The Efficacy of Hypnosis in Accurately Retrieving Consciously Inaccessible Memories

By
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Introduction

The use of hypnosis to accurately retrieve consciously inaccessible memories is an issue that leaves both laymen and medical professionals divided. Appraisals of its efficacy can be polar opposite depending on who one talks to about the matter. Given the confusion that arises from so many conflicting opinions, both trained and untrained, the only way one can genuinely determine if hypnosis can be used to accurately retrieve memories is to review a cross section of documented results from its application.

Individuals considering the use of hypnosis to retrieve memories have two primary concerns:

* Is hypnosis dangerous?
* Can memories retrieved through hypnosis be accurate?

To evidentially demonstrate that the proper use of hypnosis can safely, accurately and successfully retrieve memories I present below a cross section of peer reviewed psychiatric literature as well as thirty-two empirically evidenced cases where safe, accurate and successful retrieval has occurred.

In the Linda Cortile case Budd Hopkins employed the tool of hypnosis as an adjunct to aid in the retrieval of consciously inaccessible memories. Linda, as well as a handful of other individuals from her case, underwent hypnosis through Budd Hopkins. It is believed that their consciously inaccessible memories were disconnected by post-traumatic retrograde amnesia that occurred as a result of their alien abduction experiences.

The cross section of psychiatric literature that supports the efficacy of hypnosis in accurate memory retrieval, as well as the thirty-two successful case examples, are especially important in relation to the Linda Cortile case. The reason for this is because critics of the case have frequently asserted and insinuated that hypnosis is dangerous and inaccurate.

Is Hypnosis Dangerous?

The consensus obtained from a cross section of peer reviewed psychology articles, collated together from different sources and time periods, is that the tool of hypnosis itself is not dangerous. The potential dangers of hypnosis, like other tools, lie within its misuse by the individuals employing it. In other words the potential dangers are with the wielder of the tool rather than the tool being wielded.
DANGERS OF HYPNOSIS

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Abstract: The various kinds of complications which have been associated with hypnosis are reviewed, and it is concluded that they have been greatly exaggerated. The dangers that are involved in hypnosis occur through ignorance, overzealousness, lack of understanding of the bases of interpersonal relationships, and the irresponsible acts of those who would use the technique for entertainment.

Page 220; line 7 – 16 (including title line),
“Dangers of Hypnosis”
by Paul F. Kost,
International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis,
Volume 13, Issue 4, 1965

IS HYPNOSIS REALLY DANGEROUS?

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Abstract: The literature on the dangers of hypnosis, the author’s experience with 3,000 private psychiatric patients, and the current opinions of experts in the field of hypnosis are summarized. The author concludes that hypnosis cannot be considered as being “a cause” or an external “force.” It is a form of adaptation, folie à deux, an alibi, a neurotic compromise and a rationalized, regressive, masochistic maneuver, whose goal is to obtain the gratification of unacceptable wishes and to avoid superego condemnation. There are no significant or specific dangers associated with hypnosis per se. The actual dangers are those which accompany every psychotherapeutic relationship.

Page 61; line 1 – 13 (including title line),
“Is Hypnosis Really Dangerous?”
by Jacob H. Conn,
International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis,
Volume 20, Issue 2, 1972
Hypnosis is not intrinsically dangerous. For the most part, it is a benign process. The same cognitive flexibility that allows patients to enter the trance facilitates their exit from it with clear structure and support from the therapist. The dangers of hypnosis lay not in the process itself but in how it is used. There are few contraindications for the use of hypnosis. An occasional paranoid schizophrenic patient may incorporate an attempt at inducing hypnosis into a delusional system. A severely depressed individual may interpret a failure to benefit from hypnosis as further evidence of little self-worth. These problems can be avoided in part by use of hypnotizability testing at the beginning of the intervention. The most serious problem involves possible effects of hypnosis on memory. This is discussed at length under the section “Forensic Applications of Hypnosis,” later in the chapter.
Section #1
Ten Cases from the American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis

Case #1

Case 1: Murder

Two teachers (A and B) had been out together bar hopping on a Friday evening after a long day at school. They met a variety of people but left the bar at the same time and returned to their homes. The next day they were talking on the phone, sharing stories from the evening before, when one of them (B) told her friend (A) that a certain individual (someone she had met the night before) was at her door. He had agreed to come over to her place to fix the radiator on her car. They said goodbye and agreed to catch up more on Monday when they were at school. When teacher A went to school on Monday her friend and colleague did not show up for work. This was very unusual and teacher A was concerned enough to call the other teacher’s parents. The parents tried to call their daughter all day at her apartment. Because they could not reach her they called the manager of the apartment building to check on her.

The apartment manager could not get any response and finally let herself in only to find teacher B murdered in her bed. When the police arrived they discovered that she had been raped and then stabbed multiple times. The crime scene was horrific. There was no murder weapon and the only clue was fingerprints on a raised toilet seat. The fingerprints were sent for analysis, but no match was obtained.

In the next few days the police interviewed her friends and family, including teacher A. Teacher A told them the story of being out together on Friday evening and that someone came to her house on Saturday to fix her car radiator. Teacher A could not remember the name of the person who came on Saturday, but remembered hearing the name. Several homicide detectives from the police department had attended a workshop on hypnosis. They did not want to assume any liability from doing hypnosis themselves and once again called for a professional to help them.

The police brought in Teacher A and all the procedures described in this paper were followed. Teacher A was cooperative and an excellent hypnotic subject. Under hypnosis she came up with the name George Starway as the person who came to teacher B’s apartment. The police got very excited and during the debriefing of teacher A they checked out the name to no avail. Teacher A was such a good hypnotic subject that the decision was made to continue working with her. Under hypnosis the second time we slowed everything down and this time she said, “No it’s not George Starway—it’s George from the Starway Company.” Once again the police began checking this out and discovered a George from the Starway Company had not shown up for work on Monday. The police staked out his apartment. A day later he returned to his apartment after having left to be with his mother in another city until things cooled off, and as police confronted him on the sidewalk he began to run. They quickly caught him, entered his apartment and found the murder weapon together with his blood stained clothes. It is believed that the actual warrant was obtained when the fingerprints at his workplace matched the prints at the crime scene. This case created high credibility for hypnotic interviewing within the police department. Due to the use of hypnosis, requests grew to use hypnotic interviews in other homicide cases, arson cases, and cases from surrounding police jurisdictions. With this methodology, it can be expected that about 50% of hypnotized victims and witnesses are able to give detailed investigative information leading to an arrest.”

Case 1: Murder,
Page 255; line 23 – 45 (including case title line), Page 256; line 1 – 18,
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”
by William C. Wester II and D. Corydon Hammond,
Case #2

Case 2: A Hate Crime

One evening two gay individuals were coming out of a bar when a car pulled to a stop in front of the bar. Two men got out of the car with baseball bats and began beating up the two gay individuals. As they did this they yelled a variety of derogatory terms. One of the gays was able to break loose while carefully looking at the attackers as he ran down the street. His friend was almost beaten to death, but slowly recovered after spending several days in the hospital. When the police arrived they heard what had happened and what was said. They called the FBI since they felt that this incident may fall under the hate crimes statutes. This was initially a local assault case, but then became a federal case which then involved federal law enforcement.

The person who had been able to get away was hypnotized. He reported that he had a good look at one suspect and under hypnosis was able to provide an excellent sketch to a local police artist. All law enforcement agencies in the area cooperated in disseminating the sketch to a variety of places across several counties. A few days later a bartender who had a copy of the sketch called police and said, “I don’t know if this is your guy because he has different colored hair, but he sure looks like your sketch and he is in my bar as we speak.” The police arrived quickly and arrested the suspect. The sketch produced under hypnosis was very accurate except for the different colored hair. The suspect “gave up” his associate and both were charged under the federal hate crimes law. Incidentally, this case illustrates the importance of concentrating on the facial features and the overall description versus “liquid” features like hair color, hair style, clothing, etc., which can quickly and easily be changed by a perpetrator.

Case 2: Hate Crime,
Page 256; line 19 – 40 (including case title line),
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”
by William C. Wester II and D. Corydon Hammond,
Case #3

Case 3: A Church Bombing

Another case involved one of the many church bombings in the South. Several people were critically injured during this bombing. There was one witness who saw the “get-away” truck leave the church parking lot. She gave the local police and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) a detailed description of the truck, including the make, model and color. She stated that she looked at the license plate but could not remember the numbers. It was requested that hypnosis be used with this case to help her remember the license plate. A variety of hypnotic techniques were used, but she could not remember the license plate information.

Instead of attempting to obtain further information by having her speak, the hypnotic technique of automatic writing was employed (Wolberg, 1964). This technique involved putting a clipboard with paper in the hand of the witness while she was in hypnosis. A pencil was put in the dominant hand and the tip of the pencil placed on the paper. In short, under hypnosis her arm was dissociated and the witness was directed to allow her subconscious mind to do all the work and if there was unconscious information that may be helpful in this case, that her hand would automatically move and write down that information. This technique is somewhat more complicated than we are describing here, but can be a good method to use as a last resort. Her hand began to move but nothing seemed to make sense and she did not write out a license number. She had a variety of small markings on the paper and the agents were all getting excited. At the appropriate time the hypnosis session was terminated and the witness debriefed without hypnosis.

After the witness left the room, the case was discussed. The reason the agents had become excited was that one of her markings on the paper indicated the county sticker. Based on her automatic writing description, instead of looking for about 5000 vehicles throughout the state, the number of vehicles decreased to about 50. This information played an important part in narrowing the investigation and the suspect was apprehended very quickly.

Case 3: A Church Bombing,
Page 256; line 41 – 45 (including case title lines), Page 257; line 1 – 21,
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”
by William C. Wester II and D. Corydon Hammond,
Case 4: A Serial Rapist

In one of the major US cities there was a serial rapist on the loose. The DNA from the victims confirmed that the same individual was committing these crimes. The crimes had been going on for years in many different jurisdictions around and in the large metropolitan area. When the number of known cases at the time reached 20 and the police had no major clues they asked for hypnosis to be used and for an ATF agent/sketch artist to assist in this case. The fourth victim actually pulled off the attacker’s mask, but the trauma was so intense that she had blocked all memory of the incident. Her case dated back almost 4 years and she was anxious to help catch her attacker.

After a clinical interview and a discussion with her psychiatrist, a decision was made to move forward with the hypnotic interview. In cases like this the authors try to use dissociative age regression techniques (Hammond, 1990) that give the victim some distance from the actual event to increase the feeling of safety and reduce the likelihood of additional trauma. A theater or TV technique (Brown & Fromm, 1986) can be used whereby the victims see themselves in a safe environment while they remember what took place. A theater technique was employed in this case and under hypnosis she was able to remain in a trance, open her eyes, and look at a sketch the artist had made based on her pre-hypnotic description. As she commented on the sketch, the artist made changes accordingly on the computerized sketch. After several changes the victim began to cry and indicated, “That’s the SOB who raped me!” It is common practice when this type of abreaction occurs to stop the sketch and not push for additional information. That procedure was followed in this case.

In some cases law enforcement officers get lucky. The sketch was distributed to all law enforcement agencies in the area and a young police officer recognized the sketch and compared it to a case he was involved in about 4 years prior. The police now had a possible name and once they found this person, began to stake him out. He had a habit of getting coffee and donuts almost every morning. An undercover agent was in the coffee shop and when he left the agent took the cup which was sent off for DNA analysis. This case also involved federal law enforcement because several of his victims were taken across state lines. The DNA came back a match. As this was all happening, the sketch had somehow been released to the local media and the rapist left town. There was also some confusion since there were so many different law enforcement jurisdictions involved.

This case became a natural feature for the TV series that assists law enforcement in their quest for justice. The night that the show aired the calls began to come in and the suspect was traced to a southern state. A motel employee seeing the show called police and identified the person in one of the motel rooms as looking like the person identified on the television show. The rapist had changed somewhat in 4 years, but was easily identified. Once again, when the “liquid” features were ignored, the description was excellent. In this case, the suspect had gained weight and changed his hair style. The police arrived and arrested the suspect. When the investigation was complete, the police were able to identify many other victims he had raped over the span of several years. The rapist was convicted and given 20 consecutive life sentences with no chance of parole.

Case 4: A Serial Rapist,
Page 257; line 22 – 46 (including case title line), Page 258; line 1 – 16,
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”
by William C. Wester II and D. Corydon Hammond,
Case #5

Case 5: A Serial Bomber

In a large city in the East someone had been setting off a variety of bombs and in the process one person was killed. A major task force from various law enforcement agencies was established, but the progress in solving this case was very slow. There was a new event involving 3 witnesses and the authors were called in to use hypnosis to develop a sketch.

One day 3 brothers were going to see their mother. When they arrived there was a man sitting on her front porch with a shopping bag. When they pulled up in front of the house he got up and came to their car asking if they knew where a particular person lived in the neighborhood. They did not know this “so called person” and as they indicated that they did not know the individual, the man took off running down the street, leaving the bag on the porch. When the brothers approached the bag they noticed that there was an object in the bag that looked like a bomb. They immediately called the police who in turn called the bomb squad. BATFE was also called because bombings come under their jurisdiction and the fact that there was a serial bomber loose in the city. If the bomb had gone off it would probably have killed the mother since she was in the front room of her home.

We arranged to meet with the 3 witnesses and eliminated one of them in terms of hypnosis in the event that the case had to go to court. We call the witness that will not be hypnotized a “throw away witness.” We hypnotized the other 2 brothers individually, producing a good sketch from each. We now had two almost identical sketches and even did an overlay combining the two sketches. The sketch was then released to the press and immediately calls began coming in to the task force. The suspect was involved in a business where he had daily contact with many people. He was married and had children. He was caught shortly after the sketch came out and he was quoted in the paper as saying, “I knew I would be caught as soon as I saw the sketch in the paper.” He pleaded guilty and there was no long drawn out trial.

Case 5: A Serial Bomber,  
Page 258; line 17 – 41 (including case title line),  
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”  
by William C. Wester II and D. Corydon Hammond,  
Case #6

Case 6: A Kidnapping

A young teenaged girl was kidnapped from her home in the middle of the night by someone who had broken into the home. After more than 7 months the police and FBI still had no serious leads in the case. The kidnapping victim’s younger sister had been sleeping in the same bedroom when her sister had been abducted at gunpoint. The little sister had awakened early in the process of the abduction, but continued to pretend to be asleep after hearing the kidnapper threaten to shoot her big sister if there was any noise. She was so frightened that she remained in bed for several hours before awakening her parents. Finally investigators decided to have this sole witness hypnotized in a search for further clues.

The federal model was followed with a detective experienced in conducting child interviews involved. Prior to conducting hypnosis she was asked to think of a “safe place.” She struggled with this, and her mother who was present for the informed consent and initial part of the non-hypnotic interview tried to help her brainstorm possible safe, secure places for several minutes. During this time the child’s eyes filled with tears and it was apparent that she had been traumatized and that there was no place where she felt safe. It was finally agreed that she could imagine herself in her own room, in the past, with her older sister, the security alarm on, the lights on, and her parents nearby. For her emotional/psychological protection it was explained that if at any time she felt scared or upset, she could lift an index finger to signal us, and we would pause and have her go to her “safe place” to become more comfortable. She was also told that if she felt too frightened that she could view what she was seeing as if it were on a screen to feel more distant from it.

During the hypnotic portion of the interview she recalled two or three additional details, but nothing that provided a significant lead in the case. She did indicate, however, that the voice of the kidnapper sounded familiar. Prior to re-alerting her she was given posthypnotic suggestions repetitively that her unconscious mind would continue to search through her memories for who the familiar voice belonged to, and that when she recalled anything further that she should immediately write it down and tell either a police officer or her parents.

Approximately 5-6 weeks later she walked into her parents bedroom and told them that she remembered who the voice belonged to—a person who had done handy work at their home. Investigators were informed but did not act on the lead. Finally, in frustration with the inaction of law enforcement the parents turned information and a sketch of the suspect over to a nationally televised program which immediately aired the story. Within 1-2 days (and approximately 9 months after the kidnapping) two individuals called police after seeing the suspect hitchhiking with the kidnap victim disguised and with him. Of course what we can never know is whether the little sister would have eventually recalled this information without the hypnotic suggestions.
Case #7

Case 7: Multiple Church Bombings

A church bombing took place in the Midwest. Shortly thereafter another church bombing took place in the same town and this time a person was killed. The suspect left a bag with a bomb on the steps of the back door to the church. The bag was rigged and when the person came out and moved the bag, the bomb exploded. The police and ATF had several witnesses who had seen various things about the time of the bombing. There were a variety of descriptions of people near the church, but they were all different. There was one witness that saw a man looking into the window of a car in the church parking lot, but she was unable to give a good description of this individual. The authors were called in to work this case together with an agent/sketch artist from the ATF. The witness agreed to hypnosis and wanted to help because she knew the person who was killed in the bombing.

The witness was able to remember the man looking into the car and a sketch was produced. As the sketch was shown to different people in the community one name kept coming up. The sketch had not yet been put in the newspaper. One of the other witnesses had remembered a man with a dog in the area. The people in the community who recognized the sketch also indicated that he had a dog. A warrant was obtained and when agents raided his residence he blew up himself and his dog. He was in his garage where he had made the bombs when they came to arrest him.

Case 7: Multiple Church Bombings,
Page 259; line 34 – 46 (including case title line), Page 260; line 1 – 5,
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”
by William C. Wester II and D. Corydon Hammond,
Case #8

Case 8: Bank Robbery

One afternoon an older woman was waiting for a bus in front of a local bank when all of the alarms sounded and two men came running out of a side door, got into a car, and drove right past the older woman as they left the scene. The woman was a very responsible type of person and she made it her job to look at the license plate. When the police and FBI arrived she was able to give a good description of the vehicle, but she said that everything happened so fast that she had forgotten the license plate number. There were several other witnesses who had seen the car and they supported the description given by the older woman. However, none of the other witnesses had seen the back of the car or license plates.

The woman agreed to be hypnotized in order to help identify the car and license plate. She was a fairly good hypnotic subject, but she was trying too hard and this became a distraction. Several different techniques were tried to no avail. Finally, the technique of imaging a black card in front of the license plate so “she could not see the plate,” was used. This method has been found to frequently decrease the pressure a witness feels to perform and remember. She was then told that when the black card was removed she would be able to see the plate and she should repeat the first things that came into her mind. When the imaginary black card was removed she recited a plate number. The police checked the plate number she gave and various combinations of the numbers. One was a match with the description of the car. The “get away” car had traveled 250 miles when the two subjects were apprehended.
Case #9

Case 9: Kidnapping

In the midst of a day seeing clinical cases a phone call was received from the FBI. A young girl getting off a school bus outside of a major city was kidnapped. The author left the office immediately, boarded a plane, and within a short period of time was picked up at the airport and transported to a local motel where everything was set up to work with hypnosis. This is a common way that these cases have been conducted. The federal “tech” team came in and setup the room with hidden cameras and microphones so that everything could be recorded as required by the Hurd rules (Wester, 1987) and the Federal Model (Garver, 1987). A closed circuit television was also set up in an adjacent room where other law enforcement officers could observe the hypnotic session.

In this particular case there were two witnesses. A farmer working in his field and a newspaper boy had seen the kidnapping take place. When the police arrived the witnesses told them that the van associated with the abduction was red in color. This was the only information they could remember as they stated, “because it happened so fast.” The farmer was interviewed first. He was not a very good hypnotic subject and once again all he could remember was that the van was red.

A hypnotic interview was conducted with the teenage paperboy who was very knowledgeable about vehicles. At first he could only identify the red van. His next memory was the make of the van. Eventually, he became more descriptive and remembered a scene on the side of the van. He described this scene in great detail. As a bonus he remembered a certain sticker on the driver’s side window.

The description of the red van with the scene was distributed to radio and television stations as well as to other media sources. A young mechanic working at a gas station on one of the major turnpikes heard the description of the van on the radio. Shortly thereafter he saw a van matching this description come into the service station to get gas. He called the highway patrol, who in turn notified federal authorities. He told them, “I don’t know if this is the van you are looking for, but one that fits your description is getting gas right now.” A road block was set up near the next exit and all vans were checked. When they got to the red van with the special scene they found the young girl in the back of the van. Other than the trauma she experienced, she had not been hurt or molested.
Case #10: An Attempted Federal Court House Bombing

It was a beautiful day in this mid-western town. Therefore, there were a lot of people outside and especially near the federal courthouse. The courthouse had steps on three sides leading to entrance doors. Since this was before the 911 terrorist attack, other barriers were not in place. On the fourth side of the courthouse the area was flat and designed with glass doors that could be opened for deliveries. There were security personnel at this entrance to check the identification of people wanting to enter the courthouse through this entrance.

Out of nowhere a pickup truck loaded with explosives drove up onto the sidewalk and flat area and crashed through the double glass doors. In all of the confusion the driver got out of the van and ran out the door, along with many other people who were fleeing, including security guards. The driver of the truck was not specifically noticed by any other person. He continued to run down the block and then stood to watch on a corner. As mentioned before, there were numerous people nearby on that day, as well as those fleeing the building.

What was supposed to happen, obviously, was that the truck had been wired to explode after a certain amount of time, allowing enough time for the driver to escape, but it did not explode. There were enough explosives in the truck to level the courthouse and possibly kill all of those inside. However, the bomb never detonated. When the driver, who was watching all of this from the corner, wondered what may have happened, he left the crime scene. There was great confusion and everyone saw something they felt was important. The police and federal authorities started to eliminate people as suspects. As they were doing this several people began to describe the man who was standing on the corner and watching. There was something about him that draw their attention to him and caused people to regard him as looking “suspicious.” Three of these witnesses agreed to help the investigation by being hypnotized in an effort to develop a good sketch of this person. The three sketches were similar and the agent/artist did a composite using the three sketches. This composite sketch was released to the media and within hours leads began to develop as people began to call. In a few days an arrest was made. The motive was a very personal one and not linked to a terrorist group.
Section #2
Seven Cases from "The Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis"
by Martin Reiser Ed. D.

Case #11

On January 19, 1976 at 9:30 p.m., a 64-year-old motion picture publicist was discovered murdered in his Van Nuys, California home, shot once in the neck. No witnesses or motive for the crime could be established. A systematic door-to-door check of the neighborhood located a witness who saw a suspicious vehicle in the neighborhood with its lights out shortly before the crime. The witness described the vehicle as a 1973 or 74 white Datsun pickup truck with a heavy-duty bumper. The vehicle contained three juveniles. The witness had looked at the license plate at the time, but could recall only that it started with a “7”, had another “7” in it somewhere, and perhaps a “4”. The witness was not able to recall any additional information, but agreed to a hypnosis session.

Under hypnosis the following additional information was obtained: The heavy-duty bumper was silver in color and had a red and blue “safe-tee” emblem on it; there were no dents or scratches observed on the vehicle; the word “Datsun” was written in large black letters on the tailgate; there was a small mirror on the left side; the vehicle had small chrome hubcaps; there were black rubber mud flaps behind the rear wheels and the vehicle had a “Datsun” license plate frame. There appeared to be beads or some object hanging from the rear-view mirror inside the vehicle. The complete license number was recalled as 70774W.

A Department of Motor Vehicles check confirmed that the license number was registered to a 1974 Datsun pickup truck at a local address. A stake-out on the vehicle led to a subsequent arrest of three juveniles who confessed to the crime. All of the information obtained under hypnosis was corroborated with the exception of two points. First, there was not a “Datsun” license plate frame, and second, nothing was hanging from the rear-view mirror. However, it is possible that a crack in the front windshield directly in front of the mirror could have been mistaken for something hanging from the mirror when viewed from the rear. The solution of this case was attributed essentially to hypnosis.11
Case #12

On January 8, 1975 a man returned to his south Los Angeles apartment at 11:20 p.m. and found his wife dead in the bathroom, nude and bound. He untied her and carried her to a bedroom, placing her on a bed and covering her with a blanket. In shock, he waited a considerable time before calling the police. During the interval he wandered from room to room picking up and putting away things found lying around.

When questioned by police he was unable to accurately describe the position of his wife's body, or what he had done before calling them. Autopsy disclosed that death was caused by asphyxiation due to strangulation with a minimum of damage to the victim's neck. There was no forced entry of the apartment or no unusual noises heard by neighbors. Though the husband was an initial suspect, it was established that he was working at the time the death occurred. Investigators, at a dead-end, decided some ten months later to use hypnosis to get additional information the husband might have forgotten.

Under hypnosis he was able to accurately recall the position of his wife's body and how she was tied. He described moving specific objects from and around the body and putting them away. This information and subsequent consultation with experts at the coroner's office enabled detectives to determine that this death was a sexual suicide, either accidental or intentional. Without hypnosis, the case would likely be in the unsolved file.11
Case #13

On June 23, 1974, just after midnight, the sheriff of Polk County, Georgia, answered a burglar alarm with one of his deputies. They spotted a suspected truck and forced it to the side of the road. The sheriff got out to investigate, but as he approached the truck, the driver pulled a gun and started firing. The sheriff was killed outright, the deputy wounded in the leg and the truck disappeared. The wounded deputy could give only a vague description of the suspect and the truck. At a dead end, the chief of police decided to try hypnosis. Utilizing the TV technique, the hypnotist asked the deputy to describe everything that he saw. He was able to describe the suspect, including dress, appearance and description of vehicle.5

Page 185; line 42 – 44, Page 186; line 1 – 9,
Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis

Case #14

A recent Texas case involved the “traveling rapist”. This suspect would go from door to door from about 3:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. looking for access. When an open door was found he would go in, rape and assault his victim if she were a small female. One victim in Hereford was stabbed 13 times and left for dead. After the assault she could not remember anything about the suspect. However, under hypnosis, she was able to assist an artist to make a composite drawing and recall everything that the suspect had said and done during the crime event. When the suspect was later apprehended, the information elicited under hypnosis was compared with other facts and essentially corroborated. Subsequently, the suspect confessed to a number of murders and 65 rapes.9

Page 186; line 22 – 34,
Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis
**Case #15**

One June 26, 1977 at a Los Angeles Airport area hotel, four men and two women, Continental Airlines flight attendants, were found, pistol-whipped and battered with exercise barbells by a suspect who also raped one of the stewardesses, who suffered a skull fracture. Descriptive information about the suspect was very limited when the victims were questioned initially. Under hypnosis, a composite drawing was done with the aid of the police artist. Subsequently, additional victims were flown into Los Angeles from around the nation for a line-up, where the suspect was identified.7

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**Page 186; line 35 – 44,**
*Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis*

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**Case #16**

On September 29, 1978, a 15-year-old girl was hitchhiking from San Francisco Bay Area toward Corona, California to visit her grandfather. She was picked up by a man in a van who raped and sexually abused her, after tying her up. He then chopped off both of her forearms with an axe and stuffed her body into a drainage tunnel. The victim played dead and was finally able to crawl out, stop a vehicle, and was taken to a hospital. When questioned by detectives she could recall only sketchy information about the traumatic event.

Under hypnosis, the victim was able to recall the suspect’s name, other useful conversation and assist in the making of a composite drawing. Much of the information elicited under hypnosis was later corroborated by other witnesses. The suspect was subsequently convicted of two counts of rape, two of oral copulation, sodomy, kidnapping, and attempted murder.12

In this case, the Stanislaus County detectives performing the hypnosis with the victim had completed their basic investigative hypnosis training only several weeks prior to the occurrence of the crime.

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**Page 187; line 1 – 19,**
*Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis*
Case #17

CHAPTER 39
A REPRESENTATIVE CASE

On February 9, 1975 a 19-year-old waitress was abducted by three men while she was waiting for a bus on a corner in Van Nuys, California. She was taken through the Angeles National Forest to a desert area near Indian Springs where she was repeatedly attacked and abused sexually by all three men. After being badly beaten with fists and the butt of a gun, she was finally released in a semi-hysterical condition. She was able to remember very little to tell investigators about the suspects or their vehicle.

Under hypnosis, the victim was able to assist the police artist make composite drawings of all three suspects. In addition, she remembered names used during the 10 to 12-hour crime event as well as additional conversation and vehicle description.

Subsequently, the three were identified from the composite drawings made under hypnosis and corroborative evidence obtained. The judge, in handing down maximum sentences of 10 years to life on multiple counts of robbery, rape, sodomy and oral copulation, recommended that they never be released from prison. He said, “The viciousness of the attack on this victim was more perverse and brutal than any this court has ever seen, except possibly in some homicide cases. . . . she obviously is still suffering from emotional problems as a result of the degradation and savage beating. . . . and it is doubtful she will ever be able to lead a normal life.”

References

Page 189,
Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis
Case #18

Case 1

Chowchilla kidnapping. The Chowchilla abductions provided one of the most interesting criminal matters in which hypnosis was used to advantage by the FBI in California in People v. Woods et al. (1977). The victims of this senseless crime were 26 frightened school children and their bus driver who were abducted at gunpoint in July, 1976 by masked men driving vans. The children, many of them hysterical, and the driver were herded into the vans, and then transferred to a remote rock quarry and sealed inside a rectangular shaped tomb underneath the ground. After frantic efforts, the driver and two of the older boys succeeded in digging their way out. The bus driver was questioned in the normal awake state, but his recall was sketchy.

The FBI entered the case and the use of hypnosis was considered at the outset because the bus driver had seen two of the van license plate numbers and tried desperately to memorize them. He could not do this as he was constantly being watched by the kidnappers. This made him fearful and unable to concentrate.

The driver was highly motivated and agreeable to hypnosis. He was hypnotized to a medium stage and regressed to the afternoon of the abduction. Imagery conditioning was used and it was suggested to the driver that he imagine himself sitting in his favorite chair watching the events unfold in a documentary film on a television screen. As the interview in hypnosis developed, the driver suddenly called out two license plate numbers. One of them, with the exception of a digit, matched the license plate number of a van driven by the kidnappers. The timely disclosure of this information through hypnosis expedited the solution of the case after one of the biggest manhunts in California history. The three kidnappers were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The bus driver told the junior author (R.G.D.) how surprised he was by reliving the horrors all over again from beginning to end and that he recalled far more information at the hypnotic level than at the non-hypnotic one. He abreacted with considerable affect, sobbing and crying as he re-experienced the ordeal. The authors were also moved by the emotional impact of the experience.
Case 2

Federal prison murder. A knife murder inspired by one of the most infamous gangs in Federal prison history set the stage for another interesting use of hypnosis. In 1976, the senior author (W.S.K.) was called as an expert witness before a Federal Grand Jury convening in Los Angeles to lay the foundation for admissibility of evidence obtained through hypnosis and render his opinion with respect to a prison homicide.

The senior author had used hypnosis on a witness to penetrate a retrograde amnesia induced by the threat of being knifed to death. The subject was ordered by the defendant, the leader, to stab his best friend. The motive for the murder was the victim's failure to pay off on a narcotic smuggling deal. The subject complied by stabbing the victim twice, causing only superficial wounds. Terrified for his own life, the subject dropped the prison-made knife and fled the scene of the crime. Other unidentified inmates at that time killed the victim, inflicting an additional 13 stab wounds. As a result of panic and fear, the subject was able to identify some of the inmates but was amnesic for other inmates present at the scene of the assassination. Hypnosis, imagery conditioning, and age-regression enabled the subject to recall and to identify those who participated in the fatal stabbing.

We do not believe that the hypnotic situation provided a "smoke screen" for being a "stool pigeon," since he was being paroled the next day. The subject's tape-recordings were heard by the Federal Grand Jury. These tapes, together with the testimony of other inmate witnesses, provided confirmatory evidence which led to indictments. The senior author (W.S.K.) testified at the trial (United States v. Aukard et al., 1979) where the convictions were obtained against the alleged killers. The case was recently appealed to the United States Ninth Circuit Court where the use of hypnosis and the convictions were upheld.
Case #20

**Kidnapping and rape.** A bizarre kidnapping of two San Francisco area girls aged 7 and 15 years, the latter who was raped repeatedly, provided further evidence of the use of hypnosis in bringing about the arrest and conviction (People v. Barbosa, 1977) of a sex offender who probably would not otherwise have been captured. The two victims were abducted by a man who described himself as a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army (S.L.A.). He boasted that the doors of his car were wired with an explosive device that he would trigger if stopped by police. The girls were taken into Mexico via San Diego, where the older girl was raped and sodomized in a motel room near the border. The girls were released a few days later with the warning that any disclosure of what had happened would mean certain death to their parents at the hands of the S.L.A.

In interviews at the non-hypnotic level, the girls had difficulty remembering the chronology of events due to the traumatic nature of their ordeal. The older girl did succeed in identifying the motel room where the suspect had registered under an assumed name, but nothing concrete could be pinned down through investigation.

At this stage, hypnosis was suggested for enhancing recall. The older girl was highly motivated and both she and her mother agreed to the procedure. (The mother was present during the entire session.) The girl responded well to an eye fixation technique and imagery conditioning. She was regressed to the time of the abduction and she followed the suggestions that she would feel safe as she watched the events of the last few days unfold again (not the unpleasant things) on an imaginary “television screen.”

At the hypnotic level, the girl recalled unique rust spots on the car body. Also, she remembered articles inside the car such as the specific color and brand names of a box of tissues and peanut butter cookies on the rear seat. She recollected that the gear shift knob of the car was held in place with a piece of tissue paper and that the right front passenger window made a noise when it was rolled up the last few inches. The only information available at the non-hypnotic level was the color and general description of the car. The brand name of the tissues and type of cookies were not recalled prior to induction.

Even more interesting was the almost total recall covering a transaction at a San Diego gas station located on a hilltop where the suspect had his car repaired. The hilltop location was instrumental in readily locating the gas station. In hypnosis, the girl remembered conversations between the repairman and the suspect, the nature of the repairs required, and the fact that the transaction was paid for by the use of a red, white, and blue credit card. Revivifying the conversation between the suspect and the repairman, the girl spoke in the present tense. Although she was totally unfamiliar with the type of repairs, she specifically remembered that the repairman said to the suspect, “You need Freon.” The latter word, which she had never heard before, was uttered by the girl almost as a question, although she now remembered it with a pinpoint specificity.

The FBI agents located the gas station and the repairman. The credit card transaction was quickly identified and the suspect, an ordained minister who was married and a father, was arrested at his home in northern California. Examination of the car confirmed every single detail supplied by the girl while she was in hypnosis.

In news releases made following the suspect’s arrest, his photograph was recognized by other young girls who had been sexually assaulted. The suspect was convicted and is serving an indefinite sentence in a State Hospital for the criminally insane.
Case #21

**Case 8**

_The little girl molested in the van._ A 12-year-old girl was forcibly abducted while walking with a playmate in a somewhat secluded area. She was taken to a van, driven to a further secluded place, and sexually molested. She was then returned near to the place where she had been abducted. The police took her with her parent to headquarters and interrogated her. One of the authors was then called so that hypnosis was offered within a few hours of the incident. The additional information given by the girl under hypnosis concerned the license plate, the last number of which could not be remembered during the waking state. She hallucinated the van and the license plate with a complete number, leading to the quick apprehension of the child molester.

Page 87; line 34 – 41 (including title lines), Page 88; line 1 – 5,
"Hypnosis to aid the recall of witnesses"
by Donald W. Schafer and Ramon Rubio,
*International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis,*
Volume 26, Number 2, 1978
Section #4
One Case from Hong Kong

Case #22

***The 5th case:***

It is a rape and robbery case which happened at the staircase in Yau Oi Estate on 28-12-1992. It is one of the series cases committed by the famous Tuen Mun Rapist. On that night, the female victim took a taxi back to her home in Tuen Mun. The taxi driver who drove the victim noticed a private car acting suspiciously nearby when the victim got off the taxi. He made a report to police after he learned the rape case. He tried to recall the descriptions of the suspect and the vehicle but he remembered only limited information. As an investigative tool, hypnosis was applied to him on 6 months later. During hypnosis, he gave additional description on the suspect and the registration number of the private car. The information obtained was very useful and finally led to the arrest of the Tuen Mun Rapist.

Page 61; line 4 – 14 (including title line), "The use of forensic hypnosis in criminal investigation" by Chung, Cheuk-fai, Bell; 2002.

URL: http://hub.hku.hk/bitstream/10722/25746/1/FullText.pdf
Section #5
Two Cases from the Journal of the Forensic Science Society

Case #23

Case No. 1
A seventeen-year-old girl was threatened at knife-point by a previously unknown assailant and cruelly raped. Despite the fact that they had spent a few hours together prior to the attack, she could not describe, under routine police questioning, either her assailant or the scene of the crime. However, under hypnosis, she was able to reconstruct an identi-kit portrait of the suspect and guided the police to the scene of the crime where they recovered the knife which was used to threaten her. The identi-kit portrait was accurate enough to lead to the arrest of a suspect who later confessed to several similar rapes, including the cruel attack on the same young girl.

"The Use of Hypnosis in Police Investigation: A Preliminary Communication"
by M. Kleinhauz, I. Horowitz and Y. Tobin,
Journal of the Forensic Science Society,
Volume 17, Issues 2-3, April 1977

Case #24

Case No. 3
Two buses in Northern Israel were found to contain hidden bombs, one of which later exploded. When questioning the bus drivers, the police concentrated on having the drivers try to recall suspicious looking passengers carrying parcels. Due to the length of the two bus routes and the large number of passengers, it was impossible for the bus drivers, under routine questioning, to recall any significant details. However, one of the drivers was subjected to hypnosis and reconstructed the entire route, (revivivation), and was thus able to report every small event and detail which took place. He reported that upon arriving at a certain bus stop a dark-skinned youth entered the bus carrying a parcel. When the driver handed him his change, he noticed a cold sweat on the young man’s palm. Therefore, during hypnosis he pointed out the youth as being a likely suspect. Although the driver only faced the youth for the short period of time needed to sell him a ticket, he was able to reconstruct an identi-kit portrait. At a later date, a suspect, whose description perfectly fitted the identi-kit portrait, was arrested and confessed to the crime.

"The Use of Hypnosis in Police Investigation: A Preliminary Communication"
by M. Kleinhauz, I. Horowitz and Y. Tobin,
Journal of the Forensic Science Society,
Volume 17, Issues 2-3, April 1977
Section #6
One Case from Raeford, North Carolina
Case #25

Murder tale unfolds after 35 years pass

RAEFORD, N.C. (AP) — Edward Leon Cameron disappeared 35 years ago. Sheriff Dave Barrington went looking for him last week and turned up a bizarre murder locked since childhood in a woman’s mind.

Raeford, a quiet town of 3,300 people, is where Barrington grew up, not far from the Cameron house about 4½ miles to the west in the community of Timberland.

Annie Blue Cameron, now Annie Perry, came back to town years after she left and had a story to tell. Barrington, 17 years the sheriff of Hoke County, was inclined to listen.

For years, Mrs. Perry had not been aware that something grotesque was suppressed in her mind. Barrington says it surfaced during psychoanalysis.

On the night of April 8, 1944, Annie Cameron, 9, overheard her parents quarreling in the family’s white farmhouse, she now recalls.

The next day, she “opened the door to the front bedroom and saw her father’s body on the floor. ... He appeared to be dead,” reads a search warrant drawn up last week. “The next week after school, (she) went to the outhouse. She looked down the hole and saw her father’s face barely submerged under the excrement.”

But those events were frozen in the minds of a little girl and her mother, Winnie Cameron, who gave up her terrible knowledge in death.

Barrington said the story began to unfold after Mrs. Perry sought psychiatric help and hypnosis was used to make certain no other information was hidden in her mind.

Mrs. Perry, now a reading teacher at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla., eventually got in touch with the FBI, and last Christmas she confronted her mother in a telephone call, taped by the authorities with her permission.

“My, I feel like you had something to do with my father’s death,” said Mrs. Perry, according to the sheriff. Mrs. Cameron refused to discuss it, he said.

On Dec. 1 of this year, Mrs. Perry called her mother again. “I want to talk to you again about what I discussed last Christmas,” she said. “Is my father’s body still in that toilet?”

Her mother replied, “I will tell you after Christmas.”

Digging started last Wednesday. Mrs. Perry and her sister, June Ivey, helped officers locate the place where the outhouse had stood.

“At 1:20 p.m., we hit the remains. ... It was a rib,” Barrington said. “After that it was just bone after bone all afternoon.” Only Cameron’s skull and a few other bones remain unearthed.

“Mrs. Cameron was in the house most of the day (Wednesday),” Barrington said. “She left the next morning at 8 a.m. That was the last time she was seen by my department alive.”

Late Friday afternoon, the Cameron son, E. Leon Cameron Jr., found his 69-year-old mother lying beside her car on the back boundary of the family’s farmland, a .32-caliber pistol clutched in her hand.

On the car seat was an envelope addressed to Barrington. Inside was a short note stating, “Dear Dave.” Barrington would not discuss its contents, except to say that it contained a confession.
Haunting memories unveil bizarre slaying

RAEFORD, N.C. (AP) - A woman's long-suppressed horror at seeing her father's body stuffed in the family outhouse 35 years ago led to the uncovering of his remains, and the suicide of her mother, authorities said.

The case began on April 8, 1944, in the tiny crossroad community of Timberland in Hoke County when the wife of Edward Leon Cameron, 94, reported the prominent farmer had disappeared.

It ended Friday with the suicide of his wife while state medical examiners were going over his back-up remains found on the family's farm. Winnie McNeill Cameron left a murder confession behind, authorities said.

Mrs. Cameron, 59, had been thought of as a kind, quiet, hardworking woman who raised her three children alone through tough times after her husband disappeared, residents said. She went to church, was prominent in civic affairs and worked as a Red Cross blood bank volunteer.

She divorced her husband in 1954 on grounds of separation for more than two years, according to court records.

One of her children, Annie Blue Perry, now of Orlando, Fla., came to authorities about visions that had been haunting her recently.

"On Easter morning (April 9, 1944), Mrs. Perry saw her mother in the kitchen and the sink was full of pots and pans of bloody water," said a search warrant obtained by Hoke County authorities last week, which said the couple had quarreled the night before.

"Mrs. Perry then asked her mother where her father was, and her mother said he had left," the warrant said.

Later that day, Mrs. Perry went into an unused room and saw her father's body on the floor. "He was nude except for gauze wrapped around his hips and groin area," the warrant said.

After going to bed that night, Mrs. Perry recalled hearing butchering sounds and "got up to see a large cardboard box on the back porch."

The next week, while in the family's outdoor privy, she "looked down the hole and saw her father's face" floating in the mire, the warrant said.

The Fayetteville Observer reported Saturday that another person was involved in disposing of Cameron's remains but that the person had since died.

Mrs. Perry, who now teaches at Valencia Community College in Florida, was 10 years old when her father disappeared. She was staying Saturday with a sister, Jane Ivey, and could not be reached for comment.

After telling a Florida psychiatrist about her visions, she returned to Hoke County and directed local officials to the site where the privy had stood. She was hypnotized in connection with the investigation, authorities said.

Authorities found human bones at the site.

Dr. John Butts, deputy state chief medical examiner, said an analysis indicated the body had been chopped up.

"This is the weirdest thing that we've ever run into," Butts said.

Late Friday afternoon, authorities found Mrs. Cameron's body. She had driven into some woods and shot herself in the chest with a .35-caliber pistol, which was found still clutched in her hand.

Next to her was a suicide note, in which authorities said she confessed to killing her husband. They refused to release the contents of the note.
Section #7
Three Cases from Police Psychology Collected Papers

Case #26

Reponing to a burglary suspect call, an ofcier and his partner were assaulted by the suspect. One of the officers was shot several times in the abdomen with his own weapon, and the suspect got away. During the subsequent investigation, the composite pictures by the police artist, based on descriptions supplied by the wounded officer and his partner, differed considerably. In order to increase the accuracy of his verbal description and because of his strong motivation to aid in capturing the assailant, the critically wounded, hospitalized officer volunteered for hypnosis. His eagerness, combined with extreme pain, enabled him to go into a deep hypnotic state very rapidly and to provide additional descriptions to the police artist. After all of the revisions had been made, it was suggested that the officer, remaining in hypnosis, open his eyes, examine the completed composite drawing and indicate its accuracy, compared with the revivified mental picture of the suspect. With a startled reaction, he looked at the completed drawing and said in an excited voice, “That’s him. That’s the guy that shot me.” Several months and considerable investigation later, the suspect was found, still carrying the officer’s .38 caliber weapon. The investigator reported that the suspect was indeed a dead-ringer for the composite drawing made under hypnosis.
Case #27

In another interesting case, a witness present during the murder of her boyfriend was extremely inebriated. Routine questioning revealed only that a man had come into the apartment and stayed about 15 or 20 minutes. However, the witness could not recall any details of the person's appearance or any conversation. When the case investigator first called, inquiring if hypnosis would be of a value in this case, my initial reaction was negative. I analogized that the drunk woman's perceptions would be similar to pictures taken by a camera lens with cotton gauze over it. However, I felt there wasn't much to lose except time. To everyone's surprise, the subject had excellent recall of the situation under hypnosis. She was able to give a vivid description of the individual who was in her company for about 20 minutes, including physical features as well as the clothing he was wearing, down to the stripes in his pants and the dots in his necktie. This procedure also enabled a composite drawing to be constructed which was shown subsequently to be highly accurate when three suspects involved, including the one in question, were apprehended several months later (10).
Case #28

Another case involved the kidnapping of an infant from her mother by a woman asked to hold the baby momentarily in the waiting room of a county hospital. The hypnosis session in this case was complicated by the fact that the woman spoke only Spanish, and my use of that language was very rusty. After a brief search, a physician was located who was not only fluent in Spanish but also an accomplished hypnotist. With our joint collaboration and assistance, the subject was able to recall under hypnosis significant information which allowed the case investigators to go back to the hospital records and zero in on the woman who had walked off with the baby. Fortunately, the baby was recovered unharmed several days later.

Page 205; line 27 – 37,
“Hypnosis as a tool in Criminal Investigation”
by Martin Reiser Ed. D,
Police Psychology Collected Papers

Section #8
Four Cases from The Police Journal

Case #29

In a recent case a 14 year old Indian girl was found by a road in California with a fractured skull. When police officers called to interview her in the hospital bed she could remember nothing.

Then Mr. Bouck took over. Under hypnosis he began to question her gently. Slowly she began to recall what had happened, how she had been attacked by five other girls. And her story was corroborated by other witnesses.

Detective Marc Hoffman, in charge of the case, says the hypnosis was 100 per cent successful.

Page 52; line 24 – 32 (not including title lines),
"Within a Decade Every Police Force will use Hypnotism"
by Sam Napier,
The Police Journal (British),
Volume 53, Issue #1, January - March 1980
Case #30

Then there was the eight year old rape victim. Under hypnosis in California she recalled the details of her attacker so vividly the man was traced and arrested within hours.

Page 52; line 33 – 35 (not including title lines),
"Within a Decade Every Police Force will use Hypnotism"
by Sam Napier,
The Police Journal (British),
Volume 53, Issue #1, January - March 1980

Case #31

Another woman with a mind-block, had been a witness to a truck driver picking up two girl hitch hikers who were later found murdered. It was only under hypnotism that she recalled six of the truck’s registration numbers.

With this data the police found the truck driver and he was charged with the killings.

Page 53; line 1 – 6,
"Within a Decade Every Police Force will use Hypnotism" by Sam Napier,
The Police Journal (British),
Volume 53, Issue #1, January - March 1980

Case #32

And in yet another California case a 15 year old girl found it impossible to remember the details of a rape. But under hypnosis she remembered her attackers had a Chevrolet, short hair and highly polished service boots in the back of the car.

Later three marines were arrested. Convicted of the crime each was jailed for seven years.

Page 53; line 7 – 12,
"Within a Decade Every Police Force will use Hypnotism" by Sam Napier,
The Police Journal (British),
Volume 53, Issue #1, January - March 1980
Section #9

Hypnosis and Memory: A Cross Section of Findings

Hypnosis and Memory

A thorough review of the literature on hypnosis and memory is beyond the scope of this paper, but we will briefly review the issues involved in this area. It is vitally important to note that many of the laboratory studies on this subject have been characterized by serious deficiencies and flaws in research design which have been documented elsewhere (Brown, Schefflin & Hammond, 1998; Hammond, Garver, Mutter, Cusilneek, Frischholz, Gravitz, et al., 1995). Studies on hypnosis and memory have raised the following concerns: 1) possibilities of confabulation; 2) possible creation of pseudomemories; 3) the possibility of producing an increased confidence in whatever is remembered; and 4) whether repressed memories and traumatic amnesia are a genuine phenomenon. Much of the content of an 800 page volume (Brown, Schefflin & Hammond, 1998) has been devoted to a critical analysis of these issues, the findings from which will be briefly reviewed regarding each of the four issues noted above.

There have now been documented to be 110 studies (Brown, 2010) that have verified the genuineness of complete forgetting of childhood sexual abuse, an expansion on the previous number of such studies that was identified (Brown, Schefflin, & Whitfield, 1999). This is relevant to forensic hypnosis wherein sometimes victims and witnesses are exposed to intensely emotional situations. The reviews of literature cited above have shown that hypnosis can sometimes enhance memory recall, particularly for personally meaningful and emotion-laden material. Early studies (e.g., Dywan, 1988; Dywan & Bowers, 1983) suggested that in hypnosis more material may be recalled, but that there was an increase in confabulation and false recollections (filling in or fantasizing information). The problem was that these studies involved 3.5 second exposures to non-personally meaningful line drawings, and even more importantly, the research designs used forced recall procedures that required subjects to guess and would not allow them to indicate that they did not remember—designs that have been documented to cause increased confabulation (e.g., Eisen, 1996; Erdelyi, Finks, & Feigin-Pfla, 1989; Gadsonnson, 1987; Timm, 1985).

Similarly, studies that have suggested that the use of hypnosis creates undue confidence (e.g., Dinges, Whitehouse, Orne, Powell, Orne, & Erdelyi, 1992; Laurence & Perry, 1983; Zelig & Beidelman, 1981) have likewise been shown to be an artifact of the procedure used in the studies. Further analysis has shown that false confidence is not associated with the use of hypnosis per se, but is rather an artifact of using a method that creates unrealistic expectations (e.g., suggesting, “Everything has been recorded in your mind like a videotape, and in hypnosis you will be able to fully recall precisely everything that happened.”).

Finally, research on pseudomemory production has likewise shown that the production of false memories is not associated with the use of hypnosis, but rather is due to 1) the use of undue (e.g., leading) suggestion and 2) with level of hypnotizability, with individuals who are high in hypnotizability being shown to be more vulnerable to memory distortion in or out of hypnosis.

Thus the issues that have been raised regarding hypnosis and memory have been found to be unsupported, with the conclusion that it is not the use of hypnosis itself that is a problem with regard to memory issues, but rather the interview style and manner in which hypnosis may be used (Scoboria, Mazzoni, & Kirsch, 2005; Scoboria, Mazzoni, Kirsch, & Milling, 2002). The villains in the production of false memory are: (1) creating unrealistic expectations of hypnosis as a memory refresher, along with the danger of the subject’s desire to please the hypnosis practitioner that may encourage pseudomemory production; and (2) the misapplication of hypnosis (e.g., poor technique and undue suggestion). In response to

Page 250; line 21 – 46 (including bold title line), Page 251; line 1 – 21,
“Solving Crimes with Hypnosis”
by WC Wester 2nd and DC Hammond,
American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis,
Volume 53, Number 4, April 2011

Section #10
Hypnotic Memory Retrieval:
Meaningless Memories vs. Meaningful Memories

Hypnosis was of no benefit to memory in this research. One possibility remains that differentiates research of this type from actual eyewitness events: emotionality. Police officers who employ hypnosis believe that an emotionally disturbing event can block or distort memory for that event. This is a view shared by many therapists. The police argue that hypnosis, combined with imagery instructions, helps the witness to feel emotionally detached from the event, permitting recall of otherwise disturbing memories. This possibility is untested in laboratory research and will remain so. The ethics of research simply preclude creating such emotional disturbances in volunteer witnesses. Any attempt to research the role of hypnosis in aiding the recall of emotionally laden memories must be done in situ. The present results offer clear evidence that there is no reason to employ hypnosis in situations where emotions do not play a major role.

Page 398, Left Column; line 32 – 53,
“Use of Hypnosis as an aid to eyewitness memory”
by John C. Yuille and N. Hope McEwan.
Journal of Applied Psychology, Volume 70, Issue 2, May 1985

In summary, the results of our two experiments contradict both the notion that hypnotic interrogations are more potent facilitators of pseudomemory reports than nonhypnotic interrogations and the notion that hypnotically engendered pseudomemories are particularly resistant to cross-examination. Moreover, the

Page 288; line 21 – 24,
“Are Hypnotically Induced Pseudomemories Resistant to Cross-Examination?”
by Nicholas P. Spanos, Maxwell I. Gwynn, Sandra L. Comer,
William J. Baltruwiet, and Margaret de Groh.
Law and Human Behavior, Volume 13, Number 3
There is virtual consensus among studies that hypnosis will fail to enhance recall if the to-be-remembered (TBR) material is devoid of either intrinsic, contextual, or personal meaning (e.g., Baker, Haynes, & Patrick, 1983; Barber & Calverley, 1966; Dhanens & Lundy, 1975); this is consistent with the view that stimulus meaningfulness may be a prerequisite for hypermnesia in general (e.g., Belmore, 1981; Erdelyi, Buschke, & Finkelstein, 1977). On the other hand, the use of meaningful TBR stimuli, such as pictures, stories, films, and so on, appears not to be sufficient to ensure the superiority of hypnotic over waking memory. In some instances (Dhanens & Lundy, 1975; Dywan,
Section #11

Hypnosis’ Contribution to Criminal Investigation

CHAPTER 38

RESULTS TO DATE - SOME STATISTICS AND CASES

Pilot Project

Evaluation of the Los Angeles Police Department’s one-year research demonstration project in investigative hypnosis, from June of 1975 until June of 1976, revealed some interesting data. During the year a total of 67 hypnosis sessions were conducted in criminal investigations. Forty of the cases were homicides, one was hit-and-run accident, three were attempted homicides, seven were robberies, one was a burglary, ten were sex crimes, one was a grand theft, one was a bombing, and one was a misdemeanor vandalism.

Most hypnosis sessions were conducted at police facilities; however, some were conducted at the subject’s private residence or place of business. Examination of the 67 hypnosis sessions indicated that neither the location of the hypnosis session nor the type of crime involved significantly affected the results. Approximately half of the hypnosis subjects were male and half female. Subjects’ ages range from seven to seventy-five years of age with a mean age of 28.7 years. The sex, age, race, or occupation of the subject appeared to have no significant effect on the outcomes.

Results for these 67 sessions revealed that new investigative leads were obtained in 77.6% of these cases and that the solution of 16.4% were attributed directly to the hypnosis information. The researcher, an experienced criminal investigator, estimated that less than 5% of these cases would ever have been solved without hypnosis.

Long-term Results

Recent follow-up data covering some 350 cases of investigative hypnosis done by hypno-investigators at the Los Angeles Police Department between June of 1975 and December of 1978 remain fairly consistent with the original pilot study findings. Of 348 investigative hypnosis sessions
surveyed, 79.3% yielded additional information not previously available. Of this elicited information, 66.4% was considered to be valuable to the case investigator.

In attempting to corroborate the information from 295 cases, accuracy was unable to be determined in 48.8% of these cases at the time of the survey. However, the 151 cases where follow-up information was then available, yielded a 90.1% verification of the information elicited under hypnosis.

Of 354 cases sampled at the time of the survey, 31.9% were solved and 68.1% still unsolved. Of 113 solved cases, the case investigators attributed value to the hypnosis-elicited information in 65.5% of them.

Of 345 cases sampled, the hypno-investigators estimated that 33.4% of the subjects achieved a deep state, 39.1% a medium state, 19.7% a light state, and that 7.8% were likely not hypnotized at all.

The types of crimes represented by hypnosis sessions from June of 1975 through December of 1978 were as follows: homicides, 59.9%; robberies, 11.7%; rapes, 13.4%; burglaries, 3.5%; others, 11.5%.8
References

Section #1
Ten Cases from the American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis

None

Section #2
Seven Cases from "The Handbook of Investigative Hypnosis"
by Martin Reiser Ed. D.


Page 188; line 5,


Page 188; line 9 – 10,


Page 188; line 12 – 13,


Page 188; line 16 – 17,


Page 188; line 18 – 19,

Section #3
Four Cases from The International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis

None
Section #4
One Case from Hong Kong

None

Section #5
Two Cases from the
Journal of the Forensic Science Society

None

Section #6
One Case from Raeford, North Carolina

None

Section #7
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**Section #10**

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**Section #11**


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