

Jack Buckley Proves Jentzer First Bureau Agent On Duty

Who is the oldest member of the Society?

That question, raised in the September, 1953 issue of *The Grapevine*, brought the suggestion that John Gregurevich of Freeport, Long Island, a young man of 81 years of age, could claim the title.

Now comes our old friend Jack Buckley, veteran X-Agent, who says that while John Gregurevich may be tops as far as age goes, he has grave doubts about his being able to claim the title on point of service.

Writes Jack Buckley:

"I was planning on writing an article about the early days of the Bureau and got Bob Dick to write to the father of all cloak and dagger boys—JEH—for verification of the claims of service dates of some of our members. The director furnished the dates readily available and whereas they may be a few days off in some instances they will serve for our purpose. One must also remember that we did not start off as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that most of that early service was under Department of Justice appointment, but taking it all as Bureau service, here is the story.

"On that bright morning of June 29, 1908 when Edward J. Brennan came on duty as an agent he thought that he was the first of the crop but when he walked in there was Harry J. Jentzer acting like a veteran because he had been around since 1906. It seems beyond dispute that Harry was the first as far as members of our Society are concerned.

Jentzer Starts in 1906

"On January 2, 1909 William C. Dannenberg put in his appearance and was followed by Fred P. Schmid on March 5, 1909. Crime must have been at a low ebb or else the early boys cleaned things up well because the next arrivals were James L. Bruff on February 16, 1910 and Frank L. Garbarino on March 9, 1910. On

October 5, 1910 George W. Stork, unquestionably the first CPA to be hired by the Bureau, put in his appearance. So it would seem that by the time that Johnny Gregurevich arrived there were veterans around who had already learned how to make out a swindle sheet.

"Were it not for the fact that the Grim Reaper took a wonderful pal away from us not long ago we would be telling you about Charlie Scully who came in between Schmid and Bruff on March 29, 1909.

Dates Supplied Officially

"All of the above dates were furnished by the Bureau and for my money would be more authentic than the memories of some of us. My own records, which are based upon the claims of members of the Society, show that in 1911 we got Walter Furbershaw, Billings Harris, Samuel T. Kay and Forrest C. Pendleton. In 1912 along came E. Murray Blanford (the Kentucky bearcat), James W. Dillon, Robert S. Judge and Albert H. Pike.

"The friend of every X-FBI, A. Bruce Bielaski, came to the Bureau on May 1, 1912. In 1913 we got Charlie Jenkins and Morris Traub and from then on the parade began.

"Read 'em and weep boys but don't start shooting until you see the whites of my eyes. In closing I just want to say one more thing—if anyone tells you that Fran Keogh was Harry Jentzer's secretary, you can just put that down as another of Harry's tall stories. Fran came in with Brennan."

'Million Dollar' Tracy

Gerard (Alias Jerry) Tracy does it again! He was certified as a Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table for 1954. This means he sold over one million dollars worth of life insurance for Prudential. Jerry is the manager of the Midtown Agency.