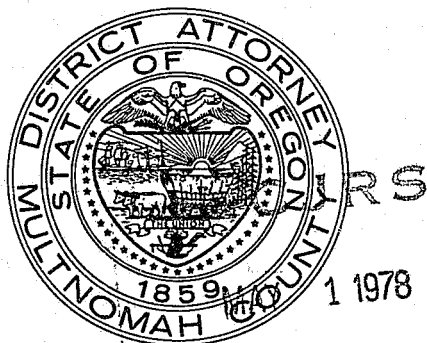


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ACQUISITIONS

ARREST

CRIME!



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Dear Friend:

The profile of today's criminal has vastly changed - and not for the better. The cool-headed professional is still around and in greater numbers than before, but he's hard to recognize. On the street he looks just about like anyone else. He probably has a wife and kids and a home in the suburbs. But in spite of his increased number, he's now in the extreme minority.

The average criminal of today is young - frequently a juvenile. More than likely, he carries a weapon and he's learned most of the techniques of the professional. He may have long hair and a beard and wear weird clothing, or he may look neat and clean-cut like that nice young man who lives down the block. He won't necessarily be related to any racial or ethnic minority group.

During the ten-year period from 1960 to 1970, our population increased 13% while crime increased 176%. However, many of the crimes that pose the greatest immediate threat to the average citizen showed an even greater increase for the period. Purse-snatching jumped 332%; street robbery showed a 229% increase; auto thefts went up 183%, and residential robbery increased by 215%. Burglary, of course, showed sharp increases, but while nighttime residential burglary rose only 129%, daytime burglary of residences climbed a staggering 337%.

Even if you haven't been the direct victim of crime, it's dipping into your pocket in other ways. Your insurance premiums have gone up to cover the increased number of claims being paid. Your taxes have been raised to pay for the expansion of law enforcement agencies and judicial systems. Prices of the goods you buy have been increased to offset losses suffered through theft. No one escapes the cost of crime.

The greatest contribution you can make to offset the crime problem lies in taking every precaution possible to protect your home and family. Most of the crimes that affect you are crimes of opportunity; so, the more obstacles you throw in the criminal's path, the less opportunity he'll have to commit a crime.

Be alert to suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Your report to the police could prevent a crime that might otherwise be committed against your neighbor - or yourself. Through community effort, you can do a number of things to improve the effectiveness of existing law enforcement agencies.

Many of the precautions you should take, as well as suggestions for other possible action, are described in the pages that follow. Read them - then put them into practice.


HARL HAAS

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I. PROTECT YOUR HOME

In taking steps to protect your home and its contents, bear in mind that no home can be protected like Fort Knox. All of the locks, bars, lights and bells you could install cannot guarantee total protection.

It's important to realize, though, that many residential intruders, burglars and rapists devote little if any time to advance planning of any specific break-in. Their crimes are, for the most part, crimes of opportunity. They pick what appears to be an easy mark. If their advance checking and closer examination reveal a greater risk than anticipated, they move on to a safer target.

The residential burglar, including the novice or the juvenile, is not stupid. He knows he must gain entry fast, move quickly while inside, then get out. He's learned many things to look for to assure easy entry; and he can spot a number of these signs while cruising down the street or cutting across a yard.

He often works with a partner for faster coverage of the house. Your unprotected home can be stripped of most of your valuables in three to five minutes from approach to departure, including such bulky items as stereo equipment or television sets.

The more you can do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the safer you are. Start by making it as difficult as possible for the intruder to make a quick and quiet entry. The more obstacles you can place in his path, the less chance of a break-in. There are also many steps you can take to minimize your loss and improve your chances of recovery if a break-in does occur.

OUTSIDE

Your first step should be a complete security check of your home. Keep doors and entryways well lighted, including the driveway and garage areas. Burglars and attackers don't like lights. Replace burned-out bulbs immediately.

Whether you're at home or away, keep garage doors closed. To a rapist, an open garage with no car could mean your husband is not at home. To a burglar, it could mean no one is at home. It could also invite him to use your ladder or tools to break into the house, to say nothing of what he might steal from the garage: tools, bicycle, sporting goods, car or whatever he might strip from the car.

Check the locks on all doors. Picking a good quality lock requires the skill of a professional. Most cheaper locks can be picked quite easily or opened with any one of a number of master keys.

Many doors with the lock in the knob can be opened with a credit card, a strip of plastic or a screwdriver; or the lock can be broken by twisting the knob with a quick turn of a pipe wrench. Many spring-loaded snaplocks that mount on the inside of the door can also be opened with a credit card. A dead-bolt requiring a key to lock or unlock is best.

Any glass-paneled door should have metal grillwork over the glass and a lock that can't be opened by breaking the glass and reaching inside. The safest lock for this type of door is a double-cylinder dead-bolt requiring a key on either side.

When you move into a house, have the lock tumblers changed by a locksmith to assure that anyone still in possession of keys can't get in. Don't have more keys made than necessary. Each family member should have one, but don't allow them to be passed out to delivery or maintenance people (or your teenage daughter's boyfriend). You may find it advantageous to leave one with a neighbor, but don't

hide one under the door mat or in the mailbox. Burglars know more of those key-hiding places than you do.

Some through-the-wall mailboxes and many milk chutes are located close enough to doors or windows to permit an intruder to reach inside and turn the lock. Milk chutes in older houses are often large enough for a juvenile or slight built person to crawl through. Check them for safety.

Check all windows to be sure they're lockable. Basement windows, especially in many older homes, may be forced open easily. They should be barred. If your basement windows are vulnerable, consider installing a lock on the door at the top of the basement stairs. This won't be of much benefit while you're away, but when you're at home, an intruder forcing the door will alert you to his presence.

Windows which you may desire to open should be equipped, wherever possible, with stops to limit their opening to no more than a few inches. Your hardware store or locksmith will have these available. Sliding windows and doors can be blocked with strips of wood or broomsticks cut to the proper length and laid in the groove of the sill.

INSIDE

These steps have to do with minimizing your loss and improving your chances of recovery if and when you become a burglary victim.

You might start by gathering up the quantities of cash in your home and putting it in the bank. It's a lot safer there. Smaller amounts of money, including wallets and purses, should not be left exposed on dresser tops, kitchen tables or other easily visible places. They may prove to be just that little extra temptation needed to turn an otherwise honest person dishonest. This applies to people who may be in your home legitimately, such as babysitters, maintenance men, or even friends of your children.

Coin collections, along with valuable jewelry which is not worn frequently, should be kept in a safe deposit box at your bank. Such jewelry kept at home should not be left on dresser tops or other easily accessible places.

All jewelry of significant value, whether kept in your bank box or at home, should be photographed and etched with some identifying mark to enable you to identify it if it should be stolen or recovered. Much of the stolen jewelry recovered by the police is never returned to its owner because the owner can't identify it or prove ownership.

Many other valuables, such as cameras, projectors, guns, watches, television sets and some items of sports equipment, have serial numbers. Make a tour through your home, listing all such numbers with a description, model number and brand name. Don't overlook kitchen appliances. List everything from the refrigerator down to the toaster. For insurance purposes, you should include the value or cost of each item and the approximate date you acquired it.

If an item of value doesn't have a number, etch one on it. Use your social security or driver's license number. On sterling silver, you may prefer to have a jeweler stamp your initials on the back of each piece next to the manufacturer's hallmark.

Furs, too, should be marked for positive identification, but don't mark the label or the lining. Often, the entire lining of a stolen fur is replaced. Put an identifying mark in several places on the back of the skins with an indelible marking pen. Add these marks and descriptions to the list.

Many television manufacturers now apply serial numbers with stick-on labels instead of embossing them on the chassis. In an interview, one burglar said he simply peels off the label so it can't be identified. If your set is marked in this way, etch the number on the chassis yourself.

Make two copies of your list. Keep one at home and the other in your box at the bank. That way, if they steal the little metal lock-box from your closet shelf, you'll still have the other copy for reference.

ALARM SYSTEMS

Within the past few years, residential alarm systems have been installed in more and more homes.

In 1970, a burglary was being committed somewhere in this country every fifteen seconds. Nearly 60% of those burglaries were residential. Of a total burglary loss of \$672 million, \$407 million was from residences. And, regrettably, only 19% of those burglaries were ever solved.

Burglar alarm systems fall into two basic categories. "Silent" alarms, the type used by many businesses, make no sound on the premises; but, through leased telephone lines or automatic dialing devices, signal the alarm company's dispatchers who notify the police. "Local" alarms are entirely self-contained on the premises, and cause a loud bell or siren to sound when tripped.

While the local alarm is used by some businesses, it's the more commonly used type for residential installations. Properly installed, this type of system will provide a great deal of protection for your home. When tripped by a burglar, it will be almost impossible to silence. Turning the alarm off requires a special key for a virtually pick-proof lock. Even cutting the electric power won't defeat or silence a good quality system.

In planning your system, a properly qualified alarm company will select the various components to go into it from a wide range of available devices, the choice being determined by your needs and circumstances. Be sure to choose a reputable dealer capable of providing service on your system in the years to come.

Before you buy, ask for the names of some of the company's customers and check with them. With the increased demand for security systems, many unscrupulous dealers have entered the field.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

When you're at home, especially if you're a woman at home alone, you don't want to feel that you're in some sort of self-imposed prison. On the other hand, failing to take reasonable precautions can be very foolish. With attacks and residential break-ins at such an all-time high, the risk is far too great to be ignored.

Your first consideration should be your doors. Keep them locked when you're at home. The front door, if it has no window panel, should be equipped with a peep hole to let you see your caller before opening the door; and a security chain will allow you to open it enough to talk to a stranger without leaving yourself too vulnerable. The chain won't keep anyone out if he's determined to get in, but it will at least slow him down enough to give you time to scream loud and long before he gets to you. Keep the screen or storm door locked as an added deterrent.

You'll be wise to keep your drapes drawn during the evening. This is especially true if your husband is not at home. If they're open, it's easy for an attacker to

assure himself that there's no man around to protect you.

Make a nightly safety check of the house before you go to bed. We're often inclined to assume that someone else checked the back door, locked the garage or remembered to close the basement windows. The one time you neglect this nightly check could be the very night an intruder decides to try your house.

Be sure to leave the outside lights on, as well as one or two lights inside, such as in a bathroom or hall. Inside lights make an intruder feel that someone is probably at home, and it puts a doubt in his mind as to whether or not everyone is safely asleep. A little electricity is the most inexpensive safety precaution you can take.

Bear in mind that a burglar seldom looks like a burglar. He may wear a suit and carry an attache case like a salesman. Or, he may be in a work uniform, complete with tool belt, like a utility company man. He may also carry a clip-board and drive a truck like a deliveryman.

The man ringing your doorbell may be a salesman, a gas company man, or a lot of other legitimate things. Don't judge by appearances, though. He may be a burglar.

A burglar often rings doorbells. If no one answers, he may force the lock or use a master key to break in at the time. Frequently, though, he rings them for other reasons.

What should you do when your doorbell rings? Think. Too many people are inclined to open their doors without thinking. It's almost a reflex action. The sound of the bell makes you feel an immediate compulsion to open the door. This habit pattern should be broken.

Impress on your mind that your ringing doorbell does not force a demand or obligation on you to open your door. Whether or not you choose to open it is your right — your privilege. Look to see who's there, then take the time to evaluate the situation. Are you expecting anyone? Are you alone? Are you sufficiently composed to cope with a salesman or survey taker or whoever that is standing out there? Now make your decision about opening the door.

If the man ringing your bell is a burglar, he may simply want to get a close look at the door, the windows and the interior of the house to see if it looks like an easy mark for a later break-in. When you answer, he may inquire about some fictitious person supposedly living in the area and then leave, having gotten the close look he wanted. Or, he may ask to use your phone, claiming that his car broke down. Maybe he's on the level, but don't let him in. Offer to make a call for him, but leave him outside your door.

Often, a potential intruder will ask if your husband is at home. If you have one of those neat little engraved brass nameplates on your door, he even knows what name to ask for. If you tell him your husband is out of town, or that he usually doesn't get home until after nine, or if you even confirm the fact that your husband is not at home, you're telling him exactly what he wants to know.

If he determines that you're alone, he may attempt to force his way in for either robbery or rape. Or, learning that your husband won't be home until late, he may plan to return to break in whenever he sees that your car is gone.

Moral: Never tell any stranger at your door about your husband's work schedule or activities, or that you don't have a husband; and don't divulge information about yourself or other members of the family.

These burglars aren't all men, either. More women and young girls are working at the trade every day. Sometimes they do the advance check-out work for their

male partners; sometimes they do their own burgling, either on the spot in the daytime or returning after dark. A woman or teen-age girl ringing your bell is no guarantee of safety.

Most of these people at your door are on the level — but how do you know which ones aren't?

The rule you must follow is very simple: Ask for credentials — and read them! Many people hesitate to ask a caller for his credentials for fear of offending him. As a result, even if they have the courage to ask for credentials, or even if the caller volunteers them without being asked, they usually dismiss them with an embarrassed glance.

The legitimate caller, if he fails to volunteer his credentials, won't be offended by your asking; and he won't mind letting you take the time to read them. And, when you read them — think! Don't let your self-consciousness prevent what you read from sinking in. If you still have reason to doubt the situation, don't be shy about asking him to wait (outside your door) while you call his company, city hall or whatever, for verification.

The not-so-legitimate caller may wave something toward you, sometimes voluntarily, that looks sort of official (maybe the fishing license), and put it back in his pocket, gambling that your blind trust or fear of offending will get him through the door.

In any event, don't let such a person into your home. Report the incident to the police immediately, describing him as accurately as possible. Hopefully, they'll spot him at some other door in the neighborhood and check him out before he has a chance to prey on someone else.

WHILE YOU'RE GONE

Never leave furs, rugs or other valuables hanging on your clothes line unless you're going to be close at hand to keep an eye on them. A note on the front door is like a beacon light to a cruising burglar. He'll spot it half a block away and zero in on his target. He knows he's safe — you're not at home.

Your most important consideration should be to give the house an "at home" look when you leave. Leaving a radio on can help. A burglar may not think you're at home, but, hearing the radio, he can't really be sure. At night, leaving lights on can be a deterrent, too. Outside lights, of course, and more than one light inside. A porch light and a light in the room you'll be entering when you return are not enough. Leave several on in different parts of the house.

Burglars sometimes cruise an area at dusk, looking for houses without lights, when it's still light outside, but dark enough inside to require lights. If you frequently arrive home after dark, have one or more lamps controlled by time clocks. Set them to turn on at varying times when they would normally be needed if you were at home. They don't cost much, and they're available at many stores.

Your evening paper is another give-away. A cruising burglar watches for things like this. If it isn't taken in by mid-evening, and other signs indicate that you may not be at home, he may regard your house as an easy target.

Your drapes should be considered, too. If they're all tightly closed during the day, it's a good sign you're not at home. On the other hand, leaving them all open at night, especially if no lights are on, is just as bad. Arrive at a compromise. Leave some closed and some open or partly open; and don't leave them exactly the same every day.

If you keep a dog for protection, a small noisy one is better than a big vicious one. Unless they've had attack training, big dogs can often be quieted, distracted or pacified with a pound of hamburger (which burglars have been known to carry for this purpose). Dogs with attack training can create other problems by attacking the wrong people. On the other hand, most small dogs make a lot of noise; they're usually impossible to silence and difficult to catch.

2. YOUR APARTMENT

Apartment dwellers often experience a little more than their fair share of burglaries. This is due to several factors: (1) many of them are on an above-average income level, thus providing a greater chance for the burglar to find jewelry, furs, money or other items worth stealing; (2) they are, individually, more isolated from each other, less frequently acquainted with their neighbors, and less likely to notice the presence of strangers in the area; (3) the burglar is less likely to be interrupted by children; and (4) there are often prolonged periods of time, both during the day and night, when apartment house hallways are deserted, providing ample time for an intruder to jimmy a door or pick a lock with little chance of being observed.

Locked lobby doors provide little protection. They are pretty easy to bypass. Some apartment house owners have taken one step toward providing better security by employing security guards at night, and in a few instances, around the clock. In a limited number of the more luxurious buildings, the owners have installed closed-circuit TV cameras in the halls, permitting the manager or security guard to periodically scan each hallway. While these steps serve as deterrents to the intruder, they don't provide the answer to total apartment security.

You, the apartment dweller, can take a number of steps to increase the security of yourself and the other residents of your building. Many of the precautions covered in the previous chapter apply to apartments. Follow them.

If your door is not equipped with a dead-bolt, security chain and peep hole, get the owners to install them for you or get their permission to have them installed at your own expense. If your apartment has windows or doors leading out to a fire escape, balcony or lanai, check them for security. Those balconies, even in high-rise buildings, are often a lot more accessible to burglars than you think.

Insist that the halls, entrances and garage or parking areas be well lighted. If you come home at night in a cab, ask the driver to wait until he sees that you're safely inside the inner door of your building.

Always lock your apartment when you leave, even if you're just going down to the lobby to pick up your mail. Keep it locked when you're at home, too. There have been many instances where a young woman arrived home and left the door unlocked, knowing that her husband or her roommate would be home soon. An attacker, seeing her enter the apartment alone, followed her in. Remember — neither rape nor robbery takes much time. If you make this mistake, there's a chance you may live to regret it. On the other hand, you may not live that long.

If your building has a locked lobby door with intercom and electric door release in your apartment, never press the unlocking button unless you're sure of the party you're letting in.

A burglar will usually ring many bells, first to determine which apartments don't answer (hence, safe to break into), and then to get someone to unlock the lobby door for him by claiming he's a resident who forgot his key, he has a package for you, or some other reason. Or — he may be an attacker looking for you. If you don't know him personally, refer him to the manager.

If you're a single girl living alone or with roommates, a name like "Sherry Lee Smith" on your door or on your mailbox or intercom button in the lobby is like an engraved invitation to a rapist. Much safer to identify yourself as "S. L. Smith," "S. Smith" or simply "Smith". Your friends and the mailman will know who you are and no one else matters.

3. YOUR VACATION

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Among the burglar's favorite targets are the homes of people away on vacation trips. He knows he has plenty of time. He doesn't have to pass up anything that might be of value to him.

You can avoid most of this risk by taking a few precautions and making some arrangements with a neighbor before you leave. Most important be sure your house has a "lived-in" appearance while you're gone. A mailbox stuffed with mail, a collection of daily newspapers or handbills at your door, and many other signs are give-aways to the cruising burglar.

Arrange for lawn care or snow shoveling while you're gone. Discontinue newspaper and milk deliveries. Notify the post office to hold your mail during your absence. And, don't publicize your departure. Avoid newspaper write-ups about your vacation plans. Some burglars regularly scan newspapers for such information.

Don't have your telephone temporarily disconnected, either. If a burglar uses the phone to check on a possible target, it's better that he thinks you're simply out than to know that you're away for a prolonged period of time. You should, however, turn the volume level of your telephones' bells as low as possible before you leave. If a burglar outside your house hears a ringing phone that's not being answered, he feels reassured that you're not at home.

Leave a key to your house with a neighbor or arrange with him to check the house regularly and pick up handbills or anything else left at your door. Give him an itinerary of your trip so he can reach you in an emergency. If you're driving and can't be sure where you will be staying, he can have the state highway patrol locate you if he has the license number of your car and knows the general route you plan to take.

Don't leave all of the drapes tightly closed while you're away. Leave a few of them open or partly open, and ask the neighbor to readjust them from day to day. Leave at least one light burning, perhaps in a bathroom or hall, all the time you're gone. One or two lamps should be controlled by time clocks to turn on at dusk and off at about bedtime. Your neighbor can turn the outside lights on in the evening and off in the morning.

You may feel you'll be imposing on your neighbor too much by asking him to do all this for you. You can be sure, though, that your neighbor won't mind if he knows you'll take the same interest in his house while he is away. Neighbors who discuss their vacation plans with each other enjoy their vacation trips more.

In many cases, burglars have parked a moving van at the front door of a vacation-deserted house in broad daylight and removed everything — furniture and all. On a few occasions, neighbors questioning the "movers" were satisfied when told simply that the residents were moving and had ordered them to pick up everything. This can't happen if the neighbors are aware of your vacation plans.

Tell the police when you're leaving and when you plan to return. As they cruise an area, they'll usually keep a closer watch on your house if they know you're away. Give them the name, address and phone number of the neighbor who has the key and itinerary.

Make a final safety check of the house before you leave to confirm that all doors and windows are securely locked. And, above all, don't leave a note taped to your door advising callers that you're away.

WHILE YOU'RE GONE

For a happier trip, take a few precautions with your money. You'll need to carry some cash, even if you plan to travel on credit cards. If you're not using credit cards, keep most of your money in traveler's checks.

Most credit card companies have phone numbers you can call collect or toll-free to report lost or stolen cards. Carry a list of these numbers, along with the account numbers, somewhere in your luggage — not in your wallet or purse.

Your luggage, in addition to identification tags, should be marked in some other way. Tape your name and address inside, and add some other identifiable but inconspicuous marking. Those decorative stick-on initials aren't enough. They're too easy to remove.

If you use a car-top luggage carrier, empty it at night and keep the luggage in your room. Leave the luggage carrier open or unlocked so a thief won't tear it apart thinking there may be something in it.

Obviously, luggage or other valuables, should never be left visible in the car overnight. Other suggestions on protecting your car, its passengers and contents are covered in the chapter pertaining to your car.

The doors of most hotel and motel rooms have secure locks and night latches, but check them to be sure you're safe. Valuables such as expensive jewelry or excess money should be left in the hotel safe. Be sure to get a receipt for them. Never leave valuable jewelry, money or credit cards in your room when you go out.

4. YOUR BABYSITTER

RULES AND PRECAUTIONS

When you hire a babysitter, you're trusting her with the lives and safety of your children, your home and everything in it. That's quite a lot of trust. Sitters are necessary, though, so you'll have to put that trust in someone. The one you select should be intelligent and alert, and she should have a solid sense of responsibility. Just be sure that she understands just how great her responsibility really is.

If you don't know the sitter personally, ask for references and check them. Is she honest? Is she dependable? Can she assume responsibility? Ask questions. Don't hire a new sitter on the spur of the moment. Allow time enough to assure yourself of her capabilities, to let her know what you expect of her, and to lay down the ground rules for her.

Take her on a security tour of the house, making sure she's familiar with the layout. Be sure the doors are securely locked, and make sure she knows how to operate the locks. Be certain that police and fire emergency telephone numbers are on every phone in the house and point them out to her.

Make a list of the names and phone numbers of your doctor, a close relative, a neighbor, and the number where you can be reached, and be sure she sees it. If you have a choice of next-door neighbors she might run to for help, show her which one, with instructions that she is never to leave the house except in a severe emergency. If you keep a gun for protection, insist that she never touch it under any circumstances. Better still, keep it out of sight and safely locked away.

Now for the ground rules. They need to be made — and enforced. Be certain your sitter understands them. Write them down for her so there will be no chance of a communication break-down.

Doors must not be opened for anyone — for any reason. More than one babysitter has been attacked by a man posing as a relative or close friend of the family.

No company — ever! You hired the sitter on the basis of your trust in her. Although she may believe her friends to be trustworthy and responsible, you don't know them — and it's your house.

The volume level of stereo or television must be kept low so she'll be able to hear any unusual noises that may occur.

No lengthy phone conversations. If you decide to call home to check on things, you don't want to get a busy signal for an hour. If you should get a busy signal for a prolonged period of time, have a verifying operator check the line. If it's out of order, could be a receiver has been left off the hook. Better get home to make sure everything is all right; or call a neighbor to check for you. If there's conversation on the line, have the operator cut it to clear it for an emergency call. Then call the sitter and remind her of the rules.

You'll want to add many rules of your own — rules that apply to your specific circumstances. In any event, be sure to cover the rules with her. If you have a teenager in your own family who sits with the younger children, the same rules should apply.

Until you're really sure of your babysitter, it's wise to make spot-checks now and then. On occasion, arrive home much earlier than anticipated or drop by the

house in mid-evening just to be sure that things are as they should be. Don't feel guilty or embarrassed about making such checkups. After all, you've trusted this sitter with a great deal of responsibility.

5. YOUR CAR

WHILE DRIVING

To you, as to most of us, driving has probably become a major part of your way of life. And, aside from the ever present traffic dangers, a great many things can happen to you while you're in your car. This applies to men as well as to women. Since we can't avoid the dangers, we should certainly take all the precautions we can to minimize them.

One of the greatest risks lies in having car trouble or running out of gas while driving through a bad part of town or on a deserted stretch of highway, especially at night. Reduce this risk by keeping your car in good running condition. Keep good tires on it, be sure the horn works and the doors are lockable.

Doors, or course, should be kept locked and windows closed or nearly closed wherever you drive, day or night. Whenever possible, women alone should avoid driving at night. If you must, try to detour around questionable parts of town, and don't go alone; there's a degree of safety in numbers — two women are harder to handle than one, two pair of eyes can see more, and two pair of lungs can make more noise.

If you should have car trouble in the city, get to the nearest service station or store that's open, or any house where you see lights and signs of activity. Staying in your car with the doors locked and windows closed, especially in a bad neighborhood, is no assurance of safety. Windows are easy to break. If you have a flat tire in such a neighborhood, keep moving until you get to a service station or to a better area, at least. The cost of a new tire is small compared to the risk of attack.

If you're stalled on the highway, a transport truck is a good bet to flag down. In the meantime, stay in your car, keep the doors locked and blink your parking and tail lights. A raised hood and a white handkerchief or scarf tied to the door handle are recognized distress signals. Don't try to hitchhike.

When you see a stalled car on the highway, never stop to assist. While it's probably an honest motorist in need of help, you can't be sure. It could be a criminal waiting for a victim. Instead, drive to the nearest telephone, call the highway patrol and inform them of the motorist's location. They'll be able to help him more than you could, anyway.

Never pick up a hitchhiker. You can't judge by appearance or conversation. It could be a sincere need for transportation, or it might be a robbery or a rape looking for a place to happen. Don't let your car be the place.

As you drive, be alert to potential danger situations. Avoid crowd conditions, such as you'd find near parades or rallies, or where you might easily be hemmed in. When you see a group of young people milling around in the street ahead of you or loitering near an intersection, turn off before you reach them, if possible. If not, plan to keep your car moving and try to pace your speed to avoid having to stop for a traffic signal.

If you must stop for a red light or stop signs and you see that your car is being approached, make a quick check of the cross traffic and move out as fast as possible, regardless of the light. If they try to block your path, you may have to move more slowly, but keep moving — and lean on your horn to let them know you plan to get through. Once you stop, even for a moment, you can easily be prevented from starting again.

When you stop at an intersection at night on nearly deserted streets, an attacker may deliberately bump the rear of your car, planning to grab you when you get out to check for possible damage. If there's no one around who would come to your aid, don't get out of your car. Try to see his license number or other details, but get moving. The possible damage to your car isn't worth the risk of attack.

If he follows you, or if you discover any car following you, head for the nearest police station, service station, a friend's house or any residence where you see activity. Sound your horn to call attention to your situation.

If a car tries to force you off the road or into a curb, do anything you can to avoid stopping. Don't panic — think! Keep your cool and stay alert to traffic conditions around you. Try hitting your brakes suddenly to get him ahead of you, then gun it to get away around him. If traffic permits, make a U-turn. Jump a curb if it will get you out of the situation.

Through habit conditioning, most people in such a spot feel they must stop before they hit a curb or crease fenders with the car that's threatening them. They instinctively feel the car must be protected at all cost. Don't let your sense of values become distorted. Remember — getting out of this situation could save your life, and your life is worth a lot more than your car. Don't be afraid to bend a little metal to get out of a tight spot.

If you get trapped, use your horn.

On a vacation trip, know your route and don't get sidetracked in deserted areas. Make your stops at service stations and restaurants where you see activity. During the tourist season, if you don't have guaranteed reservations, make your motel stops before evening. Otherwise, you may find yourself driving around strange cities in the middle of the night looking for a place to stay.

WHILE PARKED

Too many people — people like you — feel your car is safe if it's parked in your driveway, your garage, or on the street in front of your house, so you leave the keys in it.

Throughout 1972, someone's car was being stolen in this country every 34 seconds, around the clock. More than half of those thefts were from private homes, apartments and residential streets. The majority of them wouldn't have been stolen if the owners hadn't left the key in the ignition. Of the remainder, most were left unlocked. Even if you plan to stop for just a few minutes, lock it and take the keys with you.

Leaving valuables visible in your car is another way of asking for trouble. Never leave packages, cameras, expensive coats or other valuables in sight, even if the car is locked. If you must leave them, put them in the trunk.

Don't leave credit cards or other valuables in the glove box. It's a favorite place for thieves to look, and it's easy to open with a screwdriver.

When you leave your car in a parking lot, garage, car wash or service station where it's necessary to leave the key, don't leave all of your keys. You may be giving some dishonest person an opportunity to steal or duplicate the key to your house, or to steal items from the glove box or trunk. Leave only the ignition key. Keep your other keys on a separate ring or chain. Many stores carry key cases with a quick-disconnect tab for the ignition key, or chains with a separate detachable loop. Use one — they're safer.

Whenever you return to your parked car, even if you left it locked, look in the back seat before you get in. If possible, look before you open the door. Many attacks have occurred because someone drove off without knowing that a robber or rapist had hidden himself on the floor of the back seat. At night, if the interior lights don't turn on when you open the door, be wary. An attacker may have removed the bulb or jammed the switch so he couldn't be seen. Don't risk carrying an unwanted passenger.

6. YOUR TELEPHONE

USE IT SAFELY

The first security precaution pertaining to your telephone should be your directory listing. You may choose to have a completely unlisted number or a number obtainable only from the information operator. Use only your initials, however, if you're a woman and specifically want a directory listing. The obscene caller or attacker often looks in the directory for feminine names.

Many people who accidentally dial a wrong number will simply hang up when they hear a strange voice, or they'll ask for a name unknown to you, in which case they should be told that there's no one there by that name, with no further information volunteered. They frequently ask, "Who is this?" or "What number is this?" Always answer such questions with another question: "Who were you calling?" or "What number did you dial?"

Never reveal your identity, phone number, address or any other information to such a caller. Chances are, these calls are legitimate errors; but burglars and attackers occasionally use such methods to check out a possible victim.

They'll often ask if your husband is at home, in an effort to assure themselves that you're alone. If you don't know the caller personally, never say he's at work, or that he's out of town, or that he's anywhere else. Much wiser to say he's busy, or that he's sleeping (even if you don't have a husband), and ask for a name and number. Don't say anything to indicate that you are presently alone or that you live alone. If such calls occur frequently or regularly, notify the telephone company and the police.

As mentioned in an earlier chapter, any stranger at your door asking to use your phone should not be invited inside. You may offer to make a call for him, if you like, but leave him outside your door while you do so (being sure to close and lock the door — he may be planning to walk in while you're busy on the phone).

OBSCENE CALLS

At best, the obscene caller is an emotionally disturbed person. However, it isn't the things he says (or doesn't say) that give him his kicks, it's your reaction to it. His aim is to get you to respond in some way or to react emotionally — with any emotion: anger, fear, disgust, even pity. It doesn't matter to him, as long as he can get some kind of response from you. If he succeeds, his calls are likely to continue.

The rules for handling obscene calls are simple: Be calm, don't get angry, don't comment in any way, and don't listen. The moment your caller starts using obscene language, or as soon as you're aware that the caller is saying nothing, breathing heavily, or making other sounds, quietly hang up without saying anything or showing any reaction. Don't keep saying, "Hello, Hello! Hello, who is this?" If you fail to respond, chances are he won't persist.

If the calls should persist, notify the telephone company and the police.

7. ON THE STREET

PURSE SNATCHERS AND PICKPOCKETS

In cities large and small, street crime has increased at an alarming rate in recent years. Whether you're male or female, shopping, walking to or from your car, or just out for a stroll, you need to take precautions. Day or night, the risks are too great to be ignored.

Of all street crimes, purse-snatching has shown one of the fastest rates of increase in recent years, largely because little skill is required. Like many other crimes, it's usually a crime of opportunity. You'll greatly reduce the risk by changing your purse-carrying habits.

Don't let it dangle by the strap. Keep it closed and held close to your body. If it has a flap-type closure, keep the flap and its fastener on the side nearest to you. The safest bag to carry is the shoulder-strap type held close to you by your hand and forearm. Short-strap types — keep the strap over the wrist, with your hand holding the bag to your body.

If someone should grab your purse, scream, but don't try to fight with him or chase him. This applies to men, too, especially older men walking with their wives. Don't risk injury or a heart seizure by chasing or fighting with the snatcher. There's nothing in her purse worth risking your life for.

Purses are often snatched, or billfolds snatched from purses, when they're left unattended in shopping carts, on store counters, in public restrooms, or on the seat beside you in a theater. The problem here lies in the fact that you don't think you've left it unattended.

You fail to realize that any momentary distraction will give the thief ample time to do his job.

Purse-snatchers are frequently young, but they're not all men. Many girls have taken up this form of crime.

Pocket-picking has increased, too, but not as rapidly as other crimes, probably because of the skill required for success in this field. There are still plenty of professional pickpockets around, though, so take precautions.

They often work in teams. In a store, for instance, a spotter sees a stack of bills in your wallet as you pay for your purchase. He leaves the store just ahead of you or right behind you, and signals to his partners that you're it, indicating which pocket holds the money. One of them will jostle you or create some other diversion while another one lifts your wallet.

Chances are, you won't even know it's gone until you reach for it later. Even if you're aware of it at the time, you won't catch him with it. By the time you turn to confront him, he will have already passed it on to another of his teammates who brushed by him at that instant, going in the opposite direction.

You'll reduce the risk if you avoid flashing a fat wallet in public, and don't carry it in a coat pocket (even an inside pocket), nor in a hip pocket. It's safer in a front trouser pocket. In a crowd, keep your hand in the pocket, on the wallet.

MUGGERS AND RAPISTS

Mugging — robbery accompanied by violent attack — has increased to a frightening level in all parts of the country. In many of these brutal, senseless crimes, robbery seems to be no more than an incidental afterthought, with the vicious attack being the primary objective.

In this situation, the less you fight with your attackers, the less likely you are to be severely beaten. A man is often inclined to stand and fight as long as he's able to stay on his feet, but this is usually unwise. The average man is no match for a gang of muggers.

When you're facing more than one attacker, you know the odds are against you. After you've taken a couple of blows, drop to the ground. Double up to protect your vital organs, and put your hands on your head with your arms protecting your face. If they feel you are beaten, their challenge will be gone; and they may soon be content to leave you to your misery. If they want to take your wallet, let them have it.

Forcible rape has shown a substantial increase, too. Throughout last year, someone in this country was being forcibly raped every fourteen minutes; and those were just the cases that were reported to the police. According to many authorities, the cases reported probably represent less than half of the forcible rapes that actually occur. In many cases, the victims feel too embarrassed, humiliated or degraded to even tell their husbands or families about it, to say nothing of having to describe it to the authorities.

While these crimes are occasionally committed in the daytime, they occur far more often at night. Your greatest safeguard against them is to avoid walking on the streets after dark. If you must, don't walk alone. Two people together face less risk, though only slightly less.

Walk close to the street when passing doorways, alleys or heavy shrubs. If there's no traffic, walk in the middle of the street.

If you're attacked, don't hesitate to scream. Struggle only to get away and run to the nearest point of safety you can see: an open service station or store, or any house where you see lights and signs of people inside. And remember, a woman in heels can run better if she kicks off her shoes. Try to notice details about your attacker's appearance to aid the police in finding him. If possible, mark his face with a hat-pin, a nail file or your fingernails.

If you can't get away from him, don't panic. A cool head could save your life. An attacker intent on rape may or may not be inclined to commit murder in his attempt. Use your own better judgment as to whether to continue to fight back or to give in. If you have reason to feel that your life is in danger, you may decide it's wiser to submit.

If you should become the victim of a rapist, let close family members know about it. And — don't hesitate to notify the police. If he's caught, be willing to testify against him.

Admittedly, no action can be taken that will undo what the rapist did; but your efforts could prevent many other women from having the same experience. Remember — you might never have had the experience yourself if his previous victim had notified the police.

8. GET INVOLVED

YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS

Many criminals are successful in their efforts simply because too many people who see suspicious activity that may be crime-related, don't want to "get involved".

If a crime was being committed against you, or was about to be committed against you, wouldn't you want your neighbor (or even a passing stranger) to "get involved"? Put yourself in the victim's place.

Leading a quiet life, keeping to yourself and minding your own business is no guarantee of safety or immunity to crime. You'll want to take precautions to protect yourself and your home, of course, but your efforts toward preventing crime must go further. The crime problem extends beyond the boundaries of your property line.

Discuss the need for protection with your neighbors. Tell them what you're doing to protect your own property, and that you're on the alert for suspicious activity in the neighborhood that may endanger their safety.

The line between being concerned about what goes on in the neighborhood and being downright nosy is easy to observe. If your neighbors understand your motives, they'll appreciate your concern. Let them know you'd like them to be concerned about your safety, too, and that you won't regard their interest as nosiness.

YOU AND THE POLICE

Considering the tremendous increase in crime, most police departments do an excellent job of protecting citizens and their property. They could do a far more effective job, though, if they had your help.

To solve crimes and catch criminals, the police must gather a lot of information. Much of that information comes from interested citizens — people like you. The bit of information you supply may be the lead necessary to start an investigation, or it might be the last little piece needed to wrap up a case.

When you see any suspicious person in your neighborhood, or any activity that you think might be crime-related, make note of the details (the time, descriptions, license numbers, etc.) and notify the police.

Don't be afraid of "getting involved". Many people are hesitant to call the police for fear they'll become involved in court appearances or a police "line-up" to identify the suspect. Not so.

If you don't care to identify yourself when you call, you won't be required to do so. When the police investigate and arrest a suspect, they'll have enough evidence without your testimony. The extent of your "involvement" need not go beyond your telephone.

Be alert to:

- A broken window or open door of your neighbor's house, or any stranger entering it or leaving it, when you have reason to believe no one is at home.
- Any stranger cutting through back yards or between houses, especially if he's carrying anything.
- Sounds of breaking glass or other loud noise, or a scream heard anywhere.
- Anyone loitering in a secluded area.

- Persons involved in a fight, especially a stranger with a neighbor, or any apparently injured person.
 - Anyone using or displaying weapons, or trying to conceal weapons.
 - Offers of merchandise for sale at ridiculously low prices.
 - Anyone walking down the street looking into every parked car.
 - Any stranger removing accessories, gasoline or license plates from a parked car.
 - Anyone you notice parking one car and hurriedly driving away in another.
 - Any car parked near a business building with the motor running.
- Even if your lead turns out to be a false alarm, the police would rather have it than no lead at all. And — it could possibly enable them to catch someone who has just committed a crime, or is about to commit one.

YOU — YOURSELF

By now, the underlying realization in all of this should be clear: We can no longer be complacent about security. In years past, most of us had never been the victim of a burglary, rape or mugging, nor were we acquainted with anyone who had been. Today, if you haven't already been victimized, chances are you have a close friend or associate who has been. If you don't feel as secure as you'd like to feel, take whatever steps you can to improve the situation.

None of the security precautions described in this book are of any value until they're put into practice, and you owe it to yourself and your family to do so. In addition, your alertness and concern for your neighbors can prevent many crimes that would otherwise be committed against them — or against you.

It's the duty of the police to provide protection for you, but they also have a right to expect your help and cooperation. As a citizen of your community, it's your responsibility to give it to them.

Active involvement in civic affairs can help, too. By making your community more aware of the crime situation and how to fight it, still more crime can be prevented. The police departments of most cities and suburban areas are prepared to supply programs, films or speakers to show people why they should be concerned about crime and what they can do to guard against it. Your first step might be to arrange for such a program to be presented to your PTA group, women's club or civic organization.

Bear in mind that our greatest single enemy is not the person who commits the crime, it's public apathy — public indifference to the crime problem. A great many of us have found it easy to complain about how frightening the crime situation has become, but too few of us have been willing to "get involved" in the fight against it.

If every average citizen took an active part in the fight against crime, can't you imagine the impact we'd have on the crime rate? Think about it. Then do something about it!

END