

of evidence, especially in cases of violent death, where body position can be very important, or in traffic accidents where the position of the damaged vehicles may decide the case one way or another.

General

Initiative, powers of observation and imagination (and by this is meant a "practical", not a "dream-type" imagination) are the investigator's most important assets. All men are different, and policemen are no exception. Some are imbued with the inventive genius which impels them to develop new aids to scientific investigation. Others are content to use tricks or systems which have proved successful for others. The point is that a fertile imagination can be a valuable asset, as the following illustration will show:

In an investigation on record, a constable used a piece of hose and heat from the exhaust pipe of his automobile to melt the snow over a frozen tire track. By this means he was able to reproduce the original tread-marks. To his knowledge this method had never been used before, and in addition to uncovering evidence important to the investigation in question, he added another device to the investigator's bag of tricks.

Other constables have experimented with systems of taking plaster casts in snow and have produced several new ideas. If you have an idea which you think may work, but which has never been tried before, *do not try it on an important exhibit*. First experiment several times with a similar object or material until you are sure the idea is sound. Put it into practice, only when you are confident that you can accomplish what you have in mind. If the experiment is successful, make a separate report on it. In this way you will be passing information on to others and assisting crime detection in general.



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Study

Constant study is of paramount importance and this will entail some expense. A solicitor or doctor does not hesitate to buy new publications which assist him to keep abreast of the newest developments in his field. Police work is a profession too. An investigator should secure several well-known books on various types of crime detection. They should be read carefully and referred to often. This study will broaden one's knowledge of each phase of police work.

Keep posted on all the latest ideas. They must be of some use or they would not be published. Keep in contact with the public—the best source of information. Join such clubs and organizations as will bring you in contact with a good cross section of the people. In this way you will establish yourself in the community and at the same time provide valuable means of gaining information when the need arises.

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