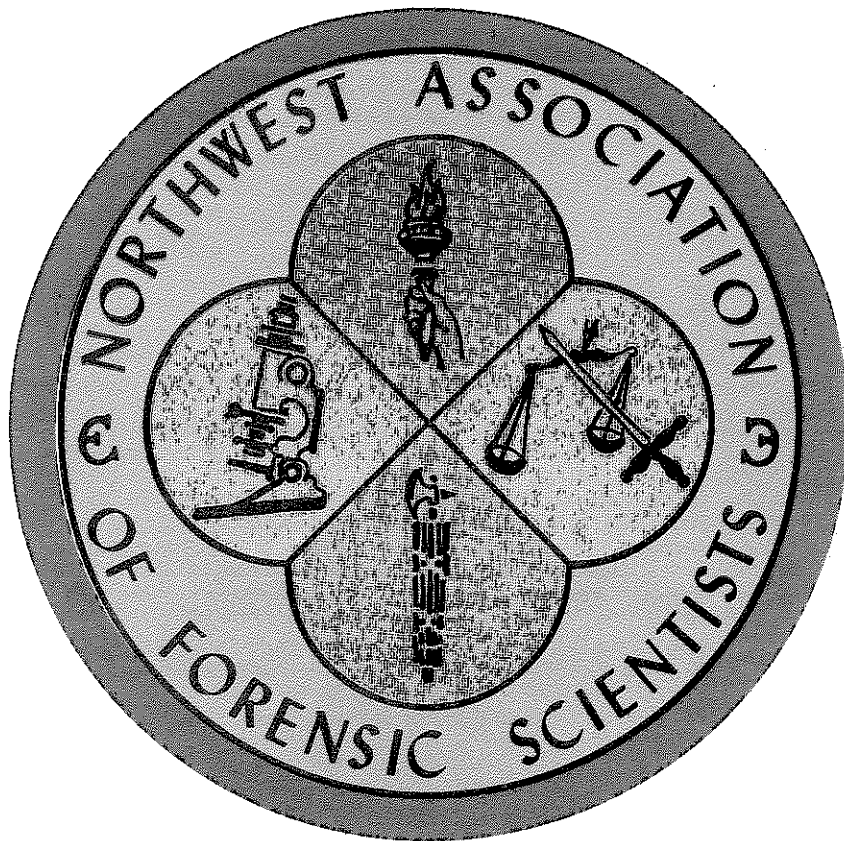


THE NEWSLETTER of



JUNE 1988

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: WAYNE K. JEFFERY
 RCMP Forensic Lab
 5201 Heather St.
 Vancouver, BC V5Z 3L7
 Canada
 (604) 666-2045

PRESIDENT-ELECT: DALE MANN
 WSP Crime Lab
 2nd Floor
 Public Safety Building
 Seattle, WA 98104
 (206) 464-7074

SEC.-TREASURER: LIONEL TUCKER
 DEA Western Regional Lab
 PO Box 36075
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 (415) 556-0951

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: TOMMY D. MOORE
 WY. Fish and Game Dept.
 Univ. Station, Box 3312
 Laramie, WY 82071
 (307) 766-5628

PAST-PRESIDENT: BETH CARPENTER
 OSP Crime Lab
 1111 SW 2nd Ave.
 Portland, OR 97204
 (503) 229-5017

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

MEMBERSHIP: ROBERT SAGER
 DEA Western Regional Lab
 PO Box 36075
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 (415) 556-0951

PUBLICATIONS: ROGER A. ELY
 DEA Western Regional Lab
 PO Box 36075
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 (415) 556-0951

HISTORICAL: BRAD TELYEA
 OSP Crime Lab
 1111 2nd Ave.
 Portland, OR 97204
 (503) 229-5017

TECH. ADVANCEMENT: ROBERT THOMPSON.
OSP Crime Lab
1111 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-5017

CONT. EDUCATION: ARNOLD MELNIKOFF
Div. of For. Sciences Lab
554 W. Broadway, 6th Flr
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 728-4970

My year as President is almost over and I would like to thank the executive for all its help, the organizers of the spring and fall meetings, committee heads, and all members who participate in our great association. A special thanks must go to Roger Ely for his work on the newsletter and to Bob Sager for his work on the membership committee.

See you in PORTLAND

WAYNE K. JEFFERY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has arrived! Some of us are out tanning in the sun, while others are out rusting in the rain. Summer usually brings a break in caseload and less court time, giving us a few hours of a not so hectic a pace.

Just what do we do with this time! Hopefully we will be putting the final touches on that winter research project and then writing it up, starting a new project, or just gathering up all that data you have accumulated over the years.

For what reason? For presentation at the PORTLAND MEETING, October 11-15, 1988. Remember the best paper presented gets the A.A.F.S. Regional Award. Beth Carpenter has promised an excellent meeting with good workshops.

The fall meeting is very important to our association, as it is our main business meeting and our elections for the upcoming year. At this meeting we will be discussing the set up of an ethics committee. We will all be able to see and purchase our new N.W.A.F.S. PIN.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PERCEIVES BIAS IN ASSOCIATION

April 25, 1988

Mr. Roger A. Ely
NWAFS Publications Committee Chairman
C/O DEA Western Regional Lab
PO Box 36075
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Roger:

This letter is directed to you because of your position as chairman of the publications committee, however, it is written as an open letter to the membership.

I feel the time has come when we must step back and evaluate whether or not this organization and its members adhere to the constitution upon which the organization is based. I specifically refer to Article II, Objectives and Purposes, and Article III, Eligibility and Membership. In neither of these articles do I find any reference to advocacy as in prosecution or defense, good guy expert or bad guy expert, or any other language which differentiates the forensic scientist as a select part of the legal system. In fact, I find no language at all that deals with^h how or with whom one plies their trade as a forensic scientist or how

they won or lost a case. What I do find, however, are noble purposes for an organization and guidelines for a membership that stand for the professional advancement of forensic science, PERIOD.

As a neophyte in this organization, I am appalled at the continual advocacy for law enforcement that seems to permeate the newsletter and the meetings. Having served in law enforcement for nine (9) years, I understand how sides can be taken. However, the newsletter and formal meetings of an organization designed to advance forensic science and disseminate scientific information are not the places to take pot shots at attorneys or to talk about fighting crime. As you know, not all of the membership draws a paycheck from a governmental agency. I am concerned that as the majority of the membership draws salaries from governmental agencies, this organization is losing or has lost sight of its original purpose as outlined in the constitution. I am also aware of instances where advocacy by a member(s) of a governmental agency(s) on behalf of the NWAFFS has been implied and/or expressed. In fact, one could interpret such action as a violation of the constitution because it certainly is not professional, nor is it in keeping with the concept that science does not take sides.

In closing, the publication of such language, attitudes and opinions in the newsletter makes them official, refer to Chapter 3, Section 8 of the Bylaws; "The newsletter which this association sponsors shall be the official publication of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists,..." Making such attitudes, opinions and language official appears to be in direct violation of those guidelines outline in Articles II and III of the Constitution. The publication of such "official" material must cease. I also

submit that if we are truly for the purpose of fostering forensic science, we must stop taking sides and keeping score.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven P. Van Ootegham
Director of Forensic Services
Intermountain Forensic Laboratories, Inc.
Portland, OR

EDITOR'S REPLY

Dear Mr. Van Ootegham:

You have brought up some very interesting points in your letter, most of them dealing with your perception of how the Association should conduct its business, and how it actually does.

It is true there are not boundary lines drawn between prosecution and defense in the Association's Constitution and Bylaws.

The basis of forensic science is that the scientist has no vested interest in the outcome of a matter before the court. The job of the forensic scientist is to examine the evidence items with the tools and skills he/she is equipped with and bring the truth, to a scientific certainty, before the court.

The key word here, of course, is truth. If the forensic scientist holds to the truth, he serves the court in the manner in which he is assigned. But if the forensic scientist deviates from the truth, he/she no longer serves the court, but serves themselves.

I'm sorry you didn't include specific examples from previous Newsletters and programs given at the Spring and Fall meetings to demonstrate the advocacy of law enforcement you claim "...permeates..." the sessions. I would like to think that we all, whether we are

independent forensic scientist or the police lab forensic scientist, advocate law enforcement. To testify falsely before a court of law, under oath, is perjury. I believe we would all agree that perjury is outright wrong, and is professional suicide. Once you have lost your credibility in a court of law, you may never regain it.

I have looked back in the Newsletters from the period of my Editorship, and that of George Matsuda and fail to find anything that could be considered advocacy. The same applies with the meetings of the Association.

The material disseminated through the Newsletter and the meeting has never been reserved for the eyes of police forensic scientists only. The material provided is for the membership to use to better themselves by understanding the field as they must apply it, and to provide information to streamline the whole process so one does not have to re-invent the wheel each time a situation arises.

As to taking pot shots at attorneys, the comment in the March 1988 Newsletter was taken from another regional forensic association newsletter from here in the United States. As for its validity, I think we have all experienced and worked with attorneys on our "side" or "against" us where we wonder what their class ranking was when they graduated and how many times it took them to pass the bar. The same story could be used with the following substitutions: mothers-in-law, supervisors, lab managers, department heads, car salesmen, realtors, insurance salesmen, politicians and the list goes on. Maybe the story was uncalled for, but I think not.

As to the concept that science doesn't take sides, you are wrong. Historically, there have been major issues in the field of science where scientists have taken "sides".

When the Particle Theory and the Wave Theory of the propagation of light butted heads, science was clearly divided. In our own field, there is still a debate as to the validity of serological testing by starch gel or agarose. Divergent thinking in the field of science has fostered many new ideas and theories on the world around us.

When you examine the limited field of forensic science, the nature of the field is basically and practically the application of known science to the finding of truth. Yet, even in the field there are divisions in thought. I think it is healthy for members of the profession to challenge ideas and perceptions.

While it is true not all members draw a salary from a governmental agency, an independent forensic scientist who works as a defense expert on a court appointed basis is receiving a salary from a government agency, the court. To make a distinction of membership or to try to categorize the membership based on the source of income is not a legitimate argument.

You say you are aware instances where an advocacy is occurring on behalf of the NWAFS, and you feel it is a violation of the constitution. There are avenues available to all members of the Association who think another member has taken part in unethical conduct. Bring your charges through the proper channels and allow the mechanism to operate as it was designed.

As to your interpretation of the Bylaws, Chapter 3, Section 8 concerning the Newsletter being the "...official publication..." of the Association, I feel it is misapplied. This passage simply indicates that the Newsletter is the official mechanism and vehicle for the dissemination of Association business to its members. The minutes of the business meetings, abstracts of the papers given at meetings, the financial standing of the Association, acceptance of new members or a change of membership status and the

publication of proposed Constitutional and Bylaw changes printed in the Newsletter are deemed "official" notification.

As to the rest of the material, it represents the ideas and workings of a variety of sources: member contributions, other regional forensic associations and anything else I can get my hands on. These materials represent a forum for the exchange of ideas, bad or good, right or wrong, without an official endorsement from the Association. This is how your letter and my response can both be printed. Neither is "official" material by virtue of it being published in the Newsletter. You have your opinion, and I have mine. Neither may meet the satisfaction of the Association which is, after all, the membership.

To change a system we don't care for means rolling up our sleeves and working for change by becoming involved. I extend to you a personal invitation to get involved by submitting material to the Newsletter for publication, an invitation for you to give a paper at meeting and an invitation for you to become involved as an officer of the Association - we're always looking for new blood to get involved. The personal invitation, of course, is moot. You have always had these opportunities for involvement in the affairs of the Association.

Of course, two other choices are possible: 1) sit back and don't do anything, but still complain to anyone who'll listen; or 2) resign from the Association. Neither of these two choices sound to appealing to me.

The issue of "...taking sides and keeping score..." is an interesting comment. To make that observation suggests to me that you have already taken sides and selected which side you wish to be on. There are dangers to this, the gravest being losing the objectivity and open mindedness that the

profession of forensic science so depends on.

Roger A. Ely
Editor

UPCOMING MEETINGS

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS FALL 1988 MEETING

The Fall 1988 meeting of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists will be held at the Portland Marriott Hotel, October 11-14. Room rates for the meeting are \$56 for a single or double room.

Several workshops are being planned for the meeting, including blood spatter interpretation, and a blood alcohol absorption and dissipation project. Other possible topics include the interpretation of mass spectral data and DNA typing. The program chairperson would appreciate comments from the membership on other possible areas for workshops.

For more information, contact:

Beth Carpenter, Program Chairperson
OSP Crime Lab
1111 2nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-5017

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS SPRING 1989 MEETING

A preliminary meeting site of Ashland, Oregon has been selected for the site of the Spring 1989 meeting of the NWAFS. Ken Goddard, director of the new Federal Forensic Wildlife Laboratory, has graciously offered to be the host for the meeting. The date and topics of the meeting will be posted in later issues of the newsletter. But keep this meeting in mind, it will offer an opportunity to see the

new Wildlife lab that we've heard so many rumors about.

**SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS
TO CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN AUSTIN**

The SWAFS will be meeting August 2-5 in Austin, Texas to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the organizing of the association. The location of the meeting will be in the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Austin. Workshops on photomicrography, DNA typing, Frye hearing and advanced interpretation of mass spectra will be presented.

For more information, contact:
Brian Edmiston
DPS Crime Lab
Austin, Texas 78765
(512) 465-2105

**NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS
FALL 1988 MEETING**

The NEAFS will hold its Fall 1988 meeting October 21-22 at the Mystic Hilton in Mystic, CT.

For more information, contact:
Steve Sottolano
DEA Northeast Laboratory
555 West 57th St, Suite 1886
New York, NY 10019
(212) 399-5137

**ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS
MIDWEST REGIONAL SECTION MEETING**

The Midwest Regional Section of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists is holding a meeting June 20-22, 1988 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri.

The meeting will feature speakers in technical areas including forensic toxicology, Beckman instrumentation and Perkin Elmer instrumentation.

For more information, contact:
George Rottinghaus, MWAOC Chairman
Veterinary Medical Diagnostics Lab
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
(314) 8882-5994

**SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS
1988 MEETING**

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) will meet at the Hershey Hotel in downtown Philadelphia on Wednesday, September 28 through Saturday, October 1, 1988.

For more information, contact:
Jane Speaker, Ph.D.
2112 Cherry St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

JOB OPENINGS

DOCUMENT EXAMINER: The city of San Diego is currently recruiting to fill one Documents Examiner vacancy in the Forensic Sciences Section of the Police Department. Minimum requirements for the position are equal to two years full-time professional experience examining questioned documents in connection

with criminal investigations, which must include testifying in court as an expert witness; and a letter of court acceptance (from a municipal or higher court Judge or District Attorney) as a qualified expert in examining questioned documents

Salary: \$2917 to 3526 per month

For more information, contact:

City Administration Building Lobby
Employment Information Counter
202 'C' Street
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 236-5753

CRIMINALIST III: The Santa Clara County Office of the District Attorney's Crime Laboratory is seeking qualified individuals to fill a vacancy of a journeyman level serologist.

The position requires a bachelor's degree in criminalistics, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, or closely related scientific field, plus four years of experience in criminalistics with an emphasis in forensic serology; a master's degree in criminalistics, chemistry, biochemistry, physics or closely related scientific field may be substituted for one year of required experience. The successful candidate will possess extensive experience in giving expert testimony in court, and possess experience in the field of forensic serology.

Salary: \$3319 to 4018 per month

For more information, contact:

Santa Clara County Personnel Dept.
70 West Hedding St.
Eighth Floor
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 299-4331

CRIMINALIST TRAINEE: The State of California has openings for Criminalist-Trainees. This is an entry level position requiring graduation from college with a degree in a physical science. Eight semester hours of quantitative analysis is required.

Salary: \$1873 to 2140 per month

For more information, contact:

Department of Justice
Testing and Selection Office
1515 K St., Room 227
PO Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

CRIMINALIST I: The city of Phoenix, Arizona, has an opening for the position of Criminalist I. The position requires a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry, criminalistics or a related field. The job duties include the analysis of drugs and narcotics, and blood alcohol analyses.

For more information, contact:

City of Phoenix
Personnel Dept.
135 North 2nd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 262-6277

CRIMINALIST III: The city of Mesa, Arizona, has a opening for a criminalist III position funded for the first year by a grant from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. The job requires a degree in criminalistics or a related field, six years of experience in a forensic laboratory and experience testifying in court as an expert witness.

Salary: \$33,514 to 45,214 per year

For more information, contact:

City of Mesa
Personnel Dept.
64 E. First St.
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

FALL MEETING OF THE NWAFS
TAKING SHAPE FOR PORTLAND, OREGON

by
 Beth Carpenter
 Program Chairperson

The Fall meeting of the NWAFS will be held at the Portland Marriott Hotel October 11-14. The general session will be Thursday and Friday. Scheduled presentations include:

- The use of lasers in forensics
- Unusual drug labs
- Update of DNA
- Sequel to Brad Telyea's "Statistical Analysis of Mars"

I hope preparations for your presentations are going well. Let me know of your intentions so I can include you in the program.

Three workshops are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday:

- 1) GC/MS. This two day workshop will be presented by John Hughes of Hewlett Packard. It will include either a half day of macro-programming of the MSD and one and a half days of mass spectral interpretation; or two days of mass spectral interpretation. I need to know your preference, so please let me know which you would like to have. I am the contact person for this workshop.
- 2) Blood Spatter. This will be a one and a half day workshop presented by Oregon State Police Crime Lab staff. It will include a half day lecture and a day of experimentation by the students. There will be mock crime scenes to test your knowledge. The contact person is Dave Schmierbach at (503) 229-5017. This workshop is limited to 16 students.

- 3) Blood Alcohol Absorption and dissipation. The workshop will involve a drinking experiment the evening of the 11th with data collection (do we have any volunteer drinkers?). The next day will be interpretation of data, presentations and a panel discussion. The contact person is Brad Telyea at (503) 229-5017.

The fees for the workshops will be set when all the costs are determined. The estimate for the GC/MS workshop is \$100 per student. We need a show of interest in these workshops for our planning.

We are excited about hosting the fall meeting. The Marriott is a beautiful hotel on Portland's waterfront. The room rate of \$56 (single or double) is great. Unfortunately, they will only hold that price for rooms booked before September 19 so make your plans early. I will be happy to assist you in finding a compatible room mate if you wish to reduce costs.

For more information, contact:

Beth Carpenter
 Program Chairperson
 Oregon State Police Crime Lab
 111 SW 2nd, Rm 1201
 Portland, OR 97204
 (503) 229-5017

BOOK REVIEW:
PRACTICAL HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION:
TACTICS, PROCEDURES AND FORENSIC TECHNIQUES

By
 Gary Knowles

Police and crime lab managers, and training officers will enhance their reference library with the addition of Practical Homicide Investigation: Tactics, Procedures and Forensic Techniques by Vernon J. Geberth, Lieutenant Commander NYPD (Elsevier Science

Publishing Co., Inc. 460 pp. \$31.75)

As an overview starting with what the crime scene is and ending with homicide investigation management, Practical Homicide Investigation covers subjects in surprising detail for its 460 page length. Few books cover, in the depth this book does, the responsibilities and duties of the first responding officers whose actions can determine the outcome of a case. Geberth had provided checklists for the first officer on the scene as well as investigative checklists for the lead detective.

Though this book serves only as a refresher for the experienced criminalist, forensic laboratory personnel if beginning a lab career will gain an appreciation for the detective's needs and a good basic outline of what his examinations mean to resolving a case.

actical Homicide Investigation has numerous photographs to illustrate presented topics. Much discussion and many accompanying photos concerning the post-mortem examination provide helpful reference to investigators and attorneys as well as medical examiners.

Overall, I found Practical Homicide Investigation a very good overview of the many aspects of a homicide investigation. Having read the text, an officer can appreciate Geberth's concluding statement "... remember, do it right the first time. You only get one chance ..."

(Editor's Note: A copy of this book has been received by the Association and is with the Continuing Education material. If you would like to borrow it to review for your own inspection, contact Arnie Melnikoff.)

BOOK REVIEW:

GUNSHOT WOUNDS

by

Ronald Rivers MD

GUNSHOT WOUNDS, by Vincent J. M. Di Maio, illustrated, Elsevier Press, New York, 1985, pp.331 \$40.25

Finally an accurate compendium of the forensic examination of gunshot wounds! We have realized that the subject deserved more than just a chapter as in most forensic texts. Dr. Di Maio has compiled his vast experience, photography and intense interest in firearms into a no-nonsense, fourteen chapter book with everything you need to know about gunshot wounds.

Photographs of various wounds are well selected, although some suffer the colore to black and white syndrome. There are as many, if not more, photographs of ammunition. The author's discussion of contact wounds without soot from .22 Short or .32 S&W Short on pages 101 and 106 are controversial.

This book should be on every medical examiner's and coroner's shelf, every firearms examiner's shelf and many criminal attorney's shelves.

BOOK REVIEW:

TECHNIQUES OF CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

By

Kenneth D. McDermott

Techniques of Crime Scene Investigation, 4th Edition by Fisher, Svenson and Wendel gives excellent information for the police officer,

evidence technician or novice criminalist who seeks knowledge regarding the investigation of crime scenes and also evidence collection and preservation. A journeyman criminalist should be acquainted with most of the information presented in the text. This book is also a useful text for a college level police science program.

Fisher presents technically sound information in an organized manner. The text is broken into three distinct areas: 1) crime scene examination, 2) types of physical evidence, and 3) methods of investigation of various types of crimes.

The author recommends a team approach to crime scene examination utilizing detectives, crime lab personnel, and others involved with the collection and preservation of physical evidence. He also relates such information as how the evidence can be used to build a case for court or to corroborate investigative information. This is a strong point for the book in that Fisher does not fill the text with details of scientific analytical methods and procedures.

In updating the book from the 3rd Edition, Fisher has added current techniques such as the use of Superglue (cyanoacrylate) and lasers for latent print detection and current concerns including handling biological evidence infected with hepatitis and HIV, handling of toxic evidence from clandestine drug labs and the investigation of serial murders.

The illustrations and photographs presented in the book demonstrate the points the author is making. The photos are up-to-date and clear with concise captions.

In the 4th Edition, Fisher has maintained the high quality and style of writing evident in the previous editions. The author does not

fill the text with personal "war stories" even though he has many years of experience from which to draw.

A real value of this work is that it is directed toward the crime scene investigator. It should be included on the reference bookshelves of detective divisions, police patrol divisions and crime laboratories.

REFERENCE ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts were obtained from a variety of sources made available to the Association through the Newsletter Editor. If you would like more information on a particular abstract, or if you would like a copy of the item as it was published, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS MARCH 1988 NEWSLETTER

"Courtroom Demeanor"

Evan Hodge and Bobby Blackburn

A well written article pointing out some of the subtle nuances of testifying in courts of law. Good reading for the inexperienced forensic scientist and good refresher material for the seasoned veteran.

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS SPRING 1988 ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT PLENARY SESSIONS

(The following abstracts were received too late to including in the March Newsletter)

"Application of Criminalistics in the USA and USSR"

Ilya Zeldes, Ph.D.

The term 'Criminalistics' has different meanings and circumscribes different services when used in the different judicial systems as in the USA and USSR. On the other hand, the system of specialized criminalistics laboratories and institutions is developed in the USSR as well as in the USA.

The Soviet Criminal Procedure Code contains about 30 articles on the various aspects of criminalistics examination. All criminalistics examinations, medical examination and some others are preformed by the government. Limited private examinations are allowed in the traffic accident reconstruction and in forensic accounting.

Criminalistics examinations in the USSR may be performed by one examiner or by a group of specialists (so-called complex examinations). Unlike in the USA, in the Soviet Crime Laboratory Report the physical evidence, the method of examination and the test results must be completely described. Therefore, this detailed report is prima facia evidence and admissible in all courts.

The information about Soviet Criminalistics published in English is scarce. However, it is known from various sources, that the soviet Union progressed in the application of the computers for registration and search of various information, in the application of statistical analysis for handwriting identification and some other areas of Criminalistics. In general, as we see it, the Soviet Criminalistics has achieved the fair level of development. Therefore, the personal and business contacts between American and Soviet Criminalists may benefit both.

"Identification of Skeleton Missing Skull and Hands"

Charline G. Smith

This is a case study of a homicide victim, killed by abdominal stab wounds. To prevent identification, the perpetrators decapitated the body and severed the hands above the wrists, placed these in a plastic bag and threw it into the (Missouri) river. About a year before his demise, the victim had undergone surgery for heart valve replacement. One of the killers gave the victim's name, thus it was possible to compare pre- and post-operative X-rays of the thorax with the recovered sternum, complete with stainless wire sutures. When X-rays of the recovered sternum and prosthetic heart valve were compared with pre-mortem X-rays, the results was that the sutures could be matched in numbers of twists and shapes of the wire ends, making positive identification possible.

**LISTING OF VENDORS AT THE
SPRING MEETING OF THE NWAFFS IN
MISSOULA, MONTANA**

The following individuals were vendors, and thus, helped support the Spring 1988 meeting of the NWAFFS. If you have a need or question that need to be answered in a technical area, be sure to call upon them for help.

John Reffner, PhD	Larry Wegelin
Spectra Tech, Inc.	Perkin Elmer
652 Glenbrook Rd.	4036 Youngsfield
Stamford, CT 06906	Wheatridge, CO 230/
357-7055	80033
	303/ 425-4011

Jerry Springer
CMI, Inc.
41011 Old Highway 6
PO Box 40
Minturn, CO 81645
303/ 949-4440

415/ 490-8870

Tom Kay
Hewlett Packard
1200 Fifth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101
94804

Lydia Willing
Bio-Rad Laboratories
1414 Harbour Way
Richmond, CA

415/ 232-7000

Peggy Eide
Marion Laboratories
13809 SE 195th Ct.
Renton, WA 98058

Darrell Deliman
BIORAD-Digilab
237 Putman Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139
800/ 225-1248

**NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS
TRAINING MATERIALS IN
THE CONTINUING EDUCATION LIBRARY**

The following materials are available to members of the Association for use in furthering their knowledge of forensic science and scientific instrumentation. If you are interested in borrowing any of the material, contact Arnie Melnikoff at the Montana State Crime Lab for more information and the terms of the loan.

- 1) Two sets of ACS Interpretation of Mass Spectra by Don C. DeJongh - video cassettes and manual
- 2) Two sets of ACS Interpretation of Infrared Spectra by Norman B. Culthup - video cassettes and manual
- 3) One set of ACS Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy by G. Christian and M. Epstein - video cassettes and manual

- 4) Southern Association of Forensic Scientists Training Manual
- 5) Liquid Chromatography Training Manual by E.C. Tullock, Science and Technology Advisory Group
- 6) Infrared Training Guide - Theory of Operation by D.J. McClure
- 7) Extra copy of ACS Interpretation of Infrared Spectra Manual - no audio cassettes
- 8) Extra copy of ACS Interpretation of Mass Spectra Manual - no audio cassettes
- 9) Extra copy of ACS Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy manual - no audio cassettes
- 10) ACS Probability and Statistics for Chemists by Charles Perrin - manual, no audio cassettes
- 11) ACS Basic Gas Chromatography by Harold M. McNair - manual, no audio cassettes
- 12) ACS Thin Layer Chromatography by Victor Rodwell - manual, no cassettes
- 13) Identification of North American Commercial Pulp Woods and Pulp Fibers by L. Strellist and R.W. Kennedy
- 14) California Department of Justice Resource Manual on Glass
- 15) Two part McCrone Associates, Inc. Reference Collection of Animal Spermatozoa Slides with manuals
- 16) Video tape produced for NWAFS by Montana Professional Development Center on "Media Relations"
- 17) Two cassette recorders
- 18) One set of earphones

TAR OPIUM SEIZURE MADE
IN SOUTHERN OREGON

by
John Amish
Criminalist
Oregon State Police Crime Lab, Medford

During the early morning hours of May 5th, an Oregon State Police Trooper made a routine traffic stop which resulted in the seizure of 1.15 kg of tar opium and \$6000 in cash. The driver and the passenger were Laotian Nationals. They consented to a search of their vehicle, during which the Trooper discovered a 8"x5-1/2"x2" plastic tray with a black tar material. When questioned, the suspects reported the material was candy.

The latest word on the case was that one of the suspects was going through withdrawals at the Josephine County Jail. The estimated street value of the opium was set at \$40,000.

Acting on information gained during the subsequent investigation of the individuals, US Customs agents intercepted the delivery of 130 pounds of opium to other members of the Laotian group in California.

DRUG LAB BLOWS UP IN CALIFORNIA

The DEA Western Regional laboratory is assisting the San Francisco Clandestine Laboratory Task Force in the investigation of a suspected methamphetamine laboratory that blew up on Saturday, May 23, 1988 at about 4:45 am. There was only an explosion, no fire.

The suspected lab was located in a residential neighborhood in the town of Windsor, California, approximately 12 miles north of Santa Rosa. To the immediate rear

of the residence is a Sunday School building for a nearby church.

The suspect had been in the residence for approximately 2 weeks, and is suspected of having been manufacturing for approximately 5 days.

Ephedrine, palladium catalyst, perchloric acid and acetic acid were found in the rubble.

The suspect had a series of six 4 Liter vacuum flasks set up on hot plates, plumbed with hydrogen gas from a conglomeration of Tygon tubing, PVC pipe and rubber hoses. Some of the hoses were clamped; some were not.

From the side arm of each flask, a rubber hose ran into a sealed plastic 5 gallon paint pail filled with water. It is theorized that the suspect was trying to scavenge off any unused hydrogen into the water.

From the evidence at the scene, it appears that the excess hydrogen gas accumulated in the room, and when the suspect turned on the light switch, the hydrogen gas was set off. The blast shattered 3 of the reaction flasks.

The blast also set the opposing wall 3-4 inches off the foundation, blew the back steps to the residence away from the house 5 feet, and broke all of the windows and blew out the aluminum window frames.

The blast woke up many people in the neighborhood; however, the fire department did not respond until 45 minutes later.

The suspect, badly burned on the chest from his shirt melting to the skin from the blast and his face badly lacerated, appeared to have moved around inside the residence. When the fire department arrived, the suspect refused to come out for aid. 30 minutes later, the dazed suspect finally came out on the porch and received aid.

He is expected to be released from the

hospital by the time you read this.

Ironically, the blast occurred only 3 houses down from the fire chief's residence.

ODOR IN THE COURT

(Editor's note: The following news item appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on April 21, 1988, on page 13A)

SONORA, Ca. - A defense attorney said Wednesday (April 20) he will appeal his client's conviction, charging that the prosecutor disrupted the four week trial by repeatedly passing gas.

"It was disgusting," said Clark Head, a Calaveras County lawyer representing a burglary defendant.

Head said he was considering basing the appeal, in part, on "misconduct" by Tuolumne County Assistant District Attorney Ned Lowenbach.

Head said Lowenbach passed gas "about 100 times. He even lifted his leg several times."

Head said he went on the record to protest the tactic after Lowenbach passed gas during the defense's closing argument.

DOCTOR'S WARN AGAINST BIZARRE USE OF COCAINE

(Editor's note: This article appeared in the June 3, 1988 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle. It is from the New York Times News Service.)

In an unusual warning, doctors have reported the case of a man who injected cocaine into his penis to heighten sexual pleasure, then suffered gangrene that led to the loss of

both legs, nine fingers and his penis. The authors of the report, three psychiatrists from New York Hospital, said it was not clear how the unusual use led to the complications.

The doctor's, John C. Mahler, Samuel Perry and Bruce Sutton, described the case in a letter in the current issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association.

The case involved a 34-year-old man who told doctors he occasionally squirted a cocaine solution into his urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body. The last time he did so, in June 1987, he suffered a persistent painful erection that lasted three days, prompting him to seek medical help.

Soon thereafter, he developed blood clots in his genitals, arms, legs, back and chest. By his 12th day in the hospital, he had developed gangrene in his penis, legs, arms and fingers.

During a bath, his gangrenous penis fell off. Surgeons then removed the remaining gangrenous tissue and amputated his legs and fingers. The man is being fitted with prosthetic devices at a rehabilitation center.

Cocaine use has been associated with a variety of medical problems including heart attack, stroke and death. But Dr. John Money, an expert in sexuality at Johns Hopkins Medical School, said it would be unusual for cocaine alone to produce the extreme complications.

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS
POSITION ON DNA TYPING OF
FORENSIC SAMPLES**

Background

DNA typing promises to revolutionize forensic serology. It is not surprising that DNA's unprecedented power for discriminating biological samples has produced pressure to use it in criminal cases. As forensic laboratory managers, we are responsible to ensure that the appropriate scientific issues have been considered as we introduce this new tool. We must provide sound leadership, drawing on our collective technical background and experience to guide this important process.

As with any new forensic procedure, implementation of DNA typing must be approached with great regard for long and short range legal implications while assuring that the quality of justice does not suffer from an excess of caution. We must lay a solid foundation in our laboratories for the introduction of these techniques. We must also take care that our precautions do not obstruct the appropriate use of new technology by those who may already be qualified to apply it.

An analogy exists between our present attempts to begin typing DNA on evidence samples and the introduction of enzyme typing in U.S. crime laboratories in the early 1970's. In both instances, biochemical procedures which had been developed for genetic research, clinical diagnosis, and paternity studies have been transferred to application on evidence materials. Such terminology transfers require consideration of the nature of evidence samples, which are often limited in size and partially degraded.

The potential effects of environmental influences on DNA typing results must be considered- based both on existing biochemical knowledge and on empirical studies under simulated evidence conditions- just as was done with enzyme marker systems. In another sense, the present situation with DNA typing differs from our earlier experience with protein markers. Like most new technology, protein marker typing found its way through the crime laboratory into the courtroom at a gradual pace. This process has been accelerated in the case of DNA typing, driven by the unusually rapid progress of molecular biology research at universities and in the private sector.

Crime laboratories are placed in the position of needing to provide sound advice to their client agencies regarding the value and limitations of a service available from private vendors before they have acquired the skills to provide it in their own laboratories.

DNA Guidelines

The "ASCLD Guidelines for Forensic Laboratory Management" and the CAC-DOJ "Report of the Symposium on Forensic Serology-1987" include recommended procedures for the validation and implementation of new methods in forensic laboratories. These procedures apply as well to DNA typing as to any other serology technique, and they apply equally well to the private sector as to public laboratories. They and the guidelines which follow provide criteria by which the members of the forensic science community may judge the acceptability of new methods, evaluate the work product of private vendors and establish their own DNA typing programs.

- 1) A laboratory providing DNA typing for forensic purposes should have staff knowledgeable in both basic molecular and forensic science.

- 2) The laboratory must have procedures for ensuring sample integrity, chain of possession and evidence preservation.
- 3) Genetic studies and population frequency data on the markers typed must be available for review.
- 4) Methods used for typing must have been evaluated by blind trial testing on samples simulating case evidence materials, and the results of such testing materialism and the results of such testing must be available for review.
- 5) Procedures used for typing must be disclosed, and probes must be available to other laboratories for the purpose of replicating validation studies or independent re-analysis of evidence.
- 6) The analytical report must specify the probes and restriction enzymes used for typing and should include a narrative interpretation of the results.
- 7) The entire work product of the analysis (e.g. membranes, photographs of gels, other raw data) must be available for outside review.

Conclusions

The basic knowledge of molecular biology and the experience of those forensic groups doing work in the area strongly support the use of DNA typing technology in the forensic context. This is not to say that all potential questions have been answered.

However, the current level of knowledge and experience is sufficiently advanced that individual forensic laboratories can move

toward application of this new technology.

The CACLD strongly supports research such as that now underway at the University of California on the effects of environmental factors on DNA. We encourage our members to support their staff members in obtaining basic academic and research experience in molecular biology which we hope will lead to implementation of DNA techniques in the crime laboratories of this state in the near future.

We also encourage the CA DOJ Bureau of Forensic Services to pursue the long range goal of providing training in DNA techniques and establishing a statewide data base of DNA typing information for criminal identification.

Meanwhile, the CACLD will continue its efforts to monitor the progress of forensic DNA typing in the private sector through site visits and blind trials. We recommend that our members carefully evaluate any proposed DNA evidence analysis on a case-by-case basis, in the light of the guidelines above and in consultation with the legal community in their own jurisdictions. This position was endorsed by a vote of the CACLD members present at the business meeting held at Newport Beach, California, on November 20, 1987

This position has also been endorsed by the Board of Directors of the California Association of Criminalists.

AABB PARENTAGE COMMITTEE
PROPOSED STANDARDS FOR TESTS INVOLVING
DNA POLYMORPHISMS - NOVEMBER 1987

- I. The use of a particular DNA probe system should be validated by extensive family and population studies that show that the particular system exhibits

- Mendelian inheritance and a nondetectable or acceptably low frequency of mutation and/or recombination.
- II. Size Markers with discrete bands of known sequence should span and flank the entire range of the DNA system being tested.
- III. A visual record of the ethidium bromide pattern resulting from electrophoretic separation shall be kept.
- IV. A known human control DNA and DNA fragment of known size should be used during each electrophoresis run as a control for the resolution of the system.
- V. A method shall be available to assure complete endonuclease digestion of DNA for testing. This should be accomplished by two or more of the following procedures:
1. Quality control of new lots of endonuclease by digestion of known human and lambda DNAs.
 2. Electrophoresis of an aliquot of digested DNA with or without lambda DNAs.
 3. Hybridization with probe which detects a non-variable locus.
- VI. Autoradiographs or membranes must be read independently by two or more individuals.
- VII. Reports listing the DNA probe testing shall specify the probe, restriction endonuclease used, and chromosomal location of the fragments visualized as defined by the International Human Gene Mapping Workshop.
- VIII. Reported allelic fragments shall be listed by size or allele description (alpha numeric).
- IX. Data analysis to compute a paternity index shall be function of allele frequency databases for DNA probes. DNA probes which detect multiple highly polymorphic loci should provide an explanation and definition for inclusions based on this methodology (P7.244)
- X. Confirmatory testing by an independent laboratory shall be possible for all DNA tests.

STATEMENT OF
THE SOCIETY FOR FORENSIC HAEMOGENETICS
CONCERNING DNA-POLYMORPHISMS

- A -

RESOLUTION

1. The Society for Forensic Haemogenetics has followed attentively the recent evolution of DNA genetics especially regarding the various applications of DNA genetics especially regarding the various applications of DNA polymorphisms (RFLPs, DNA-fingerprints) in the field of forensic sciences. The use of DNA polymorphisms represent an extremely useful tool for research concerning the human genome and for the recognition of inherited diseases.
2. The Society appreciates the efforts made by commercial firms to build up technologies and prepare reagents for the investigation of DNA polymorphisms. The Society recognizes that important basic discoveries and developments in methodology have been achieved by commercial firms but expects that the companies involved in this field will

make technologies as well as reagents, especially DNA probes, available to the community of scientists and investigators, in a way that legitimate interests of the firms such as patent rights and commercial exploitation are fully respected.

3. The Society would deplore a situation whereby the tools for the application of DNA polymorphisms in various medical fields would be subject of a monopoly. Such action would impede the solution of crimes and the efforts to help illegitimate children to identify their biological father as well as the diagnosis of inherited diseases .
4. The Society disagrees with a practice of DNA testing which obstruct access to a second opinion in legal cases, which is a basic principle of forensic science. The history of forensic science has demonstrated the importance of such second opinions and various national and international legal rights take this into account. Therefore any probe used in cases must be available to all other experts in the forensic field. Failure to meet this requirement makes the use of such probes unacceptable.
5. In the opinion of the Society it would appear premature at the present time to use DNA testing in isolation in parentage investigations. The continual use of established blood group polymorphisms whenever possible will allow experience to be gained to provide confidence in the results obtained with the new technology.
6. The Society would like to state that

certain areas of DNA testing need to meet certain requirements if the technology is to be assured of a smooth acceptance both in the laboratory and most importantly in the courts.

These include:

- a) Validation of probes by extensive family testing.
- b) Duplication in testing
- c) Establishment of gene frequencies and mutation rates for the genes in question.
- d) The controlling of DNA digestion and the use of DNA size standards.

-B-

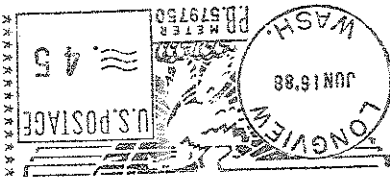
DNA-COMMISSION

With special concern to the discussion about application of DNA- polymorphisms in forensic haemogenetics the Society decides to form a commission on this subject. This commission has the following tasks:

- a) To collect and to distribute information
- b) To distribute practical knowledge e.g. by the organization of workshops.
- c) To work out standards for the use in forensic science. The commission consists of equal parts of members of the board and especially acknowledged experts. The commission is convened by the board.

JULIE C. LONG
DIV. OF FORENSIC SCIENCES
554 W. BROADWAY, 6TH FLOOR
MISSOULA, MT 59802
USA

Roger A. Ely, Editor
Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists
DEA Western Regional Lab
PO Box 36075
San Francisco, CA 94102



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER:

- Book Reviews of Elsevier Press
- Details on the Fall Meeting in Portland
- Listing of NWAFFS Training materials
- Tar Opium Seizure in Oregon
- Drug Lab Blows up in California
- Doctor's Warning on Bizarre Cocaine Use
- More details on DNA