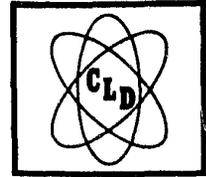




# CRIME LABORATORY DIGEST



Published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in association and cooperation with Crime Laboratories throughout the United States.

Issue 75-6

AUGUST, 1975

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## PUBLICATIONS POLICY

The Crime Laboratory Digest is not designed to replace technical journals and publications, nor does it maintain any proprietary interest in articles it publishes. It is intended as an informal, rapid line of communication between crime laboratories so that information of interest and value may be disseminated and shared by professional crime laboratory scientists. Any article published in the Digest can be developed and reprinted if its author so desires.

Inclusion of any article does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the material or the source by the United States Government, the Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This publication is intended for the use of crime laboratory personnel for the betterment of professional law enforcement. Articles received for publication will be identified by individual submitting agencies.

Inquiries for additional information concerning a specific article should be directed to the contributing agency.

It is recognized that certain articles or items submitted by a crime laboratory and published in the Digest may at times represent controversial and even unpopular ideas or proposals. Other times, it may contain news of ongoing research or new examination techniques which other laboratories may have previously conducted.

For these reasons, comments from crime laboratories concerning articles appearing in the Digest are invited and will be published whenever appropriate. Through this procedure, it is hoped that unnecessary and costly duplication of effort may be avoided and laboratories may profit from the experience of others.

Articles for publication in the Digest should be forwarded to FBI Laboratory Publications, Planning and Evaluation Unit, J. Edgar Hoover Building, 9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20535.

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## MEETINGS

### 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE

London, England

September 1-5, 1975

For information contact: Eva Tongue, LL.D., ICAA, Case Postale  
140, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Appalachia State University

Boone, North Carolina

September 5-6, 1975

For information contact: Tom Gamball, Center for Continuing  
Education, Appalachia State University, Boone, North Carolina.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SEVENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

Zurich, Switzerland

September 8-12, 1975

For information contact: Secretariat, IAFS, c/o Professor H. P.  
Hartmann, Gerichtlich-Medizinisches, Institut der Universitat,  
Postfach, CH 8028, Zurich, Switzerland.

\* \* \* \* \*

### FORENSIC SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Arizona State University

Tempe, Arizona

September 18-20, 1975

For information contact: Med-Sci-Law International Consultants,  
Post Office Box 27878, Tucson, Arizona.

\* \* \* \* \*

### NATIONAL HOMICIDE INSTITUTE

Sheraton-Los Angeles Airport Hotel

Los Angeles, California

September 23-26, 1975

For further information contact: GORMAC, Box 424, Arcadia,  
California 91006.

\* \* \* \* \*

FALL MEETING OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY DIVISION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION  
Sheraton Hotel Conference Center  
Reston, Virginia

September 27, 1975

Contact: Richard L. Brunelle, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and  
Firearms, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Room 6617,  
Washington, D. C. 20226, 202-964-6677.

\* \* \* \* \*

THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
ON CRIME LABORATORY DEVELOPMENT  
FBI Academy, Virginia  
October 6-10, 1975

Details will be issued in a later issue of the Digest.

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13TH ANNUAL COURSE IN FORENSIC DENTISTRY  
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)  
Washington, D. C.  
October 6-9, 1975

For further information contact: Associate Director for Education,  
AFIP, (AFIP - Executive Office of the Director of Education)  
Washington, D. C. 20306.

\* \* \* \* \*

FEDERATION OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY  
AND SPECTROSCOPY SOCIETIES  
Indianapolis Convention Center  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
October 6-10, 1975

For information contact: Dr. C. White, Oak Ridge National  
Laboratories, Indianapolis, Indiana.

\* \* \* \* \*

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS  
Biannual Meeting - Christopher Inn  
Columbus, Ohio  
October 8-11, 1975

For information contact: Richard O. Pfau, Columbus Police  
Department, 120 West Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

\* \* \* \* \*

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS  
Semiannual Seminar  
Fresno, California  
October 10-12, 1975

For information contact: William K. Carlton, Seminar Chairman,  
Department of Justice, Fresno Regional Lab, 6014 North Cedar,  
Fresno, California 93710.

\* \* \* \* \*

ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS

FORENSIC SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Marriott Twin Bridges Motel

Washington, D. C.

October 14, 1975

For information contact: Richard L. Brunelle, Chairman,  
Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and  
Firearms, Washington, D. C. 20226.

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CANADIAN SOCIETY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

Hotel Toronto

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

October 15-17, 1975

For information contact: D. W. (Bill) Robinson, Centre of  
Forensic Sciences, 25 Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M7A 2G8.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS

Hotel Toronto

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

October 16-17, 1975

For further information contact: D. W. (Bill) Robinson, Centre  
of Forensic Sciences, 25 Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M7A 2G8.

\* \* \* \* \*

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Fall Seminar - Eugene Hotel

Eugene, Oregon

October 16-18, 1975

For information contact: Roger H. Dingeman, Program Chairman,  
Crime Detection Laboratory, Oregon State Police, 364½ West  
Seventh Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEMINAR IN MOLECULAR MASS SPECTROMETRY

Atlanta, Georgia

October 20-24, 1975

For information contact: Karen M. Hansen, Finnigan Corporation,  
845 West Maude, Sunnyvale, California 94086.

\* \* \* \* \*

FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY  
College of San Mateo  
San Mateo, California  
November 1-2, 1975

For further information contact: Postgraduate Division, School of Dentistry, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143.

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FORENSIC PATHOLOGY  
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)  
Washington, D. C.  
November 10-14, 1975

For information contact: The Director, AFIP (AFIP - Executive Office of the Director of Education), Washington, D. C. 20306.

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RADIOIMMUNOASSAY (RIA) IN TOXICOLOGY  
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)  
Washington, D. C.  
November 17-18, 1975

For information contact: The Director, AFIP (AFIP - Executive Office of the Director of Education), Washington, D. C. 20306. Deadline October 20, 1975.

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LEAA ADMINISTRATOR TO SPEAK AT  
THIRD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON CRIME  
LABORATORY DEVELOPMENT

"Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and its Relationship to the Forensic Community" will be the topic of an address by LEAA Administrator Mr. Richard W. Velde before the Third Annual Symposium on Crime Laboratory Development.

The Symposium will again be hosted by the FBI at its Training Academy at Quantico, Virginia, October 5-9, 1975. Approximately 200 leaders from law enforcement crime laboratories will be invited to attend the five-day meeting. Mr. Velde will speak on Tuesday morning, October 7.

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Symposium activities. A tentative program of activities will be published in the September issue of the Crime Laboratory Digest.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FBI LABORATORY MOVING

The FBI Laboratory, which will celebrate its 43rd birthday later this year, has begun its move into the new J. Edgar Hoover Building across the street from its former location in the Department of Justice Building at 9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Two of the Laboratory's four sections, Document and Physics and Chemistry, have already moved and are now arranging their space and equipment. The remaining two sections, Radio Engineering and Cryptanalysis-Gambling-Translation, are expected to be in their new space in time to celebrate the Laboratory's anniversary on November 24, 1975.

For the first time in many years the move will bring together all four sections of the Laboratory and its over 400 employees.

This will be the third move for the Laboratory since its establishment in 1932 when it took up residence in the Old Southern Railway Building at Thirteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue with a simple collection of scientific equipment operated by one scientist. In September, 1934, it moved into the Department of Justice Building.

Formal dedication of the J. Edgar Hoover Building is expected in October, 1975.

During its first full year, the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934, the new Laboratory made 963 examinations. Over the years this number has grown as law enforcement agencies throughout the country have recognized the value of the forensic scientist in solving crime.

During Fiscal 1975, the FBI Laboratory conducted nearly 500,000 examinations. Approximately 30 percent of these examinations were conducted for agencies other than the FBI on a cost-free basis.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS POLICE CRIME LABORATORY PROPOSES  
IDENTIFICATION OF CRIME LABORATORIES AND FIREARM  
EXAMINERS ON EXAMINED WEAPONS

Source: Andrew H. Principe, Executive Director  
Donald J. Verbeke, Firearms Examiner  
Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory  
1677 Old Deerfield Road  
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Firearm evidence (weapons) is generally inconspicuously marked for identification by the recovering investigator as well as the firearm examiner for subsequent identification. There is an ongoing effort to train investigators on what, how and where to mark all firearms evidence, but there is not apparent uniformity in marking by firearm examiners.

Many firearm examiners mark a processed weapon with a routine identifying number. The Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory employs a routine numbering system consisting of the letter prefix "N", followed by a number indicating the year, a dash and a sequential number beginning with one on January 1st of each year (N5-1). Some laboratory firearm examiners use a letter prefix and a case number with the year and the lab case number assigned.

The ideal numbering system is kept small and simple in firearm evidence marking because the associated areas to be marked (bullets & cartridge cases) are limited in space. Those laboratories using a simple letter prefix with one digit for the year and a sequential number keep cross references with the type of

weapon, lab case numbers, submitting departments, serial numbers, suspect and victim names, etc. Unless a laboratory or firearm examiner is familiar with another lab's numbering system, there is no way to associate a previously examined weapon with a particular laboratory. Furthermore, there are no standardized locations where firearm examiners in different laboratories mark weapons. There is presently no method for retrieving such information from a given State's Information System or through the National Crime Information Center.

With the formation of the Association of Firearms and Toolmarks Examiners (AFTE) and American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), we have the capability of compiling a complete list of Crime Laboratories and firearm examiners. Through AFTE and ASCLD we have the organizational means by which a specific crime laboratory or private firearm examiner may be identified, only the method of codifying weapons is lacking. The following proposal for identification is offered.

Any weapon marking system should be small, simple to affix and capable of marking a rounded as well as a flat surface. For these reasons it is suggested that a stamp be designed similar to a proof mark stamp, narrow in shape and including within its perimeter an identifying number. The shape of the stamp would designate that the particular weapon has been previously examined by a private firearm examiner or crime laboratory. The number enclosed within the designed symbol would identify the particular examiner or laboratory. By limiting the numbers to two digits, 99 laboratories could be identified. By using a letter and two digits,

well over 2500 individual identification stamps could be issued which would give ample room for expansion of the system in the future. See Figure I for suggested stamp design. This stamp would be used in conjunction with and in close proximity to the lab's routine or case numbers marked on the weapon.

It is suggested that a committee of AFTE and ASCLD be established for issuing identifying stamps and keeping records as to their issue. This committee could also establish uniform locations and which weapon parts are to be stamped making recognition easy. Suggested locations are given in Figures II, III, and IV.

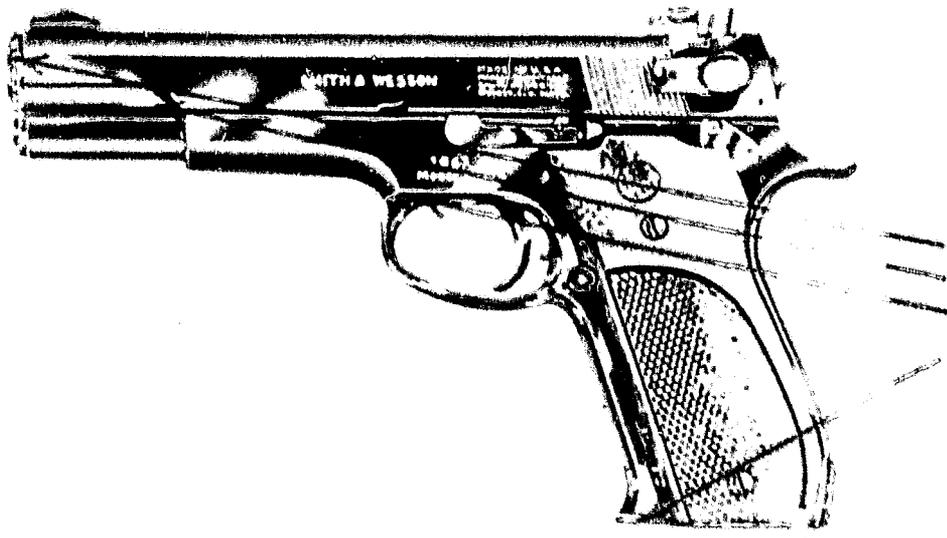
This code could be entered into NCIC for easy accessibility in identifying a laboratory. AFTE could be the repository for all hits and publish the results in its Journal, as well as the Crime Lab Digest.

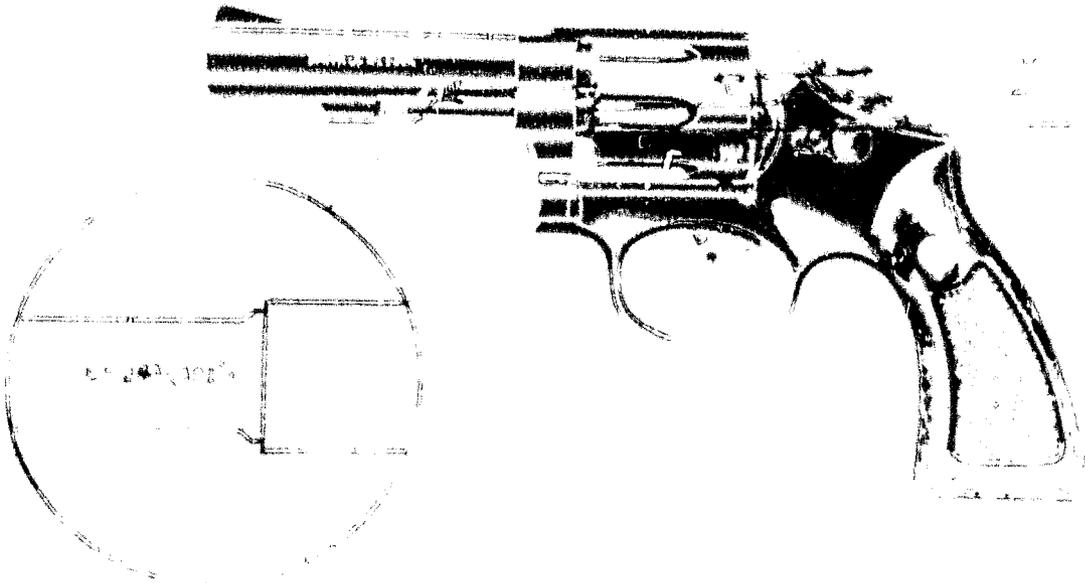
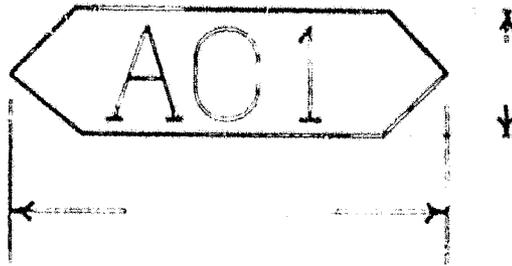
We can see many advantages to such a program that are not presently available:

1. A rapid way of knowing if a weapon has ever been processed by a private firearm examiner or laboratory, and specifically which examiner or laboratory.
2. Knowing the laboratory may be a source for determining what type of offense that the weapon was previously involved in and who was in possession of the weapon at that time.

3. A method of tracing weapons recovered and processed through laboratories across the country, as well as providing statistical data such as the number of repeat offenses with this weapon.
4. A possible method of tracing individuals or groups across the country; if adopted internationally, across international borders such as Canada and Mexico.
5. The possibility that a weapon could be associated with shootings in different locations.
6. If every major component group (receiver, slide and barrel group) of weapons are stamped, the interchange of parts could readily be detected.
7. This type of identification could be the start of standardized marking, and lead to a standard numbering system between crime laboratories and firearm examiners. It could also lead to standardized numbering in specific locations on recovered weapons.

Preliminary cost estimates indicate that all of the above listed advantages that this system could bring may be obtained for approximately \$10.00 or less per stamp.





INTERESTING CASE

VICIOUS ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTED MURDER SOLVED

Robert Brown\* was recently found guilty by an El Paso, Texas, jury of aggravated robbery and sentenced 25 years. Earlier, his accomplice, Thomas Stevens\*, had pled guilty and received a 15-year sentence. The guilty verdict was the climax of a November, 1974, vicious robbery and attempted murder incident in which Walter Johnson\*, a retired Vice-President of an automobile company, and his wife had parked their Winnebago mobile home at a roadside park near El Paso and almost saw their dreams of a peaceful retirement abruptly end.

Brown, a 25 year-old with a criminal record for forgery and burglary, accompanied by Stevens, a 19 year-old mental defective, also stopped at the same roadside park. As part of their plan to steal a mobile home and sell it in Mexico, Stevens, at Brown's direction, entered the Johnson's mobile home, pistol-whipped them and then forced them to walk into the desert, disrobe and lie on the ground. Stevens then shot each victim several times in the head with a .22 caliber revolver.

Miraculously, the couple did not die. They made their way to the highway and were immediately taken to a hospital. They fully recovered later. Within 20 minutes of the incident, an alert deputy sheriff arrested Brown and Stevens several miles from the site of the shooting still in possession of the victim's Winnebago.

FBI Laboratory examination of evidence submitted by the county sheriff conclusively established that a single hair found on Stevens' revolver matched Mrs. Johnson's hair. Examination of firearms trace matter, bullets and human blood evidence also helped establish the guilty complicity of Brown and Stevens.

\*fictitious

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INTERESTING CASE WRITE-UPS FROM OTHER CRIME LABORATORIES ARE SOLICITED AND WELCOME.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NOTICE TO ASCLD MEMBERS AND APPLICANTS

Source: Mr. Edward Whittaker  
 Crime Laboratory  
 1320 Northwest 14th Street  
 Miami, Florida 33125

In order to facilitate the business operations of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, please fill in your preferred address, etc. for correspondence from the Society.  
 Mail to:

Mr. A. Atley Peterson  
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
 Room 5205 Federal Building  
 Washington, D. C. 20226

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
           First          Middle          Last  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
                           Organization  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
                           Address  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
           City                          State                          Zip  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (area code) Number

FOR SURVEY PURPOSES, PLEASE CIRCLE:

I am the Director of the following type of laboratory:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Federal	Laboratory System	Prosecutor
State	Central Parent Lab	University
County	Regional Lab	Medical Examiner
City	Satellite Lab	Coroner
by contract	Only Lab	Toxicology
Other	Other	Public Health
_____	_____	Police Dept. City County State
		Pub. Saf. Dept. City County State
		County Sheriff
		Federal Law Enf. ATF Customs
		or Service          FBI SS USPS VA
		Other _____

**END**

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