

crashed in with an axe which was left on the side-walk. This axe bore finger-prints on the handle and was therefore shipped to the R.C.M.P. Finger-print Section by the local detachment which had been called half an hour later by the chief of the town police.

Taxi drivers had seen a 1941 coupe, bearing New Brunswick licence plates No. 26-593, in the vicinity at about the time the offence occurred, and were able to give meagre descriptions of its three occupants who had driven around the town, acting suspiciously.

A check-up on licence No. 26-593 disclosed that it had been issued to a Mr Nichol of Temple which is in the district where the first offences occurred. At that point it was learnt that the plate had been stolen early on the morning of May 27.

The investigators, so far, hadn't much to go on; but by checking up on the probable times the break-ins had taken place, and their sequence, it was possible to trace the course travelled, and to deduce that all the offences had been committed by the same persons. All detachments were accordingly advised.

At Apohaqui, not far from Sussex, the locks were forced off a gasoline pump owned by Mrs H. Arnold and fifteen or twenty gallons of gasoline was stolen. The *modus operandi* indicated that this also was the work of the same gang. The investigators were able to bring out on the pump handle two distinct single finger-prints by a dusting procedure; this handle, together with finger-prints of complainants for elimination purposes, was sent to the R.C.M.P. Finger-print Section.

Sometime between mid-night and 7 a.m. on May 29, the canteen of F. Moxon, on the main highway at Mavgerville was entered and a bottle of milk stolen.

At about the same time five gallons of gasoline were drained from the gasoline bowls of Mrs A. McCluskey's pump, three hundred yards away.

In each case padlocks had been pried off, but as these had been handled before the police arrived, no finger-prints were preserved.

On the same morning, May 29, McAdam Detachment was advised that an automobile without licence plates had been abandoned in a gravel pit not far from town. Immediate investigation disclosed it to be the coupe which had been stolen from Kingsclear; that it was out of gasoline; that the spare tire was missing, the licence plates had been removed, and the wires on the switch board had been crossed to start it. Scattered about the pit were numerous stolen articles which definitely connected this automobile with many of the offences.

Included among the items recovered was a driver's licence which had been issued to Mrs Fowler of Westfield, N.B. A number of articles were preserved for finger-print examination.

It was also established that another car had been with the abandoned one and that the first two numbers of its licence plates were 26. Three men had been seen in it and inquiries revealed that they had later stopped at a service station in McAdam and obtained a road map after asking the way to Riviere du Loup, P.Q.

Coincident with this discovery, St John Detachment received a report that a 1938, black Plymouth sedan — the property of L. D. Fowler — bearing plates 1-200, had been stolen from a private garage at Brown's Flats. Apparently it was taken shortly after the theft of gasoline at Apohaqui. A driver's licence (the one found in the gravel pit) and some other belongings of the Fowler family had been in the automobile at the time.

Shortly afterwards, a member of St John Detachment while on highway patrol near Hampstead came upon an automobile with Ontario licence plates which had been abandoned on a side road. A 1942 blue four-door Ford, it