



# THE OREGON INVESTIGATOR

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February 2007



OREGON COASTLINE

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# A word from the PRESIDENT of OALI



My fellow members,

As your president I hope this note finds you healthy and successful in your daily routines.

A new year is upon us and I hope that it will be a busy and prosperous one for all of you. I would first like to thank the current board for all of their support and hard work, representing the largest professional non-profit association for Private Investigators in the State of Oregon.

The board and I have been very excited in what we have accomplished so far this year. We meet monthly for our board meetings and now have full representation across the state with 8 new regional directors supporting your needs and listening to your concerns.

This board has made a commitment to reach out to our members all across the state by conducting regional seminars in every region to continue our project of taking "OALI on the road" in providing networking and free CEU opportunities. Invitations have been sent out to both members and non-members. So far OALI has visited, Sisters, The Dalles, Baker City, Eugene and Medford. We have planned our next Coast Regional Seminar for April 14, 2007 in Florence, OR. I want to give a special thank you to our Membership Director, Charles VanderPerren for all of his dedication and hard work on the Regional Seminars.

Since the induction in June 2006, the Board has accomplished the following:

1. The board has met monthly for regularly scheduled meetings, which began this past July.
2. Every board meeting has had an exceptional turn out of board members, with a quorum at every meeting.
3. In addition to our active board officers, we have key support people who have stepped up to their responsibilities in taking care of the OALI business. This includes; eight new regional directors, a membership director, webmaster, two forum moderators, a new web site hosting service and our video production team. Thank you all for your dedication and the giving of your time.
4. With the OALI road show we have gained new members and now have the largest membership of currently paid members in the history of OALI.
5. The current board has financed a rainy day fund which is untouched in the day to day operations in maintaining the associations business.

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6. Because of the Association's success we have been able to provide nice quality items, (satchels & leather portfolios) to all attendee's at various seminars and networking meetings.
7. The OALI membership and numerous board members have represented the Private Investigation profession for the entire state of Oregon in actively being involved in the transition and proposed rule makings regarding Continuing Education and the nationwide reciprocity issues that effect our licensing.
9. OALI has taken an active role in being a bridge between our new state licensing agency; DPSST, in the communication between our membership and the Private Security/Investigators Board.
10. And lastly, your board is an exceptional group of individuals that have provided a tremendous amount of time, energy, professionalism, and work for the benefit of our current and future members of OALI.

OALI is a growing organization. We have come to a point in time with some very difficult decisions that need to be considered and acted upon if you would like to see the association grow and maintain what it has worked for to be where we are today.

I have actively been on the Board since, 2003. I started as a Regional Director, then Vice President, and now my second term as President. I have been around the OALI block for sometime. I have worked with many different individuals and personalities both on the board and off the board. I have experienced being led and am now leading others. I have experienced not having to do anything and also having the entire association on my shoulders. I do have an insight as to what needs to happen to maintain, grow and attract new volunteers to keep OALI alive and functioning.

This brings me to the two newly proposed Bylaws which you as a voting member received recently in the mail. Because you are being asked to vote on the Bylaw amendments that deal with future voting on, Bylaws there has been some confusion. It is important that you read the proposed Bylaw amendments carefully and vote, either by mailing in your ballot or by attending the meeting March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Portland.

This Board discussed these proposals at length and in detail. Our Secretary, Gary Crowe, outlined the Board's reasoning in great detail in a forum post on January 4<sup>th</sup>. I would like to say that this Board has the best interest of the Association in mind and believes strongly that the amendments will benefit the members and will allow this and future boards to work more efficiently.

Thank you for your participation, concerns and input in making the Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators a viable and active association. I look forward in seeing you all in March for our annual spring seminar and meeting.

Sincerely,

Greg Parson, President

**Alan H. Crowe 1932 - 2006**

Alan H. Crowe was born on July 22, 1932, in Knoxville, Tenn. On Oct. 28, 2006, he passed away while surrounded by his family after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He is survived by his wife, Enid, to whom he was married for 55 years, and their six children, David Crowe, Celeste Ingalls, Aaron Crowe, Jason Crowe, Michael Crowe and Gary Crowe. He had seven grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and four more that called him grandpa. A veteran of the Korean War, during which he spent four years aboard a Navy refueling tanker in the Mediterranean, his career as an investigator began in 1956 when he went to work as an adjuster for The Travelers Insurance Company while attending San Francisco Law School at night. After 10 years, he became a licensed investigator in the San Francisco Bay Area and in 1968 joined the National Association of Legal Investigators (NALI). He served as its editor and publisher (1972-1973) and served on the original CLI committee, which developed the Certified Legal Investigator exam. He then authored the chapter on "Case Investigation" in the first edition (1976) of the "Civil Litigation Manual," published by the Oregon State Bar. In 1969, he became the chief investigator for the Pozzi, Wilson & Atchison law firm and moved his family to Portland. In 1981, he returned to the ranks of the independent when he established Crowe Legal Services, Inc., with his sons Jason and Gary. His son, Aaron, and daughter, Celeste, were soon to follow. A founding member of the National Association of Professional Process Servers (NAPPS) in 1982, his company, now Alan H. Crowe & Associates, Inc., was awarded the contract to provide management services in 1989. In the succeeding 17 years, during which his company has provided these services, the association has grown from 293 members to nearly 1,700 members. During this time, he had become an icon in the industry. Virtually every process server in the country would turn to him for advice on complex problems and issues relating to the industry. A founding member of the Oregon Association of Legal Investigators (OALI), he served in many different capacities over the following years. In 1996, he began

Crowe Foreign Services, a company that specializes in providing legal support services in foreign countries pursuant to international treaties and through private agents. Alan was the recipient of two special awards for distinguished and outstanding service to the process service industry; the Bert Rosenthal Memorial Award (2002) from the California Association of Photocopiers and Process Servers (CAPPS) and the Donald C. "Mac" MacDonald Award (2003) from the Na-

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## Alan H. Crowe 1932 - 2006

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tional Association of Professional Process Servers. His life centered on serving an industry and an association. He was instrumental in NAPPS being recognized and admitted as the United States member of the Union Internationale des Huissiers de Justice (UIHJ), which works to improve national procedural law and international treaties. As the Administrator for NAPPS, he helped untold numbers who called, wrote and emailed on a daily basis. He traveled the country to fight legislation that adversely affected process servers and investigators while single handedly monitoring legislation in all 50 states. A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006 in the Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Avenue, in downtown Portland. A celebration of his life followed at 5 p.m. in the grand ballroom. Donations may be made in Alan's name to "Feeding the Needy," First Baptist Church, 909 S.W. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205

Published in The Oregonian on 11/7/2006.

## OALI Valley Regional Seminar

December 9, 2006

By Timothy Newell

The December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Valley Regional Seminar and Networking Meeting conducted at Lane Community College in Eugene, OR was a great success with 30+ investigators attending.

We had a panel discussion with (4) great speakers who answered questions submitted by the audience, as well as previously submitted questions. The speakers were Alan Crowe, a veteran process server, Ted Tolliver and Clyde Gideon, veteran private investigators and former board members of OALI and Jeff Thayer, a civil attorney. The questions, as well as the discussion, were informative and the networking fantastic. We gave out discount certificates for future seminars in the drawings that we conducted at break times throughout the afternoon.



Look for future Valley Regional Seminars in the Spring and please take the time to attend any and all other region seminars to further your networking and knowledge of this profession. Thanks again to the panel speakers and the members of the OALI Board as well as all the investigators that attended. If you have any questions or ideas for another future topic or would like to share at a seminar then please feel free to contact me: Timothy P. Newell ([NEWELL\\_TIMOTHY@MSN.COM](mailto:NEWELL_TIMOTHY@MSN.COM)) or email or contact President Greg Parsons from our OALI website.

# CEU OPPORTUNITIES

## OALI SPRING SEMINAR

WHEN:

March 3, 2007

8:00am– 5:00pm

Registration begins at 7:30am



WHERE:

Holiday Inn

1441 NE 2nd Ave.

Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 503-233-2401



**Total CE for day 8.0 General CE Hours**

SPEAKERS:

<b>Bob Cupit, OALI NE Regional Director</b>	8:00-10:00	2 Hours General CE
<u>"Criminal Defense Investigations"</u>		
<b>Sam Pitts, Sam Pitts Investigations, Eugene, OR</b>	10:00-12:00	2 Hours General CE
<u>"Introduction to Photography, Diagrams &amp; Evidence"</u>		
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	Noon-1300	
<b>Guest Speaker: Barbara Burr, National Counsel of Investigation &amp; Security Services, Representative</b>		
<b>Beth L. King, RP</b>	1300-1400	1 Hour General CE
<u>"Preparing For Trial"</u>		
<b>Roy Miller Computer Forensic</b>	1400-1600	2 Hours General CE
<u>"Preparation for Computer Forensics"</u>		
<b>Greg Parson, OALI President and</b>		
<b>Patrick Higgins, OALI Vice President</b>	1500-1600	2 Hour General CE
<b>Break Out Session, <u>"What you need to know as a New Private Investigator"</u></b>		
<b>Greg Parson, OALI President,</b>		
<b>Patrick Higgins, OALI Vice President and</b>		
<b>Gary Crowe, OALI Secretary</b>	1600-1700	1 Hour General CE
<u>"OALI Bylaw Proposal discussion and Voting"</u>		



**Continental Breakfast  
& Lunch included**

# CEU OPPORTUNITIES

## UPCOMING SEMINAR AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

***I AM STILL LEARNING.***  
*- MICHELANGELO*

### 2007

#### March 3, 2007 OALI Spring Seminar

Holiday Inn Convention Center 1441 NE 2nd Ave, Portland, 97232 503-233-2401 Paid 8.0 hrs. CEU

#### April 14, 2007 OALI FREE Coast Regional Seminar

(Newport location to be announced)

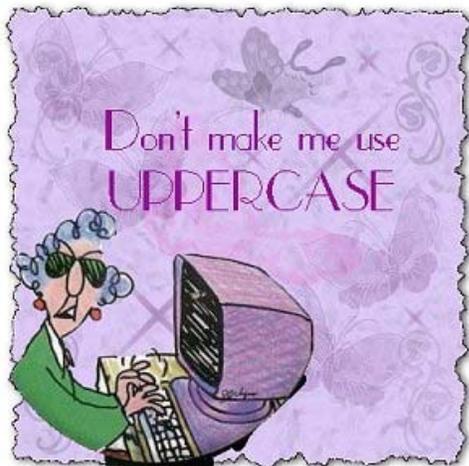
Hosted by Hetzel Akers, Director, Coast Region 2

#### June 8-9, 2007 OALI Annual Summer Conference and Seminar

Black Bear Inn Conference Center, 1600 Motor Ct, Salem, 97301, 503-581-1559. Paid CEU 8.0 hrs.



## COMPUTERLAND





## A VIEW FROM THE NORTH

*The following is an excerpt from an article submitted by Kevin Bousquet, President of Corpa Investigation. You can view this article in it's entirety at :*

<http://corpainvestigation.wordpress.com/>

### **About the Author**

Kevin Bousquet has been a licensed PI since 1986. He is a graduate in Law Enforcement, The Law Clerk Admin Program and a Certified Fraud Examiner with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

He is president of The Corpa Group Inc a licensed Private Investigation agency established in 1991 working on behalf of major corporations, insurance companies and their legal counsel.

Kevin Bousquet can be seen giving lectures advocating on ways to combat fraud and changes to Adoption in Ontario with the Adoption Counsel of Ontario.

Kevin Bousquet has his own TV show "Undercover With Kevin Bousquet" where shows depict real life examples of fraud, victimization, and the work conducted by the Private Sector.

His show can be seen satellite, persona cable or streamed on the Internet at [www.resourceschannel.com/programs-undercover.html](http://www.resourceschannel.com/programs-undercover.html)

## **Pretext, Privacy , & Private Investigators**

### **Bill C-299**

**Copyright – Kevin D. Bousquet**

### **What is Pretext and How is it Used Today?**

Public law enforcement agencies use pretext or deception every single day to catch criminals. Working undercover posing as someone they are not, making phone calls to the homes of suspect of criminals, pretending to deliver a package so they can determine if an accused person is at home, so that a warrant can be executed, setting up sting operations where a police officer poses as someone other then a police officer. Public records speak of the RCMP going through a suspect's garbage, without a warrant, leading to the

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## A VIEW FROM THE NORTH....continued

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arrest of criminals. Pretext, deception and trickery are essential tools used in law enforcement.

What would happen if pretext, deception and undercover operations became illegal in public law enforcement? Suppose an undercover police officer called the residence of a suspected criminal, pretending he was a friend of a suspect, or perhaps saying he was with a delivery company trying to deliver a parcel? As a result of that pretext, he could perhaps obtain a personal cell phone number and other information about the wanted criminal, with the intent of eventually making an arrest based on the information he obtained.



What would happen if the above situation was regarded as an illegal pretext – because the officer impersonated someone to get the information he needed? The result would be that the criminal could not be arrested, charged or convicted because pretext was considered illegal and not admissible in a court.

If we were to imagine a world where public law enforcement could not use pretext, trickery, disguises, undercover or deception, it would be a world of crime and chaos out of control. All aspects of our safety could be jeopardized. And what about the private sector using pretext? Private investigators, bill collectors, private bailiffs all use these methods to obtain the information they need.

There is a huge difference between using impersonation and pretext. Yet the scandal has caused law makers and regulators to blend the two into legislation.

Any journalist who has ever investigated consumer fraud has probably, in one form or another, used pretext or deception to obtain information. Journalists and the media have been known to use pretext, trickery or even to set up sting operations to catch would be criminals. We read stories all the time of the paparazzi (mostly in the United States) going through the home garbage of movie stars trying to find any dirt they can, to sell a story to the media. And what about the recent NBC sting operations to catch pedophiles via chat rooms, setting up a woman to pose as an under-aged girl?

For years the paparazzi in both Canada and the United States have been vicious in their tactics to obtain any dirt that will sell on celebrities. Going through garbage, surveillance, illegal telephone taps are just of the few tactics we read how they invade privacy. Yet the closest thing to a scandal has been an investigation where it was suggested that the death of Princess Diana might have been caused by the paparazzi.

We watch news reports where reporters and journalists work undercover posing as a cus-

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## A VIEW FROM THE NORTH....continued

*(Continued from page 9)*

tomers trying to buy a gun off the street, or a stolen car, or maybe to catch a car salesman known for rolling back mileage odometers on used cars. They lie and say they are someone else. They try and catch the person doing something wrong, under a sting, ruse or pretext

and report it to the public.

Like the mainstream media there are ethical members and there are unethical members who do not follow laws or have any code of ethic.

While most Private investigators in Canada would not condone impersonation as means to obtain information, they would very likely condone the use of lawful pretext because their governing legislation allows them to use it.

Private investigators have been using pretext and deception to catch criminals right back to the days of Sherlock Holmes. Disguises, deception, trickery and lawful pretext have always been common and essential methods of investigation.

It's not just Private investigators who use pretext as an important tool, but also process servers, who serve documents of the court. Private bailiffs make pretext telephone calls at the homes of debtors, to obtain work phone numbers in order to recover vehicles and equipment.

These pretexts usually have the objective of trying to find out a person's personal information such as a phone number, a work number or a place of employment. It could be to serve a document, collect a debt, recover property, enforce a court order or judgment or to bring an important issue to the public's attention as in the case of a reporter or journalist.

A Private investigator or Process Server might call your house saying they are a delivery company, an old friend or employer, they may act as a marketing survey company all trying to get personal information. A few days later you're served with legal papers (such as a divorce petition, a support order, or a law suit). You may find that your vehicle that you owed payments on was seized right out of the parking lot of your home or your place of work. All as a result of the personal information you gave away under some form of trickery or pretext.



Pretext in the private sector is now under scrutiny to the point that any kind of pretext or deception whatsoever could be come completely illegal and not admissible in court.





In each Issue, we'd like to spotlight a few of our members, to give us all a chance to know a little bit about our peers. We'd like to know a little about you too. So if you would like to be spotlighted, just send us a short article, approximately 300 words, and we will see you under the spotlight!

With this issue we would like to introduce:

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## *Timothy Newell Investigations*

1815 5th Ave. SE, Albany, OR 97321 - 4897

Hi, I am Tim (Timothy) Newell, your Valley Regional Director. I have been an investigator in the Willamette Valley with most of my work in the Albany-Salem area.

I was formerly a police officer with the Keizer Police Department and the Lane County Sheriffs Office. I grew up in a law enforcement family with father, uncle, cousin all with Oregon State Police, brother and cousin with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

My first work in the private sector of professional investigations was in the early 80's working for my father's investigative firm. I work all types of criminal as well as civil cases but most work I do is criminal. I graduated from Oregon State University and still assist there in some area of security for sporting events. The best part of that is that I get paid for watching some fantastic games.

I have a desire to make our profession as highly regarded as possible and encourage myself as well as others to be the best they can possibly be through additional training, education, networking with their peers to improve our skills to serve others better.

## OALI Fall Seminar by Patricia Vollbrecht

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The OALI Fall Seminar was outstanding! One knows when the speakers are really good because the day flies by.

The first speaker Karen Winters, of Hoyer Accounting and OALI accountant for tax purposes, explained the non-profit status of OALI which is a 501(c6) non-profit. Amazing information, did you know that anyone can request a look at the OALI books? That is right, according to Karen Winters, the books of a non-profit are totally open for viewing by anyone who requests it. This does not include the membership database. However, the information about anyone on the Board, including their social security number and contact information are all public record. The association is required by law to keep this information for seven (7) years.



Karen explained that OALI does not have to pay taxes on any income that is directly related to the education and promotion of investigators, but if OALI were to sell advertisement in their OALI newsletter, website or any other sort of advertising, that income WOULD be taxable income. There is a specific dollar amount that this sort of income would have to exceed, before it would be taxed. There was quite a bit of discussion on that particular subject. All income must have back-up documentation (receipts), even if it is a donation. All bills need a second person sign-off, before the check is written, to pay the bill. There were many other nuggets of information, too numerous to mention.

Our second speaker Joanne Miller MN, ARNP, CEN, CLNC, a Legal Nurse Consultant, captivated the audience with her thorough knowledge of medical records and practice. Ms. Miller had a power point presentation wherein a current case was discussed with permission from the attorney who is handling the case and the family of the deceased. It was interesting to know that upon admission to the hospital there was an entry in the documents "PD", meaning, the hospital felt there may have been abuse involved in the illness, police were notified.



Ms. Miller explained how she handled the massive amount of records she was to read and decipher and what she found in the record regarding the handling of the patient from the possible abuse case. These records

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## OALI Fall Seminar - continued

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started from the 911 call, through admittance, hospital stay and autopsy. Ms. Miller found what appeared to be improper insertion of a breathing tube. For 14 minutes, the breathing tube was inserted incorrectly. The patient (as I remember) may have died from lack of oxygen to the brain. It was an amazing hidden tidbit of information that could have been overlooked if not for the careful reading and background knowledge Ms. Miller provided for the defense.

Investigator, Ron Miller stepped up at the end of his wife's presentation to tell the audience that, providing us the information on an open case was by permission and if anyone has questions about those permissions to talk to him.

Later I overheard attendees talking about the presentation and how informative and interesting it was.

Jeff Martin, DPSST Policy Committee Alarm Security Industry representative and Karen Evans, In-house DPSST Investigator for private security issues, talked about DPSST, their representatives and procedures. Jeff Martin said that when DPSST became responsible for the Alarm Security Industry, he and the majority of Oregon Alarm companies were blind-sided by the new law regulating them. He said what happened was a few Portland Alarm companies got together and decided that Alarm companies needed to be licensed, then made it happen claiming that they had notified all alarm companies state wide about their intention and everyone was in support. In truth, they had not done that, Alarm companies all over the state were blind-sided by the new law and had to very quickly, come into compliance.

Mr. Martin said, initially alarm companies were upset, they didn't think they needed to be licensed and it was just another way to extract cash for government oversight. It took them (Alarm companies) several years before they began to feel, being held to a common standard, by law, was a good thing. Mr. Martin said there is now a representative on the Board from the Alarm Industry, it was not always that way for them. Mr. Martin said, there are two (2) private investigator representatives on the policy committee already, that is unheard of and we are lucky to have the representatives in place.

There was discussion about breaking out private investigators from private security to make us a separate entity but by doing that, investigators would be responsible for covering office

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## OALI Fall Seminar - continued

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*(Continued from page 13)*

staff expense on our own rather than sharing those costs with private security who number in the thousands. The more individuals you have paying fees, the more the cost is spread out, costing each individual less. There was mention of reducing the investigator fees but our fees are legislated and the law can be changed only by going through the legislative process every two (2) years. It is too late for the current session to make any fee changes.



Dr. Michael Freeman PhD DC MHP, gave a power point presentation including a couple of actual cases. Boy were those photos graphic! Before showing the actual photos, Dr. Freeman warned the audience that if there was anyone with stomach trouble (apt to be squeamish), they might want to leave the room. No one left.

We were glued to the screen as he showed actual photos of the scene of a dismembered body. The pieces were all over the freeway, no one photo could include it all, pieces were knocked around by the cars smashing into it, dismembering and tearing it every which way. An arm here, foot there, torso somewhere else. The side of the tractor-trailer the deceased had parked on the side of the road because of a brake problem, was splattered with fresh red blood on the drivers side. It was pretty gruesome.

The reason Dr. Freeman wanted to discuss this case was because the auto insurance, uninsured driver part, did not want to pay for the accident because the driver was hit while standing on the road and was not "driving" the vehicle. The case is still in litigation but I thought Dr. Freeman had proven that the driver was trying to get into the truck when he was struck and killed. It remains to be seen how the case will turn out. It was a fascinating case.

Robert Stearns was the last speaker of the day. Mr. Stearns brought in a black case full of wires and a little black box. The items in the case are used to download information from an automobiles on-board computer that records data during a very sudden stop (wreck).

Mr. Stearns said getting accident information is usually a



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# OALI Fall Seminar - continued

*(Continued from page 14)*

pretty straightforward task, other times a car can be so destroyed that dismantling part of it is needed and then there are those really bad crashes that have absolutely no chance of providing information.

Mr. Stearns cut-off his presentation with 30 minutes to go and took the class outside to Patrick Higgins car to demonstrate how he downloads information and what that looked like on the printout. Pretty fascinating.



*DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES*

Greg Parson, OALI President, Patrick Higgins, Vice President, Dan Matarazzo, Treasurer, Gary Crowe, Secretary, Chuck VanderPerren, Membership Director and all of the rest of the current Board stood upfront to be introduced and thanked for all their efforts on behalf of the association. It is so nice to see the faces belonging to the voice at the other end of the phone. The current Board is working hard for the association. Thank you OALI Board, you provided us a day full of information that we can use.

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### *DID YOU KNOW.....*

*OALI hosts three Continuing Education Seminars each year. These seminars are provided in order to offer a means for Investigators to meet Continuing Education requirements.*

*OALI provides a variety of speakers at each seminar, with the objective to provide a balance between three areas of study : Ethics, Law and General topics.*



## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:

Hello Fellow Members!

We are 227 members strong & growing.

Since our last newsletter in October of 2006 we have been privileged with the following sixteen new members into the OALI Association. Please welcome Investigators David Campbell, Patti Campbell, Randy Hancock, Timothy Martinez, Anthony Newville, Neil O'Neil, Steve Robinett, Tracey Rowatt, Barbara Ruddell, Vicki Sellin, Tracey Weider, Thomas York, Lenwood Beyer, Michael Gerdau, David Hadley, and Valerie Hoy.

Part of our success in membership recruitment has been due to the "road show" that your President, Greg Parson and myself have undertaken this year. We have to Baker City, The Dalles, Eugene, and Medford, and with the help of the Regional Directors and Board Members these mini-conferences have been a success in both recruitment and training.

I look forward to seeing and talking to all of you who are able to attend our March Conference in Portland and as a reminder the "road show" continues April 14, 2007 in Florence Oregon.

It has sincerely been my pleasure to have the opportunity to get to know and meet all of you who have crossed paths with me.

Respectfully,

Charles Vander Perren  
Sea Breeze Investigations  
OALI Membership Director

## Deep Background; Reaching Into The Past Using News Archives

By

David Vine, MBA

Article located at: <http://www.investigativetechnology.net/id125.html>



One of the best sources of background information on a person or company can come from a news archive. Of course, not everyone has been “written up” but a surprising number of people’s names do appear, for one reason or another, in community, local, regional and national publications.

If you’ve ever clicked the link for “News” on Google’s default web search page you’ve seen how you can search thousands of local news sources. Unfortunately this type of news search does not go back in time. Only about two-

weeks at most. A couple of years ago Google added it’s very useful “News Alert” feature for automated search, retrieval and notification of new articles matching your search criteria.

Now, they have added what I consider to be a very powerful “News Archive” function. According to Google, “News archive search provides an easy way to search and explore historical archives. Users can search for events, people, ideas and see how they have been described over time. In addition to searching for the most relevant articles for their query, users can get an historical overview of the results by browsing an automatically created timeline. Search results include both content that is accessible to all users and content that requires a fee. Articles related to a single story within a given time period are grouped together to allow users to see a broad perspective on the events.”

Why do I use the term “powerful?” In testing the News Archive I put my own name in as a phrase search with the required word “investigator.” I only found two about me within 12 hits. But here’s the amazing thing – the oldest article (not about me) was from 1954 from a local paper in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Another was from the August 6, 1966, issue of the Elyria, Ohio Chronicle Telegram. The first one about me was on September 14, 1994 found in The Record of Bergen County, New Jersey.

Most of the older articles come from the [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com) site and some of the newer articles are from [www.highbeam.com](http://www.highbeam.com). Both are fee based sites. NewsBank and other major news subscription services also provide sources for the Google archive search.

As with any source of information, one has to approach it with an open mind and wide open eyes. There are limitations in terms of sources for the News Archive but my guess is that Google will be

(Continued from page 17)

## Deep Background - continued

adding lots more over time.

The fee to obtain an archived article varies but is always under \$10 and many are \$2.95 per article. Finding the article is most of the battle. Getting a copy is easy. Incidentally, you may be able to get the article(s) via your local library. Almost all of them have Internet access to some type of online database collection. Using the information you obtained from the Google News Archive search you can log onto the library's website and go to an appropriate database, if available. Help from Google is available at [www.news.google.com/archivesearch/help.html](http://www.news.google.com/archivesearch/help.html). A review of the service can be found [here](#).

There are alternatives to Google News Archive search.

For example, almost all public libraries offer database research via Internet. Most have some type of news archive database. Coverage varies. It may have all of the local/regional papers in your area and the articles may go back to the early 1980s. Other Internet accessible databases cover a variety of groupings of periodicals. The key to all this is your library card (usually the bar code number) and possibly a PIN or password you get from your local library.

Another approach is to go to a newspaper that covers the geographic area in which your subject may have resided for some period. Frequently you can search back several or many years to locate articles and the search results will give you the headline, date of publication, and the first couple of sentences. Most newspapers charge about \$3 to retrieve an article of interest once you've found it.

Several good websites contain links to newspaper archives or permit you to search an archive of news articles from many papers.

U.S. News Archives on the Web at [www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html](http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html) is an alphabetical listing of newspapers listed by state and city. Each listing provides a description of what's available and a link to the newspaper. In general, most newspapers offer at least several years worth of archives and many 10+ years. A few go way, way back to the late 1800s/early 1900s. As of late October, 2006 the last update of the U.S. News Archives on the Web is given as June 28, 2006.

According to the site's description, "Home to one of the largest "collections of collections" on the

(Continued on page 19)

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## Deep Background - continued

Internet, [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org) is a conservancy of freely available information, including software, music, literature, art, history, science, politics, and cultural studies. [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org) is a collaboration of the Center for the Public Domain and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.”

A convenient way to locate and search groups of newspapers with varying archive depth (years covered) is [newspaperlibrary.com](http://newspaperlibrary.com) which has been around many years. The site claims to have 1174 newspapers and other news sources. Prices vary from \$2.95 per article to 100 articles every 30 days for \$19.95 billed monthly. There are annual subscriptions plans as well. Searches are free however and you do get info about your hits.

[Newspaperarchive.com](http://Newspaperarchive.com) boasts the available of over 48 million full newspaper pages (images) from 2200 titles covering 250 years of history. Annual access costs under \$100 or \$14.95 month-to-month.

These sources are highlights of what's available from newspapers via Internet. Birth, marriage and death are traditional staple information for newspapers as are obituaries. Consider too that many articles about arrests, auto accidents and other incidents of note contain peoples' names. Add to that high school, college and military items as well as local news releases and you begin to see that newspaper archives can be a rich source of background information for the private investigator.

### ***SAID WHAT .....***

Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Diplomacy is the art of letting someone have your way.

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished!



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