

AT LARGE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Author: JEFFREY S. GHANNAM Free Press Staff Writer

Here is the criminal background on the five remaining escapees from the Ryan Correctional Facility. Escapee Kevin Hatcher, 28, was found dead Monday in a west side Detroit alley. He had been convicted in May 1988 and sentenced to life in prison for delivering more than 650 grams of drugs..

* **Mark McCloud** , 26, is a reputed hitman described by prosecutors after his 1989 conviction for first-degree murder as one of the most dangerous criminals in the city. **McCloud** is believed responsible for more than a dozen killings in the Detroit area, police once said. He was serving a life sentence for the contract slaying of Lenny Thompson, 19, killed to satisfy a drug debt. Police at the time said **McCloud** controlled a sizeable west side Detroit crack cocaine operation.

* Willie Merriweather, 40, was convicted of second-degree murder for killing Marlin Underwood, 21, on a \$3,000 contract from **McCloud** , prosecutors alleged. Two other people were killed and a third was wounded because they were with Underwood. All the victims were bound hand and foot on a floor and shot. Merriweather was sentenced to life in prison. **McCloud** and three other defendants, including **McCloud** 's brother, were acquitted in that trial.

* Tyrone Garland, 32, was convicted in June 1990 of two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of Gregory Kimbrough, 40, and Donald Chatham, 39. The men were fatally shot in July 1989 at a home where drugs were sold in the 13800 block of Lumpkin. Garland was sentenced to 20-60 years.

* Andre Gamble, 29, pleaded guilty to armed robbery charges in May 1990. He was sentenced to 13-20 years. (It was earlier reported, incorrectly, that his sentence was one to five years.)

* Lavell Jones, 31, was convicted in June 1987 of unarmed robbery and was sentenced as a habitual offender to 50-150 years.

Memo: BREAKOUT FROM RYAN;

SEE RELATED ARTICLE BY HOLLY, Page 3A

Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: NAMELIST ; ESCAPEE ; PRISON ; RYAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ; DETROIT

Record Number: 9401300986

Copyright (c) 1994 Detroit Free Press