

January 27, 1960

La Van Hung.....

Report on Field Trip to Chicago -- During Christmas Vacation 1959

Chicago Police Department

The Chicago Police Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory is an integral part of the Chicago Police Department, and its facilities are available whenever matters of a technical nature are involved in a criminal investigation.

I have observed the following sections in the Chicago laboratory:

Fire Arms Identification Section

1. Firearm Examination

Laboratory technicians examine all suspected guns -- revolvers, automatic pistols, rifles, shotguns, and many other kinds of guns are found. To determine whether or not the gun has recently been discharged, the lab technician ought to know whether the gun is in good condition or malfunctioning. In cases involving the bursting of firearms, it is often possible to determine the cause of bursting.

2. Bullet and Cartridge Case Examinations

When a suspected weapon is recovered in case of a shooting, a laboratory examination may determine if this particular gun fired the bullet or shell in question.

In order to determine in such cases, the laboratory maintains reference collections of the various types and marks of guns and ammunition.

3. Powder and Shot Pattern Examination

The usefulness of powder pattern to determine the distance at which a shot was fired, should a question arise as to whether or not the victim shot himself or he was shot by another person.

A series of test patterns fired at known distances can be prepared. A comparison between the question and test pattern will enable an expert to determine the approximate distance at which the shot was fired.

4. Tests for Gunpowder Residue on Hands of Victims or Suspects

In a shooting case paraffin casts may be made of the hands of victims or suspects and then treated with chemical reagents for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of gunpowder residue. The location and extent of such residues when present may indicate that the hand thus treated had recently discharged a firearm.

5. Comparison and Identification of Tool Marks

Various tools, such as pliers, bolt cutters, and knives frequently leave distinctive markings upon the objects on which they are used. When a tool of this type has been employed in the commission of a burglary or other offense, comparisons can be made to determine if a similar tool found in the possession of suspect is the one which was used for the occasion. Such identifications are made upon the basis of markings left on the object in question (example - wire, metal, bars, wood, etc.) by minute or microscopic imperfections on the surface of the tool itself.

6. Tracks and Impressions

Three-dimensional reproductions of heel marks, footprints, tire tracks, and similar impressions are sometimes helpful in establishing the identify of a person or vehicle. Impressions which show characteristics of an "individual" nature, such as tread marks, metal taps, nail head, etc. are most suitable for purposes of comparison and are effectively reproduced by means of plaster casts. Nowadays, in the advantages of chemistry, sometimes Silicon has been used instead of plaster casts, but this is not in common use because it is very expensive.

The laboratory is always equipped with portable apparatus designed for making such casts at crime scenes.

Besides the Chicago Police Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, I spent the rest of my vacation days seeing the following places in Chicago.

1. The Adler Planetarium

The mysteries of the universe has been shown by a tremendous machine explaining the Solar System of which the earth is a member. It also consists of the sun, the planets and their moon or satellites. In addition, more than one thousand planetoids are associated with the System, as well as assorted comets and meteors.

2. The Shedd Aquarium

This is a tremendous job for a fish collection and sea anemone. For those who are interested in this field, they may come to study about fish kingdoms.

3. The Natural History Museum

Reconstruction of the past.

- a. There is evidence of a succession of races that have been found in Java, Europe, China. This has provided for a fairly complete study of the habits of some early human beings.
- b. The skeleton about 47 feet long of the giant carnivorous dinosaur was the largest of all land-living, meat-eating animals.
- c. The geology there is a tremendous exhibit in rocks. For those who are interested in geology they can spend at least a week in this museum, to look at these rocks. There are three main classes of rocks -- igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rock.

4. The Museum of Science and Industry

This is the story of science and industry, of the United States of America. Through the exhibition one can learn many things since the early days of America, and how science and industry developed in order to supply the needs of the people of this country.

Conclusion

I found that the trip to Chicago was an educational trip for me, because I have seen and learned many things in Chicago laboratory. I really appreciated such a wonderful laboratory they have over there. I hope in the near future in Vietnam we will have some new equipment for Saigon's modern laboratory.

Now back to school again, and I've bound myself to study hard so that I can learn something over here and bring home to adapt to our laboratory work in Saigon, and so that I can serve my country and our compatriots when I return.

4/21/60

LA VAN HUNG.....

Report on Field Trip to Toronto, Canada -- March 19th through the 29th, 1960

On my field trip to Canada I visited: I. The Metropolitan Toronto Police
II. The Attorney General's Laboratory

I. THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO POLICE

Organization

Board of Commissioners of Police -- Determines the policies, organization and general practices of the Police Department. Approves plans for the carrying out of such policies and reviews the results of the implementation of policy matters.

Chief of Police -- Responsible for the general government of the force subject to the order of the Board. Handles the administration and direction of the force.

Deputy Chief -- Supervises the activities of the branch and is responsible to the Chief of Police for the efficient operation of all units under his command.

The city of Toronto is divided into six districts and every district has a District Chief. His function is general operation. He is responsible for the general administrative operation of the department.

Each District is divided into several precincts and each precinct is governed by a police officer -- usually an inspector.

Besides policemen, Canada has many policewomen. They have been used since 1958 in the control of traffic. Some of them are used as clerical help. Their salaries are equal to that of policemen.

Education

Metropolitan Toronto Police have their own training school, known as the "Metropolitan Toronto Police College." This school is under the supervision of an inspector. The school has been functioning continuously for recruit training since 1945. The course for probationing training lasts from eight to ten weeks, and during this period new members are taught the routine duties of a police officer and given lectures in law, law enforcement, traffic regulation, first aid to the injured, use of rifles and revolvers, self-defense methods, etc.

The school also offers in-service training courses for police officers at different levels such as: Sergeant of detectives and detective sergeants.

For higher level, every opportunity is taken to have members of the force attend advanced courses of training given at Michigan State University or the National Academy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. This proves that Michigan State University is one of the best schools in Police Administration in the country, and also well-known all over the world in police work.

II. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LABORATORY

In many American cities I have visited the Laboratories are run by the police department, but in Toronto it is different. The Attorney General's Laboratory is operated independent of the police department, although they do operate with the police department in many cases.

Doctor Ward Smith is the Director of the Laboratory. Under him there are several sections with heads. They are responsible to the Director and they direct the work in their own fields and arrange for the development work that must be done around each case of an unusual nature as well as for general developmental work and research in their own sections.

The Section Heads are chosen on the basis of their experience, training and personal qualifications.

There are six sections in this Laboratory: Biology, Toxicology, Alcohol, Documents and Spectrographic examinations, physics, and chemical and firearms examination. All of these sections are the routine work in the Laboratory and in other laboratories in the United States.

I was very much interested in the Alcohol Section. They have a very good setup for the section in both quality and quantity of equipment for blood alcohol determination and breath tests for alcohol. This section is the most active section of the Laboratory in terms of numbers of cases and complexity of operation. Since 1952 approximately 500 alcohol analyses per year have been done at the Laboratory. In 1956 the breathalyser was introduced as the most accurate and efficient way to handle the analyses that are required. In 1959 there were approximately 4,500 traffic cases in which alcohol analyses were available to the courts across the Province of Toronto.

CONCLUSION

On my tour of United States and Canadian cities I have been making a special study of police work with the breathalyser. I also visited Lambton Mills Magistrate's court to hear Rita Charlebois, chemist from the Attorney General's Laboratory in Toronto, testify in a criminal negligence case.

As a young criminologist, I hope to be the first man to introduce the breathalyser to the Modern Laboratory of a young Republic of South Vietnam, now being built in Saigon.