

• *Restricted to the Use of Law Enforcement Officials*

FBI

Law Enforcement

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J. Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI *Law Enforcement Bulletin*

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





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

July 1, 1953

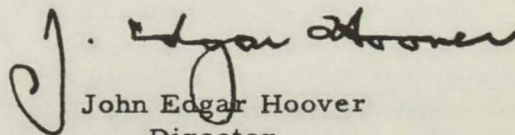
TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

One of the most startling criminal developments in 1952 was the big increase in certain offenses involving personal violence. Robbery and aggravated assault in American cities increased nearly 12 per cent over 1951, an increase considerably larger than that of the combined average for all major crimes. Aggravated assault has now risen almost without interruption for more than a decade and is well over one hundred per cent greater than in the pre-war years of 1937-39. Murders committed in urban communities last year increased more than eight per cent over 1951. While rape increased less than one per cent, the figures continue, nevertheless, an upward trend which has been generally in evidence for more than ten years.

It is precisely at this time of the year that crimes involving personal violence merit the most urgent attention of both police officers and the general public. The historical record of crime as set out in the Uniform Crime Reports bulletins shows that murder, aggravated assault and rape are committed with greater than average frequency during the summer months. The plain sense of the matter suggests that during this season each citizen should be particularly on guard and every law enforcement officer whose duties cover these offenses should plan for the most effective use of the personnel, equipment and procedures which are available to him.

Police executives and other public officials charged with enforcement of the laws may avail themselves of the assistance which the FBI can give, through the facilities of the Identification Division and the FBI Laboratory, in the investigation of murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery and other cases of a criminal nature. In addition, murder, rape, robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon (and certain other major offenses, including attempts) come within the purview of the Federal Unlawful Flight Statute under whose provisions it is a Federal offense for a person charged with one or more of these crimes to flee to another state in order to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction. Another section covers those who flee to avoid giving testimony. When the facts of the case permit this statute to be invoked, every facility of the FBI can be automatically joined with those of the local authorities in the effort to bring the fugitive to justice.

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director



FEATURE ARTICLE

Law Enforcement's Answer to the Auto Theft Problem

A series of FBI Law Enforcement Conferences on Automobile Thefts planned in October 1952, as the first step in a concerted nationwide drive against motor-vehicle thieves, has been completed. More than 8,600 persons, representing approximately 3,100 agencies—including municipal, county and State law enforcement agencies, State motor vehicle bureaus and the National Automobile Theft Bureau—united in a cooperative effort to meet the challenge of auto thefts, now rated as one of the principal crimes against property.

The conferences were well received and have resulted in more closely coordinated activities among neighboring police departments. Specially trained auto theft squads have been created in some areas as well, and several law enforcement agencies have begun revising their records systems on stolen and recovered automobiles.

Interest was keen and considerable discussion between those in attendance and instructors followed the lectures. These discussions were lively and informative and, in many instances, brought out interesting and unusual techniques employed in the investigation of auto thefts, as well as suggestions which the officers felt might tend to decrease the incidence of auto thefts in their own communities.

Suggestions To Reduce Auto Thefts

While the suggestions made at the various conferences were designed to combat the problems peculiar to the particular jurisdiction under discussion, some of them may be adaptable to other localities with similar problems. Various suggestions and experiences are set out here as an example of some of the weaknesses which have been recognized by the various law enforcement agencies and the steps to be taken which they believe necessary to decrease the rate of auto thefts in their communities. *These suggestions should be regarded as a collection of some of the conclusions and ideas resulting from the discussions at the various conferences on auto thefts and set*

forth here for whatever value they may have to other law enforcement agencies. They should not in any way be considered as carrying the express or implied recommendation of the FBI.

Need for Effective Title Laws

The need for a uniform title law throughout the United States, or at least the passage of effective title laws in each State, received major interest at all the conferences. Many officers expressed the conviction that the lack of such a law materially contributes to the high rate of auto thefts and makes it easier for professional auto thieves to dispose of stolen automobiles. The passage of such laws would eliminate the present problem of police officers throughout the Nation in trying to trace ownership of cars in the nontitle law States.

Tighter Legislation Advocated

In addition to the widespread interest in more uniform and effective title laws throughout the United States, there were many recommendations for more rigid enforcement of present laws, as well as the passage of additional State legislation designed to curtail auto thefts.

A change in the motor vehicle code suggested by law enforcement officers in one Western State was the substitution of the word "shall" for "may" in the section providing that the owner of a junked motor who alters or removes a serial number "shall" (not "may") apply to the department of motor vehicles for a special number. Rigid enforcement of the law requiring that every licensee (including used car lots) of every used motor vehicle maintain a record of the name, make, engine and serial number, and whether any of the numbers have been changed or defaced on any vehicle coming into his possession was recommended. This section further requires that the licensee should also have in his possession a separate certificate of title or documentary evidence of ownership of every car in his possession.

In addition to the suggested changes in the motor vehicle code, these officers recommended the passage of State legislation requiring that an agent of the department of motor vehicles, such as a State police officer, constable, deputy sheriff, policeman, etc., visually check the motor and serial numbers and certify to the accuracy thereof prior to the licensing of any vehicle in the State. This visual check should be made at the time of original registration of the vehicle in the State and when it is brought into the State as a new or used car, as well as at the time of transfer of title to any car from one person to another within the State.

Suggestions as to additional legislation made by law enforcement officers attending a conference in a Southern State were substantially the same as those shown above. These suggestions, with reference to requirements by the motor vehicle bureau, may be summarized as follows:

(a) Salvage and junk dealers should be required to turn in the registration papers, license plates and serial plates pertaining to automobiles which are out of commission permanently.

(b) A fingerprint impression of at least one finger of persons registering automobiles should be required.

(c) The motor vehicle bureau should require physical inspection of the automobile and its motor number in order to verify its physical existence, and its accurate description by motor number, etc., in comparison with the registration papers and ownership papers.

(d) Finally, the motor vehicle bureau should maintain a file by motor number, serial number, license number, and name of owner.

Interest in the automobile theft conferences conducted by another southern division of the FBI centered for the most part on recommendations for a tightening of the State registration laws, as well as for greater speed in the process of checking license and motor numbers of suspected motor vehicles.

Law enforcement officers from a Western State suggested legislation requiring applicants for titles to new motor vehicles to submit with the application the certificate of origin issued by the manufacturer.

An Ounce of Prevention . . .

While it is impossible to completely control the factors which result in criminal acts, measures can be taken which reduce opportunities for com-

mitting crimes. It has been aptly said that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and the wisdom of that quotation was recognized by the majority of officers attending the auto theft conferences throughout the United States. The participants at these conferences carried on considerable discussion concerning safety precautions which automobile manufacturers, State bureaus of registration and motorists might take. Several law enforcement agencies reported that considerable benefit had been received from education of the public through newspapers, talks before civic groups and, in one instance, through the use of reminder cards left by Boy Scouts on cars which they found parked on public streets, unattended and with the keys still in the ignition.

Keys—An Invitation to Steal

The type of car theft which most often plagues the local law enforcement agency is the "joy-ride" theft where the car is merely taken for a time and abandoned. It was felt by a majority of the officers attending the conferences that the passage of laws making it an offense for the operator of a car to leave his car unattended on the streets with the keys in the ignition was the answer to this type of theft. Claiming that the majority of thefts in their cities are caused by keys being left in the cars by owners and parking lot attendants, representatives of two auto theft squads strongly recommended an additional city ordinance prohibiting parking lot operators from leaving ignition keys in autos parked on their lots.

Protect the Ignition System

Discussions carried on at the auto theft conferences held in a southern area resulted in a suggestion that some approach be made to automobile manufacturers in an effort to get them to devise some means of better protection for the ignition system, thereby making it more difficult for the car thieves to break into cars and wire over the ignition system. It was the general consensus that such a protective device would tend to make it more difficult to steal a car and would have the effect of reducing the frequency of auto thefts, particularly by joyriders, juveniles, and inexperienced car thieves.

In a discussion along these same lines at another conference, it was suggested that a law should be enacted to require keymakers to report to the local

law enforcement agencies any car which they observe with tampered or bare wire ignitions.

Some officers pointed out that the ease with which duplicate keys can be obtained by persons without identification from automobile dealers and locksmiths is a matter which should be given consideration by the automobile manufacturers and authorized sales and parts representatives. They pointed out that it is useless to caution people to lock their cars when car thieves using rings of duplicate keys can unlock practically any of the popular make car doors and drive off.

Deterrent to Possible Thefts

Law enforcement officers in the Southeast had other suggestions to offer with a view to preventing auto thefts. They suggested that automobile manufacturers might be encouraged to stamp the public motor number not only on the engines, but also on another public part of the car in such a place as to make it practically impossible to alter the number.

A second, and similar suggestion, was that a rental car agency might stamp under the chassis in a position visible to a lubrication man some wording to identify the car as a rented car such as "rented in (State) only; \$50 reward if recovered out of the State."

Many thieves operate by renting a car, registering it in another State, even by its true identity and motor number, and then selling the car—all this taking place before the rental period has expired and thus before the rental agency has reported its loss.

Recovery a Growing Problem

Recovery of the stolen automobile is the major problem faced by law enforcement officers in any auto theft. The same statistics which show thefts of autos are on the increase also indicate that the number of recoveries has not kept pace.

Physical Inspections

Some States require regular physical inspections of motor vehicles, either annually or semi-annually, and it was suggested at some conferences that a regulation might be adopted requiring the garage, service station, etc., making the inspection, to also compare the motor number of the vehicle being checked with the registration certifi-

cate which the driver is required to carry at all times. This procedure would, undoubtedly, turn up many stolen cars.

Waiting 'Til the Heat's Off

In one conference it was suggested that there would be a marked increase in the number of stolen car recoveries if storage garage owners or operators were more alert in reporting cars which had been stored an extended period of time without satisfactory explanation. The highway patrol of a Western State announced a proposed program of legislation which included the proposal that all garages in the State be requested to submit lists to the highway patrol of automobiles stored within their garages over a period of 30 days.

Law enforcement officers attending a midwestern conference exchanged various ideas and suggestions concerning ordinances which require the reporting of purchases of used cars and automobile parts to the police, the reporting of automobiles parked on public lots and in public garages over 48 hours and inspection of abandoned automobiles.

Cooperation of Public

The representatives of various law enforcement agencies attending the auto theft conferences discussed the necessity of obtaining the cooperation of the public in general in their efforts to recover stolen automobiles. Some officers suggested the possibility of soliciting the assistance of used car dealers, but revealed that in their opinion used car dealers in general are not well informed with respect to the proper method of identifying or spotting stolen automobiles.

Law enforcement officers at a northeastern conference described certain methods practiced by them to facilitate the recovery of stolen automobiles which might prove helpful to law enforcement agencies in other parts of the country. For example, the auto theft squad of one city has arranged with used car dealers in that city, when approached by a suspicious person attempting to sell a car, to direct the suspect to another dealer reportedly anxious to purchase cars. The dealer then calls the auto theft squad and officers arrive at the business establishment of the second dealer at the same time the suspect arrives.

In another city, when the police department receives a report of a local car being stolen, they

immediately give the descriptive data to a local taxicab company which uses two-way radio facilities. All cab drivers are then furnished by broadcast with the descriptive data. This technique has proven successful in locating local stolen cars in a matter of a few minutes in several instances.

Salvage

Pointing out that numerous large automobile theft rings are purchasing automobiles sold as salvage simply to secure a good title which they then alter to fit a stolen car, law enforcement officers in two Southern States suggested the possibility of working out some system whereby stops could be placed against all automobiles sold as salvage. Officers at one of these conferences suggested that laws should be enacted to require used car dealers and auction dealers to maintain records, personally examine motor numbers and papers when purchasing a car, report purchases and sales to the law enforcement agencies, and obtain descriptions and a single fingerprint of the seller.

Other officers also suggested that the various cities should be encouraged to pass local ordinances requiring used car dealers and junk yards to register their purchases of used and salvaged automobiles on a daily basis.

It was brought out during the conferences in the midwestern area that one State has formulated a proposed auto salvage law which would regulate the handling of titles by individuals involved in the sale of automobile salvage. The present regulations in that State permit a salvage dealer to furnish a title with a portion of a salvaged automobile rather than for the automobile itself.

South of the Border

The representatives of the various law enforcement agencies in a southwestern area were particularly interested in the auto theft conferences in view of the high rate of automobile thefts within their jurisdiction and the added difficulties experienced by the fact that this area covers approximately 600 miles of the international border between the United States and Mexico, which includes 12 border crossing points.

An example of one of the standard techniques employed by law enforcement officers in this area in detecting stolen cars is to observe whether or not the occupants of a car appear to fit the car they are driving. One sheriff observed that if he

notices a late model Chevrolet on the streets between 1 and 6 a. m. along the border area which is being driven by a youngster and the car does not have fox tails on the radio aerial, rubber monkeys hanging from the rearview mirror or other decorations within the car, he and his men automatically stop the car since 9 times out of 10 such a car will be a stolen automobile.

Caravan—Driver Problem

New Mexico, situated as it is between Texas to the east and Arizona and California to the west, is in a direct line for southern traffic to the west coast. Much of this traffic is of the caravan type, in which California used car dealers, in order to take advantage of the freight rate differential between the middle west and the west coast, purchase automobiles at auctions in such places as Amarillo and Oklahoma City and hire itinerant drivers in those cities to drive the cars through to the west coast.

Many times a car is stopped because the driver does not appear to be the type of person to be driving the quality of automobile involved. Frequently the driver of such a car presents a simple handwritten note on plain paper, without letterhead, stating that the driver is authorized to drive the car to a certain address. Sometimes the driver also carries a bill of sale or a conditional sales contract as identification. The drivers point out that they are not entrusted with the title to the car which is true inasmuch as the driver could then dispose of the automobile, and frequently these cars are bought with money furnished by a bank which requires that the titles be mailed to the bank.

During the discussion, officers pointed out that it would be easy for anyone to steal an automobile in the Middle West, write himself such a note or obtain a fictitious bill of sale, and drive across the country under the guise of a caravan-car driver. They suggested that it might be of some assistance if there were some type of control of the interstate traffic in the method of delivering caravan automobiles. They suggested that it might be possible to require the auction house or manufacturer of automobiles to furnish the driver of such cars with identification papers which identify the automobile by motor number, serial number, make, model and also clearly identify the driver thereof by name, description, and possibly one fingerprint. Such papers, it was suggested, should be notarized or carry the seal of a State or county

official at the site of the sale. The papers should further reflect that the vehicle was inspected at the point of origin and that the motor and serial numbers correspond with those on the title papers.

Identifying the Recovered Stolen Car

During a conference held in a northeastern area it was suggested that law enforcement officers should encourage car owners to scratch their initials at some hidden place on their autos or to put an identification card inside the left front door where the window glass is located when lowered. It was observed that this technique is most valuable in aiding the car owner to identify his auto when numbers have been altered and secret numbers obliterated.

Officers attending another conference held considerable discussion along these same lines and several of the examples of personal identification offered were as follows:

(a) Stuff a piece of paper with the owner's name and address in the door frame between the body and the window glass.

(b) Stuff a similar identification in the springs of the underpart of a seat.

(c) Scrape the owner's initials under the dash or on an inconspicuous part of the radiator or other part of the automobile.

Discussion by officers from northeastern States brought to light several new and unusual techniques in uncovering stolen motor vehicles. One such technique utilized in identifying the thief of a recovered stolen automobile was the processing of the seat adjusting lever for latent prints. These officers also recommended looking over the radio in a stolen car to see if it had been repaired, pointing out that a car radio repairman frequently leaves some identifying mark of his own on the repaired radio.

It was generally agreed at the majority of the conferences that the problem of stolen cars might be curtailed considerably if central pools could be organized to which information would be furnished as soon as a report is received that a car has been stolen so that when an officer has a particular car under suspicion, he might make an immediate check with his central pool.

Several of the departments attending a southwestern conference installed a very simplified system of maintaining records which was advocated to them and which they believe will correct one of the most serious difficulties confronting them in

the past; i. e., lack of a report of the theft and later of a record of it when checking out stolen cars. In addition, four of the largest departments represented at these conferences instituted separate record files for automobile theft matters and each designated at least one detective as an auto theft squad. One specific example of tangible results is evidenced by the fact that one police department checked out local garages and searched their records, finding some 16 stolen cars. A detective of another large department, following a tip received at the conference as to how to recognize stolen cars, recovered a new car valued at over \$5,000, stolen only 3 days previously in California.

Note the Unusual

Many automobile thieves are caught in the act by a careful inspection of both the man and the vehicle. In making such a check the officer should look for the unusual, i. e., conditions not normally to be expected of an honest citizen driving his own automobile down the highway. Those listed below have often been found in auto theft cases.

A vent glass missing, broken or replaced (the original glass bears a trade mark).

Tool marks in the metal around a vent glass.

Trunk and/or glove compartment pried open.

Spare tire and/or radio missing. These are often sold to buy gasoline.

When told to stop the motor the driver "kills" it or disconnects wires under the dash.

License plates attached with wire or new bolts, or through holes different from those previously used.

Dirty plates on a clean car or vice versa.

License plates from one State and a tax inspection sticker from another.

Out-of-State license plates but no luggage in the automobile.

One license plate from a State requiring two.

A juvenile driver who appears to be apprehensive over the proximity of a police car.

Unaccompanied juveniles driving out-of-State cars.

New ignition switch installed on a used car—wires stripped of insulation.

Driver completely unfamiliar with the contents of the luggage and glove compartments and the dents and other "scars and marks" on the car.

Presence of unusual items such as burglary tools, equipment for siphoning gasoline, etc.

Tools of Auto Theft Trade

The subject of an interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicle case arrested by FBI agents in New York City had on his person a small cloth sack containing 12 automobile skeleton keys and 2 pieces of flexible copper wire. Subsequent investigation indicated that this subject, who was responsible for the theft of 21 automobiles, followed a well-defined pattern and utilized extensive planning and preparations in each of his thefts.

The thief would gain entrance to cars which he desired to steal by using a set of automobile skeleton keys which he had prepared himself. After gaining entry to the car he started it by using a small piece of flexible copper wire to jump the terminals of the ignition switch. After starting the car he would drive it to some distant point in Manhattan where he inspected it for the correct motor and serial numbers and used these numbers to prepare a fictitious New York registration. The name on this fictitious registration was always an alias. For further identification he would prepare a chauffeur's license or a bill of sale made out to him in the same name. He then removed the ignition switch, took the key number from it, and had a key made by a locksmith in New York. He was careful to use a different locksmith on each occasion. Following the com-

pletion of these preparations, the car was driven to a Southern State and sold.

Besides the keys and wire found on the person of this "skeleton key auto thief," he also had in his possession a baggage check and a locker key which he admitted were for two suitcases containing all his equipment for forging registrations, driver's and chauffeur's licenses, bills of sale, etc. An examination of these bags which were reclaimed revealed the following items: two New York license plates 4G4862; two Pennsylvania license plates 67YA5; one New York State license tab No. 1476803; one New York State license tab No. 1987608; one Buick serial plate No. 35208634; one fictitious chauffeur's registration made out with an alias but containing a photograph of the subject; one set three-sixteenth inch steel dies; one set one-fourth inch steel dies; one set five-sixteenth inch steel dies; five rubber stamps; three stamp pads; one rubber date stamp; one numbering machine; one box miscellaneous rubber stamp parts; three pairs of pliers; one crescent wrench; two pair of men's sunglasses; one pair women's sunglasses; one 8-inch screw driver; one 3-inch screwdriver; two flashlights, complete with batteries; one can ink eraser; one can ink remover; one can

(Continued on page 14)



Photograph of the auto theft kit.

SCIENTIFIC AIDS

Examinations of Bloodstains in FBI Laboratory

One of the functions of the FBI Laboratory is the examination of bloodstained evidence. Evidence of this nature is frequently obtained during the investigation of crimes of violence and since it is usually important to the case it should be handled with care during its collection, identification, and transmittal to the laboratory.

In addition to the testimony of the examiner at the completion of a case, the analyses of bloodstains often facilitate the investigation while it is in progress. Such analyses may aid in the location of the crime scene, the identification of the weapon used, and frequently may prove or disprove a suspect's alibi.

Submission of Evidence

In the handling of bloodstained evidence, it must be borne in mind that blood is a perishable substance and should be treated accordingly. If the blood does not receive proper handling, it may putrefy in transit and arrive at the laboratory in a condition unsuitable for a conclusive analysis.

If garments or other fabrics are obtained which are still moist with blood, it is imperative that

these specimens be thoroughly dried before wrapping them for transmittal to the laboratory. It is recommended that the specimens be hung in a normally ventilated room until they are thoroughly dry. No attempt should be made to hasten the drying process by exposing the garment to heat or sunlight, as this may cause changes in the blood which will interfere with its analysis.

Each item of evidence should be wrapped separately to avoid any loss of adhering evidence or the possible transfer of such evidence from one garment to another. This is especially true when clothing from both the victim and the suspect are being transmitted in the same box.

Liquid Blood Samples

Whenever possible it is suggested that a liquid blood sample be obtained from the victim in those instances in which a blood grouping comparison is desired. Liquid blood samples should always be taken by a physician or a competent technician. The sample should consist of approximately 5 cc.'s ($\frac{1}{6}$ of a fluid ounce) of blood in a sterile test tube or vial. It is recommended that the stopper be sealed with adhesive tape. The sample should be well wrapped in insulating material such as cotton to prevent breakage. It should then be placed in a rigid container of appropriate size and forwarded by airmail special delivery to the FBI Laboratory (see fig. 4). Liquid blood should always be forwarded to the laboratory separately and never be included with other exhibits unless they too are being submitted by airmail special delivery. Refrigeration of the package is not necessary and is not recommended. In some instances in which blood specimens were refrigerated, the blood froze en route, breaking the glass container and causing the loss of the evidence.

Scrapings

In cases where dried blood is located on smooth surfaces such as walls, finished floors, table tops, glass or automobile fenders, it is suggested that

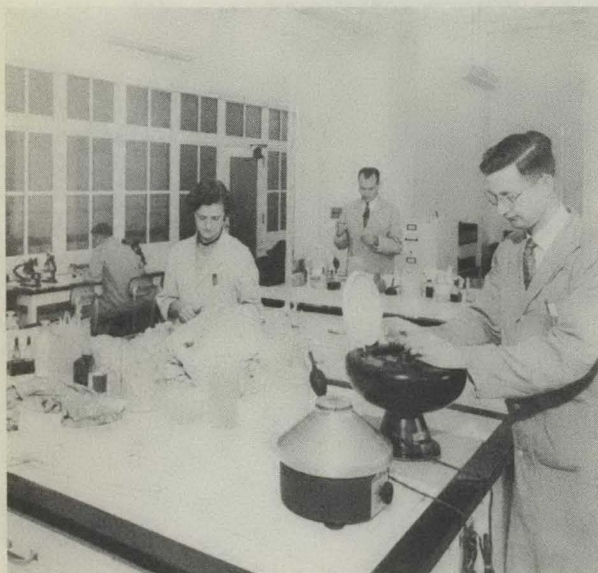


Figure 1.—Partial view of Serological Unit, FBI Laboratory.

the blood be scraped off with a clean razor blade or knife, placed in a pill box and sealed with tape (see fig. 5). Quite frequently blood scrapings which are submitted to the FBI Laboratory in envelopes are lost during transit as a result of leakage through unsealed corners. If envelopes are the only containers available, precautions must be taken to insure that the envelope is completely sealed with tape to avoid loss of contents. The use of an interior and exterior envelope will give further insurance against loss of blood scrapings.

Heavy Articles

Large heavy articles such as axes, automobile bumpers, crowbars, etc., which are usually packed in a wooden box for shipment, should be securely fastened within the box to prevent movement during transit. Such movement against the sides of the box might result in the blood being scraped from the surface of the specimens. Wooden cleats nailed to the box will hold the specimens in an immovable position.

Illustrative Cases

Following are a few recent cases in which the analyses of bloodstained evidence in the FBI Laboratory assisted in the prosecution of the defendants.

Criminal Assault and Murder

On July 20, 1951, the nude body of a woman was found in her home in an Illinois city by a neigh-

bor. An examination of the body disclosed that she had been strangled by two neckties and also had been criminally assaulted. She had been stabbed in the chest numerous times.

A wrist watch was found on the floor of the victim's home. Investigation disclosed that this watch belonged to a friend of the family. Several witnesses stated they saw a man answering the general description of the suspect near the victim's home on the morning of the murder. The suspect told police officers that he had visited the home on the night preceding the offense and while there he had lost his wrist watch.

The FBI Laboratory conducted examinations on submitted articles of clothing.

In the laboratory it was ascertained that group "A" human blood was present on the subject's shirt. Grouping tests of the victim's blood at the time of autopsy disclosed that she belonged to group "A".

The subject was brought to trial on December 3, 1951. The FBI Laboratory examiner testified regarding the blood analyses. The subject was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to 149 years in the State penitentiary.

Murder

On Christmas eve, 1951, at approximately 9:30 p. m., a man and his wife were found dead in their home in a Wyoming city. A preliminary examination revealed that the victims died of gunshot wounds in the head.

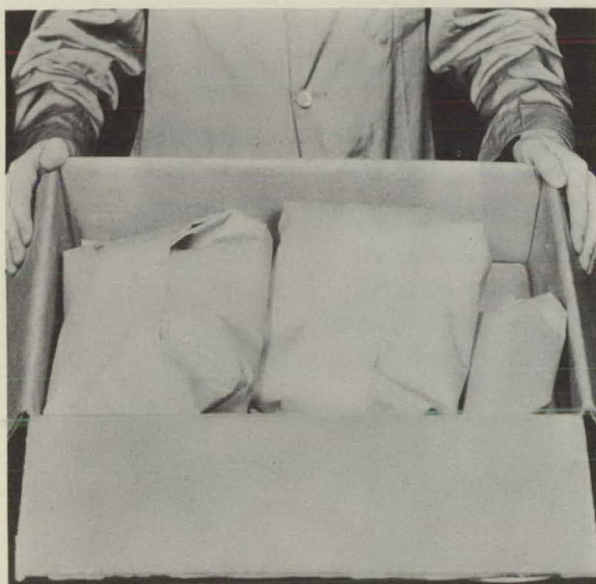


Figure 2.—Evidence correctly packed.

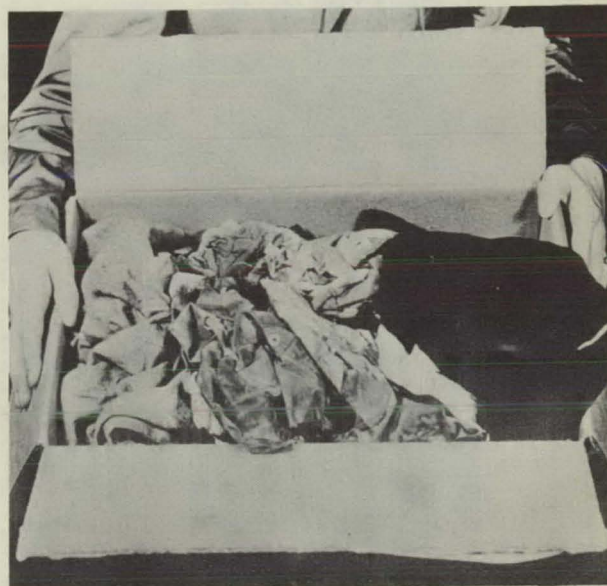


Figure 3.—Evidence incorrectly packed.

Later in the evening, a son of the victims was apprehended in bed at his home located to the rear of the parents' home. The clothing worn by the suspect was obtained at this time and was later transmitted to the FBI Laboratory for blood examinations. Liquid blood specimens from the victims were compared with the human bloodstains found on the suspect's clothing. It was determined that the blood on the clothing was of the same group as that of the victims. The agent who performed the examinations, among other witnesses, testified at the trial. The subject was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Assault With Intent To Rape

On May 30, 1952, at approximately 6:45 a. m., a South Carolina woman was walking to work when she was attacked by a man who threatened her with a pistol. After a desperate struggle, she was choked into unconsciousness and dragged into the woods where she was allegedly raped. Later she regained consciousness, loosened her blood-soaked underclothing which was tightly knotted around her throat, and made her way back to the road. A passing motorist took her to the hospital where it was determined that she had been stabbed near the heart. The victim described her assailant, and, as a result of her description, a suspect was arrested.

Investigating officers found the cuff of a shirt on the road at the scene of the initial attack.

Later these officers searched the home of the subject and found a faded ragged shirt, the left cuff of which was missing. The shirt, the cuff, and the clothing of the victim and suspect were sent to the FBI Laboratory.

The subject was tried on September 12, 1952, at which time the special agent who examined this evidence testified that the cuff found at the scene had originally been a portion of the shirt taken from the home of the subject. There was also a light smear of human blood on the intact sleeve of this shirt. A seminal stain was present on the right rear portion of the victim's skirt.

The subject was convicted of assault with the intent to rape and was sentenced to serve 40 years in the State penitentiary.

Conclusion

All evidence submitted to the FBI Laboratory should be addressed to The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington 25, D. C., for the attention of the FBI Laboratory.

It is suggested that a carbon copy of the transmittal letter be placed outside the sealed package and underneath the exterior wrapping. In this manner the contents of a package and the nature of the examination requested may be ascertained without breaking the seal of the package. It is thus possible to place the sealed package in the custody of the appropriate examiner. In the event the testimony of the examiner is required, the evidentiary chain of custody is complete.

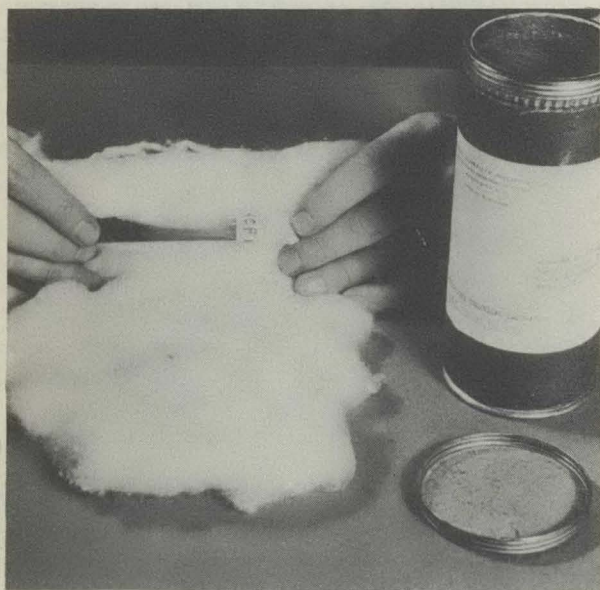


Figure 4.—Method of packing.

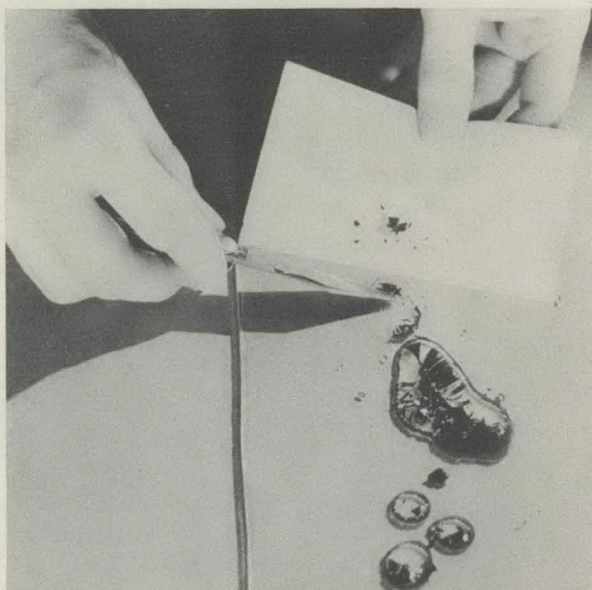


Figure 5.—Blood scrapings from a piece of glass.



Buffalo's Civilian School Crossing Guard Program

by Lt. CHARLES E. DeVoe, *Crossing Guards
Division, Buffalo, N. Y.*

A civilian school crossing guard program was voted by the common council of the city of Buffalo, N. Y., on July 21, 1952, with an authorized strength of 185, a salary of \$3 per day not to exceed 200 schooldays, and to include a period of training.

After much discussion it was decided that women only would be employed in this capacity. The municipal civil service commission established a procedure whereby it interviewed all applicants and conducted physical examinations. This procedure was later changed so that the initial interview was conducted in the office of the civilian school crossing guards in police headquarters, and then those applicants whom we could use, because of their proximity to certain street intersections, were sent to the civil service commission to file their applications and go through the examinations. The names of those who finally qualified were listed and forwarded to us at headquarters.

Uniforms and Qualifications

While the applicants were being screened, bids were let out and accepted by various manufacturers for the different articles of uniform. The entire uniform consisted of overcoat, blouse, skirt, raincoat, cap, cap cover, whistle, badge, wreath for cap, and a book of rules and regulations. Uniforms were tailored for each woman individually.

The qualifications for civilian school crossing guards in this city are as follows: Age 21-52 years; height 5' 1" to 5' 9"; weight according to the accepted American Medical Association standards with a variance of not more than 15 percent either over or under; proof of having completed the seventh grade in grammar school; and proof of being a citizen of the United States and a resident of Buffalo for the previous 2 years. Applicants must take a complete physical examination including chest X-ray.

The working hours of the guards as established by this office are: 8:30 a. m. to 9:05 a. m.; 11:30 a. m. to 1:05 p. m. and 3 p. m. to 4 p. m. This

gives a total of 3 hours and 10 minutes, but we have found that such a rigid schedule cannot be adhered to. To make this more flexible we have had to cut time from one end of a period and add it in another place. However, one period for which we insist on the guards being on their posts is the noon period. There is no variation on these middle hours. The last period can be shortened by not having the guards on their corners until classes are dismissed and then by letting them go home as soon as the last pupils are out. And we have many women in our group who do not concern themselves with hours at all but are so solicitous of the safety of their children that they think nothing of putting in more time than we require at their crossings. It is upon these civic-minded women that we find ourselves relying to a greater than ordinary degree.

Course of Instruction

Guards selected were given a 4-day course of instruction in our academy by the police department instructor. The course consisted of short talks on laws of evidence, basic first aid, orientation and



Buffalo Civilian School Crossing Guards wearing uniforms suitable to the different seasons.



**Michael C. Noeppel, Commissioner of Police,
Buffalo, N. Y.**

organization of the police department, movies of the operation of school safety patrols, rules and regulations for crossing guards, hand signals, vehicle and traffic laws of New York State and the traffic ordinances of the city of Buffalo, courtesy and public relations, violation procedure, report writing, arrest procedure, information and warrant procedure, courtroom conduct, traffic handling and direction, and specific guards' duties. When the guards went to work on street intersections, they worked for 3 days in conjunction with the police officer who formerly handled the corner, so that they might have some "on the spot" training.

This entire division of civilian school crossing guards was placed under the command of a lieutenant of police whose duties consisted of the organization, with all its attendant problems, of this new division. A separate book of rules and regulations for crossing guards was drawn up, patterned after the regular police book. Specifications for all articles of uniform were also drafted by this office. Since the bids were allotted

to different uniform manufacturers in cities in the eastern part of the country, and since these uniforms were individually tailored, we ran into the problem of many articles of uniform not conforming to specifications and thus necessarily having to be sent back to these cities for alterations. This delay also caused the women selected to be constantly inquiring as to when they would be going to work. We now believe that it would have been much better to have ordered all garments in stock sizes, preferably from a local concern if possible, and to have the alterations done locally.

All articles of uniform issued to the guards are stamped the same as are articles of uniform of regular police officers. A card index file is maintained with all pertinent information concerning each guard and her issued uniform. Guards were later furnished a second skirt in order that they might have time to have the first one cleaned, and they were also issued a winter cap with earlaps because many of them complained about cold ears and necks. The entire uniform issued to them costs approximately \$145.

Guards are checked during their working hours on the street by the lieutenant of the day platoon in the precinct in which their school crossing is located. He records the times he visited them and this report is forwarded by him to the office of the crossing guards in headquarters. From this report our office makes up the time sheets and the payrolls. The guards' paychecks are sent to their precincts along with the pay warrants for the police officers of that precinct.

Some Problems

At the original interview conducted in the guards' office, all aspects of this job were explained to the women who applied. The good as well as the bad was pointed out, with particular emphasis on the adverse conditions of the work into which they were entering. Despite this warning many of the women who have quit on us have used as an excuse for their resigning some of the factors and conditions so forcefully explained to them before they were employed. We have so far experienced a turnover of slightly over 15 percent and we must now contract with local tailors to alter these returned uniforms to fit replacement guards. The excuse used most often by these resigning women is baby-sitting problems. And this excuse alone can have many and varied ramifications. Another reason offered by a few of the women was

that they had become pregnant. Only a very few women, when they turned in their uniform, said they were quitting to accept more remunerative employment. The pay rate of \$3 per schoolday is very low, especially when the Federal income tax and a certain percentage for the State retirement system are deducted from it. These guards are not paid when they do not work, and the highest possible pay they could draw for a half month is \$36, less deductions. The commissioner of police is now requesting the common council to increase this daily rate to \$4.50, but we have no indication of whether or not it will be allowed.

We are presently unable to fill our full quota of crossing guards, but only in certain sections of the city. These sections are the better residential locations. This problem will be encountered in any city because here money is no object. In fact, the small amount of money earned by a woman may possibly increase her husband's income tax by more than the amount which she would earn. We have repeatedly requested volunteers, both in newspapers and over the radio, and through appeals to the parent-teachers organizations and mothers clubs in these sections, but in vain. These few intersections are still protected by police officers, and it now appears that if we are to have women crossing guards at these corners we will have to bring them from some other section of the city. We have been trying to obtain women who live not more than 4 blocks from the crossing, but in this case it will probably be a much greater distance for them to travel.

Squad Conferences

A monthly meeting is held at our headquarters police academy, and since our women guards find their days quite full, we hold this meeting at night. They are not required to wear their uniforms to this meeting. A rollcall is taken and those who attend are paid a day's salary. During this meeting all facts concerning the guards, especially the performance of their duties, are brought to their attention. No names are mentioned, but corrections are made so that all guards may benefit. When this period is over, the meeting is thrown open to any questions or complaints which the women may have. We try to answer everything arising at the time, but we have found that the guards come up with some queries which we ourselves need to look up. These answers are carried over to the following meeting. Questions of a



Lt. Charles E. DeVoe.

personal nature are referred to the crossing guards' office to be answered in a like manner.

We have tried to establish a procedure in our crossing-guard program of having two relief guards in each precinct to substitute for regularly assigned guards who may be absent for any reason. When there are no absentees, we assign these relief guards to secondary crossings. These relief women work every schoolday and consequently they can get in full time the same as a regular guard. But this has also created problems. Most of the women do not seem to like the idea of being relief. When filling in for a regular guard who is sick, they can be sent quite a distance from their homes, or the length or width of their precinct. However, we have now managed to get our local transportation system to carry our guards free while they are in uniform, between the hours of 8 a. m. and 4 p. m., with strict orders for them not to abuse the privilege by shopping or entering the bus with armloads of packages. Another problem which has arisen from this relief guard idea is that when the relief woman has been on her assigned secondary crossing for any length of time, and is then moved to a main intersection to work in place of an absent guard, we must necessarily leave the secondary

crossing unprotected. And this always creates a storm of protest from parents and teachers. They expect that once a woman guard appears at an intersection she will remain there. This we have not been able to solve.

As in all things new, there have of course been comments both from police officers and the civilian population. Some have been derogatory and complaining, but the greater number have been complimentary. Since these guards will release manpower for other and more demanding police duties, and since similar programs have been successful in other cities both large and small, it seems reasonable to expect that our own program will work out in a satisfactory manner. This program now is only of about 6 months' duration and we have encountered many problems and situations. However, we believe that we are progressing. We have now established a nucleus of this division from which we can work, and from now on there should be much less retrogression.

No Police Powers

Our guards have no police powers whatever. To prosecute in any case they file an information and swear to a warrant as any private citizen would do. They do not carry arms. In cases of a motorist violation, they secure the registration number of the vehicle and forward a violation card to the office of the crossing guards. This violation card is kept on file in this office. A form letter is then sent to the owner of the vehicle. The form letter reads as follows:

It has been reported to this Department that on ____ at _____ M., a car bearing license number _____, issued in your name, disregarded the direction of a School Crossing Guard at _____ by _____

School Crossing Guards are provided for the purpose of protecting the lives of our school children going to and from school. If this program is to be successful, it is absolutely necessary that motorists cooperate with Guards to the fullest extent.

Where School Crossing Guards are stationed constitutes a school crossing, and, under the law, that means 15 miles per hour while children are going to and from school and while School Crossing Guards are on duty. Disregard of School Guards and school zone signs may result in the injury or death of one of our School children.

We feel sure that you, as a safety minded motorist and law-abiding person, will cooperate by exercising greater caution in the future when driving in the vicinity of our Schools.

A record of this violation is being kept in our files.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

(Continued from page 7)

chrome finish paint; one camel hair paint brush; one tube adhesive cement; one desk fountain pen; one bottle ink; one 3-inch steel tape; one box containing an ink pad; razor blade kit; one 8-inch three-cornered file; one leather key case; one leather registration cardholder; one strip solder; one small electric soldering machine; one electric buffing machine with complete kit of abrasive accessories; two 6-inch pieces of rubber insulated copper wire; one blank bill of sale for motor vehicle; two blank New York auto registration forms; one blank New York chauffeur's license form; and one blank money receipt book.

Speed Photo Identifies Murderer

The peaceful enjoyment of a group of office employees listening to an orchestra rehearsal in a Chicago park in August 1952 was suddenly shattered when a man darted around the shrubbery, brandishing a .22 caliber pistol and screaming "I love Sally, I love Sally."

The man pumped three shots into the head of an 18-year-old girl, killing her instantly, and seriously wounded her 17-year-old escort with a fourth shot. The killer then turned the gun on himself, fired a bullet into his heart and fell dead across the body of his victim.

The murdered girl's father was summoned from a nearby office but was unable to identify the dead killer. Before lapsing into unconsciousness, the wounded boy said the killer was unknown to him also.

Initial efforts of the local police failed to produce an identification of the killer. By 10:15 p. m. they had taken his fingerprints and relayed a picture of them by speed photo, a service similar to newspaper wirephotos, to the Identification Division of the FBI at Washington, D. C.

One hour and five minutes later, at 11:20 p. m., a telephone call from the FBI advised the Chicago police that an identification had been made. The murderer's criminal record dated back to 1944 and included charges of carrying a concealed weapon, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and assault and battery. Records of his last arrest, less than a year previous to the murder-suicide, listed him as a "girl attacker" and revealed that he admitted a desire to grab girls.

POLICE PERSONALITIES

On January 21, 1953, Detective James Herbert Simpson of the Portsmouth, Va., Police Department was presented the 1952 distinguished service award of the Portsmouth Junior Chamber of Commerce. This award is presented annually to an outstanding young man by the Portsmouth Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Detective Simpson has been a member of the Portsmouth Police Department since December 1, 1945, when he started as a patrolman. He has attended the Virginia State Central Police School in Richmond, Va., and the FBI National Academy, Washington, D. C., where he was a graduate of the forty-sixth session in 1951. Detective Simpson has served as secretary of the Tidewater Police Association for the past 4 years. Other activities include chairmanship of the advanced ticket sales, membership on the program committee of the 1952 Portsmouth bicentennial celebration, and being secretary of the Portsmouth Sports Club for the past 2 years, which organization he helped organize and served as president in 1950. This group awarded Simpson its sportsman-of-the-year trophy in 1950 for his work in the field of amateur sports. Detective Simpson is also vice president of the Tidewater Amateur Football League and State athletic director of the Virginia Moose Association. His other services have included committee membership for Radio Free Europe, in which capacity he assisted in raising funds for the continuation of this program. In 1952 he served as coach and director of the little league baseball, basketball, and football programs. He was a member of the Portsmouth Gridiron Club which he also served as president for two terms during World War II. During this same period Simpson edited a newspaper for members of the club who were serving in the Armed Forces, sending them weekly copies. In 1952, he organized the police youth bureau, the outgrowth of which was the Portsmouth Junior Police. He now serves as codirector of the youth bureau and junior police director. These organizations are made up of more than 1,500 boys of all races between the ages of 8 and

Virginia Officer Wins Distinguished Service Award

18. Detective Simpson has also served as chairman of the youth committee, Portsmouth Safety Council, for the past 2 years.

Through the efforts of Detective Simpson, Portsmouth theaters donate free movie passes to the Junior Police Association. These passes are distributed to deserving boys in each of the eight junior police precincts in the city.

During the past year, Simpson has spoken to more than 30 civic, social, church, and school groups on the subjects of juveniles, junior police work, and the narcotic trade and traffic problems. During the past summer, he took a group of 50 boys each Sunday to a farm in North Carolina to spend the day. As a result of these efforts, over 400 boys were able to participate in some kind of farm activities.

Simpson has been awarded a life membership in the Portsmouth Optimist Club for his out-



James Herbert Simpson.

standing youth work. He was also a charter member of the Portsmouth Junior Chamber of Commerce during its organization.

Col. L. C. Warren, chief of the Portsmouth Police Department, announced that juvenile crime has decreased steadily in Portsmouth since the organization of the junior police. Members of this group have also been instrumental in helping solve several robberies, a hit-and-run case, and have assisted in handling other minor complaints.

Honolulu Officer Commended After Heroic Sea Rescue

Sgt. Edwin I. Adolphson, an officer of the police department in Honolulu, T. H., received a special commendation on May 7, 1952, for outstanding heroism in rescuing a drowning man at Waimea Bay on the island of Oahu in February 1952. This rescue was more difficult than most, but beyond that fact it involved little which was unusual for Sergeant Adolphson. He is a powerful swimmer and now has so many rescues to his credit that lifesaving can almost be considered a hobby.

Adolphson is assigned to the Wahiawa Substation of the Honolulu police department. On



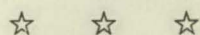
Sergeant Adolphson (left) being commended by Chief of Police Dan Liu. (Honolulu Advertiser photo.)

February 2, 1952, a report was received that a man was drowning in the treacherous surf of Waimea Bay, some 20 miles distant from the station. This bay is a beautiful stretch of sparkling blue water unusually inviting to the newcomer who is not aware of its reputation for a deadly undertow. Adolphson knew the danger of these waters and had previously made a number of rescues there.

On his arrival at the scene, Adolphson learned that the imperiled swimmer was a serviceman assigned to the Barber's Point Naval Air Station and that he had been fighting against the tide for more than 1½ hours. Several earlier rescue attempts had failed. A U. S. Navy helicopter had been called but was not yet in sight.

A quick analysis of time, tide, and last reports showed that the swimmer had been carried approximately 2 miles out to sea. Even if he were located, his exhausted condition indicated there would be little chance that the rescuer could succeed in bringing him back against the tide. Undeterred by this grim prospect, Adolphson got into his swimming trunks, which he always carried in his car for just such emergencies, and plunged in.

The waves were too high to permit sight of the victim but Adolphson found him by following an occasional faint call for help. From that time on Adolphson used an experienced rescuer's technique. He kept circling the victim and talking to him to reduce panic and tension so that strength would be conserved to remain afloat. Shortly thereafter the helicopter located the swimmers and dropped a line to haul both to safety.



Notice

The FBI receives numerous requests from law-enforcement officers who wish to receive the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* regularly. Every effort is made to honor these requests in order that this service may be made available to the greatest possible number of members of the law enforcement profession.

Distribution of the *Bulletin*, however, must be made in accordance with budgetary limitations. It is therefore suggested that when officers discontinue their law-enforcement duties, or no longer desire to receive the *Bulletin*, immediate notice be given to the FBI, in order that our records may be adjusted accordingly. This will permit distribution of the *Bulletin* to other officers.

OTHER TOPICS

Queer coincidences and unusual timing marked the burning of a hotel in Coronado, Calif., in October 1949, just as the city was ready to begin its annual Halloween celebration.

A parade of several hundred children from 5 to 15 years of age was scheduled to begin at 7 p. m. Less than a block away and on the main parade route was an old frame building, the upper part of which was used as the Strand Hotel. As the parade moved past the hotel, access to the premises would be blocked by the parading children and the crowds gathered to watch them.

Zero Hour

At approximately 6:47 p. m. the fire department sent one piece of apparatus to answer what proved to be a false alarm at a point rather distant from the fire station. At 6:52 p. m. the alarm rang again, this time to report a fire at the Strand Hotel. The remaining fire truck answered this alarm, reaching the hotel just before the parade was scheduled to start. With the assistance of equipment from nearby Navy installations, the fire was brought under control and extinguished in less than an hour. The parade was rerouted to allow the firemen to work unhampered.

Our investigation started immediately. It was noted that no one was in the building when the fire was discovered and the flames had a peculiar quality of springing back violently after they had apparently been extinguished.

Gasoline Fumes

One of the first witnesses located said he had gone into the hotel at approximately 6:40 p. m. to get his mother and take her to the Halloween festival. This witness entered the hotel by the rear stairway with his wife and son and found everything in darkness except in one room where a single light was burning. As he entered the

¹ Formerly chief of police, Coronado, Calif.

Circumstantial Evidence Proves Arson of Hotel

by J. W. JORDAN, U. S. Naval Air Station,
Coronado, Calif.¹

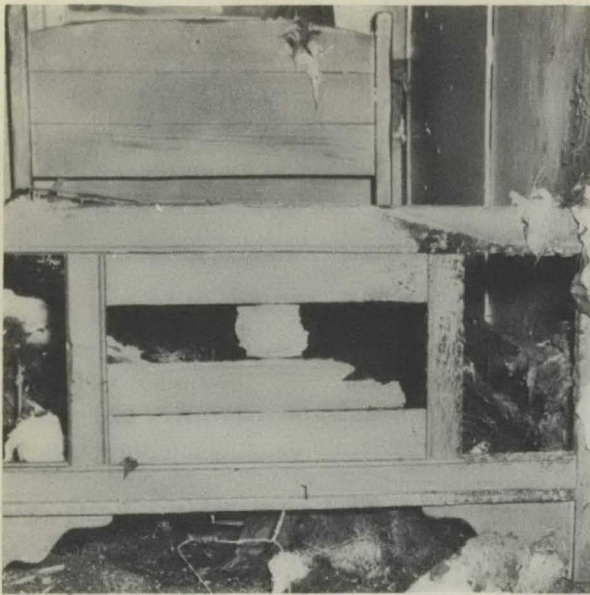
rear of the hotel, he and his wife both were instantly aware of the strong odor of gasoline. In passing the room where the light was burning and the door was standing open, the witness observed a considerable amount of liquid on the linoleum floor and recalled that a jack-o-lantern was on the floor, but there was no flame in it. Upon going to his mother's room he received no response and retraced his route and left the hotel by the rear steps. At this point the witness recalled that he had forgotten a noisemaker for his little boy. He then glanced at his watch to determine whether he had enough time to go to his home, secure the noisemaker, and return in time to take part in the ceremonies at the central location at 7 o'clock. He recalled that according to his watch it was 6:44 p. m.

From another source it was reported that a few minutes earlier the husband and wife who operated the hotel had been seen leaving the premises and walking unhurriedly in the direction of the Halloween festival.

A witness living in an apartment directly across the alley reported that after the fire broke out she heard a sound like a muffled explosion. She stepped to the second-story landing just outside



Officer W. G. Robertson and Mr. Jordan (with notebook) interviewing witnesses.



Photograph bearing on the theory of a separate point of origin in room 9, the door of which was locked throughout the fire. The outside of the wooden bedstead shows little charring or other evidence of burning. Note the photograph showing the inside of the bedstead.

her kitchen door in time to see a man dressed in dark clothing running across the roof tops of the buildings adjoining the Strand Hotel. Within seconds thereafter, violent flames appeared at several different places and through the windows of the second floor of the Strand Hotel. Another witness in the front of the hotel described the same explosion and the same type of flames bursting from the upper story of the hotel almost immediately. The latter witness ventured up the front staircase of the hotel but was able to make his way only to the entrance of the lobby, at which point he observed what appeared to be several "lines" of live flame on the floor leading to room 5 and could detect the odor of some petroleum product. Another witness who was also on the street in front of the building described the same type explosion, and upon looking into the automobile parts store on the first floor saw what appeared to be rivulets of flames dropping down from the ceiling and along the south wall.

Still another witness, a typesetter working in a newspaper office several buildings to the north, described a muffled explosion and also heard footsteps of someone running across the roof overhead, but attached no particular significance to this, thinking it was a Halloween prankster.

The following day, when the building had cooled sufficiently to enter, a complete inspection of the premises was made by representatives of all the

utilities to eliminate the possibility of a short circuit, a ruptured gas line, or any other accidental factor which could have caused the fire. Representatives of the utilities were all in complete agreement that the fire could not have ignited by any of these means.

At this stage, a very capable special agent of the National Board of Fire Underwriters joined the investigation and worked closely with the police department throughout the entire case.

A room-by-room inspection was made in search of any physical evidence of value. This inspection eventually disclosed three general and widely separated points of origin in the upstairs portion of the premises. One general point of origin was located in room 5, near the front of the hotel and just off the lobby. The second general point of origin was found in an unnumbered room occupied by the proprietors, and a third and separate point of origin appeared in the hallway outside and inside room 9, which was located at the rear of the hotel. Physical evidence disclosed that the door to room 9 was closed and locked throughout the progress of the fire, yet inside of room 9 was found evidence of a definite and separate point of origin.

Two days after the fire, as the result of continuous investigation and digging down into the muck and debris, the officers recovered a section of the rug from the hallway. It still smelled strongly of some petroleum product. The same conditions existed in the rug at the foot of the bed in room 9, even though thousands of gallons of water had been poured on the building and contents. These rug remnants were immediately sealed in metal air tight containers and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory.

Based on the evidence found in room 5, located near the front of the hotel, it was evident that an extremely hot fire had occurred in this particular room, and that some volatile liquid had been poured on the floor surface. The char pattern was quite deep and general throughout the entire room. To further bear out this theory, the floor just outside the door to room 5 was practically devoid of charring. Subsequent investigation disclosed that the door to room 5, a divided door, had been closed by the occupant when he left the hotel, and the defendants themselves confirmed the statement that this particular door was closed.

The testimony of the first firemen who entered the building was to the effect that the door to room 5 was lying on the floor in the lobby adjacent to

room 5. Based on the condition and position of the screws holding the door to the hinges it was evident that the door had been blown from its position to where it was found by the firemen. There was other evidence in the form of broken and fused glass, established to have come from windows in room 5 by a particular type of frosted paint, found a considerable distance away. This bore out the theory that an explosion occurred in room 5. Room 4, immediately adjoining room 5, was separated by a glass window, covered with a frosted-type paint. Numerous pieces of this type glass were found in the far end of room 4. To further bear out the theory that an explosion had occurred in room 5, the hanging light fixture was removed from room 4. Obviously, the two bulbs were broken, but the remaining wire filaments on the bulbs were bent in the direction taken by the blast. The light fixture was later introduced as evidence at the trial.

It was noted in the examination of all glass surfaces remaining in the hotel that there was a heavy sooty deposit or residue present on the inside surface of the glass. Five shoe boxes of shattered glass fragments were recovered by the officers and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory. The laboratory was able to advise the police that the residue left on these pieces of glass could have been caused by the burning of some hydrocarbon such as gasoline, but that it could also have been caused by the combustion of tar or pitch.

Numerous other pieces of physical evidence were removed from the Strand Hotel over a period of weeks of investigation. Some of these were also sent to the FBI Laboratory, including the bottom section of the door to room 5 as well as two sections of hardwood flooring and two sections of linoleum rug for examination to determine whether any volatile residue still remained thereon.

Through the evidence obtained within the first 3 days of investigation, and primarily because of the almost definite presence of gasoline in the hotel, complaints charging arson were authorized to be filed against the proprietor and his wife. They denied any knowledge of how the fire started, both claiming they were almost a block away at the time the fire broke out and that they had been out of the hotel for at least 45 minutes.

Footprints

In connection with the man observed running across the roof tops of adjacent buildings imme-



Photograph showing inside portion of the wooden bedstead in room 9. Note the deeply charred condition of the wood as contrasted with the relatively unburnt condition of the outside wood shown in the other photograph. These facts indicated that a fire was set in the bed.

diately after the explosion, a thorough examination was later made of the rooftops along the route believed to have been taken by the unknown subject. The theory was that the unknown person seen on the rooftop was in fact one of the arsonists. Numerous scraping samples were recovered from the rooftop of the adjacent building, which was mostly composition type covering, and these were also forwarded to the FBI Laboratory.

While examining the rooftops, the officers discovered a set of footprints at the rear of the building next door to the newspaper office where the typesetter heard someone run across the roof immediately after the explosion. These prints were at a location which would be the most logical place for someone to easily descend from the rooftop to the ground. The prints were not too legible and only one of value was located, showing the heel alongside the building. This indicated that the person leaving the prints was walking very close to the side of the building, when the normal way to leave the area would be to walk through an ample open area. The one legible footprint was photographed and preserved as evidence.

Wire Recording

The hotel proprietor and his wife were interviewed at the police department during the early morning of November 1, 1949, and wire recordings were



A view of the hotel during the fire.

made of their statements. Both claimed to have left the hotel at about 6 p. m. and to have been at the Halloween festival from that time on. The husband gave two "alibi" witnesses as proof, but these witnesses placed him at the festival at least 45 minutes before the fire. It will be recalled that a witness located earlier had seen the proprietor and his wife leave the hotel and walk toward the festival a few minutes before 6:44 p. m.

The prosecution adopted the theory that the proprietors made two trips to the festival, the first to establish their presence and the second after completing the final arrangements for the fire in the hotel.

Other Evidence

After the arrest of the proprietor and his wife, investigating officers made a search of the temporary quarters being occupied by them since the fire occurred. A considerable quantity of clothing was located, which the defendants were able to account for, stating that it was clothing that had been given to them by relatives to cover the clothing lost in the fire. However, some very personal articles belonging to the wife were found in these quarters. All gave evidence of having been used for some time.

When the proprietor was questioned as to how it happened that these personal articles had not been consumed in the fire, he stated that it was his

wife's habit to carry these personal articles in her purse at all times. He also stated that she had possessed these articles for quite some time. The wife, upon interview, admitted ownership of the articles, but claimed that she had purchased the articles at a drug store subsequent to the fire, which was in conflict with the statement made by her husband.

Early in the investigation it was learned that the proprietor had a brother from New Orleans, La., who had been living in the hotel but was absent from the time of the fire onward. Maj. William McNamara of the New Orleans Police Department was asked to make an investigation of the brother and to obtain the clothing and shoes worn by the brother the night he left Coronado. A comparison of the heel of the right shoe with a photograph of the heel print at the point where someone had come down off the building disclosed identical peculiarities as to wear, pattern, and size. On the basis of this evidence and conflicting statements made to both Major McNamara and the Coronado officers as to the time of the brother's departure from Coronado, a warrant for the brother's arrest was issued. The brother at first refused to waive extradition but later consented to return to California after extradition was ordered and authorized by the Governor of the State of Louisiana.

En route to California, the brother continued to deny any connection with the crime and maintained that he was in San Diego, across the bay from Coronado, at the time the fire broke out. He claimed to have gotten lost on his way out of the city of San Diego, although he had lived in the area several months and had made at least three automobile trips to and from New Orleans.

A sister of the proprietor operated another hotel in San Diego. She stated that at about 7 p. m. on the evening of October 31 she received a telephone call from another sister residing in Coronado, who informed her that the Strand Hotel was burning. The sister in San Diego stated to investigators that within a matter of no less than 5 minutes after receiving the first telephone call, she received a second call from the New Orleans brother, who stated, "I'm on this side now and we're headed out of town." She told him "the Strand Hotel is on fire," and he replied, "How did you find out?" It was found necessary to request the district attorney to bring this sister in for purposes of taking a deposition for later use in the trial. It was only after lengthy legal argument

that the prosecution was able to get into the record her statements pertaining to the telephone calls described.

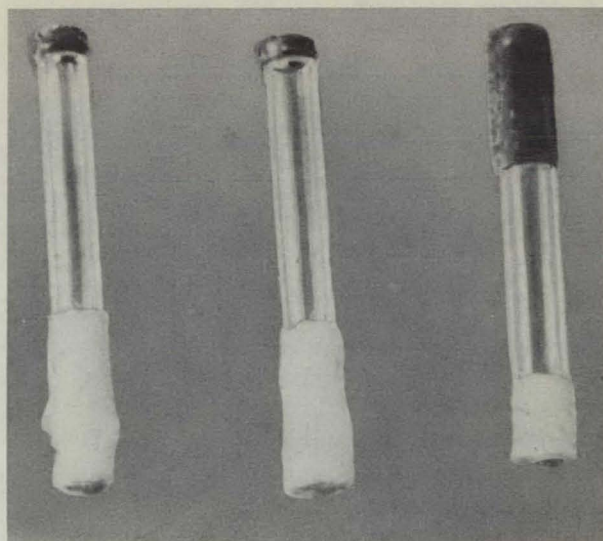
In connection with the brother's alibi that he had left Coronado at about 5:30 p. m., he was asked why, upon hearing that the Strand Hotel was burning and not knowing whether his brother and sister had been burned, he had not returned to Coronado. His reason was that he did not want to alarm his mother who was with him. He also claimed to have made another telephone call to his sister's home in Coronado from a point somewhere along Highway 80 in the mountainous back country of San Diego, stating that he wanted to secure additional details pertaining to the fire. He claimed he did not know from what point he made this call.

The location from which the call was made was determined to have been Descanso Junction, approximately 40 miles from San Diego, and it was further ascertained that the telephone call from this point was made at 9:40 p. m. In other words, the brother claimed that it took him 4 hours and 10 minutes to travel a distance of 40 miles and endeavored to offset the consumption of this amount of time by his claim to have gotten lost in San Diego.

The Trial

This case came to trial during the early part of February 1950, having been under almost continuous investigation since October 31, 1949. It would be safe to state that no less than 1,500 man-hours of investigation were given to the case.

As a matter of special interest, the deputy district attorney who prosecuted the case, Ned Kimball, was formerly a special agent of the FBI. Mr. Kimball did not enter the case until the people were about to go into superior court for the trial itself. It placed a serious handicap on him through lack of knowledge of many pertinent details of the case. The deputy district attorney, who was thoroughly familiar with the case, and who handled the matter in the preliminary hearing in municipal court, was not in a position to handle the superior court trial. However, Mr. Kimball spent many hours just before going into superior court, and performed an outstanding job in the prosecution. The trial consumed 3 weeks, in which over 50 prosecution witnesses appeared and testified for the people, and over 20 persons testified in behalf of the defense. A total



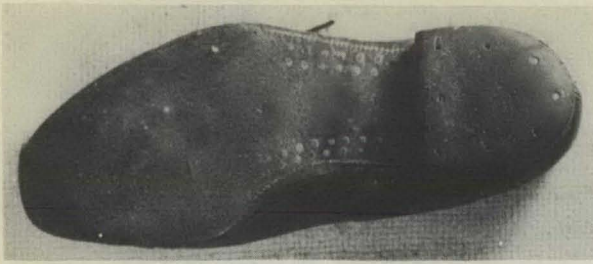
Vials containing volatile liquids distilled by the FBI Laboratory from rug samples.

of 137 physical exhibits of evidence were presented during the course of the trial, including the exhibits sent to the FBI Laboratory. In connection with the items sent to the laboratory, a total of 43 exhibits were sent for examination, but only about 6 items were finally used in court.

Physical Evidence

The laboratory was able by a distillation process to recover gasoline from the rug samples in the following quantities: 2.6 cubic centimeters, 3.5 cubic centimeters, and 12 cubic centimeters. The laboratory advised that the physical constants for each of the extracted specimens indicated that the hydrocarbons were high-boiling fractions of gasoline, or a similar petroleum hydrocarbon. In this connection a special agent of the FBI was sent from Washington to San Diego to testify for the prosecution. His testimony referred specifically to the gasoline recovered from the rug specimens sent to the laboratory in sealed metal containers.

Other physical exhibits introduced at the trial included an entire rug, only slightly burned, from the lobby, two large sections of hardwood floor chopped from their place in the floor, an electric light fixture which gave silent evidence as to the direction of the explosion in room 5, half of the wooden door blown from room 5, a portion of a badly burned door to room 9, the remains of all clothing as well as screenings of debris from an effort to recover buttons and other unburned parts of clothing such as zippers, etc. Approximately 125 photographs were made at various stages of



Shoe worn by the subject arrested in New Orleans.

the investigation, many of which were enlarged to a size 24 by 36 inches for easier viewing and study by the jury.

Maj. William McNamara of the New Orleans Police Department was subpoenaed and appeared in behalf of the prosecution to give testimony as to phases of the investigation conducted by him in New Orleans.

One defense witness testified at the trial that the proprietor's brother had left Coronado at approximately 5:15 p. m. He had forgotten that a wire recording had been made of his statement, taken only a few hours after the fire had occurred, in which he said the brother was still in Coronado as late as 6:15 p. m. or thereafter. The wire recording of his original statement was used at the trial in rebuttal as a means of impeaching his testimony.

The police department itself was able to place the proprietor's brother in Coronado as late as 5 p. m. on the afternoon of the fire. A police officer on patrol found the proprietor and the brother, both of whom were known to officers in Coronado, in the former's truck, illegally parked at a point near a vacant lot. From this location there was a clear view of the roofs of the buildings adjoining the hotel, including the location in the rear of the building where one man descended and left his heel print after running across the roof tops. The officer instructed the proprietor to park his truck legally. At that moment the 5 o'clock whistle blew and almost simultaneously the officer received a radio call to return to the police station. A check of the radio log disclosed that such a call had been made.

Another witness gave significant testimony to the effect that the hotel was losing money when she worked there in the summer of 1949, and that the proprietor had asked her if she would be willing to burn the hotel for a part of the insurance money. The proprietor had allegedly stated at that time that he knew how a fire could be set so that it would appear an accident, and by the time

it broke out he could be a block away by walking or two blocks by running.

Verdict of Guilty

The trial lasted 3 weeks. After being out over 6 hours, during which they had access to the many exhibits introduced, the jury returned a verdict of guilty as to all three defendants. The proprietor and his brother were subsequently sentenced to the State penitentiary for terms of 2 to 20 years and the proprietor's wife was given probation. The decision of the lower court was later affirmed by the California Appellate Court, to which it had been taken for review.

Fingerprints Eliminate Guesswork

The body of a young man found in a midwestern hotel on June 13, 1952, was tentatively identified by the name under which he had apparently registered. This identification was confirmed by the personal observation of some 30 friends and relatives. Although the mother commented that the body did not look "very much" like her son, a funeral was held and the interment took place.

Ten days later the supposed dead man appeared at his home. He said he had registered at the hotel after leaving an Army camp. Following his registration he went to a tavern where he met two friends. These friends introduced him to another man who subsequently returned to the hotel room with him. While they talked, the new acquaintance suddenly slumped to the floor. Unable to revive him, the young man lifted him onto the bed and then fell asleep himself. Next morning he found his bedfellow was dead. Fearing implication, he fled the hotel leaving all of his possessions behind.

The body was exhumed and fingerprints were taken and forwarded to the FBI for identification. The deceased person was identified as an enlisted man in the United States Army.

BRIBERY

It is a violation of Federal law for any person to offer or give a bribe to an officer or agent of the United States in an effort to influence his official action. It is likewise a violation for any Federal officer or agent to solicit or accept a bribe in return for his influence or action on an official matter.

Science and Police Skill

Solve a Mystery

On November 6, 1951, a group of men hunting small game in the hills near West Reading, Pa., came across a badly decomposed male body in the underbrush. They immediately notified Chief of Police Raymond Miller who, with the coroner, made a thorough examination. They determined that the man had been dead for approximately 11 weeks; that his clothing was rotted, and that there was no identifying material readily available.

Experience had taught Chief Miller that on many occasions clues which appeared to be useless and innocuous could assume important proportions. The chief gathered together all the evidence which was available. He made a personal trip to the FBI Laboratory at Washington, D. C., taking with him the following:

1. The fingers of the deceased.
2. Specimens of hair.
3. A scrap of badly matted paper adhering to what appeared to be a claim check of some sort. The writing on this paper was practically obliterated due to exposure to rain and sun for an extended period.
4. Specimens of what appeared to be red and purple pills which were found near the body.
5. A medicine bottle containing a white liquid found on the body.

Examination at the FBI determined that it was impossible to obtain any clear fingerprints; however, the hair specimens were identified as being predominantly Caucasian and the original color was determined. From examination, the laboratory was able to bring out a name and a portion of an address on the piece of matted paper. The alleged claim check was identified as a Greyhound bus ticket. The number on the ticket was restored and reflected the traveler's destination as Harrisburg, Pa., and the date as either August 25 or August 29.

In the meantime Chief Miller had received an inquiry from a man in New Jersey who wondered if the unidentified body might be that of his father who had disappeared. The name of the man making the inquiry was the same as that found on the scrap of paper. Further, his address corresponded to the portion of the address which the laboratory examination brought out on the paper. Chief Miller located the ticket seller and his description of the man to whom he had sold the

ticket was the same as that of the missing New Jersey man. The ticket seller remembered the purchaser of the ticket because he had appeared to be ill at the time of the purchase.

The missing man's physician furnished a description of the ingredients used in the medicines which he had prescribed for him and the FBI Laboratory was able to determine that the pills and white liquid had the same basic content as the medicine prescribed by the doctor. With this information at hand, Chief Miller was able to solve two problems—the identity of the unknown deceased and the whereabouts of the missing man.

Chief Miller, who is married and has two grown sons, heads a six-man police force in West Reading, Pa. He has been a law enforcement officer for 23 years, and has served as chief of police since 1936. In September 1938, Chief Miller organized the West Reading Police Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps which is still active as a step toward combating juvenile delinquency in his community. A graduate of the twenty-fourth session of the FBI National Academy in 1944, he has been active for a number of years in forming various police training schools in Berks County, as well as serving as instructor at these schools. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and since 1950 has served as a member of the important educational committee of that association.

Hit-and-Run Cases

The hit-and-run driver is a problem to law enforcement everywhere. The possibility of this type of crime exists whenever roads and highways traverse an area or where motor vehicles operate.

Frequently the crime will occur at night. There are no witnesses—no one to report the license number or the description of the killer car. When the investigator arrives at the scene there appears to be little information available to him. But, actually, there may be considerably more evidence than he realizes in the form of small flakes of paint adhering to the victim's clothing, glass splinters from headlight lens, or clumps of dirt knocked from under the fenders of the hit-and-run car and spread along the paved highway surface. As small and inconspicuous as these bits of materials might appear, they have nevertheless proved of immeasurable value in determining the identity of automobiles leaving the scene of accidents.

WANTED BY THE FBI

ARNOLD HINSON, with aliases: S. B. Gray, Alec Henson, Leo Charles Hill, Alec Hinson, Arnold Alexander Hinson, Mike L. Hinson, J. M. Moncrief, Raymond D. Slattery, G. S. Todd, Steve Todd, "Al," "Red" and others.



Unlawful Flight To Avoid Prosecution (Murder)

On June 17, 1952, the body of a ranch hand was found in an open field on the property of a sheep-raising company near Millegan, Mont. The victim had four bullet holes through his head. It was determined that he had been shot in the company's farmhouse and then hauled to the field where the corpse was discovered.

Further investigation revealed that the murdered man had been seen alive during the afternoon of June 16, 1952, in a nearby town in company with two other ranch hands, Arnold Hinson and his wife. At approximately 6 p. m. on that day the Hinsons suddenly quit their jobs at the ranch and drew their accrued pay. After gathering their belongings from the farmhouse where they stayed, the Hinsons hastily departed in a pickup truck bearing Washington State license plates.

Subsequent investigation reflected that this pickup truck had been stolen at Spokane, Wash., in the first week of May 1952. After State warrants were obtained at Great Falls, Mont., charging the Hinsons with the murder of the farmhand, information was received indicating that they had fled from the State of Montana.

On June 20, 1952, a complaint was filed before a United States Commissioner at Great Falls, Mont., charging Arnold Hinson and June Hinson with

a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1073, in that they fled from the State of Montana to avoid prosecution for the crime of murder.

Record

Arnold Hinson's criminal record reflects a long series of arrests for offenses involving car thefts. On May 7, 1936, he was received at the United States Industrial Reformatory, Chillicothe, Ohio, after being sentenced to a year and a day on conviction of the Federal charge of transporting a stolen car in interstate commerce. He was subsequently transferred to the Federal Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pa., and was conditionally released on February 10, 1937. Shortly afterward he was charged and convicted of grand larceny and was incarcerated at the State Prison, Raiford, Fla., on July 28, 1937, to serve two consecutive sentences of 1 year each. Released upon the expiration of this sentence in March 1939, he was returned to the same prison on April 8, 1940, to serve a 2-year sentence after conviction for larceny of an automobile. He escaped on July 17, 1941, but was recaptured the same day. On March 29, 1942, he was released upon expiration of sentence.

Hinson resumed his criminal specialty of car thievery and on May 14, 1942, was placed on probation for 4 years by Federal authorities at Savannah, Ga., for interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle. In September 1942, he was arrested in Quitman, Tex., in possession of a car stolen at Mobile, Ala. On December 30, 1942, he was imprisoned for a 3-year term at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., after being convicted of interstate transportation of this stolen automobile. On the basis of this conviction, his 4-year Federal probation was revoked on April 9, 1943, and he was given an additional 2-year sentence.

During this incarceration, a board of examiners at the prison found Hinson to be psychotic, and he was transferred to the medical center for Federal prisoners at Springfield, Mo., on September 15, 1945. He was subsequently given a conditional release on July 18, 1947.

In January of 1948, Hinson was arrested at Miami, Fla., as a conditional release violator due to failure to maintain contact with Federal authorities, and on January 16, 1948, was returned to the medical center at Springfield, Mo., where he served until discharged at expiration of sentence on June 1, 1948.

In 1928 Hinson was arrested for breaking and entering at Jacksonville, Fla., but the charge was dropped.

Hinson is reported to be a heavy drinker, with a particular liking for wine. He is said to become violent and belligerent when intoxicated. During various terms of imprisonment, he has been regarded as an agitator and as a surly and dangerous individual.

At the time of his disappearance, Hinson was accompanied by his wife, June Hinson, who is described as follows:

Age----- 35, born June 1, 1918, Graves County, Ky.
Height----- 5 feet 1 inches to 5 feet 4½ inches.
Weight----- 97 to 108 pounds.
Hair----- Brown.
Eyes----- Brown or hazel.
Build----- Slight.
Complexion. Medium; blunt features.

Hinson is believed to be armed and should be considered extremely dangerous.

He is described as follows:

Age----- 40, born January 23, 1913, Jacksonville, Fla.
Height----- 5 feet 8 inches.
Weight----- 180 pounds.
Build----- Stocky.
Hair----- Brown.
Eyes----- Blue.
Complexion. Medium.
Race----- White.
Nationality. American.
Occupations Welder, electrician, painter, mechanic, shipyard worker, ranch hand, foundry laborer.
Scars and marks. 1-inch cut scar above right eye, 1-inch dent scar center forehead, pitted scar between eyebrows, ½-inch scar over outer corner of right brow, scar at outer angle left eye, shot through left hand, 2-inch oblique scar at left elbow, front, ½-inch oblique scar on base of right thumb rear, scar on right muscle above elbow outer back, large scar left knee, scar right kneecap.

FBI No.----- 1,048,012.

Fingerprint classification. $\frac{14\ M\ 9\ U\ IOM\ 10}{M\ 2\ U\ IOI}$

Notify FBI

Any person having information which may assist in locating Arnold Hinson is requested to immediately notify the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the Division of the FBI nearest his city.

Items To Remember

OBLITERATED SERIAL NUMBERS on weapons and machines can be restored by FBI Laboratory technicians.

THE NATIONAL FRAUDULENT CHECK FILE maintained by the FBI serves as a clearinghouse for the identification of handwriting and other marks contained on checks submitted by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

FRAUDULENT CHECKS submitted to the FBI Laboratory for examination and comparison with the National Fraudulent Check File should be accompanied by all the information available concerning the passer and his method of operation.

A WATERMARK made by a dandy roll (a woven wire gauze-covered skeleton roll having the watermark device soldered or sewn to the face of the roll) can be photographed with the aid of "soft" X-ray regardless of handwriting, typewriting or printed matter which may obscure it.

CHEMICAL AND SEROLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS of bloodstained evidence are often of vital importance in the solution of crimes of violence and can eliminate many hours of tedious "leg work" which might otherwise be necessary to disprove a false alibi, or substantiate the suspect's alibi and expedite the release of an innocent person.

CARTRIDGE CASES found at the scene of a murder will, in many instances, give some indication of the type of gun involved.

PAINT may be analyzed in the FBI Laboratory according to color, texture, layer structure, pigmentation, extenders, vehicles and spectrographic composition.

BLOODSTAINS on articles submitted to the FBI Laboratory for examination should be completely dry before the article is wrapped; otherwise putrefaction of the blood will occur in transit. Putrefied blood is unsuitable for a complete and conclusive analysis.

Questionable Pattern

FINGERPRINTS



The pattern shown above is a loop with three ridge counts. When an island formation appears on the sufficient recurve, the innermost branch is the one considered making the recurve. In the above pattern the core is placed on the shoulder at point C.