

THE
VALLEY
GANG
CRIME



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Don't Just Worry About Crime

Join millions of your fellow citizens and **DO SOMETHING** about it.

Get involved. Begin a home security program for your club members or your office or your block. Take part in an antiburglary campaign like National Neighborhood Watch. Or volunteer your time—to your police department, the courts, or the local jail. They need you. They need whatever help they can get.

Citizens' help is essential if crime is to be prevented. The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration urges you to become directly involved. To take on greater responsibilities.

Like what?

You can volunteer to work with juveniles. You can tutor them, operate recreational programs, counsel the youngsters, help them find part-time jobs, encourage dropouts to return to school.

You should talk to your police or sheriff's department. Many need volunteers in community relations or youth work. Others may welcome help in performing "civilian" jobs, from checking crime reports to answering telephones in the stationhouse.

You can volunteer your time to conduct programs for inmates in your local jail—tutoring, recreation, advice about family budgeting, etc. Many jails don't have such programs or if they do, the programs are inadequate. As a result, inmates are confined to their cells all day long.

You may sponsor a work release program for nondangerous offenders. Help find

jobs for those leaving prison. Or assist your local court in providing services to crime victims and witnesses.

Residents of an 800-block area of Seattle find it's good sense to participate in the city-run, LEAA-sponsored Community Crime Prevention Project. Preliminary data show that the participating residents have reduced their chance of being burglarized by 61 percent.

The project involves three key services:

Marking valuables. Participants mark valuable items—such as stereos and television sets—with identification numbers. This can be the participant's driver's license or social security number. A window sticker draws this to the attention of would-be thieves who find numbered items hard to fence and impossible to pawn.

Block watchers. The project recruits participants as block watchers and gives them maps marked with residents' names, addresses, and telephone numbers. If block watchers see a suspicious person around a home, they can phone the resident immediately.

Information. This includes tips on protecting homes—for example, advice about locks—and monthly information about the current burglary rate, the way burglars are entering houses, and the kind of items being stolen.

Seattle project officials began by writing to residents, then rang doorbells and held block meetings to enlist citizen participation.

Denver conducts a property-marking program which has enrolled 59,000 homes and shops. In the three years since the program began there have been 55,719 burglaries in the city but only 1,543 involved participating homes and

shops. As in Seattle, participants display warning stickers in their windows.

The LEAA-financed National Neighborhood Watch program assists citizens and police in working together to prevent burglaries.

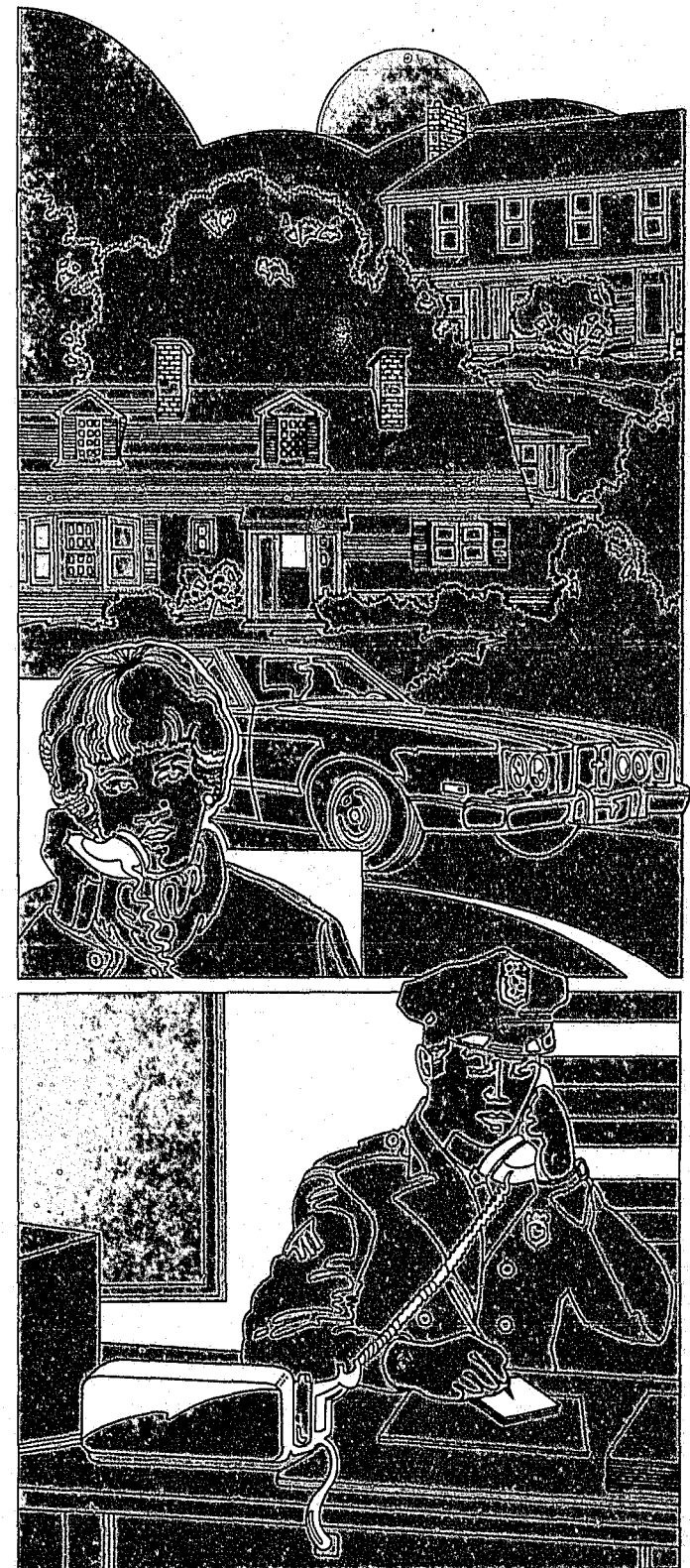
The National Sheriffs' Association conducts the program which includes these elements:

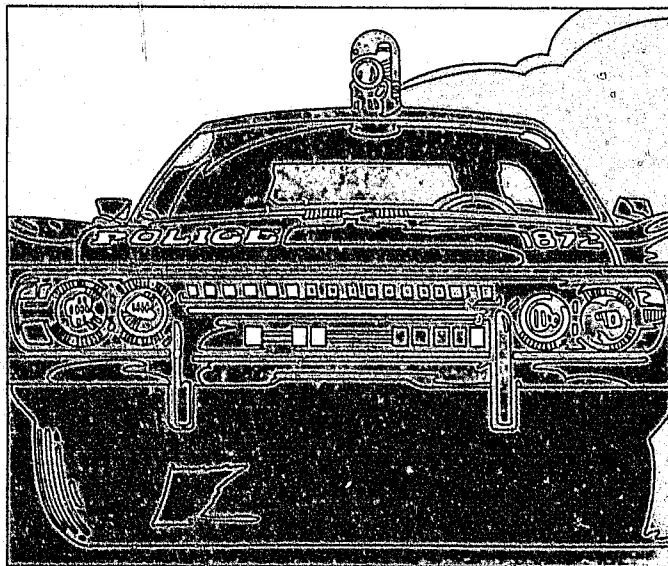
- Public education to increase citizen awareness of burglary.
- Training people to protect their property.
- Developing a neighborhood action program that includes block watching and reporting suspicious persons and activities to police.
- Encouraging citizens to report crimes.

By the end of its third year Neighborhood Watch was active in more than 1,600 cities and counties. More than five million families had received 65 million items of antiburglary instruction. You, too, can participate. For more information write to the National Sheriffs' Association, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. The Association will provide free kits of information ranging from window stickers to a security checklist for homes.

Women volunteers in St. Louis and Indianapolis conduct a far-ranging series of anticrime programs.

In St. Louis, for example, the Women's Crusade Against Crime encourages groups to sponsor "Whistle Stop"—by buying whistles in bulk and telling members to blow them in case of a purse snatch, mugging or other street crime. The Crusade's "secret witness" program urges citizens to call the Crusade's "secret operator" to report crimes happening or





describe facts on crimes not reported earlier. Crusaders also have sponsored programs for women in jail—including tutoring and exercise classes.

Law enforcement officers can attend the LEAA-sponsored National Crime Prevention Institute in Louisville to learn how to teach crime prevention in their cities. More than 500 officers attend yearly to learn the latest techniques in security for homes and businesses.

LEAA works with citizens' groups including the Kiwanis International, National Junior League, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs to develop anticrime programs at the grassroots level. One program aligns the AFL-CIO, representing more than 14 million workers, with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the nation's oldest volunteer organization devoted to reforming criminal justice. These two organizations have launched massive education programs to educate the public in crime prevention.

In Philadelphia a grassroots effort that began in 1972 now includes members over a 600-city-block area.

Citizens' Local Alliance for a Safer Philadelphia (CLASP) instructs residents on ways to reduce crime and offers a property-marking program that includes 4,000 homes, housing associations, and businesses. CLASP has given special attention to areas where abandoned houses have created critical crime problems. Project officials say crime has decreased as much as 20 percent in some sections.

For more information about community crime prevention and things citizens' groups can do, write to:

Office of Community Anti-Crime Programs
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration
633 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20531

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