



# PC NEWS

Mike R. Bondarenko  
Editor and Publisher

Police Collectors News

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## "Space Coast" Launches 2021 Hobby Reopening

Titusville, Fla., home of the Kennedy Space Center where all United States manned space mission blasted off, launched the 2021 hobby reopening with the 34th annual "Space Coast" Patch Show hosted by Steve and Karen Bridges. The swap meet attracted 85 collectors from ten states from as far away as Arizona and Idaho.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

TITUSVILLE, Fla. – Our hobby is back, face masks and all!

Finally, after pandemic-related cancellation after cancellation, postponement after postponement, over the last year, law enforcement insignia shows are once again at the hobby forefront where they belong.

Virtual online shows were innovative stop gap measures created out of necessity, but collector after collector at the 2021 "Space Coast" Patch Show on January 30 expressed absolute delight over once again having the chance to enjoy the hobby the way it should be, face-to-face and in person.

Hosts Steve and Karen Bridges welcomed about 85 collectors from ten states to their 34th annual swap meet at its popular venue, the North Brevard Senior Center, in the hometown of America's space program. Drive a few blocks from the hall out onto Highway 1 and the imposing Vertical Assembly Building, where the Apollo moon rockets were put together, looms large in the distance.

"It was a real good show. I was a little nervous over what kind of turnout we would have based on what's been going on, but it worked out well. Thanks to everyone who turned out," Bridges said.

Hobbyists from Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin joined dozens of Florida collectors for busy day of buying, selling and trading. Few shows go on well past closing time because collectors are reluctant to leave. "Space Coast" is among them.

I never realized how much I enjoy shows until I wasn't able to attend one for nearly a year. Of course, for most of us, the friendships we make and camaraderie we share through our hobby are just as important as the badges, patches, challenge coins and other artifacts and memorabilia we all pursue in friendly competition.

Nothing beats seeing beautiful displays from great collections, going through cases or containers of patches and patches for sale or trade one-by-one and, best of all, making those last minute, end of day deals when everyone goes home happy.

While online trading certainly has its place, and probably always will, it does not compare to collecting in person. Being able to look at a badge or patch for sale or trade, turn it over and see the back, feel the material or finish, haggle back and forth a while and look into the trader's or seller's eyes before handing over cash or traders is what makes shows absolutely essential.

With all due respect to those who choose to do so (after all, it is *their* money), I am



This segment of Doug Sarubbi's breathtaking "Space Coast" show display was devoted to insignia and artifacts from Orange County and historic on-duty equipment, such as helmets, hats and lanterns. It also included an impressive collection of old, generic "catalog" badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

much more inclined to spend a considerable sum on a badge or patch I really want after I have had a chance to thoroughly examine it, meet the seller and ask other collectors about previous dealings with him or her and what else might be available, than deposit money directly into the bank account of someone I do not know (who may be selling under an assumed name or a nickname) or never heard of for insignia I have never actually seen that might be mailed out of a post office box at a UPS store some place. Way too many unknowns for me.

**Outstanding turnout** Obviously, collectors are eager to return to shows, judging by large turnouts in Orlando last September and now in Titusville, which, of course, is a positive sign for 2021 shows, including both Nationals this year.

Thirty-two collectors rented about 60 tables, ten less than available. In addition, there were around 50 walk-ins, including ten new collectors who attended their first "Space Coast" show, another positive sign for the hobby.

Out-of-state tableholders were Ryan Bertalotto, Idaho; Bill Burks, Georgia; Bill Charles, Georgia; Hervey Cote, Massachusetts; Daymon Ellsworth, Georgia; Dave Henley, Georgia; David Hume, Kentucky; Rob Jackson, Tennessee; Jerry Lecomte, North Carolina; Keith Mackey, North Carolina and Russ Penka, North Carolina.

Florida tableholders were Tom Attardo, Steve Bridges, Michael Chowning, Dan Grau, George Harrison, John Holmes, Damir Krdzalic, Roger Khatri, Bill Kingston, Kevin Lashells, Jeff Peeler, Steve Robertson, Manny Rodriguez, Doug Sarubbi, Jake Schwab, Gary Scott, Darryl Smith, Dave Teems, Gerard VanDerHam, Jon Von Kossovsky and Nathan Yarusso.

Bridges said there were three cancellations and two no-shows among tableholders.

Long distance out-of-state attendees included Ben Roberson, Arizona; Dave Cataldo, Massachusetts; Joseph Jones, North Carolina; James Karas, Kentucky, Ed Petrow, Texas;



Steve Bridges (left) presented Florida badge and patch collector Gerard VanDerHam (right) with the "Best Patch Display" award. VanDerHam showed complete collections of current and previous issue sheriff emblems in green and gold colors with white stars design. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Doug Sarubbi (left) accepts the "Best Overall Display" award from host Steve Bridges (right) at the 2021 "Space Coast" show in Titusville, Fla. on January 30. The collector was honored for his display of badge and patch sets, old badges and old-time equipment. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A better look at Gerard VanDerHam's award-winning Florida Titusville show display. In addition to patches, he also had a badge collection with one style from each county that took 22 years to complete and a complete set of all the current sheriffs office challenge coins. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## "Space Coast" Show ...Continued

Scott Starns, Kentucky and my wife, Paula, and I, who escaped a particularly brutal Wisconsin winter for a couple weeks with no snow, insulated jackets and ice grip boots.

**Incredible display contest** "Space Coast" has always been known for highly competitive display contests. This year's show was no exception. I have attended a good number of Titusville shows over the years, but the overall quality of the many museum-quality exhibits this year was exceedingly high, as in off the scale high.

Fortunately, I wasn't the contest judge or the host because I would have handed out about a dozen awards, each of which would have been richly deserved. But, the winners were certainly the best of the best, which says a lot, especially at "Space Coast."

Doug Sarubbi won "Best Overall" for his large and beautifully displayed collection of framed badge and patch sets from across the country, historic Orlando and Orange County, Fla. memorabilia and a variety of other historic pieces from his incredible collection.

"Best Badge" went to veteran Florida hobbyist Roger Khatri, who has been absent from shows for the several years due to ongoing health issues. He brought an extremely impressive collection of framed badges from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, including some very old, historic pieces.

Gerard VanDerHam, who had never won a Titusville award, went home with the "Best Patch" plaque. He featured complete collections of current and previous style patches from all 67 Florida county sheriff offices. Sadly, he is retiring from the hobby and put his collection up for sale at the show.

Sarubbi is among the stalwarts of the Sunshine State hobby. He attends every show in the state, as well as co-hosts the extremely popular "Vacation Capital" show in Orlando every Labor Day Weekend.

Although he has an excellent collection from his former department, the Orange County Sheriffs Office, and featured some of their special unit insignia at "Space Coast," he also collects other agencies, as well as historic artifacts and memorabilia.

"I've been very fortunate to find a lot of great things at antique and collectibles stores over the years. If it's old and police, I'm interested in it. I love really old things like hats and helmets, lanterns, signs and lots of other things," he said.

Sarubbi's three-table exhibit featured numerous framed badge and patch sets from state police/highway patrol agencies and police and sheriff departments. He enjoys finding patches to accompany his badges, or badges to accompany his patches, especially when they represent the same issue or era. "They really compliment each other," he said.

He had a very cool display of full-color and subdued Orange County SO special unit patches with unique center designs that attracted a lot of attention.

Sarubbi complimented the Bridges's for going ahead with their show despite uncertainty surrounding pandemic-related restrictions when it was scheduled several months ago.

"Our show went well because we followed the guidelines in Orange County in September. Steve and Karen did the same thing here. Wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing is worth it to have a show. It's better than not having one," he said.



Roger Khatri (center) and his wife (right) won the "Best Badge Display" plaque at "Space Coast." It was presented by host Steve Bridges (left). Khatri was thrilled to finally be back at a show after a several year absence due to health issues. He has collected for 40 years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A set of colorful custom-designed special unit and services emblems from the Orange County, Fla. Sheriffs Office was shown at Doug Sarubbi's tables. The collector said these are usually not available outside the agency. He was able to get them as a former deputy. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Even though he won his first "Space Coast" award, VanDerHam is calling it quits after 30 years in the hobby and offered his collection for sale. "I've met a lot of good people and really enjoyed it, but it's time for hobby retirement," he said.

VanDerHam showed complete 67 county collections of current and obsolete (green and gold with white stars) sheriff patches, as well as a collection of sheriffs office badges from all 67 counties. He also exhibited a current challenge coin from all 64 counties that have one. (Dixie, Madison and Lafayette Counties do not currently have them)

It took the veteran hobbyist 22 years to complete his sheriff badge collection. The first one was Hillsborough County, where he served as a deputy beginning in the 1980s, and the last was Union County, which he obtained in person from the sheriff.

"I'm retired from state and county law enforcement after 30 years in Florida. I need to put my career behind me, including this collection," he said.

Need a reason to get off the Internet and back to shows? Look no further than



Doug Sarubbi enjoys putting together matching patch and badge sets from law enforcement agencies across the country, including several worn by state police and highway patrols. He said the badges compliment the patches and vice versa. Each set is beautifully framed. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Longtime Florida Highway Patrol collector Jeff Peeler has gotten into FHP challenge coins big time! He showed some of his collection in Titusville. Peeler has also done some coins inside the agency. He is a FHP Auxiliary major, one of the largest and most active in the USA. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

VanDerHam's tables. His entire Florida county sheriff collection went on sale for a very affordable \$4000. That's for the entire collection; a very, very nice price for every current patch, every so-called "white star" patch, a badge from each county and every challenge coin.

He priced the current patches at \$300, "white star" patches at \$400, 67 county badges for \$2500 and \$800 for the coins. I guarantee you won't find prices like these on the Web!

Both patch collections sold right away, and VanDerHam received serious inquiries on the two other collections, which he believes will sell quickly. (I wouldn't be surprised if they sold before the end of the day.)

While I was talking with VanDerHam, a relatively new Florida challenge coin collector viewed the sheriff collection and told a fellow collector with him, "I've got to get out of here. If I spend any more on coins, my wife is going to divorce me," he said. Then he took another look and said, only half-joking, "Well, maybe she wouldn't..."

It's always sad to see a longtime collector leave the hobby, but it did my heart good to see someone pass his collections along and intact at very affordable prices so other collectors could enjoy them.

Khatri is happy to once again attend shows after battling serious health issues the last few years. "I had to wait until my health improved. I feel better now and very happy to be here," he said.

Khatri has been collecting Florida for about 40 years. He also collects major cities, president inaugurations, Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police and old police and sheriff badges from across the USA.

He brought 12 large frames showing hundreds of badges, including a nice set of inaugurations and several outstanding old major city badges.

"I collect a little bit of everything. I like Florida badges, for sure, but I'm interested in other places, too. It's a big hobby," he said.

Khatri understands why many collectors choose to specialize in their department or



The Florida Highway Patrol Special Response Team recently adopted new subdued shoulder emblems in two styles, black-on-blue and black-on-gray. (There is also a pink version.) Jeff Peeler had a few available at the show. Only 50 were made, so they are hard to find. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

state, but he enjoys taking a broader approach to badges. "So many nice things out there from other places. It's hard not to collect them," he said.

The veteran collector truly missed attending shows and especially interacting with other hobbyists. "But, I had to put my health first, the hobby second. It's nice to be back and collecting again," he said.

Gary Scott went home with a nice boost to his collection by winning the patch drop drawing.

**Many outstanding exhibits** As previously written, numerous display contest awards could have been presented at "Space Coast" because there were so many outstanding exhibits.

Among the best was Jeff Peeler's world-class Florida Highway Patrol exhibit, which is one of the largest and finest department collections in the hobby. I've written about it several times, but each time I see it, I find new additions and pieces that I hadn't noticed before.

Peeler, who is a longtime and very active member of the FHP Auxiliary and has virtually complete collections of agency badges, patches, rank insignia, license plates and pretty much everything else, has gotten into FHP challenge coins and specialty emblems. He brought a large coin display.

While I don't collect coins, which Peeler also offers for sale, he is a reliable source for authentic FHP patches. I picked up two versions of the new Special Response Team emblem at his tables.

Both are subdued versions of the agency patch with 'SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM' rockers attached to the bottom. One is black-on-dark blue, while the other is black-on-dark gray. (There is also a pink version, but I do not collect pink patches, so I didn't get one.) Only 50 of each design were made, Peeler said.

"I like to help out other collectors with things from my department they might not be able to find. I can get some things that most people can't," he explained.

Peeler predicted more FHP challenge coins will debut in coming years. "Right now, they are everywhere. Troopers really like them. They're real popular," Peeler said.

I didn't ask Manny Rodriguez if he had to run around his one-of-a-kind display of early, obsolete Florida police and sheriff patches with Windex spray bottle and paper towels to clean up the drool, but I heard several veteran collectors say it's the largest and most complete collection of its kind they had ever seen.

"There's a lot of really old, really good stuff here, that's for sure. Lots of first issues," said Rodriguez, who has been collecting Florida as long as anyone.

In all, he displayed five massive frames with hundreds of oldies but goodies dating back to the origins of Florida law enforcement cloth insignia. Bridges called it the best old styles collection he's ever seen. "Most guys here have never even seen most of these patches. Each one is old and obsolete," he said.

Rodriguez pointed out two of his favorites, although he changed his mind a couple times. He chose a first issue Hialeah Police Department triangle, as well as a personalized Dade County constable patch with the name of J.M. Hudson.

Hialeah has a red background and green borders with legends, "HIALEAH" across the top and "P/D" in vertical lettering in the center.

Dade County constable is a large semi-circle. It has a yellow background with blue borders and legends, "W.M. (NEWT) HUDSON," across the top, "CONSTABLE" superimposed over a red five-point star and "DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA" at the bottom.



Manny Rodriguez featured a one-of-a-kind exhibit of classic obsolete Florida police and sheriff department emblems, including many long forgotten issues at "Space Coast." The Hialeah, Fla. collector specializes in historic Sunshine State patches. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Just two segments of Jeff Peeler's incredible Florida Highway Patrol collection as displayed in Titusville. (Top) Posters, patches and license plates overlook cases of FHP badges. (Bottom) A progression of obsolete to current style patches, door decals and novelty license plates. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) A very rare triangle-shaped first issue from the Hialeah, Fla. Police Department where Manny Rodriguez works. (Right) W.M. "Newt" Hudson was a constable in Dade County with a personalized patch many years ago, one of Manny Rodriguez's rarities. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

### "Space Coast" Show ...Continued

"Hialeah is my department. Very few of these patches exist. Dade County is one-of-a-kind, something the constable probably made up for himself because it has his name on it," Rodriguez said.

Kevin Lashells is a lieutenant with the Bureau of Insurance Fraud of the Florida Division of Investigative and Forensic Services under the Department of Financial Services and works out of the West Palm Beach office. The dedicated Florida insignia collector specializes in state agencies.

Lashells, who always impresses with his knowledge of state agency insignia and



(Top) Kevin Lashells' collection features Florida Department of Law Enforcement badges. (Center) Natural Resources (left) and Environmental Protection (right) insignia. (Bottom) Insignia worn by campus police at Florida State University, the home of the Seminoles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



These are collections from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement displayed by Kevin Lashells. (Top) Badges and patches from the Fraud Division. (Bottom) Cloth badges, including a rank set, as well as shoulder patches from the FDLE Fraud Division. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

outstanding displays from departments he collects, brought seven beautifully-arranged exhibits of insignia from several agencies.

"I only brought some of my collection. I have a lot more," he said.

He offered a shoulder patch, cloth badge and metal badge collection from the Florida State University Police Department. It was highlighted by a progression of emblems and cloth badges in the school colors, maroon and gold, from obsolete to current, as well as metal badges, which have transitioned from eagle-topped shields to ovals. There were also a couple challenge coins.

Lashells has a set of four badges from the Department of Law Enforcement. It progresses from when the agency was known by other names, Bureau of Law



(Top) Patches and badges from the Florida Park Patrol in the outstanding Sunshine State collection of Kevin Lashells. (Bottom) Metal badges (left) and cloth badges (right) from the Florida Division of Law Enforcement. It includes challenge coins (center). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



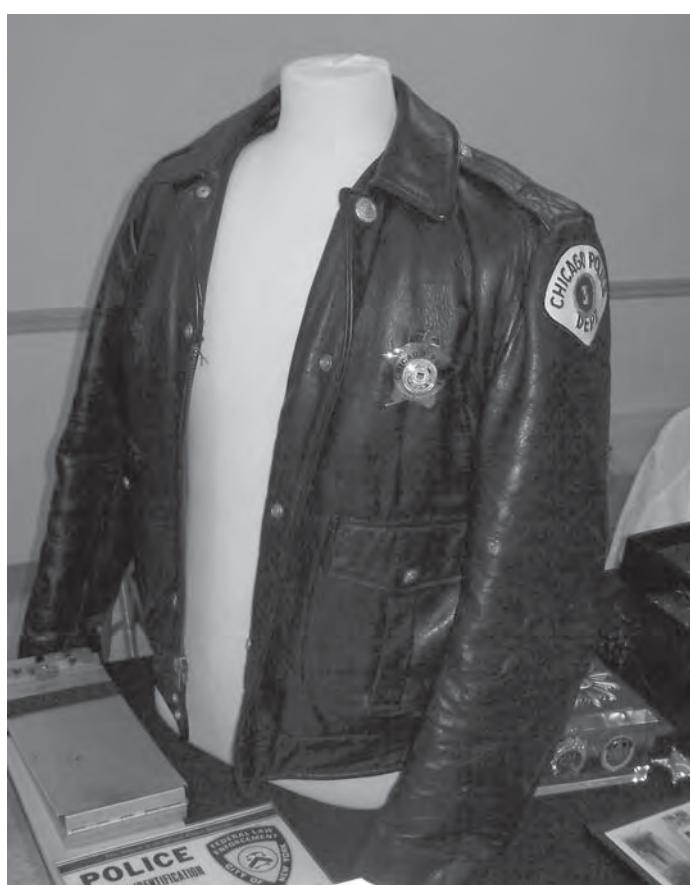
Ben Roberson (left) and Damir Krdzalic (right), a host of the postponed 2020 National Police Collectors Show, which will be held this June, at "Space Coast." Roberson and Krdzalic design and produce patches, badges and challenge coins for agencies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Enforcement, 1967 to 1969, Michigan-style shield; Department of Law Enforcement, 1969 to 1967, Michigan-style shield; Department of Criminal Law Enforcement, 1974 to 1978, Wisconsin State Patrol-style eagle-topped shield; and Department of Law Enforcement, 1978 to present, Wisconsin State Patrol-style eagle-topped shields. Each badge is gold-colored. The last two issues have full-color state seals.

There was an exhibit of patches and badges from the Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Marine Patrol and the Department of Environmental Protection Marine Patrol.

DNR wears a colorful gold and two-tone blue round emblem with attached top and bottom rockers. It has a full-color state seal as the center design. It is shown with five unattached rockers, "Investigator," "Emergency Squad," "Auxiliary" and "Communications."

Marine Patrol features a badge progression, collar brass, pilot wings and a cloth badge. Every metal badge is an eagle-topped shield. Interestingly, early FMP shields showed full-color state seals. Later badges depict the FMP logo, the state outline superimposed over an anchor. There is also a large FMP Sanctuary Law Enforcement patch on a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration insignia.



(Top) John Holmes' display included this classic Chicago Police Department leather jacket, complete with an old patch and badge. (Bottom) The Florida collector's family has a long history with the New York City Police Department. Several relatives served as NYPD officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Environmental Protection shows a patch virtually identical to DNR with an attached Marine Patrol rocker and three unattached uniform tabs, "Boating Homicide Investigator," "Investigator," "Auxiliary" and "Marine Patrol."

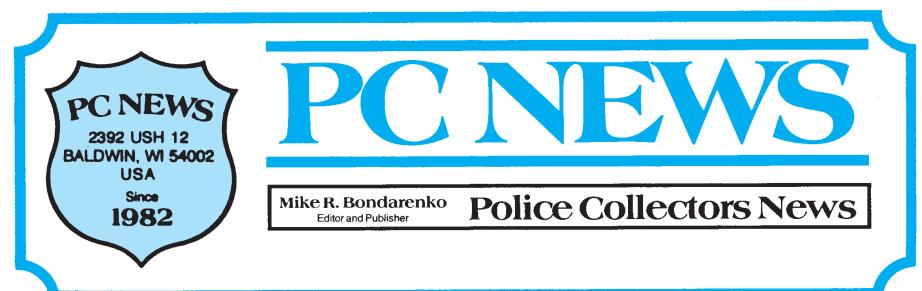
Lashells showed two displays from the Department of Environmental Protection, Park Patrol, with six eagle-topped shield badges and three large, colorful emblems, each blue and orange with a full-color state seal and attached rockers, and a variety of patches, cloth badges and metal badges from the Division of Law Enforcement.

Finally there were two frames of modern metal badges, cloth badges and shoulder patches, including special units, from Lashell's agency, particularly a cloth badge rank set from Financial Services Investigations.

John Holmes, one of Sarubbi's Orlando show co-hosts, featured an excellent display from his wide-ranging collection, including exhibits from the New York Police Department, Bergen County, N.J., Florida agencies and even the Chicago Police Department.

Holmes has strong family ties to the NYPD, a story that has been told on these pages before so it won't be repeated. Yet, even though he thought about applying to the department, he opted out after he compared his salary in the hotel business to what he would have made joining the Police Department. Yet, he has a nice NYPD badge collection as well as agencies across the border in northern New Jersey, including Bergen County.

Holmes ultimately became a law enforcement officer, but only after moving to Florida. He became an Orange County reserve. Then, at age 40, he was hired full-time. He worked with Sarubbi for six years.



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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Mike R. Bondarenko

ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION MANAGER Paula J. Bondarenko  
PHOTOGRAPHS John Schieffer

STAFF WRITERS Larry Balla, Robert Beath, Dennis Beyer, Don Brockman, Chris Duckett, Chip Greiner, Fred Hancock Jr., Mike Lucas, Patrick Olvey, Ray Sherrard, Skip Skinner, Rick Uland, David Urso and Eric Wollman

STAFF WRITERS EMERITUS Nat McKelvey, Darrell Klasey, Jim Cross, David E. Schulberg and Patrick Olvey

OFFICE HOURS Mondays 8 am to 4 pm (except holidays)

OFFICE TELEPHONE (715) 684-2216

FACSIMILE (715) 684-3098

FACEBOOK: Police Collectors News

EMAIL pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

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## "Space Coast" Show ...Continued

Holmes shared a great story about his role in the apprehension of a felony fugitive wanted for killing a cop in upstate New York in 1986.

"I was in hotel management in New York City. I had worked with the NYPD hotel detail on a few things. One day, I heard that a suspect wanted for killing a police officer was staying at a hotel in New York City. Because I was in management, I had access to guest registration information not only at our property but other properties as well. I checked the registers and located the suspect. In fact, he had tried to cash a stolen check at our hotel," Holmes recalled.

"I contacted the NYPD. They located the suspect and arrested him. As it turned out, he was driving a stolen car he parked in our garage," he said.

NYPD presented Holmes with an honorary police officer shield and identification card in appreciation of his help in apprehending the cop killer. He had the badge and ID on display at his table.

**Challenge coin collectors** Several law enforcement challenge coin collectors attended "Space Coast," many for the first time, including Kimberly Elsholz, a deputy United States marshal in Boca Raton, Fla.

It was my pleasure to meet Deputy Marshal Elsholz and talk about the meteoric rise of challenge coin collecting among law enforcement officers.

She told me about a relatively new organization, SLEO, which abbreviates Southern Law Enforcement Officers, active in Florida and other southern states. What began as a small Facebook group has blossomed into a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization with more than 600 members.

"We're all law enforcement challenge coin collectors, but we decided to do more than just collect coins. Now, we raise money for charities by raffling off coins among members and participating in events that raise funds for worthy charities," she said.

Recently, Deputy Marshal Elsholz and other SLEO members help raise money for selected cancer victims in southern Alabama and northwest Florida by participating in the annual "Cancer Freeze" in Florala, Ala. the first weekend of February, which involves several different events, including a plunge into the not too warm water of Lake Jackson. She raised \$3000 by herself!

Deputy Marshal Elsholz took a group photo of the SLEO members who attended the show.



Ben Roberson, new owner of Squad Room Emblems, has done patches since buying the firm last summer. Among them are Orthello PD, Okanogan SO (two), Vacaville SWAT, Gilbert PD SCU, North Central Washington SRT, Sherwood Reserve and others. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

We are working together on a story about the group and challenge coins that will appear in a future issue.

**Squad Room Emblems** It was a very pleasant surprise to see my friend Ben Roberson at the show. I recall when he was a Minneapolis-Saint Paul area collector. Then, he relocated to Arizona where he worked as a Scottsdale police traffic officer for 30 years until his recent retirement.

Roberson has one of the largest and most complete law enforcement patch collections in the country. He is best known for his outstanding Web site, "Ben's Patches," which depicts his massive collection. It has become a popular reference site for collectors worldwide. In fact, many of us use it all the time.

"I am down here for two weeks on vacation. My wife was here for a week, but she is still working and had to return home. I'm going up to Atlanta with Bill Burks and Bill Charles after the show and spend some time with them," he said.

Roberson announced he is new owner of Squad Room Emblems, the longtime badge, patch and challenge coin business formerly owned and operated by Washington State collector Mike Blackwell. He took over the company last August and moved it to Mesa, Ariz. where he lives.

"I've known Mike for many years. We talk on the phone quite often about patches and the hobby. One day, he mentioned he wanted to retire. He asked me if I knew anyone who might be interested in taking over the company, which has been around for a long time," he recalled.

"I told him I was interested, so we agreed to talk. I flew up to Washington and negotiated a deal with him. Now, I own the company and am making patches, badges and coins," Roberson said.

"I was looking for a part-time retirement job. What could be better for a collector like me than running a patch and badge business?" he said.

In addition to reorders of existing designs, Squad Room Emblems has already made new patches for agencies in Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Washington and Wyoming, as well as five new challenge coins for Arizona and Maine agencies.

"It's been a lot of fun," Roberson said. "But, there's a lot more work to making a new patch, badge or coin than most collectors realize."

The Arizona emblem is Gilbert PD Street Crimes Unit, a small subdued state shape with a Velcro back.

From California comes Vacaville PD SWAT, a black-on-olive drab subdued insignia with the unit logo as the center design.

Florida is represented by an arrowhead-shaped shoulder patch and cloth badge from Calusa Security, a private security firm in Punta Gorda.

Bonner County, Id. chaplain is a two-tone blue CHP shape with a large cross as the center design.

Washington offers North Central Washington Special Response Team, a multi-agency emergency response unit; Okanagon County SO canine; Othello PD; Sherwood PD reserve; Pierce County SO Air Unit, subdued and Shelton PD canines.

Roberson also did the new Wells, Wyo. PD Community Service Officer emblem.

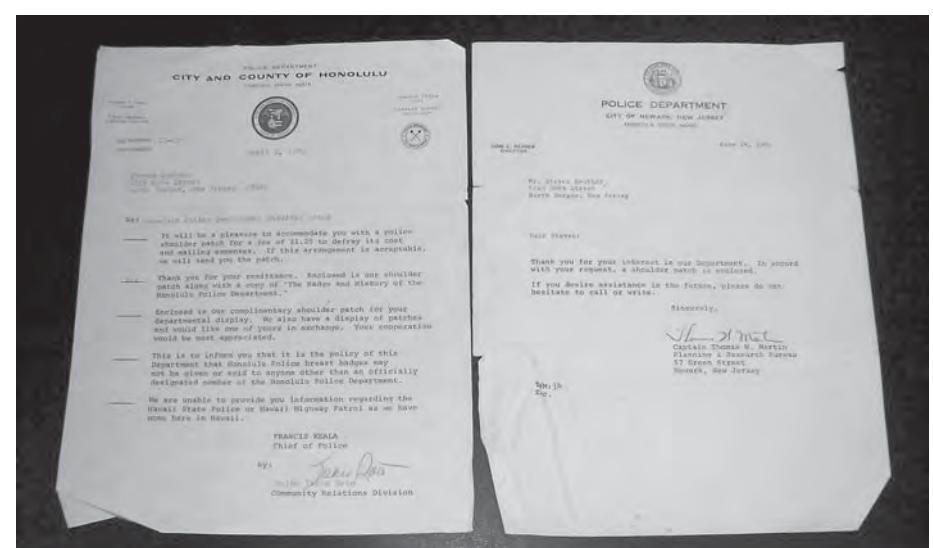
His coins are Gilbert, Ariz. PD Special Investigations, Drug Enforcement Unit and Street Crimes; Verzie, Maine PD and Rangeley, Maine Fire Department.

He also remade six previous Squad Room Emblem designs, Libby, Mont. PD, New Mexico Highlands University PD, Lakewood, Wash. PD, Park County, Wyo. Sheriff, Platte County, Wyo. Sheriff and Spokane Tribe of Indians Conservation Enforcement.

"If any readers are interested in a patch, badge or coin for their department or special unit, please check out my Web site, [SquadRoomEmblems.Com](http://SquadRoomEmblems.Com)," Roberson said.

Blackwell founded the company back in 1995.

**Save money at shows** Want to save money on law enforcement insignia for your collection?



(Top) Steve Reuther has been a patch collector for 50 years. He started in New Jersey in 1971 and continued his hobby after he became a Saint Lucie County SO supervisor. (Bottom) Reuther saved all the letters he received in response to his 1970s patch requests. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Tired of being ripped off by high-priced Internet auction and sales sites?  
 Shop at a law enforcement insignia show near you!  
 I went through a couple large boxes full of authentic public safety emblems at Bill Charles' table and found some nice things for my collection...for 1970s prices of \$1 and \$2 each.

But, it's hard to beat price and selection when Keith Mackey sets up his massive patch store at a show. He offered 28 huge plastic bins filled with top quality, authentic emblems in a wide variety of categories, including state police and highway patrol, state agencies, canines, tribals, police departments, sheriff offices, special units, New England, western states and several others. His tables were a patch collector's Wal-Mart.

Best of all, his prices: \$4 each, three for \$10 or eight for \$20. Canines were \$2.50 each. Compare these prices to what hobbyists are paying online. Of course, there is no comparison.

"I guess I'm in the patch business. I have 86 patch bins in all, but I only had room for 28 for this show," Mackey said.

Mackey is a working cop who has been buying and selling patches for several years. "I love the shows. I love the hobby. I really like making it possible for collectors to get patches at fair prices," he said.

Sure, you won't find rare, obsolete or first issues in his bins, but for new collectors, or those of looking to fill holes in our collections, like me, his tables are a "must stop."

**50 years collecting** Steve Reuther of Fort Pierce, Fla. recently marked his 50th anniversary as an active law enforcement insignia collector.

The 61-year-old hobby veteran spent 32 years with the Saint Lucie County Sheriff's Office before he retired as a major in 2013.

But, Reuther's collecting career goes back nearly 20 years before he joined the department in 1989. He began collecting in '71 while growing up in northern Bergen County, N.J.

"I was 11 years old when I saw a story in the local paper about a patch collector. I thought it would be fun to collect patches, so I decided to start a collection," he recalled.

Reuther began handwriting letters to police departments across the country asking for patches, which is the way the hobby worked back then. (I did the same thing when I started in 1980.)

"Things were a lot different back then. Departments were a lot more collector-friendly. I sent out a lot of letters and got patches back from about half the departments. I was never asked to buy one or send one in return. Most of the time, there was a cover letter enclosed thanking me for my interest," Reuther recalled.

When he wrote to the North Bergen Township Police Department in his hometown, a uniformed patrolman delivered a patch to his house and handed it to him! That would probably never happen today.

Although Reuther and his family relocated to Florida in 1977, he continued his hobby. Today, he collects Florida, New Jersey and Alaska. His collections has grown to about 7000 patches.

"I couldn't wait for the mailman to stop every day. I felt every envelope to see if there was a patch in it! It was a lot of fun then, and it's still a lot of fun," he said.

Reuther kept every letter he received in response to his patch requests and showed me some of them. One was a form letter from Honolulu PD thanking him for buying a patch, one of the few times he did. Police Chief Francis Keala enclosed a folder about the agency insignia. Another was a typewritten personal letter from the Newark, N.J. police thanked him for his interest in the department and informed him a patch was enclosed. He had a folder full of others.

So, is Reuther considering hobby retirement after a half century?

"Not a chance! I still enjoy it. I don't send out many letters any more, but there still are a lot of patches I'd like to have in my collection," he said.

**Table talk** ...Be on the lookout for Jacksonville Sheriff's Office anniversary collectibles this year. According to JSO collectors Steve Strozinski and Chad Harris, the agency is considering a custom design anniversary badge. The collectors have approached Sheriff Mike Williams with five proposed badge designs and await his decision. They promise collectors will be the first to know once they learn whether or not the anniversary badge will be created.

...Jerry Lecomte attended "Space Coast" for the first time and showed mostly New Jersey and New York City emblems. He reported having a good show, meeting many collectors for the first time, and taking home a nice stack of patches for his collection.

...Good news! Longtime collector Steve Robertson, who now lives in Florida, is active in the hobby again after serious health issues. "I nearly died three times last year. It was a very rough year," he said. A former Alaska state trooper, he has been collecting for as long as I can remember. I hadn't seen him in years until we renewed our friendship at the Norman Park, Ga. a few years ago. It was great to see him again. Hopefully, his health concerns are behind him.

...Hervey Cote drove down from Massachusetts for the show and a mid-winter vacation. "I've got friends in the area, so I juggled my vacation to make sure I was here for the show," he said. Cote is working on an article detailing a recent discovery by the Massachusetts State Police Museum historian verifying the dates of use of the first shoulder patch, a yellow on red acorn-shape. It goes back to 1921, not 1925, as previously thought.



Keith Mackey brought 28 bins chock full of authentic patches for sale in various categories to "Space Coast." Best of all were his prices, \$4 each, three for \$10 or eight for \$20. It is not necessary to spend a king's ransom for new police, sheriff and state emblems. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"Troopers were called state patrolmen back then," he said.

...Cote said the museum, where he serves on the board of directors, finally settled with the insurance company over fire damages to the building in February 2017. "We finally got the check last week just before I left. It only took them four years to pay the claim," he said.

...It was great to see Ryan Bertalotto, who made the long trip from Idaho to help Damir Krdzalic promote the 2020 National Police Collectors Show, which was postponed to this June in the wake of the pandemic. He said there have been some cancellations in recent months, so 28 tables were available as of January 30. "Virus restrictions are easing. We are full speed ahead [with the show]. We want to have a great show," he said. The Reno hosts have garnered high praise for their professional promotion of the show, including in person table sign ups in Orlando and Titusville.

...While chatting with longtime Georgia patch collector Dave Henley, whom I have known for many years, he mentioned he offers to set up a display from his state collection that includes about 700 patches in an exhibit that measures 30 feet long! "I offer to show it at police-related meetings, memorials and open houses," he said. "It always gets a lot of attention."

...The Bridges' arranged for the same bar-be-cue food truck they invited last year. Home-cooked BBQ sandwiches and dinners were available for lunch, topped off by homemade desserts. The hosts said the vendor offers some of the best BBQ anywhere, and it was evident by the delicious-looking lunches being enjoyed by tableholders and attendees alike. They were right because the truck ran out of food in a couple hours; of course, just before I finally had a chance between interviews to have lunch.

...Several out-of-area collectors visited the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum in Titusville. While every law enforcement officer and his or her family ought to visit because it offers a treasure trove of all things police, it is especially interesting for collectors because of the massive patch collection, which is displayed throughout the building. The late Gerald Arenberg, who founded the museum, collected a lot of the patches in 1980s and '90s.

...A bag of about 100 new emblems left sunny Florida for a permanent home in my collection in the frozen tundra of northern Wisconsin. The most I spent on a single patch was \$4. That's for state agencies, tribals, motor carrier enforcement, Arizona and a few other things I picked up for overseas friends. I found an old style from the Hayward, Wisc. area on one of the tables. How it ever made it down to Florida, I'll never know. Perhaps it needed a sunny vacation, too!

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

## Swap Meet Calendar

© 2021 Police Insignia Collectors Association

**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.

Because many collectors now use global positioning systems (GPS) to locate shows, street addresses should be included in these announcements.

### Riverdale, Md.

The next Mid-Atlantic Police Collectors Extravaganza scheduled for Sat., Apr. 10 has been rescheduled to Sat., Oct. 9 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 Show tentatively scheduled for Sun., Apr. 18 has been rescheduled to Sun., Oct. 3 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.

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 from 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 nynjpc@gmail.com or on the Facebook page.

### Fall River, Mass.

## Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

The 2021 "Bay State" Police Collector Show will be Sun., May 2 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. The second show set for Sun., Oct. 3 has been canceled.

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 are 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 aawatson@icloud.com

Clay Loving 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.

Twenty-eight tables are available. It was previously announced the show was sold out, but there have some cancellations. In all, there will be 252 tables.

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 GNPCS20. 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 254875, 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 Web site is now available at National-Police-Collectors-Show.Com.

For information or to make table reservations, contact Don Magruder on (515) 962-5220 or email dwmagruder@gmail.com.

## NYPD Mourns Death Of Guenther Rupprecht

Veteran New York Police Department officer and collector Guenther G.E.W. Rupprecht of Yonkers died on December 17. He was 77 years old. Rupprecht served as an NYPD officer for 40 years and collected his department for more than 50 years.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

YONKERS, N.Y. – Guenther G.E.W. Rupprecht, a New York City insignia collector, historian and former Yonkers show host, died unexpectedly on December 17, according to his family. He was 77 years old.

Rupprecht began collecting New York Police Department insignia, artifacts and memorabilia more than 50 years ago. His specialty was the Aviation Bureau. He often displayed flight suits, helmets, gear and, of course, pilot wings, including his own, at shows in New York City and New Jersey.

He also avidly collected insignia and artifacts from the Yonkers Police Department, especially obsolete badges. He lived in the city from 1951 when he and his mother immigrated to the United States from Germany through Ellis Island after World War II until his death. (He was eight years old when he and his mother arrived in New York City after a long trans-Atlantic voyage on a converted troop ship.)

"NYPD is the best police department in the world, so I am very proud to collect it. But, I love Yonkers. It's my home, so I started collecting it, too," he said during an interview at a show in Mineola on Long Island hosted by his longtime friend Ed Miller.

Rupprecht was 20 when he enlisted in his beloved United States Marine Corps in 1963. Once a Marine, always a Marine was his credo.

The collector joined the NYPD in 1965 following his two-year enlistment. He was still in the Police Academy when President Lyndon Johnson announced a massive troop build up in South Vietnam. He was called back to active duty, made a sergeant and deployed to Southeast Asian war for a year. Fortunately, he was allowed to finish the academy before he left.

Rupprecht had a large USMC insignia collection, including a number of vintage '60s-70 era badges, as well as Vietnam Era unit patches.

"I started collecting patches and such when I was on active duty. The badges came later. When I was overseas, I'd ask a guy from another unit for a patch. Usually, he ripped it off his shirt and handed it to me. I still have every one of those," Rupprecht said.

He rejoined the NYPD following his deployment but remained a Marine Corps reserve until 1971 when he retired. His interest in military insignia quickly expanded to include the Police Department.

Rupprecht's distinguished 40-year NYPD career reflected his wide variety of interests and passions. In addition to uniformed patrol assignments in the Bronx and Brooklyn, where he rose to the rank of sergeant, he loved motorcycles and was fascinated by helicopters, especially after Vietnam. He volunteered for both assignments and was overjoyed when he was accepted for both.



Guenther G.E.W. Rupprecht, 77, died unexpectedly on December 17 in Yonkers, N.Y. He collected New York Police Department insignia, artifacts and memorabilia for more than 50 years. Rupprecht served as an NYPD officer for 40 years. He was a Vietnam veteran. *Contributed photograph*

"Motors came first, then Aviation. I rode for the Highway Patrol in the Bronx and really enjoyed it. I got hurt a couple times, but such is life. Then, came flight school, and I became a pilot. That was the highlight of my career; some of the best days of my NYPD years," he said.

"I got lucky with Aviation because police helicopters became popular after Vietnam because they saw what they could do. Since I had been over there and had some experience in how helicopters were used, they gave me a chance," Rupprecht recalled.

The collector quickly became a highly skilled helicopter pilot, winning numerous awards and commendations, including citations for bravery and lifesaving. In addition, he designed a couple new patches for the unit, which were adopted for flight suit wear.

Always fun-loving and never one to take his serious role too seriously, Rupprecht loved to take new officers who volunteered to join Aviation to serve as observers on white knuckle training rides, including flying sideways between skyscrapers and wave-hopping beneath Hudson River bridges.

Rupprecht stopped flying in 1988 after developing an inner ear condition that affected his balance. He was promoted to detective and finished his career in a variety of assignments in the 49th Precinct in the Bronx. He took great pride in developing criminal cases by putting together clues and linking suspects to their crimes.

Although his Aviation Bureau collection was his pride and joy, he developed an extensive NYPD collection with particular interest in old badges ("shields," as he called them), uniforms and hats.

"What I like best about NYPD shields is tradition. We've worn the same shield forever. None of this changing shields all the time like some places. Same with our patch," he said.

A regular at the Police Insignia Collectors Association-sponsored swap meets in New Jersey and Miller's Mineola, which were bimonthly for several years, he also hosted several shows of his own in Yonkers. It was not uncommon for the New York City area to host six to eight shows a year in the '80s and early '90s.

Rupprecht loved to attend shows, hook up with fellow NYPD collectors, most of whom were active and retired NYPD officers, trade war stories and trade shields and patches. He confined his trading to a small circle of collector friends and co-workers. He rarely traded through the mail.

Rupprecht and Miller became fast friends through the hobby. Both served as a longtime NYPD officers, Miller mostly as a traffic officer in Manhattan and Rupprecht in several capacities in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Best of all, they enjoyed friendly banter at shows over seeking the same shields and patches for their collections, but most of all as rival service members. Rupprecht was a Marine, while Miller served in the Navy.

It was commonplace to hear Rupprecht say something like, "Not a bad collection, for a Swabbie," and Miller to shoot back, "A helluva of a lot better than a Jarhead can do." Of course, it was all in fun.

Rupprecht was deeply impacted by the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center terrorist attack and spent countless hours at the crime scene working on the investigation with fellow NYPD detectives.

Following his retirement in 2005, he remained active in the NYPD Emerald Society, NYPD Honor Legion, Steuben Society and every department-related club or association that involved the Marine Corps and veterans affairs.

Rupprecht's obituary pointed out he loved his family, the NYPD and the Marine Corps above all else in his very active life of 77 years.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Kathy; his children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rupprecht was buried in Hawthorne, N.Y.

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

## Old Badges Stolen In New Jersey Burglary

MORRIS TOWNSHIP, N.J. – Police in Morris Township, N.J. are investigating a November burglary at a retired law enforcement officer's former residence during which two old Morristown Police Department detective badges were stolen.

The retired officer, who is in his 80s, vacated the house in March 2020. It was last checked in September. Police believe the burglary took place between November 14 and 29.

The burglar(s) took a safe containing the badges, cash and the officer's birth certificates. The badges were last worn about 30 years ago, police said.

The residence was extensively ransacked in an apparent (but unsuccessful) search for firearms.

It is possible the stolen badges might be offered to a collector. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Morris Police Bureau Detective Bureau on (973) 326-7486 or email rdombrowski@mtpd1422.com.

Courtesy of Brian Lyons

## Robert Wilson, Kansas Collector, Dies At Age 77

Bob Wilson, a dean of the Kansas badge and patch collecting fraternity, died on January 23 at a care center in Hutchinson, Kans. He served as a Kansas Highway Patrol master trooper for 25 years and collected Sunflower State insignia for 42 years.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

HUTCHINSON, Kans. – Longtime Kansas Highway Patrol officer and collector Robert "Bob" Wilson of Hutchinson, Kans. died at a care center in his hometown on January 23. He was 77 years old.

Wilson served on the state highway patrol for 25 years and held the rank of master trooper. He joined in 1979 and retired in 2004. He had no previous law enforcement experience before he became a trooper.

He began collecting his department's insignia, especially badges, not long after he joined the agency after serving five years as a United States Marine (1961 to 1965) and working at Boeing Aircraft for three years and Winfield, Kans. where he was a lineman for the city electric utility.

Wilson had an extensive KHP collection; many fellow collectors described it as the best in the hobby. He had virtually complete displays of badges, patches and rank insignia, as well as uniforms and hats going back to the agency's formation in 1937. He also collected Kansas police and sheriff badges and had an excellent Kansas City, Kans. police collection.

The veteran collector attended shows in Missouri but rarely traveled out of state in pursuit of the hobby. His only known show displays were at the National Police Collectors Shows in Kansas City in 1991 and 2001. However, he attended National Show in Saint Louis, usually with other Kansas collectors.

"There's not many of us Kansas collectors, so we work together and do a lot of trading back and forth. There's not much interest in Kansas outside the state. I could bring a lot of things, but I don't think they would interest too many people," Wilson said during a National Show interview.

Most of his outstanding KHP insignia collection was acquired through personal contact with other troopers, their families and especially retired troopers.

"I've been lucky to make a lot of good contacts over the years. That's where most of my old badges came from. Retirees are the best source for collectors," Wilson said.

He possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of KHP department and insignia history, especially old badges.

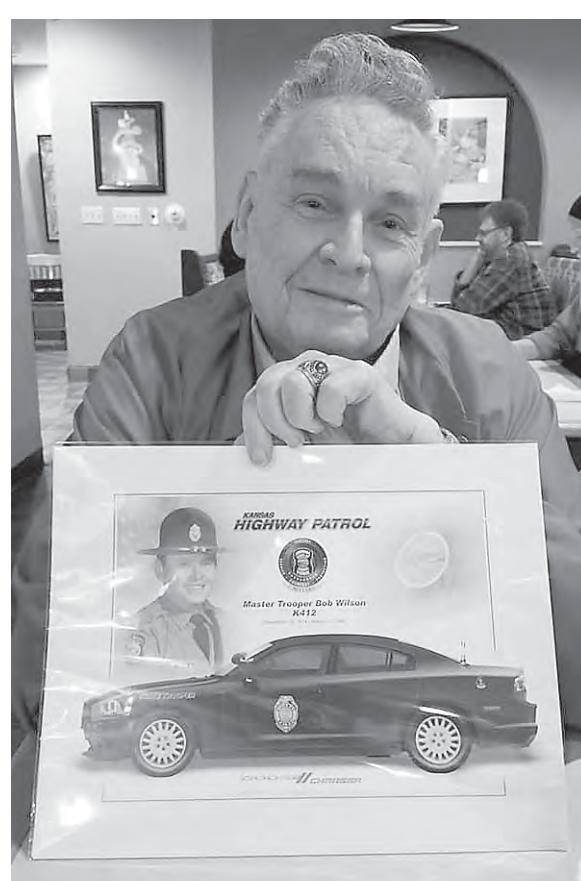
According to Wilson, the KHP has worn the same badge style, a small eagle-topped gold-colored shield, since 1950. "There have been a few variations when we switched makers, but the badges haven't changed that much. I still wear my first badge," he said.

He cited three other badge styles, 1937 to the mid-'40s, mid-'40s-'1950 and a variant of the current style issued from 1950 to 1997.

Only two shoulder patch issues have taken place, but both are similar designs with and without a blue border. The patch without the border was introduced in 1937 and worn until 1970. The current blue border design has been appeared on uniforms ever since.

"Our outfit began as car and truck inspectors. They hired ten motor vehicle inspectors in 1933 and put them under the state highway department. They spent most of their time dealing with unregistered cars and such so the state could collect license revenue, but they chased bank robbers and criminals,, too," Wilson said.

"It wasn't very long when they realized ten inspectors for the whole state wasn't getting the job done, so the Highway Patrol was formed in 1937. They had a superintendent, deputy superintendent and 45 troopers."



Bob Wilson shows a personalized poster custom made for him by collector friends that shows him in uniform and a patrol car driven by Kansas state troopers. Wilson was a master trooper who served for 25 years. He collected Kansas and KHP badges and artifacts for 42 years. *Willie Herald Collection*

## Remembering Bob Wilson ...Continued

Today, the agency has state troopers, Capitol police officers, motor carrier inspectors and communications specialists.

Wilson was born in Great Bend, Kans. in 1943 but the family relocated to the Hutchinson area. He went to high school in nearby Winfield before he joined the Marine Corps. He and his wife lived in North Carolina for a short time before returning to Kansas. They settled in Hutchinson.

He married his wife, Cleve, in 1963 while he was serving in the Marine Corps. They were married for 57 years until his death. She survives him.

Wilson was buried in Winfield on January 29.

**A true gentleman** Wilson was among the true gentlemen in the hobby. He was very well liked and respected by all who knew him.

Wilson was always willing to help a fellow collector identify or date a Kansas badge, especially those from the Highway Patrol, or determine the authenticity of a badge or patch.

As previously mentioned, his encyclopedic knowledge of KHP history made him a sought after and trusted source of information for fellow hobbyists.

I first met him at the '91 Kansas City National. He graciously helped me with my then-fledgling KHP collection. He was the kind of collector who would trade with anyone, even with those who didn't have what he was looking for, just to help them out, which is a dying trend in our hobby these days.

His honesty and integrity were beyond reproach. Years ago, I came across a nice old Kansas badge at a nice price that I thought he might be interested in. Because he had given me several KHP patches for my collection, I wanted to return the favor, even though he didn't want anything in exchange.

I sent him the badge. Lo and behold, he needed it for his collection! (When you had something Bob Wilson needed, you had something good!) He wrote me a thank you note and, true to his generosity, sent along another batch of KHP patches for me to use as traders.

Sadly, our hobby is rapidly losing our pioneer collectors, of which, of course, Wilson was one. Yet, he leaves behind a legacy not only of success as a collector but as a true friend to all who knew him, which is the highest tribute I can pay him.

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

*Our thanks to Willie Herald for his assistance with this obituary and tribute. EDITOR*

## Steve Petro Federal Patch Book Debuts

Veteran federal law enforcement insignia collector Steve Petro has published his long-awaited electronic book, *The Encyclopedia of U.S. Federal Patches*. The incredible reference work is now available on Amazon. It features 30,380 federal law enforcement patch images and took him 16 years to complete.

By Steve Petro, Guest Writer

SPENCERPORT, N.Y. – Greetings fellow federal patch collectors!

After 16 years in the making, *The Encyclopedia of U.S. Federal Patches* is now available for your review!

The focus of my United States federal patch collection is primarily embroidered insignia reflecting the history and heraldry of each federal agency.

Historically, each federal agency issues embroidered insignia to be worn on or as part of their uniforms to identify their authority and/or mission. Some of the insignia reflects the history of the agency.

My collection includes patch variations that have changed over the years as part of the individual agency's evolutionary process. It includes shoulder, back, breast and hat patches and arm bands. Any patch that varies or is different in size, shape, color, content or backing is of interest to me and included in the e-book.

Generally, most patches consist of fully- or semi-embroidered twill, fabric and thread. However, there are several exceptions.

Most patches are manufactured by embroidery machines; some older patches involve felt or a silk screen process.

Included in my collection are over 550 bullion-style patches, which are customarily handmade, primarily in India and Pakistan, using fine, colored metallic wire.

The above-described patches were made by various foreign and domestic, past and present insignia manufacturing firms.

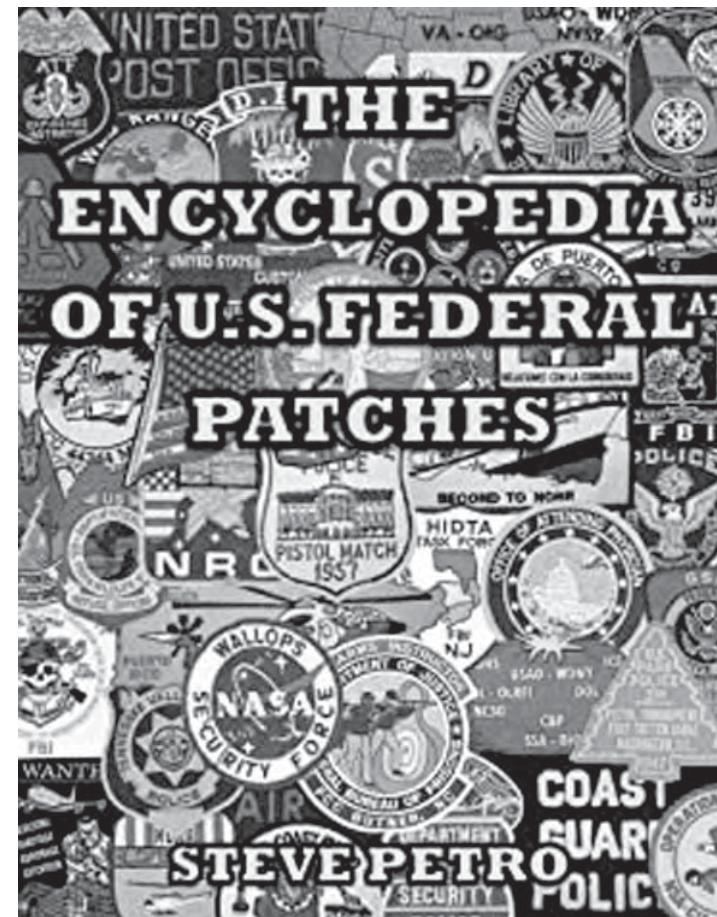
Generally speaking, my federal patch collection focus includes any of the above-described patches associated with our federal government. Please note every collection has exceptions, parameters and limits; mine is no exception.

My National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) patch collection includes 225 insignia items. I limited my collecting focus to only patches associated with NASA headquarters and their facilities, administrative staff, safety or police, security and fire departments. It does not include any of the numerous NASA space mission patches produced over the years to showcase specific space mission initiatives.

The chapter covering the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Energy collection totals 660 items, including over 200 rare silk-screen patches made in the 1950s and '60s that were associated with specific nuclear weapons production and testing initiatives in Nevada and New Mexico.

My Department of Defense and military service branch collection totals over 3200 patches. The collection is primarily limited to military and civilian police and government or contract security and intelligence insignia; although, there are some fire department and conservation enforcement patches. Several of the vintage patches were made before or during World War II.

My world-class Coast Guard patch collection includes over 4400 patches representing all branch components. It is considered the largest private collection of USCG insignia in



*The Encyclopedia of U.S. Federal Patches* is a new electronic book published by longtime federal collector Steve Petro. It shows more than 30,000 digital images of federal law enforcement emblems. The book made its debut on Amazon on February 20. It sells for \$49.99. *Contributed photograph*

the world.

There is a chapter associated with embroidered insignia worn by officials employed by the governments for United States possessions, such as Puerto Rico, the Panama Canal Zone and the Pacific Rim Islands.

The chapters relating to the Forest Service and the Department of Interior include well over 2000 patch images associated with our National Parks and Forests. Also included is the Park Police, rangers, fire management, Fish and Wildlife Service, tribal police and fire and Smokey the Bear patch collections.

My Secret Service (USSS) patch collection has always been my primary focus at any cost. It was considered the largest in the world totaling 840 items, including 40 bullions and 20 back patches. I also accumulated vintage insignia representing the defunct White House Police, Treasury Guard and Security Forces. My collection also included the former Executive Protection Division patches, as well as insignia associated with the current Uniformed Division of the USSS.

Most patches in my federal collection were purchased or traded by me directly from the sourcing agency or its employees or from other collectors. Several thousand patches were purchased by me on Internet auction sites.

To my knowledge, there is no other collection in the world which can be considered even close to the size and scope of my US federal patch collection. At the time we started to produce the e-book, I had acquired over 24,000 federal patches in my personal collection. These patch images became the initial basis for the book.

I would like to thank and commend some of the collectors who have helped me along the way:

Wayne Alexander, Penny Anderson, Hylton Baker, Joe Banco, Walter Belonos, Ed Benton, Larry Blackburn, Mike R. Bondarenko, Steve Bridges, Nemo Britton, Don Brockman, Joe Brancato, William C. Brown, Bill Burks, Jim Burton, Lane Byers,

Marty Cassidy, Andy Castro, Richard Chan, Stan Chizuk, Jim Clark, Commercial Emblem Supply Compasny, Kevin Corr, Jim Crumpacker, Dave Dale, Dennis Daniels, Bob Davis, Nick Demarco, Peter Dernier, Andrew Deserto, Beau Douglas,

Bob Doule, Mike Drechsel, Dave Drezek, Babs Eisaman, Frank Elmendorf, Mathew Erickson, all members of the Federal Collectors Group, Federal Criminal Investigators Association, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association,

John Fellmann, Ray Feltus, Andy Ferraro, John Ferster, Fred Fischer, Luke Flannery, Joe Fliss, Dave Fox, Dave Fowler, Roger Furr, Jack Gillen, Carole Lee Goins, Adam Gonzales, Gonzo Gonzales, Jim Gossett, Keith Gough, Gary Grant,

Leonard Hanham Sr., Leonard Hanham Jr., Jim Hart, Matt Hayes, Darrell Haynes, Dave Hendley, Travis Hodkinson, Thom Houk, Sam Huff, Roy Irving, Kent Jeffries, Ray Johnson, Mike Johnston, Doug Jones, Tony Kalicki, Jim Karas,

Don Kergel, Mike Kimball, Mike Kocher, Dave Kolberson, Bruce Knight, Steve La Bier, Mike Lathroum, Pete Lawrence, Ed Lawton, Rick Leaf, E.J. (Earl) Lergner, Scott Lewis, Andy Lindsay, Mike Lindsay, Randy Lowery, Ryder Lusk,

Paul and Paula Lutton, Keith Mackey, Steve MacMartin, Mike Machinski, Ken Madaglia, Ricardo Malaga, Dave Manquis, George Manosis, Greg and Steve Martin, Raul Martinez, Ray Marvez, Bob Matia, Joe Mattingly, Dave McDermott,

Dan Meany, Jim Meyer, George Mitchell, Joe Morrison, Richard Murphy, Andy Nelson, Victor Nevins, Joseph Nieves, Al and Debbie Nordeen, Derek Nowak, Ken Nunes, Brad Parker, Joel Paskauskas, Dave Pate, Bruce Petro, Mark Petro,

Ron Piwowarczyk, Police Insignia Collectors Association, Rich Pontes, Bob Popik, Dave Post, Mark Preuss, Dan Rafferty, Charles Redrup, Art Reifke, Fred Repp Jr., Jim Richardson, Rich Ridenbaugh, Steve Rivers, LeRoy Robertson,

Ben Robertson, Steve Robertson, Doug Runyon, Paul Russell, Ed Ryan, Joe Saitta, Doug Sarubbi, Frank Selvaggio, Frank Searle, Jim Segeda, Jim Shattuck, Ray Sherrard, Bob Sigona, Paul Simon, Leo Sitkowski, Dave Sprinkle, Bill Swank,

Al Tukey, Aaron Ward, Jack Watkins, Marty Weisman, Steve and Vicki White, Rick White, Randy Wilson, Mike Winner, Manny Ynistroza and Don Yost, to name a few.

In 1970, when I started my career in the Secret Service, I also started collecting federal patches and pins. I give full credit to Steve and Vicki White for their assistance. They were very generous with their time and assistance. I deeply appreciate their friendship and support of the hobby we shared.

My personal thanks and appreciation goes to my good friend and retired Postal Inspector, Gary Grant. He is to be recognized for all his generous help and assistance over the years with patch acquisitions that have enhanced both of our collections. He has the largest United States Postal Service collection in the world. Please feel free to contact him at grg463@tx.rr.com.

My good friend, Wayne Alexander, is dearly missed by everyone who shares the hobby. He will always be remembered for his great sense of humor, quality embroidered insignia and advancing the hobby.

Jim Clark is recognized for his world-class FBI collections showcased on his sophisticated Web site. Please visit his site, [FBICollector.Com](#), and you will be impressed. He is also to be commended for carrying on the tradition of the G-man Emblem Company that Alexander started and continues to provide a wide range of high-quality insignia products at reasonable prices with personal service. Please feel free to visit the G-Man site, [GManEmblem.Com](#).

My thanks also goes to Martin Cassidy, owner of ISI Services Corporation, who maintains the largest Pacific Rim patch collection in the world. Please feel free to visit his premier South Pacific patch page to view his extensive collections, [ISIServicesCorp.Com/MJCpatch](#). He is an advanced collector who manufactures custom insignia at reasonable prices with personal service. Please feel free to visit his site, [ISIServicesCorp.Com](#).

Mike R. Bondarenko, editor and publisher of *Police Collectors News* continues to keep the hobby alive. The publication serves the hobby well and Mike and Paula deserve a great deal of credit on a job well done!

I also want to thank and commend my brother, Bruce Petro, and my son, Mark Petro, for all their assistance and support of our shared hobby. The added value of sharing this hobby with my brother and son makes it priceless.

Patch collecting is a vehicle for meeting some great people who share similar interests. The hobby provides a platform to make and build lifetime friendships.

In 2005, I paid an administrative assistant to start scanning my federal patch collection. At that time I had accumulated well over 22,000 patches.

In 2009, I partnered with Bill Brown, a friend and advanced information technology specialist, to plan for the next generation of reference resources for the federal patch collecting hobby.

We decided to continue in the same direction that Ray Sherrard started with his printed editions of *The Encyclopedia of Federal Law Enforcement Patches*. He is to be commended for all his major contributions to the hobby. His reference books became the go-to resource bible for the federal patch collecting hobby. His expertise and reference books have enhanced the hobby and facilitated trading back in the day.

During the 2009 National Police Collectors show in Lansing, Mich., Brown and I met with Sherrard to enlist his support in the project. During our meeting, he expressed his full support of our e-book initiative. By that time, he was leaving the federal patch hobby to focus his efforts on badges.

With Ray's endorsement, Bill and I forged ahead with our project. Coincidentally, by that time, digital photography technology provided a much improved imaging quality and definition than our professional scanner could ever produce.

So, in 2009, I deleted all the scanned patch images developed to date and converted to digital photography. That decision set the project back a few years but was well worth it.

Thanks to the assistance of my friend, Dan Rafferty, who digitally photographed my entire federal patch collection one at a time!

Each patch image was digitally photographed and assigned a unique reference number shown below every photograph in the book.

I enlisted the help of 24 advanced collectors who contributed patch images to the book. Their patch image contributions are identified by their initials in the patch reference suffix number:

Ken Addyman, KA; Wayne Alexander, WA; Joe Banco, JB; Mike R. Bondarenko, MB; Marty Cassidy, MJC; Jim Clark, JC; Commercial Emblem (Babs Eisaman), CML; Mathew Erickson, ME; Fred Fischer, FF; Keith Gough, KG; Gary Grant, GG; Travis Hodkinson, TJH; Kent Jeffries, KJ; Bruce Knight, BK; Rich Pontes, RP; Mark Preuss, MP; Dan Rafferty, DR; Fred Repp, FR; Rich Ridenbaugh, RR; Jim Shattuck, JSS; Ray Sherrard, RHS; Dave Sprinkle, DJS; Aaron Ward, AW and Reade Williams, RW.

These collectors get my sincere thanks and appreciation for their assistance and support of the e-book project.

As a result of their federal patch image contributions, on February 20, we were able to launch the e-book by offering it on Amazon with 30,380 images shown in the Kindle edition.

Anyone interested in contributing a patch image to the book is welcome to send me the image. I suggest you use digital photography of any federal patch image not shown in the book. I appreciate if you would photograph one patch per page on plain bond paper. Please send the image in a JPEG format to my email address, [spetto1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:spetto1@rochester.rr.com).

If you are a new contributor, I will add your name to the above list and assign you suffix initials. Your initials will be incorporated into the patch reference number and appear below the image of any patch you submit to give you credit for the contribution.

*The Encyclopedia of U.S. Federal Patches* is designed to be collector-friendly. There are 37 designated federal agency sections for a total of 48 chapters reflecting insignia representing over 200 federal agencies.

The primary focus of the collection reflects the law enforcement, investigative and/or regulatory mission associated with the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government.

This is the first edition of our e-book. In the interest of launching it in a timely fashion, it required some trade-offs. For example, patch size and dimensions are not shown.

Be assured we will continue to improve the product and enhance the project with new patch images as we continue to build on the database.

In the interest of maintaining quality control, we would appreciate if you would send any constructive criticism or specific corrections by email to me.

A special thanks go to my colleague and friend William C. Brown, a law enforcement memorabilia enthusiast and his son, William J. Brown. They both assisted with the project and have always been willing to assist fellow collectors with their Web sites, and other related projects as they pertain to law enforcement memorabilia.

The e-book is available for sale as a Kindle edition on Amazon.

Go to Amazon.Com search for *The Encyclopedia of U.S. Federal Patches*. This is the largest federal insignia reference database of its kind.

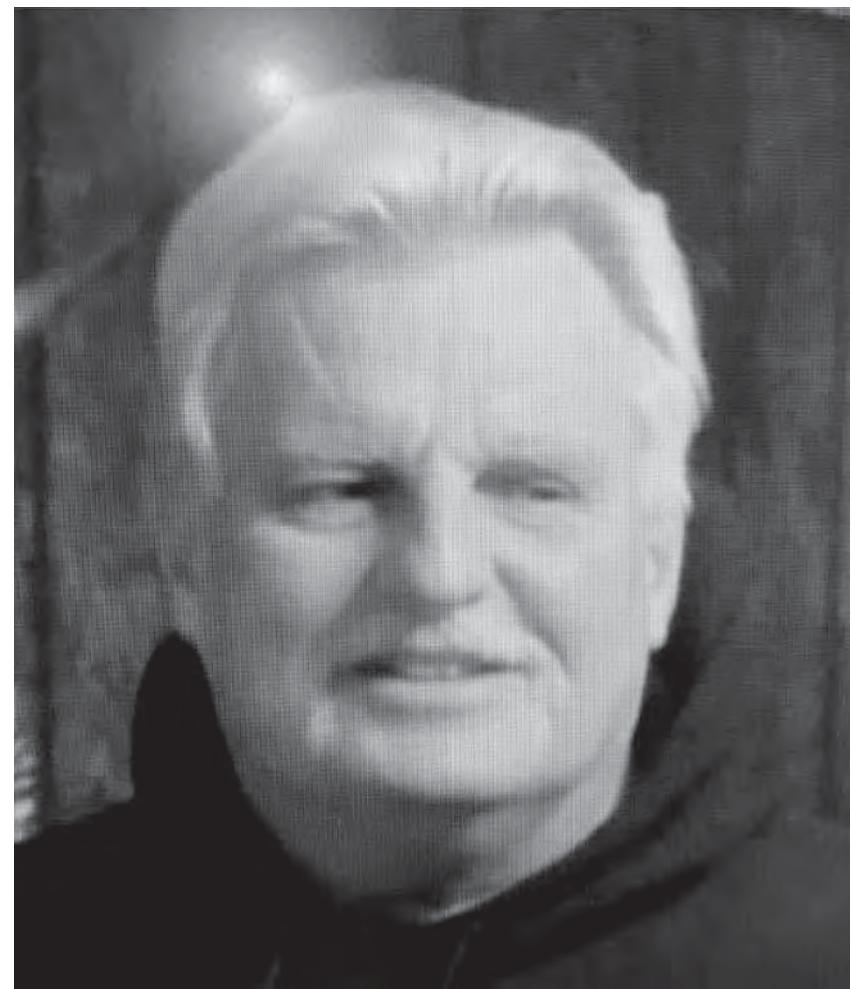
If you have any questions or want to contribute to the next edition, please feel free to contact me.

STEVE PETRO (23 Bauers Cove, Spencerport NY 14559-1246) [spetto1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:spetto1@rochester.rr.com)

Mike R. Bondarenko will review the new *The Encyclopedia Of U.S. Federal Patches* in the next edition. Orders are now being accepted at Amazon.Com. EDITOR

**State Police Garage** The Connecticut State Police Museum held a grand opening in mid-September for their new vintage vehicle garage at the State Police complex in Meriden. The garage houses the museum collection of vehicles used by troopers in the agency's 117-year history. It is adjacent to the museum. Due to COVID-19, the museum and garage are open only limited hours. Tours can be arranged by telephoning (203) 440-3858.

**New Tennessee Badge** Police in East Ridge, Tenn. began wearing new badges in mid-September. The badge is a silver-and blue-on-gold oval with a Tennessee volunteer War of 1812 soldier superimposed over the state flag as the center design in high relief. The legends are silver. According to the department, officers designed the badge. Every department member will wear it. Previously, different ranks and assignments had their own badge styles. Officers were allowed to purchase their old badges by making a donation to a local charity.



Jonathan Pease, longtime Maryland law enforcement insignia collector, died suddenly and unexpectedly on February 16 at age 67. He was a regular at law enforcement insignia shows in Maryland, especially Riverdale, which he rarely, if ever, missed. He collected badges and patches. *Contributed photograph*

## Maryland Hobby Mourns Death Of Jonathan Pease

Jonathan Pease, longtime Maryland law enforcement badge and patch collector, died on February 16 at age 67. The veteran collector was a regular at Maryland shows and was active in the hobby during his nearly 40 years in Free State law enforcement, including 25 years with the Baltimore City Police Department.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

DUNDALK, Md. — Longtime Maryland law enforcement insignia collector Jonathan Pease of Dundalk, Md. died suddenly and unexpectedly on February 16. He was only 67 years old.

Pease was an avid collector of Maryland police and sheriff patches and badges with a particular interest in the Baltimore City Police Department. He was also interested in canine insignia and state police and highway patrol yearbooks.

Pease was a regular at the Bel Air and Riverdale collector shows in Maryland. He preferred to trade with local collectors and rarely traveled out of the Free State in pursuit of his hobby. He usually did not have a table.

The collector spent 25 years as a patrol officer with the Baltimore City Police Department, five years as a Maryland state trooper and ten years with other Maryland police departments. He worked at a state hospital at the time of his death.

"I had known Jon since the early 1980s. He was a legend on the Baltimore City police force," recalled fellow longtime Maryland collector Bob Speed.

Pease, who was known to his friends as "Hulk" (after wrestler Hulk Hogan) due to his facial features and imposing stature, had a great sense of humor and never took himself or police work too seriously, always leaving his family, friends and especially co-workers smiling.

Riverdale host Andy Ferraro, whose next show will be his 38th, said he was "devastated" by the news of Pease's untimely death.

"It came as a complete shock. Jon was into fitness and kick-boxed a couple times a week. I never heard him say anything about his health," Ferraro said.

Pease attended nearly every Riverdale show. "If he missed one or two, I don't remember it. I could always count on him being there," Ferraro said.

Ferraro related his most lasting memory of Pease will be he was among a small group of regulars who remained in the hall after each show ended and talked about the hobby, show what they had acquired and share hobby news and war stories.

"We would hang around the hall and talk after the shows, sometimes for a couple hours. It was always a lot of fun. Jon usually was one of the last to leave," he said.

Pease was born in Easton, Md. in 1954. He lived his entire life in the state.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra, a son and a daughter, his father and two sisters.

Funeral services were held in Dundalk on February 23.

Collectors are welcome to leave remembrances on the Connally Funeral Home in Dundalk Web site. Search "Obituaries" for his arrangements post under the "Guestbook" heading.

Courtesy of Bob Speed and Andy Ferraro



Colorado Springs, Colo. police are wearing an authorized retro badge to commemorate their sesquicentennial during 2021. The five-point circled star comes in pewter (patrol officer) and gold (supervisor) colors and shows "1871 to 2021," the agency's 150 years of service. *Colorado Springs PD photograph*

## Colorado Springs PD Commissions Commemorative

Colorado Springs, Colo., a lawless frontier town in the 1870s, commissioned a retro commemorative badge to mark the city's sesquicentennial. Chief Vince Niski authorized his 700 sworn officers to wear the five-point circled star throughout 2021. It replicates one of the agency's oldest known badges.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The Colorado Springs, Colo. Police Department is going retro for their 2021 commemorative sesquicentennial badge.

Chief Vince Niski, who commissioned the five-point circled star, said it resembles the first known department-issue badge worn in the city, which is home to the renowned United States Air Force Academy and the United States Olympic Committee.

The once-in-a-lifetime badge comes in gold and pewter colors. Supervisors wear gold, while patrol officers wear pewter.

"CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS/ 1871-2021" is lettered in black on the ring that surrounds the star, while "POLICE/ 150" is seen in black centered on the star.

When the police department was formed in 1871, officers had to purchase their own badges, so a wide variety of different styles were worn in the city. Many early badges are displayed at the Pioneer Museum in Colorado Springs.

The chief said he doesn't know exactly when Colorado Springs standardized badges but believes it was in the 1920s or '30s.

The current style is an eagle-topped shield similar to the badge worn by the Tennessee Highway Patrol or the Wisconsin State Patrol.

The sesquicentennial badge will be worn until the end of the year in place of the standard department-issue. However, wearing it is voluntary. Officers had to purchase the commemorative; it was not issued by the city.

"We hope this badge brings honor to every officer who has come before us, as well as our city's founders," Chief Niski said.

Colorado Springs was founded in 1858 during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush and for a time was the capital city of Colorado Territory.

Like most other Old West gold rush towns, the fledgling city attracted prospectors and miners seeking riches. However, it also attracted more than its fair share of criminals, prostitutes, gamblers and riffraff bent on seeking riches of their own.

Initially, Colorado Springs was policed by a marshal and a few law-abiding citizens who volunteered to help keep the peace.

When lawlessness grew beyond the ability of the marshal and volunteers to protect the fast-growing city, the police department was formed.

Today, Chief Niski oversees one of the largest law enforcement agencies in Colorado with nearly 1000 employees, including 700 sworn officers, who protect and serve a community of 465,000, the second largest city in the state.

The badge was made available only to active and retired sworn personnel. It is not available to collectors, according to the chief.

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

**Book Coming Soon** Stephen Grismer, a Dayton, O. Police Historical Society member, will soon publish *The Dean, Dillinger and Dayton Ohio Legend, Lore, Legacy*, a new book about the Temperance Movement, Prohibition and the Great Depression in the city. "Although it is about Dayton, it also draws in the cities of Saint Paul, Chicago, Indianapolis, Lima and Hamilton (Ohio), and to a lesser extent, Cincinnati, New York, Saint Louis, Cleveland and a few others," Grismer said.

**Byrnes Mill Badge** Byrnes Mill, Mo. police Chief Frank Selvaggio, a longtime collector and show host, wears an interesting badge. It's a gold and silver seven-point cutout circled star with a full color state seal as the center design. His rank is shown on a banner between the top two star points. The legends are black. "BRYNES MILL POLICE DEPARTMENT/ POLICE" is lettered on the circle. Brynes Mills is a city of 2800 in Jefferson County in the Saint Louis area.



Newell Temple, longtime United States Bureau of Prisons collector and historian, died on December 12 in Grandview, Tex. after becoming infected with the COVID-19 virus. He was 77 years old. Temple spent 27 years with the BOP in Texas after relocating from Maine. *Contributed photograph*

## Collectors Newell Temple And Bert Carbo Pass Away

Our hobby has lost two more longtime badge and patch collectors, Newell Temple of Grandview, Tex. and Bert Carbo of Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Temple, 77, died of the COVID-19 virus. Carbo, who had collected since 1995, died at 93. Both hobbyists will be sorely missed by their many collector friends.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

**SPECIAL** – Sadly, our hobby has lost two more very well known veteran collectors, Bert Carbo and Newell Temple. Both enjoyed long careers as police insignia enthusiasts and will be missed by their many collector friends across the country.

Carbo, 93, died on January 23 at his home in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. He is best known as founder of Carbo's Smoky Mountain Police Museum, a popular tourist attraction in the hometown of Dollywood. He operated the museum with his wife, Shirley, and later daughter, Kathy Rivera, for many years.

Temple, 74, succumbed to complications from the COVID-19 virus on December 12 after a brief illness, according to his wife of 53 years, Jan-Marie. He lived in rural Grandview, Tex., a Dallas-Fort Worth suburb, and died at a local hospital.

**Bureau of Prisons collector** Temple was born in Bangor, Maine in 1946 only months after World War II finally ended. After his high school graduation, he went to work for the Saint Regis Paper Mill in Bucksport, Maine where he was employed for many years.

While most of his family still lives in Maine, Temple resided in several states before settling in Grandview. He took a job as a corrections officer for the United States Bureau of



Bert Carbo (right) was a well-known and popular figure in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., so much so that local people he befriended, such Paige Johnson, a server at Firehouse Subs, expressed sadness over this death on social media. He gave her a statue of a firefighter as a gift. *Contributed photograph*

Prisons in Texas in 1972. He moved up through the ranks and retired in 1999, holding the rank of lieutenant after 27 years service.

While Temple was interested in patches and badges from Maine, his passion was the BOP. He avidly collected the agency for nearly 50 years and conducted extensive research into its history, especially its insignia.

Temple featured Bureau of Prisons insignia at the 1996 and 1999 National Police Collectors Shows in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and wrote an informational article about the federal agency and its history for this newspaper. He wanted to do a book on the BOP but never completed the project.

"Corrections badges and patches don't get enough attention in this hobby, which is a shame. Many federal collectors pay a lot of attention to the Secret Service, the Marshals and so on, but not much to the Bureau, which operates one of the largest prison systems in the world," Temple said.

Temple lamented why many law enforcement officers fail to recognize corrections officers as equals.

"We're called jailers a lot, which is okay, I guess, but I'll put up what we do inside the prisons against anything street cops do. We deal with nothing but the worst of the worst in the federal system; most of those folks would kill us any day of the week if we gave them the chance," Temple said.

"Remember, we deal with these people 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Outside cops drop them off at our gate and say, 'He's all yours....'" he added.

Temple collected other federal insignia as well.

His widow said she has not had an opportunity to deal with the collection so soon after this death, especially in light of the recent massive power outages and water shortages in the Lone Star State. "I've been just too busy with other things," she said.

The veteran collector's remains will be transported to Bucksport where the family plans a graveside service this summer. A local funeral home is handling arrangements for the family.

**Buford Pusser aficionado** Bert Carbo was born in Gretna, La. in 1927. He was interested in medicine at an early age and became a dentist. He practiced in Westwego, La. near New Orleans.

Carbo joined the United States Army after World War II and served as a first lieutenant at the Medical Field Hospital in Salzburg, Austria where he provided dental care to soldiers stationed overseas during the height of the Cold War. He returned to the USA following his overseas military service and resumed his dental practice in Westwego.

Carbo became interested in law enforcement insignia, especially badges, in 1955 while he practiced dentistry. When a patient, who was a New Orleans police officer, couldn't afford to pay for dental work, the doctor accepted an NOPD badge in trade. It turned out to be his first badge! A lifelong interest in law enforcement badges was kindled.

"I guess down deep I wanted to be a cop. I don't know. I've always had great respect for police officers. I treated a lot of them when I was practicing. They are good people," he recalled during a 1990s telephone interview.

The Carbos relocated to Pigeon Forge after he retired from dentistry in 1975.

He became fascinated by the legacy of legendary McNairy County, Tenn. Sheriff Buford Pusser of *Walking Tall* movie fame and began collecting as many artifacts and as much memorabilia as he could find about his life and career.

Pusser served as the youngest sheriff in Tennessee history when he took office in 1964 in the sparsely-populated county. He served until 1970 when term limits prevented him from running again.

As sheriff, the six-foot-six former United States Marine and professional wrestler waged a one-man war against the infamous State Line Mob, whose members were heavily involved in drug trafficking, prostitution and gambling on the Tennessee-Mississippi border.

Pusser attracted national media attention for his fearless, relentless single-handed pursuit of the mob. The sheriff was either stabbed or shot on duty 17 times. His wife was killed when criminals attempted to assassinate him in 1967.

Pusser also served as police chief and constable in Adamsville, Tenn. from 1962 to 1964 and again from 1970 to 1972. He lost a reelection bid for sheriff that year but vowed to run again. Unfortunately, he was killed in a suspicious motor vehicle crash on August 21, 1974. He was only 36 years old.

"The sheriff was quite a man. I read a lot of stories about him in New Orleans papers over the years. He did a great job, but then he was killed in 1974. I'm not too sure it was an accident, either. He made an awful lot of enemies," he said.

Carbo reached out to the Pusser family and befriended the sheriff's only child, Dwana. He was able to obtain several outstanding pieces for his collection through her and other family members.

The ultimate collectible was the charred 1974 Corvette automobile the former sheriff was driving when he died, which Dwana Pusser loaned to his police museum. (She died in 2018.)

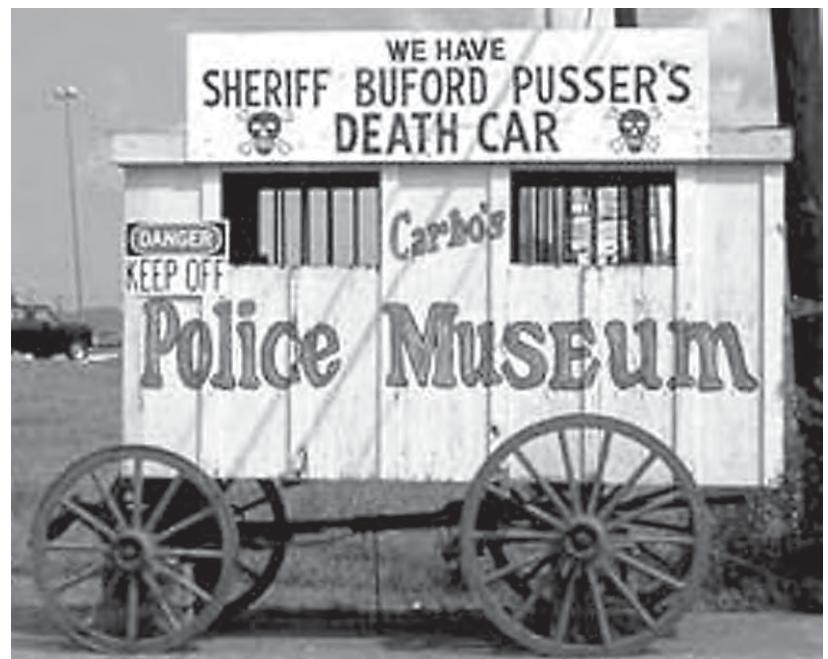
He also obtained several personal items, including a suit the lawman wore, among other things.

The collector sought a way to share his massive personal collection with others, as well as honor law enforcement, so he and his wife opened Carbo's Smoky Mountain Police Museum in downtown Pigeon Forge in 1976. He served as curator. The Carbos and other members of their family welcomed visitors from around the world.

"I had so much that I wanted people to see, so we bought the building and put together



Bert and Shirley Carbo opened Carbo's Smoky Mountain Police Museum in downtown Pigeon Forge, Tenn. in 1976 a year after they relocated from Louisiana. Carbo began collecting law enforcement insignia in 1955 and displayed over 5000 items at the police museum. Contributed photograph



Carbo's Smoky Mountain Police Museum utilized an old horse-drawn prison wagon that he repainted in bright colors to advertise his downtown police museum on Pigeon Parkway in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The museum was a popular tourist attraction for police officers. Contributed photograph

the museum. Since Pigeon Forge was becoming a place that was starting to attract a lot of tourists at that time, we thought the museum would be a natural fit," he said.

The museum became a popular stop for active and retired law enforcement officers, as well as police supporters and potential officers. He offered more than 5000 collectibles. Exhibits were frequently updated and rotated so visitors would see new things every time.

Of course, the Sheriff Pusser Collection was the centerpiece and most popular exhibit. Carbo called it one-of-a-kind. It certainly was unique, especially because most of it came directly from the sheriff's family.

Although the Carbos charged admission to help them pay for the cost of running their museum, officers who donated a patch for its massive collection were admitted free.

In addition to badge and patch exhibits, the museum featured a wide variety of other artifacts and memorabilia, even a brightly-painted old horse-drawn patrol wagon displayed in the parking lot that was no longer used to transport bad guys. Instead, it displayed advertising signs for the museum!

"When we first started the museum, the tourist season went from Easter to about November 1. As more people kept coming into town, we were open year-round," Rivera said.

"There was a stretch when Dad and Mom were there 90 days in a row without a day off. As they got older, they just couldn't keep up with the long hours seven days a week. They were ready to retire," she said.

After the Carbos semi-retired from the museum, she and her husband operated it for few more years. It permanently closed in Autumn 2008.

"There are times we miss it. We enjoyed it. It was Dad's pride and joy. We met a lot of very nice people," Rivera said.

Carbo's personal collection remains intact and is kept in storage awaiting probate proceedings. "We don't know yet what we will do with it. We might advertise it for sale. I don't know," she added.

Shirley Carbo is also 93. The Carbos were married an incredible 74 and one-half years.

Carbo was buried in New Orleans. There was a private graveside service.

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

net

## DeMartino Creates New Emblems For NYSP And Belmont, Ohio

SPECIAL – Bob DeMartino has created new emblems for the New York State Police Aviation Unit and the Belmont, O. Police Department.

NYSP Aviation is a subdued CHP shape with a pair of pilot wings and a trooper in uniform as the center design. The legends are "NEW YORK STATE POLICE" across the top and "AVIATION" on an arc-shaped attached rocker at the bottom. The colors are black, gray and purple.

Belmont is a colorful CHP shape. The round center design is a full color, highly-detailed depiction of historic Belmont School No.2, which was built in 1915 and closed in the late 1990s, enclosed inside a rope-like border. "VILLAGE OF BELMONT EST. 1808" appears on three offset banners beneath the building. The banners are superimposed over the United States flag. "OH" at the bottom completes the design. The colors are predominantly gold and black.

Belmont located in Belmont County on the Ohio-West Virginia border. The population is 453.



(Left) The New York State Police Aviation Unit emblem is a subdued design worn on flight suits. It is black, gray and purple and depicts pilot wings and a trooper. (Right) A historic school building is shown on the new Belmont police patch. Bob DeMartino produced them. Contributed photographs

# Arkansas Highway Police Adopt New Shoulder Emblem

The Arkansas Highway Police, an often neglected statewide law enforcement agency, recently adopted a new gray-on-black state shape as its uniform insignia. Highway Patrol officers are responsible for motor carrier and hazardous materials enforcement on all federal and state highways.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Many collectors are unaware that Arkansas has two completely different uniformed statewide law enforcement agencies.

The Arkansas State Police is much more well known. Troopers do traffic enforcement and crash investigation, as well as conduct criminal investigations, especially in rural areas of the state, where they assist police and sheriff departments. The agency is governed by the state Department of Public Safety.

Not as well known is the Arkansas Highway Police. Its officers serve under the auspices of the state Department of Transportation, formerly the Highway and Transportation Department.

The uniformed officers are primarily responsible for motor carrier enforcement, traffic control and hazardous materials enforcement on state and federal highways. They also do roadside drug interdiction and commercial motor vehicle crash investigations.

Recently, the Highway Police adopted a new state-shaped shoulder patch. It has a black background with gray legends and borders. The center design is a large white six-point star badge with a full color round state seal as the center design surrounded by white stars on a gold border. The legends read, "ARKANSAS/ HIGHWAY POLICE," at the top and "AR DOT" at the bottom. The letters "AR" are superimposed over a bright red state outline, which is now the department logo.

The new emblem replaces a longstanding rounded rectangle with the State Highway and Transportation Department logo as the center design. The logo was a white state shape bordered in gray with the red diagonal numbers, "1929," the year the agency was founded.

The AHP badge, a sunburst with the state seal as the center design, remains unchanged.

**Oldest state agency** The Highway Police predates the State Police. It was formed in 1929 by action of the General Assembly. The legislation was later titled the State Road Patrol Act.

The State Police was organized in 1935. State troopers, who were initially known as rangers, were first charged with liquor law enforcement and speed enforcement.

The first 20 highway patrolmen wore badges inscribed with the title, "Arkansas State Highway Police."

The agency moved between several state agencies over the years, but no longer than 15 years at a time.

It was once under control of the state Revenue Department because truck enforcement generated revenue for the state. In fact, even today, every Highway Police officer carries a commission as an agent of the state Commissioner of Revenues, which may be unique in the USA.



Current Arkansas Highway Police vehicles are white with black markings showing the agency badge as front door decals and "HIGHWAY PATROL" in large letters on a gray and black fender-to-fender stripe. Large SUVs like this are needed to transport weight enforcement gear. *Contributed photograph*

The State Road Patrol returned to the Highway Department in 1963 by legislative action. In 1979, the agency name was changed to the Highway Police, and, ten years later, it became responsible for Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulation enforcement. It also assumed jurisdiction of state Transportation Safety Agency rules and regulations.

Today, highway patrol officers, who are often called troopers by the public, enforce commercial vehicle size, weight and safety laws. They are the only sworn officers authorized to stop and inspect commercial vehicles in the state.

Interestingly, state law gives highway patrol officers complete law enforcement and arrest authority on and off state and federal highways. They share concurrent jurisdiction with the State Police and county sheriffs and deputies.

The agency operates 11 weigh stations on major highways and about 80 mobile units across the state. Each mobile unit has the ability to weigh, measure and inspect commercial vehicles without being in proximity of a weigh station.

The Department of Transportation takes commercial vehicle enforcement seriously. It constructed and maintains about 80 roadside pads with access and egress lanes for mobile motor carrier enforcement on secondary roads.

**AHP history documented** In 2019, Cody Besett, then 27, of Rogers, a graduate student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, honored his family legacy by devoting his post-graduate research to the history of the Highway Police.

Besett graduated with an emphasis on archives and digital collections. He chose the Highway Patrol for his post-graduate thesis because his father and grandfather both served with the agency.

"I have a personal interest in the Arkansas Highway Police. My grandfather retired from the agency many years ago, and my father will retire from there in a few years. My dad thought it was interesting, but he knew it would be quite an undertaking," Besett said.

He wanted to complete his project for the 90th anniversary of the agency but found locating documents in state archives a difficult challenge. So, he chose instead to interview retired officers and administrators and recorded several oral histories. (He got their contact information from his father.) Interestingly, his best written source was a magazine published by highway department employees.

Besett's research revealed the agency was transferred to the Revenue Department in 1933. When the State Road Patrol dissolved in 1937, enforcement duties were split between inspectors with the Highway Department and State Police troopers.

Enforcement of commercial vehicle standards was moved from the Revenue Department to the Weights and Standards Division of the State Police in 1953. Ten years later, it was returned to the Highway Department.

The current Highway Police Division was created in 1979.

When Transportation Safety Agency duties were transferred to the Highway Department in 1989, 34 additional officers were added to the agency.

Besett's researched the career of John Bailey, who spent 27 years in state law enforcement and served as both chief of the Highway Police and director of the State Police, the only person ever to do both jobs in Arkansas history.

"Chief Bailey is the only officer in my knowledge to serve as the head officer of both the highway and state police. He worked very hard to build the image of the Highway Police. He emphasized hiring educated officers. He standardized training for police officers and used the most up-to-date training tactics. He took his ideas on recruitment and training with him when he went to the State Police," Besett said.

While there have been calls over the years to merge the Highway Police and the State Police, Besett said each agency's unique functions have kept them separate and continue to do so.

"Arkansas is very unique in that we have two major state police forces, and they are not under the same umbrella. In my opinion, it is the state highway police's specialization that makes them special and keeps them from getting absorbed by the state police," he said.



(Top) The current Arkansas Highway Police badge is a sunburst featuring the state seal. (Left) The new patch is a mostly gray-on-black state shape with the state seal as the center design. (Right) The previous Highway Police emblem was a large rounded rectangle. *Contributed photographs*

Arkansas Highway Police officers utilize a motor vehicle inspection pad constructed by the state highway department along a secondary road to stop and inspect commercial vehicles. The agency has 11 weigh scales and 80 mobile units to conduct motor carrier enforcement. *Contributed photograph*

Our thanks to longtime collector Bob Speed and Cody Besett for contributing to this story. EDITOR

# News Notes

**New Emblem In Maryland** Police officers in Edmonston, Md. are wearing the state's newest shoulder patch, according to longtime Free State collector Bob Speed of Monkton.

The new style is a CHP shape. It has a blue background, gray legends and white and gray dual outer borders. The full color center design depicts the town seal showing the sun rising in the background over the Decatur Street Bridge on the Anacosta River and the original Town Hall. The legend reads "POLICE" in large letters at the top and "EDMONSTON" above the design. "19" (left) and "24" are seen on either side of the design.

The previous insignia was a rounded green and gold rectangle with the legend, "A BRIDGING/ COMMUNITY." It also depicted the town seal.

The department is located in Prince Georges County just north of Washington, D.C. The agency was formed in 1949. Since 1924, the community had been policed by a town marshal.

Police Chief Elliott W. Gibson, a former Washington, D.C. police official, commands a force of eight officers.

Speed is unaware of any collectors on the small department, so the new insignia will be difficult to obtain.

Courtesy of Bob Speed

**"Worn With Pride" Nearing Publication** Although no distribution date has been set, authors Bruce Davisson and Tony Aleria have announced the long-awaited second edition of *Worn With Pride*, the definitive reference guide to state police and highway patrol emblems, is nearing publication.

Davisson and Aleria received the book proof from a designer recommended to them by fellow hobby book author Jim Casey in early February. The proof is one of the final steps before publication, which will take place eight to ten weeks after they review and approve the final draft.

"We received the proof from the designer for review. We are absolutely amazed beyond words. The designer has created a work that far exceeds our expectations," Davisson said.

"For those who like *Worn With Pride*, you will really love the second edition," he added.

Pre-publication orders are still being accepted for the book.

*Worn With Pride* was first published in 1985 as a pictorial history of the regular issue shoulder emblems worn by each state police and highway patrol agency. Davisson co-authored the ground-breaking book with the late Frank Brown.

The authors said the second edition will update the first volume and show additional insignia discovered since it was published.

Special unit insignia and cloth badges are not included.

Courtesy of Bruce Davisson and Tony Aleria

**Impersonator Had Bogus Credential, Weapons** The United States Capitol Police in Washington, D.C. arrested a Virginia man for using an "unauthorized security credential" in an apparent attempt to bypass a security checkpoint near the Capitol five days before the presidential inauguration ceremony.

Wesley Allen Beeler, 31, of Front Royal, Va. was arrested on January 15 after he tried to breach an outer perimeter checkpoint about a mile from the Capitol.

Officers said he handed them a document purportedly granting him access to the grounds, which were on lock down following the January 6 takeover of the building. While they were interviewing Beeler, an officer noticed a gun butt protruding from the center console of his truck.

Later, police found two unregistered Glock nine millimeter handguns, more than 500 rounds of ammunition, a 17-round magazine and 12-gauge shotgun shells.

Beeler was booked on five weapons offenses.

Later, the case was referred to the United States Attorneys Office for specific charges, including use of an unauthorized credential to enter a restricted area.

Officials would not disclose whether Beeler has a record as a police impersonator.

Courtesy of David Doss

**Taunton Resident Honors Fallen Collector** Norma Weeks owns a custom craft business, Memories of Today, Tomorrow, Forever. She is also a strong supporter of the Taunton, Mass. Police Department.

After Officer John Borges, a well-known Massachusetts insignia collector and Taunton police officer, died of COVID-19 complications on Christmas Eve, Weeks used her artistic ability to honor his memory.

Last month, Weeks delivered several beautifully handcrafted pewter replicas of the Taunton badge with Borges' number, "369," on a thin blue line banner across the state seal in the center design to give to officers as a keepsake and permanent remembrance of his service.



(Left) The new Edmonston, Md. police patch is mostly blue and gray and depicts the full color town seal, which shows the Decatur Street Bridge over the Anacosta River. (Right) The now-obsolete police patch with the motto, "A Bridging Community." No collectors on the department. *Bob Speed Collection*



Norma Weeks, a local artisan and law enforcement supporter, presented the Taunton Police Department with custom made and hand painted clay replicas of Patrol Officer John Borges' badge. Borges, a collector, died of COVID-19 complications before Christmas last year. *Taunton PD photograph*

"Every now and then, you meet someone who completely restores your faith in humanity. Today was one of those days," said Police Chief Edward Walsh, who is also a collector.

"Mrs. Weeks created the keepsakes out of clay with John's badge number displayed on one side and flowers from John's funeral pressed into the clay on the other side," Chief Walsh said.

Borges served Taunton for more than 20 years and became active in the hobby while working at a police equipment store before he became an officer.

The colors and intricate craftsmanship replicate Borges's badge almost exactly, except, of course, the badges are made from hard-fired clay.

"Words cannot describe the level of appreciation that I and members of the Taunton Police Department have for our community. Thank you, Mrs. Weeks," the chief said.

Weeks wrote, "Gone from sight, but never from our hearts. Enclosed is a special keepsake for you, made with love from Officer John Borges' memorial flowers by Norma Weeks," in a note attached to the badges.

Courtesy of Edward Walsh and Rich Pontes

**Metal Detectors Locate Lost Badges** Recently, metal detector hobbyists found long lost badges in Alabama and in England.

Two friends using detectors to search the site of a former mill built on a now abandoned military installation in the 1850s in Dale County in southeastern Alabama discovered a Montgomery police badge worn more than a century ago.

The badge is a silver-colored shield with top and bottom panels and the number "3" applied in the center. "POLICE" appears on the top panel and "MONTGOMERY, ALA." on the bottom panel.

The police department confirmed the badge is a style worn in the state capital city in the late 1800s to early 1900s. However, it was unable to determine whether it was ever reported lost or stolen because no records still exist. The wearer is also unknown.

Now the home of United States Army Fort Rucker, it has been speculated a Montgomery officer serving in the military may have lost the shield while in the service. The state capital is about 80 miles northwest of Ozark, the Dale County seat.

The finder opted to keep the badge rather than donate it to the department's small museum at police headquarters.

In Athens, which is in Limestone County near Huntsville in northern Alabama, local high school teacher and history buff Chris Paysinger, uncovered a state game warden badge that had been lost 45 years ago. It has been returned to its rightful owner.

Paysinger got permission to use his metal detector on soil recently disrupted on the grounds of the Limestone County Courthouse and found the badge a day after he unearthed some Civil War-era bullets and an old coin from the same ground.

The hobbyist posted a picture of the small silver-colored badge on social media and was contacted by Sergeant Travis Gray, a state Wildlife and Fisheries warden in the county. He offered to help Paysinger track down the badge owner.

The game warden contacted a friend, retired Warden Johnny Johnson, who lives in Scottsboro, Ala.

"Based on the wording on the badge, we knew it was really old. I figured since he'd been a warden for 40 years, he might be able to tell us something about it," Sergeant Gray said.

He was shocked when Johnson told him the recovered badge was his, and he had lost it in the 1970s.



(Left) A metal detector hobbyist found this very old Montgomery, Ala. police badge while searching an old military installation in Dale County. (Right) Police officials in Essex, England believe this badge discovered with a metal detector was lost in 1896. *Contributed photographs*



Athens, Ala. high school teacher, history buff and metal detector hobbyist Chris Paysinger (left) presents retired state game warden Johnny Johnson (center) with a badge he lost in Limestone County in 1973 or '74 as Fish and Wildlife warden Sergeant Travis Gray looks on. *Contributed photograph*

Johnson said he immediately recognized the style as one he wore as a young warden and confirmed the badge number, "210," was assigned to him. He even offered proof, a conservation officer regulations book with his number on it!

Johnson traveled to Athens to meet Paysinger and get his badge back. However, he still doesn't know how he lost it. "I only know it was lost somewhere, but I didn't know where," he said.

"I don't know how it got here. I can only guess. At that time, Limestone County was one of six counties that I served. If you made an arrest in any of the counties, you had to appear in court in the county. So, that's probably how it got lost, during a court appearance," Johnson said.

Johnson offered to buy the badge from Paysinger, but the history teacher wouldn't hear of it. He was delighted he could return it to the warden after so many years of being lost.

Finally, in England, a metal detector hobbyist searching a field near Essex found a Victorian-era hat badge that local police officials believe was lost by a constable trying to arrest a suspected killer in 1896. It is believed the badge came off his helmet during a struggle.

Bob Bell, 72, a retired Essex police officer who has been searching for lost history with his metal detector for years as a hobby, found the badge in a two-acre field near Pebmarsh.

He began researching the tarnished but otherwise intact Essex Constabulary badge and soon learned he had searched the same field where Constable Charles Cook chased down and ultimately arrested Samuel Collis, who shot his victim to death, beheaded him and then carried the severed head around in a bowl, 125 years ago.

Bell found police records detailing the Collis arrest. Constable Cook was on foot patrol and saw Collis walking in the nearby village of Halstad and carrying a large bowl. When he asked Collis what was in the bowl, the killer told him it was a sheep head. The officer took a look and immediately saw it was a human head.

Constable Cook told Collis he would have to accompany him to the police station, but Collis threw the bowl on the ground and ran away. The officer gave chase and caught up with Collis in the field just outside the village. There was a lengthy struggle, but the murderer was finally apprehended with the assistance of farm hands who saw the fight and helped the officer subdue Collis.

(Collis was later convicted of murder but was found insane and committed to a mental hospital for life.)

Bell said the badge is the most interesting thing he has ever found with his metal detector. He does not search for valuables. He only looks for history.

*Courtesy of David Doss and Chris Paysinger*

**Boston Police Getting New Emblem** The Boston, Mass. Police Department will soon be getting a new shoulder patch, according to collector Robert Silver,



Boston, Mass. police officers will soon be wearing this new emblem on Class "A" uniforms. It features a modified center design showing the Bunker Hill Monument, Paul Revere and an ocean-going sailing ship. Collector Robert Silver played a part in the initial design. *Contributed photograph*



Hunter Bradford, 15, an Arab, Ala. high school student, is a strong military and law enforcement supporter and enthusiast. He was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. The Arab Police Department and Marshall County Sheriffs Office presented him with patches and coins. *Arab PD photograph*

a Boston police officer.

Silver posted a photograph of the new design on social media. It will be worn on new Class "A" uniforms, which are also soon to be issued to sworn officers.

Silver posted he was happy to take some of the credit for the new design, but the manufacturer made two changes, the Old North Church was removed, and the motto, "FIRST IN THE NATION," appears on the banner beneath the seal.

"I did not like that, but it's better than what we have now," he said.

The revamped colorful seal features an ocean-going sailboat to symbolize the Plymouth Rock landing, Paul Revere during his famous "The British are coming!" ride and the Bunker Hill Monument.

*Courtesy of Robert Silver*

**Alabama Officers Support Cancer Victim** Hunter Bradford, a 15-year-old high school student in Arab, Ala. was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and is undergoing treatment.

The young man is a huge law enforcement and military supporter who dreams of serving his country in the service and his community as a police officer.

When Arab police Officer Jeff Warren, the school resource officer, learned of Bradford's love of law enforcement, the two became fast friends. And, when he found out about his cancer, he wanted to do something special for him.

Officer Warren went to Chief Shane Washburn and Assistant Chief Dusty Vaughn and asked what the police department could do. They opted to make Bradford an honorary police officer and present him with police patches and challenge coins.

After the department asked other local agencies to donate some insignia, the response was strong. When Bradford visited the PD to accept his honorary commission and badge, he was thrilled to receive dozens of patches and challenge coins.

"We thought if we could just take his mind off what he's dealing with for just a brief moment, that it would be a good thing. And I think it was. He really enjoyed himself, and we enjoyed having him here," Chief Washburn said.

Marshall County Sheriff Phil Sims invited Bradford to his office as well and presented him with more patches and challenge coins collected by his deputies.

"We want to support this young man in the challenges he now faces because we know that Hunter will kick cancer's butt," the sheriff said.

*Courtesy of the Sand Mountain Reporter*

**New Caps In New Zealand** It seems likely that police officers in New Zealand will soon be wearing American-style ball caps on duty.

The department is testing five different styles of blue and white caps with white and blue checkerboard designs in five different police districts. Eleven officers are wearing them.

If approved by command staff, the soft caps would worn be on regular duty in place of traditional forage caps but not for court appearances, official ceremonies, officer funerals or



These and other Dallas Police Department police badges and insignia are missing after being shipped to a badge manufacturer in Dell City, Okla, Metis Incorporated, for a display. When the shipping box arrived at the company plant, it was empty. The badges have not been found. *Dallas PD photograph*

formal occasions.

Constable Mark Taylor has been lobbying for general issue ball caps for years and has the support of the police association, as well as Assistant Commissioner Tusha Penny. Some special units already have them, but constables are required to wear their forage caps on duty.

Constable Taylor has argued that many other law enforcement agencies wear soft caps, including many in Australia, Britain and the United States. "That's not to say we would be following the pack, but we would be moving into the 21st century with a type of head wear that is practical and modern for general police use," he said.

It was pointed out traditional forage caps are easily knocked or blown off, and officers must remove them in order to get into their vehicles.

While support is strong among younger officers, many older members find them unprofessional and unbecoming to a professional appearance. "Cheap and nasty," is how one senior constable described them. "Next, they'll want hoodies."

Courtesy of New Zealand Police News

**Dallas Police Badges, Insignia Missing** Badges and other insignia belonging to the Dallas Police Department being shipped to a manufacturer in Dell City, Okla. have been reported missing.

According to the agency's social media page, the agency used Fed Ex to ship badges and insignia worn by a veteran officer to Metis Incorporated for inclusion in a custom made display. When the shipping box arrived at the factory, it was empty.

The shipment also included three other Dallas breast badges, a cap badge and a Super Bowl badge. The breast and Super Bowl badges carry the number "5938," the cap badge is numbered "5816."

The other badges are numbered "5411."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the department. The case number is 023663-2021.

Metis makes Dallas and other public safety badges and jewelry.

Courtesy of Dallas Police Department



(Top) Michael Creamer Sr. looks happy about being made a Franklin County, O. sheriff's deputy in March 1962. (Center) He retired as chief deputy in charge of patrol in 1992. (Bottom) Deputies Mike Creamer Jr. and Mike Creamer Sr. work a pre-dawn detail in October 2019. *Mike Creamer Collection*

# Collector Michael Creamer Sr. Retires After Nearly 59 Years

Longtime Ohio law enforcement collector Michael Creamer Sr. retired from Buckeye State police work after nearly 59 years on December 31. He served in Franklin County for 50 years, then in London and Pickaway County. "It's time," he said upon retirement.

By Michael Creamer Jr., Guest Writer

GROVE CITY, O. — Ohio deputy sheriff and longtime law enforcement memorabilia collector Michael Creamer Sr. retired at 11:59 pm on New Years Eve 2020 after 58 years and nine months service as an Ohio peace officer.

Creamer unofficially began his career as an unpaid volunteer dispatcher for Grove City Police Chief Elbert "Lightening" Evans while still in high school.

He took a civilian job with the City of Columbus in 1960 where he became a mail room clerk at City Hall.

Turning 21, Creamer applied for and was appointed a deputy with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in March 1962. He worked in most aspects of the Sheriff's Office, including the County Jail, communications, patrol, civil and juvenile divisions.

Creamer retired in 1992 as the chief deputy overseeing Patrol, Traffic Crash Unit, Communications and Court Services. As the Chief of Patrol, he also supervised Franklin County deputies working the Ohio State University football detail and large crowd special events, such as air shows, Hands Across America, Ameriflora, the Memorial Tournament, Scioto Downs Harness Racetrack and numerous presidential visits.

My father's career with Franklin County saw the civil unrest of the 1960's through the drug wars of the 1980s and the growth of Columbus from a sleepy Midwestern city into a metropolitan area. During this time, he worked for six county sheriffs.

Following his retirement, Creamer obtained an auxiliary commission with Pickaway County Sheriff Dwight Radcliff in 1993.

In 1994, Creamer was appointed chief of the London, O. Police Department where he served until 2005.

Upon leaving London, Creamer maintained his commission with Pickaway County, joining the Court Services Detail as a part-time deputy. He worked with Sheriff Radcliff until 2012 when Radcliff retired as the longest-serving elected sheriff in United States history. Creamer continued work for Sheriff Robert Radcliff, his son and successor, for two terms.

During his time with Pickaway County, Creamer enjoyed volunteering hours working parades, community events and Memorial Day commemorations. At times, he would take a display from his collection to events to show children and adults alike.

During the pandemic, Creamer reported to the courthouse on his duty days, armed with his PPE. He volunteered on the jail transport wagon to bring prisoners to and from court from various Ohio prisons.



(Top) Deputy Mike Creamer Sr. (left) and former Pickaway County Sheriff Dwight Radcliff in 2013. Radcliff was the longest-serving sheriff in the USA. (Bottom) Patches and badges that Creamer Sr. wore during his career, Franklin County, London PD and Pickaway County. *Mike Creamer Collection*

## Mike Creamer Sr. Retires ...Continued

Being a peace officer, especially a deputy sheriff, was all he ever wanted to do. When asked why he retired on New Years Eve 2020, Creamer said, "It's time." Creamer is still an active collector, although the pandemic has curtailed the hobby. He is looking forward to getting the COVID-19 vaccine and being able to get to shows again to see friends. Until then, he will be monitoring the scanner app on his iPad.

Needless to say, as his son, I am very proud of what he has accomplished.  
MICHAEL CREAMER JR. (2546 Clark Drive, Grove City OH 43123)



2021 National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum commemorative coin designs announced by the U.S. Mint. (Left to right, obverse top, reverse bottom) The \$5 gold coin, silver dollar and silver half-dollar. The coins are offered in limited quantity as proof sets. *United States Mint photograph*

## 2021 National Law Enforcement Commemoratives

The United States Mint has unveiled designs for three 2021 National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum commemorative coins. The highly-collectible coins will be produced in \$5 gold, silver dollar and silver half-dollar denominations and sold in uncirculated proof sets.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Mint has announced the 2021 National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum commemorative coin designs.

Director Dave Ryder said the coins will be produced in \$5 gold, silver dollar and silver half-dollar denominations.

"While these coins are legal tender, they are offered only to collectors in uncirculated proof sets under authority of Public Law 116-94. We will produce and sell up to 50,000 \$5 gold coins, no more than 400,000 silver dollars and a maximum of 750,000 half-dollars," Ryder said.

"These designs will be featured on coins that honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers throughout the history of the United States. We hope this program will assist the museum in its mission to bridge the past and increase public understanding and support for the law enforcement community."

The law provides that collectors who purchase these coins are surcharged \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver dollar and \$5 per half-dollar. If the Mint determines the coins made a profit, then the surcharges are donated to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

The \$5 gold coin obverse (head side) depicts male and female officers in profile and saluting.

The legends are "LIBERTY 2021" in large characters and "IN GOD WE TRUST" in small characters.

The reverse (tail side) shows a folded flag with three roses beneath symbolizing remembrance.

The inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" across the top, "FIVE DOLLARS" beneath the design and "E PLURIBUS UNUM" at the bottom.

Frank Morris designed the obverse. Phebe Hempfill sculpted the coin.

The silver dollar obverse (head side) depicts a police officer kneeling next to a child seated on a basketball and reading a book symbolizing service to the community and future generations.

The legends read "SERVE & PROTECT" and "LIBERTY 2021" across the top in large characters across the top and "IN GOD WE TRUST" in small characters beneath "Liberty 2021."

The reverse (tail side) shows a uniformed sergeant shaking hands with a member of the public, representing the work law enforcement officers do within their communities to increase safety through trusting relationships.

Inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" across the top, "E PLURIBUS UNUM" in the center and "ONE DOLLAR" at the bottom.

Morris and Hempfill collaborated on the obverse, while Ron Sanders designed the reverse and John P. McGraw sculpted it.

The half-dollar obverse (head side) shows a sheriff's six-point star badge representing the community served by law enforcement officers and the important role they play.

The legends read "SERVE AND PROTECT" across the top and "IN GOD WE TRUST" at the bottom.

The badge legend is "LIBERTY" at the top and "2021" at the bottom.

The reverse (tail side) is the most interesting of the three coins because it is complex yet

eye-catching. It portrays an eye in a magnifying glass looking at a fingerprint, showing the human side of justice, a reminder that law enforcement is not only officers on the streets but also many others behind the scenes. It also features the emblem of the National Law Enforcement Museum.

Inscriptions are "E PLURIBUS UNUM/ HALF DOLLAR" in small letters on the left, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" in large letters across the top and "NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT/ MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM" in small letters beneath the center design.

Sanders and McGraw teamed up on the obverse, while Heidi Wastweet designed and Renata Gordon sculpted the reverse.

Ryder said the Mint is authorized to commission two commemorative coin programs each year. The other 2021 project is a silver dollar honoring the late Astronaut Christa McAuliffe, the first civilian teacher in space, who died in the Challenger Disaster on January 28, 1986.

Coin availability information can be found on the official Mint Web site, USMint.Gov. The law enforcement coins had not been struck as of February 3, but pre-orders are being accepted. Usually, NLEOM coins are produced in April or May.

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

## United States Air Force OSI Convoy Escort Agents

United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations convoy escort agents perform a unique law enforcement mission, escorting nuclear missiles and radioactive bomb material between air bases, mostly in the high plains. The agents replaced United States Marshals Service missile escorts ten years ago.

By Jim Shattuck, Guest Writer

FORT KNOX, Ky. – This column is about United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) nuclear convoy operations.

The United States employs nuclear weapons for the defense of the nation. The Air Force maintains two legs of the nuclear triad, the nuclear bomber force and the intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM).

The ICBMs, Minuteman III missiles, are on strategic alert across the high plains of the USA 24/7/365. These missiles must be serviced, replaced and moved occasionally to ensure the reliability of the system.

Minuteman missiles are transported off Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) facilities to missile silos by military convoys guarded by Air Force Security Forces.

For many years, the United States Marshals Service assisted the Air Force in moving the nuclear weapons systems off bases. The marshals exercised federal authority over any civilians who may interfere, interrupt or endanger the nuclear material.

The marshals did not provide these services for free. The Air Force had to provide a vehicle for the marshal and reimburse the agency for their services.

In 2010, the Air Force rethought their procedures for off base nuclear weapons movements and decided to drop Marshals Service involvement. It was decided that Air Force special agents would replace the marshals without incurring additional costs. OSI members are classified as criminal investigators under the United States Code and able to



(Top) Air Force specially-marked convoy support agent vehicles work to safely transport Minuteman nuclear missiles and material between bases. (Bottom) A closeup look at a convoy support agent vehicle. It is light gray with dark gray and blue stripes and an OSI badge. *Jim Shattuck photographs*



A unique shoulder patch for a unique mission! United States Air Force convoy support agents wear this colorful emblem on their uniforms. It shows the crests of three air bases and two Minuteman missiles protected with a set of handcuffs. The escort agents are civilians. *Jim Shattuck photograph*

perform the functions of the marshals.

In 2011, OSI assumed the mission of escorting nuclear weapons off military installations. Nine convoy support agents are assigned to AFGSC bases. All the agents are civilians to prevent any issues with posse comitatus. They coordinate missions with other law enforcement agencies, detain people who interfere with the mission and conduct public awareness and public relations with communities that surround missile fields. It is truly a unique mission.

Convoy support agents are provided fully-marked vehicles and wear a soft uniform.

I have shown pictures of the vehicles used and the patch they wear on their uniforms.

The patch has the crests of the 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; the 91st Missile Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota and the 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Montana above two Minuteman III missiles secured with a pair of handcuffs.

For more information on the nuclear convoy escort operations, go to OSI.AF.Mil on the Internet and type "20th Air Force Nuclear Convoy Mission" in the search bar on the top right of the home page.

JIM SHATTUCK (PO Box 846, Fort Knox KY 40121)

## Letters To The Editor

### McCord Remembers Trevor Thompson

Even though we hadn't been in contact for many years, I was very saddened to learn of Trevor Thompson's passing.

I met him in 1988 in Denver, and he stopped by Hastings in 1990. During a visit to my department, the local paper did an article on him.

Of course, we did some trading. I would like to reiterate the well known fact that he could talk anyone out of anything! He even talked me out of my Police Insignia Collectors of Nebraska member badge, which I had no intention of letting go. Sure would like to get that one back, as a memento of our friendship so many years ago.

I remember holding my hand up during a collecting-related conversation and saying, "Trevor, slow down and speak slowly, because I can't understand a damned thing you are saying!" We had a good laugh over that.

What a gentleman, fine human being and friend of so long ago. I regret not staying in contact. My life is richer for knowing Trevor and am comforted because I believe his was a life well lived.

Rest in peace, my friend.

MONTY MC CORD (Silver Star Enterprises, 2012 Boyce, Hastings NE 68901)

### Herald Withdraws 2022 Proposal

After some consideration, I have decided to withdraw my intention to make a bid to host the 2022 National Police Collectors Show in Columbia, S.C.

This was not an easy decision, considering the support and encouragement I received while doing research and planning for the show.

I feel like I am letting a lot of people down, but in the end, I have to consider the financial risks involved, especially with the events of the past year and the uncertainty of this new year. I realize it's 18 months away and a lot can occur in that time, but the unknown of which way things will go played a large part in this decision.

Before the pandemic this National Show would have been a no brainer, and I would be enthusiastically moving forward to make it happen.

The hobby was riding on a wave of new shows being held, an influx of new collectors and the 2020 National Show in Reno selling out in a matter of months. Unfortunately, in the last year, we have seen cancellations and attempts to reschedule shows later than usual in the hopes that restrictions would be lifted so shows could occur.

I, like all collectors, hope shows scheduled this year are able to be held, and we can get the hobby back on track. Hopefully, the delayed Reno show will happen, and the 2021 National Show in Saint Louis will sell out, as well as all the other shows on the calendar.

I wanted to make my decision public early enough to allow anyone who might be considering hosting a National in 2022 time to put together a proposal to make a bid, hopefully in Reno in June.

WILLIE HERALD (PO Box 124, Louisville IL 63858)

### Collector's Daughter Needs Help

I am Colleen Reed. I am 23 years old. I have a brother who is 21 years old. Last year, I bought a subscription to PCNEWS for my dad, William D. Reed, who was a



The late Australian collector Trevor Thompson (left) visited Monty McCord at his Hastings, Nebr. home in 1990. The two hobbyists had met at the 1988 National Police Collectors Show in Denver two years earlier and developed a friendship. Thompson died last December 23. *Monty McCord photograph*

longtime reader and patch collector. He was a Waterbury, Conn. police officer for 13 years. Dad was almost killed in the line of duty and seriously injured. He has a pending worker's compensation case, but it has not yet been settled.

My father and mother lost the home they had been living in for the last 33 years because they could no longer afford the payments after he was injured and no longer able to work. He is forced to spend his entire pension on living expenses.

They had been renting their house from the person who bought it for the last ten years. Last September, my dad qualified for a Veterans Administration home loan. The problem is he can not afford the \$9000 closing costs to finalize the loan.

I have started a "Go Fund Me" page to try and raise the money for the closing costs so they can stay in their home. My dad would be beside himself if he knew about it, because he is too proud to ask for help himself, but I felt I had to step in. They really do need help.

My parents are in their 60s and now retired. He served his country in the military and his community on the police department.

It would be deeply and gratefully appreciated by my brother and I if his collector friends could help them raise money for the closing costs. Those who would like to help can go to "Go Fund Me" and type my name, Colleen Reed, under the search icon. This will direct you to my page.

Thank you very, very much for any and all assistance.

COLLEEN REED (PO Box 528, Morris CT 06763)

### 2021 Ferndale Vehicle Show

Plans are being made to hold the annual Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show on Friday, August 20 in downtown Ferndale, Mich. I am the event coordinator.

The emergency vehicle show takes place before the Woodward Dream Cruise, the world's largest one-day car event, and draws around 100 emergency vehicles, featuring both antique and modern era ambulances, fire apparatus and police cars.

The show, which would have marked the 20th anniversary of the event, was canceled last year because of the corona virus.

For those interested in attending or wishing to take part in the show, please contact me by phone (313) 563-6065 or email me at ajr107@peoplepc.com.

ANTHONY RZUCIDLO (26840 Rouge River Drive, Dearborn Heights MI 48127)

**Northern Territory Police** Police in the Northern Territory of Australia are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year with a wide variety of events, as well as publication of a history book and production of challenge coins and other collectibles. Most events took place in September and October. The agency was created in 1870 with six constables who patrolled on camels and horses! Today, 1500 uniformed officers police nearly 521,000 square miles of the harshest territory in Australia. The population is only 245,000.



The newspaper in Hastings, Nebr. did a story on Trevor Thompson's visit to the city and the police department in June 1990. It showed a picture of Thompson (left) and McCord (right), then a Hastings police officer, trading during a visit to police headquarters. *Monty McCord Collection*



# California Police Historian

**The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society  
Mike Bondarenko, Editor**

## CLEHS News Updates

**Amazon Smile** There are many ways to support the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, like membership dues, cash donations, in-kind contributions and grants.

Another easy way to support the Historical Society is by shopping at Amazon Smile. When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate a small percentage of sales to the Historical Society. Next time you shop on Amazon, check out Amazon Smile.

Thank you for supporting the CLEHS.

**2021 Membership Renewal** Thank you to all those members who have renewed their CLEHS memberships for 2021.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, you still can.

You can renew online on the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Go to the "Membership" page and follow the prompts.

Or, if you prefer, you can mail a check to CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

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

The selected candidate will have distinguished themselves 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 should be emailed to President Gary Hoving no later than April 1. You can find his email information on the CLEHS Web site.

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

**2021 Collectors Show** The annual California Law Enforcement Historical Society Police Memorabilia Collectors Show will be held on Saturday, July 24 from 8 am to 2 pm. The show will be take place at the Veterans Hall, 800 Grand Avenue, in San Luis Obispo.

There are 55 eight-foot tables available for \$40 each. Society members pay \$20 each. Reserve your tables early because the show sells out every year.

Admission is free.

Awards are presented for the "Best Badge Exhibit," "Best Patch Exhibit" and "Best of Show."

If you wish to reserve a table and pay by check, please send payment to President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

Tables can also be reserved by email or telephone. His number is (805) 441-4936. His email address is accessible on the CLEHS Web site.

Watch the Web site, or our Facebook page, "Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society," for show updates.

The swap meet will follow current COVID-19 guidelines. Masks or facial coverings will be required. Hand sanitizer stations will be provided. Collectors are asked not to attend with a fever or other possible viral infection symptoms. Please maintain six-foot social distancing.

See you at the show!

**Board of Directors Election** CLEHS 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 at-large directors 2021 to 2025 terms are now being accepted.



The Veterans Memorial Hall in San Luis Obispo will host the 2021 California Law Enforcement Historical Society Police Memorabilia Show, which is scheduled for July 24. Fifty-five exhibitor tables are available. It is expected the show will be a sellout, as usual. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

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

You can also email nominations to Secretary-Treasurer Smith at casigns28@outlook.com.

After nominations are received and validated, a ballot will be sent to all eligible members by May 1. (Please note: Article 12-Section 1 of the CLEHS bylaws do not allow associate or corporate members to vote; therefore, no ballot will be sent to these members.)

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

**MeWe Plans Shelved** Plans to create a CLEHS presence on the social media site MeWe as a place to post in-depth historical information have been discontinued, President Gary Hoving announced in early February.

Hoving had planned to create the MeWe page to augment the popular "Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society" Facebook page, which now has more than 800 members, as an expansion of the society's online presence.

The MeWe proposal was scrapped after only 30 people indicated interest and signed up. Submitted by President Gary Hoving and Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

## Information Sharing Ongoing CLEHS Benefit

Whenever a CLEHS member needs information about a patch or badge to help document and preserve a piece of Golden State law enforcement history, help is usually readily available from fellow members and supports.

Recently, member Mike DeVilbiss needed a resource to find out more about San Francisco police star "888," reportedly worn by an officer with the last name of Del Carlo in the late 1960s, so he turned to former SFPD officer and collector Rick Uland, who still lives in the city.

Specifically, DeVilbiss wanted to know if SFPD Captain Edward Del Carlo may be related to the Del Carlo who wore star "888" years ago.

Uland found a photograph of Eugene Del Carlo, who served as a SFPD officer in the 1960s and '70s, in a department yearbook published in 1976 that showed a photograph of him in uniform as a lieutenant. He was not wearing badge "888."

"Gene is the 1960s Del Carlo you are referring to and must be deceased. I spoke to a member of the Del Carlo family here in San Francisco yesterday. Current Captain Edward Del Carlo is not related to the family I grew up with here in the Noe Valley neighborhood. Eugene Del Carlo is also not related to the Del Carlo family that I know," Uland wrote in response to the inquiry.

Uland said Edward Del Carlo graduated from Riordan High School around 1980 or '81, but he is unsure when he joined the police force.

"Taking into account that back in the 1960s, everything was on paper and kept in file cabinets in those pre-computer database days, it may be pretty hard and possibly impossible to track down badge number '888,'" Uland continued.



Lloyd Crosbie



Eugene H. Del Carlo



Tom Dempsey



Mathew C. Duffy

Eugene Del Carlo (upper right) was a San Francisco police lieutenant in the 1970s when this photograph appeared in a department yearbook published in 1976. Whether Edward Del Carlo was a relative and which member of the family wore star "888" remains unknown. *Rick Uland Collection*

He suspected no one active on the department would have access to records from so long ago.

"Badges were just basically handed out when issued from the property clerk in the basement of the Hall of Justice in those days. Badges were just kept loose in drawers. In the photograph, you can make out that Edward Del Carlo is not wearing number '888,'" Uland added.

Edward Del Carlo is no longer a member of the SFPD command staff and is believed to have retired.

Uland plans to do more research to help DeVilbiss determine which officer by the last name of Del Carlo wore the "888" star.

The ability to call upon fellow CLEHS members or supporters to help document California law enforcement history is what makes this organization so beneficial toward its preservation.

Submitted by Rick Uland

## California Highway Patrol Tested 1961 Dodge Polaras

Vehicles are an integral aspect of California law enforcement history. After all, nothing attracts more attention than a marked unit!

While many CLEHS members are interested in the cars, trucks, SUVs and motorcycles that state agencies, police officers and sheriff's deputies have driven over the years, the older the better, of course, few have a greater passion for all things police vehicle than Darryl Lindsay.

Host of the annual Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show and Recruitment Fair, owner of several restored police vehicles over the years and a dedicated collector of scale models, die-casts, emergency lights and sirens, vehicle photographs and much, much more vehicle-related memorabilia, if Lindsay isn't "Mr. Police Car" in California, he is a top contender.

Lindsay enjoys researching the history of vehicles driven by agencies throughout the state and recently reported finding an interesting story in the San Mateo Times published in 1962 about the CHP testing the 1961 Dodge Polara as a patrol vehicle.

Recently, Lindsay shared the Times article, "New Highway Patrol Car Tested," and added a couple photographs from his collection.

"A specially outfitted Highway Patrol car is nearing the end of a year-long test to improve the comfort and safety of the patrol's already efficient cars.

"The test car will have rolled nearly 60,000 miles when it reaches Sacramento headquarters in June. That's about six years of average driving.

"When the car left Sacramento last June to cruise around the state, it was fitted with many items that aren't standard in Highway Patrol cars.

"These included shoulder harnesses, buckets seats with head rests, a storage console between the front seats, a roll bar, a special speedometer and a magnetic microphone that sticks on any steel surface.

"Kent H. Milton, public information officer, said any items that improve safety or comfort might become standard equipment on patrol cars after the test results are studied.

"The Highway Patrol has run similar tests for many years. They pinpoint trouble before expensive changeovers are made.

"For instance, Milton said, officers found the roll bar in the test car interfered with getting prisoners into the back seat.

"And, he said although the shoulder harnesses seemed to be safer, officers found them hard to drive in.

"Milton said the other additions were mostly for the driver's comfort and convenience. The special speedometer is accurate at high speed.

"Except for the special equipment, the test car is a standard 1961 Dodge Highway Polara cruiser. But standard patrol cruisers are different from the cars you buy off the showroom floor.

"For one thing, Highway Patrol cars have bigger engines. The patrol insists their cars be capable of 125 miles per hour.

"And the cars must be able to accelerate to 80 miles per hour within one-quarter mile from a standing start.

"Patrol cars also have heavy duty suspensions, tires, wheels and batteries. They use heavy duty automatic transmissions, and don't have power steering or power brakes.

"The Patrol decides what car to buy from the lowest yearly bid that meets its specifications. It has bought Dodges for the last three years, but this year is buying Chryslers.

When the cars are delivered to patrol headquarters in Sacramento, patrol mechanics install the police radio, red and amber lights, siren and seat belts. They also replace the generator with a heavy duty alternator, and put flares and a first-aid kit in the trunk. A ready-to-roll cruiser costs about \$3500.

"What happens to used patrol cars?

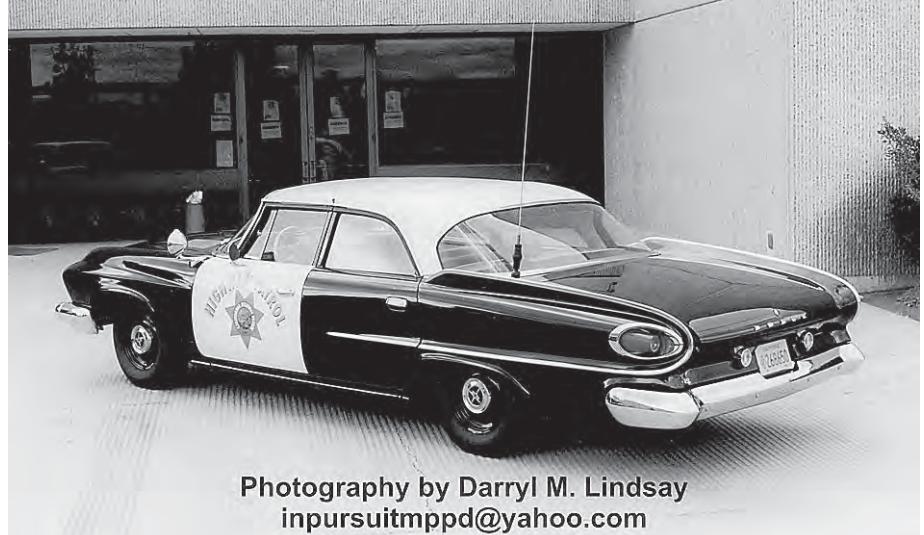
"You can get one if you like. The cars are retired at 75,000 miles or 18 months, whichever comes first. They are stripped of their lights, radio and insignia and sold at public auction by sealed bid.

"From six to 20 are sold every Wednesday in Sacramento and Los Angeles. Bids usually



Photography collection of Darryl M. Lindsay  
inpursuitmpd@yahoo.com

An unnamed California Highway Patrol sergeant makes notes as a test driver for the agency's year-long trial of the 1961 Dodge Polara. The specially-equipped car had bucket seats and a center console, as well as shoulder harnesses. Officers did not like the harnesses. *Darryl Lindsay Collection*



Photography by Darryl M. Lindsay  
inpursuitmpd@yahoo.com

Darryl Lindsay photographed this 1961 Dodge Polara at the California Highway Patrol Academy in West Sacramento about 20 years ago. The CHP conducted a year-long test of a specially-equipped Polara from June 1961 to June 1962 to see how it performed as a patrol car. *Darryl Lindsay photograph*

range from \$750 to \$875 per car. Even wrecked patrol cars sell for as much as \$300. The state retires from 650 to 700 cars from its 1000 car fleet each year."

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko

## DOJ Honored Special Agent Patrick Dillon

A state Department of Justice special agent from San Clemente was once awarded a posthumous honor that marked a historic milestone for California law enforcement.

According to a story in the Orange County Register in 2009, Patrick Dillon, who died two years earlier from cancer, became the first state law enforcement officer whose death was declared an on-duty death due to exposure to toxic chemicals.

Attorney General Jerry Brown ruled that Special Agent Dillon, who was repeatedly exposed to hazardous chemicals associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine, suffered an on-duty death.

His name appears on a plaque honoring him and other slain agents at DOJ headquarters in Sacramento. The plaque is displayed on a memorial wall beneath a banner upon which is written, "Never forget their sacrifice."

Special Agent-In-Charge Carlos Solano of the DOJ Los Angeles office, a colleague, said Dillon was repeatedly exposed to chemicals while working drug cases. Later assigned to the Bureau of Investigation and Intelligence, the special agent was diagnosed with kidney cancer and died nine months later. He was only 50 years old.

The DOJ announced Special Agent Dillon had been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for on-duty injury or illness.

"This is the first time in California DOJ history that the California attorney general has affirmed such a line-of-duty death as a direct result of repeated exposures to a toxic environment caused by the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine," Solano said.

Dillon, who had lived in San Clemente since 1984, served in state law enforcement for 24 years. His career included service as a member of the California Highway Patrol, DOJ Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and DOJ Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence.

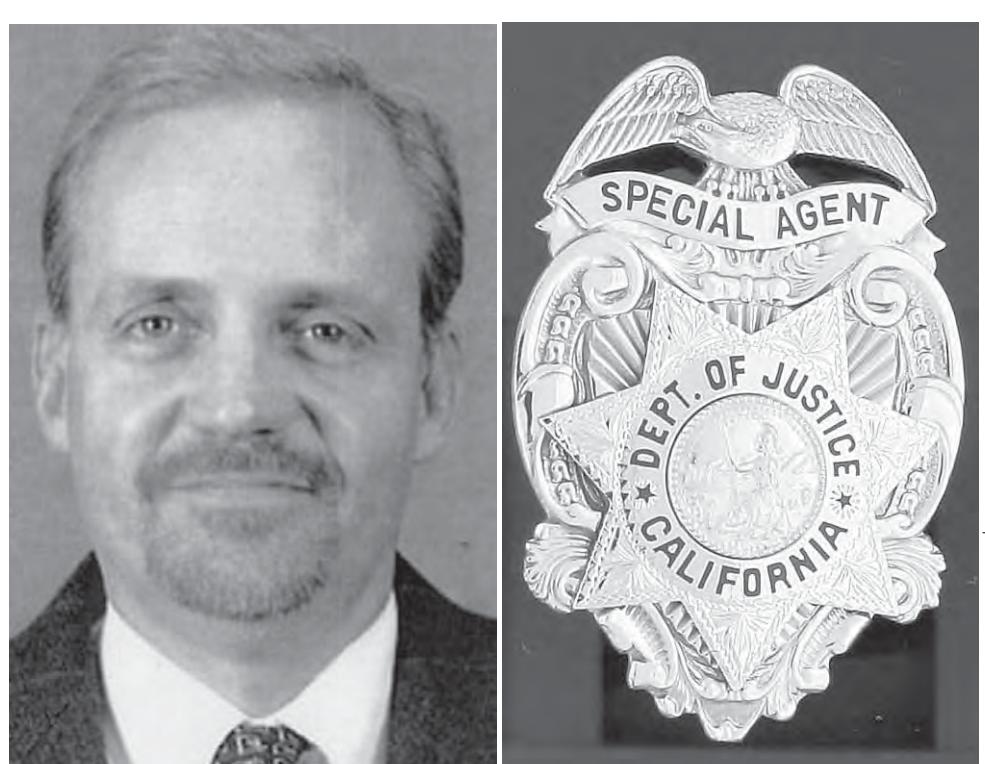
Submitted by President Gary Hoving

## Historic California Badges

I have shared recent historic insignia additions to my collection from Marin, San Diego and San Luis Obispo Counties.

There is a chief inspector badge from Marin County. It was worn by Chief Inspector Donald F. Midyett, who joined the staff in 1956 after serving as the county undersheriff from 1949 to 1955.

Midyett was politically well connected. He wrote to Senator Richard Nixon while he was



(Left) In 2009, California DOJ Special Agent Patrick Dillon was awarded the Purple Heart after his death due to toxic chemical exposure was ruled a line-of-duty death. (Right) A beautiful DOJ special agent shield with a seven-pointed star and state seal as the center design. Nice badge! *Gary Hoving Collection*



(Top) Gary Hoving also obtained a newspaper clipping about Donald Midyett and the envelope he got from Senator Richard Nixon. (Bottom) A chief inspector badge from the Marin County District Attorneys Office. It is a gold-colored seven-point star with a large, plain seal. *Gary Hoving photographs*

## California Police Historian ...Continued

undersheriff and asked for his help to secure a seat at the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in 1952. He got it.

His chief inspector badge is a gold seven-point star with a large but plain state seal and blue enamel legends, "DISTRICT ATTORNEY/ MARIN COUNTY," on a ring around the seal with "CHIEF INSPECTOR" on a convex banner at the bottom.

In addition to the badge, I have a newspaper clipping showing him seated at his desk in the District Attorneys Office and the envelope Senator Nixon used to send the letter in reply to his request. It was postmarked on January 14, 1952 in Washington, D.C.

Another recent addition is a San Diego County District Attorney badge. What is most interesting about it is the majority of the relief has been polished off it. There are still remnants of Brasso on the reverse. It was hallmarked by Entenmann-Rovin in Pico Rivera.

The badge is a gold-colored seven-point star with a full color state seal as the center design. The legend reads, "DISTRICT ATTORNEY," at the top and "COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO" at the bottom on a ring around the round seal. The number "40" is seen in a bottom rank panel.

It appears as though the investigator who carried this badge polished it...a lot...an awful lot!

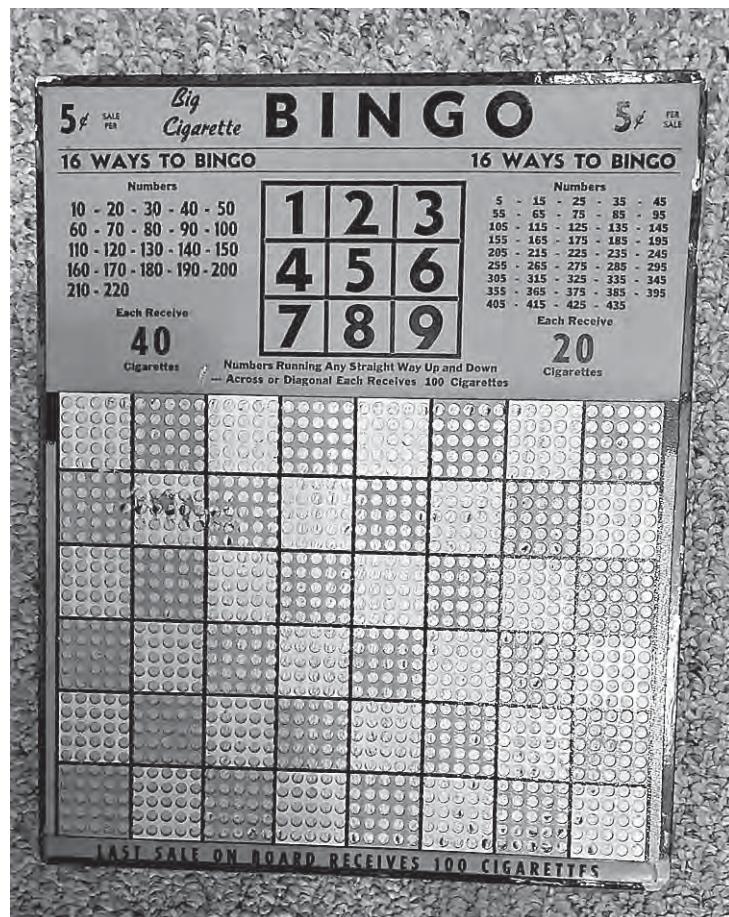
Finally, I added a nice San Luis Obispo County District Attorneys Office investigator emblem. It is screen-printed with Velcro backing to adhere to a raid vest or body armor carrier.

It is an LASO shape with a black background and white legends and borders. The center design depicts the historic Courthouse in San Luis Obispo, which was built by the Works Project Administration in 1940 and 1941.

*Submitted by Gary Hoving*



(Top) San Luis Obispo County District Attorneys Office investigators use a white-on-black Velco-backed emblem on raid jackets and carrier vests. (Bottom) A very well worn District Attorneys Office investigator badge. It is a seven-point star with a full color state seal. *Gary Hoving photographs*



Punchboard gambling was the rage in California in the 1950s. Punchboards were sold at bars and cafes and gave participants an opportunity to "punch" a hole for five cents and possibly win a cash prize or other reward. Of course, punchboards were illegal and police battled their use. *Gary Hoving Collection*

## 1950s Police Targeted Punchboards

Gambling in California has been an issue, probably as long as we have been in the Union. However, the concern for illegal gambling was heightened in the 1950s as law enforcement attempted to regain control.

A popular device used for gambling was the punchboard. Each punchboard had many holes sealed with a rolled-up piece of paper inside each hole.

A customer could pay five cents, punch a hole in the board and remove the paper upon which was printed a reward or prize. In some cases, cash was offered, and in others, such as in the illustration with this story, the prize was 100 cigarettes.

Widely popular and profitable, punchboards could be found in most bars and cafes.

Today, punchboards have disappeared. They have been replaced by many other gambling opportunities, such as those available online so gamblers never having to leave their computers.

I found a story, "Punchboard Case Figure Is Freed On Bail Of \$5000," in an old Santa Rosa (Sonoma County) newspaper that illustrates law enforcement's role in prosecuting illegal gambling:

"Roland H. Rushton, former Los Angeles police sergeant indicted in the branded punchboard investigation, was released today, under \$5000 bail furnished by a Los Angeles bond broker."

"He said he will remain here until Monday, when C.A. Robinson, indicted Los Angeles punchboard distributor, is expected to return, possibly to enter his plea. Superior Judge Donald Geary directed Rushton and Robinson to plead next Friday, but indications are they may act earlier."

"Merv McCoy, Petaluma tavern operator indicted with them, already has pleaded innocent. Judge Geary has set his trial for May 8th, expecting Rushton and Robinson will plead similarly."

"Meantime, Sonoma [County] officials are pressing their effort to return Manny Guterman, Chicago punchboard salesman, to face the criminal conspiracy charges returned against him and the others. He was arrested in Chicago a week ago today and is fighting extradition."

The quartet are charged with conspiring to set up a racket under which punchboards bearing a special brand would be immune to seizure by agents of the attorney general's office."

A very interesting part of California police history!

*Submitted by Gary Hoving*

## History of Solano County Speed Enforcement, Ranks

The Solano County Sheriffs Office has a great Facebook page devoted to its past, "Solano County Sheriff's Office History." It is well worth visiting to read interesting stories from the agency's past and see historic photographs from the agency collection. Much of the information posted is useful to collectors and historians alike.

Recent posts shared the history of speed enforcement in the county and the use of the undersheriff, chief deputy, captain and lieutenant titles, which, of course, is important information for collectors to help date department badges.

"Speed laws existed but were not enforced in Solano County prior to May 1916. On May 16, 1916, The Benicia Herald reported in a dramatic fashion, that:

"Speeding, especially on Sundays, is making the road unsafe for every kind of traffic. The signs warning autoists that the law will be enforced is [are] ridiculous since drivers know that there are no officers along the highway..."

"Sheriff J.J. McDonald has a dandy super-six capable of flowing smoothly over the roads at 75 mph. Perhaps this was designed to be used in overhauling some of the buggy, boozy brigands that are looking for victims, possibly women and children, to sacrifice for their lust for speed!"

"That ended on May 21, 1916 when Sheriff McDonald stationed 'speed cops' all over the county and gave warnings to over 50 speeders...."

The posting shows the Super Six automobile made by Hudson Motors in Detroit. The car took its name from its then-revolutionary engine engineered to give the driver more power to cruise at higher speeds than most lower-speed cars of the era. A new model cost \$1375.

"A Tale of Two Offices" is another interesting post:

"The Solano County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1850 with just a sheriff and his deputy.

"Very quickly, the Sheriff's Office began using the undersheriff moniker.

"Through the late 1800s and early 1900s, the position of chief deputy was also used, although it's unclear if the Sheriff's Office used it or if the newspapers or deputies themselves simply gave themselves the title.

"The Sheriff's Office didn't grow much through the first 80 years, employing less than seven full-time deputies up until the late 1930s. Those deputies were supported by constables and special deputies.

"By the time World War II came around, Solano County began to grow quickly, especially due to an influx of servicemen to the county. This called for restructuring.

"By the of 1941, the number of employees was up to 13. The force was split between a Fairfield Office and a Vallejo Office.

"The Fairfield Office was structured like a traditional sheriff's office. Beneath the sheriff and undersheriff was the chief deputy and the deputies.

"The Vallejo Office began to be structured more like a city police force. Guy Headlee was promoted to sergeant in 1942, the first time that position existed at Solano. By 1943, Headlee was promoted to captain, and he ran the office with sergeants and deputies working for him.

"For years, from roughly 1942 to 1946, there seemed to be a friendly rivalry between Chief Deputy John Pritchard (Fairfield) and Captain Headlee (Vallejo), presumably a bit of posturing as to which position of theirs was the most prominent. This rivalry included the official logbook being used to identify each other simply as 'deputy' any chance they could, giving each other orders or calling out the uncleanliness of each other's offices.

"The competition was friendly enough, and Chief Deputy Pritchard and Captain Headlee worked well together, dispatching calls to each officer, transferring prisoners back and forth, and providing backup for deputies when needed.

"By 1947, the chief deputy position went away for a time and title lieutenant began to be used in Fairfield with Chief Deputy Stanley Emerson, who took over for Pritchard (who went to work for Probation) being the first to hold that position.

"However, by 1947, the title chief jailor began to be used officially by Deputy L.A. Belon, although like chief deputy, the chief jailor title had been used colloquially since the 1800s."

Next time you go code 7, hang out at "Solano County Sheriff's Office History" for awhile and take a enjoyable trip through the department's past.

Submitted by Solano County Sheriff's Office and Mike R. Bondarenko

## CHP Restores Historic Sign

Back in the days when many police stations and sheriff offices throughout California were adorned with unique signage, some of these signs were lighted for 24-hour visibility.

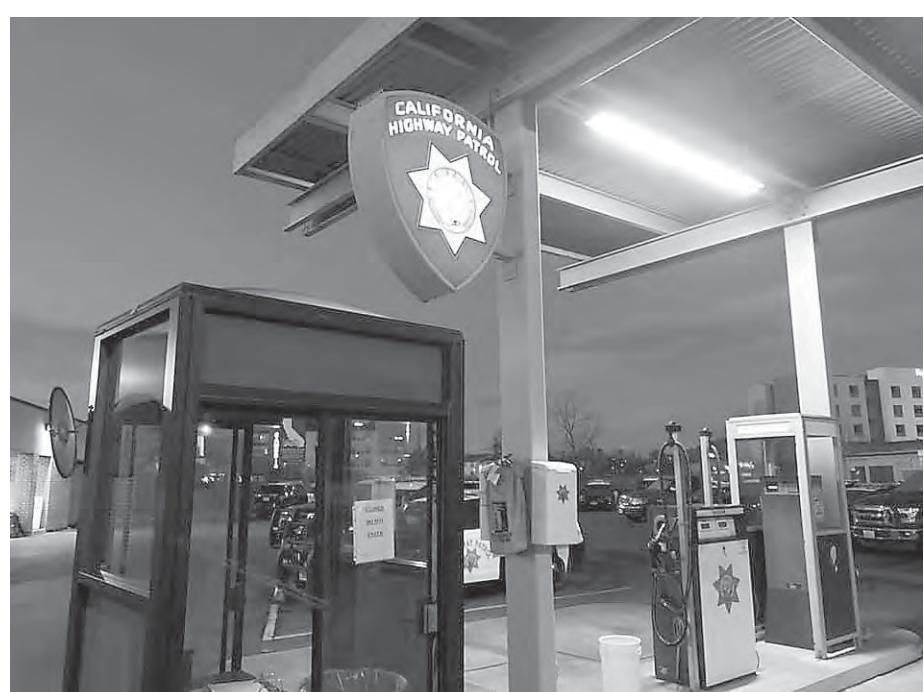
A few signs were lighted globes with "POLICE" or "SHERIFF" painted on them suspended from poles or hangers above or near building entrances.

Others were erected in the front of buildings and displayed the municipality name and sometimes the chief's or sheriff's name, which, of course, meant it had to be updated whenever there was a change of command.

A few signs were created in the shapes of shoulder emblems or badges, including the full color sign that once illuminated the former California Highway Patrol office in Santa Rosa. Fortunately, when the CHP moved to new offices in Rohnert Park, the lighted, full color patch-shaped sign was preserved.

The sign closely resembles the CHP uniform patch with the state seal superimposed on a seven-point star badge and "CALIFORNIA/ HIGHWAY PATROL" across the top.

When the sign was moved from Santa Rosa to Rohnert Park, it needed some restoration, so the agency enlisted a local firm, Signs of All Kinds, to bring it back to life.

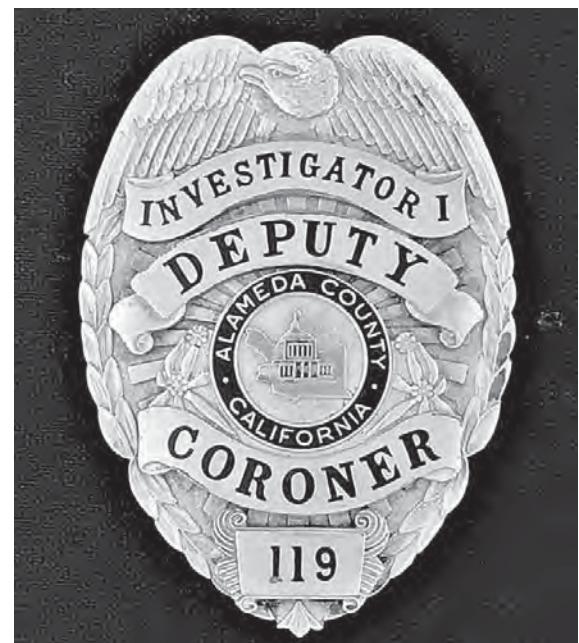


The beautifully-restored California Highway Patrol sign now proudly hangs at the current agency station in Rohnert Park in Sonoma County. The shoulder emblem-shaped, full color lighted sign was once displayed at the now defunct office in Santa Rosa. It is still in great condition. *CHP photograph*

Recently, the sign was re-hung at the CHP office. However, it now hangs over the fuel and maintenance facility behind the station, not in front of it. Each time an officer stops by for fuel or other light maintenance, he or she will be reminded of the agency's history.

Saving the sign is a very fitting gesture by the CHP to preserve its long and proud history.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko



When the Loma Prieta Earthquake struck Oakland and Alameda County in August 1989, San Luis Obispo County sent deputies to assist the county coroner with removal of the victims. The quake resulted in the deaths of 63 people. Many were killed on the Nimitz Freeway. *Gary Hoving Collection*

## CLEHS President Preserves History

Alameda County Coroner I recently acquired a badge that goes with the old Coroner's Office in Oakland in Alameda County.

In August 1989, my partner, Don Hines, and I were deployed by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriffs Department under mutual aid to assist Alameda County with victim recovery from the Nimitz Freeway collapse. In all, 63 people were killed in the disaster.

We were tasked with victim recovery and assigned to the Coroner's Office.

The deadly earthquake occurred only a few months after the consolidation of the Coroners Office and the Sheriffs Department. Initially, there was a mix of former deputy coroners and deputy sheriff-coroners.

We saw a red lighted sign in front of the coroner's office that displayed, "Coroner's Bureau."

I have an investigator's eagle-topped shield from the Coroner's Office. The Alameda County seal appears as the center design.

The badge legends read, "INVESTIGATOR 1/ DEPUTY/ CORONER/ 119," on banners around the seal. "ALAMEDA COUNTY/ CALIFORNIA" appears on a ring around it. The shield is gold-colored with blue enamel legends.

**Oakland, Alameda County History** While scanning old photographs and wanted posters recently, I came across items of historic interest from the Oakland Police Department and the Alameda County Sheriffs Department.

I have a nice picture of Oakland police Officer Ed Hughes taken on October 13, 1926 showing him wearing badge number "37." It's a silver-colored seven-point star being worn on his uniform jacket.

There is also a small round emblem with a rope-like border and crossed lines being worn on the left shoulder of his uniform jacket. It also has a small center design, but is difficult to determine its representation in the picture.

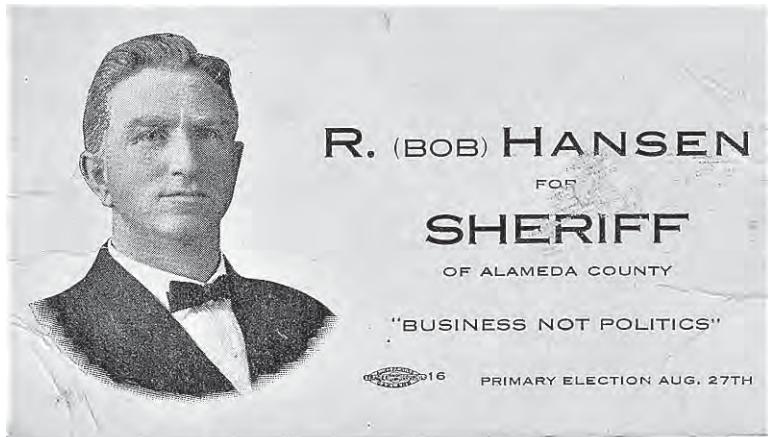
I have shown a nice vintage picture of a uniformed OPD officer wearing riding breeches and boots while standing next to his mount. It is undated.

Finally, there are campaign cards from two 1918 county elections.

One card sought support for R. "Bob" Hansen for sheriff, whose motto was, "Business



(Left) Gary Hoving obtained this historic photograph of an Oakland Police Department officer wearing breeches and riding boots next to his mount. (Right) Ed Hughes was an Oakland officer in 1926 when he was photographed in uniform wearing the seven-point star "37." *Gary Hoving Collection*



Campaign cards were an effective way for political office candidates to circulate their images, long before radio, television and the Web. In 1918, "Bob" Hansen ran for Alameda County sheriff, while Joseph S. Koford sought re-election as the county Superior Court judge. *Gary Hoving Collection*

## California Police Historian ...Continued

"Not Politics." The card is from his primary election campaign.

Joseph S. Koford circulated a card to succeed himself as the county superior court judge.

**Ed Jones Company** Many pieces of California law enforcement history are lost on a daily basis. Many of these pieces are not recognized for their historic value and eventually lost through time.

As many of you read in the *California Police Historian* in this newspaper in January-February, the Ed Jones Company in Oakland, which was formed in about 1898, was sold last December after being in the Stegman Family for nearly 70 years.

CLEHS has obtained the company logo badge that adorned the front door to the manufacturer's building for many years.

The piece had previously been offered for sale by Greg Martin Auctions on June 16, 2008. When the door did not sell, the owner removed the glass. He had it matted and framed in a rather stunning piece.

Putting a price on such a historic item was a significant challenge. There have been no comparable pieces offered for sale to help estimate the value. With that said, an agreement was reached. A Sunday drive of 500 miles brought this piece to its new home in San Luis Obispo.

The acquired glass door was from the Ed Jones Company building in 1925. I have shown a picture of Chester Stegman posing with the door in the Greg Martin Auction catalog.

Badges are the symbol of law enforcement. The badge-adorned sign a manufacturer made nearly 100 years old for a legendary company is considered extremely rare. Fortunately, it is has been preserved in California where it belongs, at least during my tour.

**Machell Detective Bureau Badge** A historic inspector badge from the H.T. Machell Detective Agency in Berkeley is a late acquisition to my collection.

It is a beautiful silver-colored eagle-topped five-point circled star with intricate scroll work on the thin outer border. The legends appear in blue enamel, "INSPECTOR/ MACHELL DETECTIVE BUREAU," on a ring around the star. "28" appears in the center of the star.

Machell served as president of the California Association of Detective Agencies, which represented 42 private agencies. His term was highlighted by his outspoken opposition to investigators or undercover agents being paid from fines or forfeitures garnered from cases they worked against Prohibition violators. He said such payments would be a path toward



The last Ed Jones and Company badge catalog cover showed the original manufacturing plant in Oakland. In the early days, the company's primary business was engraving rubber stamps, stencils and brass signs. Later, the focus changed to custom-made public safety badges. *Gary Hoving Collection*



H.T. Machell Detective Bureau was a private investigation agency in Berkeley. Gary Hoving recently added one of their inspector badges to his collection. It is a eagle-topped five-point circled star; the legends are, "INSPECTOR/ 28/ MACHELL DETECTIVE BUREAU." *Gary Hoving Collection*



(Left) Chester Stegman was the last member of the Stegman family to produce badges for the Ed Jones Company in Oakland. He stands next to the badge logo door. (Right) Stegman had the badge logo and glass removed from the door, framed and sold this frame. *Gary Hoving Collection*

Recent Gary Hoving acquisitions. (Top) California Police Chief's Association is a seven-point star. (Lower left) Redlands Chief of Police without reverse enamel panels. (Lower right) A Redlands Chief of Police shield with reverse blue enamels and gold-colored lettering. *Gary Hoving Collection*



(Left) Fresno police Officer C.L. Rouse was murdered on duty in 1916 by Alberta Pena, who killed the officer and the fled to San Luis Obispo. (Right) Fresno County Sheriff Horace Thowaldson circulated a "Wanted Dead Or Alive" poster for Pena's arrest. *Gary Hoving Collection*

corruption.

#### Redlands and CPCB Badges

I recently added two old Redlands Police Department chief's badges, as well as a historic star from the California Police Chief's Association.

Both chief's badges are similar gold-colored eagle-topped shields. There are two primary differences. One has a full color state seal, while the other shows a plain seal. And, the legends, "CHIEF/ REDLANDS/ POLICE," and four horizontal stars appear on them.

On one shield, the legends are done in black letters on plain gold panels; on the other, they are seen in gold on blue banners. The four stars are similarly depicted on both shields.

The generic California Police Chief's Association badge is gold-colored with black legends and center design. It shows four horizontal black stars as the center design. (Four stars symbolize the chief of police rank.) Otherwise, the legends, "CALIFORNIA POLICE," are shown above the center design, with "CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION" beneath it.

**Wanted Dead or Alive** It is rare to find a modern wanted poster indicating "Wanted Dead Or Alive," but I found one from 1916.

Alberta Pena was wanted for the murder of Patrolman C.L. Rouse of the Fresno Police Department. The poster proclaims a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of his killer.

I have shown a picture of Officer Rouse wearing cap piece number "1."

Pena died in San Luis Obispo on August 23, 1916, but I do not know if anyone collected the reward.

Some quick research showed Pena fled to San Luis Obispo on a train after he killed the Fresno officer. Upon departing the train, Pena accidentally shot himself in the hand. (It is not known why or how the shooting took place.)

Pena fled along railroad tracks while being pursued by law enforcement officers from throughout the region. As officers closed in to arrest him a few days later, he fired two shots at the San Luis Obispo police chief. The chief and the officer returned fire. A newspaper account stated Pena's body was riddled with bullets, leading to his death.

The wanted poster was issued by Sheriff Horace Thowaldson.

Officer Rouse was the fifth Fresno officer to lose his life on duty.

Submitted by Gary Hoving

## End California Police Historian

## Reel Cops

### Casablanca

By Rick Uland, Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — *Casablanca* is a classic film in every sense of the word. It was released in 1942 during the darkest days of World War II.

*Casablanca* has consistently throughout the many decades since its release been rated as one of the greatest movies of all time.

The film was a Warner Brothers release produced and directed by a virtual who's who of the top talent in the movie-making industry of the time. Michael Curtiz directed it with Hal B. Wallis serving as the producer. Longtime composer Max Steiner wrote and conducted the musical score.

Although *Casablanca* has a complex and involved story line, with various plots and sub-plots, the movie is easy to follow and the dialog is simple to understand.

The film boasts a cast of some of the top-billed actors of the time with some of them having been cast together in other famed films both before and after its release.

Top billing went to Humphrey Bogart in the role of Richard "Rick" Blaine, an American expatriate with a somewhat dubious background and a not so secret past.

It is never made quite clear during the film as to why Blaine fled the United States in the 1930s and ended up in both Africa and Europe, where he was heavily involved in various military escapades. Bogart's character is almost always referred to as "Mr. Rick" or "Rick" in a somewhat affectionate manner by all who know him.

After fleeing New York City in the mid-1930s, Rick ended up in Ethiopia where he ran guns to local forces fighting against the Italian Army that had invaded Ethiopia. After his escapades in Ethiopia, he ended up in Spain where he fought on the loyalist side against the Fascist forces of dictator Francisco Franco.

After the Spanish Civil War, Rick landed in Paris, where he opened a bar and cafe. It is during his time in Paris as a saloon keeper, as Rick prefers to be called, when he meets and falls in love with Ilsa Lund, played by Ingrid Bergman, another top star of the day. She is the secret wife of underground resistance leader Victor Laszlo, who is played by Paul Henreid.

Laszlo had been in the custody of the Gestapo for a year before he escaped from a



Legendary screen actors Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman headlined an all-star cast in *Casablanca*, the 1942 World War II-related police thriller many critics call the best movie ever made. The plot surrounds police dealing with people trying to escape to Portugal. *Rick Uland Collection*

concentration camp in Czechoslovakia and fled to France. He was thought to have died in Gestapo custody. His wife had moved on with her life and fallen in love with Rick.

The German army is rapidly closing in on Paris and will occupy the city in just two or three days. The Gestapo has a price on Rick's head, so he and his piano-playing friend, Sam, played by Dooley Wilson, must flee.

They had planned to leave with Ilsa, who has plans to marry Rick. However, on the afternoon of the day they were leaving, news reaches her that her husband is not dead after all and has been kept in hiding by the French Resistance in a railroad freight car on the outskirts of Paris.

That night, Rick and Sam are at a train station during a torrential rain storm preparing to board the last train out of Paris heading to Marseilles on the French Mediterranean coast where they will board a ship to take them to Casablanca in French Morocco.

Ilsa was to meet them for the trip, but she never shows up. Instead, she had given Sam a letter to deliver to Rick. She tells him she will not be going with him and will never see him again. He is heartbroken and emotionally distressed. As Rick reads the letter, driving rain washes away Ilsa's words written in ink as if they are crying off the paper.

Upon arriving in Casablanca, Rick purchases a nightclub and names it, Rick's Cafe Americain. There is a gambling den inside the club, which is referred to as the "private room."

*Casablanca* was then the largest city in French Morocco, which was part of the French colonial territories. Although technically free from German occupation, France was under the Vichy Government established under the occupation after the Nazis defeated them in 1940. The Vichy government was very sympathetic to the Germans.

The city operated as a semi-unoccupied French territory and was somewhat autonomous with very little interference from German military authorities stationed in Casablanca.

The relationship between the Gestapo and Casablanca Police Prefecture (the police department) was basically live and let live. It was sort of a wink-wink, nod-nod government with pretty much everyone looking the other way.

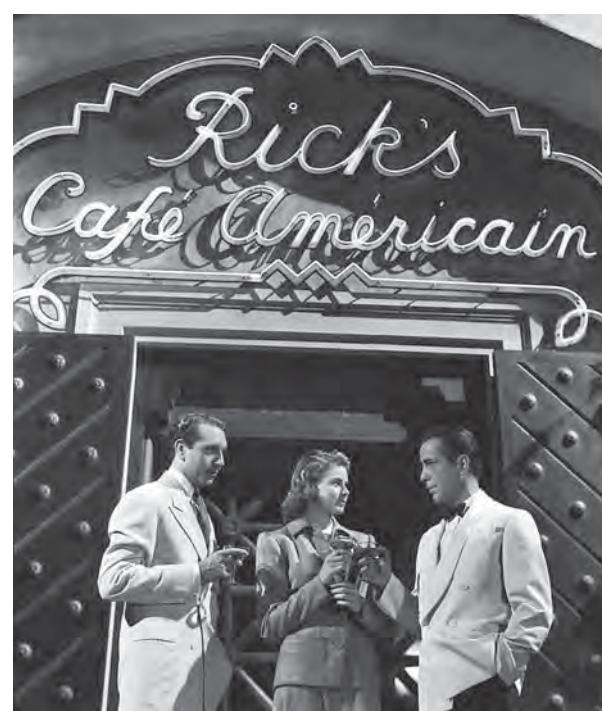
However, there were exceptions. These are what laid the groundwork for many of the plots and sub-plots written into the core of the script. At the center of it all is Rick's Cafe Americain and the prefect of police, more commonly known as the police chief, Captain Louie Renault, played by legendary and versatile actor Claude Rains.

Chief Renault is not exactly what he appears to be, as is also the case with Richard "Rick" Blaine. The policeman works every angle that can possibly be worked, then creates even more angles to work. He is corrupt, deceitful, conniving and a very skilled player of both sides of the political coin. He is also a womanizer and takes advantage of his position to the fullest extent to ensnare women into sexual escapades.

Many people who fled Nazi-occupied France ended up in French Morocco with the slim chance they would be able to secure an exit visa from corrupt Police Chief Renault, who has no problem selling an exit visa or using an exit visa to ensnare his next female victim.

Exit visas, or more specifically letters of transit, are what is at the core of all things heading toward a cataclysmic eruption in Casablanca. And, Ilsa Lund and her husband, Victor Laszlo, are part of the intrigue.

Two German couriers traveling by train from French Algeria to Casablanca were murdered. Letters of transit signed by Free French leader General Charles de Gaulle they were carrying with them were stolen.



Everyone dresses up for a night on the town at Rick's Cafe Americain in Casablanca during the darkest days of World War II. Humphrey Bogart plays cafe owner Rick Blaine (right) who welcomes Victor Laszlo and Ilsa Lund at the main entrance. He ultimately helps them escape. *Rick Uland Collection*

## Reel Cops...Continued

Entering the scene at Rick's Cafe Americain is common criminal and opportunist Signor Ugarte, who is played by another legendary and versatile actor, Peter Lorre. Rick does not think much of Ugarte, so Ugarte attempts to impress Rick by telling him in a round-about way that he killed the German couriers and stole the valuable letters.

Initially, Rick does not want to have anything to do with the letters but changes his mind and holds them for Ugarte. He hides the letters in the piano being played by Sam on the main floor of the club. Unfortunately for Ugarte, Chief Renault is now hot on his trail and his end is fast approaching.

A very important German military officer arrives in Casablanca to coordinate activities with military authorities, the military intelligence service, *Abwehr*, the Gestapo and the prefecture of police. He must coordinate the investigation into the deaths of the couriers and the recent arrival of escaped resistance leader Victor Laszlo in the city.

Tension begins to mount between numerous groups and individuals as various sub-plots start to form toward an eventual clash.

The German officer is Major Heinrich Strasser, played by longtime German actor Conrad Veidt, who himself fled Hitler's tyranny in the 1930s before the war.

A delicate tightrope walk has to be conducted between Major Strasser, Police Chief Renault and Rick, Ilsa and Victor over all things concerning the stolen letters of transit.

Chief Renault and a squad of French and Colonial police come to Rick's club to arrest Ugarte, who has given the letters to Rick. He attempts to escape and a gun battle breaks out in the club. Ugarte is arrested.

The police chief had set up the arrest because Major Strasser and a contingent of German officers would be at the club to witness it. He wanted to impress them.



Unaware his former lover, Ilsa Lund, is in the house and asked him to play *As Time Goes By*, owner Rick Blaine tells his pianist, Sam, never to play the song in his club. The movie coined the popular expression, "Play it again, Sam." *Casablanca* is one of the best films ever. *Rick Uland Collection*

Shortly after Ugarte's arrest, Laszlo and his wife arrive at the club to meet Ugarte and obtain the letters of transit. Rick is not aware that Ilsa is in Casablanca. Ilsa does not know Rick is there either. Upon their arrival at the club, a Scandinavian resistance member tells Laszlo that Ugarte has been arrested.

Ilsa recognizes Sam at the piano and talks with him. She asks where Rick is. He is distressed and tries to lie about Rick's whereabouts; he knows there will be an emotionally distressing situation between them.

She asks Sam to play the song, *As Time Goes By*. He does not want to play it because he was told by Rick never to play it again after Paris, but he plays it at her instance.

Laszlo is meeting with the Danish man. Rick hears the song in the background, goes to Sam at the piano and tells him he is never to play that song. It is then that he sees Ilsa. It becomes immediately clear from their tense looks that emotions are running raw between them.

Her husband has no idea what went on in Paris between Ilsa and Rick. Chief Renault is very surprised as to the familiarity between them. He realizes something is afoot, and the missing letters of transit could be involved.

Major Strasser is also in Casablanca to prevent Laszlo leaving for neutral Lisbon, Portugal. He orders the Laszlo's to meet him at the local police station in the morning. Laszlo takes exception to the order and tells Chief Renault he is under the French chief's authority, not the military's. The chief requests his presence at the police station but is not ordering him to appear.

Hard feelings and negative tensions begin to boil between various groups.

The next morning in Captain Renault's office, Laszlo is told Ugarte is dead. The police have not yet determined if he died while trying to escape, or if he committed suicide. This statement by Captain Renault is an obvious attempt to intimidate Laszlo and once again impress Major Strasser.

The evening of Ugarte's arrest, Rick and Victor go to Rick's upstairs private office to discuss the letters of transit. As they talk, the assembled military officials downstairs begin to sing the German national anthem.

Anger mounts with the large number of French and other non-Germans in the club over the song. Laszlo goes downstairs and tells the orchestra to play the French national anthem instead.

The orchestra is hesitant to play the French anthem, knowing it will inflame tensions. But, Rick gives the musicians a nod of approval to play the anthem. The singing Germans are drowned out by people signing the French anthem and angrily stop their singing.

Major Strasser informs Chief Renault that Laszlo's presence in Casablanca was inflaming anti-German sentiments and emboldening the local French resistance. He tells Chief Renault to close down Rick's club.

The chief tells Strasser he has no reason to close the club and everyone is having so much fun. The major becomes more forceful and orders Chief Renault to close the club. He blows his police whistle and announces the club is closed and everyone must leave immediately.

Rick approaches the police chief and demands to know why he is closing the club. He tells Rick he is "shocked" to find out there is gambling going on. As Chief Renault tells Rick the reason he is closing the club because of gambling, a gaming room employee approaches the chief and hands him his winnings from the roulette table. Of course, he takes the cash.

On another occasion, Major Strasser had invited Rick to his table where various German military officials were seated. He declined invitation, saying he doesn't drink with customers. Now, however, he takes him up on the offer to be seated with the Germans.

The major begins to read his dossier on Rick aloud. The resulting conversation leads the saloon keeper to excuse himself, leaving Laszlo and the major alone at the table. He tells Major Strasser their business is politics; his is running a saloon.

During all these events, intrigue continues as a backdrop inside Rick's club. Hushed conversations abound between various people trying to flee to Lisbon and escape route peddlers. Diamonds and cash change hands. Secret meetings are arranged.

Rick's Cafe Americain also serves as a meeting place between various French resistance members who arrange other secret meetings at a later times and places.

Tensions between various French and German groups increase when Rick's former girlfriend enters the club with her new German military boyfriend. They go to the bar and order drinks at which time a French military officer takes exception with her choice of partners. Words are exchanged between the two men and a fight takes place.

Meanwhile, Ilsa's appearance on the scene has caused Rick's tough and somewhat uncaring veneer to slowly fade away, and it becomes apparent to Chief Renault that Rick is a sentimental, sympathetic person who cares for the underdog. This causes him to take an entirely new, different look at his nightclub owner friend.

Playing the part of Carl, maître d' at Rick's, is S.K. Sakall, who is also a prominent member of the French resistance. He talks with Laszlo. They set up a meeting with local underground members, much to the fear of Victor's wife. While Rick is aware of his maître d's underground activity, he remains unaware of any particulars.

As the effort to locate the stolen letters of transit increases in intensity, the police perform an aggressive and detailed search of Rick's place but come up empty-handed.

The pressure put on by Major Strasser on Laszlo and his wife intensifies as the Germans work to keep him in Casablanca or persuade him through trickery and deceit that they will permit him to leave for Lisbon, but only if he reveals the names of all resistance leaders throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.

Rick's tough guy image begins to crack further as he helps a young married couple from Romania trapped in Casablanca to win at the roulette table so that they can buy exit visas from Police Chief Renault. The chief becomes irritated with Rick because he had planned to trade the visas for sexual favors from the wife.

Now entering the scene in the midst of the increasing intrigue and shadowy activities taking place is Signor Ferrari, played by another legendary actor, Sydney Greenstreet.



Original Casablanca movie posters are highly-prized Hollywood collectibles that command hefty prices. Renown actor Claude Rains plays Police Chief Louis Renault, a corrupt but nevertheless patriotic Vichy Government official in Morocco. He is shown on the bottom posters. *Rick Uland Collection*



Actor Sydney Greenstreet (left) of The Maltese Falcon fame plays a rival nightclub owner who longs to buy Rick's Cafe Americain. He is also a black-marketeer and discusses helping get Victor Laszlo and Ilsa Lund out of Casablanca, for a very handsome price, of course. *Rick Uland Collection*

Ferrari owns a competing but somewhat lower level club named The Blue Parrot. He is also the main black-marketeer in Casablanca and controls much of the liquor, tobacco and other goods flowing into the city.

Ferrari has been trying to buy Rick's Cafe Americain from Richard Blaine for quite awhile but has always been unsuccessful. He has also been trying to hire away piano player Sam, also unsuccessfully. He, too, is interested in the letters.

Rick meets with Ferrari at The Blue Parrot to complain about his liquor shipments always being short and is told that is the cost of doing business. As he leaves the club, Laszlo and Ilsa enter to meet with Ferrari in an attempt to receive assistance from him with their attempt to leave Casablanca. As emotional feelings begin to increase between Rick and Ilsa, it becomes apparent to Laszlo there had been a relationship between the two while he was in the concentration camp.

Ilsa has tried every way possible to get Rick to help her and her husband escape to Lisbon by giving them the letters of transit. Rick, still brokenhearted and in love with her, has rebuffed all of her efforts. She even threatens him with a gun.

Finally, she tells Rick why she abandoned him at the train station in Paris. She was under surveillance by the Gestapo and could not risk telling him or anyone else about her marriage and that she was aware of her husband's secret presence on the outskirts of the city. It becomes clear that Rick has become more understanding and amicable as to her motives in leaving him.

Meanwhile, Laszlo and Carl have gone to a secret meeting of the local French underground in Casablanca while Ilsa and Rick are in Rick's upstairs office talking about their old love and his possession of the letters.

The two men come in the backdoor of the club that is still closed by police order. They just missed being spotted by a police patrol after they escaped a raid on the underground meeting by the police. Laszlo severely cut an arm breaking through a window during the escape. Rick calls Carl upstairs and tells him to take Ilsa home. He then goes downstairs to assist Laszlo with his wound.

Rick and Laszlo have a discussion regarding what took place between Rick and Ilsa in Paris when Laszlo was in the concentration camp. There is also a discussion regarding the letters and Rick's true feelings as to his past dealings in Ethiopia and Spain where he helped the downtrodden and weaker of the two warring sides. At that point the police show up, break down the front door and arrest Laszlo.

The next morning Rick shows up at the police station to try and convince Chief Renault to release Laszlo. This request completely perplexes the chief. He is unable to control his heightened interest in Rick's motives.

Rick admits to Chief Renault he does, in fact, have the letters that were stolen from the dead German couriers. Of course, the chief has been aware of this for quite some time. However, he was unable to find them during the search of Rick's club.

Rick lays out a scenario to Chief Renault. Rick will use the letters for Ilsa and him to leave Casablanca together. He tells the chief he will trick Laszlo into coming to the club that evening with Ilsa, believing he will give the letters to Laszlo so he and Ilsa can escape that night on a Lisbon-bound plane.

But, secretly, Rick will turn over Laszlo to Chief Renault so he can arrest him for complicity in the murders of the German couriers. Rick will leave on the plane with Ilsa. Of course, this is all a lie to trick Chief Renault into calling off the police surveillance of Laszlo and his official interference with what Rick really has planned.

Yet, Captain Renault suspects no trickery and agrees to go along completely with Rick's plans. The chief tells him he is going to miss him greatly and his scruples are even less than his own.

The ruse even includes the fictitious sale of Rick's Cafe Americain to Ferrari to further give the appearance that Rick is really leaving for Lisbon. He tells the chief the new owner will still allow him to win at the roulette table.

Later that evening, Rick meets Captain Renault at the still shut down club prior to the arrival of Laszlo and his wife. He asks Rick where the letters were hidden during the search and is told they were hidden in the piano. The chief casts shame on himself for not being a music lover, indicating that was the reason he did not search the piano. I guess there is some truth in the phrase about hiding things in plain view.

Rick tells Chief Renault to hide upstairs in his office then come downstairs and make the arrest after he hands the letters to Laszlo.

Laszlo and Ilsa arrive at the club and the business of handing over the letters takes place. Then, the chief emerges and affects the arrest. The couple looks completely stunned by what has happened.

After the arrest has been made, Chief Renault turns around to find Rick pointing a gun at him and telling him there will be no arrest. Now, it is Chief Renault who is stunned. Rick orders him to call the airport and tell the tower there will be two additional passengers with letters of transit on the Lisbon flight and there are to be no problems or police interference.

Chief Renault does not call the airport. Actually, he calls Major Strasser at his office and talks to him as though he is talking to airport personnel. The major is confused by the call but figures something is amiss. He immediately leaves for the airport.

Rick tells Chief Renault not to try anything as the gun is pointed at his heart. The chief responds that his heart is his least vulnerable spot. Although Casablanca is a fairly serious movie, especially given the times during which it was filmed in and the serious content, but there are some lighthearted scenes and dialog like this exchange in the script.

Rick, Chief Renault, Laszlo and Ilsa leave the club and drive to the airport. Upon their arrival, Rick orders the chief to have a uniformed officer at the hanger load the Laszlo's luggage onto the plane. Then, he tells Chief Renault to personally fill in the names on the letters of transit as Mr. and Mrs. Victor Laszlo. Both the chief and Ilsa are shocked and surprised that her husband's, not Rick's, name is to be entered on the freedom-enabling documents.

Ilsa pleads with Rick to change his mind, but he will not. Instead, he will stay behind in Casablanca so she and her husband can escape. Rick tells Laszlo a fabricated story about



One of the final dramatic scenes of Casablanca shows Chief Louis Renault (second from left) ordering his men to round up the usual suspects following the shooting death of the German major. Rick Blaine is to his right. Behind him are Victor Laszlo and his wife, Ilsa Lund. *Rick Uland Collection*

how he and Ilsa no longer care for each other and their affair ended in Paris.

He also tells Laszlo about Ilsa coming to his office and doing everything possible to get the letters from him, even to the point of threatening him with a gun. Prior to all this, Laszlo pleaded with Rick to take Ilsa from Casablanca using the letters, even if Rick would not give them to him and his wife.

The Laszlo's board the plane. Just as it is taking off, Major Strasser arrives. He asks Chief Renault what the strange phone call was about and is told Laszlo is on the plane leaving for Lisbon. The major angrily demands an explanation from Chief Renault why he did not stop him from leaving.

Major Strasser is told by Captain Renault that he should ask Rick that question because Rick is in charge of what is going on. This takes into account that Rick is still holding a gun on him that is concealed in his coat pocket.

As Major Strasser approaches a telephone to call the tower to stop the plane, he is told by Rick to get away from the phone. Strasser tells him not to interfere and picks up the phone. Rick tells him to put down the phone, adding he was willing to shoot Chief Renault and would be willing to shoot him, too.

Major Strasser pulls a gun from his pocket and shoots at Rick, but at the same time, Rick shoots him. The major falls to the ground before he can talk to the control tower.

A squad of French police arrives. Captain Renault tells the squad the German major has been shot and they are instructed to "round up the usual suspects."

He then looks at Rick and says he was right when he said Rick is a sentimentalist. He tells Rick he has become a patriot, indicating the chief had also been an anti-Vichy and anti-German official all the while.

Captain Renault picks up a bottle of Vichy mineral water. When he looks at the label, he drops it in a waste basket. He and Rick walk away into a late night fog with Rick saying, "Louie, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

Putting aside Casablanca is one of the great movies of all time, there is a great deal in the film to engage the interest of police collectors, as well as police historians. Insignia, uniforms, medals, badges, regalia and other symbols of authority abound in nearly every scene throughout the entire movie.

There are many different police services and various military units pictured throughout the film. French police services are represented by the Military Gendarmerie (serving as municipal police), the local Vichy Prefecture of Police and the French Colonial Police. The military services, primarily the army, are that of the Vichy Government that includes military police separate from the Gendarmerie.

German police units are that of liaison personnel to the Prefecture of Police, the Gestapo (State Secret Police), Army Field Police and Abwehr (military intelligence).

There are also other military units representing the Army and Luftwaffe (Air Force), as well as Italian military officers who are liaison officers.

The assortment and number of various styles and types of uniforms and all of the associated insignia, medals, caps, uniform accessories, leather gear, weapons, regalia, decorations, badges and the like is exquisite and arranged in great detail. The very involved work that was involved in putting together such a conglomerate is breathtaking for collectors and researchers of historical memorabilia.

Every single uniform depicted in Casablanca appears to have just come out of the uniform tailor shop. All attachments are placed on them in great detail and with uniformity that shows what great research was done to guarantee correct presentation. The detail goes down to showing French Colonial Police wearing the traditional North African fez caps.

There are several scenes in the film depicting vehicles dressed up and presented as police vehicles of the time. In the opening sequence, a large open-topped police car is shown racing through crowds in a bazaar with a squad of police officers assembled inside. And, there is a giant growler siren on the front bumper of the car to boot.

There is a scene with several what we would call patrol wagons or "paddy wagons" from the old days. The wagons also have period-correct insignia emblazoned on the sides.

Taking into account the time when Casablanca was filmed, the incredible cast of some of the major actors of that time together with of all of the things pertaining to the making of a movie during war, I would highly recommend this movie to anyone and everyone who enjoys great classic and period-correct movies.

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

**Civil Nuclear Constabulary** Law enforcement and security at all nuclear installations in the United Kingdom is provided by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. According to the Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain, the police agency was formed in 2005 and replaced the former Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary, which was established in 1955. It has 1500 officers. Interestingly, it is an agency of the Department of Energy rather than the Home Offices.

**San Diego Museum** The city charges the San Diego Police Historical Association nearly \$3900 a year to lease space at 4720 College Avenue for the non-profit police museum, which is now temporarily closed due to COVID-19. The museum is operated by historical association volunteers. Normally, it is open from 12 pm to 4 pm Wednesdays through Fridays and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. Admission is only \$3. The association relies on donations to remain solvent.



The Phoenix Police Department has authorized officers to wear this unique commemorative badge to honor the 150th anniversary of law enforcement in the city. Officers will wear it from May 2021 to April 2022. The design shows an original marshal badge and City Hall. *Mike Lucas photograph*

## Collecting News From Arizona

By Mike Lucas, Staff Writer

MESA, Ariz. – The Phoenix Police Department has authorized a 140th anniversary badge that will be worn by officers beginning in May and ending next April.

The badge is a silver oval with gold panels and blue legends. The center design depicts the historic old City Hall with the dates "1881" (left) and "2021" (right) above the building.

"POLICE OFFICER" appears in large letters on a concave banner across the top.

Beneath the panel is a small, round five-point circled star badge with the outer ring legends, "PHOENIX MARSHAL." It replicates the first badge worn by city marshals honoring the founding members of the agency before it became a police department.

"COMMEMORATING" is seen on a convex panel beneath the circled-star badge.

Another convex banner beneath the building displays, 'PHOENIX POLICE.'

A four-digit number panel at the bottom completes the design.

The manufacturer has not been publicly disclosed.

The commemorative badge will be available only to sworn officers. Unfortunately, Arizona collectors will not have access to them.

Phoenix law enforcement officially began on February 5, 1881 when the city was incorporated. Back then, it was policed by an elected city marshal. Henry Garfish was the first marshal, who was chosen in the first election ever held in the city.

Collectors can learn much more about the history of the department by visiting the Phoenix Police Museum, which is located on the first floor of the old City Hall at 17 South Second Avenue. It has reopened to the public after being closed during the height of the pandemic. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. (Social distance and other virus precautions are in effect.)

Can't visit in person? The museum has a highly informative Web site offering historic photographs, summaries of major crimes and much, much more. (Of course, there is an online gift shop!) Visit the site at PhxPDMuseum.Org.

**First Maricopa County car** When Arizona was still a territory, Maricopa County Sheriff Carl Hayden became the first sheriff to use a motor vehicle to pursue criminals.

Daring train robberies plagued Arizona in the late 1880s and early 1900s as outlaws boarded mostly unprotected trains and robbed passengers, took bank-bound cash shipments or United States mail, which often contained cash and valuables. Even though it meant life in the harsh Yuma Territorial Prison for convicted train robbers, few were deterred by the penalty.

On May 10, 1910, Oscar and Ernie Woodson, two teenage brothers from Oklahoma who had been living in Tempe, rode horses they had rented in Phoenix west out of the city along the Gila River. They rode along railroad tracks and secured the horses in the desert.

The following evening, after walking back to Phoenix, the young men boarded an Arizona Eastern Railway train bound for Maricopa just before dark. Why? Because they



Carl Hayden is shown looking dapper in a 1910 photo taken in Phoenix. He served as the county's last territorial sheriff from 1907 to 1912. Hayden went on to serve in Congress for a record 57 years as a representative and senator. He died in 1972 at age 95. *Contributed photograph*

intended to rob the passengers, get off the train, return to their hidden mounts and flee south to Mexico.

After the train steamed out of Phoenix, the conductor worked his way through the passenger car, taking tickets, and approached the Woodson brothers. When asked for their tickets, the young men pulled pistols and demanded everyone raise their hands.

They robbed the startled passengers at gunpoint, taking cash and anything of value. The duo got about \$300 and some jewelry.

What the brothers didn't know is two of the passengers were Gila County Deputy Sheriff Ralph Sturgis, who was transporting a prisoner, and John Wright, the district attorney in Tucson. Deputy Sturgis wanted to confront the robbers on the train, but the district attorney asked him to wait, fearing for the safety of the other passengers. (Both would later testify against them.)

As the Woodsons jumped off the train near where they had hidden their horses, Deputy Sturgis began firing at them as they fled on foot into the night.

When news of the robbery reached Phoenix and Sheriff Hayden was notified the following day, he secured a special train, formed a posse, hired three Pima Indian scouts and headed for Maricopa to search for the robbers.

In Maricopa, the sheriff borrowed businessman J.F. McCarthy's Dayton-Stoddard automobile and had him chauffeur him in the direction the scouts had taken the posse. Other local lawmen and volunteers had joined the pursuit.

Meanwhile, the Woodsons, inexperienced in traveling the desert with a compass and a detailed map, had gotten themselves lost. Rather than ride directly south toward Mexico as they had intended, they headed into the Tabletop Mountains instead. And, they had neglected to bring enough food and water for themselves or their horses.

While the posse watered and rested their horses in a Papago village, Sheriff Hayden and McCarthy forged on ahead in the car, searching for the suspects, who were exhausted by now after two days in the desert.

In the late afternoon of the second day following the robbery, Sheriff Hayden and McCarthy came upon the brothers walking their horses along a dirt trail, dehydrated and very lost. They flagged down the car, thinking it was rich miners, and asked for help. Little did they realize they had stumbled onto the county sheriff searching for them!

Sheriff Hayden identified himself, pulled out his rifle and told the brothers they were under arrest for train robbery. While one gave up immediately and threw his weapon onto the ground as ordered, the other brother went for his gun. However, when sheriff leveled his rifle at him, he, too, chose prison over death.

When the sheriff brought his prisoners back to Phoenix on a train, he instantly became a hero as a fearless lawman who confronted two train robbers without a posse.

Interestingly, Hayden was the last territorial sheriff in Maricopa County. He served from 1907 to 1912 when Arizona became a state. He ran for and won Arizona's only House of Representatives seat. In all, Hayden served in the United States Congress for a record-setting 57 years and remains the only person ever elected to the Senate seven times.

In a 1967 letter to noted railroad historian David F. Myrick, written only five years before the former sheriff's death, Hayden recalled the events of May 10 through 13 in great detail, even though it had been 57 years by then:

"Upon word of the holdup, my deputies and I put our horses in a [train] stock car in Phoenix and went over to Maricopa. I arranged for three Pima Indian scouts to join us. I turned my horse over to the sheriff of Pima County, who left with the posse, and I waited until word came back as to which direction the Woodsons had gone. I then borrowed a car and caught up with the posse near the base of Flattop Mountain, south of Maricopa.

"The horses needed water, so I sent them to a nearby Papago village and went on in the automobile. We had not traveled very far when the Woodson boys appeared at the roadside without their arms. They mistakenly thought I was a wealthy miner and had hidden their guns under their saddle blankets. They wanted water.

"It is needless to say that they were surprised when I got out of the car with my rifle ready and arrested them for the train robbery. I fired some shots in the air, which brought the posse at a gallop."

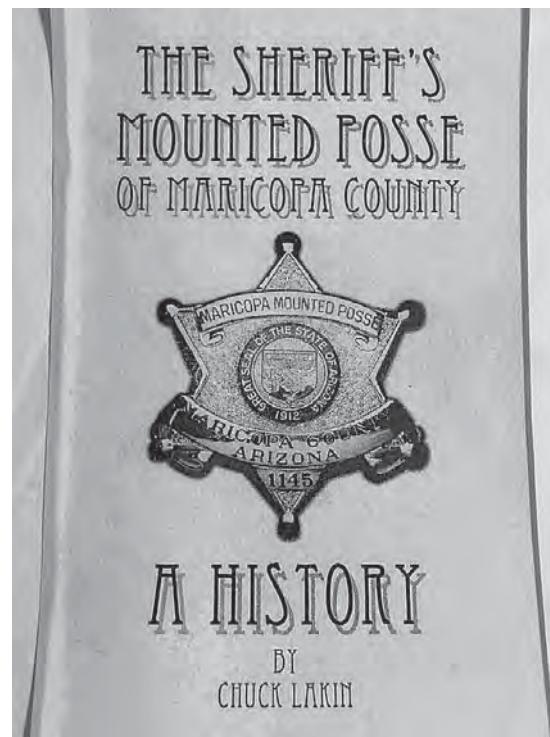
Hayden wrote that the Dayton-Stoddard broke down near Casa Grande. He intended to bring the brothers back by car, but ended up on a train instead, certainly an ironic way to take two train robbers to jail!

The bright red, open-top car that Sheriff Hayden used that day has been preserved and remains an integral part of Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and Arizona history.

**MCSO Mounted Posse history** In the fall of 1938, Roy Wayland, then president of the Valley Bank of Arizona, had the idea of getting together a group of



(Top) Sheriff Carl Hayden used this Dayton-Stoddard automobile to pursue and apprehend two train robbers in 1910, the first use of a car in a manhunt. (Bottom) MCSO FOP members present former Sheriff Carl Hayden with a lifetime membership award. *Contributed photographs*



Chuck Lakin's book, *The Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Maricopa County*, traces the proud history of the organization, which was founded in 1938. (Right) Charles Irwin "Buzz" Sutton was a longtime member of the Mounted Posse. He maintained records for the posse. *Mike Lucas photographs*

prominent citizens, lovers of good horses and congenial fellowship, with the idea of having a mounted parade group to promote Arizona and help the sheriff in any way at his request. Lori Jordan was sheriff at the time.

The first posse officers were Wayland, president; Jimmy Minnotto, chaplain and Riney Salmon, secretary-treasurer. Judge Arthur La Prada was drill master. There were about 15 charter members. In spring 1939, membership was increased to a limited number of 50.

The officers served for ten years under succeeding sheriffs Jewel Jordan, Ernie Roach and, from 1946 on, Sheriff Cal Boise.

During World War II, many of the younger men in the sheriff's office were called to military service, so posse members came to the aid of the sheriff. They qualified as radio operators licensed by the government. Or, after business hours, they would put in a night shift in a hot patrol car. The posse captain was the night desk sergeant.

After the war, and seeking a worthwhile project in the public interest, they helped organize and sponsor the School Boy Patrols. These boys wore red coats and controlled traffic at school crossings from 1949 for the next 13 years. (The School Boy Patrols eventually migrated into today's Youth Cadet Program.)

The Posse would include School Boy Patrols in an annual all-day picnic and outing, and, at one time, as many as 1800 boys attended. The following years the number of boys invited remained at about 700, due to the encroachment of cities into the county.

The Posse always as helped swell attendance at parades and civil events where a smartly-uniformed group was needed, both in Maricopa County as well as other areas of the state.

Even today, the Posse is always ready to drop their own businesses or affairs, load their horses into trailers and drive any distance to help search for a lost or injured person, a downed airplane, an escaped convict or do any service in the public interest where a portable mounted group is needed.

This information came from the files of the late Posse member Charles Irwin "Buzz" Sutton.

Chuck Lakin has written a book about the posse, *The Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Maricopa County*.

I have shown the last three badge designs members have worn. All three are MCSO-



The last three MCSO Mounted Posse badges. All show a mounted rider as the center design on a six-point ball-tipped star. (Top) A personalized posse badge. (Lower left) A second lieutenant star. (Lower right) A lieutenant star. Each badge is a slightly different style. *Mike Lucas photographs*

style six-point ball-tipped stars. Each has a mounted rider as the center design.

**Training Center displays** Because the 150th anniversary of the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office was celebrated on February 14, the first quarter historic displays at the Training Center in Phoenix were completed in time for the celebration. There are four exhibits commemorating department history.

"Remembering The Posse" honors the memory of longtime Posse member "Buzz" Sutton. It shows his photograph, a uniform shirt with patches and a badge and basic information on the organization.

"Maricopa County Sheriff's Collectible Emblems" shows a variety of MCSO patches worn over the years, as well as the handsome, newly-released 150th anniversary insignia. There are also photographs of some old badges, as well as an old bullhorn used for public address.

"Official Business" depicts a frame of MCSO door decal and vehicle photos, as well as some 1:43 die-cast models of patrol cars. There are also two old alcohol breath testing machines.

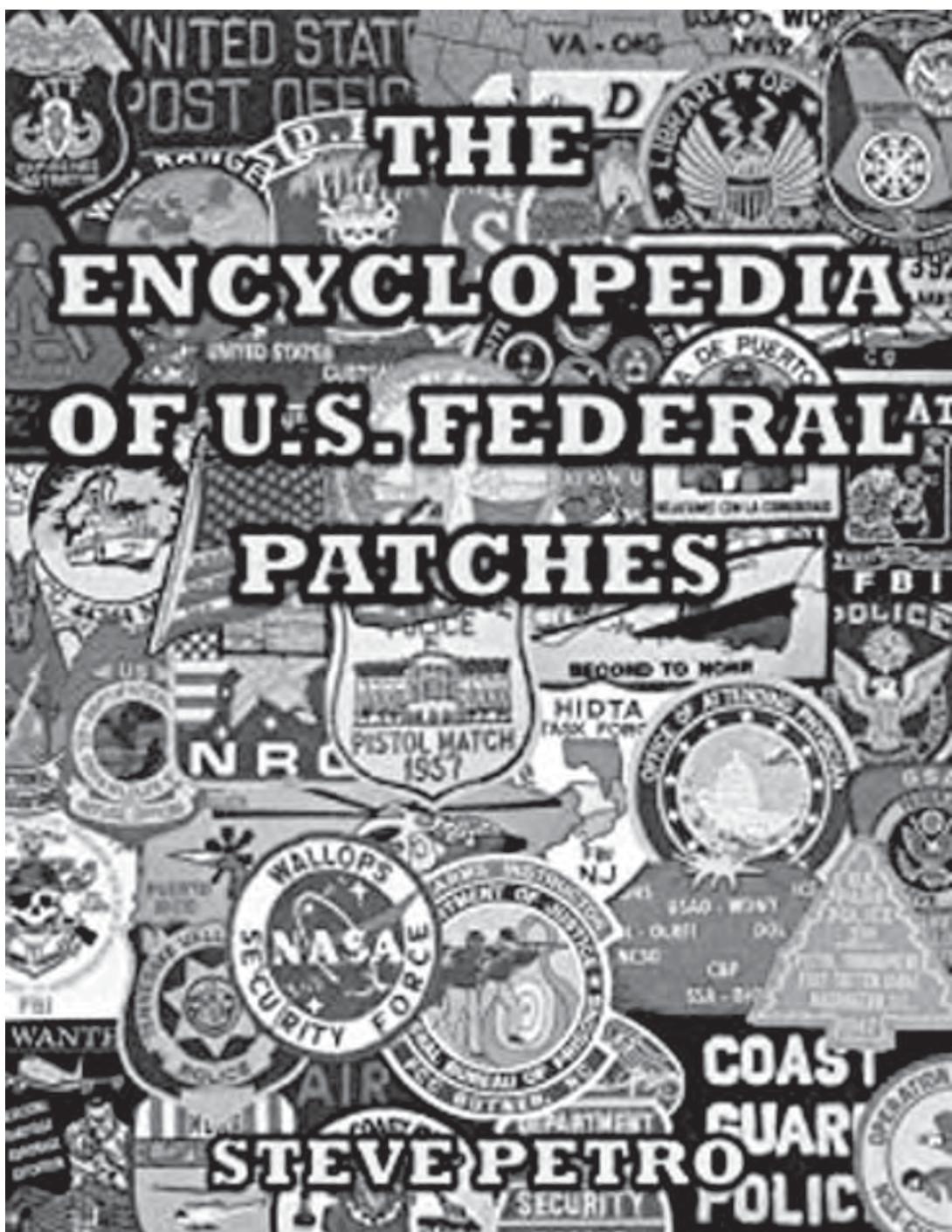
Finally, there are large old black-and-white photographs of deputy recruits during their academy training.

MIKE LUCAS (PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211)



Training Center displays: (Upper left) Posse member Carl "Buzz" Sutton. (Upper right) "Collectible Emblems," including the anniversary patch. (Lower left) "Official Business" shows patrol car decals and car photos. (Lower right) Deputy sheriff recruits in training at the academy. *Mike Lucas photographs*

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If you have any questions or want to contribute a patch image to the next edition, please contact **Steve Petro**, email: [spetto1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:spetto1@rochester.rr.com)

# PC NEWS

## Police Collectors News



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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, FSPD, 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)

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 OFFICER, I have some old patches from a defunct security department (State of Oregon) I will trade one for one, or all used from Capital Mall Patrolman and General Services Security. CLAUDE CARPENTER, 282 Mize Rd., Salem, OR 97302 (82)

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)

RETIRED STATE POLICE OFFICER looking to trade my department patch, Oregon State Police, for your or trades you might have. These are from old and near new uniforms from the past, like 2000 and older. Some have felt backings. Send up to three, and I'll do the same. CLAUDE CARPENTER, 292 Mize Rd, Salem, OR 97302 (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)

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## WANTED EAST TENNESSE POLICE AND SHERIFF BADGES Especially Knoxville Police and Knox County Sheriff

**GENE FARMER**  
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(865) 740-6660

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 (81)

WANTED: Anything from the Maryland National Capital Park Police - MNCPP. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - MCNPPC. 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 (81)

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: 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: 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@gmail.com (732)452-0322 (80)

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# National Police Collectors Show

October 22, 23 and 24, 2021



This is the fifth National Police Collector show to be held in the Saint Louis area.

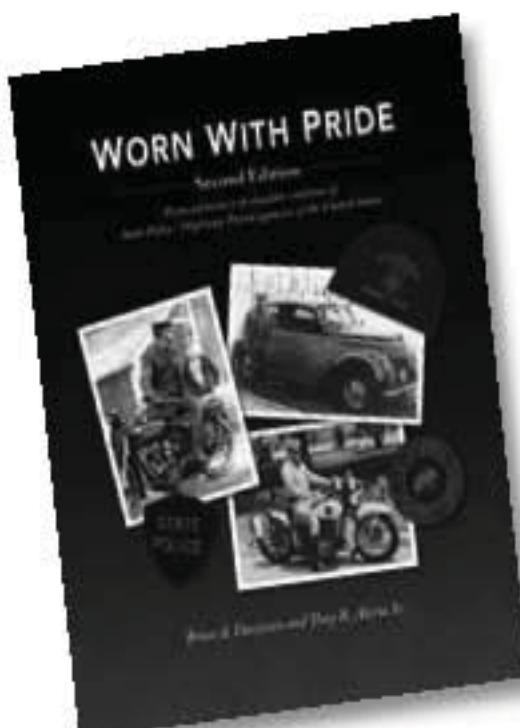
The show hosts are: Frank Selaggio, Bob Shockley and Don Magruder

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 cobble 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: [national-police-collectors-show.com](http://national-police-collectors-show.com).

For tables reservations or more information contact:

**Don Magruder (515) 962-5220**



*Final cover subject to change.*

## WORN WITH PRIDE Second Edition

*Pictorial history of shoulder emblems of  
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*By Bruce A. Davisson and Tony R. Aleria Sr.*

**M**aterial is being finalized and is getting ready to be submitted for design! This second edition of *Worn With Pride* represents many years of research into the shoulder patches of the forty-nine state police/highway patrol departments of the United States. Since its first publishing in 1985, many previously undocumented patches and historical details have been discovered and are incorporated into this brand new edition. Authors Bruce A. Davisson and Tony R. Aleria Sr., along with M.T. Publishing Company, Inc., bring you this new publication that they feel will not only be a useful guide for collectors but also provide interesting historical insight to both collectors and non-collectors alike.

This 8½" x 11" coffee-table edition will be hard bound and contain a maximum of 136 all-color pages. Only a limited number of books will be produced, so it's necessary to collect all orders now.

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### NEW ITEM: 2 STARS Sew on Collar Ranks:

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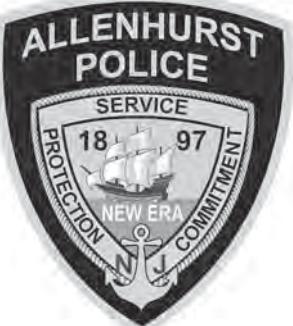
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Measures 1.25" high by 1.75" wide



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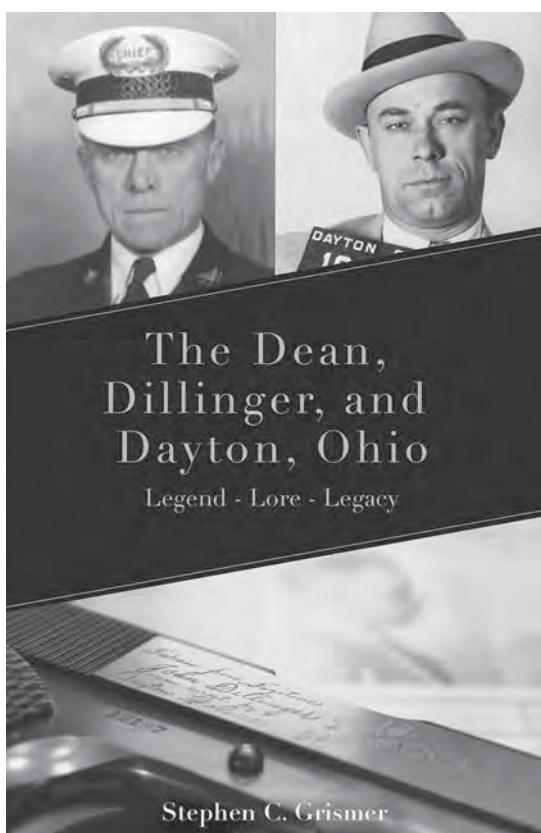
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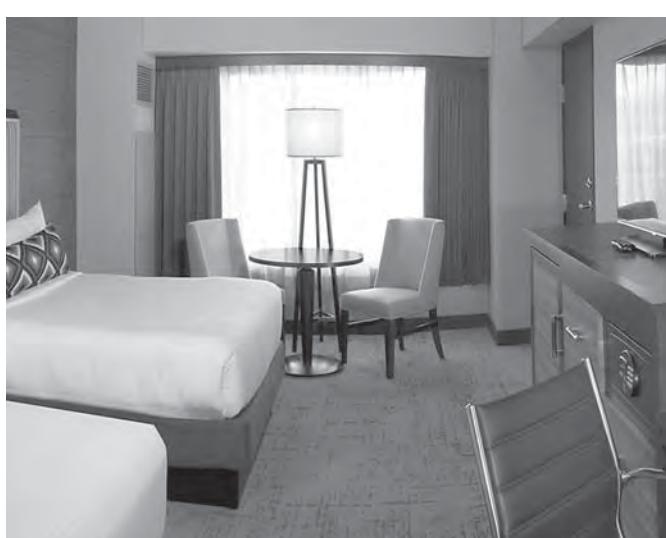


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Swimming Pool/Fitness Center



# 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)

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