

# The CACN News

*News of the California Association of Criminalists • First Quarter 1999*



# RON NICHOLS

## The President's Desk

Once again, I find myself having the distinct pleasure to write this quarter's address. By now I am certain that you are quite uncertain as to what to expect. "Is Ron going to philosophize or is Ron going to empty his spleen?" "Or, if he has nothing intelligent to say, will he at least be entertaining?!" Read on and see.

Knowing firsthand that a successful seminar is the result of teamwork, I wish to personally extend a warm thank you to the staff of the San Diego Police Dept. Crime Lab for a job that was well done. The location, the accommodations, the amenities, the program, the food and the hospitality were all fantastic. The seminar program received high marks with workshops and presentations that were informative and applicable. We were even treated with a National League Championship celebration on the streets of the Gaslight District. Now that's planning!

We were honored by the presence of Isobel Forbes from the UK as the 1997 Joint Presidents Award recipient. For those of you who were not able to meet her, she is quite a young lady, energetic and excited. In fact, she was heading to a desert expedition in Africa upon the conclusion of the meeting. We were also excited to see both new and returning faces to the CAC membership. Carolyn did a wonderful job of coordinating the New Member's Reception. Of course, seeing all those new faces only reminded me of how old I am getting.

For those of you who attended the business meeting I wish to thank you for your presence in spite of a very tempting distraction, beautiful San Diego weather. Personally, I felt I could have managed the meeting a bit better in that not all who had concerns may have had adequate time to address them. In addition, I may not have properly understood all the points individuals were attempting to communicate and as a result may have given them less time than they should have had. Rest assured that the concerns raised at the meeting have been appropriately directed and are being worked upon. A one-year term is certainly a mixed blessing because just as I will have gotten used to this job, it will be over.

Which leads me to the conclusion that the president cannot be the driving force of this organization. That driving force is the membership. I am thrilled to be serving with well qualified and dedicated board members. Their dedication to this organization and their willingness to support programs that will enhance the membership is beyond comparison. The committee chairs rapidly take board and membership concerns, responding professionally and rapidly with little direction necessary from the board. Last, but certainly not least, the membership is supportive of programs designed to enhance the profession and the work product provided to the clients.

I was privileged to be a guest at the recent CACLD meeting held in Oakland in the first part of November. I had an opportunity to discuss the concept of leadership and to float the idea of developing a mentoring program. I was encouraged by the positive response to my presentation, especially with regards to the mentoring program. I felt that before the CAC could adopt and maintain such a program, it would have to be embraced by the directors and supervisors of the laboratories throughout this state. Without their support and their covering, such a program was doomed to failure. I am pleased that at the business meeting they held after the presentation they are endorsing, in concept, the idea of a mentoring program with the details to be worked out together. The first major hurdle has been cleared but some significant others remain.



The very rough plan is to have this program channeled through the regional directors to the study group chairs within each region. Each study group will then be responsible for maintaining the mentoring program within their specialty. Once established, long distance mentoring programs will be explored for out-of-state members. As I indicated, this is a very rough plan. But the first hurdle has been cleared. Your laboratory directors and supervisors have stepped up to the plate and said they will support and cover such a program.

Now it's your turn. This association has nearly 500 members. Some of them, being laboratory directors and supervisors have already pledged their support. Now, the ball is in your court. Mind you, I am not passing the buck around, just being realistic. If the support of CACLD was not secured the program was doomed to failure. Without a significant number of the CAC membership embracing it this program simply cannot succeed.

So here's my pledge to you, the membership. So you can be assured that this program will not fade off into the sunset when my term expires, I will personally lead in the development and implementation of this program through May, 2003 provided I remain in this field. That is a period of almost five years. But, there is a catch. As I said, this program will not get off the ground nor can it be sustained without your involvement. I am asking for a total of at least 50 positive responses to this idea from the membership before I will make my own personal commitment and commit this board and study group chairs to this task. This needs to include at least 25 from the north and 25 from the south. I want to hear from people who wish to be mentored and those who would be willing to serve as mentors in concept with the details to be worked out. I am not asking for a five-year commitment, just a show of support and interest.

I fully believe that a well-tuned and operative mentoring program will be the key to keeping the spirit of criminalistics alive and flourishing. I fully believe that if we are to make headway as professionals this is the surest way to pull it off. I believe as I said in my article in the July, 1998 issue of the CACNews that if integrity is the key to leadership then mentoring is the key to multiplying that leadership into the future generations.

I look forward to hearing from you. There are several ways in which you can respond and show your support. The first and easiest is by e-mail. My address is [rnichols@ecis.com](mailto:rnichols@ecis.com). The second of course is by phone at 510-238-3386. The third is by mail at the Oakland Police Department address found in this issue. I considered giving you a fourth, Hiram's home phone and cell phone but thought that would be pushing the issue too far!

I am excited about the prospects of this program and the impact it will have on criminalistics in California as well as abroad. Once again, as has so often occurred, the CAC will make a mark, a significant mark in the field of criminalistics. Through this program, we will have the unique opportunity to make far more impact than any casework or research would have allowed. We will have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of another individual. It may sound utopian and sugar-coated but that is THE goal for which we should be striving.

Now, for those that were expecting and hoping for an emptying of my spleen, maybe next issue! But until then, have a safe and happy three months. All my best to you and your families.

Ron



# First Quarter 1999

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## The CACNews

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*On the cover: Participants in the Bloodstain Pattern workshop at the San Diego seminar. (More pictures inside.)*

## SOUTHERN REPORT

Our Friends at the Orange County Sheriff and Huntington Beach labs will co-host the next dinner meeting on Jan 13, 1999? **Penny Laferty** of Orange Co. and **Sly Arsovsky** of Huntington Beach are the meeting coordinators. A Boeing Corp. specialist whose expertise is bombproofing airplanes will be the featured speaker. His tale promises to be an interesting one that will include a video presentation of test explosions conducted on real airplanes. The Huntington Beach Library is the scheduled meeting site. All study groups are scheduled to meet. Look for more details in the flyer that will be coming to your laboratory soon.

Three excellent dinner meetings have been held so far this year: In March Professor **Tony Longhetti** and his staff at Cal State LA hosted a meeting on campus. Professor Kathy Roberts of the CSULA Criminal Justice Program gave a presentation entitled, "A Review of Mitochondrial DNA." In June, **Margaret Schaeffer** and colleagues at the Ventura Sheriff's lab hosted a meeting at Ventura Community College. **Ed Jones** of the Ventura lab gave a presentation entitled "Intriguing Stories of Forensic Science" that covered the physical evidence from several famous crimes including the assassination of JFK, the Sam Sheppard case, and the Lindbergh baby murder. In September, the Los Angeles Sheriff's lab hosted a meeting that featured a vividly gruesome crime scene presentation by **Elizabeth Devine** and **Beverly Kerr** entitled "Universal Citywalk Mother's Day Murders."

The outstanding effort of those involved in putting on these quarterly meetings is greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone.

—Joe Hourigan

## Meeting of the Southern California Arson Study Group

Held on Sept. 16, 1998 at the Los Angeles Police Dept Crime Laboratory.

The meeting was hosted by **Collin Yamauchi** and **Edgardo Eugenio** of LAPD and sixteen people made the meeting.

**Celia Lukomski**, San Diego Sheriff Dept., distributed the second set of round-robin fire debris samples. There are four samples, a neat liquid, a carbon strip, a soil sample, and a soil control.

Celia worked very hard to provide us with these samples and everyone should attempt to return their results to Celia by November 2nd, as stated in the instructions. Certificates of participation and successful completion will be available upon request.

San Diego Sheriff's personnel has provided the last two round-robin fire debris sets and is soliciting another lab to provide the next one, sometime next year. They are very willing to assist the next lab, should that become necessary. It is important that another lab step up and help out. The SDSO lab personnel cannot participate in these tests fully, as they are the generator of the tests. So, please consider helping out next year.

I proposed a group research project involving the analysis of chemical and foam fire suppressing agents. Many fire agencies have been using these agents in their suppression efforts. They are typically added to their tanks and applied to the fire during suppression. To date, I am unaware of anyone examining these suppressing agents for their potential contribution to the analysis for ignitable liquids in fire debris or runoff. The number of these types of chemicals/foam is quite extensive. I have asked each of the attendees to ask their respective fire agencies, which, if any of these additives are being used. By the December meeting I would like to have a reasonable list of the additives. Somehow, I'd like to break up the work by having each laboratory, interested in participating, examine some of the list. Neat sample as well as evaporated samples should be looked at. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but are interested in participating, please ask your fire agencies for the names of any additives they may use. The details of how to conduct the analysis so that the data is comparable is being worked out.

**Wayne Moorehead** and I have discussed having a training day in microscopic analysis techniques sometime in the beginning of 1999. The training would be held at the Orange County lab and attendees would need to bring their own polarizing light microscope. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Wayne or me.

The next arson study group meeting is tentatively set for the first week of December. NCIS-RFL will be hosting this one and we are going to try an off site

meeting. The Firehouse Museum has a meeting/banquet facility as well as antique fire equipment. We would have a catered lunch and conduct our meeting at this facility. However, a fee of about \$15.00 per person should be anticipated.

The next month seems to be busting out all over with fire related seminars and courses. I hope everyone gets the opportunity to attend some of these.

—Dawn Sorenson

Jobs  
seen on the  
//WWWEB

## Toxicologist Position Opening

General Duties: Performs routine and complex forensic toxicological examinations of biological fluids, licit and illicit drugs using chemical, physical and instrumental methods of analysis; performs chemical analyses for the quantitation of alcohol; testifies in court as needed; assists in the training and supervision of subordinate personnel.

Minimum requirements: A relevant BS which must have included 20 credit hours of chemistry and two years of experience, preferably in forensic toxicology, in a toxicology laboratory. A relevant MS may be subst. for one year of exp.

1999 Salary range: \$42,785 - \$56,810

Contact: Thomas J. McGimpsey  
Westchester County Dept. of Laboratories  
& Research 2 Dana Road Valhalla, NY  
10595 (914) 524-5555

State Medical Examiner  
Open Until Filled

The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences is seeking qualified applicants for the position of State Medical Examiner at the Mobile Regional Laboratory in Mobile, Alabama.

Qualifications include education, training, and/or expertise to conduct highly complex professional work in the field of Forensic Pathology. Applicants must be Board eligible or Board Qualified in Forensic Pathology, and require registration with the State Medical Lic. Comm. Salary: \$98,082 - \$149,526.

The Alabama Dept of Forensic Sciences offers generous benefits and retirement plan. For additional information, please contact: Leroy Riddick, MD, State

# Jobs • Meetings • Courses

Medical Examiner, P. O. Box 7925, Mobile, AL 36607-7925, Phone: (334)471-7026, Fax: (334)470-5816. J. C. Upshaw Downs, MD, Department Director & State Medical Examiner, P. O. Box 3510, Auburn, AL 36831-3510, Phone: (334)887-7001, Fax: (334)887-7531.

## DNA criminalist

San Diego Police Department is recruiting a DNA criminalist (\$4663 to \$5635 monthly). Education: Bachelor's degree in criminalistics, forensic science, a physical science, or a biological science which must include successful completion of graduate or undergraduate courses in biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology as well as coursework and/or training in statistics or population biology. Experience: Two years of full time professional criminalistics experience performing DNA analysis. Experience may consist of forensic DNA analysis, DNA test result interpretation, report writing, testimony in court, and DNA test validation. An MS in criminalistics or forensic science may be substituted for one year of the required experience. For more information contact Dr. Patrick O'Donnell at 619/531-2658.

## DNA Criminalist Assistant DNA Criminalist

The San Diego Police Department is accepting applications for DNA Criminalist and Assistant DNA Criminalist. We are especially interested in candidates with two years of forensic DNA analysis experience. Although not required an advanced degree in science, computer experience related to CODIS, experience with traditional forensic PCR analysis or experience performing STR analysis is highly desirable. For an application please contact the City of San Diego's Personnel Office at (619) 236-6467 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays. For specific questions concerning the position contact Patrick O'Donnell, DNA Lab Supervisor at (619) 531-2658.

## Criminalist I in DNA/Serology

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Div. is currently accepting applications for the position of Criminalist I in DNA/Serology (Position # 136497).

General: With limited supervision, conducts physical, microscopic, immunological, and biochemical analyses on evidence submitted to SLED and provides written reports based on the analyst's interpretation of results of this analysis; provides expert testimony in federal, state, and local courts; processes crime scenes; provides training to appropriate groups or individuals.

Minimum Training and Experience: A BS or equiv. in a biological, chemical, or forensic science and received credit in genetics, biochemistry, and molecular biology or other subjects that provide a basic understanding of the foundation of Forensic Serology/DNA analysis. Preferred: Experience in Forensic DNA testing to include PCR-STR analysis. Salary: 24,618-45,545 (Band 5). Deadline for State Application: Nov. 23, 1998. All inquiries should be directed to Lt. Ira Jeffcoat at 803-896-7383.

## Trace Evidence Supervisor Forensic Toxicologist

The Virginia Division of Forensic Science, Fairfax lab, has two openings: Forensic Toxicologist (salary \$46,429-\$72,486), closes Dec. 31, and Trace Evidence Supervisor (salary \$48,544-\$75,788), closes Jan. 29. See our web page for complete text of postings and application information. —Virginia Division of Forensic Science Northern Laboratory 9797 Braddock Road #200 Fairfax, VA 22032 Telephone: 703-764-4600 Fax: 703-764-4633 <http://www.dcjs.state.va.us/forensic/>

*Internet listings are not verified by the CACNews.*

## Firearms Tool Mark Examiner/ DRUGFIRE

Tulsa Police Dept. Forensic Lab. is seeking a person with these qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, biology, criminalistics or forensic science with two (2) years of appropriate experience in a forensic lab. Certification is desirable. Experience with DRUGFIRE is highly desirable.

Responsible for the DRUGFIRE system under the direction of the criminalist; inputs data maintains DRUGFIRE; performs microscopic examination of

projectiles, cartridge cases, shotshell cases; performs weapons functioning tests; uses and maintains microscopes, micrometer and balance. Interprets lab analyses and results; prepares written reports and testifies as an expert witness. Maintains lab equipment and supplies. Provides recommendations and advises on budget matters. Manages caseload to meet deadlines and maintains no more than a reasonable backlog. Attends workshops and seminars as required.

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled. Salary \$ 29,736 - 44,604.

Contact: Dennis Jones, Personnel Analyst, 918-596-7436 or Carla Noziglia, Lab Director, Tulsa Police Dept. 918-596-9128. Or email: [cnozilia@ci.tulsa.ok.us](mailto:cnozilia@ci.tulsa.ok.us)

## Criminalist

Tulsa Police Dept. Forensic Lab is seeking a person with these qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BS in chemistry, biology or forensic science with two years of appropriate exp. in a forensic lab. Certification is desirable but not req.

Responsibilities: Obtain, examine, identify, compare and evaluate evidence which may include, but not limited to, blood and urine. Use gas chromatography, mass spectroscopy, ultraviolet and infrared spectrophotometry, drug screening equipment, polarized and light microscopy. Interpret lab analyses and results; prepare written reports and testify as an expert witness. Maintain lab equipment and supplies. Provide recommendations and advises on budget matters. Manage caseload to meet deadlines and maintain no more than a reasonable backlog. Attend workshops and seminars as required.

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled. Annual Salary Range: \$ 37,014-\$ 55,521. Contact: Dennis Jones, Personnel Analyst, 918-596-7436 or Carla Noziglia, Lab Director, Tulsa Police Dept. 918-596-9128. Or email: [cnozilia@ci.tulsa.ok.us](mailto:cnozilia@ci.tulsa.ok.us)

## Forensic Scientist Supervisor QC/QA

\$52,784 - \$74,057

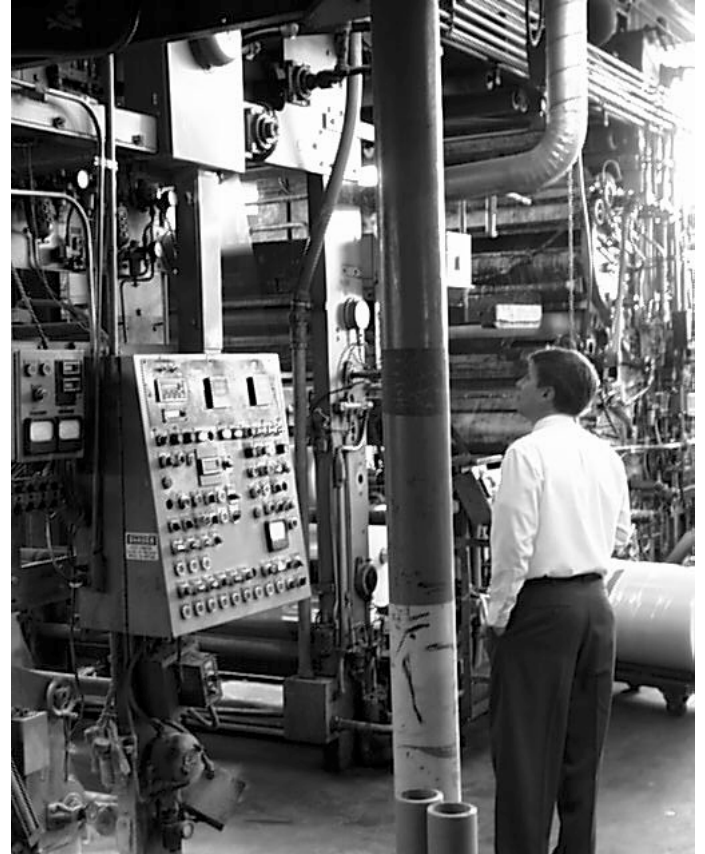
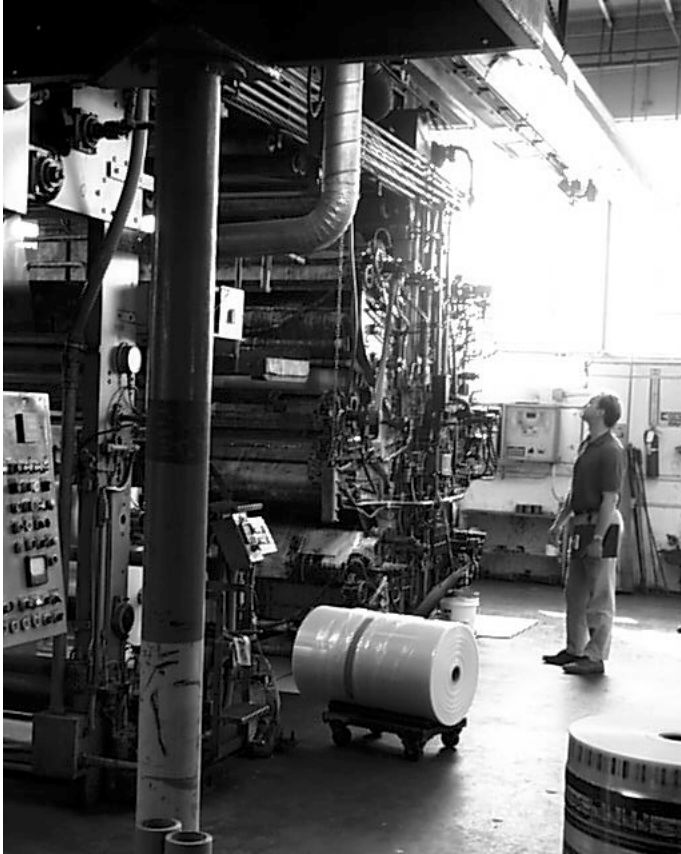
Ventura County Sheriff, California

**Duties:** Under the general direction

*Please turn to page 20*

*In the field:*

# Trace study group “bags” a tour



THE BEST PART OF STUDY GROUP meetings may be the opportunity to tour the manufacturers of items that wind up in our casework. The southern section CAC trace study group recently toured the Friedman Plastic Bag factory in downtown Los Angeles. Here they got to see first-hand how raw plastic pellets are melted, blown and formed into the wide variety of plastic bags seen in a typical grocery store. Of particular interest to the group were the numerous points along the manufacturing path that cut, pressed, melted, punched and printed toolmarks into the plastic.







*Dawn Sorenson and Wayne Moorehead are up to their necks in "round-robin" fire debris proficiency standards.*



*Celia Lukomski and Jim Bailey prepare for the study group meeting.*

# INSIDER

## Retirements

*Jim Miller* - After 28 years of service for San Diego PD. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department: *Dwayne Beckner*, *Larry Podoksik*, San Bernardino Sheriff's Captain *David Bellomy*.

## Resignations

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department: *Linda McGarvey* to Washington State, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner's *Eric Thornton* to LAPD, *Mejul Anjeria* to San Bernardino, *Frank Yancy* to private industry, San Bernardino Sheriff's *Patricia Lough* to San Diego PD, *Gina Williams* to DOJ Riverside.

## New Hires

San Diego Police Department: *Mike Grubb*, Lab Director, coming from Washington State Patrol; *Sean Soriano* - Laboratory Technician. Long Beach PD: *James Pierce* - Document Examiner; Ventura County: *Julie Leon*, *Cynthia Rixman*, *John Ingersoll*.

Los Angeles Police Dept: *Kristina Takeshita*, *Eric Thornton*, *Carl Mathies*. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department: *Flynn Lamas*, *Tammy Klein*, *Steven Phillips*, *James Carrol*, *Renee Aubry*, *Narco Iezza*, *Sean Yoshii*, *Bill Haynes*. San Bernardino Sheriff: *Elena Morris*, *Susan Anderson*, *Stephanie Burton*, *Mejul Anjeria*.

## Promotions

Ventura County: *Michael Parigian*-Supervising Criminalist, *Dea Boehme*-Senior Criminalist, *Denise Lyons*-Senior Criminalist. Los Angeles Sheriff's Department: *Richard Catalani*-Supervising Criminalist, *Heidi Roberts*-Supervising Criminalist, *Annette Asamoto*-Senior Criminalist, *Erin Trujillo*-Assistant Laboratory Director. San Bernardino Sheriff: *Blaine Keen* to Criminalist II, *Christian Schneider* to Criminalist I.

# RAYMOND DAVIS

## Sweet Sorrow

*If I am for you, who will be for me. And if I am for me, who am I?*  
—Chaucer

Within the span of 4 weeks, three well known and highly respected criminalists retired from government service. Steve Ojena, Contra Costa County Crime Lab, W. Jerry Chisum and John D. DeHaan both from the DOJ California Criminalistics Institute. I was fortunate to attend all three retirement parties. Steve's and John's were luncheons and Jerry's was a well attended dinner party. You're probably thinking that I must have a lot of free time on my hands. That's certainly true and it's also true that I wanted to pay my respects to them by attending their retirement party. Also, as your editor, I thought it was important to honor them by featuring their retirements in this issue. I hope you'll enjoy these pieces. Collectively they have over 95 years of experience. Jerry, of course had the lion share of that with almost 40 years of service.

\* \* \*

I have worked with both John and Jerry however I never had the opportunity to work with Steve. His retirement luncheon was well attended with over 70 people honoring him from around the Bay Area. As is usual at retirement parties, they showed pictures of a young Steve Ojena along with his colleagues from the lab. One thing stood out in stark contrast in these old photographs: Dark hair. There's a lot of us now who have the same hair color, gray! Nice words and high praise were bestowed upon Steve and the best comments I thought were made by Steve's wife, Jaylene. She thanked everyone who had worked with her husband. She said that Steve really loved going to work and that he never complained to her about the long hours or being on call or even about the terrible things he encountered in his job. I really liked



These  
contributions  
have not gone  
unnoticed nor  
unappreciated  
by your  
colleagues.

the part about not complaining. Most of my contact with Steve has been through study group meetings or seminars and through his business, Kinderprint. Just to let you know the type of man Steve is, he sent me a thank you card for attending his retirement party. He said that it meant a lot to him that I came. I also know that he sent everyone else a card as well. Nice touch Steve, I appreciated that. My best wishes for taking life just a *little* easier.

\* \* \*

Jerry had a fine retirement party. It was not only great to see so many people there but to actually know so many people by name and reputation. There were over 134 people from around the State to pay their respects and we did our best to pay our respects. Jerry was the recipient of many honors and awards, all well deserved. One of those honors was Life Membership in the CAC. This honor has been bestowed upon only a few members. I first met Jerry in 1972 when I attended a CAC seminar in Palo Alto, CA. I believe that he was working at SRI (Palo Alto). At that time, he already had a 12 years of experience while I was just beginning my career. Although I never worked directly with Jerry I had attended his first Crime Scene course he put on in 1977. It was a lot of work and it was a lot of fun. I liked his style in that regard. That one could ac-

tually enjoy doing hard work and have fun at the same time. A kind of relaxed attention. The one thing that has always impressed me about Jerry is his willingness to help anyone with a problem. This man truly likes helping people. I have appreciated Jerry's contributions particularly to the CACNews as well as his contributions to the CAC through his leadership as well



as his technical presentations. There's an old saying that goes: Those who can, do and those who can't, teach. Well, there's a better saying that fits Jerry: Those who can, do and those who can do **more**, teach. Jerry, I'm going to miss seeing you at CCI. Good luck and I hope you will take life **a lot** easier.

\* \* \*

I saved my friend John for last. He had his retirement luncheon in Sacramento which was well attended. Many fine things were said about John and again all of it well deserved. I first met John in 1974 when I transferred from the Santa Rosa DOJ lab to the Sacramento DOJ lab. I know John won't mind me saying this but in those days he looked like a sophomore in high school. John was blessed or as he says, cursed with a youthful countenance. I didn't know what to think about this young punk. Rosy cheeks and a wild mop of unruly hair. He looked so young. However, within a few months I began to realize that I was working with someone devoted to his profession and career. John is not only one of the brightest people I've ever met but also one of the most generous. He's generous with his time, his energy, his personal resources and his compliments. Working with John was a big boost for my career. He got me excited about doing arson work and trace analysis which resulted in publishing and presenting a few articles both in *JFSS* and in *TIE-LINE* a DOJ publication. John also has a great sense of humor matched only by the impeccable timing of his humor. He has the ability to lighten things up when the stress meter reaches nuclear melt down. He has an uncanny perception of the world around him which gave me an appreciation for the fine mind he possesses. It has always been great working with John whether it was on the bench, on an experiment or research project, on an arson workshop or painting his garage which houses his automobile collection. I was always the beneficiary of John's largess. To give you an example of John's generosity, I'd like to tell you about my trip to Australia. In the fall of 1990, there was an IAAI Arson Conference being held in Sydney and a week later the IAFS meeting being held in Adelaide. John was attending both along with a mutual friend and colleague, Monty McGill. John told me that I could stay in his room in Sydney thereby saving some money. Prior to the conference, an abandoned house and vehicle were set afire for the benefit of the seminar participants. Even though I wasn't on the program, John shared the spot light and made me part of the team. The most memorable part of this conference was all the Aussies and Kiwis coming up to me to hear my accent! What accent? We all had a great time down under. Then it was off to Adelaide. John told me that I could stay with him and Monty at their hotel there by arranging to have an additional bed put in the room. Another great deal for me. Our week in Adelaide was fantastic. I attended a 2 day GSR workshop while John and Monty put on their Arson workshop. The conference itself was well attended however I was frustrated by the number of speakers who failed to show up and present their pa-

pers. Thanks John for all you've done for me. I have been the beneficiary of your generosity. I wish you well in your new career. Just remember to get the money up front and then do the work. If you think I'm being too mercenary with this advice, just ask our colleagues in the private sector. As Brian Wraxall told me once, "Happiness is a positive cash flow".

Thanks Steve, John and Jerry for your many unselfish contributions to the profession. Your work has had such an impact on the careers of others in our profession. These contributions have not gone unnoticed nor unappreciated by your colleagues. You can look back on your careers with a great deal of personal satisfaction. Enjoy this time you have now!



*We love hearing from you!*

The deadlines for submitting an item to the CACNews are March 1, June 1, Sept 1 and Dec. 1.

### Award Appreciated

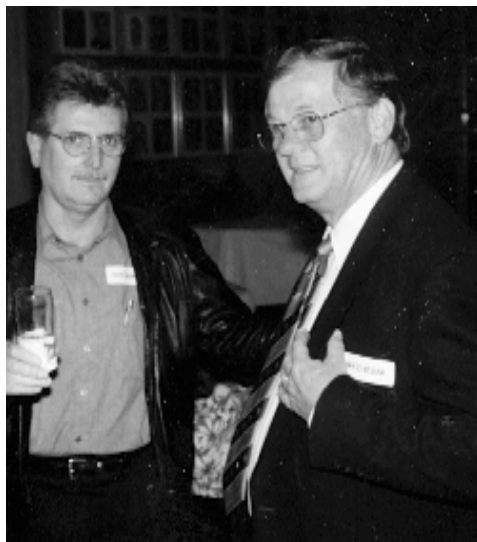
I just received a letter from Shanin Sullivan, Awards Committee, informing me that I received the 'Most Outstanding Presentation' award. I was both surprised, a bit overwhelmed and very touched. Al [Biasotti] was a very special person and friend. His contributions to the firearm and toolmark specialty of criminalistics were immense. I was blessed to have known him and have him as a guest at my home before he passed away. I still miss him very much. He constantly chided me to channel my enthusiasm for shooting off guns and shooting things into the more important and serious matters of striae comparisons and developing a better scientific basis for the comparison and identification of striated toolmarks. I never did. I was simply having too much fun with the simpler things.

I thought that the San Diego meeting was the best CAC Seminar I've ever attended. There were so many excellent papers. I'm not sure how I came to be chosen but I fear that the Awards Committee may have mistaken my enthusiasm and constant involvement in the forensic aspects of firearms and ammunition for some form of scholarly endeavor. However, I am certainly not about to turn this very special award down—particularly one that has Al's name attached to it.

I'm not sure yet whether I'll be able to make the spring meeting but I would like to suggest that the \$200 either be retained by the Committee or transferred to something like the scholarship fund. (I would just spend it on more ammunition or a new gun.)

—Luke Haag

# 134 say 'farewell' to Jerry Chisum

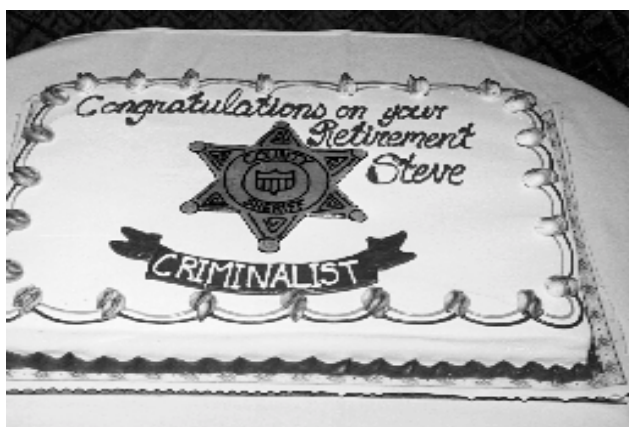


# Steve Ojena Retires After Twenty-five Years

On October 19, seventy forensic colleagues, friends and family attended a luncheon to wish Steve Ojena best wishes in his retirement. Steve retired from the Contra Costa County Criminalistics Laboratory after 25 years as a Criminalist. Prior to joining the Contra Costa Co. Lab., Steve spent a year as a Senior Chemist with the New Jersey State Police Crime Laboratory. Steve is probably best known for his interest in improving the evidence collection abilities of law enforcement agencies and forensic laboratories through the introduction of tools such as the Electrostatic Dust Print Lifter, Microsil, and Handprint lifter material to the US forensic community.

The luncheon guests were entertained with a collage of old photographs of Steve and his forensic colleagues in their "younger years." Steve received nice gifts from those in attendance and a Senate Resolution from Sen. Richard Rainey acknowledging Steve's contributions to forensic science. Although they were unable to attend, Peter De Forest and Henry Lee sent Steve their congratulations and memories of Steve's "career" as a forensic science student (De Forest) and forensic science teaching assistant (Lee).

Steve plans to travel with his wife, Jaylene, but he will remain in contact with many of us through his company, Kinderprint, which he founded in 1978 and continues to manage.





# JOHN **SIMMS**

---

## Quality Assured

### ASCLD/LAB: The Board, The Inspection, and How It All Works

This column usually addresses a QA issue which is then sent to a survey group for input. This time, I present a picture of ASCLD/LAB and the governing board, and how the coordination of inspections and decision making is done behind the scenes.

#### BACKGROUND

Accreditation standards are not new. They have been around for at least twenty years and of course have gone through periodic refinement. ASCLD itself first looked at the accreditation process, but a group soon formed itself into a subgroup called ASCLD/LAB which was formed in the late 70's.

#### MEET THE BOARD

**CHAIR:** *William Smith*, Lab Director, at California Department of Justice, was newly elected as chair in September 1998. Bill has been a Lab Director since 1972. He was a generalist who interned under Dr. Kirk and got his start at the army lab at Fort Gordon. Bill was at Santa Clara before settling in at DOJ.

**TREASURER:** *Larry Lorschach* is a Lab Director at Illinois State Police. He tracks application and reapplication fees, expenses, invoices, etc. Larry's background is firearms and toolmarks.

**PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE:** *Tony Longhetti's* position on the board is to have the public represented by someone not associated with a public agency, although Tony has many years of experience in public labs. He currently heads the Cal State Graduate Program. He conducts the three-day inspector training for ASCLD/Lab.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPRESENTATIVE:** *Ken Melson* is a U.S. Attorney out of Virginia and has been a prosecutor since 1974. He was a state prosecutor for ten years and has been a federal prosecutor since 1984. He teaches in many different programs and is an AAFS fellow in the jurisprudence area.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** *Ralph "Bud" Keaton* is the only full time paid member of ASCLD/LAB. He is a retired Lab Di-



ASCLD/LAB has just now begun a process of **strategic rebuilding** and is entertaining a number of ideas on how to restructure the inspection process for better efficiency

rector from the North Carolina System. Bud was on the original committee for lab accreditation standards in the 70's. His emphasis in his career was drug and trace evidence analysis. Bud helps coordinate the inspector training, will assist in forming the teams prior to inspection, and handles most of the administrative paperwork from the inspections.

*George Taft* has been in Forensic Science for forty years in Texas and Alaska where he serves as a Lab Director. He calls himself a generalist with an emphasis in drug analysis. This is George's first year on the board.

*Bennie Del Rey*, also newly elected to the board in September 1998, is a Lab Director for Santa Clara County. He has been in the field for twenty-three years and is in his tenth year as a Lab Director. He has a generalist background with an emphasis in conventional Serology.

*Steven Sigel* is also a new board member. He is a director of one of the Virginia's 4-lab system. Steven has been in the field for forty years now and has a background in Drug analysis.

Other members who could not be reached in time for this article: Robert Conley, Lab Division Commander from the Indiana State Police, Ann Talbot, Crime Lab Manager from the Albuquerque Police Department, and Jamie St. Clair Ex-Officio (ASCLD President), Lab Director from the Columbus Police Crime Laboratory.

#### INSPECTIONS: BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER BEFORE: FORMING A TEAM

ASCLD/LAB receives an application for accreditation. It is processed and handled initially by the executive secretary, Bud Keaton assigns a coordinator to the package and this may be any one of the board members.

That *coordinator* reviews the application to make sure it is complete. The coordinator will then decide how many people may be needed for the inspection and how long it may take. A *team captain* is chosen from the list of qualified inspectors (who have been through the training). Some factors in choosing a team captain include background, training, and whether or not their own position might have conflicts of interest with the lab being inspected.

After consulting with the team captain about how big the team needs to be based on the size and services of the lab, the executive secretary compiles a list of trained inspectors for a team. The team captain calls the personnel on the list and sets up the actual team, depending on background and availability of each person on the list. All members are from accredited laboratories.

The team captain works with the Lab Director and team members to set up times and logistics of the inspection.

## DURING THE INSPECTION

As the inspection occurs, the board member assigned to be the coordinator is available during the week to address any questions that may come up from the team doing the inspection. The way issues are usually addressed is to either consider the issue in historical context of previous board rulings, or to operate by the golden rule: *when in doubt, give the lab a no and let the board take up at discussion of the team's report*. The executive secretary is also available as a resource.

## THE REPORT AND YES'S AND NO'S

At the end of the inspection, a summary report/discussion is held with the lab management. The reasons for giving no's are reviewed. The team emphasizes that final decisions are made at the Board level.

At the next ASCLD/LAB board meeting, the coordinator presents the team's report and findings to the board members. The team captain and typically the lab director are available either in person or usually by telephone, to help address questions during the review process.

At this time, the board will either agree to the no's or change them to a yes if they so feel depending on the information available. In some rare instances, they have changed a yes to a no.

The board will either award or defer accreditation. If the Lab agrees with

the no's, the lab will begin a process of remediation to be completed within a specified period of time. Usually the lab has up to one year. The fixes have to be in place and running for 90 days before the re-inspection team comes back to the lab.

If the lab does not agree, the lab can make an appeal to the board.

*How are decisions made? They are made by simple majority although most of the board members indicate that almost all decisions are unanimous.*

## ASCLD/LAB AND THE FUTURE

The ASCLD/LAB board is the first to acknowledge that there are consistency problems in the inspection process. In fact, at the last meeting in Memphis in September of 1998, ASCLD/LAB explained that the growth of the inspection process due to the number of labs applying for accreditation and re-accreditation,

has strained the current format.

ASCLD/LAB has just now begun a process of **strategic rebuilding** and is entertaining a number of ideas on how to restructure the inspection process for better efficiency and effectiveness (i.e., consistency).

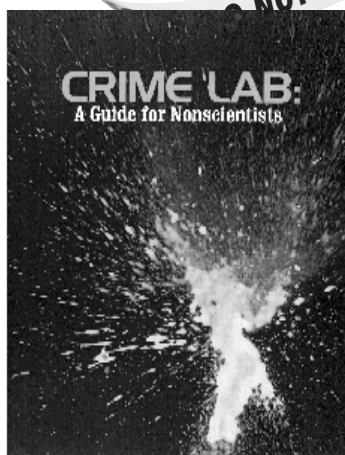
My special thanks goes to Ralph "Bud" Keaton for his help in obtaining documentation, to the ASCLD/LAB board members who were very helpful and open in their discussion of their role and of the inspection process, and finally to Bill Smith as served as editorial consultant.

*John*

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# A Winning Seminar



**AUTHOR! AUTHOR!** WAS THE THEME at the fall 98 meeting of the CAC, hosted by the San Diego Police Department's crime laboratory. Dr. Walter C. McCrone (*above*) personalized his recently published, "Judgement Day for the Turin Shroud." Workshops in bloodstain pattern interpretation (*right*), tire impressions, DNA and vacuum metal deposition began the event which was followed by several well-attended technical sessions. Adding a festive atmosphere was the winning of the National League pennant by the local San Diego Padres—How did you manage to schedule that one, San Diego lab?









Bart Epstein (*left*) held a bloodstain pattern workshop complete with hands-on exercises. Students measured spatter patterns and predicted the area of origin using simple tools. New members (*facing, upper left*) were welcomed to the CAC. Mystery writer Steve Martini (*facing, center*) was in attendance no doubt gathering useful plot ideas. A presentation by Robert B. Kennedy, RCMP (*facing, lower left*) offered a primer on forensic barefoot morphology.

# SAN DIEGO 1998





# Q & A:

## "Fire Foams:" Boon or Bane to the Fire Debris Analyst?

A topic of interest raised by Dawn Sorenson at the recent Arson study group meeting got us thinking. Just what are the implications of analyzing fire debris samples that have been contaminated with the popular fire foam formulations now being employed by fire departments?

Fire departments have been using foams on flammable/combustible liquid fires for decades. Rather than reproduce a primer on foam technology here, we'll refer the reader to a couple of excellent web sites:

<http://www.ansul.com/foamfaq.htm>  
<http://www.nationalfoam.com/foam.html>

One thing that none of the companies mentions is what influence, if any, would the foam have on the traditional analytical techniques used by a fire debris analyst?

We set out to get a preliminary feel for these compounds by acquiring a few samples and running them on a GC/MS. Two sample runs are reproduced here. Our local fire department supplied us with samples of CHEMGUARD (AR 3%-6% AFFF) and FIRE-TROL (Firefoam 103, a Chemonics product).

The concentrations expected to be encountered in fire debris are rather low. One website for fire suppressing foams publishes this recipe:

**"For example, to make 1,000 gallons of pre-mixed foam solution, a 1,000 gallon tank would require:  
 10 gallons of 1% concentrate."**

The Chemguard's physical appearance is that of a gelatinous, viscous liquid with a slippery feel and a fruity odor. It turns to a foam simply by rubbing it in one's hand. The gel would not support combustion until it evaporated down to a flaky residue. The Firetrol presented as a pungent liquid with the consistency of motor oil. The odor was somewhat like a cross between citrus and paint thinner. When evaporated, this substance did not form a dry flaky residue, but looked like thin vaseline. Firetrol also did not support combustion when applied to a wood stick.

Neither liquid appeared to change physical properties when boiled in a test tube, other than to produce a large amount of foam.

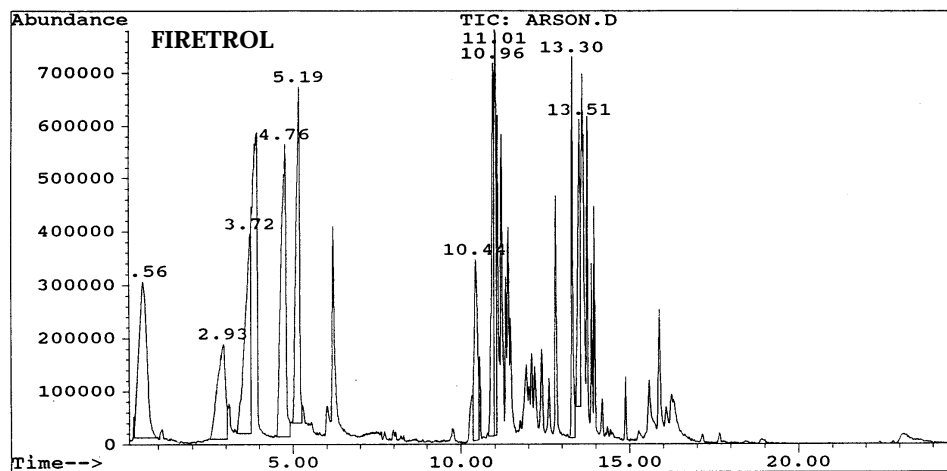
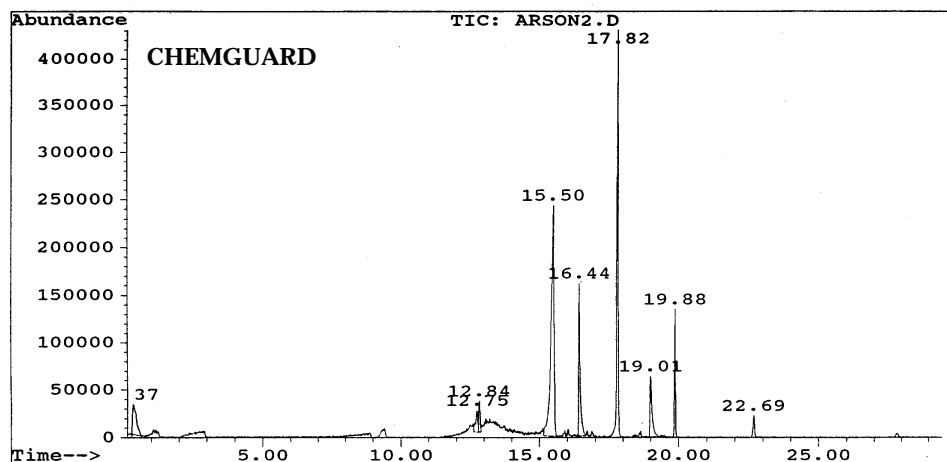
The MSDS (materials Safety data sheets) for the two

chemical compounds reveal significant differences. The Chemguard MSDS lists butyl carbitol (2-(2-butoxyethoxy)-ethanol and a "proprietary mixture of fluorinated surfactants and synthetic detergents. The Firetrol ingredients list only hexylene glycol and says "The active ingredients are commonly used in hair shampoo and dishwashing liquid formulas."

The chromatograms reproduced here were made on a DB-1 column held at 40 deg C for 2 mins, then ramped to 185 degrees at 10 deg/min. The samples were dissolved in methanol.

There is little resemblance between the patterns seen here and any of the ignitable liquids commonly encountered in fire debris casework. The peaks showing up in the Chemguard chromatogram are mostly siloxanes (column bleed?) The Firetrol sample reveals the presence of 1-octanol (4.76min) as well as the advertised hexylene glycol (2.93min).

*The procedures presented here were performed by Kristin Rogahn of the Ventura Sheriff's Crime Lab.  
 Article by John Houde.*



## Financial Report

### General Association Account

#### Account Balances, July 1, 1998 to September 30, 1998

Cash Balance July 1, 1998 \$ 49,546.57

#### INCOME

Interest	\$ 339.79	
Meetings	\$ -	
Seminars	\$ 6,021.62	\$ 6,120.00 visa - seed
Membership dues	\$ -	
Membership applications		\$ 785.00
Newsletter	\$ 72.00	
Advertising	\$ 75.00	
Endowment income	\$ -	
Other	\$ -	
(Seminar Visa Income Holding)		
Total income	\$ 7,293.41	\$ 7,293.41

#### EXPENSES

Travel	\$ 1,330.72	
Printing	\$ 4,474.18	
Postage	\$ 531.73	
Supplies	\$ 28.23	
Bank fees	\$ 77.00	
Accounting service fees	\$ -	
Awards	\$ -	
Meetings	\$ -	
Seminars	\$ 48.67	
ABC support	\$ -	
Memorial donations	\$ -	
Endowment Exp., admin.	\$ -	
Journal	\$ -	
Phone	\$ 67.29	
Refunds	\$ -	
Newmember	\$ -	
Consultations	\$ -	
Other	\$ 31.80	
Total Expenses	\$ 6,589.62	\$ (6,589.62)

Cash Balance September 30, 1998 \$ 56,370.36

30-Sep-98

	Cash on hand 9-30-98	
	Savings	\$ 50,868.88
	Checking	\$ 9,891.48
	F 98 visa on hand	\$ (5,390.00)
	Fall 98 seminar	\$ 1,000.00
Michael John Parigian	Spring 99 seminar	\$ -
CAC-Treasurer		\$ 56,370.36

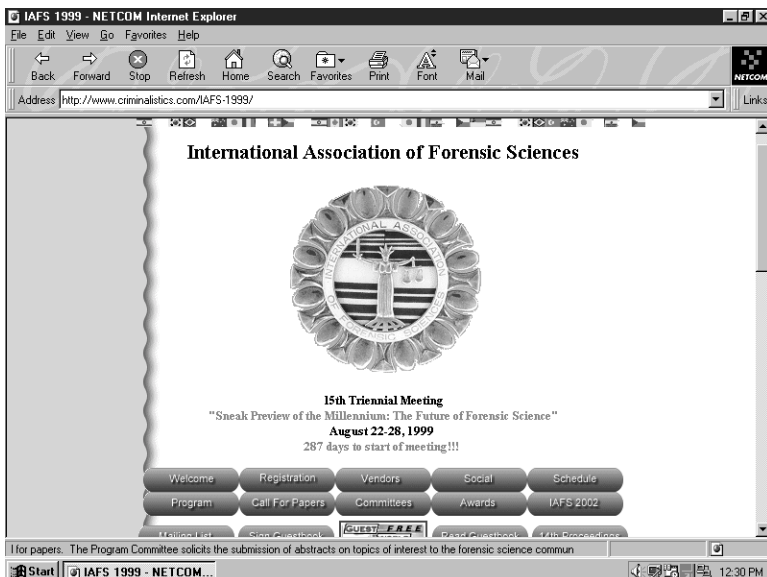
Notes: Merchandise Account Balance September 30, 1998 : \$1,268.02

The CAC gratefully acknowledges a contribution from Barry Fisher.

# Go there. Do that.



<http://www.criminalistics.com/IAFS-1999/>

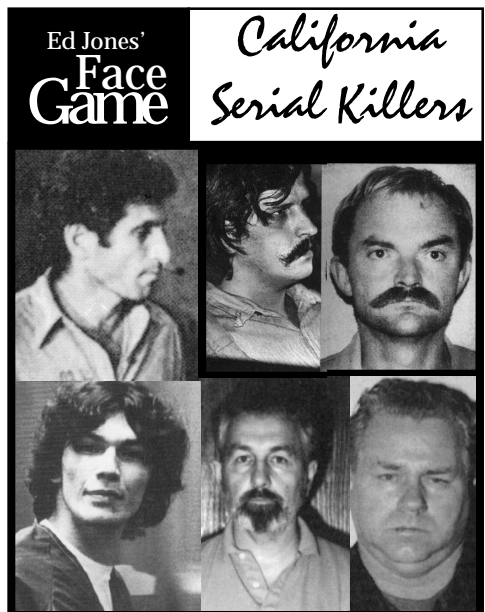


## Jobs, cont'd

of the Forensic Science Lab Manager, plan, organize, direct, evaluate and coordinate the operations of the Forensic Science Quality Control/Quality Assurance program for the Ventura Co. Sheriff's Forensic Science Lab. Duties incl maintain and update the quality control and quality assurance manuals; monitor lab practices to verify continuing compliance with standard policies and procedures; evaluate instrument calibration and maintenance records; periodically assess the adequacy of report review activities; ensure the validation of new technical procedures; investigate technical problems, propose remedial actions, and verify their implementation; administer proficiency testing and evaluate results; select, train, and evaluate internal auditors; schedule and coordinate quality system audits; maintain training records of lab personnel; recommend training to improve the quality of lab staff; propose corrections and improvements in the quality system; and perform other duties as assigned.

### Education, Training and Experience:

Any combination of training, education or experience which would demonstrate the required knowledge, skills and abilities. The knowledge, skills and abilities can also be obtained by graduation with a degree in biology, chemistry, physics, forensic science or related field, and 2-3 yrs exp. in a forensic science lab.



Ans. in back.

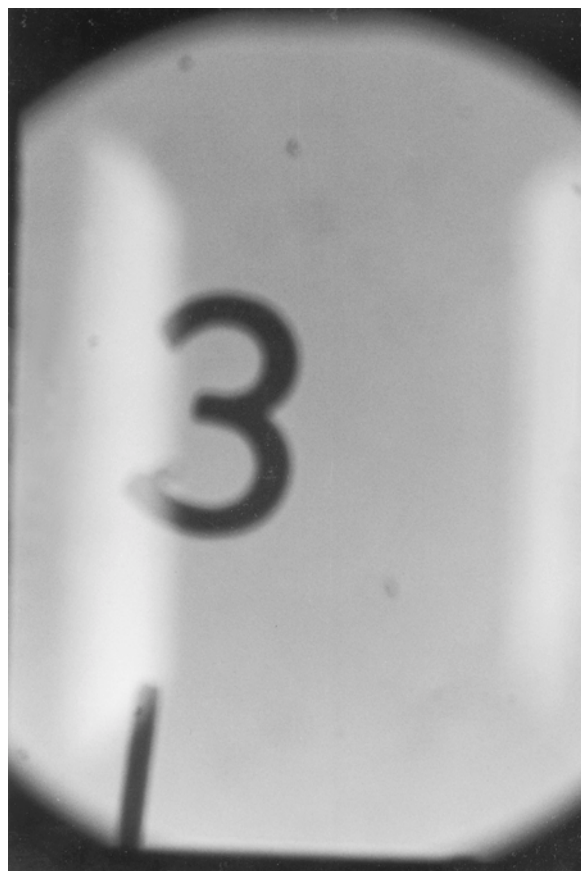


## Helpful hint when taking several rolls of film

I was really concerned when I was taking multiple photomicrographs of hair. I didn't want to spend time verifying which set of photos were from which roll. I was pleased with the results and you might be also.

When one is taking multiple rolls of film with photomicrographs, it may be desirable to have some way to distinguish them if many of the photographs are similar and if these rolls are sent out for processing at the same time.

The stage micrometer with the centimeter long scale—e.g., the American Optics Catalog No. 1440—



has the numbers 1 through 25 above millimeter marks. One can use the first position on the roll of film to record the consecutive number of that roll (*right*).

I am unaware if anyone has ever suggested this before. I used it recently because I was aware that the three rolls of film that were to be processed simultaneously, could inadvertently be mixed up. To me, the use of the numbers would be a time saver if the rolls did get scrambled.

*Frank Cassidy*  
CA Dept of Justice Lab Santa Barbara

(CAC Members Only)

## TRAINING & RESOURCES VIDEO

### SEROLOGY / DNA

- S1 **Electrophoresis Basics**—Linhardt · **Glycogenated Vaginal Epithelia**—Jones · Erythrocyte Acid Phosphatase — Rickard · Phosphoglucomutase —White / M. Hong
- S2 **Immunology** — Stockwell
- S3 **Gm / Km** —Stockwell / Wrxall
- S4 **Peptidase A** — Yamauchi
- S5 **ABO** — Thompson
- S6 **Saliva** —Spear (incl DNA Kelly-Frye/Howard Decision)
- S7 **Presumpt. Tests/Species/ PCR Intro**—Peterson/Mayo
- S8 **Gc sub**—Devine/Navette
- S9 **Statistics**—M. Stamm
- S10 **Haptoglobin** — D. Hong
- S11 **Population Genetics & Statistics Course**—Bruce Weir
- S12 **Micro. Exam. of Sex Assault Evidence**—Jones
- S13 **DNA Workshop** — Spring 1993

### CRIME SCENE

- C1 **Bloodspatter Lecture** —Knowles
- C2 **Bloodspatter Lecture** — Chisum
- C3 **Crime Scene Investigation Symposium**—Fall '88 CAC

### GENERAL INTEREST

- G1 ABC News 9/23/91: "Lab Errors"
- G2 48 Hours 9/25/91: "Clues"
- G3 Founder's Lecture: Stuart Kind— Fall '93
- G4 Founder's Lecture: Walter McCrone—Spr '90
- G5 Founder's Lecture: J. Osterburg—Fall '91
- G6 Founder's Lecture: Lowell Bradford—Spr '93
- G7 OJ Simpson Tonight Show Clips
- G8 "Against All Odds—Inside Statistics"

### ALCOHOL / TOXICOLOGY

- A1 Forensic Alcohol Supervisor's Course—DOJ

### TRACE EVIDENCE

- T1 **Basic Microscopy Lecture**—E. Rhodes
- T2 **Tire Impressions as Evidence**—Nause
- T3 **Evaluation of Lamp Filament Evidence**—Bradford
- T4 **FTIR Lecture**—Moorehead
- T5 **Gunshot Residue Lecture**—Calloway
- T6 **Footwear**—Bodziak
- T7 **Footwear Mfg. Tour** —Van's Shoes
- T8 **Glass Methods**—Bailey / Sagara / Rhodes
- T9 **Fiber Evidence**—Mumford/Bailey/Thompson
- T10 **Trace Evidence Analysis**—Barnett/Shaffer/Springer

### FIREARMS

- F1 **Forensic Firearms Evidence** —Haag
- F2 **Wound Ballistics: "Deadly Effects"**—Jason

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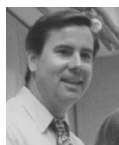
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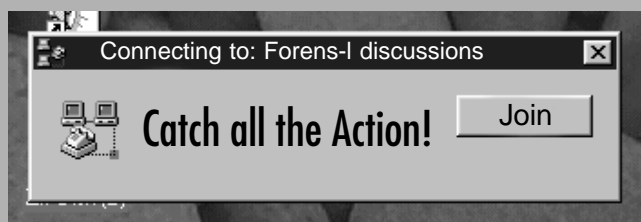


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# A Final Word

The following "personal" appeared in the Balsam Post, 41:49(October 1998).  
The Balsam Post is the journal of the Postal Microscopical Society:

Mature Gentleman Microscopist, own teeth, is anxious to meet young lady (20-30 year old blonde Biology graduate preferred) for field excursions and possible marriage. VGSOH, NS, Dip. RMS and experience with Mallory's Triple Stain and Cajal's Silver stains essential. Regret only applicants with Zeiss Photomicroscope III or Leitz Orthoplan considered. Photo of microscope appreciated. Please write c/o Bo No. (BP) 98404.

—Pete Barnett

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## H<sup>a</sup>lf-Aph<sup>o</sup>risms

All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my hand.  
I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.  
OK, so what's the speed of dark?  
If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.  
Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.  
When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.  
Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.  
Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.  
24 hours in a day ... 24 beers in a case ... coincidence? Elf  
Who is General Failure and why is he reading my hard disk?  
Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?  
A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.  
Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.  
For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.  
No one is listening until you make a mistake.  
Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.  
The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required on it.  
The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.  
The severity of the itch is proportional to the reach.  
To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.  
The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.  
A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.  
Change is inevitable... except from vending machines.  
If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a couple of payments."  
I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.  
Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.  
Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.  
99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.  
A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

### FACE GAME ANSWERS

All six California serial killers were convicted with physical evidence playing a key role.

(Top row, l-r)

Angelo Buono, "Hillside Strangler," 12 victims;  
William Bonin, "Free-way Killer," 14 victims;  
Randy Kraft, "Angel of Darkness," 24 victims.  
(Bottom row, l-r) Richard Ramirez, "Night Stalker," 19 victims;  
Roger Reece Kibbe, "I-5 Killer," 5 victims; William Suff, "Riverside Prosti-



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