

...nce, of the stop-and-
...ed between police and report-
...f dealing with reporters that
...ficers. For the most part, they
...ply didn't talk to. (One or two
...r the course of the long investi-
...looking in.) Their trust proved
...ained secret.

...ong lines of cars, bumper-to-
...ool yards in the morning and
...children walk to school. Kids
...o child went anywhere alone.
...ch other about what they'd do
...family dinner table became a
...mentary schools were stepped
...rogram was developed.

...King now had a price on his
...dded twenty-five thousand dol-
...rd money already being offered
...Chamber of Commerce for the
...h's kidnap-killer. Indeed, two
...nty, Dave Campbell from Royal
...were proposing a one-million-
...ersons who kill, kidnap, or mo-
...housand-dollar chunks.

...as possible, talked with
...d letter carriers in South
...posites of the man seen by Mrs.
...up by psychiatrists, psycholo-
...r the Stebbins, Robinson, and
...given to the Postal Service over

...onsultation with professionals in law
...ld, here are some of the character-
...erson responsible for the abduction

5. Caucasian
6. Has the capacity to store or keep victim for a number of days without being detected.
7. Has a compulsion for cleanliness and very neat. His house and car are very clean. To the point of being a fanatic.
8. Little or no substance abuse involved, such as drugs or alcohol.*
9. His work schedule permits a certain amount of freedom of movement.
10. He is a white-collar worker.
11. He has abnormal sexual habits.
12. He may be undergoing psychiatric treatment or is desirous of same.
13. He lives or works in Oakland County.

Involvement of the letter carriers was known simply as "Operation Observation." It was the forerunner of dozens of other Special Projects designed to alert the community and ferret out the abductor. The composite of the man standing next to the blue Gremlin, along with the profile, was sent out to all newspapers. Amateur radio operators had been coordinating a civilian Mobile Watch program, made up of residents with CB radios, who patrolled the streets on Friday and Saturday nights. The community had been fully mobilized.

After the six o'clock news, just a few hours after Barry King had made his television appeal for the safe return of his son, the Birmingham Police Department switchboard exploded in a cacophony of sound and light. In a matter of hours several hundred tips came in. It seemed to the Birmingham Police desk sergeant that every one of the viewers who watched Detroit's 6:00 P.M. news was calling to tell him that they knew someone who fit the composite and the profile to a tee. And they were probably right.

Most police departments as a matter of course save the tapes of all incoming calls for a specified period. You never know when new information could give a whole new meaning to a conversation with a tipster. It was not until much later that Robertson discovered something that was to haunt him for a long time to come—someone at the Birmingham Police Department inexplicably decided to erase the recordings of the hundreds of calls that came in the days following the King abduction.

*It was felt that the killer demonstrated too much control to be using drugs, or alcohol, at least excessively.