



# PC NEWS

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Editor and Publisher

Police Collectors News

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## Reno National Sparks Return Toward Normalcy

With the unprecedented pandemic behind us, the hobby continued its return toward normalcy as Reno, Nev. welcomed the postponed 2020 National Police Collectors Show. Ryan Bertalotto, Damir Krdzalic and Dennis Daniels capably hosted the hobby's 35th annual convention at the Nugget Casino and Resort on June 11, 12 and 13.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPARKS, Nev. – It took longer than planned, thanks to a virus, but the postponed 2020 National Police Collectors Show finally took place on June 11, 12 and 13 at the Nugget Casino and Resort in sunny and bright Sparks, Nev. near Reno.

Originally scheduled for last October, but postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, Ryan Bertalotto, Damir Krdzalic and Dennis Daniels capably hosted the hobby's 35th annual convention. It marked the fourth Reno area National; previous shows were held in 1992, 1994 and 2007.

The very successful event showcased the hobby's continuing return toward normalcy in the aftermath of the pandemic. Face masks, hand sanitizers and social distancing, which were mandatory at the handful of 2020 and early 2021 shows, were not required after Nevada lifted travel and occupancy restrictions.

The show attracted collectors and tableholders from throughout the United States. Attendance was estimated at 350 (220 tableholders and table assistants and 130 walk-ins), which proved a strong testimonial to the incredible popularity of the National Show, especially in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic.

Although ongoing international travel restrictions prohibited attendance by several foreign collectors and tableholders, every region of the USA was well represented. Nevertheless, Far West, Southwest and Mountain West collectors and insignia dominated the event, as they did at the previous Reno Nationals.

"Overall, the show was successful due to having many great tableholders who came out and gave their support. It was great to see so many of our friends and fellow colleagues as 2020 was a difficult year for so many of us," Bertalotto said.

"We were happy to overcome the adversity to have a great show. We have received our feedback, both cheers and jeers, which we will share with our hotel contacts at the Nugget as well," he said.

The show began with the traditional tableholders and assistants only setup day on Friday. Setup was marred by the as-yet unsolved theft of a valuable Las Vegas police reserve badge off the tables of veteran collector Gary Teragawa.

Tableholders unanimously chose Gatlinburg, Tenn. as the site of the 2022 National and San Bernardino, Calif. as location of the 2023 show during a well-attended Friday evening meeting to select future Nationals. It also featured an update on the upcoming 2021 show in Saint Louis by co-host Don Magruder.

Margaret Daniels, lovely wife of her husband co-host, outdid herself organizing and hosting a Friday evening hospitality room, which was sponsored by Fraternal Order of Police Treasure Valley Lodge No. 11 in Boise, Id. She put together a delicious spread of



Display award winners at the 2020 National Police Collectors Show in Reno were (left to right) R. Tod Ruse (Best Educational/Historical), Phil Colonnelli (Best Patch), Gary Teragawa (Best of Show), Mike McCarthy (Best Specialty) and Chris Barker (Best Badge). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

appetizers, snacks and beverages for tableholders and assistants. No one left hungry or thirsty!

The hosts opened the doors to collectors on Saturday and Sunday.

"I was pretty nervous about walk-ins until I saw a long line of people waiting to get in on Saturday morning. We had 52 walk-ins in the first half hour," Bertalotto said.

"This year, we had a number of new faces, which was great to see in both tableholders and as walk-ins. For years, we have been hearing about the hobby needing new blood and new faces. We received feedback from some of the first time attendees expressing their eagerness in looking forward to the next show. We hope they will be attending future shows as it travels around our great nation."

Saturday was highlighted by a stirring opening ceremony that featured a somber presentation of the colors by the spectacular Sparks Police Department Honor Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance and a highly appropriate invocation and prayer by Larry Webb, senior pastor of the Shadow Mountain Church in Gardnerville, Nev.

Sunday was topped by the dramatic early afternoon presentation of the five display contest award winners by the hosts, as well as closing remarks by Mark Hall-Patton, well-known Nevada museum curator and star of the *Pawn Star* television series.

Collectors were more than eager to buy, sell and trade in person following a year without a National for only the second time since 1985. (The 2005 show was canceled in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.)

"It's great to be back!" was frequently heard as hobbyists feverishly worked their way through a potential treasure trove of hundreds of thousands of patches and badges on 250 well-stocked tables, as well as a virtually unlimited supply of other public safety collectibles, especially challenge coins.

"Overall, only two tables remained unsold of the 252 available. We, unfortunately, had a number of tableholders who were 'no shows,' and never reached out. Four of our tableholders were unable to attend due to being outside the USA and faced travel restrictions," Bertalotto said.

"More importantly, we were honored with all of you who came to Reno to support the show. We know many of you had long flights and others had long drives to Reno."



(Left to right) Dennis Daniels, Margaret Daniels, Damir Krdzalic, Donceya Bertalotto and Ryan Bertalotto hosted the postponed but nevertheless very successful 2020 National Police Collectors Show. The event attracted about 350 collectors from throughout the USA. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Sparks Police Chief Chris Crawford, Washoe County Undersheriff Wayne Yarborough and Mark Hall-Patton (left to right) served as display contest judges for the 2020 National Police Collectors Show. They chose winners among many memorable exhibits. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





“Best of Show” award winner Gary Teragawa featured a massive exhibit of California Highway Patrol, California State Police, San Francisco Police Department and other agencies in his incredible display. He has specialized in California state agencies for years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

2020 National Show ...Continued

Even though the co-hosts welcomed walk-ins from as far away as Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin, Bertalotto revealed afterward that the co-hosts opted not to publicize the National in the local media.

“We did not advertise via mainstream media at the cautioning of local law enforcement leaders due to violence that had occurred at pro-law enforcement events,” Bertalotto said.

Although a plan had been devised in cooperation with Nugget security to deal with issues in the event of an anti-police protest, such fears proved unfounded. The only security issue was the badge stolen by a registered tableholder or assistant.

Despite a controversy over their decision to deny admittance to a Nevada collector, overall, the hosts received high praise for their professional management of the show with strict adherence to their rules.

Many tableholders praised the large printed signs that clearly identified their tables. Reno was the only National during which I never heard, “Do you know whose table this is?” Hopefully, future shows will follow suit because the hosts had a great idea: clearly mark tables with large signs identifying the tableholder.

**Well chosen words** In the aftermath of the horrible pandemic, as well as the social issues that have impacted law enforcement recently, well chosen words by Senior Pastor Webb marked a very appropriate National Show opening.

Senior Pastor Webb kindly allowed us to share his “Prayer for Law Enforcement Event” with the hobby.

“Father God in Heaven, you are the greatest lawgiver. You also originated justice. Your divine nature requires you to reward those who do good and then punish those who do evil.

“But, these are difficult and frustrating times, as there are those who do not understand that. There are those who wish to disrespect law enforcement and defund police departments and permit crime to go unpunished.

“I pray that you would remove from these people their uninformed and misinformed blindness and help them to see that a peaceful society cannot exist without law and order.

“I pray that you would form a hedge of protection around those men and women in blue. Give them much wisdom and discernment in those critical situations where sometimes just seconds separate life from death.

“Romans 13:4 states that these men and women are God’s ministers to us for good. Help us appreciate them, to be grateful for them, to pray for them, and if confronted by them in the line of duty, help us obey them!

“Bless this time and this event, and bless those that are here.

“I ask all this in the mighty name of your son, Jesus. Amen.”

**Hobby who’s who** The 2020 National Police Collectors Show tableholder roster reads like a hobby who’s who.



Gary Teragawa’s world class collection of California law enforcement agencies features badges, patches, photographs, artifacts and memorabilia. Although much of his Reno exhibit dealt with state agencies, segments were devoted to San Francisco law enforcement. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



“Traffic Cops: Centurions of the Pavement” was the theme of Phil Colonnelli’s award-winning exhibit of worldwide traffic law enforcement insignia. It included state, county and police traffic insignia, as well as foreign agencies. The collector was traffic officer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

One hundred eight tableholders were joined by a nearly equal number of assistants. Many table assistants were collectors, while others were spouses, partners and children.

Dennis Daniels, Ryan Bertalotto, Damir Krdzalic, Gary Hoving, Keith Bushey, Mark Pyne, Fred Yorsch, Alex Bielawski, Bill Hedges, Ed Zitek, Mike Fejka, Dean Tresch, Art Fox, R. Tod Ruse, Mike Devilbiss, Marcel Jojola, Marty Cassidy,

Ben Roberson, Carol Lynch, Jim Casey, Jeff Peeler, Ken Lucas, Jim Signorelli, Dave Urso, Gary Teragawa, Paul Dahlen, Pat Znajda, Bruce Davisson, Tony Aleria, Mike Nibarger, Bob Bombiardi, Roger McLean, Willie Herald, David Hume,

George Stumpf, Tom Andrews, Steve Didway, Jeff Tuttle, Mike Lucas, Manny Rodriguez, Jim Collins, Pete Belos, Jim Clark, Dave Kolberson, Vincent Turocy, Mike R. Bondarenko, Beau Douglas, Christopher Barker, Doug Gist, Roy Semmens,

Rob Kohlstedt, Jim Munding, Phil Colonnelli, Mike Lynch, International Police Association, Mark Bray, Craig Bauer, Jarrod Nunes, Nick Kanaya, Greg Gilstrap, Robert Tanaka, Dan Gurule, Jake Bushey, Peter Harris, Mike Halasi, Herman Naring,

R.C. Yoshoka, Keith Mackey, Russ Snow, Mike McCarthy, Randy Grago, Chris Gilbert,



Chris Barker, a recently retired Portland, Ore. police officer, was honored with the “Best Badge” display award at the Reno National Show. The veteran officer collects anything and everything Portland police and featured a phenomenal exhibit from his agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Jeff Peeler, who works traffic for the Florida State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, points to his agency’s familiar emblem as displayed by award-winner Phil Colonnelli. “This is the most unbelievable traffic collection I’ve ever seen. It just boggles the mind,” Peeler said. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





A segment of Chris Barker's award-winning Portland, Ore. police collection features a variety of agency badges made by Sun Badge Company and Symbol Arts. It also shows cloth representations of the agency's unique nearly square eagle-topped badge. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Jeremiah Herderich, Tracy Styles, Chris Spurling, Bob Harms, Duane Warth, Richard Lund, Jim Ward, Gary Schott, Dick Coon, Ryder Lusk, Kathie Strong, Rachel Canning, Steve Mizroch, Darrel Klasey, Janet Klasey, Wes Maroney, Jess Tovar, Al Mize, Matt Hutchens, Don Magruder, Randy Keenan, Bill Burks, Joe Smith, Ed Kalinowski,

Fred Haas, Mike McDowell, Jim Clafin, Ron Burkey, Philip Nassise, Josh Goldmark, Jack Genius, Dennis Houser, Brett Bingham, Garey Hurn, Mike Hacke, Darryl Lindsay, Robert Bund, Gonzo Gonzales, Jim Alexander, Richard Reip,

Andy Silverman, Greg Garrett, George Mitchell, Calvin Chow, Randy Adams, Ward Johnson, Klen Snyder, Jeff Hunt and Travis Rakela.

This listing includes several well-known collector table assistants.

**Spectacular display contest** Wisely, the Reno co-hosts selected a team of non-tableholders to judge the spectacular display contest, Hall-Patton, Sparks Police Chief Chris Crowthorn and Washoe County Undersheriff Wayne Yarborough.



Mike McCarthy, who won "Best Specialty" display at the National Show, has an incredible San Francisco Police Department collection that accents the history of law enforcement in the city. The veteran collector has it all, badges, patches, decals; you name it. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mike McCarthy's off the charts San Francisco public safety collection includes a segment devoted to the San Francisco County Sheriff's Office, an all-but-forgotten agency that serves the city and county. He showed their patches, badges and even a full uniform. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The Mike McCarthy San Francisco Collection delves deep into the histories of the police and fire departments. He showed this collection devoted to police chiefs and officers who served in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It features photographs, badges and artifacts. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The judges faced a significant challenge because they had to choose among some of the most outstanding exhibits presented in National Show history. Reno will long be remembered for its display contest.

When the well deserved winners were announced on Sunday afternoon, the hall erupted with cheers and applause in sincere appreciation of their efforts on behalf of the hobby and the preservation of law enforcement history.

"Best of Show" went to Gary Teragawa, longtime California badge and patch collector and law enforcement historian, for an incredible exhibit from Golden State agencies, including the California Highway Patrol, California State Police, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco area law enforcement agencies and other departments.

Teragawa's massive collection must be seen to be appreciated. In addition to badges, patches and photographs, it also includes artifacts and memorabilia that document agency histories and the careers of officers he has chosen to feature.

(Although Teragawa moved to Georgia several years ago, he coordinated his cross-country trip to Reno with the sale of his former home in Colusa, Calif., so he could transport his display, as well as the remainder of the property in his house, back home.)

"Best Badge" winner was Chris Barker, a recently retired Portland, Ore. police officer, who brought his beautifully-displayed department collection that featured badges, patches, photographs, artifacts and memorabilia. It was the first time he had displayed his collection at the National.

It was fitting the judges honored the Portland police collector for his longstanding effort to preserve agency history in the wake of the widespread civil unrest that has plagued his community for the past two years. There is little in Portland police history that has escaped this world class collection.

Phil Colonnelli won "Best Patch" display for "Traffic Cops: Centurions of the Pavement," the hobby's largest and most complete exhibit of law enforcement emblems worn by state, county and local officers whose primary duty is traffic enforcement.

His incredible 50-frame collection features an estimated 2000 traffic patches from throughout the USA and several foreign nations. It, too, needs to be seen to be best appreciated.

The veteran hobbyist served as a traffic officer in Inglewood, Calif. He is now retired.

Mike McCarthy went home with the "Best Specialty" award for his museum-quality exhibits from the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Fire Department. It is the largest and most complete public safety collection from the legendary Golden Gate City. He specializes in anything and everything from either department.

McCarthy devoted half of his impressive display to the SFPD, showing old badges, patches, photographs, artifacts, memorabilia and career collections, and the other half to the SFPD, offering equally noteworthy exhibits of agency history.

McCarthy and his table assistants spent more than five hours setting up the eye-popping exhibit. He said Reno marked the last time the entire collection went on display. "It's just too much work to show it all," he said.



R. Tod Ruse represented the San Joaquin County, Calif. Sheriff's Office at the Reno National and took home the award for "Best Educational/Historical" display. Ruse is the department's official historian and specializes in badges and patches from the sheriff's office. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





R. Tod Ruse and a dedicated group of volunteers have traced the history of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office back its origins in the late 1800s. The department historical committee has assembled an outstanding collection of badges, patches, uniforms and artifacts. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

2020 National Show ...Continued

Finally, R. Tod Ruse, another longtime California collector, won "Best Educational or Historical" display for an exhibit of badges, patches, artifacts and memorabilia from the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. Reno was the first time the entire department collection was shown outside the county.

Ruse said the collection is highlighted by an eagle-topped sterling shield designed by Sheriff Thomas Cunningham in 1872 as first effort to standardize agency badges.

The striking badges were made by the David Laird Company in San Francisco and then sent to the J. Glick Jewelry Company in Stockton to be engraved. Ten badges were ordered; one each for the sheriff, the chief deputy and eight deputy sheriffs. These custom-made designs were worn until 1911.

The National featured many other outstanding displays and exhibits, such the United States Marshals Service by Stumpf, San Bernardino Police Department by Houser, Fresno County, Calif. by Bray, Calaveras County, Calif. by Snyder, Sacramento County, Calif. by Devilbiss and others.

**National sites chosen** The 2022 National Show will be in Gatlinburg, Tenn., while the 2023 annual convention will be held in San Bernardino, Calif.

Tableholders unanimously accepted bids on behalf of both cities. Neither city has hosted previous shows. There were no other bids for either year. The next availability is 2024.

Jim Clark, who hosted the 2008 National in Louisville, Ky., made the Gatlinburg presentation. He came up with a classic line with which many previous hosts will undoubtedly agree, "I guess it's been long enough that I've forgotten how much it sucks to do the National."

Clark told tableholders he and his family spend long weekends and vacations in Gatlinburg, which is about four hours from his Louisville area home, and always enjoy their annual trips.

"It's a great place to visit. They have everything from casinos to tourist attractions to shopping to you name it, all in the Smoky Mountains. You can easily spend a week or two down there and not see everything," he said.

The show will take place next June 17, 18 and 19 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center, which is large enough to comfortably accommodate the National. Tables will be available for \$80 to \$85 each.

"It'll be the usual setup with tableholders only on Friday and open to the public on Saturday and Sunday. We'll have a display contest and everything everyone is used to at these shows," the host said.

Clark pointed out the Gatlinburg National, which will be a first for Tennessee, will also offer unique features, including no host hotels and corporate sponsorship.



Jim Clark, who hosted the Louisville National in 2008, made a successful presentation to host the 2022 show in Gatlinburg, Tenn. next June. It will be the first time the hobby's annual convention has been held in Tennessee. It will be held at a convention center. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The Sparks Police Department Honor Guard opened the 2020 National Police Collectors Show by presenting the colors and honoring the United States of America during the Pledge of Allegiance. The officers were followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Larry Webb. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"We're not going to have a host hotel. We'll have a list of hotels that we've contacted about discounts, and we'll have some nice discounts, but everyone is going to have choose where you want to stay," he said.

"If you want a traditional full service hotel, we'll have them. But, we'll also have different places to stay, like mountain cabins and lodges, which will make our show different. Everyone will have a choice of accommodations. You choose where you want to stay," the host continued.

Ole Smoky Moonshine, a popular Tennessee distillery, is a corporate sponsor of the 2022 show. The company produces a wide variety of alcoholic beverages, including moonshine, whiskey and other adult beverages.

"Their Gatlinburg distillery is right across the street from the convention center, and the owner is very supportive. He's 100-percent pro-cop, like the rest of Gatlinburg. I don't have all the details yet, but I'm sure we'll have a hospitality room, door prizes and other things associated with Ole Smoky," Clark said.

The annual Clinton show has established the Volunteer State as a popular venue for collectors, Clark said. "They have 50 to 55 table shows every year and always get a good turnout," he said.

Clark told the tableholders that Gatlinburg has two potential drawbacks as a National Show site. "I want to be upfront with you," he said.

First, the closest airport is Knoxville, Tenn., which is about 45 minutes from Gatlinburg, so rental cars are a must. Local hotels do not offer airport shuttle service.

Second, the convention center does not have its own parking lot, so exhibitors and attendees will need to pay for parking at nearby commercial lots.

Clark estimated the cost for parking at \$20 a day, although the hosts will attempt to arrange for discounts at selected lots.

The host urged collectors to bring their families and plan a vacation around the National.

"I guarantee everyone will find plenty to see and do in addition to the show. And, Pigeon Forge, which also has a ton of attractions, is only about 15 minutes away. Stay awhile and see as much as you can," he said.

Additional information will be released soon and table sign up is forthcoming.

"I'll be in Saint Louis in October with more information. I'll have a table so everyone can sign up for tables," Clark said.

The successful bid for the 2023 National by the San Bernardino Police Historical Society came as a surprise because it had not been previously announced. President Houser made the presentation on behalf of the Southern California city, even though he was able to share few details.

"We would like to host your conference in June 2023. We don't have dates. The venue would be an unused passenger terminal at the [San Bernardino] airport. The airport is between five and ten minutes from Hospitality Lane, which has many major hotels and restaurants," Houser said.

"San Bernardino is close to Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm, so there would be plenty of things for families to do during the show. And, we would try and set up some local family events as well."



Dennis Houser, president of the San Bernardino, Calif. Police Historical Society, convinced tableholders to unanimously endorse a 2023 National Show bid. The show will take place at an unused passenger terminal building at the San Bernardino Airport in June. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Houser’s bid provided no additional information, such as table capacity and prices, or show details. However, he nevertheless asked for approval to give the historical society ample time to organize the show. (Neither Houser or the society have previous show host experience.)

Later, during an interview with *PCNEWS*, Houser explained that San Bernardino built a modern passenger terminal at its airport with the hope of attracting commercial airlines to fly in and out of the city. However, thus far, the city has been unable to attract any carriers.

“Right now, the passenger terminal is not being used. The place is new, state of the art with plenty of space. We’ll have unlimited free parking. There’s a covered pavilion right next to the terminal that was built for rental cars, so we can use it for the show,” he said.

Houser’s plan is for food trucks to set up under the canopy and offer meals, snacks and refreshments to tableholders and collectors. “I can see having five or six food trucks every day. It will be a 100 foot walk from the hall to the pavilion to get something to eat or drink. That’s less than here,” he said.

The 2023 National will be a Historical Society fundraiser.

He said a city or county-wide public safety day, an emergency vehicle show, law enforcement celebrity appearances and even a “fly in” for law enforcement and public safety aircraft and helicopter units could be offered in conjunction with the show.

“We want this show to be the best it can be. Thanks for giving us a chance. We’ll do everything we can to make it a success,” Houser said.

**Additional show coverage** *PCNEWS* will feature additional coverage of the National Show in our next edition with tableholder interviews and feature stories.

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# Swap Meet Calendar

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**SPECIAL** – These are the latest police insignia show and swap meet announcements. Collectors interested in attending these events should contact the sponsors at the addresses or telephone numbers listed for additional information, such as driving directions, table availability, hotel or motel accommodations, handicapped accessibility, parking or possible last-minute changes and/or cancellations.

Show sponsors provide “Swap Meet Calendar” listings. We are not responsible for changes after we go to press, nor are we liable for errors or omissions.

These announcements are published at no cost to show sponsors. However, hosts are requested to cooperate in our effort to obtain a follow-up story as soon as possible after each show.

## Griffin, Ga.

The Second Annual Griffin, Ga. Patch and Badge Show will be Sat., July 17 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Griffin First Assembly of God Church, 2000 West Macintosh Rd., Griffin, Ga. Joe Tauro and Tim Shaw will host it.

Admission is \$5.  
Tables are \$15. Exhibitors can set up beginning at 8 am.  
There will be a prize for the best patch and badge displays.  
Barbecue, hamburgers hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for purchase.  
A raffle will be held after lunch for prizes.  
Griffin is a city of 24,000 in Spalding County. It is located 45 miles south of Atlanta on Highway 41.  
Two Griffin hotels are offering show discounts:  
Country Inn, 1900 N. Expressway, has rooms for \$78.32 plus tax. It offers continental breakfast and a pool. Make reservations on (770) 228-9799.  
Comfort Inn, 1906 N. Expressway, offers rooms for \$90 plus tax. Make reservations on (770) 233-4747.  
Additional information and reservations can be made by contacting the hosts:  
Joe Tauro (678) 850-0499  
Tim Shaw (404) 734-4527.

## San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The 2021 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 the 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.

## Bloomington, Ind.

The 2021 Indiana Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show will be Sat., July 31 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 West Airport Rd., Bloomington, Ind. 47403. Kyle Landgrebe will host it.

Admission is free.  
Tables are \$20 each. The hall will open from 5:30 to 7 pm on Friday, July 30 and again on Sat., July 31 at 8:30 am for exhibitor setup.  
For table reservations and general information, please contact Landgrebe at kc9agm@gmail.com or (812) 360-7641.

## Columbus, O.

The 2021 Columbus, O. Police Insignia Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 7 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Columbus Fraternal Order of Police Hall, 6800 Schrock Ct., Columbus, O. J.J. Mead and Bruce Muraco will host it.

Admission is free.  
Forty tables are available for \$20 each. It is anticipated the show will be a sellout. Tableholders will be admitted at 7 am for setup.  
There is a Ramada Inn across the street.  
For table reservations or additional information, call or text Mead on (614) 598-6169.

## Orlando, Fla.

The 2021 “Vacation Capital” Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Sept. 4 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Dr., Orlando, Fla. The show will begin at 9 am. Doug Sarubbi, Ron Bartholome and John Holmes will host it.

Admission is \$5.  
Ninety tables are available for \$30 each. The hall will open at 7:30 am for exhibitor setup. Reservations must be confirmed by mailing a check to Doug Sarubbi, 4023 Salmon Dr., Orlando FL 32833.  
Awards will be presented for the Best Badge, Best Patch and Best Overall displays.



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## Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

A special room rate of \$109 a night is being offered by the Rosen Plaza. The rate is available for three nights before the show and three nights after the show. Rooms can be booked by calling the hotel on (800) 627-8258. Please mention the “Vacation Capital” Police Collectors Show by name to qualify for the rate. Rooms must be reserved by Aug. 5. For additional information, contact Sarubbi at sarubb@aol.com or call (407) 883-6959.

### Clinton, Tenn.

The Seventh Annual Smoky Mountain Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Sept. 11 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Second Baptist Church, 777 Public Safety Ln., Clinton, Tenn. Robert Jackson and Jason Pollack will host it. The show announcement did not include an admission cost. Eight-foot tables are \$15 each. The hall will open for exhibitor setup from 5 pm to 7 pm on Fri., Sept. 10. For information or reservations, contact the hosts: Jackson robpatches@aol.com, (727) 455-1213 (voice or text) Pollock mcso941@yahoo.com, (865) 441-8786 EDITOR’S NOTE: This show was originally scheduled for Sat., Nov. 7. Then it was changed to July 15. The present date is the third that the hosts have announced.

### Detroit, Mich.

The 37th Annual Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show and Exhibit will be held Sat., Sept., 25 from 9 am to 3 pm at the UFCW Union Hall, 876 Horrace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, Mich. 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.

### Ripon, Calif.

The Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 2 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth St., Ripon, Calif. Mike McCarthy and Scott Welch will host it. The show will be sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society. Admission is free. Fifty eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. Early reservations are highly recommended because the show is an annual sellout. Awards will be presented for the best patch, badge, historical and best of show displays. Questions and reservations can be made by contacting CLEHS President Gary Hoving at CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, (805) 441-4936 or calpolicehistory@aol.com.

### Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

The Fourth Annual New York and New Jersey Metropolitan Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sun., Oct. 3 from 8 am to 2:30 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 form the best patch, badge and overall displays. The hotel ballroom has been expanded to 7000 square feet. There will be a patch and challenge coin drop at the door. Reproduction material must be marked as such. Only public safety collectors and known collectors will be admitted. Identification may be required. Guest rooms at the Hilton have been renovated. The restaurant has been moved and expanded. There is larger bar and lounge area. The show has a Facebook page. Discount room rates have been arranged from Oct. 1 to Oct. 4. The group code is PCAOCT. Reservations can be made through the hotel Web site accessible through Hilton. Com. Inquiries can be made by email at nynjpcs@gmail.com or on the Facebook page.

### Fall River, Mass.

The “Bay State” Police Collector Shows scheduled for Sun., Oct. 3 has been canceled. No future show dates have been announced.

### Riverdale, Md.

The next Mid-Atlantic Police Collectors Extravaganza will be 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.

## National Police Collectors Show

The 2021 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., Oct. 22, Sat., Oct. 23 and Sun.,

Oct. 24 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 show 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. Seventy-five percent of the tables have been sold. Early reservations are highly recommended. This show should be a sellout. 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. There will be a show patch and badge. A Web site is now available at National-Police-Collectors-Show.Com. The Web site offers a show overview and details, host hotel information, a current table diagram, local entertainment and frequently asked questions. Reservations can be made through the site. For information or to make table reservations, contact Don Magruder on (515) 962-5220 or email dwmagruder@gmail.com.

### Fairfax, Va.

The Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show will be held on Sat., Nov. 13 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Fairfax County Police Association Hall, 5625 Revercomb Ct., Fairfax, Va. Larry Wilkins will host it. Admission is \$5. Tables are \$20 each and must be paid in advance. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one assistant. Tables will be assigned on a first come basis. Please specify whether a wall or electrical connection are needed. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. The show is a fundraiser for the Fairfax County Police Association. There will be a “Best of Show” trophy awarded for the best display. Food and drink will be available for purchase, and there is plenty of free parking. Please mail checks for table reservations payable to Larry Wilkins and mail to Larry Wilkins, 154 Abrams Pointe Blvd., Winchester VA 22602. The show has a Web site at FCPABadgePatchShow.Com. For more information, contact the host on FCPAShow@aol.com.

### Allentown, N.J.

The 30th Annual “Central Jersey” Police and Fire Insignia Collectors Show will be Sun., Nov. 14 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Allentown First Aid Squad, 70 County Rd., 526, Allentown, N.J. Dominick Botteri will host it. Admission is \$5. Wives, girlfriends and children are admitted free. Six-foot tables are available for \$25 each payable in advance. One admission is included. Early reservations are recommended. All previous shows have been sellouts. The hall will open at 7 am for exhibitor setup. There will be a patch drop and display contest. Displays are encouraged. Patch and badge reproductions offered for sale or trade muse be marked as such. Contact the show host with any questions or additional information on this policy. Food will be available. All proceeds will benefit the Allentown First Aid Squad. For table reservations, directions or additional information, contact Botteri at (609) 571-8201 (call or text) or email to ltd104@aol.com.

**World’s Smallest Police Badge** Back in 1936, police in Montreal, Que. honored Detective Joseph Mathieu for his 25 years of service to the municipal force with what United Press International called the world’s smallest police badge. A tiny Montreal badge was embedded in a signet ring presented to Detective Mathieu. Montreal has had a city police force since 1843. Today, it is the second-largest force in Quebec only Toronto has more officers.



2020 National Show co-host Ryan Bertalotto (left) met with Gary Teragawa over the theft of a badge from his tables during setup day on Friday when only pre-reg-istered tableholders and assistants were allowed inside the hall. The brazen theft remains under investigation. *Mike R. Bondarewnko photograph*



# Controversies Aired At Reno National Show

A rescheduled show date in Tennessee, banning a Nevada collector from the National Show and the theft of an obsolete badge generated controversies at the 2020 National Police Collectors Show in Reno, Nev.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

RENO, Nev. – A rescheduled Tennessee show, a decision to ban a Nevada collector and the theft of a valuable badge generated controversies at the 2020 National Police Collectors Show in Reno, Nev.

Collectors and tableholders expressed a variety of positive and negative viewpoints over a request made by Saint Louis National Show co-host Frank Selvaggio to reschedule the Clinton, Tenn. show, as well as a decision by Reno co-host Dennis Daniels to ban Nevada collector Kristofor Lewis from the show.

There was universal condemnation of the theft of a Las Vegas police reserve badge from longtime collector Gary Teragawa of Savannah, Ga. The badge was stolen during exhibitor setup on Friday afternoon. Only tableholders and registered assistants were allowed inside the hall when the theft took place. The badge has not been recovered.

**Tennessee show rescheduled** Selvaggio, who will co-host the 2021 show on October 22, 23 and 24 in Saint Louis, Mo. learned on June 9 that Rob Jackson had changed the date of his seventh annual Clinton, Tenn. show from November 6 to October 16, which would have been less than a week before the hobby's annual convention. Jackson rescheduled his show, which he co-hosts with Jason Pollock at a Baptist church hall, to the week before the National Show after he was notified the show site would be unavailable on November 6.

"Unfortunately, it was that date or cancel completely. I just don't want to cancel completely. November is booked for our place," Jackson said. He made a Facebook posting announcing the October 16 date only a few days before the Reno National.

Jackson did not explain how the church hall could have been booked for another event if he had previously scheduled and announced the November 6 show date.

Selvaggio asked Jackson on a Facebook page to change the date to avoid potential conflict with the National. "That's one week before the National in Saint Louis. I would ask that you reconsider that date, if possible," he posted.

After Jackson initially refused to change the Clinton date, Selvaggio posted, "You know as well as I do that this will force some collectors to choose one or the other. We are stronger if we separate these shows by several weeks."

It has been a longstanding but unwritten hobby rule to avoid local show conflicts with the National by at least two or three weeks, although in defense of Jackson, his initial date was not in conflict.

Selvaggio said holding a show in Tennessee a week before the National could adversely impact his show's potential draw from Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and other southern states.

The Facebook exchange between the show hosts went viral and generated numerous comments. While most collectors online supported Selvaggio's position, reaction was mixed among Reno tableholders.

"There's nothing wrong with having a local show a week before the National. Collectors can choose if they want to go to both shows or not. I'm okay with having a choice. The National doesn't dictate when shows can be held," a collector said.

However, another collector offered, "Frank is right. It seems to me the Tennessee show was set up before the hall was confirmed, which is not a good idea, and it is never good for the hobby to hurt the National."

Reportedly, Jackson has rescheduled his show to September 11. However, the co-host did not respond to a message seeking confirmation of the new date and comment.

**Nevada collector banned** Lewis had been registered as a table assistant for an undisclosed Reno tableholder. However, Daniels sent the unnamed tableholder an email informing him that Lewis would not allowed to attend the show.

According to the Daniels email, which Lewis, a Nevada state trooper and California and Nevada badge collector, posted on Facebook, said he received on June 9, "If Lewis attempts to enter the show, or any social event sponsored by the show, or cause a disturbance within the Nugget Casino Resort, he will be escorted off property by hotel security."

Daniels said he banned the Reno collector from the show because, as his email stated, "I have dealt with Lewis in the past and found him to be dishonest, and in possession of stolen property in violation of the California Penal Code and the Los Angeles County Code."

Lewis denied the Daniels allegation in a Facebook response posted the day before the show. He claimed that Daniels traded him a Nevada Gaming Control Board badge that had been reported stolen in the 1990s.

"...I emailed Dennis requesting my badge back since his was stolen and taken back by the agency. He told me that [it] wasn't his problem, and I'm not getting the badge back. He went on to say the badge came from a friend of his and the trade was done on his behalf, so my badge went to him, and he had nothing to do with it. I asked for his friend's information, and he refused to give me any info; name, phone number, nothing..."

Daniels is a retired investigator for the state Gaming Control Board.

The Reno co-host wrote in his email that he will make a formal complaint against Lewis to the Nevada Department of Public Safety director and the Office of Professional Responsibility.

Official show rules allow the hosts to refuse entry to anyone, "This is a private show. The show hosts have the right to refuse entry to anyone."

Lewis said he will not remain silent over the decision to ban him from the show.

Daniels said he is considering taking legal action against Lewis.

Many collectors who reacted to banning Lewis from the show expressed strong feelings for and against the decision. Supporters claimed the hosts have the right to refuse admission to anyone, while opponents cited "cancel culture" and decried a "personal vendetta" between two collectors.

**Teragawa badge stolen** Sometime on Friday afternoon, while the hall was occupied only by registered tableholders and their assistants, a thief opened a closed case



Frank Selvaggio, a 2021 National Police Collectors Show co-host, objected to the scheduling of the Clinton, Tenn. show the week before the Saint Louis the third weekend of October. Selvaggio requested the show be rescheduled, which generated controversy. It has since been rescheduled. *Contributed photograph*

on Teragawa's tables while the veteran collection was away for a few moments and stole a valuable badge.

The stolen badge is a sterling silver six-point star from the Las Vegas Police Reserve. It predates the merger of Las Vegas Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Department to form the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police. It's estimated value is several hundred dollars because it is a major city obsolete style.

This theft was absolutely intentional. It was not a case of someone asking to look at a badge and forgetting to return it. It was not a mistake, an oversight or anything else. It was theft.

The perpetrator, who was captured stealing the badge by Nugget security camera video, moved another badge into the place where the missing Las Vegas had been displayed in Teragawa's case.

The theft was not discovered until Saturday morning, the first day the show was open to the public.

Co-host Ryan Bertalotto profusely apologized to Teragawa over the theft and promised to launch an investigation. "We're very, very sorry this happened, Gary," he said. "I can't believe this happened in a room full of cops."

Later, Bertalotto made a public address announcement that if the badge were to be returned to Teragawa's table, no questions would be asked. It was not.

"We're going to do everything we can to solve the theft and make sure this person never attends another show," he said.

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

# Branson Hosts Seventh "Heart Of The Ozarks"

Terry Bible, Tom Breen and Jim Post hosted the Seventh Annual "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show on June 19 during National Law Enforcement Week in Branson, Mo. They welcomed collectors from 14 states to their 54-table show.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

BRANSON, Mo. – The "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show in Branson, Mo. on June 19 attracted hobbyists from as far away as the Upper Midwest and East Coast. Terry Bible, Tom Breen and Jim Post hosted their seventh annual swap meet on a sweltering



Tom Breen, Jim Post and Terry Bible (left to right) hosted the Seventh Annual "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show in Branson on June 19. The badge and patch show was an official event of the 2021 National Law Enforcement Week in the popular tourist city. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Display contest award winners at the 2021 “Heart of the Ozarks” Police Collectors Show were (left to right) Willie Herald, Best Badge; Roger McLean, Best Patch; David Brown, Best Educational and Tim Davis, Best of Show. Fine exhibits highlighted the event. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

2021 Branson Show ...Continued

midsummer weekend with highs near 100 degrees and sauna-like humidity.

The insignia show was the last official event of National Law Enforcement Week in the southern Missouri city. Branson sets aside a week every June to honor law enforcement by offering professional training and social events, as well as hotel, food and tourist attraction discounts. It attracts police officers from across the country.

“Sorry it’s so hot, but that’s the way it is down here in the summer. We’re really happy with how the show went. We had some of the best displays we’ve ever had,” said Post before he announced the display contest winners.

Tableholders and collectors came from 14 states to participate in the show, which was held in the basement banquet room of a restaurant on the outskirts of the city. Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin were represented.

“Ozarks” was a 54-table sellout. Tableholders were Willie Herald, Dave Hume, Roger McLean, John Cook, Tim Davis, Rod Janich, Keith Mackey, Bill Burks, Jim Shattuck, Don Magruder, Frank Selvaggio, Larry Crutchfield, Mark Peckham, Dustin Carlton, Paul Thomas, Cliff Keirstead, Marty Augustine, Mike R. Bondarenko and the three hosts.

Many walk-ins were law enforcement officers who had attended Law Enforcement Week events, including members of police motorcycle units who participated in a rodeo earlier in the week. Officers from Little Rock, Ark. and New Orleans, La. were seen trading for motor unit emblems.

“Law Enforcement Week draws cops from all over. This show is a great way to promote the hobby and get new people into our ranks, which we really need. Quite a few walk-ins told me they came in because they saw it advertised at the host hotel,” Post said.

The event was highlighted by outstanding historic displays and an impressive variety of insignia and collectibles from throughout the country, probably because so many states and regions were represented.

**Display contest winners** A lot of law enforcement history was displayed in Branson. Collectors had opportunities to see excellent collections from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Saint Louis County and City Police Departments, Dallas County, Tex. Sheriff’s Office, Arkansas police and sheriff departments and several state agencies.

“Best of Show” went to Davis, a retired Dallas County deputy sheriff, for his world class department badge collection, as well as other Texas law enforcement stars and shields. Each display was beautifully arranged and framed by category or era.

DCSO has worn two badges styles since 1974, one introduced by Sheriff Clarence Jones and worn until 1993, and the other debuted by Sheriff Jim Bowles in 1993 that is still being worn. He had photographs and badges from the careers of both of these long-serving sheriffs.

There were impressive exhibits devoted to detention deputies and the agency’s 2017 memorial badge, which was brought on board by Sheriff Lupe Valdez.

Davis featured a historic display devoted to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, which took place in Dallas County. “Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald just before he was going to being transferred to our jail from the city jail. We held Ruby in our jail,” the collector said.

The exhibit features Dallas police Homicide Captain Will Fritz, who was the primary



Tim Davis is a retired Dallas County, Tex. sheriff’s deputy. He was honored with “Best of Show” for an outstanding exhibit of badges from his department as well as other Lone Star State badges. He also featured a collection devoted to the John F. Kennedy Assassination. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



David Brown won “Best Educational” display for his collection, “Missouri Law Enforcement Memorabilia.” The four frames show emblems worn by sheriff’s offices in the state’s 114 counties. (There are two county police forces.) A red stop light accents the exhibit. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

investigator on the case and interviewed Oswald, and DCSO Detention Deputy Joseph D. Beam, who was one of four deputies personally assigned by the sheriff to guard Ruby.

Davis’s collection includes a typewritten personal letter that Deputy Beam wrote to a relative on March 3, 1965 about guarding Ruby while he was being held in the county jail for a court proceeding. The fascinating letter recalls conversations he had with the killer. He also wonders why he was chosen for the assignment.

“Best Badge” was won by Herald, a retired Kentucky state trooper, for framed collections from the Nevada State Capitol Police, Jackson, Miss. PD, United States Forest Service, National Park Service and Alabama State Troopers. He also showed agency patches.

McLean won “Best Patch” for framed collections from the Arkansas counties of Pulaski, Faulkner, Benton, Crittenden and Washington, as well as a very desirable two-frame collection of badges, patches and other insignia from the Arkansas Highway Police.

He showed Missouri police and sheriff badge and patch sets and insignia from places named McLean.

Veteran collector David Brown went home with the “Best Educational” display for his collection, “Missouri Law Enforcement Memorabilia,” featuring badge and patch segments devoted to county sheriffs, Saint Louis County Sheriff’s Office, Saint Louis City Police Department, Saint Louis County Police and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, among other agencies.

Brown showed sheriff’s patches from all 114 counties. He pointed out that two counties have county police departments, Saint Louis (since 1955) and Saint Charles (since 2015). He offered some fascinating individual displays.

A career collection from Highway Patrol Captain Fred Harold Brown, who served in five posts from 1948 to 1981. He died in 2011.

A large triangular green and red metal door that was fastened to the front doors of the first Saint Louis County Police cars in 1955. The agency went to decals in 1957.

An exhibit dedicated to Saint Louis City Police Drillmaster Captain Thomas R. Roemer, who held the job from 1912 to 1924. The department had a precision drill team back in those days. Drillmaster captain was his official title. Interestingly, Roemer joined the department in 1900 and left in 1912 but agreed to run the drill team.

Brown pointed out that until September 11, 2001, Greene County, Mo. held the dubious distinction of being the agency with the most law enforcement officers killed on duty in a single day, six, on January 2, 1932. He showed a fascinating collection of memorabilia about the murders.

The officers had responded to a farmhouse near Brookline to arrest a man wanted for the 1929 murder of Republic, Mo. Marshal Mark Noe. They died during a vicious gun battle between them and the suspected killer and his two brothers. The incident became known as the Young Brothers Massacre because the perpetrators were named Young.

**Ozarks show happenings** Janich came from Dallas with a lot of longtime Sherlock Holmes aficionado John Taylor’s collection, who is no longer active in the hobby. Taylor was a co-host of the 1999 National Show in Arlington, Tex. and had one of the largest and most complete Holmes collections in the world.

Janich and Davis are considering hosting a regional show next March or April in Dallas. They would like to have it at the Frontier of Flight Museum at Love Field, which has facilities large enough for an insignia show.

“It’s a really neat place. They have displays of airplanes and spacecraft and all kinds of other exhibits related to flight. It would be an awesome venue for a show,” Janich said.

He also brought interesting and unusual badges from Texas and other states. There was one from the Indiana Department of Labor for a state hotel inspector that caught my eye. I had never seen that rank before.

Bible is a student of Missouri law enforcement history and brought some interesting



David Brown doesn’t limit his Missouri law enforcement collection to badges and patches. He augments his insignia with everything from license plates, call boxes, helmets and more. Brown specializes in the highway patrol and Saint Louis area police and sheriffs. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





“Best Badge” at the Branson, Mo. show went to Illinois collector Willie Herald, a retired Kentucky state trooper. He showed several specialty collections, including this one from the Nevada State Capitol Police. It includes four emblem styles and four different badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

exhibits.

He featured a career collection from longtime Christian County Sheriff L.E. “Buff” Lamb featuring photographs, badges and four certificates of his election as sheriff signed by Missouri governors in 1964, 1968, 1976 and 1980. Lamb also once served as Ozark City marshal.

Bible showed a frame from the all too brief career of Trooper Fred L. Walker, who was killed on duty in December 1941. He had arrested and handcuffed two men following a car chase near Festus. One of the men had a gun and shot the trooper in his patrol car.

He also had the full uniform of Trooper Russ Harper, who was killed on duty in 1987. He was shot and killed by a motorist he had stopped for a traffic violation. Trooper Harper’s uniform was displayed on a life-size mannequin. His family donated it to the department. A supervisor gave it to Bible.

Ironically, Bible had a photograph of Trooper Harper in his office when his lieutenant contacted him about the uniform donation. “If anybody on the department should have this, it is you,” he told me,” the collector said. “I couldn’t believe it when I saw it, and I really couldn’t believe it when he gave it to me for my collection.”

Breen, a retired Missouri trooper, traded me their motor carrier enforcement emblem, which carries the legend, “Commercial Vehicle Inspector.” It’s the same shape as the trooper emblem but mostly gold-on-brown. I was told this insignia is being phased out and replaced by a similar emblem with the title, “Commercial Vehicle Officer,” because officers have more authority than inspectors under state law. I hope to get one of these emblems soon.

Breen came through with an obsolete telecommunications patch, which is slightly larger than the trooper insignia. It’s mostly white-on-brown. It was worn by personnel who answered the telephone at satellite troop offices in Farmington, Sikeston and Carthage. Now, all calls go through troop headquarters and are handled by radio operators.

Carlton is a Benton County, Ark. sheriff’s deputy and very dedicated Razorback State badge collector. Even though he has been collecting for only five years, his ultimate goal is to collect badges from as many county sheriff and police departments in each of the 75 counties as he can.

“I made a frame for every county. I add badges to the frames when I can get them. I’ve got a long, long way to go, but that’s okay because I really enjoy it,” he said. He estimated he has reached about ten percent of his goal of a badge from every department in Arkansas.

Carlton featured a complete Benton County patch collection, as well as large frames of department badges going back to 1920. He also showed other Arkansas county sheriff’s badges, mostly five-point and five-point circled stars.

There was also a historic exhibit devoted to a famous case handled by police in Springdale, Ark. in August 1971. An escaped convict from Michigan robbed a grocery store as it was closing for the day. He wanted no witness to his crime, so he kidnapped the three employees in the store, drove them to a wooded area in a stolen vehicle and shot and killed each one with a stolen gun.

Carlton has newspaper clippings, the robber’s gun, which was recovered in Michigan, and other memorabilia from the case. (He has authentication for the weapon from the crime lab.)

Now in his third year as police chief in Brynes Mills, Mo., Selvaggio has retooled his agency’s shoulder patches and cloth badges.

“I redid the patch a while ago. I found an old picture of the mill our town is named after, which operated in the late 1800s, and thought it would be nice to show it on our patch,” Selvaggio said.

While the chief thought the initial emblem turned out well, he decided to improve it with a revised design with a better likeness of the mill and slightly different, more realistic colors.



The Alabama State Troopers have been protecting and serving the people of the Heart of Dixie since 1936 when the agency was known as the Alabama Highway Patrol. Willie Herald featured this fine collection of recent agency insignia, including their eagle-topped shields. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Willie Herald’s award-winning “Heart of the Ozarks” display included emblems and badges from federal law enforcement agencies, including the United States Forest Service, which has a law enforcement component. The subdued patches on the left are tough to get. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Right now, Brynes Mill cops are wearing the new shoulder patch, a reduced size hat badge, a cloth badge (which will soon be changed) and an autism awareness emblem that will be worn on duty.

**Great trading day** I had a great trading day and picked up about 85 patches I needed, including 23 for my motor carrier collection and another 20 from other state agencies.

My best additions were an old Michigan State Police blouse emblem in excellent condition, which was worn from 1930 to 1947, and a motor carrier patch from Guam that I didn’t know even existed. Both were very pleasant surprises!

Thanks to fellow motor carrier enthusiast Breen, I went home with a couple nice badges from New Mexico and Wisconsin. I’m trying to stay away from motor carrier badges, but my friend made me an offer that I just couldn’t refuse.

Of course, like every other patch collector at the show, I spent quite a bit of time at Mackey’s well-stocked tables and came away with a couple dozen patches from states and agencies I collect, including canines, tribals, Alaska and Hawaii. I bought eight at a time, so they only cost me \$2.50 each (eight patches for \$20). He brought thousands of patches in large bins that covered five tables. Each bin was sorted by category.

“I bought 8000 patches in Reno and had them shipped home. I didn’t have a chance to sort them out before this show, but I will bring them to Saint Louis,” Mackey said.

Sadly, collectors who only collect on the Internet are never going to find patches as reasonably priced as at Mackey’s tables, and, quite honestly, are never going to have as much fun as I and many others had digging through his patch bins.

**News and notes** I had a chance to catch up with longtime friend Augustine, who is now a school resource officer in Kansas City, Kans. He collects Arizona like I do but specializes in Kansas. Go to [KansasPoliceHistory.Weebly.Com](http://KansasPoliceHistory.Weebly.Com) and check out his great collections of Sunflower State state agency, police department and sheriff’s office emblems. It’s awesome.

Crutchfield, one of the original members of the Police Car Owners and Operators of America, which was founded by Post, brought a nostalgic exhibit of old portable radios, emergency lights, a coin-operated parking meter and traffic lights. Best of all, his young granddaughter, Larth Young, who lives in Kansas City, Kans., now collects canine law enforcement emblems. We need more new collectors like her.

Burks commented collectors in Branson were more than willing to trade, which I found as well. “Reno was mostly all sellers. This was a lot more fun because there was more trading,” he said.

Due to Southwest Airlines canceling our return flight to Minneapolis-Saint Paul on Tuesday, June 9, Paula and I didn’t get home from the Reno National until nearly midnight on Wednesday, June 10. This unfortunate turn of events gave us only a day to get ready for our trip to Branson, which is a 12-hour drive from Baldwin.

I showed segments of my Chicago and Australia patch collections. Every time I display at a show, which isn’t very often because I usually fly, I develop even more respect for collectors who always bring large, elaborate exhibits. Hats off to show exhibitors!

A great deal of anticipation for the upcoming Saint Louis National was expressed by tableholders and collectors. Co-hosts Don Magruder and Frank Selvaggio handed out flyers advertising the late October show. More than 75 percent of the 260 tables have been rented.

“We’re going to do it right. Every tableholder will get a gift bag with a challenge coin and other goodies,” Magruder said.



Roger McLean went back to Illinois with the “Heart of the Ozarks” award for “Best Patch” display. He has the hobby’s largest and most collection of insignia from the Arkansas Highway Police, which is responsible for motor carrier enforcement. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Roger McLean displayed these beautifully-framed patch and badge sets from law enforcement agencies in Illinois, Missouri and other states. The veteran hobbyist also collects insignia from communities with his last name of which there are several throughout the USA. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

2021 Branson Show ...Continued

We decided to go home by way of Saint Louis rather than Kansas City and stayed at the Embassy Suites, the host hotel for the National, for a couple nights. It's pretty much back to pre-COVID-19 normal, although we found their restaurant and bar hours are still limited. However, I was told the hotel will return to full service before October.  
MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net



Terry Bible is a collector of Missouri State Highway Patrol history with a particular interest in the careers of fallen officers. Recently, he was presented with a uniform that was worn by Trooper Russ Harper, who was shot and killed on duty following a vehicle stop. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dustin Carlton is a Benton County, Ark. sheriff's deputy and a dedicated Razorback State badge collector. He is shown with his complete department patch collection. Carlton's ultimate goal is to collect as many sheriff's and police badges as he can from 75 counties. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Frank Selvaggio, who is already in his third year as the police chief in Brynes Mills, Mo., has retooled his department's cloth insignia, including (left to right, top to bottom) a hat badge, cloth badge, autism awareness emblem and the general issue shoulder patch. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Keith Mackey traveled from North Carolina to attend the "Heart of the Ozarks" show. He brought along five tables worth of plastic bins containing thousands of law enforcement patches sorted into categories. Mackey offers very reasonable quantity prices. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

**Obituary corrections** These are corrections and clarifications from the Guether Rupprecht obituary recently published in this newspaper.  
Rupprecht flew for the NYPD until 1998. He did not stop flying in 1988 due to an ear issue.  
Rupprecht held the NYPD rank of detective, not sergeant. He was a sergeant in the United States Marines. He did not serve overseas with the Marines.  
We apologize for these inadvertent errors.



A better look at a segment of Roger McLean's world class Arkansas Highway Police collection. It includes cloth shoulder and cloth badges, a sunburst door decal and patrol vehicle license plate. Highway Police officers are the state's motor carrier enforcement component. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



# Donald E. Brockman Donates Collection To Historical Society

Don Brockman, one of the earliest Wisconsin law enforcement insignia collectors, recently donated the remainder of his incredible 50-year patch and badge collection to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society. It will go on permanent display for future generations to marvel over insignia worn by police officers from throughout the USA and around the world.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Longtime Wisconsin collector Donald E. Brockman recently donated his incredible worldwide cloth and metal law enforcement insignia collection to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society.

“I never got into the hobby to make money. I never even thought about selling it. All I ever wanted was to have the collection displayed so people can enjoy it, like I did,” said Brockman, a former Milwaukee police officer, who collected untold thousands of emblems and badges for nearly 50 years.

Now 90, Brockman resides in an assisted living facility not far from his former Milwaukee home, which he plans to sell once arrangements can be made for removal of his property. He has experienced medical issues since the recent death of his wife, Jacyln, and cannot return home.

The incredibly generous donation to the Historical Society includes between 75 and 80 custom-framed United States and foreign cloth and metal insignia collections, ceramic and wooden statues and figurines of worldwide police officers and numerous other collectibles garnered since 1976.

While Brockman concentrated on the USA, he also seriously collected Canada, England, Germany, Norway, Russia and a few other nations, mostly through personal contact with foreign police officer correspondents.

“I know one of the Historical Society members. He contacted me and asked about the collection. I told him I wanted to donate it to a place where it would be displayed. They told me they would take care of it, if I made the donation. I said, ‘Yes,’” Brockman said.

The collector related that five society members worked nearly five hours removing the collection from his basement where it was carefully mounted on the walls or neatly arranged in cabinets. The members cataloged and loaded each piece into a truck for transport. Every item was permanently marked, “Property of Milwaukee Police Historical Society.”

The veteran collector readily admitted it was bittersweet to watch his nearly 50-year personal collection being moved out of his house. He was particularly sad that his small but extremely rare collection of MPD badges dating back to the late 1800s went with it. But, it was part of the collection, he said, and he had agreed to donate all of it.

“Yes, it was tough. But, I know the collection will be displayed. That’s what I’ve always wanted, so it’s worth it,” he said.

Somewhere along the way, Brockman picked up his lifelong title, “The Patch Man.” He doesn’t know where the title came from, but people started calling him that, so he picked up on it. “Now, everybody calls me, ‘The Patch Man,’” he said.

**Previous major donation** Brockman’s latest gift to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society is not his first significant law enforcement insignia donation.

In the early 1980s, he presented 35 custom-framed patch collections from throughout Wisconsin and the USA for display on the third floor of the Milwaukee Police and Fire Training Academy. It was only the beginning of his benevolence.

Eventually, subsequent donations brought an additional 88 framed collections, or 120 in

all, to the academy hallways. The wall-mounted displays show more than 3200 emblems and earned him three formal framed commendations from the City Council, which still hang in his home office.

Brockman made the multiple emblem donations to fulfill his lifelong goal that his collection was meant to be displayed for the enjoyment of anyone and everyone interested in police insignia.

“Once I began hearing positive comments from people who had visited the academy and viewed the collection, I decided to focus even more on my 26 patch categories and put together as many displays as I could,” he said.

The collector has a talent for woodworking, as well as a keen eye for the creation of museum-quality displays. Each patch and badge frame was meticulously handmade in a tiny shop in a corner of his basement, custom-designed and custom-made to fit the collection to be shown inside it.

“I made all the frames myself. I never bought one. Every one was hand-finished and covered with Plexiglas to protect the patches. I always tried to get the right background color to match the patches. I used small labels to identify most of the patches,” he recalled.

Along with the training academy patch displays came two large, freestanding double cases of worldwide police hats, including an entire case devoted to Norway, which has been a lifelong interest for the collector as a result of his correspondence with a Norwegian collector.

Brockman explained that while he was on the job, he handled most patch requests sent to Milwaukee PD. One of the first requests came from a national police officer in Norway, who quickly became a longtime correspondent.

The Brockmans visited the collector and his family in 1982 and developed a lifelong friendship that continues to this day. His friend is now third in command of the national police force.

“These isn’t much from the Norwegian National Police that isn’t in that collection,” he said.

**Old-fashioned way** “I collected patches the old-fashioned way; the way the hobby was when I started. I wrote to departments and asked for patches. I spent 20 hours a week writing letters. I always offered a patch in trade and return postage,” Brockman said as he recalled his long collecting career. He sent out thousands of patch requests.

He admitted being a Milwaukee police officer gave him an advantage because he worked for a major city agency with desirable insignia, so he got a lot of patch contacts on the job. (He retired from the PD in 1990 after 34 years service.)

“I did very, very well collecting that way; I never got into buying or trading at shows. I attended only a few of the Milwaukee shows. It meant more to me to get a patch directly from a department, either from the chief, sheriff or a collector on the department, in a trade than it did to buy one,” Brockman said.

He said the most he ever paid for a patch was \$60, which was for a long obsolete Hawaii canine he needed to complete his collection from the islands. It ended up in a frame he donated to the training academy.

However, the collector spent between \$12,000 and \$13,000 on postage writing for patches over the years. (Remember that a stamp cost 13 cents when he started sending letters in 1976, so that’s a lot of postage!)

**Disappointment now reversed** Brockman learned a few years ago, almost by accident, that the 132 frames and two hat cases containing his training academy collection were no longer displayed. A previous chief, who is no longer employed by the city, ordered the collection taken down and put in storage.

“I got a call one day from a friend who asked me what happened to my collection. It wasn’t on display any more. I had no answer. I didn’t know,” he said.

Later, Brockman found out the chief had ordered the collection taken down because he felt it didn’t represent Milwaukee. He instead wanted pictures of city police officers and academy classes on the walls, not patch collections.

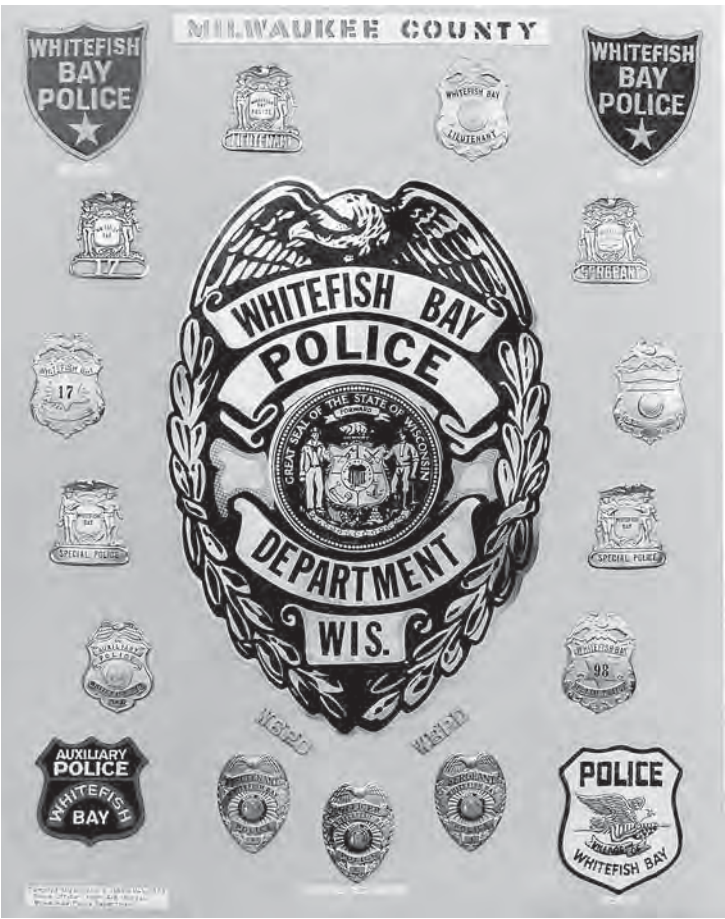
The chief never contacted Brockman even though he spent 34 years on the department. He was never told that his displays had been removed from the academy walls and put in a basement storage room.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the police historical society and approval from the current command staff, Brockman’s entire collection will be once again be put on display where it belongs.

“That’s why I donated the rest of it to them. I’m really happy about it. It’s what I’ve always wanted,” he said of his donation.



Don Brockman, 90, enjoyed a German luncheon with Mike R. and Paula Bondarenko during a late June visit. The collector recently donated the remainder of his USA and foreign collection to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society. Brockman has collected since 1976. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A prominent Don Brockman collecting specialty was Milwaukee County, Wis. police departments, such as this display from Whitefish Bay, which shows their patches, badges and collar brass surrounded by a door decal. This collection was compiled in 1984. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Don Brockman donated 132 framed collections of law enforcement insignia in 26 categories to the Milwaukee Police and Fire Training Academy. This segment features half of his Capitol police collection from Alabama to New Hampshire. There is a second segment. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Donald Brockman ...Continued

Even though he has some mobility issues, the veteran collector can't wait for the day when he can go downtown and once again see his collection on display. "I'm looking forward to it. It'll be fun to see how they decide to display it. They have a lot more room than I had," Brockman said.

Historical Society appreciative Fred Haas, a veteran Milwaukee collector and the police historical society secretary, said the charitable organization greatly appreciates Brockman's generosity.

"We are planning on displaying all of Don's collection on the walls of the academy. We are researching how to best display it, looking into how museums permanently hang items on walls to prevent, theft, etc. As you can see, this is a large undertaking, and it will take some time to get this display up, but it will be done," Haas said. Society members are presently working on rebuilding the department's Fallen Officers Memorial and raising funds to pay for the project. The memorial will show a photograph of every city police officer who died on duty since 1855, as well as his or her badge, and a video about the officer's life and career.

Haas revealed the society has completed a 25-page item-by-item inventory of the Brockman collection. He estimated its value at \$100,000. "Don is an outstanding collector and makes the police agencies of the world seem closer to each other. He is a true gem of a collector and a credit to our hobby," he said. Haas said once the Brockman collection is displayed, Milwaukee will have one of the largest and most extensive police memorials and museums in North America.

Milwaukee television documentary Two years ago, WTMJ, a Milwaukee television station, featured Brockman and his collection in a two and one-half minute segment, "Incredible Collection," on their local news broadcasts. The documentary features a brief interview with the collector and a tour of his basement museum. It shows many of the displays recently donated to the historical society. The video can be seen free of charge on You Tube. It can be founding by searching You Tube for "Donald Brockman Milwaukee video."

A friendship renewed Paula and I detoured our return trip to Wisconsin from the Branson show to Milwaukee so we could visit Brockman, a longtime friend. We had called him and made arrangements for lunch. We hadn't seen each other in several years, so we were both eager to reconnect and reminisce. Brockman was his late wife, Jaclyn's, primary home caregiver during her long and courageous fight with cancer. Caring for her full-time took a toll on him. Yet, even though he has had health issues and surgery following her death, we found Don in his usual cheerful, fine form when we picked him up.



Mike R. Bondarenko photographed many of Don Brockman's patch displays at the Milwaukee Police and Fire Training Academy during a tour in the 1980s. This segment features California police and sheriff patches collected during the late 1970s and early 1980s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Of course, in keeping with his generous nature, the first thing he did was present us with a beautiful gift, a handmade collection of fine wine corks he obtained during overseas trips. We learned that Brockman longed for good German food, a Milwaukee staple, which, he lamented, isn't served at his assisted living facility. And, sadly, there is no beer fridge, either! So, Paula found a nice German restaurant open for lunch in suburban Oconomowoc, and it covered all the bases. 'Nuff said! We enjoyed a couple all-too-short hours catching up. I should have recorded the conversation because it would have made a great podcast. We covered the early days of the Wisconsin hobby, longtime collectors we knew now departed (sadly, a long list) and how much the hobby has changed (not always necessarily for the better). Then, we got into his long and impressive collecting career. I learned a lot more about my friend! I knew Don and Jaclyn portrayed Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus at church and community events around Milwaukee every Christmas, but I didn't know they also raised thousands of dollars for the Make a Wish Foundation by donating all the fees they received for playing the famous holiday couple at shopping malls to the charity. And, I knew he was a member of the Milwaukee police American Legion post, but I didn't know he had served terms as commander, chaplain and finance officer. The post has a meticulously-restored patrol wagon that Brockman and other members, wearing period-correct uniforms, often rode in parades. Our German luncheon was followed by a visit to his Milwaukee house where he kindly presented me with several absolutely incredible law enforcement insignia gifts, which will be featured in a future article, and a tour of the assisted living facility where he now lives. "No patches on the walls here," he quipped as he showed us around. I know my friend would not mind if I report he teared up a couple times during our visit, not only over the loss of Jaclyn, who was an absolute sweetheart and a good friend of ours as well, but over the end of his collecting career.

But, it was impossible not to sense his joy over having donated his collection to the historical society. That was the most important thing because it secures his role in Wisconsin law enforcement insignia collecting history. And, gladly, he is very comfortable with it. "It was the right thing to do. Now, everyone can enjoy the collection as much as I did. It's what I've always wanted. Nothing else. I'm happy about it," he said. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

Longtime Wisconsin collectors who know Don Brockman are welcome to contact him. He enjoys receiving mail. However, he does not presently have a computer and cannot receive email. Please contact the PCNEWS office for his current mailing address. We will be glad to provide it. EDITOR

# Wayne Cline Of Marway Militaria Dead Of Cancer

Wayne Cline, 80, one of Canada's leading collectors and historians of military and law enforcement insignia and collectibles, died of cancer in Winnipeg, Man. on June 11. He founded Marway Militaria in 1987, an internationally known military and police insignia collectibles business.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WINNIPEG, Man. – Wayne Cline, veteran Canadian law enforcement and military insignia collector, died on June 11 in Winnipeg, Man. following a courageous battle with cancer. He was 80 years old. Cline is best remembered as owner of Marway Militaria, a military and police collectibles store in Winnipeg. He and his wife, Margaret, who died in 2012, opened the business in 1987 following his RCMP retirement. Now, his son-in-law and daughter, Jim and Jaime Domaski, run the store. The collector was a charter member of the Canadian Police Insignia Collectors Association and a longtime *Police Collectors News* subscriber and advertiser. Cline was born in Manitoba and spent his entire life in the province with the exception of his law enforcement years.



Wayne Cline, 80, died of cancer in Winnipeg, Man. on June 11. He was a lifelong military and law enforcement insignia collector and historian, as well as owner and operator of Marway Militaria for nearly 35 years. It is an international business dealing in collectibles. *Contributed photograph*





Wayne Cline shows a prized World War II collectible, a propaganda cartoon showing Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler as a monkey for Uncle Sam playing an organ near the United States Capitol. The veteran collector specialized in World War I and II military and police collectibles. *Contributed photograph*

While his first full-time job was in retail, he soon joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and became a constable. He was assigned to posts throughout Saskatchewan during his career but always considered Manitoba home.

"I guess they thought since I was from Manitoba, I would like to go next door and see the sights of Saskatchewan, so that's where they posted me. You could write that I really liked Saskatchewan, but that would not necessarily always be true!" Cline said in a mid-'90s telephone interview.

Cline had a lifelong interest long interest in military history with particular attention to Canada's role in fighting Germany in World Wars I and II. He his interest developed into a passion for military insignia and collectibles, including military police. His service as a Mountie sparked his law enforcement insignia interest.

The collector capitalized on his retail experience to open Marway Militaria, which took its name from the first three letters of his and his wife's first names, became a combination collectibles store and museum.

"My father had an antiques shop when I was growing up, so I was always poking around for things for him to sell. I had a paper route, like a lot of kids did those days, and remember asking people if they would be interested in selling this or that, because I thought it was something that someone else would be interested in buying," Cline said.

Even though he concentrated on military collectibles and became an internationally recognized expert on Canadian military medals and insignia, Cline was also a serious law enforcement collector, especially the RCMP. He was a priceless resource for Canadian collectors seeking information on Mountie insignia. (He also had extensive Winnipeg and Manitoba collections.)

"Wayne was one of the best and will truly be missed," said longtime friend and fellow Canadian collector Dean Mario. "He was always friendly, helpful, knowledgeable, kind and had a great sense of humor."

Indeed! He met Margaret after stopping her for speeding and telling her she would get a warning rather than a citation...but only if she agreed to go out on a date with him. "I was a tall and handsome Mountie back then. The ladies just can't resist that hat and red serge, you know," he quipped.

Although his store is somewhat hard to find, tucked away in an industrial area, it nevertheless has done a thriving collectibles and military surplus business for nearly 35 years. In addition to retail sales, the Clines operated a brisk mail order business with military and police insignia collector customers worldwide.

"We often accept high dollar collectibles on consignment. Some of our most prized items came in that way, particularly very rare military medals. We handled a couple sales of the Empire Cross [the British Empire's highest military award] that fetched between \$200,000 and \$300,000 each," Cline said.

The veteran retailer and collector said his greatest find was a United States Congressional Medal of Honor that was awarded to a Seventh Cavalry soldier at the Battle of Wounded Knee in South Dakota in 1890.

"His family came in here with it. They had no idea what it was and wanted to sell it. I couldn't believe it was real, but it was very real. I sold it for them. I won't reveal the actual price or the name of the buyer, but it was a major collector. He paid seven figures for that medal, which I thought was a bargain," Cline said.

Marway Militaria also handled consignment sales of numerous historic collections of RCMP insignia, uniforms and gear, mostly for the survivors of former force members. "They come in with these items, but they have no idea what they have or what it's worth. I try to help them out as much as I can," he said.

The company is renown for high standards of ethics and honesty. "Everything I do is completely above board. I can't do business any other way, or take advantage of people; it's just not who I am," Cline said.

Cline devoted his life to his hobby and related business. He was among the longest tenured exhibitors at several military collectibles and gun shows in Western Canada. He displayed at a Calgary, Alta. gun show for 53 consecutive years.

Cline and his wife will be buried in Glenboro, Man. when COVID-19 restrictions ease. Many Canadian collectors expressed their sympathy to the family over their loss.

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**Branded Police Hand Sanitizer** The worldwide pandemic has resulted in unique branding opportunities for manufacturers marketing protective equipment and materials to law enforcement agencies. Face coverings with agency logos have become popular. In Australia, members of the Queensland Police Service were recently provided with small bottles of hand sanitizer personalized with the QPD logo in full color. A Police Insignia Collectors Association of Australia member said, "Now, I've seen everything..."

**Mauldin Reprints SP/HP Book** In 2006, William Mauldin published the first edition of *State Troopers Of America*, a reference book on state police and highway patrol patches, badges and patrol vehicles. It became extremely popular and sold out. Now, the South Carolina collector is publishing the book with a second edition, which will be printed by M.T. Publishing Company in Evansville, Ind. It is now available.



The earliest MSP shoulder patches have now been identified. (Top) The red acorn shape with white letters (1925 to 1927). (Left) Black acorn with gold letters (1927 to 1933). (Right) Dark blue acorn with light blue letters (1933 to 1948). (Bottom) The rare Troop A emblem. *Hervey Cote photograph*

## Massachusetts State Police Marks Anniversary

It was on September 1, 1921 when the first Massachusetts State Police troopers graduated from the training academy and began protecting and serving the commonwealth. They wore badges with the legend "Police Patrol" and later adopted red acorn-shaped "State Police" shoulder patches.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SOUTH GRAFTON, Mass. – Destiny is often confused with coincidence.

Was it destiny or coincidence that the historian for the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center solved a longstanding mystery over the first issue shoulder patch on the eve of the agency's 2021 centennial celebration?

Bay State collector Hervey Cote, who is a member of the museum board of directors, reports museum historian Ron Guilmette, a retired trooper, found an old and long forgotten newspaper story that confirmed troopers did indeed wear the mysterious red acorn patch. Actually, it was their first issue shoulder insignia.

"The museum has long believed that the red acorn patch was the first ever worn by the department as it would have matched the first uniform worn from 1921 to 1926. a forest green blouse coat over a white shirt and tie," Cote said.

The brief article, which appeared in the North Adams Transcript on April 25, 1925, appeared under the headline, "State Troopers Bear Bright Red Shields."

"Every member of the state constabulary, which has a sub-station in Cheshire, is now wearing a bright red shield on his right shoulder bearing the title, 'State Police,' in white letters.

"The shield is somewhat similar to the divisional insignia worn on the shoulders of world war soldiers and is designed to distinguish the troopers from city and town motorcycle officers whose uniforms are somewhat similar."

According to Cote, a black tie and tan shirt were adopted around 1927. The patch background color was changed from red to black to better match the new shirt. "Two additional variations of the black patch have been identified, one with a troop designation,



One of the rarest and most sought-after Massachusetts State Police emblems was once worn by Troop B traffic officers. The legend reads, "TRAFFIC OFFICER/ STATE POLICE/ B." Even the agency museum doesn't have one in its collection. It has only this photograph. *Hervey Cote photograph*





Collector Brian Dunn designed the handsome centennial anniversary (1921 to 2021) shoulder patch for the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center. It features the red acorn patch, first issue breast badge and the 1948 patch. Only 300 patches were made. *Hervey Cote photograph*

State Police Anniversary ...Continued

and the other stitched with, "Traffic Division Troop B," he said.

Distinctive French and electric blue became the agency uniform colors in June 1933, so the shoulder patch was changed to a dark blue background with light blue lettering.

The first triangle shape was introduced in 1947, but it was worn for only a year. The legends read, "STATE/ POLICE/ MASS." It was replaced a year later by the style that it is still being worn.

It is highly fitting that the red acorn patch mystery was solved just in time for the 2021



All Massachusetts state troopers are authorized to wear a high quality remake (right) of the original badge that troopers who graduated from the first academy class on September 1, 1921. The badge was patterned after the original Police Patrol shield at the museum. *Hervey Cote photograph*



Volunteers just completed a centennial anniversary exhibit at the Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center, which is again open to the public in South Grafton. It is a comprehensive agency history that includes photographs and vintage vehicle equipment. *Hervey Cote photograph*



Collectors can obtain this handsome commemorative license plate to honor the 1921 to 2021 centennial anniversary of the Massachusetts State Police. It shows the original red acorn shoulder patch. Proceeds will benefit the State Police Museum and Learning Center. *Hervey Cote photograph*

centennial celebration, coincidence, destiny or both.

**Centennial collectibles** The museum has offered several highly desirable centennial collectibles to active and retired state troopers as fundraisers for the non-profit organization.

The unique custom-designed commemoratives include a shoulder emblem, miniature cruiser decal, metal badge, badge pin, license plates, challenge coin and embossed plate. The high quality collectibles carry the common theme State Police Patrol, which was the agency's official title when it was created in 1921.

Only 300 serially-numbered centenary emblems were produced. The five and one-half inch wide rectangular insignia features the red acorn first issue patch, first issue badge and the 1948 patch design. The attractive emblem was designed by state police and highway patrol collector Brian Dunn, who recently retired from the State Police.

Cote said every patch was sold with a certificate of authenticity for \$15. However, the first patch (serial number "1" of "300") was auctioned off and garnered a winning bid of several hundred dollars.

The patch is not worn on duty. It was offered only as a collectible.

However, all sworn personnel are authorized to wear a reproduction of the first issue badge that troopers can wear from September 1 when the first officers graduated from the training academy in 1921 until the end of the year, or five months in all.

The jeweler-quality piece carries the legends, "MASS./ POLICE PATROL/ UNIFORMED/ BRANCH/ 1921-2021/ 100." It comes in silver pewter for troopers and sergeants and gold antique finish for commissioned officers.

The badges were sold in a commemorative presentation box with a custom badge pin and challenge coin for \$75.

Active and retired troopers could order as many sets as they wanted, but their MSP identification number had to be engraved on the back of each badge for security purposes.

The miniature (four inches high) cruiser decal depicts the red acorn patch and a ribbon that carries the legend, "1921/ UNIFORMED BRANCH/ 2021." It is currently displayed on the rear windows of all marked cruisers in recognition of the centennial.

It sold for \$5.

The novelty license plate is a replica of the original 1921 motor vehicle license plate. It is white-on-black and depicts the red acorn emblem cruiser decal and a four-digit number or characters of the purchaser's choosing.

The plate sold for \$25 plus shipping.

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**PICAA Announces Executive Committee** The Police Insignia Collectors Association of Australia (PICAA) announced its 2020-2021 Executive Committee following its annual general meeting, which was held over Zoom. The in-person meeting was canceled. The officers are Rob Brown, president and merchandise officer; Mick Austin, secretary; Neale Vickey, treasurer; John DeBelle, assistant secretary and treasurer and Matt Hayes, newsletter editor. The 2021 annual general meeting is scheduled for August 29 in Canberra.

**Bedfordshire Police Museum Donation** According to Keith Jackson, curator of the Bedfordshire Police Museum, the museum recently accepted a historic donation by the family of police constable who served in the late 1880s and early 1900s. Samuel Stock joined the constabulary in 1897 following service in the Army. He was posted as a neighborhood constable in small village around his home in Northill. The family donated photographs and documents from his career. PC Stock served until his retirement in 1924.



Another display at the Massachusetts State Police and Learning Center is devoted to the agency's centennial. It shows a patch collection, the commemorative license plate and a historic uniform., as well as additional historic photographs and department memorabilia. *Hervey Cote photograph*



# City Officials Recommend Flag Removal

Pensacola city officials want the Confederate flag removed from the police department badge and shoulder patch. Mayor Grover Robinson has accepted a recommendation from a citizen advisory group for new insignia. In all, five flags that have flown over the city appear on the current badge and shoulder emblem.

By David L. Martin, Guest Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Pensacola, Fla. Mayor Grover Robinson has accepted a Police Citizen’s Advisory Committee recommendation to remove the Confederate flag from city police badges and patches. Ten of the 11 members voted in favor of the recommendation earlier this year.

Mayor Robinson endorsed the recommendation and forwarded it to the City Council for a final decision. The council is expected to vote on a \$290,000 expenditure for new badges and patches by late September.

Current police department badges and shoulder patches feature full-color representations of the five flags that have flown over Pensacola in its long history, including the Confederate States of America emblem. The city was settled in 1667.

Mayor Robinson delayed the vote until September to give the police department the opportunity to develop new insignia, as well as obtain cost estimates. Council members unanimously endorsed the delay at their mid-May meeting.

The citizen’s committee characterized the vote as a common sense measure. Chairman Drew Buchanan said current city policy already bans the Confederate flag from flying over any city building or property. “This is merely an extension of existing city policy,” he said.

Florida was one of the first seven states that seceded from the United States in 1861 to form the Confederate States of America. Eventually, 11 states declared themselves as Confederate states. The confederacy was dissolved in 1865 after the Civil War ended.

Police badges and patches also show the Spanish, French and British flags, as well as the United States flag. The city is known as the “City of Five Flags.”

The recommendation was included in the committee’s final report to the mayor before it disbanded on March 31. The volunteer group was formed last year to study current Pensacola police practices, provide citizen input and make recommendations for the future.

Chairman Buchanan pointed out the committee’s recommendation was not binding on either the mayor or the police department. “But, we think it is long overdue. Police badges and patches symbolize our city and styles can easily be changed at relatively little cost,” he said.

More than 800 city residents responded to an online poll conducted by a local television station asking if the Confederate flag should be removed from police department insignia. Sixty-six percent were in favor, while 33 percent were opposed.

“I do hope that the mayor is aware that if he does not take our recommendation to heart, there will also not only be a lot of push back from us as a committee, but from the community as a whole. We represent the citizens, and it’s our job to bring their ideas, thoughts and suggestions, and bring them to the mayor to execute. At the end of the day, we want to reform and create a better and more inclusive Pensacola Police Department and city,” the chairman said earlier.

Of course, a badge and patch change is big news to us Florida collectors. It appears it will take place late this year or early next year. It will be interesting to see whether the new badge and patch will continue to show flags.

Pensacola is located in Escambia County on the Panhandle. The population is about 53,000.

DAVID L. MARTIN (7001 NW 36th Avenue, Miami FL 33147)

**Leith Borough Centennial Booklet** The Leith Borough Police in England celeb rated its centennial anniversary in 2020 with the the publication of a commemorative booklet, *The History of the Leith Borough Police*. The book covers policing in the borough from 1771 to 1920, when the small agency was amalgamated into the Edinborough City Police. It was written by Gilbert Wallace, a collector and former Edinborough police officer. It shows helmets and badges.

**PICA-GB Laments Poor Sales** A primary source of funding for the ongoing operation of the Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain (PICCA-GB) has been proceeds from sales of PICA Supplies Section collectibles, which are badges and artifacts obtained by the organization for resale to members. PICA-GB obtains commissions for each sale. A recent announcement reported sales are at an all-time low. PICA-GB offers a 20-percent discount for members.



The Pensacola Police Citizen’s Advisory Committee has recommended the Confederate flag no longer appear on the police department’s badge and shoulder emblem. City policy already bans the flag from being flown over city-owned buildings or property. *David L. Martin photographs*

# Letters To The Editor

## Remembrance Of Trevor Thompson

Your paper brought me the sad news about the passing of longtime Australian collector Trevor Thompson. If there was ever a gentleman collector in the hobby, it was Thompson. I traded many patches and badges with him, always to my benefit.

Once, out of the clear blue, Trevor sent me a patch that I have treasured throughout my collecting escapades. Full well into trading police patches with him, he knew I also had a substantial military collection. He sent me a patch from the 149th Royal New South Wales Regiment in Australia.

This patch was not issued. It was a special design made up for this unit of the Bushman’s Rifles Recon Group. Most of these special patches are manufactured in batches of 50 or 100 and designed to be possessed by the soldiers themselves. And, most have to get special permission to wear them on their uniforms or in combat.

It is a shield shape about three inches tall and two and one-half inches wide. It has a dark brown border on tan twill. It has a gold banner with “RECON” lettered in brown on a gold banner at the top and “BUSHMANS RIFLES/ 149 RNSWR” in similar colors at the bottom.

The center design shows a green creature that looks like a tall toad stool with one large blue and brown eye in the center top and large gold ears on either side with two brown feet sticking out of the bottom, all outlined in white. There is a brown rifle across the lower portion of the toad stool. Not a pretty thing, but certainly different.

This may be the only one left to exist from World War II; I never went that far back with it, but it’s a treasure for my collection. And it is displayed with some other good ones, such as a World War I patch for the Big Red One, done in red horsehair on felt, or the original patch of the Blackcat/Dragonfly 9th Strategic Recon Wing (SR-71) U-2 spy plane. They stand out in a crowd, but my treasure is the patch I got from Thompson.

FRED HANCOCK (411 Fortune Drive, Monroe LA 71203-2126)

## Memorial For Two Mentors

I read with great sadness in the March-April edition of the passing of two gentlemen from our hobby, Bob Wilson and Bert Carbo. Both had a profound influence on my collecting hobby and what ultimately became my post-retirement career.

I met Wilson early in my collecting years at a small show in Overland Park, Kan. in the mid-’80s. Having grown up in Kansas and being the son of a Kansas City, Kans. officer, we hit it off immediately. My Dad had gone on to become the Protestant chaplain of the Kansas State Prison in Lansing, Bob was responsible for providing many of Dad’s congregation!

Our paths were to cross many times, and our collections changed homes several times over the years. He was particularly helpful with information about Kansas Highway Patrol cruisers as he had photographed himself with every car he had been issued. He displayed his amazing Kansas collection at both Kansas City Nationals I co-hosted. Bob’s influence went way beyond that because he was partially responsible for my starting a business that still exists today.

Most large departments have “go-to” members who can get about anything for us collectors, including otherwise impossible items. Wilson was that guy on the KHP. Many times, these same folks are a valuable resource for department merchandise and trinkets, too. Bob saw such a need at the KHP and stepped up to fill that void. For his entire career, he developed and sold everything from KHP anniversary items to hats, patches, t-shirts photos, cups and more.

In the mid-’80s, no one on my department (other than a retiree group) was selling KCPD memorabilia. I discussed this with Wilson, and he provided encouragement. He further suggested I start with coffee cups and introduced me to his supplier in Hutchinson, his hometown. Start-up costs for these ventures are not for the timid, I can assure you, but without the benefit of a display sample, my first order was for a gross (144) of cups. Using a quality heavy duty cup in our cobalt blue vehicle colors emblazoned with our distinctive door logo, they sold very well.

Those cups started my business, Police Collectibles, in 1987, and I am proud to say I am still in business over 30 years later. The cups spun off into other cups, pens, coasters, tie-tacks, t-shirts, special unit patches and much more. Wilson and I shared our sources (suppliers) over the years too (how many retailers do that?), but that’s the way he was, generous to a fault.

When I retired in 1990, I sold my remaining KCPD inventory to a fledgling police wives’ group, and by that time, I had sold hundreds of those blue coffee cups, thanks to Bob!

I met Bert Carbo early in my collecting career. After a few trades, I visited his incredible



Trevor Thompson gave Fred Hancock this very rare reconnaissance emblem from the Royal New South Wales Regiment 149th Bushman’s Rifles. It is mostly brown and tan with a comedic toad stool-like character as the center design. It’s Hancock’s most treasured insignia. *Fred Hancock photograph*



Letters to the Editor...Continued

Pigeon Forge police museum in the beautiful Smoky Mountains. From my first visit to subsequent visits, I was always amazed at the volume of his collection, including the thousands of patches that covered his ceiling! Those patches were his price of admission for visiting cops.

Ultimately, my collection had grown to the point where friends frequently said, “You should open a museum.” After retiring I started looking for a location far away from the mean streets of Kansas City and the arrests I had put away. I moved to a popular tourist town in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, helped by a bunch of buddies that drove my growing police car collection down in a convoy. After securing a building, assembling the museum began. This was 1994, and we opened the doors of The Last Precinct in 1996. This adventure could never have happened without the tireless work of my wife, Terri, who held down a full-time job all the while.

From inception to opening, Carbo provided me with suggestions, insight, tips, advice about the good, bad and ugly of a tourist business and welcomed me into the small fraternity of privately-owned police museums (all three of us at that time).

Some of Bert’s sage advice: Put your restrooms at the back of the museum so folks have to pay to use them. Have a well-stocked gift shop at the exit, so patrons have to pass through it to get out. Always sell snacks, candy, etc. and place a soda machine outside, so you can sell pop even when you are closed. And, advertise, advertise, advertise. There were many more suggestions, and Carbo was always just a phone call away for help.

I couldn’t follow the first suggestion because the building I bought already had a bathroom in the front. One day, a tour bus rolled up and 26 elderly ladies exited and lined up at my bathroom! As the last two finished their business, one said, “Well, I guess we should buy something. Do you have any postcards?” They bought two at a quarter each and left. For the next 30 minutes I mopped and replaced paper towels and TP in the rest room!

Carbo’s suggestion about a gift shop was pure genius. A museum can never survive on admissions alone. I only charged \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids, but anyone with an ID (police, fire, military, etc.) got in free. My gift shop not only kept the bills paid, but established me in a business that lived up to the name I had chosen in 1987.

We had a great run, meeting over 25,000 law enforcement officers from around the world, swapping war stories, trading any and all types of memorabilia and receiving donations.

One visiting couple were husband and wife London Bobbies. They commented on the absence of United Kingdom paraphernalia. A couple months later, a package arrived with two complete uniforms (his and hers), helmets, truncheons, walkie-talkies and more!

For years after the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, a steady stream of first responders visited and brought uniforms, gear and even chunks of granite from the building. We were the closest and safest place they could visit that provided a welcome respite from the horrors they had experienced. One visitor in particular was an emotional experience for me, the medical examiner who processed the bodies of the 168 victims, which included 19 children from the day care center.

A visiting Arkansas state trooper once complained I didn’t have one of their cars in my SP/HP car collection. I explained that I wanted to build one, but the unique “V” markings were too difficult for me to duplicate. A month later a cruiser pulled up and a trooper handed me a box, saying it was something from HQ. It contained a complete set of new stars and stripes with which I was able to build a correct cruiser.

After a few years, we moved my Dad to our home because he had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s. “Pops” became my official museum greeter, which allowed me the opportunity to provide group tours. Dad and I had a great time together. The highlight of our day frequently was to close up and head into town to one of his favorite cafes for lunch. I dutifully hung a clock on the front door with a return time.

One day we returned from lunch, and I found a note on my front door that read, “You’ve got a lot of f’n nerve...we drove 300 f’n miles and you’re f’n closed. We won’t ever be back!”

This bothered me a lot, and I called Bert. He told me, “I never warned you about this because I hoped it wouldn’t happen to you, because it has happened to me, too, but the local officers take the notes off the door when checking the building. They knew the comments would upset me, so they just kept them and gave the notes to me later.”

This, and other incidents, made me realize I wasn’t cut out for a tourist business. The fun was the 40-plus years collecting and building a museum that educated and informed, and the honor of telling folks the history of a profession I dedicated my life to.

I finally told my wife I had to take this kind of abuse as a cop, but I didn’t have to take it as a civilian. Incidents like these, coupled with my Dad’s failing health, made the decision to close easier and the task of shutting down began. I have no regrets. (If there is any interest, I’ll be happy to tell the story in another article about how I disposed of my collection and provide tips to anyone considering downsizing.)

But this memoir is about my mentors, Bob and Bert, who I miss a lot and will cherish their memories and our times together.

RIP.  
JIM POST (5922 South Primrose Road, Lowell AR 72745)

SFPD Captain Challenge Coin

I forgot to include this San Francisco police challenge coin in the photos I sent you for the most recent article. It’s a very nice-looking coin for Captain Dominic Yin, who is now retired.

One side shows the SFPD shoulder patch and the Golden Gate Bridge superimposed over the United States flag, all in full color, and the legends, “CAPTAIN DOMINIC D. YIN #1778” at the top and “MA., MS., JD.” at the bottom. (The letters abbreviate his education



The personal challenge coin of San Francisco Police Department Captain Dominic D. Yin, who is now retired. His star number was “1778,” which is shown on both sides. One side depicts the SFPD patch, Golden Gate and the flag, while other side shows his star and “Night Captain” assignment. Rick Uland Collection

achievements.)  
The other side shows a gold seven-point star with the legends, “NIGHT” and “CAPTAIN,” on curved banners with “1778” in the center. On the outer ring are shown, “FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU, COMPANIES A-J,” at the top and “INVESTIGATIONS” at the bottom.  
RICK ULAND (PO Box 460211, San Francisco CA 94146)

Collecting News  
From Arizona

By Mike Lucas, Staff Writer

MESA, Ariz. – In January 2020, Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Training Commander Justin Griffith proposed an effort to pursue development of a sheriff’s museum.

There were historic photographs and pictures on the Sheriff’s Training Center walls, but there were no displays of historic artifacts. Static display cases located in the lobby hosted miscellaneous items, but nothing of notable interest.

January 15, 2020 was “go day” to seek historic items and begin quarterly rotations of displays of interest that focus on all units of the Sheriff’s Office, including deputy, detention, civilian and volunteer members.

There have been six different display rotations since that start date with the next rotation scheduled for July 1.

Outreach to current and retired members has brought in interesting items yet to be displayed and opened the door of interest to upper command for support of the goal of a perpetual museum.

The National Sheriff’s Association Annual Conference was held in Phoenix in mid-June. It is assumed that many participants, including hundreds of elected sheriffs from across the country, visited the Arizona Highway Patrol, Phoenix Police Museum and the historical displays at the Sheriff’s Training Center.

**Police museum collaboration** A county deputy sheriff interested in museums joined with the Phoenix Police Museum curators during the first opening of the PPD museum more than 25 years ago. County deputies and youth cadets have volunteered for community events and other activities at the museum over the years.

The Phoenix museum board recently approved and delivered the donation of a valuable and historic circa-1930s telephone switchboard kiosk, now on permanent display in the training center lobby. Four strong men struggled to load and unload the extremely heavy kiosk.

A sign on the kiosk reads, “Circa-1930-40’s Communications Switchboard. This historic switchboard is an example of ones used by many sheriff’s offices across the nation. Calls were received from the public and calls were transferred to office personnel or district stations.”

MIKE LUCAS (PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211)



The lobby of the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Training Center at 2627 South 35th Avenue in Phoenix offers rotating quarterly displays of department memorabilia and artifacts. It is hoped the collections will eventually spark development of a permanent department museum. Mike Lucas photograph



A better look at the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Training Center 1930-40’s telephone switchboard now on permanent display, thanks to recent collaboration with the Phoenix Police Museum. It took four strong men to carry and set up the extremely heavy metal device. Mike Lucas photograph





# California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society

Mike Bondarenko, Editor

## CLEHS Well Represented At 2020 National Police Collectors Show

The California Law Enforcement Historical Society had a significant impact on the Reno National Police Collectors show on June 11, 12 and 13.

CLEHS members won four of the five display contest awards, Gary Teragawa (Best of Show), Phil Colonnelli (Best Patch), Mike McCarthy (Best Specialty) and R. Tod Ruse (Best Educational).

In addition, Californians rented the most tables, and Golden State insignia was predominant, particularly historic badges and obsolete emblems.

President Gary Hoving donated significant display space at his outstanding exhibit to CLEHS with organization collectibles and a beautiful full-color poster devoted to the California Police Museum, the mobile collection that travels the length and breadth of the state to portray law enforcement history and show our hobby to the public.

The colorful new CLEHS patch was a very popular collectible, but many association hats and shirts were seen on the show floor.

"I'm very pleased by the CLEHS turnout. A lot of our members are here, which is good to see. Since we didn't have San Luis Obispo last year and 'Porky' this year, it has been a long time since members could get together," President Hoving said.

His observations were echoed by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith. "A great CLEHS turnout. A lot of members here. It's nice to see we're finally getting back together. It looks like SLO [San Luis Obispo] will be a very good show, too," he said.

Hoving featured a handsome exhibit featuring framed collections of patches and badges from the California Department of Justice, San Luis Obispo Police Department and Redlands Police Department.

He also made some nice additions to his collection, a vintage Redlands' captain's badge, an eagle-topped shield; a very old U.S. Internal Revenue Service prohibition badge and a Los Angeles Police Department Forensic Science challenge coin.

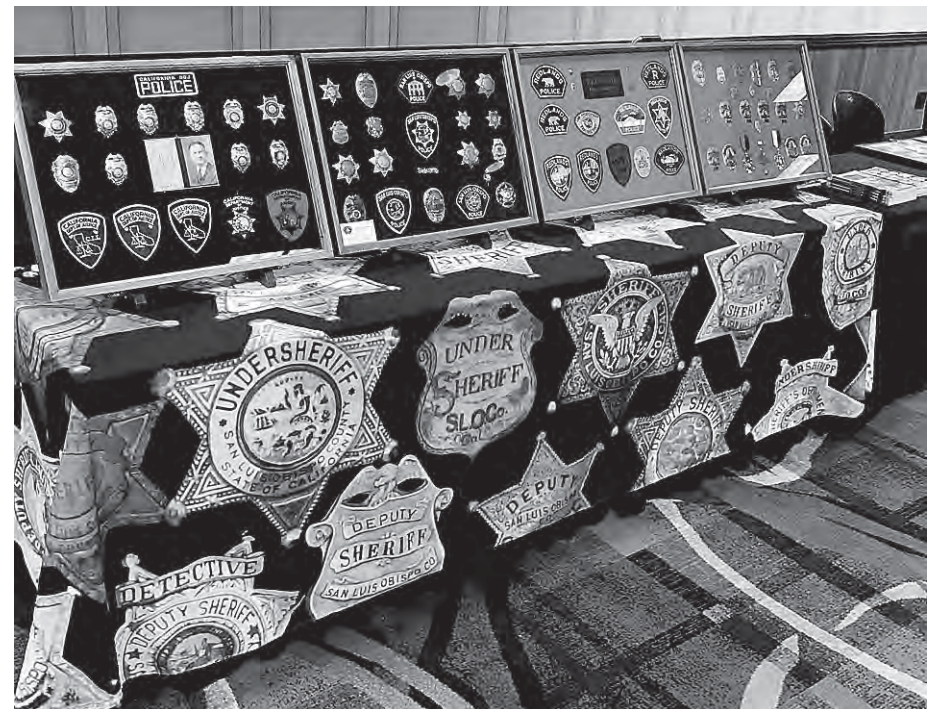
Smith came up with a prize collectible, too, a handsome 15-inch by 17-inch porcelain door sign from the defunct Needles Police Department in far eastern San Bernardino County. It depicts a full color version of the department's shoulder patch worn at the time. (The busy design depicts a mountain, a boat towing a water skier, a jumping fish and a golfer lining up a shot on a sunny course.)

Colonnelli improved his outstanding San Diego County collection by adding a Coronado police eagle-topped shield in the rank of lieutenant, a county marshal seven-point star, a colorful chief's oval from the Southwestern College Police, a La Jolla Reservation Police [Native American tribal] emblem and a very nice old Oceanside Harbor Police patch.

Best of all, Colonnelli was able to replace the first issue Glendora patch that was stolen from his truck in a February 2020 vehicle burglary.

Matthew Hutchens, host of the new show in Livermore, reported having a great National show. He went home with a treasure trove of historic badges and other collectibles for his fine collection.

He obtained old badges from San Francisco, San Mateo County, Livermore, California Board of Equalization Liquor Control chief officer and several others, including a very



California Law Enforcement Historical Society President Gary Hoving brought beautifully-framed collections to the National Show, California Department of Justice, San Luis Obispo Police Department and Redlands Police Department. Many Californians attended. *Contributed photograph*

interesting Civil Service Commissioner eagle-topped shield.

Hutchens obtained a collection devoted to J.J. Smith, the warden of Folsom Prison, including his personal badge, which is a five-point ball-tipped star with blue legends, "J.J. SMITH/ WARDEN/ FOLSOM/ PRISON/ CALIFORNIA." It features his pictures and an iconic photograph of the infamous main entrance to the historic prison.

Smith enjoyed a 37-year career in the California state prison system after growing up on the family farm in Sacramento County. He was hired in early 1889 as a Folsom guard at age 21 but was transferred to San Quentin before the end of the year.

Smith spent ten years at San Quentin and rose to the rank of lieutenant before he was transferred back to Folsom. He became warden in 1913, one of the first wardens to work his way up the ranks to the top job.

The new warden was known as a reformer. He used his agricultural background to establish a 200-acre farm at Folsom, which was a first in California. Seventy-five inmates



President Gary Hoving promoted the California Law Enforcement Historical Society at the Reno National Show with CLEHS collectibles and a large poster advertising the California Police Museum, the mobile exhibit that travels the state and introduces people to our hobby. *Contributed photograph*



Phil Colonnelli did well in Reno. The veteran CLEHS member added several nice things to his San Diego County collection, including a marshal's seven-point star, Coronado police lieutenant shield, Southwestern College chief oval, as well as two excellent patches. *Contributed photograph*





Matthew Hutchens had a very successful National Police Collectors Show, going home with a variety of San Francisco, San Mateo, Oakland and other badges. There is a very handsome and extremely rare Civil Service Commissioner eagle-topped shield in the lower left. *Contributed photograph*

worked on the farm. They harvested vegetables and fruits. They raised cows, pigs, sheep and chickens. The prisoners produced most of their own food, as well as food for other state institutions.

In 1927, Smith was ousted by the state as warden after 37 years of prison service. The official reason for his firing was the department's desire to consolidate the Folsom and San Quentin warden positions into one job. However, he also faced widespread criticism for objecting to some executions by hanging that took place at his facility. (Fifty men were hanged during his tenure.)

Finally, state police and highway collector Tony Aleria is a friend of well-known stock car driver Jim Donahue and his sons. One of their racers is a white Chevrolet emblazoned with the name of Aleria's badge, patch and challenge coin company, Centurion Coin.

"Jim's is a huge law enforcement supporter, so I'm proud to put my company name on one of his cars," Aleria said.

"CENTURION COIN.COM" can be seen in large blue letters on the sides of the car.

Collectors can learn more by visiting Donahue-Motorsports.Com. The team is headquartered in Chesterfield, Mo.

*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

## New Hosts Take Over Ripon, CLEHS Will Sponsor Show

The California Law Enforcement Historical Society will assume sponsorship of the longtime Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show following the retirement of former hosts Mike Lynch and Brian Smith, which was announced earlier this year.

The new hosts will be veteran collectors Mike McCarthy of San Francisco and Scott Welch of Oakland, according to an announcement made at the Reno National Police



(Top) A closeup view of former Folsom Prison Warden J.J. Smith's personalized badge. The silver five-point ball-tipped star carries his name and title. (Bottom) Matthew Hutchens obtained a collection that highlights the career of Warden Smith, as well as other collectibles. *Contributed photograph*



The Donahue Motor Sports Team of Chesterfield, Mo. advertises CLEHS member Tony Aleria's law enforcement insignia business, Centurions Coins and Emblems, on one of their Chevrolet cars. The racers are friends with Aleria, a former CHP motor officer. *Contributed photograph*

Collectors Show by President Gary Hoving.

"We didn't want this show to end. It's long-running and well-attended. We'll keep the same format, except that the CLEHS will sponsor it. We'll do everything we can to help the new hosts get started," Hoving said.

The insignia show will continue its partnership with the annual public safety vehicle show hosted by Darryl Lindsay. McCarthy and Welch will run the patch and badge show, while Lindsay will continue to host the vehicle show. Lindsay's show is traditionally one of the largest and best-attended emergency vehicle events in California.

The joint shows are traditionally held the first Saturday of October at the Ripon Community Center at 334 Fourth Street. This year's shows will be Saturday, October 2 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Admission is free.

Fifty eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. Early reservations are recommended because Ripon is always an annual sellout.

Lindsay announced setup day for the car show will be Friday, October 1. Attendees are invited to come in early, meet the early arrivals and see some of the vehicles on display. There will be a 6 pm cruise informal emergency vehicle cruise to a Sonic Drive-In Restaurant in Ripon.

In addition to Ripon, CLEHS will continue to host and sponsor the annual mid-July badge and patch show in San Luis Obispo.

Badge and patch collectors can find out more about the insignia show by contacting President Hoving at CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, (805) 441-4936 or calpolicehistory@aol.com.

## San Joaquin County Sheriff Supports Hobby

When San Joaquin County voters elected Patrick Withrow as their new sheriff two years ago, only a handful of them knew the then-29-year department veteran has a lifelong interest in law enforcement history and supports our hobby.

R. Tod Ruse was among them, as were his fellow members of the department historical preservation committee, which has worked tirelessly to preserve Sheriff's Office history.

"Sheriff Withrow expressed his support for our committee while he was candidate. He has followed through ever since he took office. He has been great to work with and very supportive of everything we've done," Ruse said.

While San Joaquin County has one of the largest and most complete official sheriff's office collections in California, the committee now takes more of a countywide approach, rather than a department approach, which the new sheriff strongly supports.

Committee members include collectors, historians, local officials, such as Nadeja M. Steager, chief aide to Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln, who attended the Reno National Show, and representatives of interested public safety agencies.

Ruse said serious consideration is being given to a countywide public safety day with emphasis on historical exhibits, not only by the Sheriff's Office, but also by police, fire and emergency medical service departments in the county. The event would include a law enforcement insignia collectors show.

"We had a show and exhibit at the county fairgrounds a few years ago, but this one would include as many public safety agencies in the county as wish to showcase their history, not just the sheriff's office. The departments would be personally invited by Sheriff Withrow to bring displays, artifacts and memorabilia, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if it would attract some vintage vehicles, too," Ruse said.

Chief Aide Steager said the city of Stockton would "definitely" participate in the event.

"The Mayor's Office would do anything we can to encourage our city departments to put up exhibits, and we would publicize the event as a tribute to the long and proud histories of our police, fire and emergency service workers, who very much deserve the recognition," she said.

When Ruse, who is the official department historian, showed a segment of the department collection at a local historical society event, he was overwhelmed by the response.



(Left) R. Tod Ruse designed this walking bear badge for the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Patrick Withrow approved it as an alternative star. Three hundred eight deputies have purchased one from Ed Jones Company. (Right) The retro walking bear patch. *Contributed photographs*





The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office has this retro shoulder patch with a walking bear in the center design. The sheriff has been highly supportive of efforts by the department's historical preservation committee to promote projects to preserve the agency's legacy. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"It went over big. I stood in front of the display and answered questions for three or four hours. I was overwhelmed by the interest because these people are not in law enforcement, but they are interested in local history," Ruse said.

In addition to expressing support for a public safety day and show, Sheriff Withrow has spearheaded a renewed internal effort to preserve department history, especially old documents and records, since he took office in January 2019.

"Something he is very aware of, due to his interest in history, is that paper records deteriorate over time, and a lot of what's in the archives now is literally rotting away, because it's not in the proper client-controlled environment to preserve it. We're doing everything we can to save as much as we can as quickly as we can," Ruse said.

The collector cited an exciting example of Sheriff Withrow's interest in department history by his unique 2020 authorization of an alternative retro badge for his deputies.

"Last year, I proposed that we return to a badge that shows the California walking bear. We had walking bears on our insignia years ago; now, our patches and badges have the state seal. I designed a proposed retro badge and had Ed Jones make a prototype. Sheriff Withrow loved it. He approved it as an alternative badge," Ruse said.

Now, San Joaquin County has two official seven-point star badges, the county issue with the state seal and the alternative with the walking bear, which may be a first in California. Deputies have the option of wearing either badge, although they must purchase the alternative star themselves. It is not mandatory.

"Believe it or not, 380 deputies have purchased the alternative badge, including the sheriff and most of the command staff. I had no idea it would be so popular," Ruse said.

There is also a handsome retro patch that replicates the original shoulder emblem. It, too, features the walking bear.

Ruse recalled that not long after Sheriff Withrow took office, he asked about getting some old department collectibles for himself. He indicated an interest in obtaining historic weapons.

"I got him a couple badges, which was no problem. But then, I was at a local gun show when an elderly gentlemen approached me and showed an old rifle marked 'San Joaquin Co.' on the barrel. It was a 1947 Winchester Model 94 lever-action. The man wanted \$1500 for it. He didn't know much about it, other to say he had acquired it years ago and now wanted to sell it," Ruse said.

"I called the sheriff and was told he was interested in the rifle. I told him the owner was pretty firm on the price, but he didn't bat an eye. He said if it could be authenticated as coming from our department, he'd buy it," the collector recalled.

Ruse went to work and quickly located photographs of San Joaquin County deputies training with Winchester Model 94 rifles. As a result, the historic piece is now in Sheriff Withrow's personal collection.

So, is the county sheriff a collector, like San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson, who serves on the CLEHS board?

"I can't answer that question, but I can say he is very definitely interested in what we do," Ruse said.

Ruse was unable to offer a timeline for the possible public safety day and concurrent insignia collectors show. "If I had to say, I think early next year would work best, maybe March or April, but that's very tentative. We would need a lot of time to get this organized and publicized," he said.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko*



A former undersheriff of San Luis Obispo carried this .44-caliber pistol during his law enforcement career. President Gary Hoving put together this display showing three county sheriff badges to accent the weapon, which was recently acquired by CLEHS from a historical society. *Gary Hoving photograph*

## CLEHS Acquires Historic Weapons Collection

The California Law Enforcement Historical Society recently acquired a firearms collection from a local historical society, according to an announcement by President Gary Hoving.

"While discussing a historical event with the president of that historical society, the topic of firearms came up, including information about the historic law enforcement connections to a number of pieces," President Gary Hoving announced. He did not disclose the name of the other historical society.

"As the conversation progressed, it was learned that the firearms would likely never be on display within their museum, based on their primary focus and lack of suitably trained personnel for the collection," he continued.

Hoving also discussed changes in the California Penal Code requiring a Department of Justice-approved safe and the potential exposure to criminal penalties [by the Board of Directors] should an improperly stored firearm be used to injure someone. "Do know [that] this was a casual fact-sharing conversation and certainly not a scare tactic," the president said.

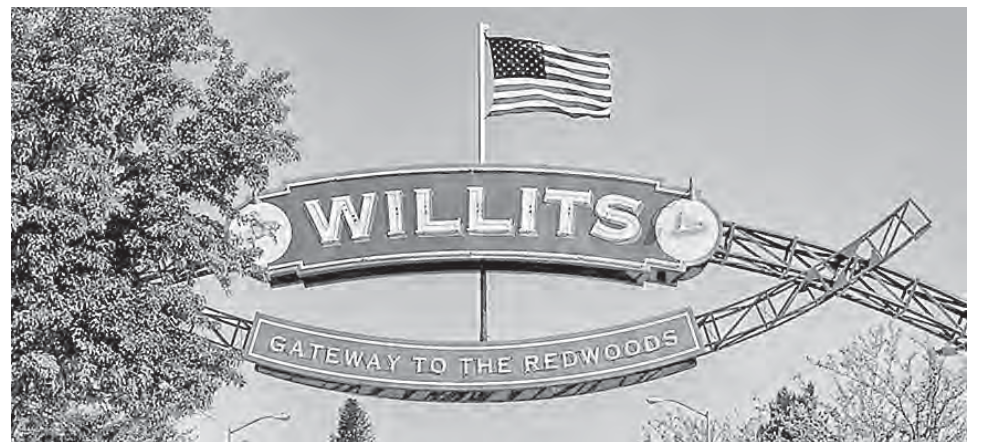
Hoving and the other historical society president reached agreement that CLEHS would obtain the firearms and properly care for them. It required CLEHS to obtain a federal firearms license (FFL) allowing the organization to collect up to 50 weapons manufactured before 1971 without transfer through a dealer, as well as a state justice department (DOJ) eligibility certificate.

"It was noted that about half of the collection was manufactured prior to 1898, which are considered antiques and do not need the FFL or DOJ for registration," Hoving said.

The historic collection includes a flintlock musket rifle, Civil War rifles and pistols, World War I and World War II rifles. In addition, a number of the pistols were used by the San Luis Obispo County undersheriff, including his .44-caliber duty revolver.

Hoving said the newly acquired weapons are being researched and further information on the collection will be forthcoming.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*



It was 1995 when Reno, Nev. donated a sign that hung over the entrance to their downtown area to Willits. The sign now reads, "Willits/ Gateway to the Redwoods," on one side and "Willits/ Heart of Mendocino County" on the other. It is impressive when it is lit up at night. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

## A Wide Spot In The Road

"Gateway To The Redwoods" is on one side and "Heart of Mendocino County" on the other side of the sign over Highway 101 when you enter Willits.

The sign over the highway used to read, "Reno/ The Biggest Little City In The World," but, in 1995, the Nevada city donated it to Willits and the city changed it to what it now reads.

Willits is very proud to be known as the "Heart of Mendocino County."

In the 1850s, the area was inhabited by the Pomo Indians and known as Little Lake. Ranching and lumbering have always played a prominent role in the economy of Willits ever since people started settling the area. There are still some rather large ranches in the area and two working lumber mills.

It wasn't until 1888 that the town became incorporated. It was named Willits after its founder, Hiram Willits. It was known as Willitsville for a short while.

Infamous bandit Charles Bowles must have liked the area. While Bowles was living in San Francisco, he committed six holdups of Wells Fargo strongboxes and mail in the area around Willits. He was better known by the name he penned on the notes he left behind at his crime scenes, "Black Bart."

"Black Bart" was eventually caught, did his time in prison and walked out of the gates in January 1888 a free man. He was only heard from twice through correspondence before he slipped into obscurity.

The famous racehorse, "Seabiscuit," was trained during part of its career at the Ridgewood Ranch. The ranch is located a few miles south of Willits. It was 2003 when a



(Left) The Willits shoulder patch is California Highway Patrol style. There is a yellow seven-point star with the city logo in the center. (Right) The current badge is a seven-point star. The state seal is shown with etching on each point of the star. The number is on the bottom point. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



popular movie about the famous horse was released.

When Seabiscuit was retired, he was put out to pasture at the same ranch. He went on to sire 108 foals during his retirement. Wow! Talk about retirement benefits!

Seabiscuit was visited by 50,000 admirers in the seven years before his death on May 17, 1947.

The towns of Willits and Fort Bragg have become quite famous for the Skunk Train, which used to make regularly-scheduled trips between the cities. The train has been running through the redwoods and the Noyo River Canyon since 1885. Currently, the Willits Depot offers a two-hour round trip through the redwoods and the canyon.

Every July the city hosts its Frontier Days and Rodeo. The festival and rodeo during the Independence Day holiday are California's oldest continuous celebration, having started in 1927. The celebration is anticipated by Willits residents and thousands of people from many miles away. It is hard to miss the approximately 20-foot-tall cowboy statue at the Rodeo Grounds.

Willits is home to the Roots of Motive Railroad and Logging Museum. What an impressive display of logging and railroad history! The Mendocino County Museum is almost right next door to the Motive Museum. The two museums work closely with each other. I had visited the museum on a previous trip and was really impressed with the displays and the effort to present local history. I highly recommend you stop in if you have the time and are in the area.

Willits' current population is somewhere around 4888 hearty souls.

The city is located on Highway 101 about 136 miles north of San Francisco, which translates to about an hour and 20-minute drive. From Willits, it is about 35 miles over a very winding two-lane road to the Pacific Ocean and the city of Fort Bragg.

When I called the Police Department to make an appointment, I was surprised the chief is Fabian Lizarraga. You may remember the name from September 2019 when I interviewed him when he was chief in Fort Bragg.

When I arrived at the police station, Chief Lizarraga met me in the lobby, and we masked-up before heading to his office. We spent a short time getting caught up on what has been happening in our lives since we last spoke a year and a half ago. I had to ask the chief why he made the move to Willits from Fort Bragg. He said the city found they needed a new chief, so Lizarraga thought he could help out.

The PD was started in 1888 when the city was incorporated. I was unable to find much history of the department and its early years. There was a lynching and a family feud that made the news back in the late 1800s.

I was unable to find out if Willits ever had its own constable or marshal. I do know that my great-grandfather was a constable for the Ten Mile District in the late 1800s, and there were numerous constables assigned to many areas of Mendocino County.

Willits, which is only 2.8 square miles, is patrolled by 11 sworn officers. There is one lieutenant, two sergeants (with authorization for a third) and seven officers. Currently, there are no reserve officers on the department. There are four dispatchers and one crime scene officer.

The city does not have an Explorer post, nor are any officers assigned to the five schools in its jurisdiction. Willits used to have a canine unit, but currently does not.

In 2018, the PD had 12,000 calls for service. In 2020 that number was down to 9700.

Chief Lizarraga was aware of only four shoulder patches used by the department and could not say how many badges have been used. I seem to remember about five badges in a display case on the wall in the chief's office.

Although the PD has two holding cells, arrestees are immediately transported to Ukiah, the county seat, which is 20 miles south of the city.

Backup comes from the California Highway Patrol, Mendocino County deputy sheriffs and California Fish and Game.

The department is still using some Ford Crown Victorias, which they are phasing out. Ford Explorers with the police package are the workhorses of the department and loved by the troops.

In November 2016, Highway 101 opened a bypass around Willits. I asked Chief Lizarraga if since the bypass opened, the number of traffic incidents has been reduced. He said, surprisingly enough, the number of incidents has stayed pretty much the same.

Of course, during the summer, there is a lot of traffic heading to Fort Bragg and the coast on Highway 20, which goes through downtown Willits.

I asked Chief Lizarraga what is the best thing was about working in Willits. He did not delay in saying, "The community itself. It is a challenge to bring the department back to a favorable position with the community. The COVID Pandemic has delayed interaction with the department. The small town atmosphere is always refreshing, and we are busy enough to not be overwhelming."

I am sorry to report that due to the pandemic, the city would not allow a ride-along. I look forward to the ride-alongs. So, I did my own ride through the city.

I found diversity throughout the city. There are beautiful Victorian homes mixed with

really upscale homes, as well as some rough-looking neighborhoods. A lot of businesses cater to the marijuana culture here. Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity Counties are known as the Emerald Triangle for more reasons than the evergreen forests!

If you find yourself driving north on Highway 101 toward the California Redwoods, make sure you allot some extra time to stop in Willits, see the museums and maybe take a trip on the famous Skunk Train. You won't be disappointed.

Submitted by Mike DeVilbiss



*Manhunt* was a Screen Gems-produced 78-episode syndicated television series. It aired for two seasons from 1959 to 1961. It portrayed police detectives investigating actual San Diego Police Department criminal cases and a newspaperman who covers them. *Contributed photographs*

## “Manhunt” Dramatized San Diego Police Cases From 1959 To 1961

Social media often triggers reaction. When longtime California collector Phil Colonnelli recently reminisced over the police and crime drama, *Manhunt*, he brought back long-forgotten memories, at least for us older CLEHS members.

*Manhunt* was a syndicated series that aired for only two seasons in 1959 to 1961. Seventy-eight 30-minute episodes dramatized mostly real and a few imagined San Diego police cases. It focused on criminal investigations, much like *Dragnet*, which portrayed a team of Los Angeles police detectives as they worked cases.

Each script was reviewed and approved by the police department, which cooperated with the producers and allowed use of their facilities, vehicles, uniforms and insignia. The series was filmed entirely on location in San Diego.

*Manhunt* starred longtime movie and television actor Victor Jory as Lieutenant Howard Finucane, a fictional SDPD detective, and Patrick McVey as fictional police reporter Ben Andrews.

Canadian-born actor Jory portrayed the tough-talking, no nonsense Detective Lieutenant Finucane, who commanded a squad of dedicated crime sleuths. Even though he was a lieutenant, Finucane spends most of his time in the field becoming directly involved in cases by tracking down leads, interviewing witnesses, making arrests and solving crimes.

McVey's character, Andrews, is a hard-working newspaperman who works the police beat, but often finds himself in the center of the action. He has a close relationship with Lieutenant Finucane, who gives him virtually unlimited access to crime scenes and suspect interviews. The reporter has his own police headquarters office and often rides with the lieutenant!

During a 1959 newspaper interview, Jory described *Manhunt* as a dialogue series, not an action series.

"There is a minimum of violence. In the first 11 episodes, I only fire my gun twice, and there is only one fight," he said.

Jory revealed that a real San Diego police detective lieutenant was on the set for every filming to act as a technical advisor. "This could be the most accurate police series ever," the actor said.

*Code 3* was another Southern California syndicated crime drama that aired on CBS



(Top) Since around 2002 the Ford Crown Vic has been the workhorse of many police agencies throughout the USA. Willits PD still has a few of them. (Bottom) The four-wheel drive Ford Explorer is the now the vehicle of choice in Willits. The rigs are black and white. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



Victor Jory played Detective Lieutenant Howard Finucane on *Manhunt* from 1959 to 1961. Jory's character was a no nonsense, hard-working San Diego detective who spends most of his time in the field, tracking down leads, interviewing witnesses and making arrests. *Contributed photographs*



Television in 1957. Each 30-minute episode focused on criminal cases worked by a team of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department detectives headed by Detective Lieutenant Bill Hollis, portrayed by Fred Wayne, Detective Sergeant Al Zavala, played by Christopher Dark and Detective Sergeant Fred Coombs, played by Douglas Kennedy.

There were 39 episodes. Each one opened with calls being received and dispatched to radio cars from the downtown sheriff's office. A uniformed sergeant is shown broadcasting a call with his walking bear patch and sergeants stripes clearly visible. The shows ended with a closeup of the department's six-point star badge shown behind the credits.

Each story is introduced by a fictitious Assistant Sheriff George Barnett, who is shown behind a desk and wearing a suit. He is portrayed by Richard Travis.

Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz closes each episode by telling viewers they have just watched an actual case solved by the LASD. Sheriff Biscailuz served for 26 years from 1932 to 1958. He plays himself in five episodes. Apparently, the sheriff liked being in front of the camera.

Selected episodes of *Manhunt* and *Code 3* can be viewed on You Tube.

Thanks, Phil Colonnelli, for the memories!

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko*

## Photographer Publishes Book Of Pictures About The LAPD

In 1994, The New York Times Magazine dispatched photo journalist Joseph Rodriguez to Los Angeles to document the day-to-day duties of Los Angeles Police Department officers three years after the riots that erupted in the aftermath of the Rodney King Incident.

LAPD gave Rodriguez unprecedented access to show the nation and the world what it was like to be a street cop in the nation's second-largest city. He accompanied officers on dozens of calls for service at all hours of the day and night for two weeks, mostly in the Rampart Division.

Using a 35-millimeter camera and flash and Kodiak color film, Rodriguez photographed officers performing all manner of duties, everything from investigating murders to handling domestics to arresting gang members to writing traffic crashes.

Even though Rodriguez took hundreds of photographs, only a relatively small number were published in the magazine.

Now, nearly three decades later, Rodriguez is out with a hardcover book, *LAPD 1994*, that chronicles his effort to depict policing through the eyes of LAPD officers. It was published last December.

Rodriguez believes he was given behind-the-scenes access because the department wanted to improve its tattered image in the aftermath of Rodney King through an impartial review, as well as provide an opportunity to convey what officers face on the street every day and night. It is a rare inside look at the LAPD in 1994.

"Whenever you get access like that, you have to take advantage of it because it rarely comes around," he told NBC News in a recent interview about the new book.

The images capture quiet moments followed by violent eruptions. Pictures show suspected criminals being arrested and booked, officers dealing with people from all walks of life and sharing tender moments with crime victims.

Rodriguez was touched by reactions that many officers had to situations they encountered, particularly a female officer who sobbed in the aftermath of a particularly violent domestic during which the victim was badly injured.

Reviewers call the book "balanced" and "impartial," although LAPD has not officially commented on it.

It is available from major booksellers.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko*

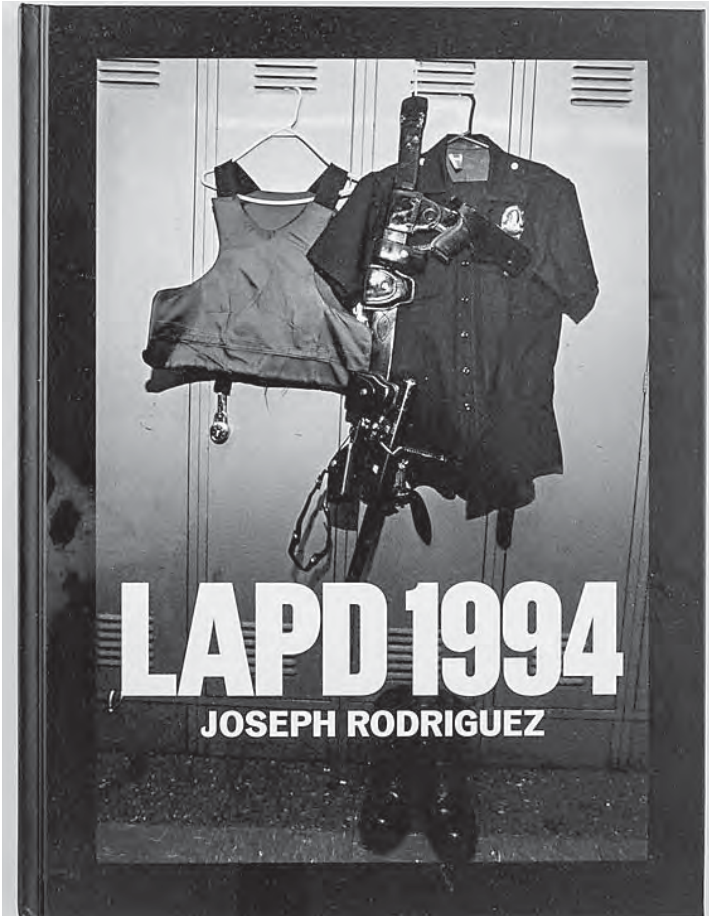
## CLEHS President Gary Hoving Preserves Police History

I was called by my favorite local antique dealer with an estate sales find. It included a Santa Barbara County deputy marshal breast badge and a chief deputy sheriff cap piece.

In addition, the set included a California Judges, Marshals and Constables Association gold lapel pin, several pins from Santa Barbara County and a few other small pins.

The point for collectors is to establish a relationship with local antique dealers so you get the first call on items that become available.

The Santa Barbara County deputy marshal badge is a retired seven-point star issued to



*LAPD 1994* is a collection of photos that journalist Joseph Rodriguez took while spending two weeks on the job with Los Angeles police officers. It shows Rampart Division officers, as well as members of special units, responding to calls for service ranging from urgent to mundane. *Contributed photograph*



(Top) A beautiful gold-colored retired Santa Barbara County deputy marshal badge that was presented to M.M. Van de Mark in 1964. (Lower left) Santa Barbara County chief deputy hat badge. (Lower right) California Judges, Marshals and Constables Association pin. *Gary Hoving photograph*

M.M. Van de Mark in 1964. It is gold-colored shield with a full color state seal as the center design. Blue legends read, "RETIRED/ DEPUTY MARSHAL/ SANTA BARBARA COUNTY/ M.M. DE MARK/ 1964." "1964" is seen on a small bottom banner.

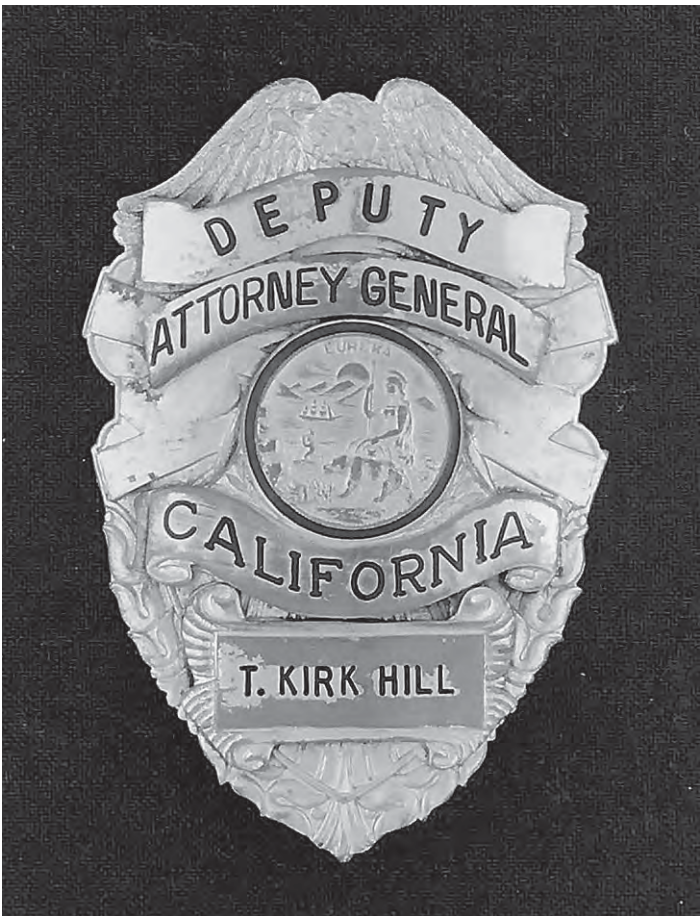
A nice chief deputy sheriff cap badge from Santa Barbara County shows the state seal and the legends, "CHIEF" over the seal and "DEPUTY SHERIFF" beneath it. It is gold-colored.

The handsome association pin is gold-colored with a walking bear as the center design and scales of justice suspended from the top two star points. White legends are shown on a blue banner that surrounds the walking bear, "JUDICIAL, MARSHALS & CONSTABLES ASSN."

I recently traded for a deputy attorney general badge once carried by T. Kirk Hill. It is gold-colored eagle-topped shield with the state seal as the center design. Blue legends appear on banner, "DEPUTY/ ATTORNEY GENERAL/ CALIFORNIA/ T. KIRK HILL."

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

**SFPD ALERT Volunteers** The San Francisco Police Department has a dedicated team of volunteers on its Auxiliary Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT), whose members recently adopted new uniform jackets and shirts. The new shirts and jackets are adorned with cloth seven-point star badges. (Officers wear the SFPD shoulder patch with a "VOLUNTEER" rocker above it.) ALERT members were very visible throughout the city during the pandemic, handing out masks and informing people about the city's COVID-19 restrictions.



T. Kirk Hill served as a deputy attorney general in California. His badge is a slim gold-colored eagle-topped shield with the state seal as the center design. The legend reads, "DEPUTY/ ATTORNEY GENERAL/ T. KIRK HILL." Gary Hoving recently added it to his collection. *Gary Hoving photograph*





Blonde-haired, blue-eyed Bessie Ferguson, a very attractive 34-year old single woman in Oakland, disappeared and was murdered while on a trip to San Francisco in mid-August 1925. Although the case was never solved, Alameda County Frank Bartnet was a suspect. *Contributed photograph*

## When A California Sheriff Became A Murder Suspect

Bessie Ferguson was a very attractive, single 34-year old nurse in Oakland when she went missing on August 19, 1925.

The fair-haired blue-eyed blonde was also an accomplished extortionist.

Ferguson was having affairs with four prominent Bay Area married men, including Alameda County Sheriff Frank Bartnet, as well as a doctor and a dentist in Oakland and an accountant in San Francisco, all at the same time, when she disappeared during a trip to San Francisco.

Ferguson's mother, with whom she lived, reported her daughter missing to Oakland police after she did not return home. They launched a missing person investigation.

The probe yielded few clues and only questions for Oakland police until they were contacted by the Contra Contra County sheriff with a grisly discovery a few days later. A youngster walking along the coastal fringes of El Cerrito had found a human scalp dangling from tule weeds. The hair was blond and believed to be female.

Two days later, a canvas sack floating in East Bay between Alameda and Oakland was recovered by a bridge tender. Inside were found a skull covered with blond hair that had been sawed into two pieces, leg bones and arm bones, also believed to be female.

Oakland police determined from dental records that the remains were those of Bessie Ferguson. The missing person case became a murder investigation.

Later, a subsequent search of the estuary yielded the clothing her mother said she had been wearing the last time she saw her alive, as well as a bloody automobile wrench. It is believed she was killed by blunt force trauma to her head.

When her distraught mother was told her body had been found, she told officers that her daughter had a money-making scheme to enhance her otherwise meager income as a nurse.

Her mother explained Ferguson extorted her well-to-do lovers by telling each of them that he had fathered her child and asked each one for money to pay her living expenses so she could raise the child. It was a scam; none of the men fathered a child with her. She had

no children, her mother said.

When police searched Bessie Ferguson's room for clues to her disappearance and murder, they found several handwritten love letters from Sheriff Bartnet and other suitors. The sheriff begged her to keep their affair secret and assured her he would take care of her financial needs. Her other lovers expressed similar sentiments in their letters.

Oakland police contacted each of the four letter writers, including an obviously embarrassed county sheriff. However, none of the men offered any leads on either her disappearance or murder.

In early September, another search in the El Cerrito marsh where the skull and clothing had been found discovered hundreds of torn scraps of paper. When investigators pieced the scraps together, they found parts of letters and calling cards from the Oakland doctor and dentist. Police suspected the killer attempted to focus suspicion on the doctors who had strong alibis.

The investigation focused on Gordon Rowe, the San Francisco accountant. A second interview with him resulted in inconsistencies in his earlier story. After he initially told investigators he knew Ferguson but hadn't seen her in a year, he changed his story and admitted he had talked with her on the telephone a week before her disappearance.

Rowe admitted that Ferguson asked him to meet him at a San Francisco hotel but he declined. However, a hotel clerk and a bellhop both identified him as a man who had visited her not long before she went missing. Other inconsistencies surfaced.

Oakland police strongly believed Rowe killed Ferguson. They interrogated him for hours on end several times, but he did not confess. Yet, they lacked sufficient evidence to arrest and charge him.

The Bessie Ferguson murder remains unsolved to this day. It is still an open Oakland police case.

Meanwhile, even though Oakland police never officially named Sheriff Bartnet as a suspect in the Ferguson murder, rumors widely circulated that he had had an affair with her and had been interviewed by police about her disappearance and murder. A letter he wrote to her about accompanying him on a trip to Seattle was published in the local newspaper.

A year after the murder, Sheriff Bartnet was up for re-election. His opponent was Burton F. Becker, a former Piedmont police chief, who ran on a law-and-order platform. Becker embraced Christian morals and supported Prohibition. He was also a well known high-ranking member of the Oakland Klu Klux Klan.

Alameda County voters chose Klansman Becker over incumbent Bartnet, an admitted adulterer and suspected murderer, by a wide margin.

Ultimately, Sheriff Becker's career ended in a San Quentin prison cell.

Even though he ran for the office as an outspoken Prohibition supporter, the sheriff secretly established a massive illegal alcohol operation in his department. His deputies extorted protection money from rural still operators and raided those who refused to pay. He also bribed federal agents to tip him off to impending raids so he could avoid detection.

Earl Warren, the Alameda County district attorney, who would later become chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, investigated Sheriff Becker and the Oakland Police Department. He found 250 Oakland officers divided \$50,000 in protection money from speakeasies between them each month, while at the same time selling them bootleg alcohol at twice the going rate.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko*

## End California Police Historian

# Arizona Memories

By Skip Skinner, Staff Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. – I wanted to share with our readers the progression of badges used by the Tucson Police Department through the years 1871 to 1960.

For many years now, the badge styles used and the order in which they were used has been misinterpreted and/or misunderstood. I hope to correct some of that here.

I will not be covering all the title variations, such as chiefs of police, who usually wore something different than the beat cop, or badges used by the different divisions within the department. Rank sets will not be covered, nor will special personally-made badges and presentation pieces. There are too many variations to cover them all. Just the basic issue badge will be featured here. I will also touch somewhat on uniforms.

This article is not intended to cover the department history or events that have taken place over the years. The information presented here is based on my research over the



The murder of Bessie Ferguson of Oakland made front page news in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1925. The case became sensational because four prominent men that Ferguson extorted became suspects in her death, including the Alameda County sheriff. *San Francisco Chronicle photograph*



(Top) A Tucson Police service center is adorned with this chronology of badges the agency has worn during its 150-year history. However, the chronology is incorrect. (Bottom) The first known group picture of Tucson police officers was taken about 1873 to 1883. *Mary Skinner photographs*



**Tucson police history** First, a brief history on early law enforcement in Tucson. The first law enforcement came from the Republic of Mexico and administered by an alcalde, similar to a chief of police or sheriff of today. After the Gadsden Purchase in 1853, Tucson became part of Dona Ana County in New Mexico Territory. Law enforcement came by a deputy sheriff dispatched out of Mesilla. A local person served in the constable position. Citizens felt they were not well represented by the law out of New Mexico, so, in 1860, residents adopted a code of laws. Mike Aldrich was appointed alcalde, the first Anglo to hold this position. Juan Elias was the constable. Aldrich lasted only two months. Others would follow in those positions. Jumping ahead to April 22, 1871, Tucson was incorporated as a village. On May 17, the first town marshal for the village was elected, William Morgan. He lasted only two weeks. During the early years, Tucson experienced a high turnover of marshals. Morgan was followed by John Miller, who left in 1872. Then there was Francis Hodges. Following him, Constable Francisco Esparza was appointed to fill the marshal vacancy until 1875.

Now on to their badges. Several years ago the department decided to build exhibits outside some of their headquarters buildings around the city. I have shown a closeup of one of these displays. I feel it's incorrect as to the progression of badges because it leaves out the first issue. I believe it incorrectly shows a style they depict as the second issue but it's actually a variation of the third issue. Both have ball tips, while the second issue has none. The fourth issue is speculative. I have shown the earliest known group photograph of the department. The officers appear to be having a great time and seem to be celebrating something. I have been able to piece together details that help me to narrow a date for this photograph. I have been able to identify two officers from other known photos. In the front row and seated in the center is Francisco Esparza. He came on the force when it was formed and stayed with them until he left in 1885. He died in 1887. To his left with one leg up on a chair is Michael Mahoney, who died in 1885. (I have the names of the others in the picture but am unsure which name goes with which person.) We know Tucson did not have badges until 1881. They also had no uniform of sorts, although their jackets are similar in the group photograph. No badges are visible. At the far right in the photograph is a Winchester Model 1873 rifle. The department still has this rifle on display in their main lobby. I am not sure if it is visible in the photo, but there is a flowering weed sticking out of the rifle barrel. Based on this information, I date the photo between 1873 and 1883. I would like to point out that many of the officers are wearing white hats. This was actually their very first form of identification. Problem was others in the community also wore white hats! Being that Tucson had such a small population at the time, everyone knew who the police were, so what's the big deal with badges? "We don't need no stinking badges."

**First issue badge** In early 1880, a visitor to the city from New Jersey complained in a letter to the editor of the Citizen, the local paper, that he could not find a policeman to ask for directions. No visible forms of identification could he find. No one told him about the white hats, I guess. In 1881, partly in response to that letter and other complaints, the officers were told to purchase badges for themselves. No uniform requirements were made. I am unsure how many actually purchased a badge since they had little money to do so and the order was not strictly enforced. In those days everything was hard to come by. The department was not well off in its own right. They had one pair of handcuffs to go around. One pistol worked but another had no firing pin. And, of course, they had the Winchester rifle. The working pistol and handcuffs were passed from the day shift to the night shift and vice versa. I am not sure about the rifle. In the Charter of 1883, police were required not only to wear a badge but to be uniformed as well. The reason for the charter was that many of the officers did not wear



Francisco Esparza was a constable when he was appointed as city marshal in 1870s. He joined police department and remained on duty until 1885. He is shown wearing badge number "7." Skip Skinner believes this outstanding picture was taken between 1883 to 1885. *Mary Skinner photograph*

badges or any standard uniform. More authority was needed to enforce the wearing of badges and now uniforms. As in the past, officers were required to pay for these items themselves. There really was no standard style or color of uniform until 1930. Prior to that time, it was a hodgepodge of colors and styles. It is known that, in 1902, Chief Joseph Hopley ordered new olive green uniforms with gilt buttons for the men, but there was no mention of badges. In this case the city paid for the items after Chief Hopley complained to Mayor Levi Manning the reason for many of the officers not wearing badges or matching uniforms was because they did not have the extra money to pay for them. I have shown Francisco Esparza wearing a coat and vest with a thin tie around his neck. He is wearing a plain shield design badge. It was nickel in color with black legends. The legend reads, "TUCSON/ 7/ POLICE." I am not sure about the coat and vest colors; possibly light gray with what appears to be a black tie. The photo is not dated, but it is believed to have been taken sometime between 1883 to 1885. As for documentation, I could find only two cabinet card photos depicting this early uniform of sorts and badge, one for Esparza and one for Mahoney. Not included with this article is the photo of Mahoney, dated 1885. He is wearing a similar coat but with dark trim around the collar. No vest or tie. His shirt looks white and buttoned to the top. The badge is the same style as Esparza is wearing and numbered "3." No first issue badges have surfaced to date. However, I suspect some will start to appear after this article. I inquired why this early shield was not included in the department badge display and given first issue status. The historian at the time told me they could not find an example to have a casting made for the display and did not want to work from photos. I would date the first issue badge as being used from 1883 to about 1895. Again, I am not sure what they might have worn from 1881 to 1883 because no pictures can be found showing a badge. (There are no details about the uniform either, just what we see in the photo of Esparza.) The size of the badge or the maker are unknown. However, it does resemble the first



(Top) This is the second issue Tucson badge. It was used from 1895 to about 1910. (Lower left) Officer Jesus Camacho wore this variation of the third issue. He joined TPD in 1910. (Lower right) The third issue badge was worn in the early 1900s and was made in Los Angeles. *Mary Skinner photographs*



Group photographs of Tucson police officers taken in 1916 (top) and 1917 (bottom) show their badges. The 1916 picture shows some officers wearing the second issue and others wearing the third issue. The 1917 picture shows most officers wearing the third issue. *Mary Skinner photographs*



## Arizona Memories ...Continued

issue badge worn by the police in Denver. We did have some badges made by early Colorado companies, so it is possible it was Denver made.

**Early badge confusion** Here is where Tucson badge history gets confusing. In the department display, they have a six-point star as the first issue. Not! It's their second issue. I have shown this badge. It's a large (three inches tall), nickel-plated and once had black lettering. It is hallmarked "Northwestern Stamp Works, St. Paul Minn." The legend reads, "CITY/ POLICE 4/ TUCSON/ ARIZ."

I believe this badge was in use from about 1895 to about 1910 but may well have been used into the Teens. It is the only known example of this badge that has surfaced.

Next, they have a six-point ball-tipped star as their second issue. I believe it's actually a variation of the third issue, which is also shown.

This badge was worn by Jesus Camacho, who came on the department in 1910. The badge reads, "CITY OF/ TUCSON/ 5/ POLICE." It is about three inches tall and not hallmarked.

Here is where a big mistake has been made in identifying this badge as being issued in copper. I've examined this badge in person and found that Camacho polished this badge down to its copper base metal. Much of the nickel plating can still be seen on the back and some in the recesses of the legend on the front.

It was thought for years and even in a book or two shown as a copper badge. I repeat: Tucson did not issue this design in copper.

However, because the layout of the legend is different than that of the second or third issues, I can see how they would believe it to be a separate issue.

I have shown the third issue badge. It's a six-point ball-tipped star. It is nickel-plated and sports the first hallmark used by Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company. The legend is in black and reads, "CITY/ POLICE/ 15, TUCSON/ ARIZ." This badge is three inches tall. I know of about seven of these badges that are known to still exist.

The earliest I can find photo documentation of this style is from a group photo taken in 1916. It's hard to tell, but a couple of officers may be wearing the second issue while most sport the ball-tipped version.

The group is depicted again in a photo taken in 1917. It also shows a new motorcycle bought by the department. Most all of the officers seem to have the ball-tipped version in this picture.

Caution: This badge style has been reproduced in half size. TPD did not issue these large stars in a smaller version.

As for a uniform during this time, it seems western wear was the norm.

**The fourth issue?** Next up would be the shield with a cutout five-point star badge, which is considered to be the fourth issue but with some doubt due to its size and lack of corroborating evidence.

I have shown Officer Jay Smith wearing this style. The photo is not dated, but he was either a policeman or detective during this time based on his uniform and when he became a captain. He was a captain in 1934 when John Dillinger was captured in Tucson and by then a different uniform and badge was in use.

Smith's badge is smaller than the styles worn in previous years, but it's possible they wanted to downsize and change the design after having used the star for a long time. It is nickel in color and about one and three-quarter inches tall with black lettering.

There is no hallmark, but I believe these badges were made by the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company. By the turn of the century, we were using badge companies closer to home. Earlier badges were made by East Coast and/or Midwest companies.

Only two of these shield with cutout star badges have surfaced. Did they wear this design through the 1920s? Or, did they continue to use the star design and only detectives wore the shield with the cutout star? We just don't know for certain. However, it was chosen to represent the fourth issue.

One problem with researching TPD badges is the lack of photos and documentation. It seems that no photographs are available from 1917 until the group shot of 1930. This includes no pictures of individual officers.

I have been to the Police Academy with one of their early historians and found many of their class photos are missing. The earliest they have is 1958, as I recall. The department has no photos from the missing years. Neither does the Arizona Historical Society. I am unsure why.

**New badges and uniforms** In 1930, the department changed uniforms and badges.

The eagle-topped shield was gold in color and over three inches tall. It has a blue and white five-point star in the center. The legend is blue, "PATROLMAN/ TUCSON/ POLICE/ 20." These badges were made by the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company.

It is not for certain, but some believe that these badges were issued by number based on when an officer came on the force. So, the 20th person to join the force would have



Tucson Officer Jay Smith is wearing the fourth issue badge, a small shield with a cutout five-point star, in the 1920s when he was either a patrolman or a detective. (He later became a captain.) His jacket badge and cap badge are shown. The picture is pre-1930. *Mary Skinner photographs*

gotten badge number 20. I'm not sure if this was true because no record books, arrest records or other forms of documentation have shown who got which number or when it was issued.

About ten of these badges have surfaced.

The new uniforms were khaki with rolled up collars. Sam Browne belts were issued. These uniform items were paid for by the city. This was to try and keep some kind of uniformity within the department as up to that time, it was every which way but loose.

I have shown a group shot of the department in 1933. I do have a group photo from 1930 showing off their new uniforms and badges but felt the picture from '33 has more detail and is a better photo.

**Styles change again** In 1940, the badge and uniform changed again. No group photos exist that I could find from 1940, but I did find one dated 1945.

We know from interviews with officers from that time, badges found with dates on them and other forms of documentation that this change took place.

Foremost, when Davis-Monthan Air Force Base was being built during those years, the 14th Cavalry was brought in for security. For a year, 1941, Davis-Monthan was named Tucson Air Base.

The soldiers' uniforms were khaki and their accessories matched very closely those of city police officers, so it was decided that TPD would change their uniform to blue to reduce confusion.

The badge design adopted in 1941 is shown. It's gold in color but most of them have been polished down to look more copper in color than gold. The legend is blue.

These badges were worn from 1941 until about 1953. After they were taken out of circulation, the badges were given to the Police Academy for their use. Having been polished for so many years by the police officers and academy folks, they now show a great amount of wear.

Sometime in the late 1980s or early '90s, many of these badges found their way into public circulation. There are too many of these badges in circulation to estimate the number. This particular issue is the easiest to obtain for collectors. They were made by Los Angeles Stamp Company. Beware: Parts badges exist in this style.

I have shown the 1945 group picture of officers wearing the 1941 blue uniform style change.

In 1939, a contest was held to design a new city seal. The department had ordered new vehicles and wanted a new design to go with them. The patrol cars first sported the new city seal, but it was not adopted for use on badges until around 1953 or 1954.

The new badge went from gold in color to nickel-plated. One officer interviewed many years ago, who was on the force at that time, said one reason they went to the nickel-plated badge over the gold color was due to officers being tired of polishing them all the time. They were also less expensive than the gold-colored badges.

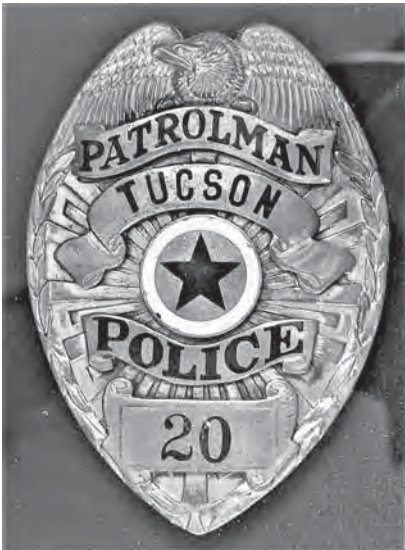
**1950s and '60s** I have featured the badge worn from about 1953 into the early 1960's. These were nickel in color with blue lettering and a white ring around the city seal. The badges were made by Los Angeles Stamp Company. There are several of these in circulation but not as many as the '40s issue. Beware: There are parts badges in this style.

The uniform remained blue in color with only minor changes. A photograph shows the 1959 graduating class from the Police Training Academy in full uniform.

In a couple of years, the department again made changes to their uniforms and badges. The 60's brought the title "officer" to replace "patrolman." The uniform changed to a white shirt and dark-colored pants.

**Tucson police workforce** I have listed the number of officers that could be found from police records. It is believed that not all the officers who served were recorded.

In the beginning, officers signed contracts for 30 days at a time. After 30 days, it would be decided if the city wanted an officer back or wanted him out.



(Top) Tucson police began wearing this modern shield in 1930. It is gold with a blue and white center design depicting a five-point star. (Bottom) The officers posed for group picture in 1933 as they showed off their new badges and uniforms. The badges were worn for 11 years. *Mary Skinner photographs*





Those wanting more information on the history of the department you might want to purchase their history book. It was published in 2004. The book is filled with many great photographs of officers, cars, badges and more.

Still, some questions remain about Tucson badges.

What style of badge, assuming they actually did buy them, was worn from 1881 to 1883? If they did wear them, then were they all the same or different based on individual preference and ability to pay? Could we call it a first issue, if one surfaces?

Was Jesus Camacho's badge really a new issue, based solely on the legend placement, or simply a variation of the third issue as I believe?

What did they wear in the 1920s? Did they continue to wear the third issue star? Was the small shield with the cutout star we call the fourth issue actually just for detectives? Is the shield with the cutout star just as rare as previous issues?

Until more information or documentation comes forward, we can only speculate when we do not have facts.

**Sources** TPD 2004 history book  
Past interviews with Stan Benjamin, early TPD historian  
Personal interviews, articles, badges and photos acquired over the years.  
Photographs by Mary Skinner.  
Photo of Francisco Esparza courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society.  
TPD group photos and training class photo of 1959 courtesy of Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy.  
SKIP SKINNER (4685 North Makohoh Place, Tucson AZ 85749-9279) azbadgeguy@aol.com

# Grant County Sheriff Frank Marshall Hamilton

Oklahoma lawman Frank Marshall Hamilton tangled with two members of the infamous Newton Gang in the early morning hours of April 14, 1932 when brothers Joe and Willis Newton robbed the bank in Medford in Grant County. Hamilton was the county undersheriff then after having served five terms as sheriff.

By Ronnie Jackson, Guest Writer

MEDFORD, Okla. – On April 14, 1932, the headline of the *Medford Patriot Star* in Grant County, Oklahoma read, “Two Bandits Rob First National Bank Here.”

Hours before, two outlaws held 20 Medford citizens hostage while they burned a five-inch hole in the top of the safe with an acetylene torch and removed \$3872 in cash and other valuables before speeding away in a 1930 Ford coach. When the dust settled, the hostages were all alive and well.

Witnesses told authorities that two men, identified as being approximately 35 and 50 years old, entered the domino parlor at approximately 1:30 am and flashed a gun at Nightwatchman Ed Heiland and Zeno Willard, operator of the café. Heiland was disarmed by the men and led away, along with Willard, to be secured by the bandits. Heiland and Willard were the first of the 20 hostages taken that morning.

While Heiland and Willard were being secured by the younger bandit, the second began cutting the telephone wires near the telephone office. Cutting the telephone wires caused a spark in the telephone office where night operator Edna Ciskowski was on duty. She summoned the manager of the phone office, James Schooler, and repairman Roy Milam. Ciskowski also called Undersheriff Frank Marshall Hamilton.

As Schooler and Milam arrived, the younger outlaw captured them, along with Ciskowski, and began marching them toward the First National Bank. As the younger outlaw led the trio toward the bank, Undersheriff Hamilton arrived and was also taken hostage.

By 4:30 am, the two bandits had taken a total of 20 Medford citizens, who had wandered upon their robbery in progress, hostage.

Sheriff Ben Crider arrived at the bank as the robbers were loading the stolen loot into the getaway car. The sheriff was unsure if the bandits had taken any of the citizens with them as they sped away, so he refrained from shooting at them. As soon as the bandits drove away, Sheriff Crider rushed to get his car and gave chase. He tracked the getaway car west



(Left) Frank Hamilton was undersheriff of Grant County, Okla. on April 14, 1932 when two members of the Newton Gang robbed the bank in Medford. He was taken hostage. (Right) Brothers Joe and Willis robbed the First National Bank of \$3872 in cash and took 20 hostages. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*



(Top) This eagle-topped shield became the official Tucson Police Department badge in 1941. It was the first to feature the state seal. (Bottom) A 1945 group picture shows the blue uniforms worn by patrolmen since 1941, as well as their nickel-plated badges. *Mary Skinner photograph*

- 1870 to 1879 14 officers
- 1880 to 1889 4 officers
- 1890 to 1899 5 officers
- 1900 to 1909 18 officers
- 1910 to 1919 23 officers
- 1920 to 1929 12 officers
- 1930 to 1939 50 officers
- 1940 to 1949 75 officers
- 1950 to 1959 348 officers

**Questions remain unanswered** I hope I have enlightened you as to the different styles and availability of badges used by the Tucson Police Department from 1871 to 1960.



(Top) A new nickel-plated badge was introduced in 1953 to replace the 1941 style. Notice the white ring around the state seal? (Bottom) Members of the 1959 Tucson academy class pose in their blue uniforms with the current badge. “Patrolman” became obsolete in the ‘60s. *Mary Skinner photographs*





Frank Marshall Hamilton served as both sheriff and undersheriff of Grant County, Okla. during his long law enforcement career. He was elected sheriff five times and worked as undersheriff once. These are his personal sheriff and undersheriff badges. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*

Sheriff Frank Hamilton ...Continued

of town but soon lost sight of it.

The severed telephone lines were quickly repaired and surrounding law enforcement agencies were notified of the robbery and rushed to assist.

In November 1932, brothers Willis and Joe Newton were arrested and charged for the bank robbery. They were members of the notorious Newton Gang who were known as some of the most successful train and bank robbers of the time. Both were later convicted of the robbery. Joe was sentenced to 20 years and Willis to 50 years in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary.

Being taken hostage during the April bank robbery came at the end of Hamilton's long and illustrious career. His time as a peace officer has been described as "colorful in the extreme." From Kansas to New Mexico to Oklahoma, he was the epitome of an Old West lawman.

Hamilton was born in Reno County, Kans. in 1873. During his long law enforcement career, he served as a deputy sheriff in Kansas, carried a deputy sheriff commission in New Mexico and finally in Oklahoma.

When Hamilton was 17 years old, he began working for Swift and Company in Kansas and New Mexico. While working in New Mexico, he mastered the Spanish language. He was soon promoted to the position of range foreman for Swift and Company where he supervised 60 to 150 men.

In 1902, Hamilton moved to a farm near Medford in Grant County, Okla. where he operated a farm and ranch in Beaver and Grant Counties until 1910.

In the spring of 1914, Hamilton threw his hat in the ring for Grant County sheriff on the Democratic ticket against several other candidates. He won the election and served a two-year term in 1915 and 1916. He won his second term in 1916 and served from 1917 to 1918. He ran for a third term but lost the election to Walter Baty in 1918. After the loss, Hamilton remained in the Medford community.

In August 1921, Hamilton was appointed as the mayor of Medford following the resignation of Lu Walker. At the November town board meeting, Hamilton resigned as mayor but continued serving until March 22, 1922.

On March 23, 1922, Hamilton announced his sheriff candidacy for the fourth time.

After the November election results were tallied, Hamilton and M.O. Lester were tied. The local newspaper wrote the two made a unique experiment in partisan politics through their decision to hold the office together the coming two years. It was decided that both men would work together and fill the position of sheriff.

However, on November 23, the Grant County Election Board settled the tie and deemed Hamilton the winner by one vote. Lester was given the position of undersheriff.

In 1924, Hamilton ran for his fifth term, won and served a four-year term until 1928.

In the 1928 sheriff race, Hamilton lost to Ben Crider. In January 1929, Crider retained Hamilton as his undersheriff. He served in that role until 1933. Crider lost the 1933 election to Glen Davis.

After Sheriff Crider lost the election, Hamilton became the local tag agent, ending his law enforcement career. He was one of the oldest members in the line of service in the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association.

Hamilton continued to live in Grant County and work various positions in county government. Most of his final working years were as a member of the county excise board. In 1949, Hamilton was elected the excise board chairman and worked for the board until his death.

On May 11, 1956, Hamilton passed away and is buried in the Wakita Cemetery in Wakita in Grant County.

RONNIE JACKSON (actionjackson3954@yahoo.com)



Joe (left) and Willis (right) were members of the infamous Newton Gang, which was responsible for dozens of successful bank and train robberies in 11 states and Canada. They were convicted of the Medford robbery and served long prison sentences before their releases. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*

# Chicago Police "Duty Disability" Five-Point Stars

Chicago police officers on duty-related disabilities were first issued unique "Duty Disability" stars beginning in the early 2000s under the administration of former Superintendent Philip Cline. The badges are identical to other CPD badges, except for the "DUTY DISABILITY" legend at the top.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHICAGO, Ill. – The Chicago Police Department began issuing unique "Duty Disability" stars to injured police officers taken off the street by disabilities beginning under the administration of Superintendent Phillip Cline in the early 2000s.

The unique rank was created for officers who remained on the department roster after suffering either a temporary or long-term disability as the result of an on-duty injury.

The five-point stars carry the legend, "DUTY DISABILITY," at the top, which is unique to Chicago.

Otherwise, the disability badges are identical to standard issue police officer badges with the city as the center design and the legend, "CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT," around it on an outer ring.

Very few, if any, other major city agencies issue specific badges to disabled officers who remained employed by a department but are unable to work, according to leading badge collectors.

The "Duty Disability" badges are purchased by the city and issued to qualified officers who remain on the city payroll while recovering from on-duty injuries. Because some never return to duty, it has been reported sometimes these stars double as retirement badges.

Reportedly, beginning in the late 1990s, the Fraternal Order of Police, which is the CPD officers' union, began issuing its own badges to police officer members on leave from disabling injuries or other duty-related mental or physical injuries that took them off the street. The disability badges replaced department issue stars the department took away from them.

When Superintendent Cline learned the FOP was replacing the official badges once worn by injured officers with its own "disabled" stars the union purchased for them, he decided the department should to issue official stars, so he authorized the "Duty Disability" badges shortly after CPD adopted their new star in 2002.

Chicago began issuing the five-point disabled stars in 2002. It is unknown how many disabled stars were issued. However, it is believed the number is significant. The first disabled badges were made and hallmarked by V.H. Blackinton, which also produced the new 2002 general issue stars.

Unlike like the previous 1955 star, the new 2002 badge had a solid back with a dimple finish in all ranks. The hallmark was raised on a flat area with no dimple finish surrounding the hallmark. No hallmarks are stamped or engraved on this series.

Due mostly to the poor quality finish on the original 2002 stars, the Police Department opted to issue replacements and rolled out "Star Project 2012," to replace them nearly a decade ago.

The 2012 version of the 2002 star is identical in size and has the same dimensions as the first issue. The only changes are the city seal application, the thickness of the star and the enamel used on the legends.

The new seal is applied separately to the star and is raised.

The star is made from thicker gauge metal to prevent the star points from breaking off, which was a widespread problem with the original 2002 stars.

Finally, the enamel frequently wore off, exposing the brass core of the star on the first issue, so it was improved on the 2012 issue.

Ranks impacted by the 2012 change were police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain and, of course, duty disability.

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"Duty Disability" is a unique Chicago police rank. These officially-issued stars are carried by officers who have suffered disabling on-duty injuries but remain on the department roster. Few officers treasure their badges more than those who have suffered on-duty injuries. *Chicago PD photograph*



# Nova Scotia Bans Police Memorabilia With New Law

The massacre of 22 people in Nova Scotia by a police impersonator last April spurned recent passage of the Police Identity Management Act, which will become law by the end of the year. The act makes it a crime to possess law enforcement insignia, uniforms or vehicles without authorization. Collectors and former police officers are not exempt.

By Amy Thompson, Guest Writer

HALIFAX, N.S. – As Nova Scotia remembers the 22 victims of Canada's worst ever mass murder, the Nova Scotia government has introduced the Police Identity Management Act aiming to strengthen laws on impersonating the police.

The tragic events that took place in several communities north of Halifax last April 18 and 19 were carried out by the gunman, Gabriel Wortman, who impersonated a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer in uniform while driving a decommissioned RCMP car he had purchased and restored to look like a working police car.

Wortman's disguise helped convince victims in the communities of Portapique, Debert, Shubenacadie and elsewhere that he was a police officer.

Impersonation of police officers in Canada is not limited to Nova Scotia. In March, two men were arrested for impersonating police officers in two unrelated events in British Columbia.

"It's very disturbing when someone is able to do something like that," said Tom Stamatakis, president of the Canadian Police Association, in a radio interview on the Roy Green Show following the April shooting rampage.

"We've long advocated, in the police community, that police uniforms should be very distinct from other people that wear uniforms... And I think the same should be true for vehicles."

Nova Scotia's Police Identity Management Act was introduced March 11 and aims to strengthen laws regarding police impersonation and the use, possession, sale and reproduction of police-issued items in the province.

The act would also tighten the rules on police vehicles, prohibiting the sale of marked police vehicles and placing limits on the possession of police vehicle decals and equipment.

On March 12, the Nova Scotia legislature passed the bill after a second reading. The goal is to have the new law in force by the end of the year, at the latest.

"The tragedy of Portapique is immense, not only on the public, but the police community as well," said legislator Steve Craig, who supported the bill. "We need to be able to ensure, as best we can, that uniforms, vehicles and firearms, do not fall into the hands of those who mean not to protect and serve but to cause chaos in our society."

Anyone who creates, sells, or owns police insignia without authorization could face a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or three months in jail.

Randy Delorey, Nova Scotia's attorney general and minister of justice, said the premise of the Act is to help prevent the recurrence of a similar tragedy.

"This is about decreasing the risk of someone with criminal intent from acquiring items that could be used to impersonate a police officer, and improving the safety of citizens and communities across the province," Delorey wrote in an emailed statement.

He added, "While impersonating a police officer has always been a criminal offense, this legislation will further restrict someone from being able to access items that would facilitate impersonation."

Impersonating a police officer is prohibited under the Criminal Code, making it illegal to falsely represent oneself as a police officer or use police items such as badge, uniform or



Will Nova Scotia public safety be enhanced by the new law that prohibits even retired officers like collector Phil Bailey from possessing badges and patches? No. While the law will not impact Bailey because he lives in Alberta, it will impact collectors who live in the province. *Phil Bailey photograph*

marked vehicle while committing an offense.

The new Nova Scotia act makes it an offense to use a police uniform, insignia or vehicle marking that can be confused with a real item.

The RCMP Act also stipulates that people are not allowed to use any mark, badge or insignia of the RCMP.

The existing legislation, which Nova Scotia's new bill would strengthen, is about the illicit use, not simple ownership, of police insignia, said Jonathan Shapiro, instructor at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University.

"You have to actively pretend to be a police officer, or you have to use the badge or their article or their piece of equipment to be charged under the law," Shapiro said. "It's not about ownership; it's how you use that particular article that makes it a crime."

Shapiro explained that while some may oppose a ban, it is important to have legislation that may prevent police impersonation.

"It's easy to acquire things required to impersonate a police officer, and so one of the complaints might be, you know, it's too late. It's just like gun control. It's one thing to say, 'Don't use guns illegally,' but if they are easy to get, then it's hard to stop people after the fact," Shapiro said.

Shapiro noted there are presently no rules against owning memorabilia from other government or first responder organizations, such as the military or fire departments.

The Police Identity Management Act will also make it difficult for former police and RCMP officers to keep their career memorabilia, such as badges or uniforms. They may keep them only if the items have been rendered "unserviceable," which is legally defined as being "permanently altered such that (it) could not be reasonably confused with a police article or a police uniform."

The ban applies to artifact collections, even if the items are on display or kept in storage. This legislation is part of a joint attempt by the federal and Nova Scotia governments to prevent tragedies similar to the one that happened in April 2020.

There was no opposition to passage of the act in the provincial legislature.

ANY THOMPSON (Carleton University School of Journalism and Communications, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON K1S 5B6, Canada)

*This story appeared in Capital Current, an online publication published by the Carleton University School of Journalism and Communications in Ottawa. EDITOR*

# Robo Cop May Cyborg His Way To Stevens Point

Robo Cop was a popular 1987 police-science fiction drama that starred a Stevens Point, Wis. native, Peter Weller, as a futuristic cyborg Detroit police officer. Now, Stevens Point wants an 11-foot tall, two and one-half ton Robo Cop statue located in the city as a tribute to Weller and a show of support for law enforcement.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

STEVENS POINT, Wis. – Actor Peter Weller, who portrayed a metal-helmeted cyborg Detroit police officer in the hit cop-science fiction movie, Robo Cop, is originally from Stevens Point, a city of 27,000 in central Wisconsin.

Hollywood special affects magic transformed Weller into a larger-than-life solid metal bulletproof crime-fighting juggernaut who battled rampant crime in the Motor City as the city's first futuristic cop robot.

Weller reprised his 1987 role in a 1990 sequel, Robo Cop 2, one of his 70 movies and television series appearances, and there is speculation there might be another sequel.

Ten years ago, group of publicly-funded Detroit artists set out to create a Robo Cop statue to commemorate Motor City portrayals in modern films, such as the extremely popular Beverly Hills Cop franchise starring Eddie Murphy, who played a Detroit police detective.

Volunteer artisans built the 11-foot tall, two and one-half ton metal statue with the intent



Retired Edmonton, Alta. police Inspector Phil Bailey has one of the largest and most complete collections of law enforcement insignia from Nova Scotia and other Atlantic provinces. If Bailey lived in Nova Scotia, where he went to police college in 1977, he would break the law. *Phil Bailey photograph*





An 11-foot tall, two and one-half ton metal statue of Robo Cop, the star of the 1987 hit movie of the same name, stands completed but homeless in a Detroit art studio. The Michigan Science Center doesn't want it, but Stevens Point, Wis. does, according to the mayor. *Detroit Free Press photograph*

Robo Cop Statue ...Continued

that it would be permanently displayed at the Michigan Science Center in Detroit, since the film represented robot science. The artists raised about \$67,000 to fund it.

Originally backed by former Mayor Dave Bing, the decade-long statue project was finally completed late last year. Then, science center officials announced they would not put Robo Cop on display after all. They gave no reason, although some Detroit police officers say it has to do with anti-police sentiment in the city.

Enter Stevens Point Mayor Mike Wiza. After he heard the Robo Cop statue would not be displayed at the Michigan Science Center, he contacted the artists and told them the statue would be more than welcome in his city.

"We're the home of Peter Weller. We'd love to have Robo Cop in our city. We could put him in front of police headquarters, or we could put him in a city park. We want him! We'll find a home for him!" Mayor Wiza said.

The mayor also reached out to Weller's family, which still lives in the city, and asked them to back the effort, telling them Stevens Point could rename a city park in his honor where the statue would be on permanent exhibit. The family told the mayor they supported his efforts.

Initially, the Detroit artists rejected Mayor Wiza's offer to set up the statue in Wisconsin, saying they wanted Robo Cop to remain in Detroit because that's where the film originated, although they admitted they have been unable to negotiate for a permanent location in the city.

Undaunted, Mayor Wiza, who believes a tribute to the Robo Cop film franchise would become a popular tourist attraction, told a local newspaper in mid-March that if he is unable to lure the Detroit-made statue to Stevens Point, the city might build its own tribute likeness.

"We're working with Portage County economic development on a backup plan to build our own Robo Cop, if bringing the Detroit statue here doesn't work out. Of course, we would have to get copyright permission to build it," Mayor Wiza said.

He pointed out the nation's largest three-dimensional printer is located in Stevens Point and could be used to replicate Robo Cop. He suggested a statue could be created with recycled plastics and metals.

Mayor Wiza said wherever the statue would be erected, it would be accessible to the public for "Robo Cop selfies."

"We'd have something special to honor police officers and all they do for us every day. Robo Cop would be perfect for us because we support our police officers here in Stevens Point," the mayor added.

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One of the most popular exhibits at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall of Fame and Museum is this beautifully-restored 1955 Ford patrol car. It has a single roof-mounted emergency light and the legends, "SOUTH CAROLINA/ HI-WAY PATROL," on the hood. *Lisa Barrington photograph*



The South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall of Fame and Museum in Columbia pays tribute to the history of Palmetto State police work at the state, county and local levels. Twelve large exhibits answer basic questions about law enforcement through historic presentations. *Lisa Barrington photograph*

# South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall Of Fame

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall of Fame and Museum in Columbia is a fabulous repository of not only state agencies but county sheriff and police departments as well. It features an outstanding collection of historic badges and patches, as well as photographs and artifacts.

By Lisa Barrington, Guest Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The motto of the South Carolina Department of Public safety is "Protecting, Educating, Serving."

The "Educating" component can be found at the beautiful South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame and Museum, which is located next to the state criminal justice academy in Columbia.

The hall of fame and museum is a "must see" for anyone interested in the state's law enforcement history, especially badge and patch collectors.

Because I grew up in South Carolina, and my father was a state trooper, I always wanted to visit. My husband and I finally took the tour recently. The museum is very collector-friendly. We loved it.

The state legislature created the museum in 1974 as a place to honor the memories of our state's fallen law enforcement officers.

Although it is a state-operated facility, sheriff's deputies and police officers throughout South Carolina history are honored in the Memorial Room. In all, more than 300 brave heroes who lost their lives on duty since 1797 are honored, each with an individual plaque and photograph, as well as details about their careers.

The Memorial Room brings most of us "cop kids" to tears, as it did me. While my dad is retired, I can remember the nights when he kissed us goodbye and walked out the door for the night shift. I never ever thought he wouldn't return, but I'm sure my mother did. The hall of fame chronicles how more than 300 families suffered the pain and agony when their loved ones did not return home after going on duty.

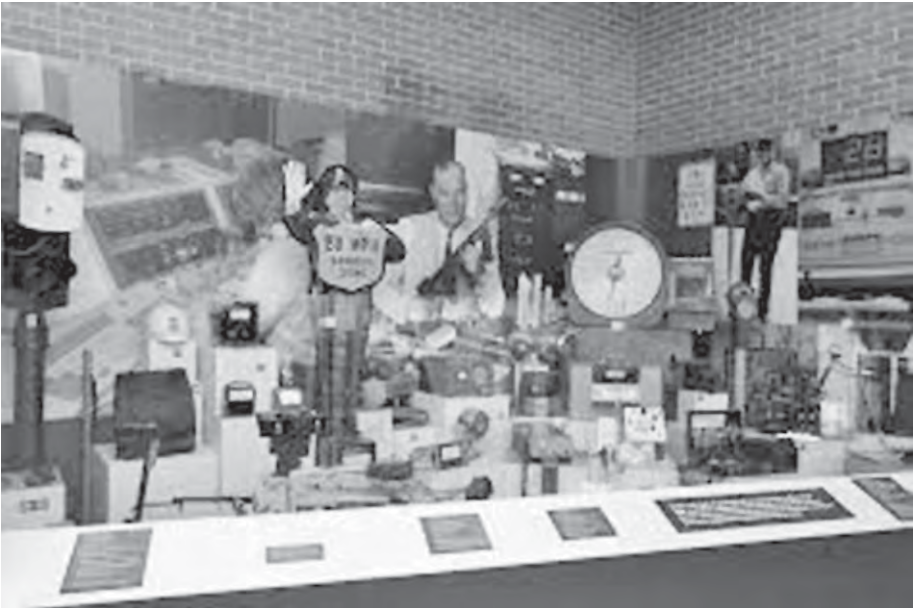
The museum is set up in 12 large individual exhibits that are designed to tell the story of South Carolina law enforcement going back before we were a state. There are more than 2000 artifacts and documents, as well as a repository of more than 7000 photographs.

The Highway Patrol, which was created in 1930, is well represented with a patch and badge collection. There is also a display of trooper uniforms, hats and duty belts worn throughout the years. There is even a 1955 Ford patrol car.

Remember Jack Webb said, "Just the facts, 'mam?" Well, the museum exhibits are set up to answer those basic questions, who, what, when, where, why and how? Each exhibit seeks to answer these questions.

What makes the museum even better is the use of audio and visual aids to tell the law enforcement story. The displays are much more than a static collection inside display cases. Each collection is augmented with an opportunity for visitors to hear officers tell their stories and share their feelings.

"What Is Law Enforcement?" is the first exhibit. It explains basic law enforcement



This South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall of Fame and Museum exhibit is devoted to the early history of state law enforcement agencies. It features photographs of officers carrying machine guns, call boxes, equipment and even a display of old, historic badges. *Lisa Barrington photograph*





There are thousands of historic photographs in the archives at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall of Fame and Museum, including this undated picture from the late 1940s or early 1950s. The car is white with an agency logo door decal and a emergency light spotlight. *Lisa Barrington photograph*

concepts and shows patches, badges and photographs to illustrate the many levels of South Carolina law enforcement, from statewide to local. Of course, our state agencies deal with everything from tax collection to alcoholic beverage enforcement to guarding the State Capitol, so their activities under the Department of Public Safety are prominently highlighted.

“Early South Carolina Law Enforcement” is the next exhibit. It goes back to the beginnings of police work in the state and traces the history of local police chiefs, sheriffs and early lawmen. Most of these officers had no formal police training (there was no such thing), did not wear uniforms or patches (there was no such thing) but some carried a badge. A few of these very early badges are displayed.

Other exhibits are devoted to the development of law enforcement over the years, as well as uniforms, equipment, weapons and insignia.

The Highway Patrol celebrated its 85th anniversary in 2015. The official ceremony had the state archivist read the original act that established the agency while the colonel and command staff stood by.

The Hall of Fame is located at 5400 Broad River Road in Columbia. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The telephone number is (803) 896-8199. Admission is free.

LISA BARRINGTON (4961 Broad River Road, Columbia SC 29212)

# Historic Records Document Saint Valentine’s Massacre

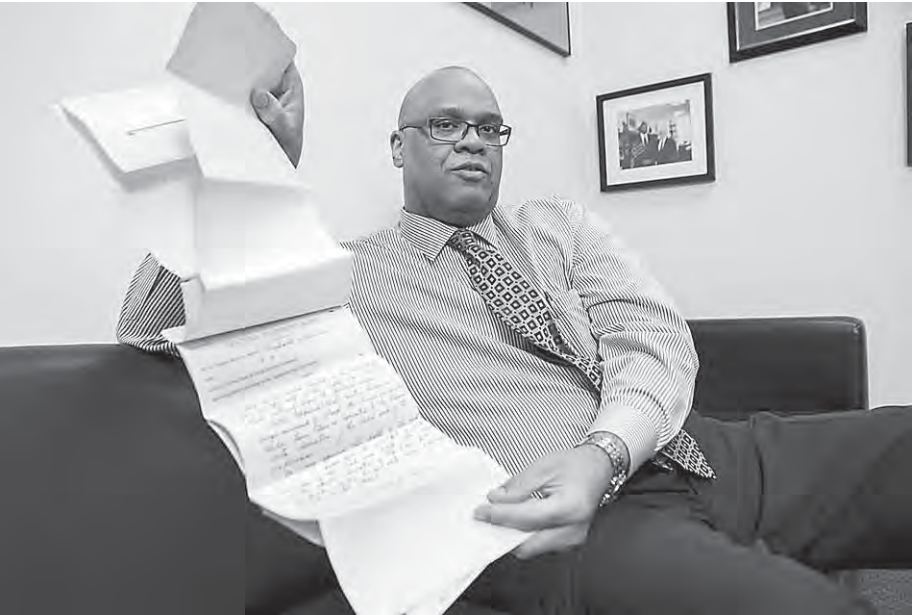
Long forgotten handwritten records of the autopsies of the seven victims of the infamous 1929 Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre in Chicago have been recovered and preserved by James Sledge, a local historian and collector. The pen and ink files contain the graphic coroner reports on the grisly execution-style gang-related murders, which were never solved.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHICAGO, Ill. – It was the bloodiest, most heinous police impersonation case in United States history.

It took place the morning of February 14, 1929 in a cartage company warehouse on North Clark Street in the Lincoln Park neighborhood on the north side of Chicago.

The horrific mass murders became known as the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre. Seven suspected members or associates of infamous mobster George “Bugs” Moran’s North Side Gang were gunned down, execution-style, by four heavily armed men. Two shooters wore Chicago police uniforms, complete with badges and hats, while the other



James Sledge, the former executive officer of the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office, shows one of the pen and ink handwritten autopsy reports from the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre. A Chicago history buff, Sledge found the files in a county records warehouse. *Contributed photograph*



A crowd gathers as Chicago police investigate the grisly murders known as the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre. The patrol wagons at the top were used to transport the seven bodies to the Coroner’s Office. Chicago police believe Al Capone orchestrated the hit. *Contributed photograph*

two, presumably posing as police detectives, wore suits. The victims had been lined up against a wall at the rear of the building and executed. They did not resist, which led investigators to believe the men thought it was a police raid. Such rousts were common as police struggled to control mob violence.

The fake cops opened fire with two machine guns and two shotguns, leaving 160 spent shells and rivers of blood on the cement floor. The carnage was so graphic that police supervisors asked newspaper photographers not to take pictures so as to not shock the public. They did anyway.

Historians believe Moran and his top lieutenants were the real targets of the hit. The plan was to lure them to the warehouse to pick up two trucks to drive to Detroit and take possession of stolen Canadian whiskey waiting for them. However, when Moran and two other gang members approached the building, they saw an uninvolved police car lurking nearby and left the neighborhood.

The bloody massacre shocked a city and nation used to newspaper images of sheet-covered corpses and automobiles riddled with bullet holes. It took mob violence to a new level that resulted in a nationwide outcry from politicians, newspapers and fearful citizens for a crackdown on rampant mob violence.

“It’s a war to the finish. I’ve never known a challenge like this, the killers posing as policemen, but now the challenge has been made. It’s accepted. We’re going to make this the knell of gangdom in Chicago,” an exasperated Police Commissioner William F. Russell told reporters at the time.

While no one was ever arrested or prosecuted for the gruesome Saint Valentine’s Day murders, police believe Moran’s rival, Al Capone, was behind the hit. (Capone denied any involvement. He told police he was at his Florida home when it happened.) Technically, the 92-year-old case remains under investigation, but only technically. Cold case magic is highly unlikely.

During the 1920s and ‘30s, Chicago, like many other major cities, had become a bloody battleground between rival underworld mobs vying for control of such illegal but lucrative business enterprises as liquor and beer manufacture and sales, prostitution, gambling, protection and weapons.

But, the Windy City was unique because many of its mobsters were known nationally and even internationally, such as Capone and Moran, but also John Dillinger, “Baby Face” Nelson, Dean O’Banion, Paul Ricca and others.

**Rare collectibles recovered** As a result of efforts by a dedicated Chicago historian and collector, there is now a connection between the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre and our hobby.

James Sledge, former chief executive officer of the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office, was researching the history of the massacre a few years ago when he hit the jackpot. He found the original handwritten autopsy and investigation reports from the case in a dusty old metal file cabinet in a county records warehouse. (The Medical Examiner’s



Chicago police officials begin removing the bodies of the seven men shot to death in the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre on February 14, 1929 from a garage on North Clark Street. The victims were members or associates of the North Side Gang headed by “Bugs” Moran. *Contributed photograph*





Uniformed Chicago police officers who responded to the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre would have worn this style of star, now known as a pie plate. This style was worn from 1907 to 1955 when the agency went to a modern star. Three-digit badge numbers were common. *Contributed photograph*

Saint Valentine’s Day ...Continued

Office was then known as the Coroner’s Office.)

Sledge’s historic discovery made national news, rekindled interest in the Chicago Gangster Era and provided a chilling, long forgotten insight into the incredible brutality of that infamous day.

“I felt a chill down my back. The are very graphic about what happened. You read about history, you talk about it, but to have something in your hands, it gives you an odd feeling,” he said.

It took Sledge several trips to the warehouse to find all of the reports, which have now been assembled with the public transcripts into the slayings. According to Sledge, the office will preserve the records for posterity, but in a more prominent manner.

The examiner who performed the postmortem on Reinhardt Schwimmer, a North Side optometrist with no criminal record who palled around with Moran and gang members, wrote in flowing cursive hand, “Both thoracic cavities contain a large amount of blood. The lungs are perforated 12 times. There is laceration of the thoracic aorta, laceration of the liver and of the diaphragm.”

Investigators believe the assassins opened fire almost simultaneously as they stood behind the victims, who faced a wall away from them. They sprayed bullets from left to right and right to left and continued shooting even after all seven men had fallen to the floor, each mortally wounded.

The transcripts feature interviews with family members, such as Schwimmer’s mother, who said her son had prescribed eyeglasses for Moran and attended Chicago Cubs baseball games with him.

The documents also reveal coroner’s investigators’ frustration with the case, listing witnesses too afraid to testify, the limitations of forensic science of the day and gangsters’ loved ones claiming to know nothing about their family member’s line of work.

Sledge said while the files are available to bona fide researchers and historians, but are not accessible to the general public out of respect for the deceased and their survivors.

**No longer exists** While the historic files containing the autopsy and investigator reports live on, the SMC Cartage building at 2122 North Clark Street no longer exists. It has been razed. The land upon which it once stood is now an open space between two apartment buildings.

A Nevada entrepreneur, George Patsy, purchased 300 bricks from the wall against which the victims stood when the building was demolished in 1967. The wall segment has been reassembled and can now be viewed at The Mob Museum in downtown Las Vegas.

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



The New Jersey State Ppolice 100th Anniversary Committee created this handsome logo to help the agency celebrate its centennial this year. It shows the shoulder patch. It is among several highly collectible NJSP centennial mementos on the collector market. *Rick Sullivan photographs*

New Jersey State Police Centennial

The New Jersey State Police is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. The agency was created in 1921 under the leadership of United States Army veteran Norman Schwarzkopf Senior to police rural counties and communities with no police departments. Today, it has 4000 employees.

By Rick Sullivan, Guest Writer

PLEASANTVILLE, N.J. – As a fairly new New Jersey collector who loves your amazing publication and will attend the New York-New Jersey Show later this year, I want to share information about the 100th anniversary of the New Jersey State Police.

The department was formed in 1921. The state legislature delayed its creation for seven years after the first bill to form it was introduced in 1914. It took them a long time, but they finally responded to widespread calls to help rural counties and cities provide law enforcement to protect their citizens.

While rural counties had sheriffs and some cities had police departments, many were part-time, poorly trained (if trained at all) and largely ineffective. Crime was rampant. Further, there was no enforcement of recently-enacted state motor vehicle laws.

Wisely, the legislature chose Norman Schwarzkopf Senior as the first State Police superintendent. He was a West Point graduate who used his military background to fashion the new agency as a para-military organization, which it remains today, a full century later.

Schwarzkopf personally screened 600 applicants for the New Jersey State Police. He hand-picked 116 men for the first-ever training academy in Sea Girt; many applicants had military backgrounds. They reported for three months of rigorous Army-like training on September 1, 1921. Nearly one-third of the initial hires washed out.

Eighty-one state troopers graduated from the first academy on December 1 and were deployed to posts across the state four days later where they began patrolling on horseback and motorcycles.

Superintendent Schwarzkopf personally approved the uniforms and insignia his troopers wore so proudly. They looked like military uniforms, mainly because they were. He chose a military-style triangular-shaped badge and later triangular-shaped shoulder patch. (The patch was introduced in 1925.) This insignia remains in use a century later with only a few modifications.

The State Police motto is “Honor, Duty, Fidelity.” The West Point motto is “Duty, Honor, Country.” Obviously, the superintendent recalled his West Point roots.

The first NJSP badges were made by Julius George Schwarzkopf, a New York jeweler, who was Superintendent Schwarzkopf’s grandfather. The brass-colored badge has stars on each corner and features the state seal, “NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE” and “1921.”

The current ranks are colonel (superintendent), lieutenant colonel (deputy superintendent), major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant first class, detective sergeant first class, staff sergeant, sergeant, detective sergeant, trooper I, detective I, trooper II and detective II.

Last year, the agency created a 100th Anniversary Committee to help the agency celebrate this milestone. While there have been and will be some public events, of most interest to collectors, so far, are the centennial logo, challenge coin and debut of retro cruisers. I have not learned about an official commemorative patch. However, it would not surprise me if one was introduced.

The anniversary logo, which shows the shoulder patch, three stars and “100,” appears on numerous logo items being sold by the Troopers United Foundation on the Internet. You can buy several collectibles, such as shirts, hats, coffee cups and other swag.

I have seen several very impressive anniversary challenge coins, although I do not know if there is an “official” coin.

Best of all, I think, are the retro cruisers. The cars replicate the marking scheme the NJSP used in the 1960s, an LAPD-style black and white look with a single roof-mounted red light. The Ford Police Interceptors feature ‘60s decals and the number “100” on the roof.

The retro cars have been deployed to posts around the state.

The NJSP is a division of the Department of Law and Public Safety.

RICK SULLIVAN (1500 South New Road, Pleasantville NJ 08234)



(Top) The New Jersey State Police rolled out their retro 1921 to 2021 cruisers in early January. The black and white Ford Police Interceptors replicate NJSP vehicle markings from the 1960s. (Bottom) The retro cars are in sharp contrast with current trooper vehicles. *NJSP photographs*





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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, email: denb22@gmail.com (90)

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WANTED: Anything from the Maryland National Capital Park Police - MNCPP, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - MNCPPC, The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police - DNR. Maryland Park Police. Looking to buy: patches, badges, pins, coins, license plates, door decals, ID's documents, etc. KEN MARSHALL, email: hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227 (84)

WANTED: Badges, patches, challenge coins, etc. from Western Pennsylvania, specifically: Latrobe, Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, South Greensburg, Derry Borough,

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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)

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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)

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Allentown, NJ. **The Thirtieth Annual** "Central Jersey" Police and Fire Insignia Collectors Swap Meet will be Sunday, Nov 14, 2021, from 8AM to 2PM at the Allentown First Aid Squad Building on Route 526, in Allentown, NJ. Dominick Botteri will host the show.

Admission is \$5.00. Wives, girlfriends, children are admitted free.

Six-foot tables are \$25.00 each and is payable in advance. One admission is included. Early reservations are recommended; all previous shows have been sellouts.

The hall will open at 7AM for exhibitor setup.

There will be a patch drop and display contest.  
Displays are encouraged.

Patch reproductions available for trade or sale must be marked as reproductions. Contact the show host for any questions or additional information regarding the policy.

Food will be available.

All proceeds benefit the Allentown First Aid Squad.

For table reservations, directions, or additional information contact  
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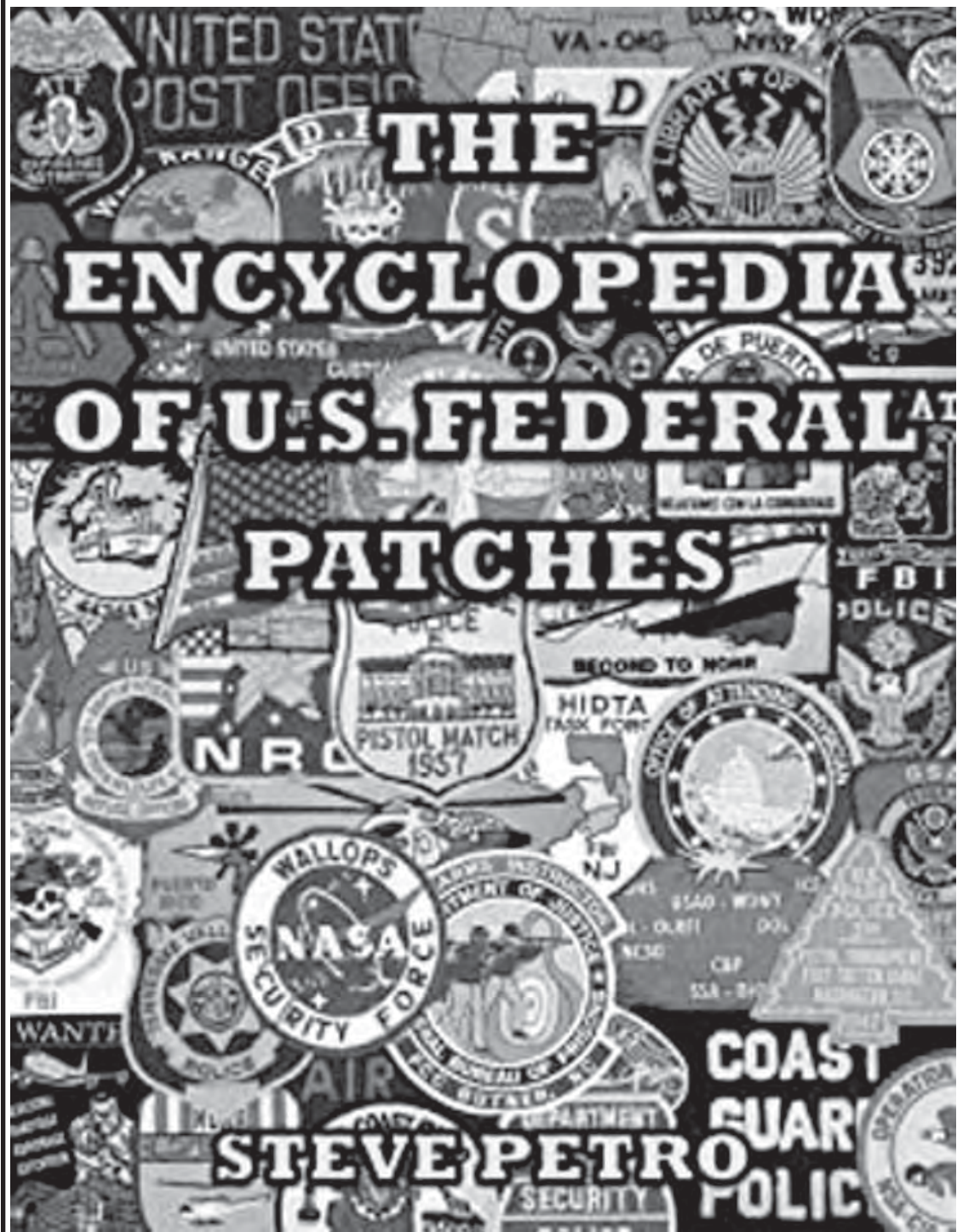


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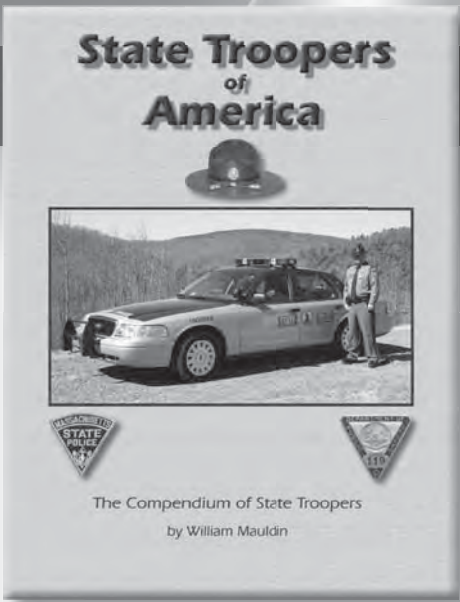
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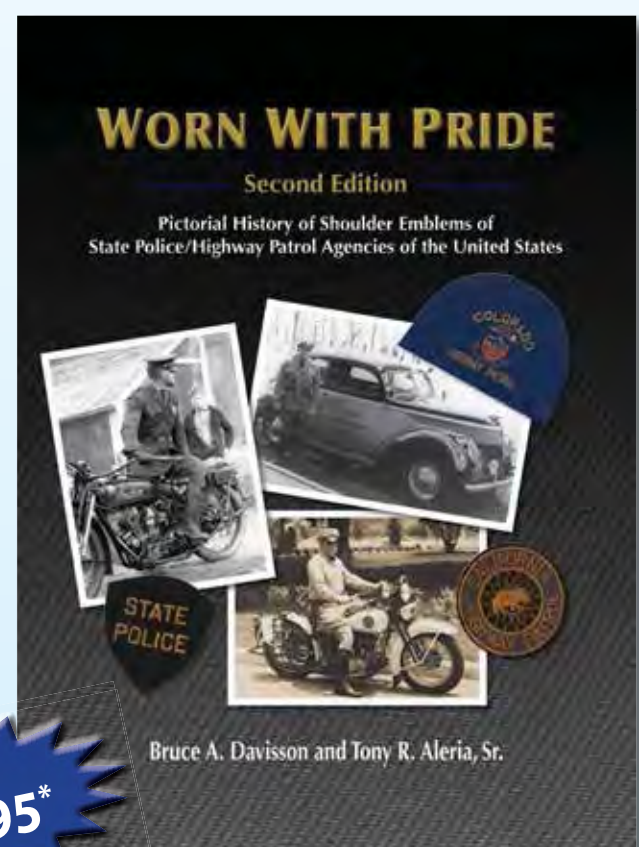
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