

## Why Is Hercule Poirot Fuming?

Successful criminals are careful not to leave incriminating fingerprints at the scenes of their crimes.

Traditionally, they wipe off doorknobs and cocktail glasses on the way out. Times, however, are getting tougher. Constable Paul Bourdon of the North Bay Police Identification Bureau in Toronto has developed a process that lifts prints from what have been difficult or impossible surfaces – plastic bags, firearms, cardboard, ornate silverware,



stainless steel, wood, paper and, in some cases, the human neck.

The process “fumes” the surface with a special chemical vapour and it took Constable Bourdon five years to find the right formula. It was worth the efforts. Now the prints on a fumed surface become visible and permanent. The process is used by the Metropolitan Toronto Police and the Ontario Provincial Police and an increasing number of police departments across the western world. The Visuprint Kit, powered by electricity, costs \$1,500 and can be used with batteries at the scene of the crime. For information write Sidney Platel, Vice President, Payton Scientific Ltd., 120 Milner Avenue, Unit 10, Scarborough, Ontario M1S 3R2, or call (416) 298-9600.

Illustration: Katy Kelly



## Sorels Stand Alone

Sorels are boots with bonded leather uppers and rubber soles, lined with felt, and they are the rage at Explorers Club meetings, northern construction sites and southwestern ski resorts.

When the Plaisted Expedition returned from the North Pole, its leader said a few unrehearsed words about Sorels. “They are,” he said, “quite comfortable at minus 63 degrees.”

The *National Outdoor Outfitters News* surveyed the sales of après-ski boots and found that Sorels outsold the expensive models in Flagstaff, Arizona; Wilton, Connecticut; Middlebury, Vermont; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Squaw Valley, California; Buffalo, Minnesota; Salt Lake City, Utah; and every other place surveyed except Berkeley, California.

Unlike most fashion rages Sorels are inexpensive, averaging about \$55 a pair.

They are made of pure natural rubber, which is milled six times (instead of the usual three) to make the soles supple and durable. The uppers are made of full-grain leather (for the heavier, more expensive models) or split leather (for the lighter ones). The removable liners are 75 per cent wool and 25 per cent acetate. The wool provides warmth, the acetate long wear. There are two thicknesses, 3/8 inch and 1/4 inch. Sorels come in an almost bewildering variety of styles for men, women and children.

The company is represented by sales groups across the U.S. and in London, England. For more information contact Tony Dowling, Advertising Manager, Kaufman Footwear, 410 King Street West, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4J8, (519) 576-1500.

## The Bullet-Proof Policeman

RMI-3 sounds a little like a Canadian postal code, but it is the name of a mechanical policeman which recently successfully confronted a hostage-holding sniper in Quebec City's National Assembly.

Similar robots are hard at work in New York and many other American and Canadian cities.

The Remote Mobile Investigation Unit has a two-way radio, two arms, a hand that can pick up an egg or a bomb, a TV monitor and a spotlight.

It weighs 230 pounds but is only eighteen inches tall and able to go where other policemen cannot fit. It has six, twelve-inch wheels and two battery-driven torque DC motors and can be fitted with x-ray equipment, fire-fighting foam and a stethoscope. Its main job is bomb disposal but it can adapt. In Quebec it was sent into the building where it televised the sniper while he and the policemen conversed through its two-way radio.

The basic robot sells for \$20,000.

Write or call Bob Pederson, Pedsco (Canada) Ltd., 12 Principal Road, Unit 2, Scarborough, Ontario M1R 4Z3, (416) 755-3852.

