

# FBI

## *Law Enforcement*

# BULLETIN



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

# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

Restricted to the Use of Law Enforcement Officials

JUNE 1955

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## CONTENTS

*Statement of Director J. Edgar Hoover* . . . . . 1

### *Feature Article:*

- Some results from the 1954 conferences on Interstate Transportation of  
Stolen Property . . . . . 2
- Value of Field Interrogation Report System, by Deputy Inspector  
Raymond A. Dahl, Milwaukee, Wis., Police Department . . . . . 8

### *Traffic:*

- Bicycle Safety Program Becomes a Civic Project, by Carl E. Armstrong,  
Chief of Police, Sanger, Calif. . . . . 12

### *Scientific Aids:*

- Economical Flash Unit for Speed and Accuracy, by Lt. R. D. Stearns,  
Supt., Identification Bureau, Palm Beach, Fla., Police Department . . 16
- National Fraudulent Check File . . . . . 19

### *Identification:*

- Questionable Pattern . . . . . *Back cover*

### *Other Topics:*

- Case of a Master Check Passer . . . . . 7
- School Visits and Pamphlets Build a Safety Program, by Sheriff F. B.  
Simpson, Cass County, Walker, Minn. . . . . 21
- Police Career Honored in Montana . . . . . 23
- Wanted by the FBI . . . . . 24
- Unidentified Deceased . . . . . 24

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

June 1, 1955

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

The fight against crime and subversion is an unceasing struggle for the survival of the decent and moral way of life. Throughout the history of civilized society, grave responsibility for the welfare of nations and peoples has rested in good law enforcement. Experience demonstrates that the cooperation of individuals who can readily furnish accurate information is essential if law enforcement is to discharge its obligations.

The objective of the investigator must be to ferret out the truth. It is fundamental that the search include the most logical source of information--those persons with immediate access to necessary facts who are willing to cooperate in the interest of the common good. Their services contribute greatly to the ultimate goal of justice--convicting the guilty and clearing the innocent. Necessarily unheralded in their daily efforts, they not only uncover crimes but also furnish the intelligence data so vital in preventing serious violations of law and national security.

There can be no doubt that the use of informants in law enforcement is justified. The public interest and the personal safety of these helpful citizens demand the zealous protection of their confidence. Unlike the totalitarian practice, the informant in America serves of his own free will, fulfilling one of the citizenship obligations of our democratic form of government.

The criminal and subversive underworld has long sought to destroy our effective informant system. Nothing could possibly render more aid to the enemy than the premature and unwarranted disclosure of these vital sources of information. Appearance as a witness in a court of law is certainly a most logical time for revealing the identity of an informant.

This rational and productive technique is an essential safeguard against the evil forces which threaten national and individual security. To surrender one of our most potent weapons at this critical time is to invite destruction.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is stylized, with a large "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



Some results ☆  
from the 1954  
conferences on ☆

# Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property

A series of FBI Law Enforcement Conferences on the subject of Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property, planned as a step toward more effective action against this violation, was completed during the calendar year of 1954. One hundred forty-four conferences were held with a total attendance of 10,142 persons representing 5,570 agencies. Of these agencies, 2,960 were law enforcement agencies, 812 were banks, and 322 were hotels. The remaining 1,476 agencies represented included organizations such as Better Business Bureaus, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, Chambers of Commerce, credit bureaus, department stores, and others.

In general, the conferences were of the open forum type designed to promote discussion and an accompanying exchange of information among participants. The discussions were divided chiefly into three phases: fraudulent checks, major thefts, and confidence game swindles.

Discussion leaders from the law enforcement field included both FBI Agents and local officers, as violations of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute naturally represent a local crime or at least a police problem in the community in which the theft or illegal act occurred. Attorneys, representatives of banks, hotels, department stores, Better Business Bureaus, insurance companies, and others vitally concerned with the problem also appeared on the panels.

While the suggestions made during these informative 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. The various suggestions, opinions, and experiences which are set out here should be regarded merely as a collection of some of the conclusions and ideas resulting from the various conferences. *They should not in any way be considered as carrying the expressed or implied recommendation of the FBI.*

## **Fraudulent Checks**

Of paramount interest to the conferees were the talks concerning the problem of the fraudulent check passer. Law enforcement officers were primarily interested in informing the businessmen present of the Federal and State jurisdictions, of the necessity of promptly reporting the receipt of fraudulent checks, and of the wisdom of taking precautionary measures to prevent being victimized by fraudulent check passers. Various officers pointed out that many businessmen failed to report the receipt of fraudulent checks to the proper authorities and that even a greater number were extremely reluctant to prosecute the criminal after he was apprehended in the event the latter agreed to make restitution. In an effort to combat this apathy, it was noted that an apprehended bad check passer will probably continue his activities if he is not prosecuted. The observation was made that most professional check artists work on percentages and, assuming that they are caught in a small percentage of the cases, they can well afford to maintain a sinking fund to take care of those instances in which they are apprehended.

## **General Suggestions**

In the interest of faster investigations, police officers urged bank clearinghouses to make available to law enforcement agencies as soon as possible a list of their fraudulent checks, thereby enabling the law enforcement agencies to start investigation at an early date. Along this line, it was indicated that at least one clearinghouse is now considering a procedure whereby it would return the fraudulent check directly to the first bank which received it. This would enable the investigation to begin promptly in the area where the check passer operated.

The suggestion was made that space might be provided on the face of employment checks for the payee to place his signature when receiving



his check. This signature could then be compared with the signature of the payee when he endorses the check at the time he cashes it.

Law enforcement officers stressed the value of thoroughly interviewing an arrested check passer regarding all checks he had passed around the country in order to help other officers clear up their bad checks.

Officials of banks small enough to make the plan feasible mentioned the success of a practice of accompanying to the teller's window any individual for whom they had approved the cashing of a check, or of telephonically contacting the teller, giving him the person's name and the amount of the check. This would prevent the person from increasing the amount for which the check originally was written.

The practice of using cameras for the purpose of photographing unknown persons who desire to cash checks was discussed at several conferences. It was noted that such a practice on the one hand might have a good psychological effect but on the other hand might antagonize customers.

The procedure of requiring a person cashing a check to place a thumbprint or fingerprint on the face of the check was discussed. The majority of the conferees felt that the chief value of this plan would be the psychological effect but that it might be a poor business practice. It was also noted that in most instances results in effecting an identification through this method required the passer to be sufficiently well known to be considered as a logical suspect.

It was frequently pointed out that the number of employees in various business houses with authority to cash checks should be at a minimum and that those few employees should be trained as effectively as possible to detect fraud. Several instances were mentioned wherein business firms conducted such classes for employees.

### ***Require Identification***

In this connection, great emphasis was placed on the necessity of requiring proper identification from any stranger who desired to cash a check, with many persons pointing out that by so doing businessmen could practically singlehandedly defeat the check passer.

How to determine the authenticity of a stranger's identification was the theme of numerous discussions, with participants warning that "anything that can be made can be duplicated." The

bankers, hotel officials, merchants, and other businessmen often called upon to cash checks were urged to exercise the best possible judgment, to read carefully the identification presented, to take time to scrutinize carefully the check passer so as to be able to describe him accurately later if necessary, and to obtain the address and telephone number of the individual before cashing his check. Many felt that a brief check of city directories followed by a telephone call to the given number could eliminate numerous bad checks. These businessmen were also urged to pay close attention to photographs and descriptions of known check artists appearing in various publications, on wanted circulars, and on identification orders. Merchants and hotel men in particular were warned of the check passer's tendency to write checks in excess of the amount owed and were urged to refrain, when possible, from cashing checks in excess of this amount. In short, all were warned to be "courteously suspicious."

Although no one suggested that merchants and other businessmen should go as far as the storekeeper who posted on his cash register a sign reading: "We have an agreement with the bank—they don't sell chewing tobacco and we don't cash checks," the general opinion among participants was that the success of the bad check passer depended upon the degree of discrimination exercised by businessmen in accepting the checks.

### ***Loss of Business***

Some store representatives objected to too rigid standards of identification, stating that such practices could alienate not only the person attempting to cash a check but also his family and friends, thereby resulting in considerable loss of business for the firm. They felt it would be poor business procedure to antagonize customers indiscriminately in order to obtain detailed identification from "hot check" passers.

As a possible answer to the merchants' fear of losing business to competitors who cash checks freely and graciously—and often carelessly—the suggestion was made that all merchants in a given city should band together and set up definite rigid standards which would have to be met as to identification, etc., by the person desiring to cash a check. They felt that if all merchants abided strictly by these regulations, there would be no loss of business to any one merchant and all would profit by the decrease in bad checks.



## ***Warning Systems***

Many suggestions were made in favor of an "SOS" system of alarming businessmen in a community when a check passer either passed or attempted to pass a fraudulent check. According to information brought out in one of the conferences, over 100 merchants in a midwestern city have formed a very effective organization for that purpose. All the members have agreed that regardless of proper restitution, prosecution in all instances should be pressed. When it is learned that a known check passer is in the neighborhood, the central agency is immediately notified. Five predetermined companies are then called and advised of the activities of this individual, and each of these companies in turn advises five more. At the third stage, over 100 companies have been advised within a very few minutes.

A hotel association in a Western State has a somewhat similar system of alerting potential victims of the presence of a check passer. When a hotel is victimized, the name of the bad check passer, his description, and modus operandi are furnished to the association, which telephones three key hotels. Each of these notifies three others. This continues until all the member hotels are notified. The member hotels file descriptive data in a card index file. Arrival lists are watched daily. If the name of the suspected check passer appears, the registration card is pulled and the signature checked. If there is any indication of an identification, the police department is immediately notified.

That similar systems can be effectively used by law enforcement agencies is exemplified by several small police departments in a Western State which cooperate with each other by having each department take one particular crime and maintain a file on this crime, including persons wanted, arrested, their modus operandi and description. This department then acts as a clearinghouse for this type of crime for this group of cities. The department selected to establish the file for bad checks has set up a 3 by 5 alphabetical card index system. The cards are cross-filed against all other names contained on the check, such as the drawer's and payee's names. This file has enabled other small departments to get desired information and obtain convictions. It was decided not to destroy the cards as they become inactive but rather to maintain them in an inactive section of the file for reference purposes.

The district attorney's office in a Western State is using telephone, TV and radio facilities to notify merchants and the public at large of the presence and method of operation of fraudulent check passers.

## ***Informative Pamphlets***

Several people attending the conferences indicated that in a number of areas informative pamphlets have been distributed among business houses which are often called upon to cash checks. The purpose of these pamphlets is to awaken the businessmen to the necessity of requiring proper identification. One sheriff stated that the number of bad checks being passed in his area had decreased by approximately 50 percent since he, other law enforcement officers and merchants discussed the problem and passed on their recommendations to the local chamber of commerce, which in turn distributed an informative pamphlet on the subject.

## ***Helpful Practices***

In order to make the check passer's task more difficult, bankers in a midwestern town have discontinued supplying printed blank checks to the merchants of the town. They now provide a check known as a "universal check," which requires the drawer to fill in the name of the bank on which the check is drawn. The bankers state that fraudulent check passers have more difficulty passing checks of this type than those printed with a bank's name. Another banker stated that he felt it wise to have all counter checks maintained in bank lobbies conspicuously marked so that the attention of bank employees asked to cash such checks would be immediately drawn to the fact that the check had been obtained in the bank lobby. The employees thus would be more alert to the possibility of fraud.

One banker mentioned the fact that his bank keeps a record of all the checks which they refuse to honor. They make a note of automobile license numbers and other identifying data which have been written on the check by the merchant or other person who accepted the check. He stated that this information is available to police officers.

## ***Legislation Regarding Checks***

Several officers and prosecuting attorneys complained of the inadequacy of legislation concerning fraudulent check violations in some parts of



the country. In some states, passing a fraudulent check is considered only a misdemeanor. In other States the law permits passers of "not sufficient funds" checks a certain number of days in which to make the check good. One policeman mentioned a law in his State which required that the passer of a bad check must be advised in writing 10 days prior to prosecutive action. He noted that a racket has started wherein a large number of hoodlums deposit a few dollars to their accounts in one or more banks and then proceed to write an endless number of large checks. Then when the investigation begins, they take advantage of the 10-day clause and leisurely leave the State. Another policeman stated that bringing out-of-state witnesses back for the prosecution presents a problem as his State does not have funds for that purpose.

A banker pointed out that the practice of cashing checks without proper identification costs bankers thousands of dollars every year in the form of increased insurance premiums. It was mentioned that all too many banks, hotels, and department stores absorb their losses rather than incur the risk of being sued for false arrest. They felt that as long as this situation exists, *preventive measures* must be taken by all concerned in order to curb the activities of the check passer.

Many people expressed interest in the facilities of the FBI Laboratory and the existence of the National Fraudulent Check File. Others were glad to have local and Federal jurisdiction clarified. (FBI jurisdiction is explained fully in the March 1954 *Law Enforcement Bulletin*.)

A department store executive summarized the accomplishments of this phase of the conference when he stated that he considered the meeting had accomplished a splendid purpose in bringing together a cross section of law enforcement and businessmen for the purpose of alerting them concerning the tremendous volume of bad check activities, showing what could be done by merchants to prevent their being victimized, and demonstrating clearly the interest of both local and Federal law enforcement in following through on appropriate cases within their respective jurisdictions for the purpose of prosecution. He felt the conferences had clearly established the importance of public cooperation in the bad-check business.

### **Major Thefts**

Discussion of the "major theft" problem, including the transportation in interstate or foreign

commerce of stolen goods, brought forth a number of valuable observations. In one conference, an insurance representative emphasized the willingness of his company to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in major thefts, particularly those involving jewelry, furs, silverware, and other valuables covered by insurance. He cited examples of his company's furnishing shipping funds and rental fees for a lie detector when the investigating law enforcement agency did not have such funds available. He expressed his opinion that the practice of "buying back" stolen property should be done only with the knowledge of the law enforcement agency handling the investigation of the theft or burglary in question.

A representative of a hotel protective association stated that thefts of jewels from salesmen have become a major hotel problem and, accordingly, he was particularly interested in the discussion relative to jewel theft investigations. He pointed out that law suits have been brought against hotels as a result of thefts of salesmen's jewelry cases and merchandise.

A representative of the National Board of Fire Underwriters referred to the failure of some victims to report major thefts within a reasonable period of time after their discovery. He cited as a reason for this delay a desire to avoid embarrassment and unfavorable publicity together with the hope that the material had been mislaid rather than stolen. He recommended that concerted efforts be directed toward the development of a consciousness on the part of all persons that the time element is an important factor in the investigation and should not be sacrificed by the victims.

### **Swindles**

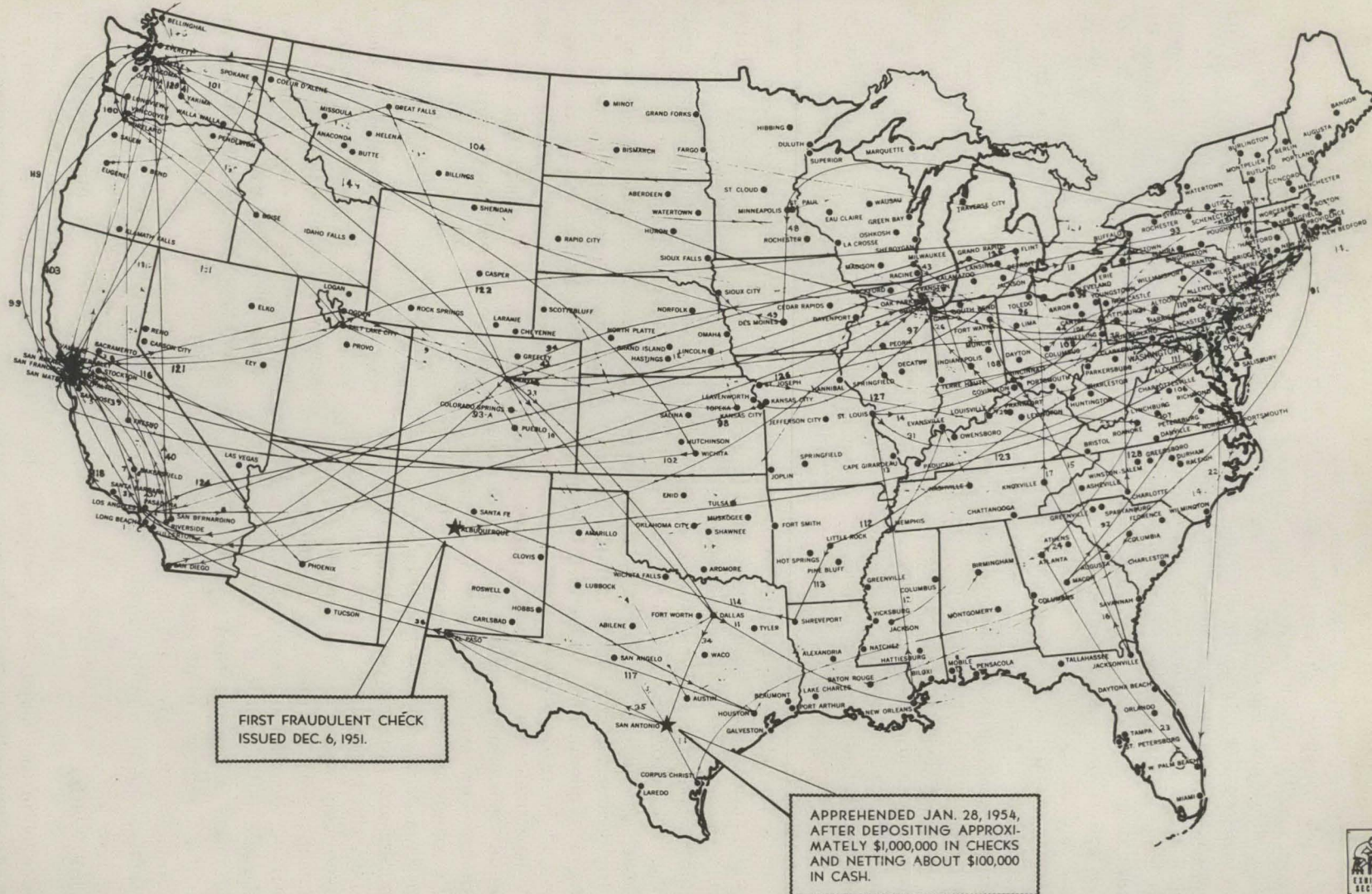
Bunco schemes were also discussed, with various individuals decrying the viciousness of such schemes which often deprive trusting, elderly people of their life's savings. Suggestions were made to the effect that well-planned educational programs should be instituted to warn of the modus operandi of such swindlers.

One district attorney pointed out that these schemers are cool, calculating, highly trained specialists and, therefore, investigation of them requires highly trained specialists in the law enforcement world. He warned officers that often their most difficult task in this type of investiga-

(Continued on page 20)



# OVER 110,000 MILES BY FREDERICK DOUGLAS GEORGE, MASTER CHECK PASSER





# CASE OF A MASTER CHECK PASSER

The chart on the previous page shows the travels of Frederick Douglas George, master check passer, who victimized banks throughout 44 States for approximately 26 months, traveling over 110,000 miles and netting approximately \$100,000 in cash. The spree of check activities which brought this confidence man to the attention of the FBI began in New Mexico in December 1951, and ended in Texas in January 1954. In the interim, he traversed the country many times, following no set system in his travels but following a uniform system of operation.

Drawing upon a collection of approximately 1,800 familiar-sounding aliases, George would approach a teller during a busy period of the day. To the teller, he appeared to be a regular customer who had come in to deposit some checks to his account. As a rule he presented from two to seven checks, which appeared to be authentic. He confidently presented a previously prepared deposit slip and duplicate deposit slip listing checks he purported to deposit. Once the teller had stamped the duplicate slip, George handed him a counter check which was always made out for a mere fraction of the amount he had just "deposited." The writing on the various checks and other items used in each transaction was so skillfully done that no two appeared to be written by the same person, as George was a master of disguise in the handwriting field. Usually, the teller unhesitatingly cashed the check. In the cases where a wary teller left the window to check on this "customer's" status with the bank, George walked briskly away before he could be detained.

Although the checks on which George actually received cash were not out-of-state items and did not constitute violations of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute, most of the items making up the deposits were prepared on out-of-state banks. These were calculated to secure the confidence of the tellers and to take their minds off the sole purpose of George's visit—the cashing of a counter check. In this manner, George defrauded three banks within an hour at Louisville, Ky., on April 4, 1952. Thereafter, on April 17, 1952, George, under the alias of Harold S. Gibson, was charged in a Federal complaint at Louisville, Ky., with knowingly causing falsely made checks to be transported interstate.

As FBI agents contacted more and more victim banks, a more detailed physical description emerged. Identifications of George's worthless checks in the FBI Laboratory spotted his irregular travels across the Nation. The FBI spread this information to law enforcement agencies and banking associations, setting up a network of alerts.

Finally the system paid off. On January 28, 1954, while conversing with an FBI agent, a Galveston, Tex., police officer mentioned he had received word that several local banks had been victimized earlier in the day, all within less than an hour. When he described the check artist and his method of operation, the agent realized that the swindler was possibly identical with the long-sought George. Swift cooperative action followed. George's trail was picked up and, on the basis of a telephone call from the Galveston Police Department, he was apprehended by members of the San Antonio, Tex., Police Department as he stepped off a plane in that city on that same day.

When interviewed by FBI agents and confronted with his long string of Federal offenses, determined from investigation and through the identifications of his bad checks by the FBI Laboratory, George admitted his identity and guilt. Later, he was convicted in Federal court at Louisville, Ky., and received a total of 12 years' imprisonment for his check-passing activities.

George boasted that he could victimize 3 or 4 establishments within a period of 12 minutes. He stated that, to confuse witnesses, he wore one suit of clothes when checking into a hotel, another while victimizing banks, and a third while hurrying from his hotel to the local airport. He unwittingly paid tribute to the system of alerting other establishments when a swindler is known to be in town, as he said an attempt to victimize one bank was thwarted when he entered a second bank in one city to find an official hurrying from cage to cage, apparently alerting the tellers to the fact that another local bank had just been swindled.

The activities and modus operandi of Frederick Douglas George illustrate some of the problems involved in dealing with the bad check passer and emphasize the value of requiring proper identification or knowing the payee in order to prevent the success of this type of criminal.





## FEATURE ARTICLE

In a modern police department there builds up in the minds of alert officers a vast amount of knowledge concerning people—both criminals and noncriminals. Their activities, modus operandi, habits, companions, description of their cars, license numbers, etc., are of tremendous value in efficient police operation. One thing which has been lacking in many police organizations is a means of sharing and spreading this knowledge to all sections of the department having a use for it.

Any department, even one fortunate enough to have a detective bureau comprised of highly competent and experienced men, can improve its results by establishing a system whereby all other members can submit their observations, contacts and suspicions to these men for review and comparison. Modern police work can no longer be a system of *individuals*, no matter how devoted or competent—rather, it must be one of group teamwork and cooperative effort, utilizing all the eyes, ears, and minds available to it and providing a system whereby all information available daily comes in for review.

All departments carry on a modified program of some type, hoping to accomplish the objectives outlined above. The fact that an officer is expected to report to the detective bureau in writing any information of possible value regarding cases under investigation recognizes the need for this program. The problem then is how to get the job done. First we must recognize a basic fact—that police officers generally shy away from writing reports, especially after a tour of duty. They are concerned about composition, criticism, time, and reaction to their effort. While they are interested and will pass on their information by word of mouth, they usually do not get the information to the men to whom it will be of most value. Therefore we first must *overcome the formal report block* by designing a simple fill-in information card (field interrogation) on which, briefly, the officer in the field can record his contact and observation. This card is turned in to the desk sergeant at the end of a tour of duty and for-

# Value of Field Interrogation Report System

by DEPUTY INSPECTOR RAYMOND A. DAHL,  
*Milwaukee, Wis., Police Department*

warded daily to the detective bureau for study, checking, and necessary followup.

The success of a field interrogation program, then, depends upon its being sold to the department through the inservice training courses, so that every member of the department understands the objectives, the techniques, and the workings, and is kept currently apprised of any results.

### Guide Sheet

We inaugurated our field interrogation program in the Milwaukee Police Department by furnishing to all members a mimeographed detailed outline of the program, and we have continued the emphasis and explanation of this procedure. The guide sheet sets forth the importance and legality of field interrogations and gives the reasons and occasions for these, lists the correct procedures to be used and the questioning tactics to be followed, and explains the use of the field interrogation reports.

### Importance

In the Milwaukee Police Department, "field" refers to any operation dealing directly with the public away from a police building which operation has as its primary duty the accomplishment of crime detection, crime suppression, or the maintenance of public tranquillity. "Interrogation" means examining by questioning.

We stress the fact that one of the most important police techniques in the field of crime prevention is the continued stopping and questioning of persons observed under suspicious circumstances by patrolling police officers.

Criminals are not often caught in the act; therefore, the success of a law enforcement agency in both its apprehension and prevention results is largely dependent upon the consistency of observations, the alertness and inquisitiveness of individual officers, and the subsequent interrogation of suspicious persons. The art of securing informa-



tion and questioning people in the field involves many attributes. Every officer should try to develop these skills:

1. Be alert and observing;
2. Be suspicious;
3. Recognize the unusual;
4. Be a diplomat;
5. Be subtle;
6. Have a good memory;
7. Enjoy matching wits with people;
8. Use indirect questions;
9. Have a good "line";
10. Be thorough.

## Legality

From time to time, the matter of an officer's right to stop and interrogate a suspect becomes an issue. In order that our officers may be fully informed regarding the law covering this matter, we point out that, although compulsion constitutes arrest, *a police officer in Wisconsin may, without compulsion, interrogate a suspect and request him to go to the police station for further questioning.* The case usually referred to in Wisconsin in this matter is *Gunderson v. Struebing*, 125 Wis. 173 (1905).

In the above-mentioned case, the court justified an officer's action in making such an investigation of an alleged theft of gloves from a store in Oshkosh. The supreme court of the State of Wisconsin stated that there was nothing unlawful "if the officer, in the discharge of his duty, in good faith invited plaintiff to the police station for the purpose of interrogating him and investigating the charge with a view of deciding on future action, and without any intention at that time of putting plaintiff under arrest or restraint." The court, in effect, expressed the thought that a police officer, acting in good faith in the discharge of his duties with a view and purpose of investigating the circumstances of a case or situation, has a right to make inquiry in a proper manner of anyone upon a public street as to his identity and the occasion for his presence, *if* the circumstances and surroundings are such as to indicate to a reasonable man that the public safety demands such identification.

## Reasons and Occasions

Field interrogation is pertinent whenever "a person for any reason leads you to believe circumstances might not be normal," and generally dur-



Deputy Inspector Raymond A. Dahl.

ing late and unusual hours. Apparent strangers and persons of a description not usually found in the particular vicinity are logically subject to field interrogations.

To an observant and well-trained officer on patrol, the sight of individuals under unusual circumstances will furnish probable cause for field interrogation. There are listed below some examples we have set out as possible danger signs which should alert the officer to the possibility of criminal activity:

(a) Young man in warm weather, crossing street, wearing an overcoat with collar turned up and hat pulled down. (Burglar.)

(b) Man starting to cross street, catching his heel on curb and grabbing his hip or under his arm. (Holdup-man, armed.)

(c) Young man or boy driving expensive car. (Auto theft.)

(d) Man flattened against building. (Stickup, or officers "shaking down" some suspects.)

(e) Man stepping out of alley, looking up and down street and going back into the alley. (About to commit a crime if coast is clear, or playing it safe.)

(f) Person standing near cash register and clerk apparently "frozen." (Holdup in progress.)

(g) Person moving from one car to another. (Petty theft—auto theft.)

(h) Person standing alongside a parked car for several minutes. (May be attempting to open door for theft.)

(i) Person standing in a doorway, near a hospital. (Pervert—indecent exposure.)



(j) Person tampering with motor. (Look for loose wire which is used to jump the ignition.)

(k) Person standing between buildings. (Purse snatcher or slugger.)

(l) Person in building under construction. (May be hiding loot—or pervert.)

(m) Person loitering in public toilet. (Pervert.)

(n) Person walking back and forth in front of, or across the street from, a gas station, market, liquor store, Western Union. (Casing the place.)

(o) Person walking in area in which you are answering a call of robbery or burglary. (Possibly a logical suspect.)

(p) Person loitering in alley. (Drunk roller.)

(q) Person loitering around a place at closing time. (Holdup.)

(r) Person running at night. (Might be either late for work or a criminal.)

(s) Person deliberately jostling others in a crowd. (Pickpocket.)

(t) Persons inquiring about neighbors. (Casing for a burglary.)

(u) Persons loitering on bridges and viaducts and in rotundas of high buildings. (Possible suicides.)

(v) Man alone in auto parked or driving around slowly near schools, parks, and playgrounds. (Pervert or child molester.)

It cannot be overemphasized that none of these conditions of themselves constitute evidence of crime. A person of unusual appearance for a particular neighborhood might have good reason to be there and a man tampering with an automobile could be an owner who has lost his key. Police officers, however, should be alert to determine the actual circumstances whenever suspicion is aroused.

### ***Interrogation Procedure***

Remember that most people are not criminals but, until you know the sort of person you have in a field interrogation, be courteous, be firm, and be careful. In automobile occupant interrogation, other than traffic bookings, have the suspect get out of his car. Do not interrogate while you are in your automobile. Rather than approach the subject from the front, walk up to him from the side, glancing immediately at his hands to determine whether he is already holding a weapon. The suspect should be allowed to put his hands in his pockets only in compliance with instructions.

If the suspect allays suspicion by giving a reasonable explanation for his presence, proper identification and proper answers to questions, he can be released without a physical "shakedown." In this case, always take time to explain the necessity for such inquiry—the large number of crimes

being committed, the similarity in general description of the questioned individual and a wanted person, or some other diplomatic reason aimed at maintaining good will.

In a situation where the suspect lies during the questioning or fails to explain his presence, but grounds for arrest are still lacking, it may be advisable to make a "short shakedown," frisking the suspect from behind and giving a good outside check to places where weapons are commonly hidden and are readily accessible. During this search be alert and watch the suspect's hands and shoulders for sudden moves on his part. In instances of this type, make a complete "shakedown," or wall search, in the event the suspect is known to be or is suspected of being a dangerous criminal.

### ***Interrogation Tactics***

When two or more suspects are involved, separate them immediately to prevent their getting a "pat" story. At the outset, get the suspect's name and address before his mental defense mechanism has been set into action. It is well to note that suspects often tell the truth if not given time to prepare a story.

The interrogator should not have a notebook in hand during the initial questioning but should remember the statements of the suspect. The notebook can be used to advantage after going through the details for the second time.

If difficulty is encountered in starting the interrogation, openings can be made through irrelevant remarks and inquisitive conversation. When the suspect begins to talk, let him continue even when it is apparent that he is lying. His contradictions and time lapses, as well as his reactions, attitudes, and emotional responses, can be noted.

Be cautious of things too obvious and wary of persons who are too quick to produce identification and alibis relative to their actions. Accusations, however, must be avoided as these can result in embarrassment. The trained interrogator conceals suspicions until they are substantiated, keeping in mind that it is difficult to lie consecutively and logically. In the event incriminating evidence is discovered, the suspect can be allowed an easy explanation, in which he might profess ownership.

### ***Field Interrogation Report***

Our field interrogation report is assigned to all officers working any type of field service and, when



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FIELD INTERROGATION REPORT

Form PI-5

Name DOE, JOHN BASIL (white) Age 47  
Address 1234-NORTH AUGHT STREET Birth date 12-7-07  
Date Mon, December 20, 1954 Time 1:30 A.M. Place E. PLACE  
CADILLAC SEDAN WISCONSIN  
If auto involved: Make 1953 MODEL, BLUE Lic. # XYZ-123(55)  
(white) JOHN BROWN, 19-1000 N. AVE ST.  
Subj. in company of (white) THOMAS JONES, 28-2000 S. DEB AVE.  
(white) JOSEPH JONES, 29-3000 W. CEF ST.  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Officer JAMES ROE Dist 1  
(Explain Circumstances on Reverse Side)

Figure 1.

completed, it is turned in to the officer's desk sergeant and handled according to department procedure. Although only one copy of the report is made, the officer should maintain all the information regarding the interrogation in his own memorandum book. The data on the card is written or printed legibly and proper names are always printed.

The front of the card is filled out according to directions listed thereon (see fig. 1). On the reverse side of the report, under "Circumstances," a definite reason for the interrogation must be listed as well as the details of the questioning (see fig. 2). The reason should be specific, telling what made the officer suspicious, such as "a man loitering around in front of nightclub."

### Purpose and Use of Report

In reviewing these cards, the detective bureau frequently gets good investigative leads inasmuch as the forms place various suspects in given areas at particular times. This card system is also valuable to the investigating officer who is interested in any activities of individuals in the area where a crime has been committed. Likewise, these forms make an official record of places repeatedly frequented by persons of undesirable reputation.

In addition to simplifying the recording for the officer, this system facilitates the sharing of valuable information throughout the department—group to group and shift to shift.

### Results

There is only one way to determine whether an idea or plan is successful and worth while, and

Circumstances Interrogation of suspicious men in parking lot

Suspect questioned in parking lot  
of the "Hi-Ho" night club 100 North  
Aslet St. Identification OK. DRIVERS  
License, Social Security No. III-III-000  
checked by phone - record clerk - OK. suspect  
employed by Central Sales Mart, 123 N. High  
St. Description of suspect: W.M. 5'9", 160 lbs.,  
BLACK HAIR - swarthy comp., well dressed,  
CHARCOAL SUIT - ALPACA TOPCOAT - BROWN FELT HAT -  
BROWN suede SHOES.

Figure 2.

that is to check on results. In our department, after 9 months' operation, our detective bureau reports 75 cases cleared and arrests made directly as a result of field interrogation cards submitted by our field men. This total represents cases which otherwise would still be open—wanted persons free on our streets with supreme confidence that they had gotten away with their act and with an added disregard for law and order. Nothing builds up a criminal's courage and ego more than the thought that he has outwitted the police. Knowledge of almost certain apprehension due to constant observation, contact and stops of known criminals and suspects under suspicious circumstances has prevented crime.

This system also has improved the relationship between the plainclothes and uniform divisions, bringing them into a better understanding and appreciation of teamwork. As part of the program, the detective bureau, through the police training school, supplies and shows photos of known criminals on whom information is wanted. This in turn makes patrol work more interesting and sharpens up all officers' observations and knowledge.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Raymond A. Dahl is director of the police training school and holds the position of Deputy Inspector of Police, Training and Special Services of the Milwaukee (Wis.) Police Department. He joined this department in 1934 and has been promoted through various grades to that of deputy inspector in January 1950. He has served in the police training division since 1947 and in November 1949 was appointed to his present assignment. Deputy Inspector Dahl attended the University of Minnesota, has completed several special courses in police work, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



# TRAFFIC

## ***Bicycle Safety Program Becomes a Civic Project***

*by* CARL E. ARMSTRONG, *Chief of Police,  
Sanger, Calif.*

The city of Sanger, Calif., with a population of 7,500, is located in the rich San Joaquin Valley near the Sierra Nevada Mountains, 15 miles east of Fresno. Nationally known as the Christmas Tree City, it is 55 miles from the Sequoia National Park, where in a grove of giant redwood trees stands the General Grant Tree, known as the Nation's Christmas Tree.

Surrounded by productive ranches, it is the scene of great diversified farming and is famous as a fruit and grape shipping center. Hundreds of carloads of fruit and grapes, as well as processed frozen fruits and vegetables, are shipped all over the Nation. These are packed and processed in the many plants located along the railroad tracks which extend the length of the town.

Large cattle ranches are close by in the mountains and there are many small stock ranches and dairies in the area near the city. Sanger is the headquarters for the Fresno County Cattlemen's Association which holds semiannual meetings in the city.

The city has had a tremendous growth since 1930, when I first arrived here. In 1944 I was appointed a police officer on the Sanger force.

While patrolling, I noticed that more and more bicycles were showing up on the streets. When I was appointed chief in 1950, I realized that unless something was done in the way of a bicycle safety program, accidents involving bicycles would continue to increase and become a serious menace to the welfare of the people of Sanger.

Youngsters on bicycles were swarming out of school grounds after school, right out into the streets, and were breaking practically every safe riding rule as well as many traffic laws. They would dodge through traffic with complete disregard for automobiles and pedestrians. Many rode double. They made illegal turns, rode several abreast, rode on the wrong side of the street, failed to heed stop signs and constantly endangered their lives. A complete disregard for the rights of others seemed to be their general attitude. Bicycle thefts, too, were increasing and many stolen bicycles were never recovered.

### ***Ordinance***

The first step was to obtain all information available on bicycle safety programs and bicycle control from other departments having such pro-



*School children receive bicycle instructions.*



grams. In this respect, we are especially indebted to the Berkeley, Calif., Police Department for an outline of their program along with copies of their forms. With the advice and help of the Berkeley authorities, a program was worked out to fit our needs and, with the cooperation of our city attorney and city council, a bicycle ordinance was drawn up and passed on December 6, 1950. This ordinance includes an annual inspection and licensing system, safe riding rules, and regulations concerning the sale of new and used bicycles.

Next, a program of publicity was launched with the cooperation of the local newspaper and radio station. Cooperation of bicycle riders, their parents, and other citizens was requested. It was stressed that the program was one of education and safety, and the people of Sanger responded fully in making it successful.

### ***Registration and Inspection***

The annual renewal period for inspection and licensing of bicycles is February 1st to March 1st. A fee of 50 cents is charged and a license plate is put on each bicycle. Also, a Sanger Police frame number is stamped on the frame as a permanent means of identification of the bicycle. At the time of registration an identification card and a card listing safe riding rules and regulations are given to the owner.

Inspection of bicycles by the police includes: brakes, warning devices, handle bar grips, lights and reflectors and any other part which would affect the safe operation of the bicycle.

Riding in parks or school grounds, riding on sidewalks in the downtown area, group riding, trick riding, clinging to moving vehicles, racing, carrying passengers (except on an individual passenger seat on the back of a bicycle), towing and carrying packages which prevent the rider from having full control are prohibited. Rules for proper parking of bicycles are set up. Riders must ride on the right side of the street, halt at stop signs, give proper hand signals when stopping or turning, stop when entering a street from a driveway or alley and cross streets properly.

### ***Bicycle Court***

As a law is of no value unless penalties are provided for its violation, a bicycle court was set up to hear cases of juvenile violators. (Adult violators are treated the same as other traffic violators.)



***Chief Carl E. Armstrong.***

The judges of the bicycle court are selected from the senior class of the Sanger Union High School. The court consists of a chief justice, bailiff and usually two associate justices. Twenty to thirty students serve as judges in the court and alternate so that all get an opportunity to serve in court. All members are given instructions on how to conduct court and a police officer is always present as an advisor. Court is held on Saturdays at 10:30 a. m., in the courtroom, city hall, with the cooperation of Judge C. V. Reed, judge of the Sanger Judicial Court. This is very effective due to the atmosphere of a real courtroom in which young offenders get a better understanding of the seriousness of breaking the law.

When a policeman sees a juvenile violate the bicycle ordinance, he treats the occurrence the same as other traffic cases. If in the opinion of the officer a warning or friendly reminder is sufficient, it is given. If the officer sees fit, he may issue a citation, citing the juvenile into bicycle court. A special citation card is used for this purpose. When a citation is given, a copy is left with the desk officer who prepares a complaint; a form which lists penalties which the court can impose upon those found guilty is attached to the complaint. This latter form is subsequently given to the defendant and the penalty which is imposed upon him is checked on it.



SBL # \_\_\_\_\_ SFD # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Operator \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Violating \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where \_\_\_\_\_  
 Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Officer \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition**



When a youngster receives a citation to appear in bicycle court, a letter is sent to his parents, stating the nature of the violation, explaining the purpose of the bicycle court and requesting the parents' cooperation. After the defendant appears in court, another letter is sent to the parents, explaining the sentence and again requesting their cooperation in seeing that the directions of the court are carried out. The defendant has 5 days in which to carry out the instructions of the court.

### ***Beneficial Results***

The bicycle program has resulted in a great reduction of accidents involving bicycles, with no serious injuries or fatalities occurring since its inception. Bicycle thefts have been reduced to a minimum with almost 100 percent recovery of stolen bicycles.

The program tends to make juveniles aware of their responsibility to the community. It encourages good citizenship and produces a close working relationship between children, parents, school authorities and the police.

The program provides for keeping bicycle riders informed of safe riding rules and regulations as well as laws governing bicycle operation. Safety and education are stressed, so that when bicycle riders graduate to motor vehicle operators, they will have a better knowledge and understanding of traffic laws and traffic safety and will be better drivers.

### ***Safety***

A safety program is carried on throughout the year. Lectures are given at the schools by the chief and juvenile officers of the Police Department. Reminders and friendly advice are given to bicycle riders by police officers on duty.

Participation of the high school seniors in serving as judges tends to develop leadership and a better understanding between all high school students and the police. Judges are given a certificate of appreciation by the police department for serving on the court.

Of course, the program takes a good deal of our time, but we know of no better way to put in extra time than with our children. If through our efforts in carrying on the bicycle program the life of one of our youngsters is saved, then the program is certainly worth while.

## **Court Testimony Pamphlet**

In order to assist police officers in testifying properly in court cases, the Philadelphia Police Department and the Philadelphia County district attorney's office have published a pamphlet entitled "Your Testimony in Court."

The brochure emphasizes that the correct solution of a reported crime depends to a great extent on the court testimony of the investigating police officers and that it is extremely important that the officers make the court and jury realize that they, as law enforcement officers, are conscious of their responsibility and will testify truthfully, clearly, concisely, and fairly. It further stresses the need for neat appearance, serious demeanor, courteous factual answering of questions, and attentive attitude on the part of the police officer at all times. It points out that the judge should be addressed as "Your Honor," the attorneys, if addressed by any title, as "Sir," other officers as "Officer," and the defendant as "the defendant" or as "the defendant (name)" is there are more than one.

In connection with exhibits, the brochure states that testifying officers must know all about them so that they can make clear to the judge and jury the bearing the exhibits have on the case and the guilt of the defendant.

Officers are urged to rely on the representative of the district attorney's office to object to improper questions the defense counsel might ask and are warned never to spar with the attorney for the defense and never to allow themselves to be goaded into an exchange of personalities. They are cautioned not to volunteer extraneous information, as this could result in a mistrial. It is pointed out that an excellent impression by a police officer as a witness in court engenders public confidence in law enforcement.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

When a person is deprived of federally secured rights and privileges granted by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, the perpetrators violate statutes under the jurisdiction of the FBI.

### **THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY**

Theft, embezzlement, robbery, receiving, and illegal possession of Federal Government property are offenses within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.



## SCIENTIFIC AIDS

For making police photographs our Identification Bureau is now using new, inexpensive, electronic flash equipment designed and built in this department by Lt. John F. Cheney, radio engineer. For years, I had felt that if an inexpensive flash outfit could be made and synchronized with the camera it would not only cut down the cost of operation but would also eliminate "makeovers" caused by subjects being camera-conscious or blinking their eyes. Prior to the installation of this equipment, we used two half-cylindrical reflectors with six No. 1 photo floods in each reflector. These harsh lights not only tended to make the subjects squint, but they also threw off some heat. (In order to have an auxiliary setup, we have retained these lights.) The electronic flash equipment which we are now using requires only one bulb in a circular reflector.



Chief A. J. Longo.

## Economical Flash Unit for Speed and Accuracy

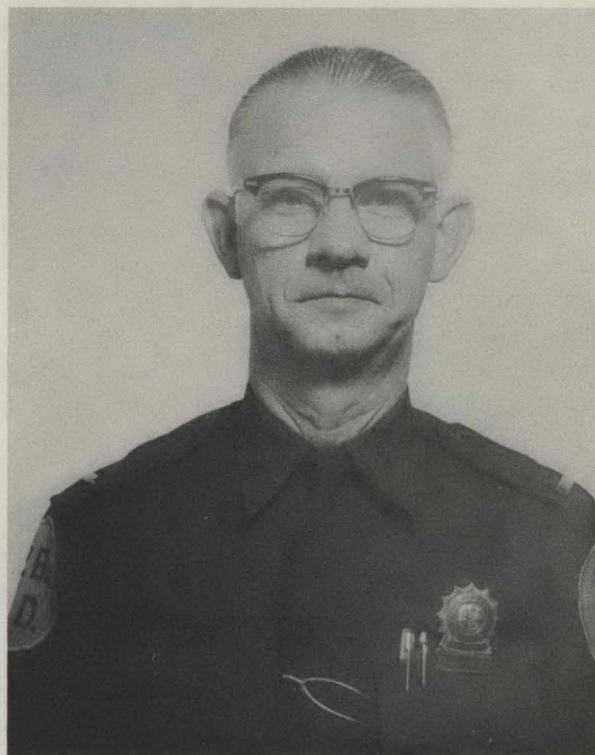
by LT. R. D. STEARNS, Supt., Identification  
Bureau, Palm Beach, Fla., Police Department

### Sharp and Fast

We have found that one of the immediate advantages of using this type of lighting is the sharpness and depth of focus obtained by using a very small diaphragm stop and a shutter speed fast enough to stop any action on the part of the subject. Even the smallest details, such as facial scars, are discernible with the naked eye, and even more can be seen under magnification. I believe that this electronic flash has solved a problem long faced by identification officers in making cuts for wanted circulars and newspapers.

### Short Recovery Time

This unit is a conventional energy-storage type of electronic flash unit. It differs from most



Lt. R. D. Stearns.



units available on the market, however, in that it will recover and be ready to fire again in less than 5 seconds. Lieutenant Cheney designed this unit with the thought in mind that in order for identification photography to be done as rapidly as possible the recharge time should be less than the minimum time required for the photographer to change the subject's position. We have found this shortened recharge time of definite advantage.

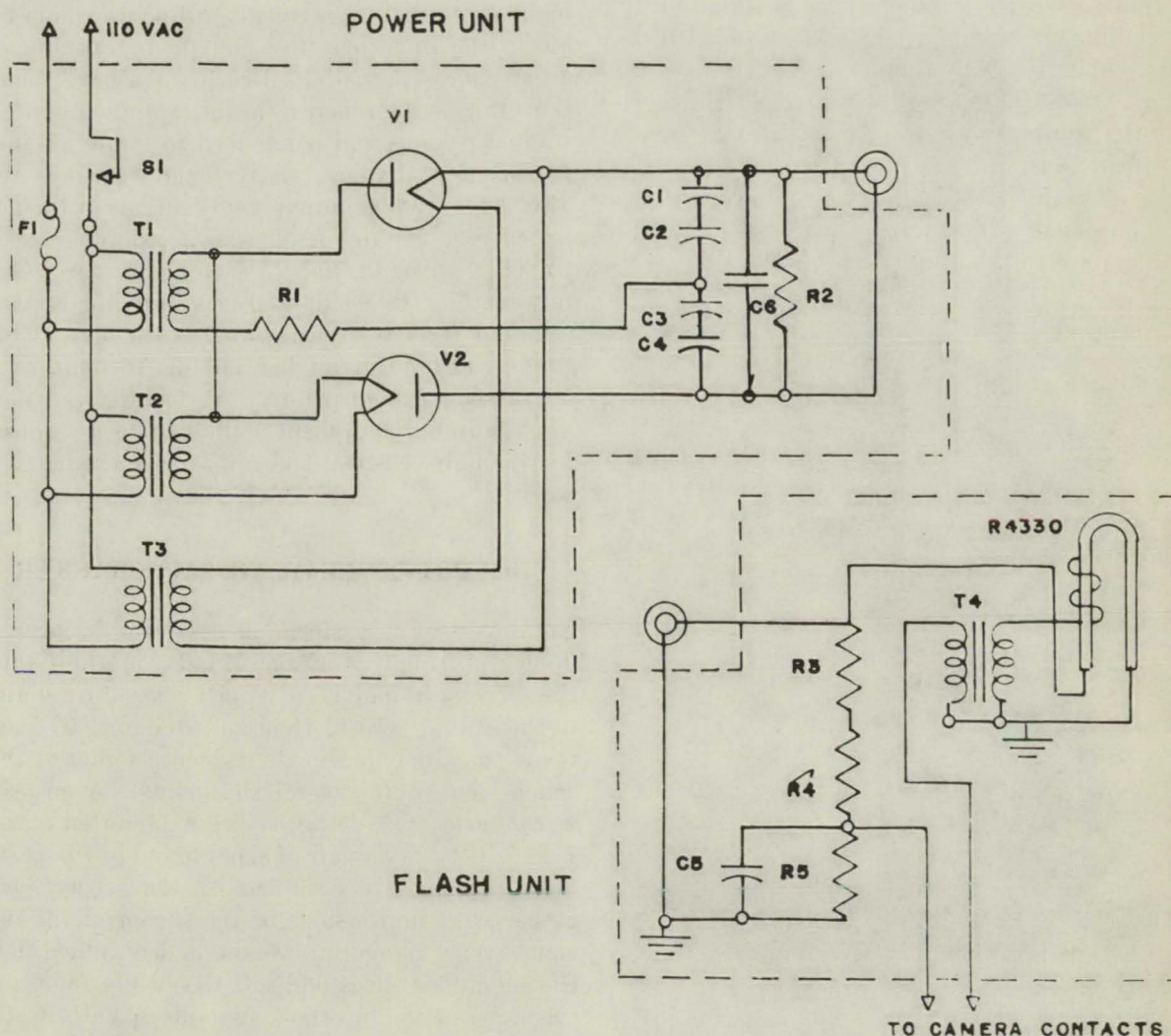
### Component Parts

The component parts of the electronic flash equipment unit, as shown in the diagram accompanying this article, are as follows:

F1..... 5 amp fuse.  
S1..... Single pole, single-throw toggle switch.

B1, B2..... 816-2 tube.  
C1, C2, C3, and C4..... 4-MFD at 600 volts DC oil-filled condensers.  
C5..... 0.5 MFD at 600 volts DC paper.  
C6..... 35 MFD at 2,500 volts photoflash condenser.  
T1..... Power transformer 110 vac to 1,200 v. at 110 ma.  
T2 and T3..... Filament transformer 110 vac to 2.5 v.  
T4..... Photoflash trigger transformer.  
R1..... 50-watt resistor adjusted to give 2,400 volts on C6.  
R2..... 2-1 meg. 1 watt resistors in series.  
R3 and R4..... 1.2 meg. 1 watt resistor.  
R5..... 150 K I watt resistor.  
R4330..... Sylvania R4330 or equivalent.

Chief A. J. Longo and members of our department are quite pleased with the results obtained by our Identification Bureau through the use of this equipment, and we feel that the new lighting



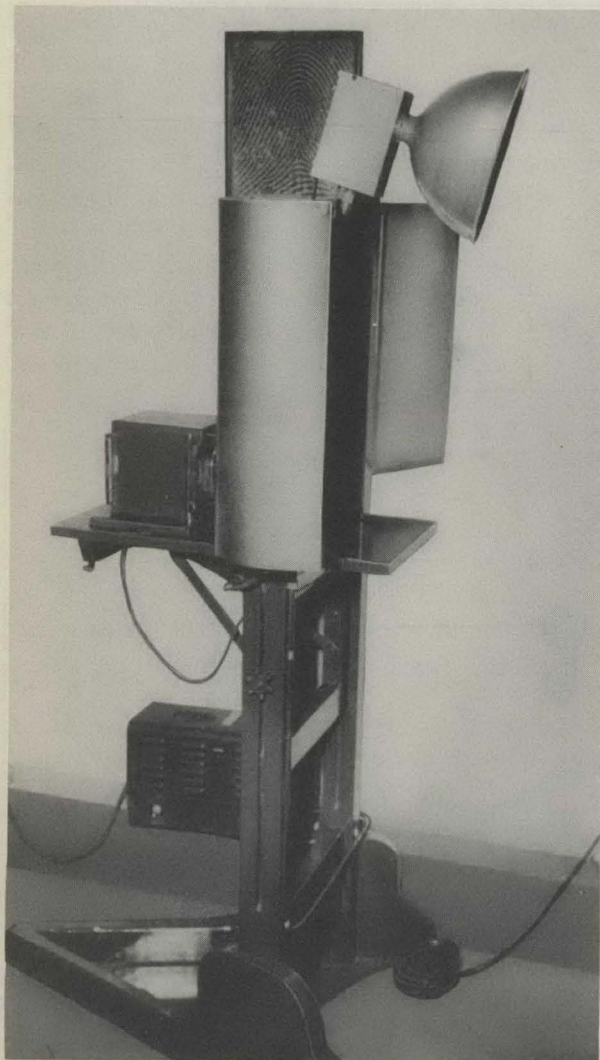
Diagrammatic drawing of the electronic flash unit.



enables our bureau to perform its photographic work not only more efficiently, but also more economically. The initial cost of the flash outfit is reasonable, as it can be constructed in a police radio department at a cost not in excess of \$100. The bulb is good for 25,000 shots, thereby reducing the cost of this item.

### ***Camera and Processing***

With this electronic flash equipment we use a special make, fixed-focus camera using a Bausch and Lomb 4 by 5 Tessar lens, 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch focus in Wollensak Betax shutter. The distance from the lens to the subject is exactly 5 feet, allowing for depth of range. We use Eastman Ortho-X cut film in Graflex holders. The exposure used is one-fiftieth of a second with a stop of either 16 or 22. As the



*The flash equipment unit.*

finest point in a lens is the center, the diaphragm may be stopped down, giving ultrasharp negatives. We use a Strob-X developer, developing in 7 minutes at 65° in an air-conditioned darkroom. After the films have been developed, we leave them in an Eastman or Ansco prepared fixing bath for 10 minutes and then wash them in running water for the same length of time. For our prints, we use Eastman AZO F papers, single weight, glossy. To give a higher gloss to the photographs, we immerse them in a solution of Pako Sol for 3 minutes prior to putting them on an automatic Pako drum dryer.

### ***Aid in Work***

We are faced, as are most other modern police departments, with the necessity of doing a great amount of photographic work. For example, we have the civilian registration ordinance which requires the fingerprinting and photographing of every employee in Palm Beach. We have found that this system helps in the apprehension of wanted persons and has helped to locate missing persons for anxious relatives and friends. We also have the criminal registration ordinance which requires any felon who is stopping in, or traveling through, Palm Beach to register. Our registration system discourages individuals with criminal records from seeking work here. Our Identification Bureau has on file, to date, over 50,000 sets of fingerprints. We feel that our new photographic equipment will help us to do an increasingly efficient job in our identification work.

### **SHOEPRINTS LEAD TO SAFECRACKER**

Employees of an eastern business firm discovered upon reporting to work one Monday morning that the office safe had been ripped open during the weekend and several thousand dollars had been removed. Included in the evidence found at the crime scene were several shoeprints. A suspect was later located. Police officers submitted to the FBI Laboratory a pair of shoes found in an apartment occasionally occupied by the suspect, together with impressions of the shoeprints at the crime scene. Laboratory experts determined that the submitted shoes had left the prints found at the scene of the burglary and subsequently testified to that effect at the trial. The subject received a 20-year prison sentence.



## National Fraudulent Check File

In early January 1952, two Special Agents of the FBI stood in the crowded lobby of a hotel in Washington, D. C. Suddenly, a small slender man scurried by and entered a phone booth. As the man came out of the phone booth, the agents approached him and asked for his identification. He obliged them by presenting a congressional pass bearing the name Paul A. Carpenter, address, New York City. This failed to satisfy the agents and they requested that he submit to fingerprinting. That, unfortunately, was not possible, Mr. Carpenter explained, as he had a previous engagement. The agents accommodately escorted him to his appointment, but the man Carpenter was to see could not be located. Reluctantly, he agreed to the fingerprinting—provided it would not take too long.

### *Master Check Passer*

It was only after Carpenter's fingerprints had been rolled onto the fingerprint card that the career of one of the most prolific fraudulent check passers came to an end. The FBI now had conclusive proof that "Carpenter" was none other than Frederick Emerson Peters, one of the Nation's "most wanted fugitives" and one of the most persistent check passers and confidence men the FBI has ever hunted. Peters not only victimized business firms but charitable, religious and welfare organizations as well. Peters confided to the agents that check passing was only incidental to the personal pleasure he received in posing as an important person. During his career, he played such roles in his impersonations as Director of the Congressional Library; major in the United States Army; Assistant Secretary of State; a representative of the War Department; Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and a professor of a women's college. He pointed out that he was one confidence man who spent more time in libraries than saloons. He was not a greedy man, he explained; he passed only enough checks to live decently.

On May 9, 1952, Peters was sentenced to serve from 3 to 9 years on a District of Columbia indictment; from 3 to 9 years on a Pennsylvania indictment; and from 1 to 3 years on a Florida indictment. All of these sentences were to be served

concurrently. Prior to this time, Peters had been in and out of prison since 1907 and had more than 130 aliases. He always returned to his favorite pastimes of writing fraudulent checks and impersonating important people.

The check-passing activities of this man, whose name had appeared on the list of the Ten Most Wanted Fugitives, are examples of the challenges which daily confront the FBI Laboratory and its National Fraudulent Check File.

### *Origin*

In 1936 the FBI, realizing the need for centralization of data on check-passing criminals, established the National Fraudulent Check File. Since that time thousands of checks from FBI field divisions, police departments, sheriff's offices, and State bureaus of identification have been received in the FBI Laboratory for processing through the National Fraudulent Check File. Each check submitted to the Laboratory for examination is searched in this file.

Check-passing activity in this country is highlighted by the "big time" operator who is continually on the move utilizing well-known company names, typewriters, checkwriters, certification stamps and safety papers in order to deceive the public. Another type of fraudulent check passer is the mail box burglar who secures cancelled checks and forges authentic signatures onto similar blank check forms which are then cashed by the victim's bank.

The law enforcement official should always consider that the fraudulent check he submits to the FBI Laboratory can be processed for the development of latent fingerprints. If such an examination is desired, a specific request must be made.

When checks are submitted to the Laboratory for examination, the following information, whenever known by the investigating agency, will be of assistance to the examiners in furnishing a complete report in connection with the check:

1. Names of the subject or suspect and of the victim.
2. Description of the person passing the check, true name and previous criminal record, if any.
3. Modus operandi, including other checks passed.
4. Information concerning whether any part of the check was written by the victim or anyone else other than the suspect, whether any names on the check are attempted forgeries of genuine signatures, and whether the check form itself has been stolen or is fictitious.

Whenever possible, original checks should be submitted for examination. If the question of



forgery is involved, it is necessary to have handwriting specimens not only of the person suspected of doing the forgery, but also of the person whose writing has been forged. Known handwriting specimens should be obtained by dictating the questioned wording to the suspect. The writing should be done on blank check forms with the same kind of writing medium. For example, if the questioned check is written with pen and ink, the known handwriting specimens should be prepared with pen and ink; if in pencil, the specimens should be written with pencil. With each specimen obtained in this manner, it becomes more difficult for the suspect to continue disguising his handwriting. As soon as each specimen is completed, it should be removed from the sight of the writer. The questioned check should never be shown to him.

The National Fraudulent Check File is an invaluable aid to law enforcement as it continues to identify the parasites who survive by passing worthless checks. In the calendar year 1954, there were 21,579 checks, showing value of \$3,262,630, received for examination in the FBI Laboratory. More than 50 percent of these checks were identified through the National Fraudulent Check File as the work of persons responsible for checks previously submitted to the Laboratory.

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## ITSP CONFERENCES

*(Continued from page 5)*

tion is to gain the cooperation of the victim, who often, either because of shame, embarrassment, or a pathetic hope that the money will eventually be returned, refuses to cooperate freely. In his opinion, the best possible educational and preventive program would be to prosecute vigorously each bunco and confidence scheme discovered. He further stated that in prosecuting these criminals, it is desirable to have a bank representative in court to testify that the victim actually withdrew the money from the bank, and if the facts are such, to state that the bank employee urged the customer not to withdraw such a large amount in cash.

In this connection, bankers were urged to make inquiries when elderly depositors withdraw unusually large amounts of cash and, if suspicious circumstances exist, to notify the police department at once.

A telephone company representative, in the dis-

cussion relating to fraud by use of interstate telephone or telegram, emphasized the fact that close liaison between the law enforcement officer investigating confidence game swindles and the communications company should be established at the inception of this type of investigation. He stated that this should be done in order that the communications company might preserve the necessary toll tickets as evidence. Otherwise, he said, the communications company would dispose of them automatically within a period of 6 months.

## Conferences Beneficial

Judging by the reaction of the participants, these conferences served a worthwhile purpose in bringing together law enforcement officers and businessmen for a discussion of their mutual problems. Various individuals indicated that the conferences were beneficial from the standpoints of learning the proper procedure in handling ITSP matters, of increasing cooperation between various law enforcement agencies and of informing local officers of assistance rendered by Federal agencies and courts, and, in general, of alerting the public to the necessity of taking precautionary measures to prevent being victimized by violators of this statute.

One conferee stated that "any plan to bring law enforcement officers and merchants together, whereby each may become more fully aware of the problems of the other, is a good one."

That law enforcement in general recognizes the magnitude of the problem posed by the violators of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute is clearly evidenced by the fact that many police departments already have special squads concentrating on the types of violations included in this category.

★

**ERASED PENCIL WRITING** may be made visible by photographing with infrared light, provided that traces of graphite are still present. The indentations made in the paper by the pencil point may be shown by photographing with parallel light rays or, if the indentations are shallow, by treating with iodine fumes.

**DETERIORATED EXPLOSIVES** may be, and often are, more dangerous to handle than explosives in good condition.



## OTHER TOPICS

Before taking office for the first time on January 1, 1951, I toyed with several ideas which I thought might make for better law enforcement and better public relations. After taking office, some of my ideas proved to be impractical and impossible. However, my annual visit to 19 schools, scattered over 2,400 square miles and housing 4,100 students, proved to be one of my best projects. The purchase of a pair of bloodhounds, I think, was another good move and should be mentioned before I go further.

### ***Dogs for Trailing***

My county, Cass County, Minn., is 80 miles long by 30 miles wide. It is sparsely populated and I have only one full-time deputy to help me cover this area, composed of 70 percent lakes, swamps, timber, and wild cutover land. Since the area is great for hunting, fishing, and vacations but also dangerous from the standpoint of drowning or being lost, I felt the need for a pair of good trailing dogs. The sum of \$300 was a lot more money than we had or could hope to have appropriated by the county board, so we ran an ad in the Cass County newspaper. We told the people our story and asked them, if interested, to send \$1 to the editor. Before we could call a halt, over \$400 had been donated. We had enough to send to New Hampshire for the dogs, to pay the express and to buy a good supply of dog food. The dogs, Lew and Cass (named for our county), have definitely saved the life of an elderly lady who was lost while picking wild berries and have assisted in several other cases in this and adjoining counties.

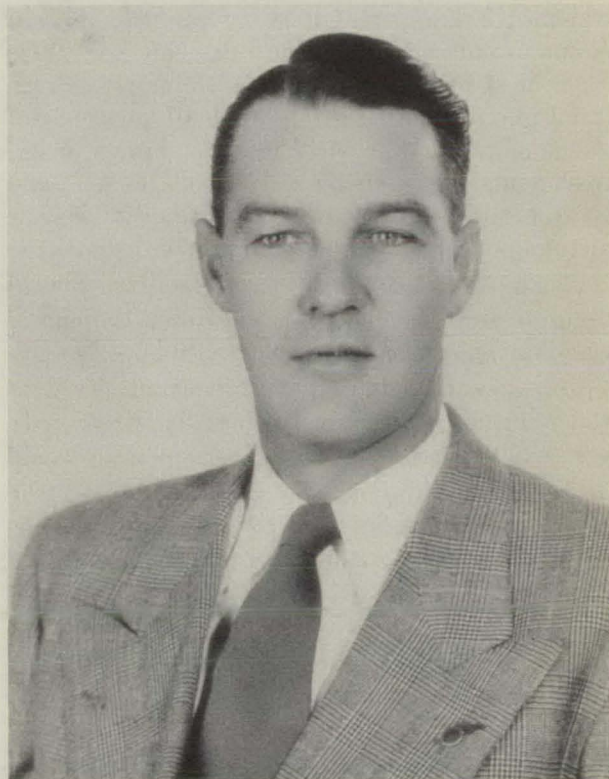
### ***Safety Folder***

My first visit to all the schools was in the spring of 1953. At that time I took the hounds with me. I also carried a variety of shotguns, rifles, and handguns which I had on display before the students. I handed each one a folder captioned

## ***School Visits and Pamphlets Build a Safety Program***

*by SHERIFF F. B. SIMPSON, Cass County,  
Walker, Minn.*

"We Care . . . So Take Care." This folder discusses safe swimming and boating, the safe handling of guns, and gives advice on what to do if a person is lost in the woods. We read the folders in class, handled the guns and talked about some actual experiences along that line. As a finale, I had one student put on his jacket, leave the room, and go outside. He left his jacket in the school yard and hid nearby. The student body was then taken outside. The hound was taken to the place where the jacket was left, the trailing harness put on and the dog given the scent. In every case the dog found the child. This show was very popular with the children and gave them a better understanding of our work and the value of the dogs. The reaction from the parents, too, was very favorable.



***Sheriff F. B. Simpson.***





*Deputy Sheriffs Gerald Eveland (left) and Coleman Austin (right) with the dogs.*

### ***Avoid Strangers***

Last spring I returned to all the schools with a folder and lecture on "Avoiding Strangers and the State Law on Smoking." We had a short review on the previous year's work, at which time I thanked the children for the fine support they had given to my efforts. One incident relative to "Avoiding Strangers" I would like to mention. During the summer of 1954, a stranger appeared in one of our small towns at a baseball game. He spent most of the playing time behind the grandstand playing with a group of small boys. After the game, when everyone had gone uptown for refreshments, this man asked two boys, ages 11 and 12, to get into his car, saying he would take some pictures of them. One got in, but the other warned, "Don't get in the car, Butch. Sheriff Simpson told us not to." But Butch thought it was okay and the man drove off with him. Butch's pal reported to Butch's mother, who got in her car and went in the direction the man had driven. In her anxiety, she failed to ask for help. She found the stranger had driven into an abandoned camp about one-half mile from town. When she arrived, the man had Butch out of the car and well down a narrow wooded trail. When she called, he let go of Butch's hand and ran back to his car. She did not get the correct license number and we were unable to locate the man. However, Butch was not harmed, thanks to the pal who remembered the lesson.

I am pleased to say that we have had only one

boy drown, one accidentally shot, and none lost in the past 3 years. We have had no reports of schoolchildren smoking in public. I am not happy about the two accidents we did have, and do hope to continue with my school visits and make 100 percent on safety.

All the children know me by my first name and appear glad to see me when I call in their town or country homes. A number have reported violations to me whereas before they were afraid to talk to an officer.

### ***Safety Suggestions***

Our 1953 folder was put out in the interest of the safety of all children in Cass County. In connection with water sports, it advised them not to swim alone or too far into deep water, not to swim in strange lakes or rivers or too soon after eating, not to dive into shallow water or push smaller children into water, not to overload small boats and not to throw glass and sharp objects into the water or onto beaches. The pamphlet warned against careless handling of guns, such as bringing a loaded gun into the yard, cocking a gun when not on a safe target, and careless loading and unloading of weapons. As advice when lost in the woods, the folder told the children to pick an open high spot and search for a landmark, avoid swamps and soft lakeshore or river banks, save their strength and answer all calls and signals.

### ***State Smoking Law***

In our 1954 folder to schoolchildren, we warned them never to let a stranger pick them up in a car, never to take gifts from a stranger or go into a room or home with a stranger. This pamphlet also set out the State law that every person under 18 years and every minor student who shall use tobacco in any form in any public place shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by a fine of \$10 or imprisonment in the county jail for 5 days; and that every person who furnishes tobacco to a minor student will be punished by a fine of \$50 or 30 days in jail.

### ***Hunting Poster***

Another safety measure which paid dividends was the circulation of a poster during the deer hunt-



ing seasons in 1953 and 1954, setting out the Minnesota law on manslaughter in the first degree. These folders were put up in all restaurants, taverns, hotels, motels, gasoline stations, on telephone poles, and various other prominent places. This safety campaign was favorably received by the hunters and, we are happy to report, during the 1954 deer season there was no fatal or serious injury from shooting in Cass County.

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## Police Career Honored in Montana

For nearly a half century J. H. McAllister served the city of Red Lodge, Mont., as chief of police. Upon the occasion of his retirement last year, the city of Red Lodge took official cognizance of McAllister's career.

Appreciative of this singular devotion to duty, typifying the spirit which has marked the advancement of law enforcement, Red Lodge, Mont., made the following resolution a matter of official record on December 28, 1954.

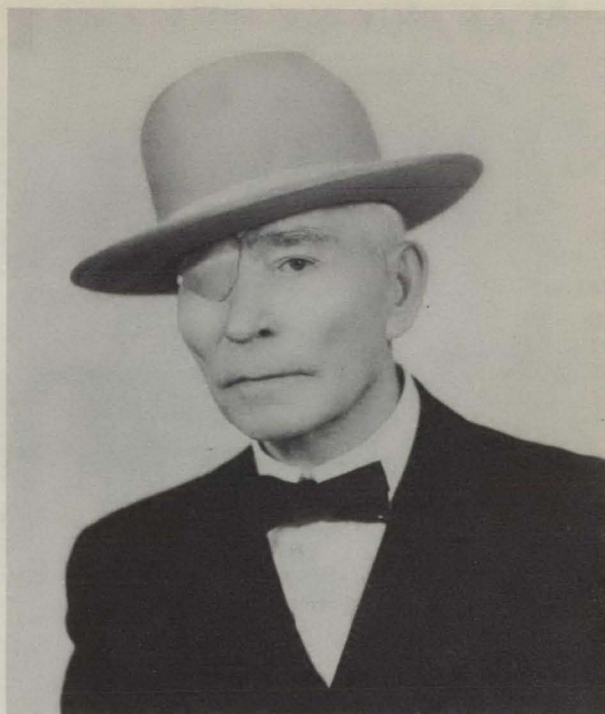
Whereas J. H. McAllister, chief of police, has presented and filed with the mayor and city council of the city of Red Lodge, Mont., his resignation in due form asking to be relieved of his duties as chief of police of the city; and,

Whereas under the circumstances of his case we feel that more should be done than to acknowledge his resignation as a formal matter, the circumstances being that for a period of 49 years continuously last past Mr. McAllister has acted as such chief of police, and as a loyal officer devoted to the best interests of the city, its inhabitants, and the maintenance of law and order.

*Be it therefore resolved* that the city of Red Lodge, Mont., go on record as expressing these sentiments to Mr. McAllister:

It is seldom in the annals of a town or city that any officer, elective or appointive, served for such a length of time as exists in this case. That service extends over three-fourths of the period of this city's history. We do not have the information at hand but it may well be that Mr. McAllister's period of service exceeds that of any other Chief of Police in any city in the State. He has served in good times and bad, in periods of peace and disorder. His service ranges back to the times when miners and cowboys regarded it as their personal prerogative to celebrate without restriction. He has never backed away from danger. He has met each situation as it arose. He has not been officious or overbearing but has, at all times, exercised rare good judgment. His fidelity, loyalty, and his devotion to duty have been above reproach.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to say that we accept his resignation with regret knowing that he has reached



J. H. McAllister.

the period in life when he desires to be rid of the onerous duties of office. We extend to him our sincere best wishes, our thanks, and the thanks of the community and the city for his many loyal years of service.

It was moved by Alderman Donelson, seconded by Alderman Flaherty, that the foregoing resolution be adopted. On roll call, the following answered "Aye": Aldermen Columbus, Donelson, Favero, Flaherty, Bloom, and Mann. "No's," None.

Whereupon the mayor declared the resolution unanimously adopted, and directed that the same be entered on the official record of the city and a copy thereof be mailed to former Chief of Police J. H. McAllister.

Dated this 28th day of December 1954.

The resolution was signed by Mayor D. W. Columbus of Red Lodge, Mont.

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**COMPLETE TOXICOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS** can usually be made only after receiving both autopsy reports and investigative reports indicating the type of poisons suspected and other pertinent information.

**MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATIONS AND INFRARED PHOTOGRAPHY** may reveal unnatural indentations along the lines of writing, or faint pencil lines or deposits from carbon paper under the ink lines on a suspected forged document.



## WANTED BY THE FBI



**JOHN MELLON, with aliases: John C. Andrews, John E. Hardy, John Howard Hardy, Samuel P. Johnson, John B. Martin, John Miller, and others.**

### *Conspiracy*

John Mellon is allegedly 1 of 3 ringleaders in a conspiracy which was executed partially during the summer of 1949 to counterfeit and cash a million dollars worth of travelers checks. After receiving the fraudulent checks from the printers, the conspirators sent men in teams of two to key cities such as Buffalo, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, and Los Angeles, where they passed approximately \$130,000 worth of counterfeit checks.

On January 10, 1950, Mellon disappeared, and the automobile which he had been driving was found abandoned in Newark, N. J. On March 10, 1950, a Federal Grand Jury at New York, N. Y., returned an indictment charging Mellon with conspiring to transport forged and counterfeit checks in interstate commerce.

Mellon is considered to be an expert forger, producing his forgeries by a system of tracing. He is known to have engaged in various forgery and fraudulent loan application enterprises in the New York area as far back as 1936. On other occasions Mellon and his associates have attempted to cash forged checks, some totalling as much as \$900,000, by depositing the forged checks in spurious bank accounts and later withdrawing funds from these nonexistent accounts. Mellon has been convicted previously for forgery, attempted grand larceny, conspiracy, and for making false statements.

He is described as follows:

Age-----	66, born Aug. 10, 1888, Lampasas, Tex. (not verified).
Height-----	5 feet, 9½ inches.
Weight-----	170 pounds.
Build-----	Medium.
Hair-----	Gray.
Eyes-----	Gray.
Complexion-----	Ruddy.
Race-----	White.
Nationality-----	American.
Occupations-----	Dental mechanic, real estate salesman.
Scars and marks---	5-inch scar on lower abdomen.
Remarks-----	Usually wears rimless glasses; has a dignified appearance.
FBI Number-----	117,845.
Fingerprint classification-----	18 M 13 Rr 20 O 19 W
Ref-----	13 23

### *Notify FBI*

Any person having information which may assist in locating John Mellon is requested to 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.

### **Unidentified Deceased**

On December 31, 1954, the body of an unknown woman was found in the mountains in the vicinity of Santa Fe, N. Mex. Local authorities determined that her death had been caused by self-inflicted gunshot wounds in the mouth and head. A .38 caliber Webley revolver, serial number 24870, was found by the body.

When found, the body was clad in a two-piece blue-grey gabardine suit; navy satin slip; Baiband



rayon cotton brassiere-corset combination; nylon stockings; Van Raalte nylon panties, size 7; size 8-B black leather platform shoes with sling, leather lining and cuban heel.

Other items found at the scene included: a three-quarter length black brocade coat with white tafeta lining and two rhinestone buttons; navy blue shawl; blue tote bag with white designs and red lining; and a dark blue purse. The tote bag contained: two .38 calibre S & W Peters cartridges; a black silk scarf with design of the Eiffel Tower and the wording, "Portoi Paris Mon Coeur Est Pris"; a matchbook from the Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colo.; and a blue lead pencil with "The Vera Megowen Advertising." The purse contained: a dark blue coin purse; one Revlon lipstick, "Cherries in the Snow" shade; one Lucien Lelong rouge; one Baronet red leather wallet; one Ronson Princess cigarette lighter; one Revlon plastic compact; a pair of bifocal glasses in open-ended, multi-colored fabric optical case, with diagonal stripes approximately one-fourth inch wide. The frame of these glasses is described as follows: all plastic, fiesta demi-amber, size 46/20, with 5¾-inch temples, heavy yellow gold trim across brow.

The deceased is described as follows:

Race-----	White.														
Sex-----	Female.														
Age-----	50 to 60 years.														
Height-----	5 feet to 5 feet 2½ inches.														
Weight-----	175 pounds.														
Build-----	Heavy.														
Hair-----	Reddish brown, turning gray.														
Complexion-----	Fair.														
Scars and marks----	None.														
Bust-----	42 inches.														
Waist-----	40 inches.														
Shoes-----	Size 8-B.														
Fingerprint classification.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>O</td> <td>25</td> <td>W</td> <td>001</td> <td>9</td> <td>Ref: 29</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>L</td> <td>20</td> <td>W</td> <td>101</td> <td></td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	11	O	25	W	001	9	Ref: 29		L	20	W	101		20
11	O	25	W	001	9	Ref: 29									
	L	20	W	101		20									

*Remarks:* The deceased apparently smoked Pall Mall cigarettes. The glasses found at the scene were of the following prescription:

Right lens—plus 2.00—0.50 x 20  
 Left lens—plus 2.00—0.50 x 140  
 Add 04 plus 1.75 Unis D Bifocal  
 Pupillary distance 65 mm.

The general condition of her teeth was good and also indicated that she apparently had received good dental treatment. Her upper left molars and bicuspid apparently had been missing for some time. Judging from the appearance, some type of partial denture probably had been used. Also missing were the upper right second and third mo-

lars and the lower left and right second and third molars, but it was impossible to determine whether these were extracted prior to death or were destroyed by the fatal shot.

Extensive efforts to identify this woman have met with negative results. Any person having information bearing on this identity is asked to communicate with the District Attorney, Post Office Box 1043, Santa Fe, N. Mex., or the New Mexico State Police, Santa Fe, N. Mex.

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## HANDWRITING EXAMINATION CONVICTS PERJURED WITNESSES

A citizen of Maryland died in June 1952, and left two wills—one made to his common-law wife and the second, and later one, leaving all of his estate to his estranged wife. The latter will was offered for probate and the subscribing witnesses, who were sisters of the testator, took the usual oath before the register of wills. This oath was to the effect that they had witnessed the signature of the testator; that he had published this instrument as his last will and testament; that they in his presence and in the presence of each other, at his request, had subscribed their names to the documents as attesting witnesses; and they believed him to be of sound and disposing mind at the time of the execution of the will.

One of the probate judges noticed that the signature of one of the witnesses did not appear to be her signature, and the witnesses were then summoned to reappear before the court. To complicate things more, the witnesses on this appearance declared under oath before the court that they had not witnessed the will and that their signatures had been forged.

The last will and testament of the deceased, together with known handwriting of the testator and his two sisters, was immediately taken to the FBI Laboratory where a handwriting examination showed that the signatures of the witnesses, as well as that of the testator, were all genuine signatures. The variation in the signature of one of the witnesses was due to a temporary paralytic stroke in her right arm at about the time the will was executed.

Perjury charges were subsequently brought against the women and, after an FBI handwriting expert testified to the authenticity of the document in state court, verdicts of guilty were returned.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

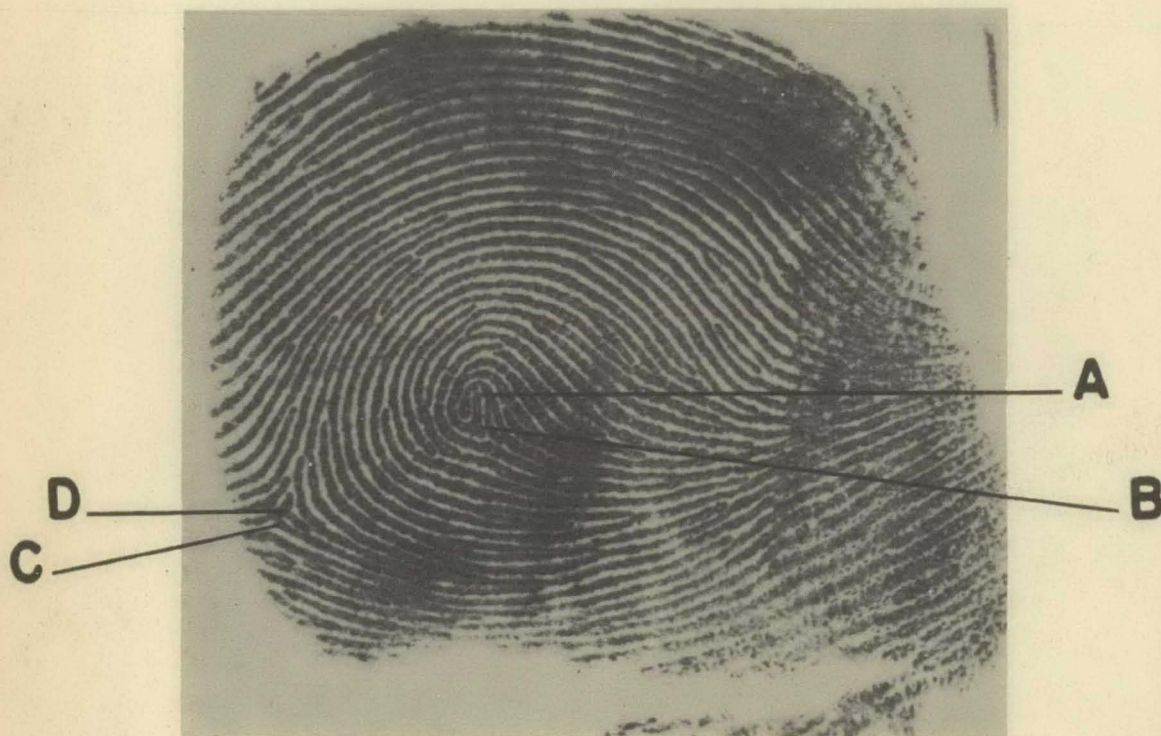
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS

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

Superintendent  
State Police  
Salem, Oregon

## *Questionable Pattern*



The first impression of this pattern is that it is a central pocket loop type whorl. A more exacting examination reveals its true interpretation to be that of a loop, possessing 14 ridge counts. The core is located on the ridge, point A, within the innermost sufficient

recurve. What appears to be a recurve at point B is the mere convergence of two ridges. The delta, found at point D, is located according to the rule giving a bifurcation preference over another type of delta, which is at point C.