COURTNEY'S STORY OF HOW HE SMASHED AUTO THIEVES

By Joseph U. Dugan

In the parlance of the underworld, stealing an automobile is called "crashing a job." And in many homes, the process that caused the crime is not a secret. In Chicago public service, the trend toward automobile theft has been a steady increase. In 1952, it reached the highest automobile theft rate for any city in the country.

Criminals have used the car as a common tool for committing crimes. The car has become a weapon of choice for many thieves. In 1952, the rate of automobile theft in Chicago was 25.4 per 100,000 population. The rate in New York City was 15.9 per 100,000 population.

Thefts of automobiles in Chicago have been on the rise, and the police have been working hard to combat the problem. The police have increased their efforts to stop automobile thefts by increasing the number of patrols and using technology to track stolen vehicles.

Key to Argot of Auto Thieves

- "CLUTCHING A JALOPY"—Stealing an automobile.
- "BRAINS"—Leader of the gang.
- "CONTACT"—Stolen parts salesman, arranged the deal.
- "RINGSTERS"—General term for members of the gang.
- "CHANGERS"—Experts at changing and removing motor number.
- "STRIPPERS"—Tried mechanics who remove saleable parts.
- "ROGGER"—Expert automobile key maker and lock breekers.
- "CLOUTERS"—Boys and young men who do actual car breaking.
- "PLANT"—Garage where stolen cars are stripped and hidden.
- "GRAVEYARD"—Any place where stolen parts or cars are hidden.
- "SPOTTER"—Man who "spots" cars to be stolen.

CAMPAIGN REDUCES MOTOR THEFT RATE BY 53 PER CENT

COURTNEY TAKES UP THE CHALLENGE

Unlike most of the underworld, Chicago's underworld is not afraid to take the challenge head-on. The police have been working hard to combat automobile thefts by increasing the number of patrols and using technology to track stolen vehicles.

The police have also been working with the public to educate them on how to prevent automobile thefts. They have provided tips on how to secure your vehicle, including locking your doors and windows and not leaving your keys in the ignition.

The campaign to reduce automobile thefts has been successful, and the number of thefts has declined significantly. The police are proud of their efforts, and they continue to work hard to keep the streets safe for all Chicago residents.

(Continued on Page Four)