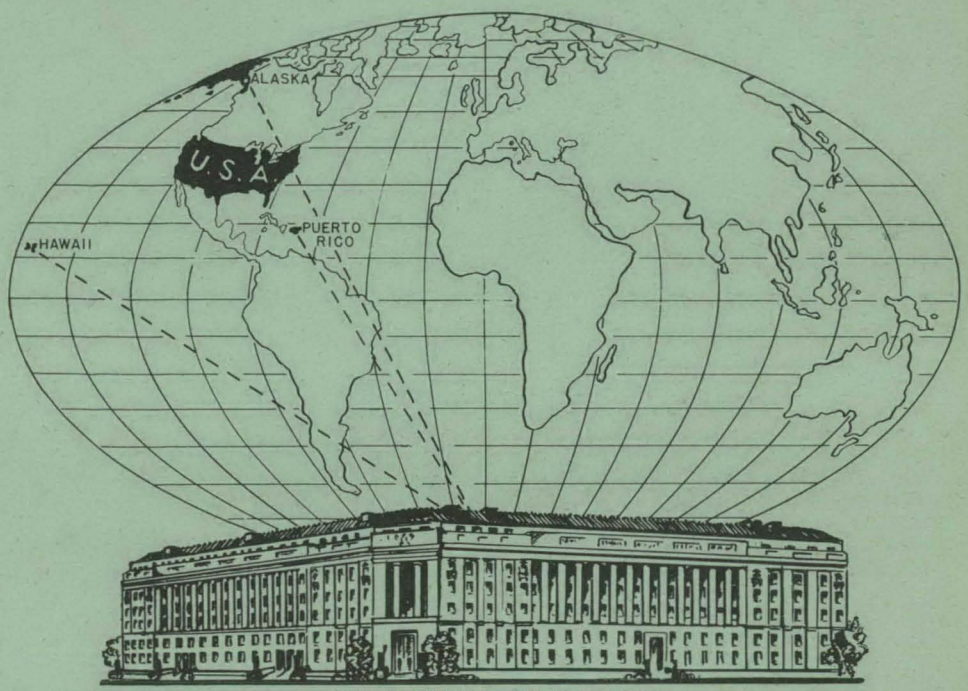
# FBI LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN




HEADQUARTERS OF THE FBI,
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
J. Edgar Hoover, Director

DIRECTOR

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NUMBER_____

February 1, 1947

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:

Drowning should be termed the "unnecessary death."

Regardless of safety drives, public education programs and warning signs the chance-taker swells the annual rolls of drowned victims. There are, of course, unavoidable accidents and some suicides, but a large portion of deaths by drowning could have been eliminated by simple precautions on the part of the individuals involved.

Those precautions will continue to go unheeded by the man who takes a chance. As a result, the responsibility for lowering the rate of drowning deaths is thrust upon the emergency squad, the life-saving crew, or other rescue groups functioning in the community.

Since the majority of such groups are either an integral part of, or an adjunct to, the immediate local, county, or state law enforcement agency, it was believed that an exchange of methods and techniques utilized by the various organizations would be of value to law enforcement generally. Consequently, we are pleased to make available the first installment of a compilation of material submitted by officers engaged in this type of work.

The article is concerned primarily with the recovery of drowned bodies and the problems encountered peculiar to the different areas of the United States. Methods and techniques of resuscitating drowned victims are also discussed.

The field of recovery and resuscitation in connection with unusual types of water hazards - spillways, storm sewers, wells, etc. - has not been covered in this article. Information from officers whose work encompasses the techniques involved in such rescues, would be of genuine value to fellow officers. Any material submitted will be considered for inclusion in a future issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.

We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to the many officers whose names appear at the conclusion of the article, and to express our appreciation for the fine cooperation extended in supplying the information.

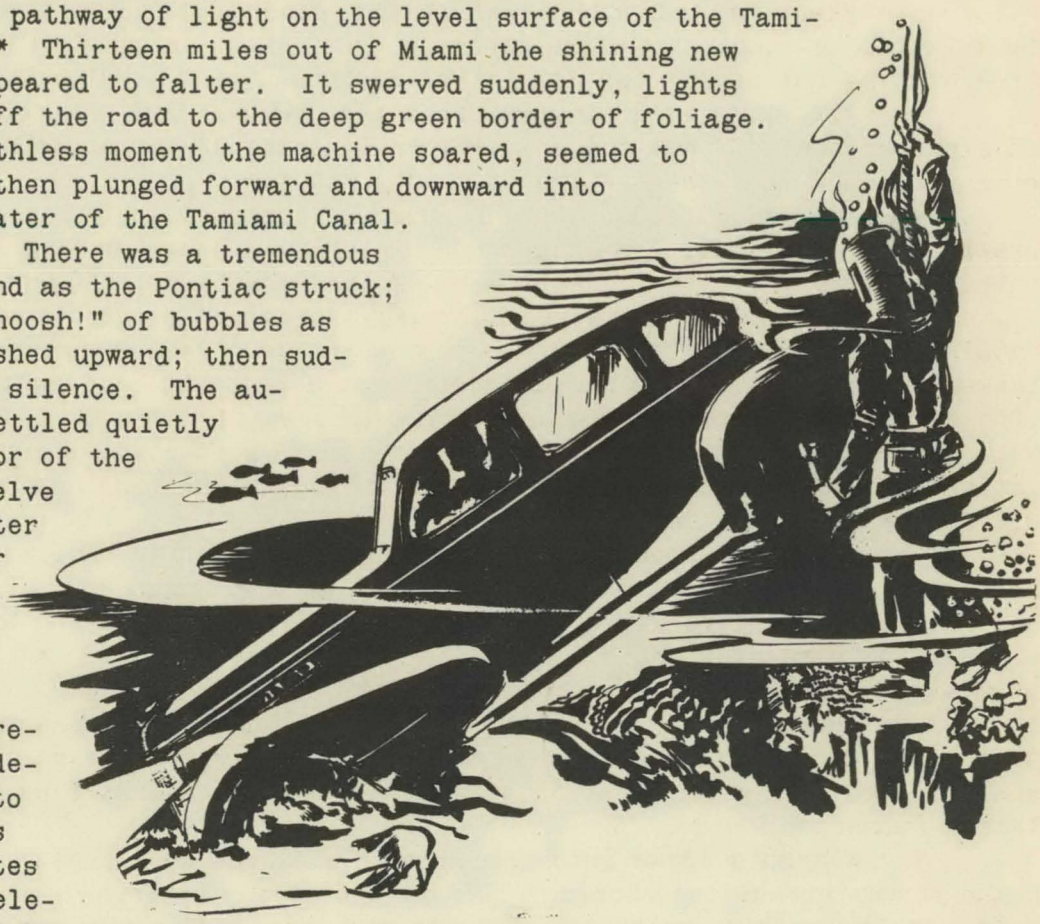
Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Director

# Recovering Drowned Victims

The headlamps of the four-door Pontiac sedan cut a ribboned pathway of light on the level surface of the Tamiami Trail.* Thirteen miles out of Miami the shining new machine appeared to falter. It swerved suddenly, lights flicking off the road to the deep green border of foliage. For a breathless moment the machine soared, seemed to hesitate, then plunged forward and downward into the dark water of the Tamiami Canal.



There was a tremendous plashy sound as the Pontiac struck; a great "whoosh!" of bubbles as the air gushed upward; then sudden aching silence. The automobile settled quietly to the floor of the canal. Twelve feet of water closed over it, but there were witnesses. It took a moment to recover; to decide what to do. It was a few minutes before a telephone could be reached. But nineteen minutes after the car left the road the Miami, Florida, rescue squad was at the spot.

The submerged Pontiac was not hard to locate. Its headlamps still burned, their twin rays glimmering weakly against the dark depth of water.

The emergency squad was prepared for action. A diver, braving the snake-infested water, went down, directed to the machine and its trapped occupants by the wavering, ghostly flicker of the lights.

He reached the Pontiac, clung to it. Working his way to a door, the diver peered through the glass. Shock held him motionless.

Three people - two men and a woman - occupied the front seat of the sunken machine. And the three people were alive! Their eyes were terrified but by some miracle, possibly because the tightly built new car prevented the escape of air, the victims were able to breathe.

*The highway between Miami and Tampa, Florida

But the oxygen was nearly gone. The faces of the imprisoned trio showed the strain of waiting in the dark.

The diver clutched at the door handle, braced himself against his own buoyancy and wrenched at the stubborn door. He could see the movements of the occupants as they tried to help him. Together they attempted to force the door but the pressure was too great.

Exerting tremendous effort the diver smashed a window glass. The terrific pressure blew the opposite door open - literally blasted the three victims out of the car and to the surface.

All three were dragged from the water. Save for slight shock and exposure none of them suffered injury in spite of having been submerged for a period of from twenty-five to thirty minutes.

Emergency rescue squads, usually composed of police officers, quietly go about their dramatic work of saving lives. During the summer months, particularly, they cheat death of innumerable drowning victims.

These often unpraised but always-prepared men contrive the most ingenious equipment to suit their varying needs. The emergency squad or life-saving crew at a seaside resort utilizes a technique and equipment very different from that used where the hazard is a swift river or a deep, quiet lake. Terrain, temperature, rainfall, density of population - any number of factors influence decisions on the type of techniques and equipment best suited to a certain area.

Skill and speed in rescuing and resuscitating victims have kept the actual number of bodies to be recovered at a minimum, but preparedness does not always achieve perfection. People still drown. Every effort must be expended to recover their bodies.

What happens when a man drowns?

According to one authority, the victim dies from asphyxiation. In almost all cases the victim is extremely frightened. He struggles violently, forcing his body out of the water. When he sinks back he is completely submerged.

Water is drawn into the throat, windpipe and lungs. The liquid in the throat stimulates choking. Irritation to the linings of the air passages results in the production of mucous. The victim may gag and vomit. The mucous, vomitus from the stomach and the water effectively inhibit the passage of air. There is a violent muscular reaction and unconsciousness follows. Death results from asphyxia. Autopsies reveal only small quantities of water in the lungs.

One authority states that there is no basis for belief that a drowning person submerges three times before death occurs. The individual may sink the first time down, or he may go under many times, depending entirely on the length of the struggle before asphyxia renders the victim unconscious.

One authority recommends, among others, the following publications which deal with the technical-medical phases of drowning:

"Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology," J. Glaister, Williams and Williams Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1942, Page 153.

"Legal Medicine and Toxicology," T. A. Gonzales and M. Halpern, D. Appleton-Century Company, 1937, Pages 279-287.

"Phrenic Medicine," D. J. A. Kerr, A. & C. Black, Ltd., London, Pages 127-133.

"The Medical Necroscopy," H. S. Martland, Williams & Williams, Baltimore, Maryland, 1934, Pages 136-139.

There is considerable disagreement as to what occurs after death by drowning. The general consensus of opinion is that the body sinks when unconsciousness takes place. Heavy wearing apparel, shoes, etc., may render the body less buoyant. On the other hand, certain types of clothing may trap pockets of air which will slow the rate of sinking.

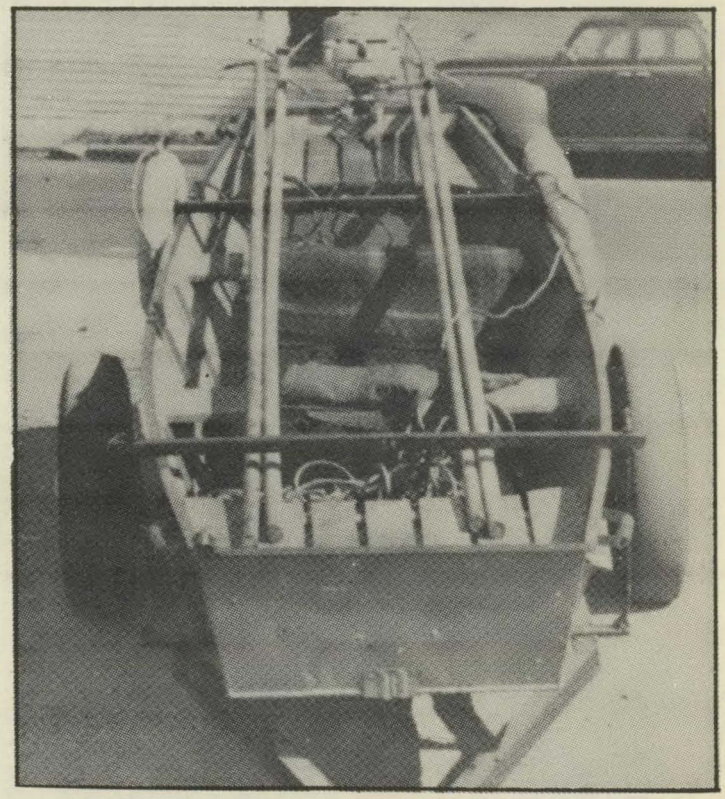
As a usual thing, unless it meets with a strong upward current or obstruction, the body will, according to the experience of many rescue squads, sink to the bottom. Compressed gas in the body cavities renders the body less buoyant the deeper it sinks.

Unless held by some obstruction, the body will, almost without exception, rise to the surface. Tissues decay, the body putrefies and the gases thus formed make the body become buoyant. The length of immersion depends upon the temperature of the water and the condition of the body. The more fatty tissue in the body the quicker it will rise; the warmer the water the more quickly the body will emerge. In cold water the victim may remain submerged for as long as several weeks.

Men with experience in locating drowned victims in rivers reveal that the most common mistake is to start searching for the body too far down stream. They point out that when bodies rise they are often found in almost exactly the spot where they were last seen. Unconscious bodies sink rather rapidly and generally lie on the river bed almost under the point of drowning.

River currents vary. The speed of the flow of water near the surface may be entirely different from the rate at the bottom of the stream. As a general rule it is considered the best technique to start dragging operations only a very short distance below the actual point of drowning in any search for a victim. On the other hand, when the body rises to the surface, currents have a definite effect. Gas-filled bodies may drift for miles with an amazing amount of buoyancy after rising.

Canoe and boat accidents, non-swimmers, hidden rocks and ledges, un-

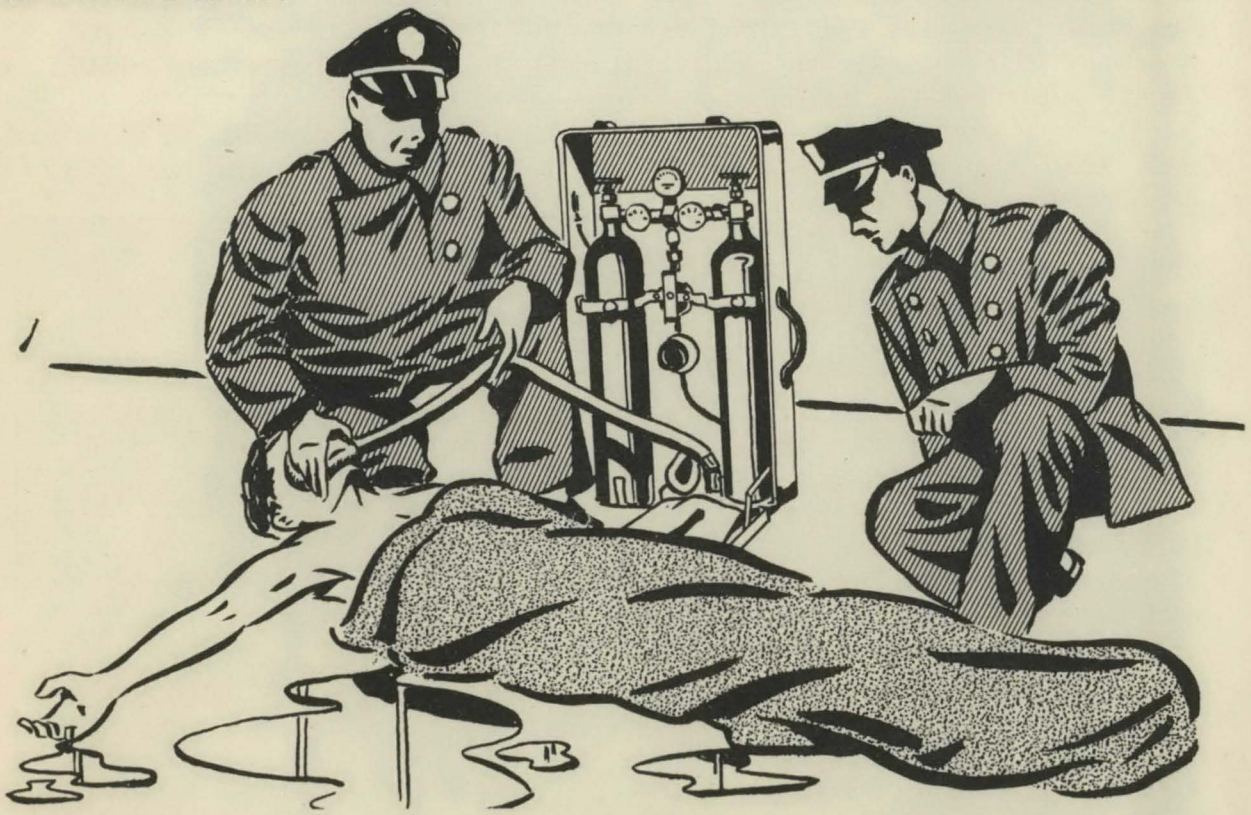


EQUIPMENT USED IN WAUSAU, WISCONSIN. NOTE AIR CHAMBERS UNDER FRONT AND BACK SEAT. BOAT WILL NOT SINK IF OVERTURNED. SQUARE ENDS PROVIDE SPACE AND BALANCE. SPEED IN REACHING SCENE IS PROVIDED BY MOTOR WHICH IS DETACHED WHEN THE DRAGGING PROCESS BEGINS.

familiarity with swimming conditions and over-estimation of swimming prowess contribute to the nation's death toll through drowning.

The time element is vital in any emergency in which lifesaving is involved. The rescue of a drowning person often depends upon the knowledge, preparation and equipment of the emergency squad.

Assistant Chief Peter Treola of the Clearwater, Florida, Fire Department, suggests that the ideal arrangement for a rescue squad would be to have appropriate equipment located in a central place permanently packed in a trailer. Preferably all official motor vehicles should be equipped with a trailer hitch. The trailer should contain a rowboat. This in turn should be supplied with first aid materials, including medicines for burns since drowning often follows explosions and fire aboard ship, on wharves, etc. The boat should contain at least two life preservers, blankets, a life buoy, rope, diving helmet, a drag, a suitable fish net, dynamite, respirator, and an outboard motor.



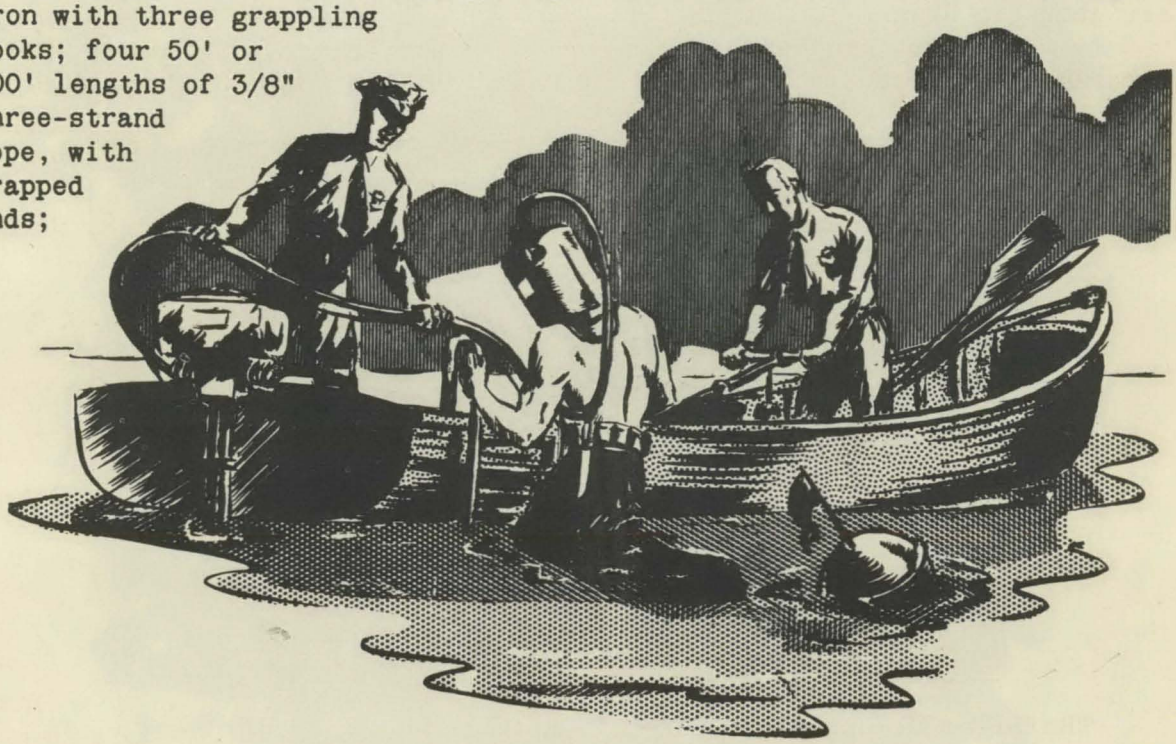
The blankets are for use after the victim's body is recovered, or in the event a rescuer is injured. The life preservers and buoy are needed in the event the victim is alive; the rope for pulling him to the boat. The helmet may be the ordinary kind used by sponge divers; the fish net of the type used by commercial fishermen. It should have corks on one side and sinkers on the other for holding the net verticle with the weighted side on the bottom. The net is of particular value where currents are swift for it enables rescuers to encircle the area where the victim went down and keep the body from drifting away. Dynamite should be used, according to Mr. Treola, only if the water bed is rough with rocks, snags, or tree stumps which prevent the body from surfacing, and only in those cases where all hope of recovering the victim alive is past.

The Clearwater, Florida, Fire Department uses an Emerson resuscitator which is portable, fully automatic, and fits either an adult or a child. It is effective for any stoppage of breathing, including accidents involving drowning, electric shock, or gas. If organs are congested with mucous and cannot take oxygen, the machine sounds a warning signal.

The city of Hayward, California, has a combination resuscitator, inhalator and aspirator. It is a compact case three feet high by eight inches deep and is eighteen inches wide. It was made by the E. J. Manufacturing Company of Glendale, California, and was delivered complete with all operating instructions.

Miami, Florida's, four man emergency rescue squads operate on eight-hour shifts, maintain an emergency truck and answer approximately 160 calls per month. Equipment used includes: one portable iron lung; grappling hooks and anchors; two Henderson and Haggard inhalators; an acetylene cutting torch for underwater operation; one diving hood; stretchers; splints; sandbags; rubber gloves; blankets; backboards; tools; medicine; drugs; surgical implements; anesthetics, etc. A Morris and Davis shallow-water diving hood, equipped with lights and communication system, is utilized. This is useful when a body is submerged in water which is not over thirty-five feet in depth.

The Bayonne, New Jersey, Lifesaving Group and the Jersey City, New Jersey, Police Department keep on hand for drowning work: one flat-bottomed rowboat or dory, ground tackle for anchoring, two sets of oars, one life ring and line, and life vests for each person in the boat; three 3' bar grappling irons with grappling hooks and fittings; one ball grappling iron with three grappling hooks; four 50' or 100' lengths of 3/8" three-strand rope, with wrapped ends;



two marker buoys with ground tackle; one box of spare parts for grappling equipment, including wire cutter or wire-cutting pliers; one first aid kit; one inhalator (Henderson and Haggard; Davis; or other satisfactory type)

and spare tank of gas (93% oxygen, 7% carbon dioxide); four blankets; six chemical heating pads; one stretcher; one body chain or rope; one rubber sheet; two pairs of rubber gloves.

The inhalator uses a gas consisting of a mixture of 93 per cent oxygen and 7 per cent carbon dioxide. It can be used only if artificial respiration is being administered or if the victim has recovered the use of his breathing muscles. Inhalator operations may be continued after the patient is breathing in order to conserve his energy. Artificial heat in chemical pads has proved effective in conjunction with inhalators and artificial respiration.

Both an H & H Inhalator and E & J Resuscitator are included in the Wausau, Wisconsin, equipment. The inhalator, or respirator, furnishes 95% oxygen and 5% carbon dioxide. The resuscitator does all that the inhalator does, according to officers' reports, and in addition does the breathing for the victim, thus eliminating the necessity of artificial respiration when it is used. On the other hand, some departments prefer artificial respiration without the use of mechanical means. Delaware State Police rely on it but observe that the extended use of artificial respiration may, on rare occasions, result in internal bleeding.

Materials for providing illumination, heavy coats, windbreakers and hipboots should always be at hand.

What is the best type of drag? The one which best overcomes the obstacles imposed by depth, current, uneven surfaces, rocks, stumps, deep holes and other hindrances. It is, of course, fundamental that the rescuers have some knowledge of the speed of the current in the waters they are about to drag.

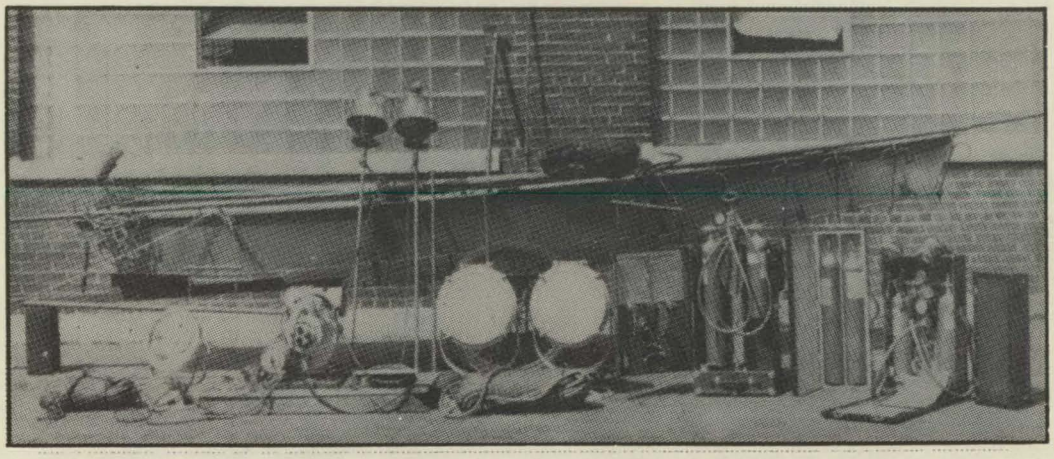
Lieutenant Kenneth T. Bowman of the Lafayette, Indiana, Police Department, a graduate of the FBI National Academy, says the speed of the


TRAILER AND GRAPPLING HOOKS USED BY DETROIT, MICHIGAN, POLICE

current can be obtained by taking the velocity of the water at particular gauge heights and converting to miles per hour. For example, if the gauge reading of the Wabash River at 7:30 shows the velocity to be 2.35, the con-

version to miles per hour is obtained by multiplying the velocity of 2.35 by 0.682. The result will show that the current is approximately 1.5 miles per hour.

Lieutenant Bowman advised against the use of a motorboat or other motor-propelled craft except when the stream is rising or waters are at a flood stage. He suggests a light rowboat with two operators. One does the rowing or poling; the second operates the drag equipment. He also



EQUIPMENT USED IN WAUSAU, WISCONSIN, DROWNING CASES

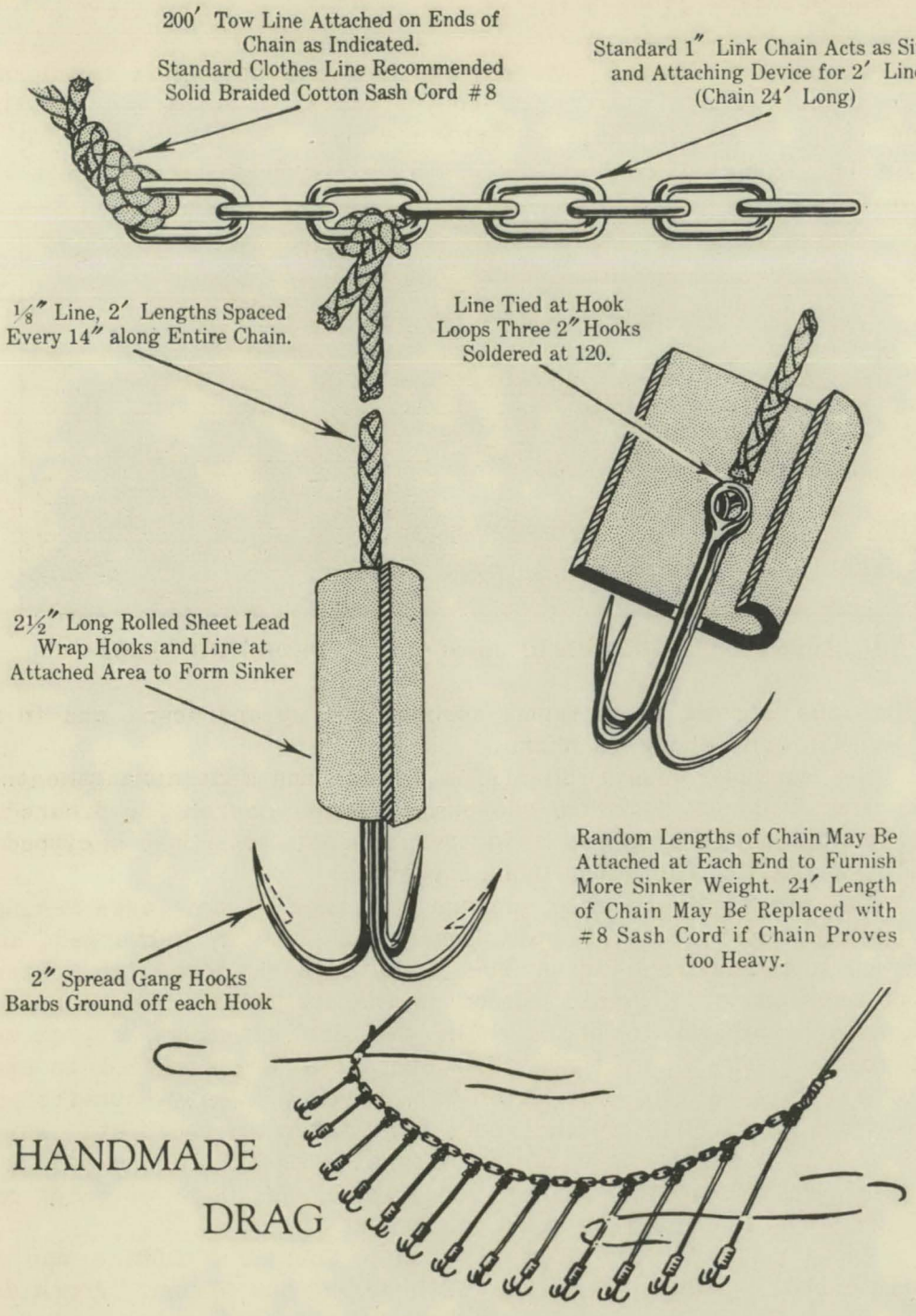
suggests that the stream be dragged across, not up and down, and in small areas rather than from shore to shore.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office has made arrangements with the United States Coast Guard to cooperate in the search for drowned victims. The County Garage prepared a forty-five-foot motorboat equipped with oars and a boat trailer for water casualty work.

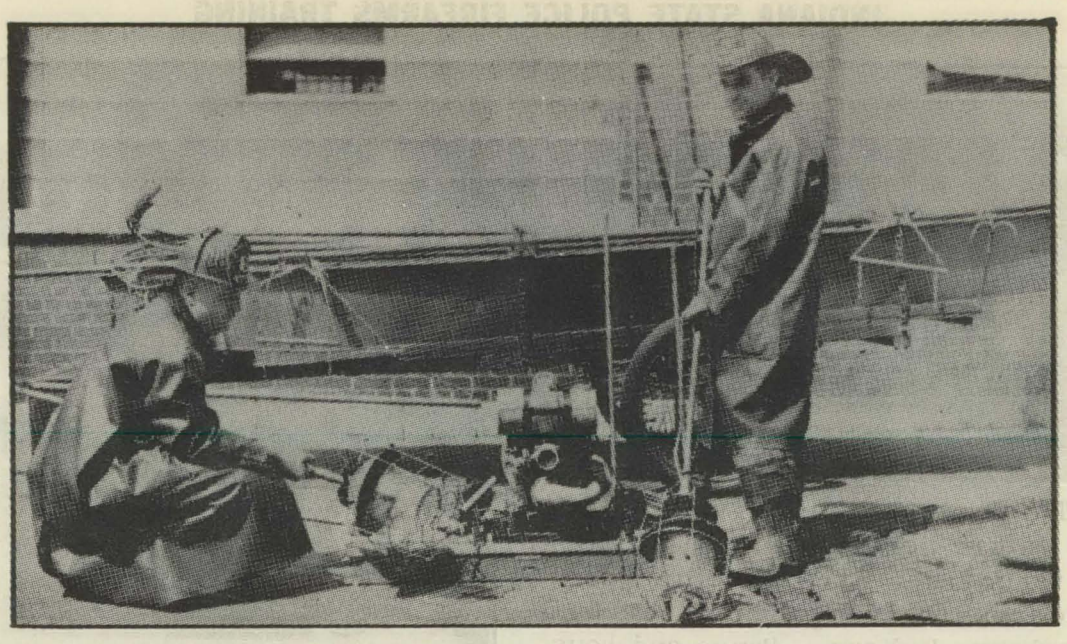
The actual dragging procedure utilized in this area begins (in relatively still water) at the point where the victim submerged, and is continued for approximately 800 or 900 yards in each direction. Rescuers take hold of each end of the guide lines of the drag which has been dropped from the boat and pull it to shore. The men are stationed approximately fifty feet apart on the shore line. Two operators are assigned to each of the two ropes. Each casting operation will cover a twenty-four-foot space on the water bed as far out as the hooks were taken in the boat. Repeated operations make it possible to cover an extensive area. If the body is not recovered near the shore, then other sections of the body of water may be covered by dragging the assembly with two boats.

Mr. Condon of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has found that tugboat men and others familiar with tides and stream currents of a bay, are often helpful in advising where the tide may bring up a body if they have been given reliable estimates as to where and at what time the victim submerged.

The Will County Sheriff's Office at Joliet, Illinois, uses two types of grappling hooks. One is composed of a five or six-foot metal bar or pipe with large three-pronged hooks on twelve to fifteen inch leaders spaced six to eight inches apart on the bar. A stay-line is attached to each end of the bar and these lines are joined to a long rope guided by the officer supervising dragging operations. The Will County Sheriff's Office




THIS DRAG WAS BROUGHT TO THE FBI'S ATTENTION BY MR. B. E. CONDON OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN CALIFORNIA. MR. CONDON, A GRADUATE OF THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY, REPORTS THAT THE DEVICE WAS PERFECTED BY TWO OFFICERS IN A PERIOD OF TWO DAYS AT A COST OF $13. IT IS USED TO GREATEST ADVANTAGE WHEN THE BOTTOM IS SMOOTH FOR IT SNAGS ON ROUGH SPOTS. NO. 8 SASH CORD MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE LONG CHAIN AND COMPENSATORY SINKERS MAY BE ADDED IF IT IS KNOWN THAT THE BOTTOM IS ROUGH.



LIGHTING EQUIPMENT USED IN WAUSAU, WISCONSIN;
UNDERWATER LIGHTS AND GENERATOR

has found that this is an effective means of dragging a large smooth-bottomed area.

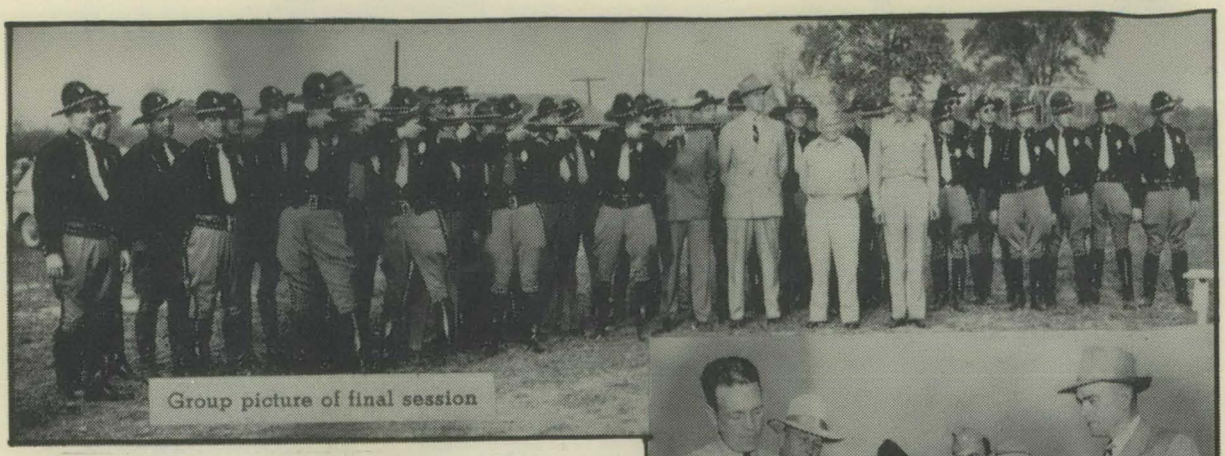
The other type of hook utilized in Will County is a three-pronged steel hook with a twelve to eighteen-inch shank. A long rope is affixed through an eye of the shank of the hook. Prongs are sharpened to hook into any clothing worn, or into the flesh of the victim.

According to Mr. Roy C. Doerfler of the Will County Sheriff's Office the single grappling hook may be cast from shore if the victim submerged within range of the operator. Both, however, may be used satisfactorily from a rowboat. Mr. Doerfler has found that a motorboat is of little value for dragging purposes. The speed is too great. A submerged body is very light. If the hooks are pulled rapidly, they may slide over the body, or if they do become attached the operator may not be aware of that fact.

Assistant Fire Chief Peter Treola of Clearwater, Florida, states that drags utilized there consist of eight-foot lengths of one-and-one-half-inch piping, with eye bolts screwed in at approximately one-foot intervals. Galvanized chains in varying lengths - usually short at the ends, longer in the middle of the bar - are attached to each bolt. A three-barb snatch hook, commonly known as a "sharp" hook, is fastened to the free end of each chain. A rope is secured to each end of the pipe. The free ends of the ropes are held by a rescuer seated in the rear of the dragging rowboat. The weight of the pipe, hooks and chains cause the drag to sink. One man rows the boat while another devotes his full attention to dragging. He will feel the slightest snag. The drag is never tied or fastened to the boat itself for much depends on the person supervising the dragging. On occasion, depending on the terrain of the water bed, wheels are placed on each end of the pipe so that it will roll freely along the bottom.

(continued in next issue)

# INDIANA STATE POLICE FIREARMS TRAINING

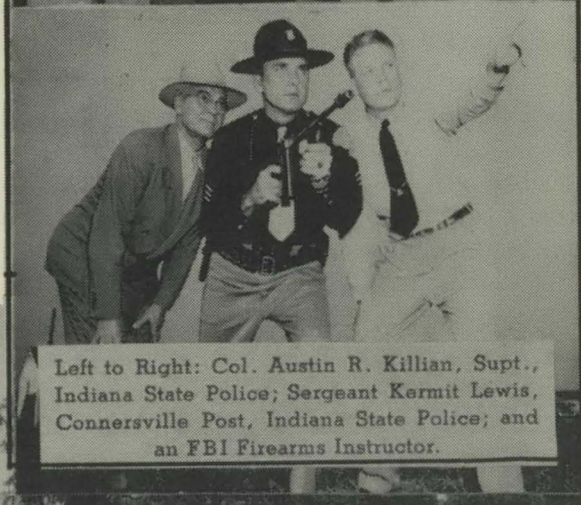


Group picture of final session

Two hundred eighty-five officers, the entire personnel of the Indiana State Police, attended the recent Firearms Training School at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Range and housing facilities were furnished by the United States Army. FBI firearms experts conducted classes in revolver shooting, hip shooting and in the use of the sub-machine gun, rifle and shotgun. The training course, starting September 16, 1946, consisted of six schools of one week's duration each.

Two possible scores were shot by participating members. A Possible Club has been formed by the organization.

Lt. to Rt.: Assistant Special Agent in Charge Harvey G. Foster; Major Walter Eckert, Executive Officer, Indiana State Police; Major Lester R. Moffatt, Lt. Col. William C. Cassen, Col. John W. Gammell, all of Camp Atterbury, Indiana; and Special Agent in Charge Norman H. Mc Cabe.



Left to Right: Col. Austin R. Killian, Supt., Indiana State Police; Sergeant Kermit Lewis, Connersville Post, Indiana State Police; and an FBI Firearms Instructor.

Hip shooting


## THE NATIONAL FRAUDULENT CHECK FILE

If you should ask "What does the check passer look like? Would I recognize him?" the general answer would be "No."

The professional fraudulent check passer is not easily recognized. He is neither rich nor poor; worker nor business man. Not necessarily farmer, doctor, banker, or soldier, he may appear today in overalls, tomorrow wearing a business suit, next week in an officer's uniform.

He is clever. He has polished the winning facets of his personality until he may be termed a confidence man. Actually he is one, for to obtain "quick" money, he must first establish a temporary sense of security in his victim.

No, the chances are that you would not recognize him for he has mastered the fundamentals of his business, found the mode of operation which best suits him, and he works at his career.

There are, of course, many types of persons who pass bogus checks to secure money. They include the man who passes checks in and around his own community; the one who works on a national basis, utilizing legitimate bank check forms; the mail box robber who secures cancelled checks and either simulates the writing or, through tracing it learns the handwriting characteristics of the legitimate writer, obtains forms from the depositor's bank, then forges and cashes authentic looking checks; and the "graduate" check artist. This latter is the most successful. He buys safety paper and prints his own checks. He uses the names of well known companies. He utilizes typewriter, checkwriter and certification stamps to turn out checks which are often accepted in retail stores, garages, hotels and other business establishments because of their authentic appearance.

The big operator is a fly-by-nighter constantly seeking new areas to exploit. His maxim seems to be, "Four checks at $25 are easier to pass than one check at a $100." His operations are so widespread, he moves so rapidly from area to area and from state to state, that it is next to impossible for local officers to catch up with him.

It is his work, in particular, which swells the incoming volume of material received in the FBI Laboratory. A tremendous number of the thousands of check cases in the File are extremely active. In some cases several checks are received daily. With each comes the question, "Who is this individual?" Some letters describe the subject. A few give his mode of operation. Still others carry no information because the clever check passer has avoided leaving a trail. Sometimes daily, more often by the week and by the month his checks come in, his modus operandi is established, the pattern of his operations across the United States revealed. Often his identity is immediately established from checks already in file or from

latent fingerprints on the incoming check. Sometimes it compares with a sheaf of checks from an unknown whose eventual slip-up will mean the solution of a number of cases.

The Fraudulent Check File in the FBI Laboratory was established in 1936. It was instituted to serve as a national clearinghouse so that bogus checks, prepared either by rings or individuals, could be compared and the confirmed bad check artist recognized. It is growing rapidly. The attention of the public, of bank officials, business concerns and, in particular, law enforcement agencies, is concentrating on the bad check problem.

The fraudulent "payroll" check scheme is a specialty of many operators. The check has a printed form at one side which reflects various deductions, such as Withholding Tax and Social Security. It also purports to show the net earnings of the individual passing the check.

Oddly enough, many check passers use either their own names or repeat aliases under which they have previously been arrested.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE NATIONAL FRAUDULENT CHECK FILE

The fingerprint cards of persons arrested are forwarded to the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These cards, with signatures, are always available to the FBI Laboratory examiners for comparison purposes. The names on fraudulent checks submitted by local law enforcement officers for examination may be checked in this manner. Approximately thirty per cent of all fraudulent checks submitted bear names which are identified with similar signatures appearing on fingerprint cards. When such an identification is effected, the contributor is informed by report or by wire as to who the subject is. In many instances the subject is already in custody, in which case the contributor is also informed as to where he may be located.

TECHNICIAN SEARCHING THE NATIONAL FRAUDULENT CHECK FILE

Approximately 75 per cent of checks received are identified in some manner in the FBI Laboratory. That is, they are identified either with previously received checks, with submitted

known writing or with signatures on fingerprint cards. This high rate of identification is understandable when one considers that there are thousands of fraudulent checks on file in the FBI Laboratory and over one hundred three million fingerprint cards on file in the Identification Division.

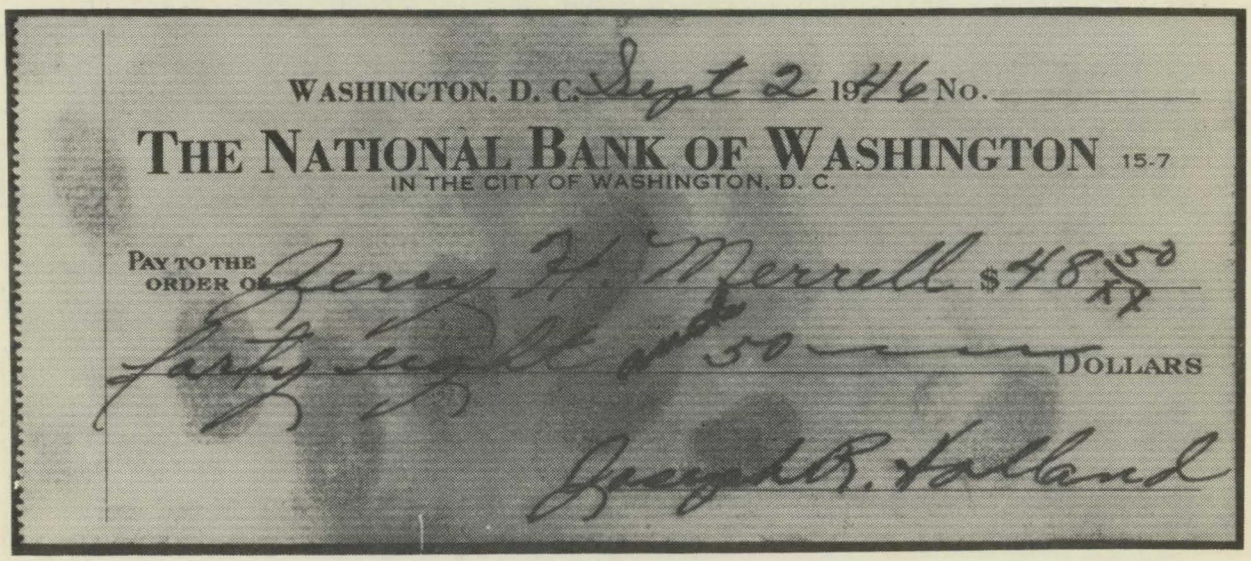
The National Fraudulent Check File itself was originated primarily for the benefit of the FBI Field Divisions. The material obtained became so valuable a source of information that the services of the File were made available to all law enforcement agencies. The increased participation, of course, makes the National Fraudulent Check File proportionately more valuable.

As each fraudulent check is submitted, it is searched through the file. If it cannot be identified, a photographic copy is placed in the file for comparison with other checks which may be received for examination.

It is obvious, as we noted before, that the file is most effective for use in catching up with interstate passers of checks; therefore all checks not of strictly local origin should be submitted for search. On the other hand, any type of check, even though it has been passed through a local operator, may be forwarded for comparison with the known handwriting of a suspect, or for comparison with the signatures of individuals using like names on fingerprint cards.

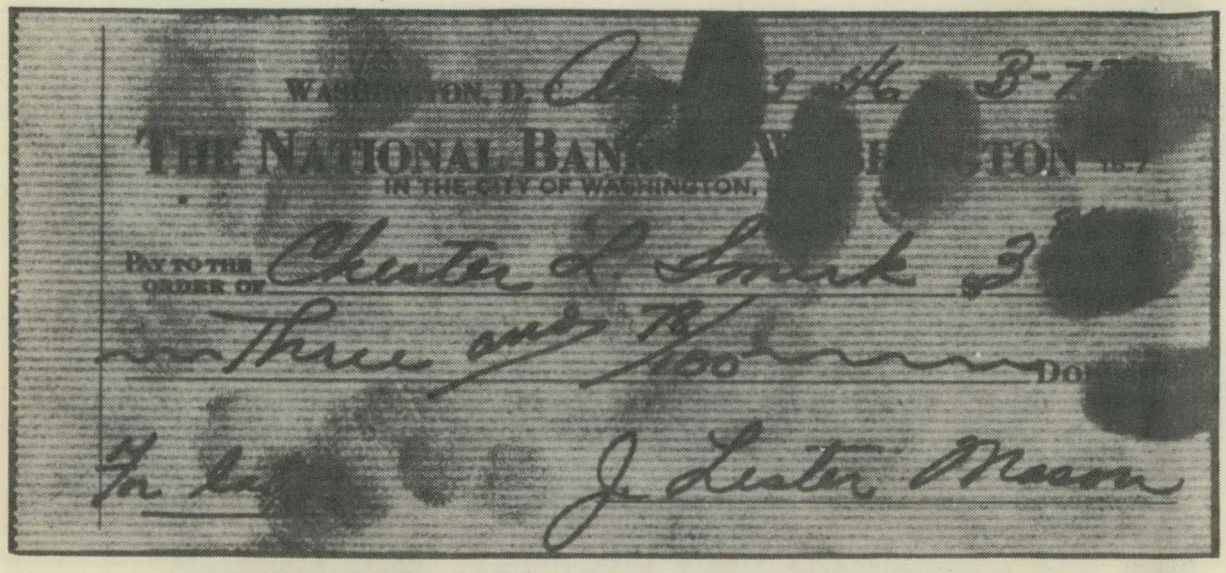
There is an item, important as evidence, which is often either forgotten or overlooked by law enforcement officials who transmit fraudulent checks to the FBI Laboratory for examination. It is the possibility of the existence of latent fingerprints on the specimen. If the official submitting the check wishes it to be treated for the development of latent fingerprints, in addition to the file search, such a request should be incorporated in the cover letter transmitting the evidence.

Two effective methods of developing latent fingerprints on fraudulent checks are used in the FBI Laboratory. They are the iodine method of fuming and the silver nitrate bath.




LATENT FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED BY SILVER NITRATE METHOD

In most instances latent fingerprints of value are not developed on checks over six months old. There are exceptions. Latent fingerprints as old as two years have been developed. FBI Laboratory research has revealed that seasonal and climatic conditions vary the degree of success in developing latent fingerprints. More and older latent fingerprints of value are developed during the winter months than during the summer. This results from the fact that during times of high humidity a film of moisture forms over the paper fiber. This causes the secretion on the fingertips to spread on the paper surface.




LATENT FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED BY IODINE FUMING

The FBI Laboratory is receiving a constantly increasing number of requests from law enforcement agencies to examine fraudulent checks. In order to facilitate the handling of future requests it is suggested that law enforcement agencies submitting such checks consider the following:

Whenever possible, the original checks should be transmitted for examination. The line quality, retouching, pen lifts, et cetera, seldom can be determined from ordinary photographic or photostatic copies if it is a traced or simulated forgery. If there is no question of forgery involved, handwriting comparisons may be made from good photographic or photostatic copies. Such copies, however, should be the same size as the original document. A scale or rule placed on the side of a check when it is photographed enables the examiner to determine the degree of enlargement or reduction from natural size.

Check cases are usually divided into two classes from the standpoint of Laboratory examination. They are (1) fraudulent or bogus checks and (2) forged checks. A fraudulent or bogus check is entirely spurious, the names used for the signature and endorsement are usually fictitious. The check form may be counterfeit and the bank on which the check is drawn may not exist. Checks of this type require a comparison of known handwriting of the suspect with the handwriting on the checks in order to identify the writer.

A forged check is drawn against the account of a known individual and on a known bank. The known individual's name has been written

on the check as a signature or endorsement by some other person. The signature or endorsement may be a simulated copy or a traced copy of a genuine signature.

In examinations of forged checks, two comparisons are necessary: (1) a comparison of genuine signatures of the person whose name is suspected of being forged with the signature or endorsement on the check, to determine whether these have been forged, and (2) the comparison of known handwriting of the suspect with the signature of endorsement on the check, to determine whether the suspect forged the check. Handwriting specimens of both the person on whom the check is forged and of the person suspected of forging it are required for an examination where the question of forgery is involved.

The extreme importance of securing authentic known handwriting specimens for comparison with the writing on questioned checks cannot be overemphasized. A common error is to show the check in question to the suspect and request him to make a copy of the writing appearing on the original check. Handwriting specimens secured in this manner are of little value. The suspect copies or simulates writing which may or may not be his. It will, of course, resemble the writing on the original document. Known handwriting specimens made by copying an original document are of little value for trial purposes since the defendant may claim that his known writing resembles the questioned writing because he copied it to the best of his ability in accordance with his instructions.

The suspect should never be permitted to see a check which he is suspected of writing. This precaution assures that the requested specimens will be made out in the habitual manner used by the suspect and that his individual handwriting characteristics and not those of another person will appear.

For best results the suspect should be provided with blank check forms similar in size to the questioned check. All of the wording on the face of the check, including the signature, and the endorsement on the reverse side of the check should be dictated to the suspect. Each specimen should be removed from sight as soon as it is completed.

An identical writing medium should be used. That is, if the questioned check were written with pen and ink, the specimens should be prepared with pen and ink; if in pencil, the specimens should be written with pencil.

Preparation of a quantity of specimen checks will help to eliminate any disguise in writing. Several checks may be written with an assumed disguise, but the disguise is gradually lost as additional specimens are prepared and the rate of writing is varied.

Signatures written on several pieces of paper carry far more value for comparison purposes than several signatures written on one piece of paper. In most instances the writer disguises the first signature and makes the following signatures resemble it when one paper only is used. Obtaining one signature on each piece of paper causes the subject to forget the previous disguised writing and he eventually writes normally. It, of course, follows that known handwriting specimens for comparison with endorsements appearing on the reverse sides of checks are more suitable when prepared on the backs of blank checks with one name on each check.

Extreme care and attention must be exercised in securing known

handwriting specimens.

Each letter of transmittal accompanying evidence forwarded to the FBI Laboratory should state clearly the examination desired. In particular, the officer submitting the evidence should state whether the signature, the endorsement or the writing on the entire check is to be compared with the known handwriting being submitted. It is most essential that he include a statement as to whether the check is purported to be that of a known individual, i.e., whether the question involved may be an attempted simulation of the writing of one person by another. It is always advisable to state the manner in which the requested handwriting specimens were secured. A description of the subject and his method of operation should be included in the letter of transmittal. The evidence itself should be properly labeled and identified. It, of course, should be listed in the letter of transmittal.

The National Fraudulent Check File may be utilized without cost by all duly constituted law enforcement agencies. In addition, those who avail themselves of its facilities may deem the presence of the FBI Laboratory Examiner who handled the evidence in question, essential when the case comes to trial. In every instance the Federal Bureau of Investigation attempts to fulfill requests to make Examiners available as witnesses. However, such requests must be made in sufficient time to allow for rearranging of schedules in case of prior commitments and conflicting trial dates.

The habitual check passer is confronted by a variety of obstacles. Not only must he pass the scrutiny of the casual observer; now his handwriting comes under the microscope. The check he writes is compared with those he may have written earlier. His past catches up with him in the National Fraudulent Check File.

★★★★★★★

## SUMMARY ACTION FOLLOWS PUBLISHING OF WANTED NOTICE

On September 20, 1946, the Chief of Police, Indianapolis, Indiana, wrote a letter to the Chief of Police, Memphis, Tennessee, in connection with the apprehension of Herbert George Stevens. The letter stated:

> "Please be advised that the above subject who is colored and 26 years of age, is in the custody of this Department. According to the August FBI Bulletin #1790317, the subject is wanted by your department for Burglary."

Additional information was included.

On September 23, 1946, the Chief of Detectives, Memphis, Tennessee, sent a copy of the above letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition to the information relative to the apprehension, he said:

> "I wanted you to know how much we appreciate your carrying this subject in your August Bulletin, which was read by the Indianapolis Police Department, who immediately wrote us that the subject was in custody there, that he had signed waiver, and his case was set for September 27, 1946, at which time our officer will be there to take the subject into custody."

## INTENSIVE SEARCH FOR PAULA WELDEN CONTINUES

At about 2:30 p.m. on December 1, 1946, eighteen-year-old Paula Jean Welden left the Bennington College campus, Bennington, Vermont, to go for a hike. She was last seen on the lower part of the Long Trail, approximately seven and one-half miles from the campus at about 4:15 p.m. Miss Welden, a second-year student at Bennington College, was wearing a red parka jacket with hood, blue jeans, heavy sneaker type shoes and a small gold Elgin wrist watch. She is described as follows: height - five feet, five inches; eyes - blue; hair - blonde generally worn in shoulder length bob but on formal occasions in small curls piled on her head; complexion - light; weight - 122 pounds; religion - Episcopalian; scars - grayish scar on left knee obtained from bicycle fall and vaccination mark on right thigh; carriage - very erect; walk - long, springy step.

PAULA JEAN WELDEN

Miss Welden was born October 19, 1928. She graduated from Stamford High School, Stamford, Connecticut, in 1945 and completed one full year and part of one semester at Bennington College. She is serious, purposeful and has an excellent command of the English language. She uses a rather dogmatic style of speech. Her occupations are listed as assistant to mural painter; illustrator (black and white); and waitress. Her hobbies are painting, water colors, oils, pencil sketches. She has illustrated a child's book and makes toys and dolls from leather, cloth, etc. Miss Welden plays the guitar, collects folk song records and collects sea shells. She likes to skate, swim, bicycle, hike and square dance.

The missing girl's father and mother, W. Archibald Welden and Jean D. Welden, live at Brookdale Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

It is not known whether Paula Welden met with an accident in the vicinity of Long Trail or

PAULA JEAN WELDEN

whether she returned to the main highway (Route 9 - Bennington-Brattleboro Road).

The family, friends and fellow-students of Paula Jean Welden offer rewards totalling $5,000, if living, or $2,000, if dead, for information leading to knowledge of her whereabouts. This offer expires July 1, 1947.

Any information in connection with the missing girl should be transmitted to the nearest FBI office.

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## "GI BILL" BENEFITS APPROVED FOR VETS ATTENDING THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

Veterans attending the FBI National Academy now may receive benefits under Public Laws 16 and 346, often referred to as the "GI Bill of Rights."

The subsistence benefits obtainable are either $65 or $90 per month depending upon the status of the veteran. Under a recent act of Congress, a veteran attending school may receive these subsistence benefits even though he is employed on a full-time basis. The only restriction is that if the Government pays the full subsistence benefits, the total earnings will not exceed $175 per month for a veteran without dependents or $200 per month for a veteran with dependents. That is, if a veteran without dependents is receiving $110 or less per month as salary, the Government will allow him the full $65 per month subsistence. If a veteran with dependents is receiving $110 or less per month as salary, the Government will allow him the full $90 per month subsistence.

The payment of full salary to the student attending the FBI National Academy no longer affects the payments from the Veterans Administration, if the total amount to be received is within the above limitations.

The payment of the subsistence benefits is not affected by the payment of expenses by the state, county or local government sending the officer to the Academy.

## CANADIAN AUTHORITIES SEEK BRUTAL MURDERER

Law enforcement officers are warned to be alert to the possibility that the murderer whose attacks on young boys have terrorized the Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, area, may cross the border and continue his vicious assaults within the United States.

The following notice has been received from George Smith, Chief Constable, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada:

"$7,000.00 REWARD

"I am authorized to offer the following rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer of GEORGE ROBERT SMITH, 13 years of age, killed in this City around 10:00 p.m. September 18th, 1946:

| | |
|---|---|
| City Council of the City of Winnipeg | $5,000.00 |
| The Board of Commissioners of Police | $1,000.00 |
| The Winnipeg Tribune | $1,000.00 |

(the Winnipeg Tribune reward expires at midnight, March 20th, 1947. The other rewards have no time limit.)

"The body of the Smith boy was found in a lane near his home at 7:00 a.m. on September 19th. He had been at a Boy Scout meeting in a church hall the previous evening and left at 9:45 p.m. to go home. When found his body was stripped of all clothing except his pants and shoes. The missing articles were found about forty feet from the body.

"The boy had been shot from behind, the bullet going through his heart. Evidently he had put up a battle with his assailant and was trying to run away. His skull was also fractured by blows.

"This murder was committed by the pervert who shot and killed ROY EWEN McGREGOR, 13 years of age, on the night of January 4th in the current year, for whose arrest and conviction rewards totalling $1,000.00 are still outstanding and are not a part of the above amount.

DESCRIPTION OF SUSPECT

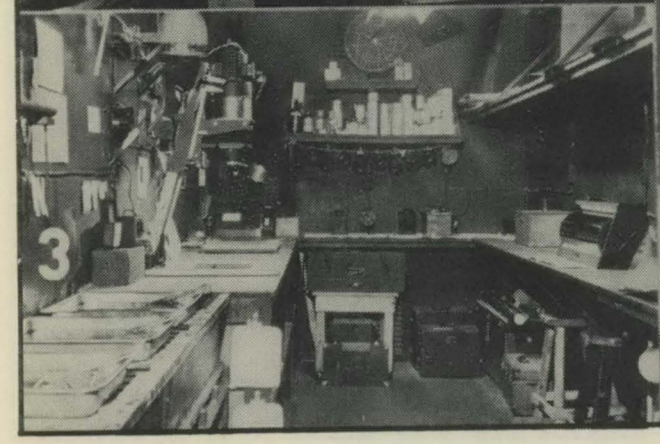
"21 to 26 years of age, 5'7" to 5'9", slim build, dark complexion, thin face, black hair, fairly thick and smoothed back. Goes without a hat. Low, soft voice. His nationality is uncertain -- while some boys speak of him as having a German accent, others state he had no accent.

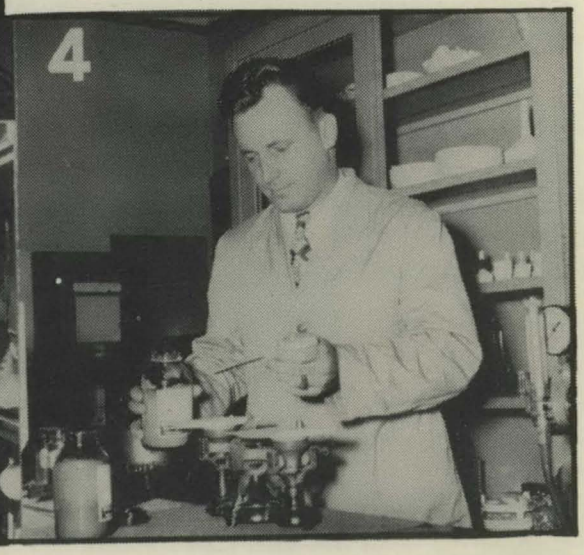
"Boys who have been his victims state he asked them to show him certain places, or go messages for him. When getting them into a lane or a secluded place he attacks them. He attempted to commit sodomy on boys whose ages run from 10 to 13 years, and the offense is committed after dark. Medical evidence shows no penetration, but semen is found on underwear and around rectum.

"The Chief Constable of the City of Winnipeg shall be the sole arbiter as to whom this reward shall be paid and in what proportion if there is more than one claimant."

Any information in connection with the above case should be transmitted immediately to Chief Constable Smith.

# "ATOMIC CITY" POLICE DEPARTMENT



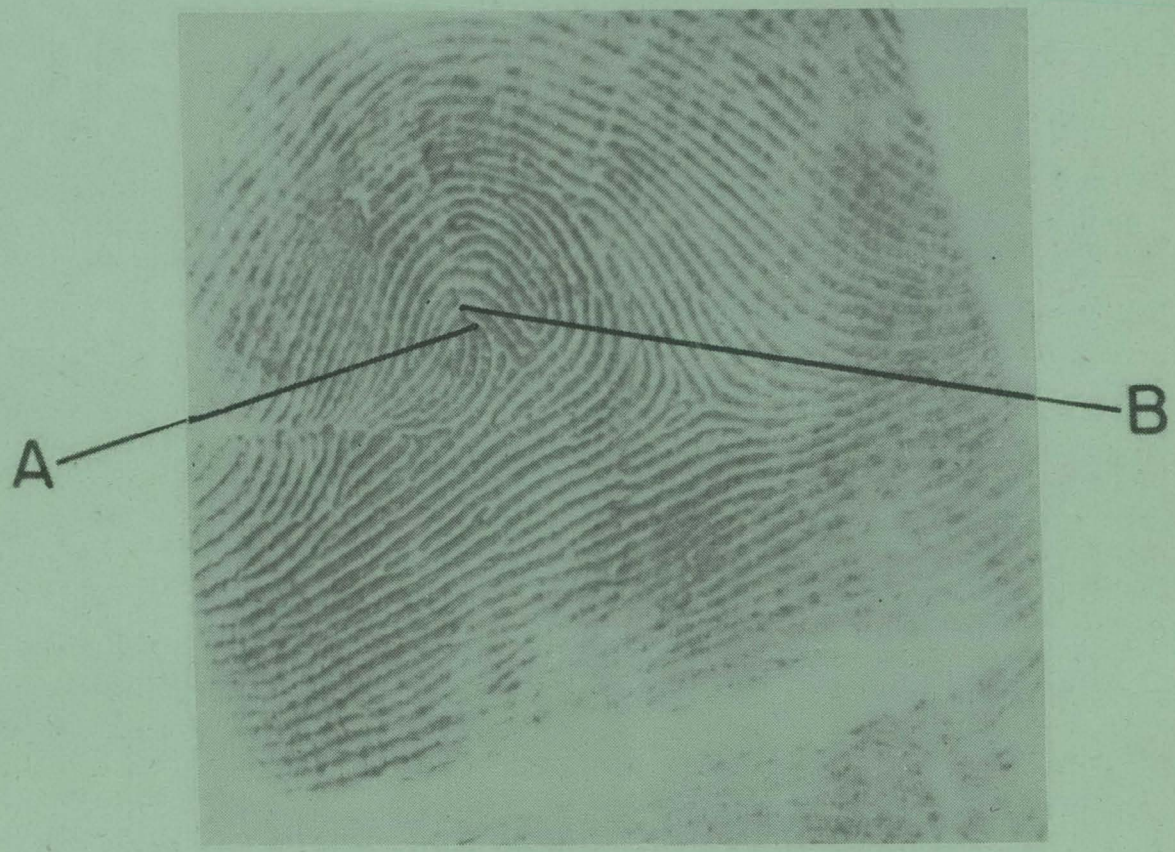


Oak Ridge, Tenn., home of the Atom Bomb, has been unique from its origin. Not the least of its unusual aspects is its streamlined police department. All residential and business areas within the Clinton Engineer Works - the Townsite Areas of Oak Ridge, trailer camps, dormitory and hutment areas, business and shopping districts - are under the department's protection.

The force is divided into a Detective Bureau and Patrol, Traffic and Records Sections, and serves in the capacity of a regular municipal police dept. Its duties are separate from those of the Guard Force which functions in certain areas in the Clinton Engineer Works.

1. View of Oak Ridge Police Headquarters. Offices, radio room, identification rooms, and locker and shower rooms for patrolmen are included in this building. A gymnasium is being built.
2. Control room of the radio system; Operator-dispatcher Cecil Kirk on duty. Over 300 daily messages pass to and from this room and the radio cars. This control room also serves the radio-equipped military vehicles and fire-fighting equipment.
3. Darkroom used by the Detective Bureau of the Oak Ridge Police.
4. Charles T. Vettel, Chief of Police, Oak Ridge, Tenn., a graduate of the Thirty-third Session of the FBI National Academy, in the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

The fingerprint pattern illustrated below is a whorl with an "Inner" tracing. The question arises as to the particular type of whorl. It is noted that recurving ridge "A" is joined by an appendage at point "B." Since this appendage abuts upon that space between the shoulders at right angles, this particular loop formation is considered as being spoiled. Therefore, the pattern contains a loop type pattern and a tented arch which conforms to the definition of an accidental type whorl. A reference search would be conducted as a double loop type whorl.




QUESTIONABLE PATTERN

## SURPLUS MACHINE GUNS AVAILABLE

The War Assets Administration announces that it has the following available for sale to law enforcement agencies only: 377 H and R, Model 65, new and unused .45 caliber Reising Sub-Machine Guns.

These guns may be secured through the War Assets Administration Regional Office located at 600 Washington Street, Boston 11, Massachusetts. Any communication should be addressed to the attention of Mr. J. J. Whelan.

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