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The Society for the Scientific Detection of Crime

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The Society for the Scientific Detection of Crime 'The Crime Club' - Crimeclub.org

Club History

By way of background, our organization has its roots in an effort by Dr. E.E. Smith who was the Franklin County Coroner from 1932 until 1944. Law enforcement cooperation (in those dark days) could be described as "haphazard" at best. Crime laboratories were just being established. The very few police departments that possessed such operations guarded their findings and knowledge as "privileged information" and were loath to share much of anything.

Beginning in 1932, Dr. Smith sought to break down this parochialism and encourage the exchange of ideas and information by inviting members of the Columbus Police and the Franklin County Prosecutor to his office for informal meetings. The group grew through the 1940's with the inclusion of pathologists and members of the Franklin County Sheriff's office. Scheduled meetings were held alternately at Dr. Smith's home and in the basement laboratory of the original Grant Hospital. These took place on the first Friday of each month. The group elected officers and formalized their effort as : THE FIRST FRIDAY CLUB, in 1943. The name was dropped and the group reorganized as: THE SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC DETECTION OF CRIME, on January 7th 1944.

Later that year they approached the Mayor of Columbus (at that time James Rhodes) and city council to promote the establishment of a police laboratory. In the 1950's membership embraced city, state and Federal officials.

Membership has expanded through the years to include forensic specialists in arson, toxicology, questioned documents, firearm and tool-mark examination, psychology, chemistry, anthropology, pharmacology archeology, entomology, dentistry, forensic photography, fingerprint analysis, crime-scene processing, computer crime and historical homicide analysis.

The mission of our society includes assisting law enforcement agencies in solving cold and otherwise difficult cases, the investigation and reporting on new methods for the prevention, detection and solution of a crime. To this end, each spring SSDC holds a one-day seminar dealing with a particular aspect or type of crime. We try to tackle about everything and not repeat ourselves too often with the exception of covering new advancements in a particular field. Previous topics have included: HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION, TOXICOLOGY, FORENSIC AUTOPSIES/MEDICAL EXAMINATION, DISASTER RESPONSE/VICTIM IDENTIFICATION, COMPUTER CRIME, FIREARM FORENSICS/WOUND BALLISTICS, SEX CRIME INVESTIGATION, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, FORENSIC ARCHEOLOGY and FORENSIC SCIENCE AT THE DAWN OF THE 21st CENTURY. This year's seminar was devoted to human trafficking. A Club Holiday party is held in December in place of the usual meeting.

**C. Rodney James, Ph.D. INDEPENDENT FIREARMS EXAMINER,
Crime Club President 2013-2014**

What does the 'Crime Club' do?

You might ask, "What does the crime club do?" We are tasked with assisting law enforcement in evaluating cold cases or difficult criminal cases. Due to the expansive expertise represented in the field, we often have very unique and fresh input on cases. If you are a law enforcement officer with a Cold Case or a difficult case then we encourage you to contact us to present the case to the club. Case submissions should go through the Vice President of the Club.

In addition, we hold an annual seminar that helps to train law enforcement but also helps to support the club financially.

Experts in the Club

- Forensic Pathologists
- Attorneys
- Forensic Toxicologists
- Firearms Examiners
- Professors
- Detectives/Investigators
- Crime Scene Technicians
- Fingerprint Examiners
- Homicide Historians



Cold Case Squads and other detectives are encouraged to submit cold cases through our website for review.

Membership

Membership in the club is by invitation only. New members typically present on a topic to the club and then their membership application must undergo two readings before a membership vote which must be unanimous.

