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13

17

2

23

4

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction - - - John Edgar Hoover, Director

CRIME PREVENTION The Policemen and the Boys

POLICE TRAINING The FBI Practical Pistol Course Thirty-second Session of National Academy Graduates

IDENTIFICATION

A Questionable Pattern

Inside back cover

INSERT - Fugitives Wanted, Missing Persons and Cancellations

SCIENTIFIC AIDS

Some Scientific Aspects of Document Examination

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

INTRODUCTION

The FBI Laboratory has for many years made scientific examinations of evidence submitted by law enforcement agencies. In addition to this, the expert making the examination has been made available without cost to give testimony at the trial of the case. The large number of such requests has indicated that the FBI has in this way been of real service to law enforcement agencies throughout the country and it is my wish that this service continue.

It is desired, however, to point out the necessity of prosecuting officials' cooperating in this matter in conserving the time of the expert witness called to testify. We ask that examiners not be called to testify before Grand Juries unless peculiar circumstances make it essential. The presence of the Laboratory report or its substance is nearly always sufficient, though an affidavit will be furnished if requested.

In order to further conserve time, it is desired that the presence of the examiner be requested for the day on which his testimony is anticipated rather than for the day on which the trial begins. Conferences between the prosecutor and witness are highly important and can insure the most effective testimony and minimize the necessity of the examiner's remaining for rebuttal. These conferences can usually be held before court opens on the day for which the expert's testimony is planned.

The earliest possible release of the expert witness is necessary in order that his services will be available to other law enforcement agencies. It is therefore requested that police officials, for whom Laboratory examinations have been made, call to the attention of the prosecutors this problem in order that the cooperation of all those interested in the successful investigation and prosecution of crime can be assured.

Director



THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATES

On June 28, 1946, the Graduation Exercises of the Thirty-second Session of the FBI National Academy were held in the Departmental Auditorium in Washington, D. C. Eighty-four law enforcement officers representing thirty-one states, the District of Columbia, Alaska and Puerto Rico received their diplomas upon the completion of their twelve-week course of training. The Honorable James P. McGranery, Assistant to the Attorney General, and Director John Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation awarded the diplomas to the graduates.

Distinguished guests at the Exercises included His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman and Honorable Styles Bridges, Senator from New Hampshire, each of whom addressed the graduating class.

In paying a tribute to American Law Enforcement, Cardinal Spell-"....I believe that all informed, patriotic Americans take man stated:

courage from their confidence in the integrity and competency of our Law Enforcement agencies under the leadership of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And you, who today are finishing your courses in this National Academy, have the high honor and sacred responsibility to take your places with other graduates of this West Point of Law Enforcement, and to carry on your important duties in the traditions created by your Distinguished Chief, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

"The trust of the American people in your fidelity and vigilance is at once a compliment and a challenge, and in these days of chaotic crises while mankind is still en- FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN gulfed in war-heated hatreds, lusts and big-



otries, honors can be weighed only in terms of opportunity to serve. And no greater opportunity to serve is given to Americans than to you, for you are the guardians of good government, defenders of democracy, protectors of the patriot and champions of the common good -- enemies only to the enemies of our country, the enemies of law and order. Loyalty to country and service in the cause of justice are your guideposts as you wage war against crime, war against war...."

"....In these United States our Law Enforcement agencies are a source of reassurance and tranquility to our peace-loving people, a source of terror only to the lawless and subversive, and you in a special dedication, are pledged to the protection and defense of our country and her lawabiding citizens, as you constitute the ramparts of America's protection and peace."

The speaker commented that the greatest danger threatening America today "is the terrible tragedy that we may fail to remain fundamentally these <u>United</u> States." He called upon all to aid in protecting our institutions and said that Law Enforcement is in the vanguard in "this tremendous struggle."

Senator Bridges took cognizance of progressiveness in the Law Enforcement field when he said: "You who graduate here today are members of municipal, county and state police forces. Some of you are members of sheriffs' organizations. Your presence here is a high compliment to the progressiveness of the organizations to which you belong. It means they

are on the job and alert to the problems of the day. It means they are anxious to have the benefit of modern police training. Here you have learned the very latest methods of dealing with crime and law enforcement.

"My knowledge of the FBI and its program assures me your time here has been profitably spent. I know you will return to your organizations with knowledge you and your fellow officers will use to advantage. You will go back better able to protect your neighbors and better able than ever to cope with their problems."

The New Hampshire Senator remarked that some of our laws are out of line and that some phases of life have been fettered "and the



SENATOR BRIDGES

results are roadblocks to America's progress." Those mentioned "which must be moved to assure law and order in the land" were industrial strife, excessive government controls, excessive government spending, the great roadblock to peace which was stated to be Russia, and the roadblock of isms.

In concluding his address Senator Bridges used the words of George Washington on the fateful night of the crossing of the Delaware in giving his order to the Officer of the Day. "Colonel, this is a very vital night in our fight for freedom. Tomorrow's battle can well determine what the future of our country is to be. There is so much at stake that we can take no chance. Colonel, my only order is to put only Americans on guard tonight." The speaker added: "If we would maintain progress, if we would maintain law and order in the land, then we must be sure that only Americans stand guard for America."



SOME SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF DOCUMENT EXAMINATION*

IV. ILLEGIBLE WRITING

The success of many important investigations or the speed with which they are accomplished often depends upon the ability of the investigating officer to discover the identity of certain words, figures, or more extensive writing which have been made illegible in the furtherance of a scheme or the concealment of a criminal act, or he may find it necessary to develop certain illegible writings or other messages carelessly left behind by the criminal.

As a matter of policy the FBI Laboratory uses only those methods which do not alter or change the original appearance of the document to a perceptible degree without first consulting the contributing agency. This is done in order to forestall a valid objection to the admissibility of the evidence on the ground that it is not in its original condition or that it has been tampered with. Any attempt to develop such writing should be construed as a lawful effort to develop the facts and not to unlawfully misrepresent them. Photographic copies are always made before the examination is begun in order to reflect the original appearance of the document before any changes whatsoever are made. Much time can be saved in most cases if the Laboratory is informed immediately whether exhaustive tests may be applied.

No one expects the average law enforcement officer to be familiar with all the technical methods available (27) for making examinations of this kind, but it is highly important that he should know what can be done for him, and, equally important, how the application of these procedures affects the original appearance of his evidence.

A. ERASURES

Among the more elementary types of inquiries are those where the sole issue is whether or not an erasure was actually made on a document in question. In cases of this kind the following examinations are made:

- (27) "Obliterated Writing, Its Detection and Restoration," FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, January, 1941.
- *This is the third installment of an article on Some Scientific Aspects of Document Examination.

- 1. <u>Physical inspection</u>, using ultraviolet light, observation with light striking the surface at a sharp angle, and observation under the microscope may be considered. None of these changes the original appearance of the document in any way.
- 2. <u>Fuming</u> with iodine may cause an almost negligible stain, but in most instances not the slightest semblance of a stain remains.
- 3. <u>Chemical solutions</u> may be applied directly to the surface of the paper. These will leave no perceptible stain but the surface of the paper will lose some of its gloss comparable to wetting with water.

It is pointed out that erasures of pencil writing, particularly if written lightly, may be made so skil-



EXHIBIT 19. FUMING A DOCUMENT WITH IODINE VAPORS.

fully that no traces of an erasure remain if a good grade of paper is involved. On many grades of paper, however, evidence of an erasure may be quite readily detected.

B. OBLITERATED PENCIL WRITING

Pencil writing may be obliterated by mechanical action such as with an eraser or pen knife; by covering with an overlaying substance such as ink, pencil, or other covering substance; or by a combination of erasing or overwriting. Regardless of the method or methods employed the graphite in the pencil mark forms the basis for the solution of the problem. Accordingly, the following methods may be considered:

- 1. <u>Physical methods</u>, using infrared photography, observation with light striking the surface at an acute angle, studying the indentations of the original pencil strokes, and microscopical inspection may be considered. None of these methods changes the original appearance in the slightest degree.
- 2. Fuming the reverse side of the paper may be considered. As a rule this leaves no perceptible stain or other evidence of alteration or change.
- 3. <u>Removal of the covering layer</u> changes the appearance of the document to the extent that the layer is removed. If successfully done the value of the document is actually enhanced since the writing in question becomes legible. This

may be done either by mechanical or chemical means without appreciably changing the original appearance of the document except in the immediate vicinity of the obliteration. In some cases this may be done by means of a bleaching agent, causing a slight discoloration. In all cases of this kind the investigating officer should carefully consider whether exhaustive tests may be carried out by the laboratory. He must balance the legal aspects of any changes of the original appearance of the document against the speed and efficiency with which the solution may be obtained if slight changes are permitted. In some cases it is impossible to obtain a solution without applying exhaustive tests.

C. OBLITERATED INK WRITING

Ink writing may be obliterated by mechanical action; by covering with an overlaying substance; by eradication with a chemical ink remover; or by a combination of the above.

Without entering into a technical discussion of the chemical composition of inks, it may be said generally that many ink strokes consist of a visible as well as an invisible line, and that often the latter remains even though the visible part is removed or rendered invisible. The invisible portion in many instances may be made legible and thus forms the basis for many types of examinations, some of which bring about a slight change in the original appearance of the document. The investigating officer should consider these when he submits the document for examination.

- 1. <u>Physical methods</u>, using ultraviolet light, ultraviolet photography, observation with light from a sharp angle, microscopical inspection, and study with the aid of color filters may be used without changing the original appearance of the document in the slightest degree.
- 2. <u>Mechanical methods</u>, applied in the sense that the covering layer is removed, change the original appearance in proportion to the amount of material removed, but no other portion of the document is changed.
- 3. <u>Chemical methods</u>, either bleaching or developing, will bring about a change in the region where the obliteration was made. These methods are recommended in nearly every instance where an eradication occurs because of their speed and effectiveness, and no examination is complete without their application unless the solution is found by other methods.
- 4. <u>Fuming</u>, depending on the composition of the paper, may slightly change the appearance of the document over a wider area and may leave the original writing in visible form

more or less permanently.

D. OBLITERATED TYPEWRITING OR PRINTING

Printing or typewriting may be obliterated by mechanical action or by overwriting with pen or pencil, but bleaching agents such as ordinary ink eradicators seldom are effective.

Printer's ink, typewriter ribbon, and carbon paper deposits seldom contain invisible constituents which may be developed to visible form in the same manner as ordinary writing ink, but they often contain oily matter which should be considered. The following methods and observations are offered.

- 1. Physical inspection by transmitted light, observation with light striking the surface at a sharp angle, and observation under low magnification may be undertaken. None of these methods changes the original appearance of the document in any way.
- 2. Fuming may be undertaken in most instances without leaving a stain.
- 3. <u>Bleaching the covering layer will alter the document to the</u> <u>extent that the layer is removed, and, if successful, the</u> writing in question becomes legible. This method is speedy and often the only one capable of producing results.

COVERING SUBSTANCE	METHOD OF REMOVAL		
Black Ink	Chemical Washington, D. C.		
Pencil	Mechanical Nashington, D. C.		
Indelible Pencil	Chemical & Mechanical Mashington, D. C.		

EXHIBIT 20. ILLUSTRATING THE EFFECT OF EX-HAUSTIVE CHEMICAL AND MECHANICAL TESTS IN THE EXAMINATION OF OBLITERATED TYPEWRITING.

- 4. <u>Color filters</u>, used either for direct observation or in conjunction with photography, often may be used successfully. This procedure will not change the original document in any way.
- E. INDENTED WRITING

Indented writing is a term usually applied to the partially

visible depressions appearing on a sheet of paper underneath the one on which the visible writing appears. These depressions or indentations are due to the application of pressure on the writing instrument and would appear as a carbon copy if a sheet of carbon paper had been properly inserted. Indentations may also appear on a blank sheet of paper if such is used as a backing sheet while typing out a message on a typewriter. Although usually illegible, the message so impressed in the paper can often be made legible to a sufficient extent to make it readable by appropriate treatment.

- 1. <u>Physical methods</u> may be used, chiefly by passing a strong beam of nearly parallel light almost horizontally over the surface of the paper. By this means the original document is in no way changed or altered.
- 2. Fuming the document may be of value in some cases. Usually this leaves no perceptible trace of any sort of treatment.
- 3. <u>Chemical treatment</u>, using solutions of different color and composition, may be necessary as a last resort if other methods fail. Usually these stains can be readily removed, but the paper retains the appearance of having been wetted with water. If the paper is ruled, the lines will appear slightly smudged. In the usual type of case the paper bearing such indentations is of no value unless these indentations can be made readable at least to a limited extent. For this reason it is usually desirable to make exhaustive tests in all such cases.
- 4. <u>Powders</u> of various kinds may be used without perceptibly changing the document. This may seem like a simple procedure, but requires considerable skill and good choice of powders for best results.

The preservation of the evidence and the proper method of shipment are of primary importance. In no instance should the paper be folded, and every precaution should be taken to avoid pressure or weight on that portion on the paper bearing the indentations.

F. USED CARBON PAPER

Most people do not realize that used sheets of carbon paper can be made readable. This results in carelessness on the part of the criminal and in failure to take advantage of all sources of information on the part of the investigating officer.

By appropriate photographic methods it is possible to make the message stand out in almost black and white relationship with respect to the background. Obviously it is much easier to read a single message than when several such messages appear superimposed one over the other.

Every effort should be made to avoid folding or wrinkling such

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EXHIBIT 21. TOP SHOWING A PIECE OF ORDINARY USED CARBON PAPER. BOT-TOM SHOWING SAME PIECE OF CARBON PAPER ON WHICH TYPEWRITTEN IMPRES-SIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT OUT BY A PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS. used carbon paper in handling or in shipment. Once it reaches the Laboratory, the examination can be made without in any way changing the original appearance of the evidence.

G. BURNED OR CHARRED PAPER

A piece of paper may be subjected to the action of a limited amount of heat, causing it to become scorched or charred and retaining a certain amount of its identity, or it may be subjected to intense heat, reducing it to ashes and losing its identity. In the latter case it is impossible to develop any of the original writing, but if the combustion is incomplete, as in the former, a certain amount of success may be realized, provided the pieces are large enough to form a coherent message.

Of primary importance is the proper packing and shipping of this type of evidence. The pieces should be placed between layers of cotton

and shipped in a strong, rigid box, exercising every precaution to avoid damage in transit. It is believed best not to spray or moisten the evidence with water or any other liquid for shipping purposes. Upon arrival in the Laboratory, the following methods may be applied in an effort to ascertain the original message contained thereon:

> 1. Photographic methods, using various types of filters and different angles of illumination, may determine the writing contained thereon without in any way changing



EXHIBIT 22. AN EXAMINATION OF BURNED OR CHARRED PAPER.

the appearance of the charred fragments.

2. Chemical methods may be applied if physical methods prove fruitless. These consist of a variety of treatments, such as spraying, painting, or bathing the charred pieces with solutions of different chemical reagents. These treatments may slightly change the original appearance. 3. <u>Photographic plates may be utilized in deciphering charred</u> documents (28). This may be accomplished by allowing the charred paper to remain in contact with the emulsion sides in total darkness from one to two weeks and will not perceptibly change their appearance.

V. WRITING INSTRUMENTS

Much has been said and written about the composition, manufacture and development of inks, pens, pencils, and writing instruments generally, but the law enforcement officer is more interested from an identification standpoint. He must know, for example, whether a certain document in question was written with the same ink as that contained in a fountain pen found in the possession of a suspect, whether the same pen point was used, or whether certain pencil writing was done with a certain pencil.

A. INKS

The widespread use of fountain pens has complicated the problem of determining whether a certain sample of writing was done with the same ink as that found in the fountain pen of a suspected person because it may have been refilled with a different ink since executing the writing in question, and each time the pen is refilled it is blended with the remaining residue. If the pen is refilled with the same kind of ink the problem is less complicated.

If the writing is done with an ordinary steel pen instead of with a fountain pen the ink in the original bottle or ink well is generally exposed to the air for at least a limited period of time, thereby causing it to oxidize as well as to evaporate more rapidly than when covered. As a result the ink usually changes at least slightly. Furthermore, the pen point may have been previously used with another ink or it may have been used with the same ink but without cleaning, thus changing the color and composition of the ink strokes.

The acidity of the paper on which the ink appears, the amount of light to which it was exposed, and other circumstances, usually unknown, further complicate the problem.

After careful consideration of these elements it is usually possible to establish by laboratory examination that two inks are different, or, on the other hand, that they have the same physical appearance and chemical composition, but it is rarely possible to establish that two writings were prepared with ink from the same bottle or fountain pen.

The recording spectrophotometer, previously discussed in this article, provides the answer to many questions which could not otherwise be solved.

(28) "Action of Charred Paper on the Photographic Plate and a Method of Deciphering Charred Records," by Raymond Davis, Scientific Papers #454, National Bureau of Standards, 1922. (Reprinted in the FBI Fugitive Bulletin, January, 1933.)

B. PENS

When called upon to ascertain whether two writings were made with the same fountain pen or pen point it is usually possible to establish that two writings were not made with the same instrument or that a certain writing was not produced with a certain pen under consideration, but, on the other hand, it is rarely if ever possible to say that two writings were done with the same instrument.

C. PENCILS

Since so-called lead pencils are made of graphite and clay there is rarely anything unusual about pencil writing which might be used to establish that two pencil writings were executed with the same writing instrument. While it may be possible to ascertain in some instances that two writings were done with two different pencils, the most that can be said, on the other hand, is that a pencil of about the same degree of hardness was used.

VI. CONCLUSION

Many procedures referred to in this article are standard practices in many industrial and other testing laboratories where virtually unlimited quantities of samples of no great material value are available for testing, but the law enforcement officer must deal with extremely limited quantities of samples of great forensic value. Hence it is clear that these tests must often be conducted with certain limitations and the results thus obtained must be properly evaluated.

Other procedures may seem very simple, such as the measurement of a sheet of paper or developing indented writing with powders, but these are only a part of a much larger scheme and do not tell the full story. The unskilled application of more extensive tests may result in destruction or loss of valuable evidence and in serious consequences to the case under investigation.

Every alert law enforcement officer may be assured of receiving the best possible technical assistance in matters of this kind by submitting his evidence to the FBI Laboratory where such examinations are made by competent experts using the best possible equipment. The services of the FBI Laboratory experts as witnesses are furnished at no cost to the contributing agency if needed at a subsequent trial in any cases examined by them.

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NOTICE

Beginning with this issue the Insert entitled "Fugitives Wanted - Missing Person Notices - Cancellations" is being incorporated into the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin proper.

Because of a curtailment in budget the Bulletin has been reduced somewhat in size. It is hoped that no law enforcement officer will be inconvenienced as a result of the consolidation of Bulletin and Insert.



THE POLICEMAN AND THE BOYS by Chief of Police Arthur W. McIsaac Concord, New Hampshire

During the winter of 1943-44, while the rising tide of juvenile delinquency was impressing itself on the minds of serious thinking individuals throughout the United States, the citizens of Concord, New Hampshire, set about to examine this situation in their town. Police department statistics indicated the local problem was becoming more acute just as FBI records mirrored the same trend throughout the nation.

We were particularly concerned with the phases of the problem affecting our department. A juvenile "mob," uncovered during the late summer and fall of 1943, troubled us. These youths, ranging from 12 to 16, had perpetrated a number of house breaks. Included in their loot were a .45 caliber automatic and several smaller hand guns. At the time that the gang was apprehended, several guns were recovered. The tough-talking youths asserted it had been their intention to shoot it out with any officers who might attempt to interfere with their breaks. Two of the older youths were sentenced to the state industrial school and other members of the gang were placed on probation.

A few weeks later one of the boys escaped from the school. When he was apprehended it was learned that he planned to dig up the .45 caliber automatic, hidden for use in an "emergency," and return to the school in an attempt to deliver his pal. The .45 was recovered by police, but the whole community was startled by what might have happened if the youths had accomplished their purpose.

The ponderous processes of municipal conscience were stirred and demands were made that the city government "do something" about the situation. The mayor responded by appointing a committee to study the problem and report to the board of aldermen. While the committee spent time and effort in compiling what eventually became a detailed, comprehensive and intelligent report, we decided our department must act with greater dispatch.

Our department felt that the social causes of delinquency were not problems for the law enforcement officer. However, we did not deny that the social aspects of handling the delinquent child were most definitely a police problem. It was conceded that it was a proper police function to establish a method of handling the delinquent. Police officers in Concord believed that if it were possible to harness and direct the naturally lively juvenile mind into wholesome activity the erstwhile delinquents would cease being a problem to the police. We determined to take advantage of the gang spirit among the youthful offenders, organize them into a single group and assign a police officer to ride herd on their activities. I assigned Patrolman Addison Martin, a policeman with twenty years of experience, to round up the first members. The youngsters, carefully selected, were twenty youths known to police and considered to have the most likely prospects of developing into criminals.

Some of the charter members of the club were boys who had been in the gun toting "mob" mentioned above. All had been involved in serious difficulties, were on probation and were believed headed for more trouble. The first meeting of the club was attended by no publicity but by all of the invited members. Officer Martin stated the case plainly.

"You guys have been in trouble in the past and are likely to get into more trouble. The cops have nothing against you. We'd like to see you stay out of trouble. We're willing to help you do some of the things you would like to do and can't afford to do."

Martin has laid it on the line ever since. With no specialized training and guided by a common sense approach he carried on a club program in the face of all manner of difficulties. From early morning until late at night he begged and borrowed the equipment and facilities needed to have club meetings and club activities. The Concord YMCA, the churches and the schools helped the club. Other members of the police department were unstinting in providing supervisory assistance. The club became the hobby of the department.

Starting from scratch with the original 20 boys, the club now has 52 members. It possesses a clubhouse equipped with gym, showers, lockers, pool and ping-pong, a workshop, a kitchen and an office. The club itself was purchased by the department's Benevolent Association and remodeled by the officers. The proudest part of the record is that no member of the club has faced the juvenile court since he joined.

The club is largely self-governing. Officers elected by the boys provide for the collection of dues (5¢ a week) for the upkeep of the clubhouse and for discipline of erring ones. Members selected a name for the organization. They call it the Addison Boy's Club as a sincere tribute to their friend, Addison Martin. The athletic program includes baseball, basketball, boxing, swimming and many lesser sports. Coaching is provided by former athletes in the department. Equipment is furnished by the Benevolent Association and public-spirited citizens. In addition, the members have a dinner meeting once a month. Holidays are observed by parties appropriate to the occasion. FBI Agents, other law enforcement officers and clergymen are invited as guest speakers.

At regular meetings a court composed of the club president and three jurymen hears complaints against the members. The complaints may come



from any source, but they are filed by Officer Martin who acts as prosecutor. The accused may choose any fellow member as defense counsel. The procedure is most serious and the sentences are surprisingly stiff. Very often Martin must plead that a part of the sentence be suspended. Offenders are sentenced to do the chores connected with keeping up the clubhouse. The most serious sentence requires the culprit to clean the ash pit of the large stoker which heats the two-story clubhouse.

Plans for the future include the purchase of a station wagon (to be partly financed from proceeds of the club's minstrel show) in order that members may be transported to and from a proposed summer camp. The vehicle will also be used by the various athletic teams when matched with out-of-town opponents. Total cost of sponsoring the organization for two years was \$5,500. This amount was raised by the Benevolent Association's annual vaudeville program and by outright solicitation of businessmen, industrialists and other persons in a position to make philanthropic donations.

Club rules are realistic. Members are not permitted to smoke in the clubhouse, but no overall prohibition is attempted. Fines for swearing are levied at the rate of one cent a word. The club is open daily from 3 until 9 p.m. except Sunday. Patrolman Martin is assigned exclusively to this work.

In addition to the undoubted benefits derived from the club by its members, the organization is responsible for another curious and wholesome effect. It has proved a splendid means of cementing relations between the department and the public at large. The fact that the entire department has adopted the club as a hobby, each policeman contributing his time according to his talents, has not escaped public notice. We in Concord cannot help but feel proud of the men in our police department who are making good citizens of juvenile delinquents.

(On April 1, 1946, Patrolman Addison Martin was given a pension and retired from duty on the Concord Police Department as a result of a lung injury sustained while effecting a rescue at the scene of a fire. He will take up residence in Arizona in the near future. As a final tribute to their friend, members of the club which bears his name joined with Addie's fellow officers in sponsoring a testimonial dinner at the clubhouse on April 17. Chief McIsaac has assigned Patrolman James Ceriello, an outstanding athlete, volunteer coach of parochial school teams and No. 1 assistant to Officer Martin, to continue the latter's work.)

* * * * *

The First Pan-American Congress of Legal Medicine, Legal Odontology, and Criminology will be held at the University of Havana, Havana, Cuba, from September 2-8, 1946. Delegations are expected from numerous countries in the Western Hemisphere.

THE FBI PRACTICAL PISTOL COURSE (Continued from July, 1946, issue)

22. SHOOTER DEMONSTRATES HOW TARGET MAY BE REDUCED BY KEEPING FEET TOGETHER.





23. AFTER FIRING FIVE ROUNDS IN THE PRONE POSITION, SHOOTER ROLLS TO LEFT SIDE, EJECTING CARTRIDGES WITH LEFT HAND, REACHING FOR AMMUNITION WITH RIGHT HAND. EACH TIME-SAVING DETAIL IS IMPORTANT AS SHOOTER MUST RELOAD SEVEN TIMES BEFORE HE COMPLETES THE COURSE.





25. FOR SAFETY REASONS SHOOTER REHOLSTERS LOADED GUN IN KNEELING UPRIGHT POSITION.



27. AT 50-YARD LINE SHOOTER ASSUMES SITTING POSITION, THEN DRAWS GUN. WHILE IN THIS POSITION SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS, EJECTS EMPTY CARTRIDGES AS HE SWINGS INTO A PRONE POSITION. AND WHILE PRONE RELOADS AND FIRES THE NEXT FIVE ROUNDS.

24. RELOADING WHILE STILL IN A PRONE POSITION TO KEEP TARGET OFFER-ED BY SHOOTER AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE.



26. RISING. HE PROCEEDS BRISKLY TO THE 50-YARD LINE.



28. SHOOTER, IN DRAWING GUN, KEEPS FINGER OFF OF THE TRIGGER. HE DRAWS GUN ALONG THE SIDE OF THE LEG.

At this point the most common safety violations are:

1. Drawing gun before sitting. 2. Drawing gun in such a manner as to cross leg with muzzle. 3. Drawing gun with a sideways

motion which momentarily covers shooters on adjoining lanes.

There are three acceptable sitting positions.

29. NUMBER ONE SITTING POSITION. KNEES AND FEET ARE ABOUT SIX INCHES APART. KNEES SUPPORT GUN ARMS JUST BACK OF ELBOWS. THIS POSITION ENABLES SHOOTER TO EXTEND ARMS TO FULL LENGTH, THUS GIVING HIM THE BEST AND MOST CONSTANT SIGHT PICTURE AS WELL AS GOOD SUPPORT. SUCH POSITION WOULD BE USED UNDER ACTUAL FIRING CONDITIONS FOR DISTANCE SHOOTING WHERE OBSTRUCTIONS INTERFERED WITH USE OF PRONE POSITION.







NUMBER TWO 31. SITTING POSITION. KNEES SUPPORT ARMS FORWARD OF THE EL-BOWS. THIS POSI-TION IS STEADY AND HAS ALL THE ADVAN-TAGES OF THE NUM-BER ONE POSITION. PERSONAL CHOICE DICTATES WHICH PO-SITION IS TO BE USED.



NUMBER TWO SITTING POSITION 32. FROM THE SIDE.



30. FROM THE SIDE. ARMS ARE FULLY EX-TENDED. GUN IS AT EYE LEVEL. IF, WHEN POSITION IS FIRST ASSUMED, GUN IS NOT DIRECTLY AT EYE LEVEL, FEET SHOULD BE DRAWN CLOSER TO BODY. THIS RAISES KNEES AND ELEVATES GUN. PROCEDURE SHOULD BE REVERSED IF GUN IS TOO HIGH.

33. NUMBER THREE SITTING POSITION IS USUALLY PREFERRED BY PERSONS WEARING GLASSES OR THOSE HAVING A LARGE WAIST LINE. DISADVANTAGES: GUN IS NOT AS WELL SUPPORTED. NOT AS STEADY AND CLOSER TO EYES.





34. SHOOTER HAS FIRED FIVE SHOTS FROM SITTING POSITION. HE EJECTS SHELLS AS HE STARTS TO SWING AROUND TO PRONE POSITION. GUN IS POINTED DOWN RANGE DESPITE FACT THAT MUZZLE IS ELEVATED SLIGHTLY TO FACILITATE UNLOADING.





35. SHOOTER, IN PROME POSITION TO 36. COMPLETELY PROME POSITION PRESENT SMALL TARGET, RELOADS. ASSUMED TO FIRE NEXT FIVE ROUNDS.





37. SHELLS ARE EJECTED AS SHOOTER MOVES TO POSITION BEHIND BARRICADE. GUN MUZZLE IS POINTED DOWN RANGE.

38. SHOOTER, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF COVER, RELOADS BEHIND BARRICADE WHICH SIMULATES CORNER OF BUILDING. THE NEXT TEN SHOTS ARE TO BE FIRED, FIVE WITH THE LEFT HAND FROM LEFT SIDE OF BARRICADE, AND FIVE WITH THE RIGHT HAND FROM RIGHT SIDE OF BAR-RICADE TO GIVE PRACTICE IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL AVAILABLE COVER.

39. FIRING FROM THE BARRICADE.





The first five shots from the barricade at fifty yards are, for safety reasons, fired with the left or weak hand (right hand if shooter is left handed). Several lanes are in use. If shooter is slower than men on other lanes he will be firing with his best and safest hand when others are ahead of his firing point.

Shooter assumes an unorthodox position by placing right foot forward in order to take advantage of cover. He places gun hand beyond barricade and brings gun to eye level. Gun is cocked after it is placed beyond barricade. Shooter supports gun hand with right hand flat against barricade. Thumb of right hand supports gun hand at break of

wrist. Shooter sights with left eye when shooting with left hand to take full advantage of cover.



40. CLOSE-UP OF HANDS. NO PORTION OF GUN IS AGAINST BARRICADE.

> 41. FRONT VIEW OF BARRICADE POSITION.



42. COMMON ERROR. CYLINDER AGAINST BARRICADE. THIS DOES NOT RESULT IN MORE SUPPORT FOR GUN. RATHER IT WILL INJURE THE GUN.



44. SHOOTER EJECTS SHELLS AFTER FIRING FIVE ROUNDS AND REACHES FOR MORE AMMUNITION.



46. SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS WITH STRONG HAND. GUN IS PLACED AT BAR-RICADE AT EYE LEVEL. THE GUN IS NEXT COCKED AND SUPPORTING HAND IS PLACED IN POSITION. RIGHT EYE USED FOR SIGHTING.



43. FRONT VIEW. IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO SHOOT IN THIS MANNER IF CYLINDER IS RESTED ON INDEX FINGER AND FRONT OF CYLINDER IS A-HEAD OF FINGER SO THAT NO LEAD WILL HIT FINGER AND GUN DOES NOT TOUCH BAR-RICADE.



45. TO FACILITATE RELOADING SHOOTER MUST RELAX WHILE NOT ACTUALLY FIRING. THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO BREATHE DEEPLY WHILE RELOADING.



47. BARRICADE OFFERS EXCELLENT CONCEALMENT.



48. COMMON ERRORS. RIGHT FOOT FOR-WARD WHILE FIRING WITH THE RIGHT HAND EXPOSES LARGE PORTION OF SHOOTER'S BODY. COMPARE WITH 47



50. FIVE ROUNDS WITH STRONG HAND COMPLETED, GUN UNLOADED. SHOOTER RELOADS BEHIND BARRICADE.



52. SHOOTER ADVANCES BRISKLY TO THE 25-YARD LINE.





49. IMPROPER STANCE. REVOLVER TOO LOW; SHOOTER TOO FAR FROM BARRICADE.



51. SHOOTER HAS FIRED TWENTY ROUNDS AT THE 50-YARD LINE, HAS RELOADED TO BE READY FOR EMERGENCY AND IS HOLSTERING.



53. SHOOTER HAS SAT DOWN; IS DRAW-ING REVOLVER.

To be continued in next issue

A QUESTIONABLE FINGERPRINT PATTERN SCARRED IMPRESSION

The pattern presented this month illustrates the effects of a scar. In classifying badly scarred impressions the Bureau's Identification Division uses the following rule:



BEFORE SCAR



APPEARANCE AFTER SCAR

When an impression is so scarred that the general type of pattern cannot be determined with reasonable accuracy, the impression should be given the classification of the corresponding finger of the other hand. Of course, references to any other possible classifications would be used. Communications may be addressed to the Field Office covering the territory in which you are located by forwarding your letter or telegram to the Special Agent in Charge at the address listed below. Telephone and teletype numbers are also listed if you have occasion to telephone or teletype the Field Office.

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Communications concerning fingerprint identification or crime statistics matters should be

addressed to: -

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W. Washington, D. C.

> TELEPHONE NUMBER: EMERGENCY (KIDNAPING)

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