



## **Q&A Spotlight- Police Interview**

**TOM LANE**

**Founder, Property Room**

**PropertyRoom.com**

What is the main motive for thieves while committing a robbery? What is it they hope to achieve?

Usually they commit robberies and burglaries to feed their drug addictions. Although there are guys that just do robberies for the thrill of it and they use the money to just live on. These are usually more professional criminals and they tend to concentrate on robbing banks and high end residences and then fencing the items taken.

How do thieves try to cover up their tracks?

Some use masks, wear gloves, layer on clothing to make themselves appear bigger or heavier, grow a mustache and or beard then shave it off after the job.

What do police do to track down the thieves that are especially difficult to catch, and do not leave clues?

Many times there are few clues especially on burglaries committed when no one is home so police use old fashion shoe leather to catch them. They go door to door in the neighborhood asking neighbors if they saw anything. They might stop the fed ex, mail or UPS drivers to ask them if they noticed anything out of the ordinary. They will check with pawn shops, informants and other criminals to zero in on the suspects. Many times the crime is solved by getting a confession from the suspects.

What clues are essential to look for at the scene of a crime?

On robberies and burglaries you would look for similar patterns i.e. a picked lock, a broken window entry, a kicked in door as people tend to commit the same crime the same way so looking for these clues would enable a detective to put together a case against a suspect based on the way the gained entry. Detectives also always hold back several pieces of information

about a crime that only the suspect would know about so that when interviewing suspects if they mention one of these holdbacks the detective would know he has the right person in custody and this would facilitate a confession.

What do police tell jewelry stores to maintain the best security, and what are the most common mistakes stores make?

Jewelry stores usually employ very sophisticated security nowadays. I would say the most common mistake they make would be not securing entry from adjoining buildings and or basements or being vulnerable to smash and grab gangs.

When are cases considered to be unsolved and closed?

Run of the mill burglaries and robberies if no suspect presents then over time the detective has moved on to newer crimes with the hopes of solving the new one. They will still keep the case active for several years however.

What do police do when apprehending a suspect, and when they become aggressive?

They use whatever force is necessary to affect the arrest and then add an additional felony charge of resisting arrest. It really doesn't make sense to resist arrest but then again many people do it.

Why did you decide to launch Property Room and what are the key facts readers should know about it?

I saw a solution for police evidence rooms to modernize the way they auction off their items by using the web. Readers should know that we are probably the most trusted site on the Internet 3000 police departments vouch for us every day by giving us their items to auction and we add new police departments on a daily basis.

How did your years in law enforcement influence your decisions with Property Room?

I knew we would have to run the company and our warehouses like the police departments run their property rooms. Integrity was going to be the driving force behind everything we were going to do. Also the sales process cannot be a hard sale and we needed to build lasting relationships with our police customers.

## **About Property Room**

Founded by former New York police officer and detective Tom Lane, Property Room auctions goods seized during raids, forfeited by criminals, or unclaimed by the original owners. Working with 2,800 police departments, municipalities, airports, museums and aquariums, Property Room streamlines the auction process by cataloging the unclaimed property, refurbishing it if needed, performing the authentication process, auctioning it and delivering it to the successful bidder. With close to 4,000 unique items up for bid at any given time and hundreds of new

auctions added daily -- from buffalo horns to swords to jewelry and electronics -- most of these items have a starting bid at just one dollar. With the merchandise collected from police property rooms across the United States, including the Los Angeles Police Department and the New York City Police Department, the auctions have generated more than \$46 million in proceeds given back to the local communities.