

# FBI

## *Law Enforcement*

# BULLETIN



1959

APRIL

Vol. 28 No. 4

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

# FBI *Law Enforcement Bulletin*

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APRIL 1959

Vol. 28, No. 4

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United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington 25, D. C.

April 1, 1959

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

Once again the hucksters of hypocrisy in the worldwide communist apparatus are echoing for the peoples of the free world the siren song of "peace and coexistence." The leaders of domestic communism in the United States, joined by duped or unthinking sympathizers, are loudly singing falsetto choruses of "let's be friendly" tunes. In our own Nation, the voice of Eugene Dennis, the previously convicted General Secretary of the Communist Party, USA, extolls the "peace initiatives" of Soviet Russia.

To an alarming and shameful degree, the present apathy of many Americans to the communist threat gives mute testimony to the success of this deceitful Red plot. Enjoying the liberty and plenty of America, these people seem unable or unwilling to learn from the plight of the enslaved millions in the Red-conquered countries. Apparently the passage of time has considerably dimmed the memory of the communist atrocities on American soldiers in Korea. All but forgotten is the evidence of treachery brought out so clearly in the court trials of top echelon leaders of communism in America. No less than 6 of the 7 current national officers of the Communist Party, USA, were convicted in these trials as criminals who conspired to teach or advocate the violent overthrow of the American Government.

For the alert and thinking citizen, no cloak or camouflage can conceal the fact that the Communist Party, USA--in the past, present, and future--is the willing tool of the Moscow masters of deceit. Participating as official delegates at the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, held earlier this year in Moscow, were representatives of the Communist Party, USA. The appearance--on order; the purpose--to obtain instructions. Uncertain of the Party line in some courses, such as exploitation of the Negro people for selfish Red motives, the ringleaders of communism in the United States are now ready to go into full-scale action.

A basic rule book and policy guide for these subversives in America is the "World Marxist Review." As a means of assuring tightened control over subject communist parties scattered throughout the world, this international journal was established in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in the Summer of 1958. In the directives of the "World Marxist Review" can be found the objectives of worldwide communism which are identical with the blueprints of the Communist Party, USA.

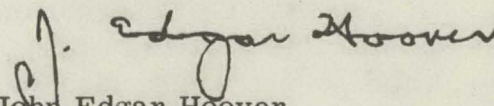


The danger to the national security should assuredly be evident in the feverish activities and spirited optimism of the Communist Party, USA. Foremost targets in the new offensive are labor groups and basic industries, including steel, shipping, automobiles, and transportation, with particular emphasis on railroads. Throughout the Nation, dedicated Party members are distributing the literature of communist grist mills in an all-out effort to degrade the American economic system, infiltrate labor organizations, and beguile workers into the camp of communism.

An evaluation of the current communist programs in the United States reveals definite long-range plans for expansion on the American scene. Curtailed during the underground phase of the Party, recruitment of new members is now of major importance. The revitalization of a youth movement to insure continuity of command and strength is a primary objective. High on the priority list is an accelerated educational program, specializing in leadership courses and featuring National Party leaders as instructors. Already these additional schools of subversion have begun and others have been scheduled for various parts of the country.

The Red giant in America is not asleep. For the preservation of our traditional freedoms and for the welfare of our Nation, the citizens of America cannot afford to relax the vigilance which is the price of liberty. The threat of domestic communism within our boundaries is real. Communism can conquer a nation not only through attack but also through attrition--the gradual chipping away at the historic rights and freedoms of the people. If we let our guard down now, we could live to regret our folly for many years.

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director





## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Organization and Role of a Transit Police Department

by THOMAS J. O'ROURKE, *Chief, New York City  
Transit Police Department*

The New York City Transit Police Department ranks approximately fifth in size among police organizations in the State, and is among the first 25 in the country in manpower.

Recent amendment to the public authorities law formally establishes the Transit Police Department in law; defines the area of jurisdiction, powers and duties of the Transit Police; confirms the status of this department as a duly constituted law enforcement agency; establishes certain minimum requisites for appointment to the Transit Police Department; and authorizes the establishment of a detective division.

This amendment in no way changes the traditional operations of the Transit Police Department inasmuch as the Transit Police have been previously designated as peace officers of the State of New York under section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The unique task of the Transit Police Department is more readily understood when it is realized that its field of operation extends 237 miles from the outer reaches of the city to the complex, crisscrossed hub of Manhattan. This is approximately the distance between New York City and Washington, D. C., or between New York City and Boston.

The flow of traffic varies by time of day, creating special problems of congestion daily. We provide police protection for approximately 4½ million passengers each day. In addition, special events—such as ball games, conventions, etc.—frequently occur and add still greater numbers of persons traveling on the system. The Transit Police Department also protects nearly a million dollars' worth of revenue each day aboard specially designated revenue trains and trucks.

Located throughout the system are innumerable stores, shops of all kinds and vending machines, comprising an underground community capable of supplying almost all of life's necessities. At present, five savings banks have branches with entry and tellers' windows directly

on the Transit System and several other banks are planning similar branches. These facilities total nearly 17,000 additional locations requiring Transit Police attention.

The accomplishment of an effective police program on the Transit System demands the highest type of continuous cooperation between the New York City Transit Police Department, the New York City Police Department, the FBI, and all other law enforcement agencies. Such cooperation has been very evident, existing at all levels of command, and involves liaison, coordination of effort, and mutual exchange of information.

Appointments are made to the Transit Police Department from lists resulting from civil service examinations, and the various ranks existing within the department are attained through the successful completion of promotion examinations conducted by the Civil Service Commission. At



*Chief Thomas J. O'Rourke.*



the present date, the 909-member Transit Police Department is numerically distributed according to the following ranks: chief, deputy chief, chief of detectives, 10 captains, 33 lieutenants, 81 sergeants, 769 patrolmen and 13 policewomen. Seventy-two patrolmen and three policewomen have been assigned the rank of detective.

The normal advancement by promotion examination is from the rank of patrolman to sergeant, to lieutenant, to captain. The chief, deputy chief, and chief of detectives are appointed from the rank of captain by the Transit Authority. The pay schedule and working conditions of the Transit Police Department are substantially the same as for the New York City Police Department, though at present the latter organization has a shorter retirement plan.

## ***History***

Two privately owned transit lines, the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) and the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit (BMT), were already servicing the city when the city-owned Independent subway (IND) began operations in 1932. When the Transit Police Department was founded in 1936, supervisory officers were assigned from the New York City Police Department to supervise the small force of "special patrolmen" that constituted the first Transit Police Department, which was established on city-owned rapid transit lines.

In June 1940, the unification of the two privately owned subway lines with the city-owned line was accomplished, necessitating an increased Transit Police Department. At first the appointments to fill vacancies were made from the eligible list for the New York City Police Department. Subsequently, Transit Police Department personnel were enabled to compete for advancement on a civil service basis. Another important development occurred in 1947, when the "special patrolman" title was rescinded and peace officer status was attained.

By 1954 examinations were being held for the position of Transit patrolman, which examinations were designed to attract the best possible candidates specifically interested in a career in Transit Police work.

Over a period of years, various studies had been conducted for the purpose of evaluating the most effective organization plan for the Transit Police Department. There were those who advocated that its function be taken over by the New York

City Police Department. There were those who said that the then existing organization, with supervision in the higher ranks from the New York City Police Department, was the proper approach. There were those who advocated the independent status of the Transit Police Department as it exists today. It was finally concluded that the last-mentioned approach would be the best one.

Throughout the period covered by these studies, the supervision from the New York City Police Department had been, in effect, the training of those who were to follow in the assumption of command. Examinations for all titles were subsequently held, with the final examination for the rank of captain being conducted in May 1955. It was from the resulting list for captain that the chief, deputy chief, and chief of detectives were designated and eight captains were assigned to assist in carrying out the administration of the department. It was at this time that the last of the supervisors from the New York City Police Department was recalled. The task of training and developing the Transit Police Department to function independently had been accomplished.

The challenge created by the independent status of the department, the advancement of the individual members to higher ranks, and the continuing program of advancing deserving members has established the Transit Police Department in the category of a career service with a resultant elevation of morale and esprit de corps.

For the purpose of carrying out the assigned tasks of the department, the Transit System is divided into nine geographical divisions which are referred to as police districts. Headquarters of the department is located at the Administration Building of the Transit Authority, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn 1, N. Y., and offices of operations and administration, as well as the detective division, operate on a centralized basis from headquarters.

## ***Patrol Division***

The uniformed patrol force comprises the largest division of the department and is deployed throughout the nine districts. Each district is under the command of a captain assigned by the chief, assisted by lieutenants and sergeants as patrol supervisors. Each district is further divided into sectors and posts, or beats, for the purpose of fixing responsibility among sergeants and serving as the basis for assignment of patrolmen.



The patrol division is responsible for complete coverage of the Transit System at every hour of the day and night.

The uniform of the Transit Police Department is the traditional blue of police officers in and about New York City. An identifying emblem worn on the left sleeve bears the seal of the Transit Police Department. An additional identifying factor is the gold collar insignia "TA."

The uniformed Transit patrolman is assigned a beat consisting of one or more elevated or underground stations, as conditions warrant. He hourly signals the communications room from telephones located on the system. The communications room can contact members of the patrol force through a telephone signal to the change agent located on each station, who will then intercept the patrolman with instructions to call the division desk officer.

When an arrest is effected by a Transit patrolman, the division desk officer at the communications room is immediately notified. The Transit patrolman is responsible for the complete follow-through indicated by each arrest wherein he is the arresting officer. He escorts his prisoner to the nearest New York City Police Department precinct stationhouse and processes the prisoner through searching, questioning, booking, and detention. He is responsible for subsequent court appearances and the reporting of details and final disposition of each case. The technical facilities of the New York City Police Department, including the photo gallery, bureau of criminal identification, and police laboratory, are available whenever needed. At all times during the arrest process the prisoner is the responsibility of the Transit patrolman, except during periods when the prisoner is placed in custody of a jailor.

The Transit patrolman is also confronted with the task of eliminating from the Transit System such undesirable elements as solicitors, peddlers, derelicts, etc., as well as those who fall into the category of professional criminals. Another important task for the patrolman is control of pedestrian traffic which comprises millions of passengers intent on going about their business.

### ***Detective Division***

Special programs have been developed within the Transit Police Department to meet particular needs in each field of activity. In order to provide the most effective direction, coordination,



***Transit patrolman on duty in subway station at 42d Street and 8th Avenue, New York City.***

and control, the detective division was formed and includes: the detective squad (plainclothes men and policewomen are in this squad); the public safety squad (which includes the radio-motor patrol); and the special services squad. The detective division is commanded by a chief of detectives and each squad therein by a lieutenant with the designated rank of squad commander.

The types of cases handled by the detective squad are as varied as those listed in the penal law of the State of New York. A certain amount of specialization among members of the detective squad has developed as a natural result of circumstances, such as are encountered in rush hours which are particularly favorable to bag openers, pickpockets, and degenerates. Photo files of recidivist thieves and degenerates are maintained and careful study of these files has resulted in increased apprehensions. The detective division has one of the largest and most effective pickpocket squads in the country, as a result of years of experience in coping with criminals who resort to this type of activity on the crowded trains of the Transit System.

Another specialization involves the apprehension of fare evaders who use foreign coins, metal washers, pieces of tin, counterfeit tokens, mutilated pennies, or devices to cause turnstiles to operate in lieu of Transit System tokens. In 1954 alone, these fare-evaders cheated the Transit Authority of nearly \$43,000 in revenue, in addition to the expense involved in handling and classifying such fraudulent devices. Secret devices suggested by members of the detective squad



have been responsible for the apprehension of a tremendous number of these "farebeats," and by 1957 the Transit Authority loss from this source was under \$10,000.

In cooperation with the United States Treasury Department, and with information supplied by railroad clerks and revenue personnel of the Transit Authority, several arrests have been made involving the confiscation of equipment which had been used to make counterfeit United States coins and counterfeit Transit System tokens.

The Transit detectives must function under an unusual handicap, insofar as the persons involved are not situated in any one community. Furthermore, the usual type of information from informants or permanent residents is seldom available to them. For these reasons, particular emphasis must be placed on effecting the arrest at the time of the commission of the crime.

During the past few years, the detective squad has worked in close cooperation with police departments of neighboring communities as well as with the New York City Police Department on cases that have attracted widespread attention. A "mugger" who specialized in victimizing women returning from work late via the Fulton Street subway station in lower Manhattan attacked another victim. He followed his usual procedure of placing a hand around his victim's throat, and holding his nickel-plated revolver against her forehead. His "victim," a Transit Authority policewoman assigned to cover the complaint, disarmed him and with the assistance of her partner, placed him under arrest. During the period when George Metesky, the so-called "Mad Bomber" was active, the Transit Police Department participated in many instances in the investigation, as a result of bombs which were placed in the subway.

In 1957, bulletins were received from the Nassau and the Suffolk County, N. Y., Police Departments regarding one George Larned, nicknamed the "Eel" for his elusiveness in evading police traps. Wanted for rape, burglary, car theft, and known to be armed and dangerous, he was successfully captured with the help of a Transit patrolman who heard shooting while at the 103d Street and Broadway station and dashed to the assistance of a New York Police Department patrolman shooting it out with Larned. For his participation in this arrest, the Transit patrolman was awarded police hero awards from two New York City newspapers, the Daily News and the Journal-American.

Last winter, two Transit detectives came upon a gunman in a desperate duel with uniformed patrolmen of the New York City Police Department. The armed man had just shot and killed his girl friend and was using her body as a shield. The Transit detectives disarmed and captured this man after a brief struggle.

There are at present 13 policewomen, including 3 of detective rank, working out of the detective squad. These women are assigned with male partners and cover any situation requiring police attention. They work the crowded rush-hour stations, where they are on the alert for pickpockets, bag openers, and degenerates of every type. Their duties include interviews of female complainants, who are usually reluctant to discuss the more lurid types of annoyances with male police officers. In addition, they escort female complainants, conduct interviews at schools, and cover school conditions involving disorderly actions committed by students on Transit System property.

The policewomen must be adaptable, alert, and able to mingle with crowds to detect molesters or professional rush-hour pickpockets at work. The elements of skill and training, rather than of unusual size or strength, have played a great part in the effectiveness of the policewomen. The capture of the "mugger" cited above is an example of this prowess.

The principal function of the public safety squad is control of juvenile offenders on the New York City Transit System. This squad works in close cooperation with the youth squad and juvenile aid bureau of the New York City Police Department, and maintains close contact with the school authorities and the juvenile court system.

Members of this squad are, for the most part, younger men chosen for their special ability in dealing with youth, as well as for their past records and qualifications. While they are alerted to any situation requiring police action, they are particularly assigned to work with youngsters. Some of their more routine assignments involve the escorting, in plain clothes, of high school students aboard trains and buses, being on the alert for actions of malicious mischief, rowdiness, fighting, annoyance to other passengers, holding of doors, delaying of trains, defacing of property, or interference in any manner with other persons.

Plainclothes men from this squad are on hand when large numbers of youths attending athletic



events, rock-and-roll entertainments, skating rinks or swimming pools, converge on the Transit System. Policewomen are occasionally assigned to work with members of this squad when schoolgirls might be involved in a particular complaint or condition.

The members of the public safety squad have mingled in teen-age hangouts where they have picked up valuable information leading to arrests in knifing incidents, beatings, and gang rumbles. In the year of 1957, in addition to nearly 1,500 arrests of all kinds, members of this squad have referred over 19,000 youths under 16 years of age to the juvenile aid bureau of the New York City Police Department, to school authorities, and to parents.

Public safety squad members have given talks at various high schools, pointing out the consequences of disorderly behavior on the Transit System. The prompt appearance of plainclothes youth patrolmen aboard crowded trains has had a tremendous effect on the conduct of young people traveling on the system.

One part of the public safety squad is the radio motor patrol unit. The function of this patrol, consisting of two Transit Police Department patrol cars operating in Queens and Brooklyn, is to promote safety by enforcing traffic laws against violators parking in Transit System bus stops. The strict enforcing of such laws has resulted in a decrease in accidents, leading to a reduction in litigation against the Transit Authority. The elimination of the bottleneck caused by bus-stop parking has resulted in a stricter adherence to bus schedules, hence in improved service to the public. In 1957, the radio motor patrol issued approximately 7,700 summonses, and in the first 9 months of 1958, there were 5,854 summonses issued. The radio motor patrol maintains radio contact with the Transit Authority radio room and with the public safety squad office, and is available for assignment to emergencies, accidents, or other unusual occurrences.

All members of the special services squad are chosen on the basis of special ability and after complete evaluation of their qualifications for specialized investigative assignments. They are all expert photographers and investigators and have developed many scientific skills in line with the requirements of their work. One of the main purposes of the special services squad is the investigation of claims against either the city of New York or the Transit Authority where it is sus-

pected that fraud is being perpetrated by the litigant. In pursuing these investigations, members of this squad have traveled throughout the United States, as well as parts of Canada, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. They have been eminently successful in presenting evidence in court, and it can be safely estimated that the endeavors of this particular squad have saved the city of New York and the Transit Authority millions of dollars by preventing unwarranted settlements.

### *Operations and Administration*

Located at Transit Police Department Headquarters are the offices of the chief, the deputy chief, the chief of detectives, the administrative office, the communications room, the statistical and analysis unit, and the detective division.

All correspondence from other Transit Authority departments or from the general public is received, logged, routed, and filed through the administrative office. A major function of the administrative office is the preparation and administration of the annual budget for the Transit Police Department. The current annual budget of the department for the 1957-58 fiscal year is nearly \$5½ million.

The semimonthly payroll for all members of the Transit Police Department is prepared by office personnel, and records are kept for the social security and health insurance programs. Stenographic service is available for correspondence or hearings. An important function of this office is to maintain a vast number of records of Transit Police personnel, including daily time records of each member, excusals, yearly vacation list, current seniority list, expense accounts, filing of completed memorandum books, tag and personal service summonses records, and complete records of firearms and safeguarding of firearms which are the property of the Transit Authority. General and special orders and miscellaneous circulars and rollicalls for the entire patrol force are prepared and distributed to the district offices and communications room as are any stationery supplies requested.

The communications room is the operations center of the Transit Police Department and is open 24 hours a day, under the supervision of a supervising desk officer. This office is responsible for the reception and transmission of all police business affecting the Transit System, the assignment and coordination of all activities of the patrol



force, the maintenance of appropriate books and records as required by rules and regulations, and the submitting of daily reports of all police activity to the chief of the department. Separate records are kept of activities on each of the three divisions (IRT, BMT, and IND) and are forwarded to the statistical and analysis unit for compilation and preparation of overall statistics.

Hourly signals required of each member of the patrol force are received and recorded by sergeants assigned to each of the three division desks. The communications room receives all calls for police assistance on the Transit System and makes assignments of the patrol force to trouble spots.

In order to facilitate communication by telephone at the present time, the Transit Police Department has entered into an agreement for the use, on an experimental basis, of automatic recording equipment which will be used within the department. Under this system, an officer reporting details regarding an arrest or other unusual occurrence will signal the division desk officer of this fact and the division desk officer will shift the call to the automatic recording equipment,

which will leave the desk officer free to take action on other matters which may require his attention.

Additionally, it is felt that the use of this equipment will obviate the necessity for reporting officers and detectives to come into their respective unit headquarters for the purpose of writing reports. Such reports will be transcribed by a centralized typewriting unit and will be made available for necessary signature at a subsequent time. There will be several of these recording units. Obviously, there should be a resultant increase in attention to the patrol function as a result of this timesaving device.

Direct wires to the communications bureau of the New York City Police Department at each division desk expedite calls for ambulances, radio cars, and other assistance which may be required in emergency.

The statistical and analysis unit is the repository of department records and reports. Transit System crime activity is recorded in various ways to indicate location, time, juvenile offenders, modus operandi, name, etc. Such recording of crime activity facilitates the compilation of



*Transit Police Department personnel on parade.*



monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and annual reports as well as the preparation of graphs, charts, and spot maps. Furthermore, these records are utilized to determine trends in criminal activity, to effectively deploy available manpower and to determine the effectiveness of the entire department.

### ***Training Programs***

During 1957-58, the training program of the department was intensified. The chief, deputy chief and chief of detectives of the department completed the 12-week course at the FBI National Academy. In 1957, the chief of the Transit Police Department was appointed to the faculty of New York University as a lecturer in police administration and conducted a course entitled "Principles of Transit Police Administration," open to the Transit Police Department.

At present, Transit Police recruits receive their probationary training at the Police Academy of the New York City Police Department. The 6-week course of instruction there includes a thorough and basic study of laws and ordinances, law of arrest, manual of instruction, first aid, searching prisoners, physical training, revolver practice, and instruction in the use and handling of firearms. This is followed by field training and actual patrol tours with experienced transit patrolmen. Upon return from training at the police academy, the recruits are trained for a period of 4 weeks at the Transit Police Academy.

The Transit Police Department has recently instituted several inservice training programs. Since November of 1956, all members of the Transit Police Department patrol force have been assigned to attend the Transit Police Academy which consists of weekly sessions extending over a 5-day period. The training curriculum includes both refresher and advanced training.

The classes are conducted by experienced superior officers and lectures are supplemented by motion pictures and other visual aids. Guest lecturers from the FBI, the Transit Authority, and other law enforcement agencies have also contributed greatly. A newly instituted expanded firearms training course has recently been added in conjunction with this school and includes lectures, demonstrations, and discussions on all techniques and procedures employed in the handling and use of firearms.

A regular schedule requires all members of the Transit Police Department to report for firearms

training three times a year, at which times holsters and all firearms owned or possessed are inspected. Members must at these sessions achieve a qualifying score and are rewarded with time off for outstanding proficiency. At the present time, the Transit Police Department is using the pistol range of the Port of New York Authority Police Department. Plans for a Transit Police Department pistol range have been drawn up and presented for approval.

To date, all members of the detective division have attended the detective training school conducted by the New York City Police Department at the Police Academy of the city of New York.

Advanced training also has a part in the program. In the spring of 1957, 17 members of the Transit Police Department took courses in the police science program at the Baruch School of Business and Public Administration at the invitation of the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department. The 64-credit course leads to the degree of associate of applied science and aims at the development of qualities of leadership, fostering ideals of professional achievement in law enforcement, and intensive professional training for police service. The courses, at college level, are designed to provide a well-rounded college curriculum. Members taking the course do so at their own expense and on their own free time, and must maintain good attendance and satisfactory grades.

Interest in this college-level course, which requires either a high school diploma or equivalency diploma as a basic entrance requirement, led to the formation of groups to take the New York State high school equivalency diploma examinations. Since a high school diploma is now required of all Transit Police recruits, the future selection of students for this advanced training course will be somewhat facilitated.

In addition to the aforementioned program, many members of the department have taken a course in occupational Spanish in order to keep abreast of the changes in the population of the city.

The aforementioned programs and organizational changes have brought about an encouraging decrease in crimes reported on the New York City Transit System. During the year 1957, there was a total of 7,662 crimes of all types reported on the Transit System, as compared with



a total of 8,621 during the year 1956. This represents a decrease of approximately 11 percent in the crimes reported on the Transit System, which is contrary to the crime experience in most other sections of the country and the city.

As a result of a concerted effort in regard to training and organization, the number of persons apprehended on the Transit System for various violations of law rose from a total of 8,665 in 1956 to a total of 8,929 in the year 1957, an increase of approximately 3 percent.

The department's drive against offenders has been particularly successful in coping with disorderly acts committed by juveniles, which not only caused serious damage to property and equipment but which were also a matter of serious concern to adults using the Transit System. In the year 1956, there were 14,522 juveniles referred to the juvenile aid bureau of the New York City Police Department for followup action, as compared with a total of 21,804 such referrals in the year 1957. This reflects a huge and noticeable increase in such cases, and the effect is readily seen by travelers on the Transit System.

A very significant fact in evaluating the performance of the department is found in the figures which indicate that in the year 1956 there was a total of 39,731 persons charged by the Transit Police with violations of law. Such persons were dealt with by arrest, juvenile aid bureau referral, and summons. But despite a reduced force in the year 1957 as a result of attrition, the department charged 50,770 persons with violation of law. This reflects an increase of approximately 28 percent in the number of persons charged by the department, in spite of a reduced force.

Newspapers today indicate that modern thinking and planning may very well bring into existence a new approach to the solution of the traffic problem by the adoption of mass transportation on a metropolitan or regional basis. Plans are being considered which would include rapid transportation into the city of New York from the neighboring counties of Nassau and Suffolk. It is apparent from the experience on the New York City Transit System that any plans along this line must envision and provide for a solution of the police problems which would accompany such a vast undertaking.

The problem will be compounded when one considers that the plans proposed to date envision the crossing of county, city, and State boundaries.

Certainly, past experience on the New York City Transit System dictates the necessity for a highly specialized department with strong centralized direction in order to provide the answer to crime in transit.

Much has been accomplished, and much remains to be done in order to fully cope with the problems confronting the members of the Transit Police Department. Hardly a day passes that some new challenge does not arise which requires organizational readjustment in order to facilitate solution. With the continued cooperation of all law enforcement agencies and the devoted application to duty of its members, the department hopes to successfully carry out its assigned task.



### **BOMB-SCARE REPORT BOOMERANGS**

Falsely reporting the destruction or impending destruction of an aircraft is a Federal offense with possible penalties of up to 1 year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Violations of this type should be reported to the FBI.

The Nation's first jail sentence for a "fake" bomb scare involving an airline brought a 1-year sentence and a \$100 fine for an employee of an air-bus service.

The case originated on September 13, 1958, in a large Midwest airport when an anonymous telephone call was made to an airline's flight information clerk on the interairport telephone system by a young male who stated "there is a bomb on one of your planes" and immediately hung up without indicating which flight it might be. Following the call, the emergency procedures of the airline with regard to bomb calls were set into motion.

Planes were grounded, some flights were canceled, others were delayed. One plane already aloft was ordered to land en route to its destination. Intensive searches were made of all planes, and over 200 passengers were subjected to the inconvenience of having their luggage searched. No bombs were found.

The FBI was notified and actively investigated the false report from the time of the receipt of the complaint on the evening of September 13. The investigation resulted in the anonymous caller being identified as a bus driver who operated a bus for an air transport company from the city to the airport.



# CRIME PREVENTION

## Youth Program Answers Juvenile Crime Problem

by LES TRIBBLE, *Chief of Police, Sherman, Tex.*

Sherman, Tex., is an industrial-agricultural town of about 30,000 population, 65 miles north of Dallas. It has the small city's usual problems in these days of universal growing pains—with the one notable exception that Sherman has no "juvenile delinquency" problem.

This is a broad statement to make, and especially for a town in which all the familiar fundamental ingredients are present for a real scourge of juvenile lawlessness. So, perhaps the claim should be tempered slightly. The juvenile problem is ever present, under the surface. However, it has been uniquely controlled by a series of projects—and sheer hard work—carried out by the Sherman Police Department.

It was not always so. Returning to the department in 1953, after a few years in other work, I noticed the bad state of relations between the city's youth and the city's policemen. Our officers as well as the city commissioners and many of our citizens were aware of this and greatly disturbed about it. This situation was commonplace in hundreds of small cities throughout the Nation.

The number of juvenile crimes had increased steadily to a really formidable total. Equally as disturbing was the evident juvenile disrespect for the law—and especially the law as symbolized by a uniformed policeman. In other words, the juvenile attitude toward the whole establishment of law and order seemed to be a potentially dangerous one that promised real trouble for the future unless that juvenile viewpoint was guided into a new direction.

Five years ago our community was plagued with veritable packs of embryo criminals on nighttime prowls. Teen-age "toughies" banded together, creating all manner of misdemeanors, plus quite a few felony thefts and burglaries. Our department was burdened with a heavy load of time-consuming complaints of small troubles and teen-age mischief.

For instance, it was the popular thing for joy-riding boys of junior and senior high school age to shout disparaging remarks about the "cops" in

passing—all the old proverbial jokes and youthful taunts. Youngsters in their cars would try to outrun patrol pursuit after willful traffic violations. It was a lark for them to play traffic hide-and-seek. Malicious mischief caused property damage and sometimes endangered lives. If most of the youthful offenses were not bad in themselves, at least the indication was the all-too-familiar one which we know breeds real trouble for the future.

More than that, we have a potentially explosive condition by virtue of our geographical location and environment. We are located at the intersection of two major transcontinental highways, slightly more than an hour from metropolitan Dallas, and because of that we are subject to a little of the overflow effects and influence of big-city delinquency activities. Although our town



*Chief Les Tribble.*



has a population of only 30,000, our county is heavily populated—more than 75,000, including some 7,000 Negroes and about 500 Latin Americans. It is the site of a college with an enrollment of approximately 500 students; there are also a large population of factory wage earners and a large Air Force training base. Sherman is only 10 miles from Denison, our “twin city,” and rivalry is extremely keen between the two cities, including high-tension competition in school athletic events. Our county is dry but the neighboring county in Oklahoma, just 15 miles away across the Red River, is not.

Some or all of these circumstances must be recognized as not only breeding temptations and possibilities for the far-ranging segment of juveniles, but possibly affording also actual inducement for irresponsible mischief, youthful “daring”—and worse.

### ***A Program***

How could a small-city police department change the course of the teen-age drift? How could we contain the potentially explosive elements of our situation, and give our teen-agers a higher goal to aim at than careers in petty troublemaking? Or more important, how could we win their friendship for the department, their respect for law and order?

Almost all my adult lifetime has been spent as a policeman and I make no claim to being a psychologist. Yet, I knew that we could not subdue our juvenile delinquency situation by strong-arm methods nor by conducting a pointless running warfare with teen-agers who, fundamentally, were the victims of laxity and indifference in their homes.

All of us—department heads, patrolmen, detectives—gave serious study to our problems and frankly discussed the troubles among ourselves. Finally, there evolved a plan and approach.

When you spell out a specific goal, and get it clearly identified, the job comes into better focus. You have something tangible to “shoot at.” Our goal was to “infiltrate” the teen-age population and make them not only friends of law and order but personal friends of the police themselves.

It was a thing that had to be done cautiously and with all possible subtlety. We would attempt to alter the viewpoints and psychology of the troublesome ones without their knowing our ultimate purpose. Eventually, we hoped to es-

tablish some sort of common ground, a new degree of respect, friendliness, and understanding between the kid and the policeman. It could not be done overnight.

For a beginning, we had to settle on a way for the initial, “innocent” contact. We decided that the place should be in the schools—the logical point where the youth already were congregated and easiest to reach.

As the first move in our plan, I fell back upon my youthful training and skill in wrestling and judo. Maneuvering invitations from instructors to appear before physical training classes, some of my officers and I began to give exhibition-lectures in judo, disarming tactics, and physical fitness. This “caught on” right away. From this small beginning we developed an entire series of ever-expanding projects. At first our progress was slow, but as time went by we worked ourselves right into the hearts of the Sherman children.

At a typical exhibition in a school gymnasium, I would pick out the largest boy in the crowd (and, if possible, one considered a “bully”) and use him as the demonstration subject of a person being subdued. It always brought applause when we subdued him with judo or wrestling holds. Unconsciously, the young audience mentally placed themselves on “our side.”

From this, it was only a small step to getting appearances before other high school classes for lectures on driving instructions, traffic safety, and qualifications for obtaining driver's licenses. Into these we would weave the philosophy that driving was a privilege for which people had to qualify, and the explanation of why good driving practices were earmarks of skill, responsibility, and accident prevention. In some of the larger school sessions on safe driving, we would bring into the demonstration some boy who had been injured in an accident and was still in bandages or on crutches. In most cases we could get him to describe his accident, tell of his injuries, how he had suffered both physical pain and time lost from studies. By prompting, we could bring out how the police had assisted him at the time of the accident, even to giving blood transfusions at the hospitals in some instances. It was a wonderful thing to hear such a lad tell his interested listeners how the police had brought his parents to the hospital, helped him in other ways, and even had come back for friendly visits to his bedside.



As time went on, our lecture programs were extended into the fields of police department operations, police training, our various training schools, scientific detection methods, etc. Some of our school appearances were before small classes, some were before larger groups in the gymnasiums, and later we were putting on the programs for the entire school assembly. Principals of the various schools and all other school officials gave wonderful cooperation.

Our men, on all shifts, had instructions to cultivate and "make talk" with youngsters encountered on their beats or patrols, when such opportunity offered itself. Gradually, we were developing acquaintances between individual policemen and individual schoolboys.

Having "cracked" the situation inside the schools, we started a few months later to extend our contacts and influence into teen-age affairs outside the school. We had a natural opening for this in the local Youth Center.

The Center was a place maintained as a civic, publicly financed enterprise where youngsters gathered four nights a week to dance, play games, and mingle socially. It had become something of a troublesome spot. Liquor began to show up at times, hidden in automobiles outside the club. There were occasional fist fights. Some parents were concerned, and many "good" youngsters began to stay away. Capt. Johnny Burleson, a father himself, donned plain clothes and went on duty at the Center. He maintained order without the billy club. It was not long until the youngsters accepted him as "one of the gang," a position he still occupies. He participates in their games, helps at the snack bar, and most problems arising at the Center are brought to him for arbitration.

By this time, our men were being invited to lecture and demonstrate even in the grade schools. The department was asked to sponsor teams in Little League and Pony League baseball and was given financial support by two banks and a civic club to maintain these baseball teams. Police-men voluntarily gave their time to coaching and managing the teams. For 4 consecutive years we have placed at least one team in the championship playoffs in Little League and Pony League baseball.

Next, we originated a "Hot Rod Club" in Sherman and it soon became countywide. We obtained the help of a master mechanic and the use of a

garage, where boys could build or repair their "hot rods." Two officers were especially assigned to work with them in operating the club and preparing for and putting on the club "rallies." In these the members assembled and drove to a picnic site in the country. There was no "drag racing" on such outings. The procession was well organized and each driver took pride in conforming to all safety rules. They had a good time; they began to know that someone was interested in their activities and that police officers were friendly.

In the annual Golden Gloves boxing matches we have a team sponsored by the Sherman Police Department and officers referee the bouts and enter into the training program.

Then came our largest, most ambitious project. Known as "The Big Hop," it has brought interested inquiries from many other towns.

A tentative plan for such an undertaking was approved by the mayor, city commission, and school officials, and we were given free use of the municipal ballroom.

I persuaded a local radio station to broadcast the dances, a local music company to furnish jukebox and records, and various parents to serve as chaperons and to help serve refreshments. We decided that from 4 to 6 p. m. on Wednesday afternoon was the best time to stage "The Big Hop."

Our first session was a tremendous success. Our municipal ballroom is a large one, accommodating some 400 couples. But it was so jammed that it was impossible to continue the weekly dances with both junior and senior high school youngsters on the same day. So we scheduled the junior high school for Thursday, 4 to 6 o'clock, and the senior high for the same hours on Wednesday.



*Teen-age crowd at "Big Hop."*



At every session the ballroom is filled. The youngsters love it and so do their parents. It is well known to everyone that this is a Sherman Police Department project. Children came who were not otherwise allowed by their parents to go out in the evenings or to attend functions at the Youth Center. Those children well knew that it was the local police who made this good time possible for them. Policemen were present at each session, in uniform, and accompanied by their wives. Schoolteachers and parents generously assisted. We trimmed the project with all sorts of "gimmicks" to add to the interest and (innocuously) to promote order and good conduct. For instance, phonograph records were given as prizes each time to the five "champion" dancing couples. At our final dance of the school season last May, the youngsters voted one boy and one girl as "Best Big Hop Citizens"—the event being not just a popularity contest, but based on conduct, school grades, and morals. We had in "The Big Hop" a project too large to handle alone so we solicited help from civic clubs. The Sherman Exchange Club helped us to conduct the club for senior high students, and the Optimist Club for the junior high group.

"Cards" were issued to each youngster for "membership." They prized their cards. The rules—which they helped to write—called for cards being taken up for any infraction of the rules of behavior. During the entire school year, it was necessary for only one such membership to be terminated.

The sum total of these 5 years of police work with our city's youth is that there is so much association, friendship, and cooperation on "mutually" planned activities between teen-agers and police, that Sherman juvenile problems have virtually vanished. Our juvenile crime bookings dropped from 183 cases in 1953 to a mere 36 in 1957. Teen-age traffic violations have conspicuously declined. There is no longer painting of buildings and streets before football games and on certain holidays. Youthful vandalism has simply ceased.

The fruits of our hard work and extra hours are evident in the healthier teen-age conception of law and order, and in the average Sherman juvenile's respect and liking of the uniformed policeman.

I know that this has been done in other cities, and I do not wish to imply that the work is either original or superior in Sherman. Our program is

offered as one of the ways in which juvenile delinquency troubles can be reduced by "preventive" police work.

Lest these illustrations leave the impression that our department concentrated on "social welfare" work, let me emphasize that simultaneously with the initiation of our youth program we have also tightened our enforcement. We do not tolerate "bullies" on our force but neither do we have officers who are afraid to do their duty when the time comes. We are not "easy" on youthful violators; if they commit a crime, they are handled accordingly. The youngsters know this and respect us for it. We are on a friendly, "accepted" basis with the kids; they come to us with their problems and we help them. It is our experience that this firm-but-fair relationship breeds healthy respect and friendship.

In my opinion, juvenile crime is largely the outgrowth of a complex series of causes and effects. When the juvenile reaches the stage of being in police custody, we are dealing with the effect. Back in the boy's life, unseen, unknown, somewhere was the cause. So it amounts to the boy meeting trouble with police as the cumulative result of unknown causes which, sadly enough, involve so many complex social factors and family situations that they seem hopelessly beyond remedy.

But we can, as police officers and as police departments, continue to the best of our ability to combat the causes and "bend the twig" in the direction that it should grow. This is "preventive" police work in somewhat the same sense that society practices "preventive" medicine for better public health.

Juvenile crime is one of our most deadly social diseases and we must give its prevention our best and most intelligent efforts.

## **DANGER**

Deteriorated explosives often are more dangerous to handle than explosives in good condition.

## **SAFE INSULATION**

Oftentimes in the investigation of a safe burglary, the investigating officer will find that small nicks or indentations in the tools used will collect and hold insulation for a considerable time. These insulation samples can be valuable for laboratory examinations.





## ***Public Support Results in New Police Building***

*by* CHIEF TROY E. McCLUNG, *La Grange, Ga.,  
Police Department*

Police courtesy is largely responsible for the public's support in the construction of La Grange's new \$325,000 modern police building. Completed in April 1958, after a bond issue supported by civic-minded citizens, this modern police facility serves a community of 48,000 people and 11 of Georgia's largest cotton mills.

This building, one of the most modern in Georgia, has 46,000 square feet and was designed to accommodate a force of 43 officers and to allow easy access by the public in their attendance at Records Court and in paying traffic tickets.

It is constructed of brick and limestone on two levels. The ground floor contains the traffic department; identification division; photo lab; line-up room; jail for male prisoners; kitchens; first-aid and medical office; an evidence and property room; and office space for radio communications, the desk sergeant, and the assistant chief. The public enters the Traffic Division directly from the street into a modern lobby where a desk is located for the payment of traffic tickets, general information, etc.

In the rear is a large, paved parking area which allows police vehicles to load and unload prisoners, removed from public view. Male prisoners are taken directly into jail space on the ground floor from this area.

### ***Jail***

The jail space can accommodate 66 prisoners. The cells are equipped with the most modern showers, tables, and bunks. The cells for female prisoners and juveniles are on the second or upper level and are reached by means of an elevator. Dayrooms are provided for the prisoners. The jail is also equipped with three tile "tanks" for handling drunks.

The second or upper floor may also be entered from the street. On this floor you will find the Records Court (seating 80); administrative offices; a classroom with accommodations for 50 officers; an officers' lounge and the police library.

The lounge is equipped with TV, easy chairs, a coffee machine and a refrigerator. Adjoining the lounge is a large locker room with a large custom-built locker for each officer, and the usual shower and toilet facilities. The detective bureau is located adjacent to the administrative office.

Adjacent to the Records Court is a receiving room where prisoners are held pending their appearance in court, and a private office for attorneys for the purpose of interviewing prisoners. The entire building, with the exception of the jail, is air-conditioned.

The public, entering directly to the upper level from the street, has ready access to the Records Court and to the administrative offices without having to enter the working space of the department.



***Chief Troy E. McClung.***





*Police headquarters.*

I was fortunate in being able to visit new police departments and jails in several Southern States while planning the building, and the good features observed were adopted for the La Grange police building.

When the new building was opened for inspection, the response by the public was so great that open house was extended after 6,000 visitors viewed the premises on opening day and 2,000 were turned away. Boy Scout Troops and classes of the grammar schools have been shown these facilities on regular tours. This type of public relations is encouraged by our department which also has an active juvenile and school-patrol program.

In the past 11 years I have watched this department grow from a force of 22 men to the strength of 42 men and 1 matron. Initially, there was 1 traffic officer; today there is a 10-man Traffic Division with 10 traffic vehicles. We are strong advocates of safety programs and are very proud of our 1958-59 Safety Award from the National Safety Council and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In the growth of this department, we feel that our new headquarters will be of great benefit in enabling us to furnish additional service to the public.

### **SUPPLIES**

Assorted pillboxes, cellophane envelopes, paper bags, ice cream cartons, cotton, twine, ruler, labels, and other items are necessary for collecting and preserving evidence.

## **Destruction of Aircraft**

A Federal statute prohibits the willful destruction of and damage to civil aircraft in interstate, overseas, or foreign air commerce as well as attempts to destroy or damage such aircraft by tampering with any part of the aircraft, airport facility, or incapacitating crew members. It is also a Federal crime to make a false report concerning such destruction or damage as cited above.

On August 13, 1958, the manager of the Paso Robles County Airport, Paso Robles, Calif., received an anonymous telephone call and was informed that there was a bomb aboard the plane making the last flight out. He immediately notified the local police department which in turn notified the Santa Maria, Calif., FBI Resident Agent. In the meantime, one of the telephone operators on duty at the time possessed information concerning possible suspects in regard to the call.

Investigation by an FBI Agent and the chief of police developed information to the effect that one of the suspects was a teen-age boy who was ordinarily at home during the day by himself. It was further developed that the boy had the reputation of being a "bully." The suspicion regarding the boy heightened when the airport manager advised that the person making the call was a male who sounded as if he were in his early teens.

A 6 p. m. on August 13, 1958, the youngster was located and interviewed. He readily admitted making the anonymous phone call in which the false report about the bomb was made. He advised that he had gotten the idea from a picture show he had seen a short time before where bombs were planted on airplanes by a gang. A telephone call would be made to the airport alerting them that there was a bomb aboard a certain plane. He further added that he did not know why he had made the call except that he thought it would "be a good joke."

This young "joker" was placed in the custody of a juvenile home in California.

### **FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT**

The presentation of false or fictitious claims against the Government, and the misrepresentation or concealment of facts concerning matters within the jurisdiction of the Government are violations over which the FBI has jurisdiction.



## Police Headquarters in Modern Design

On frequent occasions it is learned that articles in the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* concerning new police headquarters buildings and facilities have prompted interest or supplemented plans of other law enforcement agencies.

Appreciative of the opportunity to be of service to law enforcement agencies of different sizes and in various localities, the *Bulletin* contains from time to time the details and plans of such modern improvements in headquarters construction.

In September 1958, according to Chief John F. Sheridan, the Town of Greenburgh, Elmsford, N. Y., officially opened its new police headquarters. This police department, organized in 1910 with a force of 10 men, now consists of 63 men and patrols 120 miles of town-owned roads. The new structure, which will replace the antiquated frame building used by the department for the past 28 years, was built at a total cost of \$376,000.

The new structure is of split-level design with rooms on three levels but none a full floor apart. Handsome, large walls of heat-absorbent glass

enclose the formal glazed brick on the lower portion of the building, while light bricks on the upper part form a base for the unusual curved treatment of the central wing.

The desk officer will sit at a raised desk in the lobby area from which he can look into the communications rooms and two booking rooms through conveniently located windows.

Through a door in the rear the desk officer can look quickly in on the 6 cells—4 for males and 2 for females. Windows are louvered rather than barred in this section without any loss of security.

To the left of the main desk are an office for Police Chief John F. Sheridan, a muster and report room, and a conference room for the police commissioners. To the right of the lobby are general administrative offices, including one for the Detective Bureau, Files and Records Room, and the Traffic and Safety Bureau.

A new Juvenile Aid Department will be located on the third level. This area was designed to provide maximum privacy and has a separate entrance, waiting room and conference room. Also in this section is a large central room which can be used for instructional activities and meetings.



*Greenburgh Police Headquarters.*



Other features of the building include separate entrances for police officers and the public, 74 lockers for the men, completely tiled showers and lavatories, a modern photolab and mugging room, painted exposed cinder blocks in the interior, and a garage to store and repair motor equipment.

An intercommunication system will link all of the offices. Short-wave radio equipment will be hooked into a new aerial and transmitter built on top of a water tank in the area. The new aerial is expected to double the strength of the wave band used by the department.

The new building is expected to increase police service for the public and also to facilitate the police work of the Greenburgh Police Department.

*(Photo by Dan Berry, Irvington, N.Y.)*



## Hitchhiker Murder

Coordinated police activity coupled with scientific crime detection frequently eliminates long investigations and brings success to police efforts. Last fall a series of incidents coming to the attention of law enforcement authorities thus resulted in the identification and conviction of a hitchhiker murderer.

On August 9, 1958, a resident of Breeman, Ala., disappeared. He was last seen alive on that date in Cullman County, Ala.

On August 12, 1958, the body of a man was found near the Cullman-Morgan, Ala., county line. The body—possibly that of the missing man—was so badly beaten and decomposed that it was beyond recognition and it was possible to obtain fingerprints from only one hand.

On August 13, 1958, an auto belonging to the missing Breeman, Ala., man was found in Birmingham, Ala., and was processed for fingerprints by the local authorities. Several impressions were lifted.

A military serviceman, while driving home on leave August 9, 1958, picked up a hitchhiker near Birmingham, Ala. After traveling all night and nearing Atlanta, Ga., on August 10, 1958, the hitchhiker assaulted the serviceman and remarked that he was going to kill him as he had killed a man in Alabama. The serviceman escaped from the car and notified the police department of Atlanta concerning his experience. The hitchhiker, driving the serviceman's automobile, was subsequently caught by Atlanta authorities. He

was held on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon (knife).

Due to the remark made by the hitchhiker to the serviceman, it was felt that he may have been referring to the body which was found in Alabama.

An investigator for the Department of Public Safety of Alabama forwarded to the FBI, Washington, D.C., the post mortem prints of the deceased and the lifts obtained from the decedent's car. The hitchhiker was named as a suspect.

Upon receipt of the evidence in the Latent Fingerprint Section of the FBI Identification Division, the post mortem prints were identified as the fingerprints of the missing Breeman man and two latent fingerprints were identified as fingerprints of the hitchhiker. This information was telegraphed by the FBI to the Department of Public Safety, Alabama, on the same day the evidence was received.

On November 20, 1958, a fingerprint expert from the FBI testified to these identifications at the trial of the murder suspect which was held in Decatur, Ala.

The jury found the suspect guilty of murder in the first degree and he was sentenced to death.

## ARSON SEMINAR SCHEDULED

According to an announcement from Prof. Shelby Gallien, director, Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., the 15th International Arson Investigator's Seminar will be held at Purdue University from April 27 to May 1, 1959. This 5-day training program will be conducted in cooperation with the International Association of Arson Investigators and State agencies interested in the recognition, investigation, prosecution, and prevention of the crime of arson.

Professor Gallien advises that the seminar "will present the Nation's outstanding arson authorities, lecturers, and moderators. The program will include essential basic information for the arson investigator which will be expanded into advanced techniques of investigation, criminalistics, and specific training that will lead to more effective detection, apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the arsonist."

For additional information concerning the seminar it is requested that communications be addressed to Prof. Shelby Gallien, Seminar Director, Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.



# SCIENTIFIC AIDS



Among the many problems confronting the law enforcement officer are those involving erased, obliterated, and faded writings. Since, in the first two instances, the individual involved has taken pains to conceal an important clue to the case, a successful solution of the problem posed is most rewarding.

In the field of document examination the problem is frequently encountered in the form of forged signatures, erasures, illegible writings and other exhibits of a similar nature.

Since the problem presents many aspects of a technical nature, and a successful solution to the problem depends a great deal upon the experience and background of the examiner, the services of trained laboratory personnel are essential.

## *Mechanical Erasures*

Mechanical erasures can be cleverly or crudely done depending on the skill and knowledge of the individual involved. The original writing may be pencil, ink, typewriting, printing or crayon. The writing surface may be paper, wood, cloth, leather, etc. The use of abrasives such as erasers or sandpaper or the employment of sharp instruments such as razor blades, scalpels, or sharp knives is quite common.

The methods employed by an examiner involve microscopy, photography, and chemistry. The first two methods do not alter the evidence in any manner and accordingly must be relied on whenever it is not possible to alter or stain the exhibit with chemicals.

Microscopic examination using direct, transmitted, and oblique lighting will in most instances reveal that an erasure has been made, and if any graphite particles (from pencil) or ink deposits are embedded in the fibers of the paper, it may be possible to determine the original writing. In some cases, of course, the erasure has been so thorough that the surface of the paper has been entirely removed and restoration of the original writing is impossible.

## *Restoring Altered and Faded Writing in the Laboratory*

Typewriting and printed matter are difficult to erase completely and in many instances fragmentary portions of the original material can be detected. The use of ultraviolet and infrared light in combination with microscopic examination has been so successful that it is standard procedure in all cases. Also appropriate photographs taken with these two light sources are a highly effective method for presenting evidence in court.

Where the original entries on the evidence are known through duplicate copies of records, this information should be furnished to the examiner since it can have an important bearing on his interpretation of any fragmentary portions of the original material detected in his examination.

For example, in a recent case involving the theft of a \$16,000 schooner the thief erased the entries on the owner's certificate. A duplicate copy in possession of the Coast Guard indicated what the original typed entries had been. Microscopic examination showed in several instances fragments of the original typewriting which matched the typing on the duplicate copy. It was also possible to determine that other entries had been erased and, although none of the original writing could be determined, the areas so erased had been re-typed with a typewriter different from the one which had been used in areas where no erasures were made.

## *Several Methods*

In another case a combination of methods was successful in providing a clue to the original serial number of a genuine bond which had been used by counterfeiters as a model to prepare a series of spurious bonds. As one step in the process the counterfeiters had photographed the genuine bond. The negative was then retouched to eliminate the serial number and was further retouched to simulate the background design of the genuine bond. When the spurious bonds were printed and fake serial numbers added, it was difficult to see any noticeable evidence of the change. However, mi-



croscopic and photographic studies of the area in which the serial numbers were printed revealed the nature of the changes made, and it was possible for the examiner to report that the serial number of the original genuine bond probably was 282-445. Investigation based on this probability resulted in the location of a genuine bond bearing serial number 382-445. The examiner in the laboratory identified this bond as the model from which the spurious bonds had been prepared.

Mechanical erasures of pencil writing generally remove all of the graphite present and in such cases the examiner can only state that an erasure has been made. If the original pencil writing was deeply impressed or portions of pencil graphite are imbedded in the fibers of the paper, the use of infrared photography is most effective.

If the evidence can be treated with chemicals, it is sometimes possible to restore erased ink writing. The degree of success in using chemical methods depends on the amount of chemically active original components still present after the erasure has been made.

### ***Chemical Erasures***

Ink eradicators and chemical solutions of various kinds have been used to bleach or decolorize inks (except India ink and printer's inks). Since the method employed does not remove the ink components from the paper but makes them invisible, it is possible to reverse the decolorizing action through the application of suitable chemical solutions or by use of photographic methods.

In actual practice, the exhibits are first examined under ultraviolet and infrared light before attempting chemical restoration. Ordinarily the ultraviolet light will at least show the area in which the writing was bleached. Chemical spot tests in this area are made to determine the best method of restoring the original writing. Restoration is possible because the original ink components are still present and will react chemically with the appropriate reagent to produce a visible compound.

### ***Obliterated Writings***

Writing or printing can be obliterated by an overlay of ink or other opaque substance such as paint, oil, blood, crayon, etc. In those cases where there is a fundamental difference between the original writing and the obliterating substance, it is possible to determine the original writing. Thus, if

dye writing ink is used to obliterate pencil writing, typewriting, pigment inks and printer's ink, the use of infrared photography is generally successful since the infrared rays pass through organic dye inks readily whereas pencil writing, typewriting, pigment inks and printing inks are opaque to these rays.

In some instances the use of strong transmitted light will be sufficient to determine the original writing. The problem becomes much more acute where the original writing and the obliterating substance are similar such as pencil over pencil or writing ink over writing ink of the same type. In such cases a great deal depends on the density of the original writing and the thickness of the overlay.

In some instances it is possible to dampen blotters with a suitable solvent and apply them to the overlay in such a way as to reduce the overlay to a point where the original writing can be made out. The skill and ingenuity of the examiner in analyzing the nature of the substances involved and the determination of the best technique of application will materially affect the results achieved.

In some cases it has been found that total immersion of the exhibit in a suitable solvent contained in a shallow pan followed by gentle agitation has resulted in rendering the original writing visible. In applying chemicals to the surface of the exhibit it should be noted that rubbing the surface of paper while damp may destroy the surface.

### ***Faded Writing***

The problem of faded writing is analogous to that of erased writing, except that in general more of the original ink is available for restoration. Faded pencil writing can best be determined by infrared photography. Faded aniline inks as a rule cannot be restored successfully. Faded iron inks offer the best possibility for successful restoration since the iron in the original ink reacts with a variety of chemicals.

In a recent case involving both faded pencil writing and faded ink writing the restoration was successfully accomplished by photographic methods. The pencil writing, on the back of a wooden plank, was photographed with infrared light. The ink writing was on a stained and discolored paper label.



## OTHER TOPICS

In the fall of 1958, Chief A. E. Buchanan of the Superior, Wis., Police Department, a rugged officer of 36 years' experience, became concerned over the nationwide increase in crime and in particular bank robberies, and the effect of the trend on Superior, Wis.

In a conversation with me, Chief Buchanan said, "Our cases are no better than our witnesses. Our men are trained investigators, but are limited by what witnesses can give them. Now let's train our witnesses to get the information we need, and let's start with bank employees."

Thus began our educational program for bank employees which, as it turned out, was also educational for us. With the assistance of the FBI personnel at Superior and at Milwaukee, Wis., we gathered information for the program and found very little precedent for it. We finally evolved a plan.

A team of two men, in this case an FBI agent and the assistant chief of police, contacted each bank president or executive officer as well as savings and loan association managers personally and explained the program. Our reception by these men was enlightening and encouraging, with each official eager to have the program inaugurated.

We agreed to provide the training for the banking institutions after 2 p.m. when the institutions were closed to the public. The first step, however, on the date agreed upon, was for our "bank robber" to enter the institution during business hours and "case" the bank. He usually loitered in the lobby, acted in a suspicious manner, and thereafter got change at a teller's cage, or had a paper notarized, or made inquiry about a loan.

Then, at the appointed hour after the institution was closed to the public, an official of the institution gathered all of the employees behind one teller's cage and introduced the officers who conducted the training. Three officers participated: Officer No. 1 gave an introduction and concluding summary; officer No. 2 gave the body of the instruction; and officer No. 3 (an identification

## **Police Conduct** **"Witness" Course** **for Bank Employees**

by CHARLES M. BARNARD, *Assistant Chief,*  
*Superior, Wis., Police Department*

officer) developed a latent fingerprint as part of the demonstration.

### **Simulated Holdup**

Officer No. 1 informed the employees that they were to witness one of the simplest types of robberies, the "note bandit" type in which the robber takes what he can from one teller without other people in the bank being aware of the fact that a robbery is being committed. He explained that the demonstration was intended to prepare their minds for ways in which they can assist police in the event of a robbery, and that at the conclusion of the demonstration they would be asked questions about what they saw. With some ostentation, officer No. 1 then passed a packet of green paper to an official of the bank who acted as the teller in the demonstration, stating that the packet would



*Chief Arthur E. Buchanan.*



represent money which the robber took from the teller.

Here we introduced a surprise "gimmick" to illustrate a technique sometimes used by sneak thieves. As officer No. 1 explained what he wanted the employees to observe, the proceedings were interrupted by a telephone call for the acting teller. After the teller left his cage to answer the telephone, officer No. 1, again ostentatiously, retrieved the packet of "money" which had been left on the counter by the teller. When the teller returned to the cage, he was asked to repeat what had been said on the telephone. He repeated, "While you are answering the phone, my confederate has taken everything in reach from your cage."

The telephone call, of course, originated from police headquarters and was a timed reply to a call surreptitiously made by officer No. 2 shortly after officer No. 1 had begun his introduction. The "money" packet was then returned to the teller with an explanation to the audience which emphasized the "sneak thief" technique and warned employees to keep money out of the reach of customers.

Of course, the employees were also advised that the acting teller had cooperated in the demonstration and was, in fact, too experienced a banker to leave money unprotected in his cage.

Officer No. 1 then completed his introduction, asking those present to be prepared to give the following information concerning the robbery they would witness: description of the person, mannerisms, and clothing of the robber; whether anyone had seen him before; description of the gun carried; places touched by the robber in the bank or articles dropped; and how the robber made his getaway. They were specifically warned to guard against the tendency shown by many witnesses in the past to underestimate the height of the robber because he might be slightly stooped when at the counter.

Officer No. 1 completed his remarks with the statement, "and here is the robber," turning toward the door in front of the bank as the "robber" entered. The "robber" in our demonstration, a cooperative railroad detective who was new in the community, went to a counter where he touched an ink well, approached the teller's cage, and slipped a note and a paper bag to the teller. Showing a gun over the top of the counter, the "robber" warned the teller quietly not to trip any alarm. The note stated: "This is a stickup. Put all your

money in the bag and keep quiet." The "robber" then left the bank with the bag of "money," making his getaway in a car parked across from the bank. The entire robbery took no more than 3 minutes.

At this point, officer No. 2 took over with results which were educational not only to the bank employees but also to the officers participating in the demonstration. Pencil and paper were given to at least five employees. Each was asked to do what we urged should be done in the event of an actual robbery, that is, do not collaborate or discuss the matter among themselves, but immediately write down the description of the robber and other data requested at the outset of the demonstration. The results were startling!

In some cases the written reports varied to such an extent that it appeared five different men were involved in the robbery. Despite the warning that witnesses tend to underestimate the robber's height, the great majority did so, some describing him as 5 feet 3 inches whereas he was actually 5 feet 10 inches. Most overestimated his age by 10 to 15 years. For some the grey hat worn by the "robber" became brown or black; his coat became a variety of hues and patterns. The gun was for most witnesses a hunk of blue metal with a hole in front, although one person described it as nickel-plated. With two exceptions, no one had seen the robber before. With several exceptions, no one remembered to note the getaway by the robber until they were reminded to do so a few moments after he left the bank.

### *Instruction Phase*

Officer No. 2 reviewed the written reports with the employees without identifying the individual authors. The variance of the descriptions was used to illustrate how essential it was that witnesses should not confuse their own impressions by talking to others before writing down what they had seen. It was tactfully suggested that errors in description were expected, and that fear of error should never prevent witnesses from giving their honest impressions. They were asked to improve their descriptive powers through occasional practice on customers and were given a short talk on portrait parle, or personal description.

The following recommendations were made to the employees:

1. Do not resist the robber in any way; he is armed, under stress, and may kill!



2. Preserve as evidence anything dropped by the robber: gloves, notes, paper bags, etc.
3. Protect areas touched by the robber so they might be processed for latent fingerprints.
4. Always give the robber a bundle of bills of which serial numbers have been recorded and which are generally maintained in cage for this purpose.
5. Set off alarms as soon as robber leaves bank. If silent alarm is available, set off as soon as safely possible. Follow all alarms immediately with a telephone call to FBI and police.
6. Bank officials should separate employees immediately and have them write down what they have witnessed before discussing case with others.
7. If possible, detain customers who have witnessed robbery, or at least record their names and addresses.
8. Don't be obvious, but carefully observe the actions and description of the robber.
9. Remember that time is of the essence. Think clearly and make accurate statements! What you do and say immediately after the robbery may determine whether the robber is captured or escapes.

During the conclusion of this instruction, officer No. 3 (the identification officer) developed a latent fingerprint on the ink stand and the print was then displayed to the employees. Needless to say, his handiwork makes an excellent impression on the employees and strongly emphasizes the instructions concerning safeguarding evidence.

A brief summary with a short illustrative story by officer No. 1 concludes the program which takes no more than 35 minutes.

We learned several important facts from this program. First, the bank officials, eager for the program when first approached, remained enthusiastic on its completion and suggested that it be repeated at intervals in the future. We then felt that what might have been merely politeness at the outset of the program was genuine interest; that bank officials like to feel that their police agencies are alert and are giving them good service—and that is good public relations!

Second, we had reemphasized for ourselves some practical aspects of investigation which all experienced officers know but sometimes forget. Descriptions by witnesses are often unreliable. With this in mind we must carefully word descriptions in police broadcasts so as not to add to

the confusion. Heights are often underestimated, ages overestimated. Guns are an unknown item to many people who do not know the difference between a revolver and an automatic pistol. In interviewing witnesses regarding robberies, show them various types of guns and you may get correct answers. If you should find a witness who gives an extremely detailed description, be cautious but not overly suspicious because you may have found a rare individual who has photographed the robber in his mind.

We hope that as a result of our program bank employees will be better prepared to help us in the event of a robbery. We believe that the experience of Chief Arthur E. Buchanan in crime prevention and public relations has been instrumental in the success of this program. It is felt that the program contributes to crime prevention in our locality, and as such is good for our department and the community.

## **Long Distance Fraud**

During World War II, three individuals, all engaged in the liquor business, decided that they could increase their profits by the establishment of fictitious companies. These companies were "set up" in Panama and Cuba and were then liquidated. These three men became the subjects of an investigation by the Office of Price Administration immediately following World War II. This investigation was followed by others instigated by the Customs Service, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit of the Treasury Department and then by the Internal Revenue Service. The latter agency's reason for investigating, naturally, was on suspicion of income tax evasion. Evidence, in the form of typewritten documents, was submitted to the FBI Laboratory to determine possibly the make of the typewriter which had been used to type the documents. Requests were also made to possibly determine the source of the paper which had been used. Although the defense maintained that the documents in question had been typed in Panama and Cuba, the prosecution was able to prove that these documents had been typed in two large cities located in the eastern part of the United States. More specifically, it was proved that they had been typed in the offices of the defendants. The three men received sentences of 4, 3, and 2 years and fines of \$8,000, \$6,000, and \$2,000, respectively.



## WANTED BY THE FBI

**WALTER BOYD LAWSON**, with aliases: Boyce Lawson, Boyd Lawson, Robert A. Lawson, Walter Lawson, Walter B. Lawson

### *Unlawful Flight To Avoid Prosecution (Robbery)*

On January 10, 1952, two unidentified individuals entered a clothing store in Athens, Pa., and robbed the proprietor by assaulting him with a blackjack. Investigation by State and local authorities developed evidence indicating that Walter Boyd Lawson and a confederate were the perpetrators of this crime. Local warrants were issued for the arrest of the two suspects and, a short time later, the pair was arrested in New York State.

Lawson's companion admitted his guilt and subsequently received a sentence of 7½ to 20 years for his part in the crime. Lawson, however, was released on bond shortly after being arrested and was successful in fighting extradition to Pennsylvania until July 1955, when a court ruling required him to be returned to Pennsylvania. Upon

learning that he was to be returned to Pennsylvania, Lawson jumped bail and fled.

### *Process*

A complaint was filed before a U.S. commissioner at Towanda, Pa., on July 26, 1955, charging that Lawson fled from the State of Pennsylvania to avoid prosecution for the crime of robbery.

### *The Criminal*

Lawson's left leg is reportedly 1 inch shorter than his right leg. He is said to be an excellent mechanic and an accomplished photographer. He is the subject of FBI Identification Order No. 3144.

### *Caution*

Lawson has used a blackjack in the past. He should be considered dangerous.

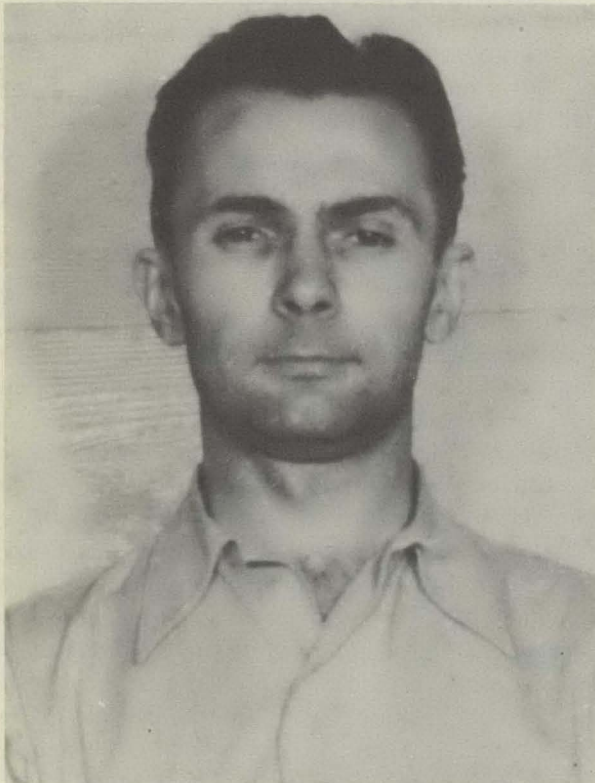
### *Description*

Walter Boyd Lawson is described as follows:

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Age                        | 38, born April 26, 1920, at Elmira, N.Y.   |
| Height                     | 5 feet, 7 inches.  |
| Weight                     | 135 pounds.  |
| Build                      | Slender.   |
| Hair                       | Brown.   |
| Eyes                       | Brown.   |
| Complexion                 | Medium.  |
| Race                       | White.   |
| Nationality                | American.  |
| Occupations                | Sign painter, tool and die maker, machinist, photographer, pipe-fitter, plumber. |
| Scars and marks            | Vaccination scar on upper left arm, appendectomy scar.                           |
| FBI No.                    | 998,081 B  |
| Fingerprint Classification | 22 M 25 Wr 18<br>L 2 R   |

### *Notify FBI*

Any person having information which may assist in locating this fugitive is requested to notify the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D.C., or the special agent in charge of the nearest FBI field office, the telephone number of which office can be found on the first page of local telephone directories.



*Walter Boyd Lawson.*



## Robber's Lament

On January 17, 1958, a female teller of the Van Nuys Savings & Loan Association, Van Nuys, Calif., entered the Citizens National Bank across the street, approximately one-half block away, to make a cash withdrawal of \$2,500 for her company. While she was in the bank, she observed an unknown man sitting on a bench in the lobby of the bank. She became suspicious of him when he followed her out of the bank and across the intersection. Holding the three manila envelopes containing the money clutched close to her chest, she started to run, heading directly for the entrance to the building where she was employed.

Before she could reach the entrance only 10 feet away, the unknown man came abreast of her, turned, snatched the envelopes containing the \$2,500 from her hand and continued on a dead run around a building and out of sight. Too startled and frightened to make a noise, she tried to follow him but he had disappeared.

During the latter part of July 1958, the robbery detail of the Valley Division, Los Angeles Police Department, advised the FBI that a man who was in custody at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office on an armed robbery charge admitted approximately eight armed robberies in the general Los Angeles area. He also admitted that on one occasion during the winter of 1958 he had "snatched" some envelopes containing a large sum of money out of a woman's hand in Van Nuys.

This suspect was interviewed and admitted to the FBI agent that, while in line at a teller's window in the Citizens National Bank, he had observed a woman directly ahead of him making a large cash withdrawal. He made up his mind then to step out of line and follow her out of the bank. He decided that if the opportunity came he would attempt to steal the money from this woman, believing her to be another customer. He had no idea that she was a bank employee.

An authorized complaint was filed before the United States Commissioner on July 31, 1958, charging the suspect with violation of the Federal Bank Robbery Act.

On October 7, 1958, this man appeared in Federal court at Los Angeles, waived his right to trial by jury, agreed to stipulate to all facts in this instant case, and was tried before the Federal judge on one issue. The defendant contended that because he robbed a woman on the street of a large

sum of money and had no knowledge that she was in fact a bank employee, he did not believe that he had violated the Federal Bank Robbery Statute. His attorneys argued that he had no intention of robbing a bank.

However, the judge found the defendant guilty, stating that a man who intends to rob must find his victims when he can, and if the victim happens to be a bank employee he is then guilty of robbing a bank.

On October 27, 1958, in Federal court the subject was sentenced to 5 years in custody of the United States Attorney General, with the sentence to run concurrently with a 5-year-to-life term he was then serving for a State offense.

## Shoe Traps Assailant

Early before daybreak on the morning of September 29, 1957, a woman of Chula Vista, Calif., was awakened by the smell of cigarette smoke in her room. She saw the form of a man standing near her bed smoking a cigarette. Startled, she reached for a light switch but the man grabbed her by the throat and threatened, "Shut up or I'll kill you." The victim managed to free herself, started to scream and attempted to run from the room. The intruder grabbed her and tried to choke her. Again she was able to elude him and ran into a hallway. The man then fled from the house.

In the search of the house for evidence, police officers found a man's right shoe. This shoe was sent to the FBI Laboratory for comparison with the shoes worn by a suspect at the time of his arrest. The Laboratory report stated, upon completion of the comparison, that the size of the shoe and the placement of the toe impressions inside the shoe were such that the shoe found at the scene of the assault could have been worn by the suspect and that there were no dissimilarities between the foot impression inside this shoe and that inside the right shoe taken from the subject at the time of his arrest. It was further pointed out that the general wear characteristics of the soles and heels on these two shoes were similar.

The services of the FBI Laboratory expert were requested for the trial, but the subject decided to change his plea to guilty just 3 days before the date set for the trial. He was sentenced to serve from 1 to 20 years in the California State Prison.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## *Interesting Pattern*



The double loop type whorl pattern presented here is interesting due to the method of determining the tracing. When the tracing passes inside the right delta, stop at the nearest point to the right delta on the upward trend. If no upward trend is present, continue tracing until a point opposite the right delta or the delta itself is reached. The ridge emanating from the left delta, D-1, has a definite upward trend; thus the tracing is ended on the upward trend at a point opposite the right delta, D-2, resulting in an inner classification.