Oakland County man held in molesting of 3 youths

By JOHN CASTINE
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An Oakland County man was held in jail Monday after sheriff's deputies accused him of committing sexual crimes against three young boys in his neighborhood over a five-year period.

Sheriff Johannes F. Spreen said the accused man, Ralph W. Bryie, 35, of West Bloomfield Township, arrested Friday night, is to be arraigned on three counts of criminal sexual conduct.

Bryie is in the Oakland County Jail. His arraignment is scheduled at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the 48th District Court in Bloomfield Hills. The arraignment was delayed because the court was closed Monday for a holiday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Spreen said Bryie is a salvage inspector with General Motors Truck & Coach Division in Pontiac.

THE SHERIFF said the three boys in the case are now aged 15, 16 and 17 but were 10 and 11 when they first were sexually assaulted.

Spreen was asked whether Bryie is a suspect in the Oakland County child killings of 1976-77.

"We will make a full and thorough investigation," Spreen said. "We don't discount anything. We're not saying yes, but we are looking into it."

The Oakland County child killer was never found. In that case, two boys and two girls aged 10 to 12 were abducted and later killed.

SPREEN SAID his deputies arrested Bryie Friday night at his home after a four-week investigation.

The deputies, using a search warrant, found correspondence and photographs in the home that show Bryie engaging in sexual acts with young boys, Spreen said.

Mrs. Grace Hanson, a neighbor, described Bryie as "a really good neighbor." Bryie grew up in the neighborhood, she said.

"It's quite a shock when you've known someone all these years to find them arrested for this," Mrs. Hanson said.

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