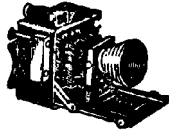




THE PRINT

Official Publication of the Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers
An Association for Scientific Investigation and Identification Since 1937

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A ONE WAY STREET

Guest Editorial

I have just finished reading a 'Legislative Alert' published by the California Law Enforcement Association, A Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Association, pertaining to Labor Code ss3212.1 (Amended).

"On October 6, the Governor of California signed AB 539 (Papan Bill) into law. This Bill removes the requirement that a firefighter or peace officer prove a reasonable link between a carcinogen and a disabling cancer before the cancer is presumed compensable under the workers compensation system."

"This Bill changes (amends) Labor Code ss3212.1 'Cancer presumption; active firefighters and peace officers'. It only affects those firefighters and peace officers that are appointed under Penal Code ss 830.1 and 830.2(a)."

Civilian Evidence Handlers are excluded, by design. If the fire and law enforcement unions and associations were to include us it would broaden the scope to the point that there would be great opposition from large employers, which would result in denial. Who can blame them.

It's too bad that evidence handlers and processors don't have an association that pursues changes in the law that would benefit the people who are most likely to be exposed to these carcinogens.

What we (evidence handlers) have are professional associations whose only purpose seems to be that of improving on our abilities to perform our jobs better in order to further the identification and prosecution of law breakers.

Law Enforcement Associations' only purpose for existence is the protection, pay, and benefits of their members.

IAI, CSDIAI, SCAFO, The Fingerprint Societies, AFIS Internet, are all oriented toward excellence in knowledge and performance of their duties.

What's wrong with this picture?

I am in possession of the NEW LIST OF KNOWN CARCINOGENS (and "target organs"). If anyone is interested give me a call or e-mail and I'll mail a copy.

Tom Jones
jones@scafo.org
W. ph. 661 391 7712

Banks Put Finger On Bad Checks

Thumbprints annoy customers, cut fraud

(This article was submitted in August by Dennis Uyeda, CAL-DOJ. Thanks Dennis. I apologize to the original publisher and our readers as I have misplaced the information regarding the original publication.)

By **VERNON SILVER**

Bloomberg News Port Charlotte, Fla.

When Marilyn Decker walked into a South Trust bank branch to cash a check, she figured a teller would hand over money and she'd be on her way.

Not so fast, the teller said. First they'd have to fingerprint her.

Decker, 44, a housewife from Port Charlotte, offered the teller a driver's license and credit card to back her claim on the \$200 check written by her sister from a South Trust account.

"That wasn't enough for them," she says. "They wanted a thumbprint. I thought that was a little much."

Increasingly, U.S. banks are requiring noncustomers to leave their thumbprints on the faces of checks before they can collect their cash. Banks say the practice, now seen in all 50 states, cuts fraud. Many consumers, including Decker, say it's an invasion of privacy and bad service especially if the banks want to turn those noncustomers into customers.

"It's not like I've got anything to hide, I just don't think it's necessary," says Decker, who drove to her own bank to cash the check. "I'm not going to give them my thumbprint."

Banks defend thumbprinting, which is promoted by the industry's biggest trade group, the American Bankers Association, and practiced by the nation's largest banks, including No. 1 Bank of America Corp.

Banks that require fingerprints see an average 60 percent drop in bad checks being passed, says Diane Poole, director of the American Bankers Association's technical services division. As the practice catches on, the industry will reduce the fast-growing losses from check fraud, which now exceed \$1 billion a year, she says.

"People don't recognize how large the fraud costs are in banking and the fact that they're increasing," says Richard Kovacevich, chief executive of San Francisco's Wells Fargo & Co., the seventh-largest U.S. bank.

The increase comes in part as check counterfeiters get their hands on computers, scanners and color laser printers.

"Technology, as wonderful as it is, is also the friend of the criminals," Kovacevich says.

To fight back, banks are using simple technology: an ink pad. In most cases, banks ask noncustomers to press a thumb on the pad which has ink that sticks to paper, but not to skin and leave a print on the face of the check. Banks say they don't keep a database of fingerprints and examine the marks only if there's a problem with a check.

Many bankers say fingerprinting is their best option as they balance fighting crime and the public's privacy concerns.

"If it's approached in the right way, people can understand that you're trying to protect their assets and the corporation's," says Jerry Grundhofer, CFO of Firststar Corp., the 15th largest U.S. bank. Firststar fingerprints noncustomers in Missouri and Ohio, in keeping with local competitor's practice.

Fingerprinting -- known euphemistically as "touch signature" had a brief life in the 1980's at Chase Manhattan Corp. but didn't catch on until years later, says Poole of the American Bankers Association. The old BankAmerica Corp. resurrected it in 1997 "in Las Vegas, because they had a problem with a lot of bad checks being passed," she says.

From there, it spread to California and Texas, where some banks reported 75 percent to 80 percent drops in check fraud. While every state has some thumbprinting, it's been slow to catch on in New York, where many banks, including Chase, normally won't let noncustomers cash checks drawn on the bank, even if they leave a print.

Complaints about fingerprinting don't just come from people who cash checks. People who write checks and hear back from angry relatives or employees who had to stick their thumbs in ink are up in arms, too.

In many cases, banks also charge a fee, adding to the public's annoyance. Bank of America and BankOne Corp. each charge noncustomers \$3 to cash a check right after fingerprinting them.

At SouthTrust, where Decker tried to cash a check, thumbprints are required at all of the bank's 630 branches in eight states, says Linda Baker, the company's manager of corporate communications.

"SouthTrust has been doing this for about a year and our customers are getting used to it, and they think it's being done for a good reason," says Baker.

THE PRINT is the official publication of **Southern California Association of Fingerprint Officers (SCAFO)**.

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Finger, eye and face scans soon may replace passwords

(This article is reprinted from the November 11, 2000 issue of The San Gabriel Valley Tribune. Thanks to Dale Falicon, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, for sharing this article.)

By **BRIAN BERGSTEIN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

City workers in Oceanside were drowning in passwords. One to check e-mail, others to see water billing records or police reports, all on top of the codes and PIN numbers they had to keep straight in their off-the-job lives.

Time and money were wasted answering up to 30 calls a day from workers who forgot or lost passwords.

Now those calls are down to one or two a week.

Two years ago, Oceanside began installing mouse-sized fingerprint scanners at city computers. So instead of fumbling for a password, city workers now need only place finger to scanner to get onto the network.

"It's been a big success," said Michael Sherwood, the city's information technology director. "The only thing we're wondering is, why hasn't the rest of the world caught on?"

Biometric devices that identify people by physical characteristics such as eye patterns, voice tones and handprints have been the stuff of cinema for decades.

In the real world, prohibitive costs have restricted their use mainly to government offices and military bases.

Until now, that is.

As sensitive and important business are increasingly conducted online, biometrics' day may finally have come. Within the next year, mobile phones and personal computers will have fingerprint scanners as optional equipment, providing convenience as well as increased security.

Passwords can be easily stolen. Fingerprints can't.

At the huge Comdex high-tech trade show that opened Sunday in Las Vegas, dozens of biometrics companies are competing for attention, pushing everything from voice-recognition software to programs that can purportedly distinguish computer users by how they type their passwords.

"Before it was this James Bond kind of stuff, with retina scans, that kind of thing," said Sean Berg, security segment manager at Dell Computer Corp., which will offer fingerprint scanners on cards that plug into laptops. "Now it's much more prevalent, much easier to use and much more affordable for the consumer."

The scanners on Dell laptops, designed to restrict access, will cost more than \$100. That's about what Oceanside paid for the devices it bought which Sherwood says easily paid for themselves in saved labor costs.

DNA links suspect to 6 slayings

(This article is reprinted from the August 6, 2000 issue of The San Diego Union-Tribune. Thanks to Susan Lindgren, San Diego Police Dept., for submitting this article.)

By **WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM**
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK An investigator credited DNA science yesterday with helping police solve the serial killings of six women in Brooklyn.

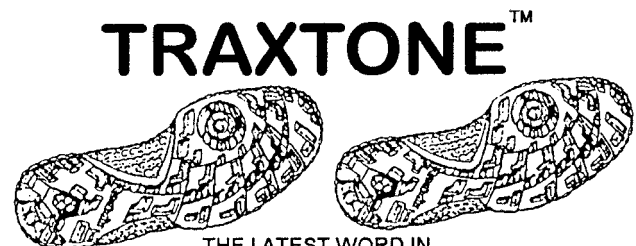
Not only did it link a homeless man to the crimes, he said, but it also cleared another homeless man a man who then befriended a detective and helped find the suspect.

More than a week ago, the man who was cleared led detectives from the Brooklyn North Homicide Task Force to focus on a 5-foot-3-inch panhandler, Vincent Johnson, 31, the investigator said.

And after DNA from Johnson came back with a match Thursday night, the other man also helped police track down the suspect.

He saw the man Friday on a Brooklyn street wearing a bright orange shirt. The cleared man called police and followed Johnson until they arrived and arrested him, the investigator said.

- continued on page 5



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10th Annual Training Conference Summary

On September 29-30, 2000, SCAFO held its 10th Annual Training Conference in Forensic Identification at Cal Poly University, Pomona.

On Friday the 29th, the first speaker was Lt. Bill Salvesson of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. He discussed the Regional Sheriff's Data Network, including databases such as LACRIS, which is divided into separate modules, such as Homicide, Fraud, and Gangs. LACRIS tracks an entire event from the time an officer responds to a call, to the subsequent photos, reports, court records, et al. All are cross-referenced with one tracking number, making a comprehensive investigation much easier to conduct.

Next, a vendor from Cannon displayed their latest digital camera, the EOS D30. It has superior image quality to most other digital cameras, due to a new technology that creates much sharper images than other models. The EOS D30's price is also lower than one would expect, because Cannon manufactures its own computer chip.

For the rest of the day, the AFIS vendors discussed their latest versions of the system, and presented each company's innovations.

All four vendors — Cogent Systems, Inc., Sagem-Morpho, NEC, and Printrak — then participated in an historic combined question-and-answer session for the remainder of the afternoon.

On Saturday the 30th, Marvin Spreyne of the Riverside District Attorney's Office discussed courtroom etiquette. He created a very detailed outline of what one typically encounters while testifying as an expert witness. Mr. Spreyne also covered things one might not consider, such as what to eat (and not to eat) before your court appearance to improve memory function, and to prevent the jitters (as much as possible, anyhow).

The next presentation took on a much heavier tone. Rodrigo Viesca of Chula Vista Police Department introduced the case of Jenny Rojas, a 3½ year-old Chula Vista girl who was murdered by her methamphetamine-addicted aunt and uncle. They had beaten and tortured her over a long period of time, then one day murdered her in a bathtub of scalding hot water. Mr. Viesca detailed the extensive evidence leading to their convictions, including the testimony of their own children. They are the first husband-and-wife team to be on death row for the same crime.

After taking a break from this extremely difficult topic, SCAFO then held its usual business meeting, executive board nominations were closed and the election held. Many applicants had first and second readings.

In the afternoon, Mr. Bill Leo and Mr. Steve Tillman of the L.A.S.D. addressed "Courtroom Presentation of Fingerprint Evidence in the World of Ridgeology". They discussed why it is preferable to move away from a quantitative fingerprint analysis (i.e., how many "points" of comparison you find between two prints), and toward the more qualitative ridgeology approach. The science of ridgeology examines all aspects of a print, not only pattern type (Level 1 detail) and number of minutiae (Level 2) for example, but pore size and placement, ridge thickness and width, and incipient ridges (all Level 3 details).

Quite often, Leo and Tillman explained, two different people may share a number of similar minutiae — for instance, a bifurcation and an ending ridge separated by four ridge counts. However, on closer inspection, that bifurcation may be located higher on the latent print than on the inked print, and there may be incipient ridges on the inked print in different locations than on the latent. This would lead an examiner to conclude that the same finger did not make these prints.



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Conversely, a partial print with few minutiae that would traditionally have been excluded from evidence in a "point-based" comparison may instead be used as a valid identification, when one considers the abundance of often microscopic Level 3 detail. The ridgeology approach to fingerprint examination is becoming increasingly widespread, and requires an even more thorough, and thus more accurate, analysis of latent prints.

The seminar concluded with Steve Tillman's presentation of Fingerprint Image Enhancement with Photoshop. Tillman attended an FBI course on the subject, and provided many printed materials from the class. He displayed several illustrations of ninhydrin prints on "busy" backgrounds, and instructed how to filter out background noise while darkening or lightening the print. The difference in visibility before and after Photoshop enhancement is amazing. No doubt there are many of us who will start using Photoshop for this purpose.

With this, the 2000 conference ended. Many contacts were made, business cards exchanged, and hopefully, new ideas taken back to our own departments.

--Nicole Salim

(Editor -- Thanks Nicole. Nicole is a relatively new CSI/Latent Print Examiner at El Monte Police Department and a new member of SCAFO. She is enthusiastic about our profession, has a strong background in writing, and has agreed to help write for The Print. Welcome aboard.)



SCAFO Meeting February 3, 2001

Host: Steve Tillmann
tillmann@scafo.org

Topic: "Panoscan - Advanced Technology
for Documenting Crime Scenes"

Portofino Ristorante Italiano
La Habra, CA

(detailed announcement to be mailed mid-January)

DNA - continued from page 3

Yesterday afternoon, detectives were still questioning Johnson, and police officials said he would be charged in the strangulation killings in the Williamsburg and Bedford-Stuyvesant sections of Brooklyn. Police said Johnson is a drug abuser who spent time at a hotel on Broadway in Williamsburg.

The six women were stalked and strangled, and their bound bodies were left where they were killed.

Two were found on rooftops in Williamsburg and one in a vacant lot there. Two were found in apartments in Bedford-Stuyvesant and one in a utility room under the Williamsburg Bridge, where Johnson once slept on a cot.

Most of the women had been arrested in the past on prostitution or drug charges, police officials said.

Police came across the man who helped them when investigators took DNA samples from 25 to 30 suspects, official said.

The samples did not match the DNA the killer had left behind, said one investigator familiar with the tests. Among those cleared was a man who police had been told hung out with prostitutes in the area and had argued with one of them, an investigator said.

But after the test showed he was not the killer, he befriended a detective working on the case, Steven Feely, and told him about another homeless man with whom he often smoked crack cocaine, a man who talked frequently about tying up women and having sex with them, the investigator said.

Police said that when they brought Johnson in for questioning last week, he refused to provide a DNA sample and said he did not know any of the slain women, the investigator said.

But one of the detectives who brought him in remembered that he had spat on the street outside.

Detectives were able to take a saliva sample from where Johnson spat, and by Thursday night, the results showed that his DNA matched DNA found on four of the victims, police said.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year has whipped past us and Christmas and New Years are upon us. The Second Millennium will be celebrated depending on your philosophy, which really is the correct one. Winter is actually acting like winter here in California and I'm sure many of you will be enjoying its benefits. Please don't break too many appendages while doing so.

On December 2nd, our Christmas Party / Executive Board Installation Ceremony was conducted at the meeting held in Covina. We inducted new Board members Tony Clark-Stewart (Director), Susan Garcia (Director) and Elaine Sena-Brown (Director). We look forward to their input and enthusiasm. We also say goodbye to outgoing long time Historian Bill Corson. Bill has done a fabulous job over the years and his shoes will be hard to fill. We also said goodbye to Katie King who has also been an integral part of the Board and the Association. Katie stepped down from the Sergeant at Arms position choosing not to proceed through the chairs. Katie's good work and enthusiasm will be missed on the Board. Thank you both for all your hard work.

It was a quaint, cozy meeting held in a beautifully renovated Mexican-American restaurant in downtown Covina. The food was excellent and the entertainment was, very special. For those of you that attended last years December meeting, you might remember we did not have formal entertainment. However, about half way through the meeting there was an another X-MAS party next door to us and they cranked up their music for all to hear. With the music blasting in the background we forged on and the meeting was a success.

Well, this year was no different except for the fact the entertainment this year was the City of Covina's Annual X-MAS Parade. Yes, a parade!!!!!! I'm almost scared to imagine what incoming President Bob Goss will have to deal with at next year's December meeting; an earthquake, a space shuttle landing or maybe even the finalized Presidential election results. The mind is boggled by the possibilities.

Well, this is my final message as your President; however, I will be around as your Chairman for another year. The annual Executive Board Meeting will be held on January 13th, 2001 at MeMa's Restaurant in beautiful Central City Oceanside 3800 blk of Mission Ave. (Next to new Oceanside Police Department Facility) at 0900 hrs. The directions will be forwarded to the Board in the next couple of days. If you wish to attend as a member and have an item you wish to address to the Board please contact President Bob Goss immediately so that it may be put on the agenda. If you cannot attend and have an item you wish addressed, please contact anyone on the Board (posted in this issue) and they will see that it is placed on the agenda and addressed.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank all of the Executive Board for all of the assistance, advice and guidance they gave me. I firmly believe my year as your President has been a successful one despite some minor

controversies. These were and are being dealt with in a professional manner and should be resolved successfully very soon. In general though, I'm most proud of the meeting attendance upswing (50 per meeting to over 90 per meeting), a greater general member participation in the association in general, the Annual Seminar and most of all the Website and "The Print". It is about these that I receive the most compliments. I would like to praise Editor Alan McRoberts / Ass't Editor Steve Tillmann for their monumental efforts toward the professional structure and content of both and all the time and effort that they put into both.

I also can't and won't forget to thank each and every one of my Board: Bob Goss (1st VP) George Durgin (2nd VP), Steve Tillmann (Secretary/Ass't Editor), Tom LaPisto (Chairman), Bill Leo (Director), Jim Lawson (Treasurer), Ed Palma (Director), Katie King (Sgt. at Arms), Rodrigo Viesca (Director), Clint Fullen (Parliamentarian), Bill Corson (Historian) and last but not least Marvin Spreyne (Director).

Each in their own ways supported and promoted this Association to the best of their ability and I thank each and every one of them.

In closing I want also to thank all of the members (Active, Associate, Subscribers) for your support and enthusiasm toward our science and our Association. Your professionalism, dedication and esprit de corps can only strengthen our resolve to work harder, more effectively and more efficiently in the completion of the daunting tasks that lay ahead of us in the future. We must continue to seek out the knowledge and develop your expertise and share it with your colleagues within and without the Association. We must also continue to seek out new and qualified applicants with the drive and desire to strive for only the best in our association and our Science. Our prime directive is to seek the truth above all for we are the "finders of fact" and without us the "trier of fact" would be impotent. Keep up the fine work all of you are doing and I wish you all continued success in your respective disciplines.

My last thank you goes to Past Board member, Distinguished Member and Wolford Award Winner Tom Jones. I want to thank Tom for all his wise counsel and his friendship through the years. When all has been tumultuous around me I have often called Tom and his calm, deliberate and insightful counsel has saved the day. He is a true "asset" to this Association and I recommend that all my successors use Tom as an asset/resource. Again, thank you very much, Tom, for all your help.

In closing, take care of you and yours and always remember to take each day one at a time. Also if you have a moment please take a look at the new and always improving website "www.scafo.org." Thank you.

Again, thank you all for your ongoing support and I ask you to continue your support of the incoming Board,

Fraternally,

Art Coleman

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310.285.2114

Dear Fellow SCAFO Members:

I trust this message will not sound like Vice President Gore's recent concession speech (by the time you read this I will be out of work and so shall he within a few more days).

As many of you are aware, I have retired from the Federal government at the beginning of this year. Although I intend to stay active in the consulting arena, I feel that forty-one years of the same old grind is enough and it is time to let someone else enjoy the satisfaction and occasional frustrations I have experienced.

Travel plans and sometimes health considerations prevent many retirees from attending SCAFO meetings regularly. Such will undoubtedly be my situation.

I take this opportunity to thank those devoted members who have assisted me during my past eight years as the association historian, particularly my partner Jim Lawson and past historian Russell Bradford. Their help has been invaluable. I ask that you continue with that spirit in your support to my successor, Bill Leo.

I have witnessed our association grow from the times of closed meetings which were sparsely attended, to recent times with over one hundred in attendance.

I hold a sense of quiet pride in knowing that more than thirty members from the San Diego area have joined our ranks since I became employed with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in 1987. Several currently hold positions on the board of directors, helping to shape the future of our fine association.

It is said that retirement is a time to reflect back on the accomplishments of a career and say, one has done the best that they could do. I see it as a time to say, "to hell with Mondays, I'm sleeping in."

Meripa and I thank you all for your friendship and support over the years.

Fraternally,
Bill Corson

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

- President Theodore Roosevelt - 1908

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~ ~ ~

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-- Upcoming Events/Schools/Seminars--

January 22-26, 2001

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IAI Training
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February 3, 2001

S.C.A.F.O. Meeting
Host Steve Tillmann
Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.

March 19th - 23rd, 2001

Toronto Police Service 15th Annual
Forensic Identification Seminar
www.torontopolice.on.ca/fis/seminar.html

April 9 - 13, 2001

Nevada Div. IAI Educational Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada

April 30 - May 3, 2001

CSDIAI 85th Annual Training Seminar
Concord, CA

June 26 - 30, 2001

International Crime Conference
100 Years of Fingerprints at New Scotland Yard
London, UK

July 22 - 28, 2001

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