



Evidence from the Earth: Forensic Geology and Criminal Investigation, Murray, Raymond C., 2004, Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana, 240 p., USD 20.00, 0-87842-498-9.

This fascinating book covers a subfield of geological applications seldom discussed or examined in a typical undergraduate or graduate geology program. The subtitle indicates the book's thrust. Applications cover the use of mineralogy, geochemistry, soil chemistry, geophysics, and sedimentology in the solution of illegal actions of criminal activity from simple robbery to murder.

Examples of resolution of crimes using the petrographic microscope, electron microscopy, x-ray diffraction, sediment coating, and simple microscopy provide a broad spectrum of the extent to which geology and geological principles have led to

solutions for and convictions in criminal cases from around the world.

I enjoyed this book; it opened a whole new geological frontier for me. One can play armchair detective and follow along in the criminal investigation of many crimes. Warning! Reading this little book might also lead a geologist into a whole new career or introduce new professionals into a career that they normally would not consider.

If you are interested in a fast read and one that opens new vistas, then this 240-page paperback is for you. It would make a great gift for any geologist at any time.

Ernest Angino
Professor Emeritus of Geology
Department of Geology
University of Kansas
1475 Jayhawk Blvd., room 120
Lawrence, KS 66045
rockdoc@ku.edu