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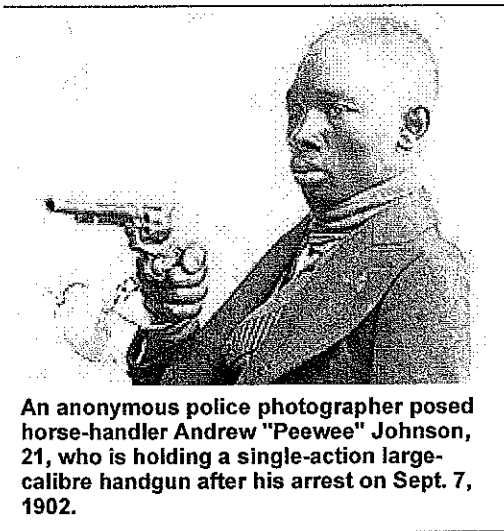
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## Changing face of crime

Rare cop pictures on display

By IAN ROBERTSON, SUN MEDIA

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**An anonymous police photographer posed horse-handler Andrew "Peewee" Johnson, 21, who is holding a single-action large-calibre handgun after his arrest on Sept. 7, 1902.**

ORILLIA -- They may look like ordinary men and women from a century ago -- certainly not like the people shown in stark modern police photos of accused criminals.

But the bold, disinterested or apprehensive stares in 474 1886-1908 photos at the OPP museum are of burglars, bad cheque artists, horse thieves, a "pickpocket pennyweighter," vagrants, "disorderly" suspects and a few killers.

The rare playing-card-size pictures of Canadians and Americans exchanged by lawmen on both sides of the border were found several years ago in a "mugshot" book in the basement of the Niagara OPP office, museum curator Jeanie Tummon said.

"This is the first time they've been put on display," she said, adding "the criminal face, in all its guises, continues to fascinate people."

After selection, research and restoration over the past two years -- including trying to contact descendants for permission - 100 photos went into the travelling Arresting Images exhibit.

Many of the criminals ended up in Kingston Penitentiary or The Don, Tummon said.

One of the most unusual photos shows Andrew "Peewee" Johnson, a 21-year-old convicted killer jailed for life in 1902.

Modern mugshots show accused suspects face-on and from the side -- never with anything incriminating like the single-action, large-calibre handgun held tentatively in his right hand, with handcuffs dangling from a wrist.

Many criminals dressed well to mix in polite society.

In another no-no today, some were even photographed with their hats on, like Ellis McDonald, a handsome woman arrested in Niagara Falls for stealing dry goods from a "Gent's store."

Fined \$10 and turned over to police in Buffalo, N.Y., the Canadian-born boardinghouse-keeper, 38, is one of only 19 women in the book.

"Many of them had nicknames," Tummon said.

Check out the dead-eyed stare of handsome pickpocket Lew Scholtz, alias Kid Jackson. His photo hides a gold tooth.

Look for one artistic "note-raiser." Before coloured currency, crooks used chalk paints, pens and pencils to obliterate the real denomination and text to increase a bill's value.

Including police artifacts like handcuffs and a wooden glass-plate negative camera, the exhibit is open here as a free preview until March 20. Its first stop on a five-year, cross-Canada tour is May 31 at Peel Heritage Complex in Brampton. The exhibit is part of the OPP's 100th anniversary celebrations. Visitors even get a chance to make their own mugshots.

### ARRESTING IMAGES: MUGSHOTS FROM THE PAST

ACQUITTED Nimble-fingered Thomas Newton, arrested Sept. 23, 1897, in Niagara Falls, was acquitted of a pickpocketing charge because he "did not have his hand far enough in (the) woman's pocket" to provide proof of a crime. His record noted convictions in Toronto for indecent exposure in 1887 and 1888 and acquittal of pickpocketing charges in 1895.

**CONVICTED** Don't let the fine clothes and fancy hat fool you: Canadian-born boardinghouse-keeper Ellis McDonald, 38, was arrested on Aug. 15, 1906, for stealing dry goods from a "Gent's Store" in Niagara Falls with a female accomplice. Convicted of shoplifting and grand larceny, she was fined \$10, then turned over to police in Buffalo.

**SENSE OF STYLE** A debonair pickpocket with a chilling stare, Lew "Kid Jackson" Scholtz was arrested June 16, 1905, on "suspicion." He had a "gold tooth" and accompanying notes by police indicate a professional pickpocket with a sense of style. The note directed his arrest report and photo to William D. Greer, Provincial Detective for Ontario, before the OPP formed.

**SHOPLIFTER** Long before the homeless were give solace in Toronto, Florance Ely, 33, wife of Ellis "Kid" Ely, was arrested on Feb. 1, 1905, for the crime of being a "Disorderly Person," a synonym for "vagrancy." Her police-recorded known trade: "Shoplifter." Her fine: \$5.

**YOUNG OFFENDER** Owen Dunn, alias "Shorty," was a 16-year-old, 4-foot-5 hotel bellboy weighing 85 pounds when he was arrested Aug. 13, 1892, on a charge of "houseworker" -- burglary. In the days long before youth offender laws, a judge sent Dunn to the Rochester Industrial School in New York, established in 1857 for the schooling of neglected, destitute and lawless children.

**LIFE IN PRISON** No cop seeking a conviction today would ever pose an accused killer with a handgun. But that's how an anonymous police photographer posed horse-handler Andrew "Peewee" Johnson, 21, who is holding a single-action large-calibre handgun after his arrest on Sept. 7, 1902. Convicted of second-degree murder, he was sentenced to life in prison. Note the handcuffs.

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