

# FBI

## *Law Enforcement*

# BULLETIN



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



# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

Restricted to the Use of Law Enforcement Officials

AUGUST 1955

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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.



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

August 1, 1955

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

Robberies in 1954 set one of the highest records for this criminal class in the quarter-century history of crime reporting. The 67,420 robberies last year virtually matched the peak total reached in 1935, in an era when lawlessness necessitated many of the Federal criminal statutes in effect today. The 6.8 per cent increase in robbery was a major factor in the 5 per cent upsurge of crime in the nation. Of all urban crime, this offense showed the greatest percentage gain.

To the criminal, guns are natural magnets. Accessibility of lethal firearms serves as an incentive to serious depredations for the novice as well as the veteran in crime. Easy access to such weapons can mean the difference between a petty thief and an armed bandit, a juvenile delinquent and a youthful marauder, a crime against property or the more vicious crime against the person.

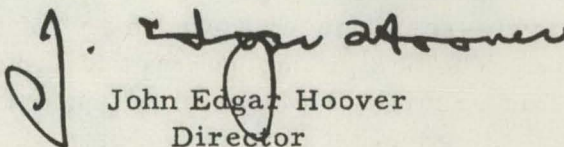
Carelessness of individual citizens in safeguarding legitimately owned weapons encourages potential juvenile offenders and provides dangerous loot for the prowler or burglar. Particularly, emphasis must be directed to the responsibility for stores of firearms--in pawn shops, depots, business concerns, armories and other places. Reports of weapons stolen from residences and business houses in the vicinity of and prior to major holdups is a pattern well known to police authorities. No less than sixty-six loaded guns--booty from burglarized hardware and sporting goods firms--were recovered upon the apprehension of one of last year's armed bandits by local officers in a western state. The danger of a potential trend inherent in the increasing attention of the criminal element to the supplies of automatic weapons in armories cannot be overlooked.

Public safety demands that adequate security measures be provided wherever quantities of deadly firearms are maintained. Accurate inventory records are essential for tracing stolen weapons.

Immediate reporting of thefts is necessary to hasten recovery before such guns become tools of crime. The National Firearms Act, the Federal Firearms Act and similar local ordinances are effective countermeasures against criminal armament.

An automatic or lethal weapon in criminal or irresponsible hands not only endangers the law-abiding citizen but also adds greater risk to the arduous burden of law enforcement. The problem of disarming the criminal must merit positive consideration if the present-day army of robbers and lawless gunmen is to be crushed.

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director



## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Growth of a New Police Department in California

by EARL H. WERNER, *Captain of Police, City of Fontana, Calif.*

The day of the American frontier is long a thing of the past, and the policeman today has little opportunity to know the problems involved in the establishment of a law enforcement agency within a new city. Therefore, some of the problems which we experienced in this regard after Fontana became an incorporated city might be of interest to officers throughout the Nation.

Fontana is nestled at the foot of the Sierra Madre Mountains, 48 miles east of Los Angeles in the west end of San Bernardino County. It is a part of the old Spanish land grant known as the Rancho de San Bernardino. This grant was sold by Antonio Maria Lugo and his heirs to the Mormons as they began to settle in the area. They in turn divided the land into small parcels which as time progressed were developed into citrus groves, poultry and rabbit farms. So the area has been for a number of years primarily a rural one with a scattered, peaceful population.

At the outbreak of World War II, this quiet community became the center of a large wartime activity. A major corporation purchased 1,300 acres west of the townsite where a steel mill was established. Other businesses soon followed, making Fontana a perfect symbol of the wartime transition of a farm community to an industrial area with an even greater postwar growth. There followed the natural and familiar conflict of the old versus the new ways of life. Some resented the invasion of industry; others welcomed it. Nevertheless, it was here, and probably here to stay. It was natural that Fontana should have this happen as it is served by U. S. Highway 66 on the north, U. S. Highway 99 on the south and three major railroads, all connecting the West Coast with the East. Yet land was comparatively inexpensive. At the time, the population was estimated at 4,000.

### ***Incorporation***

An attempt to incorporate 17 square miles in the year of 1951 failed at the polls. A second effort

was made in June 1952, to incorporate the 5 square miles in the heart of the area, at which time the people accepted the fact that Fontana was an urban community. The desire to incorporate carried the majority, whereupon a city was born. With it came the problems of a new life. One of those was the establishment of a police department. Up until this time, law enforcement had been carried out by the San Bernardino County sheriff's office. That department, however, had to police an area of 23,367 square miles and now there was a city which had grown to a population of 13,685. Nine deputies, working out of the Fontana substation, had been endeavoring to patrol the Fontana area along with approximately 112 square miles of adjoining territory. The California Highway Patrol had been enforcing the traffic regulations. Now these problems became the sole responsibility of Fontana. Where to begin?

At the time incorporation was voted, a city council was also elected. This council immediately



***Capt. Earl H. Werner.***



enacted a business license ordinance in order to obtain funds with which to hire employees and buy equipment. The first need was for a chief of police to organize and then direct a police department. Articles and notices were placed in newspapers advertising the fact that this new city was in need of a chief of police.

On October 1, 1952, the city council appointed the city's first chief of police, Henry A. Younge. To him fell the problem of getting a working force into operation as soon as possible. At the time he was made chief of police he was also made "traffic safety engineer," which responsibility called for the placement of street name signs, stop signs, traffic control signs, and the painting and maintenance of street lanes and parking lines.

Chief Younge met with the city council and discussed the need for personnel and equipment, considering our square mileage, population, number of business establishments and the many industrial developments within and around the community. All officials were aware that the outlying population would contribute greatly to the police problem as the city contained the stores, theaters, parks, schools and churches serving a population of approximately 40,000 persons. The city council authorized hiring five officers and purchasing two patrol cars and essential office equipment. They also made provisions for hiring additional personnel as soon as finances would permit.

In order to obtain the five men authorized, notices again were placed. Forty-seven applicants were given written examinations. The highest 25 were given an oral examination by a 5-man board consisting of a sheriff, a neighboring police chief, 2 elected city officials and Chief Younge. The five highest-scoring men were given physical examinations and appointed. We assigned 1 officer to duty on the day shift, 2 to the swing shift, and 1 to the "graveyard" shift. The fifth appointee was assigned as relief officer.

### **Early Operations**

During the first 2 weeks of October 1952, the services of a neighboring city's police officer were obtained to assist in designing forms, setting up a records section and selecting equipment.

Deputies of the county sheriff's office and officers of the California Highway Patrol continued policing the city as an unincorporated area until the five city officers reported to duty on October 20, 1952.

The fact that the department's vehicles had not yet arrived did not prevent the officers from carrying out their assignments, as transportation was furnished by the sheriff's deputies and highway patrol officers. This arrangement continued until November 1952, when two sedans arrived and were placed into service.

The department did not have sufficient personnel to handle field operations around the clock. The "graveyard" radio was manned by the city officer assigned to that shift while the deputies and highway patrol officers conducted all field details. During the day and swing shifts the deputies manned the radio shared by the two departments.

By December 1952, the downtown area had been posted for time-limit parking. This necessitated hiring a sixth officer, who was assigned to the foot beat on the day shift.

All officers were hired to perform 44 hours of active duty each week; however, the many problems requiring investigation caused the officers to work many hours overtime. There were no funds available to compensate the men for this overtime.

On the 1st of January 1953, the department obtained an experienced secretary on transfer from the city clerk's office. She relieved the officers from typing felony reports, answering telephones, handling routine correspondence, accepting bail, etc. The secretary was given an additional duty of "Police Matron" and in this capacity assisted the officers in arresting, interrogating and transporting females.

During January and February 1953, two more officers were appointed and the department went on 24-hour field operations, thereby relieving the sheriff's deputies and highway patrol officers from graveyard duty within the city.

The tremendous work load which had developed in the records bureau by April of 1953 necessitated the appointment of an officer to that section. An experienced man was selected, thus relieving the senior officer of the department for more field work as he had been handling records and identification details when time permitted—which was not very often.

In April 1953, a promotional examination was conducted for officers of the department who had completed 2 years in law enforcement for the selection of one captain and two lieutenants. The captain was assigned to duty on the day shift and placed in charge of all major investigations, made



supervisor of the records bureau and inspector of all case reports. One lieutenant was placed in charge of the swing shift while the other was placed in charge of "graveyard" activities.

During the month of June 1953, two more officers were appointed. One was assigned to duty in the downtown area on a three-wheeled motorcycle. His primary assignment was to enforce the parking regulations in the downtown area with special attention to be given the 247 meters which had been installed. A three-way radio was obtained for the motorcycle shortly after it was placed in service as it was necessary to call upon the motorcycle officer to answer emergency calls occasionally and also to assist his fellow officers on duty.

The other officer enabled the department to have a juvenile officer 3 days each week and to have better coverage on the swing shift on the other nights.

In January and February 1954, six additional officers were appointed from the eligibility list. The addition of these officers enabled the department to have two regular officers in each of the two cars on swing shift, to operate the radio desk for both the sheriff's office and the police department on Saturday and Sunday swing shifts, and to have a foot patrolman in the downtown area on Friday nights while the business houses were open. The juvenile officer was now able to work juvenile problems exclusively 3 nights each week in a third car.

Present personnel consists of the chief, a captain, a lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 10 patrolmen, 1 radio-telephone operator and 1 stenographer-clerk. The average age of the personnel is 32 years. Turnover of personnel has been limited to 1 lieutenant and 1 patrolman since activation.

### **Personnel Matters**

All officers appointed prior to July 1953 were paid salaries according to their previous law-enforcement experience. Thereafter new officers were appointed at the lowest pay rate.

On February 1, 1954, the city joined the California State retirement system. Police officers are eligible to retire at age 55 with a mandatory retirement at age 60. All officers are automatically taken into the plan after completing 6 months of full-time service. The plan provides for retirement in addition to benefits in the event of death or disability.

The city adopted a personnel ordinance which



*Chief Henry A. Younge.*

includes all employees of the city and provides for a five-man "Personnel board," composed of persons who are not affiliated with the city by election or employment. The ordinance outlines the rights of the employee, his responsibilities, and his right to have representation by a counsel of his choice in any matter he brings before the board.

A personnel classification plan was adopted on September 1, 1954, which places all employees of the city on a 5-step pay plan, provides for a 40-hour workweek, and specifies qualifications for promotions.

### **Training**

From the outset, training on the job and in school has been vigorously stressed and encouraged. From October 1952 to January 1953, officers without prior experience attended FBI-conducted schools at neighboring police departments. These schools covered subjects in basic and advanced law enforcement, juvenile problems, and traffic accident investigations.

In January 1953, the FBI was requested to conduct schools in Fontana and in the year of 1953 all officers of the department attended an FBI school in basic law enforcement and a major case school.

In January 1953, the Fontana Police Reserves were organized with 15 men. These reserves

*(Continued on page 25)*



## President Awards National Security Medal to FBI Director Hoover

Commenting on the contribution of J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, to the progress of law enforcement over the years, President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented the National Security Medal to Mr. Hoover on May 27, 1955. The presentation ceremony was held at the White House and was attended by members of the President's cabinet.

William P. Rogers, Deputy Attorney General of the United States, read the citation accompanying the medal which is as follows:

"As Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 31 years, he has made an outstanding contribution to the national security of the United States. Exercising exceptional tact, perceptiveness, judgment, and brilliant leadership in a position of great responsibility, he has established the highest ideals of Federal law enforcement and has directed them to realization. His tireless efforts have brought to a new height of effectiveness the law enforcement machinery of the United States Government. Through his well-grounded



*Director Hoover Receives National Security Medal From President Eisenhower.*



and clearly defined concept of investigative procedures, reinforced by his recognized integrity and high personal prestige, he has won international recognition for the Federal law enforcement system of the United States.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER"

President Eisenhower's remarks at the ceremony were:

"Mr. Hoover, your dedication and devotion to public service are so long and so well known, your accomplishments in that service are so great and so well known, that it seems idle for me to try to say anything that could add to the dignity of this ceremony.

"Perhaps it is just best for me to say I am proud to be an agent for our people in conferring upon you this highest award that the Government has, and to say that your real reward—as all of us here know—is in the hearts, the thanks and the gratitude of our entire nation."

In accepting the award, Director Hoover stated:

"Thank you, Mr. President. I am deeply grateful for this honor which you have accorded me. I realize that it has been brought about through the dedicated accomplishments of the personnel and my associates in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as by the magnificent support which you as President and which the Attorney General have afforded us over the years.

"It is a pleasure, indeed, to serve as one of your subordinates."

(Photograph by courtesy of Associated Press.)

★

### INTERNAL SECURITY

By Presidential directives dated September 6, 1939, January 8, 1943, July 24, 1950, and December 15, 1953, the FBI was directed to take charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage, subversive activities, and related matters. Law-enforcement officers, patriotic organizations and individuals are requested to report all information in the above categories to the FBI.

★

**SABOTAGE**—The several sections of the sabotage statute cover generally the willful destruction or attempted destruction of war materials, premises or utilities, and the willful making of any war material in a defective manner. Violations thereof are within FBI's jurisdiction.

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## Espionage Penalties Increased

Public Law 777, 83d Congress, 2d session, which was approved by the President September 30, 1954, amended section 794 of title 18, United States Code, so that the penalties for espionage under that section in time of peace as well as in time of war shall be death or imprisonment for any term of years or for life. Penalties for conspiracy shall be the same as those provided for the offense which is the object of such conspiracy.

Inasmuch as any violation of section 794 can be punished by death, the statute of limitations will not run on violations of that section.

The attention of law enforcement officers is directed to other espionage statutes; namely, sections 795, 796, and 797 of title 18 (photography statutes) and section 798 of title 18 (disclosure of classified information) in which the statute of limitations has run in 3 years. Under the provisions of Public Law 769, 83d Congress, 2d session, approved by the President September 1, 1954, the period of limitations for prosecution under the aforementioned sections is now 5 years.

★

### TREASON

Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than 5 years and fined not less than \$10,000; and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States. Violations of the statute covering treason are investigated by the FBI.

★

### MISPRISION OF TREASON

Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States and having knowledge of the commission of any treason against them, conceals and does not, as soon as may be, disclose and make known the same to the President or to some judge of the United States, or to the governor or to some judge or justice of a particular State, is guilty of misprision of treason and shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 7 years, or both. Such a violation comes within the jurisdiction of the FBI.





## FEATURE ARTICLE

# ***The Problem of Incendiarism in Florida's Forests***

by CHIEF INVESTIGATOR J. P. SCHUCK, *Florida  
Forest Service, Tallahassee, Fla.*

We Floridians are proud of our State—the land of flowers, the Everglades, vast citrus groves, stately pines, and waving palms. We have, however, an unwanted record of having more wildfires in our woodlands than any other section of the country, a record which reflects a loss of untold millions of dollars from destroyed timber, grazing lands, wildlife, and natural beauty.

This unenviable record is not a newly established one. The early 1920's showed an alarming decrease in the timber supply, as destructive turpentine practices, overcutting, clearing and burning were at their peak, and little was being done to insure future crops of trees. Alarmed by the way the dense virgin forests were rapidly becoming idle and tax-delinquent lands, an association of landowners and organizations formed the Florida Forestry Association. The work of this

association, supplemented by statewide efforts of other interested groups, culminated in the Florida State Legislature's recognizing forest conservation work as a state function. On April 2, 1928, a law was passed which created and established the Florida Board of Forestry and its operating agency, the Florida Forest Service.

The purposes of the board, as stated in the law, are: to assist and cooperate with Federal and State departments, counties, towns, corporations, and interested individuals; to gather and disseminate information in regard to forests, their care and management; to prevent and extinguish forest fires; and to enforce laws pertaining to forests and woodlands.

### ***Organized Protection***

The establishment of this board of forestry represented a monumental step in Florida's efforts to conserve her approximately 23,000,000 acres of forest land as prior to 1927 the only lands under protection were the Ocala and Choctawhatchee National Forests. Private landowners who were interested in protecting their lands from fire felt, in view of general public indifference, that it would be a useless undertaking. One of the first moves of the service was to extend cooperation to such individuals. A cooperative budget was set up by which the board paid a portion of expenses involved in fire protection and the landowners paid the balance. Later a State law was passed enabling counties to participate in countywide fire control. The success of the program is evidenced by the fact that 36 of Florida's 67 counties now have countywide fire control protecting some 14,000,000 acres. The work of the service, besides forest protection and law enforcement, includes management of State-owned forests, production of seedlings for a reforestation program, farm forestry assistance and advice, and general forestry information and education.

Forestry contributes substantially to the eco-



*Florida State Forester C. H. Coulter.*



conomic well-being of the State. It ranks third economically, being exceeded only by tourism and agriculture. The gross income from growing, harvesting, transporting, manufacturing, and remanufacturing forest products today is about 325 million dollars. Florida's wood-using industries sustain entire communities. Ten giant pulp and paper mills, supported by a new growth of young timber, give employment to thousands of workers.

Clinton Huxley Coulter, State forester and chief executive of the Florida Forest Service, directs the program of this organization under the policy-making board. Mr. Coulter has been associated with the Florida Forest Service for more than 26 years and has been State forester for the past 10 years. He has seen the service grow from a handful of men to an organization of more than 600 employees, 300 radio-equipped vehicles, 89 base radio stations, 2,300 miles of service-owned telephone lines, 2 State-owned air patrol planes, with the services of 12 additional planes contracted for use during periods of high fire occurrence. There are 152 service-owned and manned lookout towers which give detection service to the protected area of the State. The service not only carries on forest protection and reforestation activities but plays a prominent part in civil defense and State disaster work. Its lookout towers report airplane crashes and its rugged equipment often leads search parties into remote areas.

The most serious problem confronting the service today, as in the past, is the huge number of wildfires intentionally set by man. Last year 51 percent of the 9,692 wildfires occurring in the State, or 4,958 fires, were of incendiary origin.

### **State Law**

For years willful and intentional burning of lands of another has been a felony under Florida law punishable by a fine up to \$1,000, or imprisonment for a term up to 3 years, or both. Even the careless or negligent setting of fire to someone else's land has been declared a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of up to \$200, or a term of not more than 3 months in a county jail, or both. Nevertheless, 95 percent of the fires occurring in Florida are caused by man in violation of State law; the other 5 percent are caused by lightning.

### **An Old Custom**

The fact that Florida's forests have long been acquainted with fire is evidenced by the following excerpt from the journal of the 16th century explorer, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca: "Those (Indians) from further inland have another remedy . . . which is to go about with a fire brand setting fire to the plains and timber so as to drive off the mosquitoes and also to get lizards and similar things which they eat to come out of the soil. In the same manner they killed deer, encircling them with fire, and they do it also to deprive the animals of pasture, compelling them to go for food where the Indians want."

With the coming of later pioneer settlers, frequency of man-caused fires probably increased sharply. Fire was used to clear land, to kill mosquitoes and snakes, to clear out brush, to drive out game, to create fresh pasture for cattle or deer, to locate alligator holes in saw grass areas or swamps—even to clear ground to facilitate gathering of fish worms. As the new population became established, the drainage of glades and swamps began lowering water levels and the more frequent fires did increasingly severe damage.

Many of the earlier settlers burned carelessly but usually without malice. Such is not always the case today. With the inauguration of forest protection in Florida, the growth of the pulp and paper industry followed. Lands which had pre-



*Chief Investigator J. P. Schuck examines delayed firing devices.*



viously been almost worthless, and in many cases tax-delinquent, began to rise in value. Many people who had sold out to large landowners before land prices increased materially later resented this turn of events, and "spite burning" became a factor in the problem of incendiarism.

### ***Evolution of Fire Law Enforcement***

In the early days of the Florida Forest Service the job of fire control employees seemed almost hopeless. The incendiary, knowing the wooded areas, operated in the solitude of the lonely forest lands and disappeared before any ranger or investigator appeared. Frequently, in those times, and occasionally even now, rangers would hurry to suppress a woods fire only to find that the blaze they had been fighting was set to divert activity so that many more serious fires could be started in other areas. In the beginning, employees of the

service, charged with enforcing the forest protection laws of the State, generally had no law enforcement training or experience. This drawback is reflected in the annual report of the activities of this service of 10 years ago which shows that there were only six fire law cases prosecuted during the year. Two cases were settled on a cost basis; one suspect was acquitted in spite of 2 eye witnesses; 1 was convicted and fined; 3 minors were placed on probation after they were caught setting fires by throwing matches from the windows of a school bus; and 1 case was still pending at the end of that year. The report notes, "The future outlook on the enforcement angle is somewhat brighter since public opinion is gradually coming to our side and now we have hopes of obtaining capable law enforcement men."

After the meager results obtained through the vigorous effort of the regular personnel, the board authorized the employment of a chief investigator



*A forest holocaust.*



and an assistant in February 1946. These men, besides having investigative backgrounds and qualifications for the job, had valuable experience as former FBI agents. The new Law Enforcement Division immediately began a program of law enforcement training for all personnel and set up a forceful plan of operations.

Careless or negligent violators are handled through warnings, settlements with damaged parties, and charging suppression costs. Aggravated, careless or negligent violations, of course, are charged criminally. The real problem is recognized as incendiarism—willfully and intentionally setting fires on property of others. In the 9 years since the establishment of the Law Enforcement Division, incendiary fires have dropped from 85 to approximately 50 percent of the total number of fires set. Fire laws have been revised and long prison sentences meted out upon conviction.

The Law Enforcement Division of the service now consists of a Chief and eight Special Officers. One or two special officers are assigned to each administrative district of 10 or more counties. They direct the law enforcement efforts of the district personnel, giving priority attention to all cases involving incendiary fires. Complete records are kept on all cases and an index of violators and suspects is maintained. Intensive fire prevention work is conducted in "hot spot" areas with attention being directed at the cause of fires in such areas. Surveillances are maintained in areas of recurring fires in attempts to apprehend violators. The use of State-owned and contract air patrol planes for law enforcement purposes has proven a valuable asset in this work. The district special officers are liaison agents with the county sheriffs, State district attorneys and highway patrol, and they utilize the assistance of these law enforcement agencies as needed. Violation reports, portraying the evidence in each case, are prepared for prosecuting officials. Special officers have full power and authority of arrest on a statewide basis and are the only employees of the service authorized to carry firearms. These men are required to attend regular law enforcement conferences and training schools and to carry this training to the district personnel.

### **Cooperation**

The value of cooperation in combating the arsonist was demonstrated during February 1954, when

a "hot spot" developed on Blackwater River State Forest in west Florida. The forest is federally owned land, licensed to the Florida Forest Service which operates it as a forestry project. Investigators on the ground were unsuccessful in their attempts to apprehend incendiary fires who were determined to be "spite-burners." Through the cooperation of United States Navy Helicopter Training Unit No. 1 at Ellyson Field, Fla., helicopter patrol was flown over the forest. These patrols resulted in the apprehension of 6 incendiary fires who were involved in 3 separate cases. Prosecution, however, was successful in only 1 of the cases; the subjects of the other 2 were found "not guilty" when tried. This is not a good record for conviction, but the picture is brighter when one considers the aim of law enforcement in forestry—to reduce incendiary fires. A year later, Blackwater River State Forest had enjoyed the best fire year in its history, and this was one of the driest years on record for the area.

After 12 miles of fire was strung out in Franklin County, investigators picked up the trail of incendiary fires when they found an envelope addressed to one of the suspects which had apparently been dropped when he stooped to set a fire. With assistance of the Florida Highway Patrol, service officers traced the violators across the State to Jacksonville. Plaster casts of footprints and tire tracks found at the scene of the fires constituted vital evidence, as the subjects involved were convicted of the felony in circuit court at Apalachicola, Fla. This was the last extensive fire-setting case in the area in 2 years.

### **Typical Woods Burner**

We have found that the typical woods arsonist usually is between 25 and 35 years of age, uneducated, uses alcohol to some degree, takes no newspaper because he cannot read, is usually in some kind of illegitimate business like stealing timber, "running" or making whiskey, unlawfully hunting or trapping, or unlawfully obtaining some other product of the forest which he is intent upon destroying. He is usually found loafing at the crossroads store or tavern, and he carries a seething hate for the "big landowner" and government, as represented by the law. However, he is quick to take advantage of any welfare program or any possibility of obtaining free fence posts, fuel wood, grazing, etc. The average arsonist somehow manages to keep a cut-down "flivver" automobile.



With this vehicle, he can often travel in parts of the forest impassable to regular automobiles and ply his incendiary trade out of the sight of all witnesses.

### ***Delayed Firing Devices***

In recent years, the incendiarist has become adept in the use of the delayed firing devices termed "slow matches." This may be a simple piece of cotton plow line with matches tied to one end. The end opposite the matches is lighted and the rope smolders down to the match heads which flare up, igniting the woods. The devices, after being lighted, are either carefully placed in the woods or weighted and thrown from a vehicle. By the time the rope has burned to the matches, the violator is miles away from the scene. "Slow match" devices are made similarly with cigarettes or candles. Other delayed firing devices are fashioned from a dime-store magnifying glass, sticks, and matches so that the fire is started hours later by the sun. Recently in Clay County, 2 women were



*Author J. P. Schuck, left, and Investigator Roy Huchingson conduct crime scene search.*

apprehended after they had spread rope and match incendiary devices through the woods in 3 counties. One of the women confessed the setting of the fires after being confronted with the remains of the devices, which had been weighted with rocks and thrown from an automobile. She pleaded guilty to the offense and said she set the fires because the paper company which owned the land would not employ the son of a woman whom she named as her accomplice. The alleged accomplice in this case pleaded "not guilty" and in spite of the testimony of the woman who had pleaded "guilty" and other witnesses, she was acquitted by the jury. This points up a major problem in enforcement of Florida's forest protection laws today. Juries are sometimes reluctant to convict a woods arsonist even with the best evidence.

### ***Difficulties***

Rangers and investigators recently hid out in a planted pine forest where recurring fires were being set. They observed an incendiarist drive into the forest in his vehicle, get out and set a fire. Rangers stamped out the fire before it was 2 feet in diameter, and then followed the suspect to his home where he was arrested and charged. A jury, after considering the evidence, found the subject "not guilty." Although it was recognized that the subject had committed a violation, the deciding factor appeared to be the fact that only a few feet of grass had been burned. In this instance, however, had it not been for the prompt action of the rangers, a planted forest worth thousands of dollars would have been destroyed.

In several cases, witnesses for identification of suspects in fire violations are available, yet from fear of harm to themselves, their families, or property by the violator, they refuse to testify and threaten to deny any knowledge of the offense if required to do so. This points up another problem in prosecuting the incendiarist. It is fairly common in the few cases where witnesses are available for them to decline to testify against the violator for fear of reprisal of some sort.

### ***Progress***

Despite the variety of problems confronting fire law enforcement today, the service has made great progress over the past 10 years. Forest protection has been extended over most of the wooded area of the State. The extent of burned area on protected land is less than 2 percent while on un-





*An airplane gives directions and assistance to firefighters on the ground.*

protected lands in the State it is over 50 percent. Over 100 fire law violation arrests have been made thus far this fiscal year. On those cases concluded, the rate of conviction is about 80 percent. One hundred arrests may seem very few compared with the thousands of fires occurring annually. In considering our arrest record we must remember two things: first, each case may represent from one to several hundred fires; second, our overall goal is to reduce the number of incendiary fires. Evidence in fire cases is usually circumstantial and only the strongest cases are presented for prosecution.

In the spring term of circuit court at Crestview, three young men pleaded guilty to the felony of setting over a hundred fires in Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties "just for the sake of it." They were sentenced to 6 years' full probation by the court. It is hoped that these men will return to their community to be ardent supporters of fire prevention for at the time of sentencing the judge served notice then and there that future violators of Florida's forest protection laws upon conviction will receive the maximum penalty under the law from his court. Another circuit court judge commented that it appeared that woods burning was becoming a sport and warned

that violators would draw terms in the State prison at Raiford, Fla.

Thus progress is gradually being made in the battle against Florida's "firebugs." In some counties good enforcement and effective prevention work make fires of incendiary origin almost rare. In other localities where incendiarism is still high, enforcement will continue to be the major weapon in the attack on the dangerous woods arsonist.



### **TIRE TREAD FILE**

A file containing specimens of tread and sidewall designs produced by tire manufacturers throughout the country is maintained in the FBI laboratory. Plaster casts of treads submitted to the FBI laboratory are frequently identified in this file as to size, brand, manufacturer, and distributor.



### **FBI LABORATORY ASSISTANCE**

The facilities of the FBI laboratory are made available without charge to all duly constituted Federal, State, county, and municipal agencies of the United States and its Territorial possessions in connection with their official investigations of criminal matters.





# SCIENTIFIC AIDS

## ***Explosives—Some Technical Aspects and Suggestions***

An explosive substance may be defined as a substance capable of undergoing a sudden transformation with the production of heat and usually a large volume of gas.

An explosion is an incident wherein an explosive substance is activated. An explosion has been defined as the sudden going away of things from the place where they have been, usually accompanied by a loud noise.

Generally, explosions may be divided into various classes, such as mechanical, chemical, occupational and accidental explosions.

An example of mechanical explosion is a steam boiler exploding. Steam is generated slowly and internal pressure rises correspondingly. If the pressure continues to rise within the boiler and is not permitted to escape, the boiler walls split open, dissipating all the steam within at once.

Another example of a mechanical "explosion" is the rapid disintegration of a machine part whose velocity of rotation increases unchecked until the rupture limits of the metal are surpassed. The disintegrated parts are thrown in all directions at high velocity and the resultant effect may well suggest to an observer the use of an explosive substance.

### ***Chemical Explosions***

The explosion of a stick of dynamite is a typical chemical explosion. The explosive substance in dynamite, nitroglycerin, when subjected to shock undergoes a chemical change which liberates large volumes of gas very suddenly with terrific force. The forces of the gases are sufficient to fragmentize surrounding objects.

### ***Occupational Explosions***

Finely divided metallic dust in a plant, finely divided coal dust in a mine and finely divided granary dust in a grain elevator when mixed with a proper amount of air and ignited by a spark can

explode. A preventive step for such explosions is the installation of proper ventilation equipment or dust arrestor equipment.

### ***Accidental Explosions***

Typical examples of accidental explosions are those of the home variety, such as cleaning fluid when used in unventilated places being set off by a spark from an electric appliance or flame, as from a cigarette.

Of primary importance to the law enforcement officer are those explosions purposely planned to cause bodily harm, destroy property, or gain access to sealed valuables. The law enforcement officer is also called upon to investigate explosions to determine whether or not they are accidental, occupational, mechanical or planned.

Typical examples of explosions coming to the attention of the FBI Laboratory are briefly:

1. An explosive substance under the seat of an automobile was electrically connected to the starter switch. The victim, when starting his car, received the full force of the explosive wave.
2. A disgruntled laborer prepared a time bomb made up of battery, alarm clock, detonator and dynamite set to go off at a definite time.
3. Charges of dynamite were placed on a farmer's tractor and set off at night, seriously damaging the farm equipment as an act of vengeance.
4. A man and his wife were killed as they slept. An explosive substance was placed under their house and set off.
5. An explosive charge was placed in the attic of a home and connected to the electric light switch in the bathroom. When the light was turned on the explosion partially demolished the home.

### ***Types of Explosives***

There are two types of explosives: low order and high order. A low order explosive substance in exploding sets up an explosive wave which does not exceed a velocity of approximately 3,000 feet per second. The shattering effect or degree of

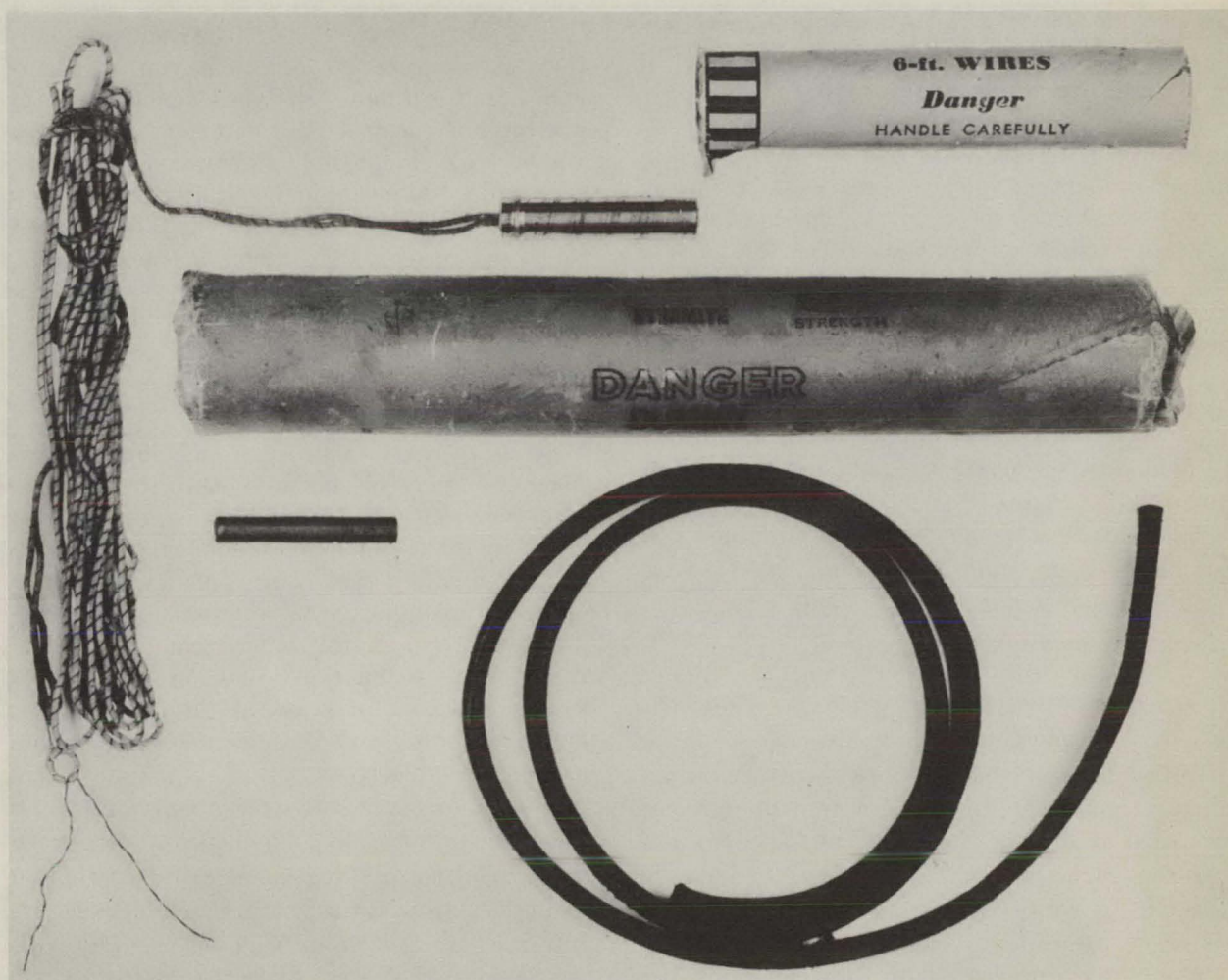


fragmentation in low order explosions is far less than that found in high order explosions. A high order explosive substance explodes setting up an explosive wave exceeding a velocity of 3,000 feet per second. One can be differentiated from the other, usually, by a visual inspection of the explosion scene. Low order type explosives have a pushing, nonshattering effect. Walls appear pushed outward, ceilings are raised, surroundings are distorted but not visibly ripped apart. In a high-order-type explosion, nearby windows, as well as others at remote distances from the actual scene, may be found shattered, surroundings will be fragmented and usually a fair sized crater will be found.

Typical low explosive substances are black powder and smokeless powder. These substances must be set off by spark, flame or heat. They burn readily since they contain within themselves all

the oxygen necessary for their combustion. When burned in the open, they burn relatively slowly. When confined, however, they burn so rapidly as to explode, as in a revolver cartridge. A home-made bomb can be made by filling a container with a quantity of either black powder or smokeless powder which is ignited by a flame supplied by a fuse.

Black powder is a favorite low explosive substance as it has long been used in the fireworks industry. It can be made from three substances which can be separately purchased without arousing suspicion; namely, potassium nitrate, sulfur and charcoal in the proportions of 75, 15 and 10 percent, respectively, by weight. Potassium nitrate is commonly known as saltpeter, which along with sulfur can be purchased at the corner drug store. Charcoal from burned wood will suffice. The three are solids and can be mixed by hand.



*Dynamite and necessary equipment.*



The result is a good grade of black powder. Extreme caution should be exercised as the heat generated by friction in the mixing operation may ignite the powder. Black blasting powder is used extensively in mining operations.

Smokeless powder is made by a chemical process. Nitrocellulose from cotton linters and from some types of wood is treated with acids, washed in alcohol and dried. The material can be cut or stamped or drawn into any desirable size or shape. Smokeless powder replaced black powder in ammunition loading about 1900. Smokeless powder can be readily purchased. It is used extensively by sportsmen for reloading ammunition.

A black powder bomb after exploding will usually leave a black carbon deposit where the bomb was placed. Upon the finding of such a deposit at an explosion scene, it is suggestive of the use of black powder.

Typical high order explosive substances are nitroglycerin, TNT, Tetryl, PETN and picric acid. TNT, Tetryl, PETN and picric acid are used extensively as the booster and main charge in military explosives. Some of these explosives are extensively used in the manufacture of commercial explosives materials. These substances are classified as high order explosives because the explosive wave when these substances are activated travels at a velocity of approximately 25,000 feet per second. To set off a high order type explosive substance a shock is required, usually supplied by a detonator charge.

Commercial explosive materials are devices or substances manufactured for commercial uses. They satisfy certain requirements set up by the U. S. Government. Their use is extensive in industry and farming.

The commercial explosives dealt with here will be confined to squibs (igniters), safety fuse, blasting caps (detonators), nitroglycerin, dynamite, and exploding fuse. All of these can be readily purchased from many retail outlets authorized to sell commercial explosives materials. A permit to purchase these materials is not required (except in some localities where local ordinances may require it). The purchaser is not required to divulge for what purpose the explosives are intended nor is he required to identify himself. It can be seen from this that explosive materials are readily available to any one desiring to purchase them whether for legitimate purposes or not. In addition, the large quantities of ex-

plosives used in this country today for various purposes lend additional sources for one with criminal intent through thefts from explosives magazines or various other places of storage.

### ***Safety Fuse***

Safety fuse is the means of conveying a flame from one point to another. It consists of a powder core enclosed in layers of fibres and waterproofing materials. It is constructed by the manufacturer to burn at a given rate of speed. When one end of a length of safety fuse is ignited, the flame travels through the length of the fuse and spits the flame out the other end. A length of safety fuse, one end of which is thrust into a container of low explosive substance, is all that is necessary to set the explosive charge off. Safety fuse can also be used to set off high explosive charges by the addition of a blasting cap on one end of the fuse.

Each fuse manufacturer makes a number of brands of safety fuse. Each brand is designed for a specific type of work. The construction of each brand is different. Safety fuse of one manufacturer is constructed differently from that of another. It is possible, therefore, to identify safety fuse fragments found at a crime scene as to its brand and manufacturer. If safety fuse is found in a suspect's possession, it is possible only to determine whether or not it is the same type as that found at the scene.

### ***Blasting Caps***

Blasting caps are small copper or aluminum cylinders, closed at one end and loaded with a charge of a very sensitive and violent explosive that is set off by the flame or sparks that spit out the end of ignited safety fuse. For commercial use they are manufactured in sizes known as Nos. 6 and 8. The No. 8 cap is slightly longer than the No. 6 and is a more powerful cap. Blasting caps are also known as detonators, and, as the name implies, are used for the express purpose of detonating high order explosives.

One end of a length of safety fuse is pushed into the open end of the blasting cap. A special tool made of a nonsparking metal called a crimping tool is used to close the cylinder securely about the fuse preventing it from being accidentally withdrawn from the cap. After the fuse is ignited, the length of time required for the flame to travel



through it affords a suitable delay period for the operator to proceed to a safe distance before the explosion. The flame spitting out the end of the fuse inserted into the cap ignites the cap's sensitive explosive. When the cap is inserted into a high explosive charge, the cap explodes with sufficient force to detonate the main explosive charge.

It should be remembered that blasting caps are extremely dangerous and should be handled with extreme care. One exploding while held in the hand could very easily tear one or more fingers off. Flying fragments of copper could easily cause great bodily harm.

Fragments of copper found at an explosive scene may be associated with a particular blasting cap manufacturer and should, therefore, be preserved as evidence in a case.

Electric blasting caps are special detonators fired or exploded by an electric current. These are manufactured in the same strengths as the fuse caps. Electric detonators can be fired at will. They permit instantaneous firing of a number of charges at the same time or at desirable intervals.

There are many manufacturers of electric blasting caps. The caps of each manufacturer are identifiable as to their manufacturer. The chief identifying characteristics of electric blasting caps are the wires attached to the cap at the time of manufacture. These wires are commonly referred to as electric blasting cap "leg" wires. Following an explosion, the leg wires and upper portion of the electric blasting cap will normally be found if the explosive charge was detonated by an electric blasting cap.

The electric sources for setting off electric blasting caps are numerous. A small flashlight battery, wet cell battery, any electrical circuit (switch, light socket, electrical plug outlet, doorbell circuit, telephone circuit, etc.) produces sufficient current to set them off. Manufacturers also warn that "any electric blasting cap within one mile of a broadcasting or short wave station or within one-quarter mile of all other radio transmitters must be considered a potential hazard." Radio frequencies can be picked up by the loose ends of electric blasting cap leg wires which act like an antenna and pick up transmitted impulses which are capable of setting off the cap.

Delay electric blasting caps were developed so that several groups of explosive charges may be fired at definite intervals with a single set of wiring but with one application of electric current. The

caps are so constructed that there is a short lapse of time after the current is applied before the first delays explode, and a longer interval of time before the second delays explode and so on with each delay. Like electric blasting caps, delay caps possess characteristics which can be associated with their particular manufacturer. At the scene of an explosion where delay caps are used, the leg wires and the portion of cap to which the wires are attached will often be found.

### *Electric Squibs and Delay Electric Squibs*

An electric squib is a cylindrical tube, closed at one end, containing a match head composition which spits out flame through vent holes near the closed end of the tube when fired. Squibs are used to fire low order type explosives, such as blasting powder, which require a spark or flame to set them off.

Delay electric squibs are used to fire low order explosive charges at intervals in the same manner that delay electric blasting caps are used to set off high explosive charges.

Like instantaneous and delay electric blasting caps, squibs possess characteristics which can be associated with a particular manufacturer. When used, the leg wires and portion of the top of the squib may be found at the scene of the explosion.

### *Detonating Fuse*

"Primacord," the name commonly associated with detonating fuses, is a trade name. The explosive substance is known as P. E. T. N. (pentaerythritetranitrate). It is contained within a waterproof covering and resembles safety fuse. Detonating fuse when set off detonates with a velocity of approximately 20,000 feet per second. In use it is initiated by a blasting or electric blasting cap. Fuse of this type is used principally in deep well drill hole explosions and similar large blasts. The violence with which it explodes is sufficient to detonate high explosives lying alongside it. The speed at which the explosive wave travels in Primacord makes it desirable also for setting off a number of charges simultaneously.

The use of detonating fuse may be detected at the scene of an explosion by a definite path approximately 6 inches wide along the floor or ground where the fuse lay. There will be no fragments present to assist in ascertaining whether or not detonating fuse was used.



## **Dynamite**

Of the commercial explosives, the dynamites are the more frequently used. These are all high order explosives and include straight, extra, gelatin and semigelatin dynamites. These are all detonating explosives requiring a detonating force to fire them. The different grades are manufactured for specific uses. Their principal characteristics are strength, velocity or shattering effect, water resistance, density, fumes, temperature of freezing and length and duration of flame.

By strength is meant the power or force developed by the explosive. Straight dynamites are rated on the percentage, by weight, of the nitroglycerin (the explosive ingredient) which they contain. Thus a 40 percent strength straight dynamite contains actually 40 percent of nitroglycerin. The strength developed by this type of explosive serves as a basis for grading all the other dynamites. Thus the present strength grading of any other kind of dynamite means that it will release as much force as an equivalent grade of the straight dynamite weight for weight.

The explosive ingredient in dynamite is nitroglycerin, a yellow oily liquid which is extremely sensitive even to light shocks. The liquid is mixed with combustible material (wood pulp, sodium nitrate, nitrostarch, sulfur and other salts) to give it greater stability, as well as to assure more complete combustion when fired. This is the dynamite cartridge we are familiar with.

The dynamites are favorite explosives with the criminal element because of the ease in obtaining them. For safe blowing, the liquid nitroglycerin used to blow a safe can be extracted from a dynamite cartridge by a simple process known as "boiling off the soup," as it is affectionately referred to by safe crackers.

To set off dynamite requires the detonating force of the safety fuse-blasting cap combination or the electric detonator.

It is not possible to determine, from an examination of evidence recovered at the scene of a safe blowing, just what the explosive substance may have been unless some of the substance used is found undisturbed. The method of firing, however, will usually be evident by the finding of fragments of safety fuse, leg wires or fragments of the detonator shell.

Nitroglycerin explosives have a physiological effect upon one who handles it or smells it. It

is possible to build up an immunity to these physiological effects through constant handling. Handling the explosive or smelling it usually will give one a severe headache. It is alleged that investigators at the scene of an explosion, very shortly after the explosion, can detect the sweet odor of nitroglycerin and experience the severe headache which accompanies the inhaling of nitroglycerin fumes. Similarly, it is alleged that explosions where low order type explosives are used can be detected by the characteristic odor of an exploded firecracker (black powder) or of a discharged firearm (smokeless powder).

## **Blasting Gelatin**

Blasting gelatin is a pliable mixture of nitroglycerin and nitrocellulose. The plasticity of this explosive makes it extremely desirable for safe cracking as it can be loaded easily into cracks or holes drilled into a safe. It requires a detonator to fire it. It would not be possible to determine whether or not blasting gelatin was used in a particular case. The method of firing, however, could be determined by the presence of fragmented fuse or caps if found at the scene.

## **Bombs**

No attempt will be made here to cover all of the various types of bombs the law enforcement officer may encounter which are made up of the explosive materials just discussed.

The ingenuity of man is great. With the availability and ease of obtaining the various explosives, many types of bombs utilizing countless methods of firing could be devised.

There are several positive steps which could and should be taken by law enforcement officers upon receiving information that a suspected bomb is found. These are:

1. Clear the danger area as rapidly as possible of all occupants.
2. Establish an organized guard outside the danger area.
3. Arrange for medical aid to stand by.
4. Shut off power, gas and fuel lines leading into the danger area.
5. Remove inflammable materials from the danger area.
6. Notify the local fire department and rescue squad.
7. Obtain the services of a competent explosives expert.
8. Obtain mattresses or other suitable barricade material to be used as a shield against flying fragments.
9. Check and have available fire extinguishing equipment.



10. Arrange for the use of portable X-ray equipment if deemed advisable by the technical expert.

11. Avoid moving any article which may be connected with the bomb or may act as a trigger mechanism.

12. Do not, under any conditions, attempt to dismantle the bomb unless you have received training in disposal of bombs from competent explosives experts. To do so may cost you your life.

The FBI Laboratory maintains a reference file of commercial explosives materials. All brands of safety fuse manufactured in the United States, as well as some foreign countries, are broken down to permit readily the identification of a safety fuse fragment from an explosion scene as to its manufacturer. The same is true of fuse caps and electric blasting caps, electric squibs, the dynamites and all types of containers for these products.

As previously mentioned, it is extremely difficult, if at all possible, to determine what explosive substance was used from an examination of debris. The explosive is so completely oxidized that nothing remains of the original substance for analysis. The products of combustion, oxygen and carbon, are the products of combustion of coal, wood, and many other combustible materials.

The debris examined may reveal, however, tell-tale evidence of the method of firing. Fragments of a container may be found whose source may be traced. Manufactured explosive devices for use in World War II, brought back as souvenirs by some of our armed forces, are known to have been used as detonators for bombs, or ignitors for starting fires. Fragments of containers from such devices can often be traced to their source.

When a law enforcement agency desires to submit live explosives to the laboratory for examination, it should be remembered that postal laws exist governing how and under what conditions various types of explosives can be sent by mail. *In every instance*, the FBI Laboratory should be advised (letter, wire, telephone) what live explosives the law enforcement agency desires to submit for examination. That department will then be advised how to pack the explosive and how it can legally be sent to the FBI Laboratory for examination.



#### IDENTIFICATION OF EVIDENCE

Officers submitting evidence to the FBI Laboratory for examination are requested to number the items 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. Do not assign "Q" and "K" numbers; this will be done in the laboratory.

AUGUST 1955

## ***Glass, Paint, Safe Insulation, and Cardboard***

In late 1952, burglars broke into a service station in Wilmington, N. C., and carted away a safe containing several hundred dollars. Several days later the safe, opened and empty, was found in a remote section of the sand dunes near Wilmington. Fragments of glass, bits of safe insulation, and torn pieces of cardboard were scattered about the ground. Law-enforcement officers carefully preserved this important evidence.

Shortly thereafter three suspects were apprehended. They vigorously denied any connection with the burglary. In the truck belonging to one of these men, however, police officers found two fragments of torn cardboard, several fragments of glass, and bits of material which appeared to be safe insulation. These were submitted to the FBI Laboratory, along with the evidence from the spot where the safe was recovered, for comparison purposes. Samples of paint and pieces of glass from the burglarized service station were also forwarded.

The FBI Laboratory examiners verified the fact that the material taken from the truck actually was safe insulation and further determined that it was the same type insulation as that from the stolen safe. The fragments of cardboard from the truck were found to have been at one time part of the cardboard found at the scene of recovery. The glass found in the truck proved to be the same as that found at the scene of recovery, and both of these matched the sample of glass from the station. Furthermore, smears of paint on the glass found in the truck matched the samples of paint from the station.

Laboratory examiners testified at the trial regarding their findings and all three subjects were convicted, two to serve sentences of from 3 to 5 years and the third to serve from 2 to 3 years.



#### TOOL MARKS

The tools used to commit a crime often leave marks on the wood, metal, or other substance tampered with. Microscopic comparison of these marks and the tools suspected of being used is often of assistance to the investigating officer.



## OTHER TOPICS

Cattle raising has become a big industry in Mississippi almost overnight. The backbone of this new industry is the State's small cattle owner. Because Mississippi lacks the wide range land typical of western cattle country and many other cattle-producing States, stockmen concentrate on raising blooded prize beef, small herds and quality animals, each representing considerable investment.

Consequently, cattle stolen in Mississippi, even in small numbers, represent a great financial loss to the individual stockman. During the years immediately following the end of World War II, when cattle farming was first coming into prominence in the Magnolia State, cattle rustling became a major problem. Large-scale rustling was not uncommon and organized gangs were at work in many areas of the State.



*Mike Nichols, Director of the Mississippi Livestock Theft Bureau.*

## **Handling Cattle Theft Problems in Mississippi**

*by MIKE NICHOLS, Director of the Mississippi Livestock Theft Bureau of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol.*

Today, Mississippi has cattle rustling very nearly under control and the procedure used in coping with the "rustler" is typical of that being used by other Southern and Eastern States faced with similar problems.

### **Legislation**

In 1950, the Mississippi Legislature, in the face of rampant rustling and cattle "butchering," created the Mississippi Livestock Theft Bureau, a division of the department of public safety. The original legislation called for two investigators, but it soon became apparent that rustling was too widespread for such a small unit. In 1952, amendments were passed which permitted the addition of five investigators and a full-time bureau secretary and statistical clerk.

Even then, Mississippi had only a skeleton cattle theft bureau force, compared with similar agencies in other States. However, the record which the organization has compiled proves its value, we think, and some of the investigative techniques and the organizational structure used by the bureau may be of some value to other law enforcement officers.

First, there was the problem of branding. In a State where the entire economy has centered about cotton farming for more than a century, brands and branding irons were strange things indeed and very few cattlemen, prior to the end of World War II, had ever seriously considered branding their stock. Before the creation of the Livestock Theft Bureau, brands were a novelty, mere "hobbies" with some of the larger cattle raisers.

Today, however, brands are an accepted phase of operations with Mississippi cattlemen.

### **Brands Division**

In 1952, when the legislature increased the strength of its fledgling cattle theft bureau, it foresaw a need for a brands division and a super-



visor of brands. A brands office was established and Capt. B. F. Rodgers, an FBI National Academy graduate and former chief of detectives for the city of Jackson, Miss., was appointed supervisor of brands. By working directly with the small cattleman and encouraging him to register and use a brand on his stock, Captain Rodgers soon secured a record of almost 4,000 Mississippi livestock brands. And it should be remembered, Mississippi is still primarily considered a "cotton State."

The Division of Brands, Livestock Theft Bureau, is soon to release the State's first official brands book, patterned after the loose-leaf filler type brands book used by the State of Oregon. With the publication of this book, Captain Rodgers anticipates the registration of many additional brands. "In the South, if Sam Jones is going to do it, John Brown is, too," says Captain Rodgers, who has designed many of the brands used in the State.

The jurisdiction of the cattle theft bureau is by no means limited to cattle or brands. Although approximately 90 percent of our work does concern cattle and livestock, the Mississippi Livestock Theft Bureau is also charged with the added responsibility of investigating thefts of agricultural products, farm implements and anything concerning farm operations.

To cover the wide scope of bureau responsibilities, the six "leg men," including myself, must go about our duties systematically. Our investigative techniques, though basic, sometimes approach the unorthodox, depending on the particular type of case.

Because Mississippi is primarily thickly populated and covered by an extensive network of small farm and cattle holdings, the "rustler" is oftentimes a "smalltimer," amateurish and clumsy. Although we have had to deal in the past with several organized gangs using mechanical equipment and stealing in lots, the majority of the cases plaguing our agency center around the "neighbor" stealing an occasional beef and marketing it across the State at a sales barn or slaughterhouse.

Before the creation of the Livestock Theft Bureau, when a beef was stolen, that was oftentimes the end as far as the owner was concerned. He might have his "suspicions" but if he himself could not settle the matter, it usually went unsettled.

Now, it is a different story.

Voluminous files at bureau headquarters, which give the "case histories" of investigations handled by this department, clearly indicate the wide scope of the bureau's activities during the past 2 years. Frequently the methods used by our five investigators, who are both "farmwise" and "crimewise," are somewhat unusual but their methods are justified by results.

## *Techniques*

Some cases have required the use of exhaustive scientific and laboratory techniques, with investigators taking fingerprints, moulages of tracks, handwriting comparisons and gathering other data for prosecution. However, some cases are speedily closed by old-fashioned methods, including the use of the bloodhounds, the manhunter's "old standby" in Mississippi.

Mississippians, like farm folk throughout the country, are a friendly lot—talkative, hospitable and well aware of what is going on in their neighborhoods. Consequently, our investigators, as much as possible, attempt to fit into the "country pattern." They spend the night with hospitable farmers, visit around, listen to the local gossip, and ask questions. Frequently they get the right



*Gen. T. B. Birdsong, Commissioner of Public Safety, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol.*



answers, or at least tips, which lead to something concrete.

This "living with the farmer," we think, is vital to the smooth operation of a bureau such as ours. We lack the manpower necessary to work independently from the people we serve; therefore, we make a special point to be on good terms with cattlemen throughout the State. This close harmony encourages confidence in the bureau and brings results.

We also strive to maintain good relations with sales barn and slaughter pen officials, cotton buyers, and other merchants and business people who deal with the farmer. Our program, too, is closely coordinated with sheriffs' offices and other local officers. We work closely with the FBI in cases wherein cattle have been transported across State lines in violation of the Federal Statutes.

### ***Accomplishments***

Several years ago, a series of cotton thefts was reported in the Mississippi Delta, one of the largest cotton-producing areas in the Nation. As the guilty were brought to justice by our investigators—sometimes working alone and sometimes in pairs—cotton thefts all over the State began to decline. Similarly, wholesale rustling decreased when more and more rustlers were brought to justice by our investigators.

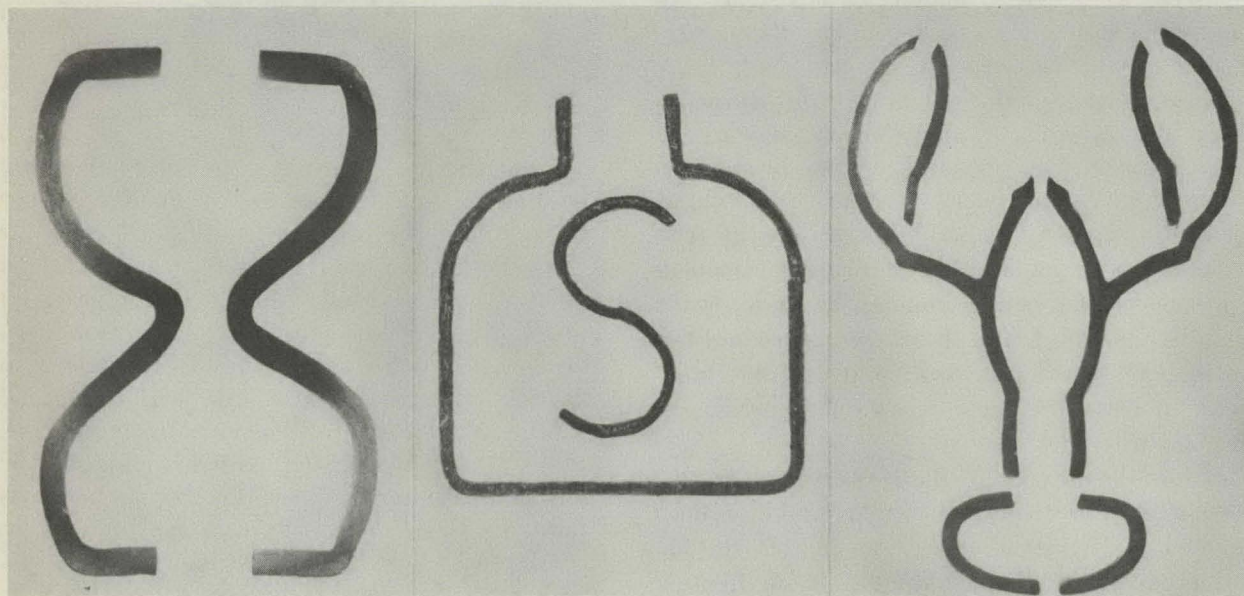
We have found that "conviction" deters all types of thieves and our investigators are most thorough

while gathering evidence. From 1950 to the end of 1954, 571 suspects were arrested in thefts investigated by the bureau, 316 persons were convicted and received prison sentences at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. At the end of the year, 190 were awaiting trial. Only six appeals were filed.

The investigators attached to our bureau who helped compile these statistics are: Ed J. Ainsworth, assistant director, J. Y. Thomas, Charlie Bahin, Frank Jones and George Martin. Many times this small force has had to work "around-the-clock," compiling evidence against rustlers and suspects in farm cases we have been called on to investigate. Mrs. Stella Harvin, livestock theft bureau secretary, has played an important part in preparing our files and keeping evidence properly cataloged.

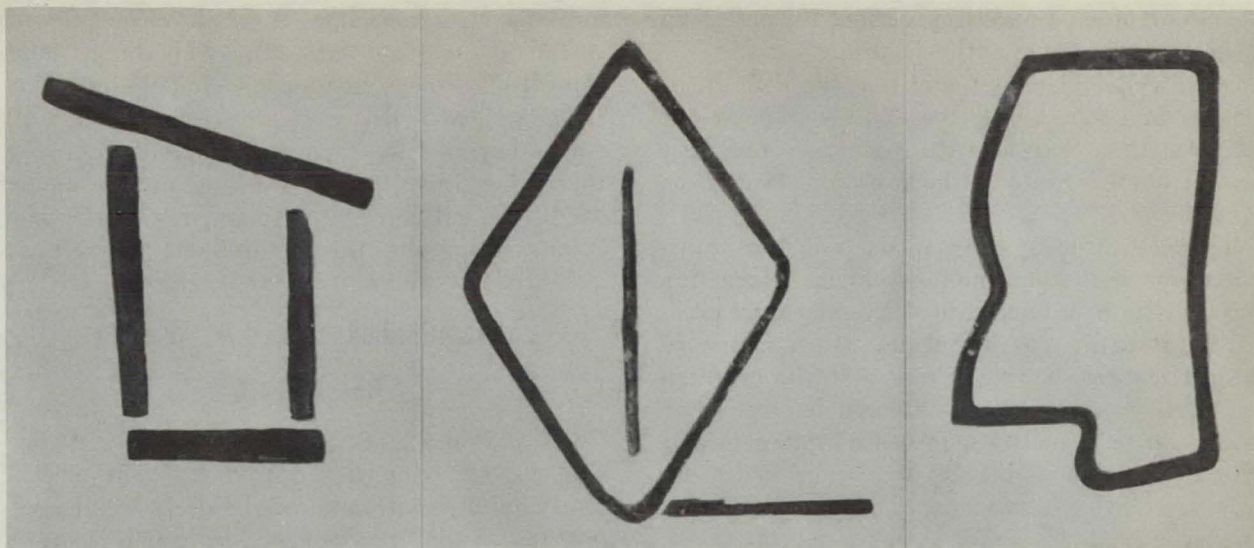
### ***Big Problem***

Probably the greatest single difficulty facing our department is the failure of many cattlemen and farmers to report stock stolen or missing particularly during the winter months when crops are not in cultivation and farmers permit their cattle to roam at large. If several head are discovered missing one day, the farmer usually does not become alarmed, but assumes that the cows are only "missing" and will surely turn up with a neighbor's stock the following spring. Consequently, we are not notified until weeks and some-



*Included in the brands registered in Mississippi are, left to right: The "Hour-Glass," which is the brand of Capt. B. F. Rodgers; the "Jug S" and the "Lobster."*





*Left to right, the "Outhouse," "Diamond L," and "Mississippi" brands registered in the State of Mississippi.*

times months after the stock is first discovered missing.

This problem was very pointedly brought to focus only recently when Investigator Frank Jones was called to Holmes County, Miss., to investigate the attempted theft of a cow. Although the owner had noticed that several cows were missing from his herd, it was not until he discovered a rope dangling from the horns of one of his cows that he filed a report with our department—and even then, he only reported that someone had "attempted" to steal one of his cows.

When Investigator Jones closed his investigation in Holmes County, he had recovered more than 20 head of stolen cattle, none of which had ever been reported stolen. Most of these had been stolen from the farmer who had reported the "attempted" theft of the single animal.

Canvassing sales barns in Holmes and adjacent counties, Jones had learned that a not too prosperous farmer was selling stock regularly, but never more than one animal at a time. From records kept at auction barns, Jones secured detailed descriptions of all the cattle sold by the suspect, the price received and the canceled checks with which he had been paid for the animals.

The suspect, who owned only 3 cows of his own, had sold more than 20 head, all later proven to be stolen from neighbors, and had carried on his mass rustling operations for 5 months before being detected. And not one of his unsuspecting neighbors had filed a single report.

Investigator Jones also discovered during his

investigation of the "attempted" cattle theft that the farmer first reporting the incident had once lost 83 head of hogs and had never reported the theft.

### ***Two-Year Hunt***

To Investigator J. Y. Thomas goes credit for almost 2 years of exhaustive work on a cattle theft case which was closed last year with the arrest of a carnival worker in Tampa, Fla., by FBI agents and the arrest of the suspect's wife by the police department of a northern city. The case clearly demonstrates the cooperation which our department receives—and in many cases, depends on—from outside agencies.

It was the latter part of January 1953, when this particular case first opened. Our bureau had been called on for assistance by Forrest County, Miss., authorities to help investigate a series of cattle thefts in a rural community near Hattiesburg, Miss. Thomas, assigned to the case, immediately questioned residents and possible suspects and canvassed sales barns in the area in an attempt to locate the missing stock. Evidence was soon gathered by Thomas which indicated that a man previously discharged from the Louisiana State Penitentiary was involved in the thefts; however, when Thomas went to question the suspect, he discovered that the man and his wife had fled. Subsequent checks disclosed that the same pair was being sought also for passing worthless checks and the man was wanted by the



Meridian, Miss., Police Department for obtaining a car without proper authorization.

Meanwhile, Thomas found that the wife of the suspect had sold a stolen cow in her name. The pair was then charged with grand larceny. The couple eluded State authorities and fled from Mississippi.

The FBI, wanting the man for interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle, traced him through the South and into Michigan before eventually capturing him in Florida. His wife, picked up in Michigan soon after his arrest, was returned to Mississippi. She was sentenced in state court to a 1-year term for "false pretense" and the grand larceny charge was dismissed.

### **Other Cases**

From time to time, many unusual cases occur. For instance, Investigator George Martin recently investigated the theft of an old horse—one which had been sold for soap at 3 cents a pound—and his investigation uncovered a culprit wanted for car theft by Missouri authorities.

The difference between "wild hog" and the domesticated "pigpen" variety was taught to a Wayne County, Miss., farmer and his two sons this past year by Investigator Charlie Bahin. In this unusual case, the farmer and his boys had rounded up more than 15 head of hogs and sold them, claiming the animals were wild. His neighbors, who suddenly began losing stock, were not convinced. On the basis of evidence gathered by Bahin, the farmer admitted stealing the stock and knowing all along that the hogs he had taken were not wild.

Assistant Inspector Ed Ainsworth last fall recovered, with assistance from Attala County, Miss., authorities, a bale of cotton which was stolen from the cotton field of an Attala farmer and hidden in the woods. The subjects responsible in this theft were apprehended only after exhaustive investigation.

Invariably in cattle theft cases investigated by our department during the past 2 years the parties responsible for the thefts were "locals." Consequently our investigators have come to rely on information obtained from area residents and physical evidence secured at the scene of the theft. The "missing link" to a case is very often discovered somewhere near the crime scene, and the most helpful characteristic which an investigator

may have is tenacity. As I have mentioned earlier, Mississippi lacks the wide range land typical of western cattle-producing States. The farms and cattle pastures here are congested, with cows straying from farm to farm, and I am sure that other investigators working under similar conditions will agree that stray cows can become "stolen cows" when they get in the wrong pasture.

## **Administrative Daily Report**

Chief of Police L. B. Butler, Suffolk, Va., Police Department, who has approximately 28 officers under his supervision, devised a daily activity report to serve as a reminder to each man of some of the duties to be performed during his daily work. At the beginning of each 8-hour shift, each officer and sergeant receives a copy of the report which contains the items to be checked, spaces for the policeman's name, car, beat, or motorcycle number, the date, and any remarks the officer may wish or need to make. At the end of the shift, the reports are turned in to be reviewed first by the sergeant on duty on each shift and then by the chief. At the end of each month the items checked by each man during the period are summarized. No award or disciplinary action is attached to the tabulated results.

The report, which is printed on paper approximately 8½ by 3½ inches in size, includes the following items, plus a space to indicate the number of times each duty was performed during the 8-hour shift: accident investigations; arrests; breaking and entering and larceny investigations; taverns, bus stations, bowling alleys, buildings under construction, poolrooms, railroad stations, restaurants, hotels, and school buildings visited; doors opened; escorts; houses checked; lights reported; meters checked; street signs reported; subpoenas served; street conditions reported; summonses issued; traffic lights reported; warnings; and windows opened.

Chief Butler believes that the chart serves as an administrative check and also gives him specific information to use when explaining the work of his department to members of the city council and other interested citizens. He further states that significant value lies in the fact that the report serves as a reminder of daily duties and aids materially in decreasing crime in Suffolk.



## NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 5)

attended a 2 weeks' course in basic law enforcement prior to being sworn in as police officers.

The reserves were organized under the California Civil Defense Act in order to have a well-trained force in the event of a disaster. They are used for the policing of parades, holiday crowds and other gatherings, and they work with the regular officers in the patrol cars to relieve regulars on their days off. The reserves are required to put in 8 hours of duty with a regular officer each month and to attend a monthly meeting of the organization. Chief Younge appointed the first reserve captain with provisions made that each year thereafter the captain would be selected by the reserves by vote.

The captain of the regulars attends the reserve meetings and discusses department policy and work schedules with them. At each reserve meeting the lieutenant of the department conducts a course in police methods.

The reserves purchase and maintain their own equipment. The city has two revolvers at their disposal. All privately owned guns must meet with the approval of Chief Younge. The only weapon authorized for wear with the uniform by both regulars and reserves is the .38-caliber revolver with a 6-inch barrel.

### Chaplain Corps

In March 1954, Chief Younge organized the chaplain corps for the purpose of counseling juveniles apprehended for certain first offenses. The corps consists of 11 members, comprising individuals representing the various faiths within the city.

When a juvenile is apprehended, the juvenile officer conducts a preliminary investigation and Chief Younge then reviews the case and decides the disposition of the offender. If the offender is not certified to the county probation department, he is then assigned to a chaplain of his choice or else the juvenile officer handles his problem.

The chaplain counsels the juvenile as often as he deems necessary for as long as 90 days. Any longer period must be approved by Chief Younge. The juvenile officer holds a meeting with the chaplain and the offender midway in the advisory period and again at the last session.

The corps has aided the department tremendously in cutting down on "repeat" juvenile offenders and has relieved the juvenile officer of many counseling problems, permitting him to concentrate on current unsolved cases and crime prevention measures in places where youths gather.

### Modern Equipment

The city owns one plain car used for administrative purposes, one three-wheeled motorcycle for meter duty and it has two cars on a lease-rental basis for patrol and traffic work. All four units are equipped with three-way FM radios, fire extinguishers, flares, blankets, ropes, first-aid kit, red lights, and sirens. One patrol unit is equipped with a public address system mounted on the roof and is very useful in the control of crowds and traffic.

Investigation equipment consists of a 4 by 5 camera with accessories, a latent fingerprint kit, short- and long-wave ultraviolet lamps, tape recorder and handie-talkie radio.

Combat equipment includes two shotguns, tear gas grenades, a tear gas cylinder and a gas "billy." The department has a complete set of reloading equipment on order for the furtherance of our combat efficiency.

Since activation the department has been quartered in two small rooms at the sheriff's office substation and is "bulging at the seams." The city has purchased an old school site and the council has indicated one building may be remodeled for our use when finances permit.

The problems have been many, the experiences invaluable. We have come a long way in 2 years, but we are not resting on past accomplishment. Our thoughts are to the future. It is estimated that the city's population will be near 50,000 by 1972. Our growing pains will continue.

### STANDARDIZED ABBREVIATIONS

Free copies of a list of standardized abbreviations which should be used in connection with the submission of fingerprint cards to the FBI may be obtained by writing to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.

**PROMPT SUBMISSION** of arrest fingerprints to the FBI may aid in locating a fugitive for an interested police agency.



## More Special Tickets

Fredericksburg, Va., is another city whose police officers are using special tickets for educational and public relations purposes. Two of them are reproduced here. One is for drivers who leave ignition keys in parked automobiles and the other is for a police check on houses whose occupants are out of the city.

Supt. A. G. Kendall of the Fredericksburg Police Department advises that the ignition key reminder is left under the wiper blade of all cars found parked with the key in the switch. Each week the officers on patrol find fewer cars parked in this manner, and many favorable comments have been made by drivers who received these tickets.

The second form reproduced here is used by Fredericksburg police to record an inspection of premises left temporarily vacant while their occupants are on vacation. Through newspaper cooperation, all citizens of Fredericksburg were advised that if proper notice is given to the police department, a police check will be made of the house every 8 hours, varying the hour of arrival so that thieves will not be able to anticipate the arrival of the officer. At the time of each check the form is filled out in duplicate. The original is filed with the police department and the copy is pushed under the door of the house so that it cannot be seen.

The police also instruct the householder to lock the premises securely, place valuables in safekeeping, provide detailed information on servants and their duties during the period, and leave the house

## YOUR IGNITION KEY IS A DEADLY WEAPON

When you leave your keys in the car, you invite some kid to steal it. All too often a kid in a "HOT" car is MURDER. Protect yourself. Protect others by removing your ignition key every time you leave your car. Lock your car. Protect your belongings.

**DRIVE SAFELY ALWAYS**

Officer \_\_\_\_\_

*Ignition key ticket.*

key with a trusted neighbor.

Superintendent Kendall advises that this system has reduced housebreaking to a minimum.

For additional information on a system of this kind, see the article entitled "Miami Shores P. D. Emphasizes a Home Protection Service" in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin for April 1953.

## FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Address \_\_\_\_\_

This premise inspected at (time) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

and found \_\_\_\_\_

Officer \_\_\_\_\_

*House check form.*



## Careful Car Search Leads to Embezzler

In December 1953, an alert citizen in a Pennsylvania town notified the local police department that a car had been abandoned in front of her home. The inspection which investigating officers made proved to be far from routine. A careful search of the car led to the arrest of a young man who was later found guilty of embezzling over \$40,000 in cash and negotiable checks from a national bank while an employee of that bank.

Police officers discovered a number of blue envelopes hidden behind some old rags in the trunk of the car. Further examination revealed that all of these envelopes were addressed to an eastern bank and contained negotiable checks which had been mailed to the bank by depositors. After completing the search of the abandoned car, the officers returned to the police station with the deposit envelopes. Shortly thereafter, the citizen called again, stating that a man was changing a tire on the abandoned car. The officers returned to the scene and placed the man under arrest. He admitted that he had been employed from January to mid-September 1953 at the eastern bank to which the envelopes were addressed and confessed that he had embezzled money from the bank. The police officers immediately called the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has primary jurisdiction over the Federal Reserve Act.

The former bank employee told the FBI an interesting story of his activities as an embezzler. His duties as a clerk in the bank had consisted in part of opening incoming mail deposits which were sent by customers to be credited to their accounts. Two or three days a week at the rate of about one to five a day he had withheld mail deposits for his own use. He had simply folded these envelopes and placed them in his pocket. After leaving work, he had taken any cash that might have been in the envelopes, put that back in his pocket and placed the envelopes containing the checks in the trunk of his automobile. He estimated that he had obtained approximately \$500 in cash over the entire period, and investigation by the FBI later proved his estimate to be nearly correct. He said that he had cashed none of the checks.

Investigation at the bank disclosed that in July 1953 the bank had begun receiving complaints from customers to the effect that deposits they

had mailed to the bank were not being credited to their accounts. Bank officials referred the matter to postal authorities, as they were of the opinion that the deposits had never reached the bank. By August the number of complaints had increased alarmingly, and the Post Office Department instituted an investigation.

In mid-September, the employee-embezzler resigned. As he later told the FBI, he felt he could not stop taking the money and sooner or later he would be discovered.

The discovery of this embezzlement came 3 months after his resignation as the result of an alert citizen's call to the police department to report an abandoned car, followed by a careful, thorough search of the abandoned car by investigating officers. The embezzler was later sentenced to serve 1 year in jail.



### LATENT PRINTS IDENTIFY BANK ROBBER

Testimony by an FBI fingerprint examiner recently was of great value in bringing a bank robbery case to a successful conclusion. In mid-1954, a Missouri bank was robbed of over \$40,000. Two armed bandits dressed in blue mechanics coveralls, one masked and the other wearing sunglasses, entered the bank and forced the employees to place all the money on hand in a duffel bag. The pair next herded the 5 employees into the vault, warned them not to come out for 5 minutes, and then fled.

During the ensuing investigation, it was determined that 2 automobiles had been used in the getaway, 1 of which—a stolen Oldsmobile—was found abandoned at the point where the bandits transferred into the second car. FBI agents lifted latent fingerprint impressions from the steering post of the abandoned getaway car, four of which proved to be legible and of value when examined by FBI identification experts in Washington, D. C. From this point on, agents working on the case sent the fingerprints of many suspects to the Identification Division for comparison with the latents lifted from the getaway car. Approximately 10 weeks later these latent prints were identified. The owner of the prints and two of his cohorts were brought to trial.

After hearing various witnesses for both the defense and the prosecution, and after listening to the testimony of an FBI fingerprint expert, the jury found the three subjects guilty. Their sentences totaled 60 years.



# WANTED BY THE FBI

**WILLIE BLACK, JR., with alias: Willie Harrison**

## *Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution (Murder)*

Willie Black, Jr., is charged with stabbing a woman to death with a knife and seriously wounding his wife with the same weapon during an argument on April 16, 1949, in Greenville, N. C. After Black reportedly was seen in Norfolk, Va., local law enforcement officers requested assistance from the FBI, and on August 8, 1949, a complaint was filed before a U. S. Commissioner at Rocky Mount, N. C., charging Black with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for the crime of murder.

This fugitive has spent most of his life in the area around Sumter, S. C., and Greenville, N. C., working as a general farmhand, truck driver, and tobacco worker. He has been known to follow tobacco and potato harvest groups as an itinerant worker. He has been reported as having worked at a tobacco factory in Greenville, N. C., during October 1950, under the alias of Willie Harrison.

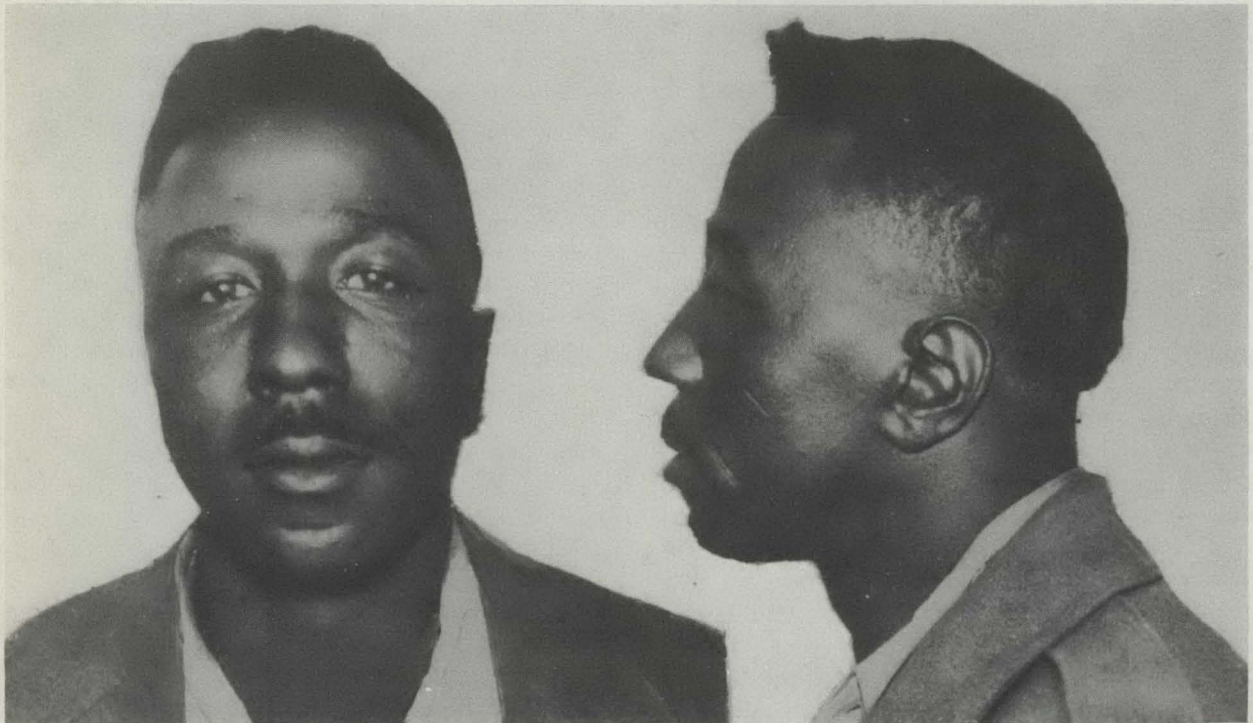
**Black should be considered extremely dangerous. He is reputedly a heavy drinker and usually carries a sharp knife on his person.**

Black is described as follows:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Age-----                    | 40, born November 15, 1914, Mecklenburg County, N. C. (not verified).  |
| Height-----                 | 5 feet, 6 inches.  |
| Weight-----                 | 154 pounds.  |
| Build-----                  | Medium.  |
| Hair-----                   | Black.   |
| Eyes-----                   | Dark brown.  |
| Complexion-----             | Dark.  |
| Race-----                   | Negro.   |
| Nationality-----            | American.  |
| Occupation-----             | Laborer.   |
| Scars and marks----         | Scar left corner of mouth, scar on left side of face, small scar left eyebrow, scar on back of neck, scar on left ankle. |
| Remarks-----                | Ears lie close to head; may be wearing mustache.   |
| FBI Number-----             | 266,420 A  |
| Fingerprint classification. | <u>14 O 12 U OOI</u><br>S 22 U 100   |

## *Notify FBI*

Any person having information which may assist in locating this fugitive is requested to notify immediately 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 Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation nearest his city.



*Willie Black, Jr.*



## HISTORICAL BLOOD TEST

Recently the FBI Laboratory was called upon to perform a rather unusual examination. The Archivist of the United States requested an examination of the signatures on five documents from the records of the Philippine Insurrection, which began in 1899, to determine whether the signatures had been written with human blood.

Each document contained several dozen signatures which were reddish-brown in color. Preliminary chemical tests indicated the presence of blood, and on two signatures there was sufficient encrustation to verify that these signatures had been written with blood. The remainder of the signatures contained an insufficient amount for individual examination, but a composite sample gave a positive test. Further tests gave definite indications that the blood was of human origin.

Despite the limited quantity of material available and the fact that the signatures were written more than a half century ago, scientific techniques enabled laboratory technicians to reach definite conclusions regarding their composition.

## PIECES OF METAL SOLVE THEFT

One night in late 1954 approximately 700 bushels of soybeans were stolen from an overhead granary on a farm in a Western State. Except for several pieces of metal found in the driveway of the victimized granary, there was little evidence from which to establish the identity of the thief or thieves.

Subsequent inquiry at a nearby farm implement company by the local sheriff revealed an important clue. Mechanics there stated that during the morning after the theft, two men had had a universal joint replaced in a truck. Further questioning in the neighborhood revealed the identity of the men for whom this work had been performed. The sheriff obtained from the implement company parts of the old universal joint and sent these parts, together with the small pieces of metal found at the crime scene, to the FBI laboratory.

Upon microscopic analysis, laboratory examiners determined that some of the metal found at the scene of the crime originally was part of the universal joint which had been removed from the suspects' truck. Results of this examination were sent to the sheriff who submitted the evidence to be used in the subsequent trial involving the two suspects.

## BLOODHOUNDS TRAIL ARSONIST

Several years ago, a series of six forest fires occurred in a national park located in a Southern State. These fires were believed to be the work of an arsonist, but numerous interviews with residents of the area where the fires had occurred failed to develop any information pointing to the identity of a logical suspect.

A conference was then held, with the chief forest ranger of the area, the chief of police from the nearest town, an official of the State Forestry Service, and special agents of the FBI attending. All the information and evidence previously obtained was reviewed and the name of one young man came to the fore as the most logical suspect. Plans were made for a surveillance of this young man.

It was not necessary to institute this surveillance, however, as the very next day another fire was spotted in the park several miles from the sites of the other fires. The authorities acted immediately. Bloodhounds and their handler were on the scene in short order. The dogs had little difficulty in picking up the trail of the arsonist, as individuals had not been allowed in the immediate area after the fire was spotted. The dogs, with FBI agents and other investigating officers in pursuit, took out over rugged mountain ridges and hollows and proceeded directly to the home of the young man who had already been developed as a suspect. Upon arriving at the home, they went directly to the young man's bedroom where the investigators retrieved a suit of clothes still damp from perspiration. The clothes had been stuffed under the bed. The bloodhounds then led the investigators out of the house to a point approximately 100 yards away where the suspect was found hiding in a clump of bushes. At first he denied any connection with the fire, offering explanations for the hidden perspiration-soaked clothing and for his presence in the clump of bushes, but he soon realized the overwhelming nature of the evidence against him and admitted his guilt. He said he was unable to explain his actions in setting the fires and insisted he had no ill will toward the National Park Service or law enforcement officers in general. In a signed statement he admitted setting seven fires.

The suspect was arraigned in a United States district court at which time he waived trial by jury and entered a plea of guilty. He was sentenced to serve 3 years in a Federal penitentiary.

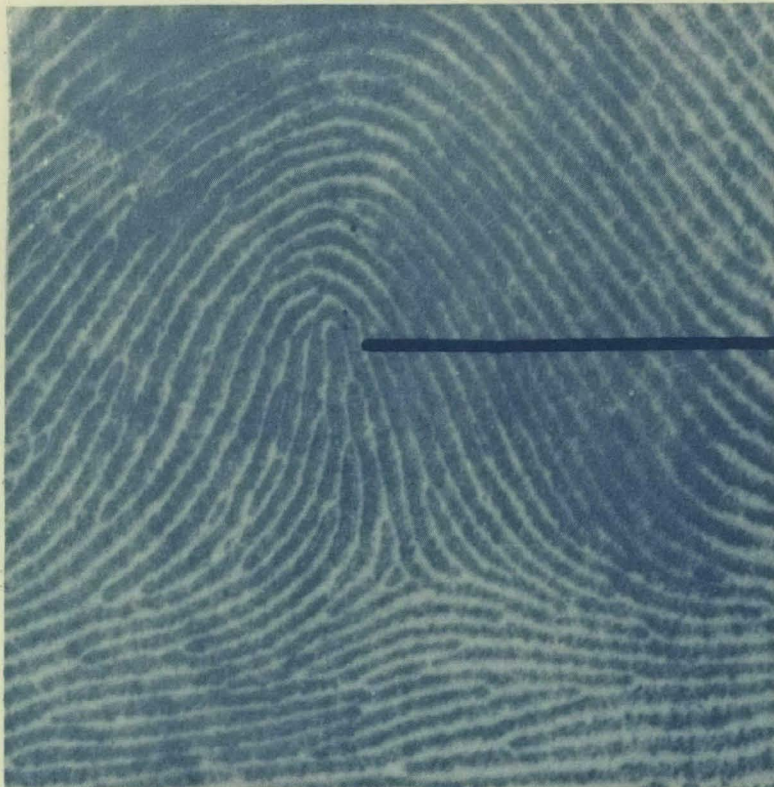


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300  
(GPO)

Colonel Harold G. Maison  
Superintendent  
Oregon State Police  
Salem, Oregon

## *Questionable Pattern*



The pattern presented here is a tented arch. Although it has the appearance of a loop, a close examination shows ridge A to be an arching ridge rather than a looping ridge. All of the ridges located within A are upthrusters.