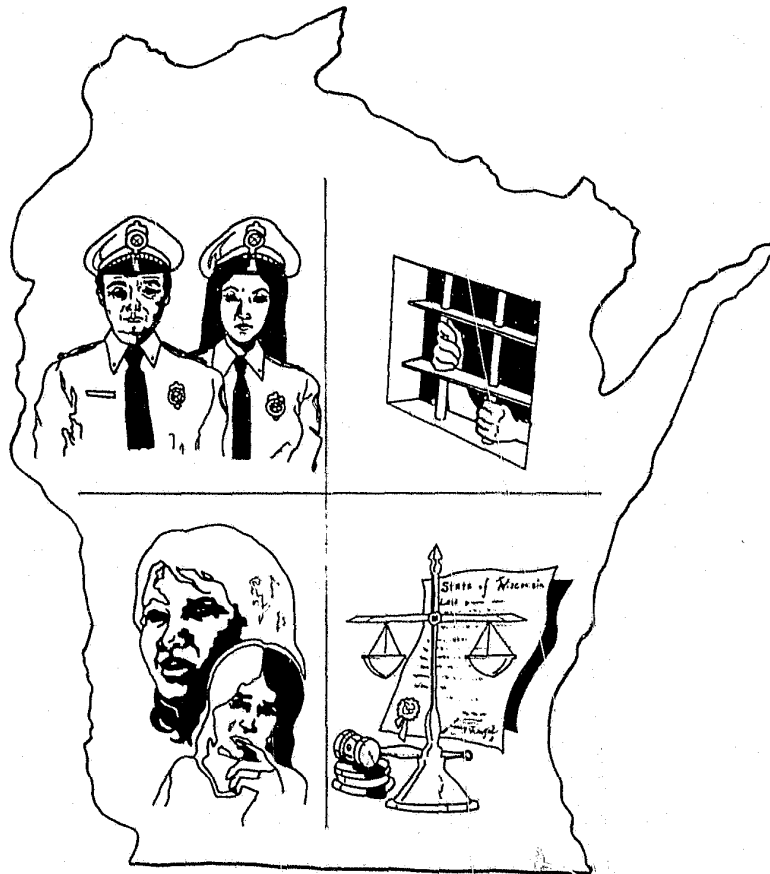
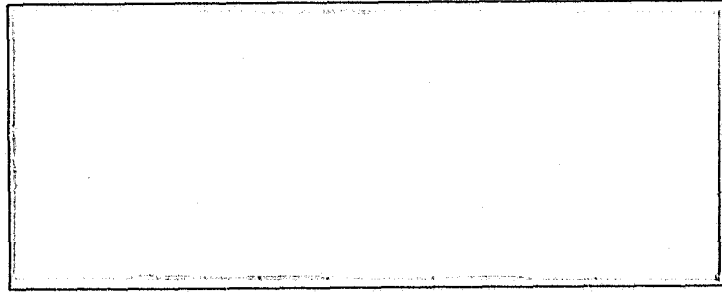




State of Wisconsin \ OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE



PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

55/63

✓ Refunding Report

Wisconsin Rapids Crime Prevention Program

WCCJ Subgrant #78-1-C-3110-7

prepared by

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January 1979

NCJRS

FEB 22 1979

ACQUISITIONS

### Executive Summary

The Wisconsin Rapids Police Department received first-year funds of \$46,000 for the development of a specialized Crime Prevention Unit. As a result of a crime analysis, burglary reduction has been defined as the primary objective of the project. First-year crime prevention activities were concentrated on two districts within the city; two additional districts will be selected for concentration during the second year. Although only specific portions of the city are being targeted, advertisement of the project has been city wide. Furthermore, persons residing outside of the selected areas may receive crime prevention services. Hence, the Crime Prevention Unit may be expected to have some city-wide impact.

All residents in the targeted areas will be contacted personally by the Crime Prevention Officer to apprise them of available crime prevention services. All but forty homes have been contacted. While a variety of services are being offered, primary emphasis is on home security surveys and "Operation Identification."

In order to assess the impact of project activities on burglary, information on 1977 offenses were collected for the months of June through November. Comparative data on 1978 burglaries were collected for the same months. Preliminary analysis of the data revealed a decrease in the percentage of burglaries detected by the police/security personnel and the percentage of burglaries cleared by arrest. However, the incidence of burglary has decreased as has the average dollar loss per burglary. While it is too early to make any definitive statements about the project, the data suggests the project may be making some impact on crime.



## I. Introduction

The Wisconsin Rapids Police Department received a Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ) grant for the development and implementation of a specialized Crime Prevention Unit. First-year funds of \$46,000 were approved by the WCCJ Executive Committee on April 1, 1978. Funding is scheduled to continue through March 31, 1979. Appendix A compares the Wisconsin Rapids project with other WCCJ-funded crime prevention projects.

An analysis of crime statistics identified burglary as one of the most problematic Part I property crimes in Wisconsin Rapids. The incidence of burglary has increased 124 percent between 1973 and 1977. Additional figures are presented in Tables 1 and 2:

Table 1

1977 Part I Property Crimes per 100,000

Jurisdiction	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft
Wisconsin Rapids	0	1070.9	3351.9	192.8
State of Wisc.	52.2	846.8	2614.1	220.7

Table 2

1977 Burglary Rates per 100,000 Population

All of Wisconsin	All Wisconsin Cities 10,000-25,000	Wisconsin Rapids
846.8	651.5	1070.9

As a result of the crime analysis, this project is focusing on burglary reduction. A secondary objective is to train all patrol officers in crime prevention techniques. This is consistent with the WCCJ Crime Prevention Program which states: "Reduce crime through the systematic identification of pressing community problems and the subsequent development and implementation of strategies to address those needs... By the end of the project period, alter the trend of increase of a Part I Property Crime" (WCCJ 1979 Policies and Procedures and Action Plan; p. 16).

First year crime prevention activities were concentrated on Districts three and seven. These areas are adjacent and contain approximately 8.5 percent of the population of Wisconsin Rapids. If second-year funding is approved by the WCCJ Executive Committee, two additional districts will be selected for concentration.

Although only specific portions of the city are being targeted, there has been some city-wide advertisement of the project. Furthermore, individuals residing outside of the selected districts may participate in project activities. Hence, the Crime Prevention Unit may be expected to have some city-wide impact on crime.

## II. Personnel/Equipment

Officer Laverne Schultz was initially chosen as the full-time Crime Prevention Officer (CPO). He left the project as the result of a promotion and was replaced by Officer Richard Ironside in June 1978.

In addition to the efforts of the CPO, crime prevention activities are carried out by regular patrol officers on an "over-time" basis. Although an over-time premium is paid, involvement is voluntary. Participants receive sixteen hours of in-service training (eight hours of classroom and eight hours of supervised field work). To date, six officers (15%) have received such training. An additional eight persons have been trained in the use of engravers for "Operation Identification." As noted by both Officer Ironside and Chief Spencer, only about half of these patrol officers have maintained involvement in the project. The CPO suggests this is because officers who wish to work extra hours have patrol duties available to them; because patrol is viewed as more desirable, few officers choose crime prevention as an over-time activity.

The initial grant application indicates that, by the end of the project period, all patrol officers will receive crime prevention training. This will result in crime prevention becoming part of the officers' regular eight-hour tour of duty, rather than the activities of only a specialized unit. This will serve several functions: (1) eliminate the difficulty of recruiting interested police officers for over-time work in crime prevention; (2) involve the entire police department in preventive policing and (3) allow the concept of crime prevention to continue after WCCJ funding has expired. To date, approximately thirty-five percent of the police force have received such training.

### III. Project Activities

The primary goal of the Wisconsin Rapids project is to decrease the incidence of burglary. To this end, the following activities have taken place:

#### 1. Increase Citizen Awareness of Crime Prevention

News media was used to publicize the project to the entire community. Four articles appeared in the local newspaper. A radio program on crime prevention tips and security techniques was developed and implemented. Four meetings were held with citizens in the project areas; these meetings included a lock display and films on home security and the neighborhood watch program. Finally, brochures were mailed to all residents in Districts three and seven (see Appendix B).

The subgrantee noted that all of the homes in the targeted areas were to be contacted personally by the CPO in order to inform residents of available crime prevention services. Officer Ironside states that this personal contact is a necessary factor in motivating people to take preventive security measures. Ironside estimates that as of December 6, 1978, all but 40 houses (or 7 percent) had been contacted.

#### 2. Home Security Surveys and Follow-up

As of October 1978, 390 residents had participated in home security surveys. Only 5 percent of the residents contacted by the Crime Prevention Unit refused a security check. Citizen reaction to this service has been measured by a questionnaire randomly distributed to participating residents (see Appendix C). At the time of this writing, twelve of the thirty questionnaires had been returned to WCCJ Program Evaluation Section (PES) staff. Responses indicate satisfaction with the project. Eighty-three percent of the respondents found the recommendations for security improvements to be either "very useful" or "moderately useful." Only sixteen percent of the respondents had not used any suggestions; all others used "some" or "most" of the recommendations made at the time of the security check. Reasons for not implementing suggested security improvement varied; only one respondent, however, felt recommendations lacked utility.

#### 3. "Operation Identification"

"Operation Identification" involves marking household valuables with an identification number; usually only larger, more expensive articles (e.g., television sets,

stereo equipment) are marked. This program is thought to deter criminals from taking marked valuables, make the fencing of stolen property more difficult and facilitate the return of stolen goods to the proper owners.

Operation I.D. in Wisconsin Rapids is promoted with each personal home contact made by the CPO. As of October 1978, approximately 57 percent (235) of the homes contacted indicated that they would be interested in engraving services; 35 percent (82) of those residences have already received engraving services.

#### 4. Crime Reduction/Data Collection

In order to evaluate the impact of the project on the targeted crime, detailed information was gathered on burglary. Data were taken from police incident report forms and coded according to a data collection instrument developed by PES staff. These incident reports are narrative and therefore contain some variation in type and amount of information. As a result, information on all of the variables delineated in the collection instrument was unavailable for some cases. Copies of both this instrument and the research methodology designed for the Crime Prevention projects were distributed to the WCCJ Executive Committee at their September 19, 1978 meeting.

Although funding for the Wisconsin Rapids project began in April 1978, the planning stage of the project had not actually been completed until June 1, 1978. Baseline data (June 1, 1977 - November 30, 1977) were collected. Post-project crimes included offenses occurring between June 1, 1978 through November 30, 1978. Comparisons were then made between 1977 and 1978 data for the months of June through November.

Although it is too early to make any definitive statements about the effectiveness of Operation Identification in meeting its three-fold purpose, Table 3 does indicate there has been relatively little change in the percentage of stolen household articles (e.g., small appliances, entertainment items and tools) which would be likely to have been engraved. This lack of change may suggest that criminals are not deterred from taking identified items during a burglary. However, since Wisconsin Rapids keeps no information on whether burglarized items have been engraved, it will be difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of Operation Identification with any precision.

Analysis of the data shows a definite decline in 1978 burglaries over 1977 for the five-month period (see Table 4). The average loss per burglary

has also decreased from \$113.51 in 1977 to \$83.95 in 1978. Table 5 shows a more detailed comparison of the economic loss resulting from burglary. These figures indicate that a larger percentage of 1978 cases resulted in no dollar loss.

Table 3

Type of Property Taken<sup>1</sup>  
June - November

Type of Property	1977	1978
Unknown	1 ( 1%)	0 ( 0%)
Money	24 (21%)	16 (23%)
Jewelry	7 ( 6%)	1 ( 1%)
Small Appliances	1 ( 1%)	0 ( 0%)
Office Equipment	4 ( 4%)	0 ( 0%)
Tools	9 ( 8%)	2 ( 3%)
Bikes	11 (10%)	0 ( 0%)
Entertainment (stereo, T.V., etc.)	9 ( 8%)	6 ( 9%)
Consumables	5 ( 4%)	5 ( 7%)
Nothing <sup>2</sup>	25 (22%)	32 (46%)
All Other	17 (15%)	8 (11%)
Total	113 (100%)	70 (100%)

<sup>1</sup> Because each burglary report often identifies more than one type of stolen property, the total number of items taken in this table will exceed the total number of cases in 1977 and 1978.

<sup>2</sup> This category includes both actual burglaries and attempted burglaries.

Table 4

A Comparison of Burglary Offenses  
June - November

1977 (Baseline)	1978	% Change
104	63	- 39

Table 5

Dollar Loss Resulting from Burglary  
June - November

Dollar Loss	1977	1978
\$0*	25 (24%)	35 (56%)
\$1 -\$50	28 (27%)	11 (17%)
\$50-\$100	16 (15%)	3 ( 5%)
\$100 -\$500	29 (28%)	12 (19%)
\$500 -\$1,000	5 ( 5%)	1 ( 1%)
over \$1,000	1 ( 1%)	1 ( 1%)
Total	104 (100%)	63 (101%)**

\* This category includes both actual burglaries, attempted burglaries and cases in which, although loss occurred, no figures on dollar loss was presented.

\*\* Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding.

The clearance rate for burglary has remained fairly constant. Table 6, however, does note a slight decrease in the 1978 rate. Table 7 indicates that the percentage of burglaries detected by police officers or security guards has remained similar. The percentage of residences burglarized compared to other types of premises burglarized decreased in 1978 (see Table 8). Because crime prevention activities have stressed residential rather than commercial security, this decrease in the type of premise burglarized may suggest the program is having the intended impact.

Table 6

Clearance Rates  
June - November

Status of Clearance	1977	1978
Not Cleared	92 (88%)	57 (90%)
Cleared by Arrest	13 (12%)	6 (10%)

Table 7

Detection of Burglary Incidents

How Detected	1977	1978
Unknown	31 (30%)	25 (40%)
By Victim	32 (31%)	16 (25%)
Other Than Victim	6 (6%)	1 (2%)
Passing Officer or Security Guard	10 (10%)	5 (8%)
All Other	25 (24%)	16 (25%)

Table 8

Type of Premise Burglarized

Type of Premise	1977	1978
Unknown	8 (8%)	21 (33%)
Residences	61 (59%)	18 (29%)
Businesses/ Sales & Offices	25 (24%)	12 (19%)
All Other	13 (10%)	12 (19%)

#### IV. Conclusion

It is often a goal of crime prevention programs to increase both the percentage of crimes detected by police and clearance. In Wisconsin Rapids, the burglaries detected by police/security guards decreased slightly while clearance has decreased by approximately two percent. Both figures, then, have shown only a slight change.

While it is too early to make any definitive statements, preliminary analysis of the data suggests the project may be making some impact on crime. The incidence of burglary has diminished. Average dollar loss per burglary has decreased. The percentage of burglarized residences as compared to businesses had decreased. This is relevant because the Wisconsin Rapids Crime Prevention Project has emphasized residential security. That the decrease has been more substantial for homes rather than commercial establishments may suggest that this reduction has been the result of the program rather than other extraneous factors.

Appendix A  
WCCJ-funded Crime Prevention Projects

Jurisdiction	1977 Population	Project Cost Per Year	Targeted Crimes - 1977 City Rates per 100,000 (State of Wisconsin - rates per 100,000)	Date of Project Start up	Size of Police Department prior to Project Implementation	Number of New Crime Prevention Officers Added by Project <sup>1</sup>
La Crosse	48,814	\$18,000	Burglary: 915.7 (846.8) Auto Theft: 385.1 (220.7) Theft: 4,885.9 (2,614.1)	1/12/78	81 Sworn Officers	1 Part-time Officer (also 1 Part-time Student Intern)
Brown Deer	14,113	\$28,810	Burglary: 411.0 (846.8) Theft: 2,593.4 (2,614.1)	4/1/78	20 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Franklin	16,095	\$58,000	Burglary: 764.2 (846.8) Theft: 2,435.0 (2,614.1)	4/1/78	20 Sworn Officers	2 Officers
Greendale	17,884	\$58,500	Burglary: 95.1 (846.8) Theft: 5,412.7 (2,614.1)	4/1/78	26 Sworn Officers	2 Officers (also 1 Part-time Social Worker & 1 Volunteer Intern)
Wisconsin Rapids	18,676	\$46,000	Burglary: 1,070.9 (846.8)	4/1/78	40 Sworn Officers	1 Officer (also 1 Part-time Secretary)
Menomonie, City of	10,814	\$26,200	Burglary: 332.9 (846.8) Theft: 3,911.6 (2,614.1)	7/15/78	23 Sworn Officers	1 Officer (also 1 Part-time Secretary)
Oak Creek	15,598	\$33,000	Burglary: 1,154.0 (846.8)	10/1/78	37 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Hales Corners	8,918	\$30,700	Burglary: 717.6 (846.8) Theft: 2,746.9 (2,614.1)	10/1/78	13 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Green Bay	89,609	\$66,666	Burglary: 818.0 (846.8) Auto Theft: 164.0 (220.7)	1/1/79	155 Sworn Officers 1 Investigator 2 Full-time Cadets 7 Part-time Cadets	1 Officer (also 2 Cadets & 1 Part-time Secretary)
Mequon	15,899	\$36,000	Burglary: 522.0 (846.8) Theft: 1,673.0 (2,614.1)	11/1/78	32 Sworn Officers	1 Officer
Menominee Restoration Committee	3,662	\$20,819	Burglary: 12,588.2 (864.8)	11/1/78	8 Patrolmen 1 Investigator 2 Full-time deputies 4 Part-time deputies	1 Officer

Footnotes: <sup>1</sup> The new Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) added by the individual projects vary in rank.

# RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

## AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Helpful hints for better securing your home  
presented to you by the Crime Prevention Unit.  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS POLICE DEPARTMENT



YOU CAN deter residential burglary by making entry more difficult.  
PROTECT your HOME by following the basic steps enclosed.

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INSTRUCTIONS

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We have asked you to provide information on the crime prevention program in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. The questionnaire which we are using assures you of anonymity. No attempt will be made by either the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice or the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department to associate your name with your responses. Please check the appropriate blanks; your frank, honest answers will be most useful. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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1. Did you participate in either a residential or commercial survey?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No      If "Yes":
  - A. Did you receive suggestions on how to improve the security of your home or business?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No
  - B. If you received such suggestions, did you find them useful?  
☐ Very useful      ☐ Not very useful  
☐ Moderately useful      ☐ Not at all useful
  - C. Did you use the suggestions?  
☐ None of the suggestions      ☐ Most of the suggestions  
☐ Some of the suggestions      ☐ All of the suggestions
  - D. If suggestions made at the time of the security check were not used, why not? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did you attend any of the community education seminars/presentations on crime prevention?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No  
If "Yes," how would you rate them?  
☐ Excellent      ☐ Fair  
☐ Good      ☐ Poor
3. Did you request engraving services through Operation Identification?      ☐ Yes      ☐ No

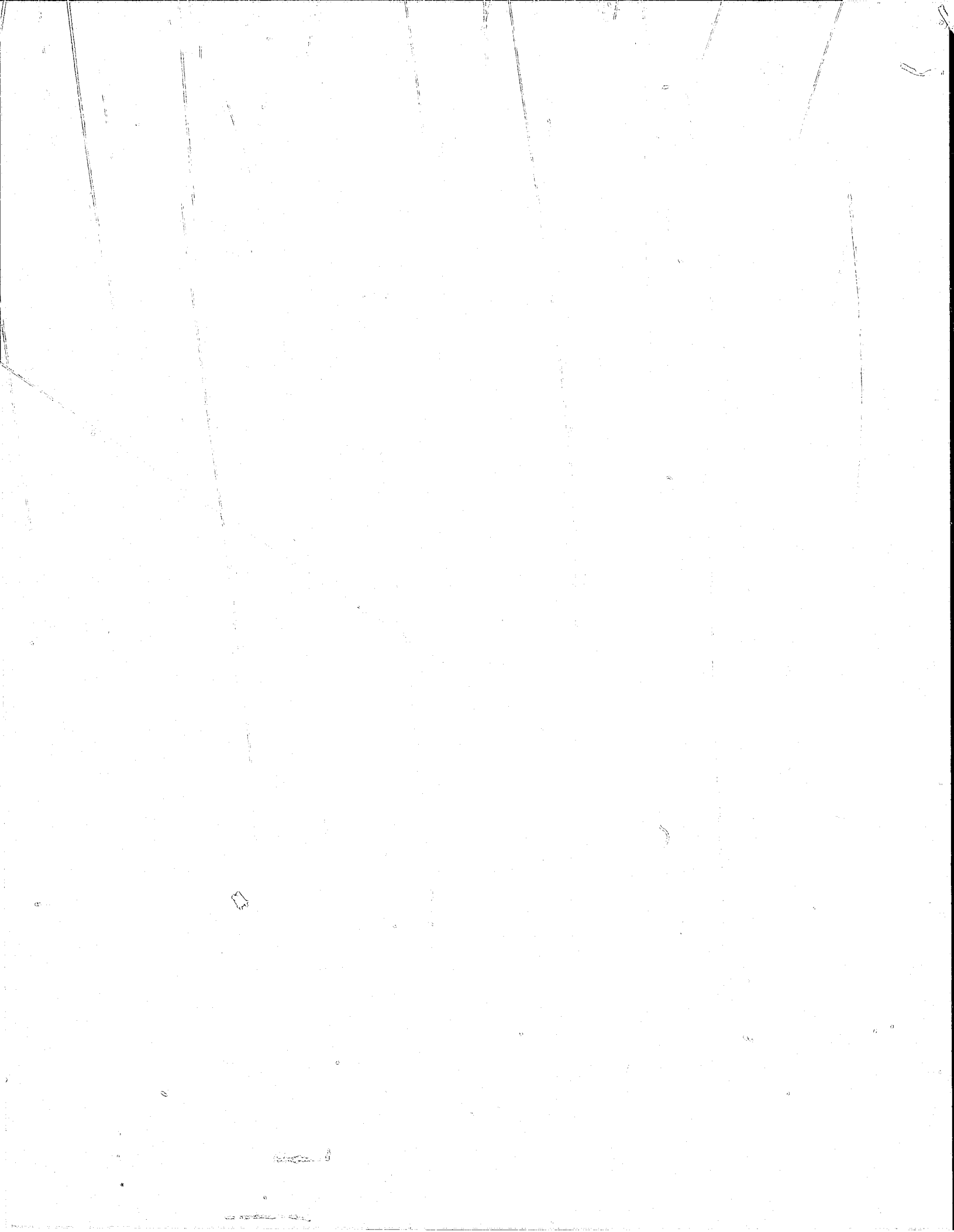
Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating in this survey.



**END**