

California Association of Criminalists

Founder's Lecture

W. Jack Cadman, Professor

California State University - Los Angeles

The Formation of  
California Association of Criminalists - Genesis of  
Professionalization?

An Oral History

Beware the ides of March. It is entirely possible that the male defendant deliberately selected that date for reasons that may become apparent. Be that as it may, the ides of March in 1947 became a significant date in the careers of several of those who were to become founding members of the California Association of Criminalists (CAC).

It was late in the afternoon of a quiet Sunday on March 15, 1947, when a tremendous explosion rocked the bay. The blast that was heard came from the direction of the yacht anchorages offshore. Beulah Overell and her boyfriend had earlier rowed ashore in the yacht's dinghy to buy hamburgers for her mother and father as well as themselves. According to their story, they had just returned when the explosion took place. There would be testimony later from bystanders that it was too dark to see the several yachts anchored in the same area. Yet Beulah was heard to cry out, "Oh my boat, my beautiful boat..."

Miss Overell was the only daughter of wealthy parents who kept a rather large cabin cruiser for pleasure and recreation. They made their home in Pasadena some fifty miles away. Her boyfriend was a struggling pre-medical student who attended the University of Southern California (USC). Beulah and her boyfriend wanted to get married and, it would come out later, had a very torrid relationship. Both parents were vehemently opposed

to their getting married. They would cut her off without a dime, if she married him. This was the state of the affairs and had been for months previously. Did the boyfriend see Mr. Overell as Caesar?

In 1947 Newport Beach was a small, population 12,000, fishing and resort community located in Orange County, California. Orange County was largely rural with many orange groves and other forms of agriculture. The total county population was 160,000 people.

There had been at least two other yachts on which there had been explosions due to butane gas during the months preceding this explosion. Each of the previous explosions had made big news. Orange County was an area where not much happened in those days. As a result, no one including the county Coroner was very suspicious. The bodies of the victims were removed from the almost completely submerged yacht. Taken to the mortuary of a man who had flunked out of medical school before becoming a mortician, the bodies were examined more closely. He saw what no-one else had observed before. The head wounds of both victims were remarkably similar. When he was sober he showed some signs of intelligence. He immediately phoned the Coroner and the belated investigation began.

The Chief of Police of Newport Beach had only a handful of men, one of whom was a plain-clothes all-purpose investigator with an ego to match. The Chief and his Investigator were convinced that they could handle the case by themselves, so there was a further delay. Meanwhile the media had picked up the story and it began to get more and more coverage. The Coroner was

convinced that the case was too big for the local department. The Sheriff was finally called into the case. The Sheriff assigned his Captain of Records and Identification the task of photographing and investigating the physical evidenced in the case. The autopsy had already ~~been~~ done so no photographs had been made of that aspect.

When the yacht was finally hauled out of the water, it was clear that this was not the result of a butane gas explosion. In fact there were still unexploded sticks of dynamite below deck in the engine room of the boat. There was also an alarm clock which had been partially dismantled. It was wired into the circuit which included one of the engine's batteries.

Raymond H. Finker, Head Forensic Chemist of the Los Angeles Police Department's Crime Laboratory (LAPD) was called into the case. Ray was the first of those persons destined to become founding members of the CAC to become involved in the Overell yacht murder case. Ray was widely known and respected by the courts, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and investigators throughout all of southern California. Even though his primary job was to head the scientific aspects of the LAPD crime laboratory, he was allowed to accept cases from police agencies throughout the southland. Ray had worked major cases from as far north as Santa Barbara County as far east as San Bernardino and Riverside counties, which go to the Nevada and Arizona borders.

The LAPD crime laboratory was the first crime laboratory to be set up in the United States. It was started because August Vollmer had accepted a one-year contract as Chief of Police to study and re-organize the LAPD. The laboratory was started as a

result of his recommendations in 1924. Ray was actually the third person to be hired. By 1937 Ray had become the Head Forensic Chemist.

Ray had graduated from the School of Pharmacy of the University of Southern California (USC) prior to being hired as a forensic chemist by the LAPD. The original intent of the LAPD had been to hire someone to identify drugs and to make toxicological analyses. Ray was a remarkable person in terms of the types of examinations he could perform. Much of what he was able to do was self-taught. His range of interests was wide. He became what today is referred to as a generalist, although he might resent the appellation, if he was alive to hear this presentation.

Ray was not a neophyte in the area of bombing and explosions. There had been a bombing involving the police department during the 1930's. It was an internal police matter in which a police official had killed other policemen through a bombing in order to cover up and silence those who were investigating his illegal activities. Ray was the one person who solved the case through physical evidence. Ray's own life was in danger for a period of time because of this. He knew too much. He carried a concealed semi-automatic for self-protection during this period.

Another of the founding members brought into the case was Roger S. Greene. Roger was a graduate of the College of Chemistry of the University of California at Berkeley. He was hired by the California Bureau of Identification and Investigation (CII) in the early 1930's. Roger had taken one

course from Dr. Paul L. Kirk, in qualitative microchemistry, but that was before the program in Technical Criminology was established. Roger was hired by the CII, because in addition to his background in chemistry, he was also a reserve military officer. The head of the CII felt that because of Roger's military background he would know a great deal about firearms. The director of the CII knew that firearms cases were to become the most common type of evidence received by the CII laboratory. Roger started the one-man laboratory and demonstrated that he was an outstanding scientist again and again. Roger was essentially self-taught in the field of criminalistics. His only true peer in the state at that time was Ray Finker, although there was some work being performed at the San Francisco Police Department and at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Roger continued to work alone until the beginning of World War II when he was called into the Army as an Ordnance Officer. He returned after the war to take his former position in the CII.

The State Attorney General's office elected to take the prosecution of the Overell case away from the Orange County District Attorney. This unprecedented move, although strictly legal, caused considerable controversy and much resentment in Orange County and elsewhere. The case had already received a great deal of coverage in the media and now it received even more. The prosecutor, hired by the Attorney General to prosecute that case only, was internationally known. He had just returned from Japan. He had been appointed by the United States to prosecute the Japanese War Criminals after World War II. Roger was assigned to the case and sent to southern California for the

duration of the trial to assist the prosecutor. The trial lasted for six months, which was a record for length of time in trial then. Ray Pinker and Roger Greene worked most of the case together during the trial phase and made an excellent team. It is beyond the scope of this presentation to go into the excellent applied research the two of them performed in connection with the Overall case.

It was during this period that still another of the founding members of the CAC entered the Overall case. William W. Harper of Pasadena had attended the California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech). Bill Harper had been a physics major there. Firearms identification and physical examination of many types of evidence were Bill's strongest areas. He had started a laboratory for the Pasadena Police Department (PPD) during the 1930's and worked for that agency for several years before resigning to go into private practice. Even after resigning he continued to consult for the PPD. Most of his criminal case work was performed for the defense after that time. Because Ray Pinker and Bill Harper had developed a friendship and mutual respect over the years, it was only natural that Ray asked for and obtained Bill's participation in the examination of certain aspects of the case.

Although he was not directly involved in the Overall case, David Q. Burd was another of the founding members who was affected by the involvement of Roger Greene over the prolonged period. Burd had originally been hired by the California State Bureau of CII when Roger was called into active service in the Army. Dave graduated from the University of California at

Berkeley with a major in Technical Criminology in 1941. He was the second of Dr. Paul L. Kirk's students to obtain a position in the field. [1]

Roger was not around of course so Dave continued to operate the one-man laboratory without the benefit of any on-the-job training or direct supervision. After Roger returned from the service at the end of World War II the case load was so great that one man could not handle it.

The next founding member whose life was affected by the Overell case, even though he was not directly involved, was Lowell Bradford. Brad was another graduate of the College of Chemistry of the University of California at Berkeley in 1941. He had taken Dr. Kirk's course in microchemistry as an elective while still an undergraduate. He was not in the "Technical Criminology" program, but as an undergraduate had shared the same lecture and laboratory facilities with those who were in the program. As a reserve Army officer, Brad was called to active duty during World War II. After the war he returned to Berkeley where he started graduate work under Dr. Kirk. When Roger Greene was assigned to the Overell case in southern California, the CII head asked Dr. Kirk to recommend a student to temporarily replace Roger Greene in the Sacramento laboratory. Kirk recommended Bradford to fill the temporary opening. Bradford arrived at the state CII laboratory and was trained by David Burd for two weeks. Because Burd had not had a vacation in over three years, he then left for a one month vacation, leaving Bradford in charge of the laboratory.



Once again it was a case in which one of the founding members of the CAC was to start out essentially alone to operate a one-man laboratory for a period of time.

The Chief Investigator of the Santa Clara County District Attorney was a frequent user of the state CII during Bradford's relatively short tenure there.. During his many long drives to and from Santa Clara County's seat in San Jose, the Chief Investigator realized that for the combined cost of his trips, it would be possible to set up and operate a laboratory in San Jose. The Chief Investigator was able to get the District Attorney to convince the Board of Supervisors to create the laboratory position. When Roger Greene finally returned from southern California, Bradford was hired by the District Attorney of Santa Clara County to establish and operate a crime laboratory there.

Brad operated the laboratory alone for approximately six months when it became quite clear that he needed help. A second position was created. He recruited the next founding member of the CAC to be affected by the Overell case. James W. Brackett, Jr., was another graduate of the College of Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley. Jim also had been a reserve Army officer called into active duty during World War II. Following his release from active duty when the war was over, he had gone to work as a chemist for one of the large petroleum companies. Brad convinced him to leave that position to join him in San Jose. Jim is very innovative and the two made an excellent team. He and Brad were destined to make many contributions to the field of criminalistics, not the least of

these was to call the first meeting of the group which later founded the California Association of Criminalists.

Harry Johnson was another of the founding members of the CAC whose life was affected by the Overell yacht murder. Harry was another chemistry graduate of U.C. Berkeley. After graduation he took a position as chemist with the Department of Agriculture of the State of California. Roger Greene had come to know him as an excellent chemist and information resource. He had used him in that capacity in appropriate cases for some years. After Bradford left the temporary position in Sacramento to go to San Jose, Greene and Burd realized that they needed a third permanent position. Harry was the man hired to fill Bradford's vacant spot. It did not take Harry long to pick up the fundamentals of criminalistics under Greene and Burd's excellent tutelage.

It is beyond the scope of this presentation to explore all of the aspects of the Overell case, or even of the details of the physical evidence developed. Never-the-less, some of the key elements should be brought out. Ray Pinker and Roger Greene demonstrated that the blood found on the deck of the yacht after it had been submerged for over two days was the same type as the victims'. Further they demonstrated an even more critical point. Both victims had to have shed the blood prior to the explosion. There had to be a time lapse for the blood to clot prior to the time the deck was to submerge, or it would have been washed away by the sea water.

There was additional key evidence that the male victim was down at the time of the explosion. The soles of his shoes were shown to have shrapnel from the explosion driven in from below.

Screws similar in all respects to those missing from the partially dismantled alarm clock were found in the glove compartment of the male defendant's automobile. The clock was used as a timing device for the dynamite aboard the yacht. Such screws are mass produced. No one could say that the screws could not have come from a different source, however. The defense produced a barrel of them to show to the jury.

The male defendant's automobile was the source of still another piece of strong associative evidence found by Pinker and Greene. Some time prior to the explosion the male defendant had purchased an electrically operated "Bermuda Bell". No wire was provided with the bell to make it ring when the dashboard switch was pushed. The innovative defendant-to-be had used some of the wire from one of the detonators for the connection. Obviously he was unaware that detonator wire is unique. It is not used or commercially sold for any other manufacturing purpose.

The purchaser's copy of the sales receipt for the dynamite and detonators was found inside the otherwise empty male defendant's camera. The signature on the receipt was found to be fictitious. The handwriting used in the signature, however, was found to be that of the male defendant. One of the leading questioned document examiners in the nation testified to this.

The address on the dynamite and detonator receipt led the investigators to the man who had sold the dynamite to the defendant and his "girlfriend". Even though the sale had been made months before, he remembered it, because they had paid him in silver dollars, according to the dynamite salesman's testimony.

Before the trial the defendant had denied any knowledge of the dynamite and detonators. However, he later took the stand in his own defense. He admitted that he had purchased the dynamite. He stated that he had purchased it at Mr. Overell's request. The defendant claimed that Mr. Overell wanted the dynamite so he could "use it to kill fish."

Two of the prosecutor's chief witnesses had caused irreparable damage to the case early in the trial. The Orange County Sheriff's Captain of Records and Identification had collected and documented most of the physical evidence. He was also in charge of the property room where the evidence was stored. He had collected among other things all of the clothing of both victims. The back of Mr. Overell's coat had been saturated with his own blood and tissues due to the explosion. The defense attorneys brought out the fact in cross examining the Captain that the coat was no longer in existence. After a few days of storage at room temperature, the odor of the coat became extremely offensive. The Captain testified that he did not consult with anyone else regarding solving the odor problem. Instead, he had simply taken the coat out and burned it. The defense attorneys were apparently able to convince the jury that the Captain burned the coat to conceal the evidence which would have exonerated their clients. Further, he must have burned it following instructions from someone above.

The other chief witness, who caused irreparable damage to the case, was the autopsy surgeon. He was an old time clinical pathologist who examined all coroner's cases then. He performed the post-mortem examinations on the victims. He testified well

as to his findings regarding the nature of the head wounds. Both of the victims had been struck on the head multiple times by the same heavy weapon. (The weapon was never found.) Both victims were certainly down, if not dead, at the time of the explosion. In his opinion the explosion could not have caused the injuries which he had found. No photographs had been made.

On cross examination by the defense attorneys, he was asked about his findings regarding the chest cavity. Specifically, had the lungs been examined? Was he certain that the victims had not drowned? He described the condition of the lungs and other findings in the chest cavity rather accurately, as it turned out, but not because he had examined them.

Because he became rather reluctant and evasive, the defense attorneys were successful in their attempt to get the court to order the exhumation of the bodies. When this was done, it was found that he had not even made an incision in the body of either victim. None of his testimony was allowed in the transcript and the jury was instructed to disregard anything he had said.

The jury found both defendants, "NOT GUILTY"!

Mine, was the last of the careers of the founding members of the CAC to be affected by the Overall case. In 1939 I had transferred to the University of California at Berkeley. Because of finding that there was a major in "Technical Criminology" offered in the College of Letters and Science, I made an appointment with founding member Dr. Paul L. Kirk to find out more about it. My interest in the subject had originated in 1936 when I had read a brochure describing the FBI laboratory. The brochure not only described the nature of the work being done in

the FBI lab, it also was intended as a recruiting device for qualified young people with the appropriate degrees.

It was an extremely long two days before I was able to see Dr. Paul L. Kirk. He gave me the same warning he gave to most, if not all, prospective "Technical Criminology" students in those years. <sup>P</sup>araphrased it went something like this, "It is a very tough course. Very few students get through it. Even if you make it through the course, there are no jobs available in the field."

Following a hiatus caused by several minor matters like a broken neck, the death of my father, and serving as an Electronics Technician in the U. S. Navy during the last two years of World War II, I returned to Berkeley and graduated in June 1947. Founding CAC member John <sup>D</sup>avis was operating the Oakland Police Department Crime Laboratory. We had been classmates in Dr. Kirk's basic course before the war in 1940. Also in the same class were David Burd, Patrick W. Fuller, and Lowell Bradford. It was in this course that we were exposed to practically everything we were to learn about Technical Criminology as such in one seventeen-week semester. The course was designated as Biochemistry 108. The 1939 - 40 Catalogue description of this course on page 180 was as follows:

"(Biochemistry) 108. Qualitative Micro-Chemical Analysis (3 - 5) I. Mr. Kirk

"Application of chemical microscopy and micro-qualitative methods to inorganic and organic substances. Criminological testing methods. Laboratory fee, \$10.<sup>00</sup>"

Because laboratory space was assigned alphabetically for the Technical Criminology majors, Burd, Cadman, and Davis worked side by side and Fuller was across the bench from us. Lowell Bradford was at another bench because he was a chemistry major. We really didn't know him at that time.

After graduation from U.C., Berkeley in 1941 Davis wrote letters to several departments across the country known to have crime laboratories. One of those laboratories that responded was the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) in Jefferson City, Missouri. John went to work for them shortly thereafter as a civilian (non-sworn) "Laboratory Chemist". Davis was the first of Dr. Kirk's students to be hired as a criminalist. Davis' appointment originally was meant to be a scientific replacement for John Williams, [2] who like many others, was called from the reserve into the army in World War II. However, John Davis was given permanent civil service status after six months on the job.

John Davis started work under a Sergeant of the MSHP. The Sergeant had headed the laboratory for only a short time in Williams' position. He was moved up from the laboratory bench to head the lab. The Sergeant had hired Davis because among other things, he was anxious to learn microchemistry and microcrystalline testing from him.

During this period John Davis began to write an informal journal called The Technician in the Crime Laboratory. This journal was published by the MSHP for about one and one half years. It contained articles about "various types of criminalistics problems, tricks of the trade..., notes, and case references," according to Davis. He was given time on the job to

do this in addition to his many other functions. The idea for the publication had been suggested by a MSHP laboratory visitor in 1942. The visitor was an investigator for the National Bureau of Fire Underwriters. He thought that many technicians in crime laboratories would find it to be valuable. The same investigator also suggested that there should be some sort of an organization of crime laboratory people. Davis did not attempt to form such an organization then. However, he welcomed the opportunity to participate in the founding of the CAC some twelve years later. John remained with the MSHP laboratory for two years.

Davis returned to Oakland in 1944. He was hired after about six months in the capacity of an "Emergency Patrolman" to establish a crime laboratory. Davis soon found that he could not handle all of the work of the Oakland Police Department (OPD). He was able to have a second position created and Patrick W. Fuller was hired for that position. [3]

Because both Davis and Fuller were good friends, I visited them frequently at the OPD laboratory while completing my A.B. and during the one year plus of graduate study at nearby U. C. Berkeley. John Davis meanwhile was attempting to get another position created in the laboratory for me. John suggested that it might be easier for me to get into the laboratory, if I got a job as an emergency patrolman for the OPD. So I did. I worked as a patrolman in the Service Division booking prisoners. After working three different shifts around the clock with a shift change each month, six months seemed like an eternity. The Orange County Sheriff's Department position was created in July



as a result of the loss of the Overell case the previous year. I was offered the job of starting the laboratory.

I visited the Orange County Sheriff's Department for the first time the previous December because I wanted to meet the Captain of Records and Identification. He told me that he was trying to get a laboratory position created. As he told me later he was most impressed with the fact that I could "speak the language". Scientific terms impressed him. He took me down to meet the Sheriff. Both liked the fact that I was a native of Orange County. He led me to believe that my only duties would be to set up and operate the laboratory as a criminalist. When I arrived to take the job on the 15th of September of 1948 I learned that things were a bit different than that. In addition to setting up and operating a criminalistic laboratory for the entire county, I was to do all of the Coroner's toxicology, serve as a sergeant over the ten women who worked in the Records Bureau, and supervise the six men in the Identification Bureau. The six Identification Technicians were already handling the fingerprint files, latent prints, photography, crime scene documentation, collection and preservation of the other physical evidence for most of the twenty-two cities and unincorporated areas of the county. I later learned that one of the politically strong Identification Technicians had aspired to get my position. He wanted to set up and operate the laboratory. He was to create other problems.

The Captain of Records and Identification was already doing all of the questioned documents, firearms, toolmarks, and physical match cases, so none of these were to be my territory.

As I found out, he intended to duplicate the small library of three or four boxes of books which I had brought to work, he also planned to study chemistry by correspondence school with my help, and take over the area which had been given me. He thought it would take him about two years. He felt that I would probably "move on" in about that period of time. As it turned out he was the one who resigned after approximately three and one half years of attempting to testify to my analyses and conclusions in preceding me in the court room. We parted friends when he resigned to make more money. He called on me regularly in his new capacity as a salesman for one of the fingerprint and police supplies companies.

Orange County has long been noted for conservatism. It was five years before the Board of Supervisors would approve a second position in the laboratory. The Sheriff was finally able to get the Board to create another position. Our biggest problem was in the area of Coroner's toxicology cases. Dr. Kirk had recommended founding member Ronald J. Briglia as his best student with an interest in toxicology. Ron was very capable also as a generalist criminalist, but he preferred to do toxicology. It is difficult to express the feeling of relief one experiences when at long last one has a second person with whom to discuss problem cases, applied research, and interpretation of analytical results to name but a few areas. Ron not only filled that need, but brought many other great qualities to the laboratory. He too was destined to become a founding member of the CAC because we had not yet completed the writing of the constitution (later to become the by-laws). When the CAC met semi-annually in northern

California, only one of us could attend in order to provide laboratory coverage for the county for that time. We could both attend when the seminars were held in southern California and Ron made many worthy contributions.

Founding member Donald M. Harding was also a graduate of Dr. Kirk's program in Technical Criminology. He was a year ahead of us (Burd, Davis, Bradford, and me) but had been unable to obtain a laboratory position after graduation. He too returned to Berkeley after World War II. He was successful in obtaining a position as the head of the Long Beach Police Department laboratory at about the same time as I went to the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1948. The Chief of Police expected Harding to correct the problems experienced by the department as a result of the fact there previously had been no single person directing the activities of the four experienced identification technicians who were attempting to handle the examination of practically all types of physical evidence. The situation was not unlike the one which confronted me in nearby Orange County. Don's situation was different though in the fact that he had four people with considerable experience who had each aspired to become the head of the laboratory. They had all started out as fingerprint men. None of them had any real background in the sciences. All were hostile to the young U. C. Berkeley alumnus who had been given the task of heading "their" laboratory. Don was not fired. They used politics to pull the rug from under him. The Long Beach City Council simply did not budget any money for his salary the second year.

Don was then hired as a criminalist by the well established Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in Madison. He held that position for two years, but the snow and cold of Wisconsin was too much for a native of Berkeley and his family. He applied for and was hired by the Pasadena California Police Department (PPD). It was the same laboratory which had been started by founding CAC member W. W. Harper. Bill Harper had continued to handle cases for the PPD in the interim after resigning to go into private practice. As Bill's private practice grew, he found it necessary to cut back the consulting time for the PPD. The PPD decided, as a result, to re-activate the laboratory on a full-time basis and Don Harding was hired for the position. Don was in the position of operating a one man laboratory during the years that CAC was being formed.

Founding member Robert Cooper was a 1950 graduate of Dr. Paul Kirk's program in Technical Criminology at U. C. Berkeley. Bob was in graduate school, starting the Master's program when he received a phone call from the Oakland P.D. administration offering him Pat Fuller's position. Pat had completed law school and resigned, so the position was open. He joined John Davis in the OPD laboratory and remained in that position for eleven years. It was during the early part of Bob's tenure there that the CAC was being formed.

Founding member Hillard Reeves was the only other graduate of Dr. Kirk's Technical Criminology students involved in the formation of the CAC. Hillard was hired by the Richmond City Police Department (RPD). He had started and operated a one-man laboratory in the actively growing city which was just to the

north of the city of Berkeley. Berkeley is at northern edge of Alameda County. Richmond is at the southern edge of Contra Costa County. Hillard served not only the City of Richmond, but many of the other areas of Contra Costa County as well, because there was no Contra<sup>Costa</sup> County Crime lab then.

Reeves became active in the other aspects of the RPD and narrowly missed being appointed as the Chief of Police when the position was open. John Davis thinks he may have been on the committee which John chaired, writing the Code of Ethics.

Founding member Leland V. Jones was a Lieutenant of the Los Angeles Police Department in charge of the administrative aspects of the LAPD Crime Laboratory at the time the CAC was formed. Ray Pinker was charge of the scientific aspects of the same laboratory. Ray had actually trained Lee Jones in several areas of laboratory work before Lee had moved up to Lieutenant. Lee had attained a degree in Chemistry after he first started to work in the LAPD laboratory as a trainee under Ray. At the time the CAC was first formed, Lee was not actively practicing his primary specialty of comparative analysis, prints and imprints. Lee had learned a great deal from Ray and was very capable in terms of recognition of physical evidence, evaluation of the probative values of the various forms of evidence, and many other areas. Lee later wrote a book on the subject of physical evidence. He taught several courses at California State University, Los Angeles after retiring from LAPD. While there he acted as the coordinator in setting up the Master of Science in Criminalistics program. He sought help from many of the founding CAC members in getting up the program. In 1965 Ray Pinker retired from the

LAPD. Ray became the professor who actually started that program.

Founding member George Lacy was a graduate in chemistry from Simmons University (since re-named Hardin-Simmons University) in Abilene, Texas. A chemist friend of George's had gone to work for the Texas Department of Public Safety in 1933. He phoned George and asked him to join him in approximately 1935 as the laboratory was being established.

During World War II, George's friend volunteered for the Army, leaving George alone to handle not only the cases from Texas, but Oklahoma and New Mexico as well.

George remained with the Texas Department of Public Safety until 1948. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department advertised nationally for a person to direct their crime laboratory. George took the examination and was hired to operate the three-man laboratory. He was in that position when the CAC was formed.

That laboratory grew in stature under George. He recently told me by phone that he had gained much from the CAC. He is back in Texas (Fort Worth) and is no longer involved with criminalistics. He would like to know of the activities of the CAC, and regrets having resigned. He would like to become "a dues paying member again."

Founding member Paul L. Kirk earned his baccalaureate degree in chemistry from Ohio State University, his master's in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. Kirk was remarkable in his ability to inspire students. Those who were fortunate enough to have studied under him can never forget him.

It was Dr. Kirk who introduced students to the concepts of micro-chemistry and the significance of trace evidence. It was Dr. Kirk who converted the original concept of Hans Gross to the term criminalistics in English. Kirk also gave Gross' concept substance. Whereas, Dr. Kirk was not the prime mover in the formation of the California Association of Criminalists, it was he who had armed his students to meet the challenge. He was quick to see the advantages and challenges of the CAC seminars. He was very active in many of the phases in connection with the founding of the CAC.

As was noted in the extremely brief biographies above, eleven of the fifteen founding members of the California Association of Criminalists either started out operating a one-man laboratory or had done so at some point in their careers. There is a real feeling of isolation in operating a one-man laboratory. There is a feeling of hunger for communication with a peer regarding the immediate case problems.

In the immediate post World War II days, money was still very tight. Salaries were quite low, so we could not afford to travel any great distance to meetings and yet we all knew that we could all profit by coming together to share our experiences. California was the state which had originated many of the trends which swept out to other places.

Before the time of most, if not all of us here today, fingerprint men had been challenged by the same concept. If we

could get together and talk we might be able to solve the problems that confront and frustrate us individually. As a result of that feeling the International Association for Identification (IAI) was born in California in 1915. That group has moved out to become truly international. California identification men remained strong in striving to inform themselves and solve problems. The purposes of that original group had broadened to include what we now know as criminalistics and the forensic sciences before the time the CAC came to be formed. Most of us who became founding members were invited to present papers to the annual meetings of the IAI. If we were not invited, we went anyway to hear the papers of those who were. As a result of this practically all of the founding members of the CAC were members of the IAI.

Attending the meetings of the IAI was also very frustrating to the criminalists. By far the majority of the IAI members were Identification Technicians who know little beyond fingerprint comparison. Many of them were extremely good at pattern recognition and the comparison of fingerprint minutia, but they had absolutely no, or a trivial knowledge of chemistry, or any of the other sciences. Never-the-less they aspired to examine all types of physical evidence. Many, if not all of them, had persuaded their respective police agencies to purchase microscopes for them to use to do these marvelous things they would hear about at their annual meetings. It was not snobbary. It was <sup>a</sup>fact that there could be no real communication with the identification people who made up the majority of the membership of the International Association for Identification.



It was at one such annual meeting of the IAI in Laguna Beach, California that several of the criminalists who were to become founding members got together and socialized. They discussed the fact that it was exciting to get together with others who were facing the same or similar problems. They discussed the realization that one man's problem had probably already been solved by someone else in another laboratory. They discussed the problem that the IAI meetings were not satisfying the need for communication which they all felt. The discussion of criminalistics problems at the IAI meetings was diluted by the presence of the majority who were simply fingerprint technicians.

It was in this situation that Ray Pinker suggested that we needed to form our own association; but, typical of Ray Pinker, he told Lowell Bradford,

"You do it. You get a list together and arrange the meeting."

So Lowell Bradford did it. The first meeting was held in San Jose, California. Bradford and Brackett had carefully made up an exclusionary list of criminalists only. There were to be no identification technicians. Most of us were invited to give papers on some subject which Brad knew, or had heard, we were working on. Unfortunately, the files have been lost so there is no longer in existence any master list of the subject areas or titles of the informal papers presented. If contacted individually each of the founding members, who gave a paper, can remember what subject he presented, but not what the others presented. Bradford presented a paper on the spotmeter and its applications. Davis presented his work on the "Striagraph". I

presented a paper on a "Direct Vision Photometer" which I had made in order to determine the proper exposure for taking a photomicrograph or photomacrograph using the principle of the "greased spot."

The second meeting was held in Orange County. We also invited Professor Ralph Turner from Michigan State University because he was a visiting professor at U.S.C. that year. Most of the papers presented at that meeting still had to do with techniques and the evaluation of physical evidence. There was a significant matter which arose spontaneously, the then widely used Dermal Nitrate test. As the result of the lively discussion it was unanimously agreed that the test is of no value because of the false positive and false negative results.

Another matter of significance started at the Orange County meeting. We decided to start proficiency testing. Bradford and Brackett volunteered to send out blood alcohol reference samples which all laboratories who desired could analyze and report on.

It is not possible to describe fully the growing excitement with each seminar. The feeling that we could all profit by sharing experiences. The constitution and Code of Ethics were important to us. We all had a growing feeling of professionalization. To name each person who participated in and aided in the growth and development of professionalization through the CAC would certainly include most, if not all of the founding members, plus many who joined us later. We haven't reached the true standards of a a profession yet. We may never do so, but it's a goal worth the effort of every CAC member. Take your eyes off the bench and consider this: To become a

profession is within the realm of possibility. If we all work at it, it can be done.

I would like to conclude with a true story which happened to me, but applies equally to all of us in our profession-to-be. I was fortunate enough to have become involved with gas chromatography before most people had even heard of the concept. The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) held an international conference each year. One of the featured speakers each year for the first three years was Dr. Howard Purnell of Cambridge University. Each year he would report on quantum leaps in understanding the theory and practice of gas chromatography. Howard is a research physicist. I'll admit that much of what he said, and the mathematical treatment was over my head. I didn't have enough background to appreciate the man fully, but I admired him greatly from a distance.

The next year, before the annual conference, Dr. Peksok who arranged and chaired the annual research conferences phoned me long before the conference. He asked me to present the annual banquet speech. So I prepared and gave the talk. It was nothing but a presentation of what you people do every day. Cases solved using the G-C. The talk was surprisingly well received that night, and I soon forgot all about it.

The next annual international conference started before I got there. The traffic was worse than usual. So I was late. Again Dr. Purnell spoke and again attendees clustered around him with questions. He brushed them off with comments of, we'll talk about it later.

He sought me out. "Where have you been? I looked for you before the conference started."

"I've been thinking about you and your work all year. I've even told my son about you. The cowboy in California, who rides about on his horse. He has a gas chromatograph strapped to his saddle. He uses it to solve crimes— Look--I envy you your job."

"Me? Why me," is all I could say.

He said, "I may spend a lifetime to discover one absolute truth. You - you do it every day, of every month, of every year. I envy you."

That's where it is. That's what it's all about.

- 
1. It is also of interest to note that Dave decided to enter the field as a result of having phoned Chief August Vollmer to obtain material for a talk he had to give in a public speaking class while still a Berkeley High student. While the Berkeley Police Department has never had a crime laboratory, Vollmer had been a leading proponent of "scientific crime detection" for many years. Dave's visit and tour of the police facility included taking a simulated polygraph examination. Vollmer was particularly proud of the polygraph because he was the prime mover in seeing to its construction.
  2. After the war John Williams returned to Missouri to again head up the MSHP. Many years later he retired from the MSHP to accept the directorship of the San Francisco Police Department Crime Laboratory. He also became a member of the CAC long after it was founded.
  3. Patrick Fuller had just returned from active duty as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Pat Fuller was not to become a founding member of the CAC. He started to study law in night school shortly after he began to work for Davis. When he passed the California State Bar examination several years later he left the field of criminalistics. He did not open a law office. He became an investigator for the Internal Security Division of the United States Internal Revenue Service. He later transferred to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD). By the time he retired, that bureau had become the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Pat was the principal legal officer of the DEA.