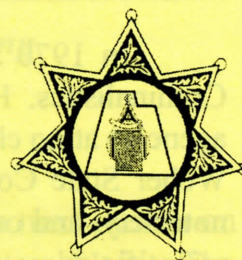


*The International Association For Identification*

**Utah Division of I.A.I.**

*Chartered 1989*



# **NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. VIII; No. 1**

**March 1997**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By**

**George Throckmorton**

**1997 President**

This is the first issue of the Utah Division of The International Association for Identification Newsletter for 1997, and I wanted to thank each one of you for electing me President for the upcoming year. I will do my best for the betterment of the organization and hope for your active participation in the future.

As the new president of the Utah Division of I.A.I., I requested our newsletter editor Scott R. Spjut, to publish something I feel is of importance to each one of you. We have been searching for a copy of the "Constitution for the Utah Division of I.A.I." for some time, and thanks to Jeff Itami we have finally located one. I believe this is something that each one of you should have access to, and therefore requested that it be published in this issue of the newsletter.

I don't know who drew up this Constitution, but I feel they did an excellent job, and all future Utah I.A.I. business will be conducted according to the Constitution.

I have also asked each of the Elected Officers to provide a brief biographical sketch so you can become familiar with them and their expertise. We have some dedicated officers serving you, and I hope you will take advantage of their expertise.

There is also something new I would like to bring to your attention. At our last officer's meeting we voted to make an annual award of excellence and achievement. This award will be presented to that individual in the field of Identification that made an outstanding contribution to the betterment of the profession.

We thought long and hard for a name which would bring respect and dignity to both the award and the recipient. After much deliberation we unanimously voted to call it after a true pioneer in the field of scientific identification in Utah. Most of you know James (Jim) Gaskill of Weber State University. He can truly be called the one of the "Fathers" of the Crime Laboratory in Utah, and I propose to name this award after him.

In 1970 Jim joined the Weber State College staff and began teaching classes in Criminalistics. He also began to provide sophisticated lab services to local law enforcement agencies at no charge. He began this on his own initiative, and it eventually grew into the Weber State College Crime Lab. Jim accomplished this feat with little funding, little notoriety, and out of the dedication he had to serve law enforcement and society through scientific crime detection techniques.

Although Jim is no longer involved in the processing of evidence in criminal cases, he continues to teach thousands of students at Weber State University in Ogden, that gentle art of scientific evidence analysis. His professionalism, expertise, and character have been never ending for more than 25 years.

It is with sincere appreciation we thank Jim Gaskill for his many years of dedicated service to the law enforcement community, and it is with great honor we respectfully use his name on this most prestigious award. The officers of the Utah Division of I.A.I. voted unanimously to name our annual award this year, and for many years in the future, the "James H. Gaskill" Award of Excellence and Achievement.

This award will be presented to that individual in the forensic community that exhibited "quality and professionalism, and for outstanding achievement during the year." In addition for ongoing contributions to the profession of forensic identification in the State of Utah.

At our spring meeting in April, we will present this first annual award to Scott R. Spjut of the Utah State Crime Laboratory for his excellent work on the "Michael Scott Decorso" case. This involved the finding of a fingerprint under very unusual circumstances which eventually led to the conviction of a dangerous murderer.

We encourage all of you to attend our spring meeting for this presentation, at which time we will also present a detailed discussion on the Mark Hoffman forgery/bombing investigation. Details will be forthcoming.

I look forward to a good year, and hope to be able to meet each of you sometime in the future.

George Throckmorton

1997 President

Utah Division of I.A.I.

**Utah Division of I.A.I. Semi-Annual Training Meeting  
April 15, 1997 (Tuesday)  
9:00am to 5:00pm**

Yes, the 1997 Semi-Annual Utah Division of I.A.I. Meeting will be next month on Tuesday April 15, 1997 at the Davis County Complex in Farmington, Utah. The agenda is as follows:

**MORNING AGENDA:**

- Business Meeting
- IAFIS Presentation by Jeff Itami
- Presentation of J.H. Gaskill Award

**AFTERNOON AGENDA:**

- Decorso Homicide Investigation Presentation by Scott R. Spjut
- Hoffman Forgery Case Investigation Presentation by George Throckmorton

Please make arrangements to be sure and attend our Semi-Annual Meeting!

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**CONSTITUTION FOR THE UTAH DIVISION OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION  
"UTAH DIVISION OF I.A.I."**

**ARTICLE 1: AIM AND OBJECT**

*This organization shall be known as the UTAH DIVISION OF I.A.I. (International Association of Identification) and is formed for the following reasons:*

- A. *To associate persons who are actively engaged in the profession of Forensic identification, investigation, crime detection and scientific examination of physical evidence into an organized body.*
- B. *To keep its members appraised of the latest techniques in forensic identification and investigation.*
- C. *To assist and educate through training in the development of existing or known methods of forensic identification and investigation for officers and technical personnel within Utah.*
- D. *To encourage research in scientific crime detection within the State of Utah, and various police agencies of that State.*

**ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP**

*The membership shall consist of Active and Associate Members:*

- A. *Active members of the Division shall consist of heads of Bureau of Identifications or Investigations, heads of Police Departments, Chiefs of Detectives and Sheriffs including persons under their supervision who are in the science of identification, PROVIDED HOWEVER that the forgoing persons are bonafide employees of and who receive salaries from National, State, County or Municipal Governments, or some subdivision thereof.*
- B. *Associate Members shall consist of reputable persons wholly or partially engaged in any of the various phases of the science of identification, and who are not qualified for active membership, are hereby eligible to become Associate members; They shall in all respects be subject to the same rules, fees and charges and entitled to the same rights and privileges as Active members, EXCEPT that they shall not be entitled to election to the offices of Vice-President or President.*
- C. *Active and Associate members in good standing who's dues are current and membership is current can vote.*

**ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS**

*Elected Officers:*

- A. *President*
- B. *Vice-President*
- C. *Secretary*
- D. *Treasurer*

*Appointed Officers:*

- A. *Regional Representatives to I.A.I.*
- B. *Newsletter Editor*
- C. *Sergeant-At-Arms/Parliamentarian*
- D. *Legal Representative*
- E. *Historian*

*Section 1. All Officers shall be nominated and elected at the General Meeting.*  
*Section 2. No members shall be a candidate for, nor elected to more than one office during any year.*

**ARTICLE 4: DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT**

- A. *The president shall preside at all meetings of the Division and preserve order and decorum. The President shall carefully supervise the affairs of the Division and labor for usefulness and efficiency. The President shall appoint all standing and special committees as provided for herein. The President shall fill by appointment all vacancies, including Committee Chairpersons caused by death, resignation, or other causes, except as otherwise provided for in these Articles. The President shall represent the Division at all functions requiring official I.A.I. representation unless otherwise delegated by the President.*
- B. *The President shall not succeed him/herself in office except when serving the unexpired term of his/her predecessor.*
- C. *The President shall be an ex-officio Member of the Board of Officers for the year following his/her term of office.*
- D. *The President shall receive allowance for travel, hotel and food unless supplied by local conference*

- committee, while attending the Annual Conference of the I.A.I. ONLY if the Utah Division is fiscally able.
- E. The President shall make reports to the General Membership of the status of the Division.
  - F. The President of the Division shall co-sign all checks drawn on the Division bank account.
  - G. The President may with the approval of the Board of Officers, seek additional funding to defray expenses incurred in the furtherance of the goals and the Division. The President shall report all expenses to the Board of Officers and General Membership annually.

**ARTICLE 5: DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

- A. The Vice-President shall act as presiding officer of the Division during the temporary absence of disability of the President. The Vice-President shall automatically succeed to the office of President in the event of death, disability, resignation or removal from office of the President, and shall service the unexpired term thereof. In the event of the death, disability, resignation or removal from office of the President, the Vice-President shall serve as President, and may run for his/her own term as President in the succeeding year.
- B. The Vice-President shall be a member of the Board of Officers of the Division and attend quarterly meetings of the Division as well as semi-annual General Membership meetings of the Division and any special meetings called by the President.
- C. In the event of death, disability, resignation or removal from office of the President, the co-signer will be the Vice-President who shall replace the President.
- D. The Office of the Vice-President will remain in the event the Vice-President fills the vacancy of the President.

**ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY**

- A. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Division at quarterly, semi-annual and special meetings. Also all committee meetings shall submit minutes as addendums to the Division minutes of the Secretary.
- B. The Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Officers of the Division and shall have a vote.
- C. The Secretary shall send copies of the Official Minutes to the I.A.I. Secretary/Treasurer as soon as possible after each Division meeting.
- D. The Secretary shall send copies of the Official Minutes to the Division Historian for historical record.
- E. The Secretary shall send all Presidential or Board of Officers notices/announcements.
- F. The Secretary shall keep a record of all Division Committee Reports and send a copy to the Historian for historical record.

**ARTICLE 7: DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**

- A. The Treasurer shall collect dues from all Members/Associate Members for the Division. The Treasurer shall deposit all checks into the Division Account and establish such Account. The Treasurer must keep records of all expenses, checks, and such documents of the Division's transactions as necessary and make an annual Treasures Audit report to the Board of Officers. The Treasurer is a member of the Board of Officers and shall have a vote.
- B. The Treasurer will maintain the books in accordance with standard book keeping procedures and ought to be a person who is familiar with the same. A copy of the annual Audit will be sent to the Historian.

- C. The Treasurer of the Division shall co-sign all checks drawn on the Division Bank Account.

**ARTICLE 8: DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

- A. The Regional Representative is the liaison officer between the Division and the Parent Body Organization and shall facilitate communication between the Division and the Parent Body. The Regional Representative shall perform these duties as designated by the President of the Division.
- B. The Regional Representative shall be a member of the Board of Officers and shall have a vote.

**ARTICLE 9: DUTIES OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

- A. The Newsletter Editor shall prepare a newsletter for the Division. The contents and information of the newsletter will concern educational data, methods, training services, Divisional meetings, activities, and so on to keep the General Membership apprised and informed. Also, it shall include the official minutes of quarterly meetings of the Board of Officers of the Division. Printing and mailing expenses are to be submitted to the Board of Officers and the Treasurer.
- B. The Newsletter Editor shall be a member of the Board of Officers and shall have a vote.
- C. The Newsletter Editor shall see that timely editions of the Divisional Newsletter are sent out as income of the Division allows.

**ARTICLE 10: DUTIES OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS/PARLIAMENTARIAN**

- A. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall have command of the outer doors of the meeting room, Board Room, and shall prevent unauthorized entry as determined by the President or Board of Officers. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall assist the President in preserving order and shall perform such other duties as the President may direct.
- B. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall maintain the flags of the organization and shall be responsible for the presentation of these flags at the General Membership meeting(s).
- C. The sergeant-At-Arms shall determine the voting eligibility of persons present at the General Membership meeting(s). The Treasurer shall assist the Sergeant-At-Arms in maintaining a list of current, dues paid, members in good standing who may vote as to which elections they may vote.
- D. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall be a member of the Board of Officers and shall have a vote.

**ARTICLE 11: DUTIES OF THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE**

- A. The Legal Representative role is advisory in nature. He/She shall give prompt legal advice to the President or Board of Officers as requested.
- B. The Legal Representative is a member of the Board of Officers and shall have a vote.

**ARTICLE 12: DUTIES OF THE HISTORIAN**

- A. The Historian shall search for, collect, and have custody of all items of historical interest to the Division. The Historian shall identify and mark each item, acknowledge the donor of each, and maintain an inventory of all material on hand, and shall advise the membership of new acquisitions and other pertinent matters on an annual basis.
- B. The Historian shall maintain a scrapbook of the historical activities of the Division, and shall bring this book to the General Membership Meeting(s). A book of all official Minutes of the Division shall be kept

for review by members. The Board of Officers shall authorize expenditures for the scrapbook and binders for the Minutes.

- C. The Historian shall attend all meetings of the Board of Officers and shall have a vote.

**ARTICLE 13: DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS**

- A. The Board of Officers shall consist of the following: President, Vice-President, secretary, Treasurer, Regional Representative of I.A.I., Newsletter Editor, sergeant-At-Arms, Historian, and Legal Representative.
- B. A minimum of five Board Officers will comprise a quorum of voting purposes.
- C. The President of the Division shall be the Presiding Officer of the Board of Officers. If the President cannot preside, the Vice-President shall be the Presiding Officers. If neither is able to attend, the meeting date shall be changed when one can attend to preside over the meeting.
- D. In addition to ordinary business of the Division, the Board of Officers shall be empowered to conduct hearings concerning any Member of the Division upon any charge by another other Member affecting both the charged and Division's professional reputation, provided the charge is made in writing and an investigation is made into the matter. If so deemed, the charge will be forwarded to the I.A.I. Board of Directors Ethics Committee for processing. Reference: ARTICLE XVI: Section 4.5.6.7.8. of the I.A.I. Constitution.
- E. The Board of Officers shall gather reports from each Officer of the Board, compile a report for the Secretary to give the Regional Representative so a Division Report of Activities may be submitted at the Annual Conference of the I.A.I..

**ARTICLE 14: EMBLEM**

- A. The Emblem of the Utah Division shall be used only by paid Members and Associate Members of the Division.

**ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENTS**

- A. Any motion to change the Constitution of the Utah Division of I.A.I. must be approved by a majority vote at the general Membership Meeting(s), and, if approved, must be published in total in the Utah Division of I.A.I. Newsletter, but shall then be carried over to the next General Membership Meeting(s) for final passage and adoption by a majority vote.

**ARTICLE 16: DISSOLUTION**

- A. In the event that this Division should be dissolved or otherwise terminated, the assets and income thereof shall not injure to the benefit of any member or private individual, but shall be used, under the direction of the Board of Officers, until said assets and income are exhausted, for the purposes of carrying out the objectives for which this organization was formed.

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I: APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Application for Active or Associate Membership shall be made upon the official form. For those desiring to also include I.A.I. affiliation, the proper I.A.I. forms will be made available for submittal. As with the I.A.I. forms, all dues shall be due at the time of submittal.
- B. The Treasurer shall notify the applicant of successful membership and issue a Divisional Membership Card for the current year.
  - 1. The Membership due for the Utah Division of I.A.I. will be determined by the Board of Officers. All dues and membership years begin in January and end on December 31st.
  - 2. The dues include the cost of the Division Newsletter.
  - 3. Members are responsible for notifying the proper Officers of change in status, address, etc. Notification must be made in writing.
  - 4. Delinquent members will be required to pay their dues before they can attend the next following General Membership Meeting(s), or they shall be denied voting privilege and admission to the chambers or hall by Sergeant-At-Arms.
- C. It shall be the Treasurer's duty to remove the names of Members from voting eligibility who have failed to renew membership after due notice.
- D. Reinstating of Members into good standing who have fallen delinquent may be made upon payment of dues in arrears plus handling fee to be determined by the Board of Officers.

**ARTICLE II: AMENDMENTS**

- A. The by-Laws of this Division shall be changed only upon a majority vote of the Members at General Membership Meeting(s).
- B. The addition of Amendments to the By-Laws of this Constitution may be made after one review by the General Membership present at the General Membership Meeting(s). The voting shall take place at the next following General Meeting and shall be by simple majority.
- C. All Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Division prior to consideration.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERS STANDARD OF CONDUCT**

- A. Members shall conduct themselves in a manner which creates and maintains respect for the Utah Division, their profession, and the I.A.I. in their professional activities, the Members should ever be mindful of the high standards of behavior expected of them.



The Utah Division of The International Association for Identification (I.A.I.) is a chartered division of The International Association for Identification since 1989.

The Utah Division of I.A.I. Newsletter is published four times a year during the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The information contained within the newsletter is either in the form of submitted articles, information from other investigative publications, or reported information.

The Utah Division of I.A.I. Newsletter will accept any article or information from those wishing to submit to the editor. It is requested the submitted articles or information be in typewritten form or on 3.5" disks using Wordperfect 6.0 or lower.

Please send items to be published to the editor:

**Scott R. Spjut**  
Editor, Utah I.A.I.  
State Crime Lab  
4501 So. 2700 W. BOX 148285  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-8285

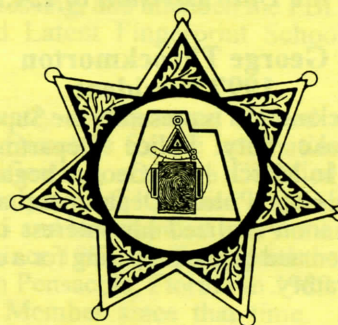
The Utah Division of I.A.I. Newsletter reserves the right to reject or modify any submitted articles deemed to be slanderous, derogatory, or inappropriate for the members of the association.

The annual membership dues to the Utah Division of I.A.I. are currently \$15.00 per membership, or \$200.00 for a lifetime membership. Dues can be mailed to:

**Utah Division of I.A.I.**  
Ms. Deborah Herrera-Parkin  
Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Identification Section  
437 South 200 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

If you have not yet paid your 1997 we ask that you do so now so as not to be dropped from our mailing list.

In addition, please notify Ms. Herrera-Parkin if you have not yet received your membership card.



**Utah Division of I.A.I.  
Insignia Items**

The Utah Division of I.A.I. has baseball hats, t-shirts and Lapel Pins with the Division Insignia embossed on them. These items are available for a minimal charge and look great! The prices for these items are as follow:

- Hats**                    **\$5.00**
- T-Shirts**                **\$8.00 (any size)**
- Lapel Pins**            **\$3.00 Members**  
                                 **\$5.00 Non-members**

Contact 1997 President, George Throckmorton at (801) 799-3030 or Editor, Scott R. Spjut at (801) 965-4501 for further information or to purchase these items. Likewise, we have these items available at the Division Semi-Annual Meetings.

**\*\*\*Call For Papers!\*\*\***

*Your 1997 Division Historian Arthur Terkelson requests a Call for Historical Stories from the members of the Division. These can be anything which would be beneficial or shed some historical light of the crime investigation field. These stories or articles will be printed in future editions of the newsletter. So please send your historical items in!*

**Meet The 1997 Officers  
of the Utah Division of I.A.I.**

**George Throckmorton  
1997 President**

George Throckmorton is presently the Supervisor over the Salt Lake City Police Department Crime Laboratory. In March 1976 George began his career with Ogden City Police Department as a Police Officer, but soon realized his interest in scientific crime detection and began preparing for a career in the Crime Laboratory.

Graduation from Weber State College, Washington State University and the Institute of Applied Science in Chicago gave a good background in scientific examination of fingerprints, questioned documents, and other forms of physical evidence.

George has worked in the Crime Laboratories at the Ogden City Police Department, State of Utah Department of Public Safety, and Weber State University before taking the helm of the Salt Lake City Police Department Crime Lab in 1995. He was hired to become the first supervisor at the Crime Lab when Salt Lake City decided to convert it to 100% civilian personnel.

Two of the more spectacular cases where George's expertise have been used involve the "Hi-Fi Shop" murder investigation in 1973 and the Mark Hoffman murder/forgery investigation in 1986.

**Don B. Thurgood  
1997 Vice-President**

Don B. Thurgood was born in Ogden, Utah and was raised in Syracuse, Utah where he currently resides with his wife and two of his four children. Don graduated from Clearfield High School in 1967 and later attended Utah State University where he pursued a degree in Agricultural Technology. While at U.S.U. he played defensive safety for the school's football team when they defeated B.Y.U. and U. of U. in the same year. Don then transferred to Weber State University where he earned his Bachelor Degrees in both Criminalistics and Psychology in 1991. Don has also attended schools and seminars sponsored by the FBI in Quantico, Virginia, the DEA in McLean, Virginia, the ATF in Florida, and UDI in Utah.

Don was employed by the Weber State University Crime Laboratory from 1991 to 1994. His duties included Crime Scene Investigations, Latent Print

processing and comparison, and Controlled Substance Analysis. Don transferred to the Northern Utah Crime Lab under the Department of Public Safety July 1994 where he is currently employed as a Criminalist specializing in Controlled Substance Analysis.

Don has been a member of the Utah Division of I.A.I. since 1992.

**Trent Grandy  
1997 Sergeant At Arms/Parliamentarian**

Trent Grandy was born in American Fork, Utah but was raised on a ranch in Teton County, Idaho. It was there that Trent acquired his love for the outdoors. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and prospecting.

Trent attended Rick's College in Rexburg, Idaho where he received his Associates Degree in Law Enforcement. Trent then attended Weber State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminalistics, graduating Spring 1990.

Trent's first Criminal Justice arena employment was with the Utah Department of Corrections employed as a Guard at the State Prison in Midvale, Utah from 1991 to 1994. The past three years has found him working for the Salt Lake City Police Department Crime Lab as a Crime Scene Investigator and Latent Print Examiner. Trent thoroughly enjoys his work with the Salt Lake City Police Department.

Trent has been a member of the Utah Division of I.A.I. since 1994.

**Darren B. Jewkes  
1997 Secretary**

Darren was born in Ogden, Utah but raised in Colorado and California before returning to Utah in 1989. Darren graduated from Weber State University in 1993 earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminalistics.

After graduation Darren worked for a short time as a Security Officer for the Corporation of the President in downtown Salt Lake City. Darren began his Forensic Employment in 1994 when he was hired by the State of Utah Department of Public Safety Criminalistics Laboratory as a Lab Specialist performing controlled substance analysis. Darren is currently a Criminalist and Latent Print Examiner

within the Laboratory. As part of his many functions, Darren is also the Chief Operator of the FBI's DRUGFIRE Utah Database.

Darren has been an active member of the Utah Division of I.A.I. since 1992 and is currently serving his second year as the Division Secretary.

**Deborah Herrera-Parkin  
1997 Treasurer**

Deborah graduated at Weber State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminalistics.

After graduation Deborah began her Forensics work with the Weber County Technical Services Unit working in crime scene response and latent print processing. In 1993 Deborah transferred and was hired by the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office as a Crime Scene Technician where she currently is employed.

Deborah's hobbies include her husband and two sons, all of whom instilled her to become a "chronic volunteer."

In addition to her membership with the Utah Division of I.A.I. Deborah is a member with the Parent Body of I.A.I.

**Jeff Itami  
1997 Regional Representative**

Jeff Itami was Born in Seattle, Washington and graduated from High School in Arimo, Idaho. Jeff graduated from Idaho State College in Pocatello, Idaho with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Commercial Art/Graphic Design and Illustration.

Jeff enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Europe as a Signal Corps Specialist in Sandhofen and Pirmasens, Germany. Jeff returned to Salt Lake City and pursued employment in his field of education as a Illustrator for Ajax Presses. Jeff then changed his employment career and was hired as the Assistant Security Director at Trolley Square Mall in Salt Lake City. Jeff joined the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff where he has worked in Vice, East Patrol Division, and is currently in the Crime Scene Unit.

In addition to his formal education Jeff has received a Certificate of Graduation from the American Institute of Applied Science, attended the FBI Regional schools

in Fingerprint Classification and Advanced Latent Print Processing, and attended the FBI Administrative Advanced Latent Fingerprint School in Quantico, Virginia.

Jeff currently serves as an elected member of the Board of Directors for the International Association for Identification, and is a Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst. Jeff has been a member of the I.A.I. since 1985 and has attended every annual educational seminar since 1987. Jeff accepted the Utah Division Charter in Pensacola, Florida in 1989 and has been a Division Member since that time. Jeff wrote the original approved Constitution for the Division and served as the Division's first Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Jeff currently maintains the status as the 1997 Utah Division of I.A.I. Regional Representative.

**Arthur G. Terkelson  
1997 Historian**

Arthur Terkelson was born in Mt. Pleasant, Utah and later moved to Ogden then Davis County area where he currently resides with his wife and three of their children. Arthur graduated from Ogden High School in 1966 and after serving a tour of duty in Germany and Vietnam with the U.S. Army, he enrolled at Weber State College within the Police Sciences. Arthur graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Police Sciences in June 1974. Arthur is also a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserves where he currently hold the rank of Major and is the IMA Commander of the Office of Special Investigations Detachment 113, Hill Air Force Base.

Arthur began his Forensic career with the Weber State College Crime Laboratory the same month in which he received his degree in 1974. Arthur was elevated to the Crime Lab manager in 1984, a position he held until 1994 when he was transferred to the Northern Utah Criminalistics Laboratory under the Utah Department of Public Safety. Arthur is currently a Criminalist II specializing within the analysis of controlled substances.

Arthur is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and German as the language of Arts. Arthur has been an active member of the Utah Division of I.A.I. since 1989.

**Scott R. Spjut  
1997 Newsletter Editor**

Scott was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and currently resides in Woods Cross, Utah with his wife and their two children. Scott graduated from East High School in 1982 and attended the University of Utah where he started work towards a degree in Psychology. Scott's interest in the Criminal Justice arena began when he was hired as a Security Officer for the Corporation of the President in downtown Salt Lake City. Scott transferred to Weber State University where he pursued this interest. Scott graduated from Weber State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminalistics.

Scott was hired with the State of Utah Department of Public Safety Criminalistics Laboratory and currently works as a Latent Print Examiner. Scott was appointed as the Supervising Criminalist over the Identification Section September 1995. In addition Scott is an Instructor for the Utah Crime Scene Academy and for the Salt Lake Community College P.O.S.T. Faculty. Scott also received Certification as a Latent Print Examiner with the I.A.I. in 1996.

Scott has been a member of the Utah Division of I.A.I. since 1991 and has served as Vice-President, President, and currently serves as the Newsletter Editor.

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***Submitted Article***

The following article was submitted by Deputy Jeff Itami, Certified Senior Crime Scene Analyst with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Identification Section.

**LIVESCAN FINGERPRINTING  
VERIFICATION**

As the use of livescan fingerprinting systems increase within booking arrest facilities around the nation, it has become more important than ever before that continuous monitoring of the hard-card product is done. While the electronic industry increases the accuracy and reliability of their technology, those who are in the field of latent print examination and fingerprinting have a duty to closely monitor that all hard-card products remain as good as established hard-card fingerprints done with inking and rolling.

The Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Jail Division booking station currently utilizes livescan fingerprinting by Digital Bio-Metrics as well as mugshots. The system is effective however it is still only as good as the competency of the operator. A competent fingerprint operator is one who follows a set procedure and rolls the fingers so that the patterns are taken nail-to-nail, and the "pitty-pats" or plain impressions are taken clearly and simultaneously. Generally speaking, a degree of competence is achieved by being properly trained in the techniques of fingerprinting by another experienced operator and then having their manipulation of the rolling demonstrated, observed, and verified. In reality, it is the continuous performance of the job of fingerprinting persons that develops actual quality in an individual.

Our unit does daily, per shift, classification of the hard-cards produced by the booking station. This does several things: First it allows us to visually check the uniformity, correctness, and quality of the hard-card product being produced on a shift-by-shift basis. Second, it permits us to immediately notify the Jail Division booking station supervisory personnel of errors or incorrect techniques being done by one of their fingerprinting operators. If remedial training is required, then an arrangement is made so one of the Identification Unit members can meet that officer and go over the correct procedure. As a side bar, all of the Identification Unit members do ink fingerprinting at a manual station in the foyer of our Unit officers on a daily basis. Third, by running all the new inmate hard-cards on the Western Identification Network (W.I.N.) Automated Fingerprint Identification System (A.F.I.S.) per shift, we detect liars and repeaters as well as those who are hiding inside the jail under a misdemeanor arrest while felony or interstate warrants are outstanding for them.

The success of our A.F.I.S. ten-print new inmate searches is a direct result of accurately rolled ten-print cards for both "John Doe" unknown identity searching and verification searches. It has been our experience that the A.F.I.S. tends to "like" the average good quality ten-print fingerprints from the Digital Biometrics System. As I have no experience with other types of images from other systems I would make the rough assumption this is probably true for other hard-card products of the same quality from those systems.

Any police agency with primary inmate fingerprint data gathering responsibilities, both in mug shots and fingerprinting, utilizing computerized systems must make stringent efforts to assure absolute accuracy in

gathering data.

Repeat offender arrestee fingerprint cards are checked for accuracy against classifications already in our computer files. These new cards are then stapled to the back of the jail/arrest cards in our files. This can make a thick bundle of arrestee fingerprint cards on some individuals, and does increase the space taken up within a file. However, it does create a verifiable series of arrest cards indicating that the correct person was charged, incarcerated and went through the courts. In addition it has the effect of making certain that jail officers are not doing poor or sloppy work on repeater arrestee cards.

We have experienced poor quality hard cards for classifying, comparing, and searching. These reflect image quality that was too dark, too light, insufficiently rolled, fingers were in the incorrect slots, or the plain impressions weren't sequentially registered as a whole. In some cases data on the arrestee was placed on the wrong set of fingerprints. A meeting was called with Jail Command officers and the explanation stated the cause was due to experienced operators were transferred out and new, inexperienced jailers were doing this work in-between their other assignments.

Jail Division Command Officers implemented a policy where only senior, trained and experienced officers would do rolling or taking fingerprints from both new inmates and repeaters. As with all good intentions, this mostly works, but we still have to keep close scrutiny of daily production as some days a shift supervisor will put in a new officer who will make errors and create some problems for the Identification Unit. One of the most common errors made by new inexperienced personnel with the system is putting the

wrong inmate data on the top portion of the hard-card and the wrong fingerprints on the print portion. This is akin to wearing a brown left shoe with a black sock and having a black shoe with a brown sock on the other foot. There is also a tendency to make the fingerprints too dark, splotchy, or not drying them so the patterns are broken and intermittent. These are the same kinds of errors made by operators when doing inked fingerprints, but in the case of computerized system (inkless fingerprinting) they also now can get fingers out of sequence or move the last digit from the prior card into the Right Thumb slot of the new card, and so forth.

We must assure ourselves that we are placing the most accurate data possible into our hard-card files. Courts will definitely hold police agencies that are custodians of records and hard-card files to higher levels of scrutiny, accuracy and monitoring. Furthermore defense lawyers will increase claims for their clients of false, wrongful information and if they are correct, then you can see the lawsuits quickly following. Agencies who have no process for proving a current and accurate method of ongoing verification for product quality will find themselves being forced to release inmates, as well as being subject to lawsuits for false incarceration as more challenges to Livescan Fingerprinting are sure to be made.

