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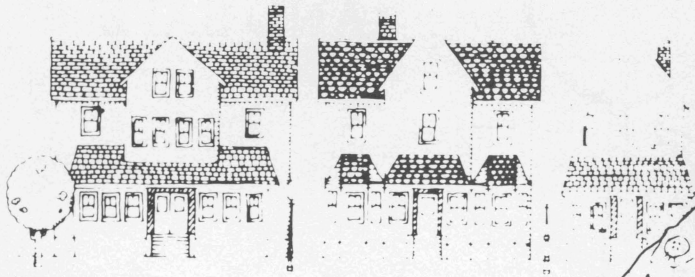
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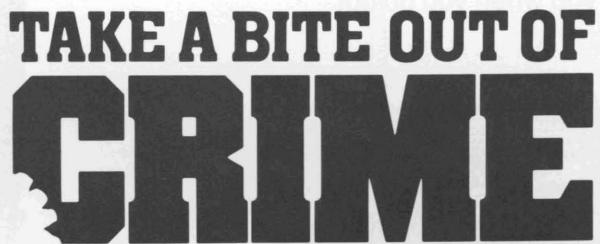
HOW TO BE
"STREETWISE" -
AND SAFE

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

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"You know, street crimes - muggings, purse snatchings, robberies, and rapes - make big news. That's why you hear about them all the time. But I bet you didn't know that these are really among the crimes that happen least often. It's a fact. You know what else? You can do something - lots of things - to reduce the chances that you'll ever meet up with a crook. Starting right now. Here are some tips on how to be 'streetwise' - and safe."



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME**

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On the Street

If you were a crook, looking for some quick cash, where would you look?

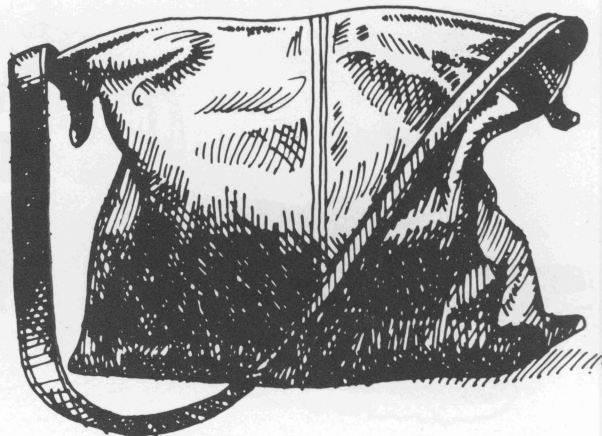
Maybe at a woman's purse dangling from her wrist or resting beside her on the counter or on the floor. Or at the guy who just walked by with the wallet bulging out of his back pocket. Or at somebody who just flashed a big wad of cash.

Get the picture? Keep the purse with you and hold it tight. Put the wallet in a front pocket. And don't flash your cash. It could impress the wrong people. Better yet, leave most of your cash in the bank. Checks and credit cards are safer.

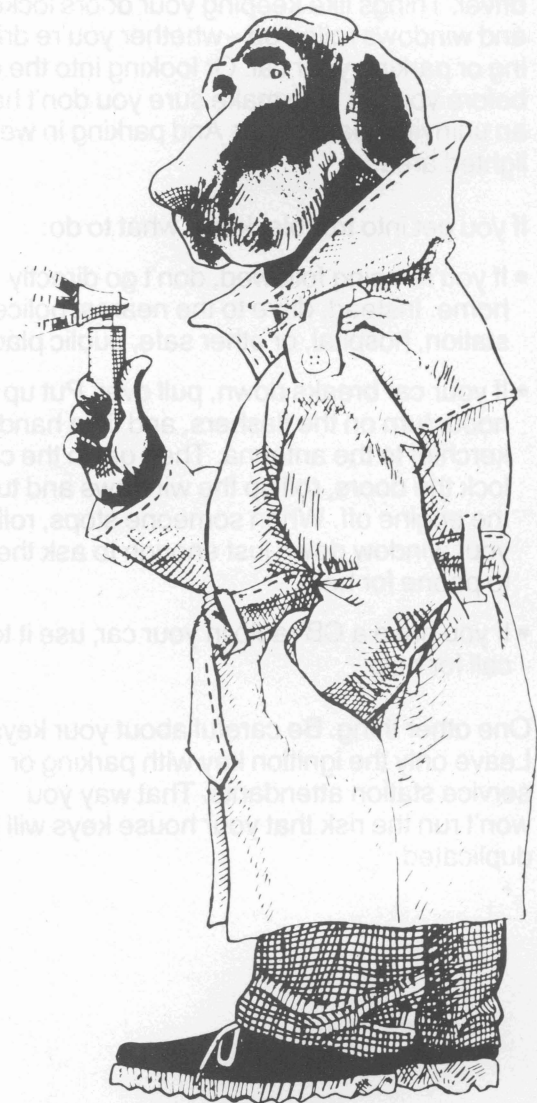
If you're walking outside, be streetwise.

- Don't make crime easy. Stay out of risky areas and stick to well-lighted, well-traveled parts of town. Avoid doorways, shrubbery, and other dark places where someone might hide.
- Walk confidently. Be alert – notice who passes you and who's behind you. If you're worried about crime, ask a friend to accompany you when you go out.

- Keep your purse close to your body, covering the clasp or flap with your hand or forearm. Don't carry open weave bags or purses without flaps – you're tempting pickpockets. And keep your credit cards separate from your wallet. If the wallet gets stolen, you won't lose these valuables.
- Carrying a weapon? That's asking for trouble. It can easily be turned against you.
- Consider carrying a whistle or any type of noisemaker. If you're in trouble, use it! If there's a Whistlestop program where you live, your neighbors will hear and call the police. Muggers won't hang around to see what happens next.



"In a Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood residents keep small 'shriek alarms' in their pockets. When they're in trouble, they push a button and this gadget lets out a piercing shriek. One day a kid tried to grab a lady's handbag. The lady triggered her alarm. Neighbors called the police who arrived minutes later. You guessed it—they nabbed the purse snatcher!"



In the Car

There's more to auto safety than being a good driver. Things like keeping your doors locked and windows rolled up – whether you're driving or parking your car. Or looking into the car before you get in to make sure you don't have an uninvited passenger. And parking in well-lighted areas.

If you get into trouble, know what to do:

- If you're being followed, don't go directly home. Instead, drive to the nearest police station, hospital, or other safe, public place.
- If your car breaks down, pull over. Put up the hood, turn on the flashers, and tie a handkerchief to the antenna. Then get in the car, lock the doors, roll up the windows and turn the engine off. When someone stops, roll your window down just enough to ask them to phone for help.
- If you have a CB radio in your car, use it to call for help.

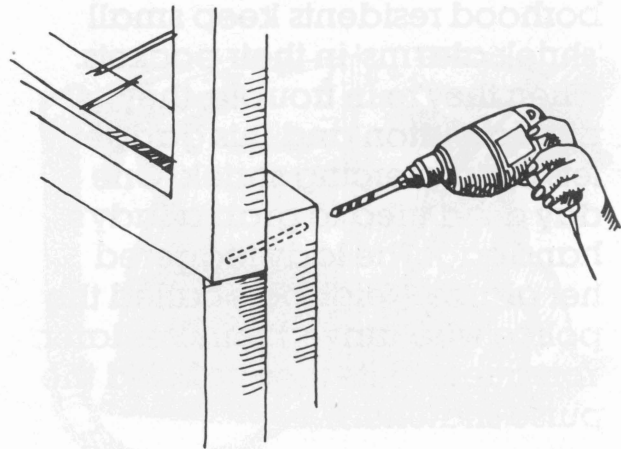
One other thing. Be careful about your keys. Leave only the ignition key with parking or service station attendants. That way you won't run the risk that your house keys will be duplicated.

In Your Home

Everybody knows that it's important to lock the doors when you go out. But did you know it's just as important to keep them locked when you're in?

All the locks in the world won't do any good if you let the crook in yourself. So follow these tips:

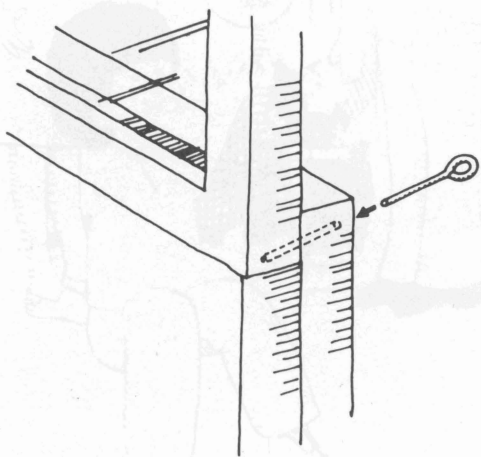
- Install a peephole in the door and check the identity of all callers, including repairmen, deliverymen, or salespersons.
- Keep windows locked. Buy special key locks or try the "pin" trick. Drill an angled hole through the top frame of the lower window partially into the frame of the upper window. Then insert a nail or an eyebolt. You can open the window by simply removing the nail or eyebolt.



- Don't let strangers in to use your telephone. Offer to make the call for them.
- When you move into a new home, re-key or change all the locks.
- Make sure you don't hide keys outside. Crooks know all the best hiding spots.

Be careful about phone calls, too. Don't give your name or address to unidentified callers. Never say who's at home...or tell anybody that you're home alone. And make sure that children and babysitters know not to give strangers that information either.

One final thing. If you're a woman, don't list your first name on your mailbox or in the telephone directory. Use initials and last name only.



For Children

We all have to be careful when we're outside. But kids can face some special problems. So pass these tips along to your children.

Kids should be careful if a stranger:

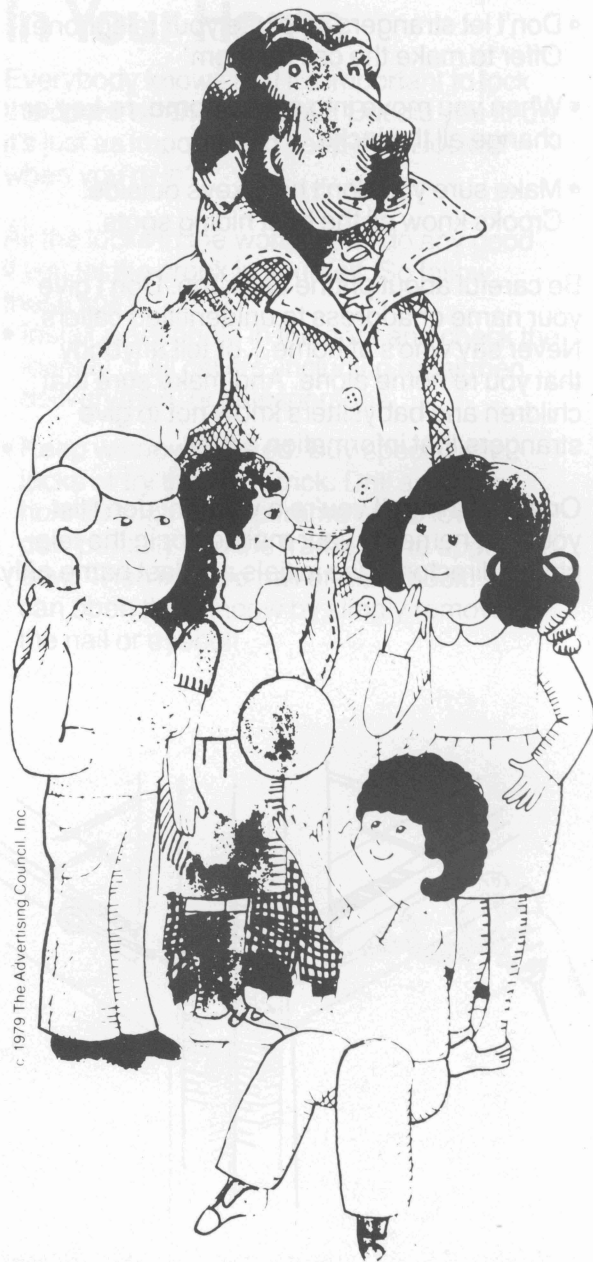
- tries to give them candy or money,
- asks them to go somewhere or get in a car with him,
- tries to follow them,
- hangs around the playground,
- tries to touch them.

Instruct your child to walk away if a stranger does one of these things and then tell parents, teachers, or a police officer what happened.

Make sure you know where your children are going when they go out. Ask them for their friends' names and telephone numbers so you can reach them.

Encourage your children to play with other kids. It's not only more fun, it's safer. Make sure they understand that they should play in places where people can see them, never in deserted buildings or alleys.

Above all, the most important thing for children to know is that there are certain people they can depend on: parents, police officers, and teachers.



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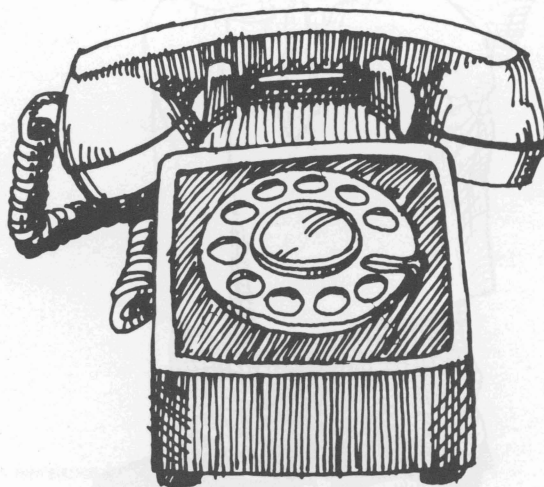
If You Are a Victim

While you'll be safer if you follow the tips presented here, it's not possible to prevent all crimes. If you do become a victim, there are some things you should do:

- Don't panic. Staying calm is your best defense.
- Attract attention – scream or yell “fire.”
- If the criminal is unarmed you may try to fight back. But be careful. The criminal wouldn't have approached you if he didn't think he could overpower you. Remember, your own safety should always come first.
- If the criminal has a weapon, don't resist. It's not worth the risk.
- If your life is threatened, do anything you can to protect yourself. Scream. Kick. Direct your attack to the eyes and groin. Then don't wait – run.

Report all crimes immediately to the police. Be careful not to disturb any possible evidence by washing or changing your clothes. Try to remember exactly what the criminal looked like.

Call the police if you witness a crime being committed. How would you feel if you needed help and no one bothered to call?



For Children



Don't forget...neighborhood

action can really help to reduce street crime. Look out for each other by forming a neighborhood watch or a citizen patrol. It's easy. Just exchange work and vacation schedules with neighbors so you can keep an eye on each other's homes. Or arrange a patrol of neighbors to be on the lookout for suspicious activities. Be sure to check with your local law enforcement agency about these and other crime prevention programs. When people help each other, they're really helping themselves. Everyone will be safer.

"You know, most of these tips are common sense. I can see why they don't make the headlines. They're not hard to follow, and can help you feel a lot safer. You'll also be helping me to..."

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For More Information and Assistance

The following organizations in your area can provide additional information and assistance in preventing rural crime.

- State, county, and local law enforcement agencies.
- County Extension agents
- Texas Agricultural Extension Service
College Station, Texas
- Texas Crime Prevention Institute
San Marcos, Texas

For More Information and Assistance:

- The following organizations in your area can provide technical information and assistance in preventing fires:
 - State court and local law enforcement agencies
 - County Extension agents
 - Texas Agricultural Extension Service, County Offices, Texas
 - Texas State Fire Marshal's Office, Austin, Texas

Don't forget...neighborhood watch can really help to reduce street crime. Organize for each other by forming a neighborhood watch or a citizen patrol. It's easy to form a watch or a patrol. It's easy to schedule work and vacation schedules with neighbors so you can keep an eye on each other's homes. Or arrange a patrol of neighbors to go on the lookout for suspicious activities. Be sure to check with your local law enforcement agencies about these and other crime prevention programs. When you help each other, you're really helping them too. Everyone will be safer.

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Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

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Daniel C. Pfannstiel, Director
College Station