

- *Restricted to the Use of Law Enforcement Officials*

# FBI

## *Law Enforcement*

# BULLETIN



1949

APRIL

Vol. 18 No. 4

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
J. Edgar Hoover, Director

# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

APRIL 1949

Vol. 18 No. 4



## CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Introduction</i> , by J. Edgar Hoover . . . . .	1
<i>Identification:</i>	
Problems and Practices in Fingerprinting the Dead . . . . .	2
Wanted Notices . . . . .	12
<i>Feature Articles:</i>	
Disaster Planning, by Chief Eastman . . . . .	4
San Diego's Road Block System, by Chief Jansen . . . . .	7
<i>Communications and Records:</i>	
Police Records Systems (continued) . . . . .	9
<i>Police Training:</i>	
Defensive Tactics (continued) . . . . .	13
<i>Crime Prevention:</i>	
Berrien County Junior Deputies . . . . .	14
Good Conduct Pays Off in Ilion, N. Y. . . . .	16
Bike Riders Cooperate . . . . .	16
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	
Wanted by the F. B. I.—Richard Jevons. . . . .	18
Who? . . . . .	18
Questionable Pattern . . . . .	(Back Cover)
Insert—Wanted Notices, Missing Persons, and Cancellation.	

The *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* is issued monthly to law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Much of the data appearing herein is of a confidential nature and its circulation should be restricted to law enforcement officers; therefore, material contained in this Bulletin may not be reprinted without prior authorization by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Published by the FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, D. C.





United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

April 1, 1949

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

You, undoubtedly, will have received your copy of the Uniform Crime Reports bulletin for 1948 before this issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin arrives. Nevertheless, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members of Law Enforcement whose magnificent cooperation through the years has made the compilation of annual and semi-annual uniform crime reports possible. No one appreciates more than I the toll of time and energy involved, yet I feel most deeply that the expenditure of both is justified. So, I believe, judging from their consistent and enthusiastic response, do the majority of police administrators.

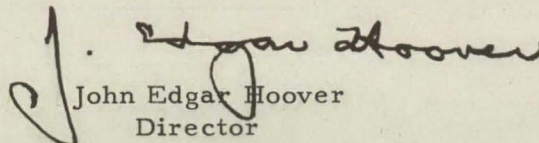
It is only when we have a complete picture of the problem with which we are dealing that we can develop the vision and marshal the energy to solve it. The Uniform Crime Reports serves as a kind of yardstick, a measuring device for noting the gains as well as the backslidings, the accomplishments and the failures, in our common work. The high crime rate of 1947 continued through 1948 with an upward percentage change of 1.3, but the picture of present-day crime becomes truly startling when seen in comparison with the prewar average for cities of over 25,000 population.

Only negligent manslaughters and auto thefts have declined to points below the prewar average. Aggravated assaults and rapes in the larger communities rose during 1948 to peaks of 68.7 percent and 49.9 percent, respectively, over the prewar averages. Larceny, while declining during the war years, has shown recent increases. During 1948 it was 4.6 percent in excess of the prewar average. Other crimes, though showing some tendency to decline, still exceeded the prewar averages as follows: burglary, 16.7 percent; murder, 14.1 percent; robbery, 8.9 percent.

We are forced to face the shocking fact that a serious crime was committed every 18.7 seconds during the year 1948. By the year's end the total reached an estimated 1,686,670 offenses. The daily clock of crime ticked off a monotonous and dismal record. Each twenty-four hours saw an average of 36 persons feloniously slain, and 255 the victims of aggravated assault or rape. Each day 150 robberies were committed, 1,032 places were burglarized, 463 automobiles were stolen, and 2,672 miscellaneous larcenies were committed.

The measure of crime for 1948 indicates that the united front of Law Enforcement cannot afford to retreat or lessen in any way the concerted effort to diminish the volume of crime in the future.

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director



# IDENTIFICATION

## Introduction

Each year new graves are opened in potter's fields all over the United States. Into many of them are placed the unknown dead—those who have lived anonymously or who, through accident or otherwise, lose their lives under such circumstances that identification seems impossible. In a majority of such cases, after the burial of the body, no single item or clue remains to effect subsequent identification. As a result, active investigation usually ceases and the cases are forgotten, unless, of course, it is definitely established that a murder has been committed.

Reliance is too often placed on visual inspection in establishing the identity of the deceased. This includes having the remains viewed by individuals seeking to locate a lost friend or relative. The body is often decomposed. If death were caused by burning, the victim may be unrecognizable. As a result of many fatal accidents the deceased is often mutilated, particularly about the face, so that visual identification is impossible. Yet, still, in many cases, the only attempt at identification is by having persons view the remains and the personal effects.

The recorded instances of erroneous visual identifications are numerous. In one case a body, burned beyond recognition, was identified by relatives as that of a 21-year-old boy; yet fingerprints later proved that the corpse was that of a 55-year-old man.

Fingerprints were instrumental only recently in establishing the correct identity of several persons killed in a plane crash and wrongly "identified" by close relatives.

In one instance a woman found dead in a hotel room was "positively" identified by several close friends. The body was shipped to the father of the alleged deceased in another State where again it was "identified" by close friends. Burial followed. Approximately 1 month later the persons who had first identified the body as that of their friend were sitting in a tavern when the "dead" woman walked into the room. Authorities were

## Problems and Practices In Fingerprinting the Dead

immediately advised of the error; they in turn advised the authorities in the neighboring State of the erroneous identification and steps were taken immediately to rectify the mistake. After permission was granted by the State health board to exhume the body of the dead woman, fingerprints were taken and copies were forwarded to the FBI Identification Division. The finger impressions were searched through the finger print files and the true identity of the deceased was established.

These are not isolated cases. Many such errors have occurred, and will continue to occur until the medium of identification by fingerprints is wholly established and completely universal.

During a 12-month period the FBI Identification Division received the fingerprints of 1,708 unknown dead. Of these, 1,298, or almost 76 per cent, were identified. The remaining 410 were



Figure 1.—FBI field kit for fingerprinting of deceased.



not identified simply because fingerprints of these individuals were not in the FBI files. It should be noted that in these 1,708 cases, it was possible to secure legible fingerprints of the deceased in the usual manner by inking the fingers in those instances in which decomposition had not injured the ridge detail.

In addition to the fingerprints of 1,708 unknowns, the identification division received the fingers and/or the hands of 85 unknown dead. In these cases decomposition was so far advanced that it was not possible to secure fingerprints in the regular manner. Of these, 68 bodies, or 80 percent of the group, were identified. Of the 17 unidentified, the fingerprints of 14 were not in the FBI files. In three cases decomposition was so far advanced that all ridge detail had been destroyed.

In order to emphasize what can be accomplished, it is pointed out that in those cases in which hands and fingers were submitted, the time which elapsed from death until the specimens were received ranged from a week to 3 years. Incredible as it may seem, it has been possible to secure identifiable impressions 3 years after death.

These statistics of achievement in the field of identifying unknown dead reemphasize that in all cases involving the identification of a deceased person, fingerprints should be used as the medium for establishing a conclusive and positive identification.

Generally speaking, in the course of their work fingerprint operators find it necessary to take the impressions of three classes of deceased persons. They are:

- (1) Those who have died recently, in which cases the task is relatively simple.

- (2) Those dead for a longer period, in which cases difficulty is experienced due to pronounced stiffening of the fingers, or the early stages of decomposition, or both.

- (3) Those cases in which extreme difficulty is encountered because of maceration, desiccation, or advanced decay of the skin.

The problems will be considered separately.

### ***Newly Dead***

When the fingers are flexible it is often possible to secure finger impressions of a deceased person through the regular inking process on a standard fingerprint card. Experience has proved that this task can be made easier if the deceased is laid



**Figure 2.**

face down and palms down on a table (fig. 2).

In all cases where inked impressions are to be made, care should be exercised to see that the fingers are clean and dry before inking. If necessary, wash the digits with soap and water and dry thoroughly.

In the event difficulty is encountered in trying to procure fingerprints by the regular method, it may prove more convenient to cut the 10 "squares" numbered for the rolled impressions from a fingerprint card. After the finger is inked the square is rolled around the finger without letting it slip. Extreme caution should be exercised to see that each square bears the correct finger impression. After all of the fingers are properly recorded, the 10 squares bearing the impressions are pasted or stapled to a standard fingerprint card in their proper positions, i. e., right thumb, right index, right middle, etc. Whenever possible the "plain" or "simultaneous" impressions should also be taken.

In some cases it will be found necessary to obtain or improvise a tool similar to a broad-bladed putty knife or spatula to be used as an inking instrument. The ink is rolled evenly and thinly on the knife or spatula and applied to the finger by passing the inked knife or spatula around it. The tool, of course, replaces the usual glass inking slab or plate, use of which is extremely difficult or awkward when printing a deceased person.

### ***Stiff Fingers and Early Decomposition***

The second group consists of cases in which the hands of the deceased are still clenched, the finger tips are wrinkled, decomposition has begun, or where there are combinations of these three con-

*(Continued on page 20)*



# Disaster Planning

by GEORGE D. EASTMAN, *Chief of Police,*  
*Seattle, Wash.*

Events of the past 2 years have brought sharply into focus the need for comprehensive planning on the part of municipalities to cope with the emergency situations following disasters or catastrophes. Many of our tragic civil disasters have been caused by circumstances beyond the control of men, but the disruptive aftermath of such disasters may be minimized by proper control. When the safety or well-being of our citizens may be threatened to such an extent that normal routines will be wholly or partially disrupted, it is obvious that preplanning is a requisite to avoid utter confusion.

The obligation and responsibility of government and governmental officials to the people of the municipality increase at a time of disaster or catastrophe. A disaster of any sort imposes increased demands upon branches of government which normally operate with personnel and facilities sufficient to handle normal functions. Unwise or improper expenditure of personnel or equipment at the time of disaster will have more serious consequences than in normal circumstances because the need for proper use is greater. Only adequate, tested preplanning can stretch normal services to cope with large scale emergency conditions.

Disaster planning, at the best, is a difficult operation. It consists of marshaling men and matériel against unpredictable events. The types or kinds of disasters which may occur and the extent of each occurrence are as variable as nature. It is impossible to plan for each separate disaster which may occur in any given community, so the need is for a plan comprehensive enough to cover all situations, simple enough to operate under the greatest stress, and yet capable of being performed in the most efficient manner.

It is possible to reduce any type of disaster to certain fundamentals which require positive actions on the part of official agencies. Certain functions must be performed at the time and scene of each disaster, and the extent of the performance



*Chief Eastman.*

depends upon the specific situation. These fundamental actions are the basis of disaster planning.

In the event of disaster, the need for centralized control and an effective organization for coordination is greater than under normal conditions. The very magnitude of a disaster and the consequent involvement of large numbers of people not ordinarily confronted with emergencies, require better direction and administration than is usually necessary. The determination of the person or office which will assume complete control and responsibility during a time of disaster is the first step. From this action, the organization can be formed and the elementary planning begun.

As has been pointed out, the obligation of governmental officials is greater in time of emergency than in normal times, so it is extremely important that the responsibilities and capabilities of the existing structure of government be incorporated into the disaster plan. This has several advantages which are readily apparent, the most important being that the existing governmental agencies are usually already concerned with the occurrence at the time it is declared to be a disaster. By the assumption of duties and responsibilities greater than those normally carried, the official is in a position to continue the previous operations without confusion or delay. If the disaster plan is



designed in such a manner that extraordinary operations are carried on by some person who functions only in time of disaster, it necessarily follows that at some point in the operations there must be a transfer of authority and responsibility. This cannot be done without confusion, delay, and lack of completeness. It is also doubtful that responsibility placed by law can be transferred without the prior action of the legislative body concerned.

In establishing Seattle's Disaster Board, an effort was made to place responsibility for all essential functions (in the event of a disaster) upon the regularly constituted agencies of government which have a continuing interest in the problems involved. By training personnel and augmenting existing resources in their own specific fields, these agencies can best cope with the needs arising in any emergency.

The job of the disaster director lies in the field of predisaster planning of the functions and activities of the various committees within the organization, and in coordinating their efforts in time of emergency. It is desirable to have each committee operate within its functional sphere, insofar as possible, as an independent unit, both in the appraisal of possible needs and developing the means to meet them, and in organizing the essential force to effectively act when the occasion arises.

In the subordinate levels the title of "committee" has been used because these groups will comprise both official and volunteer persons. For the lack of better nomenclature, the committee titles have been designated as: "Police; Firefighting; Medical Services; Public Works; Transportation; and American Red Cross."

The functions assigned each group and the agencies composing it are listed below:

#### 1. POLICE COMMITTEE:

##### A. Duties:

1. Patrol and guard duty to maintain order and prevent looting.
2. Protect devastated areas and control ingress and egress.
3. Routing and control of all essential traffic.
4. Supply officers when possible to all committees in assisting.

##### B. Agencies:

1. Seattle Police Department and Police Reserve.
2. Sheriff's Department and State Patrol.
3. Washington State National Guard.
4. U. S. Armed Services.

#### 2. FIRE-FIGHTING COMMITTEE:

##### A. Duties:

1. Extinguish fires and control smoke and fumes.
2. Reduce fire hazards.
3. Rescue and evacuation in devastated areas.

##### B. Agencies:

1. Municipal Fire Department and Auxiliaries.
2. Industrial Fire-fighting Organizations.
3. U. S. Armed Services.

#### 3. MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:

##### A. Duties:

1. First-aid organization.
2. Emergency medical and hospital organization.
3. Medical Supplies.
4. Ambulance services.
5. Public sanitation.
6. Coroner's functions.

##### B. Agencies:

1. City, County, and State Health Departments, U. S. Public Health.
2. Local doctors and nurses.
3. Coroner and local morticians.
4. Red Cross.
5. U. S. Armed Services.
6. Facilities from adjoining communities.

#### 4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

##### A. Duties:

1. Utility services (lights, communications, water, streets).
2. Survey.
3. Emergency demolition and repair.
4. Heavy rescue work.

##### B. Agencies:

1. Municipal Engineering and Utility Departments.
2. State Highway Department.
3. Telephone and telegraph companies.
4. Official and private short-wave radios.
5. U. S. Armed Services.

#### 5. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

##### A. Duties:

1. Evacuation.
2. Supply.
3. Transport Pool.

##### B. Agencies:

1. Local bus and trucking companies.
2. Industrial and commercial transportation facilities.
3. Red Cross.
4. U. S. Armed Services.

#### 6. AMERICAN RED CROSS:

##### A. Duties:

1. Provide food, clothing, and shelter in devastated areas.
2. Local radio stations and newspapers.
3. Weather Bureau.
4. U. S. Armed Services.



An important part of the planning in the entire disaster organization is the contact and arrangements with the representatives of groups or agencies who will lend their aid in time of emergency. This phase is to be carried on by the committee heads and is an *integral* part of the plan. It enables the committee heads to maintain a constant index of available matériel and personnel and through personal association, maintain the chain of command and keep the plan in a constant state of preparedness.

One of the problems faced is the incorporation of volunteer groups into the over-all plan. Certain groups will, on their own initiative, prepare plans to assist the community in times of emergency. They will encompass all the functions of each committee within their own organization and offer their services to the community. It is essential that these groups be incorporated into the over-all plan, but it is recommended that they be given functional assignments within the proper committee and that they serve as a part of that committee. This requires the submerging of their identity to that of the committee, but makes for a more flexible organization with a shortened chain of command.

Upon activation of the disaster plan, the disaster director will establish a command post and will coordinate and direct activities through the various committee heads. The command post will be located by designation of the disaster director and will be staffed by representatives of the various committees and clerical personnel. Field posts,

subordinate to the command post, will be established according to needs. Committee heads are charged with the responsibility of providing adequate resources within their own groups for forwarding information to the command post as rapidly and completely as possible. The representative of the committee head must be capable of taking immediate action within his own group upon instructions from the disaster director, or upon his own judgment, if the occasion demands. It is essential that the highest degree of cooperation between the various committees, at all levels, be effected, and it is equally important that the command post receive all pertinent information concerning activities, including cooperative features, as rapidly as possible.

It must be borne in mind that planning for disaster must stay on a proper level. The particular plan outlined above is intended for a municipality and is designed to handle disasters within the legal limits of the municipalities only. It is designed to enable the local government to discharge its responsibilities to the utmost of its abilities and resources. This plan may also be used to mobilize resources to aid another community, but is not intended to be adequate to cope with occurrences whose scope or magnitude extends beyond limits of the municipality. In the event of a hostile invasion, for example, the primary responsibility for counter measures does not rest with municipal government. In this event, the plan would be used to make available to proper authority the full resources and abilities of the local program.

### **MAN MISSING 36 YEARS LOCATED**

A resident of West Philadelphia, Pa., wrote to the FBI in September of 1948, asking assistance in locating her father, whom she had not seen in 36 years, and his foster sister.

A fingerprint card was located for a man whose name corresponded to that of the woman's father. The latter had been fingerprinted when he applied for a position with a shipbuilding firm. His ad-

dress was given. A name-file search yielded information concerning the foster sister.

The above was forwarded to the woman on September 23, 1948.

On September 26, 1948, a letter was received indicating deep appreciation and advising that as a result of the information furnished, her father had been located.

### **ACCIDENT VICTIM IDENTIFIED**

The fingerprints of an unknown white man, found crushed to death in a carload of pipe which had been shipped to Norfolk, Va., from Birmingham, Ala., were forwarded to the FBI's Identification Division by Norfolk police authorities.

The fingerprints were searched through the files where they were identified with those of a man who, under numerous aliases, had acquired a record of arrests for petty crimes in a number of States.



# San Diego's Road-Block System

by A. E. JANSEN, *Chief of Police, San Diego, Calif.*

The police department of this city inaugurated a road-block system which has been in effect for approximately a year. It was instituted for the purpose of enabling officers to apprehend perpetrators of major crimes who either might be escaping from the city or who might be en route into the city from adjacent territories.

San Diego has an area in excess of 98 square miles. Four major highways and a number of secondary roads added to making a complete blockade a difficult problem. The difficulties were overcome, however, equipment was secured and the routine perfected.

Due to the amount of police equipment which is taken out of service to man the posts, a blockade can be used only in cases of very serious crimes. It is the responsibility of the commanding officers on duty to determine whether or not the occasion demands that it be put to use. Factors entering into the decision are: Time which has elapsed since the commission of the crime; a good description of the criminals; use or possible use of a get-away car; other related information.

The road-block system was put into operation as follows:

Certain points along arterial roads and highways leading into and out of the city were designated as blockade posts. Road-block equipment is maintained permanently in boxes at each of these posts (fig. 1).



Figure 1.

According to the geographical need of the city, 11 main blockade posts were designated. Divisions were labeled "north area," "south area," and "east area," the city being bounded on the west by the ocean. All, or any area of the blockade, may be activated within a matter of minutes. Constant radio communication is maintained with all units. In the event a blockade post is not covered immediately after being activated, alternate units are dispatched. Plain-clothes details are assigned separately, according to need, to cover all transportation depots and airports. The San Diego County sheriff's office and law enforcement agencies of bordering communities also cooperate in the plan to give greater coverage in the outlying districts, should the criminals have time to leave the city before the blockades can be set up.

The 11 blockade posts were selected to allow vehicles to enter them from gradual curves without forewarning. Observation posts were selected within the same areas as the road blocks, selecting a point that will allow observation and immediate pursuit without being conspicuous.

Under this system a complete or partial road block may be activated, or it may be used merely as an observation post. Traffic may be stopped, slowed down, or may proceed as usual.

Road-block posts are operated with no less than two officers and the plan is flexible enough to allow special-detail units to be assigned to any post needing additional coverage or equipment not regularly maintained at the post. The type of crime and the person or persons committing the crime would determine the need for additional equipment and men.

Activation of the blockade is simple. A radio code is used. This designates the portion of the system which is to be activated (all posts, or north, south, or east area), the manner in which it is to be operated (stop traffic or observation only), and the lane of travel it is to be operated in leaving city or entering city lanes.

Certain police units are designated to operate the system. Upon receipt of the code they proceed immediately to their designated location, adopting the procedure of road block described in the radio code. Each officer is required to familiarize himself with his duties in regard to





*Method for setting up equipment and stopping traffic on four-lane highway.*

any plan of action which may be put into effect in order that he may operate any post or patrol any additional territory, depending upon his particular assignment at the time the blockade is activated.

Under daytime test conditions the full road block system of stopping traffic at all posts may be activated within a matter of minutes, some posts being in operation in 3 minutes. Inasmuch as the units assigned to the blockade points are operating on beats adjacent to the posts, the location of the patrol car on its beat at the time the radio broadcast is made determines the running time to the post.

The complete road block system plans are included in the department rules and regulations and provide for unit assignments to blockade posts and beats, methods of operating the road blocks under the various circumstances and types of roads, and prescribe the duties of all officers in-

volved either directly or indirectly in the operation of the plans. To place the full plan in operation requires the immediate services of 11 two-man patrol cars, with subsequent assignment of additional officers as required.

Boxes containing the equipment are regularly inspected by beat patrol units. All boxes can be opened by a key carried by every officer, and these keys also open Gamewell call boxes.

Surprise tests are made of the blockade plan.

The system has been used successfully on one occasion since it was placed in operation. At that time it resulted in the apprehension of two bandits who had held up hotels in Long Beach, then committed two similar robberies in San Diego and fled north in an automobile.

It is not often that the blockade of a city is necessary but when such need does arise, the well-prepared department will meet the emergency with an efficient and well-organized plan of action.



*Method used in setting up equipment and stopping traffic on a two lane road.*





# ***Police Records Systems***

## ***Miscellaneous Records—Cont'd.***

### ***Administrative Files***

The manner in which records concerning police department equipment such as automobiles, motorcycles, speedboats, etc., should be filed, is important.

It may be well for a department to consider establishing a file folder for each piece of major equipment such as automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles. Smaller items of police department property—firearms, uniforms, etc.—may be contained in one administrative file on "Inventory matters." One file folder should be provided for each piece of rolling equipment. This should provide a historical record from the time the vehicle was purchased until it was disposed of.

A summary record of the monthly totals in the amount of gas, oil, and tires consumed, repairs, parts, etc., should be maintained in each file folder.

The file folders may be filed in straight numerical order if each piece of rolling stock is given a number. During the course of a month, copies of requisitions for repairs, gas and oil tickets, and other similar material may be placed in the individual administrative file folders in addition to the summary cards.

### ***Warrants***

Many law-enforcement agencies are confronted with the problems of filing warrants and of following up on warrants to insure that they are properly handled.

One solution is to furnish all warrants issued to the central records bureau of the department. There a complaint report or memorandum should be prepared on each warrant, the warrant being assigned the corresponding complaint report number. The original complaint reports may be filed in straight numerical order while the carbon copy may be filed in a separate place under "Warrants issued."

For each warrant issued, a 3- by 5-inch card should be prepared under the name of the subject, or subjects, mentioned in the warrant. These 3- by 5-inch index cards should be filed in the master name index of the department. If the department follows the practice of indexing wanted persons and suspects on index cards of a distinctive color, the same procedure should apply to persons mentioned in warrants. If index cards pertaining to wanted persons are tabbed with a metal tab, then those index cards pertaining to persons mentioned in warrants should also be tabbed with a metal tab.

When a warrant is served, or the suspect is picked up and arrested, the wanted tabs or colored cards, whichever may be used, should be removed from the index. If colored cards are used, a white card should be made up and inserted in the index because the person is no longer wanted. The colored card may then be discarded. The value of having index cards for wanted persons and suspects filed in the master name index is obvious—any time another index card is prepared and placed in the master name index, there is an automatic check against wanted persons.

All warrants may be filed in skip number numerical order by complaint number. The numerical sequence will have skips because some warrants will be served and others will be returned to the jurisdictions in which the warrant originated. The index cards will refer to the warrant numbers and the warrants may therefore be located with a minimum of effort.

If the department handles a large volume of warrants, an extra index card may be prepared for filing behind the officer's name to whom the warrant is assigned for service.

After an attempt has been made to serve a warrant and a reasonable time has elapsed, the warrant should be turned in by the police officer. The index card behind the officer's name to whom the warrant was assigned should then be withdrawn and filed behind a special section of the file for "Warrants outstanding." These index cards may be filed in the tickler or follow-up file so that an



attempt can be made to locate the individual named in the warrant at least once every 30 days.

Each warrant should be entered in an inexpensive bound book, in numerical order, by warrant number. The book should contain columns for the date received, date assigned, and date served or canceled. A glance at the last column will indicate to the administrative officers all warrants which are pending and outstanding.

### **Property Records**

The handling of property in a police department is an item of paramount importance. One of the primary functions of a police department is the recovery of stolen property and the subsequent return of the property to the lawful owners. This also applies to property which is found.

The matter of handling prisoners' property was discussed in the articles on "Arrest and identification records" in previous issues of this bulletin. Hence, this discussion will be limited to property which is found or recovered, including unidentified property and evidence.

There are several methods which may be followed in keeping property records. Any one of them can be successful. One of the methods used by many departments is being outlined here. Departments which have no system, and those desiring to change the system in use, may consider the following:

A bound, ledger-type book may be used as a chronological record of all property taken into police custody. Each page may be marked off in columns. The first column should be reserved for the property number, the second for the type of property, the third to show how the property came into the possession of the police department, such as "Found," "Recovered," "Evidence," etc. Another column may be reserved for the name and badge number or rank, or address of the person turning the property into the police department and a fifth column for the investigative or case file number. The last two columns should be reserved for the signature of the person receiving the property when it is released from police custody and the date of the release. When these two columns are not filled in, it is an automatic indication that the property is still in the custody of the police department.

In addition to the property ledger, the department should have a property tag and index card. The tags and the cards should be designed so that

Complainant	No. 53512
Address	Date
Where Recovered	Time
Property Recovered	
Recovered by	Date
Turned over to	Time

Complainant	No. 53512
Address	Date
Where Recovered	Time
Property Recovered	
Recovered by	Date
Turned over to	Time

**Figure 2.**

identical information concerning the property is recorded on each. A sample of such a property tag and index card is illustrated in figure 2.

The tag is attached to the property.

If the complainant is known, the index card is filed according to the name of the victim or complainant. This applies particularly to those cases where the property is evidence. When the owner of the property is not known, the index card should be filed according to the type of property.

If the property is maintained by the central records bureau, these index cards may be filed in the unnumbered section of the stolen property file according to the description of the article. If the property room is somewhat removed from the central records bureau, these index cards should be filed in the property room in a type of property file.

In every instance the property number assigned to the property should be recorded on the officer's investigative report or supplementary report which recites the circumstances surrounding the finding or recovery of the property. In addition, the investigative file number should be recorded on the property cards and in the property ledger. Whenever property is released to a lawful owner, he should be required to sign a receipt (either on



the offense report or on a separate form) which will become a permanent part of the file.

### **Found Property**

A considerable amount of unidentified property is found by police officers and citizens and turned in to the police department. Each piece of property should be made a matter of record in the same manner as any complaint. For example, in one police department when a bicycle is reported stolen a complaint report is prepared in duplicate with the original being filed numerically and the duplicate being furnished to the detective bureau. A preliminary offense report setting forth complete details of the theft is prepared by the investigating officer. The original is filed in numerical order with other offense reports. The owner's name is indexed and the bicycle is indexed in the stolen property index. On the other hand, when a bicycle is found and turned in to headquarters a similar procedure is followed. A complaint report is prepared and numbered in the same fashion as in the case of the stolen bicycle. The original is filed numerically. The duplicate is sent to the detective bureau for its information. An offense report is prepared setting forth the circumstances surrounding the finding of the bicycle. This is filed with the other offense reports—numerically. Of course, this applies only if the bicycle cannot be identified with a previously reported theft.

The bicycle would be tagged with a property tag, an entry would be made in the stolen property ledger, and the index card would be filed in the unnumbered section of the stolen property file under "Bicycles."

To extend and complete a records system a separate index card should be prepared for filing in the numbered section of the stolen property file. The property number would be recorded on the offense report and the offense report number would be recorded in the property ledger and also on the property cards.

### **Recovered Property**

In most instances in which property is recovered, the department will have an investigation file on the case. If this is so, a supplementary report should be prepared setting forth the circumstances surrounding the recovery of the property or evidence. From this point on the handling of the property is the same as the handling of found property recited above.

It is well for a department to arrange to have bins constructed in a property room. These should be designed so they will accommodate almost all types of property found or recovered. Each bin should be numbered so the number may be recorded in the property ledger, on the offense report, and on the property index card.

### **Teletypes**

The handling and filing of incoming teletypes is most important. The handling of outgoing teletypes does not present a problem as in every instance the department should have an investigative file upon which the teletype was predicated and the original should be filed with the case file.

Incoming teletypes requesting police service should be made the subject of a written record in the same manner as a complaint or crime being reported to the department.

For example, department A receives a teletype from department B requesting an investigation be conducted with the aim in view of locating a fugitive from city B. City A should handle the teletype in the same manner as if a complaint were received. The teletype should be made the subject of an investigation, being numbered in the same manner as a complaint or investigation. The teletype may be attached to, and filed with, the police department's copy of the offense report prepared for the neighboring department.

The original incoming teletypes of an informative nature and carbon copies of the teletypes filed with the case file should be filed in straight numerical order. The carbon copy of all informative teletypes may be filed either by agency or by type of crime. Some departments prefer to file the teletypes by agency, due to the fact that reference is often made to a particular teletype by number and by agency. Other departments prefer to file the copy by type of crime due to the fact that the offense is almost always mentioned in any subsequent or supplemental teletypes and this method of filing facilitates the searching for these types of teletypes.

Periodically, the teletypes should be weeded out, old teletypes being placed in storage or destroyed so the teletypes in file will be maintained in a current and up-to-date status.

*(Police Records will be continued in a subsequent issue of the Bulletin.)*



## Wanted Notices

In order that the Federal Bureau of Investigation's policy regarding the placing of stop notices in the files of the Identification Division will be familiar to all law enforcement, it is set out below:

1. A wanted notice will be placed in the Identification Division files only upon receipt of a specific request. It is requested that this Bureau's form I-12 be used when possible. These forms are available upon written request to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.

2. A wanted notice will be placed in the FBI fingerprint files only when a positive identification is made. A positive identification is considered only when one or more of the following circumstances exist:

- a. Fingerprints are submitted.
- b. Name and local registry, arrest, alien or service number on a fingerprint card in the FBI files is submitted.
- c. Name and FBI number submitted.

I-12

City Central City, U.S.A. (11-26-48)  
Date March 15, 1949

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please post a (X)WANTED ( ) CANCELLATION notice against the record in your files of the following described individual:

Name John Allen Watson	FBI Number 12345
Aliases John Allen	City, Police Arrest or Other Number 635-A
John Alden	Fingerprint Classification 18 L 1 U 000 17
	Name Department forwarding Rural City, U.S.A.
	Date card forward Jan. 15, 1946

Offense for which wanted Burglary

If for ESCAPE give date held.

and offense for which being

Name and address of parties to be notified of apprehension

John A. Dillon, Chief of Police  
Central City, U.S.A.

---

DESCRIPTIVE DATA AS OUTLINED BELOW SHOULD BE SUPPLIED ONLY WHEN NOT FURNISHED PREVIOUSLY OR MATERIAL CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED THEREIN

Sex Male	Color White	Date of birth	Place of birth
Height 5-10½	Weight 160	5-25-20	Little Rock, Ark.
Eyes Blue	Complexion Ruddy	Build Medium	Hair Brown, wavy
Scars, marks, and peculiarities		Mustache or beard	parts on left
Appendectomy		None	
Tattoo right forearm - heart with "L.S."			

Residence Unknown  
Nationality American

Occupation Truck driver  
Marital Status Unknown

IF FINGERPRINTS HAVE NOT BEEN FORWARDED TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PLEASE DO SO HEREWITH





# Defensive Tactics<sup>1</sup>

## 4. Straight-in Thrust

### (a) Grasp and wrist throw

**SITUATION:** Opponent attacks with a knife, attempting a straight-in thrust.

**ACTION:** Grasp opponent's wrist with your left hand, thumb down, and at the same time twist your body toward your right (fig. 156). (An alternate maneuver is to parry the thrust with your forearm and then immediately grasp his wrist (fig. 157). Grasp his hand quickly with your left hand (fig. 158), and bring him under control with a "wrist throw." (See G-1 for detailed explanation.)

### (b) Grasp and step across body

**SITUATION:** Same as 4 (a).

**ACTION:** Grasp opponent's wrist with your left hand, thumb down, and at the same time twist your body toward your right. (See fig. 156.) Immediately grasp the back of opponent's hand, near the wrist, with your left hand, thumb up, as you step across the front of his body with your left foot, executing the technique described fully in H-1 (b). (See fig. 151.)

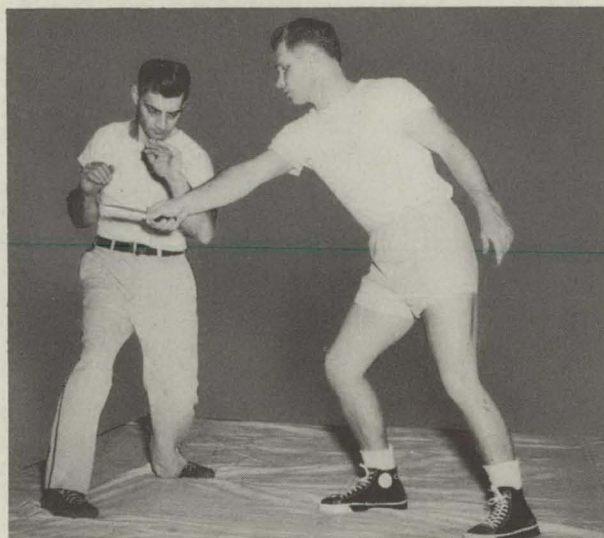


Figure 157.



Figure 158.

<sup>1</sup> This is the fourteenth in a series of articles which will be continued in a subsequent issue. In studying the various methods employed you should constantly refer to the January 1948 Bulletin which sets forth general instructions and safety precautions.

(Defensive tactics will be continued in an ensuing issue of the Law Enforcement Bulletin.)



Figure 156.



# CRIME PREVENTION

In January 1948, several boys of Coloma, Mich., wrote a letter. It was addressed to Erwin H. Kubath, St. Joseph, Mich., the sheriff of Berrien County, and it contained a suggestion that the latter form a boys' group of Junior Deputies.

Sheriff Kubath acted on the suggestion. By May 1948, the organization was well under way.

Membership in the Berrien County Junior Deputies skyrocketed, although it was open only to boys between the ages of 9 and 15, inclusive.

Sheriff Kubath obtained six-pointed stars, each bearing a number and the wording "Junior Deputy." As each member was enrolled he received a star, a commission card and a set of rules, regulations, and instructions. The latter read as follows:

1. The primary purpose of maintaining a Junior Deputy Organization of Berrien County shall be to preserve the peace, protect life and property, prevent the commission of crime, to build character and promote good fellowship.

2. It shall be the duty of all members of the Division of Junior Deputies to promote good conduct, good sportsmanship, traffic safety, and good morals in their community.

3. Members of the Division of Junior Deputies shall be subject to call at any time to aid or assist any member of the Berrien County Sheriff Department in any way that he sees fit.

4. Upon the zeal, activity, good judgment, and good conduct of each member will depend the success of the Division of Junior Deputies.

5. You have been appointed and have assumed the responsibility of an office; do not forget your character is your capital. Deal honestly with all persons and hold your word sacred no matter where, when, or to whom given. Make yourself useful and aid all citizens in their lawful pursuits and trying at all times to merit the good will of all citizens.

6. Be prompt and courteous at all times, and endeavor to make yourself a leader in your community.

7. Members shall be subject to dismissal for any violation of the following rules:

- (a) Willful disobedience of any order issued to him by any superior officer in the Division of Junior Deputies.

- (b) For wilfully neglecting to attend regular meetings.

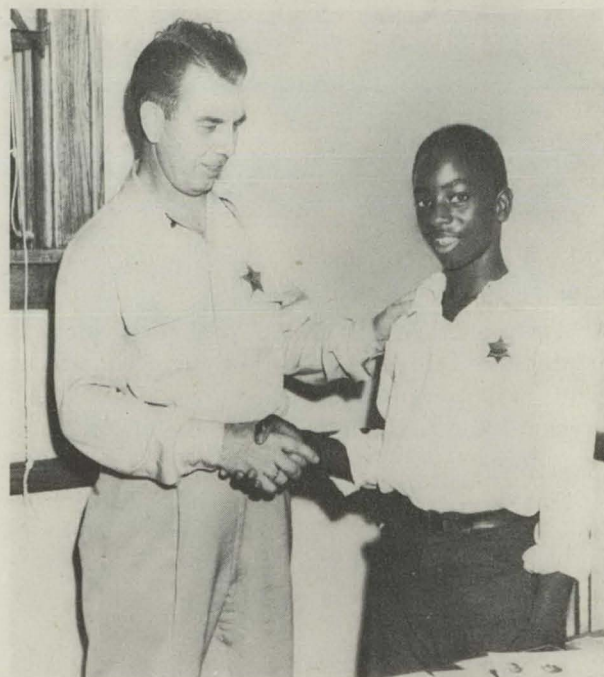
- (c) For persistent truancy from home or school.

- (d) For conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

- (e) For conduct tending to cause disorder in the Division of Junior Deputies.

## Berrien County

### Junior Deputies



*Sheriff Kubath Congratulates Walter Fox, Jr.*

8. All members of the Division of Junior Deputies will be required to keep their persons, uniform, and equipment in a strictly neat condition and in perfect order and repair.

9. All members of the Division of Junior Deputies when attending meetings or on duty shall wear a full uniform and shall wear the official badge on the outside of the outermost garment over the left breast.

10. All members of the Division of Junior Deputies will be furnished with a copy of the rules, regulations, and instructions and shall make themselves perfectly familiar with its contents.

11. Respect to superior officers, courtesy and fair play is absolutely necessary to the discipline and the efficiency of the Division of Junior Deputies and must be maintained at all times.

12. Every officer or patrolman shall, on meeting or approaching one of higher rank in authority than himself, promptly offer the customary salute which in all cases must be immediately and respectfully returned. The salute shall consist in raising the hand to visor of the cap, the elbow to be raised as high as the shoulder. On entering the office of the officer in charge any member shall stand at attention, remove his hat, and request to be heard.

13. Any complaints by any member of the Division of Junior Deputies, or any charge against any member placed by a superior officer shall be presented in writing to the officer in charge of your headquarters. The full name, rank, and badge shall accompany such reports.



14. Any member of the Division of Junior Deputies upon dismissal or resignation from the Division will immediately turn over to the officer in charge all equipment issued to him by the Division of Junior Deputies.

15. No member at any time shall wear his uniform or any part of his uniform except at regular stated meetings or except when he is called out on a special meeting or special assignment.

There are presently 2,500 youth in the organization and 400 more are waiting eagerly to be enrolled.

Following completion of enrollment of the first 2,500, the entire group met at Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, on September 2, 1948. Merchants and business and professional men in the twin cities assisted Sheriff Kubath in giving the boys a party. Badges were presented to those who had suggested the organization, a program of movies was shown, and at lunch time the entire group enjoyed a picnic at Kiwanis Park in St. Joseph, Mich.

Organization of the Berrien County Junior Deputies is not yet complete, but plans are under way to organize the boys by schools into groups. Each group will contain 25 boys who will select from their body a captain, lieutenant, and sergeant, which officers will be responsible directly to the sheriff.

Plans are under way to institute athletic and recreational programs for each group, and in instances where the schools do not have the necessary equipment, it will be furnished to the groups by the sheriff with the cooperation of the various civic luncheon clubs in the county. Intergroup competition is planned for the future.

In rural areas of the county safety patrols are being organized from the membership of the Junior Deputies at each school. The American Automobile Association is outfitting these safety patrols with raincoats, hats, and white Sam Browne belts.

Each group will hold its own meetings. Sheriff Kubath is arranging a schedule which will permit him to attend group meetings from time to time. In addition, regular meetings of all officers and the sheriff will be held. Plans are under way for publishing a monthly paper which will be sent to each member.

Sheriff Kubath advised that the chief purpose of the organization is to curb juvenile delinquency by example on the part of the members, and through advice given by them to other young boys. Of course, no member has the power of arrest. On occasions of parades and other gatherings,

BERRIEN COUNTY	
JUNIOR	★ DEPUTY
THIS CERTIFIES THAT	
_____	
AGE _____	IS A _____ OF THE
BERRIEN COUNTY JUNIOR DEPUTY	
AND SHALL BE ACCEPTED AS SUCH BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE	
BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	
BADGE NO. _____	ERWIN H. KUBATH, SHERIFF

*Junior Deputy's Certificate.*

the Junior Police will be used in handling crowds. On Halloween they will patrol their neighborhoods to prevent vandalism.

Young as the organization is, its history reflects some very interesting facts.

On August 21, 1948, Walter Fox, Jr., an 11-year-old member of the Junior Deputies, went to the post office at Niles, Mich., to check through the file of wanted notices appearing on the bulletin board. He noted a face which looked familiar even though the name, Edward Carl Haymon, was unknown. He read the information on the identification order. Haymon was wanted by the FBI for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, robbery, violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, and Selective Service.

The 11-year-old was sure that the photograph of Haymon was that of a man he had seen on several occasions in Benton Harbor, Mich., while he had been visiting there with his father. He immediately furnished this information to the Niles Police Department which in turn promptly communicated it to the Benton Harbor Police Department. As a result, Edward Carl Haymon was apprehended at Benton Harbor, Mich., on the day the Junior Deputy saw his photograph in the post office.

In another instance a 12-year-old Junior Policeman residing near Benton Harbor was riding his bicycle into town when he observed five small boys hiding behind some bushes. Their actions were so unusual that the Junior Deputy decided to surveil the group. A car passed within a few moments. The hidden quintet, armed with sling shots, emerged and fired stones at the automobile. The Junior Deputy promptly approached and threatened to take the boys to the sheriff's office, but on their promise not to engage in such activity again, he let them go after collecting seven sling shots which he turned over to the sheriff.



In still a third instance, action on the part of Junior Deputies enabled the trains to move. A particular type of wrench used by railroad section hands to open and close a railroad bridge across the St. Joseph River between St. Joseph and Benton Harbor disappeared. The bridge was in an open position. Without the wrench it was impossible to permit the passage of trains over the bridge.

Authorities felt certain that young boys were probably responsible for the loss. They enlisted the aid of Junior Deputies in the area and as a result of inquiries made by the group, the identity of the culprits was established and the wrench was located and returned.

The spirit of the new organization has been manifested in numerous ways throughout Berrien County.

## **Good Conduct Pays Off in Ilion, N. Y.**

The youngsters of Ilion, N. Y., have learned that good behavior pays off. On Saturday, June 19, 1948, Ilion's Police Benevolent Association conducted a field day for 600 boys and girls. According to reports in the daily papers, the policemen gave the kids "the best time in our lives."

Police Chief Clifton Sitts, a graduate of the FBI National Academy, stated that the party was the policemen's way of expressing appreciation to the children. Ilion has been free of complaints about juvenile delinquency.

The field day program opened with a parade of the national colors with a Boy Scout guard, the singing of "America" and the pledge to the flag. Ilion's Mayor, Y. L. Power, was on hand to pitch the first ball to batsman, Chief Sitts. As the local townspeople looked on, the boys and girls, representing all the grammar schools in the vicinity, performed in baseball, kickball, and racing events. More than 100 participated in a bubble blowing contest.

Prizes were awarded to first and second place winners in the foot races—a pass to the local theater, and a soda ticket. Free ice cream was passed to all the youngsters.

So successful was the party that plans were immediately laid to make the event an annual affair in Ilion, providing that the town's youth continue their record. A great deal has been written about



*Tickets for sodas and the movies were the prizes and above is Chief Clifton Sitts "paying off."*

juvenile delinquency and the ways and means to prevent it. The police of Ilion have found one way.

★ ★ ★

## **Bike Riders Cooperate**

Of the 7,000 school children in Bloomfield, N. J., approximately one-half ride bicycles. In a city with a population of 45,000 such a situation constitutes a hazard to both the riders and the public.

Captain Philip Ohlson and Patrolman Charles Giessen of the Bloomfield Police Department became increasingly aware of the number of bicycle violations and the large number of accidents which were occurring in the community. These two officers decided that it would be beneficial to adopt measures which would not only cut down infractions of bicycle regulations and accidents, but also teach children respect for law and develop in them an understanding of the inherent danger in the improper and illegal handling of a bicycle. It was also realized that such a process of education would be extremely helpful in developing the proper habits and attitudes of the young people who would be tomorrow's automobile drivers.

The idea of these two interested members of the Bloomfield Police Department became a reality. On October 27, 1947, a bicycle court held its first session.

The court is administered exclusively by the school age children of Bloomfield.

The city of Bloomfield is broken down into five school zones, each zone having approximately three schools. A list of 10 names selected from the entire student body is submitted to Patrolman Giessen on October 1 of each year. The selected



# NOTICE N<sup>o</sup> 707

Name of Pupil .....

Address .....

You are hereby notified to appear before the  
.....School Bicycle Court, Bloomfield,  
N. J., to answer charges as indicated on the back  
of this notice.

On.....at 3:30 P. M.

.....  
Officer

# NOTICE N<sup>o</sup> 707

Name of Pupil .....

Address .....

Date of Violation .....

Location of Violation .....

Violation .....

.....  
Officer

group is then assembled for one or more meetings and is given instructions in the types of violations they will review, court procedure, and other items involving safety. Local judges and practicing attorneys have been extremely helpful in lecturing to these meetings. Of the lists submitted by the various schools a court of five jurors and one judge is selected to serve in each school zone.

Court sessions are held after school hours and all violators are permitted to plead and produce witnesses in their behalf. Under no circumstances does an officer of the Police Department appear to testify, including the officer who gave the individual his citation. Officer Giessen appears at all hearings but acts only in an advisory capacity.

Mr. or Mrs. ....

This will serve to notify you that your son-daughter  
..... was served notice by  
Officer ..... that on ....., 19 ..  
did on .....  
in violation of the State Bicycle Laws .....

You are hereby invited to attend the hearing on the  
above case at ..... School on .....,  
19 ..... at 3:30 p.m.

John J. Whelan  
Chief of Police  
Bloomfield, N. J.

Per .....

The following violations are considered sufficiently serious for the issuance of a "notice" for an individual to appear before the court.

1. Lack of or inadequate lighting on a bicycle operated after dark.
2. Bicycle not equipped with an audible signal.
3. Improper position of hands or feet on the bicycle and carrying another person.
4. Riding on the sidewalk.
5. "Hitching on" to a moving vehicle.

"Notices" which in no way are considered as a summons are carried by each member of the police department. When the violator is given a "notice" it is torn in two sections (see illustration), one half being given to Patrolman Giessen and the other half to the violator. Approximately 1 or 2 weeks before the date set for the trial a penny post card (see illustration) is mailed to the parents of the violator notifying them that their child has been given a notice to appear in court and inviting the parents to attend the hearing.

The following sentences are imposed by the court:

1. On first offense, the violator is requested to write a 500 to 1,000 word essay on bicycle safety.
2. On second offense, the violator is given a one or two hour safety instruction course by a police officer and the violator must then write an essay on what he has assimilated during the instructions. (The violator actually accompanies the police officer to his traffic post and is given on the spot instructions regarding the dangers that might arise from illegal or improper use of a bicycle.)
3. On the third offense, the violator is deprived of the use of his or her bicycle for 1 week extending to 1 month.

Patrolman Giessen reports that since the court has been in session the ratio of bicycle violations has been decreased from five to one. For every five violations tried when the court was first established, there is now one. He also reported that the cooperation of the parents has been almost 100 percent and that about 85 percent appear at the hearings.



# WANTED BY THE FBI

## RICHARD ALDEN JEVONS,

*with aliases: Richard Alden, Richard Aldin, Richard Alton, Richard Ellis, Bertrand Sidney Jevons, Richard A. Jevons, Richard Alten Jevons, Ed Johnson, Edgar Johnson, Eugene Johnson, Charles Lewis Lane, Jr., Earl Puckett, J. E. Puckett, Bill Williams, "Dick," "Mustache," "Plunkett."*

### SELECTIVE SERVICE

Richard Alden Jevons, a registrant with a Washington, D. C., draft board, was reported delinquent when he failed to report for induction on November 6, 1944. He was apprehended by the FBI on November 14, 1944, and released on a \$1,000 bond which he forfeited.

After an extensive investigation Jevons was again apprehended, this time on April 20, 1945, in Washington, D. C. He promptly forfeited a \$2,000 cash bond and disappeared. Efforts to apprehend him have been unsuccessful.

Jevons has practiced law in the District of Columbia and at one time was employed as a radio engineer for a local station. His principal occupation has been running liquor from Washington, D. C., to Virginia and North Carolina.

The subject allegedly stated that men are "suckers" to go into the Army and boasted that he was "too smart to get hooked," and asserted that anyone was a fool to fight in any Army if he could stay home and get rich.

Since Jevons' failure to appear for arraignment on June 15, 1945, he has been arrested in Charlotte and Wilmington, N. C., on local charges. In each case he forfeited bond.

The subject has a total disregard for law and order. At the time of his last arrest he was in possession of license plates from six States. Notoriously fond of women, Jevons constantly attempts to pick up girls on the street at which times he often flashes a huge roll of money. He is extremely close with money and while steadily on the move stays at tourist courts and cheap hotels. He frequently carries as much as \$30,000 in cash on his person.

Jevons is known to possess two revolvers which he is believed to carry in his car. He has been arrested for larceny of an auto, assault and battery and for liquor violations. In view of the fact that he is armed he is considered dangerous.



*Richard Alden Jevons.*

An indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Washington, D. C., on June 4, 1945 charging Richard Alden Jevons with a violation of section 311, title 50, U. S. Code, in that he failed to advise Local Board No. 21, Washington, D. C., of his change of employment and failed to report for physical examination and induction.

Richard Alden Jevons is described as follows:

Age—40; Born—October 1, 1908, Newark, N. J.; Height—5 feet 11 inches; Weight—210 lbs.; Build—heavy; Eyes—brown; Hair—gray, short-clipped; Complexion—ruddy; Race—white; Nationality—American; Occupations—lawyer, radio engineer, telephone engineer, bootlegger; Scars and marks—small lump and scar on right cheek near right outer corner of mouth; Characteristics—wears large gold ring with green birthstone, occasionally wears rimless glasses, may wear mustache.

Any person having information which may assist in locating Richard Alden Jevons is requested to immediately notify the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation office which is nearest your city.

### Who?

The Department of Public Safety, Boston, Mass., is seeking any information which may lead to the identification of a white man who was drowned in Lake Masscupic, Dracut, Mass., on July 26, 1948.

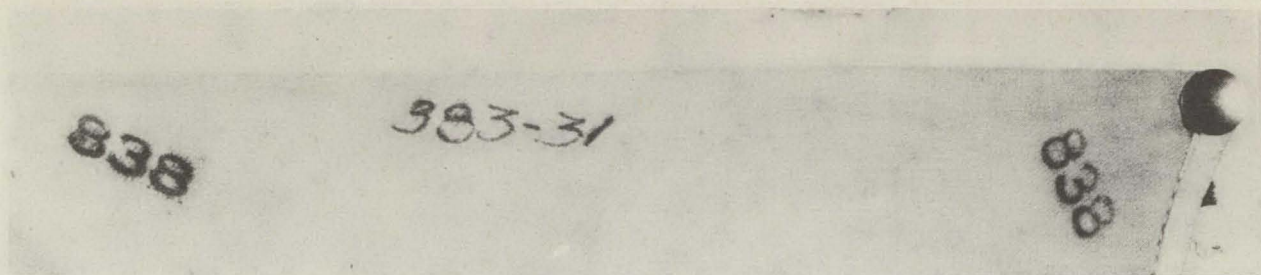
The unknown deceased is described as follows:

Age: About 55 years.

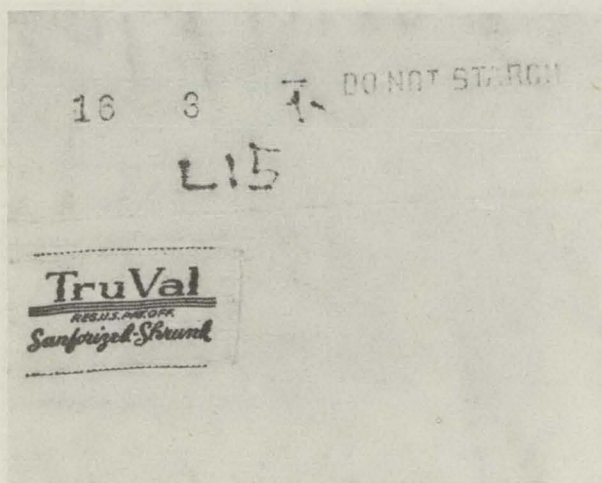
Build: Heavy—possibly 189–190 lbs.

Hair: Thin, brown.





*Cleaning Mark.*



*Laundry Mark.*



*Unknown Dead.*

*Height:* About 5 feet 4 inches.

*Fingerprints:* None available due to condition of hands.

*General appearance:* Large round face with pronounced cleft or dimple in chin; broad shoulders.

*Clothing:* Light brown gabardine trousers. Inside on right front pocket, pen marking by hand "383-31" and also hand-stamped with purple ink, twice, "838," as dry-cleaning marks. White shirt, "TruVal" label, collar size 16, shirt sleeve length 33, laundry mark on collar in ink, by hand, "L15." Brown leather belt, Monarch brand. White handkerchief, laundry mark on hem in

ink, by hand, "L15." Pair of blue and white striped shorts, size 38, with laundry mark in ink, by hand, "L15." Pair of white socks. Pair of low, brown and white sport shoes, had been repaired inside and out both heels. The shoes are size 8.

Any information as to the identity of the deceased should be communicated to Capt. Joseph C. Crescio, Supervisor of Detectives, Department of Public Safety, 1010 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston 15, Mass.



## **Television Technique in Apprehending Fugitives**

It is no easy task to "put the finger" on the fugitive who seeks anonymity among the 146,000,000 individuals who inhabit the United States. A co-operative press and alert public, however, have done much to raise the FBI's, and other agencies, percentage of apprehensions.

Recently, a new weapon has come to the hands of law enforcement. This is television. So new

that it is still in the "idea" class, it nevertheless would appear to have tremendous potentialities in the crime-fighting field. Publicizing fugitives is the initial step in its utilization. Time and experience may yield even more valuable ways in which the new medium can be developed to aid the forces of law and order.





Figure 3.

## IDENTIFICATION

(Continued from page 3)

ditions. Cases of this sort may necessitate cutting off the skin. Legal authority is necessary before cutting a corpse. Such authority may be granted by State law or by an official having authority to grant such a right.

In cases where rigor mortis (stiffening of the muscles) has set in and the fingers are tightly clenched, the fingers may be forcibly straightened by "breaking the rigor." This is done by holding the hand of the deceased firmly with one hand, grasping the finger to be straightened with the four fingers of the other hand and placing the thumb, which is used as a lever, on the knuckle of the finger and forcing it straight (fig. 3). The inking tool and "squares," as previously explained, are then used to secure the fingerprint.

In the event the rigor cannot be completely overcome, it will be most helpful to improvise or secure a spoon-shaped tool for holding the cut squares or cut strips while printing the fingers. This tool, somewhat resembling a gouge without the sharp edge, should have a handle, a concave end, and a frame or clamp to hold the cardboard squares or strips. In figure 4 one type of tool is illustrated. This tool eliminates the necessity of rolling the deceased's finger, since the "square" assumes the concave shape of the tool, and the gentle pressure applied to the inked finger when it is brought in contact with the square results in a "rolled" impression without actually rolling the finger.

Another problem encountered in this second group includes cases in which the tips of the fingers are fairly pliable and intact, yet due to the presence of wrinkles in the skin, complete impressions

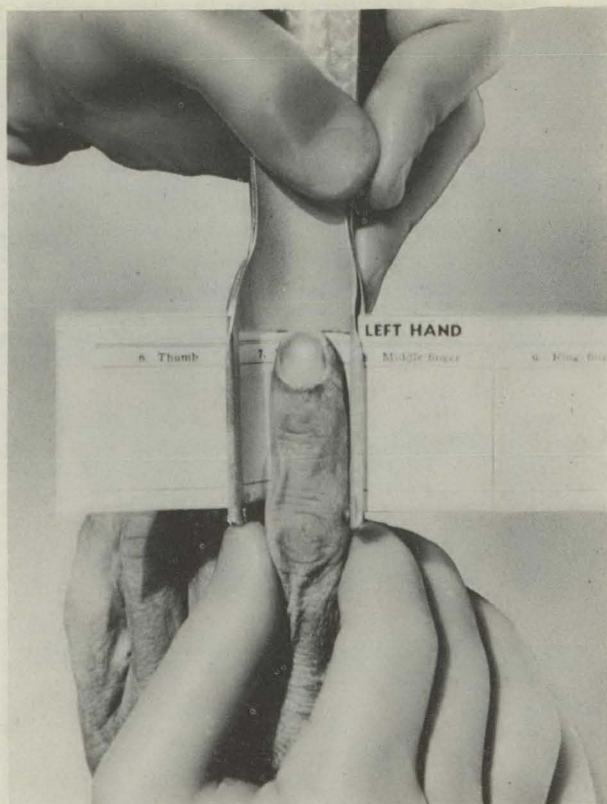


Figure 4.

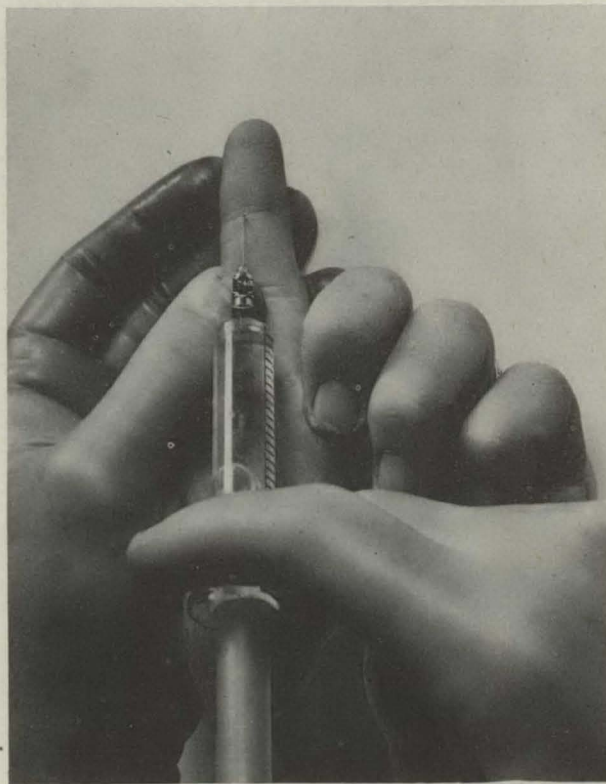
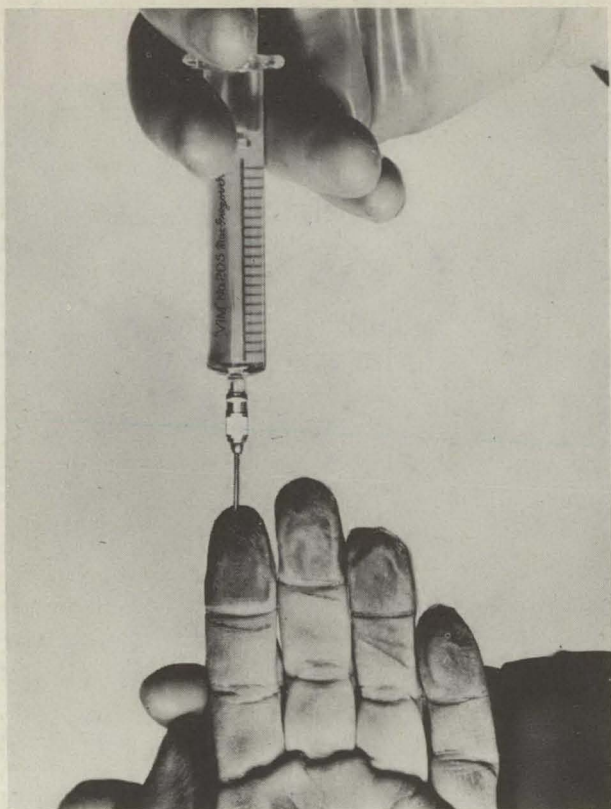


Figure 5.





**Figure 6.**

cannot be obtained. This condition can be corrected by the injection of a tissue builder, procurable from a dealer in undertaker's supplies. If this is not available, glycerin or water may be used.

The method is simple. Injection of the tissue builder, glycerin, or water, is accomplished by the use of a hypodermic syringe. The hypodermic needle is injected at the joint of the finger up into the tip of the finger, care being used to keep the needle below the skin surface (fig. 5). The solution is injected until the finger "bulbs" are rounded out, after which they are inked and printed.

Occasionally, in stubborn cases, entry of the needle at the joint and injection of the fluid will not completely fill the finger bulb. It may be necessary, therefore, to inject the fluid at other points of the finger such as the extreme tip or sides, until suitable results are achieved (fig. 6). The tissue builder has a distinct advantage over glycerin or water, inasmuch as the builder hardens after a short time and is not lost, whereas glycerin and water sometimes seep out when pressure is applied in printing. To offset seepage at the point where the hypo needle was injected, whenever pos-

sible, tie a piece of string tightly around the finger just above the point of entry of the needle.

When the tissue builder is purchased, a solvent for cleaning the hypodermic syringe and needle should be acquired, inasmuch as the builder will harden in the syringe and needle.

Those cases in which decomposition in its early stage is present belong in this group also. Frequently, the outer layer of skin has begun to peel from the fingers. A careful examination should be made to determine if the peeling skin is intact or if a part of it has been lost. If the skin is in one piece an effort should be made to secure prints just as though it were attached normally to the finger. Or, if it is deemed advisable, the skin may be peeled off in one piece, placed over the finger of the operator, and inked and printed as though it were his own finger.

Occasionally the first layer of skin is missing. There remains the dermis or second layer of skin which is also of value for identification purposes. This second layer would be dealt with as though it were the outside skin, using the techniques described above. The ridge detail of the second layer of skin is less pronounced than that of the outer skin, however, and more attention and care is needed in order to obtain suitable impressions.

So far this discussion has dealt with the taking of impressions of fingers when the flesh is fairly firm and the ridge detail intact. A different problem arises when the fingers are in various states of decay. The technique of treating the fingers in such cases varies greatly, depending upon the condition of the fingers with respect to decomposition, desiccation, or maceration.

### ***Difficult Cases***

In cases involving badly decomposed bodies the first thing to do is to examine the fingers to see if all are present. If they are not, an effort should be made to determine whether the missing finger or fingers or even a hand, was amputated during the person's lifetime, or whether the loss was due to other causes such as destruction by animal or marine life. Deductions from this examination should be noted on the fingerprint record. This point is made in view of the fact that in the fingerprint files of the FBI and some police departments the fingerprint cards reflecting amputations are filed separately. Noting amputations may lessen to a great extent a search through the fingerprint files to establish an identification.

In making the initial examination, attention



should be given to the removal of dirt, silt, grease and other foreign matter from the fingers. Soap and water is a good cleaning agent. So is xylene, a chemical which will readily clean grease and fatty matter from the fingers. Good results can be achieved by utilizing a soft-bristled child's toothbrush in cases where the skin is fairly firm. The brushing should be done lightly and the strokes should follow the ridge design in order to clean not only the ridges but the depressions as well. In the event that the skin is not firm enough to use the toothbrush, a cotton swab may be used. The fingers should be wiped very lightly with either soap and water or xylene, always following the ridge contours.

At this point the fingers are again examined to determine the condition they are in, based upon the circumstances in which the body was found. Study and actual experience have shown that there are three general types of conditions to be considered: Decomposition or putrefaction, prevalent in bodies found in brush or buried in earth; desiccation or mummification (that is, dried out), noted in bodies which have been found in the open (ridge detail not in contact with the ground), in dry protected places, or bodies subjected to severe heat or burning; and the group involving maceration (water soaking) which ordinarily results from being immersed in water.

The degree of decomposition, desiccation, or maceration varies from a comparatively early stage to an extremely advanced stage. Accordingly, each case must be considered individually. For example, what is done successfully in one case of desiccation may not show favorable results in another. Hence, the techniques outlined below point out generally what can be done, and has been done, with success.

When a body is found the hands usually will be tightly clenched. The first problem will be to straighten the fingers. If rigor mortis has set in and an effort to straighten the fingers as previously explained fails, the difficulty can be overcome easily. Using a scalpel, make a deep cut at the second joint on the inner side of each of the four fingers. They can now be straightened with the application of force (fig. 7). The thumb, if it is cramped or bent, can generally be straightened by making a deep cut between the thumb and the index finger. These incisions are made for the obvious purpose of examining the fingers to determine if there is any ridge detail. Before this



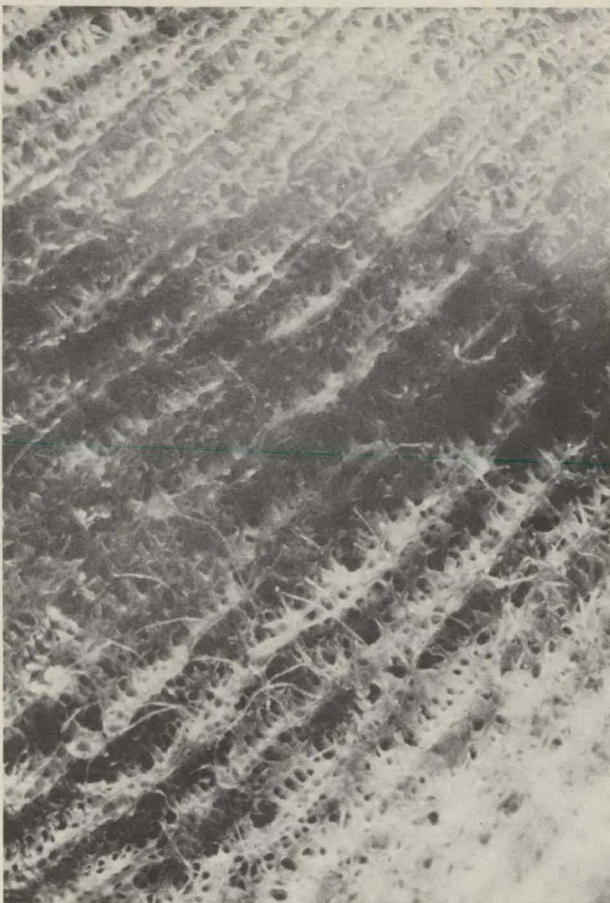
**Figure 7.**

fact can be definitely ascertained it may be necessary to cleanse the pattern areas with soap and water or xylene as previously explained.

### ***Advanced Decomposition***

If the case is one involving decomposition, the operator is confronted with the problem of dealing with flesh which is rotted or putrefied. The flesh may be soft or flabby and very fragile. If this is so, an examination is made of the finger tips to see if the outer skin is present. If the outer skin is present and intact, it may be possible, using extreme care, to ink and print in the regular manner. If the outer skin is present, however, but too soft and fragile to ink and roll in the regular way, yet the ridge detail is discernible, the skin, if it is easily removed from the finger, or the finger itself may be cut off at the second joint and placed in a 10- to 15-percent solution of formaldehyde for approximately an hour to harden it. Skin placed in a formaldehyde solution usually turns a grayish white and becomes firm and pliable. However, it will be brittle and may split if not handled carefully. The skin only is placed in the solution until it hardens sufficiently, after which it is removed and carefully wiped dry with a piece of cloth. Then the skin, placed over the operator's own thumb or index finger and held in place by his other hand, is inked and rolled as though the operator were printing his own finger. If a legible print is not obtainable in this manner the operator should examine the underside of the skin. In many instances, where the ridge detail on the outer surface has been destroyed or is not discernible,

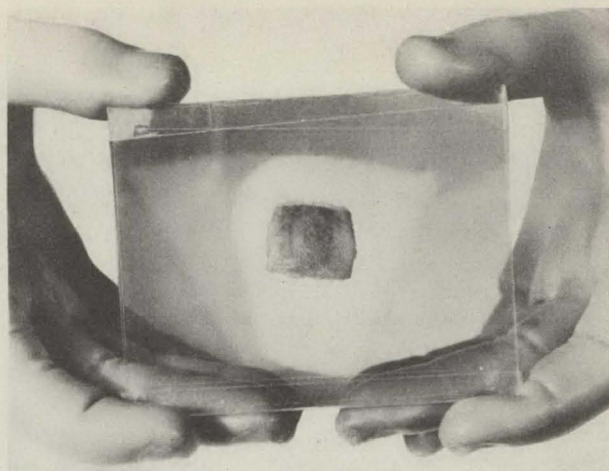




**Figure 8.**

the ridge detail is clearly visible on the underside (fig. 8). If this is the case the skin is inverted (turned inside out) very carefully to prevent splitting or breaking and then is inked and printed in the usual way. It must be borne in mind, however, that when the underside of the skin is printed the resulting impression will be in reverse color and position, that is, the ink is actually adhering to what would be the furrows of the pattern when viewed from the proper or outside. If it is deemed inadvisable to try to invert or turn the skin inside out for fear of damaging it, a photograph of the inner ridge detail is made and the negative is printed to give an "as is" position photograph for proper classification and comparison purposes. In order to secure good photographs of the ridge detail it may be advisable to trim the skin, and flatten it out between two pieces of glass, and photograph it in that position (fig. 9).

When the entire finger is placed in the solution, during the hardening process the skin, in absorbing the formalin solution, may swell and



**Figure 9**

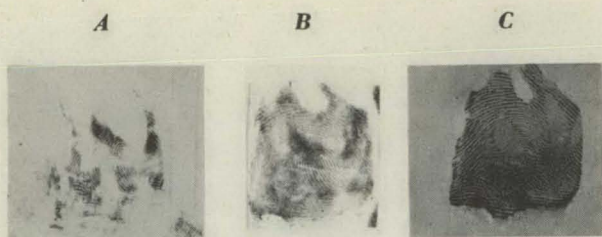
come loose from the finger. Should this occur, the skin must be removed carefully and the procedure outlined above followed. If, however, the skin still adheres to the finger and is not too wrinkled, ink is applied and prints made. Should the skin be too wrinkled to secure a satisfactory impression, consideration is given to the injection of the tissue builder under the skin as previously mentioned, in order to distend the pattern area. If successful, the finger is inked and printed. This of course can be done only when the skin is intact.

Should part of the skin be destroyed to the extent that tissue builder cannot be injected effectively, while examination discloses that the pattern area is present but wrinkled, cut off the entire pattern area from the joint to the tip of the finger (fig. 10). Care must be exercised to insure getting the complete fingerprint pattern as well as cutting deep enough to avoid injury to the skin.



**Figure 10.**





**Figure 11.**—(A) Inked print made from the finger of deceased before treatment; (B) Inked print made after skin was removed and treated; (C) Photograph of ridge detail of skin flattened between two pieces of glass.

After excision, the flesh is carefully and meticulously removed from the inside by scraping, cutting, and trimming until only the skin remains, or until the specimen is so thin it can be flattened out to remove most of the wrinkles. If the skin is fairly pliable, the operator should attempt to place it over one of his own fingers and try several prints. If the prints secured are not suitable, the piece of skin (exert care to avoid breaking or splitting) is flattened out between two pieces of glass and is photographed (fig. 11).

The foregoing outline covers the procedures followed in cases involving decomposition in which the outer skin is still present. In many instances of decomposition the outer skin has been destroyed or is in such a condition as to be of no value. It must be emphasized again that the second layer of skin possesses the same ridge detail as the outer layer and this, though finer and less pronounced, is just as effective for identification purposes.

If, from examination, it is apparent that the outer layer of skin is missing and the second layer is intact, the finger should be cleansed, dried, inked, and printed in the usual manner. If the specimen is wrinkled but pliable it may be possible to inject tissue builder, as previously mentioned, to round out the finger, then ink and print it.

Occasionally, some of the outer skin is still attached but is of no value. This skin should be removed by carefully picking or prying it off with a scalpel in such a manner as not to destroy or injure the ridge detail of the second layer. After the outer fragments have been removed, the second layer is cleaned, inked, and printed. In the event the resultant impressions are not suitable for classification and identification purposes, the most likely reason for it is that the ridge detail is too fine to print even though there are few if any wrinkles in it. If this is the case, the finger should

be cut off at the second joint and photographed. Should wrinkles which cannot be removed by injecting tissue builder, and which also preclude the taking of suitable photographs be present, the pattern area is cut off with a scalpel from the first joint to the tip. The flesh is then cut and scraped out as previously described, until the specimen is thin enough to flatten out between two pieces of glass which may be held together by Scotch tape. The skin is then photographed.

Occasionally, even after the flattening process, it will be noted in the ground glass of the camera that the skin may be seen plainly but the ridge detail is very poor. This difficulty may be due to the poor contrast of the ridges and furrows when using direct lighting. If so, it can be overcome by scraping the skin to transparency and then photographing it by transmitted light (i. e., passing light through the skin). Sometimes, due to the condition of the skin, even though it is tissue-thin it will not be transparent. This can be overcome by soaking the skin in xylene for a few minutes and then photographing it by transmitted light while it is still impregnated with the xylene. If the substance dries too fast to permit proper photographing, the skin should be photographed while immersed in the xylene. (See chapter dealing with photographing of skin.) Of course, after the skin has been photographed the negative should be printed to give a reverse position so that the print will be comparable with inked prints on fingerprint cards.

### ***Desiccation and Charring***

The problem confronting the fingerprint examiner in treating fingers which are desiccated or dried and shriveled is that of distending and softening the skin. Desiccated fingers are generally found to have the outer layer of skin intact and the ridge detail fairly clear. However, due to the shrinking, numerous wrinkles will be present and as the drying process continues the skin and flesh harden until the fingers become almost as hard as stone.

It is sometimes possible to distend or swell the flesh by utilizing a 1- to 3-percent solution of sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide, sometimes referred to as caustic potash. As a matter of caution, this process should be tried with one finger before using it for the remaining fingers. This point of caution is made because of the reaction of the potassium or sodium hydroxide which is actually one of destruction, in that, while there



is an absorption and swelling of the flesh, it is also disintegrating and may be totally destroyed.

The finger to be distended is cut from the hand at the second joint and placed in the hydroxide. When it has resumed its normal size by the absorption of the solution, it is inked and printed. There is no set time for this process. The procedure may require a few hours or as much as several days until suitable results are obtained.

After the finger has been in the solution for about 30 minutes it should be removed and examined in order to note the extent of the swelling and the reaction of the flesh to the solution. If no material change is noted the finger is returned to the solution. A close watch is maintained and the fingers is examined from time to time.

The solution may cause thin layers of skin to peel from the finger. Should this occur, the loose skin is carefully scraped off and the finger rinsed in water for a few minutes. It is then returned to the hydroxide for continuation of the process.

If, during the course of an inspection, it is seen that the flesh is becoming too soft, the finger should be placed in a 1- to 3-percent solution of formaldehyde or alcohol for several minutes in order to harden it.

If, after several hours in the hydroxide, the finger has not reached its normal size, it should be placed in water for an hour or two. This has a tendency to hasten the swelling. When the finger is removed, it will be noted that a film has coated the surface. This coating is carefully scraped off and the finger is replaced in the hydroxide solution for an hour or so, again scraped if coated, soaked in clean water, etc. This process of alternating from solution to water, scraping, and replacing in hydroxide is continued until desirable results are obtained. The finger is then inked and printed.

The above process will so saturate the finger with solution that it may be too wet to print properly. Accordingly, the finger may be dipped into acetone for several seconds, removed and be permitted to dry after which it is inked and printed.

The complete process may take from several hours to as much as 10 days to secure suitable results. If the final results of the above procedure were satisfactory with the one finger which was being tested, the remaining fingers are given the same treatment. Care must be taken to identify each finger properly as to right index, right middle, etc., to avoid any mix-up.

In the event that the reaction of the solution on the first finger treated is not satisfactory and the operator feels that it would be futile to continue the process, the finger should be removed from the solution immediately, washed carefully in water, and placed in formaldehyde to harden sufficiently for it to be handled without causing injury to the ridges. The pattern area is cut off in such a manner that sufficient surrounding surface permits the skin to be trimmed. Then from the cut side the skin is carefully scraped and cut to remove the excess flesh. While the cutting and scraping are being done from time to time the skin should be soaked in xylene and massaged for purposes of softening to remove wrinkles. When the skin is thin enough and sufficiently pliable the operator places the skin on his own finger, inks and prints it in the usual manner.

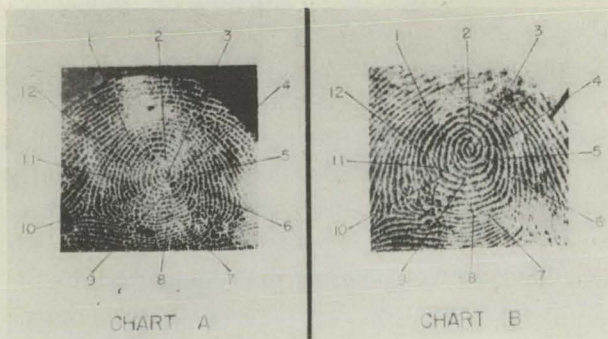
If the results are satisfactory, the same procedure is followed with the remaining fingers. In the event the resultant inked prints are not suitable, the skin should be scraped until it is sufficiently thin to be flattened between two pieces of glass, and photographed.

Here again it is pointed out that, should there be a poor contrast between the ridges and furrows when using direct lighting, the skin is scraped as thin as is possible without tearing and it is then photographed by transmitted light.

There are also included, as cases of desiccation, bodies which have been burned or subjected to severe heat. Often there are cases where the skin has become loose but is hard and crisp, or where the finger has been severely burned and is reduced almost to carbon, yet is firm. In these instances the ridge detail usually has not been destroyed.

When a body which has been severely burned is located, the problems of identification should be anticipated. Accordingly, before the body is removed, a careful examination of the fingers should be made in order to determine if the removal would, in any way, cause damage to the fingers. Should it be felt that because of the condition of the body, removal would cause injury to the ridge detail, securing of fingerprints at the scene, or possibly the cutting off of the hands or fingers to avoid destruction of the skin, should be considered. An examination of the fingers may disclose that the outer skin is hardened and is partially loosened from the flesh. It is sometimes possible, by twisting back and forth, to remove this outer skin intact. If this is done, the operator





**Figure 12.—***Photograph of charts used, in an actual case to establish the identity of a charred body, victim of murder. Chart A shows skin removed from one of the fingers treated and photographed. Chart B shows an inked impression of the same finger during victim's life.*

may place the skin on his own finger, ink and print in the usual way.

If the skin is intact on the finger and is not wrinkled, of course there is no problem and the usual method is employed to secure impressions.

Should wrinkles be present and the skin pliable, tissue builder is injected into the bulbs which are then inked and printed.

In the event the wrinkles cannot be removed in this fashion, the pattern area is cut off and the excess flesh scraped out as before. While the scraping and cutting are being accomplished the skin should be soaked and massaged in xylene to soften. The skin is then placed on the operator's finger, inked and printed. Should prints made in this manner be unsatisfactory, the next recourse is photography.

In some instances the fingers of burned bodies will be charred. Such cases require very careful handling as there is a probability of destroying or disturbing the ridge detail through mistreatment. In these instances the procedure is determined by the degree of charring. In extreme cases the only method of recording is by photographing, using side lighting to secure the proper contrast of ridges and depressions. Obviously, no attempt should be made to ink and roll as the pressure necessary to securing the prints would cause the skin to crumble.

In instances where the charring has not reached the extreme stage the procedures previously set forth should be applied; that is, treatment of the skin by cleaning, softening, inking and printing, or, finally, by photographing (fig. 12).

## **Water-Soaked Fingers**

The third and final type of case which may confront the identification officer concerns the problem of maceration, that is, long immersion of the fingers in water.

One of the cardinal rules for securing legible impressions is that the fingers must be dry. Accordingly, in these cases it becomes a matter of drying the fingers in addition to contending with other difficulties. Usually the skin on the fingers absorbs water, swells and loosens from the flesh within a few hours after immersion.

If an examination discloses the skin to be water-soaked, wrinkled and pliable, but intact, the first step is to cleanse the skin carefully as previously described. Next, wipe the fingertip with alcohol, benzine or acetone, waiting a few seconds for it to dry. The skin is pulled or drawn tight across the pattern area so that a large wrinkle is formed on the back of the finger, then the bulb is inked and printed.

If the skin is broken and hanging loose, but its pattern area is intact, it should be removed from the finger, cleansed and placed in alcohol or benzine (not acetone) for about a minute, then stretched carefully over the operator's finger so as to remove any wrinkles and it may then be printed.

Sometimes the skin is intact on the finger but so wrinkled and hard that it is not possible to draw it tight for inking. In this case it may be advisable to inject tissue builder to round out the bulbs for inking and printing. Should this fail, the ridge detail is photographed on the finger; or the skin is cut off, flattened between two pieces of glass and then photographed. Here, again, it must be pointed out that when the ridge detail does not show on the surface of the outer skin the underside should be examined, for many times the detail can be seen clearly. Should this be true, of course the underside is photographed.

In cases where it is noted that the outer skin is gone and the finger is not saturated with water, it is possible to dry the surface sufficiently for inking and printing purposes by rolling the finger on a blotter. If this fails, the finger is wiped off with a piece of cloth which has been saturated with alcohol, benzine or acetone, after which it may be inked and printed.

In many instances it will be found that the outer skin is gone and the fingers themselves are saturated with water.



A quick method of drying out the fingers is to place them in full strength acetone for approximately thirty minutes. The fingers are then placed in xylene for about an hour or until the xylene has overcome the reaction of the acetone. After removal from the xylene the fingers should be placed on a blotter until the surface of the fingers appears dry. They are then ready to be inked and printed.

It will be noted in this procedure that when the fingers are removed from the acetone they dry and harden in a matter of seconds. The purpose of the xylene is to resoften the fingers. After this treatment, should the resulting inked impressions be unsuitable for classification purposes, the ridge detail should be photographed.

### **X-Ray Photography**

The use of X-ray photographs (radiography) has been advocated by some for purposes of recording the ridge details in decomposed, desiccated, or macerated cases. Briefly, the procedure involves the covering of the fingers with heavy salts, such as bismuth or lead carbonate in a thin, even film over the pattern area and then, by use of the X-ray, reproducing the ridge detail. This procedure necessitates the use of X-ray equipment and a technician skilled in making radiographs. It is, therefore, an expensive operation. The results of the radiograph in no way compensate for the expense, time, and skill required inasmuch as in those cases where many wrinkles and creases appear in the fingers, especially desiccated specimens, the results have been very poor. In instances where there are no wrinkles or only a few, and where the creases are not too deep, the ridge detail is reproduced very well in the radiograph. However, in these cases it is usually possible to secure impressions by inking and rolling in the regular way, or should this fail, ordinary photography will certainly give satisfactory results. For economical and practical purposes the use of the X-ray is not recommended.

### **General Photography**

In the foregoing instances in which it has been impossible to obtain suitable inked impressions it will be noted that the last resort has always been photography. In all probability in advanced cases of decomposition, desiccation, and maceration it may not be possible to secure inked impressions which can be properly classified. Hence it

will be necessary to photograph the ridge detail. Accordingly, there are outlined below several methods of photographing the ridges which have been used with success.

In photographing the ridge detail on fingers it has been determined to be most practicable to photograph the finger natural or 1/1 size inasmuch as comparisons will usually be made with inked impressions which are natural size. Any camera built or adjusted to taking 1/1 size pictures, and with which the lighting may be arranged to best advantage, may be used. Cameras, such as the Fingerprint, Recomar, Speed Graphic, etc., are readily adapted to this work.

There is a wide choice of film which can be used for this purpose. Film such as Commercial, Verichrome, Super XX, Panatomic X, Panchromatic, Superpan Press, or the so-called soft films are all good for photographing ridge detail on fingers. Process film is not recommended inasmuch as the film presents too much of a contrast. Consequently, if it is used, some of the ridge detail will be lost, especially if wrinkles are present in the skin.

Lighting is accomplished by the use of goose-neck lamps, floodlights, or a spotlight. If a fingerprint camera is used, its lights may be sufficient.

The manner of lighting may be by direct light, side light, transmitted light or reflected light, depending upon the prevailing condition of the finger or skin.

Direct light is used in those cases in which the ridge detail is fairly clear and there are no wrinkles present; or if wrinkles are present they are not deep enough to interfere with photographing the ridges.

Side lighting is used when there are no wrinkles of any consequence and the ridge detail is clear. Because of discoloration, however, the ridges are not readily seen in the ground glass as there is lack of contrast between ridges and depressions. Accordingly, the lights, instead of being focused directly on the skin or finger, are placed to the side of the object so that the light is directed across the skin or finger thus highlighting the ridges and shading the depressions.

In side lighting, two lights may be used. Better results are often obtained, however, by using only one light, such as a spotlight, the beam of which can be controlled to best advantage.

Transmitted light is used in cases in which the skin has peeled off or in which the dermis has been



removed, cut, and scraped thin so that light will go through. The prepared skin is placed between two pieces of glass pressed together in order to flatten the skin or dermis and remove creases. By trimming some of the surplus skin or dermis, especially at the top, it may be more easily flattened. After the glass is properly mounted in front of the camera, the lights are placed behind it and light is directed through the skin. The ridge detail is brought into focus on the ground glass. Before the picture is actually taken it is suggested that the ground glass be checked by first using one light and then two lights to see which is more effective.

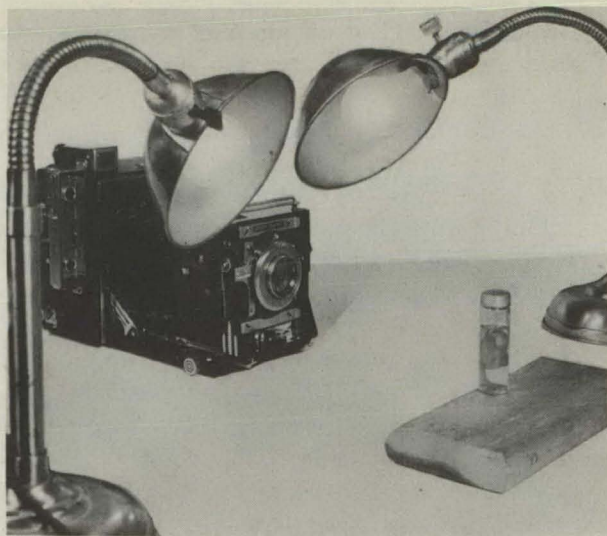
There will be instances in which the second layer of skin, cut, and scraped thin enough to flatten out, fails when dry to have a sufficient contrast between ridges and depressions for purposes of photographing. The same piece of skin when soaked in xylene will show a marked contrast, which it loses on drying. This difficulty is overcome by photographing the skin while in solution which can be done by placing the skin in a test tube or a small bottle of a size to keep the skin upright and the ridges toward the camera. The test tube or bottle is then filled with xylene.

If the skin is sufficiently thin transmitted light may be used. Should it be found, however, that transmitted light is not effective, then direct light may be tried and the results checked in the ground glass (fig. 13).

When photographing a small curved surface such as a test tube, direct lighting will usually create a high light. If the high light as shown in the ground glass is over the ridge detail on the skin, a poor photograph will result. If the high light cannot be removed by rearranging the lights, then reflected light should be tried.

In order to effect reflected light a large piece of white paper, cardboard, or similar material is used. A hole is cut in the center of the paper or cardboard. This must be big enough for the camera lens to protrude through. The ends of the paper or board are curved toward the skin or finger to be photographed. The lamps which are to be used are placed facing the curved paper or cardboard in such fashion that the light will strike the paper or board and be reflected by the curved surface to the object.

The lamps should be close enough to the paper or board to give the maximum light. Care should be exercised, however, not to place them too close, because of the fire hazard.



**Figure 13.**

Any arrangement of lamps and reflectors giving a similar effect as the above should prove suitable.

Fingers or skin which have a mottled, reddish-brown color because of decomposition, nearness to severe heat, or diffusion with blood, present a problem of lack of contrast between ridges and depressions for photographic purposes. This lack of contrast can be overcome to a large extent by the use of a yellow or light red filter. Sometimes, in those cases where the discoloration is due to the diffusion of blood throughout the tissues, the blood can be washed out by saturating and rinsing the specimen in a 10 to 20 solution of citric acid. If, of course, the blood is not removed satisfactorily, the photographing should be done with the filter.

As previously stated, the fingerprint camera can be readily adapted to the use of photographing fingers or skin specimens for ridge detail. Sometimes it is possible to photograph the skin or finger in the same manner as one does a latent print. There will be instances, however, in which the standard use of the fingerprint camera will not be possible or effective, such as for side light, reflected light, and sometimes transmitted light, or instances in which it is not possible to get the finger or skin flush with the opening of the camera. In these instances the lights of the camera are not used so the batteries should be removed, and goose-neck lamps or other suitable lighting equipment and ground glass utilized when the finger or skin is prepared for photographing (fig. 14).

The camera is opened either at the point where the lights are housed or at the lens point, whichever is most effective. Then, opening the shutter,



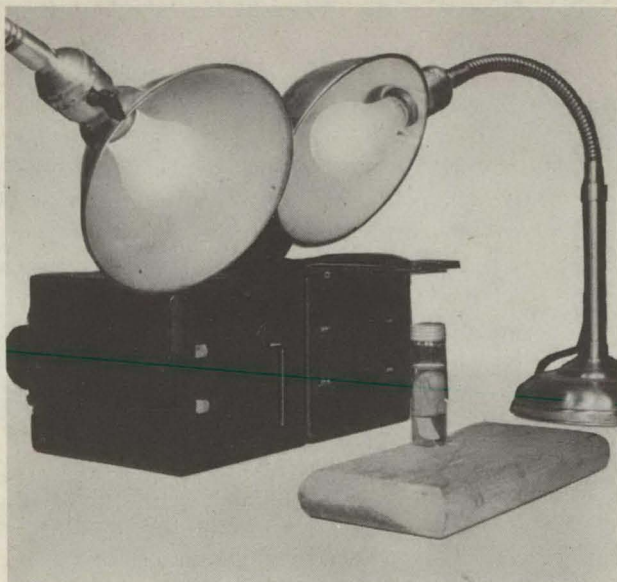


Figure 14.

the operator moves the camera either toward or away from the finger or skin to the point where the ridge detail is sharpest in the ground glass. The camera is held firmly, the ground glass is removed, the film is inserted and the photograph taken.

With respect to exposure time, it is possible only to generalize and point out that each case will have its own individual aspects. Controlling features for consideration will be the type of film, the type and size of lights, the method of lighting (direct, side, transmitted or reflected) and also whether or not filters are used. Accordingly, there may be a wide variation of exposure time in different cases.

The best approach for arriving at the proper exposure time is merely to make a test exposure, develop the film, and from an examination determine if it is underexposed or overexposed. Time the next exposure accordingly, until satisfactory results are obtained.

As has been mentioned previously, when photographing the ridges on fingers or skin the ridge detail will be in reverse position, the opposite from an inked impression made from the same skin or finger. (This is true except in those cases in which the underside of the epidermis is photographed.) Accordingly, when the negative is printed, it should be printed gloss side to sensitive side of paper to give the position comparable to an inked print made from the same skin or finger. In order to avoid error or confusion a notation

should be made on the photograph of each finger, or, if they are cut and mounted on a fingerprint card, point out that the position has been reversed and that the prints are in their correct position for classifying and searching. Otherwise, it is possible that the right hand may be mistaken for the left hand and vice versa.

If the underside of the epidermis or outer skin is being photographed, the negative should be printed in the normal manner, that is, emulsion side of negative to sensitized side of paper. Here reversal of position is not necessary for when the ridge detail is viewed from the underside it appears to be in the same position as the inked impression normally is reflected on a fingerprint card.

Care should be taken to see that each photograph is labeled correctly to indicate the finger it represents, such as right thumb, right index, right ring, etc. It is imperative that no error occur in such labeling inasmuch as it is highly probable that the resultant classification would be incorrect and failure to make an identification might very easily follow.

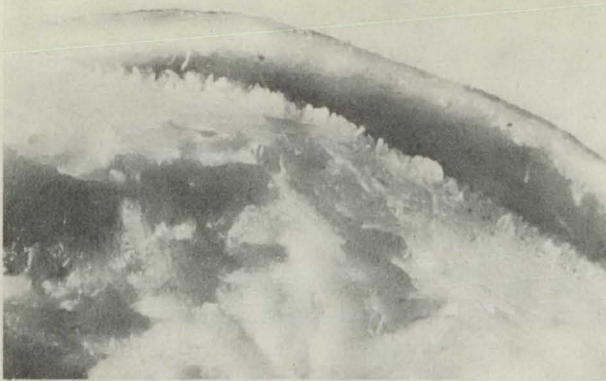
### *Deceased Infants*

The foregoing has dealt with the securing of fingerprints of unknown deceased persons for identification purposes. The basis for such action is the presumptive possibility that the unknowns had been fingerprinted previously and through this medium might be identified.

Another type of problem, however, arises with the finding of a deceased infant. It can be safely assumed that the possibility of there being in existence a set of known fingerprints of the infant is extremely remote. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that many hospitals throughout the country, as part of the general routine of recording a birth, secure the infant's footprints, it would follow that there could be a remote possibility of identifying the deceased infant through its footprints. The foregoing principles and procedures would then apply in securing the foot impression of a deceased infant. It is fully realized that in practically all cases involving the finding of an abandoned infant corpse the infant is probably illegitimate issue and delivery did not occur in a hospital, but there have been cases where such was not the case.

The importance of securing footprints of deceased infants killed in a common disaster cannot





**Figure 15.**—*Epidermis or outer layer of skin commencing to peel from dermis or second layer of skin, result of decomposition.*

be overemphasized. Such disasters may involve the death of infants of lawful issue and in many instances there are hospital footprint records available which may prove of value as a positive means of identification.

### **Technical Considerations**

The methods described are intended to record, either by printing with ink or by photographing as legibly as possible, the ridge detail of the tips

of the fingers of unknown dead for identification purposes.

The securing of the impressions enables the fingerprint examiner to classify and search them through a file. This "search," of course, means merely to make a comparison of the deceased's prints with the prints of known individuals.

It is well to bear in mind the fact that the dermis or epidermis may have undergone certain physical changes and that in order for the fingerprint examiner to make a proper comparison he must know the changes which can and do occur. Otherwise, he may fail to make an identification (fig. 15).

Consider first the epidermis or outer layer of skin in cases of maceration (the skin is water soaked). There may be considerable swelling. The ridges become broader and are more distinct. An inked impression in such an instance may show a pattern larger in area than a print made from the same finger when the person was alive. Also, if the skin is on the finger but is loose, inking and rolling could distort the impression so that some of the ridge formations would seem to be in a different alignment from corresponding details in a print made during life. When decomposition



A



B

**Figure 16.**—*Chart A, inked fingerprint made during life. Chart B, inked impression of same finger of deceased showing effects of decomposition.*





*Figure 17.*

commences, what are really solid ridges may be broken, giving rise to the possibility that there are more characteristics than there actually are (fig. 16). The existence of wrinkles may also cause the impression to acquire an appearance of dissimilarity when compared with the original inked print.

With respect to cases of desiccation, there will probably be shrinkage, hence, the impressions made may appear smaller than in life and the ridges will be finer. In cases in which the epidermis has been lost and there remains only the dermis or second layer, there will usually be shrinkage with the same results. Here also, wrinkles, if present, may cause a difference in appearance from the normal print.

In addition to shrinkage and wrinkles in cases involving the second layer of skin, there is a radical change in the appearance of the ridges themselves. The second or dermal layer of skin is composed of what are called dermal papillae which have the appearance of minute blunt pegs or nipples. The dermal papillae are arranged in double rows (fig. 17). Each double row lies deep in a ridge of the surface or epidermal layer and pre-

sents the same variations of ridge characteristics as are on the outer layer of skin except that they are double. Accordingly, when the second layer of skin is printed or photographed, the ridge detail will appear in double. That is, the ridges will appear as though they were split. This may well confuse the fingerprint examiner in that what may be a loop having 10 ridge counts may appear to be a loop having 20 ridge counts when the impression is made from the second or dermal layer of skin. These double rows of ridges are finer and not as sharp as the detail on the outer skin, which adds to the difficulty of arriving at a correct classification and making a proper comparison.

### ***FBI Aid***

The above techniques and procedures have been dealt with upon the basis that law enforcement officers would, when a corpse has been found, attempt to secure a set of finger impressions in an effort to identify the unknown dead. If, however, the officer feels that the job is too difficult or is beyond his scope, consideration should be given





Figure 18.

to cutting off the hands or fingers of the deceased and forwarding them to the Identification Division of the FBI for processing. If this course is decided upon, it is reiterated that local statutes governing the cutting of dead must be complied with and proper authorization must be secured.

In order to facilitate the transmission of such specimens to the FBI the following suggestions are made.

First, it is deemed most desirable, when possible, to have both of the hands, severed at the wrist, forwarded in their entirety (fig. 18). It is desired that the hands, rather than each separate finger, be sent inasmuch as it eliminates the possibility of getting the fingers mixed up or incorrectly labeled. If, however, it is not possible to send the hands for some reason, then, of course, the fingers should be cut off and forwarded. In cutting, the fingers should be cut off at the palm beginning with the right thumb, then the right index, ring, etc., just as though they were to be printed. As soon as each finger is cut off it should be placed in an individual container, such as a small glass jar, and immediately marked as to which particular finger it is.

In the event that the hands or fingers of more than one dead are being transmitted it is absolutely necessary that not only the fingers be properly labeled but that the bodies also be given an identifying number or symbol which must be indicated on the hands or fingers cut from that body as well, in order to avoid the embarrassing situation of identifying the hands and not knowing from which body they were cut.

In shipping, the hands, fingers, or skins may be placed in preserving solutions such as 5-percent

solution of formaldehyde, 5-percent solution of alcohol, or embalming fluid. When hands or fingers are desiccated (dried out), however, it is most desirable that they be placed in airtight containers and sent without any preservative. If glass containers are used, the specimens should be packed in such a manner as to avoid breakage. Dry ice is a suitable preservative for transmitting such specimens but it should not be used when shipping will take more than 24 hours.

In making up a package using dry ice, the hands or fingers, properly tagged, should be placed in cellophane or paper bags. A material such as sawdust, shavings or similar packing which acts as an insulation is placed around the specimens. A sufficient amount of dry ice is then placed in the package which is then packed tight with more sawdust or shavings. The dry ice should not be in direct contact with the cellophane or paper bags which contain the hands or fingers.

A letter covering transmittal of the specimens should be prepared in duplicate. It, of course, should indicate the sender. The names of any probable victims, sex, color, and approximate age of the deceased should, if such information is available, be secured from the coroner or medical examiner and be included in the letter. A copy of the letter should be placed in the package. The original should be mailed separately. Both letter and package should be addressed as follows:

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Identification Division—Single  
Fingerprint Section

If the package contains glass jars it should be marked "Fragile" to insure careful handling in transit.

The package should be sent Railway Express, prepaid, or, where there is a need for speed, by Air Express, prepaid.

When they are received in the Identification Division the specimens will undergo various treatments which may necessitate further cutting, scraping, etc. In all cases, regardless of condition, the specimens will be returned after examination.

All of the foregoing matter has dealt with instances in which it has been assumed that all ten fingers are available, or a sufficient number of the fingers of a deceased have been secured and impressions suitable for searching through the



fingerprint files of the FBI's Identification Division have been recorded.

There will be cases, however, where only a few, or possibly only one, of the fingers has sufficient ridge detail for identification. In such instances a search through the FBI files would be impractical. This, however, does not preclude the possibility of making a positive identification by the use of the one finger. Though a search through the file is not possible, a comparison can be made with the fingerprints of individuals who it is thought the deceased may be, or, in some instances, with the fingerprints of missing persons.

In this connection, where one or only a few fingers are forwarded to the FBI the names of all possible victims should also be submitted. The fingerprints of those individuals, if available, will then be taken out of file and compared with the ridge detail on the finger of the deceased in an endeavor to establish a positive identification. It is encouraging to note that many such identifications have been effected.

In conjunction with the usual services afforded authorized law enforcement agencies, the services of an FBI fingerprint expert are also made available in those cases where expert testimony is necessary to establish the identity of the deceased through fingerprints, providing, of course, such an identification has been made.

Extreme caution should be exercised in the case of the chemicals previously mentioned in this article. Acetone, alcohol, benzine, and xylene are highly inflammable and should neither be used near open flames, nor while the operator is smoking. The fumes given off by acetone, benzine, xylene, and formaldehyde are toxic and may cause sickness. They should be used in a well-ventilated room only. It is also suggested that the fingerprint examiner wear rubber gloves when using acetone, benzine, xylene, formaldehyde, potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide. These chemicals will cause the skin to peel. Strong concentrations may cause burns.

In conclusion, it is pointed out that the procedures and techniques which have been described are those currently being used by the fingerprint experts of the FBI. These methods are fast and the results have been most satisfactory. This Bureau does not claim, however, that satisfactory results cannot be achieved through variations thereof or different methods.

The techniques, presently utilized by the FBI, have been set forth in detail in the hope that they may be of assistance to other operators, particularly those to whom the fingerprinting of deceased persons has presented a problem, and those to whom it is an entirely new field.



## *Questionable Pattern*

# FINGERPRINTS



A

The fingerprint pattern reproduced this month illustrates one of the most common pitfalls for student fingerprint classifiers. There appear to be two deltas in the pattern but closer examination reveals that there is no good

recurving ridge in front of the inner delta formation, point A. In the Identification Division of the FBI this pattern is classified as a loop with seventeen ridge counts. A reference search would be conducted as a whorl.