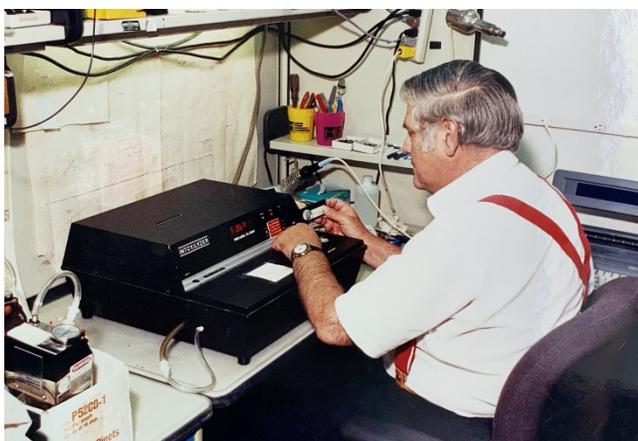


100 MOMENTS

BREATH ALCOHOL ANALYSIS

By Jim Bleskacek (1996-current)



CAL RAYBURN (1973-2001) WAS THE FIRST BCI CRIMINALIST TO WORK IN THE BREATH ALCOHOL SECTION

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation took over in-direct breath testing from the State Hygienic Lab in 1974. The person primarily responsible for the transition was Cal Rayburn. Cal was instrumental in many of the laws dealing with impaired driving, as well as setting up programs like the Ignition Interlock Program and portable handheld breath testing instruments.

The first evidential breath testing instrument used in Iowa was the Intoxilyzer 4011A. It was in service from 1976 until it was removed from service in 2003. The Intoxilyzer was replaced by

the DataMaster cdm (1999-2012) and later replaced by the current model, the DataMaster DMT (2010-present). The members of the DCI Lab Breath Alcohol Section have serviced and certified these instruments for the past 45 years, while only having six (6) Criminalists employed in the section during that time: Cal Rayburn (1974-2001), Bob Monserrate (1982-2008), Mike Tate (1990-2015), Karl Franzenburg (2000-2001), Jim Bleskacek (2002-present), and Dr. Jonna Berry (2015-present).

When the DataMaster DMT was introduced, the Breath Alcohol Section used a train-the-trainer program and with the assistance of over 100 certified DMT trainers from various departments throughout the state. The trainers assisted in certifying the over 6000 law enforcement officers on its use. The Breath Alcohol Section soon after was able to put a website together to assist with discovery requests, data searching, instrument maintenance records as well as information regarding all aspects of alcohol breath testing.

Criminalists from the Breath Alcohol Section typically travel throughout the state each year to

service the currently 162 DataMasters in use at Police Departments, Sheriff's Offices and Iowa State Patrol Posts. Tests are done on the instruments to ensure they are working properly and accurately measuring the amount of alcohol on a person's breath. Along with that primary duty, the Criminalists are also responsible for approving Ignition Interlock Devices and portable breath testing devices used by law enforcement to aid in determining impairment as well as analyzing most of the blood and urine alcohol cases submitted in the Toxicology section and method validation on new instrumentation in Tox.

The members of the section assist with the training of law enforcement officers by teaching at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, assisting with wet labs during SFST instruction and attend many court appearances regarding impairment offenses.

JIM BLESKACEK – 2021

Jim is one of two members of the DCI's Breath Alcohol Section. Jim joined Breath Alcohol in 2002, as only the fifth member of the section, which began in 1974.