

# “Gateway” Show Welcomes Collectors From 13 States

Despite the pandemic and an economic downturn, tableholders and collectors from 13 states flocked to Saint Louis, Mo. for the 35th Annual “Gateway” Police Collectors Show. Frank Selvaggio, Bob Shockey and Roger McLean hosted an outstanding show on a summer-like November 7 at a Holiday Inn.

By Frank T. Selvaggio, Guest Writer

SAINT LOUIS, Mo. – The 2020 “Gateway” Police Collectors Show was held on Saturday, November 7 at the Holiday Inn-Route 66 in Sunset Hills, which is a suburb of Saint Louis. Mo. Bob Shockey, Roger McLean and I hosted it.

It couldn’t have been a more beautiful fall day with clear skies and temperatures in the 70s. A perfect day for a show that has been going strong for 35 years.

And, it was an awesome segue into the 2021 National Police Collectors Show being held here in the Saint Louis area this October 22, 23 and 24 at the Saint Charles Convention and Embassy Suites Hotel. It will be the fifth time that the National Show has been located in the Saint Louis area.

What wasn’t perfect was the fact that the COVID-19 virus has taken a terrible toll on the hobby this year with well-known collectors having died of virus complications and most shows across the county having been canceled.

We held onto the belief that our show was going to happen and collectors would be able to enjoy a safe show with many friends that they had not seen for a while. Masks were required of tableholders and all guests who complied without complaint. Only a few tableholders failed to show up given the circumstances. We all just hope that this virus goes away quickly so we can get back to whatever “normal” is.

First, I will admit that our walk-in traffic was not as heavy as it has been for the last several years. There were two factors that I believe led to this problem. The great weather here in Saint Louis more than likely led several collectors to be “convinced” by their spouses to get yard work done before winter weather set in. And, almost certainly, the health concerns created by the virus kept many collectors away this year.

Now, the best news about this year’s “Gateway” show: Many collectors in attendance found badges and patches for their collections that they had been searching for for many years. Several said they never imagined finding the “holy grail” of their collections, but many of them did.

**Many outstanding displays** There were many outstanding displays, as usual. Tom Breen is a retired Missouri State Highway Patrol sergeant and has attended every “Gateway” show. He was also a co-host of the 1997 National Show here in the Saint Louis area.

Breen collects highway patrol and state police items, including commercial motor vehicle and weight inspector badges and patches from every state. He was able to add nine



Who was that masked man? It’s Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper Terry Bible, who specializes in his department. He collects anything and everything MSHP. The helmets on his table were issued to state troopers in the ‘50s. They are recycled WW II combat pots. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*

badges to that specialized collection, including two North Dakota badges that he never thought he would find from such a small agency.

He added the badges to his outstanding North Dakota Highway Department truck enforcement collection, which also features four hard-to-get patches.

Some words from Breen about the show:

“Once again, the Saint Louis Show did not disappoint this year, especially since it was the only show I could attend. COVID-19 be damned! I think I have attended as many shows as Frank Selvaggio has hosted since the ‘90s. This was probably the best show for me as to my ‘finds,’ thanks to John Cook and his assist to the family of the late Wes Seyeller.

“Wes was a prolific collector of state commercial vehicle, weight inspector and motor carrier officer badges and patches. I was able to pick up 13 badges from his estate.

“The badges included two North Dakota Highway Department, scale man and truck regulatory. I had only seen photos of these badges and never thought I would be able to add them to my collection because it was a very small agency that was absorbed by the state highway patrol a number of years ago. Additionally, their early patches were among some of my first state patches when I started back in the early 1980s!

“The other great find was a Missouri Highway Department Weight Inspector breast badge from the 1930s to ‘40s. Previously, I only had hat badges from the era before the MSHP absorbed the weight inspector function in 1943.

“As always, great to see all of my old collecting friends, and it was encouraging to see several younger collectors display their collections at the show.

“A big thanks to Frank, Bob and Roger for taking on the hosting of the Saint Louis show again this year!”

Bob Anthony is fairly new to the police collecting hobby. He describes himself as a



Tom Breen, a retired sergeant with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, collects motor carrier law enforcement badges and patches. He was able to add two extremely rare North Dakota Highway Department badges to his display, scale man and truck regulatory. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*



George Damos (left) presented Bob Shockey (right) with his father, the late Robert T. Shockey’s, first badge when he became chief of police in Hazelwood, Mo. in 1972. Chief Shockey died in office in 1985. Damos and the chief were longtime friends. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*





Bob Anthony, a relative newcomer to the hobby from Kansas, showed a Kansas City, Mo. Police Department Hostage Negotiator patch most collectors had never seen. In fact, co-host Frank Selvaggio has been collecting Missouri for 35 years and had never seen it. Wow! *Frank Selvaggio photograph*

## Saint Louis Show ...Continued

“collector of beautiful things and a strong supporter of the men and women who protect our democracy and the rule of law.”

Anthony was able to acquire several badges and patches for his growing collection. His prize for the day was a Kansas City, Mo. police hostage negotiator patch that is about as elusive as they come. I have been collecting Missouri police patches for over 35 years and have never seen, or heard of, this patch. Impressive find, Bob!

Terry Bible is a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper who has amassed an impressive collection of MSHP memorabilia since he started collecting in 1995. His personal collection of agency badges and collar brass includes over 1000 pieces.

He was able to find an original issue “D” collar brass, which was worn by Trooper Chester Oliver, who attended the second recruit class in 1932. The “D” designates his assigned troop. Oliver retired as the “F” Troop captain in 1967.

Missouri is one of only two states whose troopers do not wear breast badges. Instead, they wear collar brass with one designating their assigned troop and other having the trooper’s individual designated service number.

Bible brought an impressive patrol vehicle plate display of retired MSHP Colonel Welton Wihoit, who served as superintendent from 1997 to 2001.

He also showed helmets issued to state troopers in the 1950s. These helmets were refurbished from World War II.

Bob Shockey is a “Gateway” host. He is also the long-tenured Arnold, Mo. police chief. What most people don’t know about Shockey is that his father, Robert T. Shockey, was also a police chief in Missouri, serving as chief in Hazelwood from 1972 until he died of cancer in 1985. He was only 49 years old.

Shockey has an impressive display of his dad’s badges, patches and ID cards from when he began his career with the Saint Louis County Police in 1962 until his untimely death. Now, his collection includes the first badge his father wore when he was sworn in as police chief in 1972.

Shockey and I were standing near the main door to the show hall when an old friend approached us. He was George Damos, a well-versed badge collector. He handed Bob a small item wrapped in paper.

Shockey opened the paper to reveal a gold-colored badge. Damos told him he had found Shockey’s first chief’s badge and gave it to him. Now, Shockey is a dude, the kind of guy you would want standing by your side when the crap hits the fan; tough, mean and kind of old, but with an heart of gold. He started tearing up and was overcome with emotion. It was a powerful movement.

Damos is a retired Saint Louis County detective. His father was the chief of police in University City, Mo. He and the late Robert T. Shockey had been long time friends “back in the day.”

It was just an awesome moment and what this hobby should be all about. Another show host who came up with a gem for his collection was Roger McLean, who is retired from the Saint Clair County, Ill. Sheriff’s Department, which is near Saint Louis. McLean grew up in Arkansas and as a kid used to go to work with his uncle, who was an



Terry Bible collects all things related to his department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He has about 1000 badges and collar brass from the department. Bible added this Troop “D” collar brass worn by Chester Oliver, who went on to become a captain. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*



(Left) Robert T. Shockey wore this badge when he became the chief of police in Hazelwood, Mo. in 1972. The badge has been returned to the Shockey family. (Right) Roger McLean acquired this West Memphis, Ark. police badge to his collection at the show. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*

officer with the Arkansas State Highway Police. At ten years old, Roger would operate the weigh scales with his uncle on Highway 55. This experience is what prompted him to want to become a police officer and why he now collects Arkansas badges and patches.

McLean was able to find a 1950s issue West Memphis, Ark. badge, only the second he has ever seen.

He also found 15 other badges for his collection. Another collector who was able to find rare badges for his collection was Mark Pyne of Naples, Fla. He acquired several early badges at the show.

The most impressive badge was a vintage Palm Beach, Fla. Police Department shield. It is an Old West-style cutout shield with a five-point star as the center design. The legends read “PALM BEACH/ 15/ POLICE.” The number appears on the center of the star.

Pyne is a longtime collector and supporter of the “Gateway” show. He has already purchased a block of tables for the 2021 National Show here in October.

It was great to see a couple relatively new, young collectors at the show. Among them was Cody Umfress, who spent several years with the state Department of Corrections and now works for me as a police officer in Brynes Mill, Mo. He specializes in Jefferson County, Mo.

Umfress brought a fine collection of badges and patches. The oldest badge is a 1930s deputy sheriff badge with the name “JA Derque” on it. However, the rarest item is a blue



(Left) Mark Pyne, a Florida collector, added this vintage Palm Beach, Fla. police badge to his collection at the show. It is an Old West-style cutout shield. (Right) Caleb Christian acquired this six-point folded star from Cape Girardeau County, Mo. He specializes in the county. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*



Caleb Christian won “Best of Show” at the 2020 “Gateway” for his outstanding historic collection from Cape Girardeau County, Mo. His exhibit of items from the career of Sheriff John Hayes, who took office in 1813. He has his commission signed by the governor. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*





Cody Umfress featured a wide variety of badges, patches and patrol vehicle license plates from the Jefferson County, Mo. Sheriff Department. He is an up and coming Missouri collector and now works for Frank Selvaggio in Brynes Mill. He augments his items with photographs. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*

and white reserve deputy patch. He has the only one known to still exist. My favorite items were those that belonged to Captain Ed Kemp, who was involved in county law enforcement for over 40 years.

Andrew Nelson is a retired New York City police sergeant and first responder to the infamous terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001. Now, he writes novels but has also done a book on NYPD Emergency Services Unit insignia.

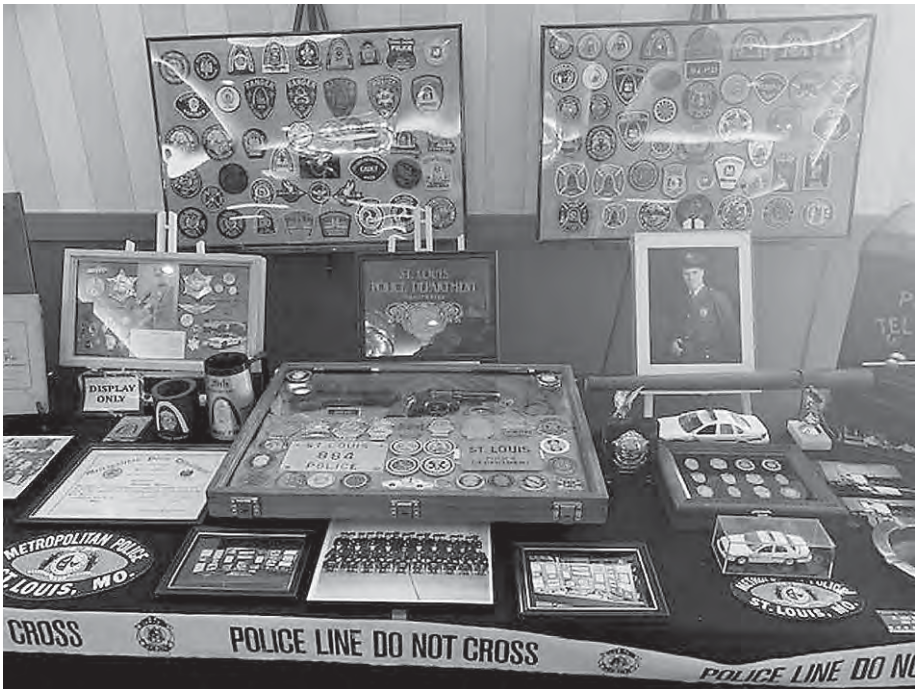
Nelson, an accomplished author, and his wife retired to central Illinois where he collects NYPD and Secret Service patches and challenge coins and has a huge collection.

Jeff Peeler is a Florida Highway Patrol reserve officer and specializes in his department. He also produces challenge coins and specialty patches for that department.

Carlos Salazar is a retired sheriff's deputy from Mississippi who regularly attends the "Gateway" shows. He seems to bring a different display each year and almost always wins an award. This year, he showed an impressive collection of framed canine unit patches.

Display contest winners

Caleb Christian is a young collector who specializes in



"Best Badge Display" went to Missouri collector David Brown. He brought a particularly impressive collection from the Saint Louis County and Metropolitan Police Departments. This is part of his County Police collection that includes commissioner and chief of police badges. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*



Second place for "Best of Show" went to second generation Saint Louis collector Tim Greer, son of late police officer, show host and collector Charles Greer, who showed artifacts and memorabilia from his father's career, as well as other items from the Saint Louis Metro PD. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*



Second place for "Best Badge Display" went to Willie Herald from Illinois by way of Kentucky. An interesting frame was a badge and patches from the Virginia Conservation and Recreation Police. He patrolled Breaks Interstate Park on the Kentucky-Virginia border. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*

police memorabilia from southeastern Missouri where he serves as a deputy for the Cape Girardeau Sheriffs Department.

Christian is a collector of historic badges, patches, photos, IDs and other documents. He delves deep into the history of the items he procures. Some of his great finds could easily be displayed at the Missouri History Museum.

While at the show, he found and purchased a late 1800s folded star badge from Doniphan, which is a tiny town near where he lives. He was able to determine that this one of a kind badge was once worn by city Marshal William Ronney.

Folded star-style badges were popular in eastern Missouri during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The most well-known of these being Saint Louis Metropolitan Police folded stars worn during that era.

Christian also brought other impressive displays for us to drool over.

One case held the original commission from 1813 of Sheriff John Hayes of Cape Girardeau County. The document is hand signed by Governor William Clark, who was one of the famous duo of Lewis and Clark, the explorers. (Remember your history classes?)

Christian won "Best of Show" for his great exhibits. Young collectors like him are the future of this hobby.

The second place "Best of Show" award went to Tim Greer, who had several impressive displays filled with Saint Louis Police Department memorabilia. Many of these items once belonged to his father, Charles, including his revolver, badge, ID and name tag. He passed away in 2013 and was a former co-host of the "Gateway" show, as well as the 1997 and 2010 shows held here.

"Best Badge Display" went to David Brown for his many cases of Missouri badges, including his utterly impressive collections of Saint Louis city and county police. I have shown his County PD display, which has a commissioner's badge and a chief's badge.

Willie Herald took home the second place "Best Badge Display" award.

His display included a unique collection of Virginia Conservation and Recreation Police badges and patches. The regular issue patch is shown at the bottom of the photograph that accompanies this story. The two emblems to the right and left, respectively, are specific to the Breaks Interstate Park, which straddles the Kentucky-Virginia and is funded and maintained by both states.

Herald said these patches are special to his collection because the Kentucky side of the park was part of his patrol area when he was a Kentucky state trooper. He recalled his family used to come from Illinois twice a year to stay at the park and visit him.

Tableholders

Our 2020 tableholders came from 13 states.

Missouri: Tom Breen, Terry Bible, Tim Greer, Jim Neiters, Cody Umfress, Caleb Christian, David Brown, Eric Blessing, Kenney Jasinski, Clarence Gibson, Steve Grass, Bob Shockey and Frank Selvaggio

Illinois: Daryl Weseloh, Andrew Nelson, Willie Herald and Jack Genius

Arkansas: Jim Post

Mississippi: Carlos Salazar and Marcel Jojola

Ohio: Bill Swank



Jeff Peeler made the long trip from Florida to Saint Louis for the show. He works as a supervisor for the Florida Highway Patrol Auxiliary and collects anything and everything related to the agency. He has gotten into producing FHP specialty patches and challenge coins. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*





Mississippi collector Carlos Salazar is a regular at the “Gateway” show. He always brings a display, and it is usually different every year. His 2020 offering was this handsome exhibit of framed law enforcement canine emblems. Salazar is a retired sheriff’s deputy. *Frank Selvaggio photograph*

## Saint Louis Show ...Continued

- Tennessee: Rob Jackson and Vinnie Turocy
- Florida: Mark Pyne and Jeff Peeler
- Georgia: Bill Charles and Bill Burks
- Kansas: Bob Anthony, John Cook and Marty Augustine
- Vermont: Russ Penka
- South Carolina: Keith Mackey and Leonard Hanham
- Texas: Leonard Ross
- Kentucky: Jeff Bell and David Hume
- FRANK T. SELVAGGIO (8946 Wilma Drive, Saint Louis MO 63123)

# Swap Meet Calendar

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SPECIAL – These are the latest police insignia show and swap meet announcements. Collectors interested in attending these events should contact the sponsors at the addresses or telephone numbers listed for additional information, such as driving directions, table availability, hotel or motel accommodations, handicapped accessibility, parking or possible last-minute changes and/or cancellations. Show sponsors provide “Swap Meet Calendar” listings. We are not responsible for changes after we go to press, nor are we liable for errors or omissions. These announcements are published at no cost to show sponsors. However, hosts are requested to cooperate in our effort to obtain a follow-up story as soon as possible after each show.

## Claremont, Calif.

The 40th Annual “Porky” Police Memorabilia Show scheduled for Sat., Jan. 16 has been canceled due to COVID-19 public gathering restrictions in Los Angeles County, Calif. The show will be rescheduled for next year.

## Titusville, Fla.

The 34th Annual “Space Coast” Patch Show will be Sat., Jan. 30 from 9 am to 4 pm at the North Brevard Senior Center, 909 Lane Ave., Titusville, Fla. Steve and Karen Bridges will host it. This is the same location as last year. Seventy are available. The show is a sellout every year. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor set up. Awards will be presented for the best displays. Reproductions must be marked. There will be a food truck outside the hall to offer lunch. Their food was a big hit last year. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Titusville/Kennedy Space Center, 4715 Helen Hauser Blvd. A \$99 room rate (plus tax) includes a hot breakfast. The rate is good from January 29 to January 31. Make reservations on (321) 383-0200. Titusville is close to the Kennedy Space Center and other central Florida attractions. The American Police Hall of Fame is located only minutes from the show hall. It has a fabulous patch collection. Make table reservations by contacting Bridges on (321) 302-1983 (cell) or by email on csteveb170@gmail.com. Confirm reservations by mailing table fees to Steve Bridges, 1535 Justin Court, Titusville FL 32796.

## Marshall, Minn.

The Marshall, Minn. Police Collectors Show hosted by Dave and Mary Gislason usually held in mid-February has been canceled by the hosts for personal reasons.. It will be

rescheduled for next year.

## Roseville, Calif.

The 26th Annual Doug Messer “49’er” Public Safety and Military Collectors Show scheduled for Sat., Feb. 27, 2021 has been canceled due to COVID-19 public gathering restrictions. The show will be scheduled for next year.

## Riverdale, Md.

The next Mid-Atlantic Police Collectors Extravaganza will be Sat., Apr. 10 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Elks Lodge, 6700 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale Md. Andy Ferraro will host it. Admission is \$5. Approximately 100 tables are available for \$23 each. The hall will open for exhibitor setup only from 8 am to 10 am. Collectors without tables who wish to enter the hall before 10 am must pay a \$10 early bird fee. There will be a trophy for the best display. Send table reservations to Andy Ferraro, 4214 Woodberry St., Hyattsville MD 20782-1171. For additional information, contact the host on (240) 723-0507 or (301) 927-2327.

## Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

The Fourth New York and New Jersey Metropolitan Police and Fire Collectors is tentatively scheduled for Sun., Apr. 18 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. Gerry Tibbs, Brian Lyons and Ed Zitek will host it. Whether the show is held is contingent upon COVID-19 public gathering restrictions that may or may not be in effect in New Jersey. The hosts hope to make an announcement as soon as possible. Admission is \$5. Spouses and children under 12 will be admitted free. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. Table availability information will be announced. Displays are encouraged. Awards will be presented form the best patch, badge and overall displays. The hotel ballroom has been expanded to 7000 square feet. There will be a patch and challenge coin drop at the door. Reproduction material must be marked as such. Only public safety collectors and known collectors will be admitted. Identification may be required. Guest rooms at the Hilton have been renovated. The restaurant has been moved and expanded. There is larger bar and lounge area. The show has a Facebook page. Inquiries can be made by email at nynjpcs@gmail.com or on the Facebook page.

## Fall River, Mass.

The 2021 “Bay State” Police Collector Shows will be Sun., May 2 and Sun., Oct. 3 beginning at 9 am at the Fall River Police Police Athletic League building, 31 Franklin St., Fall River, Mass. Barb Haven and Gary Smith are the hosts. Admission is \$7. Tables are \$17 for the first and \$10 for each additional table. The fee includes one admission,.The hall will open at 8:45 am for table setup. There is a limited number of tables. Early reservations are recommended to avoid disappointment. Tables not occupied by 10 am will be resold with no refunds. Law enforcement officers and known collectors only, please. Credentials may be checked at the door. Management reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone. Some refreshments will be available. For questions or to make reservations, email the hosts on baystatepolice@gmail.com.

## Cleveland, O.

The 36th Annual Police Memorial Commemoration Week will take place May 15 to 22 in Cleveland, O. All events will be hosted by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS). There will be a police insignia collectors show and exhibit on Sat., May 22 from 10 am to 3 pm at the host hotel for all events, the Holiday Inn Lakeside at 1111 Lakeside Avenue. (This is the hotel that many collectors stayed at during the 2014 Cleveland National Show.) Admission is free. Exhibitor tables will be available. Please contact GCPOMS on (216) 337-3537 or send email to info@policememorialsociety.org for information. Collectors and their families are welcome at all Police Memorial Commemoration Week events, including a candlelight vigil on Monday at 7:45 pm at the Police Memorial in Huntington Park in downtown Cleveland; a solemn ceremony at the Memorial Badge Case at Cleveland Police Headquarters, 1300 Ontario St., at 11 am on Thursday; the annual Police Memorial Parade and Memorial beginning at 10:30 am at 12th St., and Lakeside Ave. and the extremely popular International Tattoo at the Cleveland Public Hall at 7 pm. The tattoo features police pipes and drum corps from the United States and Canada. Advance tickets are highly recommended. The event is usually a sellout.

## Athens, O.

The 2021 Southeast Ohio Police Collectors Show will be Sat., May 22 at the Athens Community Center, 701 E. State St., Athens, O. Andrew Watson and Clay Loving will host it. Tables are \$15 each for the first and \$10 each for each additional table. Table reservations can be made by emailing the hosts. Andrew Watson aawwatson@icloud.com Clay Lowing cl1237@gmail.com.

## National Police Collectors Show

The postponed 2020 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 11, Sat., June 12 and Sun., June 13, 2021 at the Nugget Casino Resort. 11 Nugget Dr., Sparks, Nev. It will be hosted by the 2020 National Show Committee. Friday is reserved for tableholder setup only from 12 to 6 pm. Only tableholders and assistants will be admitted. Show hours for the public are Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. Admission is \$5 per day. Children 12 and under are admitted free.



All 252 tables have been sold. A waiting list being maintained.  
The Nugget has been the site of three previous National Shows (1992, 1994 and 2007). The recently renovated hotel and convention center are only eight minutes from the Reno-Tahoe Airport. There is complimentary airport transportation for hotel guests.  
The hotel offers free parking, complimentary WiFi and a large swimming pool and fitness center.  
There are numerous dining and entertainment venues on the premises.  
The casino is open 24 hours.  
The National Show hotel rate for the Resort Tower has dropped to \$85 per night plus resort fees and taxes for Friday and Saturday. All other nights for the four days before the show and the three days after the show are \$44 per night plus resort fees and taxes. Reservations can be made on (800) 648-1177. The booking code is GNPC20. Rooms can also be booked online through the show Web site, Reno2020.US.  
The show has Facebook page.  
For additional information, questions etc., email the hosts on 2020nationalpoliceshow@gmail.com.

## San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The Annual California Law Enforcement Historical Society Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., July 24 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Veterans Hall, 800 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, Calif. Gary Hoving and Brian Smith will host it.  
Admission is free but a donation to CLEHS is appreciated.  
Fifty-five tables are available for \$20 each for CLEHS members or \$40 each for non-members. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. Early reservations are recommended. The show is expected to be a complete sellout. Exhibitors are requested to remain until 2 pm.  
Reproduction insignia is strongly discouraged. All reproductions, facsimile or non-department issue insignia must be appropriately labeled. Any violation will result in immediate expulsion from the show with no refund. Tableholders who cannot agree to this condition shall immediately notify the show hosts for a refund.  
Any proceeds will be donated to CLEHS.  
Please direct questions about the show to President Gary Hoving. CLEHS, PO Box 254975, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, (805) 441-4936 or sloghov@aol.com.

## Detroit, Mich.

The 37th Annual Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show and Exhibit originally scheduled for Sat., Apr. 10 has been postponed to Sat., Sept., 25 from 9 am to 3 pm at the UFCW Union Hall, 876 Horrace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, Mich. The cancellation was necessary due to COVID-19 public gathering restrictions.  
Dave Loar, Mike Duvall, Todd Hansen and Bill Pace are the hosts.  
Admission is \$5. Children under 12 will be admitted free.  
One hundred twenty eight-foot tables are available for \$25 each and must be paid for in advance. Setup begins at 7 am. Payment should be made to Dave Loar by check, money order or Pay Pal.  
There will be hourly door prizes, display awards and a patch drop drawing.  
This is a closed show. Only known collectors or public safety professionals with a valid police or fire ID will be admitted.  
Current style badges may not be bought, sold or traded at the show or on the property. Displays which contain current badges must be marked "Display Only."  
For table reservations, contact Loar on (517) 404-9781 or cdloar@hotmail.com.  
For show information, contact Duvall (586) 709-6891 or duvallm70@yahoo.com; Hansen on 2933hansen@gmail.com or Pace on wpace423@aol.com.

## National Police Collectors Show

The 2021 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., Oct. 22, Sat., Oct. 23 and Sun., Oct.25 at the Saint Charles Convention Center in Saint Charles, Mo., a Saint Louis suburb. Frank Selvaggio, Bob Shockey and Don Magruder will host the hobby's annual convention.  
Friday is setup day. Only registered tableholders and assistants will be admitted to the hall. Setup will take place from 12 pm to 5 pm.  
The show will be open to the public on Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. Tableholders will be admitted at 8 am for setup only both days.  
Admission is \$5 for adults.  
Two hundred sixty tables eight-foot are available for \$90 each. There is capability to expand to 280 tables if needed. About 100 tables have already been purchased or reserved. Early reservations are highly recommended.  
The host hotel is the 296-suite Embassy Suites, which is connected to the convention center. There is ample free parking and no need to venture outdoors. Rooms are available for \$144 per night. The room rate includes a complimentary cooked to order breakfast, a complimentary two-hour reception with alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and snacks, an onsite restaurant and bar, 24-hour fitness center, a whirlpool and high-tech business center. Hotel reservations can be made directly with the hotel on (636) 946-5544 or (800) EMBASSY.  
Lambert International Airport is about a 15-minute drive from the hotel.  
The hotel is a short distance from shopping and restaurants in downtown Saint Charles. The city's cobblestone Main Street is a popular tourist destination and not to be missed.  
The Saint Louis area offers a wide variety of popular tourist destinations, such as the Gateway Arch, a world-famous zoo, numerous historical museums, the Saint Louis Cardinals Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the beautiful Saint Louis Cathedral Basilica and the world-renown Anheuser-Busch Brewery, the home of Budweiser beers and the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales.  
A show Web site is in developmernt and will soon be available.  
For information or to make table reservations, contact Don Magruder on (515) 962-5220 or email dwmagruder@gmail.com.

**PICAA Show Canceled** The Police Insignia Collectors Association of Australia has announced cancellation of the annual police insignia collectors show in Seymour, Victoria scheduled for February 7. Vice President Rod Johns said government-imposed COVID-19 restrictions and concerns over public safety prompted the cancellation. Johns announced an online virtual badge and patch show will take place on February 7 as an alternative to the in-person show.

**Family Brighents Blue** A Union Township, O. family delivered wooden badge ornaments and badge-shaped sugar cookies to each member of the Union Township Police Department for Christmas. The presents were delivered the officers in gift bags to thank them for their service. Cheryl Baudouin, who does custom crafts, wanted to show her support for the department. The 63 wooden ornaments had each officer's name and badge number on them. The cookies showed the Thin Blue Line logo in color frosting. "You are appreciated more than you realize," Beaudoin wrote in a letter to the chief of police.

## Ontario Hobbyist Loses Collection In House Fire

CAVAN MONGHAN, Ont. – A new Ontario collector and his family lost everything when their home in Cavan Monghan Township, Ont. burned to the ground on November 19.  
According to the *Peterborough Examiner*, Isiah Graham was among seven family members asleep inside the house when it was destroyed by fire. The family and two dogs escaped safely. Graham credited smoke detectors with saving their lives.  
The local fire chief described the residence as a total loss and estimated the damage at \$500,000.  
Graham, 25, is a constable for the Peterborough Police Service and recently graduated from the Ontario Police College. He was hired in April 2019.  
Fellow collectors Brian Benjamin and Mike Douglas have undertaken an effort to replace as much of Graham's patch collection as possible.  
"The new recruit's house was lost to a fire a few weeks ago. He literally escaped with the clothes on his back, and nothing else," Benjamin said. The provincial fire marshal is investigating the cause.  
"So, we are trying to see if anyone is willing to throw a spare patch or two his way and help surprise him with a little something to get his collection going again."  
Donations can be made on either Benjamin's or Douglas's Facebook pages.  
*Courtesy of Brian Benjamin and Mike Douglas*



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# Hobby Loses Six Additional Great Collectors

Our hobby lost six more great veteran collectors between late October and early January. Lou Gaydosh, Leon Metz, Tom Marvel, John Borges, Ken Robison Sr. and Gene Gianuzzi are being mourned by their families and many collector friends across the country.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Our hobby was overcome with sadness for the families and friends of the pioneer law enforcement insignia collectors we had lost thus far in 2020. Sadder yet are the deaths of six more leading collectors who died between late October to early January. Now, we also mourn the loss of veteran hobbyists Lou Gaydosh, Leon Metz, Tom Marvel, John Borges, Kenneth Robison Sr. and Gene Gianuzzi. Gaydosh, a retired New Orleans police lieutenant and longtime Louisiana badge and patch aficionado, died in a Covington, La. hospital on October 22 of complications arising during outpatient surgery. He was 60. Veteran Texas and Southwest historian, author and artifacts collector Metz died of complications from COVID-19 on November 15 in his beloved El Paso, Tex. He was 90. Marvel, one of the earliest and most dedicated Illinois collectors and a former local show host, died on December 12 in a Quincy, Ill. hospital at age 83. Longtime Massachusetts collector Borges succumbed to complications from COVID-19 at a local hospital on Christmas Eve. The 20-year veteran Taunton, Mass. police officer was only 48 years old when he died following a courageous battle with the dreaded virus. Robison, 60, of Chapin, S.C. died on December 26 of an apparent heart attack at his home. He was a 35-year hobby veteran who collected South Carolina police and fire insignia, as well as patches and badges from across the USA and the world. Gianuzzi died the first weekend of January. The veteran Southern California hobbyist and former show co-host had health issues the last several years. His family requested privacy as they deal with their grief, so little information on his death is known. Each of these fine men was a longtime, dedicated collector who spent many years documenting law enforcement history and preserving its heritage, each in his own way. They will be sorely missed.

**Hurricane Katrina survivor** Lou Gaydosh's life changed forever when Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans on August 29, 2005. He lost his home and incredible collection when levees weakened by an apocalyptic storm surge gave way and flooded much of the city, including the neighborhood where he lived near Lake Pontchartrain. Perhaps equally as significant, Gaydosh, a rising star in the NOPD command structure, who rose quickly to the rank of lieutenant, became disillusioned with many officers on his department after dozens disregarded their oaths of office and abandoned their responsibilities by fleeing the city, leaving widespread lawlessness and despair in their wake and forcing those who remained to police the city shorthanded. Gaydosh and hundreds of his fellow officers remained on duty despite draconian conditions. He worked incredibly long days for weeks on end as a supervisor, helping restoring law and order in the aftermath of the chaos that followed the devastating hurricane, even though his wife and children had been evacuated to Houston, Tex. He joined hundreds of other NOPD officers living on a cruise ship docked just offshore for weeks because their homes had been destroyed. Gaydosh recalled the immediate aftermath of Katrina in a *PCNEWS* interview in early 2006, only a few weeks after his personal telephone service was finally restored. "We had nothing left to work with. My station was destroyed. No electricity. No radios.



Southwest and Old West historian and collector Leon Metz died on November 15 in an El Paso, Tex. veterans home. Born in West Virginia, he became fascinated with Old West lore while stationed in Texas with the Air Force. Metz was a prolific researcher and author. *Contributed photograph*

No phones. No computers. Very few cars. A lot of my guys didn't have uniforms, duty belts and any other equipment. We had to share. It was crazy," he said. Gaydosh said officers in his district worked out of an abandoned retirement home hastily converted into a police precinct. They patrolled in commandeered boats and later in National Guard trucks. "The first couple weeks were the worst. We had nothing but what we could find to eat. No refrigerators. No drinking water. No clean laundry. Remember, the flood was about 12 feet deep most places. But, we still had people flag us down and report crimes, especially looting, so we responded as best we could. And, we got shot at more than a few times trying to clear the streets," he recalled. Gaydosh was unable to suppress his disgust for the NOPD officers who fled the city. "These people should have never put on the badge in the first place. They are cowards. They left us when we needed them. But, we know who they are. They are being fired, and we'll make sure they never work as police officers again," he said. A dedicated law enforcement professional, Gaydosh found it exceedingly difficult to believe that sworn officers, including a few in his command, walked away from the city and their duties during a historic emergency. It was mid-September before he was first able to paddle a flatboat into his Lakeview neighborhood, which was still partially underwater, to see what remained of his home. He found the house extensively damaged and no longer livable. Looters had stolen pretty much everything that hadn't been underwater, including his prized badge and patch collections. "I lost my entire collection to looters. All of it. Everything I collected for more than 20 years. Why they'd take police badges and patches makes no sense, but I know I'll never get them back," he said. Gaydosh listed some of the collections he lost: ...a virtually complete set of Texas Department of Public Safety badges of all styles and ranks, including several old, original Texas Rangers badges; ...an extensive Louisiana State Police badge and patch collection, including a department-issue rank set and a complete set of shoulder patches, as well as a first issue; ...cases of NOPD star and crescent badges and patches, as well as antiques dating back to the earliest days of the department; ...French law enforcement insignia, including extensive Paris police and federal gendarmes sets; ...a large Nashville, Tenn collection of antique and current badges and emblems. A native of the Philadelphia area, Gaydosh and his family relocated to the Big Easy



Lou Gaydosh, longtime Louisiana badge and patch collector, died on October 22 in a Covington, La. hospital of complications from outpatient surgery. The retired New Orleans police lieutenant lost his entire collection in Hurricane Katrina and spent 15 years rebuilding it. *Contributed photograph*



Tom Marvel, among the deans of the law enforcement insignia collecting hobby in Illinois, died on December 12 in Quincy, Ill. He spent 20 years as a police officer in Springfield. Marvel started collecting in the early 1970s and attended shows throughout the Midwest. *Contributed photograph*





Taunton, Mass. police Officer John Borges died of COVID-19 on December 24 at a local hospital. He was only 48. Borges was a longtime Massachusetts patch collector and had served on his department for 20 years. He was also active in search and rescue and the Civil Air Patrol. *Contributed photograph*

in the late 1990s after living in Florida for several years where he also served as a police officer. Undaunted, he spent the last 15 years before his untimely death rebuilding his collection. He made a remarkable recovery, although he was never able to replace some of his best pieces. “Fortunately, I not only belong to the police family, a family which helped all of us law enforcement officers throughout the Gulf recover from the effects of Katrina, but I also belong to a police collector family, a family even more elite than the police family,” he said. Gaydosh received dozens of cash donations, as well as numerous packages containing patches and badges, from collectors around the world to help him replace some of what he had lost. He and his family moved into a new house in suburban Metairie in late 2007, more than two years after the storm. Before Katrina, Gaydosh hosted the one and only law enforcement insignia show ever held in New Orleans. “It was always my dream to bring the National to Louisiana, but a hurricane got in the way,” he said.

**Revered Southwest historian** Leon Metz grew up in West Virginia, but his deployment to Biggs Field in El Paso as an airplane propeller mechanic for the United States Air Force during the Korean War sparked a lifelong interest in Southwest history. Metz, who served briefly as an El Paso police officer following his military discharge, became an internationally-recognized expert on the Old West. He authored or co-authored 19 books, wrote countless articles for western history magazines and publications, frequently appeared on numerous television and radio documentaries (especially in the United Kingdom) and even hosted a local public radio show on El Paso history for many years. Metz wrote biographies on legendary Old West lawmen Pat Garrett and El Paso Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire, who later became a deputy United States marshal, as well as noted outlaws Billy the Kid and John Selman. He was an avid Old West artifacts and memorabilia collector with extensive accumulations from the Texas Rangers, Texas Department of Public Safety and other agencies, always focused on antiques. He was particularly interested in historic weapons and old badges carried by the many lawmen whose careers he researched. Metz attended the first National Police Collectors Show in Dallas in 1999 and showed some of his historic Ranger pieces. He brought six-shooters carried by several famous



John Borges attended numerous New England shows during his long law enforcement insignia collecting career, including the 2018 National Police Collectors Show in Marlborough where he was a tableholder. He became seriously ill with the COVID-19 virus in December. *Edward Walsh photograph*

Rangers and other Texas lawmen, as well as several historic badges. He said he became fascinated with Old West history while reading books about outlaws and lawmen as a youth, particularly the legendary Rangers. Metz was the archivist at the University of Texas at El Paso for many years and a founding member of the El Paso County Historical Society, where he served as president and on the board of directors. He was a member and contributor to numerous other organizations and societies dedicated to Old West and Southwest history. A family friend said Metz had been dealing with Alzheimer’s disease for five years. He was living in a veteran’s home at the time of his death.

**Illinois hobby pioneer** The first known police insignia shows ever held in Illinois were very informal outdoor gatherings in the mid-1970s. One swap meet took place in the backyard of a longtime patch collector, Phil Kozol, in Glen Ellyn, while the other happened on picnic tables in a Cook County forest preserve. Tom Marvel attended both events. Even though he had to journey to the Chicago area from downstate Springfield, the dedicated collector and his wife, Barbara, who died in 2016, never minded traveling to shows. The couple were regulars at swap meets in Merrillville, Ind., Columbus, O. and Milwaukee, Wisc. In the ‘80s and ‘90s. He co-hosted collector shows in Pekin and Springfield in central Illinois as well. The longtime Land of Lincoln patch collector and veteran Springfield police insignia collector was a dean of the Illinois hobby. He was recognized as an expert on local police and sheriff patches and Springfield police history.

Marvel was a native of central Illinois and served in both the United States Air Force and the United States Army. He remained in the reserves after his discharge and was called back to active duty in 1990 during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. He spent 20 years as a patrol officer and detective with the Springfield Police Department. He also worked as city jail captain and administrator, a Sangamon County Sheriffs Department juvenile officer and taught criminal justice courses at the local law enforcement academy, specializing in classes for corrections officers. Marvel was a fountain of knowledge for veteran and beginning Illinois collectors alike. He had boundless enthusiasm for the hobby, as well as a strong desire to attract newcomers. He was also a student of local police history and especially the Illinois State Police. The agency training academy is located in Springfield. “We have lost one of the greatest police collectors I ever met. He wasn’t great because of his amazing collection. He was just one of the finest human beings you could ever know,” said longtime friend Daryl Weseloh, another veteran Illinois collector and the chief of police in Minier. “His stories about the old days when being a cop was more fun would keep me laughing for hours,” he said. The family’s plans for the disposition of Marvel’s collections are unknown.

**City in mourning** John Borges was one of those community-oriented police officers who made friends with the people he protected and served. He gained the love and respect of the people of Taunton, Mass. for his dedicated service on their behalf. Born in the Azores, which are part of Portugal, Borges’s parents immigrated to the United States when he was only 18 months old. His parents taught him to love their new home in Massachusetts, but he never lost sight of his heritage. It served him well in Taunton, which has a strong Portuguese heritage. Borges graduated from Taunton High School and joined the police department 20 years ago. “Patrolman Borges loved being a police officer and cared dearly about the community he served,” said Chief of Police Edward Walsh, who, coincidentally, is also a longtime, dedicated law enforcement insignia collector who specializes in his department. An iconic photograph posted on the department Facebook page recently shows Borges in uniform comforting an elderly Portuguese-speaking woman displaced by a downtown fire. A city resident commented the picture showed the “essence of humanity.” In addition to patrol duties, Borges served as search manager for the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council Search and Rescue Team. He was also a lead trainer for the Massachusetts Emergency Management agency and active in the Civil Air Patrol. Borges collected firearms and Massachusetts law enforcement insignia. His patch collection was particularly impressive. He attended shows throughout the state and was a tableholder at the 2018 National Police Collectors Show in Marlborough, Mass.



Kenneth Robison Sr. served as a station chief with the Columbia, S.C. Fire Department in the mid-1980s. He collected law enforcement, fire and public safety insignia for more than 25 before his death on December 26. He spent most of his life as a private investigator. *Contributed photograph*





Kenneth Robison Sr. is shown in his office adorned with part of his extensive collection of law enforcement and fire insignia, hats and other artifacts and collectibles. The South Carolina corrections officer, firefighter and investigator was active in the hobby for 35 years. *Contributed photograph*

## Hobby Mourns Deaths ...Continued

Long-time Massachusetts collectors Charles Cullen and Richard Pontes shared memories about their fellow hobbyist.

Pontes wrote:

“I first met John when he worked for Andrea’s Policy Supply in Raynham, Mass. where he was a salesperson. A couple of the ladies who worked there had attended my shows, and we talked about them and the hobby. He was interested in collecting, attending my shows and enjoyed the patch display the owner had. We talked about him becoming a police officer for the city of Taunton, and he was excited about the prospect.

“He attended my show for the first time in October 1999 and was hooked on collecting. In May 2000, he attended again, only by then, he had become a police officer in Taunton.

“Over the years, we would trade through the mail and see each other at the various shows. He was always ready to learn about the hobby and the significance of the patches, badges, etc.

“John was always a great and honest collector who was dedicated to the hobby, a great cop, very caring individual and all around fantastic guy that I had the pleasure of knowing and calling a friend. I will miss him, his smile, his sensitivity, and, most of all, his friendship. The world is a better place because of him.”

Cullen said:

“Officer John Borges was a dedicated police officer and sincere collector. I have known him throughout his entire career. He will be missed. RIP!”

A funeral mass for Borges was held on January 5 in Taunton.

**Leading local collector** Although Ken Robison Sr. didn’t have a national hobby profile, he was well known in the fraternity of South Carolina collectors. He was an active police memorabilia collector for more than 35 years.

\*Robison worked for the state corrections department in the early ‘80s and attended the state criminal justice academy.

He left corrections to work for Am-Pro Security Company in Columbia and became a volunteer firefighter at the Lugoff-Elgin Station of the Kershaw County Fire Department. He attended the state fire academy.

Later, he became a full-time paid firefighter in Columbia and was chief of the Ballentine Station in the mid-’80s.

He resigned from the fire department in the early 1990s to start South Carolina Security Enforcement Agency with a friend from the fire department. They operated the business until it closed in the mid-2000s.

Robison and another partner founded Hawkeye Security and Investigations and ran it until the mid-2010s when he left and opened Robison Investigative Services and RSA Executive Protection in Irmo near Columbia. He owned the company until his death.

Robison was active in the South Carolina Association of Legal Investigators where he served as a regional director. He was dedicated to making the private security business professional and accountable.

“I was born in 1983, and he was collecting patches, hats and various memorabilia from police and fire departments for as long as I can remember,” his son, Kenneth Jr., said.

“It started with South Carolina but quickly expanded to worldwide. My grandmother



(Left to right) Will Berry, George Buckley, Steve Siegrist, Mark Bray, Nick Cardaras, Dennis Smith, Gene Gianuzzi, Kelly Mayfield and an unnamed collector (holding album) gathered after the 2014 “Porky D. Swine” show. Casey Smith is shown kneeling in front. *Contributed photograph*



Gene Gianuzzi (left) and Wes Maroney (right) at Gianuzzi’s table at the 2017 National Police Collectors Show in Ontario, Calif., his final National. Gianuzzi died on January 3. Both veteran collectors were among the first to complete California in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s. *Contributed photograph*

(his mom) is Italian, and he was proud to put together a framed collection of Italian police patches and badges.”

San Francisco collector Rick Uland knew Robison well and traded with him. “I knew him for 25 years, and he and I had a very good trading relationship, as well as a personal friendship,” he said.

“He was very proud of his private security and investigations business that he had worked so very hard at making it a highly respected and professional operation.”

Robison attended police collector shows in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and elsewhere. He was also active as an online trader.

What will happen to his large collection of patches, badges, hats and other police and fire memorabilia? His son said no decision has been made, but he and his siblings would like to carry on a tradition his father started at the shows he attended.

“Dad would always trade patches with young kids at the shows. He would keep a surplus of patches, pins and other insignia and trade them for next to nothing to let kids think they were getting a great deal and were great traders,” Robison Jr. said.

“He’d haggle with them just enough to get them engaged, but without being pushy, and always made the trade with them. Normally, their one patch would get them three or four patches in return. I never asked him but always assumed this was a way to get a younger generation into collecting, as he used to do this with us when we were kids.”

**“The Godfather” passes** Gene Gianuzzi, known to his many Southern California collector friends as “The Godfather,” was among the earliest dedicated California law enforcement patch collectors in the 1970s.

Gianuzzi’s contemporaries include such Golden State hobby pioneers as Wes Maroney, Darrell Klasey, Will Berry, Bill Selonek, Bob Foley, Mark Higgins. the late Tom Hollywood and several others.

He was among the first collectors to acquire at least one patch from every police department in the state, which, back then, at least, was considered a complete California collection.

Gianuzzi was involved in marketing patches and badges to law enforcement and public safety agencies in California and surrounding states for more than 35 years, first with West End Uniforms in Montclair, and then Arrowhead Emblems, a company he formed in 2008. (West End Uniforms is now defunct.)

According to the company Web site, Arrowhead Emblems created custom patches worn by thousands of police officers, firefighters and security officers in California, Arizona and other states. Later, he also began producing badges. He had a sterling reputation as a producer of high-quality insignia.

“‘The Godfather’ has a lot to do with me being Italian, I guess. Or, maybe its because I’ve been around for so darned long,” laughed Gianuzzi during an interview at the 2017 National Show in Ontario, Calif. when he was asked about how he got his well-known nickname.

Gianuzzi began collecting California patches in the mid-1970s. “I had a job at a uniforms store as a salesman, and we sold patches and badges. I really liked the patches, so I decided to start saving them. It took off from there. The rest is history, as they say!” he said.

“Gene is one of the finest, most honest, ethical people in the hobby, bar none,” said Maroney in an interview at the same show. “He has been one of my best collector friends for many years. I don’t know anyone who doesn’t like Gene.”

“What can be said about Gene that hasn’t already been said?” asked Klasey. “With him, this hobby is a fraternity, never a business or competition. Sure, he sold patches and badges to departments, but he does it ethically and with the best interests of the hobby and his customers at heart, unlike others.”

State police and highway patrol collector Tony Aleria, a retired Southern California law enforcement officer, called Gianuzzi “the best friend and mentor a patch collector could ever have.”

He was a regular at California insignia collector shows for many, many years and even served as a co-host of the former “Porky D. Swine” Show, now known as “Porky,” for awhile.

Gianuzzi is from West Covina in Los Angeles County but had been living in Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County for many years, with Karen, his wife of 44 years. She survives him.

Honoring the family’s request for privacy so soon after his death, additional information will be published in the March-April edition.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.com

**4500 Police Patches** A Tulsa, Okla. boy who prays with police officers asked Santa Claus for five police patches. He ended up with 4500. Eight-year-old Trey Elliott told his mother he wanted Santa to bring him the police patches for Christmas. His mother, Brittany Elliott, posted her son’s request on social media. She hoped for a handful of emblems in response and was overwhelmed when patches came rolling in from around the world. Needless to say, Trey was overwhelmed when he found a large plastic tub stuffed with patches. The youngster is well known locally for his love of police and desire to pray with them.



# Australia Mourns Loss Of Legendary Trevor Thompson

The Australian law enforcement insignia collecting hobby lost a giant on Christmas Eve when Trevor Thompson died at age 82. The legendary hobbyist collected law enforcement, military and other public insignia for 60 years. He specialized in Australia and the United States but also collected international insignia.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

HORNSBY, New South Wales – Trevor Thompson, a dean of our hobby in Australia, died on Christmas Eve at a nursing home in New South Wales. He was 82 years old.

According to his son, Stuart, Thompson spent the last years of his life at the facility where he was being cared for a degenerative illness. He was institutionalized after he became unable to care for himself at his home.

“He passed away very peacefully,” Stuart Thompson said.

The family was told in early December that he was deteriorating rapidly and would probably not survive until Christmas, so it prepared for his death. “As much as one can prepare. It’s hard to lose a loved one at any time,” Stuart Thompson said.

Thompson was well-known throughout the world as a leading collector of law enforcement and public safety insignia. He specialized in Australia and the United States, particularly his beloved Colorado, which he visited several times in search of badges and patches.

Affectionately known as “Trev,” “TT” or “Shark” to his collector friends (mates), Thompson began collecting military insignia in his 20s while he served as a member of the Australian Military Reserve. He expanded his interests to police and other public safety agencies after he was assigned to the Provost Corps, which functioned as a military police unit and often liaised with civilian police.

Thompson was a charter member of the Police Insignia Collectors Association of Australia (PICAA), which was founded in 1984 in Newcastle, N.S.W. He remained active in PICAA and the hobby for more than 50 years and was a regular tableholder at shows throughout New South Wales. He also often displayed his collection at shopping centers and other public venues during public safety events and community celebrations.

The longtime collector attended several National Police Collectors Shows in the USA beginning in the late ‘80s. He served as a display contest judge in Lancaster, Penna. in 1993. His last visit to the USA was for the first Ontario, Calif. National in 2011. He was accompanied at that show by three other leading Australian collectors, Rob Beath, John Hudson and Leonie Abberfield.

Thompson fashioned incredible Australian, United States and international collections, but his Colorado collection was his pride and joy. He had more than 250 Colorado badges, 500 patches and numerous other artifacts and memorabilia from the Rocky Mountain State.

He particularly reveled being commissioned as an honorary police officer or deputy sheriff and receiving a personal ID card. He had at least 50 such commissions.

Thompson lent his collection to law enforcement agencies numerous times over the years for display at open houses, celebrations and commemorations. It was shown at several events sponsored by the NSW Police Force.

In addition to his Australian law enforcement displays, Thompson collected military and public safety insignia from his homeland. He was particularly interested in military police badges and emblems.

He proudly displayed his beautifully-framed badge and patch collections at his Hornsby, NSW home. A home builder and carpenter by trade, he constructed the custom glass-



A young Trevor Thompson shows off a couple plaques from his collection at a public exposition of his collection at a New South Wales shopping mall in the 1970s. He frequently displayed his collection at police open houses, civic events and public safety shows at public venues. *Contributed photograph*



Trevor Thompson (center) welcomed well-known Australian collectors Hud Doe (left) and Rob Beath (right) for a 2017 visit at the nursing facility he called home for the final years of his life. The dean of Australian collectors died on Christmas Eve at 82, four days short of his birthday. *Contributed photograph*

covered frames himself. He built custom shelves upon which to show them.

Thompson built homes for Australian Housing Commission.

He finished his career as a senior building inspector for the state government.

Ironically, despite his passion for law enforcement, Thompson never served as a civilian law enforcement officer. Instead, he was a longtime volunteer member of his local fire brigade.

**Rocky Mountain high** Thompson’s favorite collection was his outstanding array of colorful Colorado badges and patches. He fell in love with the state during an early visit to the USA and tirelessly pursued his collection during in-person visits to police and sheriff departments, as well as countless letters written to police chiefs and sheriffs asking for patches and authorizations to purchase badges.

“I love the mountains over there. Incredible. We don’t have them in Australia. And, their patches and badges are very well designed. Beautiful. Best in the world. Tops,” he said.

Thompson built a world-class collection, including many badges that few Colorado collectors in the USA have been able to acquire. He said being Australian gave him an advantage in dealing with sheriffs and police chiefs.

“You see, I can walk in, meet the chief or sheriff and ask for a badge. It’s going to Australia with me, so they don’t have to worry about it coming back to haunt him,” he said.

Thompson was very well known for his persuasiveness. He was able to talk police chiefs and sheriffs into giving up badges that other collectors could only dream of acquiring. “He could get stuff nobody else could get. He had a gift,” recalled Beath, a longtime friend.

He was particularly attracted to chief, sheriff and other command rank badges.

In 1990, Thompson convinced a Colorado law enforcement magazine into publishing article about him and his collection under the headline, “Australian Collector Requires Assistance To Complete His Law Enforcement Collection,” to publicize his collection.

“Colorado has so much history. I have been reading about it. It’s so interesting, especially going back to when the sheriffs rode horses into the mountains going after bad blokes. It’s like watching one of those western shows on the telly!” he said.

Thompson’s dream was to acquire some early United States Marshals Service badges from Colorado, but it is not known whether he ever achieved that goal, although he did amass an impressive USMS collection.

**Rob Beath remembers** Rob Beath, a founding member of PICAA, knew Thompson longer than most Australian collectors and offered a heartfelt tribute to his longtime friend and fellow New South Wales collector.

“Trevor collected police insignia since he was in his early 20s, so he was the longest known collector to me.

“He was able to talk the New South Wales police commissioner into getting patches direct from the manufacturer, no small feat by itself.

“‘TT,’ as he was known, did many displays at police stations, open house days and shopping centers.



(Left to right, top row to bottom) Rob Beath, John Hudson, Trevor Thompson and Leonie Abberfield at the 2011 National Police Collectors Show in Ontario, Calif. It would be Thompson’s sixth and final trip to the USA. He made the most of it and went home with many new badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



# Trevor Thompson Dies ...Continued

“In 1988, Trevor, his son, Stuart, and I went to the USA to attend the Denver National Show. I introduced him to Colorado collector Chris Haugland (also sadly passed), and they became great mates.

“TT” amassed the largest collection known of Colorado badges by somehow getting chiefs to give him an okay to purchase badges. He certainly had a gift for persuasion!

“He contacted the United States Attorney General and the United States Marshals Service about tours of their headquarters and obtained permission for us. In Washington, we were met by a deputy marshal who looked after us. We were each given a Marshals Service badge. We got a tour of FBI headquarters.

“Trevor also contacted the United States Secret Service about a White House tour. We were picked up by a White House Police captain and given a behind the scenes VIP tour. Once again, ‘TT’ showed his great organizational skills.

“We stopped in Hawaii on the way back home. A Naval police officer was assigned to us for three days. We had lunch at the Pearl Harbor Officers Club and a private tour of the base. We went home with about a dozen old Navy police badges.

“‘TT’ was a legend among collectors. He traveled to the USA at least five times to attend National Shows. He went to most swap meets here, too, where we amiably called him ‘Shark’ because he could acquire anything.

“He will be sorely missed as an absolute gentleman and a great friend!”

When Thompson’s death was announced on the PICCA Facebook page, more than 20 worldwide members who knew him expressed their condolences and shared reminiscences.

**One of a kind** I was friends with Thompson for more than 35 years.

After he subscribed to *PCNEWS* in the mid-’80s, he wrote me frequently asking about good sources for United States badges he was interested in, especially from Colorado. He was ecstatic when he learned the ’88 National Show would be held in Denver and took advantage of the opportunity to expand his most cherished collections, as well as spend several weeks traveling the state.

Thompson absolutely insisted I visit Australia because I had begun collecting patches from Down Under after Robbie Beath and the late PICAA President Mike Brown got me interested. He assured me I would never forget it. He was right!

I spent an incredible month in Australia in January 1989 where I visited him in New South Wales and later attended a police history conference and swap meet in Queensland.

Thompson picked me up at the Sydney airport, drove me to my hotel and later arranged tours of the city and NSW police facilities. He even got permission for me to ride along for a patrol shift on a state police helicopter in Sydney! Even though I’m not much into heights, it was a once in a lifetime experience.

Of course, I went home with a complete NSW police uniform, a couple hats, multiple hat badges, patches and even an honorary commission signed by the superintendent, all thanks to my friend.

Thompson was a true character. He could get people to do things for him and his mates that few others could ever do. I told him several times he could sell refrigerators to Eskimos, or walk up to the front gate of the White House and meet with the president in the Oval Office without an appointment. (Actually, that nearly happened in 1988!)

He had a lightning quick wit and an incredible sense of humor. It was fun just to be around him. There was always an Aussie twinkle in his eyes (think Crocodile Dundee), and he never took anything too seriously, no matter the circumstances.

One sunny, hot afternoon, we were driving in his pickup on a busy city street in downtown Sydney. We were on our way to police headquarters for a prearranged tour when we came upon a very serious two-vehicle traffic crash that had just happened. (They call them smashes Down Under.)

Thompson stopped immediately, jumped out of the truck and began helping the people in one car, while I ran up to the second car and came to the aid of an obviously seriously injured young driver. My cop training kicked in, even though I was thousands of miles away from home. I guess that’s the way we’re wired...

Someone had called an ambulance. It arrived before the police. After the EMTs took over, we returned to his truck to await their arrival. We talked about what had happened. Thompson said a solicitor (lawyer) would make some serious money off the crash because one driver had obviously run a red light and the other driver was seriously injured as a result.

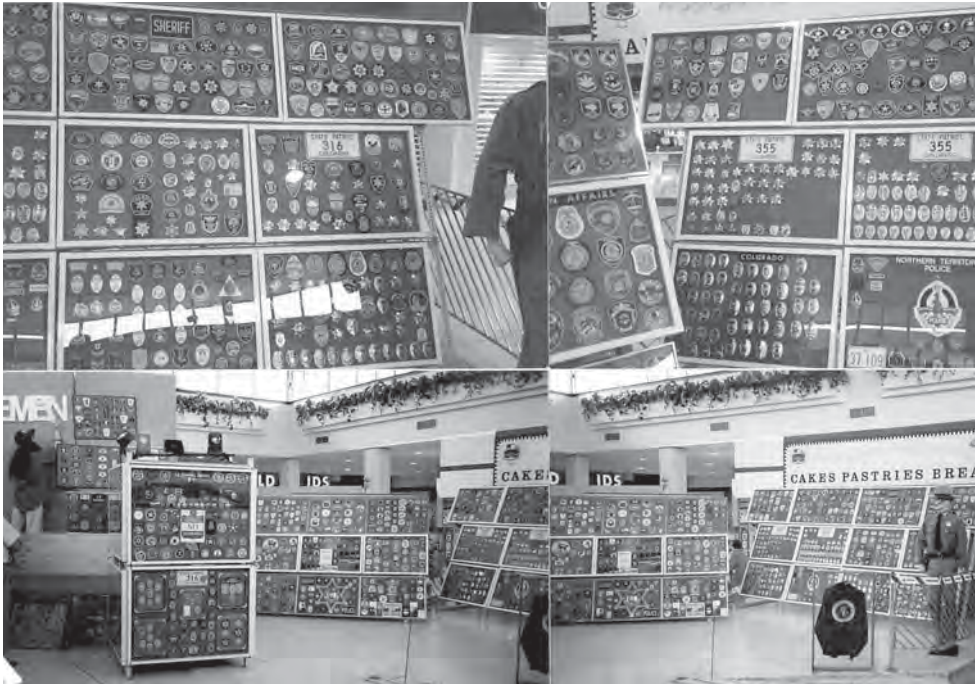
Just as two police cars and a motor officer arrived, I asked Thompson about possibly being called as a witness in a civil or criminal case because I had helped the most seriously injured driver. Of course, that was highly unlikely with me living in the USA, but I thought about it out loud. “No worries,” said.

Thompson didn’t miss a beat. He pulled a pair of dark sunglasses out of the console between the seats, handed them to me and said, with a completely straight face, “Put them on. I’ll tell them you’re blind. Didn’t see a damned thing!”

Of course, an investigating officer asked him if the guy in the truck (me) had seen anything. I sat silently staring straight ahead wearing my thick sunglasses, trying not to burst out laughing. I could hear him say, “Bloke didn’t see a damned bloody thing. He’s blind as a bat.”



Trevor Thompson shows off a segment of his incredible collection at a public safety show at a New South Wales shopping center in the 1970s. The exhibited was titled, “Law Enforcement of the World.” The collector was frequently invited to these events. *Contributed photograph*



Trevor Thompson’s displays for a public safety day at a New South Wales shopping center in the 1970s. Thompson, who died at 82 on Christmas Eve, began collecting in the 1960s while serving as a military police reserve. His collection was one of the finest in the world. *Contributed photograph*

The officer looked at me in the passenger seat wearing the thick sunglasses, shrugged and continued to interview him on what *he* had seen. We laughed about it for days afterward.

But, actually, that wasn’t the end of the story.

When we got to police headquarters for the tour, we were late because of the crash. A constable escorted us to a high-ranking supervisor’s office suite on a near-the-top floor so I could meet him, take some pictures and work on my story on the NSW police for this newspaper.

Thompson introduced me as a sheriff from the USA (actually, I was a deputy) and told the superintendent how I had just heroically helped save a life at a traffic crash only a few blocks from police headquarters! (Not bad for a blind guy...) I looked at him in disbelief.

Anyway, the supervisor thanked me for my help, gave me an honorary constable badge and a bagful of other goodies for my collection.

I was in shock as we walked out of his office, not because we had gotten a private tour and drank tea with one of the top police officials in the state, but because of what I got for my collection. I looked at “TR” in disbelief. He smiled, winked and said, “Not a bad day, mate. You did good!”

I had given the supervisor my law enforcement business card. Several weeks after I got back to work after my trip, I got a letter in the mail from him at the sheriffs department thanking me for my “selfless service to the people of New South Wales” during my recent visit!

That unforgettable day was vintage Trevor Thompson. He was one in a million. And the best friend anyone could ever have in this hobby. Rest in peace.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

## Proud History Of The Rhode Island State Police

**SPECIAL** – The Rhode Island State Police is among the nation’s oldest statewide law enforcement agencies. It has protected and served the state for 95 years since 1925.

Initially, troopers patrolled on Indian motorcycles out of a Marine Corps armory in Providence before it moved to its current headquarters in North Scituate. Today, more than 220 troopers work out of cars, SUVs and boats.

The agency was patterned after the Pennsylvania State Police with a military-style uniform. Troopers fulfill three-year enlistments and must reapply every three years after a job performance review and medical examination.

Troopers wear black and red shoulder emblems and triangular hat badges. They do not wear breast badges. However, there is an eagle-topped badge issued for plainclothes or off-duty use.

Massachusetts collector Hervey Cote has an impressive collection of RISP badges, patches and collar epaulets. It includes the leather “State Police” shoulder epaulets worn on winter coats.



Hervey Cote has an outstanding collection of Rhode Island State Police patches, badges and collar and winter jacket epaulets. The “145” emblem is red and black and worn over the left breast on shirts and jackets by patrol troopers. Hat badges are triangle shapes. Hervey Cote photograph



# Collector Frank Selvaggio Named Chief Of The Year

Longtime Missouri collector and show host Frank T. Selvaggio is the 2020 Missouri Police Chief of the Year. He was honored by the Missouri Police of Chiefs Association for rebuilding and rebranding the Brynes Mill Police Department after only two years at the helm.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Brynes Mill Chief of Police Frank T. Selvaggio is the 2020 Missouri Police Chief of the Year.

The longtime law enforcement insignia collector and show host was honored by his peers during the annual conference of the Missouri Chief of Police Association in Jefferson City in early December.

“I’m still in a state of shock,” said Selvaggio, who has been the Brynes Mill chief for only two years. It is a city of 3000 in Jefferson County near Saint Louis and has nine full-time officers, a part-time detective and a reserve court officer.

Selvaggio was nominated for the prestigious award by the city administrator and his department. The nomination was endorsed by city officials and citizens alike. He is credited with restructuring and modernizing an agency that was on the verge of being disbanded.

The award, which is a commemorative plaque and a framed custom patrol vehicle license plate with the legend, “TOPCOP,” was presented during an awards banquet attended by conference participants and association officers as Selvaggio’s wife, Jan, members of his department and city officials looked on.

Officially, it is the Donald “Red” Loehr Chief of the Year Award. It is named after the longtime Ballwin police chief, who held the office for 30 years before he retired in 1995 at age 63. Loehr, who pitched for the Saint Louis Cardinals before he went into law enforcement, was one of the longest-tenured and most popular chiefs in state history.

“One of the duties and privileges of a professional association is to recognize excellence within the profession. MPCA pays special tribute to these members each year at our annual conference,” President Sean Fagan said.

Selvaggio was honored only weeks after his second anniversary with Brynes Mills, He became chief on October 25, 2018.

“Class A uniform?” Missouri honors the police chief of the year during an awards ceremony at a top-flight hotel in the state capital. The banquet features speakers, presentation ceremonies and all that goes along with an event during which peers recognize excellence among their peers.

Being a police chief in the Saint Louis area has been a particularly daunting challenge the last few years. Remember Ferguson? So, on the lighter side, it needs to be known, especially among his collector friends who call him “Tank,” not “Chief,” that had it not been for a persuasive phone call, he would have attended the prestigious banquet wearing jeans or khakis!

Selvaggio planned on attending the week-long conference for the first time because it offers command-level training, as well as an opportunity to network with chiefs from across the state.

“I had no idea it [the award] was coming. I didn’t know anything at all about it. I was looking forward to the training and listening to what other chiefs had to say, but that’s about it,” he said.

A few days before the conference, he got a call from an association officer asking him to bring a Class “A” uniform with him to the conference.

“Class ‘A’ uniform? For what? Nobody wears uniforms to training,” I told the officer who called me. He hemmed and hawed but wouldn’t tell me why, so I finally said, ‘No, I’m not bringing a uniform.’ I almost hung up on him, but then he told me I was going to get an award. I said, ‘Yeah, right.’ He didn’t say much else, but I finally agreed to it. I thought it was joke!” Selvaggio said.

During our interview, I never asked “Tank” if he strong-armed any of his peers for a chief’s badge or some patches at the conference, but something tells me that a few seeds might have been planted that may or may not bear fruit.

“I know a guy...” I asked Selvaggio for his thoughts on the award. He said he doesn’t like to write about himself but agreed because he is very proud of his accomplishments on his new job. He was a supervisor at Washington University PD in Saint Louis before he took the job in Brynes Mill.

“After attending the FBI National Academy several years ago, I decided I would like to



Brynes Mills police Chief Frank T. Selvaggio accepts the 2020 Missouri Police Chief of the Year Award in Jefferson City on December 8. The longtime Missouri collector and show host was honored after only two years on the job for rebuilding and rebranding a dysfunctional agency. Jan Selvaggio photograph

end my law enforcement career as a police chief.

“I had started the process of filling out applications when I got a phone call from longtime friend Bob Shockey, who is the chief of police in Arnold, Mo. His department had been tasked with doing an external investigation on another department in Jefferson County (just outside of Saint Louis County).

“Several of the officers of the Brynes Mill Police Department had written a letter of no confidence against the department chief and lieutenant. The letter was damning and included accusations of illegal activity, forced ticket quotas, harassment of officers and much more.

“The external investigation provided two possible solutions to the Board of Alderpersons, either shut the department down and let the sheriff’s department take over, or start over and rebuild the department. The board decided they wanted to keep their police department and asked Chief Shockey how to do that. His reply was to hire a new police chief from the outside who had no allegiances or anyone or anything in the city. When the Board asked him how to hire a new chief, his reply was, ‘I think I know a guy...’

“Bob called me one evening asking if I still wanted to be a chief to which I said, ‘Yes.’ I actually had three resumes on my desk getting ready to go in the mail. Then he told Brynes Mill needed a chief.

“All I knew about the department was it was considered a notorious speed trap. I Googled the department and was shocked by the articles about wrong doing. I called Bob back and said, ‘Oh hell no!’

“I knew nothing about the area, the people or the politics of the city or county. Bob said that was perfect. He said there was hope for the department, and he would help me get my feet under me at the beginning. I then met with the mayor and city administrator a couple of times. They offered me the job.

“I started as the chief in Brynes Mill on October 25, 2018. The day before I walked in, the chief, lieutenant, sergeant and corporal were removed. I was left with a skeleton crew of four full-time, five part-time and five reserve officers.

“I removed three more officers the first week, one of whom was a child molester. That made the paper the beginning of my second week and only made the public’s perception of this department worse than it already was.

“The first citizen I met on my first day told me that this department was worthless and criminal and I would never make it there.

“My first look into the evidence room revealed missing money, drugs and guns. There were unmarked containers of drugs, untagged sawed off shotguns and many other nightmares lurking in every corner.

“I found paperwork showing two of the removed officers had been carrying fully-automatic department-owned Glock pistols as their sidearms.

“After talking with each officer, I found a few of them were holding onto the hope that



A delegation of Brynes Mill police officers and city officials congratulates Frank T. Selvaggio moments after he was named the 2020 Missouri Police Chief of the Year. “I was in a state of shock. I still am in shock!” said Selvaggio. The honor came as a complete surprise to the longtime collector. Jan Selvaggio photograph



A closeup look at the awards presented to Frank T. Selvaggio after being named the police chief of the year. Officially, the award is known as the Donald “Red” Loehr Award. It was named after a legendary Ballwin chief. The personalized license plate is “top Cop/.” Jan Selvaggio photograph



## Selvaggio Wins Award ...Continued

they could be part of a professional department. I latched onto them and began the rebuilding effort.

"The morale of the officers was the worst I had ever seen. They had been beaten down with ridiculous and illegal ticket quotas. They had to buy their own guns, equipment and firearms. Almost all of their vests, which had belonged to former officers, were expired by several years. Several of the cars had over 150,000 miles on them. The interior of the station was in horrible condition.

"I could go on about the problems for many more paragraphs, but I want to let you know about our successes. In two years, we have gained the trust and respect of the community. This was no accident. I made sure we were extremely visible to the public in every way possible. I instituted many changes in how we worked with the community, went to every subdivision meeting, hosted Coffee with the Chief, and encouraged citizens to come talk to me with an open door policy. The officers now have very good equipment; even enough ammunition to fill their magazines! The vehicle situation is much better, and the station is clean and neat. Oh yeah, the officers now have general orders they never had before.

"My two driving force factors have been to make community proud of their police department and make the officers proud to work in the community."

He was told he received the award for rebuilding the dysfunctional agency.

"I could not be prouder of what this team of officers has accomplished and look forward to several more years leading this awesome group of officers and serving this amazing community," he concluded.

Selvaggio will celebrate his 40th year in law enforcement in March.

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# Warwick Patches Raise \$25,000 For Charities

The Warwick, R.I. Police Department raised more than \$25,000 for local charities through the first four of five awareness patch sales last year. In December, the agency sold a Santa Claus patch to raise money for a local toy drive. The charity patch program has proven very popular in the community.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WARWICK, R.I. – The Warwick, R.I. Police Department has one of the most successful awareness patch programs in the country.

Developed last year as an innovative way to raise funds for local charities, Chief Colonel Rick J. Rathbun's 172 officer department sold five fundraiser emblems last year after the program was announced last March. (The roll out was featured in *PCNEWS*.)

Warwick sold colorful, custom-designed emblems patterned after its patrol officer insignia for autism awareness, law enforcement memorials, breast cancer awareness, veterans and finally, Christmas gifts for needy children.

The department is showing the Warwick community the positive, human side of law enforcement and proving once again there is widespread public support for law enforcement. Community support of patch sales has been overwhelming.

Captain Michael Lima and Sergeant Michael Higgins developed the awareness patch program for the department. They explained each style is worn by some officers, but the majority of each order is sold to the public as fundraisers.

"We're still totaling up the Christmas patch sales, but the others raised about \$25,000," Captain Lima said. He heads the agency's community services division.

Response to the autism awareness insignia was so overwhelming the department



Warwick, R.D. police Sergeant Michael Higgins shows off the law enforcement memorial patch on his jacket and the autism awareness emblem on his shirt. Officers can wear the memorial patch in May, and the autism emblem in April. WPD wore five fundraiser patches last year. *Contributed photograph*



Ho ho ho! The Warwick, R.I. Christmas patch is red and green with red and white candy canes, gold bells, green holly and a full color Santa Claus. It sells for \$20. All proceeds go to purchase toys for needy children. The first four 2020 emblems raised more than \$25,000. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

quickly sold out of its initial 1000 patch order in April, which is Autism Awareness Month, and backordered 500 more! It raised more than \$10,000 for the National Autism Association, which is headquartered in Rhode Island, in May.

"We started collaborating on some ideas on how to engage the officers with the community. One of those was to try and develop a patch program," Captain Lima said.

"We've seen other departments do it around the country, most notably the autism patch. That seemed to be a big hit across the country, so it became our first one."

The department chose Emblem Authority in Weaverville, N.C. to design and produce the insignia. The company has produced similar specialty emblems for law enforcement agencies across the country.

The Law Enforcement Memorial and Police Week patch was their second effort. Sales raised funds for the First Responders Children's Foundation, which provides financial support to both children who have lost a parent in the line of duty, as well as significant financial assistance to first responder families who have suffered tragic circumstances.

More than 300 memorial patches sold the first week.

Captain Lima and Sergeant Higgins made sure the charities benefited by the patch sales spend the money raised on benefits and programs.

"One of the things we tried to do when we developed this program was to make sure that the charity that was chosen was properly vetted, and it wasn't just something that you on online and say, 'This one looks good,' and you pick it," Captain Lima said.

"We wanted to make sure it was worthwhile, meaningful, for the cause and the patch that we had going on. Also, to make sure that, when people are donating, their money is going to a charity that a main portion of that money is actually going to the programs, to the people that are most affected."

Captain Lima is not concerned the emblems could be used by police impersonators.

"You will see people trying to buy them or trade them all the time. It's a thing that people like to do. They put them in frames. It's a collectibles thing. They don't buy them to sew onto their shirts; they are for collections and displays. Each patch is different than our patrol insignia," he said.

After all, he added, people are not going to take a would-be impersonator wearing a smiling Santa Claus patch very seriously.



2020 Warwick, R.I. Awareness patches: (upper left) Autism (worn in April), (upper right) law enforcement memorial (May), breast cancer awareness (October) and veterans recognition (November). The patches were sold as fundraisers for selected local charities. *Warwick PD photographs*



**Christmas holiday emblem** The final patch of the year depicted Jolly Ol' Saint Nick and a Christmas theme complete with holly, bells and candy canes, all in festive mostly green and red colors.

Proceeds from this sale were used to help the Family Services of Rhode Island Holiday Toy Drive, which collects toys for needy children. The agency also collected toys at police headquarters and local stores. Donations could be dropped off in a large shipping container near the main entrance. The 40-foot long 2880 cubic foot unit was filled completely and overflow toys were stored inside the building.

The department added a bit of mystery to the release of the Christmas patch by posting an item on its popular Facebook page in late November asking people to guess why there was a large shipping container in front of their station.

People guessed everything from a prisoner holding cell to office space to a recording studio for the officer who handles the Facebook page! However, a few residents guessed correctly.

The agency sold hundreds of Santa patches for \$20 each. The funds are in addition to the toy donations and allowed Family Services to help families with particular needs.

**Veteran Anglers charity** Veteran Anglers Charters is a Connecticut-based non-profit organization that partners with charter boat owners to offer no cost saltwater fishing trips to disabled veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sales of the veterans memorial patch generated a \$6248 donation. Chief Rathbun and other members of the department presented a check to Kathy Granfield and Tom Bremer, who serve on the unique charity's board of directors. Their motto is, "Fishin' With A Mission."

The money will help the charity take vets fishing next year.

"We don't accept any money from the veterans at all," Bremer said. "All they have to do is show up."

Bremer said the purpose of the fishing trips is to provide veterans with support and recreational rehabilitation. He added that it gives them an opportunity to forget about PTSD, mental disorders or a physical disability and get them out on the water for a fun-filled day.

"The only thing they do focus on is camaraderie with other vets and catching a fish or two while enjoying some nice weather. They are really able to open up, enjoy themselves and get a fresh outlook on life."

The charity averages about 70 trips a year and serves between 300 to 500 vets in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine annually.

**Patches remain available** Collectors can still purchase all five 2020 patches for \$12 each, except for the Christmas emblem, which costs \$20.

Orders can be placed online through the WPD Patch Store on the department Web site, WarwickPD.Com. Questions? Email [wpdpatches@warwickri.com](mailto:wpdpatches@warwickri.com).

Proceeds from 2020 patch sales will now go into the 2021 charity account.

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# Peter Belos Finally Lands Rare First Issue Illinois Badge

It took him 45 years, but veteran Chicago area collector Peter J. Belos finally found the only known first issue Burnham, Ill. Police Department badge. It was worn in the early 1900s by Mayor and Police Officer Johnny Patton, who was friends with mobster Al Capone.

By Peter J. Belos, Guest Writer

BURNHAM, Ill. – My quest for the elusive and only one known to exist Burnham, Ill. police badge finally came to fruition on December 2 after a 45-year search.

I found the badge at an antiques dealer in Valparaiso, Ind., who obtained it from a descendant of Burnham's first mayor who was also the first town police officer from 1908 to



(Left) Peter Belos searched for this first issue Burnham, Ill. police badge for 45 years before he finally found it in an Indiana antique store. It is circa 1907-1908 and was carried by Johnny Patton. (Right) Engraver George T. Schmidt handcrafted this Burnham badge in Chicago. *Peter Belos photographs*



Al Capone built this house in Burnham, Ill. in the early 1900s but lived in it only occasionally. It is unoccupied but remains virtually the same today. It had an escape tunnel that crossed this street and led to a house across the street in case Capone needed to flee in a hurry! *Peter Belos photograph*

1948.

The mayor-police officer, Johnny Patton, was elected in 1908 at age 23, the year after the town was incorporated. He was widely known as the "boy mayor" as he was the youngest mayor in the state.

During the 1920s and later, Chicago mobsters Al Capone, Johnny Torrio and Jimmie Colosimo set up their operations in Burnham as it was just outside of Chicago city limits. As such, they would not be pursued by the Chicago police by being outside the city limits but still close enough to attract their clientele from the city. In addition, Burnham is about one-half mile from the Illinois-Indiana stateline where they could cross the line to avoid apprehension.

During the early years, Burnham was a small town encompassing one square mile with a populace of 350 residents. (Today, it is four square miles and has a population of 5000.) Although quite small, the town had 11 taverns, wide spread gambling and was well known for many houses of prostitution, all controlled by the Capone, Torrio and Colosimo gangs.

Mayor and police officer Patton became friends with Capone and allowed him to control the town. Capone built a home in Burnham and occasionally resided there, in addition to his other homes throughout the Chicago area. It is currently unoccupied and still stands without much change in appearance from when it was built.

There was an underground tunnel from the basement of the Capone home under the street connected to the home across the street. This was the escape route in the event they were raided by prohibition agents or police. The underground tunnel has been sealed and is no longer accessible.

Patton and Capone golfed together regularly at the Burnham Woods Golf Course just across the street from the Capone house.

Patton also operated a tavern and house of prostitution reaping large sums of cash under the influence of Capone and later mobsters.

Gangland killings were common in the town by gunfire, beatings and victims being thrown in front of trains.

Patton passed away in 1956 in his retirement home in the small town of Earl Park, Ind.

My search for the first badge commenced shortly after I was appointed as a police officer for the Burnham Police Department in February 1974. Numerous interviews with town residents that experienced the gang era, archives searches and other similar research indicated that Patton wore a six-pointed star-shaped badge.

I served as a Burnham police officer for several years, eventually transferring to another department where I served for over 22 years, including service as the chief of police. Subsequently, I served in two additional departments as chief before returning to Burnham as chief until my retirement in November 2017.

I began collecting police insignia in 1975. I am still in disbelief that after 45 years, I was able to obtain this elusive badge.

The badge is a silver in color, large six-pointed star with flat ball tips. It measures three and one-quarter inches across from point to point. It reads "POLICE" across the top. It has a large copper number "1" in the center and reads "BURNHAM" across the bottom.

The badge is hallmarked "GEO. T. SCHMIDT-CHICAGO" on the reverse side. In conducting some research, George T. Schmidt became an engraver with a downtown Chicago engraving company in 1878. He opened his own engraving company in downtown Chicago in 1895.

Interested readers can access a more detailed history of the town and the Capone connection by entering "the boy mayor of Burnham Illinois" in an Internet search.

P.J. BELOS (1100 Perthshire Lane, Dyer IN 46311)

**Police Donate \$1000** The West Fargo, N.D. Police Department has donated \$1000 to a local hospital's breast cancer treatment and research initiative as proceeds from the sales of its Pink Patch Project emblem. Chief Dave Otterness said 2020 was the third year his agency has participated in the project. Statistics show about 600 North Dakota women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

## Real ATF Agents Arrest Fake One

DETROIT, Mich. – His real name is Christopher Proe. He is a 36-year-old convicted sex offender and serial felon in Detroit, Mich.

But, he posed as Chris Conley, a fictitious Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive special agent, using a replica badge, stolen handgun and authentic-looking law enforcement gear, including a tactical vest and a camouflage uniform. Conley is one of several aliases Proe has used during his criminal career.

Real ATF special agents worked an undercover case against Proe after developing information that a man matching his description had detained people for alleged firearms violations in the Detroit area claiming to be a federal agent and wearing a badge suspended from his neck.


Special agents arrested Proe on November 1. They confiscated a replica ATF badge, stolen handgun, ammunition and handcuffs. A search of his vehicle resulted in the discovery of the vest and uniform.

According to the Detroit Free Press, Proe admitted he had impersonated an ATF agent but did not provide any details.

He faces numerous federal felony charges.

Courtesy of Detroit Free Press and David Doss





California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society

Mike Bondarenko, Editor

## CLEHS Updates

**Ways To Support CLEHS** There are many ways to support the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, like membership dues, in-kind contributions and grants. An easy way to help is through a cash donation.

A cash donation makes it possible to take the California Police Museum to various venues up and down the state, continue the *California Police Historian* and host the annual collectors' show in San Luis Obispo.

You can donate online at the CLEHS Web site. On the right side of each page, there is a black and yellow "Donate" button below the page listings. It's a safe and secure way to make a donation in any amount through Pay Pal. All donations are listed on the "Donate to the CLEHS" page, which is also found on the right margin.

Another way to support the society is to shop at Amazon Smile. When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will make a donation to the society.

You can create a birthday fundraiser on Facebook, with all donations going to support CLEHS. Please see the Web site for information on this program.

Thank you for supporting the CLEHS.

**2020 Donations To CLEHS** The CLEHS is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that receives no government support or assistance and is entirely supported by membership dues and cash donations.

The board thanks the following people for their donations in 2020:  
Baird Enterprises \$5, Brian Smith \$100, Caesar Huerta \$40, Chip Greiner \$30, Cletus Hyman \$25, Cois Byrd \$100, Craig McKend \$15, Dan Gurule \$25, David Compson \$40, Darryl Lindsay \$15, Dennis Shell \$25, Don Williams \$100, Ed Godfrey \$100, Gary Hoving \$900, Gary Teragawa \$400, , Jim Cost \$25, Kent Delbon \$30, Mark Bray \$20, Mark Pyne \$70, Michael Rich \$5, Mike R. Bondarenko \$50, Mike Lynch \$1150, Peter Harris \$50, Randy Grago \$300, Stan Berry \$100, Tomoyuki Okoshi \$50 and William Tully Jr. \$96.

**2021 Membership Renewals** Have you renewed your 2021 membership? If not, please take a moment now to renew with a payment of \$40 for the year or \$400 for a life membership.

You can renew online using the "Membership" tab on the Web site or by sending a check to CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

**2021 Historian Of The Year** Nominations are open for the 2021 California Police Historian of the Year.

The selected candidate will have distinguished himself/herself through dedication and action in preserving law enforcement history, publishing material, service to the society or other contributions for the good of the order.

Nominations can be mailed to President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875 no later than April 1.

The presentation of the prestigious award will be made at the annual show in San Luis Obispo on July 24.

**Board of Directors Appointment** Last October 26, Doug Brimmer was appointed as a director of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society. He will represent Southern California filling the position of our long-standing director, Raymond Sherrard.

Brimmer has been a CLEHS member for many years and is currently a deputy sheriff with the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department serving as a helicopter pilot.

He is an avid collector with a focus on memorabilia from agencies within San Bernardino County.

Please welcome him as our newest director!

**CLEHS Store** Looking for some CLEHS items to purchase?  
You can find society merchandise on our Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Click on the "Store" tab.

You will find the CLEHS ball cap and the new patch designed by member William Tully Jr.

**Board Of Directors Election** The California Law Enforcement Historical Society is governed by a nine-member, volunteer board of directors who meet annually to set policy for the society.

The board consists of five elected at-large directors and four appointed directors who represent specific areas of the state, Northern, Central, Central Coast and Southern.

It is election time and nominations for the five elected at-large directors for the 2021 to 2025 term are now being accepted.

Eligible members who would like to serve on the board or nominate others to serve are asked to submit their nominations in writing by April 15 to, Brian Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. You can also send nominations to him by email.

After nominations are received and validated, a ballot will be sent to all eligible members by May 1.

Please note that Article 12-Section 1 of the CLEHS by-laws do not allow associate or corporate members to vote. No ballot will be sent to these members.

In order for your vote to count, your ballot must be returned no later than June 1. Election results will be announced in July.

**"49'er" Show Canceled** Hosts Brian Smith, Mike Lynch and Phil Jordan regret to announce the cancellation of the 2021 Doug Messer "49'er" Public Safety and Military Collectors Show, which was scheduled for February 27.

The cancellation was necessary due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The show has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022.

Current table reservations will be moved to the 2022 show, unless a refund is requested. Hope to see you at the 2022 show!

Submitted by Brian Smith



A large portion of the Los Angeles Stamp and Stationery Company badge parts have been organized on shelves at the California Law Enforcement Historical Society primary storage location in San Luis Obispo County. CLEHS purchased them from the widow of Joel Ruden. *Gary Hoving photograph*

## Huge Acquisition By The CLEHS

One of the largest manufacturers of badges in California was the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company, which was founded in 1884.

They amended their corporation name to LA Rubber Stamp and Stationery representing their expanded line of products.

Unfortunately, the competition for stationary supplies and reduced need forced the company into bankruptcy. As part of the bankruptcy process, the holdings of the company were liquidated by David Weisz and Company, who auctioned their entire equipment and inventory on July 10, 11 and 12, 1968.

One recipient of badge components was A.B.C. Jones, a postal worker, who initiated a hobby of assembling badges from the parts obtained from the LA Rubber Stamp holdings. While his badges were from authentic dies, they were never actually worn by law enforcement personnel. In addition, his assembly of badges did not necessary replicate the authentic design in use by a particular agency.

Jones befriended a collector named Joel Ruden from the greater Los Angeles area. He was a longtime collector and learned the trade of soldering and assembling badges from parts under the guidance of Jones.

Upon the death of Jones, Ruden acquired the remaining parts and equipment which had originated from the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company. He continued the operation and sold completed badges to other collectors.

There is certainly some controversy and differing opinions about buyers being aware of the badges came from parts compared to authentic issues items. To his credit, Ruden became a very skilled craftsman and was used by many collectors to repair badges.

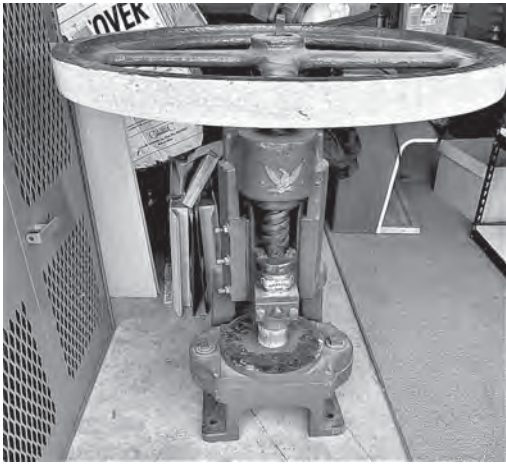
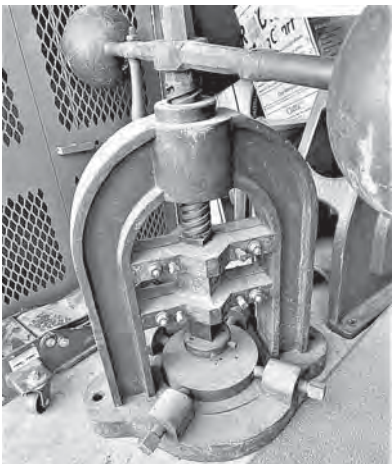
In 2019, it was learned that Ruden was interested in selling the collection of badge parts, dies and large screw presses.

The massive collection was viewed as holding tremendous value for the historic lineage to the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company. It was also recognized there would be a danger to the hobby should it be flooded with parts badges or forgeries from the components. As the inventory of parts was actually used in the original manufacturing



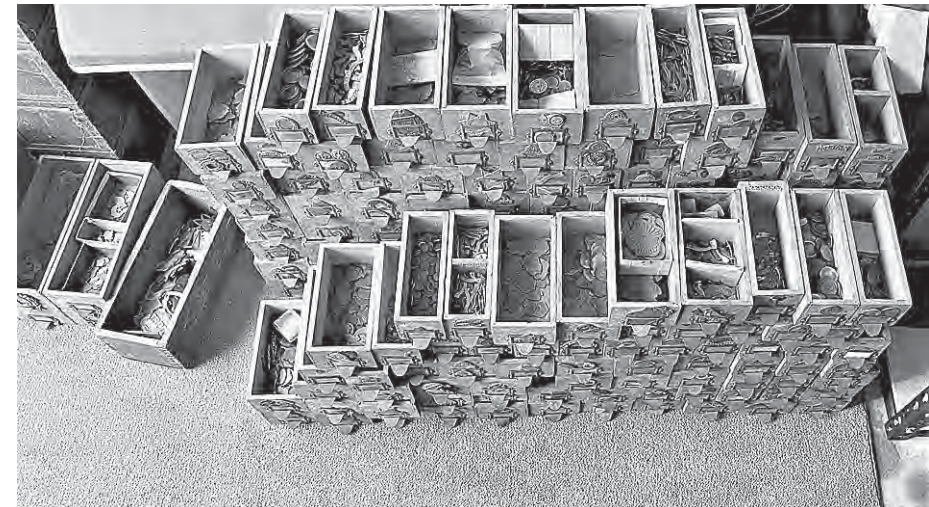
Several round-trips between Southern California and San Luis Obispo were needed to transport the remaining Los Angeles Stamp and Stationery Company badge parts and dies inventory to a CLEHS storage facility. Joel Ruden bought them from the late A.B.C. Jones. *Gary Hoving photograph*





(Left) One of the massive screw presses primarily used to dome badges during the manufacturing process by the Los Angeles Stamp and Stationary Company. (Right) A 500 -pound screw press was used to forge metal blanks early in the manufacturing process. Gary Hoving photograph

process, it was often extremely difficult to identify a non-issued badge. The CLEHS Board of Directors was consulted, and it was decided to purchase the collection and equipment primarily for its historic value. There was no intent to sell any of the parts after purchase as that would defeat our mission of preserving history. I met with Ruden on several occasions to negotiate a deal on behalf of the CLEHS. Ultimately, a deal was struck. but the transaction was delayed because Ruden's wife was undergoing critical medical treatment. As she began to recover, Ruden's health took a severe plunge, resulting in his untimely death.



The California Law Enforcement Historical Society now owns the remaining badge parts, dies and equipment of the former Los Angeles Stamp and Stationary Company. The inventory includes more than 300 wooden and metal drawers filled various badge parts and components. Gary Hoving photograph

The delay continued until a family friend and CLEHS member determined the widow was open and ready to continue with the sale. The agreement was ultimately finalized in June 2020. With the purchase made, the transportation of the expansive collection from Southern California to San Luis Obispo County was made in multiple trips, which included the rental of a large truck with a hydraulic lift gate. The final load of material was transported on November 23. To describe the extent of the collection would be a challenge unto itself. Since most of the parts were found in some type of drawer or container, the overall weight is estimated at several tons. The two presses used to form badges weight at least 500 pounds each.



(Left) A drawer filled with crude, untrimmed badge blanks from the former Los Angeles Stamp and Stationary Company inventory now owned by CLEHS. These are machinist's proofs. (Right) A closeup image of two Riverside County badge machinist proof stampings created at least 50 years ago. Gary Hoving photograph

The remainder of the collection consists of 300-plus drawers filled with badge parts, 15 bins with parts, eight milk crates with parts, steel stamps and dies, two cabinets with parts and stamping and the two presses. One of the cabinets included the die makers' proofs of original badge designs. These proofs were struck in lead and have the exact detail of some very old and desirable badges. A long-term goal of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society has been to operate a museum at a physical location. As we continue to work toward that goal, we now have some of the most unique display items relating to the manufacturing of badges that could be found in no other museum. Submitted by President Gary Hoving

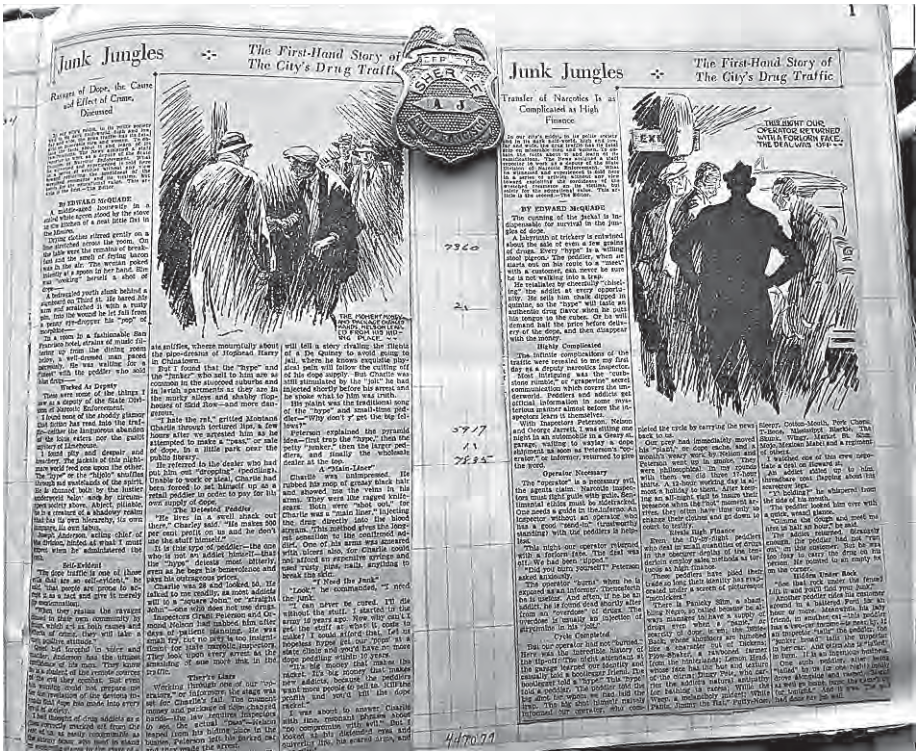
## CLEHS Obtains Historic Scrapbook, Badge

One program in the California Law Enforcement Historical Society is the Police Museum collection. The contents of this collection have primarily been gifted to the society for retention, preservation and display. Since access to this collection is extremely limited, our goal of sharing these items will be highlighted in this forum periodically. The Cambria, Calif. Historical Society recently reached out to the CLEHS regarding a donation by a local resident. A woman had donated a scrapbook from her father highlighting his career, which is a somewhat common experience for a local historical society. Unfortunately, the contents of the donation had no connection to the history of the northern San Luis Obispo County community.

The scrapbook is filled with clippings and printed material from the career of Joseph Anderson of San Francisco, who was a law school graduate in 1920s and secured a job with the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE) as their chief and legal advisor. This small enforcement agency was formed in 1927 and headquartered in San Francisco. Twenty-one investigators worked throughout the state. Typical of career scrapbooks, Anderson collected numerous articles of significance to the agency, as well as those featuring his name. Many clippings involve high-profile cases, including criminal charges against Dr. Nathan Houseman, a prominent physician, whose attorneys spread information that the BNE was involved in the drug trade as well. Many of their investigations included alcohol raids during Prohibition. Some raids also involved gambling establishments. Cases were brought against "drug addicts, "dope rings" and "narcotic parties." Anderson prosecuted them as the legal advisor. It is very evident after reviewing the documents in the scrapbook that California had a constant turnover of staff and changes in titles based on appointment and reappointment by government leaders. In September 1932, Anderson was replaced as narcotics chief by George Home, the former Los Angeles police chief. However, he was retained as the legal advisor to the new chief for at least another few years.

While the Cambria Historical Society was reviewing the scrapbook, a badge was found pinned to an inside page. It is a large eagle-topped shield with red lettering from San Francisco Sheriff W. J. Fitzgerald. In the center, where an identification number is normally found, are the letters, "A.J." Similar badges are known to have been issued for political reasons. It is likely this one is no exception. A brief discussion with the Cambria staff quickly arrived at the conclusion that this scrapbook and badge are best served in the CLEHS collection. Ownership was transferred to us.

Ed Jones owners retire It was announced in mid-December that Elizabeth and Vic Rusca have retired from the Ed Jones Company in Berkeley. Ed Jones has been a leading manufacturer of high-quality law enforcement and public safety badges for many years. Liz worked in the family business nearly all her life. Her father, Chester Stegman, has owned the company since the 1950s. The new owners have been involved in "hands on" training prior to their retirement. All of the line staff will remain working for Ed Jones, guaranteeing a smooth transition and continuing the superior quality of their badges. Liz and Ric will be deeply missed. The CLEHS wishes them a long and happy retirement. Ed Jones was founded in 1898 and specializes in precious metal, hand-engraved badges. A company history taken from their Web site:



The California Law Enforcement Historical Society recently took possession of a scrapbook compiled in the 1920s and '30s by Joseph Anderson, the first chief of the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, from the Cambria Historical Society. A badge was pinned to a page. Gary Hoving photograph



“Ed Jones, a descendant of the early California Castro family, hallmarked badges in his own name in 1898 and possibly even earlier.

“Like many entrepreneurial spirits, he learned the engraving craft from his employer, the J.C. Irvine Company in San Francisco, and then ventured out on his own. It took many years, however, before he made the big leap into self-sufficiency.

“Irvine was a successful engraving business involved in the manufacture of badges, emblems, buckles and saddle silver.

“For over a decade, Jones used an outbuilding on his mother’s property at 853 40th Street in Oakland as his covert base of operations, secretly competing with his employer, relying on the security of a regular paycheck from Irvine.

A shed in his mother’s backyard housed the one-man operation in evenings and on weekends while he continued to punch a clock during the work day.

“The Great Fire and Earthquake in San Francisco in 1906, which measured an incredible 8.25 on the Richter scale, totaled the Irvine facility. Whether Jones deemed the event a fortuitous competitive advantage, not having to rebuild like Irvine, or that it was simply an unexpected chaotic event breaking his well-entrenched pattern of existence, Jones formally established himself as a general engraver in 1906.

“In 1910, he established a storefront and shop at 906 Broadway in Oakland.

“By 1923, the Ed Jones Company had outgrown the Broadway space and (again with the help of his mother) purchased larger quarters a few blocks away at 1017 Franklin Street. He operated his business in this space until his death in 1949.

“In a 1939 article about the Ed Jones Company, Jones was described as being liked by businessmen for his aggressiveness and ability to perform to the standards he set for himself.

“His acumen as a shrewd businessman is evidenced by the delivery of 500 to 600 pounds of brass, long after his death, by his niece. She stated that during World War II, when brass was to be turned in for the war effort, her uncle had hoarded the metal and hid it at her house so he could maintain his business. For some unknown reason, he had not picked up the brass after the war, having possibly forgotten about its existence.

“Outside of his business, he was an avid outdoorsman, spending his spare time in pursuit of fish and game. Many of his trophies were mounted on the walls of his office and shop. Hand-drawn catalog designs reflect his interest with the outdoors, including badge designs for forest rangers, game keepers and even one titled, ‘ED JONES/ GAME WARDEN!’

“Jones was rumored to have stashed coin money in his water pipes and hunting trophies. After his death it is reported that workmen tore up many of the walls and trophies looking for this hidden treasure. It is unknown what, if anything, was found.

“Upon his 1949 death, a trustee of his will, Frank Stagnaro, assumed operation of the business. A short time later, he purchased the business out of probate and operated it until 1966 when he sold it to Chester Stegman. By the 1960s, Stagnaro’s other interests and involvement with the Masons was leaving little time or attention for the company.

“Stegman learned the badge craft from his father, Chris Stegman, then the owner of the Irvine and Jachens Badge Company in San Francisco. (This is the same Irvine where Jones got his start.) While working at Irvine, he related how hearing the old-timers at the company still had hard feelings about Jones double-crossing Irvine by starting his own company and taking some of their East Bay customers.

“Having worked there for many years with his two brothers and his father, Chester Stegman was ready for a change. He decided he would work at a related engraving business. Ed Jones was as good a place as any to inquire about a job. He asked Stagnaro if he had an opening, who replied, ‘I won’t hire you, but I would be willing to sell you the business.’

“Stegman went home with a heavy decision to make and consulted with his wife and trusted uncle, Herman Stegman, his father’s brother. With help from his uncle, he purchased Ed Jones in November 1966.

“By 1971, the company had outgrown its space and moved to 537 36th Street in Oakland, and later to its current Berkeley location in 1993, 2834 Eighth Street.

“Stegman operated the business for over 30 years and remained involved with managing all aspects of its operation. His role at the helm maintained the reputation of quality above all else, a mantra passed along to him by his father and Ed Jones before him.

“A 1930 catalog statement written by Jones reflects the heritage that Stegman maintained for over three decades:

“‘We are the leading badge makers on the Pacific Coast, gaining our reputation by our A-1 workmanship and material. The finish of our product represents the utmost in progress towards higher stands of quality, utility and durability...’

“Through this time, Ed Jones’ competitors were being forced by agency purchasing departments to sacrifice quality for a less expensive product. Shortcuts to reduce labor-intensive processes of silver soldering, enameling, polishing and finishing were devised to lower costs and compete on a ‘low bid wins’ basis.

“Stegman made a conscious decision to maintain the standards for customers who recognize the premium quality Ed Jones product...”

Elizabeth Stegman and her husband, Ric, took over the business in 1998 and carried on its longstanding tradition of top quality.

**Santa Claus notebook** My team at the San Luis Obispo Police Department, where I serve as a cold case investigator, received a custom-designed notebook from Santa Claus.

The full-color cover shows a collection of 14 different SLO PD badges from my



(Left) A closeup of the badge pinned to a page in the Joseph Anderson scrapbook. It’s an eagle-topped shield for a San Francisco deputy sheriff with the initials “A.J.” (Right) Gary Hoving presented his team with this beautiful custom-designed notebook for Christmas. *Gary Hoving photographs*

collection.  
Santa delivered them to the department with a thin blue line on his sleigh.  
*Submitted by Gary Hoving*



California Law Enforcement Historical Society members will soon receive the first ever membership challenge coin. One side shows an ornate six-point star badge, while the other side features the 1999 CLEHS patch depicting a walking bear. It is an attractive collectible, for sure! *Gary Hoving photographs*

## From The President’s Desk

**Facebook membership notice** Membership in the Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Facebook account remains open, and we hope our existing members are encouraging growth.

Please advise your friends who want to join that they *must* answer the qualifying question in order to be admitted to our group. A recommendation from an existing member is not sufficient.

These actions are a baseline step taken to protect the safety of the existing membership.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

**“Friday Favorites” statistics** Since the inception of the “Friday Favorites” feature on the Friends of CLEHS Facebook page, the CLEHS has attempted to track the number of posts per topic.

This is a subtle effort to track the most popular topics. But, we also noted that some of the most enjoyable topics have fewer items available to draw from, so the numbers are not necessarily the only way to measure success.

Regardless, we really enjoy seeing the great collections and pieces and appreciate the membership sharing for all of us to enjoy.

Remarkably, we have displayed a grand total of 8575 items in our “Friday Favorites” posts as of the end of November! We hope to continue hosting this program in the future as long as the membership participates.

- Here are our 2020 statistics as of the end of November:
- November 20 “Civilian Titles” 322
  - November 13 “Gender Specific” 179
  - November 6 “Fire and EMS” 309
  - October 31 “Gold Badges” 110
  - October 23 “Federal Agencies” 178
  - October 8 “Obsolete Patches” 354
  - October 2 “Police Animals” 252
  - September 26 “City Police” 425
  - September 18 “Training” 153
  - September 11 “Large Agencies” 152
  - September 4 “County Agencies” 418
  - August 21 “State Police/Highway Patrol” 417
  - August 14 “Defunct Agencies” 596
  - August 7 “Security Officers” 417
  - July 31 “Small City Agencies” 324
  - July 24 “100 Years or Older” 280
  - July 18 “Retired Badges” 202
  - July 3 “California State Agency” 281
  - June 26 “Signs” 163
  - June 19 “Conservation/Parks” 277



(Top) The original California Law Enforcement Historical Society patch was introduced in 1999. It has a definite Golden State look with a walking bear, black felt and yellow borders and letters. (Bottom) The Police Museum patch features a large state seal in the design. *Gary Hoving photographs*





Southern California collector William Tully Jr. won the contest to design the outstanding new California Police Museum emblem, which is now available to members. Tully did a great job including an early state seal as the center design. It is black with silver borders and letters. *Gary Hoving photograph*

- June 12 "Schools/Education" 303
- June 5 "Sterling Silver Badges" 228
- May 29 "Constable/Marshal" 371
- May 22 (Women in L.E." 201
- May 15 "Aviation" 359
- May 8 "Forensics" 192
- May 1 "Chief Executive" 293
- April 24 "Reserve" 331
- April 17 "Dispatcher" 126
- April 10 "SWAT" (Not reported)
- April 3 "Detectives" 295
- March 6 No theme 73

**New series coming soon** Most of our members have seen our traveling California Police Museum and are aware of our efforts to promote collector events. But, there is one little secret about the CLEHS that we are about to reveal!

The museum collection is a compilation of artifacts and archival material preserved for the future to help tell the story of California law enforcement service. This collection has never been open to the public and few know it even exists.

To help share the rich history of our profession, we will begin a series of articles on the contents of the CLEHS collection. Some of the items are spectacular, while others are simple devices designed to make the officer more efficient or effective.

Our goal is to continue to share our history through our site and expand our reader base. We are confident you will enjoy these stories and learn about those who helped mold this profession to its current state.

**New Web presence** The CLEHS has opened a MeWe page to further our membership, "Stories From Our Past."

This page will be formatted differently and will only feature historical articles.

We intend to keep our Facebook page active and are not considering a full migration any time in the near future.

There is a learning curve for manipulating MeWe pages, and unless we have a substantial following, this new page will be considered an augmentation to our delivery of information and not a replacement.

**New CLEHS coin, patch** The new California Law Enforcement Historical Society challenge coin will soon be delivered to members. It was described in the last edition.

New is our custom-designed patch, the third in our history.

CLEHS created a felt-backed patch as one of our first tasks upon incorporation in 1999. The design followed a traditional pattern common to California, which is a walking bear.

Some years later, a separate patch was created for the California Police Museum.

Last October, we announced a patch design contest to replace the police museum insignia. As an incentive, we offered a \$100 reward for the selected design. The only guidance provided was that it must be identified as the California Police Museum, leaving all design features open to the creator.

Several designs were submitted prior to the deadline of November 30.

After review, the design selection went to William Tully, a noted Southern California patch collector. His design features a center seal reminiscent of an early state seal and



Los Angeles County Sheriffs Office lieutenant and longtime CLEHS member Ed Godfrey is on the mend following a harrowing bout with COVID-19 that kept him hospitalized for about a month. He is home now and recovering, so much so that he has returned to Facebook. *Gary Hoving photograph*

uses the CHP shape.

Our appreciation is extended to all who submitted designs and to Tully for his beautiful artwork.

**San Luis Obispo show** While COVID-19 is infecting record numbers as this is written at New Year, the distribution of vaccines and predictions of reduced transmission are promising, so we are going ahead with 2021 CLEHS San Luis Obispo Collectors Show on July 24 at the SLO Veterans Memorial Hall.

Tables are \$40 each for non-members but half price for members. The hall capacity is about 55 tables.

Our coastal climate is typically a welcome relief from the heat experienced around that time of the year across much of the state.

Join us!

**Ed Godfrey recovering** One of our longtime members, Ed Godfrey, a retired Los Angeles County sheriff's lieutenant, is now back at home and recovering from a serious bout with COVID-19 late last year.

He was hospitalized after becoming ill in early November and spent time in intensive care and on a ventilator, according to his family.

Godfrey also required surgery before his release, which was done successfully in early December.

He must be feeling better because he is occasionally back on social media!

Our best wishes and prayers are with Ed and his family for a complete recovery.

*Submitted by CLEHS President Gary Hoving*



Fred Iversen lit the four road flares, one for each CHP officer slain in the Newhall Incident, burn for about four or five minutes, the duration of the truck stop parking lot shooting. He gave each family one of the flares in the memory of their long lost but never forgotten loved one. *Fred Iversen photograph*

## Iversen Commemorates Newhall Incident

Longtime California police insignia collector and historian Fred Iversen has never been able to forget the night of Sunday, April 5, 1970. Memories of the fateful night are forever etched in his memory.

Iversen was a young police officer for a Los Angeles County agency working the overnight shift that night. He had been on the job for only about two years. He and his partner were on patrol about 20 miles south of Newhall, which is located along Interstate 5, in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Sheriff's dispatchers broadcast a '11-99! Shots fired at J's Truck Stop! Officers down! Officers down!' emergency call relayed by the California Highway Patrol. The shootings had taken place at J's Restaurant and Truck Stop in Newhall.

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I remember the radio traffic almost word-for-word,



Collector Fred Iversen, who was on duty in a nearby city the night of the Newhall Incident and helped search for a car driven by a suspect, returned to the crime scene just before midnight on April 5, 2020, the 50th anniversary. He lit four road flares, one for each officer. *Fred Iversen photograph*



even this many years later. They gave out a description of a suspect car that had been seen fleeing the scene, so we started looking for it, along with everybody else,” Iversen said.

In Newhall, four young CHP patrolmen lie mortally wounded in the parking lot in the aftermath of an epic but sadly one-sided gun battle with two ex-cons. It was the largest single loss of life in CHP history.

Today, the horrific tragedy is known as the Newhall Incident. It has been painstakingly dissected hundreds of times to develop officer situational awareness and armed response tactics and improve firearms training. It marked a turning point in modern police tactics and armament.

Nevertheless, four officers had been murdered by two shooters, Roger D. Gore, 23; Walter C. Frago, 23; George M. Allyen, 24 and James E. Pence Jr., 24. Iversen has never forgotten their loss.

He wrote a highly-detailed history of the incident and his role in it for the April 2000 edition of Police Collectors News to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the massacre.

Iversen later joined the LASD to further his career but has long since retired. Because he was one of the many responding officers, he has attended anniversary commemorations of the Newhall Incident hosted by the California Highway Patrol over the years.

The longtime LASD collector was invited to the 50th anniversary commemoration, which was intended to honor the memories of the four officers who lost their lives.

The event was scheduled for last April 6 at the Newhall CHP Office in Valencia.

However, it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since I did not think I would live long enough to see the 50th anniversary, I had to do my own memorial,” Iversen said.

He identified with the CHP officers because they were about his age and had the same law enforcement experience.

Even though J’s Restaurant and Truck Stop are long defunct. Iversen drove to the former location west of I-5 just before midnight on April 5.

“The only way I could think of to honor the 50th anniversary was to light four red road flares, one for each officer. I also put up a blow up of the Los Angeles Times newspaper front page detailing the deaths,” he said.

He allowed the flares to burn for four or five minutes, which was the duration of the shooting.

“It was easy to extinguish the flares because it was raining. I saved the half-burnt flares to give one to each family,” Iversen said.

“It was very eerie to be at the crime scene, all by myself in the middle of the night, 50 years later,” the collector said.

Iversen lives in Valencia within easy driving distance of Newhall.

*Submitted by Fred Iversen*

## Wide Spot In The Road

Mammoth Lakes, Calif. is world famous as one of the best-known resorts in the state. If you were to ask someone from Northern California to name a ski resort, they would more than likely mention Heavenly, Kirkwood, Boreal, Squaw Valley or Dodge Ridge. But ask someone from Southern California the same question, and the first resort mentioned is Mammoth Lakes.

Although located only 281 miles east of San Francisco, Southern California residents seem to comprise the majority of people using the resort year-round.

The resort community is located in Mono County, which is 169 miles south of Reno, Nev. on Highway 395, 309 miles north of Los Angeles and 308 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The 2010 census shows the population is 8234, which is up 16 percent from the 2000 census.

At an elevation of 7880 feet, Mammoth Lakes PD has the distinct position of being first among the Northern California police agencies located at the highest elevations.

Mammoth Lakes is famous for the great amounts of snow it receives each year. The heaviest snowfall is from December to March with the average being 206 inches. In the winter of 2010 and 2011, the area received 668 and one-half inches of snowfall. In May 2015, the area received a monthly record of 29 inches. That’s a lot of white stuff.

The Mono Indians were the first residents in the area. With an abundance of fish and game, the Monos did quite well for themselves before gold was discovered in the area.

The Gold Rush here began in 1878 when prospectors staked a claim which started the town. Mammoth Lakes had a population of 1500 by the end of the year.

The original town relied on logging and tourism for its economy after the Mammoth Mining Company shut down.

The Ski Museum was opened in 2004 and has a lot of the history of Mammoth Lakes and the ski industry. Unfortunately, it was closed during the time of my visit due to the pandemic.

The area is famous for its beautiful scenery.

The city is a short drive west on Highway 203 from Highway 395.

The Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is accessed from Mammoth Lakes by heading a little



(Left) The custom-designed badge featuring sun rays behind the Sierra Nevada Mountains and state seal worn by Mammoth Lakes patrol officers. (Right) The department’s two community service officers wear a variation of the patrol officer’s oval. This one is pink, too. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

west on Highway 203 over Minaret Summit.

A little farther west on Highway 203 from Mammoth Lakes is the Inyo National Forest, which includes Devil’s Postpile National Monument. It consists of 798 acres. The main feature is a columnar basalt feature. The face of the mountain looks like someone stacked a bunch of posts on end next to each other.

As you drive toward the monument, make sure to take the Lookout Point Road. The point is positioned at a very good spot to see the monument and surrounding mountains.

I was told that on a clear night, you can see along the San Joaquin River valley all the way down the mountain to the valley floor in the Fresno area. It was through this valley that smoke from one of the ongoing fires was traveling up the valley and reaching the Mammoth Lakes area. It was unfortunate the smoke made it impossible to see the surrounding mountains from the Lookout Point. We could only see about 300 yards when we visited.

The world-famous Pacific Crest and John Muir hiking trails pass through the national monument.

There are natural hot springs in the area which the skiers use after a day on the slopes.

It was quite refreshing to me when I met Chief of Police Al Davis to find him in jeans and cowboy boots. He made me feel right at home.

I was ushered into the Police Department by Community Service Officer Kari Orr. She took my calls earlier and was most professional and warm at the same time.

Lieutenant Eric Hugelman was present during the interview and was very helpful in relaying some of the history of the city and department.

When I asked Chief Davis to share his career in law enforcement, he told me he had come from the Ventura Police Department in Southern California. While with Ventura for 30 years, he was a school resource officer and with the SWAT team and narcotics unit. He has been chief here for five years.

The city was incorporated in 1986.

While Mammoth Lakes occupies about four square miles, the department contracts with the U.S. Forest Service to patrol some areas outside the city limits, as well as with Madera County Sheriffs Department for the area around a very popular adjacent tourist area called Red’s Meadow.

Since Red’s Meadow is only accessible through Mammoth Lakes, Madera County would have an extremely long drive to even to get to the area. It makes sense for the PD to handle any calls for service there.

Mammoth Lakes currently has 15 sworn officers. This includes a lieutenant, four sergeants, nine officers and, of course, the chief. The department also has a records officer, an assistant to the chief, two community service officers and two reserve officers.

I was happy to hear the department has an Explorer Scout program in place. There are currently about 21 kids in the program. The program works in conjunction with Mono County Sheriffs Department. Especially in these troubled times, it is extremely important for youth to get involved in the community, build a work ethic and develop self-worth.

Mammoth Lakes has a school resource officer who covers a kindergarten through 12th grade school, an elementary through middle school and the high school. Chief Davis wrote the grant which allowed the department to implement the position.

I was curious how many badges Chief Davis was aware his department has worn. He said there have been only four, including bicentennial and pink badges.

I also asked how many patches have been worn by the department. He said there have been three, including a pink patch.

It isn’t often I can find out the exact number of badges and patches have been worn by a department. Since Mammoth Lakes was incorporated in 1986, it makes it a lot easier.

When I asked Chief Davis how many vehicles he had available, I learned they have Ford Expeditions and Explorers along with four administrative and two CSO vehicles and a Razor side-by-side quad.

When I asked if they had any snowmobiles in their fleet, Chief Davis said currently they do not. Since they have such a close working relationship with the ski resort, the department can use their snowmobiles if the need arises.

The department’s budget runs around \$4.5 million annually.

The number of calls for service was just over 2200 last year.

When I asked Chief Davis if they have a booking area or a holding cell, he showed me into the booking area. The booking area had a sally port and two holding cells. I know quite a few agencies who would love to have a sally port at their facility! The chief said sometimes the Highway Patrol uses the booking area.

If the PD has a bookable arrest, then it is a 100-minute round-trip drive to Bridgeport and the sheriff’s jail. Not to mention the time spent booking the subject. That’s quite a bit of time away from your beat.

I asked Chief Davis who covers for them if the need arises. He said the sheriffs department, Highway Patrol and when available the Forest Service provide backup.

The department currently does not have a canine. Neither does the sheriffs department. It was interesting to learn there is not a gang problem in Mammoth Lakes.

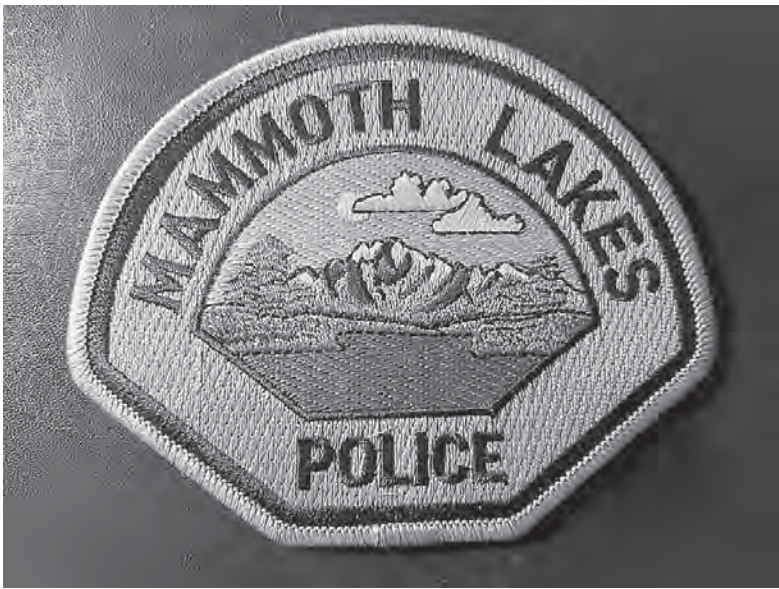
Code Enforcement takes care of animal control calls. The city has about 300 animal calls annually. It has been four years since a black bear became such a problem in the city that it had to be killed. There are cougars in the area, and a pet or two have been known to disappear now and then.

I asked Chief Davis what festivities the city is known for and he said there are quite a few. There is a Fourth of July parade that draws a large crowd. There is a half marathon.



(Top) An older black and white Ford Explorer is driven by police officers in Mammoth Lake, Calif. It features a now-obsolete snow-capped mountain logo. (Bottom) A newer Mammoth Lake Ford Expedition black and white with the agency’s breast badge as the door decal. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*





The current very colorful Mammoth Lake police patch is a Los Angeles area-style showing a mountain lake, snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains, trees and puffy clouds overhead. Chief Al Davis told Mike DeVilbiss his department has only worn three styles. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

usually in June, that brings in about 1200 participants and support teams. In September, there is the Grand Fondo Bike Race which has between 1200 to 1600 entrants. And, of course, there is the kick off of the winter season with an official grand opening in the middle of December called the Night of Lights. All of these events are monitored by the PD with a bit of an assist from the Highway Patrol.

When I asked Chief Davis what is the best thing about working for Mammoth Lakes, he did not hesitate to say, "This is God's Country. People come here to recreate, but we live here. And, the people make it a pleasure to come to work."

Lieutenant Hugelman asked me if I was ready to head out to see the area. Of course, I was on my feet immediately. It was so nice of him to ask if my wife wanted to come on the ride along. I know I would never be able to relay to her later all there was to see and the information relayed.

Lieutenant Hugelman was so helpful and professional in sharing the history, demographics, climate, geology and information about the ski resort. This ride-along was the longest one to date and the most scenic, even with the smoke.

We went out of town toward Devil's Postpile National Monument. On the way, we stopped off at Lookout Point, which I mentioned earlier.

We learned there is also horseback riding in the area.

We took in a few lakes and saw some very expensive homes.

The area has two golf courses to try.

It should be mentioned that 60 percent of the homes in Mammoth Lakes are second homes (vacation homes, if you will) and sit empty a large part of the year. Much too often this creates the proverbial audible burglary alarm call due to falling pine cones or branches from the wind or rain.

There are miles and miles of ski lifts and gondola rides on Mammoth Mountain. A lot of the homes up there are only accessible by snowmobile or skis in the winter. The very steep roads that lead to some of these homes can not be traversed by car after it snows.

The population may swell to 30,000 to 40,000 during the peak ski season.

If you find yourself on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains traveling along Highway 395, make sure to take the time to take the short trip west on Highway 203 to the world-famous ski resort of Mammoth Lakes.

I strongly suggest you make reservations and stay for two or three days to take advantage of the fishing, backpacking, bike trails, snowmobiling, horseback riding, skiing and, of course, the people.

*Submitted by Mike DeVilbiss*

## Solano County Sheriffs Office History

Current and former Solano County Sheriffs Department employees have created an informative, highly entertaining and educational Facebook page, "Solano County Sheriff's Office History." It's a great reference for California collectors and historians alike.

The page features information on old Solano County badges and patches, former sheriffs and their deputies, historic events and milestones, as well as old photographs and newspaper clippings.

A sampling of historic posts found on the page:

First, "In 1937, William Pierce of Suisun Valley donated two molds used to make counterfeit coins. He told Sheriff Thornton that it was from the famous Montabino Case uncovered in the hills north of Fairfield in 1898.

"A quick search of the name 'Montabino' revealed a case in 1895 where Gino Montelbano made and circulated more realistic and dangerous counterfeit silver dollars, dimes and quarters in the past five years than all other counterfeiters combined.

"Montelbano's 'mint' was located in a cave four miles northeast of Fairfield and two miles from the Pierce Ranch where he lived. The entrance was draped by a sod covering so that



(Left) Solano County had jail matrons from 1911 to the mid-1970s. Matrons wore their own seven-point stars with their title at the top on them. (Right) A rare vintage special deputy sheriff's badge. It's an Old West-style shield with a cutout five-point star. *Solano County photograph*



A Solano County Sheriffs Department squad picture from 1926 shows Sheriff Jack Thornton (center) wearing a six-point star, while deputies are wearing seven-point stars. Is it possibly the diamond-studded badge that he was presented with by supporters in Vallejo? *Solano County photograph*

the entrance was almost unnoticeable and considered 'the oddest thing ever uncovered by government agents,' said United States Secret Service Agent Dudley Harris, who made the arrest and located the cave.

"Under Sheriff Robinson believes Montelbano came to the area and began his counterfeiting operation in about 1891 because he recalled having seen him in the Fairfield area.

"The cave was only located when a hunter fired a shot right next to the entrance, startling Montelbano, who stuck his head out from underneath the sod enclosure. The hunter immediately fled, thinking the strange-looking being emerging from behind the earth was a maniac or a wild man. He reported it to the sheriff."

In 1895, the *San Francisco Examiner* published drawings of Montelbano and counterfeiting equipment found in the cave.

Second, "Sheriff Jack Thornton was known for his elaborate Thanksgiving meals for inmates at the 'Hotel Thornton.' Some inmates over the years asked to be released a few days late just so they participate in the meals. Here is a newspaper story about one of those festivities:

"Thanksgiving Dinner, November 25, 1937

"At 2:00 pm, Thanksgiving dinner was served in the yard of the jail. Tables were placed end-to-end, making a long table, and covered with white tablecloths and decorated with baskets of berries and flowers.

"Sheriff Thornton, Under Sheriff Lockie and Deputies George Thornton and Earl Dierking were in charge of the affair.

"Following the dinner, entertainment was provided by four inmates, who sang songs to the group.

"Every prisoner had plenty to eat and kept five cooks on the run replenishing plates.

"Photographs of the jovial scene were taken by Deputy Dierking and provided to the local newspaper.

"The menu was roast turkey, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, coffee with sugar, milk, apple pie and candy.

"The number of prisoners fed was 48 men and one woman.

"There was 60 pounds of turkey bought for 27 cents a pound."

Third, "Deputy sheriff matrons being assigned to the jail began in 1911 when California Penal Code Chapter 456-Section1616 came into law, requiring that, 'whenever there is a female prisoner assigned to a county jail, a suitable woman matron must be designated to take care of her.'

"The matron title remained in Solano County until around the mid-1970s, although their roles became much larger. On top of caring for female prisoners, matrons were often tasked to transport the prisoners, escort them to court, search for them in the field and assist in raised where a female was expected. They also served as radio operators and clerks."

The posting has a list of known matrons.

Fourth, "For all the badge collectors out there, here is one we would love to get our hands on!

"Somewhere out there is a diamond-studded sheriff's badge, gifted to Sheriff-elect J.R. Thornton in 1926 by his 'friends at Vallejo.'

"Was this a six- or seven-point star? Does it have his name on it?

"The only clues we have is an article from the *Napa Journal* on December 24, 1926, 'Diamond Studded Badge for Solano County Sheriff,' and a photo of Sheriff Thornton wearing a six-point star badge while deputies are wearing a seven-point star."

The newspaper article describes the badge as being a six-point star.

*Submitted by Solano County Sheriffs Office*

## LAPD Will Refurbish Fallen Officer Memorial

The Los Angeles Police Department is getting \$600,000 to refurbish its memorial to officers who have been killed in the line of duty, a rectangular wall of metal plates that is rusting and falling apart just a decade after it was installed.

The 12-foot high, 32-foot long wall bearing the names of 215 officers who died in the line of duty over more than a century is located in an outdoor raised area at the department's downtown headquarters.

The wall was dedicated in 2009, around the same time that the new headquarters was first opened after the city tore down the previous LAPD facility, Parker Center. The fallen officer memorial at the old headquarters was taken down during that process.

In a letter to the Los Angeles Police Commission, Chief of Police Michael Moore said the metal plates are showing signs of rusting and in danger of breaking loose. The department wrapped the wall in plastic in order to prevent further damage.

"The finish over the brass plates has eroded, causing oxidation to develop across the entire Memorial," Chief Moore wrote. "The rods that suspend the plates containing the names of the officers from the wall have broken off or become loose."

Assistant Chief of Police Beatrice Girmala told the police commissioners that discussion about repairing the memorial began after a donor came forward to the Los Angeles Police Foundation, a non-profit that directs donations to the LAPD to fulfill requests for specialized



equipment, training grants, specialty vehicles, food for special events and other items, and offered to pay for the work.

The wall has nothing to protect it from the weather. It began to fall into disrepair a few years ago.

Assistant Chief Girmala said previous attempts to clean the wall and efforts at upkeep weren't enough to keep the finish from wearing off.

"Over time, smaller attempts to keep the memorial looking worthy of what it is to represent fell short," she told the police commissioners.

The wall was designed by Gensler, an architectural firm, and built by A. Zahner Company, a Kansas City, Mo. construction company. Both companies were consulted again as LAPD discussed how to refurbish the wall.

The bronze plaques with the names of the officers on them will be refabricated with new materials, and the pegs holding them in place will be replaced.

All the plaques will be etched with lasers and will include etchings of the portraits of each fallen officers. The new plaques will include a medallion that can hold flowers, if family members want to leave them to honor their fallen loved ones.

Security measures, bird deterrents and weather barriers will be installed to protect the wall from future wear and tear.

LAPD will sign a ten-year contract with an art and monument maintenance company to upkeep he memorial. The assistant chief added that the construction company has offered to add any new plaques for fallen officers for free.

"We hope no plaques will ever be added to this memorial wall ever again," Assistant Chief Girmala said.

Courtesy of Los Angeles Daily News

## High-End California Coroner Badges

When the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office split off from the Sheriff's Office and became the Medical Examiner's Office five years ago, it's employees were suddenly without a piece of equipment that was important to them: badges.

But the sterling silver and gold-filled badges the coroner picked and issued to them raised a few eyebrows, especially among county supervisors. They cost taxpayers between three and seven times the badges carried by coroner investigators in San Mateo County and most law enforcement officers in California.

The coroner (chief medical examiner) bought 13 sterling silver badges for her investigators at \$355 each and a gold-filled model for the chief investigator (herself) for \$675. A standard brass or chrome-plated badge carries a price tag of about \$100 or less.

"The last time we paid for a badge, it cost \$87," said Robert Fourcrault, the San Mateo County coroner. "They're gold-colored but not gold-plated silver or gold-filled. As budget conscious as I am, I would never entertain that expending that kind of money."

But the head of the Santa Clara Medical Examiner's Office, who has the single gold-filled badge, defended the purchases, saying they are more cost-effective because they will last longer.

"Law enforcement agencies already have a die-cast made, so it's very easy for them to order badges," Chief Examiner Michelle Jorden said. "There wasn't such a cast that we could use. We had to create a new badge."

The medical examiner and her staff are not required by state law to have badges because they are not law enforcement officers, but Jorden said badges can be a quick way to identify investigators at the scene of a crime.

Jon Coupal of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, a tax spending watchdog group based in Los Angeles, disagreed, referencing *The Treasure of Sierra Madre* to make a point.

"I am going to channel an old western here and, 'They don't need no stinkin' badges,'" he said. "What's wrong with a business card? Last time I checked, a corpse normally doesn't need to be arrested."

Santa Clara County officials, who oversee the medical examiner's office, stayed in the middle on the expenditure.

"It is my understanding that Dr. Jorden explored badge options," Deputy County Executive Martha Wapenski said. "She followed the county procurement process and made the decision."

The badge cost issue surfaced after the coroner's office split from the sheriff's office and the sheriff took back the badges that Jorden issued to her team, officials said.

After looking into the cost of creating a new die to create entirely new badges, about \$4000, Jorden said she opted to have custom badges crafted from high-quality metals that she said would last longer than brass or plated metal.

"These badges aren't something that investigators take with them when they leave. They stay in the office to be used by the next investigator," she said.

"And it needs to be sturdy enough in case we are responding to a mass casualty event, an aircraft disaster, something like that. We had to create a badge that could be worn by an investigator in rain, shine or any type of mass fatality."

According to invoices, badges would have been about \$105 a piece, but Jorden said those badges have a shelf life of about five years, while the upper echelon models will last for two or three decades.

"We're actually saving money over time. A lot of thought and consideration went into purchasing the badges, and I think in the end, we received a high-quality, long-lasting



(Left) The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's Office paid \$355 for this sterling silver investigator badge. Chief Medical Examiner Barbara Jorden bought 13 badges. (Right) A gold-colored captain's badge from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office cost a lot less. *Contributed photographs*

badge," Jorden said.

Badge manufacturers agree that precious metals last longer. Silver, for example, can simply be polished while a plated material will need to be stripped and recoated after normal wear and tear.

A Bay Area badge-maker, who asked not to be identified because the business is a repository for police credentials, said a badge made of high-quality materials is one "I'll never see again," meaning she won't have to restore it.

But, one East Coast manufacturer, who also asked not to be identified, said Jorden's long-term cost savings rationale "isn't what most would use" when purchasing badges, adding that lower-end badges can last much longer than five years, depending on how careful the bearer is about aesthetics.

And still others said it is unusual for an entire department to have high-end badges that are normally reserved for high ranks.

"Certainly you won't see a large department quantifying that for each of their hundreds or thousands of officers," said Sharon Dunn, marketing manager at Massachusetts-based V.H. Blackinton, the nation's largest badge supplier. "We do see higher-end business, but 90 percent of what we do are gold- or rhodium-plated, which can run about \$75 per badge."

Ultimately, the matter comes down to an agency's individual sensibilities. Brian Peterson, Milwaukee County, Wis. medical examiner and former president of the National Association of Medical Examiners, wears a badge, but said he has worked in jurisdictions, including in Northern California, where he got by just fine with an ID card.

"Badging is highly variable in our profession. I guess the main use would be at a crime scene, but for the most part, I and my officers are well-known, so there is no need," he said.

Fourcrault, the San Mateo coroner, said he has heard of investigators buying high-end badges on their own, but if that is not the case, then it is a waste of taxpayer money.

"You come here with a \$700 badge, and I show you my \$87 badge, you tell me what the difference is," he said.

Courtesy of Bay Area News Group

## End California Police Historian

# As Policing Goes, So Does The Collecting Hobby

By Rick Uland, Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – As we have now exited the apocalyptic year of 2020, we have entered the new year of 2021 that could quite possibly lead us into even more darker times than the year we just exited.

I am sure there are very few, if any, who would disagree that 2020 was one of the most cataclysmic periods of social upheaval this country, as well as the entire world, has experienced in modern times.

The incredible combination of the pandemic, deep social fractures, insurrections and rioting, breakdown of governmental control, economic collapse, political implosion, societal discourse and especially the dismemberment and tearing down of policing, law enforcement and the criminal justice system in general, has left our country on a dangerous precipice.

As a result of these many disastrous and incredibly negative events, I fear for our hobby of collecting. I fear greatly for our hobby, and I intend to layout vividly and from a historical viewpoint as to why I have come to such a monumental conclusion.

I have come to this conclusion from both current and historical events based upon another and closely related collecting hobby that has been affected by similar negative and tumultuous events.

I believe in relation to the police and law enforcement memorabilia collecting hobby, there is a multi-layered affect that has a short term, as well as a long term, negative and destructive affect.

The short term or mid-range affect on the hobby is based upon the pandemic and all of the associated and connected negativity caused by it.

As the Coronavirus spread across the United States and entered into an upward trajectory of spiraling infections and surge upon surge, we have seen commerce, business, travel and all related economic activities grind to a near halt. This, of course, affects the ability of people to gather together for various activities, such as any sort of conference, convention, meetings and most notably collector shows.

The inability of police badge and patch collectors to amass for the purposes of setting up tables to display their collections, buy and sell collectibles, meet and confer regarding the hobby and exercise person to person glad-handing of all things collectible has dealt a serious blow to the hobby.

Add to that the near shut down of travel and lodging, as well as the severe economic impact on one's ability to purchase badges, patches and other related items at shows that no longer take place. It has set the hobby reeling.

Yes, there is the Internet, Zoom and social media, but such activities can only fill a small void in a hobby that relies more upon personal contact and interaction than it does on the abstract.

We are fast approaching a full year in March as to the horrible affects the pandemic and all of it's associated horrors have brought upon many collecting hobbies.

But, the hobbies of collecting butterflies, marbles, sports cards, stamps, coins and all the rest are far different hobbies than police and related memorabilia.

Yes, all of these hobbies are affected by the inability or near inability to travel, multi-layered health restrictions, quarantines, hotel and lodging shutdowns, health and related travel restrictions enacted by governmental health and medical officials, economic shortfalls and a continuous ever-changing labyrinth of health orders, restrictions and enforcement activities.

It will be difficult for sure for collectibles hobbies to make a full, if even moderate, recovery from all of these negative affects whenever this all comes to an end.

However, none of these other hobbies have the stigma that may soon cloud over the hobby of collecting police, law enforcement and related criminal justice memorabilia, regalia, badges, patches and related items.

In this regard, we now enter into what I believe is the long term negative affect upon our specialized collecting hobby.

We also enter into a similar downward trend of the collecting hobby related to militaria or the collecting of all things military related.

There are great similarities between the memorabilia and regalia associated in the



world of police and military collectibles. I have been collecting for 45 years and have had a dual interest in both police and military collectibles. I have often seen a merger as to the similarities of these items.

Over a number of years, I have seen most militaria shows disappear and adverse affects gloss over the hobby of military collectibles. In this regard, it has been a solid majority of anti-military groups, individuals and their associates who have come together collectively or individually to shut down these shows.

Of course, it is not everywhere and one size does not fit all. However, the steady drum beat against all things military in many geographical areas has been the death knell for military collector shows. It is, in some ways, related to gun shows that in many areas have been hounded out of existence or so diluted that today's shows end up looking more like flea markets.

Managers and owners of meeting halls, convention centers, conference halls, church halls and similar meeting locations have turned against renting out their venues for military collectibles shows.

To avoid increasing the controversy over such shows, I have seen any number of ingenious reasons stated or fabricated as to not wanting the military shows. Rental costs have greatly increased, rentals may require one day or weekend liability insurance, parking in adjoining lots that used to be free is now paid parking, security personnel may be required, dreaded military recruiters may show up (and that could cause picketing and demonstrating) and other extra charges may be required by show promoters.

And the most dreadful display of all at military collectible shows are the guns may be put on display, which could cause all sorts of demonstrating by anti-gun activists. Of course, there can't be any sort of military hate items on display, such as Nazi regalia from World War II, items from Rhodesia or similar things.

I was born and raised in San Francisco where I progressed through my teenage years in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I am well aware of and personally observed all of the anti-Vietnam War specifically and anti-military movements in general, begin, grow and take hold as they came of age in the Bay Area.

A large part of my professional career in policing specifically and law enforcement in general was spent in San Francisco and the surrounding area. I watched anti-military radical, progressive and leftist movements take hold and throw the gauntlet down against anything and all things military related. That included military collectibles shows.

Intertwined within this anti-military movement was also an anti-police movement. That was the old days of calling the police pigs, fascists and racists, which is not all that far from today. In San Francisco, there were assassinations of police officers, armed attacks on and bombing of police stations.

This all went hand-in-hand with the ever-increasing anti-military and anti-police movements of that time. These movements also hated anything that represented the military and increasingly the police as well. That meant anything that represented the police physically or through visual identification became part of the hate structure.

Visual identification meant uniforms, badges, equipment, vehicles and anything else that denoted authority of the police officer. These items are all (and then some) exactly what we collect. And, all of this took place long before the Internet, social media, You Tube and all of the other cyber platforms of today ever existed.

Now, before I get into the specific dissection as to why I now greatly fear for the hobby of all things collectible related to police and law enforcement memorabilia, I want to make something perfectly clear.

What I say is not political.

What I say is not representing any sort of belief structure, one way or the other.

What I say is not meant to single out any specific group, organization or named movement.

What I say is not meant to single out any specific person who may represent any group or movement.

I am simply stating what I believe is my personal opinion as to observations and knowledge I amassed over 45 years of engaging in the collecting hobby. Intertwined is my 45-plus years of having worked in the world of law enforcement and associated endeavors; I am simply stating what I have observed when I look at something. What I have seen has brought me to my stated conclusions. What has happened that has gotten us to this point is for others to judge and make decisions about.

Police departments and law enforcement agencies are under siege in many parts of the country. They are being dismantled, defunded, abolished, restructured and their budgets are being redirected. Multiple review and police oversight boards are being established. Officers in many jurisdictions are being fired, arrested, investigated and suspended in a rush to judgment for mainly political reasons.

Rioting, insurrections, violent demonstrations and attacks on police stations, police union offices, police supply stores, police vehicles and other physical symbols of law enforcement have taken place all over the country.

Police officers have had their homes or living quarters identified and placed under attack.

Symbols of police and law enforcement are specifically what we collect. Not only are police officers being attacked, but the symbols recognized as being associated with police are under attack as well.

This is similar as to what I mentioned previously about attacks on gun and militaria shows, as well as the symbols of certain controversial military units and countries.

Anti-police and police hate groups who engage in violence against law enforcement are attacking the very essence of law enforcement with that essence being the symbols of the police.

Our hobby deals with the symbols of police and law enforcement. These symbols are the most recognizable aspects of police, and my fears are that with the increasing hatred of and attacks on the police, negative and possibly violent actions could take place against others besides the police, who may be nothing more then collectors of law enforcement symbolism.

Collector shows are publicized well in advance. Locations, promoters, dealers and other individuals and organizations who may take part in such shows are listed on the Internet in many instances and advertised in other venues accessible to anyone.

Anyone includes those who wish to do harm to police and possibly those who support the police.

Police haters are very savvy in their use of the Internet and search engine-wise when it comes to identifying police officers and their supporters for the purpose of seeking them out for harassment, ridicule or even physical harm. They operate on the dark web and transfer information between each other to organize anti-police activities.

To the anti-police groups, there is no differentiation between a police officer or those who openly support them who may be involved with the symbols of police. Police supporters or those perceived to support the police have been violently attacked by anti-police groups.

I believe there is a strong possibility that as time goes on and anti-police movements, police haters and police abolishing groups ramp up their activities to defund and shut down the police, anyone on the peripheral who is even suspected of supporting the police could become entwined and pulled into the fray.

If and when police collectibles shows in some form or another hopefully and eventually start back up again, I believe as time goes on, police collectibles shows will quite possibly go the way of the militaria and gun shows and become a target of the anti-police groups with the collectors themselves possibly becoming targets as well.

I sincerely hope all I have laid out and explained in great depth will not come to fruition, and that I am found to be wrong in my assessment of what I am very fearful of.

RICK ULAND (PO Box 460211, San Francisco CA 94146)



Albert Wright Alvord was a lawman in Cochise County in Arizona Territory in the late 1800s and early 1900s before he turned outlaw. Burt led an infamous gang responsible for a series of violent train robberies in rural Arizona. He spent time in the Yuma Territorial Prison. *Mike Chiomento photograph*

# Arizona Memories

By Skip Skinner, Staff Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. – The mystery of Burt Alvord's final resting place has been solved.

Back in 2014, I spent a week on the island of Barbados visiting with fellow badge collector and historian Max Chiomento. I first met him at the Phoenix National Show hosted by Mike Lucas in 2013. He is a chef by trade and has been collecting badges and researching law enforcement in Arizona and elsewhere for many years. I went to look over his outstanding collection and research the final resting place of Burt Alvord, lawman turned outlaw of Cochise County fame.

Alvord had served both as constable of Wilcox and deputy sheriff for Cochise County. He led a gang of thieves and train robbers during the turn of the century in Southern Arizona.

Gang members included Matt Burts, Billy Stiles, Bravo Juan, Three-fingered Jack Dunlap, Bill Downing and brothers George and Lewis Owens (sometimes reported as Owints). Burts and Stiles had also held law enforcement titles. Downing's real name was Jackson. He was an ex-outlaw from Texas and past member of the Sam Bass Gang.

They were credited with three major robberies and suspected in other crimes. Most notable was the hold up of a Southern Pacific Railroad train at Cochise Junction a little west of Wilcox in September 1899 in which \$10,000 in gold was reported stolen and never recovered by authorities.

Another was the blowing up of an express car at Dragoon Springs in which dynamite was placed on the safe, along with sacks of Mexican silver dollars to help control the blast downward. When it blew, Mexican coins were blown all over the area. For months afterward, folks told of finding coins in the vicinity of the holdup.

One job was the attempted hold up of the Wells Fargo Express car at Fairbank, a town west of Tombstone. In that one, Dunlap was shot by Wells Fargo Agent Jeff Milton. Wells Fargo had been tipped off about the pending hold up and was ready for them. Dunlap took part of a shotgun blast to his arm while Bravo Juan took some in the buttocks. In that robbery, they got away with about \$40 in Mexican coins.

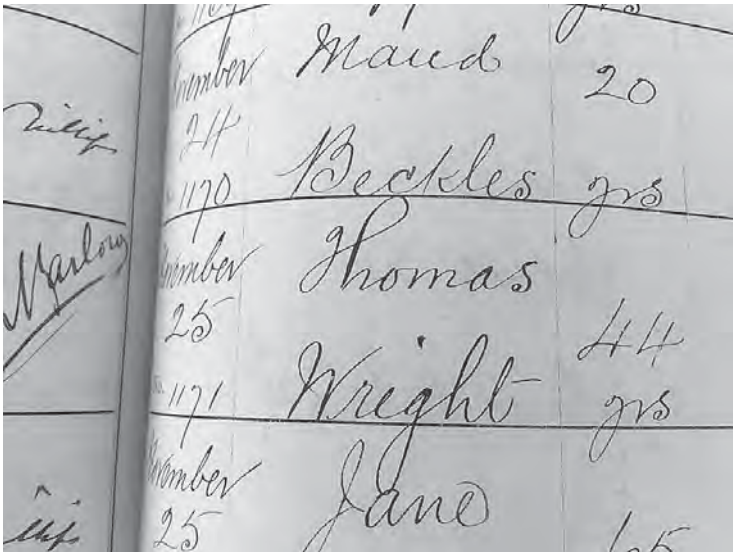
Over the years, it had been said that Alvord died in South America and other locations both inside and outside of the United States. No one really knew for sure until an article appeared in the *Arizona Citizen* on July 21, 1910 which read, in part, "Burt Alvord died in Barbados, positively, and the American consul in Bridgetown (the capital) has \$800 or \$900 in gold which Burt had when he died."

The story goes on to say his sister could get it if she could prove her claim. We did not find any mention if she went to Barbados or what happened to the money. Most likely the



Burt Alvord's gang robbed several Southern Pacific Railroad trains as they crossed Arizona Territory in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This is a vintage Southern Pacific railroad police badge from the era that would have been worn by special agents who guarded the trains. *Mike Chiomento photograph*





The handwritten grave register of the Westbury Cemetery in Lucknow, Barbados shows the name of Thomas Wright. It turns out Albert Wright Alvord used the name of Thomas Wright as an alias. This is why it took years to confirm that he died in Barbados. *Mike Chiomento photograph*

## Arizona Memories ...Continued

gold was from one of his robberies. It was reported in newspapers that Alvord and Juan had returned at some point to recover the money and left word to the authorities that they had come back for it so as to taunt them.

Chiomento and I went to the local historical society and several of graveyards on the island but could not locate his grave or any record of his burial. Burial records are sketchy at best and in some cases not at all.

I left the island not knowing for sure if Alvord was buried there or not. The puzzle was left to Chiomento to solve and solve it he did! It took him six years though.

It turns out we had actually walked past Alvord's grave, looked at it and then moved on! We later learned that Alvord had changed his name to Thomas Wright upon reaching the island. We were looking for a gravestone that said Alvord on it, not Wright. (He had been born Albert Wright Alvord, sometimes referred to as Albert R. Alvord, in Susanville Calif. on September 11 1867.)

Alvord came to Tombstone in 1880 as a young man, along with his father, Charles, who served as justice of the peace in for 20 years. Prior to that Charles Alvord had been a justice of the peace in California and spent a total of 40 years serving the public.

Alvord's mother died in 1886. Census reports are spotty as to his siblings and report anywhere from two to seven at various times. We do know for sure that he had a sister named Mary or May who lived in California and was married to John W. Shoults. She died in 1934. Alvord went to see her after being released from the Yuma Territorial Prison in 1905 where he spent two years on robbery charges.

Before being sent to Yuma, Alvord was arrested twice for questioning and placed in the Tombstone jail, once with Juan and Stiles and again once with Juan. Both times they broke out of jail and fled.

In the first case, Stiles was let go after agreeing to testify against the gang but double-crossed the sheriff and broke Alvord and Juan out after shooting and wounding the jailer. Stiles later turned himself in and spent a year in the prison. The second escape was when Alvord and Juan dug themselves out of the jail and made for the border of Mexico.

After Alvord's release from Yuma and being told the authorities wanted him again over the jail breaks, he decided it best to leave the area rather than take a chance on the outcome.

The story of Alvord and his gang is a hard one to follow or write about because so many articles were found that contained so many errors as to dates, names, events and outcomes, making it difficult to know all the facts.

The main purpose of this article is to show the results of the Chiomento research and put to rest where Alvord is buried. I have included his lead in to the story and photos he took for us.

**The Burt Alvord Story** Few Americans are aware of their close connection with Barbados. The link with the Carolinas is one example. One esteemed visitor to the island was George Washington in 1751 at the age of 19.



Albert Wright Alvord is buried in an oversize plot with a large headstone in a Lucknow, Barbados cemetery. The stone reads "IN MEMORY/ OF/ THOMAS WRIGHT/ OF/ SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS USA/ DIED 25 NOV. 1909/ AGED 44 YRS." The stone and plot cost \$6.30. *Mike Chiomento photograph*

Nowadays, Barbados is a sea and sun destination, but it has always notorious for neighboring pirates. In 1981, Ronnie Biggs, the infamous train robber [Great Train Robbery] was held prisoner on the island but his extradition to the United Kingdom was not granted.

One less esteemed visitor to the island in the sun in 1909 was Albert Wright Alvord, an ex territorial constable in Pearce and Wilcox and deputy sheriff in Tombstone under the tenure of Sheriffs Slaughter, White and Fly.

Alvord grew up in Tombstone at the time of the OK Corral Gunfight and was very much a product of Wild West lore. He was a lawman turned train robber, killer, fugitive and guest of the Yuma Territorial Prison.

Alvord's gang counterparts and sometimes deputies were met by violent deaths. Bill Downing was killed by Arizona Ranger Matt Burts in a gunfight.

Three-Fingered Jack Dunlap was killed by Wells Fargo train guard Jeff Milton.

Bravo Juan was said to have died in the Amazon; yet another story says he died in a gun fight near Nogales, Ariz.

The Owens or Owints Brothers returned to ranching in Cochise County after being released from the Yuma prison in 1903 and then faded into obscurity.

Billy Larkin Stiles was a leading figure both for the Southern Pacific and New Mexico and Arizona railroad robberies and shared with Alvord some kind of deep friendship and interest in the outlaw trade. He is also credited to have served as a special Arizona Ranger while at large in Arizona and Mexico.

Even in death, Stiles and Alvord played the same game, using their middle names as aliases. Stiles went by the assumed name of William Larkin and was murdered while serving as a deputy sheriff in 1908 in Nevada. Alvord went by the name of Thomas Wright and met his end in Barbados.

While hiding in Panama, Alvord contracted a fever and stopped in Barbados for recuperation. He died on November 25, 1909 at the age of 44 in Lucknow in the parish of Christ Church.

On December 14, 1909. H.F.E. Williams, a local clerk, purchased a headstone and 21-square foot grave plot for \$6.30. Alvord was buried in Westbury Cemetery right across from Rihanna Drive where the now famous singer grew up.

Alvord's place of birth was San Antonio, Tex., not California or Arizona, consistent with concealing his identity.

Books, television shows, articles and much speculation are now part of the folklore about this outlaw.

The American Consulate records of the time are no longer available in Barbados, so the whereabouts of Alvord's loot are still elusive and controversial as in the heydays of Cochise County in Arizona Territory.

*Submitted by Max Chiomento*

**Sources** Sources for these articles are too numerous to mention here; approximately 22 in all. They can be obtained by contacting myself or Max.

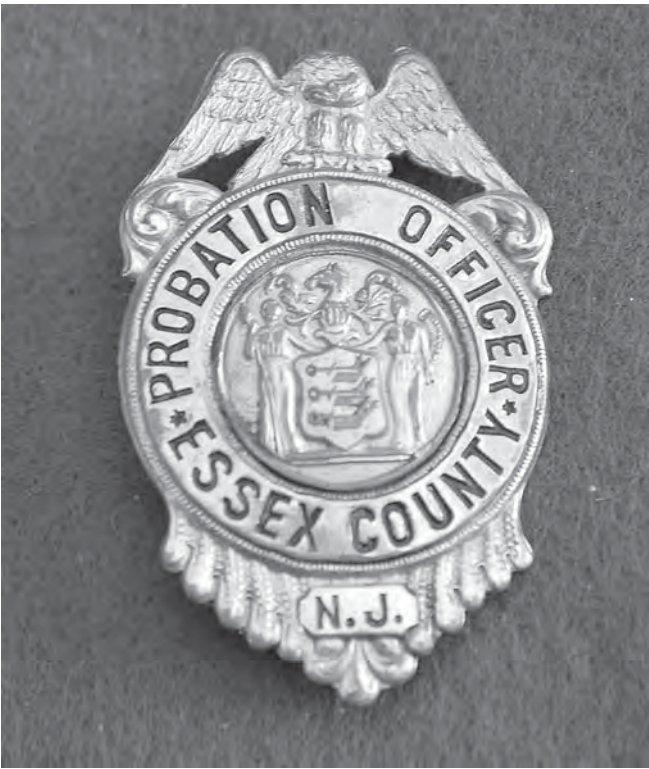
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# Collecting Memories

By Dennis Beyer, Staff Writer

NAPLES, Fla. – My first badge turned 55 years old last year. It's a gold-colored eagle-topped circlet for an Essex County, N.J. probation officer. This was my first probation officer badge. I have kept it clean and shiny all these years, and it serves as a magnet for countless memories. I purchased it from H. Buchlien and Son in Newark. I believe it cost me \$12. Of course, it was a long time ago, 1965, or 55 years ago last year or 56 years now. I got it in late July, 1965 following my appointment as a county probation officer. That was just a few days after graduating from Bloomfield College. During my college years, I thought I would go into education. My father sure let me know "not to go near police, or any other job in law enforcement." But, the starting salary of \$6200 was too much to turn down. Thirty years after taking that job, I found myself settled in the chief probation officer, albeit in another county. Now that was something I could have never dreamed of, but luck shined on me. I hung on as chief for five years. Now, holding that first badge carries me back in time. Fifty-five years! There sure are a lot of memories over that time, and they all seem like yesterday. That's okay, because memories are what I am collecting.

DENNIS BEYER (7959 Valentine Court, Naples FL 34114))



Dennis Beyer bought this Essex County, N.J. probation officer badge for \$12 in July 1965. The eagle-topped circlet shows the state seal as the center design. The legend reads, "PROBATION OFFICER ESSEX COUNTY/ N.J." Beyer acquired the badge after he became a PO. *Dennis Beyer photograph*





The Maricopa County Sheriffs Office is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. This commemorative emblem is being sold as a fundraiser for the Cadets Program. It features the first MCSO badge (left) and the current sheriff's star (right). It is available for \$6 and a SASE. *Mike Lucas photograph*

# Collecting News From Arizona

By Mike Lucas, Staff Writer

MESA, Ariz. – Maricopa County Sheriffs Office will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year.

Retired California police officer and artist Ron Dalby and Marty Cassidy of ISI Services were chosen to design a commemorative anniversary patch. Dalby was chosen because of his professional artistic excellence. ISI was chosen for their high quality and excellent delivery service.

The anniversary patch is awesome! It is now available to collectors as a fundraiser for the MCSO Cadets.

The high-quality fully embroidered patch is an oval and measures three inches high by four and one-half inches wide.

A very old silver and the current gold MCSO sheriff badges appear on a brown background as the center design. The six-point ball-tipped stars are done in striking sparkling silver and gold threads. The silver star carries the legends, "DEPUTY/ SHERIFF/ MARICOPA CO." in black letters while the current star reads, "SHERIFF" in blue letters at the top and "MARICOPA CO./ 1" are seen at the bottom. There is a black state seal circled in blue.

"150 YEARS" is lettered in white between the top star points.

"1871-2021" appears between the bottom star points.

A thick black border circles the center design and carries the legends, "MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE" at the top and "SERVING WITH HONOR AND INTEGRITY" at the bottom in white letters.

There is a black outer border.

MCSO transitioned from a territorial office to a county office when Arizona became a territory and divided into counties.

Dalby has designed many patches for MCSO, including Mounted, Hostage (SWAT) Negotiations, Drug Recognition Expert, Extraditions, Homicide Unit and Enforcement Support Division. He has done others as well.

He also did patches for the Town of Queen Creek, such as Deputy Sheriff and Mounted Sheriff's Posse and East Valley Institute of Technology Law Enforcement for the city of Mesa.

Dalby's talents were utilized to recreate the original circa 1940s wall calendar that can be seen framed next to the recreated Phoenix Police Department receiving desk at the Phoenix Police Museum. (Google "Phoenix Police Museum" for a virtual tour.)

The anniversary patch costs \$6 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please make checks payable to MCSO Cadets and mail them to MCSO, Attn. Mike Lucas, PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211.

Thank you for supporting the cadets! It is a very worthy organization.

**Fifteen counties** Every Arizona collector knows our state has only 15 counties. However, little known is there was once a 16th county, Pah-Ute. The name is a historic spelling of Paiute, a Native American tribe.



(Left) Mike Nikolin joined the Phoenix Police Department as a patrol officer in 1966. His ID card photo goes back to the time when ID photos were mug shots. (Right) Nikolin was a lieutenant when he retired from PPD in 1998. He was a driving force behind the police museum. *Mike Lucas Collection*

The long defunct county was created out of the north half of Mohave County in far northwestern Arizona in 1865. It existed for only six years until 1871 when it once again became part of Mohave County.

The Territorial Legislature created Pah-Ute County and made Callville the county seat. In 1867, the Mormon community of Saint Thomas became the new county seat. (Both towns no longer exist.)

It is unknown whether Pah-Ute County ever had a sheriff or a jail.

**Police Museum re-opening** The Phoenix Police Museum reopened to the public on December 1 after a long closure due to the pandemic. Curator Robert Demlong, a retired Phoenix police commander, said the museum will be open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

The museum had been open by appointment only during the closure.

A community display of a robotic bicycle puppet has been added, thanks to a recent donation.

It is hoped a full-size McGruff the Crime Dog can be added to appeal to children who visit.

The museum is among others bidding for law enforcement-related and other collectibles being liquidated by the Phoenix Wells Fargo Museum, which has permanently closed.

**Mike Nikolin remembered** Retired Phoenix police Lieutenant Mike Nikolin Sr. died on October 17 at age 77. He will long be remembered as a driving force behind the creation of the Phoenix Police Museum. He also served as curator.

Nikolin served in the United States Air Force before he joined the department in 1966. He retired in 1998 after 32 years of dedicated service. He served in the Patrol Bureau, General Investigations, Communications and Professional Standards Bureau.

Nikolin was an early and strong supporter of the museum, which is now located in the former City Hall building.

Mike was a very amiable friend who included me in the grand opening of the original museum more than 20 years ago. He listed my wife, Christina, and I as founding members and encouraged me to pursue efforts to perpetuate Maricopa County Sheriffs Office history.

He was instrumental in bringing the National Police Museum Conference to Phoenix several years ago.

There was a memorial service on November 14 attended by many of his longtime friends, retired officers and representatives of the police department.

He will be missed.

MIKE LUCAS (PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211)

# Railroad Police Badges From The World Wars

The United States Railroad Administration, a federal government agency, took over railroad police for three years during World War I. During World War II, companies that built railroad cars, such as Pullman, converted from civilian to wartime production. Chip Greiner has unique police badges from this era.

By Chip Greiner, Guest Writer

BOGOTA, N.J. – In 1916, as World War I began, the United States placed all of our railroads and express companies under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Railroad Administration (USRRA).

Director General William G. McAdoo appointed William J. Flynn, former director of the



(Top) Chip Greiner owns this set of four badges from World War I when the federal government took over railroad police. (Left) The Erie RR Company issued its own federal takeover badge. (Right) Lehigh Valley RR Police wore this handsome shield during WW I. Chip Greiner photographs





Those were the days! Chip Greiner recently found a 1973 list of railroad police badges for sale for prices between \$7.50 and \$10 each! He had been in the hobby for only a year when he got it in the mail. Back then, collectors only sold badges when they were unable to make trades. *Chip Greiner photograph*

Railroad Police ...Continued

Secret Service in New York City, as the chief of the United States Railroad Police. It was the first time in history that railroad police were given federal authority.

The USRRA police takeover lasted until the war ended in 1919. It issued beautiful custom-die badges to all commissioned railroad police officers as requested by individual railroads. I have a rank set of these federally-issued badges in my collection.

Railroads issued their own badges during this era as well. Some carried the individual railroad company names. Others were generic. I have shown a few of these from my collection. They proclaimed the officers' federal jurisdiction.

The federally-issued badges were round and made from a silver-colored metal. "UNITED STATES RAILROAD POLICE" appears on a ring around the center design, which is the USRRA seal. Ranks are shown on a banner that bisects the seal. (I have the ranks of patrolman, lieutenant, captain and superintendent.) Each badge has a number on a small banner above the rank panel.

Erie Railroad Police issued a gold-colored eagle-topped circlet with a bottom banner. The legend reads, "U.S.R.R. ADMINISTRATION/ ERIC R.R. POLICE," on a ring around the round center design, which is the Pennsylvania coat-of-arms. "U.S." appears on a small banner at the bottom.

Lehigh Valley Railroad is a traditional eagle-topped shield. The legends appear on banners around the center design, which is a large panel that reads, "POLICE." The legends are, "LEHIGH VALEYY R.R./ PATROLMAN/ U.S.R.R. ADMINISTRATION."

I have a plain large silver six-point star from the Kansas City, Mo. Terminal Railroad. It is unique because there is a gold-colored heart embedded on the star as the center design. "OF/ AMERICA" is lettered on the heart. It represents Heart of America, which Kansas City is often called.

Incidentally, the United States Railway Administration was revived and re-named in the 1970s to create the Consolidated Rail Corporation or Conrail, which saved bankrupt railroads in the Northeast.

**The Windy City** One of my favorite early Chicago railroad police pie plates is from the Chicago and Erie Railroad Company. This railroad operated from 1890 to 1895 and then merged into what was then the Erie Railroad Company.

It's a silver-colored six-point star with no center design. The hand-engraved legends read, "SPECIAL/ POLICE/ CHICAGO/ & ERIE R.R." It has a pin back.

The badge was made by S.D. Childs Company and carries their hallmark on the back. The firm was a well-known engraver in Chicago.

I am always on the lookout for railroad police pie plates.

I just recently acquired a Pullman Standard Ship Division Police pie plate from Chicago. While it is not a railroad police badge, it has an interesting history.

Pullman made standard passenger cars for the railroads. However, during World War II, the company switched from civilian to military production, as did the automobile manufacturers.

The Pullman railroad car production plant was located on the north side of 130th Street near Lake Calumet. Interestingly, the plant manufactured ships for the Navy and Merchant Marine during the war. I was able to find some information on the Pullman shipbuilding business:

"In 1943, Pullman Standard established a shipbuilding division and entered wartime small ship design and construction. The yard was located near Lake Calumet in Chicago, on the north side of 130th Street, at the most southerly point of Lake Michigan.

"Pullman built the boats in 40-ton blocks which were assembled in a fabrication shop on 111th Street and moved to the yard on gondola cars.

"In two years, the company built 34 Corvette PCEs, which were 180 feet long and weighed 640 tons, and 44 LSMs, which were 203 feet long and weighed 520 tons.

"Pullman ranked 56th among United States corporations in the value of World War II military production contracts."

Corvettes are small warships usually used in coastal waters. They are smaller than frigates. PCE stands for Patrol Craft-Escort. They were used mostly to escort cargo vessels.

LSM means landing ship-medium. These were the amphibious craft used for coastal landings on islands in the South Pacific during World War II. There were two other classes, LST (landing ship tank) and LSI (landing ship infantry).

**Those were the days** With some recent discussions about values and high badge prices, I thought it would be interesting to take a glimpse at the other end of the spectrum: the early days of badge collecting.

While going through some old files and early badge correspondence, I came across an old badge list from 1973. I started collecting in 1972, so this is one of my first lists of railroad badges from 47 years ago. Badge prices were between \$7.50 to \$10. Killer railroad badges went for \$10!

Times have changed a bit...

CHIP GREINER (PO Box 125, Bogota NJ 07603) rrbadges@aol.com

The Badge Beat

By Pat Olvey, Staff Writer Emeritus

CINCINNATI, O. – I have the only complete Philadelphia, Penna. Fairmount Park police collection. This article focuses on the park police history and their badges.

There are not many park police departments left in major cities. Most agencies were absorbed by municipal police departments. Cincinnati and New York City are examples of such amalgamations. There are many others across the country.

Fairmount Park is the largest public park in Philadelphia. It is also the historic name for a group of smaller parks in the city.

The first law enforcement officers in Fairmount Park were hired in 1868 and were known as park guards. The department consisted of a captain, four sergeants and 35 guards. They patrolled 28 acres. The agency was under the control of the City Park Commission. The guards were unarmed but wore uniforms.

On September 11, 1968, on the department's 100th anniversary, their title was changed from park guard to park police.

The beginning of the end came in February 1972 when the commissioners agreed with Mayor Frank Rizzo that the park police should answer to the Philadelphia police commissioner. Three months later, the 104-year-old agency merged with the police department and became the Fairmount Parks Division.

At one time Fairmount Park was the fourth-largest police department in Pennsylvania. The only larger departments were Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and the State Police.

When the department was amalgamated, it patrolled seven park districts with about 525 officers. Today, the police parks division covers Fairmount Park and Wissahickon Park with about 30 sworn, armed officers.

**Beautiful historic badges** Those who know me know that I only seriously collect



(Top) Pullman built ships for the Navy and Merchant Marine during World War II at their plant in Chicago. (Left) Kansas City Terminal RR Police badge with a gold heart in the center. (Right) Chicago and Erie RR Police is one of Chip Greiner's favorites from the Windy City. *Chip Greiner photographs*

(Upper left) A captain's badge from the 1870s or '80s is the centerpiece of Pat Olvey's Fairmount Park Guard collection. (Upper right) An early captain badge. (Lower left) An early guard shield. (Lower right) A variation from the previous designs with "PARK GUARD" and a number. *Pat Olvey photographs*





Pat Olvey collected these beautiful solid gold Fairmount Park Police rank badges, commissioner and lieutenant. Commissioner would have become obsolete in 1972 when the Park Guard became part of the PD. The lieutenant badge is a beautiful custom-die with blue enamel. *Pat Olvey photographs*

old badges, the older the better. There is nothing wrong with today's flashy styles and modern looks. These badges are just not for me. Give me antiques every time.

I strongly suspect many collectors passed on Fairmount Park badges over the years because they carried the title "guard," so they either assumed these were not law enforcement badges or worn by private security guards. (You know who you are, Philadelphia collectors!)

The centerpiece of this collection is a beautiful sterling silver hand-engraved badge for an early captain of the park guard. It's a custom-die shield with an engraved outer border. The legends are black and read, "CAPTAIN/ PARK/ GUARD," with crossed wreaths between the title and department name. I acquired this unique badge in 2003.

Keep in mind the captain of the guard was also the chief of the Park Guard. This is probably the first issue captain badge. It has a "T" pin, spring pin and "C" catch on the back. There is no hallmark.

Considering the agency was formed in 1868, and judging by the engraving and design, this badge most likely dates to the 1870s or '80s. Obviously, if it is not a first issue, there must have been a badge before it. However, I cannot find one older than it. I doubt one exists.

I have a pre-1900 Fairmount Park captain I believe is a second issue and was worn until the 1920s when it became obsolete. It is a Philadelphia-style silver-colored custom-die shield with a large city seal as the center design. "FAIRMOUNT PARK" appears on a banner above the seal, while "CAPTAIN" is seen on a smaller banner beneath it. It was also obtained in 2003.

There is a shield very similar to the captain's badge except for the guard title. Remember that Park Guard patrol officers were called guards until 1968.

I have a variation of the park guard Philadelphia-style shield with the legend, "PARK GUARD," at the top and the number "120" on an oval-shaped panel at the bottom. It's the same style as the other guard badge, except for the different legends and number panel. Unfortunately, I do not know the dates of use.

The only Park Guard sergeant badge I have ever seen is another Philadelphia-style shield but in a different style than the guard rank. It has a dull dark metal finish with the city seal inside a ring as the center design. Three panels carry the legends, "SERGEANT/ PARK GUARD/ 46."

I have what I strongly believe is the third issue badge, which was used circa 1920 to at least mid-1943. It is a silver custom-die with ornate engraved borders at the top and bottom. The badge shape is hard to describe. How about calling it an elongated pinch shield? The legends read, "PARK GUARD" at the top and "150" at the bottom. It appears the number was added after the badge was finished.

The significance of this badge is the round center seal. It is different than the other badges. Instead of the city seal, the guard opted to use the state seal on this issue. I can only conjecture why. I do not know. Nevertheless, it is a very impressive badge.

I have written numerous times that old photographs are sometimes the only way to date a badge. I have a picture of Frank Vaughan, who served as a guard from 1920 to 1930. He is wearing the third issue shield.

I was able to find a 1943 book about the Fairmount Park Guard that was sold as a fundraiser for an event at the park. It shows photographs of ranking officers. The highest



rank then was superintendent. There were four lieutenants, who were shown wearing the third issue, the same style being worn by Guard Vaughan. The fourth and final issue, worn only from 1968 to 1972, was almost identical to the police department's shield, except for the legends, "FAIRMOUNT/ PARK POLICE," and three-digit cutout badge numbers.

Now, Philadelphia parks division officers wear the regular department issue shield. I have two additional Fairmount Park Guard badges that probably could also be called centerpieces, commissioner and lieutenant. Both are beautiful custom-dies made from solid gold.

The rank badges from this agency were commissioner, captain, lieutenant and sergeant. The park utilized a standard command structure.

Commissioner is ten-karat solid gold. It is round with a raised rope-like border and the city seal as the center design. The legend appears on a ring around the center, "COMMISSIONER OF FAIRMOUNT PARK," at the top and "PHILA." at the bottom. It shows no surface wear.

The old park guard lieutenant badge is one of my favorites. It is sterling silver and has a machine pin and small Burgess catch on the reverse. A plain city seal appears in high relief as the center design. The legends appear in blue enamel on a gold ring around the seal, "LIEUTENANT/ FAIRMOUNT PARK GUARD."

What makes this a unique badge is a wreath-like circle is attached to the round center with four equally-spaced (top and bottom, left and right) soldered squares that are blue and gold bordered in gold. Nice badge!

**Horses and guard boxes** Horseback was the fastest and most sensible way for the Park Guard to cover the parks before motorcycles and automobiles. Fairmount Park covers more than 14 square miles. So, in addition to being a law enforcement officer, guards had to be accomplished riders and horsemen.

Park guards rode horses before the police department created its vaunted Mounted Patrol in 1889.

Later, guards began patrolling on bicycles and horses.

While some guards patrolled the vast parks, others worked fixed duty posts at small wooden shelters they called "boxes" located throughout the parks. Later, the structures were known as guardhouses.

The boxes were small buildings to protect the guards from the weather, give them a place to write logs and reports and store equipment and gear. Of course, park users could approach a guard at one of the boxes.

In the early 19th century, there was a move to replace the original plain wooden boxes with more attractive buildings to help beautify the parks. Two architectural styles were the most popular, Victorian or Craftsman. The new boxes had telephones and wood or coal stoves.



(Upper left) Park Guard sergeant is different than other badges. (Upper right) The third style of park guard badge. It was worn from 1920 into the mid-1940s. Variations have been seen. (Lower left) The fourth issue badge. (Lower right) The post-1972 merger park police shield. *Pat Olvey photographs*



Early members of the Fairmount Park Guard patrolled Philadelphia parks on horseback. Mounted officers are shown during a formal event at the park. While the Park Guard began riding horses on patrol in 1868, the Police Department Mounted Patrol started in 1889. *Contributed photograph*





A few of the miniature police stations once used by the Fairmount Park Guard, which were first called “boxes” and later guardhouses, have been restored and are once again at their original locations in the park. Restoration costs were funded by the city and through donations. *Pat Olvey photographs*

Badge Beat ...Continued

When the boxes became obsolete after guards began patrolling in or on motor vehicles, most of them were destroyed, sold or given away. (Imagine what a great centerpiece to a Philly collection one of these would have made!)

In the 1970s, there was an effort to restore the few boxes that weren't destroyed. It was led by the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust.

**Possible comeback?** Will the Fairmount Park Guard make a comeback?

Last summer, a *Philadelphia Inquirer* editorial called for the park guards to be brought back to improve public safety in the parks.

It proclaimed the force should have not been abolished. “In 1972, Mayor Frank Rizzo absorbed the guards into the Police Department further increasing the PPD budget... Today, the city budgets for fewer than 30 police officers to patrol 10,000 acres of park lands,” it read.

The newspaper said unarmed park guards would be less costly than sworn police, and “The guards would be ideal candidates for a safety force to help protect public health and safety...as well as maintaining our green spaces and watersheds.”

The editorial stated most issues that arise in parks are relatively minor (littering, illegal dumping, lost children or pets and dogs running off leash), and “These issues do not require armed police to intervene.”

Reinstating the Park Guard would save the city money and create jobs as well, the *Inquirer* editorialized.

In 2017, *Philly Magazine* published a piece calling on the city to consider reestablishing the guards.

PAT OLVEY

*The late Pat Olvey submitted this column on September 20, only 11 days before his untimely death last October 1. Sadly, it was his final column. However, we have additional previously unpublished articles that will be published in future issues. EDITOR*

New Book Reveals Dayton, Ohio Crime And Police History

Collector and historian Stephen Grismer tells a little known story of Prohibition Era crime and police efforts to stop it in his great new book, *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio*. It focuses on mobster John Dillinger and legendary Chief of Police Rudolph Wurstner, who served Dayton for more than five decades.

By Stephen Grismer, Guest Writer

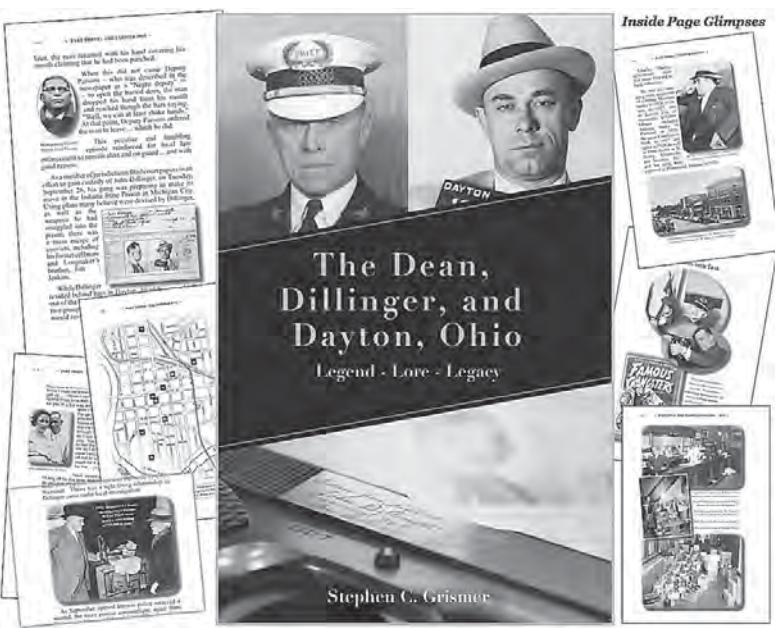
DAYTON, O. – One of the most romanticized periods in United States history began in earnest a century ago when the National Prohibition Act went into effect, allowing for the enforcement by lawmen of a newly-ratified amendment to the United States Constitution.

Prohibition was the gateway to an era recognized as the age of the “big-time” gangsters. It was bookended by two significant closely-tied periods in our nation’s past, the Temperance Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which led to the legal ban on alcoholic beverages, and the Great Depression, a period that brought the Roaring ‘20s to an abrupt end with the stock market crash.

Similar to other locales throughout the country, Dayton, O. was profoundly affected by all three eras. While the city is the setting for this story, *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio*, my new book, other major American Midwest urban centers, such as Saint Paul, Chicago and Indianapolis, weave in and out of this saga, as do smaller Ohio “Little Chicago” cities, Lima and Hamilton. But, this tumultuous period for the “Gem City” is unique and as compelling as stories of other more publicized metropolises.

The book went on the market last November. It is large, 423 pages, with hundreds of images. It is available online at Amazon.Com for \$29.95. All proceeds from sales go to the Dayton Police History Museum initiative.

The development of local law enforcement in Dayton is a major component of this book



Stephen C. Grismer, an Ohio police collector and historian, is out with his latest book, *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio*, which chronicles mobster John Dillinger’s brief tenure in the Gem City and how legendary Chief of Police Rudolph Wurstner and his officers dealt with him. *Steve Grismer photograph*

and with it comes the other title subjects, two larger than life figures, John H. Dillinger, who would later become the nation’s first “Public Enemy No. 1,” and Police Chief Rudolph F. Wurstner, who would become the dean of the nation’s police chiefs.

All three, *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton*, come into their own in different ways in the year 1903, making it the starting point for this story. The first two chapters chronicle events that shaped early Dayton with law enforcement as the backdrop. Although it receives third billing, it is central to this account but has the two principal figures as characters in contrast.

Chief Wurstner served Dayton citizens for over five decades, while Dillinger, a victimizer, was in and out of Dayton over a mere five months in 1933. Yet, it is Dillinger who is best remembered locally and, of course, nationally.

When it comes to “The Dean” and Dillinger, the book’s goal is twofold. First, to capture the career of and deliver a genuine appreciation for a historic local lawman who earned national standing. Second, to give the infamous bandit’s interaction with the Gem City the fuller narrative it deserves.

Other publications, while addressing Dillinger’s fame in Dayton and with his local girlfriend, Mary Jenkins Longnaker, gloss over the episode. Mary was not a gangster moll and his coming to Dayton happened before the famed Allen County jail escape. The general misimpression is that Dillinger passed through Dayton once or twice, and then conveyed elsewhere.

The local story is more involved, and not surprisingly, when it comes to Dillinger, a mix of both facts and folklore. This is the definitive tale of Dillinger in Dayton and brings to light his forlorn love affair. The gangster is recounted throughout the book’s ten chapters.

Readers will also be introduced to other gangsters and mobsters with Greater Dayton connections, such as local crime figure Al Fouts, the more infamous Chicago mobster George “Bugs” Moran, gangster Al Karpis and many others. The tales promise to be surprising as is the back story is the long but dubious career of fabled Dayton and Saint Paul lawman James Crumley.

More importantly, this book highlights heroic actions by Dayton law enforcement officers and their bloody sacrifices in protecting their local community; the individuals who truly deserve acclaim, such as Detective Russell Pfaul, who took both Dillinger and Moran into custody.

In the end, the saga will tie Dayton to legends arguably from the most notorious periods in American history. The many figures and events from the Gem City’s history provide an astonishing untold legacy.

“I think a lot of people will be surprised at the number of notorious gangsters and robbers that traveled in and out of Dayton,” Grismer said.

**An engrossing read** I was born and raised in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. Many times as a kid, I walked past the site of the Biograph Theater where John Dillinger met his fateful bullet-riddled demise at the hands of federal agents on July 22, 1934.

Although I had no idea of the historical significance of the Biograph at the time, I have always been fascinated by the Chicago mobster era, especially Dillinger.

So, when I got my copy of Steve Grismer’s great new book, *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio*, I thought to myself, “Man, I can’t wait to read this!” I thumbed through it, saw a ton of great historic photos, including many badges, and decided to read the first chapter, then finish it later.

The first chapter led to the second chapter, which led to the third chapter, which led to the rest of the book! It was one of those books I just couldn’t put down. Before I knew it, I had finished an engrossing read.



A collage of images from *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio*, the outstanding new book by collector Stephen Grismer, shows badges, historic photographs and much more. It’s a “can’t put it down” read about crime and law enforcement history in Ohio during Prohibition. *Steve Grismer photograph*



Grismer, a talented storyteller and retired Dayton cop, hits the ten ring time and time again with this outstanding chronicle of Dayton crime and police history, focusing on Dillinger and Chief Wurstner but weaving in well known (Karpis, Bugs Moran, etc.) and not so well known gangsters. It took him ten years to research it.

Best of all, it's written with a collector perspective since the author is active in the Dayton Police Historical Society and working toward establishment of a city police museum. There are badge, uniform and historic photos galore.

Chief Wurstner was only 21 years old when he became a Dayton patrol officer in 1902. He worked his way up through the ranks to become chief. He is credited with bringing a new era of professionalism to the city. He added modern weaponry, bullet-proof steel shields and even an armored car. "Bank Flyer" was added to the agency fleet in 1930. It was a custom Cadillac with bullet-proof glass, metal tires and interior gun racks. It was used as a combination rescue and assault vehicle.

Police chiefs in major metropolitan cities didn't stay in office for very long back then, so when Chief Wurstner served his tenth year in Dayton, he became the longest-tenured big city chief in the country; thus, the nickname "Dean" (of police chiefs).

Before I became a collector, growing up here in the Midwest, I thought Chicago was the '20s and '30s gangster era capital of the region. Of course, now I know better. Since then, I have learned that Saint Paul, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Saint Louis, Indianapolis and now Dayton have significance in the unique history of Prohibition Era crime and law enforcement's heroic efforts to combat it, or at least contain it.

*The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio* is well worth a read for anyone truly interested in the history behind the insignia and everything else that we collect, which, of course, separates true collectors from accumulators.

(Book review by Mike R. Bondarenko. Editor)  
STEPHEN C. GRISMER (Dayton Police Historical Foundation, PO Box 293157, Dayton OH 45429-9157)

# Winston Obtains Historic Texas Ranger Badge

Jerry Winston, a Tennessee collector who specializes in historic badges, recently obtained a five-point circled star once carried by Texas Ranger Durham Henry Avant, who later died while serving as a Confederate Army soldier in Vicksburg, Miss. during the Civil War.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Knoxville, Tenn. badge collector Jerry Winston recently acquired a historic Texas Ranger badge that has been documented to at least 1852, or 169 years ago! "The badge was worn by a 24-year-old Texan named Durham Henry Avant. He joined the Texas Rangers in 1852 and served in the Frontier Battalion Company 'E,'" Winston said.

The gold-colored badge was created from an 1836 Mexican peso coin and features a hand-carved five-point star in the center design.

It shows extensive wear. Although the legend "TEXAS" at the top has nearly worn off, the "E" on the star and "RANGER" at the bottom remain clearly visible.

The circled five-point star has a pin back. Winston said Ranger Avant joined the 15th Texas Cavalry in 1861 to fight in the Civil War. He was wounded in Vicksburg, Miss. and died in 1863.

The collector has extensive documentation for his phenomenal find. There is a handwritten letter written by Captain William Sedgewick on November 21, 1863 in Vicksburg, Miss. informing Avant's widow of his death:

"I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of your husband at Vicksburg. He suffered a chest wound and just never recovered. The doctor said he came down with a case of some kind of pneumonia and it was just too much for him to overcome. He died in his sleep, so it was peaceful. He was a good man and I am glad I got to know him before he died."

Winston also has a handwritten letter dated September 21, 1958 documenting an affidavit sworn before a Texas justice of the peace by Dalton Franklin Pierce, Avant's great grandson, attesting to the authenticity of the badge, as well as a knife the Ranger carried on duty.

"He got sick at Vicksburg, Miss. with pneumonia and died in 1863. His friend brought his goods home to his family, and my mother, Mary Elizabeth Avant, passed them to me from his father, William P. Avant," Pierce wrote.

"The badge was made in Austin, Tex. It was made from a Mexican peso coin dated 1836. It was what most Rangers wore until they could have one specially made," he added.

Interestingly, Pierce recalled his mother telling him Ranger Avant didn't like wearing a badge, so he carried it in a pocket with his knife until he needed it. Being in a pocket with a knife would certainly explain the heavy wear.

Ranger, surveyor and tavern owner Michael Pierce of North Texas



(Left) Texas Ranger wore this badge from 1852 to 1861. Actually, he carried it in a pocket most of the time, which would explain the heavy wear. (Right) The pin back badge was created from an 1836 Mexican peso coin. Most Rangers of the time wore badges made of coins. *Jerry Winston photographs*

Genealogy Consulting published his research on Avant's life and career as a Ranger in 2015. His research shows he became a Ranger at least as early as 1838, long before 1852 as claimed by his family. He was also older than 24 years when he was commissioned.

"Durham was born around 1798 in North Carolina, according to later census records. He married Susan Winsett in Lawrence County, Ala. on 7 June 1824. They had four of their children while living in Alabama.

"He moved the family to Texas in 1834, arriving in stagecoaches and living there until he received a land grant from the Mexican Government. This grant was issued to him on 28 October 1835 and included one league (4428 acres) of land located in what was then Houston County but is now Firestone County in northeast Texas.

"Durham was a Texas Ranger, serving with several different units over the years. A receipt for a hog that was taken by 'D Avant' for use by Captain Joseph William's Ranger Company is dated 27 September 1838 and is signed by First Lieutenant James Fisher.

"The company served in September and October 1838 on the Angelina River during the Kickapoo War. This action occurred as a result of the recent Cordova Rebellion in that part of Texas. There was evidence that some Indian tribes sided with rebels against the Texans, and the Rangers were gathered to drive them out of Texas. In the combat that took place on 16 October 1838, the Rangers destroyed a Kickapoo Village and ten Kickapoo and one renegade Cherokee were killed.

"Shortly afterward, Durham volunteered to serve with another Ranger company. In November and December 1838, groups of Indians from a dozen different tribes gathered to raid settlements in northeast Texas. On New Years Day 1839, the band struck a settler's home and killed three families that had gathered to celebrate the holidays. Over the next two weeks, they attacked several other homes, prompting a call for help.

"On 6 January 1839, Durham joined Captain James W. Cleveland's Ranger company of Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Snively's Ranger Battalion. They immediately rode to Neches Saline and began patrolling for Indians. After three weeks without finding them, they assumed the Indians had fled the area, and the company began disbanding with Durham leaving on 27 January 1839.

"Next, Durham was joined by his oldest son, William, in Captain Henry Madison Smith's Volunteer Rangers, Major General Thomas Rusk's Second Regiment Third Brigade, from 1 May until September 1839. This period of service was during the Cherokee War of 1839. This war began after documents were found on the body of a Mexican who had been killed after firing at some locals near Nacogdoches, exposing plans by the Mexican government to enlist the Indians against the Texas settlers.

"President Mirabeau B. Lamar, supported by popular opinion, determined to expel the East Texas Indians. In July 1839, Kelsey H. Douglass was put in command of approximately 500 troops under Edward Burleson. Willis H. Landrum and Rusk and was ordered to remove the Indians to Arkansas Territory.

"The army camped on Council Creek six miles south of the principal Cherokee village of Chief Bowl and dispatched a commission on July 12 to negotiate for the Indians' removal. The Indians agreed to sign a treaty of removal that guaranteed to them the profit from their crops and the cost of the removal. During the next two days, they insisted they were willing to leave but refused to sign the treaty because of a clause that would give them an armed escort out of the republic.

"On July 15, the commissioners told the Indians that the Texans would march on their village immediately and that those willing to accept the treaty should display a white flag, Landrum was sent across the Neches to cut off possible reinforcements, and the remainder of the army marched into the village.

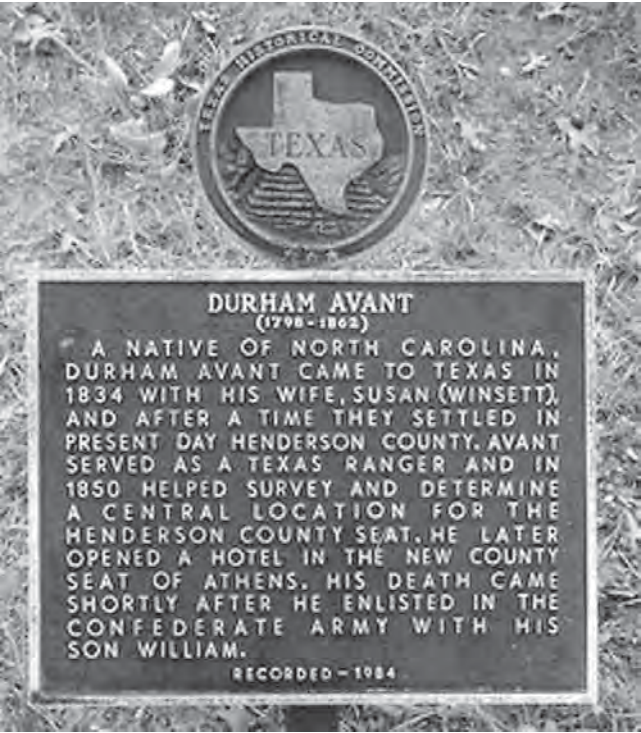
"The Battle of Neches occurred a few miles west of Tyler, in what is now Henderson County. By sundown, three Texans had been killed and five wounded; the Indians had lost 18. The Indians fled and Douglass made camp.

"Pursuit was begun on the morning of July 16. A scouting party under James Carter engaged the Cherokees near the headwaters of the Neches River at a site now in Van Zandt County. The Indians sought shelter in a hut and surrounding cornfields but were forced to abandon them after Carter was reinforced by the arrival of Rusk and Burleson. After 30 minutes of fighting, the Indians were forced to the Neches bottoms, where Chief Bowl was killed and a number of warriors were lost.

"After the last fighting near Grand Saline, it was estimated that more than 100 Indians had been killed or wounded in the engagements.

"On July 21, the Texas marched toward the headwaters of the Sabine River along the route taken by the fleeing Indians. Numerous huts and fields were destroyed that afternoon, and several villages and more than 200 acres of corn were burned on the morning of July 22. The destruction continued during the pursuit of the Indians, which was not abandoned until July 24. Most of the Indians fled to Cherokee lands outside the republic.

"During the winter, a small group under Chief Egg and John Bowles, son of Chief Bowl, attempted to reach Mexico by skirting the fringe of white settlements. Burleson, on a campaign against the Plains Indians, intercepted the Cherokees and attacked them near the mouth of the San Sabe River on December 25, 1839. Egg and Bowles, along with several warriors were killed, and 27 women and children were captured. This was the last important action against the Cherokee in Texas.



A historical marker erected in Henderson County commemorates the life and career of Durham Henry Avant (1798-1862), a Texas Ranger, who later worked as a surveyor and tavern and hotel owner before he joined the Confederate Army in 1861. *Michael Pierce photograph*



Ranger Badge ...Continued

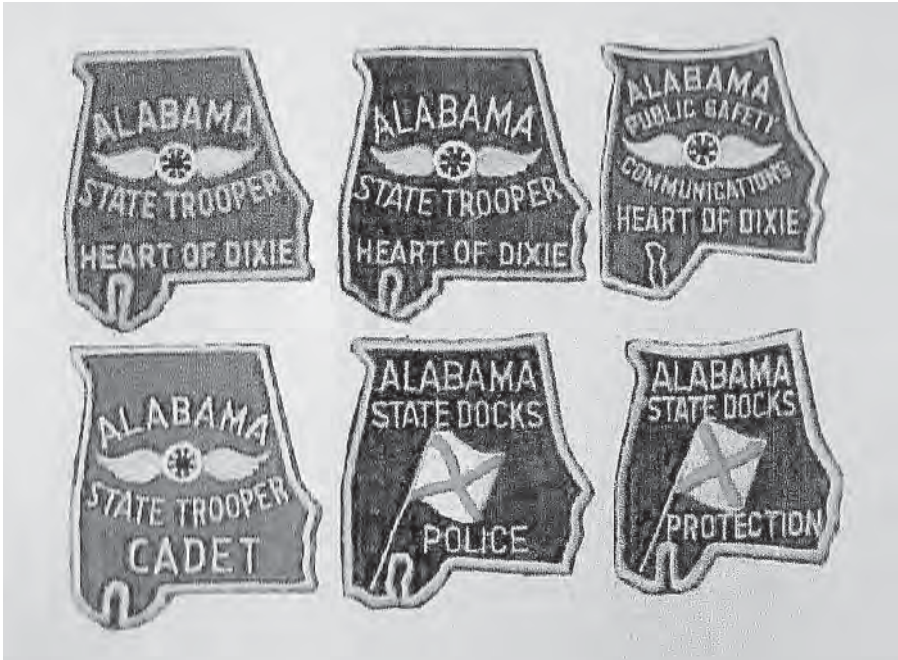
“In 1848, the legislature formed Van Zandt and Kaufman counties of Henderson County and reduced it to its present size. Durham was appointed by the state legislature to re-survey Henderson County to locate the center for the purpose of establishing a new county seat. The town became Athens. He purchased several town lots and opened what was called a tavern back then but would now be considered a motel or boarding establishment.”  
Courtesy of Jerry Winston and Michael Pierce of North Texas Genealogy Consulting  
MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net



Fred Hancock has a great Alabama state agency collection. This display shows 21 different styles and variations, including several very early and first issues, such as Alabama Highway Patrol (upper left). Hancock obtained many of these patches starting in the mid-1970s. Fred Hancock photograph



Four emblems from the Alabama State Troopers (current and obsolete styles), State Capitol Police (state seal) and Revenue Enforcement (state seal) in Fred Hancock’s collection. Revenue enforcement agents, who wear the patch on raid jackets, collect taxes. Fred Hancock photograph



Alabama state agencies have long since gravitated away from state shapes like these. Highway Patrol emblems carried the motto, “Heart of Dixie,” and a winged wheel. State Docks Police and State Docks Protection are state shapes with the state flag as the center design. Fred Hancock photograph



Capitol Patrol is obsolete. Highway Patrol is a rare early issue. Docks Police is a very early design. Capitol Security Police was a short-lived style. State Defense Force may or may not be law enforcement. Department of Revenue is a forerunner to Revenue Enforcement. Fred Hancock photograph

The Louisiana Man

By Fred Hancock, Staff Writer

MONROE, La. – Out of my vast collection of law enforcement patches, let me show some of the state agency patches from Alabama.

These patches have been accumulated mostly from the mid-1970s but also through today. I am not sure of the exact sequence of their origins but am using my best guesses. The first photo shows 21 patches.

I have seven variations of Alabama State Trooper patches with a variety of seals, script and colors, but basically they are all the same. Earlier patches have cheese cloth backing, while more modern patches have plastic or iron-on backing.

There is a Reserve State Trooper patch. It is gray twill with cheese cloth backing. It shows the United States, state and Confederate States flags.

It is unknown to me at this time if the state seal still contains the Confederate flag (along with the flags of Spain, France and England), but I suspect it still does because these are the four governing bodies that have ruled the territory that is now the state.

The Capitol Police and Revenue Enforcement emblems are the same as the state trooper patch. I have early issues with cheese cloth backing.

State troopers once wore a state shape with the motto, “HEART OF DIXIE,” on it. I have one in gray twill with a yellow border and legends, white winged wheel and cheese cloth backing. Another is made from black shiny material with heavy jacket weight backing, yellow border and legends and a white wheel with yellow wings.

Public Safety Communications and State Trooper Cadet are state shapes on gray twill with yellow border and legends, white wheel with yellow wings and cheese cloth backing. They have the “Heart of Dixie” motto.

Capitol Patrol is an obsolete style. It shows the Capitol building dome and the state flag. It is light blue and fully embroidered. It has yellow borders and legends. The dome is yellow and white. There is a cheese cloth backing.

Alabama Highway Patrol is a very old style. It is round and made on black felt. There is no border. It has gold legends and wings inside a white wheel.

State Docks Police was made on black felt with cheese cloth backing and no border. The legends and inner design are gold.

Capitol Security Police is black and fully embroidered with cheese cloth backing. There is a gold border, yellow inner legends and a multi-colored state seal. I do not know its sequence in department patch history.

State Defense Force is white twill with cheese cloth backing. The borders and legends are red. There is a multi-colored state seal.

Department of Revenue is black twill with cheese cloth backing and yellow borders and legends.

Highway Department Convict Operations features the state seal. It was made on black twill with cheese cloth backing and orange border and legends.

I have an Alabama TASP patch. I have no idea what TASP stands for. My guess it might be military inasmuch as it has a federal eagle. When I Googled it, I came up with the Total



Fred Hancock has two Alabama Highway Department Weight Enforcement versions with titles, “Weight Enforcement” and “Vehicle Weight Enforcement.” Fred Hancock doesn’t know the original of the TASP patch. Youth Services are color variations. Mental Health is obsolete. Fred Hancock photograph





A very early Mental Health Security emblem. Emergency Rescue Unit is a state shape. EMS Paramedic has a state outline. Emergency Management Agency features a multi-colored state outline. Prisoner Transport Service is from the Alabama Department of Corrections. *Fred Hancock photograph*

Army Sponsorship Program, which is related to Fort Rucker, Ala., an Army base and home to Army aviation. But, I am not satisfied with this, so I do not specifically know which agency it represents.

Highway Department Vehicle Weight Enforcement is light blue twill with cheese cloth backing. It has a black border and legends and contains the multi-colored state seal. I also have a Weight Enforcement patch. It is dark blue with plastic backing, black border and legends and a multi-colored state outline as the center design.

Department of Youth Services is black twill with cheese cloth backing, It has a white border and legends and a multi-colored state seal. I also have one made on dark gray twill with cheese cloth backing, a dull gold border, white legends and a multi-colored state seal.

Department of Mental Health Police is black twill with cheese cloth backing, gold border and legends on a red ribbon outline and a gold center symbol. I also have a patch designated "SECURITY" made on black twill with cheesecloth backing. It has a blue border and yellow legends on a red ribbon outline with a yellow symbol as the center design.

Emergency Rescue Unit is a state shape on dark gray twill with a yellow border, white legends and a multi-colored Confederate flag. It has cheese cloth backing.

Emergency Management Agency is white twill with cheese cloth backing, black outer border, red legends and multi-colored state seal as the center design.

Prisoner Transport Service is brown and fully embroidered with a cheese cloth backing. It has a gold border and white legends. The center design is a six-point gold star with multi-colored eagles and a red, white and blue shield.

I have other Alabama state agency patches, such as Public Safety Commission Enforcement, Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement (state shape) and Alcoholic Beverage Control Law Enforcement (round).

I also have several State Trooper current designs in camouflage and gray on black. There are arrays of Department of Corrections and Conservation and Forestry patches as well.

I know there are others from Alabama, but let's call this a wrap!  
FRED HANCOCK (411 Fortune Drive, Monroe LA 71203-2126)

Fred Hancock's next column will be devoted to his reaction to the eye-popping price that a first issue North Carolina Highway Patrol recently garnered in an online auction. He has one in his collection! EDITOR

# Siler City, N.C. Police Wearing New Badges

Police in Siler City, N.C. are wearing a handsome new custom-designed badge that was introduced late last year. Chief Michael Wagner said it is believed to be the first standard issue that Silver City has had in at least 20 years.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SILER CITY, N.C. – It has been more than 20 years since police officers in Siler City, N.C. have worn the same badge style. No longer!

In late October last year, Chief Michael Wagner presented each officer with a new custom-designed shield that had been created and approved by the officers themselves.

"In my 14 years here, we've never had uniform badges. Everybody had different badges, so, we never had a uniform badge across the department, which defeats the purpose of a uniform, to have uniformity," Sergeant Josh Moore said.

"My major says it's been at least since 2000 that there haven't been matching badges, so it's been quite some time, Chief Wagner added.

The unique silver-colored pinched shield shape features two full color United States flags, one on either side. The center design is a plain North Carolina state seal surrounded by a blue ring upon which appears, "STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA," in silver letters. There is a small blue five-point star at the top.

"OFFICER" is seen in blue letters on a banner across the top, while "SILER CITY/ NC" appears in blue letters on two banners at the bottom.

"POLICE" is lettered on a ring beneath the center design.

A set of eagle wings is engraved into the die above the state seal. Chief Wagner, whose 18-month tenure has been hallmarked by modernization of the 13-officer Chatham County agency, circulated several proposed badge designs among the



Police in Siler City, N.C. began wearing this custom-designed badge last October. It features two United State flags and the state seal. Chief Michael Wagner is modernizing the 13-officer agency. He circulated proposed badge designs and allowed officers to vote for their favorite. *Contributed photograph*

employees and let them vote for their favorites. "As an agency, it was an inclusive decision. We had examples of the badge that were passed out to the officers, and the officers were allowed to take a vote," the chief said.

Democratic decision-making is not a standard practice in many police departments, but has been a hallmark of Chief Wagner's leadership. His officers say they appreciate the gesture.

"I'm not bashing anyone, but it was totally different in past times coming up in the agency. There was pretty much one or two people who made the decisions and that's what you got; you really didn't have a say," Sergeant Moore said.

"The badge is symbolic. It entrusts you with the trust of the community. And so, the badge of authority, as people will say, is a segue to trust, a segue to enforce state law and a symbol of courage," Chief Wagner said.

The chief related a typical police career involves three badges, the one issued when an officer is hired, the badge(s) issued when the officer is promoted or assigned to a special service or the badge issued when he or she retires. So, it is truly symbolic over the course of a career.

Chief Wagner has gotten high marks for his effort to move Siler City PD forward. According to him, there is no reason the department should operate to a lower standard than any big city organization just because of its size and scope.

"We're not going to settle for mediocrity. We're going to move into a proactive professional agency that provides services just like a bigger agency. And we're not going to curtail ourselves or cut ourselves short just because we have a smaller area of service or smaller population. The expectation of our community is just the same, right? They expect the same professional, consistent police service that they got anywhere else in the region, and we're making strides to ensure that," Chief Wagner said.

Often, the correlation between new insignia, especially a department-specific badge, and morale is understated, but certainly explains how much a professional, attractive badge or patch means to officers.

"We want to look good and professional. But, I think the badges also show that we're trying to make changes," Officer Seth Tillman said. He joined the department only five months before it was issued.

"I makes me very proud," he said of his new shield. Siler City is the largest town in Chatham County. The population is 8200. Located along the Rocky River, it is best known as an artistic community with numerous art fairs and galleries.

A bit of trivia: Siler City was mentioned during three different episodes of the The Andy Griffith Show, the 1960s sitcom about Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Barney Fife which took place in fictional Mayberry, N.C.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

**Couple Collects Patches** Paul and Kim Lehman are huge fans of the TV show *Live PD*, so much so that the Lubbock, Tex. couple began collecting police patches from across the country to show their support for police. So far, their collection numbers about 650 different emblems. Paul Lehman got a police patch as a gift for his wife's birthday two years ago. Some of the agencies represented in their collection have appeared on *Live PD*. They write letters to the police departments expressing their support for police and ask for an emblem for the collection.

**New Montana Patch** Chief Adam Jacques wants a new shoulder patch for the Fort Benton, Mont. Police Department and sponsored a design contest to create it. Entries closed on New Years Day. The current patch is an inverted arrowhead shape with a custom center design. Chief Jacques wants the new emblem to include "Montana." "Patch collectors from around the country may not know where Fort Benton is, so my thought process was I'd like to see 'Montana' put on the patch," he said. There was no other design criteria. He hopes to choose the winning design in February or March.

**New School Police** The Lake Travis, Tex. Independent School District Board of Trustees voted at its December meeting to form a sworn police department to police its schools. The superintendent of schools was authorized to have the new law enforcement agency on duty by the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Currently, the school district contracts with the county sheriffs department for police liaison officers for about \$300,000 annually. The trustees authorized hiring a full-time chief of police and five officers.

**Armed Park Rangers** A Los Angeles councilman wants to arm the city's 30-officer park ranger force. Even though the rangers are sworn peace officers with arrest authority, they are not authorized to carry firearms. Councilman Joe Busciano cited 38 homicides, 167 shootings, 267 rapes and 1844 assaults across 450 city parks between 2016 and 2020 as a reason for arming the officers. "When there's a violent suspect at a park, rangers need to pull out and call the LAPD to respond. We cannot wait until we bury a park ranger to take action," Busciano said. LAPD Chief Michael Moore supports the move to arm the rangers.





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AMAZING BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM offers pictures and stories regarding Police Memorabilia. Focus is N.J. The read is free, however if you have N.J. items for sale/trade contact: DENNIS BEYER, denb22@gmail.com (90)

BUYING OR TRADING patches, coins, pins, badges, etc. from /depicting the U.S. Federal Protective Service (FPS, FPSD, or FPSP), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and Dartmouth, Massachusetts Police. Contact: RICH PONTES, 8 Cedar Crest Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747 or email: tyall@comcast.net (90)

FOR SALE: Forty-seven police cuff buttons from Scranton, Pennsylvania, back mark Superior Quality. Picture on buttons shows building with water wheel, Scranton on top and Scranton Police on bottom in smaller letters. Excellent condition, all for \$245.00 or \$10.00 each, includes shipping. JAMES NOLAN, 5518 Sugarloaf St., Anacortes, WA 98221

LOOKING TO BUY ANYTHING from National Geospatial Intelligence Agency: NGA, National Naval Medical Center – NMMC – Bethesda, National Institutes of Health – NIH, National Imagery and Mapping Agency – NIMA, David Taylor Model Basin – DOD Police, and badge marked DTMB with Department of Defense center seal. KEN MARSHALL, hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227 (80)

OPEN CALL TO TRADERS: Former LEO seeking other collectors to trade LE patches with on 1-for-1, like patch basis (no repros). I believe I’m easy to trade with so, let’s swap trade lists and go from there. STEPHAN GONZALEZ; Dgonza2016@aol.com (80)

RAILROAD POLICE BADGES, signs, guns, paper, etc. wanted. I will buy or trade. I am especially looking for: Penn Central, PRR , NY Central, New Haven, Reading, Lehigh Valley, Conrail and other eastern roads. GARY FARMER, P. O. Box 55, Maytown, PA 17550 (717) 426-4409 or pharmer15@embarqmail.com (90)

RETIRED POLICE OFFICER in Florida looking for Police ID cards. I’m mainly looking for State Police and Highway Patrol IDs. I’m also, looking for Sheriff, Police, Game Warden, Federal and Park Ranger as well. I’m only looking for IDs that have the person’s picture on them. Let me know what you have. Contact: VERNON HAMMOCK, trooper357@netzero.com (82)

STATE RAILROAD COMMISSION INSPECTOR BADGES WANTED, Collector seeks “Inspector” badges from all State Railroad Authorities or Commissions. Also, looking for an obsolete Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) Inspector badge and any early issue U.S./FRA or U.S./DOT IG Inspector badges. CHIP GREINER, P.O. Box 125, Bogota, NJ 07603 (201) 390-7372 rrbadges@aol.com, www.railroadpolicebadges.com

VINTAGE MASSACHUSETTS POLICE PATCHES WANTED: Pre 1980 and especially Western Massachusetts cities and towns. Contact: MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (82)

WANTED – U.S. Secret Service and White House Police (Non-Current) badge set with cap badge, Pistol match patches, Bullion Patches, Insignia, and Inaugural WHP Badge set 2017 Inaugural Air Force one set 2017. 1930’s Gangster Era – Bullet Proof Vest. Contact: WILLIAM SHIELDS, 4302 South Westnedge, Kalamazoo MI 49008. Email: thesignshop@ameritech.net Fax 269-345-0019 Ph 269-207-0982

WANTED: Anything from the Anchorage and Nome Police Departments, Alaska, specifically a Blackinton Deputy Chief badge from Anchorage. Also I want Coconut Creek Police, Florida; Miami Gardens Police, FL; Chevy Chase Village Police, Maryland; Town of Kensington Marshal or Police, Maryland; Montgomery County Police and Sheriff, Maryland; City of Erie Police, Pennsylvania. KEN MARSHALL, hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227 (80)

WANTED: Anything from the Maryland National Capital Park Police - MNCPP. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - MNCPPC. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police - DNR. Maryland Park Police. Looking to buy: patches, badges, pins, coins, license plates, door decals, ID’s documents, etc. KEN MARSHALL, hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227 (80)

WANTED: Badges, patches, challenge coins, etc. from Western Pennsylvania. Specifically: Latrobe, Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, South Greensburg, Derry Borough, Ligonier Township and Ligonier Borough, Ligonier Valley, Homer City, Indiana Borough, Indiana County, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Saltsburg, Somerset Borough, Shade Township, and Westmoreland County, PA. KEN MARSHALL, hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227 (80)

WANTED: Boy Scout memorabilia of all types: Patches, Pins, Medals, Handbooks Pre-1936. CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (84)

WANTED: Buy or trade cap badge of the New Orleans Fire Dept., nickel plated Firefighter: BERT CARBO, P. O. Box 1567, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 (865) 368-5630 (80)

WANTED: I collect Police Explorer (Boy Scout) metal badges or embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN , PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (84)

WANTED: I collect South Carolina police metal badges and embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (84)

WANTED: Long-time collector looking for old Michigan police badges with emphasis on old Detroit badges. I am willing to trade or purchase. STEVE LEWIS, 8018 Morrow Rd., Clay MI 48001 (810) 531-6197 Email: srlewis@hughes.net (80)

WANTED: Massachusetts Police Badges: Hampden, Springfield Police/Fire, Springfield Armory Guard/Fireman, West Springfield, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Holyoke, Chicopee, Monson, Palmer, Ludlow, Northampton, Westfield, Agawam, Southwick, South Hadley, Holland, Brimfield, Wales, Westover Field MP, or any other Massachusetts badge. Please contact MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (80)

WANTED: Oregon and Washington badges, one badge or a whole collection, and no collection too large. I have some badges to trade from my over 50 years of collecting. FRED MILES, 10350 N. Vancouver Way, Suite 273, Portland, OR 97217-7530 (91)

WANTED: Buy or trade cap badge of the New Orleans Fire Dept., gold plated rank. BERT CARBO, P. O. Box 1567, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 (865) 368-5630 (80)

WANTED: Buy or trade Custer County and/or Custer city badges. BERT CARBO, P. O. Box 1567, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868 (865) 368-5630 (80)

WANTED: New Jersey badges from the following towns: Mantoloking, Bergenfield, Matawan, Green Brook, Berkeley Heights, Edison, Metuchen and New Jersey State Patrol. I also collect Lehigh Valley Railroad Police items. Email DAN at jasperdan26@optonline.net (80)

# WANTED

## MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT PATCHES AND CLOTH BADGES

### OLDER THE BETTER TOP PRICES PAID

## MIKE R. BONDARENKO

**2392 USH 12  
BALDWIN, WI 54002**

**mikerbondarenko@baldwin-telecom.net**

## SPACE COAST PATCH SHOW

### Titusville Florida



The 34th Annual “Space Coast” Patch Show will be Saturday, **January 30 2021** at the North Brevard Senior Center, 909 Lane Ave., Titusville, FL. Steve and Karen Bridges host the show. **Note the change in location!** This is your opportunity to buy-sell or trade law enforcement patches, badges, as well as other Police or Fire memorabilia.

Seventy (70) tables are available for \$25 each **before December 31. After that tables will be \$30.** Early reservations are recommended because tables are offered on a “first come” basis. Each year the show is a sellout. Please send payment with your reservation. Set-up begins at 8am and the show will run from 9am until 4pm. There is a spirited display contest and awards are presented for the best displays. **Reproductions must be marked.**

We will have a food truck onsite to provide a lunch at a reasonable cost, they were a big hit at the last show. The **hotel** for the show is the **Holiday Inn Titusville/Kennedy Space Center** 4715 Helen Hauser Blvd. the rate is \$99.00 (plus tax), this rate will be valid **January 29-31, 2021 and the cutoff date is January 8, 2021.** The phone number is (321) 383-0200 and ask for the **Space Coast Patch Show**. The hotel includes a hot/cold breakfast. **Early reservations are recommended as there is another event in Titusville at the same time.**

Titusville is close to Kennedy Space Center and other central Florida attractions. The Police Hall of Fame, which moved from Miami to Titusville, is open and is a well-done attraction promoting Law Enforcement and has some fabulous patches and other memorabilia on display.

Make table reservations by calling: 321-302-1983 (cell) or e-mail @ csteveb170@gmail.com. Confirm your reservations by mailing table fee to Steve Bridges, 1535 Justin Court, Titusville, FL 32796.



# National Police Collectors Show

## October 22, 23 and 23, 2021



**This is the fifth National Police Collector show to be held in the Saint Louis area.**

The show hosts are: Frank Selaggio, Bob Shockey and Don Magruder

The show will be held at the Saint Charles Missouri Convention Center which is attached to the Embassy Suites Hotel allowing easy access to the show. The show rate for the hotel is \$144 a night. The Embassy Suites stay includes a fully cooked to order breakfast, a free evening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 that includes complimentary drinks and light snacks, free parking, a whirlpool, 24 hour fitness center and a high tech business center. The hotel is a short distance to Lambert airport, about a 15-minute drive. The hotel is also a short distance from shops and restaurants in the Saint Charles historic Main Street area. The downtown Saint Charles area with its cobbled streets and many shops and great restaurants is always very popular. The Saint Louis area also offers a number of fun places to visit. Of course the arch is always popular, the History Center, Art Museum and Zoo are at Forrest Park.

The 8-foot tables for the show are \$90.00 each, and there are 260 tables available with the ability to expand to a total of 280 if necessary. Many are already reserved. The website for the show is in progress and will be available soon.npcs2021.com

For tables reservations or more information contact:

**Don Magruder (515) 962-5220**

## ***WANTED***

EAST TENNESSE POLICE  
AND SHERIFF BADGES  
Especially Knoxville Police  
and Knox County Sheriff

**GENE FARMER**

419 E. Morelia Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
(865) 740-6660

## ***WANTED***

Oregon and Washigon Police or  
Sheriff badges, one badge or a collection.  
No collection too large.  
I have some stuff to trade.

**FRED MILES**

Over 50 years of collecting badges  
(503) 467-8034  
10350 N. Vancouver Way, Suite 273  
Portland, OR 91217

## ***WANTED***



Vintage Florida  
private investigator  
badge to purchase.

Blue enamel around  
Florida state seal.

**Christine**  
**(516) 983-4455**



Announcing the launch of an Auction Site  
specifically for Collectors of Police, Fire and  
other Law Enforcement Memorabilia.

Come and check us out at:

**[http//auction.collectors-badges.com](http://auction.collectors-badges.com)**



FX POLICE, MILITARY, FIRE,  
BOY SCOUT SUPPLY

Send for my new updated sales list.

1. Badges – obsolete
  2. Military Police patches, arm bands, badges
- Always burying badges, Boy and Girl Scout patches and metals, all photo ID’s, all countries and all agencies, and wanted posters.

ANDY KORTON

P.O. Box 207, Bellmawr, NJ 08099  
Phone: (609) 230-2436



WANTED



D.C. Police



1922-1940



1951-1963



1963-1968

- Official Metal Badges and Hat Cap Plates
- Shooting Match and Other Old Patches from the White House

HISTORIAN AND COLLECTOR OF WHITE HOUSE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEMORABILIA

WILLIAM SHIELDS

4302 S. Westnedge Ave. - Kalamazoo, MI 49008

day: 269-345-7744 - evening: 269-349-3117 - fax: 269-345-0019

email: info@thesignshopkazoo.com



**POLICE MEMORABILIA COLLECTORS SHOW**

**JULY 24, 2021**

**Free Admission!**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**VETERANS HALL, 801 GRAND AVE, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA**

PLEASE HELP ME !



I am a Census Collector and need your help. I’m looking for US or State Census badges NOT shown, known but I do not have:

US Census 1900 in brass or gold tone, Connecticut Military Census (No Date), Massachusetts Census 1915, New York Census 1925.

Thank you.

Lynn Baker [LDBHistory@yahoo.com](mailto:LDBHistory@yahoo.com) (870) 253-1591



COLLECTORS’ CLASSIFIED

PO Box P-347

Holbrook, MA 02343-0347

781-961-1463 [ccmay1975@aol.com](mailto:ccmay1975@aol.com)

[collectors-classified.com](http://collectors-classified.com)



COLLECTORS’ CLASSIFIED has been published since 1975. Each issue has hundreds of items for sale on a wide variety of collectibles such as coins, stamps, sports cards, nonsports cards, comic books, political buttons, postcards and more! Send \$1 for a first class sample copy of the latest issue. A free 80 word ad is offered to subscribers each month and articles appear regularly about stamps and political memorabilia. The magazine is published 8 times a year from Sept. to June.



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WANTED POLICE PATCHES



Allenhurst, NJ  
 Woodland Twp, NJ  
 Port Byron, NJ  
 Port Dickson, NY  
 Kent, NY  
 Badin, NC  
 Creedmoor, NC  
 Hillsborough, NC  
 Holly Ridge, NC  
 Hudson, NC  
 Gouldsboro, ME  
 Isleboro, ME  
 Stockton Spring, ME  
 Menominee, MI  
 Clinton, IA



**BOB FRY**  
 766 Schroder Avenue  
 Aiken, SC 29801


B911patchman@aol.com  
(803) 649-3622 (H)











[www.uniforminsignias.com](http://www.uniforminsignias.com)  
[cs@uniforminsignias.com](mailto:cs@uniforminsignias.com)



POLICE-SHERIFF-FIRE--RESCUE-EMS-SECURITY-CORRECTIONS

Patches  
Rank Insignias  
Lapel Pins  
Shoulder Boards  
Front & Back Panels  
Collar Insignias  
Buttons  
Uniform Accessories

**NEW ITEM: 2 STARS Sew on Collar Ranks:**

Medium Gold on Black  
Medium Gold on Midnight Navy  
Black on OD Green  
Dark Gold on White

Measures 1.25” high by 1.75” wide



# WANTED

**Fish & Wildlife & Conservation Agency Badges**

*Older badges preferred*  
*Top prices paid for quality items.*

**DEAN TRESCH**  
P.O. Box 30054  
Spokane, WA 99223  
(509) 939-1296  
[militarycollector7711@gmail.com](mailto:militarycollector7711@gmail.com)

# WANTED

The Following Police & Sheriff Badges:

Salem, MA Police Department 1920's-1940's era  
Muscatine County, IA Sheriff 1920's-1940's era  
Eau Claire, WI Police 1920's-1940's era  
Androscoggin County ME Sheriff 1920's-1940's era  
Meriden, CT Police 1900's-1920 era  
Bradenton, FL Sheriff 1920's-1940's era  
Hardin, MT Sheriff 1920's-1940's era  
Burlington, VT Police 1920's-1940's era  
St. Petersburg, FL Police 1920's-1940's era  
Wyoming County, NY Sheriff 1920's-1940's era

Note: These are for a display that I am working on in October 2022.  
Please Contact: Cam @ 931-484-3200 or e-mail: [cogsdill@aol.com](mailto:cogsdill@aol.com)

# SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF

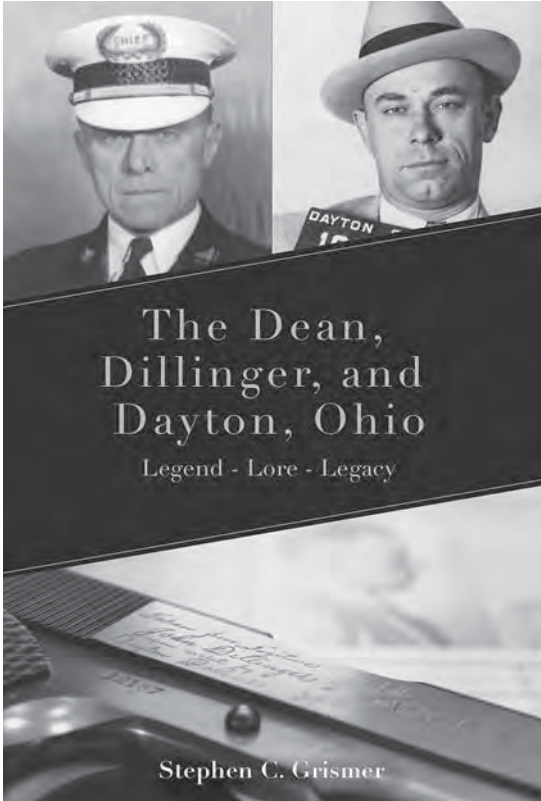


# WANTED

ANY AND ALL MEMORABILIA FROM THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.  
I WILL PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND AUTHENTIC ARTIFACTS.

CONTACT:  
**MICHAEL DEVILBISS**  
P.O. BOX 3477  
YUBA CITY CA 95991  
(916) 838-1907 OR [KDEVILBISS08@COMCAST.NET](mailto:KDEVILBISS08@COMCAST.NET)

# RELIVE THE PROHIBITION ERA IN DAYTON, OHIO



**“The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton, Ohio”**  
**By Stephen C. Grismer**  
(Retired Police Officer and Police Historian)  
Chief Rudolph Wurstner leads Dayton Police against John Dillinger, “Bugs” Moran and other famous gangsters in the turbulent, violent 1920’s and 1930’s.  
**Profusely illustrated, 423 pages \$29.95**  
Historic photos of officers in uniform, badges and vehicles.  
**AVAILABLE NOW AT AMAZON.COM**  
All proceeds go the Dayton Police Museum Initiative.



*You Can Bet on It!*

# BEST NATIONAL SHOW ROOM RATES

You WIN for only \$85 per night (Fri. Jun. 11 - Sat. Jun. 12, 2021)

You WIN BIGGER for only \$44 per night (Jun. 7 – Jun. 10, and Jun. 13 – Jun. 16)  
(Plus taxes and resort fees)

- \* Free Airport Shuttle & Free Parking
- \* Hotel and Convention Center on Same Venue
- \* 24 Hour Casino Gaming

- \* Newly Renovated Resort Tower Rooms
- \* Free Wi-Fi, Refrigerator and Safe
- \* Restaurants, Bars, Entertainment



24 hour Action Packed Casino



Game-On Sports Bar/Casual Dining

*Bring the Family!*

Pool and Arcade for the Kids  
Lots to See and Do



Resort Tower Double Queen Room

*Cop Friendly!*

We Want You Here  
24 Hour On Site Security



Anthony's Chophouse/Fine Dining



Swimming Pool/Fitness Center

Reserve Rooms Now  
(800) 648-1177 (Code: GNPCS20)  
Online: [www.reno2020.us/host-hotel](http://www.reno2020.us/host-hotel)  
1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV





# 2020 National Police Collectors Show

## **POSTPONED**

### *Returns to Reno, Nevada*

Friday, June 11, 2021

Setup/table holders only

12:00 noon to 6 P.M.

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Public Show Hours are

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Public Show Hours are

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

[www.reno2020.us](http://www.reno2020.us)

## **Hosted at the Nugget Casino Resort**

In neighboring Sparks, Nevada



**About the Show:** The National Show is a special show for many collectors as it draws hobby enthusiasts from all over the United States, North American, and across the globe. This show is the premier event for hobbyists, historians, and more come to meet and trade, swap, buy or sell collectible public safety memorabilia. Located in the Sierra Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Nugget, the show will have 252 tables displaying, trading, and selling. Originally scheduled for October 2020, the show had to be postponed until June 2021. General show admission is \$5.00 per day (Kids 12 and under FREE).

**About the Location:** The Nugget Casino Resort was the location of the 2007 Reno National. 8 minutes away from the Reno Tahoe Airport, the hotel and convention center are in the same location. There is a free airport shuttle / transport to and from Reno Tahoe Airport. Free parking is also available for hotel guests and visitors. With 24/7 on site security, the Resort Tower was recently renovated in 2018. All guest rooms have a refrigerator and free wi-fi in all hotel rooms. There is also a fitness center and pool on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, an arcade for kids, the casino, and several dining options all under one roof.

### **Affordable Hotel Costs**

- \$44 a night plus taxes for Monday-Thursday leading up to the show and Sunday-Wednesday after the show.
- \$85 a night plus taxes for Friday, June 11, 2021 & Saturday, June 12, 2021
- Learn more about the hotel at: [www.nuggetcasinoresort.com](http://www.nuggetcasinoresort.com).
- Reservation code is **GNPCS20** and can be booked by calling 800-648-1177

Email: [2020nationalpoliceshow@gmail.com](mailto:2020nationalpoliceshow@gmail.com)

On Facebook: "2020 National Police Collectors Show" [www.facebook.com/reno2020](https://www.facebook.com/reno2020)

USPS Mail at: P. O. Box 3, Gardnerville NV 89410