

Makeshift home of evicted Rosene

# ~~Thure Rosene~~ - Oak. An. - 5-13-78 'House decrepit, I'm not'

By **BRIAN MCCORMICK**  
Press Staff Writer

**BLOOMFIELD TWP.** — Wearing a rumpled suit, a purple polka-dot tie and a pair of women's glasses, Thure Rosene of 710 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Township, says he won't budge from his backyard until the police carry him away.

Rosene has been living in the 158-year-old home for 17 years with the permission of the owners, the Harlan Estate of Birmingham. Last year the site was purchased from the estate by Barry Keller, a Bloomfield Township attorney.

Keller allowed Rosene to stay in the house through the winter because, Keller says, "Rosene apparently had no place to go and I didn't want to put him out in the cold."

With the arrival of spring, Keller attained a court order certifying his ownership of the property. The order required Rosene to vacate the premises. So, 11 days ago, the Bloomfield police evicted Rosene.

Since then he's been living under a plastic sheet in his backyard. The sheet is propped up by rotting boards anchored in empty paint cans. Beneath it is the soggy couch on which Rosene sleeps.

**Surrounding his campsite are Rosene's**

possessions. They amount to a pile of oddities and antiques including a manually operated washing machine, rusting car parts, a potbellied stove and hundreds of empty milk bottles.

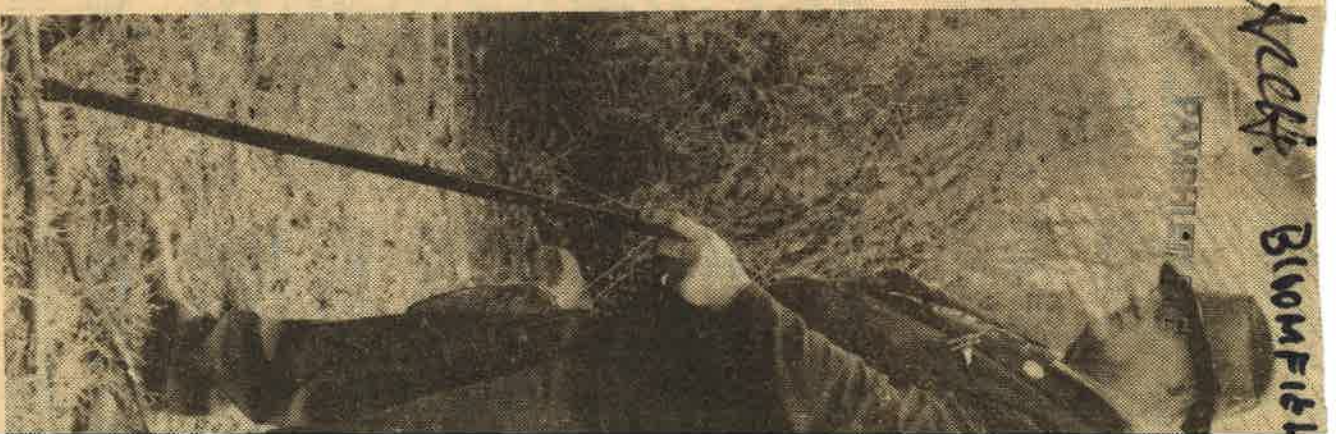
"I have to stay here to protect my property from thieves," Rosene says. "This county is a thieves' nest. The success or failure of thievery depends on surveillance. I have to keep an eye on my valuables."

Keller says, "We've offered to move his possessions into storage for three months at our expense to allow him time to find new lodgings. We've even volunteered to find him new lodgings. He's spurned all our offers."

Oakland County Social Services representatives say Rosene has refused help of the County Adult Placement Program.

"The house may be decrepit, but I'm not," Rosene says. "These social workers are impertinent to think I need their help. I have squatter's rights to this property and I'm going back into that house no matter what."

Rosene says he isn't worried about incurring a jail sentence because, "My 17-year stay in that house has been a jail sentence of its own, so being put in jail would be like going home for me."



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Thure Rosene awaits ne

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