



Crime Scene



Fall 1998

Volume 24, Issue 4

INSIDE

**Abstracts from
the Sun Valley
meeting!**

**Board of
Directors and
Business
Meeting
Minutes**

**Anchorage
Meeting
Information**

**Northwest
Notes**



**Congratulations to our
3 new Life Members: Jon
Spilker, Pam Marcum
and Lionel Tucker.**

President's Message Fall 1998

I would like to thank the NWAFS membership for voting me President of the Association. I will try my best to provide the leadership and stewardship the NWAFS needs and deserves as we approach the next century.

The latest vogue word in government I have been hearing lately is "...do more with less...", a new paradigm for those in management, but business as usual for most of us doing actual forensic science casework. Another great new innovation that management is imposing on forensic scientists is LIMS (laboratory information management system). Management gurus firmly believe that counting buttons with a computer is more efficient than counting with your fingers. They may be right for counting buttons but what about casework? Thanks to LIMS a forensic scientist is spending 20 percent instead of 2 percent of his or her time accounting for what they have already done. This is not going to make you a more productive forensic scientist. I might be the first recycled President of the NWAFS but I'm not too old to know what really makes forensic science casework more efficient and productive. The ability to do case work in an effective and productive manner is directly related to the availability of state of the art analytical equipment which has proven itself to be cost effective. It is not a LIMS system which allows the casework to be counted in numerous innovative ways, but the actual number of quality cases completed which provide the most beneficial outcome to the resolution of criminal cases. Forensic Science laboratories continue to be plagued by management innovations which are more appearance than substance. Effective laboratory managers are those who still relate to the scientists in the trenches and know that the real successes in forensic science are still obtained at the lab bench and not in the manager's office or at the laboratory's LIMS computer system.

Now that I have stepped off my soap box I want to express my appreciation to the membership of the NWAFS for the support they have given to the organization in the past. I will do my best in my term as President to make the NWAFS a forensic organization that you are proud to be a member of.

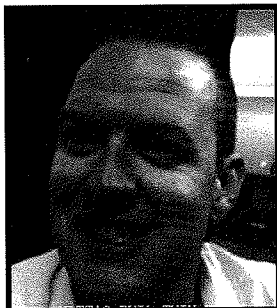
Arnold Melnikoff

WSP Crime Lab - Spokane 509-456-4144

amelnik@wsp.wa.gov

Letters to the Editor

I received one response to the question posted last issue about opinions of video taping presentations given at NWAFS meetings. Nancy McCombs wrote:



"I would definitely not be less likely to put on a paper if I were to be video taped. Most people, including myself, are nervous regardless!"

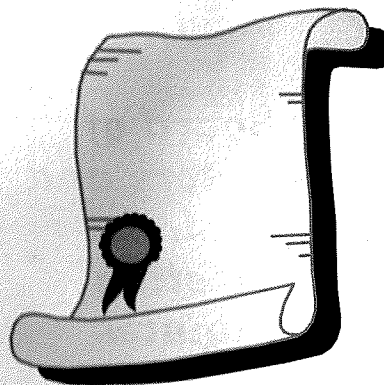
I couldn't agree more. In my opinion, by the time you've gone through researching, preparing, and stressing about presentations, the presence or absence of a camera in the back of the room is of little consequence. Thank You—Nancy—I appreciate your input.

SHOULD THE NWAFS PARTICIPATE MORE IN THE ABC CERTIFICATION PROCESS?

Since the beginnings of the ABC, NWAFS has been offered various levels of opportunity to participate in the process. For those who may not know, ABC (American Board of Criminalistics) is an organization who spent tens of thousands of dollars developing, verifying and administering certification tests for forensic scientists. Currently, they offer the General Knowledge Exam which covers topics in all disciplines of Forensic Science from Crime Scene Photography to bench level

chemistry. Also offered are "specialty exams" which focus on individual areas such as Drug Identification, or trace evidence.

Later in this issue I have reprinted the ABC's invitation for the NWAFS to submit an applicant to serve on the board of their organization. When a vote was taken at the meeting in Sun Valley, it was a tie. A



majority is necessary for the NWAFS to support a candidate for this position. Contact me with your opinions at e-mail:

mnoedel@wsp.wa.gov; FAX 253-536-4290 (further mailing details appear on p. 8)

-Matthew Noedel editor

NWAFS OFFICERS for 1998-99

Executive Committee

President

Arnold Melnikoff, WSP Crime Lab-,Spokane WA

Vice-President

Bill Adrian, Colorado Division of Wildlife-Ft. Collins, CO.

Member-at-Large

Annalivia Harris, Montana State Crime Lab- Missoula, MT.

Secretary-Treasurer

Linton von Beroldingen, Oregon State Police-Portland, OR

Secretaries

Membership

Roger Ely, DEA Western Laboratory- San Francisco, CA

Technical

Lisa Caughlin, Sacramento Co. Crime Lab- Sacramento, CA

Editorial

Matthew Noedel, WSP Crime Lab-Tacoma, WA

Internet Connection

Here you go.. some of the "hot spots" on the Internet that you may want to check out when your boss is gone.

The American Board of Criminalistics page is at:

www.criminalistics.com/abc/

A free verdicts and settlements database maintained by Tulsa, Oklahoma attorney Kent Morlan is located at:

<http://www.morelaw.com/>

Virtual Autopsy is aimed at "preclinical medical undergraduates" and currently includes 7 clinical cases.

<http://www.le.ac.uk/pathology/teach/YA/titlpag1.html>

NWAFS Homepage-Check out links to other members, abstracts, and exciting meeting information—

<http://users.aol.com/lctox/nwafshome.htm>

BITS OF TID

-compiled by Matthew Noedel editor

Don't mess with the law in **Honduras**; they'll get you in the end. Jose Rivas had been sentenced to prison for fifteen years, for a murder committed back in 1993 - despite being murdered himself by an unknown assailant in 1994. La Prensa newspaper called the sentencing "an example of the disorder and inefficiency in the Honduran court system".

Detroit, Oregon - A hunter thought he had found a severed human head in an abandoned mining shed and called the police. Deputy Larry Taylor realized it was just the head of a mannequin when he noticed a price sticker on the forehead.

Redondo Beach, California - After a short chase, officer Joseph Fonteno charged the driver of a white Mazda with DUI. The car had been driving down Pacific Coast Highway with the upper half of a traffic light pole laying across its hood. When Fonteno asked the drunk driver about the pole, he responded: "It came with the car when I bought it."

Key West, Florida - A restaurant worker killed another as the result of a heated argument over how to put silverware into a dishwasher

Would You Like Fries With That? Diana LaPorta, running for a seat on the Volusia County (Fla.) School Board, insists she has a bachelor's degree even though a local newspaper has revealed she earned it at "Hamburger University", a training program for employees of the McDonald's hamburger chain. When asked to clarify her education, LaPorta said "it does say on my diploma that it is a 'degree of bachelor'."

Columbia SC Using their 'zero tolerance' policy on 'weapons,' school officials at Hurrell Hill Elementary School suspended 5th-grader Chris Wood and are considering a permanent expulsion. He had a sensitive mouth from brand new braces, so his mother put a butter knife in his lunchbox so he could cut up his banana.

HISTORY OF THE NWAFS

Past president Terry McAdam ran across this list of prior meetings and officers of the NWAFS. Boise Idaho was the site of the first organizational meeting back in 1971. See if you can spot the first and only recycled president on the list!.

Conference	Location		President
★	Spring	Fall	★
1972	Spokane, WA	Seattle, WA	Robert Sager
1973	Missoula, MT	Portland, OR	Lou Nauman
1974	Seattle, WA	Spokane, WA	Bob Dews
1975	Boise, ID	Eugene, OR	George Ishii
1976	Cheyenne, WY	Missoula, MT	Floyd Whiting
1977	Seattle, WA	Portland, OR	Kay Sweeney
1978	San Francisco, CA	Reno, NV	Ann Bradley
1979	Vancouver, BC	Spokane, WA	Arnold Melnikoff
1980	Boise, ID	Eugene, OR	Jon Spilker
1981	Missoula, MT	Lake Tahoe, NV	Pam Marcum
1982	Seattle, WA	Portland, OR	Brad Telyea
1983	Missoula, MT	Vancouver, BC	Ken Konzak
1984	Coeur d' Alene, ID	Medford, OR	Don MacLaren
1985	Portland, OR	Seattle, WA	Rich Brooke
1986	Bend, OR	Boise, ID	Wally Baker
1987	Reno, NV	Vancouver, BC	Beth Carpenter
1988	Missoula, MT	Portland, OR	Wayne Jeffrey
1989	Ashland, OR	Concord, CA	Dale Mann
1990	Jackson, WY	Seattle, WA	Tommy Moore
1991	Anchorage, AK	Coeur d' Alene, ID	Gary Knowles
1992	Reno, NV	Portland, OR	Mike Howard
1993	Bend, OR	Boise, ID	Ken McDermott
1994	Concord, CA	Vancouver, BC	Don Wyckoff
1995	Anchorage, AK	Ashland, OR	Larry Campbell
1996	Spokane, WA	Salt Lake City, UT	Lisa Caughlin
1997	Missoula, MT	Las Vegas, NV	Robert Thompson
1998	Portland, OR	Sun Valley, ID	Terry Mc Adam
1999	Anchorage, AK	Cheyenne, WY	Arnold Melnikoff

Meet Arnie Melnikoff



Our first recycled president

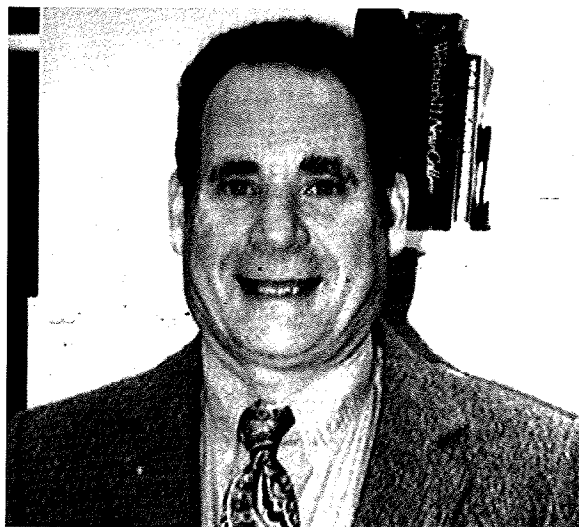
Arnold Melnikoff is a charter member of the NWAFS. He was president back in 1979 and has come full circle when he was elected as President at the Sun Valley meeting. Let's find out a little more about Arnie!

Origin/Roots: Was born a Chicago White Sox fan, ten minutes before his twin brother in 1944.

Family Statistics: He is married to Gloria (a teacher) and has one son Kirk @ 29; one step son Jim @ 32; and a 3.5 year old granddaughter Annika.

Employment History: First forensic scientist and manager hired at the inception of the Montana State Crime Lab in 1970 where he worked for 19 years. Signed on with the Washington State Patrol in Kelso Washington in 1989, then transferred to the WSP Spokane lab (1992) where he continues the struggle to this day.

Brush With Fame: The closest thing to fame Arnie has recognized is when he signed an autograph for an insistent fan at the Salt Lake City airport who thought he was Robin Williams. (NaNoo-NaNoo!)



Arnold "Arnie" Melnikoff

Outside Interests: Skiing, hiking and boating.

Favorite Fast Food: McDonalds—Filet-o-Fish (hold the tarter)

Belief in Bigfoot? Although Arnie gave a paper at a NWAFS meeting in Bend, Or. about Bigfoot (and possible Bigfoot hair comparisons); he does not personally believe in Bigfoot. Aliens, however, are another matter.

Current Employment Duties: Chemist including controlled substance and clandestine laboratory examination.

NWAFS Involvement: Arnie has been the program chair for 5 NWAFS conferences (4 in Missoula and 1 in Spokane) and co-chair for a Portland Or. meeting. He has presented numerous papers over the years and is current president and librarian.

Tonsils? Arnie's tonsils were removed when he was 2 1/2 years old. Its one of his earliest memories due primarily to the trauma associated with being shot repeatedly by another kid in a wheelchair who was armed with a rubber dart gun.