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Police Officers Take Course in Science of Detection

By DENI SCANLON Staff Writer

Seventeen area law enforcement officers are finding that there is more science than guesswork involved in becoming a "private eye" for the public.

The job of a detective is serious business and to meet the need for continuous training, the South Oakland County Police Chiefs Association and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have joined to conduct a detective school.

In one of the classrooms at Groves High School, the students, all experienced policemen—are finding out the latest procedures of criminal investigation.

THEY KNOW now that by using soft x-rays, the watermark design on a copy of paper can be photographed even if it is covered by handwriting, typewriting or printing.

They have noted that \$535 million was lost last year due to fraudulent checks.

They're vocabulary is taking on a new meaning. "QTY" or "QTY" mean operating a motor vehicle without license plates is "aggravated assault." The extensive list of standard abbreviations used for more conciseness in record-keeping.

"These are 'just some facts,'" The techniques are even more involved.

LEARNING these facts and techniques demands that the students meet twice a week for a total of 17 eight-hour sessions. The men must write extensive take-home tests each week and are required to keep a complete notebook on all class instruction and discussion.

At the conclusion of the course, they will spend eight hours on a final examination. It isn't all school either.

Both the students and the instructors continue to work their regular eight-hour duties and case loads plus spending "spare" hours at homework.

DONALD S. Hostetter, special agent in charge of the FBI's Detroit branch, has arranged for 10 of his men to teach. Other instructors include Bir-

mingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley, Senior Inspector Carl W. Paik of the South Police Department, Lt. Willard R. Wise and Det. Robert Delorme of Harper Woods, Lt. Law Maggitt of Pontiac, Chief Allen M. Miglio of Harper Woods, Lt. Morin Helms of Birmingham, Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney George A. Taylor, Chief Arthur E. Lowers of Grosse Pointe Park and Lt. Carl W. Robinson of the Michigan State Police.

LT. JOHN W. REED of the Beverly Hills and Lt. William Lennox of Oak Park are directors of the program.

The students are from Berkeley, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Clawson, Hazel Park, Oak Park, Troy, Oxford, Royal Oak, Ferndale, Madison Heights, Pleasant Ridge and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

What do detectives study? Instructors' discussion topics give a clue.

"Fraudulent Check Investigations": Michigan law and court procedure, FBI fraudulent check file.

"Burglary Investigations": Michigan statutes, types of burglars and methods of operations, burglarized safes.

"FBI Laboratory Aid in Criminal Investigation": Examination of blood, glass, hair and fiber, soil, tool marks, paint—Laboratory reference files of known standards.

"Practical Photography": "Plaster Casts": impressions found on firm surfaces, shoe and tire impressions.

OTHER TOPICS include investigation of homicide, planning and conducting raids, handling firearms at the scene of crime, investigation of narcotics, confession and signed statements, techniques and mechanics of arrest, testifying in court and collecting, preserving and handling physical evidence.

THE LIST doesn't end there. Students hear about methods of taking fingerprints, soil evidence in hit and run cases, descriptions of personal property and a national network of investigations, laws of arrest, search and seizure, gambling and vice.

orientation for a major case and preparing cases for trial.

BUSY FELLOWS? "You bet they are," commented Birmingham Chief Moxley, who is a graduate of the FBI national academy.

He explained that when the class concludes, each man will have a notebook full of valuable information including a copy of a thesis that each student is required to write in addition to the regular course work.

"It will be a big boost for many police departments, especially the smaller ones," Moxley added.

ARE THE students enthusiastic? "The apt answer came from Birmingham's Jack Kalbfleisch. He overheard one of the FBI special agents say, 'These men aren't happy unless we instructors really keep them working.'" "That's his attitude," Kalbfleisch said. "I'm in the happiest guy in town!"

The Birmingham Eccentric Features



A close look at plaster cast impressions shows the minute details which they provide for laboratory examinations. Detectives block off an impression with box, pour in plaster and lay sticks or wire in the mixture as it hardens to keep the cast from crumbling when it is removed.



Tracking a criminal is made easier for detectives when they find a heel or footprint at the scene. FBI Special Agent Joseph E. Ilesman (center) describes what is individual about the plaster casts of impressions used in class demonstration. Students (seated, from left) Jack Kalbfleisch of Birmingham, and Peter Lutz and James Davis of Beverly Hills, listen to the explanation. Lt. William Lennox of Oak Park (standing, left) and Lt. John W. Reed of Beverly Hills (standing, right) are directors of the detective school which is presently being held at Groves High. A similar school was held in Clawson a year ago and the Wayne County Sheriff's office sponsored one last fall in Harper Woods.

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NATURE NOW Motherhood in the Wild A Continuous Process

If we view motherhood as it is practiced in the wild, we must conclude that nature condones this role only if its exercise contributes to the continuation of the species. Countless primitive life-forms, especially those which live beneath the protective mantle of water, by young, the function is to guard. However, among land-dwellers high developed insects such as bees, ants and wasps provide instinctive care for their larvae. The dauber wasp anticipates the food needs of each egg case a constant supply of food in the form of paralyzed spiders.

Scientists agree that we can follow the evolutionary force as far back as 400 million years to the early vertebrates before we have evidence of a "knowing" concern for the young. Even in this group the more primitive egg-layers such as fishes, amphibians and reptiles usually leave their offspring to shift for themselves.

HOWEVER, most birds get busy tending their families. Here individual species determine the amount and kind of care received by the young. The eggs of a few tropical birds hatch unattended in decaying heaps of vegetable matter. Ground-nesting birds frequently exercise little concern for their offspring because they are born practically self-sufficient. A sandpiper, duck or quail toddles off in search of food and adventure almost at once although the mother may act as a guide to her brood for some days or even a season.

Tree-nesting birds usually come into the world naked and blind. These would perish were it not for the constant care of one or both parents for a period which extends anywhere from a few days to several months.

WE MIGHT SAY that protective motherhood is a response to the more or less dependent state of the young at birth. When we come to the mammals, our most recent and mostly highly developed group of animals, we see the mother role more consciously practiced.

The marsupials, such as kangaroos and opossums, are among the most primitive of present day mammals. They have a short uterine life and complete their babyhood nursed in an external pouch which the mother can open and close with special muscles. Even when a kangaroo is almost full-grown it will avail itself of this refuge when danger threatens.

Mother koala, another marsupial of Australia, goes a step farther. When weaning time comes she produces for a temporary period only a kind of "eucalyptus pup." This unique baby food is provided only for a month or every two or three days and only at a special time in the afternoon. Thus the young are gradually accustomed to the pungent taste of the leaves of the eucalyptus tree which will be their adult fare.

BRINGING up mammalian children generally involves a constant round of protection, feeding, sanitary care and guidance to the practices necessary for survival. At one stage in the development of her young, the mother is to guard her prey, she carefully to remove indigestibles before she off-loads the young.

Seals born on the rocky headlands have to be persuaded, enticed and often pushed into the water which will be their adult home. A mother at sometimes "ditches" the youngster on her back to mid-stream thus forcing him to swim.

Squirrels are known to show their young from tree branches, mother bear sometimes cuffs her cub during the besting period and mother deer tries to butt and hunt some sense into her fawn.

SOMETIMES the animal mother teaches by creative play. A lioness will twitch the tip of her tail as a lesson in quick response, a raccoon will flip fish to her young, making a game of what will be necessary. By such devious ways does the mother of the wild teach her young the necessary lessons of survival.

Frequently she pays with her life that the young may be spared. A tiny chipmunk will stand against a weasel, a shrew against a cat, a white-footed mouse against a mink. Thus burns an unmaned blade of heroic behavior in the mothers of the wild.

Creation is a continuous process and the point at which instinctive care of the young ends and conscious motherhood begins cannot be set down here or anywhere. But it is something upon which to ponder as once more we experience the resurrection of life in toecup pond, in mossy earth, in woven cocoon, in swinging nest, in hidden womb.

WEEKLY VISIT Birmingham Is His Beat; Its Security Is His Goal

By IRMA N. DAVIS Staff Writer

"No one likes to get a ticket but people are usually pretty decent about it. Just one in a while someone gets a bit nasty when I tell them to get out of the car on the pencil and let 'em back."

General Jerry Roddewig, 26, and a naturopath over three years on the Birmingham Police force, likes his job and hopes to have a "job like Chief" (Ralph) Moxley some day—only in a warmer climate.

He came to his post from Michigan State University where he won his bachelor's degree in Police Administration.

"We're always going to school, though," he added.

CHIEF MOXLEY encourages his men to attend courses in phases of police work and "someone on the force is assigned to attend any worthwhile current classes" and thought there might very well be fewer violations in Birmingham now—maybe because of the point system.

A policeman's life has its share of humor, he agreed, remembering a time "when one of us strung up a clothesline that had fallen."

He recalled a note left on a windshield: "Please don't give me a ticket, the darn motor's broken."

Roddewig left his own note in reply—"without ticket—and is still amazed that the incident was widely covered in newspapers, "out-of-the-state even."

He wishes that "people would drop a line with the department if they think we've done a good job—or a bad one. They don't have to know our names."

RODDEWIG, like his superior, would also like to see accident witnesses come forth more often.

"I suppose they're afraid of 'suing a day in court,'" he commented. "In 50 per cent of the cases, the fact that they have given us a written report is enough," he said.

The friendly blond young patrolman has made many a friend in Birmingham.

One of them is an elderly lady who, no doubt, still smiles to herself as she remembers Roddewig's regular late afternoon calls to her home a year or two ago. Confined to a wheelchair, with a broken hip mending, she spent her afternoons in the garden.

Roddewig made it his job to see that she and her wheelchair were safely inside her home before the sunset each day.

"People are our business," he explained.

B'ham Family Net Worth Set at \$7,260

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK—How wealthy is the average family in Birmingham? What assets has it accumulated in the past year? Life insurance, real estate, automobiles and equities over and over?

Few families have more than a vague idea of how much they are worth or how general over-concern about their weekly income and the amount that has to come out for food and for general overhead. As to their total assets, they seldom take time to add them up.

SOME HELP in this direction, as it applies to the median family, is contained in studies made by the National Industrial Conference Board, by the Federal Reserve Board and by others. Their findings have been adjusted to reflect 1940 conditions.

They show that there is a direct relationship between income and net worth. Families with bigger earnings, year after year, have favorably high net worth. On the average, net worth is about 78 percent of annual income.

Considering the level of income in Birmingham, as reported, the median local family is presumed to have a net worth of approximately \$7,260.

THIS REPRESENTS the market value of all its physical possessions—its house, its car, its stocks and bonds and all the rest. The net worth of \$7,260, after subtracting mortgages, consumer debt and other obligations, is the net worth of \$7,260 per family in Birmingham compares favorably with the average in the United States which is \$5,275.

The answer is to be found, chiefly in the fact that local residents have been enjoying income running 45.5 percent above the national scale.