

July 2016



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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SoCalMWA Event Book-Swap & BBQ Party at Elizabeth Little's

Sunday, July 17
Noon - 3pm



Author **Elizabeth Little** graciously opens her Los Feliz home for an afternoon of books and BBQ.

Clear out your old books to make space for some new ones.
Come by and shoot the breeze with your fellow writers.

Members Only (plus ones and kids)

ADMISSION, DRINKS AND DESSERT ARE FREE.
BBQ FOOD TRUCK TIX ARE ONLY \$10.

RSVPs REQUIRED
DUE TO LIMITED SPACE
(Address provided with RSVP)
[RSVP ONLINE](#)

SoCalMWA Luncheon:
Sunday, August 7

DP Lyle & Jan Burke
Live Radio Podcast
at the Tam

[More Info](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Craig Faustus Buck

Last month I wrote this Rap in Scrivener. This month I'm writing it in Gmail. Before I get into why, and the philosophical conundrum this puts me in, let me sum up my Scrivener experience.

I spent two days learning Scrivener and importing my 72-chapter work-in-progress into the program. In Word, I had been using a customized style that separated the single MS file into sections for easy navigating and reorganizing. Scrivener required me to break the MS into 72 separate files, complete with labels, notes, keywords, metadata, etc. I spent another two days working on the novel in Scrivener to test the program's efficacy.

After all of that, I found Scrivener's tools to be cumbersome, wasteful of screen real estate, and not particularly useful in visualizing my structure in new ways or for writing more easily. Of course, that's only my experience. The writing world is full of Scrivener evangelists. I'm just not one of them (James Scott Bell is, and will be demonstrating Scrivener at our October 22 [writers' software workshop](#) at the Studio City Library).

Nonetheless, my experiment was worthwhile. There are a lot of writing tools out there, and you never know if one can improve your individual process unless you give it a fair (and free) trial. In the end, I returned to Word, which, with my custom template, allows me to see more of my structure at one time, easily drag and drop chapters to reorganize and automatically renumber them, and write in a cleaner interface without having to continually change modes ([email me](#) if you'd like a free copy of the template I created). I keep an outline of characters and their traits in a separate document, and use Word's Find function and Navigation panel to do most of the other things that Scrivener does.

So why am I writing this Rap in Gmail? Because I'm visiting family and writing on borrowed devices, both Macs and PCs. Multiple devices on different platforms make working on a single document complicated unless the document can be accessed and worked on in the cloud. But most cloud drives--like Dropbox and Google Drive--allow only one user to be logged in at a time, requiring you to log someone else out before you can log into your own files. This is a hassle for everyone. Gmail lets you "Add an Account," essentially logging in multiple users. So I'm writing this Rap in an email as a courtesy to the owners of the computers I'm working on. Different needs may dictate different tools, so as writers, it's best to stay flexible.

Nonetheless, composing in a Gmail message exposed me to the conundrum I mentioned earlier. When I opened a blank email, instead of finding a tabula rasa, I was confronted by the words "Say something."

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Mystery Writers of America
 Southern California Chapter
 3520 Overland Avenue, #A-82
 Los Angeles, CA 90034

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
 Website: <http://socalmwa.com>

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 for chapter news & info

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 (members only)

NATIONAL OFFICE

Mystery Writers of America
 1140 Broadway #1507
 New York, NY 10001
 t. 212.888.8171
 f. 212.888.8107

mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

I enjoyed reading Craig's Prez Rap this month because I've always been interested in hearing about other writer's work methods. I think I'm secretly hoping that by reading these little tidbits, I'll one day happen upon the one bit of writing advice that magically makes it easier. So far, no luck.

Likewise, I enjoy seeing the spaces where other writers create, so this month I've included photos, submitted by SoCalMWA members, of their writing spaces. Thank you to those who contributed. If you'd like to contribute, send in your photos and I'll post them in a future issue.

With summer now in full force, the publishing industry is slowing a bit. Hence, a leaner issue this month, at least with regard to announcements and appearances. I hope you're all enjoying this brief vacation because when the fall comes, it's back to business as usual. Take this time to finish your WIP, polish it for submission to agents and editors, or simply write a short story or two to keep your writing chops sharpened.

And while you're resting up by the pool drinking your icy beverage of choice, be sure to check out Gregory Von Dare's latest "Hollow Points" column, in which he discusses the history of law enforcement and the weapons they use.

Holly

FRESH BLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Barbara Allyn
Judith Gonda
Noel Hynd
Susan R. Kandel
John Lansing
Liz Martinez
Marie Roughan



Like us on Facebook

Join our **SoCalMWA
Yahoo! group**
for chapter news & info

Email
SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
to join (members only)

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: [Holly West](#)

July Contributors:
Gregory Von Dare

Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

OVER the TRANSOM

Member News

DP Lyle's DEEP SIX, the first in a new Jake Longly comedic thriller series will be available July 5. Details: <http://www.dplylemd.com/books.html>.

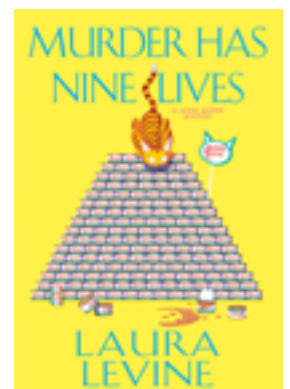
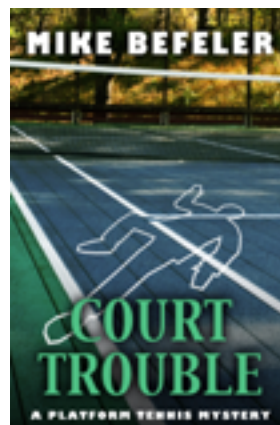
Ellen Byron's debut mystery, PLANTATION SHUDDERS, was nominated for a Daphne Award in the Mainstream Mystery category.

Andrew Neiderman has signed with Martian Entertainment to develop and produce the stage play of V.C. Andrews' FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC for an eventual New York theater opening. The current adaptation is a completely rewritten script that addresses the question that has haunted readers for decades: Why would Grandmother Flowers willingly hide her "unwanted" children in her attic? Neiderman has ghostwritten V.C. Andrews for almost 29 years; the next title is the sequel to MY SWEET AUDRINA, called WHITEFERN, out on July 26. A Neiderman thriller, THE INCIDENT (Severn House) was published July 1.

James Scott Bell's second Mike Romeo thriller, ROMEO'S WAY, released June 3, has Romeo leaving L.A. for San Francisco, which of course means trouble.

Mike Befeler's sports mystery, COURT TROUBLE: A PLATFORM TENNIS MYSTERY, will be released July 20 by Five Star, part of Gale/Cengage Learning. "This solid series launch from Befeler introduces an unlikely amateur sleuth, platform tennis buff Mark Yeager. . . Readers will look forward to seeing more of this determined tennis enthusiast and cancer survivor." —Publishers Weekly

The fourteenth book in **Laura Levine's** Jane Austen mystery series, MURDER HAS NINE LIVES, will be out in July from Kensington Books.





OVER the TRANSOM

GO-BETWEEN, **Lisa Brackmann's** latest thriller, is out on July 5. The Minneapolis Star-Tribune put GO-BETWEEN on its "Hot Summer Fiction" list and had this to say: "Nothing is as it seems in this terrific noir tale that channels Richard Stark's stories. Emily (not her real name) is involved in a scheme involving donated money (not really donated) and a very bad guy named Gary." (Soho Crime)

Naomi Brett Rourke's short story, the murder tale "The Perfect Dinner" is published in another anthology, this one online at www.triggerwarningshortfiction.com. This is a reprint, the first publication having appeared in London's Morpheus Tales, Issue 25, January, 2015. For a neophyte writer, Rourke has had quite a year with short stories appearing in the anthologies LIFE ON THE REZ, the YA REFRACTIONS, BREWED AWAKENINGS 2 (due Summer 2016) DEATH DANCES IN THE MOONLIGHT (due August 2016), ENTER THE APOCALYPSE (due circa December 2016) and STRAIGHT OUTTA TOMBSTONE (out TBD.)

Craig Faustus Buck's crime poem, "Is It So Hard?", will be The Fifty-Two's [crime poem of the week](#) starting July 18.

Do you have writing news to share with our chapter?
Email it to TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com
by July 20 for inclusion in the August issue.

Member APPEARANCES

DP Lyle's July appearances:

DEEP SIX Launch Party
Saturday, July 16, 2016, 2 p.m. PDT
Mystery Ink Bookstore
8907 Warner Ave., #135
Huntington Beach, CA
714-960-4000
<http://www.mysteryink.com>

Book Carnival
DEEP SIX signing
July 23, 2016, 2 p.m. PDT
348 S. Tustin Street
Orange, CA
714-538-3210
<http://www.annesbookcarnival.com>

Book Passage Bookstore
DEEP SIX Signing
Saturday, July 27, 2016, 7 p.m. PDT
51 Tamal Vista Blvd
Corte Madera, CA
415-927-0960
<http://www.bookpassage.com>

Holly West will appear at [Beast Crawl](#) Presents: SWILL, alongside authors David Corbett, Renee Pickup, Rob Pierce, and Sean Craven on July 16, 8pm at [Longitude](#), 347 14th Street, Oakland, CA.



Mystery panel at El Segundo Library Author Fair featuring L-R: **Mike Befeler, Joel Fox, Terri Nolan, Diane Vallere, Jeri Westerson and Gwen Womack.** Photo submitted by Joel Fox.

Robert S. Levinson participated in a lively exchange of ideas at the Greater Los Angeles Writers Conference on the Los Angeles Valley College campus last month. The topic: "Incorporating Real Life into the Fiction." L-R: screenwriter Steven Barnes, Si-Fi/Fantasy author Al Watt and Levinson, representing mystery-thriller authors.



Craig Faustus Buck and **Connie di Marco** will be the featured crime writers at "Book'd: The Ultimate Bibliophile's Night Out" on July 21, 8-9:30p, at The Group Rep/Lonny Chapman Theatre in the NoHo Arts District. Produced by Liz Donatelli, details and tickets are available at www.bookdevent.com.

Member APPEARANCES

A LAUNCH PARTY!



When: Saturday, September 17,
6-8 p.m.

Where: Matt Barnett Gallery
137 Chartres Street

RSVP: bodyonthebayou@gmail.com

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE

Ellen Byron will be launching her second novel, *BODY ON THE BAYOU*, on Saturday, September 17, 6-8pm, during Bouchercon in New Orleans (Byron's books are set there). Email bodyonthebayou@gmail.com to RSVP.

Do you have an upcoming appearance?
Email your announcement to
TheMarchofCrime@gmail.com
by July 20 for inclusion in
the August issue.



Sue Ann Jaffarian and Amy Marks (Paul Marks's wife) at the June cocktail party hosted by **James Ziskin** and his wife, Lakshmi. Photo by Paul D. Marks.

PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA SHAMUS AWARD NOMINEES 2016

for works published in 2015. (The lists below are in alphabetical order by author.)

The winners will be announced at the PWA Banquet at Bouchercon in New Orleans.

Best Original Private Eye Paperback

CIRCLING THE RUNWAY by J.L. Abramo. Down & Out Books

THE LONG COLD by O'Neil De Noux. Big Kiss Productions

SPLIT TO SPLINTERS by Max Everhart. Camel Press

THE MAN IN THE WINDOW by Dana King. Independent

RED DESERT, Clive Rosengren by Moonshine Cove Publishing

Best First Private Eye Novel:

THE RED STORM by Grant Bywaters. St. Martins/Minotaur

NIGHT TREMORS by **Matt Coyle**. Oceanview Publishing

TROUBLE IN ROOSTER PARADISE by T.W. Emory. Coffeetown Press

DEPTH by Lev Ac Rosen. Regan Arts

THE DO-RIGHT by Lisa Sandlin. Cinco Puntos Press

Best Private Eye Short Story

"The Runaway Girl from Portland, Oregon" by C.B. Forrest in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, October 2015

"The Sleep of Death" by David Edgerley Gates in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, December 2015

"The Dead Client" by Parnell Hall in Dark City Lights: New York Stories (edited by Lawrence Block)

"The Dead Detective" by **Robert S. Levinson** in Coast to Coast: Murder from Sea to Shining Sea (edited by Andrew McAleer & **Paul D. Marks**)

"The Continental Opposite" by Evan Lewis in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, May 2015

Best Private Eye Novel

THE PROMISE by **Robert Crais**. G.P. Putnam's Sons

DANCE OF THE BONES by J.A. Jance. William Morris

GUMSHOE by Robert Leininger. Oceanview Publishing

BRUSH BACK by Sara Paretsky. G.P. Putnam's Sons

BRUTALITY by Ingrid Thoft. G.P. Putnam's Sons

Submitted by **Gay Toltl Kinman**, Chair, Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Awards



Hollow Points

Gregory Von Dore

Arms of the Law - Part One

With police so much in the media and a living presence in our cities, it's easy to forget that a professional police force is a relatively new development. For most of history, that job has been done by soldiers or militias, often with harsh consequences. Before the 18th century, a military night watch patrolled city streets in the dangerous after-dark hours. It served to deter murderers, pickpockets and robbers—and also kept an eye out for fires in a world lit by candles and oil lamps. Unfortunately, it was often easier to kill a criminal on the spot rather than bring them to justice.

The Bow Street Runners in London were the world's first civilian police force. Organized in 1749 by magistrate Henry Fielding, they were later led by his brother John Fielding. Runners worked out of the Bow Street Magistrates' Office and were a refinement of an earlier unofficial detective force known as the thief-takers. They were trained and paid by the British Crown. Runners operated somewhere between modern police methods and bounty hunters.



From top to bottom: Colt Paterson, Colt Walker, Colt Dragon

The Bow Street Runners had no regular arms or weapons and were largely left to their own defense. They were active until 1839, when they were merged into the newly established Metropolitan Police Force under Robert Peel. The London Met, founded in 1829, was the first police institution under the British Home Office. Its beat cops were known as Pealers or Bobbies in deference to their chief and were armed with only a whistle and a truncheon (nightstick). The constables and detectives of the Met were based at a world-famous address—Scotland Yard.

In America, the U.S. Marshals Service was created in 1789 and operated under the authority of the Federal Courts. Marshals were able to recruit and hire their own Deputies. The original job of the Marshals' office was running the courts and much of their work involved delivering

witnesses and transporting prisoners—still a major focus today. Back then, Marshals would have carried the flint-lock pistols and muskets of the time, moving to five-shot, cap and ball, Colt Paterson revolvers in .36 caliber when they became available in the 1840s.

The Texas Rangers inherited a stock of lightweight Colt Navy revolvers in 1843 when the Texas Navy was disbanded. Rangers used the six-shot, .36 caliber Colt Navy against banditos and bad guys in the state of Texas and northern Mexico. They later used Colt Walker revolvers in .44 caliber, descendants of the larger Colt Navy Dragon.

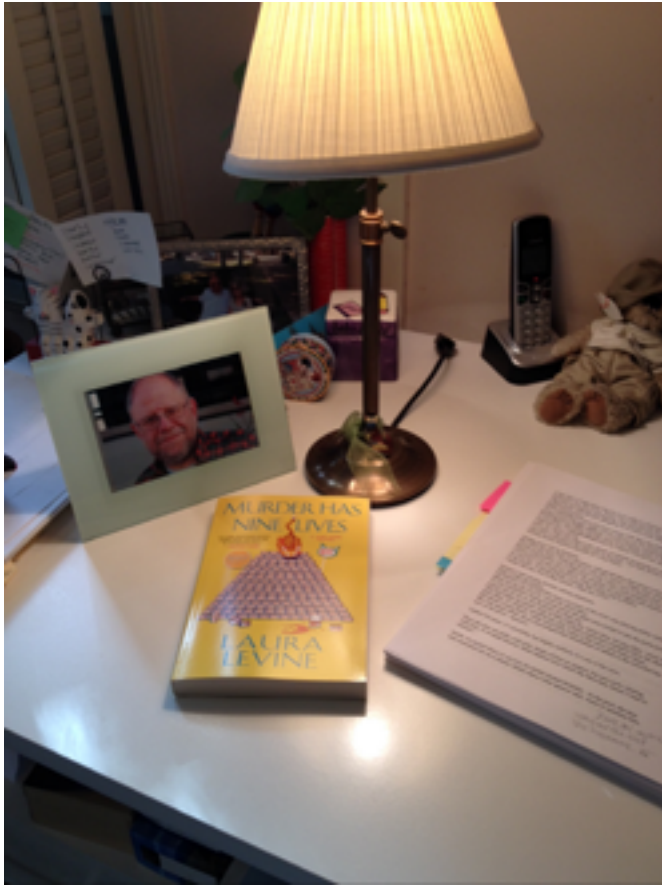
You Oughta Be in Pictures
Workspace Edition



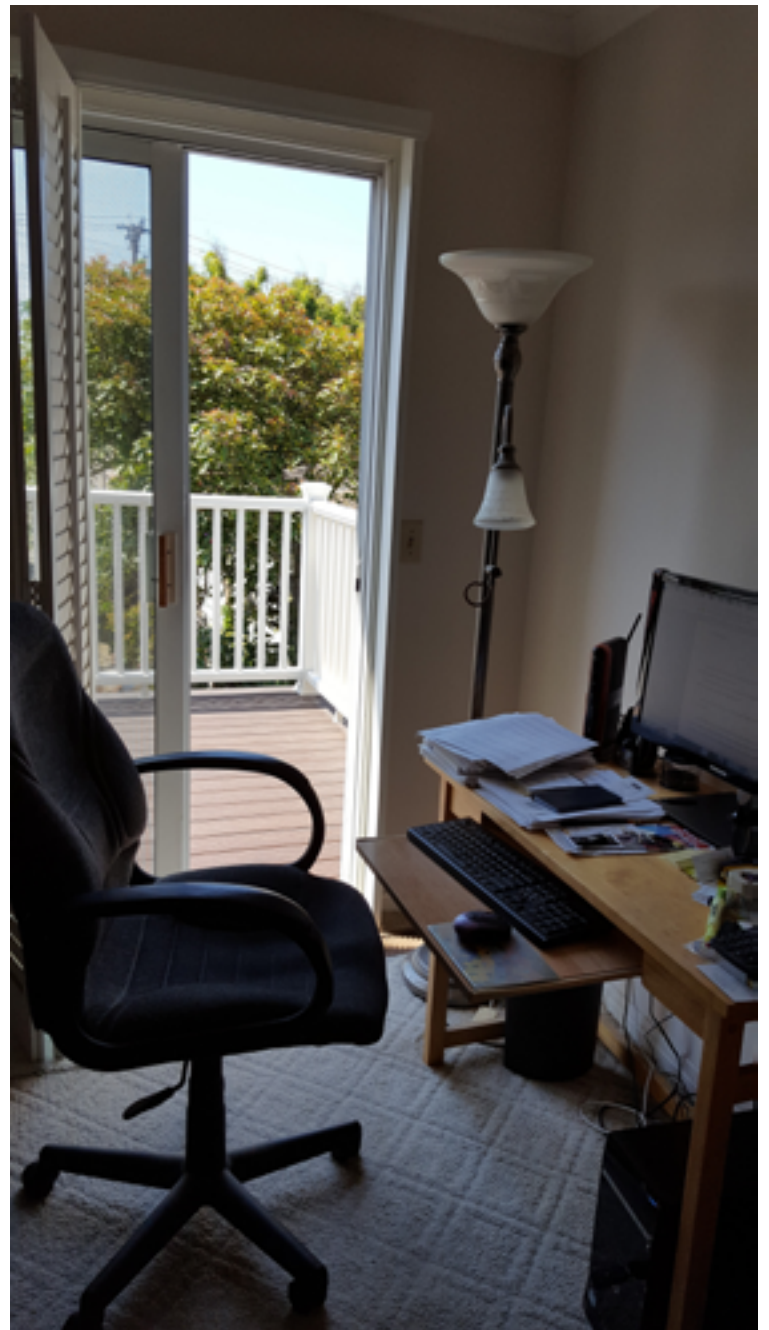
James L. Thane's office space.



This was the cramped hotel room workspace of **Ed Kovacs** while deployed to Eastern Europe in 2015. He writes his novels while on security contracts and typically buys a printer, external keyboard, mouse, and other office items locally, then gives them away to hotel staff at the end of a job. Photo courtesy of the author.



Laura Levine's desk.



This is where Sarah M. Chen works.



Holly West's vacation workspace in Rogue River, Oregon.

Hollow Points - [continued from pg 9](#)

At its most stripped down, a gun would consist of a barrel to hold ammunition, a spring and a firing pin. Most spy weapons follow this architecture, with some clever variations on the theme. Obviously a commonplace item that resembles a gun barrel is the easiest to disguise. Specifically, the fountain pen gun, the lipstick gun, the cane gun and the briar pipe gun. All of these are meant for use in a paranoid environment where security is high.



The legendary Colt SSA Bluntline Special had a 12" or 16" barrel

The Colt SSA was introduced in 1873 and remains in production today. It is a six-shot, single-action revolver in .45 caliber or .44-70 Winchester. It uses a modern, brass, center-fire cartridge with a rounded ball lead slug. The Colt SSA Model P in .44-70 caliber was popular because it shot the same ammunition as the famous Winchester '73 rifle. The SSA and Model P had a range of barrel lengths, with six-inches being the most common and the twelve-inch to sixteen-inch Buntline Special being the longest. The iconic Buntlines were named after dime-novelist Ned Buntline who fictionally put such a gun in the hands of Wyatt Earp for the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, although Earp actually carried a .44 caliber Smith & Wesson Model 3, with an octagonal eight-inch long barrel.

Founded in 1852 by Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson, Smith & Wesson incorporated to produce rifles. They moved to handguns because Colt's patent for cartridge-firing revolvers was due to expire in 1856.

S&W pistols, somewhat more steampunk in design than the Colts, were favored as self-defense weapons in the Civil War and afterward. They were also popular with law enforcement in the West due to their top-break frames (similar to the British Webley) which allowed fast reloading.

The New York City Police Department was established in 1845 and is one of the oldest police forces in the USA. NYPD is municipal and replaced a rag-tag of neighborhood and borough police agencies. It was based largely on the structure and ranks of the London Metropolitan Police. In the days after the Civil War, the NYPD was corrupt, inefficient and had a bad reputation for dealing harshly with immigrants and working-class citizens.

After the Civil War, U.S. Marshals became the ultimate law officers in the expanding western frontier and the exploits of many Marshals and Deputies such as Wyatt and Virgil Earp, John Henry "Doc" Holliday, and Bat Masterson are legendary today. In the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, both sides (cowboys and Marshals) carried variations on the amazing Colt SSA (Single Action Army) or Peacemaker revolver – the "gun that won the West."



On top, the Smith & Wesson Model 3, below, the Model 10.

President's Rap

[continued from pg 2](#)

These words may seem innocuous enough to most people, but to a writer they can be unnerving. They remind us that it's not enough to write something, you have to say something, the implication being something meaningful. The chore becomes a challenge. The stakes are raised. The gauntlet is thrown.

As daunting as this may seem, it made me wonder how much better our writing might be if every blank page, in every program and on every paper pad, reminded us to say something before we dove in.

Will you join me in taking the pledge to embrace this phrase and try to say something with every word you write? I, for one, am taking that pledge. As soon as I finish this Rap.

Craig

Hollow Points - [continued from pg 13](#)

In 1895, Theodor Roosevelt became Police Commissioner of New York and began a long process of reform in the NYPD. Roosevelt also standardized the Colt New Police Revolver in .32 Long Colt caliber. In 1926 the NYPD adopted the more powerful .38 S&W Special as its duty ammunition and gradually switched over to the S&W Model 10 revolver. This gun was used by nearly all police forces in the United States into the late-20th century, when most cities moved to some version of semi-automatic pistol. Many old-timers kept their S&W .38 revolvers out of habit, and because of their nearly flawless record in action.

Next time, we'll bring U.S. police weapons up to the present day, including undercover and back-up handguns.

Photos are courtesy of Wikipedia, used with permission.

Gregory Von Dare comes from Chicago and was raised on crime, corruption and clout in the big city. He has written non-fiction books, magazine articles and radio scripts, as well as stories, plays and screenplays. He once worked as a pyro detonator and talent manager for Universal Studios Hollywood.

Crime CALENDAR

SoCalMWA Luncheon
DP Lyle and Jan Burke
Live Radio Podcast



SPECIAL GUEST INTERVIEWEE:
 CRIMINALIST AND FORENSICS PROFESSOR DON JOHNSON

Join SoCalMWA for a live recording of DP Lyle and Jan Burke's "Crime and Science Radio."

TAM O'SHANTER RESTAURANT
 2980 Los Feliz Blvd, Los Angeles
 NOON-2:30p
 (doors open at 11:30)

RSVP available soon
[More info here](#)

Criminal Happenings in 2016

- July 5 - 9 - [Thrillerfest XI, New York, NY](#)
- July 13 - 16 - [RWA Conference, San Diego, CA](#)
- July 17 - [Backyard Book Swap & BBQ at Elizabeth Little's, Los Feliz, CA](#)
- July 28 - 31 - [Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference, Corte Madera, CA](#)
- August 7 - [SoCalMWA Luncheon: DP Lyle & Jan Burke Live Radio Podcast, Los Angeles, CA](#)
- August 28 - [SoCalMWA & SinC OC Joint Meeting, Irvine, CA](#)
- September 15 - 18 - [Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA](#)
- October 1 - [SoCalMWA Homemade Gumbo & Home-Brewed Ale Party, Woodland Hills, CA](#)
- October 22 - [SoCalMWA Workshop: Demystifying Writing Software, Studio City, CA](#)
- November 6 - [SoCalMWA Luncheon, Los Angeles, CA \(details forthcoming\)](#)
- December 17- [SoCalMWA Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The
LAST WORD

“Finn had assured Porter that this girl would be a two-drink sink, two drinks and down she goes.”

--Sarah M. Chen, CLEANING UP FINN