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FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

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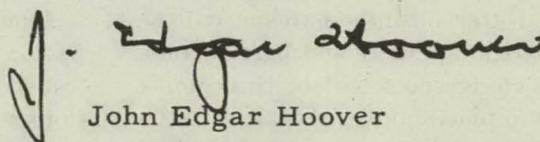
TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

A special series of FBI Law Enforcement Conferences to be held throughout the nation during 1954 will spotlight the growing criminal problem represented by interstate transportation of stolen property and related crimes. The number of convictions for violations of the Federal act has risen almost steadily since the original act was passed in 1934. In the fiscal year 1953 there were 407 convictions, an increase of nearly 700 per cent over those of fiscal 1943 and only eight less than the total number of persons convicted during the ten years from 1935 through 1944.

The Federal act is violated principally by fraudulent check passers, confidence men and robbers, burglars and thieves whose crimes involve large amounts of money and expensive goods. Each offense is also a crime in the community where the money or goods were taken, making the over-all problem one which should concern almost every branch of criminal law enforcement and every citizen or business in a position to be victimized by fraudulent checks, confidence schemes or robberies and thefts of large sums of money and valuable merchandise.

This new series of conferences, like those on auto theft and theft from interstate shipment which were held in 1952 and 1953, respectively, is designed to bring the full weight and experience of law enforcement in city, county, state and Federal jurisdiction to bear on the large-scale criminal problems of our time. Representatives of banks, hotels and other businesses and organizations directly interested in the problem will also be invited to attend the discussions. The objective is to develop an informed and cooperative type of attack for better protection of every community and a maximum return for the dollars spent on law enforcement.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover", is written over the typed name.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

☆
**Conferences
for 1954 on**
☆

Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property

In cooperation with local law-enforcement agencies, the FBI has recently held two separate series of law enforcement conferences designed to discuss mutual problems in connection with auto thefts and thefts of goods moving in interstate, foreign and intrastate commerce. These conferences were received with keen interest and enthusiasm by the many officers who attended.

A similar series of regional law enforcement conferences to be held in all principal sectors of the Nation during 1954 will deal with the problems, methods and techniques involved in combating violations of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act. Topics to be covered include the modus operandi of check passers, confidence men and other violators whose offenses against city ordinances and State laws are the first act in a crime sequence which ends with a violation of Federal laws. Experienced officers of both local and Federal jurisdictions will discuss techniques found to be useful in curbing these types of crime.

Regional Conferences

The special conferences on interstate transportation of stolen property, which will be separate from and in addition to the regular FBI annual law enforcement conferences, will also provide forums for mutual discussions of the problems, methods and techniques involved in combating this type of violation.

Representatives from all interested law-enforcement agencies, as well as those from neighboring police agencies in Mexico and Canada, will be invited to attend the conferences. In addition to qualified speakers from regular law-enforcement agencies, representatives of such groups as the National Board of Fire Underwriters, banks, hotel associations and better business bureaus will be invited to take part as speakers and participants. Locations of the conferences will be based on a determination as to places most convenient to the majority of those attending and the number of

conferences to be held in each FBI field division will depend on the area to be covered.

The Federal Act

In 1934 Congress enacted legislation empowering the FBI to conduct investigations in many types of cases where State lines and fast transportation have operated to the advantage of the criminal by enabling him to get beyond the local officer's jurisdiction soon after the crime is committed. A part of this legislation was the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act, formerly known as the National Stolen Property Act, which makes it a Federal offense to transport in interstate or foreign commerce stolen goods valued at \$5,000 or more. The act further prohibits the interstate transportation of any altered, falsely made, forged, or counterfeit security. Violators of the provisions of this statute are subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.

Possible violations under the transportation provisions of the act are as follows:

(a) Knowingly transporting in interstate or foreign commerce any goods, wares, or merchandise, securities or money of the value of \$5,000 or more, theretofore stolen, converted or taken by fraud;

(b) Transporting with unlawful or fraudulent intent in interstate or foreign commerce any falsely made, forged, altered or counterfeited securities knowing same to have been falsely made, etc.; or

(c) Transporting with unlawful or fraudulent intent in interstate or foreign commerce any tool, implement or thing used or fitted to be used in falsely making, forging, altering or counterfeiting any security, or part thereof.

Another section pertaining to "receivers" imposes a penalty similar to that for violators of the transportation section of the act. Possible violations under the "receiving" section are:

(a) Receiving, concealing, storing, bartering,

selling or disposing of any goods, wares, or merchandise, securities or money of the value of \$5,000 or more, moving as, or which are a part of, or constitute interstate or foreign commerce knowing same to have been stolen, unlawfully converted or taken;

(b) Receiving, concealing, storing, bartering, selling or disposing of any falsely made, forged, altered or counterfeited securities moving as, or which are a part of, or constitute interstate or foreign commerce knowing the same to have been falsely made, etc.; or

(c) Receiving in interstate or foreign commerce, or concealing, storing, bartering, selling, or disposing of any tool, implement, or thing used or intended to be used in falsely making, etc., any security, or any part thereof, moving as, or which is a part of, or which constitutes interstate or foreign commerce, knowing that the same is fitted to be used, or has been used, in falsely making, etc., any security, or any part thereof.

The provisions of this act as indicated under parts (b) of the above violations do *not* apply to any falsely made, forged, altered, counterfeited or spurious representation of an obligation or other security of the United States, since these investigations are handled by the United States Secret Service. Investigations under the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act may also result from one of the following pledging violations:

(a) The pledging or accepting as security for a loan of any goods, wares, merchandise, or securities of a value of \$500 or more moving as, or which are a part of, or which constitute interstate or foreign commerce knowing same to have been stolen, unlawfully converted or taken; or

(b) The pledging or accepting as a security for a loan any falsely made, forged, altered, or counterfeited securities moving as, or which are a part of, or which constitute interstate or foreign commerce knowing same to have been so falsely made, etc.

A person convicted of a pledging violation under this act is subject to the same penalties as those provided for violations of the transportation or receiving sections.

The Confidence Man

One of the principal violators of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute is the professional confidence man, frequently charac-

terized as the aristocrat of the underworld. Dealing in "get-rich-quick" schemes and with a great deal of finesse, he is often successful in convincing an innocent victim of the infallibility of his plan. When the fraud is complete, the swindler and his confederates split up and depart for distant points. Through a series of subterfuges and "cooling off" messages, the swindler is usually successful in delaying the victim's report of his loss until the trail is cold. Law enforcement's task of identifying and apprehending the criminal is then more difficult.

Prior to the advent of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act, the swindler was free to take his easy money and travel to other States or even to other countries to hide from the law and look for new victims. The passage of this act, however, tore away the invisible barriers represented by State boundaries and exposed the confidence man to greater danger.

The "Cool Off" Is Illegal

Public Law 554, enacted and approved July 16, 1952, by the 82d Congress provides:

Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of interstate wire, radio, or television communication, any writing, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

Public Law 554, therefore, appears to have a direct application to investigations presently conducted in regard to the activities of confidence men under the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute. In many confidence games, the subjects use interstate communication, most often the telephone or telegraph, in promoting the fraud or in connection with "cooling off" messages sent to the victim. This legislation, therefore, opens additional possibilities for the prosecution of those confidence men perpetrating their swindles throughout the United States without the necessity of establishing evidence that the subjects transported \$5,000 or more in interstate commerce.

The Famous "Judge Baker"

One of the most common schemes of confidence men is the old "race track" or "Judge Baker" swindle. One swindle of this general type, resulting in the loss of more than \$50,000 to the victim,

began when a wealthy businesswoman was approached by a young man in connection with certain real estate which she offered for sale. The young man, who claimed to be acting as an intermediary for a rich client, wished to purchase the property on behalf of his client. Considerable negotiation followed and the young man departed stating that he would return in a day or two to complete the deal.

Nearly a year passed before the man reappeared. On this occasion he contacted the businesswoman telephonically and said he was looking for a job. In the next several weeks this swindler succeeded in gaining the confidence of his victim to such an extent that he induced her to drive him in her automobile to a city in a neighboring State where he allegedly hoped to obtain employment. On their arrival, the businesswoman was maneuvered into the prearranged position of apparently finding a lost pocketbook. The pocketbook contained information indicating that the owner, a representative of a horse race syndicate which appeared to be making money "hand over fist," was registered at a local hotel. The young man convinced the businesswoman that they should return the pocketbook to the owner. Thus, the groundwork of a common confidence scheme was laid.

The swindler and his victim met the alleged owner of the pocketbook at the hotel where he was registered. The owner was profuse in his thanks and offered a reward of \$250. During the conversation, the second man let it be known that he was employed by a syndicate placing bets on horse races which were being run that day and that if they would permit him, he would place the \$250 reward on a horse and double their money. He immediately left the room and within 10 or 15 minutes returned with \$500. This was repeated a number of times and finally resulted in the three placing a joint bet of \$100,000 by means of a promissory note given to the representative of the horse race syndicate.

Shortly after departing to place the bet, the man returned to the room and announced that they had won \$346,000. Then another individual appeared stating that he represented the racing establishment which had received the bet. He demanded that the bettors prove their good faith in placing this bet by demonstrating that they would have been able to pay in the event they had lost. Considerable discussion followed which disclosed that the two men could produce only \$48,000. The woman agreed to secure the remain-

ing \$52,000 necessary from her bank and deliver it to the men.

The woman returned to her home, obtained \$52,000, came back to the hotel and turned the money over to the two men. Again one of the men disappeared from the hotel room only to return after a short while with a promissory note which he proceeded to tear up. The "syndicate representative" then advised the swindler to take his share of the \$346,000 profit and place a bet on a certain horse. The young man departed, returning shortly to advise that he had bet the entire sum of \$346,000 on a particular horse. A heated conversation followed in which it was disclosed that he had bet the money on the wrong horse. In the resulting confusion, the victim was finally advised that the entire sum of money had been lost. But, they assured her comfortingly, she would be reimbursed for her loss. The young man immediately left for an undisclosed destination, stating that the syndicate representative would contact the victim later to advise her as to the return of her money.

Less than a month later the young man, a notorious swindler and habitual criminal, was apprehended in an apartment house several thousand miles distant. Estimating his share of the money at approximately \$22,000, this swindler admitted to authorities that he had gone to Florida following the swindle and from there took a plane to the city where he was apprehended. By his own admission, he had transported in interstate commerce money valued at \$5,000 or more which had been obtained illegally. He was subsequently convicted and sentenced to a term in prison for a violation of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act.

The Jewel Thief

Jewel thieves who operate on a nationwide basis come in for a fair share of the investigations instituted under the provisions of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act. The jewel thief is as much a specialist as the confidence man and is quick to use interstate transportation as a part of his system. He may burglarize a store during the early evening hours and be half way across the continent before the theft is discovered. If the loot has little value, he will be out of the reach of local investigating officers. However, if the loot is valued at \$5,000 or more the interstate transportation of the loot brings the

matter within the prohibition of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Act and therefore within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

One of the most lucrative jewel theft cases investigated by the FBI under the ITSP Act was that of an east coast jewelry company, the victim in a carefully planned robbery of more than \$221,000 worth of jewelry. One man entered the jewelry store with the alleged purpose of selecting an engagement ring for his bride-to-be. While in the store he gained access to the second floor through a ruse. In the meantime an accomplice had entered the second story of a building adjacent to the jewelry store. Having successfully "cased" the buildings for a possible safe means of entry, the two men purchased an oxygen tank and an acetylene tank—equipment for the proposed burglary. The third member of the gang remained in the background until time for the burglary.

The owners of the jewelry company, returning to work following a weekend, were faced with the

sight of a burglarized safe. The burglars had wasted no time on less valuable merchandise displayed in the showcases but had cut a hole through the safe which housed the more valuable jewelry and then departed with approximately \$221,955 worth of jewelry, leaving behind all their burglary equipment.

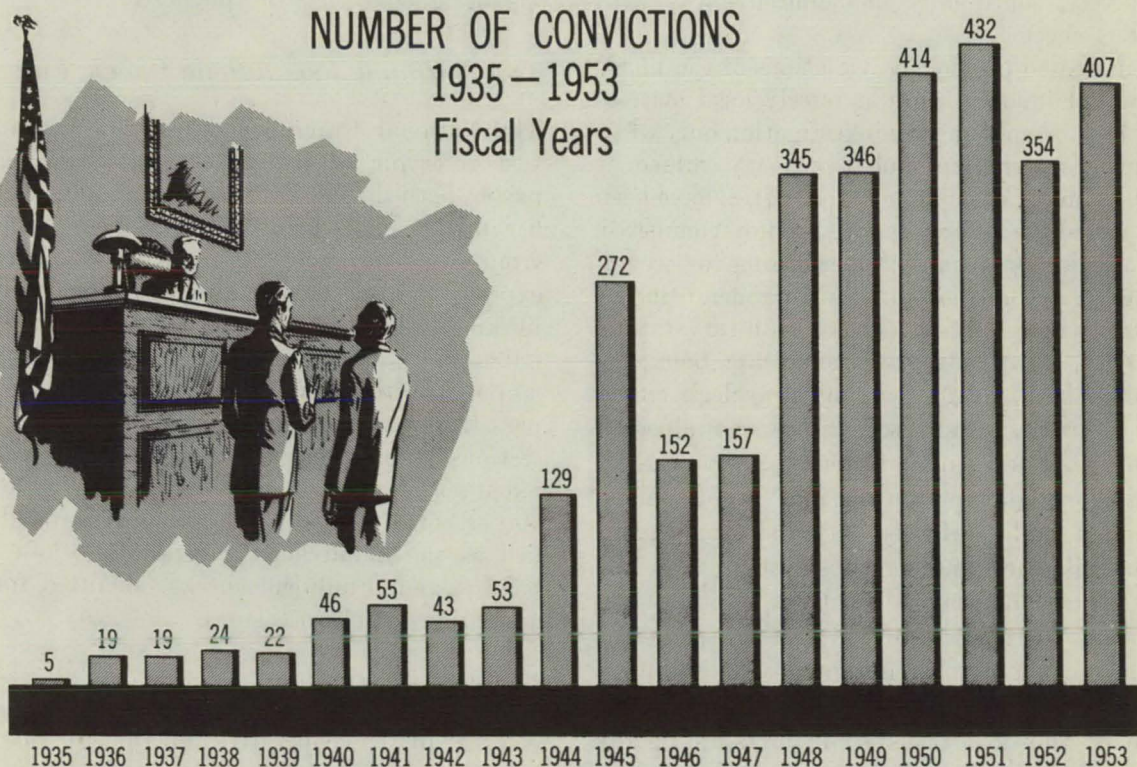
A painstaking investigation was begun but leads were meager. Several months passed before police received a tip implicating a known criminal. Picked up in a distant state on another charge, this individual was found to have in his possession jewelry identified as having been taken in the east coast jewelry store burglary. Investigation was continued until all three burglars had been identified, apprehended and sentenced.

The Fraudulent Check Artist

Fraudulent check cases, one of the most prevalent of crimes, constitute a large majority of the investigations conducted under this provision of the statute. Any forged, falsely made, altered or counterfeit check, other than "true name" checks,

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS
1935—1953
Fiscal Years



transported in interstate commerce falls within the purview of this act.

The activities of a specialist in fraudulent checks were recently ended through the efforts of local law enforcement officers and the FBI. This individual, one of the most accomplished check passers operating in the United States today, had started his criminal career at the age of 10 when he stole \$4 from his mother's purse and had progressed until, at the time of his recent arrest, he was a top ranking check passer. He printed both his own checks and the identification to go with them. Following his apprehension this master check artist readily admitted printing and passing bogus checks amounting to approximately \$50,000 during a 10-month period. His technique was to enter a store and, after carefully choosing a purchase, offer one of his checks, with the explanation that it was a salary check, or a bonus check from the concern shown on the face of the check. To substantiate this claim, he produced bogus company credentials. When necessary, he could also produce Selective Service cards, Social Security cards, a driver's license or any other type of identification which might be requested. All were fraudulent. Like most bogus check passers, he did not remain in one locality, but traveled extensively, continually financing his way with spurious checks.

As indicated previously, violations of the ITSP Act will ordinarily begin as purely local matters with the FBI entering the investigation only when it can be shown that stolen property valued at \$5,000 or more, or counterfeit securities have been transported in interstate or foreign commerce. That portion of the statute pertaining to "securities" may, perhaps, be clarified by a definition of the term which, as it is referred to in this statute, means "... any note, stock certificate, bond, debenture, check, draft, warrant, traveler's check, letter of credit, warehouse receipt, negotiable bill of lading, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement, collateral-trust certificate, preorganization trust certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting-trust certificate; certificate of interest in property, tangible or intangible; instrument or document in writing evidencing ownership of goods, wares, and merchandise, or transferring or assigning any right, title, or interest in or as a 'security', or any certificate of interest or participation in, tem-

porary or interim certificate for, receipt for, warrant, or right to subscribe to or purchase any of the foregoing, or any forged, counterfeited, or spurious representation of any of the foregoing."

Since speed is essential in the investigation of any crime, close cooperation between local law enforcement and State and Federal agencies will make for greater efficiency of all involved. Likewise, the investigator who takes full advantage of all the facilities of law enforcement is one step closer to the successful solution of his case. An important phase of the FBI's operations is in the field of cooperative services which give aid and assistance to the law-enforcement profession on a nationwide basis. Confidence men, jewel thieves and check passers present a problem unlike that of the person who commits a crime rarely or only occasionally. When not in custody, most of them travel from one jurisdiction to another, plying their trade constantly. Officers in any single jurisdiction, no matter how efficient, are unable to constantly observe this type of criminal and gather all the available evidence of his activities. This can be done only through a central file which serves to constantly record the subject's known whereabouts and his current criminal ventures. For many years the FBI has maintained files designed to serve this purpose.

The National Fraudulent Check File

The National Fraudulent Check file contains a vast reservoir of information about the check passer, both the individual operator and the member of an organized ring. To this file come checks from every corner of the Nation. Handwriting experts compare them with those already in the file and transmit pertinent information to the contributors if an identification is made. Thus it is possible to identify these fraudulent check passers and tie together their activities in various sections of the country so that a centrally coordinated search for them may be conducted. Nearly 70 percent of the checks so submitted are identified as the handiwork of repeaters—those who have passed fraudulent checks submitted for examination on prior occasions.

Confidence Men File

Another of the cooperative functions of the FBI is a reference file of documents obtained from confidence men which is maintained in the FBI

Laboratory. This file includes questioned and known handwriting and typewriting specimens of established confidence game operators, as well as samples of the various printed forms and materials used by them. The Confidence Men File supplements the long-established general appearance and photograph file of confidence men which is maintained in the Identification Division of the FBI.

General Appearance File

The General Appearance File contains photographs and descriptions of well-known confidence men. The photographs are filed numerically according to the number assigned to the record of each individual and are supplemented by a complete physical description. The descriptions of the perpetrators of the crime may be checked in this file. The photographs of confidence men having similar descriptions are forwarded to the interested law-enforcement agency to be shown to the witnesses.

Document Examinations

In addition to the other services, the FBI is able to conduct investigations in its laboratory of handwriting, typewriting, printing, paper erasures and alterations, as well as other document examinations, in order to assist in the solution of cases involving the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute.

All of these cooperative services are conducted free of charge and require only that the evidence of which an examination is desired be submitted by a duly constituted State, county or municipal agency in connection with the official investigation of a criminal matter. Also, that the evidence to be examined, as well as any other evidence in the same case, shall not have been previously subjected to the same type of technical examination and will not be so subjected on behalf of such agency or related agency.

Conclusion

The regional conferences scheduled during 1954 will be designed to discuss fully the role of both local authorities and the FBI. The basic problems involved will be discussed and the action to be taken will be outlined on the basis of mutual experiences of those participating. It is believed that through these conferences law enforcement

will, by promoting close liaison across jurisdictional lines, successfully create an offensive which will effectively combat the activities of criminals operating in interstate or foreign commerce. Once law enforcement has successfully closed the avenues of escape to the criminal, the public will reap the benefits through a reduction in the huge losses sustained annually as a result of the activities of these violators of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute.

SAVOIR-FAIRE

A California woman recently lost a considerable sum of money when a clever confidence man, an expert golfer of impeccable appearance and pleasing personality, successfully bilked her of Treasury bonds and other securities which represented her savings. The pretext was to invest her money to greater advantage. In one instance when the victim's banker warned her that her "friend" was engaged in questionable activities, the swindler reassured her by explaining that he had directed the banker to give her this warning in order to ascertain whether she loved him for his money or just for himself.

NATIONAL SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the National Sheriffs Association will be held on June 28-30, 1954, in the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C. A meeting of the executive board on Sunday afternoon, June 27, will precede the first regular session.

Mr. Charles J. Hahn, executive secretary of the NSA, advises that a number of prominent speakers will be on hand to discuss topics bearing on the operation of a sheriff's office. Business sessions will be held during each morning of the 3-day session. Afternoons are being left open for visits to Federal law enforcement agencies and other points of interest. The conference will end with a banquet on Wednesday evening, June 30.

All sheriffs and their deputies are invited to attend, regardless of whether or not they are members of the NSA.

If hotel reservations are desired, they should be made by writing to the hotel. Inquiries on other points should be addressed to Mr. Charles J. Hahn, executive secretary, National Sheriffs Association, 714 Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C.



TRAFFIC

A Prize-Winning Traffic Safety and Enforcement System

*by H. M. BENETHUM, Chief of Police,
Shaker Heights, Ohio*

In 1951, Shaker Heights, Ohio, received the "Grand Award" from the National Safety Council and was named the safest city in the Nation.

Shaker Heights is a residential community of approximately 32,000 people. It is located about 8 miles east of the center of the city of Cleveland. It has no industrial or slum areas. We, here, believe it to be the finest residential city in the Nation. The tax duplicate this year is approximately \$135,000,000. Shaker Heights has a mayor-council form of government in which the council is the chief policymaker, and the chief administrator of these policies is the mayor, the Honorable John W. Barkley. The city council is the legislative body of the city government. The mayor's court tries violations of the laws of Shaker Heights. The business of the city is carried on by various departments which include police, fire, service, finance, law, health, and transportation.

The Police Department

The function of the police department is the protection of life, limb, and property; crime detection and prevention; and the control of traffic. Members of the department are appointed by the mayor from the civil service list as required by State law. The term of office is determined by good behavior. The department consists, by ordinance, of the chief of police, 4 captains, 3 lieutenants, 5 sergeants, 4 detectives, and 35 patrolmen. One sergeant of school police, and 17 uniformed school patrolmen, 1 civilian police garage mechanic, and 1 radio supervisor, part-time, complete the department.

About 60 percent of the department's time is spent on traffic control and safety. All of the uniformed men in the department work both in the field of crime and in that of traffic control. For policing purposes, the city is divided into three sections.

The department has 12 radio-equipped cruisers. In 1952, these cars traveled 318,000 miles, responded to 10,602 radio assignments, and made

9,609 arrests, 94 percent of which were for traffic violations, in addition to many other duties. The expenditures of the police department come out of the general fund of the city. The budget of the department for the coming year has been set at \$335,302.72.

In 1948, out of 179 cities reporting in its population group, Shaker Heights was rated 134th. In 1951, as stated earlier, we were given the Grand Award in traffic safety. There are seven or eight people alive today who would otherwise have lost their lives in traffic accidents were it not for this program. One hundred and eighty persons or more have not suffered injury in addition to the economic loss which would have resulted had this program not been started in the interest of traffic safety. It would seem, therefore, that there should be no debate as to the value of any municipality's starting or undertaking such a program. If in some small way this article will assist others who are seeking a better safety record, we shall consider it a privilege to have been of service.

How It Was Done

In 1948, the council of the city of Shaker Heights, having taken a good look at its traffic record of more than 2 deaths per year for several years, decided to see what could be done about it. Under the direction of the mayor, a council traffic safety committee was formed. It consisted of three members of council, the mayor, the police and fire chiefs, and the directors of law, transportation, service, and education. The mayor appointed as chairman of the committee, Councilman Scott Mueller, and it has functioned without change since that time.

Ralph W. Jones, director of law, attended the judges and prosecutors conference at Northwestern University in 1949, and since that time a total of 17 members of the department have received training there.

The three E's of traffic safety—Engineering, Education and Enforcement—were applied to our program with gratifying results.

With reference to engineering, some of our main intersections have been revamped and made to conform to better engineering standards. Signal lights have been relocated and retimed, crosswalks and traffic lanes have been painted to insure more safety for all concerned. A street lighting program was started at a cost of \$150,000 and is about 70 percent completed. The lighting program has reduced nighttime accidents by 50 percent. A policy of installing four-way stop signs at such intersections as the safety committee deems advisable has had great value in reducing accidents. In 1951, the city purchased the property, black-topped and installed a modern, free, 400-car off street parking lot at the shopping center.

Under the education program of the plan, the school authorities under the excellent direction of Manuel Kuechle have a driver-training program in progress. A public relations program through which talks are given to members of the student body, P. T. A. groups, Hi-Y and church groups, and the Boy Scouts has helped tremendously. Instruction is given in pedestrian and bicycle safety. The schools are provided crossing protection by 17 fully uniformed school guards in addition to the members of the school safety patrols. The three private schools have a comparable safety program.

Under the heading of enforcement, many changes were instituted in the department. Following the plans suggested by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Northwestern University Traffic Institute, a traffic division was organized under the direction of Capt. Bernard Dowling, and has done much valuable work in the program.

Two of the twelve radio-equipped police cars were assigned to this division and were designated and marked as accident investigation units. Both cars are equipped to handle all matters pertaining to accident investigation. Each car contains a camera, portable typewriter, red lights and flares, measuring tapes, first-aid equipment in addition to the standard equipment in all cars. These two cruisers have the two words "Accident Investigation" painted on each side in 3-inch letters. They are manned by 12 members of the department (4 on each shift) and all of them are graduates of the traffic institute.

Selective enforcement is in constant use by all members of the department, that is to say, all available manpower is assigned to the locations where accidents are found to be most frequent and serious, and at the times they occur. They are instructed to watch for the type of violation determined as the cause of accidents in that area.



Col. George Mingle (left) of the Ohio State Patrol presenting an IACP plaque to the author.

When the Accident Investigation Squad is dispatched to the scene of an accident, if it can be determined that a violation of the law caused the accident, the driver is cited to appear in court. The complaint is signed by the officer making the investigation. This determination is made by examination of the physical evidence at the scene, by confession or statement of guilty motorist, or from information obtained from witnesses at the scene.

Where the accidents are occurring is determined by spot maps. After the spot maps have been in use a short time, the trouble spots or high accident locations are easily recognized. The different types of accidents are indicated by various colored pins. Black pins indicate property damage only, red pins personal injury accidents, yellow pins fatal accidents, and white pins a pedestrian accident. Monthly bar graphs are used to determine at what time of the day or night the accidents are occurring. For comparison, a different bar graph is prepared showing the time of arrests for moving hazardous traffic violations. Each month a graph is prepared showing the percentage-ratio of the different traffic violations which caused accidents for that month. For comparison, a percentage column is prepared showing the ratio of arrests for the various violations caus-

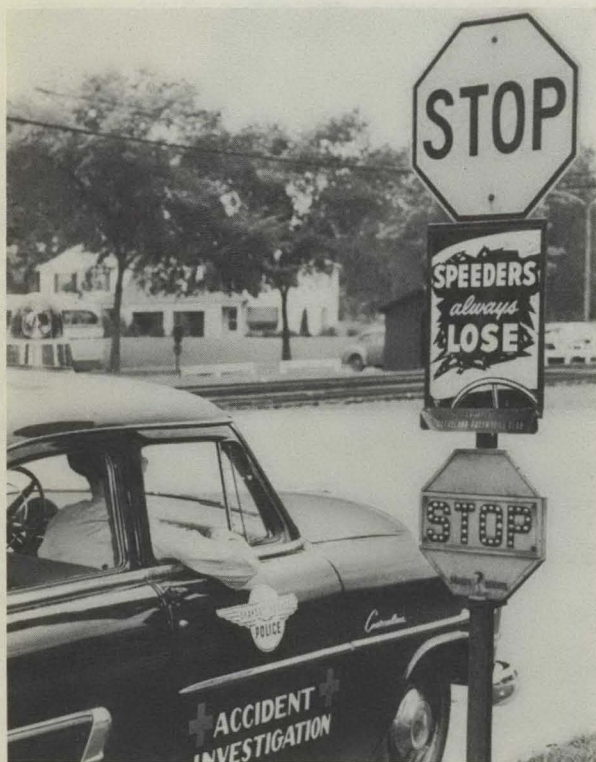
ing accidents. Thus it may be seen that when proper enforcement is utilized, it will discourage the violations responsible for the greater number of traffic accidents.

The spot maps, charts and graphs are posted each month on a bulletin board for examination by all the members of the department. The information contained in the maps, charts, and graphs is discussed by each platoon commander with the men under his command.

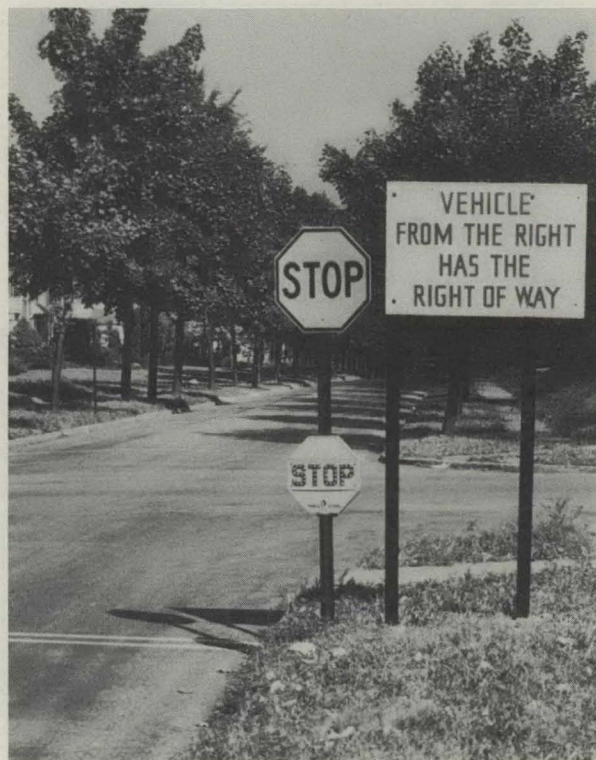
All of the above information on the maps, charts, and graphs is based on the facts as stated in the accident reports of the investigation unit of the traffic division. Complete and thorough investigation is necessary if you are to obtain good records. Good records are the basis and the foundation of effective traffic enforcement, engineering and education.

The Results

The traffic safety program in the city of Shaker Heights was inaugurated in the year 1949. The accident experience for the year was two fatalities, 112 personal injury accidents, and 668 property damage accidents. The enforcement for 1949 shows 2,092 arrests for moving hazardous violations. The following year, to show you how quickly the program became effective, the sum-



Accident Investigation car and safety poster.



Street intersection signs.

mary shows that fatal accidents were reduced to zero, personal injury accidents dropped to almost half, for a total of 60. The enforcement program resulted in 3,442 arrests for moving hazardous violations.

The following figures are the result of the enforcement program for the years given:

Year	Mov- ing viola- tions	Park- ing	Acci- dent arrests	Man- power	Fatal	Per- sonal injury	Prop- erty dam- age
1948.....	1,908	2,593	0	37	3	176	516
1949.....	2,175	4,241	0	41	2	113	667
1950.....	3,537	4,422	279	42	0	60	566
1951.....	2,547	5,929	250	50	0	58	677
1952.....	3,579	5,924	260	50	0	69	572

When the books were closed as of December 31, 1952, there had not been a traffic fatality since November of 1949, a period of 37 months or 1,110 days. In 1948, the enforcement index for the city of Shaker Heights was 5. In 1949, it rose to 18.9, and in 1950, it was 56.1. In 1951, it was 40.77, in 1952 the figure stood at 51.8. As you may know, the enforcement index is determined by dividing the number of convictions or pleas of guilty for moving hazardous violations by the number of personal injury accidents.

The citizens of Shaker Heights are proud of the achievement and are grateful for having been selected for the following honors from the Na-

tional Safety Council, the Ohio Traffic Safety Council, The International Association of Chiefs of Police and other related traffic safety agencies:

1947—*Honorable Mention Plaque* for Reduction in Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents.

1949—*Second Place Award*, Ohio Traffic Safety Council.

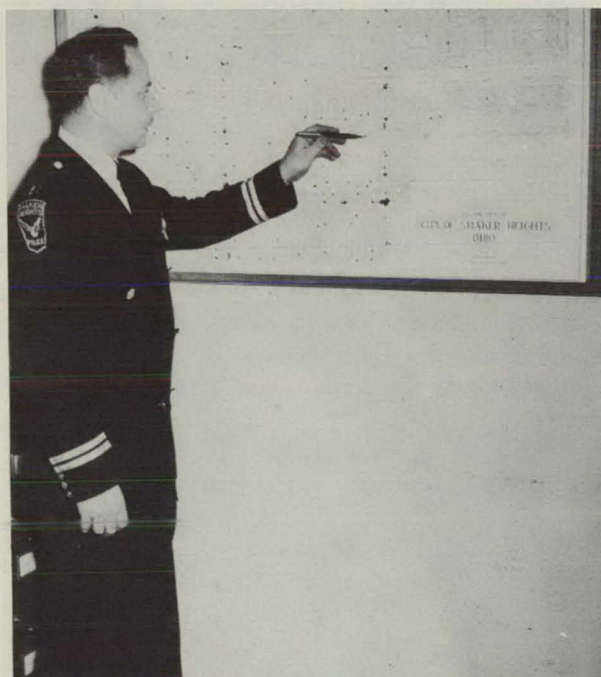
1950—*First Place Award*, Ohio Traffic Safety Council. *Second Place Award* for Conformance to Model Traffic Ordinances, National Safety Council. Recognition of no fatal motor vehicle traffic accidents, National Safety Council.

1951—*First Place Award*, Ohio Traffic Safety Council. *Grand Award*, National Safety Council.

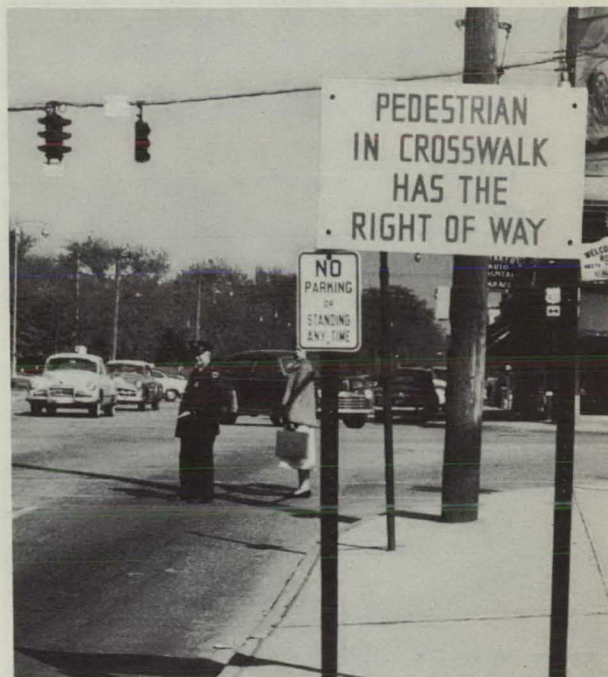
1952—*First Place Award*, Traffic Law Enforcement, International Association of Chiefs of Police. *First Place Award*, Ohio Traffic Safety Council. *First Place (Tie)*, National Safety Council. *Plaque* for Reduction of Fatal Accidents, Ohio Traffic Safety Council. *Plaque* for outstanding Achievement in Accident Facts, National Safety Council. *No Fatal Accidents* in 1952, American Automobile Association. *Twenty-five percent Reduction* in fatal home accidents, Ohio Traffic Safety Council.

In winning the 1952 traffic law enforcement award, the Ohio city tied with Palo Alto, Calif., in competition for cities in the 25,000 to 50,000 population group. The award was 1 of 12 given to cities and 6 to States for outstanding performances in traffic law enforcement during 1952.

What Shaker Heights, Ohio, has accomplished can also be done by any other community through the strict enforcement of a sound, traffic safety program.



Capt. Bernard F. Dowling with the accident spot map.
MARCH 1954



Lights and signs assist Patrolman Frank Gilbride.

Tricycle Traffic Training Program

by TED BROWN, *Chief of Police, Eugene, Oreg.*

Some years ago we became greatly concerned over the constantly increasing traffic accident toll and made various surveys and studies to determine the cause of accidents. As a result of these studies, we became convinced that driver-attitude played a large part in traffic mishaps. We felt that if we could find ways to improve this attitude we could effect a reduction in total accidents. It then occurred to us that if we could reach the city's children with an interesting and informative program on traffic safety, it would pay off in increased safety in future years.

We approached various local organizations with a proposal that they sponsor, financially, a program of elementary-school traffic training. This proposal was received enthusiastically and two different organizations assumed the expenses of the program. The Eugene-Springfield New and

Used Car Dealers' Association provided several hundred dollars for the purchase of heavy-duty tricycles for use in training, and local members of the Lane County Medical Society underwrote expenses for the miniature traffic signals, floor mats, signs, etc., needed for the balance of the equipment.

For our part, we assigned a police sergeant to handle the actual training on a full-time basis. Upon school opening last fall he was ready to begin the program. This is designed to reach all students from kindergarten through the sixth grade in the 17 elementary schools of the district. Since last fall we have added, by request, two parochial schools to that list.

The program will be carried on each year, of course, with the sergeant spending a week at a time in each school. As each child completes the sixth grade, he or she will have completed training in seven annual programs. The child is then presented a certificate of completion signed by the school superintendent, the chief of police, and the training sergeant.

In the actual program the sergeant first has a classroom session, during which he briefs the children on the reason for the program, safety tips on pedestrian habits, simple traffic regulations, hand signals, etc. He explains what will be expected of them in the practical course, and then takes them out to the gym or playshed where the equipment has been set up.

Part of the class will act as pedestrians, the remainder acting as motorists, using for the purpose tricycles in the model street intersection. The procedure is then reversed so that all children take part in both roles. By the time the children have completed the 7 years' program, they will have had quite a comprehensive course in traffic safety.

Our experience to date is that the children, the teachers, and the parents are extremely enthusiastic. Many parents have stated that since their child completed the program they have had to watch their "P's and Q's" when driving the family car.

We are fortunate in having a man who has the respect and admiration of the children and their teachers to carry out this program, and we have enjoyed excellent cooperation from the school authorities. Although this is a long-range program, and we cannot expect results overnight, we are certainly optimistic over the future effects of the training.



Intersection traffic. Sgt. Wesley D. Smartt, instructor, is operating an overhead traffic light.



IDENTIFICATION

Previous issues of the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* presented the classification formula. This article will review the primary, secondary, and small-letter divisions of the classification formula.

The patterns, ridge counts, and tracings of all 10 fingers are used to obtain the classification formula. The classification provides a means by which the fingerprints can be filed in an order which will permit the prompt location of a print and which will facilitate the searching of a print against the fingerprint file.

The Primary

In order to obtain the primary classification, numerical values are assigned to each of the 10 finger blocks. These values, which are utilized only when a whorl appears in that particular finger block, are illustrated in figure 1. The primary is obtained by adding the values of each block in which a whorl appears. The numerator is obtained by the addition of the numerical values in the even numbered fingers (indicated by N in the blocks), plus an arbitrary value of one. The denominator is obtained by the addition of the odd numbered fingers (indicated by D in the blocks), plus an arbitrary value of one. In figure 1 this arbitrary value is listed outside the finger blocks for both the numerator and the denominator. When no whorl appears in a set of impressions, the primary is 1 over 1 as the arbitrary values are always used. When whorls are present in all 10 fingers, the highest possible primary, 32 over 32, is obtained. The primary is indicated near the middle of the classification line.

In figure 2 the primary is 1 over 1 since no whorls appear on the fingerprint card.

In figure 3 the even numbered fingers have whorls in fingers 2 and 4. By referring to the chart in figure 1, it is seen that number 2 finger block has a value of 16, and finger number 4 has a value of 8. Adding the arbitrary value of 1 results in a numerator of 25. To obtain the denominator add the values of number 1, 7, and 9 fingers plus the arbitrary value of 1, and a de-

Using the Formula in Fingerprint Classification

ominator of 20 is obtained. The complete primary then would be 25 over 20.

The Secondary

The secondary is composed of the type of patterns in the index fingers. The numerator is taken from the index finger of the right hand, and the denominator is taken from the index finger of the left hand. The symbols used below the finger blocks are brought up on the classification line, except that a *U* is used to designate an ulnar loop. The secondary is indicated just to the right of the primary classification.

Figure 4 illustrates a secondary of *W* over *R*, while figure 5 shows a *T* over *U* secondary. There are five possible symbols which can occur in the secondary: *A*, *T*, *R*, *U*, and *W*.

Small Letters

Although the small letters are treated separately in explaining the classification formula, they are considered to be a part of the secondary. When a plain arch, tented arch, or radial loop occurs in any but the index fingers, they are indicated below the finger blocks by a small letter *a*, *t*, or *r*. Any of these small letters appearing in the finger blocks are indicated on the classification line to show the small letters relative position to the index fingers. Since the index fingers are brought up into the classification formula as the secondary, the small letters are indicated on either side of the secondary depending on their location in the finger blocks. A small letter appearing in the right hand would be indicated above the line: if in finger number 1 to the left of the secondary, and if in fingers 3, 4, or 5 to the right of the secondary. A small letter appearing in the left hand would be indicated below the line in the same manner. Small letters from the thumbs are indicated to the left of the secondary between the primary and the secondary.

In figure 6 the "*r*" from the right thumb is indicated above the line and to the left of the secondary. The "*a*" from the left middle finger is placed below the line immediately to the right of the secondary.

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK									
Name		Class		Color		Sex		Ref	
Alias		Color		Sex		Ref			
RIGHT HAND									
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger					
N	16		N	8					
D	16		D	8					
LEFT HAND									
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger					
N	4		N	2					
D	2		D	1					
Impressions taken by:					Note: Impression of person fingerprinted.				
Date					Signature of person fingerprinted.				
Four fingers taken simultaneously					Four fingers taken simultaneously				
Left Hand					Right Hand				
DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD									

Figure 1.

In the event that two or more small letters of the same type occur in successive fingers, they are indicated with the appropriate number preceding the small letter to show the number of small letters which occur in succession, such as 2a, 2at, or 3a. The "t" in the right middle finger of figure 7 is indicated in the numerator adjacent to the secondary, and the small letters from the right ring and right little finger are indicated to the right of the "t" as 2a. In the denominator the small letters appearing in the left middle, ring, and little fingers are indicated as 3r. It is stressed that the

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK									
Name		Class		Color		Sex		Ref	
Alias		Color		Sex		Ref			
RIGHT HAND									
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger					
0	I	14	0	6					
W	W	W	W	W					
20	0	18	I	4					
W	W	W	W	W					
Impressions taken by:					Note: Impression of person fingerprinted.				
Date					Signature of person fingerprinted.				
Four fingers taken simultaneously					Four fingers taken simultaneously				
Left Hand					Right Hand				
DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD									

Figure 3.

same type small letter must occur in consecutive fingers before the number may be used in conjunction with the small letter.

When an ulnar loop or a whorl intervenes between the index finger and a small letter or between two small letters, dashes are used for each intervening loop or whorl to show the proper position of the small letter in relation to the index finger. Figure 8 has a whorl in the right middle finger and a loop in the right ring finger resulting

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK									
Name		Class		Color		Sex		Ref	
Alias		Color		Sex		Ref			
RIGHT HAND									
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger					
26	5	3	6	5					
W	W	W	W	W					
11	3	13	5	6					
W	W	W	W	W					
Impressions taken by:					Note: Impression of person fingerprinted.				
Date					Signature of person fingerprinted.				
Four fingers taken simultaneously					Four fingers taken simultaneously				
Left Hand					Right Hand				
DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD									

Figure 2.

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK									
Name		Class		Color		Sex		Ref	
Alias		Color		Sex		Ref			
RIGHT HAND									
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger					
18	0	14	20	11					
W	W	W	W	W					
14	11	17	14	12					
R	R	R	R	R					
Impressions taken by:					Note: Impression of person fingerprinted.				
Date					Signature of person fingerprinted.				
Four fingers taken simultaneously					Four fingers taken simultaneously				
Left Hand					Right Hand				
DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD									

Figure 4.

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name _____ (Print name or print initials) Class **1 T**
 Alias _____ (Print name or print initials) **1 U**
 No. _____ Color _____ Sex _____ Ref. _____

RIGHT HAND				
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger
21		14	16	9
LEFT HAND				
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger
15	13	16	13	10
Impressions taken by: _____		Note suppositions: _____		Signature of person fingerprinted: _____
Date: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____
Left Hand		Left Thumb, Right Thumb		Right Hand

DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

Figure 5.

in the use of two dashes between the secondary and the small letter, "t," which is brought up into the classification formula from the right little finger. In the denominator the "a" from the left middle finger is indicated next to the secondary; a dash is used to show the intervening loop between the two small letters; and the "t" from the left little finger is brought up just after the dash.

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name _____ (Print name or print initials) Class **1 R**
 Alias _____ (Print name or print initials) **5 U a**
 No. _____ Color _____ Sex _____ Ref. _____

RIGHT HAND				
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger
8	6	5	24	0
LEFT HAND				
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger
16	11	20	17	
Impressions taken by: _____		Note suppositions: _____		Signature of person fingerprinted: _____
Date: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____
Left Hand		Left Thumb, Right Thumb		Right Hand

DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

Figure 6.

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name _____ (Print name or print initials) Class **5 U t a**
 Alias _____ (Print name or print initials) **17 U 3 r**
 No. _____ Color _____ Sex _____ Ref. _____

RIGHT HAND				
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger
0	16			
LEFT HAND				
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger
0	10	11	17	15
Impressions taken by: _____		Note suppositions: _____		Signature of person fingerprinted: _____
Date: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____
Left Hand		Left Thumb, Right Thumb		Right Hand

DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

Figure 7.

A future issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin will give a review of the remaining divisions of the classification formula.

Due to the necessity of reducing the size of the fingerprint cards illustrated in this article, the fingerprint patterns are unavoidably indistinct. The sole purpose of the illustrations of the complete fingerprint cards is to show the method of obtaining the classification formula and how it is indicated on the classification line.

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name _____ (Print name or print initials) Class **1 U -- t**
 Alias _____ (Print name or print initials) **9 U a - t**
 No. _____ Color _____ Sex _____ Ref. _____

RIGHT HAND				
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger
10	4	0	3	
LEFT HAND				
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger
11	5	10		
Impressions taken by: _____		Note suppositions: _____		Signature of person fingerprinted: _____
Date: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____		Four fingers taken simultaneously: _____
Left Hand		Left Thumb, Right Thumb		Right Hand

DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

Figure 8.

They

Write

A B C D E F

Their Own Sentences

G H I J K L M N O P
 Q R S T U V W X Y Z

FBI LABORATORY'S DOCUMENT SECTION

Handwriting Analysis

EXPERT TESTIMONY based on handwriting analyses is now an approved, often essential, part of court trial procedure. However, conditions were not always so favorable for this phase of crime detection. Even a few decades ago restrictions in a great many courts limited the scope of the document examination or the adequate presentation of handwriting testimony. The problems faced by the document expert under such conditions were extremely difficult, and sometimes resulted in ineffective testimony or no testimony at all. Now, however, the properly trained and qualified expert is accepted without bias in practically every court of law in the United States and its Territories as an essential witness in many types of cases.

Great Progress Made

This change has been brought about primarily by the great progress made in scientific study and analysis of handwriting during the past century. Out of this gradual accumulation of knowledge has come the realization that each person's writing—like each person's fingerprints—contains certain

individual characteristics. This is the fundamental principle on which handwriting comparisons are based, and on which testimony is given in and accepted by courts of law.

The basis of this principle is simple and logical. The natural and subconscious handwriting characteristics developed by the individual are a product both of the movements of the hand which

writes and the mind which directs the writing. These two influences result in an infinite number of possible combinations of individual writing habits, each combination representing the sum of numerous physiological and psychological factors peculiar to the writer.

There may be a superficial and pictorial resemblance in the writings of two persons due to such influences as childhood training in similar styles of penmanship, the use of foreign letter formations, the "family" resemblance which sometimes occurs among writings of members of the same family, or a deliberate attempt to imitate the writing of another. Also, two documents written by one and the same person may appear to be "different" because of such factors as a change in writing conditions, the effects of illness or extreme fatigue, a long lapse of time between the two writings, or a deliberately assumed disguise.

However, detailed and expert analysis will as a rule reveal the hidden, automatic, entirely individual characteristics on which the document examiner bases his conclusion—a definite scientific opinion based entirely on the elements contained in the documents themselves.

Anonymous Letters

Previous articles in this series on documentary examinations have discussed to some extent the examination of handwriting, particularly in connection with fraudulent checks and forgery cases. However, these types of cases usually involve signatures or very small amounts of writing. Examinations of larger amounts of handwritten material, such as evidence in anonymous letter cases, and the obtaining of proper known specimens for comparison purposes, may create additional problems. However, the discussion in the second article of this series relative to methods of obtaining known handwriting for comparison with checks generally applies equally well to other types of documentary evidence. The primary consideration to be remembered in obtaining any type of known evidence for comparison with questioned material is to *reproduce the original conditions of the preparation of the questioned material as nearly as possible.*

Disguised Writing

The problem of disguised writing frequently arises in anonymous letter cases. Rarely is there any attempt by the writer to imitate the writing of

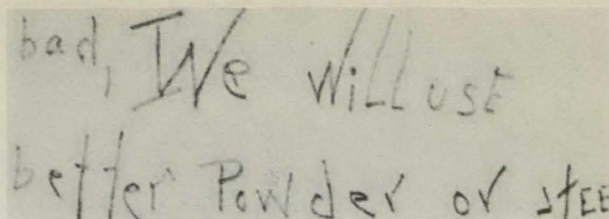
A photograph of a piece of paper with handwritten text in dark ink. The text is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style. The first line says "bad, We will use" and the second line says "better Powder or steel".

Figure 1.

another person, but only to alter his own normal writing. These attempts at alteration usually destroy only the more obvious characteristics, leaving completely untouched the unconscious and inherent writing habits. One of the crudest and least effective (though often used) ways of disguise is a change in the slant of the writing. Changes in the size of the writing, extra flourishes in capital letters, angular formations of small letters—all these methods may alter the pictorial effect, but the basic characteristics remain unchanged. Even an attempt at disguise by writing with the hand other than that normally used is as a rule no more productive than any other form of disguise, since the same mind still guides the hand in the same basic writing habits. Some of the signs of disguised writing are unnatural line quality caused by slow or "drawing" movements, inconsistencies in letter formations, and an erratic overall appearance. The writing of a poorly educated person who is not accustomed to writing may appear to exhibit some of these same qualities. However, there is basic consistency in this type of writing which does not appear in disguised writing.

Handwriting Comparisons

Four anonymous letter cases may serve to illustrate some of the basic types of comparisons often encountered in handwriting analyses. The first case concerned an official of a Connecticut firm who received in the mail a package containing a crude homemade bomb and a handprinted threatening note. Known handprinting specimens of a suspect were sent to the FBI Laboratory for examination. In this case, the handprinting on the

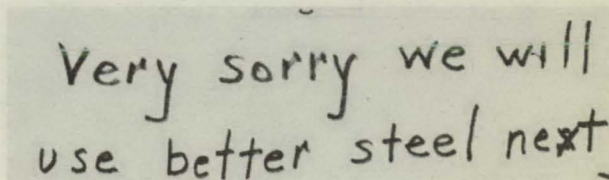
A photograph of a piece of paper with handwritten text in dark ink. The text is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style. The first line says "Very sorry we will" and the second line says "use better steel next".

Figure 2.

A photograph of a handwritten note in cursive script. The text reads: "Talk. That is the end for you should have with you all." The ink is dark, and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and connected.

Figure 3.

questioned note was highly disguised, whereas the known handprinting was written normally. However, the questioned handprinting consistently showed the same basic characteristics as the large amounts of known handprinting, both upper case and lower case, obtained from the suspect and the document examiner was able to state positively that this suspect had written the threatening note. Figure 1 is a portion of the questioned note, and figure 2 is a portion of the known printing in lower case letters.

It is pointed out that this case actually involved handprinting rather than handwriting, but the examination of handprinting follows the same principles as the examination of handwriting, since the same basic rules apply. It should be noted, though, that a comparison of handwriting with handprinting is rarely productive, since this type of comparison involves two entirely different styles of writing and would as a rule be no more feasible than trying to compare shorthand symbols with script writing. Therefore, when the questioned material is handprinted, dictated known specimens should be obtained in both upper case and lower case letters, or if dictated material cannot be obtained from a suspect, a search should be made for samples of his handprinting rather than his handwriting.

The second anonymous letter case concerned a girl in Florida who accused a man of threatening to kill her, and as proof displayed a threatening letter she said she had received in the mail, signed with his name. However, a document examination in the FBI Laboratory definitely eliminated

the man as the writer of the letter. Then samples of the girl's writing, both dictated and undictated, were submitted for comparison with the letter. The questioned writing showed no signs of disguise, other than the fact that it was rather large (perhaps an attempt to make it resemble a man's writing). However, the girl's dictated known writing was considerably disguised, and a study of her undictated writing (mostly personal correspondence) showed she had attempted several different styles of writing during the preceding few months. After a thorough analysis of all these writings, the threatening letter was positively identified as her work. Figure 3 is a portion of the questioned letter, and figure 4 is the disguised dictated writing of the girl.

In this case, the obtaining of undictated as well as dictated known writing of the girl was of great help to the document examiner. Often, when an attempt is made by a law enforcement officer to obtain dictated known specimens, the suspect may try to disguise his writing. By obtaining numerous specimens on separate sheets of paper, one after the other, and by removing each specimen from the suspect's sight as soon as it is completed, it is usually possible to eventually obtain representative samples of his normal writing, since it is extremely difficult to maintain a disguised manner of writing over a long period of time, or to continue a disguise consistent in its appearance with the previous disguised material. Another point which this case illustrates is the advisability of obtaining known specimens of the victim in anonymous letter cases whenever the investigation seems to justify this procedure, since instances of the "victim" writing the letter to himself or herself occur with surprising frequency.

The third anonymous letter case illustrates an unusual angle of this tendency in some persons deliberately to focus attention on themselves by methods which can hardly be considered legal (the same peculiarity which causes a pyromaniac to set a fire, then turn in the alarm himself). This case began with a crudely handprinted anonymous note found in a mail box in Michigan. The note advised that a man's body had just been found in a "hobo camp" nearby. An immediate search of the area located the body of a murdered man. On the chance that the murderer himself might have written the note, a comparison of the questioned handprinting with known handprinting of a suspect was requested of the FBI Laboratory, and a positive identification was made.

A photograph of a handwritten note in cursive script. The text reads: "get if you talk. That the end for you. I sh done away with you". The handwriting is somewhat slanted and connected.

Figure 4.

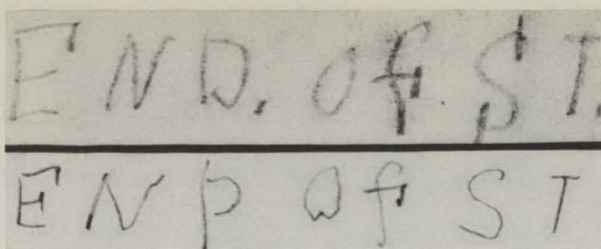


Figure 5.

Though the suspect had at first flatly denied any previous knowledge of the body, he finally confessed when told of the results of the laboratory examination. He said he had been so upset when he returned to the scene of the murder the following day and found the body still there that he had written the note. In this particular case, the crudity of the questioned handprinting would appear at first sight to be due to an attempt at disguise, yet a thorough examination showed the characteristics to be natural and individual, and perfectly consistent with the characteristics in the known printing. Figure 5 shows small portions of the anonymous note (upper) and the known printing (lower).

The fourth anonymous letter case used here for illustrative purposes concerned a woman found murdered in Georgia. By the body was a threatening letter signed with the name of one of her acquaintances, whom investigation promptly eliminated as a suspect. Several circumstances pointed to the woman's husband as the murderer, and when his known writing was sent to the FBI Laboratory he was positively identified as the writer of the letter to which he had signed another man's name. He was convicted of the murder and sentenced to die. However, about a month after the trial a newspaper received a letter signed "Ziggy," confessing to the murder, and stating that the woman's husband was entirely innocent.

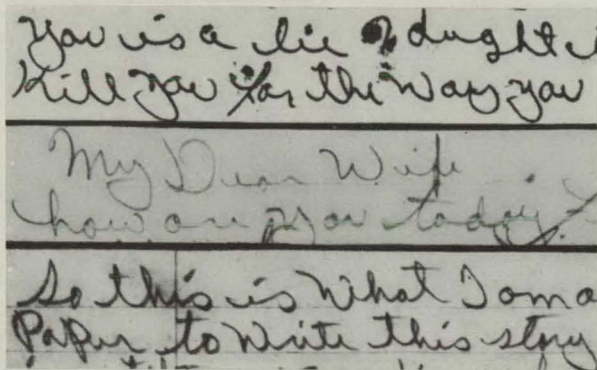


Figure 6.

"Ziggy" also stated that his handwriting would be found to be exactly like the husband's handwriting. This letter was also sent to the FBI Laboratory, and the writing was identified not only with the writing on the original threatening letter but also with the known writing of the husband. The "Ziggy" letter had obviously been smuggled out of jail by one of the husband's visitors in a desperate attempt to save him from the electric chair. Figure 6 shows small portions of the threatening letter, the known writing of the husband, and the "Ziggy" letter.

The peculiar feature of this case was that these three letters, each signed with the name of a "different" person, showed no signs of any attempts at disguise in any of the writings. The murderer thus displayed a complete ignorance of the possibilities of handwriting comparisons, and assumed that since it was supposedly "impossible" for him to mail a letter while he was in jail, any identification of his known writing with the "Ziggy" letter would not be accepted. However, the fundamental principle of handwriting analysis—that each person's writing contains its own individual characteristics—still remains constant.

This concludes the last in this series of articles on the work of the Document Section of the FBI Laboratory. The purpose of this series has been twofold—to give some idea of the wide range of scientific examinations that can be made in the field of document work, and to point out to law enforcement officers the possibilities of these examinations in assisting their own investigations.

SOIL ANALYSES

Small amounts of soil from the cuffs of a suspect's trousers, from fingernail scrapings, or from the sole of a shoe may prove to be identical with soil taken from the scene of a crime. Safe crackers not infrequently step on the insulating material blown out of a safe's walls, and traces may remain on their shoes for days. Soil lumps knocked from the fender of a hit-and-run car at the scene may later be identified with soil from under the fenders of a suspect's car. Marked differences are found in the composition of soil samples taken from spots as close together as a few yards. Dust specimens on window sills in the same neighborhood have been found to be different. Extreme care must be taken in packaging samples to avoid contamination and leakage. In the specialized field of safe insulation the FBI Laboratory has set up a reference file which has proved very helpful.

OTHER TOPICS

Our department was organized in July 1948. Our mission is to protect life and property in the Commonwealth of Kentucky—a state which is 424 miles from east to west at its longest point, and 192 miles from north to south at its widest point. To reach our main objective we must successfully carry out many smaller missions.

In Kentucky, as in all other States, automobile accidents are draining the life and wealth of our people. In the latter part of 1952 we began to apply the best selective enforcement techniques to our 58,000 miles of highways. This is the system of assigning our troopers to locations which are having a bad accident experience at the time these accidents are known to be occurring. This method is paying dividends, because it affords an opportunity to apprehend those violators who might cause fatalities. The work of this selective enforcement program is attested to by a reduction of 29 fatalities during the first 7 months of 1953,

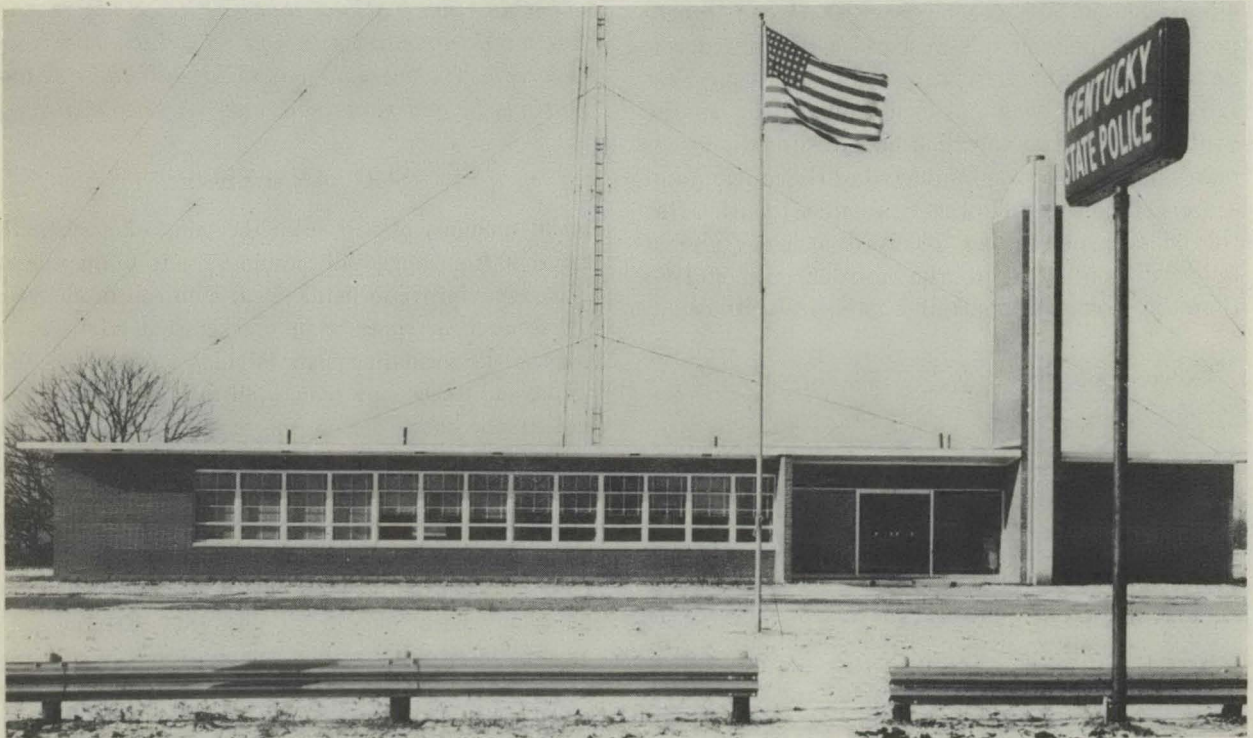
Kentucky State Police—A Brief Review of Our Work

by COL. CHARLES C. OLDHAM, *Commissioner,
Kentucky State Police*

as compared with the same period during 1952. We also experienced a decrease of 509 property damage accidents during the first 7 months of the year. We hope to further reduce the toll by actually pinpointing our operation through the use of grid-coordinate maps. This military map system of our State will also be effective in criminal work—even to the extent of locating specific buildings by coordinate readings.

Crime in General

The criminal problem is also a major one for us. With the exception of a few cities of the first five classes we have general police jurisdiction over 40,395 square miles of territory. In times of emergency the Governor has the power to give us jurisdiction even in the cities already mentioned. Perhaps in no other State is there a more varied police problem than there is in Kentucky. In the



New barracks at Williamstown, Ky.

mountains we are called upon to police the bitter mine strikes which are so often the subject of news stories. We do this fearlessly and firmly, but impartially. The misgivings which were expressed early in the life of this department, that it would be used to break strikes, have been proved groundless. The controversies in this area are unique; they are not only caused by disputes between union miners and mine owners, but by those between union miners and nonunion miners. All persons concerned will agree that the State police have acted fairly in these situations, as well as in all others.

Our mountains are also plagued by moonshiners. Perhaps more irksome are those bootleggers who haul legal whiskey into dry counties of our mountain region. Regardless of the kind of illegal liquor operation, the bootleggers have a healthy respect for the State troopers. Our men, acting both independently and in cooperation with other State and Federal agencies, have made effective dents in the illicit liquor traffic.

Safety Work

We have produced safety movies and safety recordings. These materials are being shown in the theatres and are being broadcast by radio stations throughout the Commonwealth regularly. These safety activities are further augmented by magic



Col. Charles C. Oldham.

safety shows, "circuit riding" safety lecturers, and our handling of a teen-age driver training program, known as "Tomorrow's Travelers."

Of course, I have already revealed a sizeable operation, but we are not yet finished. We have fostered, and are staffing, a 4-year undergraduate



The pistol team competes in local, State, regional and national matches. Members of the 1953-54 team, left to right, are: Troopers Charles E. Decker, Thomas Matthews and Marvin B. Meyers, Corporal Shelby Riggs (coach and firearms instructor) and First Sgt. Harold L. Lunstford, team captain.

program at the University of Kentucky. There students majoring in police science and administration may receive their bachelor's degree in this field. Students of law, journalism, and chemistry may take their minor credits in this school. Doubtlessly, this will broaden the understanding of our problems among people in those other professions.

We believe in, and hold regular sessions of, specialized training for our members. Of all Kentucky graduates of the FBI National Academy on active police duty, one-third are members of our department.

Without intending to minimize our other activities, such as our 14 station radio network, an excellent records bureau, an extensive civil defense program, etc., we shall pass them by.

Personnel

Perhaps other officers are interested in the men who are eligible for appointment as cadets. Those who were in the army during World War II are familiar with the AGCT, an intelligence test given to all recruits. As you may well remember, a score of 110, or better, qualified soldiers for admission to officers' candidate schools. Our cadets must meet the same standards. After this, and other rigid examinations of their mind, character, aptitude, and health; and after meeting police and civilian boards, they may be appointed as cadets.

Our cadet training lasts for 12 weeks. These fledglings are given a pass from Saturday noon until 10 p. m. on Sunday of each week. Our instructors come from several other States, and from several other universities, as well as from our own. The cadets live a hard life, but those who survive

the training are sent to the field with the best training, best equipment, and best uniforms available. Shortly before the cadets finish their year of probation, they are evaluated by a board of commissioned officers. If they have proved themselves in the field, they are accepted as permanent merit service employees.

In Kentucky, however, as in many States, we do not have enough personnel. The Commonwealth is blessed with the skeleton of an excellent State police organization. It is built to accommodate many, many more men—the sinew and muscle needed to make the skeleton a complete, hard-hitting department. In spite of our handicaps, we are proud of our record. In 1952 the National Safety Council praised the record of the Kentucky State Police. With only 38 percent of enough personnel, we accomplished 64 percent of the job which could have been done.

I, personally, pay tribute to my men of every post, troop, and bureau. These troopers, who operate alone both day and night, have a reassuring effect upon the law abiding, and a disquieting one upon the law breakers.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS DESERTER REWARDS

The September 1953 *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* carried an article entitled, "Cash Rewards for Apprehending Deserters." The article pointed out that under the Army requirement, there is no necessity for the apprehending officer to have in his possession Form DD 553 to receive payment of the reward. The Department of the Air Force has adopted this same procedure.

The Department of the Navy, however, whose regulations govern both the Navy and the Marine Corps, requires that Standard Form 1034 must be supported by a signed copy of Form DD 553 or the original telegram from the Navy or Marine Corps offering a reward for the subject's apprehension. The Navy has advised that the civil officer making claim for his reward can obtain a Form DD 553, if such has not already been received by his organization, by writing to the Bureau of Personnel, Department of the Navy, Washington 25, D. C., or to the Navy or Marine Corps activity from which the deserter has absented himself. The Navy further advises that it would accept in support of the Standard Form 1034 a Form DD 553 furnished by the FBI if same is signed by the military.



Capt. Roy E. Osborne, Kentucky State Police pilot and chief inspector.

Collingswood Police Construct Own Headquarters

by WILLIAM H. BECK, *Chief of Police,*
Collingswood, N. J.

Collingswood, N. J., adjoining Camden, is situated 3 miles from the center of Philadelphia, Pa. U. S. Route 130 from New York City to Washington, D. C., and the South, and the Whitehorse Pike from Philadelphia to Atlantic City, both pass through the community. It is a residential town, many of whose inhabitants commute daily to Philadelphia.

As has been the case with many small towns similarly located, the past 10 years have witnessed a tremendous growth in population with the resultant myriad of problems confronting so many other law enforcement agencies. One of these is inadequate physical police facilities.

Collingswood's population has practically doubled in the last 10 years to approximately 20,000 persons. Yet the police department in 1950 was housed in a small one-story structure no larger than the average gas station. It contained two rooms. One, the public lobby and sergeant's desk, also served as squad room, interview room, lounge, etc. The remainder of the building was taken up by two cells, one of which was eliminated



Chief William H. Beck.

in order to construct a small chief's office. With a 15-man force this was obviously a serious handicap to efficient law enforcement.

We had to take steps to remedy the situation. The town purchased a two-story warehouse building previously devoted to display and storage of plumbing supplies. It contained no individual rooms. Within 10 months thereafter, the entire

(Continued on inside back cover)



Collingswood Police Headquarters.

WANTED BY THE FBI

LAZARO AGUILIAR RAMOS, with aliases:
Larry Ramos, Lazaro Ramos

Unlawful Flight To Avoid Prosecution (Murder)

On February 9, 1938, a man's body was found in a bag in a culvert in Culver City, Calif. Subsequent investigation indicated that at approximately 11 a. m., February 2, 1938, Lazaro Aguiliar Ramos and the deceased engaged in a brawl at Ramos' apartment in Beverly Hills, Calif., at which time Ramos allegedly killed his victim by striking him with a lamp stand, tied the deceased with wire, placed his body in a bag and abandoned the body in a culvert in Culver City. The car used to transport the body was found abandoned and Ramos had disappeared.

Process

A warrant was issued by the city court of Beverly Hills, Calif., charging Ramos with murder.

An indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles, Calif., on October 7, 1942, charging Ramos with a violation of the Unlawful



Lazaro Aguiliar Ramos (photograph taken in 1936).

Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute in that he fled from the State of California to avoid prosecution for the crime of murder.



Left thumb.



Right thumb.

No Previous Record

No prior criminal record has been located for Ramos and no prints are on file. The only fingerprints available are the right and left thumb prints appearing on his application for license as a prizefighter (see accompanying photographs).

Background

Ramos was born in Manaoag, Pangasinan, The Philippines, February 11, 1914, date and place of entry into the United States unknown. He is reported to have attended public schools in California and to have been employed as a janitor, houseboy, vegetable worker, railroad laborer, movie extra and prizefighter. It is known that he was licensed number 1616 by the State Athletic Commission, Southern District of California, as Lazaro Ramos on October 9, 1935, and on August 10, 1936, licensed number 1438 as a professional prizefighter.

Ramos reportedly carries a concealed knife and he is considered dangerous.

Description

The fugitive is described as follows:

Age-----	40, born February 11, 1914, The Philippines (not verified).
Height-----	5 feet, 8 inches.
Weight-----	150 pounds.
Eyes-----	Brown.
Hair-----	Black.
Complexion-----	Light brown.
Build-----	Medium, muscular.
Occupations-----	Houseboy, bus boy, prize fighter, vegetable worker, railroad worker, movie extra.
Scars and marks-----	Tattoo left arm.
Characteristics-----	Gambler, dresses well.
FBI No-----	1457614.
Fingerprint classification-----	None available.

Notify FBI

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

COLLINGSWOOD BUILDING

(Continued from page 23)

police force, on their own time, completed a full alteration job, resulting in a modern, completely equipped, attractive police building. Of course, some of the work such as electrical and masonry jobs necessarily had to be done by professionals, yet the entire cost amounted to \$38,500, of which \$26,000 was for the purchase of the building. It was financed by a municipal bond issue.

The first floor includes a sizable public lobby, with desk sergeant space equipped with three trunkline telephones, a seven-county radio hook-up, burglar alarms and the usual modern records system. Also in the lobby space is a railed-off office space for the superior officer in charge. The chief's office, with two entrances, is located on the first floor as are a cell block containing three cells, a shower room for the police personnel and a detention room containing toilet facilities and folding cot for juveniles and females. This room, when not otherwise used, is utilized as an interview room. On the first floor, at the rear of the building, we have constructed the police garage. Here are maintained the ambulance, emergency truck and a trailer with a lifeboat. These last-named pieces of equipment are manned by the police although not owned by the town, which does not provide such service. They are owned by a citizens group known as the "Collingswood Community Ambulance Service" which purchases and maintains them through an annual public subscription drive.

Because of the unusual height of the original first floor a 5-foot headspace was converted to a storage room for records over 5 years old. The second floor was divided into five rooms: a men's locker room, recreation room used also as a classroom for training purposes, a completely equipped identification bureau, a modern darkroom and finally a bathroom with shower. All parts of the building are connected by an intercommunication system.

Of particular value is the building location which is one-half block from the main street in the center of town, but completely divorced from other municipal buildings and offices. Ample outlined parking space is provided for the public on a 150-car municipal parking area, immediately adjacent to the building. On the opposite side of the building a police parking area has been established for official police use.

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS

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

Questionable Pattern



The pattern above is classified as a loop with two ridge counts. The core is located in the center of recurve C, and the delta is on bifurcation D. Since ending ridge A does not upthrust but follows the same general direction as the ridges on either side, no consideration can be given to classifying the pattern as an accidental whorl.