• Restricted to the Use of Law Enforcement Officials

Law Enforcement BULLETIN

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Federal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice 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 Instice Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C. March 1, 1948

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

Law enforcement's position among the professions has become more firmly established during recent years. One of the basic reasons for this is a growing recognition of the practical administrative value of a sound system of police records. Such a system must have centralized headquarters control.

Effective direction and leadership in the field of police administration must be based on facts. Complete and organized knowledge of past activities form a sound basis for estimating future needs. On such a foundation the administrator may judge fairly accurately what requests for police action will arise, what types of crimes will occur and, roughly speaking, where and when either may be expected. Thus he is able to anticipate events to a degree and be prepared to meet them properly.

During the past ten years tremendous strides have been made toward the establishment of uniformity in the records maintained by local law enforcement agencies and in raising these records to accepted minimum standards. The FBI has been happy to assist in this work as an adjunct to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Numerous requests for record surveys have uncovered a number of problems which appear to be typical in many police departments.

Consequently, the current issues of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin carry a series of articles on police records which it is hoped will aid the records officer in reaching the proper solution of his individual problem.

What might be termed a "clearing house" of police record information has been created at the FBI in Washington as a result of work on record surveys. This is freely available to other law enforcement administrators for it is on a basis of common experience and cooperation that the ranks of law enforcement are enabled to present a solid front against the onslaught of crime.

Very truly yours,

John Edger Hoover



(Police Records-Continued from February Issue)

Master Name Index

Without directories our telephone systems could not function effectively. A telephone directory is simply an index—that is, an alphabetical list which helps to located wanted information.

In the interests of efficiency, a proper index is as essential to the police department as is the telephone directory to the public—or an index of policyholders to an insurance company.

In order to achieve success and hold the public confidence, the telephone company and insurance company must maintain adequate records and be able to locate them with a minimum of time and effort. This is also true of the police department. In each case the desired results may be achieved through the use of a master name index.

Central Registry of Information

A central registry in the form of a master index will simplify locating any record, report, or correspondence which the police department may have concerning an individual.

In the preceding article on Centralization of Records it was noted that the activities of the various units in a police department are united and coordinated through a centralized records system. It follows that the types of police records such as arrest, investigation, and identification records are united through a master name index.

What is a master name index? Simply an index which contains index cards to all types of records on file in a police department. Thus, one search only is necessary to determine whether or not the department has any information concerning any individual, regardless of where or in what type of file that individual's name may be mentioned.

The index cards in a master name index may be filed in strict alphabetical order in the same manner in which names appear in the telephone directory of a large city.

The proper alphabetical order of filing names

Police Records Systems

may be checked by merely looking up a particular name in a telephone book or city directory. A police department in a small town would find it worthwhile to secure the telephone directory of a large city to use for this purpose, as a large directory contains thousands of names and almost every variation of alphabetical listing.

A responsible officer should conduct periodic inspections to determine that index cards are being filed with absolute accuracy.

Stop for a moment and compare a police records system to the telephone listings in a large city.

Call complaint and investigation records the Randolph exchange. Make arrest records, the Lexington exchange; identification records, the Trinidad exchange; juvenile records, the National exchange; and so on. In this hypothetical city there is a separate telephone book for each exchange—just as in some police departments separate indices for various types of records are maintained. If you want to locate the telephone number of John Smith, who lives at 1025 Main Street, and you do not know the exchange, you will find it necessary to look in the Randolph, Lexington, Trinidad, and National telephone books. You may find the number in the first book or in the last one.

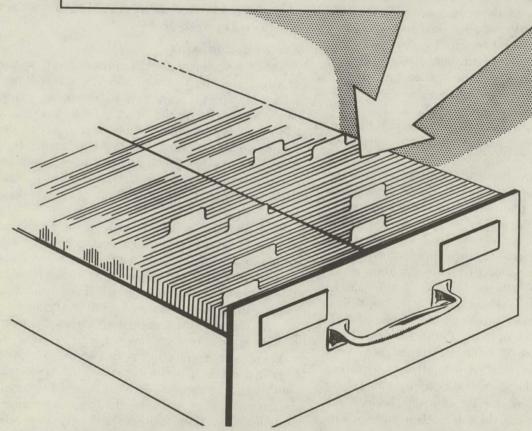
This situation exists with regard to police records if the indices are subdivided by type of report file. Each index must be searched for complete information on any individual.

All names and telephone numbers, regardless of the exchange, are put in one telephone book. We need look in one place only to determine whether John Smith has a telephone number listed. The same situation exists in a master name index. One search only is necessary to determine whether the police department has ever had any reference in any manner to a particular individual.

A master name index will furnish the department with a general intelligence index which serves as a valuable investigative aid. There appears in Figure 1 a chart illustrating the type of index cards which may be filed in a master name

ARRESTED PERSONS
COMPLAINANTS
SUSPECTS
WANTED PERSONS
WITNESSES
DRIVER'S VIOLATION AND
ACCIDENT RECORD
MISSING PERSONS

IDENTIFICATION
CORRESPONDENCE
JUVENILES
LICENSEES
VICTIMS
PERSONS INJURED
PERSONS KILLED
INFORMATION CONCERNING



MASTER NAME INDEX INCLUDES ALL NAME INDEX CARDS PREPARED BY A POLICE DEPARTMENT

Figure 1.

index. It can be seen that all index cards prepared by the department will flow into—and contribute to the central fund of information—the master name index.

Consider a department with a decentralized record and index system. Detective Jones is assigned to an aggravated assault case. The victim was slugged and is presently lying in the hospital, unconscious. He is not expected to live. If the victim dies, the department will have a murder case on its hands.

The victim is identified as to his name only. No witnesses can be located. Any information concerning the injured man would certainly be of material value to the investigator.

Detective Jones first checks the name indices in the Detective Bureau. Unfortunately, a separate index is kept for each type of crime and to complicate matters further, for each year. The department is proud of the fact that annually a separate index is started and the index cards for the previous year are neatly put away in shoe boxes. The detective checks the robbery indices for 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, and so on through 1947. Then he starts on the burglary indices, then larceny and continues the search, consuming valuable time, until all are searched. Jones next checks the suspect and wanted person indices in the Detective Bureau. He has no luck, because the victim isn't a suspect or a wanted person.

Detective Jones is about to give up until he thinks of the Identification Bureau. He may be able to obtain a photograph of the victim to exhibit to persons he may wish to interview in the case. No record is located here. In desperation Jones checks the arrest records maintained by the desk sergeant, hoping to find something which would assist him, without success. Next he checks the records of the vice squad. These, too, fail to give a clue. Jones thinks of the traffic records which are maintained in the Traffic Bureau. Inasmuch as he is working on a criminal case—and more because his chief of detectives is inquiring as to what he is doing around headquarters so long when he has a hot case to work on (besides, the traffic records are on the fourth floor and he is on the first), he doesn't check these records. Detective Jones then starts out on his investigation, checking the usual sources where he might secure some information about the victim to give him something to work on.

A couple of weeks later the victim dies. Addi-

tional detectives are assigned to the investigation. They are up against a stone wall until one of the detectives, working on a hit-and-run case, is checking the name index in the Traffic Bureau and comes across the victim's name. The index card indicates that the victim had been in a traffic accident some weeks previously. The accident investigation report reflects that a married woman, not the victim's wife, was with him in the automobile and was treated for a bruised knee at the hospital. The victim's address was recorded on the report form as being a local rooming house. Subsequently, through this information, the Detective Bureau was able to solve the case. The husband of the woman involved in the accident confessed to the crime.

Had the department maintained a master name index, Detective Jones could have picked up a telephone and asked the Central Records Bureau to check the victim's name. In a matter of minutes he could have accomplished what it had actually taken weeks to do.

Extent of Indexing

A police department should index as many names of complainants, victims, suspects, wanted persons, arrested persons, and witnesses as it has employee-time to do the work. If the department has a sufficient number of employees, all names coming to its attention should be indexed. It is important to remember that the value of a master name index increases with the passing of time and in direct proportion to the volume of names added to the index.

A department's records can be considered as being divided into two general categories, investigation and arrest records. All other records are created to assist and supplement these records. The importance of indexing all arrest records is paramount. There should be no exception to a general rule that the names of all arrested persons be indexed in a master name index.

There is a variance in the procedures of indexing other names in police departments. Investigation records can be considered as being of two general types. They are miscellaneous noncriminal and those involving felonies and serious misdemeanors or the loss, theft, destruction of property or injury to persons. In order to maintain a minimum standard record system, a department should, without exception, index the names of all persons involved in felonies or serious misdemeanors. The test as to whether a name should be indexed is:

A-Was property lost?

B-Was property stolen?

C-Was property damaged?

D-Was the person injured?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, all names in the case should be indexed.

Indexing Miscellaneous Noncriminal Complaints

The ideal situation in any police department is to index all names coming to the attention of the department so that at any time in the future, reference can be made to a complaint without the loss of time and effort. Therefore, a department should have sufficient clerical employees to complete all indexing of names in a master name index. If a department does not have sufficient manpower, the indexing of miscellaneous non-criminal matters may be dispensed with. However, in this instance some administrative device should then be designed so miscellaneous complaints can be located without reference to the complainant's name.

In so many instances it is the small thing which causes a great deal of trouble. It is not uncommon for a complainant who has notified the police department that her neighbors are bothering her because of the noise they make to go to the mayor or city council and complain that the department is not doing anything about her complaint. The mayor will inquire of the chief of police as to what action he has taken and it becomes embarrassing when the chief cannot locate the complaint which will enable him to give his superiors an intelligent reply to the inquiry.

Automatic Check Against Wanted Persons

A master name index will provide a department with an automatic check against wanted persons. Employees are continually searching and filing index cards. With wanted persons indexed in the same index there is little chance of error.

In one large metropolitan city where the police department did not maintain a master name index, the Detective Bureau was looking for a man wanted on the charge of murder. Eventually he was located. He told the detectives he had been arrested on two occasions by the police department for being drunk and had been placed in jail on each occasion. This was confirmed by a check of the arrest records. An untold amount of investi-

gative time on the part of the Detective Bureau was lost because a master name file was not maintained.

In another city a team of detectives was assigned solely to one murder case. The murderer was identified and the major part of the investigation was directed toward his apprehension. Then it came to light that he had been arrested on several occasions by traffic officers for moving violations, but because the Traffic Bureau maintained its own records, as did the Detective Bureau, the detectives continued to waste investigative time looking for a person who had been in the hands of police officers several times.

If the department follows the practice of indexing names on white index cards, wanted and missing persons and suspects may be indexed on cards of a distinctive color. This has many advantages, the most important of which is the fact that the employees searching the index will be alerted when a wanted card appears close to the place where they are searching and they will and should review the wanted card for a similarity in the names.

When a master name index is composed of colored cards, that is, one color for arrests, another color for complaints, etc., the index cards pertaining to missing and wanted persons and suspects may be tabbed with a good grade metal tab to serve the same purpose as a colored wanted card.

Avoids Duplication

A master name index will eliminate duplication of indexing and reduce the employee time necessary in indexing to a minimum. For example, if the arrest records are maintained by the desk sergeant and the identification records are in a separate office, all those persons arrested and finger-printed will be duplicated in the indices. This duplication results in a waste of employee time. The same applies to all other indices maintained by a police department.

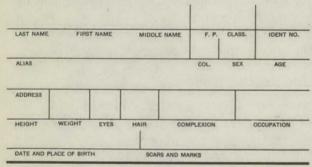
Figure 2 illustrates an index card form designed for indexing arrest and identification records. All the descriptive data together with the fingerprint classification and identification number (in the event the arrested person is fingerprinted) are recorded on the face of the form with the original arrest and each subsequent arrest recorded on the reverse. The recording of all arrests on one index card serves as a cumulative criminal history index. In the majority of instances this form will provide the necessary information about

a person so that the arrest records will not have to be pulled from the arrest record file.

The index cards generally recommended for a police department are 3 by 5 in size. A 3 by 5 index card is large enough to contain all the necessary information for indexing and small enough to conserve space; however, a department may use 4 by 6 sized index cards if space is not a problem.

The type of information which should appear on an index card is that which will allow the index card to intelligently point to a certain record. The type of information by which an index card is to be filed should appear at the top. All index cards to be filed in a master name index should have at the very top, in the left-hand corner, the complete name of the person, with the last name first. Next, the index cards should contain the type of incident involved. The location of the crime should be recorded. The date is also important on the index card so that the searcher may eliminate cases in which similar or identical names appear but which occurred on a different date from the one in ques-

FRONT



FORM 9 - REVISED (SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ARREST RECORD)

REVERSE

DATE	NUMBER	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
		STATE OF STREET	
1			

Figure 2.

Crawford, Dan F. 2147 Portland Ave. Auto Theft Mtr # D2 - 10536

No. 7916

2-3-48

Dodge Sedan, black, 1946 model, Minn. license B-46421 - Serial 4096273. Stolen from curb at 2915 Portland Ave. 4 - 5 PM.

Nelson, Henry P. 1432 Broadway

Breaking and Entering One-Family Residence

No. 7532

1-15-48

Entered above address through unlocked second floor window. Ladder used. Stole 3 men's suits and other furnishings.

Between 8 AM and 5 PM.

Figure 3.

tion. The file number of the main file to which the index card points should also be recorded.

It is helpful if a few words are recorded on the index card as to the circumstances of the crime. Figure 3 illustrates some of the information which should appear on an index card. Generally, a department should avoid recording a detailed synopsis of the case on the index card. Too much information on an index card merely causes confusion to the searcher and a loss of time in reviewing the index cards.

The practice of having index cards carry a title at the top is generally undesirable. The information contained on the index card usually dictates the type of record referred to and the name of the police department appearing on the top of the card is superfluous information.

If it is properly administered, the master name index in any department will become the greatest source of information in the department, as well as a valuable public relations aid.

(Central Recording of Complaints will be discussed in a subsequent issue.)

SCIENTIFIC AIDS

Criminals and cranks often use typewriters in connection with their illegal activities under the impression that typewritten material cannot be traced. Daily more of them learn how false this impression is.

Style of Type

Typewriting can be identified. In the majority of instances it can be identified as to the style of type and as to the particular machine on which a certain document is prepared. The establishment of the style is the most important step to be taken early in the investigation. Once the style is established investigators are then able to confine their search to particular machines of a specific make.

Typewriter Standards File

The FBI Laboratory maintains a Typewriter Standards file. Built up over a period of years,

Typewriter Identification

it contains standards of the different American styles of type and of many foreign styles.

From time to time changes are made in the type designs by the various typewriter companies. As soon as these changes are released, sample impressions of the new designs are added to the Typewriter Standards file. By recording the dates of these changes in the Standards file, the technician often can determine the approximate date a certain style of type was manufactured, as well as classify the style of type by referring to the file.

Fraudulent Documents

In a recent fraud case the subject of the investigation produced several documents from his files purportedly written in 1943 and 1944. These, if authentic, would have refuted the allegations which originally instigated the investigation. In-



Taking carbon specimens from a typewriter



An examiner searching the FBI typewriter standards file.

vestigating agents noted several discrepancies in the documents which led them to suspect the documents were spurious and but recently prepared. They forwarded them to the FBI Laboratory for an examination to determine, if possible, the approximate time the documents had been written. This examination disclosed that the typewriting on the documents had been prepared by one typewriter, which when a comparison with the material in the Typewriter Standards file was effected, conformed to a style of type which had not been manufactured before the early part of 1946. This proved conclusively that the questioned documents were forgeries and could not have been written in 1943 or 1944.

Threatening Letters

In another case the editor of a small-town newspaper received an anonymous, typewritten, threatening letter relating to an editorial he had written concerning a local matter. The editor turned this letter over to an investigating police officer. The latter submitted it to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

The typewriting appearing on the document was classified as to style of type. The type was unusual. It was spaced 10 letters to the inch, but it was the style of type which is usually spaced 12 letters to the inch.

This information was forwarded to the contributing officer, who after further investigation found a typewriter which he thought contained type similar to that on the threatening letter. The machine was found in the home of a person to whom the editorial could have applied.

Specimens were taken from the typewriter and were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparison with the questioned typewriting. The typewriter in question was positively identified as being the machine used to prepare the questioned letter.

The Typewriter Standards file assisted in the investigation of another case which originated recently in a medium-sized Southwestern city. A series of anonymous typewritten letters were received by several law enforcement officers and other citizens. The writer claimed to have valuable information concerning unsolved murders which had been committed in the city.

At approximately the same time that these letters were being sent, another resident received a typewritten extortion letter demanding that a certain sum of money be placed in a designated spot. The extortion letter and the series of letters were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination. They were checked against the Typewriter Standards file. All of the letters were found to have been prepared on two typewriters of different styles which were manufactured by the same company prior to 1932. Since some of the envelopes were prepared on one of these machines and the enclosed letters on the other machine, it was apparent that all of the letters originated from the same source.

This information was furnished to the officers who had submitted the documents and an intensive investigation was instigated. The local type-writer company which sold the particular make of typewriter in question helped by furnishing a list of all persons known to have purchased the two particular styles of typewriter. After many machines were eliminated, the investigators found

two typewriters in a local business establishment which contained the styles of type used in the preparation of the extortion letter and the other letters.

Specimens were taken from these machines and sent to the FBI Laboratory. A comparison of these specimens with the documents in question enabled the examiners to make a positive identification. The material had been prepared by the same machines.

The investigating officers learned that only one individual had access to both typewriters and immediately developed the identity of the writer of the letters.

Need Adequate Specimens

In making a typewriter comparison between known and questioned typewriting, it is essential to have adequate known specimens for comparison. Often the only known specimens submitted for comparison are one or two copies of the alphabet. With such scanty specimens, chances for a positive conclusion are limited.

How much typewriting should be obtained for comparison purposes? It is desirable to prepare several specimens in the wording of the questioned material, using a light, medium, and heavy touch. One specimen should be a carbon copy prepared by using one sheet of paper covered with a sheet of carbon paper and letting the type hit the carbon paper directly without the use of the ribbon. This can be done by putting the machine in stencil position or by removing the ribbon. A specimen taken in this manner will give a clear cut impression of the type. Any defects or peculiarities inherent in it will appear.

The Typewriter Standards file, like many others maintained at FBI Headquarters in Washington, is helping to emphasize the fact that the criminal's "type" will find him out.

Impersonation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has jurisdiction over violations of the Impersonation Statute. The impersonation of a United States Government employee, or an officer or employee of a United States Government-owned or controlled corporation is such a violation. The element of intent to defraud must be present.

Taking upon one's self to act in the role of an impersonator or demanding or obtaining a thing of value through impersonation constitutes a violation of this statute.

Any information in connection with such a violation should be reported to the FBI.



During the investigation of two murders committed in the city of Winnipeg in the year 1946, the city police department used Army mine detectors for the purpose of locating bullets which had been discharged from the pistol of the murderer.

Murder Number One

The first murder, that of a 13-year-old school boy who was on his way home from a picture show, took place about 11:15 p.m., January 4. Although residents in the vicinity heard two shots, the police were not notified until the body was discovered the next morning at 8 o'clock. The victim's trousers were pulled down exposing his buttocks and rectum. Spermatozoa were found on the underwear and it was apparent that the murder had been committed by a pervert. The boy had been shot through the abdomen and also through the head.

One unexploded 9-mm. shell and two empty 9-mm. cartridges were found at the scene of the crime. The ground surface for the most part in the coal yard was sawdust and coal-dust, covered with ice and hard snow to a depth of 3 to 20 inches. The temperature was 7° below zero and the area to be searched was approximately 100 feet square.

Detector Secured

A mine detector was obtained from military headquarters in Winnipeg—a United States Army detector which was on loan to the military for instructional purposes. When operations were commenced, a 9-mm. bullet was extracted from a cartridge case and buried 4 inches in the ground.

The detector was held over it to attune the operator's ears to the bullet's sound reaction in the earphones. After 3 days' sweeping with the mine detector, one of the bullets was eventually located 1½ inches beneath the surface, embedded in snow an ice. It required 15 hours of patient searching and testing before the bullet was located, and steady relief details were necessary.

Mine Detector in Criminal Investigation

By Charles MacIver, Chief Constable Winnipeg, Canada

Murder Number Two

The second murder occurred on September 18, 1946—another 13-year-old school boy coming home from a Boy Scouts' Rally. The body was found in a lane at the rear of dwelling houses in a residential area at 7 o'clock the following morning. The actual shooting took place at 10 o'clock at night when the victim was standing on soil from a recently excavated basement. From observations made at the scene, it was obvious that the bullet would be located in a vegetable garden adjacent to the excavation and in an area 30 by 30 feet. The ground was wet and soggy due to a heavy rain which had fallen steadily during the night.

Again a mine detector was obtained from military headquarters, this time a Polish mine detector, Mark II, which was standard equipment for the Canadian Army in France. The rain had ceased when the operation with the detector commenced at 10 a.m., and the bullet was recovered 9 hours later.

In both cases, as I have already stated, the cartridge casings had been found earlier in the investigation, consequently it was well known that the object of the search was a 9-mm. bullet with copper or steel jacket and lead filling.

Difficulties Encountered

In previous years, residents had dumped ashes, etc., on the ground where this vegetable garden was located. As a result the ground was polluted with rusty nails, pieces of tin, etc. It was found that these articles gave a much stronger reaction through the headphones than the bullet. This made it necessary to have the whole area cleaned of metals before any hope could be obtained of locating the bullet. When a strong reaction was heard on the headphones, the mine detector was held over it until the substance was removed. The bullet was finally located in a round piece of clay, buried about 6 inches under the earth.

Use of Detector

An Army mine detector is composed of a disk with search coil unit in the center attached to a telescopic pole with battery and control box which can be carried in a haversack on the back. It is also equipped with earphones. When a search commences, the switch is turned on and a murmuring noise is then heard until properly adjusted when the noise ceases. Then you commence operation. The sweep should be from side to side, taking a step forward with each sweep. If small objects are being sought, search coil unit must be very close to the ground and the sweep low. When over metal a screeching howl is heard in the earphones. During the operation it was discovered that 20 minutes was the maximum period that an operator could be employed if considerable metal is in the ground, as the ears lost their sensitivity after that period of time.

From our experience with the mine detector, we consider that this method of searching is far superior to digging, sifting, or screening, for when the ground is wet and soggy the bullet is likely to be discarded due to the mud adhering to it and not readily identifiable.

Observations

The lessons learned in the light of our experience were as follows:

- (a) A cursory search or sweep will be of no value.
- (b) Several sweeps may be necessary to clear the ground of all strongly reacting metals before starting to locate the bullet.
 - (c) Perserverance and patience are required.
- (d) Experts are not required to operate detector, although some knowledge of its operation is essential.
- (e) The success achieved in these two cases suggests the possibility of the detector being used to locate other metals (including jewelry) buried under the ground.

It is not considered advisable to submit a table giving the effective penetration depths of the detector as this will vary considerably in different areas, depending on the mineral content of the soil.

Laboratory Tests

There were no persons observed at the scene of either crime, therefore it was very imperative that the murder bullets be located. All the exhibits found were sent to the Crime Laboratory, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Regina. Staff Sergeant Mason-Rooke, ballistics expert, definitely established early in February, 1946, that the bullet

found at the scene of the first murder was from a 9-mm. H. P. Browning Automatic as manufactured by the John Inglis Co., Toronto, and issued to the Canadian Army. Confidential letters with this information were sent out at that time to all police chiefs in the North American Continent. The finding of the bullet in the second murder established the fact that both boys were killed by the same weapon. Hundreds of guns were tested with negative results.

Solution

On July 1, 1947, two young fellows were arrested at Port Arthur, Ontario, for armed robbery. The chief constable at Port Arthur advised me that one of these men had in his possession a 9-mm. Browning Automatic. I requested him to have it test-fired and the bullets, etc., sent to the R. C. M. P. Laboratory in Regina. Within 3 days Staff Sergeant Mason-Rooke communicated with me that this was the gun used in both murders.

Investigation immediately commenced and in the meantime this young man was sentenced to 3 years in the Manitoba Penitentiary. Sufficient evidence was obtained to swear out a warrant for his arrest for murder. He was brought from the penitentiary to the Winnipeg Police Station where he confessed to both murders and is now awaiting trial.

Prior to advent of this invention and its use for this purpose, a search by police officers could have been made extending over weeks without result and I, along with other officers of the Department, feel that the use of the mine detector in these cases was responsible for the apprehension of this accused.

Owing to the successful result we had in these two cases, I have purchased a mine detector from the War Assets Corporation, and this is now part of the equipment of the Winnipeg Police Department.

NOTICE—INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE REVIEW

Mr. L. Ducloux, General Secretary of the International Commission of Criminal Police, advises that it is possible to subscribe to the International Criminal Police Review on payment of 25 Swiss francs or 700 French francs.

For further information, those interested may apply to the General Secretariat of the Commission, 11, Rue des Saussaies, Paris 8, France.

IDENTIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

From time to time the FBI is requested to conduct surveys and participate in conferences and in police schools on the problem of fingerprint identification.

As a result of various observations in the course of these activities it has been noted that many identification bureaus are not fully aware of the importance which latent finger impressions can have in connection with the ordinary handling of arrest fingerprint cards.

Keeping Latents

Many-bureaus and departments spend considerable time in developing latent impressions in a particular case. If no immediate results are forthcoming, the latent impressions are filed for future reference.

It is true that single fingerprint files have been maintained with success by some departments. Many others do not attempt to keep a file because of either limited personnel or lack of funds. In many departments, however, where such a file is maintained, too often latent impressions are simply filed with no regard to possible future use. Actually, these impressions should be treated as evidence directly connecting the subject with the crime.

Active consideration should be given to the latent impressions until they are identified or the case successfully prosecuted. It is definitely felt that the following suggested procedure might have some very decided advantages.

Suggested Procedure

It is suggested that in all cases where latent impressions are developed at the crime scene, or on an object used in connection with the commission of a crime, the impressions be properly photographed and lifted. The evidence, where possible and practical, should of course be properly packed, labeled, and stored for future use in court (Fig. 1).

Caution should be exercised in the wrapping of the evidence to see that the latent impressions on the objects are not destroyed. If the specimens

Importance of Unidentified Latent Fingerprint File

are later used in court the impressions should still be clearly visible. In the same manner all evidence not of a bulky nature such as photographic negatives, photographs and lifts of latent impressions should be similarly preserved for future court use. It is to be emphasized that all material in one case should bear a case number. All specimens not of a bulky nature can be placed in an envelope and filed by this case number (fig. 2).

Filing Method

The above procedure is the usual one followed by the majority of identification bureaus in handling latent impressions. In order, however, to keep the latents in an active state, it is suggested that all the latent impressions developed in a particular case be cut up and pasted on a 3 by 5 card bearing the case number and title of the case (fig. 3).

Removing Legitimate Prints

If numerous latents are developed several cards should be utilized having the same number and title. These cards are then filed by case number in a regular filing cabinet. It should be pointed out, however, that before this step is taken every effort should be made to secure and compare the finger-prints of individuals who may legitimately have placed their prints on the objects which were examined. In addition, as part of the case report



Figure 1.

bearing the same case number as the latent impressions, there should be a notation pointing out that latent impressions were developed in the case and that they are on file.

Daily Check of Arrest Prints

Fingerprint comparisons in this unidentified file can be made on the basis of fingerprints taken from day to day of individuals fingerprinted for criminal identification purposes. For instance, a routine may be set up whereby the fingerprints of individuals arrested each day will be compared the following day with the latent fingerprints filed in the unidentified latent file. It is most important that this procedure be rigidly followed from day to day. It is to be borne in mind that the comparisons are made whether the particular person is or is not a suspect in a certain case. It should be pointed out that special attention should be paid to the fingerprints of individuals charged with burglary, breaking and entering, armed robbery, and other similar cases.

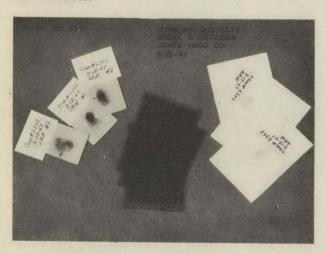


Figure 2.

Uniform Crime Reporting Thefts From Automobiles

Thefts from autos are now punishable as burglaries under recent laws in several States, although under the Uniform Crime Reporting system such acts should still be classified as thefts.

In an effort to discourage thieves who break into parked automobiles, a number of States have passed laws imposing penalties for such acts comparable to those for burglary, and while the prospects of the effectiveness of such legislation un-

Removing Cards

Should an identification be made of some latent prints, and others in the same case remain unidentified, the 3 by 5 card should remain in file until the case is fully closed inasmuch as more than one person may be involved in the crime. Of course, if all the latents are identified then the 3 by 5 card is removed and placed with the negatives, lifts, and so forth.

It may be deemed advisable to remove these latents from the file in instances where the statute of limitations covering the crime has run.

Good Results

If the above procedure is rigidly followed, identifications in many instances will result—more than would be effected if the department maintained only a single fingerprint file in which the latent prints were merely filed away. Very often such a latent fingerprint file is a source of information when all logical investigative leads have been exhausted.

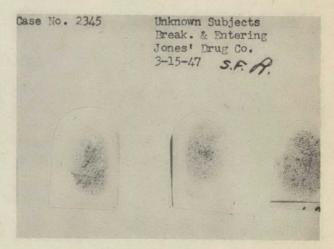


Figure 3.

doubtedly appeal to the law-enforcement officer, some confusion may arise in the preparation of statistical reports due to the statutory application of the term "Burglary" or "Breaking and entering" to a crime previously considered almost universally as a larceny.

Accordingly, for the information of law-enforcement agencies forwarding Uniform Crime Reports to the FBI, in the interests of uniformity thefts from parked automobiles, whether locked or unlocked, should be listed under the larceny—theft classification on the Uniform Crime Reports.

Thirteen Crash Victims Identified

In the recent crash of an airplane in a Western State, all 50 persons aboard were carried to a common death.

Relatives identified some of the bodies; others were known by personal effects. The remaining ones, charred and mangled beyond recognition, bore no clues to identity save fingerprints.

Forty hands (all that were recovered) from the unidentified dead were referred to the FBI for possible identification after all other means were exhausted.

The condition of a few of the hands permitted the taking of legible inked fingerprints. In cases where the outer skin was destroyed, however, it was necessary to excise the inner skin, soften, scrape, straighten and photograph it between plates of glass with transmitted light in order to procure good ridge detail for comparison.

Twenty of the hands were identified as those of thirteen of the victims, including three women. All of these individuals were identified through fingerprints placed in the FBI noncriminal files. Five had been fingerprinted as applicants for employment, one as an applicant for a pistol permit, four as Army personnel, two as Navy personnel and one, only, for the sole purpose of personal identification.

Ironically, identifiable impressions were obtained from the other 20 hands representing an indeterminate number of persons. They could still



Hand from which decipherable fingerprints were secured.

be identified from the permanent photographic records made of the ridges of the skin—but there are no fingerprints of the unidentified passengers on file with which to compare them.



PROMPT SEARCHES PREVENT UNESSENTIAL WORK

Submission of the fingerprints of unknown dead for search through the FBI files not only may identify the deceased but also may prevent unnecessary investigative work.

In one instance a police agency fingerprinted an unknown deceased man in the month of April, 1943, but did not submit the prints to the FBI for a file search at that time. During 1944 a case (Selective Service) was opened on the subject, a wanted notice was placed in his fingerprint jacket and a wanted notice appeared in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin before it was learned that the subject of the case actually was dead.



Montgomery, Ala., was host on October 15, 1947, to the Alabama Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates. The group is pictured during the course of the organizational meeting.

POLICE TRAINING

5. Body Locks-Front

(a) Blows .-

SITUATION: Opponent grasps you around the body from the front; one or both of your arms are free.

ACTION: Immediately bend both knees so that your body weight will be lowered and you will be in a position of reasonably good balance. This should be your initial action whenever an opponent applies a hold of this type. Follow up quickly with a hand blow to the region of the face (fig. 30), butt to face with your head, knee-lift to groin, kick to shins, or stamp on his arch with your heel.

(b) Hip throw.—

SITUATION: Opponent grasps you around the body from the front; your arms are pinned to your sides.

ACTION: Bend both knees as you jab your thumbs or fists into opponent's groin so as to loosen his grasp (fig. 31). Grasp the clothing at his right shoulder with your left hand and pass your

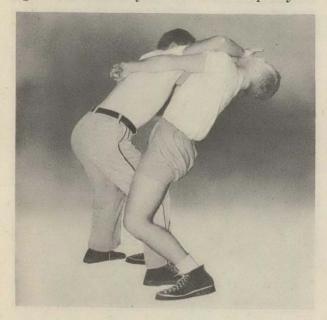


Figure 30.

Defensive Tactics'

right arm around opponent's body. Exert pressure downward with your left hand and upward with your right arm and shoulder and at the same time step across the front of opponent's body with your right foot, placing it slightly outside and in front of opponent's right foot. Both knees are bent and your buttocks are placed low against your opponent (fig. 32). Throw opponent to the floor by pulling the upper part of his body forward, twisting your trunk vigorously to the left, and at the same time extending the knees (fig. 33).

6. Body Locks—Rear

(a) Blows.—

SITUATION: Opponent approaches from the rear and grasps you around the body; one or both of your arms are free.

ACTION: Strike an elbow blow to his face (fig. 34); strike a hand blow to the groin; stamp on his arch with your heel or butt backwards with your head.

(b) Leg pick-up.—

SITUATION: Same as "6 (a)" except both of



Figure 31.

¹ This is the third in a series of articles.



Figure 32.



Figure 34.



Figure 33.



Figure 35.

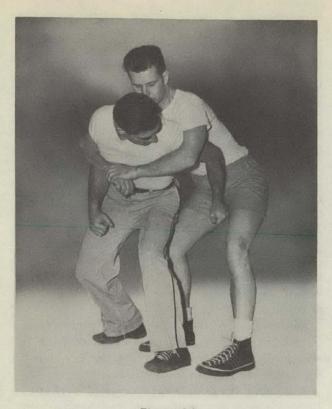


Figure 36.



Figure 37.

your arms are free and one of opponent's legs is between your legs.

ACTION: Feint upward with your arms as if to grasp his head. Immediately bend forward and grasp opponent's leg close to the ankle as you push backward into opponent. Pull up sharply on his leg as you fall backward, landing hard on opponent's mid-section with your buttocks (fig. 35). You can also execute a counter joint movement on his knee or apply a toehold.

(c) Double leg pick-up.—

SITUATION: Opponent approaches from the rear and grasps you around the body pinning both your arms to your sides.

ACTION: Strike a blow to the groin with your left hand to loosen opponent's hold (fig. 36). Then grasp his left leg directly above the knee. (This helps you to maintain your balance). At the same time twist to your left moving your left leg to the rear, placing your left foot directly behind opponent's right foot (fig. 37). Immediately place your left hand under his left knee and your right hand under his right knee and turn your head sharply to the left as you lift opponent upward and backward (fig. 38). If opponent releases his hold, his head and upper back will strike the floor—if he does not release his hold, the same results can be realized by your falling sideways to your left, landing on top of him.

(Other phases of "Defensive Tactics" will appear in future issues)



Figure 38.

MEXICO CITY POLICE SCHOOL

From its inception on June 2, 1947, until the final examination on September 25 and the graduation ceremony on November 13, 1947, the Police Training School held in Mexico City, Mexico, was an outstanding success.

The school was unique for several reasons. It was instituted first of all as the result of amity and cooperation between Mexico and the United States, and is one of the first, if not the first, schools of its kind to be held.

Secondly, instruction was offered to combined groups of Mexican police officers including representatives of the Federal Security Police, Judicial Police of the Federal District and Federal Territories, Judicial Police of the Republic, Judicial Military Police, Secret Service (plain clothes) Division and Uniformed Division of the Federal District Police, Bank of Mexico Police, National Railway Police, and the Investigative Unit of the Department of Gobernacion.

The school was officially inaugurated on May 31, 1947, in an impressive ceremony. President Aleman was personally represented by Dr. Hector Perez Martinez, Secretary of Gobernacion. Addresses were given by Dr. Carlos Franco Sodi; Dr. Perez Martinez; Jose Herrera, Group Chief of the Secret Service and editor of the magazine Policia; and a Special Agent of the FBI.

Two FBI agent police instructors conducted the school which was divided into 2 groups of 75 and 77 each. A list of courses was presented to the representatives of the various organizations. They chose the following: Disarming methods; plasterof-Paris cast of footprints and tire tracks; search of persons; auditory tests; searches of places; recording data at the scene of the crime; the techniques and mechanics of arrest; FBI film on techniques and mechanics of arrest; observation test; ballistics of police firearms; glass fragments; interviews; pretexts; detection of deception; latent fingerprints; police records; road blocks; raids; portrait parle; "come-along" holds in jujitsu; photography and its relation to police work; classification of fingerprints; report writing; FBI films; note taking; police ethics; special lectures by Mexican chemists and judges.

One group attended classes from 8 a. m. to 10 a. m. and the other from 3:30 p. m. to 5:30 p. m., 5 days each week.

The school was held in the classroom of the

Technical Police Institute of the Judicial Police of the Federal District and Territories, which was the sponsoring organization. Excellent facilities for lectures and for actual practice in disarming methods, come-along holds, and judo were made available.

The members of the class were required to take notes during all of the lectures and to present their notebooks at the close of the course. The majority of notebooks submitted were typewritten. In many cases they were bound into book form. The fine caliber of work done on the notebooks and the quality of study reflected in the examination papers indicate that the high purpose of the school was deeply appreciated by all of those attending.

Diplomas were presented to the graduates by Carlos Franco Sodi, Attorney General of the Federal District and Territories, at the graduation ceremony held on November 13, 1947.

A number of examples of successful work, performed in part as a result of the instructions given in the school, were reported by several members of the class.

Antonio Sanchez Herrara, an agent of the Secret Service, advised that he had detained a suspicious individual and, following instructions given on the search of persons, had examined the subject's clothing rather closely. His search revealed a 10-peso note hidden in the collar of the man's coat and a capsule containing drugs in the cuff of the subject's trousers.

Miguel Ponce Vera, also a Secret Service agent with some 20 years of experience, advised that he had made many searches of places but until the lecture on that subject in which students were advised to be alert for loose boards in the floor, etc., he had never, despite his experience, given consideration to searching under the house. During an investigation of a series of thefts involving the breaking of automobile windows and theft of radios from the machines, he discovered a loose board in the floor of the house. Raising it, he uncovered the hiding place of a number of the stolen radios.

Comandante Felip O. Sotomayor of the Secret Service related that during the investigation of the burglary of a store, it was found that one of the burglars, apparently inadvertently, had left a jacket at the scene of the crime. Several officers had examined the jacket without discovering anything of interest. In the course of his examination of the object the comandante discovered what appeared to be a patch under the left arm. Recalling the statement in a lecture on searches of persons that such patches frequently conceal a secret pocket, he examined the area minutely. He discovered that the patch was, in fact, a secret pocket

and that it contained a stub of the type handed out by street photographers. He found by checking at the office of the company which develops such photographs, that the picture had not been called for. Whereupon he secured a copy of the picture which portrayed a man known to be a thief in Mexico City. As a result, the police were able to determine the identity of one of the burglars and make their plans for apprehending him.



Diploma issued at the completion of training. In keeping with local custom, the oval contains the graduate's picture.

Extortion

When a message sent through the mails contains the threat to kidnap or injure any person or property, or demands a ransom or reward for the release of a kidnaped person, the Federal Extortion Statute has been violated.

Investigative jurisdiction for such violation rests with the FBI. (A message containing a threat to accuse a person of a crime or to injure reputation falls within the jurisdiction of postal inspectors.)

If a communication containing the threats or demands embodied in the first two paragraphs is sent interstate by any means other than by mail (this includes telephone and wire transmission) the FBI handles all violations.

Similar messages deposited in a foreign country to be sent to the United States constitute a violation of the statute, as do threats of informing or as a consideration for not informing against any violation of a law of the United States. This latter involves the question of whether or not the individual demands or receives any money or other valuable thing.

TRAINING—CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO.

A 5-day retraining school for law-enforcement authorities from a 10-county area was held at Cape Girardeau, Mo., from October 13 through October 17, 1947. It was conducted under the sponsorship of the Cape Girardeau Police Department in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

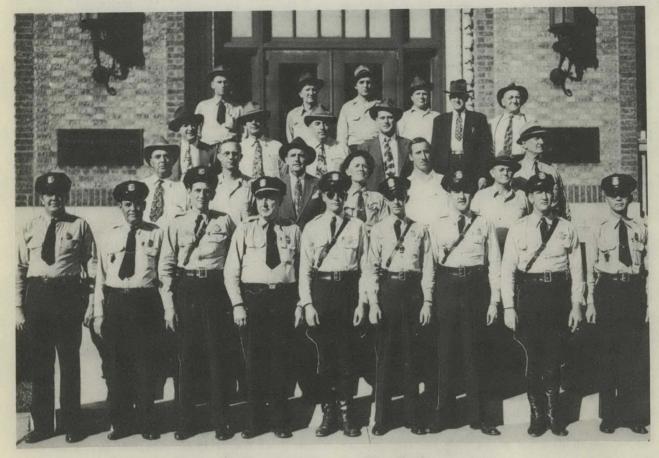
The course, designed to provide standard procedure practices in connection with law-enforcement duties, included practical investigation problems. A hit-and-run case was simulated and followed through from receipt of the complaint to solution of the case.

Raid training covered removal of a "desperado" from a cabin in a wooded area. Evidence secured during the raid and as a result of questioning the "suspect," was properly presented at the moot court.

Auto theft and burglary problems, accident prevention, and firearms training were included in the session.



Gathering evidence.



Officers and men attending school.

POLICE PERSONALITIES

Eau Claire's Chief Laursen



The truly American story—immigrant boy to prominent citizen—is repeated in the life of Christian Laursen, now chief of police at Eau Claire, Wis. "Chris" Laursen was born September 26, 1879, at Kikeborg, Denmark. He immigrated to the United States in 1902.

He worked in northern Wisconsin for a time to repay an uncle who had advanced him transportation money to this country. Then followed several years of work as lumberjack, railroad man, and odd-job man. In 1907 Laursen became a citizen of the United States and that year was appointed as a patrolman on the Racine Police Department.

Chief Laursen recalls that the starting pay at that time was \$60 per month, the workday was 10 hours in length and the men had 1 day off each month.

"Chris" Laursen rose to the rank of patrol sergeant when in 1918 he was appointed chief of police of the Mitchell Motor Co. Police Department at Racine. In 1921 he was appointed chief of police at Eau Claire, a position he has held to the present time.

Chief Laursen is a member of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association and is a life member of the International Chiefs of Police Association. His hobbies are reading and guns. He possesses a library containing over 1,000 volumes and during the Second World War donated many books to the armed services. As a younger man he was an expert rifle shot.

On August 25, 1908, young "Chris" Laursen married his boyhood sweetheart whom he met in his home town in Denmark. He has three sons, two of whom are members of the Eau Claire's Police Department.

A progressive officer, Chief Laursen has always attempted to adopt the latest methods in police work and is constantly working to improve and advance his department.

Brookline Trio

The Brookline, Mass., Police Department boasts a trio of Murphys. In addition to being brothers, the three are Navy veterans.

Sgt. Arthur Murphy, the eldest, chalked up an impressive athletic record before he graduated from the Brookline High School in 1933. He was appointed to the Brookline Police Department in 1939 and was with the force until he answered the call to arms in 1942. He served honorably in the United States Navy, including duty overseas, until October 7, 1945, when he came back to the police department.

In the winter of 1946, Arthur, together with his partner, Sgt. C. A. Heitman, an NA associate, engaged in a spectacular piece of police work. They recognized, ran down, and captured one Edward Greenman who had made a daring escape from the Massachusetts State Prison a few days previously. The pursuit included a hazardous chase over icy roads, concluded by a running foot race which terminated when Sergeant Murphy brought Greenman down with a running tackle. Sergeants Murphy and Heitman were highly com-

mended editorially for the alertness and courage displayed on that occasion.

Officer Murphy was elevated to the rank of sergeant while he was attending the FBI National Academy at Washington, D. C., in the spring of 1947. This marked him as one of the youngest sergeants ever appointed in the Brookline area.

In May, 1947, Sergeant Murphy's younger brothers, William and Cornelius, were appointed as patrolmen in the Brookline Police Department after they finished as Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, on the civil-service examination for the position.

Bill Murphy is 25. He graduated from high school in 1939, served honorably in the Navy from

1939 to 1946 with the rank of aviation machinist 1/c.

"Conny" Murphy, 26, also attended Brookline High School and served honorably in the Navy from 1940 to 1946. He was decorated for gallantry at Iwo Jima and in the Guadalcanal Campaign. As a hospital corpsman attached to the Fifth Marines, he distinguished himself and received a Presidential Citation for displaying great ingenuity and courage in performing emergency surgery which saved the life of a Marine.

Arthur and Cornelius are married. Bill makes his home with Mrs. Gertrude Murphy, mother of the trio.





Mayor Dennis J. Roberts of Providence, R. I., a lieutenant in the United States Navy during World War II, believes in maintaining the esprit de corps achieved in the course of military service. He is pictured presenting the World War II Victory Medal to former United States Marines who are now members of the Providence, R. I., Police and Fire Departments.

MISCELLANEOUS

(Circular submitted to the FBI by Capt. Harry Elliott, Forgery Detail, Los Angeles Police Department. Reports reflect that in the area where the project was given the most attention, check violations declined considerably.)

During the past few months and up to the present time, numerous check books and blank checks have been stolen in burglaries. Also, fictitious printed checks are being cashed by merchants. The suspects often work in gangs. Checks are made up and passed out among them to fit the identification of the passer. The identification which is generally used is a Society Security card which is fictitious. If not fictitious, it is not a proper identification, as the number cannot be checked with the Government.

They work before or after banking hours, and the checks are made out for current wages. The payee usually purchases a small amount of merchandise, receiving the balance of the amount of the check in cash.

In order to help protect the merchants, a program has been set up and is now in use in several business places, chain stores, etc., as follows:

When the check is presented for payment, for instance at a grocery store, the manager takes the check and places his name in the upper left-hand corner, and also the date and the time the check is presented. He then turns check over and has payee endorse check in ink. If the check is already endorsed, he has the payee endorse the reverse end of the check in his presence. Payer will demand positive identification. If operator's license is presented, check the identification and compare signature and address, and place all information on check, making certain that license number is complete, along with letter preceding number, if any.

Payer will then place on back of the check the four fingerprints of the right hand of payee (making certain they are good clear prints: allowing no movement of hand at time of taking prints). If hand is very greasy it will not make good print; should be wiped off before printing. If right hand is injured, use left hand, and so mark the print. He will then present check to the cashier,

Recommended Procedure When Cashing Checks

who will place her name under manager's date and time; also the amount of purchase. In other words, check is never out of the payer's possession after check is presented.

It is suggested that a clerk or another person follow payee and obtain the car number; also the number of persons in the car, sex, etc., placing this information on the check below the endorsement, making certain that the proper license is obtained, and that payee actually drives the car away. If the car is driven away by the payee and payee has stated that he did not own an automobile or possess an operator's license, call your police department immediately, giving them all available information.

It is suggested that a sign be placed in a conspicuous place in the store as follows:

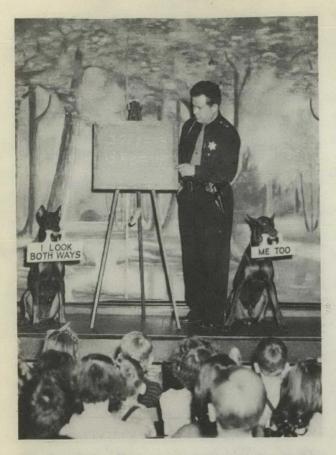
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION AND FINGERPRINTS ON ALL CHECKS CASHED.

Accident Prevention in Fort Wayne

Capt. C. Dunifon of the Traffic Division, Fort Wayne, Ind., Police Department, has developed an accident-prevention program which has materially lowered the accident rate among school children in that community.

For 5 years prior to the present program which was inaugurated 9 years ago, there was a yearly average of nine fatalities among the school children in Fort Wayne. Since the program conducted by Captain Dunifon has been in effect, only four children have lost their lives. One of this group was a child from out of the city. Briefly, this is an estimated saving of 78 school children's lives in 9 years.

Captain Dunifon attributes the success of the program to many activities, but believes the competition between the various schools in Fort Wayne is the main factor. Each is sent a map of



the city with a photograph of the school pasted in its proper location. Every time there is an accident involving a school child, a star is placed on each map in each school, indicating the place of the accident. It is used more or less as a spot map in traffic. As a result, each child feels responsible.

Captain Dunifon's trained dogs help dramatize the safety program for the children. Their many tricks are slanted primarily to safety education and accident prevention.

WANTED NOTICES

Appearing in FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

One of the many services furnished by the Identification Division of the FBI to all law-enforcement agencies is the posting of wanted notices in the fingerprint files, indicating that the apprehension of a particular individual is desired by a local law-enforcement agency.

In connection with this service, where fingerprints are available, it is again desired to point out that the FBI will also publish a wanted notice in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, in the following types of cases:

A. Felonies, Common Law and Statutory:

1. Murder.

Rape.
 Burglary.

4. Robbery.

5. Kidnapping.

6. Manslaughter.

Sodomy.
 Larceny.

9. Arson.

10. Mayhem.

11. Aggravated assault:

a. Assault to murder.

b. Assault with dangerous weapon, etc.

12. Housebreaking.

13. Blackmail and extor-

14. Auto theft.

B. Anyone who has escaped from confinement after being convicted of any one of the offenses listed under A.

C. Attempts to commit any of these offenses.

It will be noted that this list includes practically all felonies except forgery, embezzlement, and fraud. It does not include misdemeanors, such as petit larceny and assault and battery not of an aggravated nature.

If a law-enforcement agency desires the apprehension of a fugitive who has committed any of the above violations and his fingerprints are available, the FBI will, upon request, publish a wanted notice in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin setting out a single fingerprint, the fingerprint classification, the name, aliases, general physical description, offense for which wanted, the fugtive's FBI number, and the name of the agency seeking his apprehension. In order to conserve space, standard abbreviations are used freely and such details of description as scars and marks cannot be listed, with occasional exceptions in case of amputations, blindness, and the like. The description of a statutory crime may be changed somewhat in the interest of uniform crime reporting and brevity; for example, "Breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony" would be listed as "Burglary."

Space is available in the Bulletin at present to publish most of the proper notices which have been established in the fingerprint records even though publication is not specifically requested. Occasionally limitations of space do arise, however, which necessitate postponing or even eliminating some cases which do not appear to be of an urgent nature. For example, consider an escape from a 2-year sentence for larceny as contrasted with an escape from a 40-year armed-robbery sentence. It is suggested that any case in which publication is urgently desired be so described in correspondence regarding the fugitive, so that special consideration can be given.

Questionable Pattern

FINGERPRINTS



The pattern presented below appears to be a loop. However, if it is given a careful examination it will be found to conform to the ruling for the central pocket loop-type whorl.

This pattern does not contain a complete circuit. It does possess one delta with recurves appearing in front of that delta and another delta with an obstruction at right angles to the line of flow. (The line of flow

of a central pocket loop is an imaginary line drawn from the inner delta to the center of the innermost recurving ridge.)

The scar appearing in this pattern has no effect on the interpretation.

In the Identification Divison this pattern would be classified as a whorl of the central pocket loop type. It would be given a reference classification to a plain loop.

Highlights From the Laboratory

Science Helps Convict Murderer

The body of a Negro woman, brutally beaten about the head, was found on March 7, 1947, under a locomotive in the Union Pacific Railroad yards at Pocatello, Idaho. She had been stabbed with a knife and shot several times.

One Andy Criswell, an associate of the woman who was identified as Jimmie Johnson, was arrested and accused of the murder.

The State contended that Criswell had raped the victim before killing her, but inasmuch as there were no eyewitnesses to the murder, the outcome of the case depended largely on scientific evidence.

The clothing of both the suspect and the victim, a knife taken from the suspect, pieces of brick and other articles found at the scene of the crime, and hair, blood, and saliva samples were submitted to the FBI for laboratory examination.

Laboratory examiners found human bloodstains on the shirt, shoes, trousers, underwear, and jacket worn by Criswell, despite the fact that the trousers and shoes had been washed subsequent to the murder. It was possible to group the blood on Criswell's shirt. This was found to belong to the same group as the blood of the victim, but to a different group from that of the subject. Human blood was found on the pieces of brick, believed to have been among the murder weapons. Faint bloodstains were found on Criswell's knife.

Chemical tests showed the presence of large seminal stains on a towel which was found near the body of the victim. This evidence played a significant part in the trial of the case. It was found to belong to the same body fluid group as Criswell's—the rarest group which embraces only about 3 percent of the population. The presence of this evidence was used by the prosecuting attorney to show that the motive for the crime was rape. One human pubic hair from a member of the Negro race was found on the victim's sweater. This was dissimilar to the pubic hair of the dead woman, but was similar in all characteristics to hairs from the pubic regions of Criswell.

The Laboratory technicians testified as to their findings at the trial. The jury subsequently re-

turned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, setting the penalty at death.

Wooden Evidence

An automobile struck several street barricades in Great Falls, Mont., on a spring day in 1947, in such a manner that a plank was hurled against a bystander. The driver of the automobile failed to stop to render assistance to the injured person.

The Great Falls Police Department recovered wood particles from beneath the license plate holder of a suspect's automobile. These, with small pieces of wood from two street barricades, were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for comparison purposes. The laboratory examiner found that the particles from the license bracket and the samples from the barricades were the same species of wood. Further, his findings indicated that all of the wood samples had undergone approximately the same amount of discoloration and decomposition due to weathering.

The Great Falls Police Department was advised of these findings.

Evidence Places Car at Crime Scene

Herbert Woody of Lathrop, Mo., was killed by a hit-and-run driver on August 25, 1946. Investigating authorities submitted samples of dirt from the fender of a suspect's car, together with samples of dirt found on the street at the scene of the accident, to the FBI Laboratory for analysis.

The examiner found that the composition of the two samples were similar which meant that both could have come from the same source. In addition, the presence of a quantity of zinc ore and bits of native silver in both specimens indicated that the car had been in a mining or ore-smelting area and due to the rarity of these minerals in soils, the laboratory examiner could state that the chance of any other car having left the dirt in the street at the scene was extremely remote.

Subsequently, the owner of the car and an individual who had been riding with him, signed statements admitting that they had hit some object approximately at the scene of the accident.