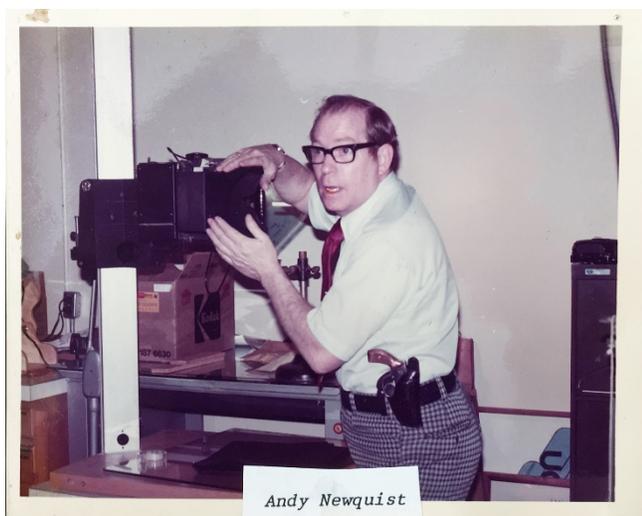


# 100 MOMENTS

## ANDY NEWQUIST

By Darwin Chapman (1972-2003)



When I came to work at the Iowa Criminalistics Laboratory in 1972, I had the pleasure of meeting the three BCI agents assigned to the lab. They were Duane Barton, Andy Newquist and Tom Randolph. They were the state experts in document examinations, firearms/toolmarks and photography respectively. While I received training and guidance from Duane and Tom (eventually becoming Tom's crime scene partner), starting in 1973 I was assigned to Andy and the firearm, toolmark and latent prints section of the lab. We were section mates for nearly 10 years and every time I would leave for an assignment (court, crime scene, training) Andy would say "Do the section proud". I think you will see as you read on, that Andy lived up to his own admonition

Over time I learned that Andy was a graduate of Barber College in Des Moines, was a graduate of the Cook Institute of Applied Science in Chicago and hadn't yet graduated from high school. I discovered that not only was he respected in Iowa, but his reputation was also national through his association with professional organizations such as the International Association for Identification (IAI) and the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners (AFTE). Andy at one time was the president of AFTE which represented examiners from the US and beyond.

During Andy's career, two historic events occurred that eventually drew Andy and his expertise away from the lab and Iowa for over a year. Those events were the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy (1963) and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968). The Warren Commission in Washington D.C., which was studying those cases, felt it was necessary to find a group of professional firearm identification experts to review all the physical evidence. AFTE was contacted for its recognized expertise in that area and asked to select five members most capable of reviewing the material which included clothing, firearms, fired bullets and their fragments as well as fired casings, ammunition and the firearms used in each event. All reports of local medical examiners/pathologists, the Bethesda Naval

Hospital and the FBI were provided as well. The examinations were to be done at the Washington D.C. Metro Police Laboratory.

The five examiners selected came from a variety of agencies including the New York State Police, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Maryland State Police, Wisconsin State Crime Lab and the BCI Crime Laboratory in Iowa. Enter Andy. Clearly, none of this could have happened without the support of the administrators of these agencies.

In 1977 and 1978 Andy and his colleagues reviewed and reworked, as needed, the physical evidence from, as it turned out, four separate incidents: Kennedy's assassination, the murder of Dallas PD Officer J.D. Tippit, the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of M.L. King, Jr. Reports were written and submitted to the U.S. House Select Committee charged with establishing the record of this huge undertaking. In the fall of 1978, each examiner was called to testify to the results as found in their reports. Andy was to do the lead-off testimony regarding the methodology, instrumentation and the science behind their work.



DAR CHAPMAN AND ANDY NEWQUIST  
DISCUSS A CASE IN THE LAB

I still remember many of us crowded around radios in the lab waiting to hear Andy's testimony on Iowa Public Radio. We were not only excited but very proud of Andy and the BCI to have played such an important role. The program started and Andy hadn't testified for

more than a few minutes when we heard "we are interrupting this program to give the latest agricultural market reports: pork bellies are running at"...blah, blah, blah and we missed most of Andy's presentation. A very angry phone call by me to IPR explaining the importance of what they were supposed to be broadcasting resulted in no apologies and an offer to sell me a tape of his testimony.

Andy was and remains a BCI legend deserving of much more recognition than he got for his work on the biggest cases of their era. He was very humble about it. In his remaining years in the lab, several of us coaxed him into getting his GED and although fearful of it, turned out to be easy for him. I am proud to say we worked together. And he gave a heck of a good haircut...

Duane Barton, Andy Newquist, and Tom Randolph are gone now, but their legacy remains. If you know where to look, you can see hints of them in each of the sections they pioneered.

#### DARWIN CHAPMAN – 2021

Following a career that spanned four decades in both the Bureau and the Division and from the microscope to the director's chair, today, Dar is enjoying retirement with his wife, Ginny, in southern Iowa. Beginning in 1972 as a criminalist, he became the BCI/DCI's second longest tenured director by serving in that capacity for 14 years (1989-2003) before completing his service as a criminalist in 2003.