California Association of Criminalists

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OFFICE OF
RECORDING SECRETARY

NEWSLETTER April, 1973

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Plans are in the final stages for the forty-first Semi-annual Seminar of the California Association of Criminalists. The Spring Seminar will be held this year in San Diego at the Sheraton Inn-Airport, 1590 Harbor Drive, on May 17-19, under the joint auspices of the San Diego Police Department, San Diego Sheriff's Office, and the San Diego Coroner's Office. Inquiries about accommodations should be directed to Facility and Accommodation Coordinator Joseph Orantes.

Program Coordinator Richard Shaw promises a full and interesting technical program, with at least twenty-three technical papers scheduled for presentation. A highlight of the program is a panel discussion, scheduled for Thursday afternoon, in which a group of publicly employed and private consulting criminalists, prosecution and defense attorneys, and a member of the judiciary will discuss "The Role of the Criminalist in Our Contemporary System of Criminal Justice". The panel moderator will be Wayne Burgess, Chief Investigator for the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

The Business Meeting is slated to be held in two parts this year, with a preliminary session convening on Thursday afternoon and the meeting continued to Friday afternoon. Items of business to be considered at this Seminar will include the hearing of an Ethics Committee Report and the election of new officers to the Board of Directors. The Forensic Science Society has informed the Board that rising costs of publication of the Journal of the Forensic Science Society have forced an increase in the subscription rate. This increase will naturally affect the CAC dues and will be a subject for discussion at the Business Meeting.

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MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT AT THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING
FILL OUT YOUR PROXY TODAY
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

The Membership Secretary will be accepting applications for new members until three weeks before the Spring Seminar. Applications must be accompanied by fingerprint cards, photographs, and $20.00 fee in order to avoid delay. Contact Cecil Hider, 820 Francis Botello Road, Goleta 93017

VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE

The video tapes of the UC Extension program entitled "Modern Techniques for Characterizing Dried Bloodstains", presented by Bryan Culliford at the University of California Berkeley in 1972, are now available for use by CAC members. For further information, contact Gerald Mitosinka, Office of the Sheriff-Coroner, Contra Costa County Criminalistics Laboratory, PO Box 391, Martinez, California 94553.

NORTHERN SECTION MEETINGS

It has been brought to the attention of the Regional Director-North that some members of the Northern Section cannot attend Friday or Saturday night meetings because of religious beliefs. As a result, Mr. Mitosinka would like to schedule an occasional Northern Section meeting on a weekday evening and would appreciate hearing the views of the Northern Section members on this subject.

POSITION WANTED

Mr. Gary Backos, a graduate student enrolled in the masters program in forensic chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, will be graduating in April 1973 and is seeking employment in a law enforcement agency. The course of study at the University of Pittsburgh includes miscroscopy of trace evidence, drug chemistry and analysis, firearms examination, toolmark comparisons, fire and bomb analysis, and crime scene coverage. Contact: Gary Backos, 306 Atwood Street, Apt. 2, Pittsburgh, Pa 15213.

MEETINGS

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS — SPRING SEMINAR 1973

The Spring Seminar of this newly formed (October, 1972) professional organization of forensic scientists will be held in Missoula, Montana on April 12-14, 1973. CAC member Robert Sager, who is the first president of NAFS, invites all CAC members to consider membership in NAFS. Interested persons may contact NAFS Secretary-Treasurer John F. Anderson, Room 1120 Public Safety Building, Spokane, Washington 99201.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS — FALL SEMINAR 1973

The forty-second semi-annual seminar of the California Association of Criminalists will be held on October 18-20, 1973,at Stanford Research Institute, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, California. Accommodations will be at Rickey's Hyatt House.

NORTHERN SECTION MEETING

The next Northern Section meeting is scheduled for June 15 and will be hosted by Lowell Bradford of the Santa Clara County Criminalistics Laboratory. Tentatively, the program will consist of a tour through the new Santa Clara County Laboratory facilities.

NEW POSITION

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department expects to have an open position for Criminalist II sometime in June. Interested persons should contact Laboratory Director Duayne Dillon for further information.

LEGISLATION

The following quote is from an article entitled "California's Statewide Criminalistics Laboratory System Project" by George Puddy, the Assistant Director of the Division of Law Enforcement, California State Department of Justice (1).

> "As an alternative to the fee charge system, and with the support of the California Peace Officers' Association and the California Supervisors' Association, a second bill is being introduced in the 1973 Session that would assess an additional charge on fines and penalties levied against violators of those sections of the Vehicle Code which require laboratory services. The bill calls for an additional 10%, or $2 for each $20, of fines levied against persons convicted of felony and misdemeanor violations of driving under the influence of liquor, poisons, narcotics and non-narcotic drugs, and for reckless driving and hit-and-run violations. Monies collected from this source will be deposited in an assessment fund to reimburse the General Fund for expenses in the operation of the Statewide Criminalistics Laboratory System. The bill also includes provisions for reimbursing local laboratories which are performing services for their respective departments for actual expenses in conducting analyses in the same violations. If expenses for the operation of the total program exceed the amount of revenue collected, the State General Fund is expected to pay the difference. The Executive Branch of the State has expressed support of this legislation, and it is expected that the Legislature will do likewise."

In view of the obvious implications of this pending legislation as far as the funding of local law enforcement laboratories is concerned, copies of the legislation will be distributed to those laboratories as soon as they become available. Members who are interested in this matter and wish to exchange ideas on the subject should contact President Dillon.

(1) California Law Enforcement, 7 156 (April 1973)

TECHNICAL NOTES

LITERATURE

An excellent review article by G. Nahas, MD, on the pharmacology of marijuana appears in the United Nations Bulletin on Narcotics, Vol XXV, No 1, Jan-Mar 1973, page 9. The article gives a comprehensive overview and critique of some of the more widely quoted, and misquoted, recent experiments with marijuana and human subjects.

NEW AMYLASE DETECTION REAGENT

The Orange County Criminalistics Laboratory has found that a new reagent, called Amylochrome R, provides a very satisfactory alternative to the classical starch-iodine method for the detection of salivary amylase. The reagent is an insoluble starch bonded dye which becomes soluble and produces a color reaction upon hydrolysis of the starch by amylase. The test is easier to perform than the starch-iodine test, and, because the Amylochrome R test involves the production of color rather than inhibition of color, it is more sensitive than the starch-iodine procedure.

The reagent gives negative tests with blood, semen and vaginal swabs. As might be expected, anal swabs react with the reagent, but the enzyme activity is much weaker than that displayed by saliva (e.g. on a cigarette butt). The dye bond appears to be quite stable, for false positives were not produced even with incubation times of several days. Amylochrome R is produced by Roche Diagnostics, Nutley, New Jersey 07110.

James White, Orange County

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As our Association increases in size, it becomes more and more difficult to gather the majority of the membership needed for a quorum at the Business Meeting. If you will not be able to attend the Business Meeting at the Spring Seminar, PLEASE fill out the attached proxy form and give it to a member who will attend, along with your instructions as to how you want your vote cast.

PROXY

_____ shall be entitled to cast my proxy vote on
(Name-Member or Life Member only)

any and all matters of business at the Spring 1973 Seminar of the California Association of Criminalists.

_____ _____
DATE SIGNATURE - MEMBER or LIFE MEMBER ONLY

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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