

U. S. Department of Justice
Division
Bureau of Investigation

Los Angeles, California
January 3, 1935

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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Director
Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of December 21, 1934, requesting this office to ascertain the details of a device known as the "Automatic Nite Sight", the invention of one A. B. Scott, a Los Angeles engineer.

Please be advised that Mr. Scott today brought to this office three models of his invention. He claims that Warner Baxter, the movie actor, is a co-inventor of his, and also worked on this device.

The Automatic Nite Sight consists of a "saddle" of metal which is slipped over the barrel of the gun. On one side of the saddle is a small metal compartment containing a small dry cell battery, and on the other side, running exactly parallel to the barrel of the gun and five-eighths of an inch to the right of the center of the barrel, is the lighting device which is a metal cylinder containing a system of lenses which greatly magnify an electric light therein. This device throws a beam of light which, when it hits any object, shows in the shape of a clover. Inasmuch as the cylindrical lighting device is exactly parallel with the barrel of the gun, the bullet is said to strike the same point where the light hits. This, of course, obviates the necessity of using the sights on the gun, and the weapon can be very accurately operated, it is said, from any position whatsoever, at night or in darkness.

Mr. Scott has made three models of his device, so that same may fit a six-inch barrel revolver, a Thompson sub-machine gun, and an automatic shotgun. The device is attached to the weapon, on the barrel at the end where the front sight is. Mr. Scott claims that the device, if used on the revolver, will accurately throw light for seventy-five feet; that the Automatic Nite Sight on the shotgun, being larger, will throw a beam of light accurately up to one hundred and fifty yards, and the machine gun about the same distance. Mr. Scott pointed out that the light can be magnified and strengthened as many more times as is desirable by installing a larger set of lenses and a larger battery.

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The Automatic Nite Sight is very compact, weighs less than two pounds, is about five inches long by two and one-half inches high, and can very easily be slipped in the pocket when not in use. It

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fastens onto the end of the barrel by a clamp so that it can be adopted for any gun if made to the specifications of that gun.

Mr. Scott stated that he and Mr. Baxter have only made a few of the Automatic Nite Sights, and have not attempted to commercialize this invention at all; that they are very fearful lest the same get into the hands of gangsters or other persons of ill repute and, therefore, are not anxious to capitalize on this invention. For this reason, they could not quote any price, but Mr. Scott stated that if the materials were manufactured in large quantities, the cost of such device would be very reasonable.

Mr. Scott appears to be a very high-type of individual and bears an excellent reputation in this community as a very competent electrical engineer. This invention is merely a side line, inasmuch as he has worked on and patented various electrical devices used in the motion picture industry.

Mr. Scott stated that an associate of his, Mr. J. S. Rex Cole, is today flying to New York City, and could proceed to Washington from there to demonstrate this device to you. Accordingly, arrangements were made whereby Mr. Cole will be in Washington Monday, January 7th, and on that day will call upon you so that he may demonstrate these three models of Automatic Nite Sight. A letter of introduction was furnished Mr. Cole by this office, addressed to you.

Very truly yours,


J. E. P. DUNN
Special Agent in Charge.

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