

# FBI

## *Law Enforcement*

# BULLETIN



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

*Index to Volume 26, 1957 (p. 25)*

# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

Restricted to the Use of Law Enforcement Officials

DECEMBER 1957

Vol. 26 No. 12



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

December 1, 1957

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

The seasonal scourge of criminals who prey upon the property of others is now upon us. Flourishing in the carefree spirit of the season and illegally prospering among the wealth of merchandise on hand, year after year the strong-arm bandits, pilferers, shoplifters, purse snatchers, burglars and their kind seize upon the Christmas season as a holiday for their nefarious activities.

The thieving throngs of the underworld have already contributed in large measure to the crime problem of 1957. Paced by increases of 10.1% in burglary and 8.5% in larceny, the estimated major crimes reported for the first half of this year reached the unprecedented 6-month total of 1,399,670--an 8.4% increase over the similar 1956 period.

This month the hordes of holiday hoodlums will again make their boldest forays. Swarming through bustling shopping crowds, infesting jammed stores and merchandise marts, stealthily invading shipping terminals and hijacking carrier shipments, these criminals will reap enormous illegal profits from the unwary or unprepared citizenry. Even more alarming is the potential personal danger to the victim. Far too often, in anger or as a means of escape, the thief resorts to physical violence, the purse snatcher becomes an assailant, the looter turns into a killer.

Without wholehearted citizen support, law enforcement--already overtaxed by routine winter difficulties and the abnormal holiday traffic--cannot hope to meet this threat. Fundamentally important is public awareness of the problem, aroused through the combined efforts of civic organizations, news media, business associations, and other interested groups.

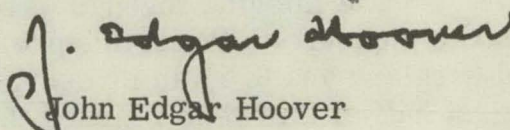
It is imperative that the potential victims cooperate in the formation of a common defense. Especially vulnerable, individual shoppers must be indoctrinated with the need for protecting their own persons and goods. With shops and stores presenting major targets for this type of criminal, merchants and businessmen can contribute materially by initiating and enforcing appropriate security measures, including adequate instruction for veteran and temporary employees.



One of the most lucrative sources of booty for petty pilferers as well as organized syndicates of racketeers is the stream of valuable cargoes moving in interstate commerce. Only a planned program of safeguarding depots and carriers together with prompt reporting of occurrences can curtail such thefts from interstate shipments. As a positive step in promoting this program, the FBI has available for carrier firm officials and police a booklet entitled "Combating Thefts From Shipments" as well as posters for public display, reflecting the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI in this interstate violation.

Last year, more than 108 million dollars worth of property, exclusive of automobiles, fell into the gluttonous clutches of burglars, robbers, and thieves. Only when the risks become too great and the profits too meager will these illegal occupations cease to thrive. Forewarned by experience, it is only commonsense for law enforcement and the public to gird for the holiday assault of these criminals.

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director





## FEATURE ARTICLE

In 1951 the Tennessee State Legislature created a Bureau of Criminal Identification in the Tennessee Department of Safety. This action was taken to meet the need in the State for a central bureau of criminal information with personnel trained in scientific crime detection methods who could assist local authorities.

The Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification (TBCI) has criminal investigators assigned throughout the State to assist local authorities when such aid is requested by the district attorney general of the particular jurisdiction where the matter to be investigated is located. At the State headquarters in the Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, Tenn., the bureau maintains a central fingerprint file and exchanges data with the FBI as well as local officers throughout the State.

Though only 6 years old, the TBCI has enjoyed particular success in latent fingerprint searches, examinations, and comparisons. Agents of the TBCI, when called to assist local officials at a crime scene, begin their investigation with the assumption that the perpetrator of the crime has left fingerprints at the scene. Agents and technicians have been impressed with the necessity of maintaining a positive attitude in conducting a crime-scene search. We do not subscribe to negative statements and thoughts, such as: "Too many persons have been around the crime scene," "It has rained and the water has probably destroyed any prints," or "Criminals are getting smarter and are now wearing gloves." The first step in any one of our investigations is to photograph the crime scene as found and make a thorough search for latent fingerprints. Each agent, on entering upon duty, is given instructions in the proper searching, lifting, preservation, and identification of latent fingerprint evidence. Every bureau auto is equipped with a modern latent fingerprint kit.

The TBCI maintains a latent fingerprint file where latents found at a crime scene are filed by date and are broken down according to the county

## ***Latent Print Skills Solve Criminal Cases***

by W. E. HORTON, *Director, Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification, Nashville, Tenn.*

where the crime occurred. Records of known offenders are maintained in the bureau's criminal specialty file so that when latent fingerprints are found at a crime scene it is normal procedure to compare the latents with prints of the known offenders in the specialty file. In addition, latents are checked against crimes of similar *modus operandi* which have occurred in a particular section of the State, thus making possible the connection of criminal acts committed in different jurisdictions by the same subject.

### ***Illustrative Cases***

One of our most important cases was solved through the identification of a latent fingerprint. During the late summer and fall of 1956 a series of rapes, attempted rapes, and prowler calls had occurred in the Belmont-West End section of Nashville, Tenn., with the climax being a criminal attack on a 73-year-old retired schoolteacher on the night of July 30, 1956. Some of the victims



***Director W. E. Horton.***



were able to furnish brief descriptions of the assailant. Officers of the Nashville Police Department lifted several good latent fingerprints from the bathroom wall, at the point of entry, in the apartment of the elderly victim. These latents proved to be the most valuable physical evidence in the investigation of the series of cases. Since the bureau had been requested to assist local authorities, copies of the latent prints were obtained from the Nashville Police Department and subsequent investigation resulted in latent fingerprint comparisons on over 100 suspects, with negative results.

As the investigation continued, the Davidson County sheriff's office at Nashville arrested one Robert Samuel Lewis Carr, a young college student, on the night of December 18, 1956. This subject was arrested after county officers received a call that this person was prowling in the Croleywood section of Davidson County. When arrested by county officers, the suspect was in possession of a stolen auto. He was taken to the county jail and fingerprinted as a prowler. Upon receipt of the subject's prints by this bureau from the sheriff's office, one of our technicians positively identified 3 fingers of the subject with 3 latent prints left on the wall of the elderly teacher's apartment. Confronted with the evidence against him, Carr confessed the attack on the schoolteacher as well as numerous burglaries and three other rape cases (one in which an innocent man was being held in jail as the result of a personal identification of one of the rape victims).

### **Testimony**

At the subsequent trial a technician of the TBCI testified that the defendant's fingerprints had been found on the bathroom wall of the schoolteacher's apartment. This and other evidence resulted in the accused man's being found guilty of rape and being sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

A most interesting phase in the above investigation was the fact that the latent prints of eight of the subject's fingers were located in the apartment of one of the victims. The identification officer of the Nashville Police Department, working with a technician of the TBCI, placed the latents in their relative positions on a fingerprint card. All persons known by the victim to have been in her apartment prior to the date of the offense were located and fingerprinted for elimi-

nation purposes. It was interesting to note that the classification figured by the two technicians on the basis of the latents was as follows:

13	M	1	U	000	16-22
<hr/>					
	M	1	U	000	

When the rapist was fingerprinted following his arrest, his fingerprint classification was:

17	L	1	U	000	12
<hr/>					
	M	1	U	000	

A search was made based on the latent classification. It just so happened, however, that this man had never before been fingerprinted. It is felt that if his prints had been on file there was a good possibility he would have been identified on the basis of the latent classification.

Another case investigated by the bureau resulted in fingerprints being obtained from evidence after a lapse of 16 days since commission of the crime. The laundry at a university in Tennessee was broken into and approximately \$800 in cash taken. The burglar gained entrance by breaking out a window, pulling the pieces of jagged glass from the frame, and entering the establishment. Sixteen days later the TBCI was asked to examine the glass for fingerprints. A latent fingerprint was found on one of the pieces of glass and, after this fingerprint was photographed, it was found to be identical with the right little finger of a suspect in the case. The suspect was arrested in another State. After serving time in that State for an offense, he was returned to Tennessee, tried and found guilty of burglary. The subject received 3 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Within a span of 12 months, one violator was identified through fingerprints left at the scenes of 2 separate crimes.

The subject had been identified by fingerprint evidence in 1953 for the burglary of a furniture store in Putnam County, Tenn., and received 1 year in the State vocational training school. The subject was released 8 months later and within a short time thereafter it was established by fingerprint identification that he was responsible for the burglary of a service station. He was returned to the State "training" school.

### **Modus Operandi**

Latent fingerprints have proven to be of invaluable assistance in determining if the same un-

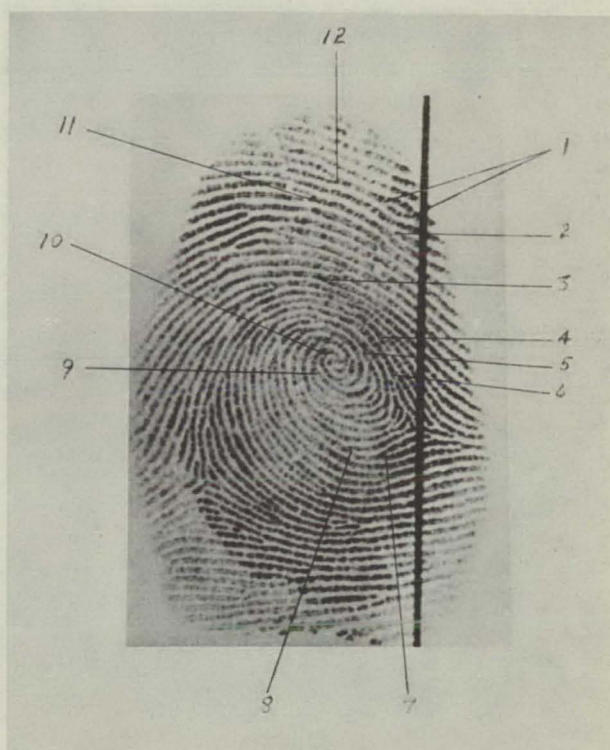
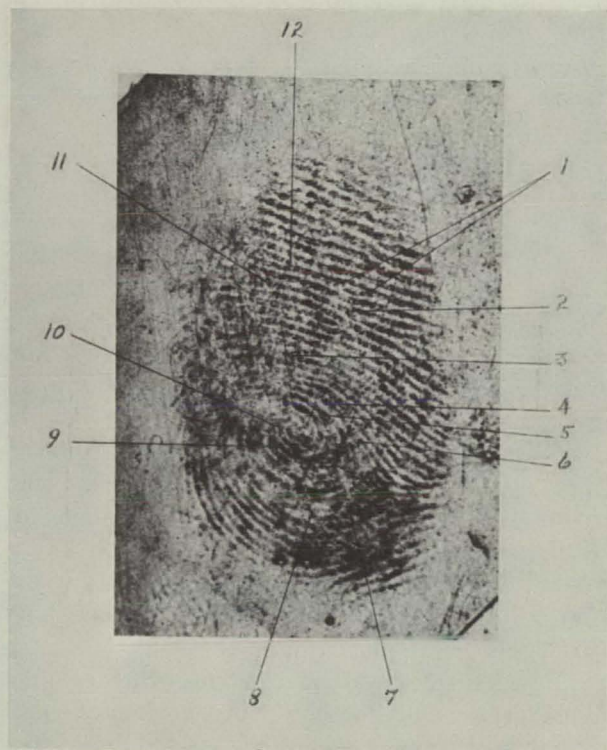


known subject is responsible for a series of crimes having the same modus operandi. During the latter part of 1956 and early 1957 a series of safe burglaries occurred in a small middle Tennessee town. These burglaries occurred on either Friday or Saturday nights. The modus operandi consisted of a forced entrance into an establishment and the opening of the safe by strong-arm methods with heavy tools, which in most cases were left at the scene of the burglary. Agents of the TBCI were called to assist local officers in each of the cases, and in most instances good latent fingerprints were found. Examination of the latents in each case by our technicians confirmed our suspicions that the same subject had committed all the burglaries. In three of the cases identical latent impressions were found. As the investigation was continuing, local officers arrested a subject who had been surprised in an establishment by the owner. We positively established that this subject had left the latent prints at four of the burglaries. During subsequent questioning this individual signed a confession admitting eight burglaries. At his trial he pleaded guilty and received 15 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

In 1954 the chief of police of a small Tennessee town was able to secure clear latent fingerprints

at the scene of a burglary. The chief forwarded the latents to the TBCI requesting that we check them against a suspect whose prints were on file. We positively identified one of the latents as having been left at the burglary scene by this particular suspect. However, the whereabouts of the subject was unknown. In 1956 one of our technicians was making a routine file search of fingerprint cards received from the Chattanooga Police Department when he established that one of the prints on a subject arrested for drunk driving was identical to the prints of the suspect in the above-cited burglary. With this information, TBCI agents were able to locate and apprehend the suspect and place him under arrest for the chief of the town where the burglary occurred.

It is an established procedure of the TBCI that when a subject is apprehended in one county his fingerprints are checked against latents from crimes with the same modus operandi occurring in that immediate area of the State. In January 1957, a subject was apprehended by Cheatham County, Tenn., officers while in the act of committing a burglary. Agents of the bureau were requested to assist in questioning the subject and also to take his fingerprints. When it was discovered that the subject came from an adjoining county, his fingerprints were checked against



*Comparison of latent print at crime scene (left) and suspect's print.*



latent prints from offenses committed in the adjoining county. It was positively established that a latent fingerprint found at the scene of a safe burglary in the adjoining county was identical with the right thumb of the subject. He was tried in both counties, found guilty in each instance, and received two 3-year sentences in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Latent fingerprints have been used to identify the victim of a murder. In September 1954, the body of an unknown white female was found in Cedar Forest State Park, Wilson County, Tenn. According to the coroner's report, the body was that of a white female, about 45, who had been murdered by strangulation. The body was estimated to have been in the forest about 18 days. Our men were able to get clear photographs of the second layer of skin of each finger with sufficient ridge detail to make a positive identification. Subsequent investigation revealed that the body was probably that of a missing person from Nashville, Tenn.

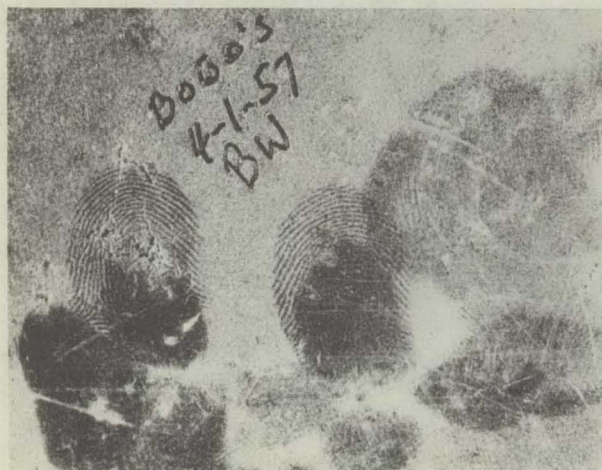
A search of the missing woman's apartment yielded several good latent fingerprints, although the woman had been absent for about 20 days. The latent prints from the missing woman's apartment were identical with the prints of the body found in the forest. The missing woman had never been fingerprinted before, and at the trial of a suspect arrested for the woman's murder, the defense accepted the identification of the deceased based on the latent fingerprints from the apartment of the missing woman. The subject in this case was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 20 years in the Tennessee State

Penitentiary. The Tennessee State Supreme Court upheld the conviction in this case.

In our capacity as the State Bureau of Criminal Identification we endeavor to lend technical assistance in identification matters to all law enforcement agencies in the State, including municipal, county, and Federal agencies, when such assistance is requested. In November 1955, the United States post office at Pleasantville, Tenn., was broken into and a small floor safe hauled away. The safe, "strong-armed" open, was found in a nearby field the day after the burglary. Subsequent investigation by the sheriff's office of Hickman County, Tenn., and United States post office inspectors resulted in the arrest of two suspects. The postal inspector asked the bureau to make a crime scene search at the post office for latent fingerprints. Bureau technicians processed the crime scene and were successful in obtaining one clear latent impression from a piece of broken glass which had been pulled from the window in which entry was gained. When interviewed, one of the suspects admitted going into the post office and carrying away the safe; however, the second suspect denied any part in the crime. A TBCI employee compared both suspects' prints with the latent print found on the piece of broken glass and established positively that the suspect who denied any part in the offense had left the print on the window glass. These 2 suspects were found guilty of burglary of a U. S. post office and sentenced to 6 months and 9 months, respectively.

On numerous occasions it is impossible for agents, during their investigation, to lift or process fingerprints because of the nature of the object which contains the fingerprints. These objects usually contain finger impressions, clearly visible to the naked eye, in dust, oil, grease, putty, or similar substances, which make it impossible for the normal dusting process because of the probable destruction of the ridges of the latent print by the movement of the fingerprint brush. In such cases the evidence is brought into headquarters and technicians resort to indirect lighting photography in order to preserve the latents for future comparison purposes.

It is a proven fact that nothing is more essential in the solving of a case than a proper and thorough search for evidence at the scene of the crime. In this respect, a latent print plays a dual role in that it may not only identify the perpetrator of the crime but also has strong evidentiary value in proving the case in court.



*Prints on dusty surface recorded by indirect lighting photography.*



# TRAFFIC

## **Rigid Traffic Law Enforcement Cuts Accident Rate**

by HARRY W. CROWELL, *Chief of Police,  
St. Joseph, Mo.*

The police department in St. Joseph, Mo., enforces traffic laws just as it does other laws—to the limit of its ability. We work just as hard to prevent killing by automobile as we do to prevent other criminal acts. Not satisfied with a “normal” number of accidents and limited enforcement of traffic laws, we try to give to the public maximum protection.

St. Joseph has a population of 80,000, with several thousand more in the immediate suburbs, and 29,000 registered motor vehicles. It is an old river town, hilly with narrow streets, and is the crossroads of four U. S. highways. It is a manufacturing center with a typical urban population as well as the market place of a rich agricultural area.

The written policy of the department on traffic supervision, a copy of which is given to all officers, states: “Almost all accidents involve one or more violations, and the prevention of violations is an effective and direct method of preventing accidents. Deaths, injuries, and property loss have a close relationship to the quality and quantity of law enforcement. Whatever enforcement is necessary to prevent accidents is the amount of enforcement needed.”

The necessity of controlling speed is stressed as a major factor in reducing serious accidents to a minimum. Officers are required to exercise courtesy in dealing with violators, and they are told that no favoritism shall be shown in dealing with violators. Every person is entitled to the same courtesy and consideration as every other person, regardless of financial or social position or supposed influence, political or otherwise.

The protection of children is a primary objective, and officers are cautioned to keep this always in mind.

The present traffic supervision program is a little over 4 years old. The groundwork for it was laid over a period of 22 years, from the time we sent our first officer to Northwestern University for training in 1935. On his return, a squad con-

sisting of a traffic sergeant and five men was established. Over the years this grew and progressed slowly with a substantial improvement in the traffic accident record. Today we have a traffic division of 14 officers, a captain, a lieutenant and 2 sergeants, 4 women meter checkers and 3 women clerks.

About a dozen officers have been sent to the Traffic Institute at Northwestern through the years. Some of these men have left the traffic division but others hold key positions, with five of them still in traffic.

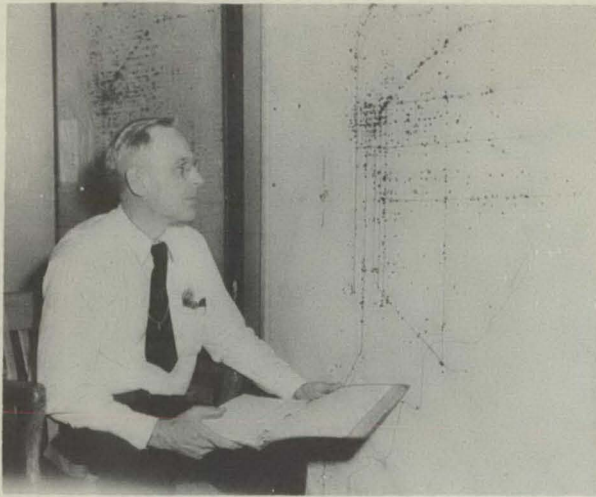
All uniformed officers are instructed to enforce traffic laws, but the major part of the work is handled by the traffic division. An in-service training program is conducted for all officers.

In 1953 the enforcement program was stepped up sharply, both in regard to quantity and quality, and the results were almost startling. Just prior



*Chief Harry W. Crowell.*





*Spot maps are used for selective enforcement.*

to that time, St. Joseph's accident record had reached a point where no progress was being made. It was no worse than many other cities, but for the 5 years from 1948 to 1952 our yearly average was 7.6 deaths and 253 injuries in 1,527 accidents. In the 4 years from 1953 to 1956 the yearly average has been 2.7 deaths and 121 injuries in 1,016 accidents. The best year's record was in 1954, with 1 death and 77 injuries in 783 accidents. Our record of deaths, injuries, and accidents still is the best in the Nation for our population.

The trend of pedestrian accidents measures the effectiveness of our traffic program. In this category the average of 10 deaths and 85 injuries in the five years 1934-38 has been reduced to an average of 1.5 deaths and 35 injuries in the last 4 years.

### **Public Reaction**

The new policy of intensive enforcement of safety was announced by the board of police commissioners early in 1953, and the public received it with a yawn as "just another police safety campaign." At that time studies showed that much motor vehicle traffic was moving 5 to 15 miles over the legal speed limits, so the first effort was to bring the general movement of traffic down to a safe speed. This involved hundreds of arrests for speeding. This procedure gradually accomplished its purpose, accompanied by the quiet approval of most citizens and some loud protests from those who had formed the habit of driving without looking at their speedometers.

Other hazardous violations were not neglected. There was always pressure on the drunken driving violation. Hundreds of arrests were made for running stop signs and signals, leaving the scene, following too closely, right-of-way violations and that catch-all, careless driving.

The city court backed up the program, and the commissioners stood firm. Valuable support was given by the newspapers and other news media, such as radio and television stations. Soon the citizens accepted the enforcement program as routine. The only important protest was against arrests of out-of-town drivers for violations, and this protest was made in good faith by some businessmen who felt this practice would keep customers out of the city. The department's policy is to show visitors every possible courtesy which circumstances will permit. Often, the visitor is given only a warning. In the case of an inexcusable violation, however, he is treated just as anyone else. A considerable percentage of our accidents involve out-of-town drivers.

The wholesale arrests of speeders caused criticism of the speed limits, and resulted in a revision which eliminated changes of speed limits along various streets. We have a general 25-mile limit, with most through streets signed for 30 miles, and a 15-mile limit for school zones and 10 miles in alleys.

At every highway entrance to the city there is a large sign stating that speed limits will be rigidly enforced and warning visitors to observe the limits.

In the years just prior to 1953, arrests for moving violations ran about 2,500 a year. In 1953 the total rose to 7,500, and has been as high as 9,000 a year since then. But quantity of enforcement is by no means the whole answer to the results we have achieved. Four years ago the department improved the selectivity of its enforcement program. An effort was made to apply enforcement to the type of violation which was causing accidents, and at the place and time they occurred. Officers were assigned to duty each day on this basis.

### **Spot Maps**

Two spot maps are kept, one showing accidents by classification and the other showing arrests by type of violation. These are posted daily, and the accident reports studied. Detailed studies of accidents by streets or areas are also made. From the information thus obtained and from reports of



citizens and observations by officers, the battle against accidents is planned from day to day and week to week.

The department has used the drunk-o-meter for several years for testing drivers suspected of being intoxicated. We do not have radar, but use an electronic device for checking speed. Prior to obtaining this equipment, we used manual checking with stop watches for several years, and still use it occasionally.

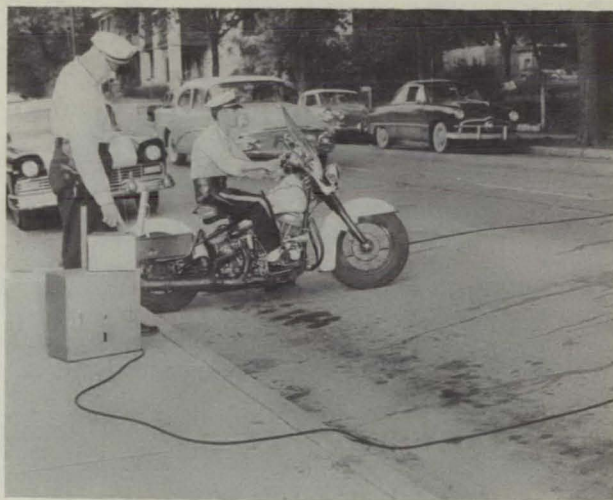
Every accident is investigated at the scene if possible, and our officers have received much training in investigation. The accident reports and the records developed from them are the basis of facts from which we work. Nothing is left to guesswork if it is possible to gather the facts. Records of violators, reports on drivers in accidents, and other files are kept and used for enforcement, engineering and education planning and for the use of the court. The accident record work is done by the police traffic division.

In 1956 we had 1,307 accidents involving 2,337 drivers, and 1,228 of these accidents were investigated at the scene. There were 920 arrests made for violations in these accidents.

Last year the uniform traffic ticket recommended by the American Bar Association was adopted, and it has been found to be of great help, not only in the traffic program but to other divisions of the police department. It also appears to command more respect from the violator than the ticket formerly used.

The police department does not work alone in the traffic program. St. Joseph has an active safety council which has been carrying on an educational program since 1934 and which has given the police department much help and support. We also have an official city traffic commission, formed in 1938, which deals principally with traffic engineering and legislation. The police department is represented in both these organizations, and the entire traffic program of the city is well coordinated. I believe a strong citizens' organization, such as the safety council here, properly organized and operated, can be a great help to any police department and is essential to a maximum community effort in regard to the traffic problem.

The police department works closely with the schools, and an officer supervises a school safety patrol of 300 boys and girls. Officers handle school traffic at some critical locations. We assist in various ways in the educational program conducted by the Safety Council and our officers



*Setting up an electronic speed check.*

often give talks and show films at meetings.

The following table gives a tabulation of St. Joseph's traffic accident record and progress in this field in the past years:

	Persons killed	Persons injured	Total accidents	Pedestrians	
				Killed	Injured
Average per year, 1932-36.....	16.8	302	1,900	10	86
Average per year, 1937-41.....	9.2	208	1,650	6.2	69
Average per year, 1942-46.....	8.8	228	1,292	5.2	59
Average per year, 1947-51.....	6.8	276	1,952	3	71
1952.....	6	258	1,324	3	67
1953.....	4	162	889	3	36
1954.....	1	77	783	1	19
1955.....	2	97	1,085	1	27
1956.....	4	148	1,307	1	28

St. Joseph has no secret for a successful traffic program. We are not satisfied or complacent. We still have too many accidents and too much congestion at certain hours. Our accident record could turn from good to bad and bad to worse in a short time if our efforts were relaxed. As in every other community, we have "crazy drivers," we have the teen-age problem, we have the adult delinquents who think handling traffic is a game between the driver and the police, and we have those who howl about speed "traps."

In St. Joseph we have used all the tools we have heard about and have been able to obtain. The annual inventory of Traffic Safety Activities probably has been our best tool from the planning standpoint. Participation in the AAA pedestrian contest has helped in our pedestrian program.

*(Continued on page 20)*



## SCIENTIFIC AIDS



El Dorado, Ark., is a city of approximately 25,000 population. We have the usual quota of criminals of various types, including from time to time persons who think they can persist indefinitely in writing checks in the names of fictitious persons. One quiet and inconspicuous housewife who lived in a nearby town almost succeeded. For a period of almost 2 years she would call on local El Dorado merchants and with little or no difficulty replenish the family larder or the family bank account.

Although she carried on repeated conversations with the merchants, she failed to make any notice-



*Lt. Carroll L. Matthews.*

## ***Using Photography to Advantage in a Small Department***

*by* LT. CARROLL L. MATTHEWS, *El Dorado, Ark.,  
Police Department*

able impression, and descriptions furnished by the victims were as varied as can be imagined under such circumstances. Finally, we studied the checks which had been passed and selected one which seemed to be the most typical. This check was photographed and prints were distributed by personal contact to merchants throughout the city. Several days after the photographs were distributed, the subject was identified and arrested at the nearby town of Smackover, Ark. Forgery charges which were later filed were dismissed when complete restitution was made. This subject during her 2 years of operation used 17 aliases and passed more than \$1,500 in spurious checks.

This example does not illustrate unusual techniques but, in my opinion, it does show the great potential of photography in law enforcement. A photograph accomplished in a short time what personal contact on a continuing basis over a period of almost 2 years had failed to accomplish. Because it was graphic, it focused the attention on the problem at hand and thereby succeeded.

The use of photography in law enforcement is recognized, and its value has long been established. Its potentialities are limited only by lack of utilization and lack of imagination. Imagination will follow utilization, and it is the basic purpose of this article to encourage the smaller departments to install and use photographic equipment. I believe there are many enforcement agencies which have not given serious consideration to photography because of the mistaken belief that proper equipment is beyond the scope of their budgets. With the support of Chief William E. Hickman, we have proved to ourselves that a limited budget does not stand in the way of successful use of photography in police work.

### ***Secondhand Equipment***

The equipment used by the El Dorado Police Department has many origins and many prior uses.

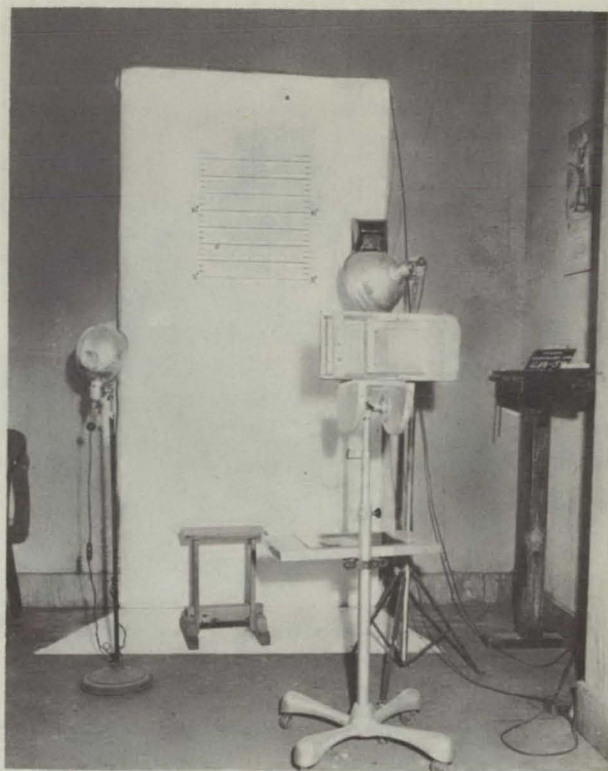


Some of it was not intended originally for use in a police department or a photographic studio. The camera stand we use was found by one of the men on a junk pile. It has a hair dryer base and was adapted to its present use by our chief radio operator, Sgt. M. L. Raley. It is nothing more than an upright metal pole in two adjustable sections mounted on rollers. Sergeant Raley also built out of scrap material a wooden tilt-top which was attached to the top of the upright pole. The camera in use is attached to this tilt-top which is adjustable over a range of 180°. At a comfortable level on the pole there has also been attached a flat copy board 15 by 26 inches which is covered by a piece of removable glass of the same size. This copy board was added to facilitate the copying of documents such as checks and similar items. It has a scale drawing to show the actual size of the document or item photographed. The removable glass top permits the insertion of the necessary color material for background. It also serves the obvious purpose of anchoring securely the document which is being photographed.

The background used in the mugging room is a piece of plywood, 4 by 8 feet in size, fastened to the wall and painted white. The floor in front of the background is also painted white for a distance of about 3 feet. At a point beginning 5 feet above the floor, height lines have been added. This permits the use of the same background for sitting and standing poses. The entire area, for all types of photography, is lighted by two photo floodlights on adjustable stands, which cost \$5 each.

Mug shots in the El Dorado Police Department are made on a 9- by 12-centimeter Zeiss Ikon camera, which can be purchased used for less than \$50. This was another conversion job by Sergeant Raley and other members of the department. The camera was converted by building and attaching to the rear of it a 3-way sliding back which permits 3 separate exposures on one 4- by 5-inch piece of cut film. This camera attaches, of course, to the tilt-top of the stand previously described. We take the first shot as a profile pose from a sitting position, the second as a front pose from a sitting position, and the third as a standing pose. This permits three poses on the same print.

The third pose, the standing front view, is destined for widest use. The advantages are obvious. Any procedure which increases many fold the points of possible identification must receive the serious consideration of law enforcement. Characteristics of posture, size, and general ap-



*Equipment for taking identification photographs.*

pearance are very real and are often more distinguishing than facial characteristics. The use of full-length photographs makes identification work a little easier.

The use of the third pose on the conventional print has at least two indicated advantages in addition to the apparent economies involved. The first of these is that it reduces by one the number of individual items the police officer must maintain. The second is that it reduces, but unfortunately does not eliminate, the often-heard remark of a witness after observing two prints of the same subject: "I haven't seen this one, but that one was in my place this morning."

### ***Photographing Documents***

For photographing documents and similar items, the El Dorado Police Department uses a 4- by 5-inch press camera which was purchased second-hand for \$100. It is mounted on the tilt-top, previously described, and focused on the copy board attached to the camera stand. All checks and other questioned documents are photographed and the originals returned to the owners to be retained as possible evidence. Documents are photo-





*Equipment used for copy work.*

graphed to scale, and both the front and back of checks are photographed on the same piece of cut film. The first exposure is made of one side of the check on one half of the film and then the other side of the check is photographed on the unexposed half of the film. It is important, of course, to photograph the endorsements on all suspect checks.

The use of photographs to protect the original evidence, particularly in check cases, is of real importance. In September 1955, a number of checks were passed in El Dorado bearing the purported signature of a local building contractor. Most of the checks were paid by the banks on which they were drawn, but authenticity of signatures was denied and a complaint was made to the El Dorado Police Department. The original checks were obtained from the banks, photographed and returned promptly. The photographs were turned over to officers who went to the banks and compared the handwriting with endorsements on Recordak copies of authentic payroll checks. Similarity was noted between handwriting on the alleged forged checks and endorsements of an employee. This suspect was questioned and later confessed that he had forged the employer's name on check forms he had stolen. The use of photographs in this instance preserved the original evidence and expedited the investigation.

Use of photography permits wider dissemination of spurious and suspected documents and thus increases the possibility of identifying suspects or clearing up unsolved cases. On January

11, 1957, the El Dorado Police Department arrested a burglary suspect. Investigation cleared him of any participation in the burglary, but it was determined that he and another subject had passed three "no account" checks in El Dorado totaling \$82. This suspect was known to have been in Louisiana before he came to El Dorado, but he denied having passed any checks there. Photographs of the spurious checks passed in El Dorado were sent to Louisiana State Police at Baton Rouge, La., and by return letter advice was received that this man apparently was responsible for five spurious checks passed at Amite, La.

### ***Other Uses***

In addition to photographing checks and documents of various types, it is believed desirable in some circumstances to photograph other items when the widest possible dissemination is desired. Lately we have been photographing and sending to nearby departments suspicious items which have been pawned at El Dorado pawnshops. The value of this procedure will depend, obviously, on the use made of the photograph by the receiving department, but we have received a tentative identification on some rings which were pawned and photographed while in "hock."

Photographs, like fingerprints, are valuable in direct proportion to their utilization. The finest photographic department cannot reach its maximum potential until there is more widespread use of photographs by all law enforcement departments, big and small. Our total outlay for photographic equipment exclusive of darkroom, which is not essential, is about \$200, and equipment which is entirely adequate could be bought for less. Our photographs cost about 30 cents for the negative and first print and about 3 cents per each additional print. In considering the cost, however, remember that there is not a single officer who has ever looked for a fugitive who would not truly say that a photograph is worth a thousand words—and a thousand steps.

### **FIREARMS EXAMINATION**

By use of the comparison microscope, an expert FBI Laboratory examiner is able to compare a bullet or cartridge case involved in a crime with test specimens fired in the gun of a suspect, and to determine positively whether the questioned specimen was fired from the suspect's gun.



# Novel Photography Device

## Traps Burglars

by LT. FRANK LODWICK, *Police Department,  
Manhattan Beach, Calif.*

Manhattan Beach, Calif., is a small residential beach town about 15 miles from downtown Los Angeles, Calif., on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. This city has about 30,000 population all year around, but of course during the summer months, the people flock to our shores. Since Manhattan Beach is primarily residential, our police department is plagued with residence burglaries and related investigative matters.

During 1956, a local nursery was burglarized at least five times. Each time a pane of glass in an adjoining hothouse was broken and then the door between this hothouse and the burglarized building was broken open.

In early January 1957, the proprietors of the nursery put into action a suggested plan for solving the burglaries.

It was observed that a camera could be wired to be snapped when the burglar alarm system went off. Inasmuch as the burglars had entered the building through the same door every time, it was decided to set up a concealed camera so that it would be focused on this doorway.

Then two holes were cut in one of several baskets hanging from the ceiling. One of the holes was the size of a camera lens and the other the size of a flash reflector. The basket itself was about 12 by 4 by 6 inches. Into this basket there were mounted a 35-mm camera and a flash attachment, with the lens of the camera placed securely against the smaller hole in the basket, and the flash reflector against the larger hole. The portions of the basket cut out for the holes were retained to be replaced in the side of the basket when the camera was not in use, thereby completely concealing it. Several small plants in separate containers were placed inside the basket also to furnish further concealment.

The basket was hung from the ceiling to a point about 8 feet from the floor and about 10 feet away from the hothouse door. The other baskets in the room were at various levels and the camera basket appeared to be just another display.

A copper wire was strung from the camera to a solenoid (from a washing machine water pump) which was also hidden in the hanging basket.

The solenoid was to activate the camera upon the receipt of an electrical impulse. Power was furnished by the 110-volt alternating-current outlet which operated the burglar alarm system. The 110-volt alternating-current power was connected to a 12-volt filament transformer, which reduced the power to 12 volts alternating current. The 12-volt alternating current was connected to a 24-volt selenium rectifier and through two 50-mfd condensers with a resulting 12-volt direct current which could be used to energize the solenoid and camera. The 12-volt direct current was then fed into one side of a double-pole, single-throw relay switch which had a time delay of 3 seconds.

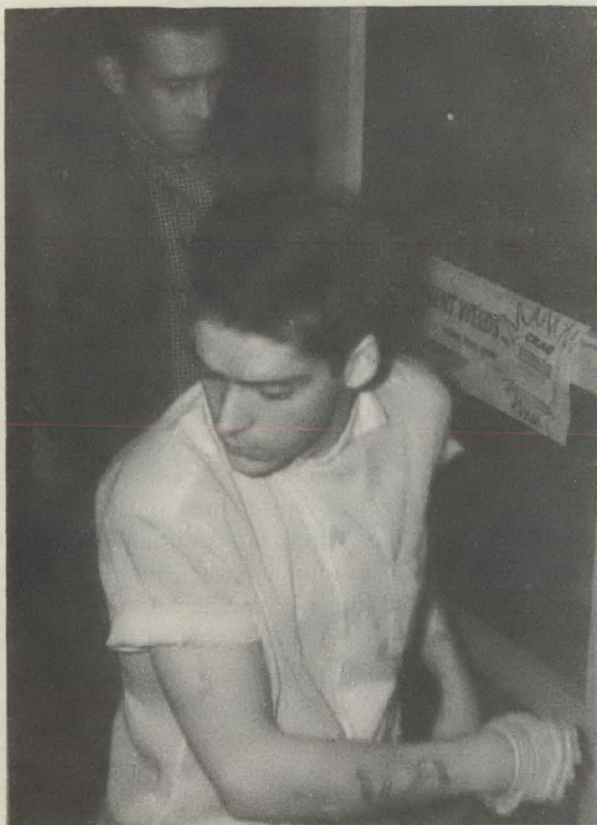
All of this electrical equipment was placed in a small wooden box which was hidden behind a plant seed rack on the floor of the nursery building. After the electrical current left the relay, it was run up a vertical shelf brace to the ceiling, across the ceiling on an exposed wooden beam, and then down the small cord that supported the basket to the solenoid. Two strands of hairline copper wire, at shin and knee height, were placed across the doorway leading from the building into the hothouse. These wires led to the other side of the relay switch mentioned above, completing the circuit. If the wires across the doorway were broken, the camera would take a picture of the doorway and anybody who was in it.

About January 20, 1957, the equipment was installed for a cost of less than \$15 new, excluding the camera and flash attachment. Each night the camera circuit was energized when the burglar alarm was turned on. The two wires across the doorway had to be placed manually each night. About 3 or 4 days after the equipment had been installed, it was found one morning that the nursery had again been burglarized. The proprietors rushed to the camera and found that the flash bulb had been set off. They called the Manhattan Beach Police Department and gave officers the film from the camera.

The exposed film from the camera was infrared, and the Manhattan Beach Police Department forwarded it to the FBI Laboratory in Washington, D. C., for assistance in developing it. The resulting picture was astonishing. A clear, identifiable photo of two men entering the nursery was on the film. The picture was clear enough to identify tattoos on one suspect's right forearm.

Based upon this bit of evidence, our department circularized all of the nearby police departments.





**Hidden camera shot.**

On January 25, 1957, a suspect was booked during the night by a patrol unit. The next morning the detectives interviewed the suspect and immediately noticed the telltale tattoos on the suspect's arm. When confronted with the picture taken in the nursery, the subject admitted his guilt and identified his accomplice, who was arrested.

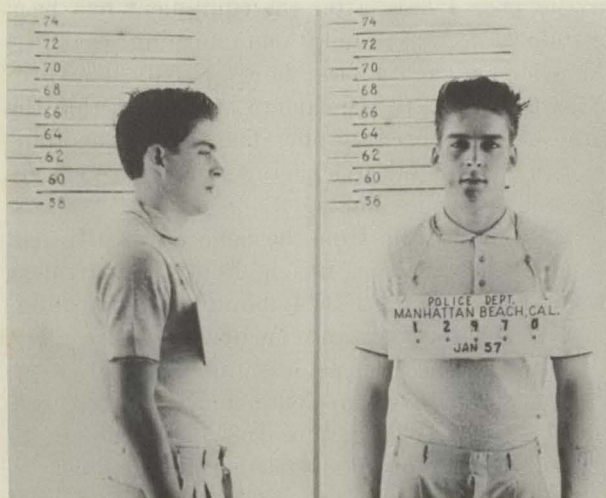
After both subjects were in custody, it was definitely determined that they were the persons pictured in the infrared photo. Because of the high angle at which the camera was focused, the picture shows the top of the head more than the face, and therefore it is difficult to identify the face. Although any officer who knew the subjects by sight could identify them from the picture, the tattoos were the real identifying factors in this case.

As a result of the arrest of these 2 men, 12 burglaries were cleared. Both men pleaded guilty and were sentenced.

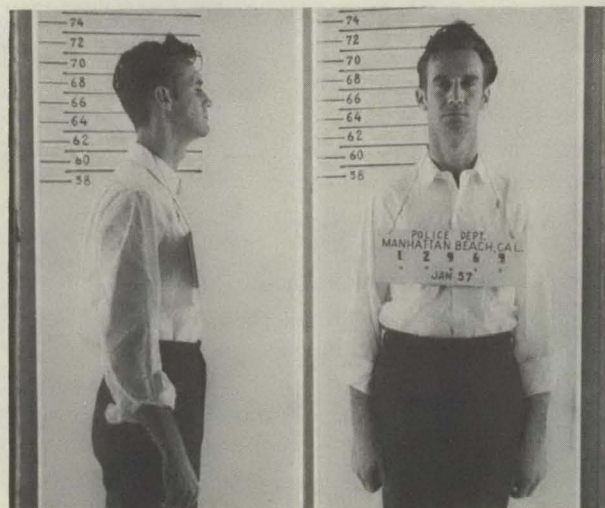
In the above procedure, the following photographic equipment was used: Kodak Pony 135 (35-mm.) camera with flash attachment. The camera was loaded with standard Kodak Infrared Film, No. 1R135, and a General Electric 5R infrared flashbulb was used. The camera which was used in this case had a standard Kodak Anaston 44 m./f. 3.5 lens.

In order to improve the picture, it would be necessary to lower the camera to give more of a direct, straight view. It should be noted that several cameras from different angles could be employed. The flash of the infrared flashbulb is barely noticeable and then only if the observer is looking at it. In this instance, the camera was connected to the burglar alarm so that the alarm and camera were set off simultaneously, thus distracting the burglars from noticing the flash of the bulb.

Needless to say, this nursery has not been bothered with burglars since the use of this concealed camera.



**Tattooed suspect.**



**Other suspect.**



## POLICE PERSONALITIES

After 23 years' service with the FBI, Assistant to the Director Louis B. Nichols retired on November 1, 1957.

A native of Decatur, Ill., Mr. Nichols attended Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Mich., where he distinguished himself as a football player and student. Moving to the Nation's Capital, he enrolled in The George Washington University Law School, from which he was graduated with an LL. B. degree in 1934. In July 1934, he entered on duty with the FBI and served in the Birmingham, Ala., area before returning in 1935 to the FBI Headquarters where he has since been assigned. On May 1, 1941, he was appointed as Assistant Director in Charge of the Records and Communications Division. On October 22, 1951, he was made an Assistant to the Director, holding this position in the FBI until his retirement.

Mr. Nichols' responsibilities included supervision of the FBI's far-flung communications system and vast collection of files and records which comprise the largest reservoir of criminal and security information in the country. In accordance with general fundamentals of police work, the success of investigations depends in great measure on modern, efficient communications and accurate, comprehensive records. In his outstanding performance of duty in these categories, Mr. Nichols contributed materially to the success of the FBI and the law enforcement profession.

A firm believer in the need and value of the basic technique of utilizing "informants" in connection with security and criminal investigations, Mr. Nichols cited this topic in a public address before the Freedom Forum sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at New York, N. Y., on April 28, 1955. "The most effective method of penetrating a conspiracy is to enlist the cooperation of the conspirators," he stated on that occasion. "If their clandestine meetings and activities are to be penetrated, clandestine methods are necessary."

A lawyer as well as an experienced investigator, Mr. Nichols has been vitally interested in securing

## **L. B. Nichols, Assistant to FBI Director, Retires**

public support and recognition for the police profession. A member of the District of Columbia Bar Association, he also served as secretary of the Criminal Law Section of the American Bar Association and in this capacity participated in the New York and London conferences of the Criminal Law Section at the Eightieth Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association in July 1957.

Mr. Nichols resides with his wife and two sons in Alexandria, Va., in a home which he himself built. He is an ardent fisherman, competent gardener, and skilled home workshop enthusiast.

In regard to Mr. Nichols, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said, "No one has ever given more unselfishly of his time and strength to the service of the Nation. His driving spirit and completely selfless dedication to duty over the years have constituted a contribution of immeasurable value to the FBI and to America."



**L. B. Nichols.**





## ***Techniques and Aspects of Extortion Problem***

The wealthy businessman who was checking his daily mail noted nothing unusual about the type-written envelope he was opening, except for the fact that it was marked "personal." As he read the typed message, however, he broke into a cold sweat and his hands began to tremble. His attention was riveted on one paragraph which he read over and over: "One week from the day you get this letter unless you come through with \$1,000 one of your grandchildren will be a corpse. . . . Then you will hear from us again. The next time the price will be five thousand, so think it over." The letter went on to name a payoff spot and to specify an exact time and the exact manner in which the money was to be delivered. It also warned, "If after we have left we read anything about it in the paper, we will be back and that time it won't be for money; it will be for you."

Thus another citizen learned that he was the victim of an extortion plot—one of the most insidious of all crimes, terrifying to the victim and baffling to law enforcement.

Many questions naturally arise concerning this case in particular and concerning extortion in general. Who is this victim and why was he chosen? Can he be considered a typical victim? Are all the victims wealthy, and does the extortioner always expect to receive money for his efforts? If not, what are his motives? What type of person is he? Is he necessarily a hardened criminal? Does he intend to carry out his threat? Does he always know his victim personally? What constitutes a violation of the extortion statute?

To throw some light on this vicious crime, this article has been prepared from data and experience accumulated in FBI investigations.

### ***The Statute***

In order to point out the jurisdiction of the Federal agencies charged with the enforcement of the extortion statutes, these statutes are briefly summarized below.

The Federal Extortion Act was originally passed by the Congress of the United States on

July 8, 1932, and was later amended on June 28, 1935, and May 15, 1939.

The present statutes covering extortion, which became effective on September 1, 1948, with amendments thereto, are to be found in title 18, sections 873, 875, 876, and 877 of the United States Code.

Section 876, which covers the mailing of threatening communications, provides that "whoever knowingly deposits in any post office or authorized depository for mail matter, to be sent or delivered by the Post Office Department or knowingly causes to be delivered by the Post Office Department according to the direction thereon, any communication, with or without a name or designating mark subscribed thereto, addressed to any other person, and containing any demand or request for ransom or reward for the release of any kidnaped person, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both." A similar penalty is provided for anyone who, with intent to extort from any person any money or other thing of value, so deposits, or causes to be delivered by the post office, any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of the addressee or of another. This section further provides that "whoever knowingly so deposits or causes to be delivered as aforesaid, any communication with or without a name or designating mark subscribed thereto, addressed to any other person and containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of the addressee or of another, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both." A fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both, is provided for anyone who, with intent to extort from any person any money or other thing of value, knowingly deposits or causes to be delivered any communication addressed to another and containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another, or the reputation of a deceased person, or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime.



Section 877 is similar in content to section 876, except that this section covers the mailing of a communication in a foreign country for delivery in the United States.

Jurisdiction under these two sections is divided between the United States Post Office and the FBI, the FBI handling only the types of cases wherein there is a threat to kidnap or injure the person or to injure the property of the addressee or of another.

Section 875, which covers communications (including telephone calls) traveling interstate by any means except the use of the United States mails, provides as follows:

a. Whoever transmits in interstate commerce any communication containing any demand or request for a ransom or reward for the release of any kidnaped person, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both;

b. Whoever, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value, transmits in interstate commerce any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years or both;

c. Whoever transmits in interstate commerce any communication containing any threat to kidnap any person or any threat to injure the person of another shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both; and

d. Whoever, with intent to extort from any person, firm, association, or corporation, any money or other thing of value, transmits in interstate commerce any communication containing any threat to injure the property or reputation of the addressee or of another or the reputation of a deceased person or any threat to accuse the addressee or any other person of a crime shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

Under this section the FBI handles all violations and none of them are referred to the Post Office Department.

Section 873 pertains to blackmail and states: "Whoever, under threat of informing, or as a consideration for not informing, against any violation of any law of the United States, demands or receives any money or other valuable thing, shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both." When sent through the mails, a threat to accuse a person of a crime or to injure the reputation is handled by the United States postoffice inspectors.

It should always be borne in mind that the individual sending an extortion letter may also commit an overt act in connection with a conspiracy to kidnap.

## ***Threats Against the President***

Threats against the President of the United States, the Vice President, and the President-elect are provided for in section 871, title 18, of the United States Code and come under the special jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service, which organization is charged with the responsibility for the safety of the President.

## ***Jurisdiction***

To avoid duplication of investigative effort on the part of the FBI and the post office inspectors under this act, as well as other acts involving the use of the mail, it should be noted that the following violations under the Federal Extortion Act are to be exclusively investigated by the FBI.

1. Mailing of threats to injure the person or property of any person;

2. Mailing of threats to kidnap any person;

3. Mailing of any demand or request for ransom or reward for the release of any kidnaped person.

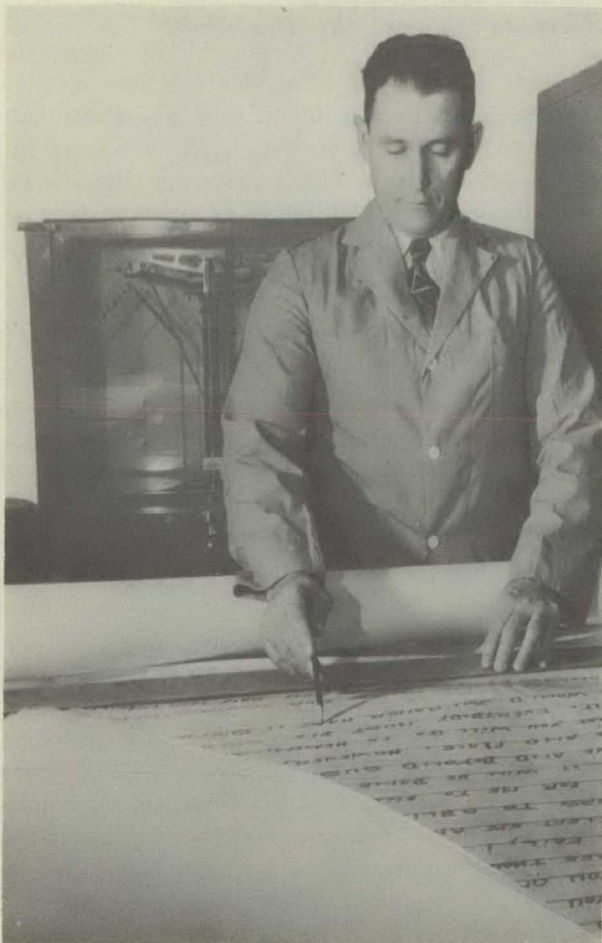
4. Any case in which the threats or demands of the types shown above were transmitted by interstate communication systems such as telephone, telegraph or radio systems.

Blackmail cases involving threats to injure the reputation of a person, when sent through the United States mails, are not within the scope of the FBI's jurisdiction and should be referred to the nearest post office inspector.

## ***The Extortion Letter***

The extortion message, regardless of the manner by which it is transmitted, is always threatening in nature but does not necessarily demand money. The message is most commonly transmitted by a letter or note, usually anonymous, but sometimes bearing the signature of the sender. In the latter case, solution, obviously, is relatively simple. In either case, preservation of the extortion message is of utmost importance. It should be placed immediately in a protective envelope, preferably transparent, in order to preserve possible fingerprints and to prevent smudging of the message. Handling of the letter should be kept to an absolute minimum and law-enforcement officials should be contacted immediately. If the letter arrived by mail, it is a matter for the attention of the FBI. If it was slipped under a door or otherwise deliv-





*In the Document Section of the FBI Laboratory, markings are placed on enlargements of an extortion note for demonstration in court.*

ered by hand, it is a local violation. In the case cited in the opening paragraphs, which henceforth will be referred to as "Case A," the victim immediately notified the local sheriff, who, in turn, notified the FBI. This prompt action, coupled with the fact that the victim protected the letter as evidence, led to the solution of the case. On the other hand, other victims have admittedly allowed "from 25 to 30" curious relatives and friends to handle the letter before turning it over to authorities. In such a case the possibility of obtaining latent fingerprints of the extortioner is almost nil and the chances of solving the case are greatly lessened. In the usual procedure of securing fingerprints of all persons known to have handled the letter, such miscellaneous handling of the extortion letter increases the police work and decreases the chance of identifying the extortionist.

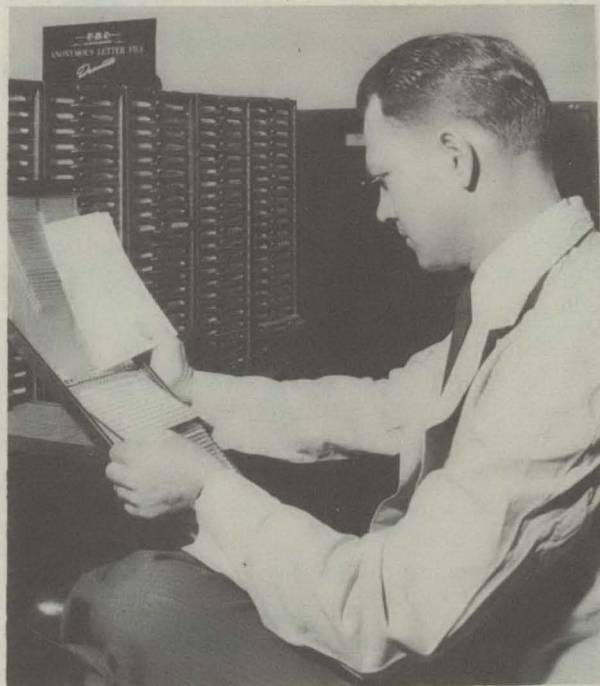
The text of the message may reveal a great deal about the writer. Some victims have indicated

that the letters they received contained expressions used frequently by acquaintances. On the other hand, investigators must always consider the possibility that the writer has deliberately disguised his handwriting and written in a vein foreign to his natural manner. One woman who admitted sending extortion letters to an acquaintance stated that she wrote them with her left hand and wrote in such a manner as to give the recipient the impression that they were from a former boy friend.

In another case, investigators noted that all the long difficult words in the message were correctly spelled, while short, often-used words were misspelled. When the "culprit" was found, the explanation was very simple—he was 9 years old and had asked an unsuspecting adult for the correct spelling of the longer words.

### ***Threatening Telephone Calls***

Some extortion attempts are handled completely by telephone. If these telephone calls cross State lines, the Federal extortion statutes are violated. If no State lines are crossed, the violation is local in nature. In many cases which originate with the sending of a letter, further instructions are given by telephone. Victims have proved of great



*A document examination is made in the FBI Laboratory to compare an extortion note against the anonymous letter file.*



assistance to law enforcement officers in such cases by paying close attention to the extortionist's voice, noting any possible accents, unusual pronunciation or enunciation. In some instances, victims have also managed to hold the extortionist on the phone long enough to allow law enforcement officers to close in on him.

## ***The Victim***

The victim may be a wealthy person such as the one in "Case A." When money is the chief object, this is usually true. There are cases on record, however, when persons of moderate or meager means received letters demanding sums of money which would have been next to impossible for them to produce. On the other hand, there are numerous cases on record indicating that persons from all walks of life received messages which merely threatened the recipients with bodily harm and made no mention of accepting money as an alternative. In most of these cases the victims were able to furnish information concerning persons bearing personal animosity toward them or their families, thus facilitating solution of the cases. In others, the recipients were public figures and professional persons whose work brought them into contact with the general public. There is no "typical" extortion victim.

## ***The Extortionist***

The extortionist comes from no single age group, sex, or environment. Known extortionists in the past have included teen-agers, males and females of various ages, dope addicts, persons from the ordinary criminal element, as well as persons of respectable reputations and lawful occupations. In some cases investigated in the past, extortion subjects have included disgruntled former employees, domestic employees and their relatives, small-time criminals with illusions of achieving grandeur, mentally unbalanced or retarded persons, supposedly law-abiding individuals who resort to extortion to settle debts or to satisfy personal cravings for gambling, alcohol, etc.

Early in the investigation of "Case A," the victim, when questioned concerning whether he would consider a specific former employee (who later proved to be the extortionist) a logical suspect, stated that he did not think this man was the "type" to turn to extortion. There had been no unpleasantness when the man had left the vic-

tim's employ. The victim considered this former employee a little "wild" but relatively harmless. He was in his early 20's, had been married and divorced, was a high-school graduate, and had served approximately 17 months in the armed services. He had received an honorable discharge on the grounds of emotional instability. He was described as a lazy, shiftless type who had been unemployed for some time, but he had had no previous serious brush with the law.

Many extortionists have long criminal records. Some apparently "never learn." One man who was placed on probation for an attempted extortion proceeded to try again within a matter of a few weeks and found himself the recipient of a 5-year prison term. Another extortionist, while on bail on one extortion charge, mailed threatening, demanding letters to another victim.

Another persistent extortionist, over a 10-year period, violated the extortion statute at least seven times. The fact that he spent several years in jail as a result of these violations apparently did little to deter him. In fact, two of these convictions were for trying to extort money from the same man. He was sentenced in 1945 and then again in 1955 for sending extortion letters to a prominent surgeon. In the 1945 case he stated "someone" had told him that the doctor had "plenty of money" and that he had obtained the address from a telephone directory. Ten years and several other extortion attempts later, he selected the same name and address from a city directory and mailed another extortion note. The extortioner audaciously asserted that he chose the name at random and did not recall the name from "anywhere in particular."

This confirmed extortionist claimed to have successfully extorted \$300 from a victim early in his career and apparently believed that he would meet with similar success again. At the time of his arrest in 1955, he was 58 years of age, unemployed, and of no fixed address. His arrests, in addition to the various arrests on extortion charges, were chiefly for being drunk and disorderly. The extortion victims he had chosen included, in addition to the surgeon, another physician, a policeman, a college president, a businessman, and a Government employee.

One extortionist's fingerprints had been submitted to the FBI 42 times in connection with various violations and incarcerations. The violations with which he was charged included extortion and mailing obscene and threatening letters.



Other extortionists have good reputations and have never been in trouble with the law previously. Some are juveniles and others are mere children. A 9-year-old boy wrote a note demanding \$5,000 from a neighbor. His "associate" was an 8-year-old girl who had used some of her mother's lipstick to simulate blood on the letters.

One extortion suspect expressed indignation when taken into custody and contended that someone was trying to "frame" him to prevent his running for the position of constable in a forthcoming election. His conviction thwarted any plans he might have had for a police career.

The amount of education a person has apparently has little to do with his extortion activities. Illiterates, high-school graduates, college graduates, and persons with additional education have entered into the extortion racket. An illiterate man, who was later convicted for extortion and who was in prison at the time the extortion note was written, forced a fellow prisoner to write the note as he dictated it.

Many extortionists have been adjudged mentally unstable by the courts. Others have given every indication of having above-average intelligence. In short, just as there is no "typical" extortion victim, there is no "typical" extortionist.

*(To be continued in January 1958 issue.)*

### INNOCENCE ESTABLISHED

"The vast technical facilities of the FBI have helped convict many defendants in Norfolk's Federal District Court. But today it was learned that those technical facilities have served to acquit a man."

The above is quoted from an article which appeared in a Norfolk, Va., newspaper early this year. This story had its beginning several months earlier when a serviceman reported that his car had been stolen from a Government parking lot. Approximately 2 weeks after the car had been reported stolen, State troopers arrested four young men in the car, charging them with speeding and being in possession of a stolen automobile. Three of the men were released when the fourth man said that he was the owner of the automobile and that they were merely passengers who had paid him to take them to their homes for the weekend. This young man insisted that he had bought the car about 6 or 7 days earlier from a man who had said his name was Eugene Long. He said

that Long had asked \$135 for the car and that he had paid \$75 in cash, for which Long had given him a receipt.

This receipt played an important part in the trial of the suspect, as it was the only evidence that he could produce in support of his story. He said he knew nothing about Eugene Long and did not know how to get in touch with him. He said Long had told him that he would contact him later in order to collect the additional money for the car. This contact was never made and Eugene Long was never located.

Tried for committing a crime (larceny on a Government reservation), the defendant was found not guilty, but in order to resolve the question of possible perjury the Federal judge ordered that the receipt be examined by handwriting experts to determine whether it had been written by the defendant.

The receipt and specimens of the defendant's handwriting were sent to the FBI Laboratory where it was concluded that he had not written the receipt. As a result, the case was closed.

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## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

*(Continued from page 9)*

As is generally the case in police work, we need many things. Our pay scale in the police department is too low. We should have more officers for better coverage. We could well use an expanded training program. We need more equipment. We need more room to house the growing traffic division. The police department has the traffic violations bureau, where payment of satisfaction fines is made for parking and some moving violations. This function should be located elsewhere and should be administered by the court.

We are, however, doing the best job we know how to do with what we have, and we believe that any police department can get results which will favorably compare with ours in St. Joseph if the top management of the department will order it done and fully support the work of the officers on the firing line. The time has come for police departments to enforce traffic laws just as they enforce other laws, and win public support for such enforcement. The cost of bad traffic management in death, human suffering, and money is too great to justify when it is possible to reduce this cost materially by a program of common sense and attention.



## OTHER TOPICS

The Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln, Nebr., like many other police departments, was having difficulty in making accident reports available to the public, both from a standpoint of safeguarding the information contained on these reports and the exorbitant use of time on the part of clerks of the Identification Bureau of the department. For many years it has been the policy of the Lincoln Police Department to make available the accident reports for copying. These reports, which are prepared on a standardized form, have been available to attorneys, insurance adjusters, motorists, and the general public, at their request. These accident reports contain detailed information which is taken at the scene of the traffic accident by a police officer who has been assigned to the investigation of the traffic mishap. The information gathered by the police officer is used in trials, in civil suits, for transcripts, and for general information. When a person calls at the records room of the Identification Bureau and requests permission to see an accident report, it is immediately made available. In the past this required the services of at least one clerk in order to prevent misplacing and alteration of the accident reports.

### ***Revolving Frames***

Some police departments use the method of placing their accident reports under a plate glass. This method is unemployable by our department since Lincoln's accident reports provide for use of both sides. Such a method would require the services of a clerk to stand by in order to turn the card. Several methods were suggested whereby the accident reports could be made available to the general public but they were rejected, either because too much clerical time would be required or the accident report would not be sufficiently safeguarded to prevent alteration. The solution to the problem was devised by a member of the Lincoln Police Department who displayed mechanical ingenuity. He evolved a scheme of placing the accident re-

## ***Mechanical Devices Aid in Handling Records***

*by CHIEF JOSEPH T. CARROLL, Lincoln, Nebr.,  
Police Department*

ports in metal frames behind a glass partition between the Identification Bureau and an adjoining hall, thus allowing the general public to view the records from the hall. These frames can be revolved from outside the glass by turning a protruding horizontal wheel, thus revealing the back of the report. This method safeguards the accident report from being altered or misplaced by the public as it is viewed vertically through the glass partition. It has the further advantage of not requiring the constant attention of the clerical employees who can continue with their duties in the records room of the Identification Bureau.

A modern and up-to-date system of keeping traffic, investigative, and personnel records was



*Chief Joseph T. Carroll.*





*Citizens copying from accident reports.*

established at the Lincoln Police Department in 1944 in accordance with FBI suggested procedures. Since that date the keeping of complete records on all phases of police activity has become an integral part of our department. Devices such as the above help to implement the service we can give to the general public. As a further aid, a photo-copying machine was purchased and desired records can be readily copied and furnished to the public for a nominal fee. Attorneys frequently desire several copies of accident reports for their files, and the photo copies of these reports save them the time and expense of copying the records by hand.

### ***Dictaphone***

Another timesaving device which has been recently employed by our department is the dictaphone. The dictaphone is plugged into an outlet in the desk sergeant's office where it can be utilized to take reports called in by police officers from the callboxes or by regular telephone. Two dictaphones have been installed in the adjacent "show up" room so that the officers can also dictate their reports while at the station. The dictaphone uses a 10-inch belt which will transcribe up to 15 minutes of conversation or 1,500 words. It is located directly in view of the desk sergeant, who handles the switchboard and the radio, so that he is available to replace the belts on the machine and label them for later transcribing as they are used. Of course, the benefit derived from using the dictaphone in this manner is the saving of time on the



*Desk sergeant replacing belt on dictaphone.*

part of the police officer and on the part of the clerical and stenographic employees of the department. The patrolman on his beat can call his report in to the station from a callbox without leaving his beat. The detective, while working on a major investigation, can call in his report of pertinent developments. The reports can be transcribed immediately or later in the day, depending on the urgency, by the clerical and stenographic help in the records room of the Identification Bureau.

In this day and age the maintenance of a modern system of keeping records by a police department is a necessity. However, due to the ever-increasing volume of records, the need for timesaving devices which do not impair the effectiveness of the records is apparent. We encourage general and specific suggestions on the part of the personnel, and many of the suggestions have been adopted for the betterment of the entire department.

### **ON THE BEAM**

The beam of a flashlight played over the surface of an object will frequently show the location of latent impressions, although this is not an infallible test for their presence.

### **AGE OF WRITING**

Although it may not be possible to determine the exact age of writing, by means of a check against established standards a comparatively accurate estimate can be made.



## 64TH IACP CONFERENCE HELD IN HAWAII

The police department at Honolulu, Hawaii, was host to the 64th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police from September 29 through October 3, 1957. To the "cross-roads of the Pacific" came law enforcement officers from throughout continental United States, Alaska, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Ryukyus, Canada, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Laos, Lebanon, and other parts of the world. The truly international scope of the conference was evident in the breadth of its representation, in its program, and in the spectacular pageantry unfolded before the assembly by the many nationality groups fused into the population of the Islands.

Addresses and forums covered a variety of subjects, including: world communism; armed services police; NATO status of forces agreements;

crime statistics; various aspects of juvenile delinquency; crime prevention; auto identification cards; uniform auto license plate number; auto theft; harmony in law enforcement; organization planning; personnel problems; psychiatry in law enforcement; recruitment and training of personnel; arson; color photography; unionization of police forces; civil defense explosives; political intrusions in police service; traffic safety and supervision; crash injury research; chemical tests for intoxication; public relations; arrests, searches and seizures.

The 65th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police is scheduled for Miami Beach, Fla., during the fall of 1958.

Pictured below are officers elected at the close of the 1957 conference.

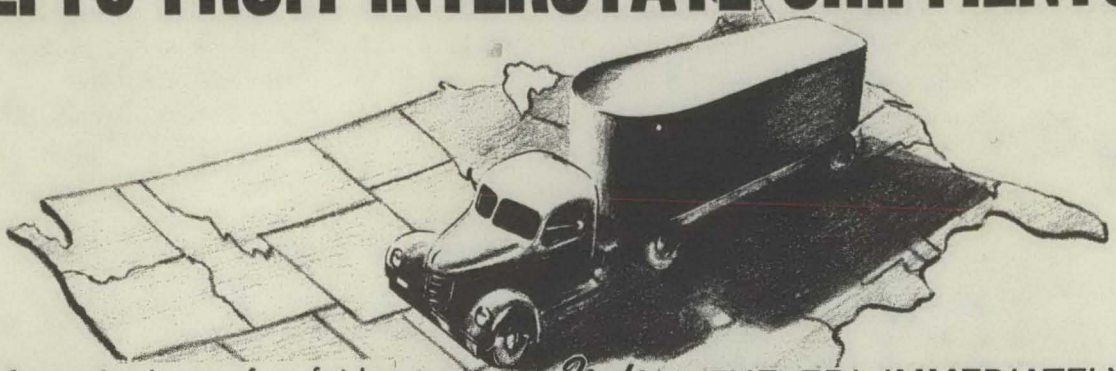


*Group photograph taken at the 1957 conference. Left to right: Daniel S. C. Liu, chief of police, Honolulu, Hawaii, sixth vice president; Stanley R. Schrotel, chief of police, Cincinnati, Ohio, fifth vice president; Frank A. Sweeney, chief of police, Jenkintown, Pa., fourth vice president; Robert V. Murray, chief, Metropolitan Police, Washington, D. C., third vice president; James M. Broughton, chief of police (retired), Portsmouth, Va., honorary president; Charles W. Woodson, Jr., superintendent, Virginia State Police, Richmond, Va., second vice president; Alfred T. Smalley, chief of police, Highland Park, N. J., first vice president; John D. Holstrom, chief of police, Berkeley, Calif., president; Leroy E. Wike, executive secretary, IACP, Washington, D. C.; William J. Roach, superintendent of police, Waterbury, Conn., treasurer. Not present at the time of this photograph were secretary John F. Murray, chief of police (retired), Perth Amboy, N. J., and sergeant at arms Herbert T. Jenkins, chief of police, Atlanta, Ga.*





# FBI INVESTIGATES THEFTS FROM INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS



The theft or embezzlement of any freight, express, goods, chattels, shipments or baggage moving as or which are a part of an interstate or foreign shipment is a Federal Violation punishable by a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and or a fine of \$5000.

*Notify:* THE FBI IMMEDIATELY  
OF ANY VIOLATIONS

To Contact the FBI, Consult  
Page One of Your Telephone Directory

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR

FBI poster

## MUDDY FINGERPRINT

One night in May of 1956 a business establishment in Roanoke, Va., was burglarized. A print made by a muddy finger was found on a counter. In August 1956, the same building was entered again. This time no latent prints were made, but investigation disclosed a prime suspect. Since the modus operandi was similar in both instances, local officers forwarded fingerprint evidence to the FBI Identification Division.

Fingerprint experts assigned to the FBI's Latent Fingerprint Section conducted appropriate comparisons and concluded that the fingerprint found in the May burglary had definitely been made by the right thumb of the man named as a suspect.

A fingerprint expert from the FBI testified at the trial which was held in September 1956. The subject was found guilty and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on each of the two counts of statutory burglary and larceny, the sentences to run consecutively.

## "L-O-V-E" CONQUERS ALL?

The word "love" tattooed across the fingers of one hand apparently is a rather popular tattoo. Fugitives who have been apprehended because of this distinctive marking undoubtedly wish they had never acquired this difficult-to-conceal tattoo. One man hid the letters by placing adhesive tape over them. This did not work, however, as an alert youngster associated the taped fingers with a radio broadcast which described this person, mentioning his tattooed fingers. As a result, the fugitive was arrested.

In another instance, an FBI agent, while driving along a highway, spotted a motorist who resembled a wanted fugitive. As the agent pulled up beside the car, the suspected person reached to adjust his radio dial. The agent's suspicions were further confirmed when he saw the letters "L-O-V-E" on the suspect's fingers, a tattoo which the fugitive in question was known to have. On the basis of this observation, the fugitive was identified and was taken into custody.



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## FINGERPRINT GROUPS

When a crime-scene search reveals groups of latent fingerprint impressions, such as those of adjacent fingers or fingers and palms which appear to have been made simultaneously, the groups should be lifted as units. Lifting such a group on a single piece of tape may greatly facilitate the task of making comparisons later.

## HANDWRITING POINTS TO GUILT

A man who received a 3-year prison sentence for interstate transportation of obscene material possibly blames the FBI Laboratory for his dilemma. Throughout the investigation and the trial, the subject denied having had anything to do with the material, although a companion had implicated him. Apparently this man did not believe that the handwriting or handprinting which he had prepared in connection with the material could be traced to him. At the trial, however, a handwriting expert from the FBI Laboratory testified concerning his scientific examinations which showed that the handwritten and handprinted names of customers and other data reflecting merchandise purchased had been written by the defendant. The subject was found guilty.



## WANTED BY THE FBI

**DONALD FOREST GRATZ**, with aliases: Carl Anderson, Michael Dow, Donald Forester Gratz, James M. Haney, Robert M. Henderson, Victor L. Lindfors, Robert Gary Woods, John T. Clark, Fletcher Trask, Randy Prischoff, Fletcher Coles, Thurmond Hern, Adam Clay, Orky L. Clay, Jr., and others.

### *Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property (Fraudulent Checks)*

Donald Forest Gratz has been engaged in fraudulent check passing activities since April 1956, with this operation ranging from Virginia to Utah. He specializes in victimizing merchants in small college towns. His modus operandi consists of posing as a student or an instructor, making a purchase for an amount less than that of the check, requesting the balance in cash and then having the merchandise delivered to a nonexistent address. He utilizes fictitious driver's licenses, college receipts and student identification cards. In the past he has enrolled at a particular college in furtherance of his scheme. Gratz is able to speak Spanish fluently, is a neat dresser, a smooth talker and is proficient in typing and shorthand.

### *Process*

Gratz was indicted by Federal grand juries at Oklahoma City, Okla., on June 12, 1956, and on May 1, 1957, and at Tucson, Ariz., on May 14, 1957, on charges of interstate transportation of stolen property in connection with fraudulent checks. On April 18, 1957, a complaint was filed before a U. S. Commissioner at Salt Lake City, Utah, charging Gratz with this same violation.



*Donald Forest Gratz.*

### *Caution*

Gratz reportedly may have suicidal tendencies. He is the subject of FBI Check Circular No. 10, issued July 10, 1957.

### *Description*

Gratz is described as follows:

Age	27, born November 30, 1930, Port Huron, Mich.
Height	6 feet, 3 inches.
Weight	180 pounds.
Build	Slender.
Hair	Brown.
Eyes	Hazel.
Complexion	Medium.
Race	White.
Nationality	American.
Occupation	Male nurse.
Scars and marks	2-inch scar on right cheek, birth-mark on right forearm, 1/2-inch scar left elbow, 3/4-inch cut scar outer side of left thumb, 1-inch scar right elbow, 1-inch scar on right knee, 1-inch scar left leg, moles on upper portion of body.
Remarks	Neat dresser, prefers sport clothes, sometimes wears glasses.
FBI No.	460,534 A.
Fingerprint classification	8 <i>I</i> 1 <i>T</i> <i>IO</i> <i>L</i> 23 <i>W</i> <i>MOO</i> 16
Reference	$\frac{2}{23}$

### *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 nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation field office.



### DEAD PRINTS

When persons whose fingerprints are on file are reported as deceased, the prints should be taken from the active file and assembled with any other prints of the person concerned. These should be plainly marked "Dead" and filed in a separate cabinet or section. All the index cards on this individual should be marked "Dead" and filed in a separate section. These should be retained for possible future reference.



# MONTHLY VARIATIONS

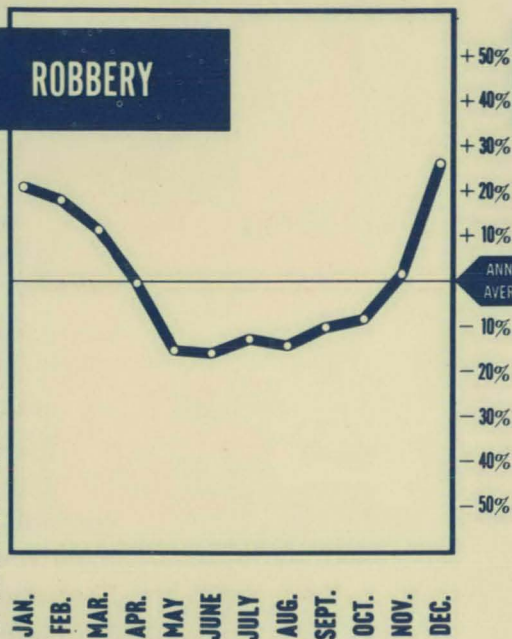
OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE, 1956

2,640 URBAN POLICE AGENCIES  
TOTAL POPULATION 80,986,991

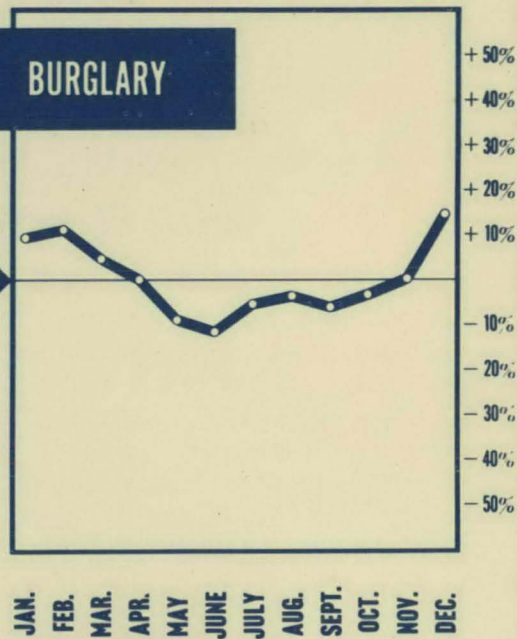


## OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY

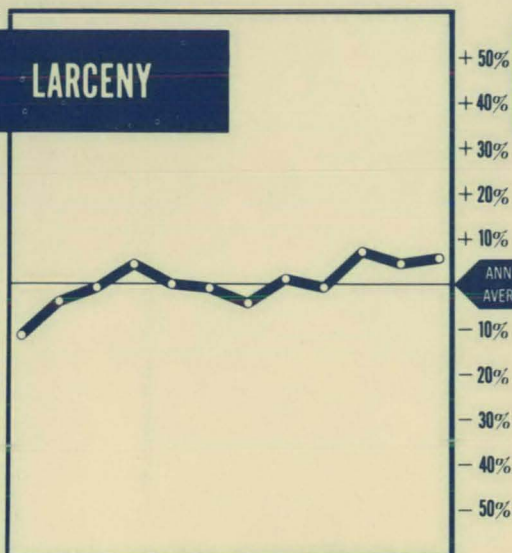
### ROBBERY



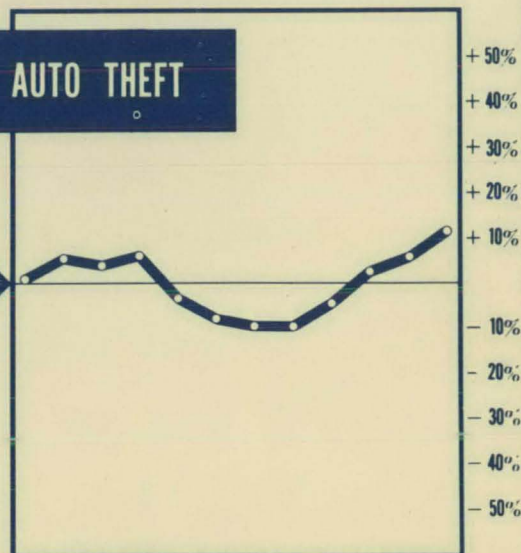
### BURGLARY



### LARCENY



### AUTO THEFT



FBI CHART



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)

## *Questionable Pattern*



The questionable pattern this month is classified as a central pocket loop type whorl with an outer tracing. The deltas are located at D-1 and D-2. Due to the fact that the ridges in front of D-2 do not form full recurves, the pattern is referenced to a loop.

693-1