

Law as is, says Harshbarger

Such interim measures include painting areas with chipping or peel-resistant lead paint and applying "encapsulating" coatings on other lead-contaminated surfaces. Once this was done, landlords would get a certification relieving them of strict legal liability in the event a child became poisoned anyway.

The current law requires that landlords get rid of lead once and for all, Harshbarger told task force members. "It would be a mistake to replace this with a new system of

temporary measures which will put owners into a cycle of major expenditures for repairs, inspections and insurance, and yet still have lead paint potentially endangering children's health in hundreds of thousands of housing units."

Under the proposed new law, prospective tenants with young children would be warned that lead paint was present. "The tenant has some responsibility whether they want to rent that unit and if they do, they have some reasonable parental responsibility in handling their own child," said Bob Nash of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors.

Nash and other proponents of the pending proposal claim that the current law has failed to make much impact in the number of lead-contaminated housing units. Only about five percent of Massachusetts' estimated 1.2 million contaminated units have been deleaded since 1987, when the commonwealth first offered \$1,000 tax abatements to property owners for deleading.

"The law at present isn't working," said Kevin Kiley of the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

However, health officials say the law has had considerable impact in reducing the number of children in the state with lead poisoning.

"In 1986 we had 1,235 confirmed cases of lead poisoning out of 166,000 children tested, a rate of 7 cases for

every 1,000 children screened," said Brad Prenny of the state health department. "In fiscal 1992, there were 769 children confirmed as lead poisoned of 302,000 screened. That works out to a rate of roughly 2.5 cases per 1,000 children screened."

The attorney general said in an interview that changes in the state's lead paint law and regulations are needed to help landlords comply, but not such drastic ones as property owners are seeking. "Before we gut a major piece of legislation, we ought to look at what we could do to make what is in place work better," Harshbarger said.

Real estate interests and their allies are mounting a major campaign on behalf of the pending legislation, which would also remove state and local health officials' ability to seek administrative orders on property owners to abate residential lead contamination. Under the proposal, enforcement of lead-abatement requirements would rely on fines and criminal prosecution, which officials say is much slower.

A conference planned for Sept. 25 at Hynes Auditorium, sponsored by the Massachusetts Rental Housing Association, will feature some speakers who dissent from the public health consensus that even very low levels of lead are hazardous to young children, and others who push methods of covering up lead paint as adequate protection.

Milton man is target of probe

By John Ellement
GLOBE STAFF

In what may signal that an 11-month investigation into the murder of a Boston police officer is nearing an end, a Milton man has been notified by federal authorities he is a target of a grand jury probing the bombing death of Officer Jeremiah Hurley.

Sources said yesterday that Alfred W. Trenkler, 36, has been sent what is officially known as a "target letter." The Sept. 4 letter warns Trenkler that he is being investigated for murdering a public safety officer, receiving explosives used in interstate commerce and conspiracy, sources said.

Terry P. Segal, Trenkler's attorney, declined to discuss his client or the ongoing federal investigation into Hurley's death and the wounding of Hurley's Bomb Squad partner, Francis X. Foley, on Oct. 28, 1991, as the two men investigated a suspicious package in the rear of an Eastbourne Street home in Roslindale.

"I am not going to comment," Segal said.

Sources said that Foley will testify before the grand jury within the next two weeks, but they also cautioned that an indictment is not expected to be returned immediately.

Terry McArdle, head of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, also declined comment yesterday. Assistant US attorneys Paul Kelley and Frank Libby, who are overseeing the investigation, could not be reached for comment.

Trenkler, according to sources, was investigated in connection with a 1986 occurrence when a bomb was attached to the bottom of a Quincy fish truck. No one was hurt when that bomb detonated, and criminal

SKIERS

We're having a Ski Party!
SEPT. 18-22
JOIN OUR STAFF & MFGS.
SKI REPS SLOPESIDE,
9-11 A.M.-6 P.M. FRI. 'TIL 8 P.M.

THE PRO SHOP
THE BLUE HILLS SKI AREA
- FIRST ANNUAL -

TENT SALE
0-60% Off

QUANTITIES LIMITED SO COME EARLY
FOR THE BEST SELECTIONS!
EXIT 28 off Rt. 128, Canton/Milton Line
(617) 828-7300

The Boston Globe
166-1818 for Home Delivery.

Giant TURSDAY



DAY!

The largest selection in the New England area is on sale now! Save up to 50% on your favorite carpet styles and colors... then save 25% on installation, too!

Murray, gunrunner for IRA, is shot dead

MURRAY

Continued from Page 27

Assistant Attorney General Thomas Goodwin, a state prosecutor who spoke with reporters outside Murray's three-story house, said, "Mrs. Murray apparently told police or neighbors he had come after her."

Mrs. Murray was not arrested and no charges had been filed

50% OFF

EVERY IN-STOCK
CARPET

Choose From
100's Of Styles
And Colors!

25% OFF

EXPERT
INSTALLATION

More Than A Sale... This
Is The Biggest Savings
Event In Our History!
3 Days Only, So Hurry!

Giant

all of New England

UN: 12PM-5PM

AVON
Call us at Home
Check for Special
Promotions
(508) 587-5100

1700 New London and Vernon

AVON HOURS: SAT. 10AM-9PM

or neighbors he had come after her."
Mrs. Murray was not arrested and no charges had been filed.
Harmon said. "It appears at this point that there was some sort of domestic dispute," adding "there appears to be no probable cause that anyone committed a crime."
Harmon, who is spearheading the probe of Murray's death, said neighbors recalled seeing Murray arrive at the home at about 1:15 p.m. and hearing gunshots 15 minutes later.

Mrs. Murray then reportedly ran out of the house.
Kennebec County sheriff's deputies were called to the scene by neighbors who said they had heard the shots.

Officials reportedly found Murray lying dead at the foot of a flight of stairs at the front of the home at about 1:30 p.m., clutching a fishing knife.

An autopsy is scheduled for today at the state medical examiner's office in Augusta, Harmon said.
Mrs. Murray had been staying at the house, which overlooks Great Pond, and had enrolled the 8-year-old in a local elementary school, Harmon said.

In 1987, Murray was one of three Massachusetts men who pleaded guilty to attempting to smuggle seven tons of weapons to the Irish Republican Army aboard the Gloucester fishing trawler Valhalla in the fall of 1984.

The 163 weapons, valued at \$1.2 million, were seized by the Irish Naval Service after they were transferred to an Irish ship, the Marita Ann, off the coast of County Kerry, Ireland, on Sept. 29, 1984. The cargo included 91 rifles, eight submachine guns, 13 shotguns, 51 handguns, hand grenades and rocket warheads.

Also included in the arsenal were 70,000 rounds of ammunition and 11 bulletproof vests.

The saga of the infamous gun-running operation was the subject of a book by John Loftus and Emily McIntyre titled "Valhalla's Wake: The IRA, MI6, and the Assassination of a Young American." It was published in 1989.

Once called "the primary importer of marijuana in the Massachusetts area" by the US government, Murray, along with a co-defendant, pleaded guilty to importing 36 tons of marijuana into Boston Harbor aboard the British freighter Ramisland in 1984.

Murray also pleaded guilty to tax evasion charges.

Murray, who was once a Boston Globe compositor, received a 10-year sentence for the drug charges.

truck. No one was hurt when that bomb detonated, and criminal charges against Trenkler were eventually dismissed without a finding, sources said.

Yesterday, the man who first publicly linked Trenkler to Hurley's murder, 20-year-old Thomas A. Shay, said he was notified he was a target of the same federal grand jury on April 16 of this year.

Shay is the son of Thomas L. Shay, at whose home the device exploded. The senior Shay, through his attorney, has denied any knowledge about how the bomb ended up in his back yard or why he would be targeted for death.

The junior Shay has been held in the Suffolk County Jail since March on \$10,000 cash bail while awaiting trial on a charge of allegedly making a telephone bomb threat to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority in 1990.

In a telephone interview yesterday, the younger Shay detailed the amount of time he spent with Trenkler and also repeated his insistence that he had no role in the bombing. Shay described Trenkler, who is an engineer, as "a high-tech man."

"I didn't make the bomb... I am innocent and I will do anything to prove it," Shay said. Shay said that if one added up the total number of hours he spent time with Trenkler it would "probably equal a week."

"If Al Trenkler did this, he did this on his own," Shay said. "I didn't know him as a guy who used explosives. I didn't know him as a guy who would hurt people. I knew him as a guy who was mellow, who was not a drinker, who was not a druggie. He cheered me up sometimes when I met him."

Shay also expressed frustration with the amount of time he has spent in jail on a charge that he said would only result in a three-month prison sentence if he is convicted.

"I've already done 166 days," said Shay, who added that if he was not a suspect in the Roslindale case, he believes his bail would be much lower.

Shay also said that his frustration has led him to conclude that he will "no longer cooperate with any federal agency, any Boston agency, except my lawyer." He said he has provided handwriting samples to investigators.

Shay's attorney, Jefferson Boone, did not return telephone calls yesterday.