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J. Edgar Hoover, Director

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

November 1, 1959

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS:

On an average of more than two times each day in fiscal year 1959, a bank or Federally insured savings and loan association somewhere in the Nation fell victim to a robber or thief. There is every indication that we are well on the way to witnessing in 1960 an even more appalling record of violations of the Federal Bank Robbery and Incidental Crimes Statute which includes robberies, larcenies and burglaries.

Bank robbery is perhaps more readily and naively associated with the Dillinger era, but the 1958-1959 fiscal years far outstripped any prior years for which we have statistics. Before 1958, the previous high year for this type of crime was indeed in the days of Dillinger--1932 when some 600 robberies and thefts occurred. In 1958, however, there were an alarming 631 such crimes, and 1959 far surpassed that figure when there were 764 violations!

Annually, the recovery of loot from bank robbery statute violations totals about one-half million dollars, but the FBI and local law enforcement officers can never recover the many lives which are lost or forever scarred through the violence, heartbreak and fear accompanying bank robberies. In a recent survey of 200 bank robberies committed by lone bandits, the FBI learned that about 50 per cent of these crimes were perpetrated by experienced, hardened criminals; another 25 per cent were the work of persons with minor records consisting of arrests for vagrancy, disorderly conduct and the like; and the remaining robberies were the deeds of "amateurs" with no record at all.

Certainly, it is a dismal commentary on the American way of life to know that our society is believed by some to be so lax that they can commit the atrocious crime of bank robbery and "get away with it." The "amateur" bank robbers and thieves--from every social class, from every walk of life--assuredly are not discouraged from lusting for so-called "easy money" if some professional robbers are given a slap on the wrist by courts after committing one of the most vicious of crimes.

To a potential bank robber, the crime is a gamble--he gambles his freedom or his life for sudden wealth. When he sees the professional,

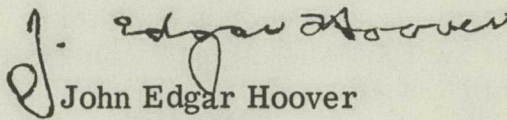
hardened criminal "make a strike" and escape severe punishment, the odds, he may conclude, are higher in his favor.

Until the inveterate "gamblers" are made to pay maximum penalties, we can expect to see no abatement in these crimes. Courts must make examples of those who prey on banks and similar institutions; parole for their kind must be meted out cautiously and judiciously, the first consideration being given to their dangerousness to society. In addition, I would most certainly like to see newspapers, as a deterrent, give even greater publicity to the stern sentences imposed by some judges.

Moreover, the ridiculous ease with which some robberies are perpetrated is an open indictment of outmoded and ineffective preventive measures being used by victimized institutions. Banking management must accept as a public trust the safeguarding of their firms so that the odds for success weigh heavily against would-be bank robbers.

Unless we prove to potential bank robbers and their breed that bank robbery is truly the worst paying criminal job and not worth the gamble, we will continue to face the prospect that tomorrow or the next day any citizen may experience the terrifying sight of a gunman nervously waving a shotgun, holding in his quaking hands life or death for his innocent victims.

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEATURE ARTICLE

Methods of Handling Police Interviews

by MICHAEL F. O'NEIL, *Captain of Detective Division, Police Department, Binghamton, N.Y.*

The knowledge which the average person receives today, primarily through the media of radio, publications, and television, concerning criminal matters and the civil rights of individuals has influenced the methods and techniques of the law enforcement agencies. The methods and techniques today are not as they were 25 years ago. The operations of law enforcement have become specialized. In almost all agencies there are numerous specialized operations and units, such as bomb squads, arson squads, robbery squads, forgery squads and many more.

I would venture to say that almost 80 percent of an investigator's time is spent on interviews of some type in connection with all these different operations. In my opinion, the successful investigator is the one who has developed and improved his methods and techniques in handling interviews.

During his interviews, the investigator meets all kinds of people in many walks of life, and the manner in which he conducts the interview will determine how much information he can obtain. He has to do an effective job of selling himself to the person or persons with whom he comes into contact. If his job is well done, the general public will have more respect for the police and, certainly, the persons whom he interviews will look upon him as one who knows his business.

Neither the public nor criminals are required by law to divulge any information to the police and it is only by skillful questioning that the interviewer is able to obtain the information he desires.

A great many well-meaning citizens are prone to take the stand that they do not want to become involved, and they will attempt to shy away from the police interviewer by giving evasive answers. An interviewer, by skillful and intelligent questioning, will be able to obtain any information he is seeking.

As to the time of the interview, it could be held at any hour of the day or night unless, of course, there are circumstances in the case that would dic-

tate a specific time. The place where the interview is to be held is very important. An interview may be lost for the want of privacy. A subject may feel that by talking to the interviewer in the presence of other persons he may be called an "informer." At any rate, whether a suspect or a witness, a person is generally reluctant to be the object of the scrutiny of other people. Privacy is therefore of primary importance.

The best practice is to have a room set aside for the sole purpose of interviews and interrogations. There should be nothing in the room that will attract or detract from the interview. If there is a telephone in the room, it should be of the type with a wall plug so that it can be disconnected and removed from the room. There should be nothing in the room that the subject could use to harm himself or that he could use in an attack on you.



Capt. Michael F. O'Neil.

The interview should be arranged so that no one else is likely to come into the room to cause an interruption. Once you start interviewing the subject, there should be no interruptions. If you leave the interviewing room to answer a telephone or to solve some other problem, you might easily lose the train of thought. It may be that the subject is getting ready to tell you about the crime and, when he is interrupted, he may decline to say any more, causing you to start all over again. If the subject is a witness, he may be a busy person and become annoyed by the delay, resulting in making the interviewer's task more difficult.

Approach

The police interviewer never knows where his leads will take him. He may talk to a prominent person and a short time later have the occasion to interview a suspect or an offender. Regardless of who the person may be, the interviewer should at all times be courteous, and by being so, he will have better control of the conversation. If you know that the person you are about to interview is a busy man, it is to your advantage to arrange for an appointment or you may have to "cool your heels" waiting to talk with him.

When you first meet this type, introduce yourself and show him your credentials to prove that



Chief Michael J. Hanifin.

you are the person you represent yourself to be. Shake hands with him in a normal but warmhearted way. Avoid the old "pump-handle" stuff, as this may place you in a difficult position to begin the interview. Do not smoke or take a seat unless you are asked to do so. Always consider that your interviewee may be busy and may have allotted himself just so much time with you. Do not allow yourself to get into a heated discussion with the person. Be a good listener and do not interrupt him while he is talking and be considerate enough to see his viewpoint and concede a point or two.

Complaints

There are several types of interviews. Some interviews are with complainants, wherein the person is making a complaint to the police relative to some difficulty in which he has become involved. This may be the first time this person has ever had the occasion to contact a police agency, and to him his complaint is the most important thing at this time. The manner in which he is treated will have a lasting impression upon him. Make him feel that he is important and that his complaint is likewise important to the police. Let him know that he is exercising his rights as a good citizen in making this complaint. It could be that at some future time he may develop into a witness; whether he will be a willing or unwilling witness will depend on how he was treated on the first occasion.

False Reports

Among the types of complainants who come to the police, there are those who file false reports. We do not receive this type of complaint very often, but people do file false reports for one reason or another. In most cases it is for personal gain, such as insurance recovery or an attempt to hide personal mistakes. This type of complaint causes the investigator a lot of trouble because the information developed does not "tie in" with the facts of the case.

I recall a case of this kind which was brought to a successful conclusion. The background of the case involved a young married woman and her husband in a family quarrel. The setting was in a low-rent apartment on an uncomfortably warm night when sleeping was difficult. The wife took her baby from the apartment about 3 a.m. telling

her husband that she was going downstairs and try to sleep in the family car parked behind the apartment building. About 5 a.m. the wife returned to the apartment crying, with her clothing torn and disarranged and scratch marks on her neck. She informed her husband that, while she was in the car, some unknown man forced his way into the car and raped her. Her clothing was torn by the rapist while she was defending herself. The local police department was notified and the search was immediately begun for the unknown man.

The results of a medical examination on the young wife proved her claim to be false but this was made known only to the investigating officers. After talking with her for some time, the interviewer caught her in several lies. She then admitted the entire story was false. Her reason for filing a false report in the first instance, she confessed, was that she felt her husband no longer cared for her and she was using this method to arouse his sympathy. The scratch marks on her neck were self-inflicted; the clothing she had torn herself. It was through diligent questioning by a sympathetic interviewer that the complaint was cleared as unfounded.

Hostile or Reluctant Witness

Occasionally we have an interview with a hostile or reluctant witness. The hostile witness is the one who wants nothing to do with the police, does not want to become involved and, in general, does his best to avoid questioning. If the witness is hostile or unwilling, try to determine the reason for his hostility. It may be that in the past he had some unpleasant experience with a police officer over a traffic violation or some similar complaint; or he may have filed a complaint with the police and feels that nothing was done about it. Likewise, there may be some unpleasant problems connected with the case and he does not want to become involved. It may be that he knows the principals in the case and feels that by divulging information he is going to cause them further trouble.

This is the time when the interviewer must resort to diplomacy. Have a heart-to-heart talk with the interviewee and assure him that he is doing his duty as a citizen and that the law is trying to remove a violator from society. Tell him that he may possess certain information which will assist in solving the case, and that if he does

not cooperate the perpetrator may get away with his act.

Cooperative Witness

An example of the cooperative witness is the good citizen who has never been charged with any crime, who recognizes his civic duty and who is willing to assist the police. Guide him along by asking questions about the things you want to know. In many cases, I find that it is a good policy to have him tell me what he knows about the case and the person suspected of committing the crime.

The witness who is cooperative but unreliable presents another type of problem. This is the person who wants you to believe that he knows all the answers and is doing his best to help you. Check on his reliability to tell the truth and determine if he is inclined to exaggerate and what he expects to gain by divulging that type of worthless information. Have more than one interview with this type of witness and check up on the information given to you. If he is not telling the truth, determine why he is lying. It may be that he is trying to throw you off your lead. If this witness happens to be a juvenile, and he is interviewed at home, have some member of his family present. If interviewed at school, have some member of the school system sit in on the interview. If the witness is unreliable, he may at a later date say that he did not give the information you obtained from him. It will then be an easy matter to have the person who sat in on the interview confirm what was stated.

Suspect

A different type of interview would have to be conducted with the person who is under suspicion of committing a crime but where there is no positive proof that he is involved in it. In this case, certain actions of the individual lead to the suspicion that this person may have been implicated in the criminal act. In handling this type of interview, you must be tactful and phrase your questions so that you will get the correct answers. You cannot antagonize this individual. If you indicate to him certain facts with which he knows he had no connection, then he will know that you are trying to implicate him and, from your conversation with him, you can reveal that you do not have proof that he committed the crime. He may be guilty of the crime, but you have indi-

cated by your questions that you do not yet have proof.

Criminal

One of the most common and the most difficult types of interviews within the entire scope of police investigation is the interview with the subject of the case. It is a fact that some types of people would more readily admit a minor infraction than a serious crime such as murder. On the other hand, there are some other kinds of people who would more quickly confess a crime of homicide than a simple larceny.

When the subject is first picked up by the police and brought in for questioning, it may be wise not to start questioning him immediately. If you do start to question him right away, he may have been expecting it, may have formed an alibi and have ready answers for you.

This type of interview should be planned even before the suspect is picked up. The case should be reviewed and certain notes made. You should know what you are going to talk about with the subject, and you should have enough background on the subject so that you will be familiar with his reactions. You should, likewise, have sufficient information and evidence of his guilt in the crime. For instance, if the crime is a larceny, you might know whether or not he has been in possession of the stolen articles; if a forgery, whether or not the signature on the forged instrument is in his writing, and any other items of proof that will help to connect him with the crime.

It is here that the interviewer must use all of his skill and good judgment, together with all of the knowledge of human nature that he possesses. He must bear in mind that here is a person whose voluntary admission of guilt will result in a criminal charge and possibly a jail term as punishment.

There are no hard and fast rules covering interviews with subjects. The technique which will produce results on one person may not make any impression on another person. I have always found it to be a good rule that, when I first meet this type, I introduce myself to him and have him identify himself to me. I ask him his name, his age, his place of birth, if he is married, how many children he has, where he is employed, who his mother and father are and if they are alive. I take notes on the above information and later, when a confession is obtained, I include it in the admission. If at a later date he attempts to re-

fute his statement and claims that he did not make the statement, it can be pointed out to him that he must have given the interviewer all this information about himself, otherwise the interviewer would not know these personal details.

I have also found that when a guilty person is being questioned about a crime and he is brought face to face with the interviewer, he is afraid and worried, and if the interviewer treats him kindly, he will lean toward him and feel that perhaps here is a person who will understand his plight. Self-preservation is an instinct of human nature, and it is only natural for persons to deny being implicated in any criminal act when first questioned. Nevertheless, you should first advise him of his rights and that whatever he admits to you can later be used against him in court.

I have noticed during interviews with suspects that it is advantageous to discuss hobbies and, at times, to talk about things which are of interest to the suspect. Recently, I had an occasion to talk to a suspect about his interest in a particular city, a place with which I was familiar. As I discussed the familiar sections of the city, I noticed the difference in the suspect's attitude, in that he seemed to assume a more friendly disposition and talked freely to me. In this manner I was able to carry on the discussion of the points which were of interest to me and I was able to get him to tell me what I wanted to know.

As noted above, the discussion dealt primarily with the particular city with which we were both familiar. This method can also be used in connection with the discussion of almost anything, including hobbies. I find by doing this that the individual loses his fear of me as a law enforcement officer and begins to feel that I am his friend and he soon wants to tell me everything. If he is reluctant to do any talking, do not lose your temper or antagonize him.

Before the subject starts to talk, do not try to bluff him into thinking that you know all about the case. Stay with the facts known to you. You may say the wrong thing and he may know that it is wrong; then he will know that you are bluffing and your difficulties increase. I have also found that it is a good rule to avoid taking any notes of the interview until after you have gained the subject's confidence and he has started to talk.

There should be no use of promises, threats or duress of any kind to obtain an admission of guilt. When you lose your temper and make

threats, the subject will have no respect for you and you will only make your own work that much more difficult. You may frighten him by threats, but that will not obtain for you a willing signature on a confession.

For the investigator, one of the most favorable developments in an interview of this type is to catch the subject in a lie. When he is caught in a few lies, and you prove to him that he is lying, the subject will usually start telling the truth. At this point, he does not know how much you know and he is afraid of being caught in more lies. At the same time, he will begin to realize that you must have all the facts and know what you are talking about. Once the suspect starts talking, let him talk and take notes on what he is saying. At the same time, never promise him anything and do not put words into his mouth.

A frequent mistake made by interviewers is using words that the subject does not understand. If complex words and phraseology are used, the defense attorney could make an issue of these at a later date and infer that his client did not make the statement, as he does not even understand the words. One way to avoid a pitfall like this is to put yourself on the same level as the person being interviewed and use words that he understands.

The facts admitted by the subject should be typewritten and each sheet of paper should be signed in his own handwriting.

Conclusion

You may on the surface have a good case: have all of the scientific evidence in the case at your fingertips; have all the reports on a crime scene search tabulated; have all of the evidence showing that the subject did commit the crime, together with every possible indication that he is the guilty person. Yet, if he does not voluntarily admit his guilt, then you must likely go to trial.

The above aids help you in your case, but I have found that the best evidence in the case is to have the guilty person's signature on each and every sheet of the confession or admission. I fully realize that if you have only an admission from the defendant and no other evidence, that this alone is not enough to convict him. The signed statement, however, together with all other evidence will certainly help conclude the case for the interviewer.

The ultimate end of every interview with a suspect is for the interrogator to obtain all the

facts to the many unanswered questions which exist in each case. The manner in which the interviewer goes about getting these facts will have a great bearing on the success or failure of the case. There is an old saying that "you can catch more flies with sugar and honey than you can with salt." The interviewer should always remember that it is his aim to gather information and not to disclose what he already knows to the person being interviewed.

SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW

On July 23, 1958, Chief Wilbur Perkerson of the Valdosta, Ga., Police Department, was interviewing a suspect in an auto theft. After first denying that the vehicle found in his possession was stolen, the suspect finally admitted that he had stolen the vehicle at Ludington, Mich. Suspicious that the suspect had engaged in other criminal activities, Chief Perkerson continued the questioning concerning background and previous activities. Finally, the car thief admitted that, "Since you are going to find out anyway, I killed a police officer in Ludington, Mich., on July 20." A long-distance telephone call to the police department at Ludington confirmed the killing of a police officer.

Michigan authorities, when picking up the subject at Valdosta, Ga., for return to the State of Michigan, advised Chief Perkerson that, although an intensive manhunt was under way to locate the fugitive, they had possessed no leads as to his possible whereabouts. They also advised that the officer had been killed when he attempted to search a man allegedly carrying a concealed weapon.

During the week of October 19, 1958, subject was tried without jury in Mason County Circuit Court at Ludington, Mich. He was found guilty of second-degree murder and on October 20, 1958, was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in the State Prison of Southern Michigan.

CAUTION

Fumes given off by acetone, benzene, xylene, and formaldehyde—drying agents used in the preparation of decomposed skin for fingerprinting—are highly toxic and should be used only in a well-ventilated room. These chemicals are also highly flammable and should not be used near open flames nor while the operator is smoking.

NEW IAI OFFICERS ELECTED



The International Association for Identification recently elected its officers for the 1959-1960 year. Pictured are (top row, left to right) William E. Cashin, International Representative, New York State Division of Identification, Albany, N.Y.; C. Lester Trotter, Fifth Vice President, FBI, Washington, D.C.; Rowland McCallister, Sergeant at Arms, Police Department, Columbia, S.C.; Edward J. Moellering, Chairman, Board of Directors, Police Department, Houston, Tex.; Birk C. Harl, President, Police Department, Evansville, Ind.; James F. Shumate, First Vice President, Police Department, Denver, Colo.; Lacy F. Savage, Second Vice President, Police Department, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Vincent B. Hurlbut, Fourth Vice President, Police Department, West Hartford, Conn.; James E. Devery, Sixth Vice President, Police Department, Chicago, Ill.; (bottom row, left to right) T. Dickerson Cooke, Division Representative, Institute of Applied Science, Chicago, Ill.; Walter G. Hoetzer, Board of Directors, Police Department, Utica, N.Y.; John B. McGahan, Board of Directors, Metropolitan Police Department, Saint Louis, Mo.; Paul D. McCann, Secretary-Treasurer, New York State Division of Identification, Albany, N.Y.; Patrick J. McCormick, Board of Directors, Allegheny County Detective Bureau, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Harold J. Stoddard, Board of Directors, Police Department, Grand Rapids, Mich.; John W. Tyler, Board of Directors, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Key West, Fla.; Frank H. Moran, Board of Directors, Department of State Police, Richmond, Va. Not present for the photograph were Robert H. Race, Third Vice President, Police Department, Oconomowoc, Wis.; Thomas J. Welch, Editor, New York State Division of Identification, Albany, N.Y.; Emory J. Smith, Legal Representative, Chicago, Ill.; Ronald P. Hanson, Board of Directors, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Frederick R. Rymer, Board of Directors, Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Tex.; Leslie W. Williams, Board of Directors, Connecticut State Police, Hartford, Conn.



Modern Showup Room Increases Police Efficiency

by CAPT. HOWARD R. CHARMAN, *San Diego, Calif.,
Police Department*

The last prisoner left the platform and the lights went on in the viewing room of the new showup room at the San Diego, Calif., Police Department. The audience rose from the comfortable theater-type seats and left the room. The comments that the new arrangement was vastly better than the previous system put the detectives' stamp of approval on San Diego's latest concession to the needs of a growing police department.

Old Facilities

The old showup room was located between the jail kitchen and the main jail hallway, the front of which was a heavy-gage screen through which people in the blacked-out room viewed prisoners and suspects as they lined up against the wall of the hall. Due to the lack of space, the room was used as a showup room, a telephone room, and a visiting room, while the department strength and the city grew to four times its original size.

The old facility was inefficient as a showup room and as a visiting room and, with many prisoners of all categories free at the same time, it was also potentially dangerous.

The difficult condition of the department's showup room existed until April 1958. It was a problem and, like most of the problems of the police administrator, solving it would cost money. Plans for new facilities had been made. When more essential problems were solved, Chief A. E. Jansen gave the "go-ahead" signal to Project Showup Room.

The objectives of the project were: (1) to provide a showup room that would be secure, efficient, and convenient to both the jail crew and to viewers; (2) to provide a telephone room in the jail that would be secure, safe, and convenient to the jail crew; (3) to provide a place that offered security, a minimum of inconvenience to the jail crew, and privacy for attorneys to interview their prisoner clients; (4) to provide a place

that was safe, secure, efficient, and convenient to the jail crew where prisoners could have visitors. All of these objectives were to be accomplished with as little structural and architectural change as possible.

Planning the first objective was based on the premise that the safest and most secure showup room would be one that would keep the viewers outside the jail proper; would keep the prisoners under maximum security at all times; and, at the same time, would give viewers an unobstructed



Capt. Howard R. Charman.

view and undistorted conversation with the prisoner.

Structural Changes

This objective was accomplished by converting a 23- by 18-foot storeroom into a viewing room and an adjoining 5½-foot corridor into a lineup room.

The structural changes necessary to convert the storeroom into a viewing room were to cut two doorways, one to give access to the corridor, another to the courtyard, and to cut a 15- by 5½-foot opening in the wall to the corridor to accommodate the viewing room window.

The viewing window, when fitted into its opening, was installed in two sections, each 7½ by 5½ feet. The glass, according to contract specifications is one-half inch thick and is a transparent, colorless, heat-resistant acrylic plastic sheet. The glass is shatterproof and its tensile strength is adequate to provide the necessary security.

The ceilings in the viewing room and lineup room are treated with 12- by 12-inch acoustic tile, five eighths of an inch thick. The cement floor in the viewing room is covered with asphalt tile and has a 6-inch asphalt tile base molding. No covering was used on the floor of the lineup room.

The north door and the windows in the viewing room are covered with heavy, lightproof drapes on traverse rods. The drapes, when closed, completely black out the viewing room and also improve the acoustics.

Ventilation in the viewing room is by forced draft. Fresh air from the corridor is pulled into the viewing room through lightproof louvers in

the door at the southwest corner of the room and is exhausted by an 18-inch fan mounted in the upper part of the window. The fan runs silently and exhausts through lightproof louvers.

Heat in the viewing room is provided by a convection-type steam element mounted below the viewing window.

The Lineup Room

Converting the corridor into a lineup room necessitated cutting two doorways through the wall to the jail, constructing a concrete platform 4 feet wide, 19 feet long, and 18 inches high, and enclosing this area at each end with maximum security doors.

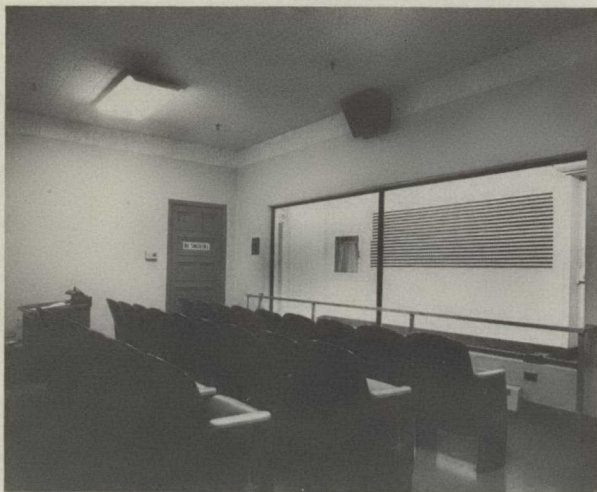
The most difficult part of this construction was in cutting through the jail wall, which is solid reinforced concrete, 12 inches thick. The openings were jackhammered out to permit the installation of steel door casings, with adequate anchoring devices, and the space was refilled with concrete. Solid sheet-steel doors close the openings. Locks on the doors are keyed to the Adams locking system used in our jail.

To comply with fire regulations, it was necessary to install automatic closing fire doors on the lineup side of the doors giving access to the jail. The doors are thermally controlled by a fusible link, are spring loaded, and do not depend upon gravity for closing. Each door has a governor device, of escapement type, which controls the speed of the curtain during automatic operation to avoid injury to persons accidentally under the curtain.

An automatic sprinkling system gives additional fire protection to both the viewing room and the lineup room. The "wet pipe" system has three fused sprinkler heads in the lineup room and six in the viewing room. A 10-inch water alarm gong, mounted in the jail, is incorporated in the system. This type alarm signals when any water flows through the pipes of the system.

Communications System

Communication between lineup room and viewing room is by microphone and speaker. An "Electro-voice Model 664" microphone is mounted in the ceiling of the lineup room. This microphone is hooked up to an "Altec-Lansing 755A" speaker and mounted in an "Acoustcraft 1008 U" baffle, which is attached to the wall over the



Showup room.

view window in the viewing room. The combination of microphone and speaker is exceedingly high fidelity; distortion is small and does not interfere with voice identification.

An RCA M1-12723 amplifier and a "Teletalk 706" intercommunication system are installed at a master station in the viewing room. The operator at the master station in the viewing room talks to persons in the lineup room through a "Teletalk 5-G45" speaker mounted on the wall of the lineup room. Persons in the lineup room cannot hear anything said in the viewing room unless the key of the Teletalk is open at the master control station.

When the viewing room and lineup room are combined for use at a showup, prisoners are prevented from seeing into the viewing room by a battery of lights mounted in the lineup room.

Visitors

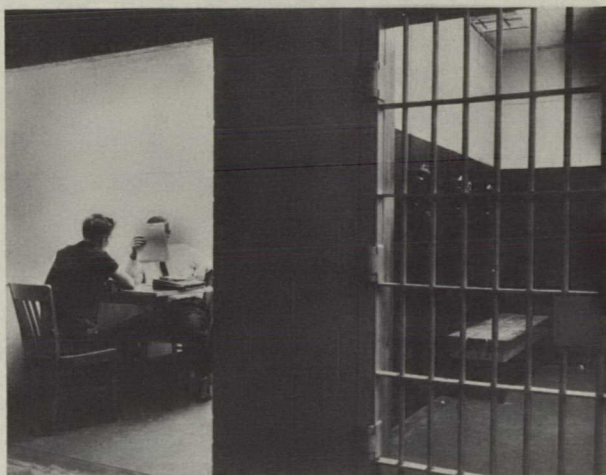
The viewing room and the lineup room are also combined for use as a visiting room. Prisoners are brought to the lineup room and locked in. They sit on the raised ledge of the platform in plain sight of their visitors who occupy front-row seats in the viewing room. Communication between prisoner and visitor is by means of closed-circuit telephone. These telephones, at five separate stations, are handsets with coiled cords and plug-in jacks. Modulation of each handset is controlled from an amplifier unit in the jail booking office.

A uniformed officer supervises the visiting period. Stationed near the intercom master station, which is also connected with the jail and records division intercommunication system, the officer is in a position to call for assistance, if needed, and at the same time he can maintain order among the visitors, advise them when their time is up, etc.

Objectives (1) and (4) of Project Showup Room were accomplished with the completion of the viewing room and lineup room.

Additional Changes

Objectives (2) and (3) of the project were much simpler to accomplish. A telephone room and an attorneys' room were made from the old 14- by 13-foot showup room. This was done by removing the screen from the front of the room and erecting a concrete block wall down the



Attorney's interview room, left, and prisoner's telephone room.

center of the room. The west half is closed off with a barred, jail-keyed door, making a room 7 by 13 feet. Prisoners entitled to make telephone calls are placed in this room and the door is locked, allowing the jail crew to go about their work. Prisoners are still under maximum security and need not be strictly supervised.

The east half of the old showup room was converted into an attorneys' room. A shoulder-high concrete block partition extends 4 feet into the room and splits the 7- by 13-foot room into two 6- by 6-foot booths. Each semiprivate booth contains a built-in table and is provided with an adequate number of chairs. Although the booths are semiprivate, neither the attorney nor the prisoner is out of sight of jail personnel, and an officer may readily supervise from the jail hall without having to enter the room.



Prisoner entrance and exit for the showup room.

New System

With the new showup room in operation, the typical morning lineup proceeds more quickly and with much less strain on all concerned. Prisoners are gathered into cell block 1, as before. They enter through the east door and stand against the measure strips on the wall of the lineup room. When the prisoner's name is called, he steps up to the spot on the platform and the interrogating officer in the viewing room goes through the routine interrogation process. When dismissed, the prisoner leaves the platform and enters the jail hall through the west door of the lineup room. Jail personnel stationed in the hall direct the prisoner to the proper cell block as he returns to the jail hall.

The new system eliminates confusion, decreases the number of prisoners at large to a minimum, expedites the return of prisoners after lineup, and cuts the morning lineup time as much as 25 percent. The saving in man-hours will no doubt pay for the cost of the new facility in a very few years.

Project Showup solves our problem admirably for a visiting room and a showup room. It is still adequate for the daily morning showup. However, since there are only 25 seats in the viewing room, morning showup plays to a standing-room-only detective audience. Continued expansion of the department will soon find us again crowded for space.

However, the solution to that problem will be relatively simple. It would be economically unsound to enlarge the area of the viewing room which, after all, is a very specialized use of space. Instead, the next step will be to decentralize the traditional morning showup. When the time comes, closed-circuit TV piped to each of the specialist bureaus of the detective division will be the only economical treatment for the growing pains of increased personnel and diminished space per person of this constantly growing department.

Planning Points

In planning for changes in a police building, it is well to discuss the plans with representatives of other city departments at an early date. The engineering department, for example, must approve any structural changes. The fire depart-

ment should be consulted for assistance and advice about the necessary fire prevention and fire control devices. The building inspection department supervises the contractor's work to see that it meets the required standards.

In San Diego, the building inspection department prepares the specifications for materials to be used and standards of workmanship to be met. In our project, for example, the building inspection department provided a 70-page document which is very complete and specific, and contains, among other things: a sample of the contract between the city and the successful bidder, as approved by the city attorney; specifications for electric and electronic equipment to be installed; and, as provided by law, a schedule of the minimum wage scale to be paid to the various classes of laborers and artisans employed on the job by contractors and subcontractors.

Since budgeting is a function of the executive head of a local government, it is necessary to convince that official, or a member of his staff, of the need for any item in the budget. Early consultation and solicitation of ideas frequently help in this all-important phase of a building project.

Patience is another very important ingredient that goes into a building program. In San Diego, for example, we recognized the need for an improved showup room several years ago. Much discussion and planning were done and the results incorporated into formal requests at budget time. The last of those requests, dated September 26, 1955, was included in the budget request for the fiscal year 1956-57. Architect's drawings of the project are dated May 15, 1957; date of closure for bids on the project was 11 a.m., October 16, 1957; and work on the project was officially completed in April of 1958.

Our new showup room paid early dividends. On the evening of May 5, 1958, two men held up a woman while she was waiting in her auto for a stoplight. At gunpoint, the suspects forced her to drive them to an empty house in the vicinity of Lakeside, Calif., where she was struck over the head with a sash weight and robbed of her money. The suspects drove away in the victim's car and subsequently robbed a small market.

The following day, a number of suspects were viewed by the victim with negative results. Several days later, two men were arrested in Long Beach, Calif., for carrying concealed weapons. A teletype inquiry from Long Beach, Calif., regard-

ing the weapon resulted in our requesting that the two men be held as possible suspects in our robbery case.

On May 14, 1958, the two suspects were viewed at a showup in the San Diego Police Department's new showup room. The victim positively identified both suspects, who subsequently admitted the kidnap-robbery.

Charged with kidnaping and robbery in superior court, both men pleaded guilty, drew sentences of 7 years to life, and are now serving their time. This was our first successful use of the modernized showup facility that has been added to the San Diego Police Department for better service to a growing community. We are confident that the results of our "project" will repay the costs and efforts we put into it.

SPACE-AGE SWINDLE

Currently, publications of the day contain many articles concerning travel into space and speculation regarding landings on the moon or on one of the planets.

One individual, keeping up with the changing times, set in motion a fantastic plot involving interplanetary travel which netted him approximately \$58,000 from unsuspecting victims over a period of 4 years.

One of his victims related to investigating FBI agents that this imaginative schemer spoke about his alleged trips to the planet Venus; how he was first contacted by an important official of the Venus government; his sightseeing tours on the planet; some explanation of the planetary governmental system; and his return to earth again after 2 weeks on Venus and one stop on the moon. This was allegedly accomplished on a spaceship which he described (variously) as being "2 miles long"; as "big as the Pentagon building"; and in the "shape of a bell about 100 feet in diameter and about 30 or 40 feet thick, and having windows."

Further elucidating on his travels on Venus, this swindler stated that little crime or dishonesty was evident on Venus because when anyone committed a serious crime he was just picked up and dropped off on another planet.

He informed his principal victims that the government of Venus wanted to share its advanced technical knowledge with the United States and that he had been selected to act as the go-between on earth for the production of what he called a

"modulator," a device which operated on energy obtained from the atmosphere. He claimed that the "modulator" could produce an energy potential far greater than that of atomic energy; could softly lift and lower millions of tons in a fraction of a second; could propel planes and spaceships at about the speed of light or could hold them motionless in the sky. He said that a "modulator-equipped" plane, by means of the pull of its magnetic field could, if desired, blow every fuse in a city, stop all motors, and completely block communications.

In continuation of his fantastic fabrication, he claimed that a large eastern corporation had agreed to purchase the manufacturing rights upon the successful completion of a large model of the "modulator" which was under construction, and to pay all who invested in the project seven times the total amount of their investment. Additional investments were needed to complete the model but the project was a top secret and could not be discussed with anyone except a few "trusted investors" and the scientists and top government officials who were working on the project.

So convincing was this smooth-talking con man that one victim "invested" between \$38,000 and \$40,000 and another couple invested \$20,000. One transaction negotiated by phone and by mail netted the swindler \$10,000 which he soon converted to his own use.

Eventually, this scheme was exposed and the perpetrator was charged with fraud by wire and violation of the Federal Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute. Brought to trial, he was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of from 20 months to 5 years.

MONKEY BUSINESS

An individual recently appeared at the Portland, Ore., Police Department Identification Division requesting that fingerprints be taken for identification purposes. While this is a common request made of law enforcement agencies, the police officer who was approached was somewhat startled to learn the citizen wanted the fingerprints of his ringtailed monkey. His explanation was that the monkey had been trained to work with an organ grinder and is valued at \$1,000. It was determined that footprinting would be a more practical way to identify a monkey, and footprints were duly taken.



Psychology in Visual Observation Training Courses

An investigator is constantly faced with the question of evaluating the reliability of his witnesses. It is understandable that two witnesses observing an accident from different points of vantage will receive different impressions.

A man who observes the accident from 150 yards down the street will not give the same report as one standing on the sidewalk just a few feet away. Similarly, a witness who saw the situation developing and who realized that an accident was going to happen, will give a different story from that of a witness whose attention was first attracted by the crash. Also, a witness who is a close friend of one of the parties to the accident very likely will provide an account that is significantly different from that of a neutral witness. Yet, each of these witnesses may feel that he is describing the situation in a complete and truthful manner.

It is through our eyes, ears, and other sense organs that we get information from the outside world. What we do with the information and how we interpret it depend not only on what we actually see or hear but also on how it fits with our past experience, our attitudes and our needs. In order for the sensations we receive through our sense organs to be useful, they must first make an impression on us. We must be conscious of their existence. In everyday language, we must pay them some attention. Of course, the degree of

attention with which a sensation is received may range all the way from nothing or a very faint or vague awareness of its existence to the most intense concentration of which we are capable. However, this is only part of the process of human observation.

In order to interpret our sensations, we must organize them and attach meaning or significance to them. This process is called perception and it is the very core of observation. Obviously, people differ in their perceptions of objects and events.

A witness who is unfamiliar with firearms will not recognize the difference between the sound of a shotgun and that of a pistol. A witness who is extremely prejudiced against a man because he is blond, a teen-ager, or a member of a different race, religion, or ethnic group will tend to perceive the man's actions in an unfavorable light. An emotionally overwrought victim of a vicious crime might be temporarily incapable of giving us any useful information whatsoever.

A law enforcement officer holds a position that calls for a good understanding of human nature. He ought to have some knowledge of psychology, of the principles of human behavior, how people react in a changing world to things, events, and other people. A law enforcement officer must be able to evaluate accurately the behavior of people, to interpret their actions correctly. He should develop his ability to anticipate what people may do based upon a thorough knowledge of the principles of psychology. He should be able to recognize behavior as unusual, incongruous, or suspicious. He should understand that there are practical limits for most aspects of human performance and he should regard with suspicion any claims which exceed these limits. For instance, a witness who gives an exceedingly detailed description under conditions where opportunity for observation was limited may be exaggerating either consciously or unconsciously.

The subject of psychology is vast in scope. In this article we limit our discussion to a specific

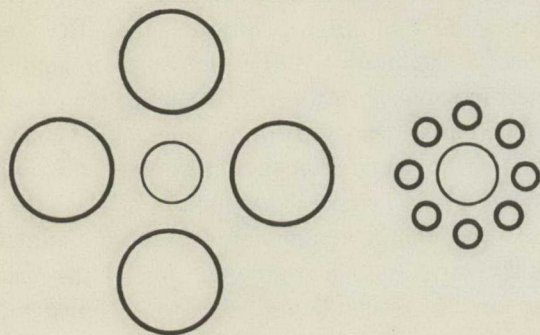


Figure 1.

area—looking into some factors relating to visual perceptions.

We are all familiar with the fact that things may not be what they seem to be. Illusions, a common experience, are false or distorted perceptions. To illustrate, the apparent size of an object is related to other objects among which it appears. In the illustration shown in figure 1 central circles are the same size although they look different because of the size of the surrounding circles in each case.

Now suppose a witness is giving us his version of a tavern robbery committed by three men. If two of the men were very tall and one was very short, the witness will possibly judge the short man to be shorter than he actually is. The reverse



Figure 2.

would apply if two were short and one was tall (fig. 2).

The pattern in which an object is viewed affects judgment of its size. The familiar Muller-Lyer illusion (fig. 3) illustrates this principle. In this design the two central lines are of equal length.

The Sander parallelogram (fig. 4) proves the same point. Lines *ab* and *ac* are equal in length.

In the angle illusion (fig. 5), the horizontal lines are drawn exactly parallel.

Thus, we see that the relationship or pattern in which we see objects affects our perception of them. This phenomenon can be significant in accident cases. The configuration of objects in the

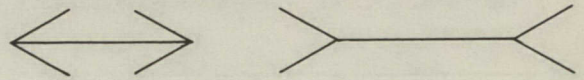


Figure 3.

view of a driver may be illusory and lead him to make a false move resulting in a crash.

Vertical distances seem longer than equal horizontal distances and witnesses may, therefore, have a tendency to overestimate height and to underestimate breadth. In figure 6 the horizontal and the vertical lines are of equal length.

Space that is occupied or interrupted seems to be larger than empty space. In figure 7 the distance from *a* to *b* is identical with that from *b* to *c*, which latter distance looks larger because it is interrupted.

This indicates that a witness is likely to underestimate the distance between two points if there are people, automobiles, or other objects between them, and to overestimate such a distance in an open field.

An important point to bear in mind in such instances is that experimental evidence shows the average of the composite judgments of several witnesses to be generally more trustworthy than the individual judgments. For example, if you have 6 witnesses and the actual distance involved is 40 feet, you might get estimates of 20, 40, 25, 50, 60, and 35 feet. The average of these would be 38 feet and 4 inches which is nearer the truth than all but one of the individual estimates.

In one simple experiment, a group of trained investigators estimated the height and weight of two men. "A" was shown to the group and they

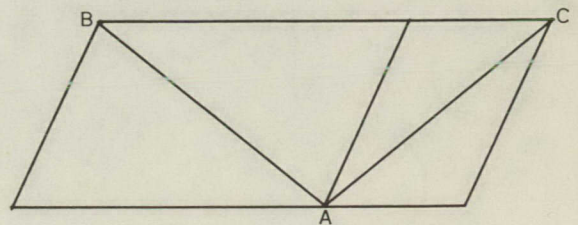


Figure 4.

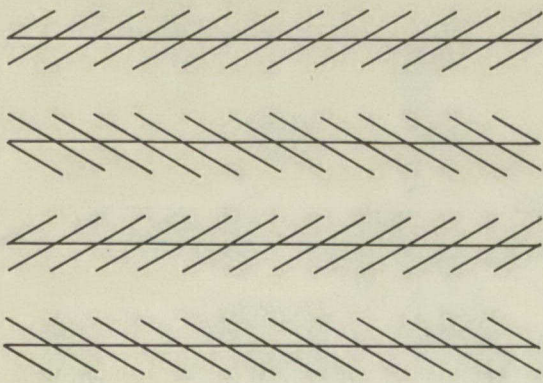


Figure 5.

wrote down their estimates of his height which ranged from 69 to 74 inches. The average of their estimates was 70.26 inches which was close to A's actual height of 70.5 inches. The estimates of A's weight ran from 170 to 205 pounds and their average of 186.7 pounds compared very favorably with his actual weight of 187 pounds.

The group was then asked to make the same estimates for "B" who was known to all of the men but who was not present for them to look at. The estimates of B's height ranged from 70 to 76 inches with an average of 73.76 inches. His weight was estimated at from 150 to 200 pounds with an average of 183.4 pounds. B's actual height and weight were 73.25 inches and 185 pounds. Such results would lead us to believe that composite descriptions are likely to be more accurate than those given by each individual. Perhaps we might say that such experimental evidence simply proves that two heads are better than one.

The contrasting colors of objects may also produce false perceptions. An object of bright color will often appear to be larger than the same sized object of dull color. In figure 8, the white circle looks bigger than the black one although they are of exactly the same size.

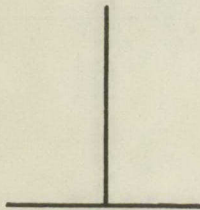


Figure 6.

A study of the perception of colors provides many interesting phenomena. One of these which is of practical interest to law enforcement is that color, like other perceptions, is greatly affected by the background in which it is observed. Sometimes this makes a vital difference. For instance, dark red may appear to be black in dim light such as at dusk. In figure 9, the badges are exactly the same shade, but the background makes them look different.

In this article we have dealt with errors in visual perception, but we must realize that errors in the interpretation of sensations are by no means limited to the visual field. We all make errors in perceiving sounds, odors, feeling or touch, the passage of time, and even social relationships. How time flies when one is engaged in some interesting pursuit and how it drags when we are forced to wait our turn in idleness in line for theater tickets, for example. In the social area, most people would see nothing unusual about a man in a crowd carrying an overcoat over his arm and holding a newspaper in his hand, bumping into another man. A law enforcement officer, because of experience, would perceive in these circumstances the possible operation of a pickpocket. A housewife might not give a second thought to her observation of a black-jacketed, blue-jeaned teenager hanging a length of tire chain over his belt, whereas any law enforcement officer (and many other teen-agers) would immediately suspect a juvenile "rumble."

In order for a person to observe or perceive an object or a situation, it must command his attention. This is, in large measure, a matter of selection; we select those things to which we will pay attention. In other words, we pay attention to those things which interest us and, since our interests differ, we will observe different things even while looking at the same scene. Therefore, careful questioning of several witnesses should nor-

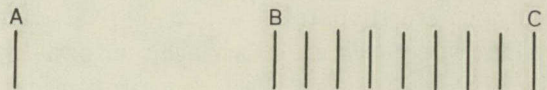


Figure 7.

mally bring out different things they have noticed. One will furnish superior information on clothing, another will give more exact data on speech peculiarities, a third will have more accurate information on automobiles, and so on.

Furthermore, we should understand that the span of attention is limited. We cannot at any time pay attention to everything present around us. We cannot note and remember everything that occurs. Moreover, our attention is constantly shifting from one thing to another and many things go unnoticed because other objects or events crowd them out. Of course, we cannot get from a witness a meaningful report of something that has not claimed his attention. The more fleeting a perception is, the less reliable is the observer's report of it.

The well-trained investigator understands that people's observations are only as good as the completeness and accuracy of their perceptions. He appreciates and allows for the fact that errors in perception may arise in several ways:

1. Due to peculiar or unusual patterns of stimuli in the outside world.
2. From preoccupation and the resultant inattention on the part of the observer.
3. From defects in the sense organs of the witness.
4. Because the witness has developed certain mental outlooks or habits and customarily perceives according to his expectations.
5. Due to prejudice he expects things to happen in certain ways and he interprets what he observes in such manner as to support his bias.
6. Because of lack of experience with the thing observed.
7. Because of failure to observe details through lack of interest or otherwise.

Very few people are trained observers. Every investigator knows that some witnesses' estimates of distance, weight, height, etc., are only guesses

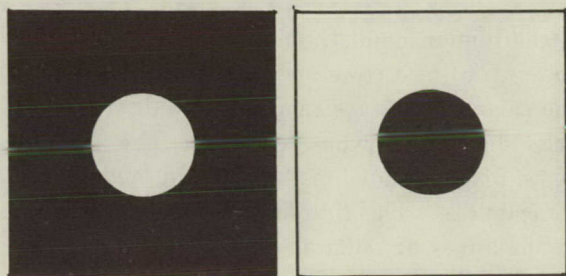


Figure 8.

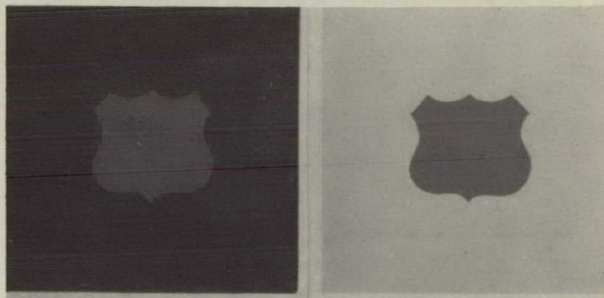


Figure 9.

and often poor ones at that. Adroit questioning by an investigator who is aware of these potential sources of error will help to improve the reliability of information furnished by witnesses. This means that the investigator must frame his questions so as to get the witness to report as accurately as possible what he observed. Then the witness must be closely questioned concerning the conditions under which he made his observations.

Leading or suggestive questions must be avoided. A highly suggestible, imaginative, or excited witness might be unduly influenced by a question such as, "Did the robber have a gun?" Neutral questions such as, "Did the man have anything in his hands?" or, "Was the man holding anything?" would be less likely to influence the answer.

An important aspect of the investigator's job is to "size up" his witnesses, to evaluate the reliability of the witnesses' statements, and to take advantage of their special interests and superior abilities. His ultimate aim is to establish the truth, and knowledge of possible sources of error in observations such as those mentioned above will help him to reach his goal.

SAFETY FIRST

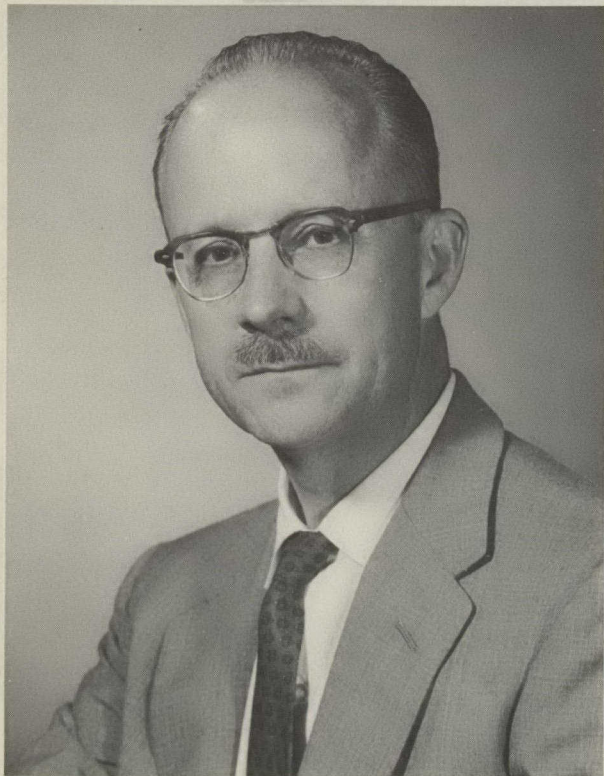
An alert detective of a midwestern police department, observing two suspicious individuals, had an opportunity to learn their unusual method of operation as thieves.

The thieves would follow known bootleggers at work to see where they hid their cargo of liquor. The thieves would then steal the hidden liquor. In the possession of the thieves, at the time they were questioned, were a gun and several pounds of hamburger meat. They had provided themselves with the meat to lure and make friends with the watchdogs used by the bootleggers to protect their contraband liquor.

OTHER TOPICS

Watch your identification technique this year or your colleagues will be calling you "Bearfoot!" The chances are that after the bear-hunting season opens, some hands and feet, without skin and fingers or toes, but looking suspiciously human in shape, will turn up at a number of police headquarters and laboratories. This happens regularly every year. An example of such a case—a foot—which came to the FBI this year is shown in figs. 1 and 2. Some medical doctors had pronounced it human! Would you have agreed with this identification or would you have spotted it for what it is?

The odds are that you, too, would have mistaken this specimen, unless you had already been tipped off about the general resemblance of bear and human bones, or are a trained osteologist. Of course, you would never confuse the paws (hands



Dr. T. D. Stewart.

Bear Paw Remains Closely Resemble Human Bones

by DR. T. D. STEWART, *Division of Physical Anthropology, U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.*

and feet) of live bears with the hands and feet of live men. But what about isolated hands and feet? Well, obviously bear paws are furry and have large scythe-like claws, so they are readily recognized for what they are. The confusion comes when the skin and claws are removed from the bear paws. Since the claws are attached to the terminal bones of the digits, this means that the ends of the fingers and toes have been removed also. At this stage nothing remains but bones held together by whatever connecting tissues have survived the dissecting knife and the process of decay. Now remove such a specimen from any context suggesting bear—say, to a back alley, city dump, or vacant lot; add a fixation on its humanlike form supplied by the discoverer—little Johnny, or Mrs. Jones, or Jake the garbage man; and you, as a law enforcement officer, are faced with the necessity of explaining the presence in this particular place of a "human" hand or foot, which probably the neighbors hope will prove to be a murder clue.

All of the confusion and trouble is due to the fact that when a bear's hands and feet are reduced to ligamentous skeletons, as here described, they have a general resemblance to their human counterparts (figs. 3 and 4). This does not mean, of course, that the experienced eye is fooled, that it cannot see many differences. This being the case, the main purpose of this article is to explain some of these differences.

Bone Structures Described

In the human hand the flexible wrist (carpus) is made up of two rows of four bones each (fig. 3). The carpal bones are relatively small and irregularly shaped. Beyond these are five elongated bones, often as much as 3 inches in length, called metacarpals. The first row of five finger bones or phalanges articulates or joins with the metacarpals. These are the only hand bones we are interested in here.

In the bear hand the very same bones are represented and their positions are much the same, but their relative sizes are different. Two of the wrist bones in the first or proximal row have become fused into a single large bone (often called the scapho-lunar, but in modern terminology the naviculo-lunar), and it serves for articulation with the radius, one of the forearm bones. Another bone in this row, the pisiform, has become greatly enlarged—at least three times as large as in man. When the pisiform becomes detached from the isolated skeletal specimen, as easily can happen, the bear's carpus appears still more humanlike.

The differences in the metacarpals are also striking when pointed out. The first (I), which with its phalanges in man is called the thumb, in the bear is not separated from the rest, nor does it have special mobility and opposability. Also, the order of length and/or robustness tends to increase from I to V (in man, excepting the thumb, the order is reversed; that is, V to II). It is noteworthy, too, that there are often a pair of small extra bones (sesamoids) at the distal end of each metacarpal on the palmar side. When in place, each pair of sesamoids is grooved in the midline to accommodate and protect the flexor tendon of the respective finger during weight-bearing. In the human fingers, sesamoid bones—actually only small spherical bodies in this case—develop rather erratically.

The first row of phalanges continues, in part, the pattern of size seen in the metacarpals. In other words, in the bear these bones tend to increase in size as follows: I, II, III-V, IV; whereas in man the order is: I-V, II, IV, III. As a result, at the beginning of the second row of phalanges the longest finger in the bear is IV; in man it is III. Note, too, that the distal ends of the first phalanges in the bear are more deeply grooved than in man.

From this comparison of the hand skeletons of bear and man, obviously several distinct differences are available for identification purposes, but their recognition in a particular case depends on whether you are dealing with the right or left extremity. Orientation as to side can be difficult when the bones are covered with soft tissues. In this case see if you can find the pisiform bone; its normal position is on the opposite side of the hand from digit I (which is the thumb in man) projecting into the palm. The palm, of course, is concave. Additional help can be obtained from the surface of the carpus corresponding to the

distal end of the radius. In the bear a single carpal bone, the naviculo-lunar, provides this surface (often as much as $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across) and it is located on the digit I side of the hand. Once the proper orientation has been secured, an X-ray picture will help in the recognition of the peculiarities stated above.

Foot Differences Explained

Turning now to the foot, it is worth noting that this structure (toes omitted) is disproportionately large in man (fig. 4), due probably to the fact that he habitually stands erect and not just occasionally as in the case of the bear. Fundamentally man is a two-footed animal, whereas the bear is a four-footed animal. This means that the



Figure 1.—Left foot of a bear mistakenly identified by a medical doctor as human. Appearance of the upper or dorsal surface. Of the toes, only the proximal phalanx of II is present. The heel bone (calcaneus) is damaged. Note that the end of the shin bone (tibia), showing tooth marks, is still attached at the ankle.

human foot has developed in response to the need to carry the whole body weight and not a portion only.

As in the case of the hand, the human foot is composed of three sets of bones. Those of the foot are called tarsals, metatarsals, and phalanges or toe bones. Of the seven tarsals, one stands up higher than the rest and has a large joint surface for articulation with the bones of the lower leg (the ankle joint). This is the astragalus or talus. Below and behind the talus is a still larger bone, the calcaneus, forming the heel. These and the remaining tarsal bones have much the same positions and relative sizes in the bear as in man, except that in the former the calcaneus is slenderer.

At first glance the five metatarsals of the bear appear to be very similar to their human counterparts. On closer inspection, however, you will



Figure 2.—The same foot as in figure 1, but here viewed from the under or sole side.

see that in the bear the longest is IV, whereas in man it is II. Also, on the plantar (sole) side the distal ends of the bear's metatarsals present the same arrangement of sesamoids seen in the metacarpals of this animal. For some reason the human foot, like the human hand, never develops sesamoids this consistently. When these sesamoids have been lost postmortem, as in the case shown in fig. 2, the distinctive form of the distal ends of the metatarsals is your clue.

We will not consider any of the toe bones in detail since they are seldom present in the feet of bears offered for identification, and besides they look much like the finger bones of the same animals as described above. Interestingly enough, the corresponding human bones tend to be shorter and more "waisted" in the midsection, as if having undergone degeneration.

There remains to tell how a flesh-covered foot may be properly oriented as to side. As already pointed out, the joint surface of the talus (the ankle joint) indicates which side is uppermost. The talus is also on the side of, and in alignment with, digit I (the great toe in man). This joint surface serves, therefore, to indicate the inside of the foot, which in the bear is also the side of the shortest digit. Also, attention is called to the fact that the talus overhangs the calcaneus on the inside of the foot.

Speaking of the calcaneus, or heel bone, note that in fig. 2 the free extremity of this bone is damaged. Probably this is the work of dogs or other carnivorous animals. (Actual tooth marks can be seen on the end of the tibia.) Damage of this sort, especially to the ends of the metacarpals and metatarsals, adds greatly to the task of identification.

With the details of identification out of the way, let us assume that you, as a law enforcement officer, have been presented with an isolated hand or foot in a state of advanced decay but surprisingly humanlike and, following the information here given, have diagnosed it as bear. Assuming also that this hand or foot has been found at a place remote from the usual habitat of bears, how will you account for this situation? You undoubtedly have curiosity on this score as does the person who discovered the gruesome object. Well, not uncommonly a hunter may skin his bear where he shot it or at his camp nearby. In doing so he may not take the time to dissect out the hands and feet, but may simply disarticulate them at the wrist and ankle joints. The main reason for this is that

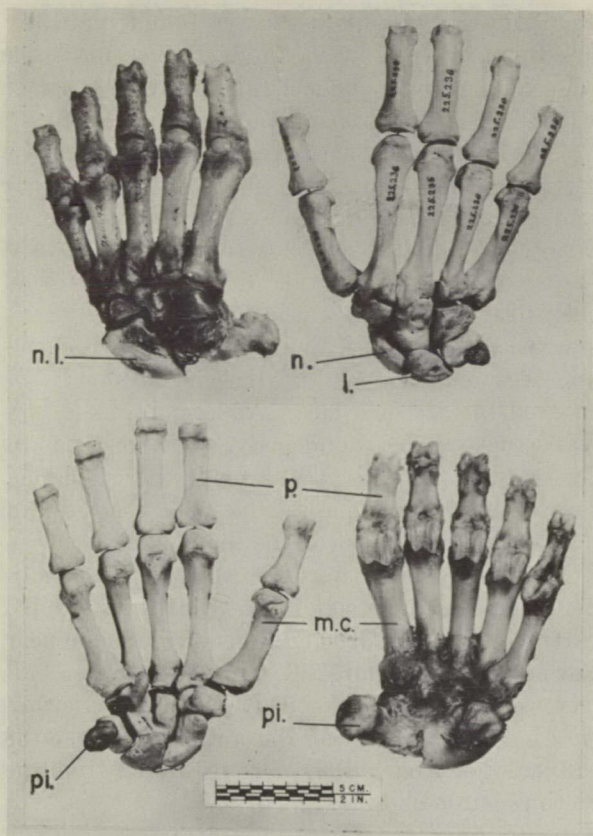


Figure 3.—Comparison of bear and human hands in the skeletonized state (minus last two rows of phalanges). The bear is upper left, lower right; the human is upper right, lower left. The back of the hand is shown above, the palm below. Abbreviations: l., Lunate; m.c., metacarpals; n., navicular; n.l., naviculo-lunar; p., phalanges (proximal row); pi., pisiform. (Photograph courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.)

the skin does not readily separate from the heavy protective pads in the palms and soles. Of course, also, it is pretty tedious work skinning the individual fingers and toes. So, later on at more leisure, usually at home and remote from the bear country, the hunter finishes the skinning of the hands and feet, leaving the terminal phalanges connected with the claws in the skin. At this point the hands and feet may be chucked into the garbage can or tossed to the dog. In any case, quite a few ultimately find their way to police departments under the suspicion of being human.

Incidentally, if it turns out not to be bear, and is definitely on the human side, then you should let an expert have a look. Among other things, he should be able to rule out such remote possibilities as apes, which, after all, are man's closest relatives. Fortunately ape remains, due to their rarity, usually are carefully accounted for.

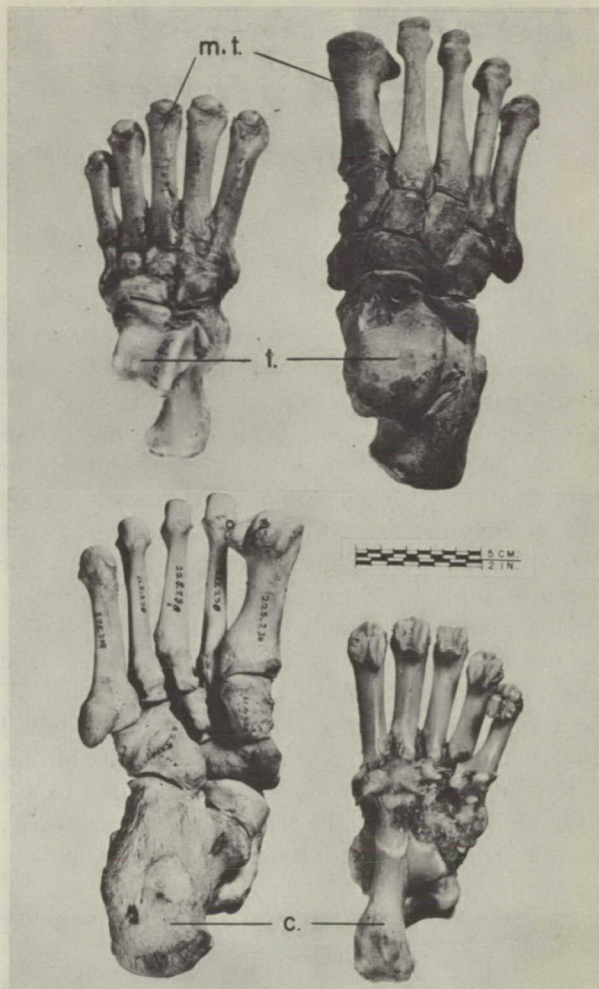


Figure 4.—Comparison of bear and human feet in the skeletonized state (minus all phalanges). The bear is upper left, lower right; the human is upper right, lower left. The upper or dorsal side of the foot is shown above, the under or sole side below. Abbreviations: c., calcaneus; m.t., metatarsals; t., talus. (Photograph courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.)

“MOLOTOV COCKTAILS”

During the course of an investigation into a recent prison riot, it was learned that the inmates indicated to officials that they had made plans, in anticipation of the riot, to make “Molotov cocktails” out of electric light bulbs. This was to be done by removing the metal screw cap from the bulb, filling it with gasoline or paint thinner and inserting in the opening a piece of cloth to act as both stopper and wick or fuse. The wick was to be lighted and the bulb thrown at guards or other officers. Upon striking any solid object, the bulb would break, and the inflammable contents would spread and be ignited by the lighted wick.

Murder Is Solved by Exploitation of Slim Evidence

by EARL B. WHITMORE, *Sheriff, San Mateo County, Calif.*

Although it is widely recognized that physical evidence is a gold mine of information in the investigation and solution of criminal cases, all too frequently it is not exploited to the fullest extent. A murder case investigated in San Mateo County, Calif., served to show us the results which can be obtained by taking full advantage of the leads offered by physical evidence found at the scene of a crime, when other avenues of investigation seem to lead only into dead ends.

On February 1, 1959, a bullet-riddled and bloodstained automobile, the property of a resident of a suburb of San Francisco, was found abandoned on the outskirts of this community. The owner, a 28-year-old man, had failed to appear at his home at the usual time and a search had been started in an attempt to locate him. On

February 2, 1959, his body was found in an isolated area in the low mountains which mark the edge of the town, about 2.2 miles from the place where his car had been abandoned.

Examination of this area indicated that the victim had been murdered there and that his car had probably been driven away by the murderer. The victim had been shot several times while seated on the driver's side of the front seat and then dragged out of the car on the passenger's side where he was left lying on his back with arms and legs outstretched. Extensive powder burns marked the victim's face. At least fourteen bullets struck the head and body. The condition of the body at the time it was found indicated that several hours had elapsed between the time of death and the arrival of the searchers.

Nine .38 special cartridge cases, three .38 caliber wadcutter bullets and two .38 caliber reloaded cartridges with wadcutter bullets were found near the body. Five more .38 caliber wadcutter bullets were found in the body or in the victim's clothing at the time of the autopsy. Seven .38 caliber wadcutter bullets were recovered from the victim's automobile.

"Witness" Confuses Matter

A youthful witness, a 12-year-old boy who lived in the neighborhood near the point where the victim's car had been abandoned, offered the only information of an "eyewitness" nature. He told investigators that he had seen a woman driving the victim's car between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 1959. The boy described the woman's clothing, said that she was in her early 20's and had blonde hair. However, upon questioning, investigating officers became quite skeptical as the boy's description became more and more detailed for the length of time that he had observed the "suspect." Later this same witness was to further confuse the matter by planting a necklace and "finding" it in an attempt to gain publicity.

Extensive investigation of the victim's background failed to yield any clue as to his murderer and disclosed only that he frequently wandered in the mountainous area where he was killed. It was determined that the victim had once been convicted on a morals charge.

In the meantime, preliminary examination of the physical evidence in the sheriff's crime laboratory at Redwood City, Calif., disclosed that the



Earl B. Whitmore.

ammunition found at the crime scene apparently consisted of bullets of a relatively hard composition and that they were probably cast in an Ideal No. 358432 mold. Each bullet weighed about 150 grains, which is approximately 10 grains lighter than the specified weight of the bullet when a lead alloy of average hardness is used. The cartridges were loaded with about 12.2 grains of what appeared to be Hercules 2400 rifle powder. It became apparent that this handloaded ammunition was sufficiently unusual in its individual characteristics to allow it to be identified with its maker if he could be found. The bullets had been fired from a gun which had the general rifling characteristics of a Colt revolver or automatic pistol. Examination of the ammunition by the FBI Laboratory verified the preliminary description.

Circular Letter Used

Concurrently with the investigation of the victim's background, written inquiries were sent to the manufacturer of the mold in which the fatal bullets were believed to have been cast. Based on information received from the manufacturer, inquiries were sent to local sporting goods jobbers who handled the molds. Information received from these sources was discouraging, as far as the possibility of locating the individual mold was concerned, because of the large number of this particular model which had been distributed and sold during the 20 years of its manufacture.

Meanwhile, large photographs showing a round of the loaded ammunition found at the scene, an unfired bullet and one of the fatal bullets, were circulated by the sheriff's department to local police departments, sporting goods stores, gun clubs, sportsmen's clubs, known reloading enthusiasts, gunsmiths and other sources from whom help and information might be expected. These resulted in a flood of specimens for comparison, but no positive information.

At the same time, a canvass was begun of gunsmiths, sporting goods stores and of known gun enthusiasts in the neighborhoods near the general area where the shooting and the abandonment of the car took place.

Finally, after contacting many, one hand loader was located who had a bullet mold of the same type as that used in casting the murder bullets. Also, this hand loader admitted using Hercules 2400 rifle powder in his .38 special reloads and a

relatively hard alloy for his bullets. This individual furnished samples of his bullets, but he denied knowledge of the murder or of any information which might assist in its solution. He claimed that he was unable to recall any individual to whom he had furnished ammunition who might have committed the murder. Bullets molded by this man were compared with the fatal bullets and, from preliminary examination, it appeared that they all could have been cast in the same mold.

Confronted with this information, the hand loader then supplied investigators with the identity of his "young blonde" former girlfriend to whom he had sold ammunition similar to that used in the killing.

Suspect Arrested

The suspect, an 18-year-old girl, was arrested April 15, 1959, after initial interrogation convinced investigators that she had guilty knowledge of the crime. Later that same day she admitted the killing and led the way to the sewer near her home where she had disposed of the gun which she admitted using in the crime. The gun was recovered from the sewer and test bullets were fired from it.

The suspect, at the time the case went to trial, denied a motive for her crime except that she wanted to see what it was like to kill a human being and she wanted to find out if it would bother her conscience. To further dramatize the tenuous connection between the suspect and the victim, no evidence had been uncovered, by the time of the trial, to show that she had met her victim more than once before his murder or that their meeting on the fatal day was other than a matter of chance. No acquaintance of the murdered man has been located who could identify the suspect as having been in the company of the victim at any time.

Disposition

On July 20, 1959, the suspect appeared in Superior Court, Redwood City, Calif., and pleaded guilty to the charge of murder in this case. She was subsequently found guilty of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Corona Prison for Women.

WANTED BY THE FBI

ED NORVELL, with aliases:
"Eddie," "T-Bone"

Unlawful Interstate Flight To Avoid Confinement (Murder)

Ed Norvell is being sought by the FBI for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for the crime of murder. He is the subject of FBI Identification Order Number 3275.

On March 8, 1959, Norvell escaped from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary where he had been serving a life sentence for a brutal 1927 murder. He executed his escape by jumping a prison wall and fleeing in a waiting car.

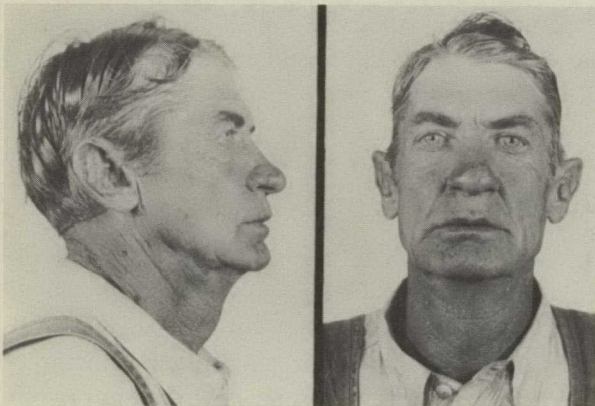
FBI assistance was sought after it had been determined that Norvell fled the State of Oklahoma.

Process

A Federal complaint was filed on March 10, 1959, before a U.S. Commissioner at McAlester, Okla., charging Ed Norvell with unlawful flight to avoid confinement for the crime of murder.

The Criminal

Norvell has been convicted of the crimes of murder and robbery. He is reported to have a dangerously violent temper that is easily aroused. This fugitive is considered to be an extremely dangerous person. He allegedly has stated that he will not be taken alive. During Norvell's 31 years in prison he has done a considerable amount of leather work and may attempt to seek this type



Ed Norvell

of employment. This felon reportedly wears false teeth and glasses and speaks slowly.

Caution

Norvell should be considered armed and dangerous. He has been convicted of murder.

Description

Ed Norvell is described as follows:

Age.....	54, born August 4, 1905, Kentucky (not supported by birth records).
Height.....	6 feet to 6 feet 1 inch.
Weight.....	175 to 185 pounds.
Build.....	Medium.
Hair.....	Light brown, graying.
Eyes.....	Hazel.
Complexion.....	Ruddy.
Race.....	White.
Nationality.....	American.
Occupations.....	Plumber, mechanic, leather goods worker.
Scars and marks.....	Dim vertical scar below lobe of right ear, 5-inch cut scar over right kidney, burn scar back of right wrist, left middle finger amputated at first joint, tattoo, "Ed" "1917" inner right forearm.
FBI Number.....	49,546
Fingerprint classification.	<u>17 0 30 Wr Amp</u> I 24 Wr 29 30 29 Ref. 23 23 24

Notify FBI

Any person having information which might assist in locating this fugitive 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 nearest FBI Division, the telephone number of which appears on the first page of local telephone directories.

LAB EXAMINATIONS INCREASE

During the 1959 fiscal year, the FBI Laboratory received over 36,800 requests for assistance involving more than 180,000 scientific examinations of over 160,000 specimens of evidence. These are the highest totals achieved in the history of the FBI Laboratory.

Circular Letter From FBI Dramatically Traps Robber

In an effort to combat the alarming increase in bank robbery violations, the FBI recently forwarded posters and circular letters to all banking institutions. The poster clearly defines the Bureau's jurisdiction in bank robbery cases, and the circular letter over FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's signature contains instructions for bank employees to follow in the event of a robbery. The effectiveness of this technique was dramatically illustrated by a recent Kentucky robbery.

The victim bank, located in Louisville, had just received the poster and circular letter. As one teller finished reading the letter, he turned from his window and handed it to another bank employee. When he turned again to his window, a man stepped forward and demanded that he empty his cash drawer into a paper bag.

The suggested means outlined in the letter by which bank employees can aid in the investigation of bank robberies flashed through the teller's mind—"Obtain a complete and accurate description of the robber Include identifiable currency in the loot. . . ."

The teller promptly filled the bag with money, including a package of bills of which the serial

numbers had been recorded, a package of mutilated bills bearing his initials and a \$2 bill.

Thirteen minutes later, the bank robber was arrested and the \$3,281 he had obtained was recovered. The teller was able to identify the loot as part of the bank's funds.

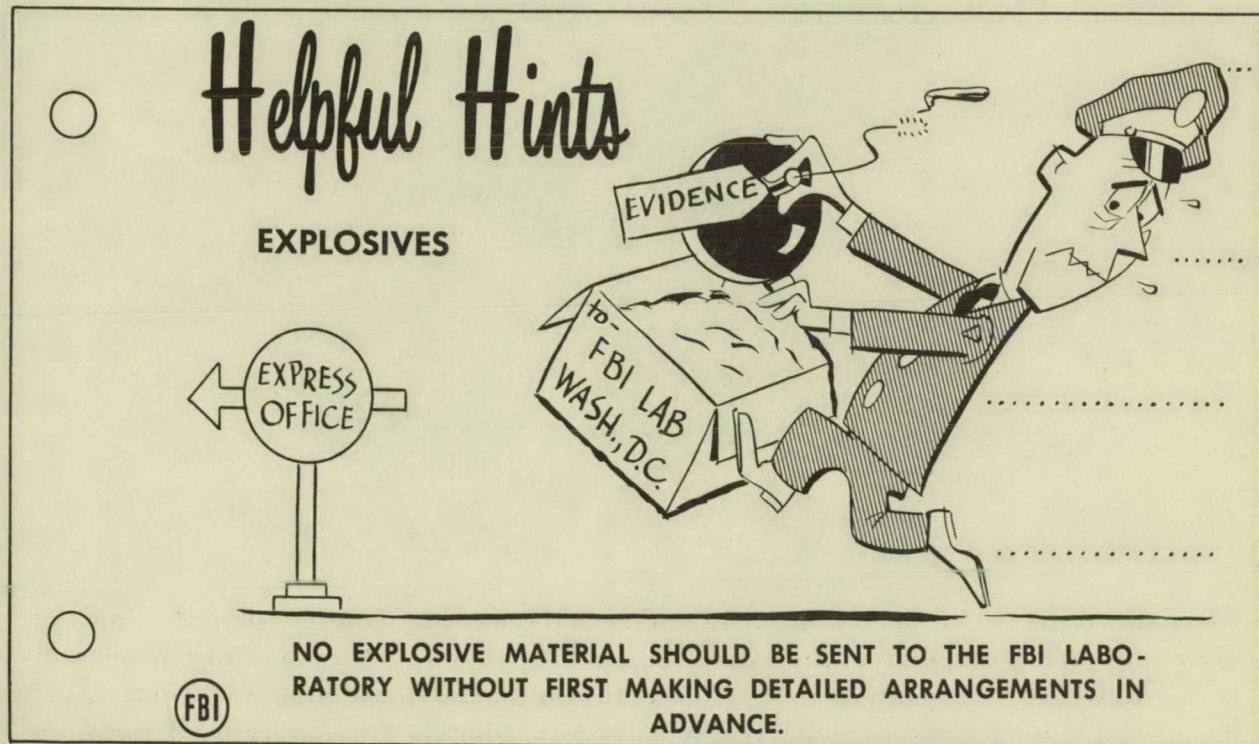
Discussing the incident later, the teller stated, "While the robbery was going on, I kept trying to do things Mr. Hoover said to do, and it worked."

FINGERPRINTS IDENTIFY FUGITIVE MURDERER

On August 8, 1958, the FBI's Identification Division received from the sheriff's office, Hackensack, N. J., the inked fingerprints of a male who had been arrested for two traffic violations. At the time of his arrest, the traffic violator had given the very common name "James Smith" as being his true identity.

A search of the criminal files in the Identification Division revealed not only that the name "James Smith" was not the subject's true identity but also that he was wanted by the sheriff's office, Dade County, Miami, Fla., for murder and by the FBI for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for the crime of murder.

The Dade County sheriff's office was immediately advised of the fugitive's apprehension.



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS

Interesting Pattern



The pattern presented here is interesting due to the unusual combination of a loop and a whorl appearing together in the same fingerprint pattern. There are three deltas, D-1, D-2, and D-3. This pattern is classified as an accidental type whorl with an outer tracing. It should be noted that the tracing is determined by using the two outermost deltas.