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First “Eastern Shore” Show A Massive Hit

Three hundred seventy-five to 400 collectors joined 22 tableholders to make the inaugural “Eastern Shore” Police Memorabilia Show a massive hit. Tyler Argubright and his co-hosts welcomed hobbyists from seven states to their 30-table show in Chester, Md. The 2022 show has already been scheduled.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHESTER, Md. – The “Eastern Shore” Police Memorabilia Show got off to a very impressive start on December 4.

Hosts Tyler Argubright, Frank Wulff and Brian Abby welcomed between 375 to 400 collectors and 22 tableholders to their inaugural swap meet at the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department in Chester, Md., a community of 4700 in Queen Anne’s County on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay.

“It was a very good show. We had a lot more collectors than we thought, especially from outside the area. It was a lot bigger and busier, too. We were very, very happy with how it turned out. In fact, it was a little overwhelming!” Argubright said.

Argubright and his co-hosts are new collectors. The host began collecting three years ago after he became a deputy sheriff with the Queen Anne’s County Sheriffs Office. Wulff and Abby are also local officers and new to the hobby.

“I really enjoy the hobby. It’s a lot of fun. When I saw there wasn’t a show on the Eastern Shore, I decided to give it a try. Frank and Brian are friends of mine and agreed to help out,” he said.

Argubright attended the New York-New Jersey show last October and spoke with hosts Brian Lyons, Ed Zitek and Gerry Tibbs about hosting a show. They encouraged him to give it a try and promised to attend, which they did.

“They are great guys and were very helpful. I decided to follow their advice and start small to see what would happen. I was able to get the fire hall meeting room. It only has room for about 30 tables. I would have been happy to get just a few tables, but we sold out almost right away. There was a strong response,” Argubright said.

“Eastern Shore” attracted collectors from throughout Maryland, as well as Delaware, Georgia, New York, South Carolina, Vermont and Washington, D.C. Chester is located about halfway between Baltimore and Washington. The show welcomed collectors from both cities and their suburbs.

Argubright, Wulff and Abby will host their second annual show later this year. It will again be held at the fire hall. They hope to be able add some tables and possibly have a display contest. An official announcement on table availability and another details will be made later this year.

“This will be an annual show. One show a year makes it special. I want to keep it in



License plate collector Russ Penka (left, standing) and federal collector Steve Rivers (right center, seated) were among 30 tableholders at the new Maryland show. Rivers told co-host Tyler Argubright he did better than at some National Shows, which is a very high compliment. *Contributed photograph*

Chester because it’s a good location and easily accessible. The first Saturday in December worked out really well, so we’re going to keep it in the future,” Argubright said.

Thirty table sellout “Eastern Shore” sold out quickly. The host was pleasantly surprised that the show generated widespread interest, especially from veteran collectors. Twenty-two tableholders came from seven states.

Keith Mackey traveled from South Carolina and covered four tables with large bins filled with about 20,000 patches for sale, including hundreds he acquired at the Saint Louis National. “He’s a great guy. He goes to a lot of shows and gave me some really good advice,” Argubright said.

Veteran Maryland badge collector, historian and author Ken Lucas Sr. featured a variety of old and highly desirable federal, Maryland and other badges for sale or trade. He had one table.

Bill King is a longtime Maryland collector and offered a wide variety of patches and badges for sale or trade on his table.

Steve Rivers has been collecting federal and Maryland badges and other collectibles for as long as anyone. He took two tables and offered badges, patches and other memorabilia.

Well-known badge collector and historian Gary Teragawa journeyed from Georgia and featured mostly federal patches and badges on his table. He is among the most accomplished California collectors in the hobby and relocated from California to Georgia several years ago.

Vermont was represented by Russ Penka. His two tables displayed law enforcement vehicle license plates, which are his primary hobby interest, although he does collect other things. “He told me he really enjoyed the show,” the host said.

Bob Speed specializes in Maryland patches. The veteran collector took a table to offer a variety of new and old emblems for trade. He was also on the lookout for new styles to add to his outstanding collection.

Maryland hobbyist Adam Reid had patches on his table.



“Eastern Shore” co-host Tyler Argubright (right) presents Matthew Heacock (left), 12, with a custom-made challenge coin display rack in the shape of the Delmar, Md. police shoulder patch and badge. Sadly, his father, Corporal Keith Heacock, was killed on duty last April. *Contributed photograph*



Georgia collector Gary Teragawa offered federal patches and badges for sale or trade at the “Eastern Shore” show on December 4. He reported having an excellent show and plans to return this December. Teragawa is a retired California law enforcement officer. *Contributed photograph*



A collection of Washington, D.C. area law enforcement badges and patches depicts some of the local, state and federal agencies involved in the infamous D.C. Sniper Attacks in 2002. The Montgomery Police Department was the lead investigative agency for the Maryland shootings. *Contributed photograph*

“Eastern Shore” Show ...Continued

So did Greg Parks, another Maryland collector, whose table also featured challenge coins.

Josh Ashley is a Maryland collector. He exhibited state agency and sheriffs office uniforms and badges.

Badges, coins and patches were found on the table of Sam Leager, a Maryland hobbyist.

Michael Lathrum took a table to show off his Maryland Natural Resources Department collection, which includes patches, badges, coins and other memorabilia.

Chris Whitecraft brought an excellent exhibit of nightsticks, vintage photographs and historical memorabilia for display on his tables. “He had some really neat stuff,” Argubright said.

Chris Smith showed Maryland patches on his table.

Former United States Capitol Police Officer Winston Pingeon showed original artwork he created depicting his agency. He had a painting of police officers in the Capitol Rotunda. Pingeon was involved in the protection of the Capitol on January 6, 2021. He has since resigned from the agency and plans to move from the area.

New Yorkers Brian Lyons, Ed Zitek and Gerry Tibbs shared a table and promoted their upcoming April show. They also offered a few items for sale or trade. “They said they had a great time and will be back next year,” the host said.

John Gatton, who Argubright called the godfather of the Maryland hobby, was a tableholder and featured several items from his outstanding collection.

Delaware collector Tom Sheehy is a car guy. He showed vintage lightbars and other emergency vehicle equipment on his table. He also brought a vintage Delaware State Police car to the show. It was on display in the parking lot.

John Kelly now resides in Maryland but lived in New Jersey for 30 years and collected Garden State badges. He had New Jersey badges on his table.

There was a wide variety of badges, patches, hats and miniature police cars on the table of Maryland collector Clayton Otto.

Andrew Franzen is the owner and operator of Blue Line CNC in Maryland. He is a woodworker who designs and builds custom challenge coin display cases. “He does beautiful work. He impressed everyone,” Argubright said.

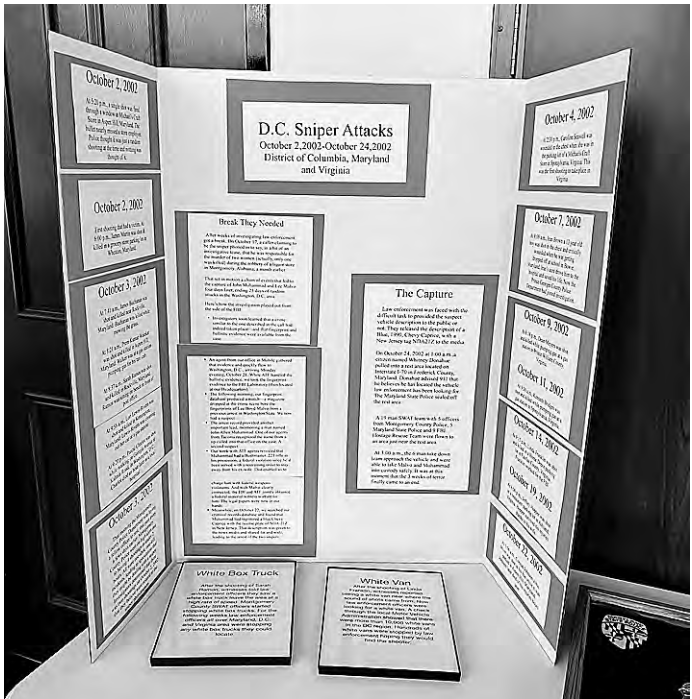
Natalie McCurry of Maryland does business as Thin Blue Line Art. She creates law enforcement-related art, such as challenge coins, canvasses used to display patches and other “cop cave” decorations.

Argubright said there was a wide variety of mostly East Coast collectibles at the show. Badges and patches were evenly split. There were also a lot of challenge coins.

He pointed out that several exhibitors had never before had tables at a show.

“We got some very nice comments. [Steve] Rivers said he did better here than he has at some National shows,” the host said.

Fallen officer honored The Delmar. Md. Police Department is mourning the line of



Tyler Argubright put together this informational exhibit on the District of Columbia Sniper Attacks in October 2002. Ten people were shot to death and three others critically injured when snipers John Muhammad and Lee Malvo opened fire on them at random with sniper rifles. *Contributed photograph*



Jeff Nyce served as a member and as a team leader for the Montgomery, Md. County Police Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) for 30 years and participated in the apprehension of the D.C. snipers. *Failure Is Not An Option* is a book he has written on his SWAT career. *Contributed photograph*

duty death of Corporal Keith Heacock last April 28. He was 54 years old.

Corporal Heacock, a 22-year law enforcement veteran, was severely beaten after responding alone to a reported early morning fight in an apartment building three days earlier. He was declared dead at a Baltimore medical center.

“It bothered me a lot how violently he was killed. He was literally beaten to death. I’m our Honor Guard commander. We attended the funeral along with hundreds of other officers from all over. It hit me very hard,” Argubright said.

Corporal Heacock was the only officer on duty in Delmar when he was dispatched to the fight. After he did not answer repeated radio transmissions from dispatchers asking for his status, officers from other agencies responded and found him severely injured. (The perpetrator was arrested and remains in custody.)

Argubright, who is active in the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge, reached out to the family last summer. Fifty custom challenge coins honoring Corporal Heacock were created and donated to his survivors as lasting tributes to his career.

“We invited his son, Matthew, who is 12, and his mother, Tracy, to the show. Matthew loves police stuff, so we made him an honorary host. He had a great time. He had a big smile on his face all day,” he said.

The FOP donated to a college fund established for Matthew. The show featured raffles of donated prizes, such as police equipment and gift cards. All proceeds went to the fund. The show raised \$1900 for his future higher education.

Argubright had a beautiful custom challenge display case made for Matthew and presented it to him. It was created by Blue Line CNC in the shapes of the Delmar PD shoulder patch and badge.

“It was something we wanted to do to honor Corporal Heacock. I got a little emotional when I made the presentation because it brought back memories,” Argubright said.

Sniper case remembered Jeff Nyce was a special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team member and team leader for the Montgomery County, Md. Police Department for 30 years before his 2014 retirement.

Among the many nationally and internationally known cases in which he and his team participated was the infamous D.C. Sniper Attacks in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in 2002. The deadly shootings made headlines around the world for more than three weeks.

Nyce was a special guest at “Eastern Shore.” He was honored for his dedicated service to Montgomery County during his distinguished 33-year law enforcement career.

An exhibit featured written summaries of the attacks, which took place from October 2 to 24, and badges and patches worn by local, state and federal agencies involved in the relentless manhunt for the snipers. One of Nyce’s uniforms was displayed on a mannequin alongside a copy of his book, *Failure Is Not An Option*.



(Top) The 1990 Chevrolet Caprice sedan that John Muhammad and Lee Malvo used as a rolling sniper’s nest to terrorize the Washington, D.C. area for three weeks in 2002. (Bottom) The sniper’s nest in the trunk of the Caprice. Muhammad and Malvo used it to conceal themselves. *Contributed photograph*

Snipers John Allen Muhammad (age 41 at the time) and Lee Boyd Malvo (age 17 at the time) shot and killed ten people and critically injured three others in the Baltimore-Washington area and along Interstate 95 in Virginia. They traveled in a blue 1990 Chevrolet Caprice sedan and shot people at random from the trunk of the automobile.

Nyce said October 3 was the worst day with four shootings in two hours in Montgomery County. Another person died in an attack in Washington, D.C. later that day.

“We were overwhelmed. Outside agencies came in to help us, such as the Marshals Service, FBI and other SWAT personnel. We went on 24-hour SWAT duty. We didn’t know when and where they would strike next, so we had to be ready to stop them,” Nyce recalled.

SWAT teams were deployed across the region and responded to dozens of suspicious person and vehicle reports, as well as shootings not committed by the snipers. “We had to make sure, so we went every time we were called,” Nyce said.

The unprecedented crime three-week crime spree came to an end at 3:15 am on October 24 when Muhammad and Malvo were found sleeping in their car at a rest stop off Interstate 70 near Myersville, Md. in Montgomery County.

Nyce led the team of six SWAT officers who arrested the suspects without incident. They found the trunk of the Chevrolet Caprice had been modified to serve as a rolling sniper’s nest. The back seat was modified to allow a person to enter the trunk. The snipers fired through a small hole near the rear license plate.

“We did our jobs. We took them into custody. That’s what SWAT does,” Nyce said.

Both snipers were found guilty. Muhammad was sentenced to death and was executed in 2009. Malvo is serving six life sentences in prison.

Nyce’s book, *Failure Is Not An Option*, details the D.C. Sniper Attacks and his 30-year SWAT career.

“Everything about the sniper case is in the first chapter. The rest of book is about my SWAT career. I was involved in 4500 raids, barricaded subjects and other call outs. I participated in the first suicide bomber with hostages incident in the USA on September 10, 2010, a year before 9-11,” he said.

While Nyce is not a collector, he said he thoroughly enjoyed the show. “There were many neat things. It was fun to be in a very pro-police atmosphere. It was a great experience,” he said.

Nyce’s book is available on Amazon. Argubright called Nyce the “grandfather of Maryland SWAT” and was thrilled he accepted his invitation to attend the show.

“I’m fascinated by the sniper case. Jeff has given me some things from that case for my collection. He’s keeping a part of Maryland law enforcement history alive.”

Future hosts blueprint Argubright learned a lot about hosting from the first “Eastern Shore” show. His experiences could serve as a blueprint for potential future local hosts across the country.

When the hosts arrived at the fire hall on Friday, the day before the show to set up the hall, the tables were gone. It turned out the fire department loaned the tables to another fire department for an event without checking the hall rental schedule. So, they were left with no tables!

“The fire captain made some calls and got some of them back. I also made calls and borrowed six tables. It was pretty stressful. It would’ve been really bad not to have tables, but it did work out!” Argubright said.

Argubright opened the hall to tableholders from 7 to 9 am. When the show opened to collectors at nine, he was pleasantly surprised to find hobbyists lined up outside the hall waiting to get inside.

“We wanted to see how many people would attend, so we asked them to wear wristbands. We got 100 wristbands, thinking that would be more than enough. By 9:45, we were out of wristbands!” he said.

Argubright focused on new collectors, especially those who had never been to a show. His goal was to expose them to the hobby and give them an opportunity to meet and learn from established hobbyists. He even found a few old-timers who had never attended a show.

“The guys I’m talking about are the ones who come with backpacks. So, I found a place for them to do some trading. It went over very well. A lot of them told me they are coming back because they had a good time and were able to trade,” he said.

Argubright brought in a food vendor, Blue Line BBQ, which is law enforcement officer owned and operated, to serve lunch. The BBQ beef and pork lunches were a big hit and sold out.

The next “Eastern Shore” show will be Saturday, December 3 at the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department. Additional details will be announced later this year in *PCNEWS*.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 5402) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

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.

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

Claremont, Calif.

The 40th Annual “Porky” Show, California’s longest-running police collectibles swap meet, will be Sat., Jan. 15 from 8 am to 3 pm at Taylor Hall, 1775 N. Indianhead Hill Blvd., Claremont, Calif. Nick Cardaras and Dennis Smith will host it. The show is a fundraiser for the Claremont Police Explorers Post.

Admission is \$5. All 104 tables have been sold. However, a waiting list is being maintained in the event of cancellations or no shows. Collectors who need a table are strongly urged to get on the waiting list or ask about availability on show morning. Usually, the hosts are

able to accommodate everyone who needs a table. Make requests by email at nick@theporkyshow.com.

There will be a display contest, food and refreshments.

There is ample parking.

The exclusive hotel for “Porky” is the Double Tree, 555 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, (909) 445-1824. The special rate is \$105 per room. (Rooms are regularly \$239 to \$309.) This rate is available from January 13 to January 17. Make reservations through the show Web site, ThePorkyShow.Com. Reservations must have been made by December 15 to qualify for the special rate. The discount room block is always a sellout. Early reservations are recommended.

Ontario International Airport, one of the three major Los Angeles area airports, is only ten minutes from the show site.

For additional information, go to the show site, ThePorkyShow.Com or their Facebook page.

Titusville, Fla.

The 35th Annual “Space Coast” Patch Show will be Sat., Jan. 29 from 9 am to 4 pm at the North Brevard Senior Center, 909 Lane Ave., Titusville, Fla. Steve and Karen Bridges will host it. This is the same location as last year.

Seventy tables were available for \$25 each before December 31. Now, tables are \$30 each. Early reservations are recommended because tables are offered on a “first come” basis. The show is a sellout every year. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor set up.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Reproductions must be marked.

There will be a food truck outside the hall to offer lunch. Their food was a big hit last year.

The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Titusville/Kennedy Space Center, 4715 Helen Hauser Blvd. The cutoff date for show discount reservations was December 28. However, standard rate rooms may still be available. Make reservations on (321) 383-0200.

Titusville is close to the Kennedy Space Center and other central Florida attractions. The American Police Hall of Fame is located only minutes from the show hall. It has a fabulous patch collection.

Make table reservations by contacting Bridges on (321) 302-1983 (cell) or by email on csteveb170@gmail.com.

Confirm reservations by mailing table fees to Steve Bridges, 1535 Justin Court, Titusville FL 32796.

Marshall, Minn.

The 2022 Marshall Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Feb. 12 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Marshall Merit Center, 1001 W. Erie Rd., Marshall, Minn. Dave “Gooz” Gislason and Kyle Helvig will host it.

Admission is free.

Tables are available. Please contact the hosts for information.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Refreshments will be available.

This show is open to collectors of all law enforcement-related items, such as license plates, patches, badges and challenge coins.

For table reservations or additional information, contact the hosts:

Dave “Gooz” Gislason (507) 530-1712

Kyle Helvig (507) 829-1569.

Roseville, Calif.

The 26th Annual Doug Messer “49’er” Public Safety and Military Collectors Show will be Sat., Feb. 26 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall, 110 Park Dr., Roseville, Calif. The show is named in memory of Doug Messer, one of the original hosts, who passed away in October 2009. The hosts are Mike Lynch, Brian Smith and Phil Jordan.

There is free admission.

There are 47 eight foot-by-30 inch display tables available for \$30 each. Display only tables are \$15 each. Please reserve early to insure requested table placement. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitors only. Because the 2021 show was canceled, reservations made last year will carry over unless a refund is requested.

This show is a fundraiser for the Ranger Foundation, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society and the Concerns of Police Survivors. It is sponsored by International Police Association Region 29 and Roseville American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post 169.

The legion post Boy Scout troop will serve food and beverages.

Awards will be presented for the top four displays.

The Fairfield Inn, 1910 Taylor Rd., Roseville, is the host hotel. To reach the Inn, take the Eureka Road Exit (No. 105-A) off Interstate 80. The hotels offers complimentary hot breakfast, free WiFi and free parking. The reservations code is “49’er Law Enforcement.” The hosts will have a pre-show get-together from 5 pm to 6:30 pm at the Fairfield Inn first floor conference room on Friday evening.

Questions should be directed to Mike Lynch, PO Box 3212, Bowman CA 95604-3212, (530) 305-1166, lynch3212@gmail.com. (Checks for table reservations should be made payable to Mike Lynch.)

Riverdale, Md.

The next Mid-Atlantic Police Collectors Extravaganza will be Sat., Apr. 2 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, PO Box 1, Brentwood MD 20722.

For additional information, contact the host on (240) 723-0507.

Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

The Fifth Annual New York and New Jersey Metropolitan Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sun., Apr. 3 from 9 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.

Tables are \$65 each. Reservations can be made online using Pay Pal by email on

Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

uspcltd2016@gmail.com or mailing a check or money order to US Police Collectors, PO Box 53, Tappan NY10983-0053. Twenty-four tables had already been sold as of October 16.

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 is required.

Guest rooms at the Hilton have been renovated. The restaurant has been moved and expanded. There is larger bar and lounge area. Hotel reservation information will be available soon.

Inquiries can be made by email at nynjpcs@gmail.com or on their Facebook page.

Athens, O.

The 2022 "Southeastern Ohio" Police Collectors Show will be held on Sat., May 14 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Athens Community Center, 701 E. State St., Athens, O. Clay Lowing and Andy Watson will host it.

Eight-foot tables are \$15 each.

Make reservations or obtain additional information by contacting the hosts:

Lowing cl1237@gmail.com or (937) 308-3158, or

Watson (740) 707-0254.

National Police Collectors Show

The 2022 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 17, Sat., June 18 and Sun., June 19 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center, 234 Historic Nature Trail, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Jim Clark, Richard Stoffle and Brad Redmond 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 6 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm. Tableholders only will be admitted at 8 am for setup both days.

Admission is \$5 for adults.

Two hundred seventy-three tables are available for \$85 each. One hundred fifty tables have already been sold. Early reservations are highly recommended. This show should be an early sellout.

There is no host hotel. Collectors and their families can select from a wide variety of local accommodations. The show site is only a short distance from shopping and restaurants. There are a wide variety of restaurants, bars and entertainment venues in Gatlinburg.

The Gatlinburg area offers a wide variety of popular tourist destinations.

There will be a show patch and badge.

The show Web site is National-Police-Collectors-Show.Com. The site offers a show overview and details, hotel and motel information, local entertainment and frequently asked questions. Reservations can be made through the site.

For table reservations or information, email orders@gmanemblem.com or use the Web site.

The show is sponsored by Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery, Smoky Mountain Knifeworks and G-Man Emblem.

Ripon, Calif.

The 2022 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 1 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth St., Ripon, Calif. Show hosts are Mike McCarthy, Scott Welch and Gary Hoving.

The show is a fundraiser for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society (CLEHS), Concerns of Police Survivors, the Ranger Foundation and Ripon PD Volunteers in Police Service. It is sponsored by the CLEHS.

Admission is free.

There are 55 eight-foot by 36 inch tables available at \$40 each. Reserve your table early as the show is a sellout out every year!

To reserve a table and make payment online, go to the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

To reserve a table and pay by check, please contact Gary Hoving, President, California Police Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, telephone (805) 441-4936 or email him through the link the Web site.

Chester, Md.

The Second Annual Maryland "Eastern Shore" Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., Dec. 3 at the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department, 1610 Main St., Chester, Md. Tyler Argubright will host it.

Admission is \$5. Children are admitted free.

Please see the show Facebook page for table availability and other information.

Mount Prospect Donates Proceeds From Police Patch Sales To 100 Club

MOUNT PROSPECT, Ill. -- The Mount Prospect Police Department reached closure on December 28 on the issue of the controversial "thin blue line" patch, when it handed out a check from money raised by sales of the decommissioned patches to a fund for the fallen first responders at police headquarters.

Police Chief John Koziol presented a check for \$22,841 to Caitlyn Brennan, chief executive officer of the Chicago-based 100 Club of Illinois. The organization helps provide for the dependents of fallen first responders.

In August village trustees voted 4-3 to recommend removal if the patch. It was taken off the officers' uniforms.

The patch had generated months of heated debate, with opponents saying the blue line had become associated with white supremacists, while defenders, including Chief Koziol, said it paid tribute to fallen officers.

The police department put the patches up for sale to benefit the 100 Club.

"We decided to come up with something positive," the chief said.



Don Magruder now specializes in pre-1900 law enforcement badges and displayed his collection for the first time at the Saint Louis National. He sold his reserve police collection a few years ago, but missed the hobby. Magruder decided to return with a new specialty. *Contributed photograph*

Don Magruder Takes A Trip Back In Time

Veteran collector Don Magruder is back in the hobby specializing in pre-1900 law enforcement badges. His exhibit at the Saint Louis National Show featured 40 rare, highly-prized first and second issues, as well as several beautiful presentation pieces, from across the country.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAINT LOUIS, Mo. – Don Magruder is back in the hobby. And how!

After selling his massive reserve law enforcement officer badge collection a few years ago, Magruder returned to the hobby less than a year ago.

Now, he specializes in pre-1900 federal, state and local badges, perhaps the most challenging area of the hobby. He has already amassed an extremely impressive collection of many of the most historic, valuable badges ever created for law enforcement officers.

"I guess I missed the hobby more than I thought. Last February, I decided to get back in, but I wanted to focus on something different. Maybe because I'm old, I settled on pre-1900 badges," Magruder said.

When the longtime collector showed his then-fledgling collection at the 2020 National Show in Reno, Nev. in June, it fit inside a single frame. Just four months later, his Saint Louis exhibit had expanded to four large frames and a display case. Not bad for a long-retired 86-year-old living in rural Iowa!

"I'm having the time of my life. It's really fun to find badges like these and add them to the collection," he said.

Magruder freely admits his interest in premium historic badges is expensive. He has invested as much as five figures on a single badge.

"Yes, it costs a lot of money, but these are all very rare or one-of-a-kind badges. It only stands to reason they aren't cheap. But, I don't care because it's worth it to me to preserve them," Magruder said.

His exhibit not only identified each badge but he augmented many of them with photographs and artifacts. He intends for his collection to showcase old badges and educate viewers on department history.



Don Magruder's collection features a variety of historic badges, including Toledo (top row, center), Providence, Memphis, Santa Clara County, Calif. and Chattanooga. The group in the lower right is a sample of badges issued from 1858 and 1908 showing a variety of styles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Historic badges from New York State, including a first issue 1845 NYPD and a NYPD from 1872 to 1878. Other NYS badges in the collection come from Brooklyn, Yonkers, Albany, Celoron, Buffalo and Queens. There are also photos of two handcuffs and the East River Bridge. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"I've learned an awful lot about old [pre-1900] badges in the past year. Back then, they didn't have catalogs or anything like that to order badges from. Most badges were custom made by jewelers. A lot of the really nice ones were one-of-a-kind, made just for the officer who wore them," Magruder said.

He has numerous first or second issues from departments large and small across the country, as well as several unique presentation pieces given to notable officers upon retirement or a career milestone.

Some of the major cities represented in Magruder's collection include Washington, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Memphis, Toledo, Baltimore and Chicago.

There are badges from the United States Customs Service and state agencies.

In all, 32 silver-colored and copper-colored badges were displayed in the four large frames. And, he has an eye-popping display of eight solid gold badges from seven cities. Each one is identified and documented.

"Because these badges are so old, it's hard to find good quality pictures of officers wearing them, but I've been able to find a few," Magruder said.

His exhibit, which was ineligible for an award because he was a show co-host, attracted a great deal of attention from veteran collectors.

"This is just amazing. Incredible collection. Beautiful," offered Chip Greiner, the longtime railroad police collector from New Jersey.

"He has some very nice, top quality, very early pieces," said collector, historian and author Ken Lucas of Maryland.

"He's got some really beautiful old badges. Very impressive," said veteran hobbyist Marty Cassidy of New York.

"Don has done a great job putting this all together. I'm very impressed. He's got some really valuable badges," said pioneer badge collector Keith Bushey from California.

When stalwarts like these praise a collection, it truly means something.

Trip back in time As I viewed Magruder's display and took notes, I couldn't help but realize I was taking a trip back in time more than 120 years. I thought to myself several times, "If only these badges could talk..."

And, such a contrast between these badges and those worn today. Plain, simple, mostly colorless creations, yet each one has an aura of dignity and character. No wonder so many veteran collectors prefer old badges to modern styles.

With no offense meant to any agency because I know it's a great cause, but I think a pink badge would not have gone over very well in the 1800s. I just can't see an Old West lawman sauntering into a saloon to keep an eye on the gun-toting patrons at the bar while wearing a pink badge.

Wide view of history Magruder's four frames of silver- or copper-colored badges offer a wide view of law enforcement agency history across the country.

A summary of the badges in the collection:

...1848 to 1868 Washington, D.C. first issue number "186" showing the United States Capitol as the center design. A chain is affixed to the badge so it could be attached to a uniform garment.

...1868 Washington, D.C. second issue with the number "186" and a chain.

...1854 Boston chief of police once worn by Chief Robert Taylor, who earned \$1800 a year for supervising a department of 250 officers. Magruder also has a copy of a magazine article that documents the badge.



This frame shows first issues from Washington, D.C. and Boston, as well as the second issue from Washington, D.C. The photographs show officers wearing these badges. A very early magazine article describing the new 1853 Boston shield. The city had a chief and two officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Phenomenal historic badges in the Don Magruder Collection. There are three from Providence in the upper left. He has an 1870s captain of the watch from Philadelphia. Allentown, Penna. with an attached chain, is seen in the upper right. There is also a Pinkerton shield. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

PC NEWS

2392 USH 12
BALDWIN, WI 54002
USA

Since
1982

Mike R. Bondarenko
Editor and Publisher

Police Collectors News

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Don Magruder's historic law enforcement badge collection includes this display box with eight custom badges crafted from 10-karat to 18-karat solid gold. The veteran collector has documented all of them. Each badge is a stellar example of the badge maker's art. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Trip Back In Time ...Continued

...1845 New York City first issue in the rank of assistant captain. The rank was changed to lieutenant in 1853.

...1870 Woonsocket, R.I. constable

...Pinkerton Protective Patrol shield number "42" represents the famous national private detective agency founded by Allan Pinkerton.

...1811 Philadelphia captain of the watch

...1854 Allentown, Penna. first police officer with an attached chain. The badge is documented with a newspaper story that features a photo of an officer wearing it.

...Circa 1900 Providence, R.I. police

...1867 Toledo, O. police first issue The department was created on April 5, 1867.

...1868 Toledo second issue "canal boat" with an attached chain. The center seal shows a boat being pulled up the Ohio and Erie Canal.

...1890s Toledo police detective

...1912 Memphis police pie plate number "162" A very Chicago style star.

...Santa Clara County, Calif. sheriff, an eagle-topped shield with blue legends.

...1882 first issue Chattanooga police, a five-point circled star.

...1845 Baltimore police Southern District handcrafted in heavy silver with the hallmark "A.E. WARNER/ SILVERSMITH." The legend reads, "DEPARTMENT OF POLICE/ S.D."

...1862 Baltimore third issue

...1850 Baltimore City Police

...1930 Philadelphia captain of detectives, a gold-colored badge with blue legends, "CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVE/ BUREAU OF POLICE/ PHILA." This is a presentation badge. The inscription reads, "PRESENTED TO CAPTAIN CHARLES F. LEE/ BY MEMBERS OF THE HQ SQUAD/ NUMBER 2 SEPTEMBER 29TH 1938."

...Two circa 1888 Philadelphia shields in the ranks of van driver and patrol sergeant.

...1886 Chicago special police shield worn at the Haymarket Riot on May 4, 1886. The riot erupted after a demonstration by labor unions. The legend reads, "SCHAACKS/ 6/ NIGHT & SPECIAL/ POLICE/ CHICAGO."

...1888 to 1890 Hamilton County, Tenn sheriff's badge worn by Sheriff Azariah Shelton. Magruder has a picture of him wearing it. It's an unusual crescent shape with the legend, "SHERIFF."

...Circa 1874 United States Customs badge worn by an inspector is an example of the oldest known agency badge.

Magruder has eight fabulous solid gold badges:

...14-karat suspension badge presented to Arthur Mayer, deputy warden at the Indiana



A beautiful presentation suspension badge given to Indiana State Prison South Deputy Warden Arthur Mayer by his guard staff. The prison was built in Michigan City in 1858. It was destroyed by fire in 1922. The center design is a raised five-point gold star. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

State Prison South. It was presented to him by the prison guards on May 6, 1896.

...14-karat five-point star presented on November 11, 1937 to Andrew Myers, an alderman in Milwaukee, Wis. He was a police officer in the city in the 1920s. It has a blue star-shaped jewel in the center.

...14-karat gold suspension badge presented to Edward J. Quigley, the 15th ward alderman in Newark, N.J.

...1876 gold and sterling silver badge issued to Hoboken, N.J. Street Commissioner H.M. Bischoff, who later became the city director.

...14-karat shield with an applied five-point star personalized to Herbert H. Schwenker, the chief of police in Burlington, Iowa. It is a presentation piece with the inscription, "H.H.S. 12-25-20." He served as chief twice, 1920 to 1922 and then again from 1925 to 1927.

...18-karat round police commissioner badge from Elmira, N.Y. It was presented on a belt with a keeper and buckle.

...10-karat pinched shield personalized to Gilbert R. Parker as a special constable in Providence, R.I. He was the eighth ward alderman in the city at the time.

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Don Magruder mistakenly labelled the beautiful 14-karat gold star presented to Milwaukee, Wis. Alderman Andrew Meyers, a former city police officer, as being from Blue Island, Ill. He has corrected the label in his display case since the National Show. EDITOR

Nevada Highway Patrol Adopts Nevada State Police As New Name

CARSON CITY, Nev. – The Nevada Highway Patrol has rebranded itself as the Nevada State Police. The new name became official and went into effect on November 23.

State legislators authorized the name change at the request of the agency early in 2021 “to avoid confusion about the role and purview of officers.”

Ironically, when Nevada first created a statewide law enforcement agency in 1908, it was named the State Police. It hired a highway patrolman to enforce traffic law in 1923.

By 1949, the State Police had three highway patrolmen when the State Legislature abolished the State Police and created the Highway Patrol. It included the three highway patrolmen, Public Service Commission inspectors and Tax Commission inspectors.

The newly-branded State Police will continue as a sub-agency under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety.

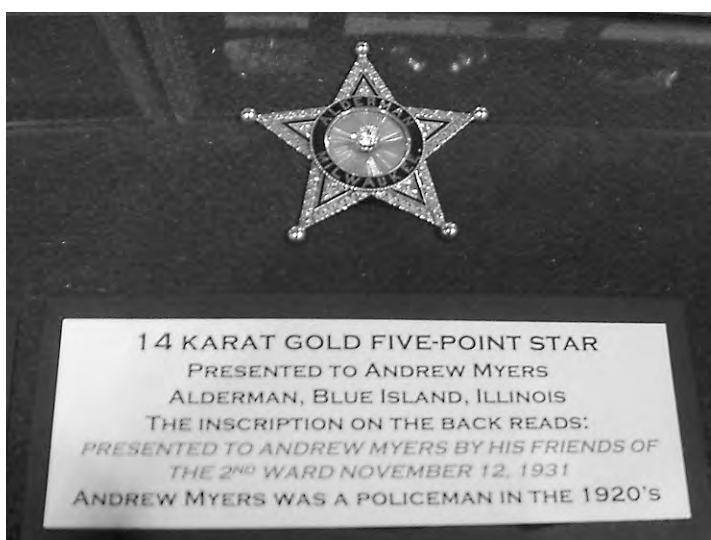
According to a news release, "the DPS name has resulted in some misunderstanding of the mission, purpose and authority of the department." The new designation will also help in marketing and recruitment efforts.

Law enforcement divisions under the new State Police designation include former highway patrolmen, probation and parole, Capitol police, investigations and the state fire marshal, according to the release.

The DPS plans to rebrand Highway Patrol as State Police vehicles as new vehicles are phased in over the next several years.

State Police officers will continue as traffic officers on and off highways, as well as perform traditional law enforcement functions in parts of rural Nevada.

It is anticipated shoulder patch and possibly badge style changes may be forthcoming. However, the DPS did not respond to a style change inquiry. However, two prominent state police/highway patrol collectors have confirmed a State Police emblem is in the works.



A fabulous set of old Toledo badges from 1868 to 1890. followed by first and second issues from Memphis. (Lower left) A first issue Chattanooga and an early Santa Clara County, Calif. The eight badges in the lower right show the various styles worn in the 1800s and early 1900s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Andrew Myers was presented with this beautiful badge while he served an alderman in Milwaukee, Wis. This five-point star has black enamel with reverse gold lettering. A large diamond appears as the center design. Myers was a police officer in the city in the 1920s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Arthur Reyes Vazquez was chief of police at the Manzanita Tribal Police Department from 2012 to 2018. He wore this gold-colored badge with the colorful tribal seal as the center design. However, according to the federal and state governments, it is not a recognized agency. *Contributed photograph*

Tribal Police Chief Made \$300,000 Selling Badges

A former Manzanita Tribal Police Department chief of police has pleaded guilty to selling tribal police badges and memberships to wealthy Los Angeles area residents for \$5000 to \$100,000 each so they could carry concealed weapons. The scheme netted him about \$300,000. He faces ten years in federal prison.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – A former tribal police chief in San Diego County, Calif. pleaded guilty in federal district court on October 25 to stealing over \$300,000 from his tribe by selling fake police badges.

Anthony Reyes Vazquez, 49, of Camarillo, was chief of police for the Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation from 2012 to 2018 when he sold memberships in the Manzanita Police Department to dozens of people in Los Angeles area.

According to United States Attorney Randy Grossman, beginning in 2018, memberships were sold for from \$5000 to \$100,000 each to people not qualified to become law enforcement officers. Yet, Chief Vazquez issued each member an official-looking tribal police badge and identification card. He called them the VIP Group.

Grossman said the individuals were told that by being a tribal police officer, they would have police powers and thus authorized to carry concealed weapons anywhere. Vazquez marketed the payments as donations to the police department in exchange for tribal officer status and membership in the VIP Group. However, he kept the money.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation probe revealed that no one holding a membership had any law enforcement academy training; most had never set foot on tribal land. No member performed any function for the police department.

“They paid their money and got their badges,” Grossman told reporters at a San Diego news conference. “Vazquez did not turn the money over to the tribe. He kept it for himself.”

Vazquez and other tribal police officers recruited wealthy people in the Los Angeles to become members of the tribal police. The chief paid the officers who found a new member a recruitment fee as part of the scheme. He also paid himself about \$2000 a month for “expenses” out of VIP Group funds.

The 3600-acre reservation is located about 70 miles east of San Diego and ten miles north of the Mexican border. The tribe has about 70 members.

The police department Web site said tribal officers follow federal guidelines and “serve



A blue Ford Expedition is the Manzanita Police Department patrol vehicle. It shows the department shoulder patch and United States flag on the front fender and “MANZANITA POLICE” in silver letters bordered in white. There are no overhead emergency lights. *Contributed photograph*

with honor and integrity, while at all times, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards.” It was founded in 2010.

However, neither the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs or the State of California recognize the Manzanita Police Department as a legitimate law enforcement agency, on or off the reservation. Thei agency Web site has been taken down.

Tribal leaders told local media that Vazquez drafted a memorandum of agreement in September 2012 between the tribe and an unincorporated organization known as the Manzanita Tribal Police Association.

The agreement was signed by Vazquez, then tribal chairman, and a tribal council member. It stated the Manzanita Tribal Police Department would have responsibility for enforcing all federal, state and tribal laws on the reservation. He appointed himself as the chief of police. However, the only police officers were unpaid volunteers. (He resigned the post in October 2018.)

According to the plea agreement, “At no time was the Manzanita PD recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the State of California as a police department. At no time did members of the Manzanita PD, including Vazquez, have the authority to identify themselves as either federal law enforcement officers, state law enforcement officers or peace officers as that term is defined under California law.”

Investigators learned that Vazquez was convicted of a drug felony in 1992 and possessed about 24 firearms when he was police chief. He also admitted to transporting weapons between Arizona and California. The weapons-related charges were read into the record as part of the plea deal.

Interestingly, Vazquez’s attorney urged the U.S. Attorney to investigate and prosecute the individuals who purchased the tribal police memberships from his client.

Vazquez will be sentenced on January 24. He faces up to ten years in prison. He has already agreed to make \$300,000 in restitution to the tribe.

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Don Brockman Collection Now Back On Display

The massive 50-year law enforcement insignia collection that longtime Wisconsin collector donated to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society last summer is now back on display at the Milwaukee Police Academy.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Don Brockman’s collection is back where it belongs! It’s once again on display at the Milwaukee Police Academy.

Brockman, one of the earliest law enforcement insignia collectors in Wisconsin, donated his incredible 50-year patch and badge collection to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society last summer.

Society members have worked tirelessly since then to rearrange and remount the collection on the academy walls. It was displayed in the building for many years until a former chief of police ordered it removed because it was not confined only to Milwaukee. His decision has since been reversed.

“I went to the academy a few days ago. It was great to see it [the collection] on the walls again. There are still some displays that haven’t been put up, but a lot of them are back,” Brockman said. “I can’t wait until they are all back up.”

Brockman donated dozens of 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 acquired since 1976, to the academy.

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 correspondents.

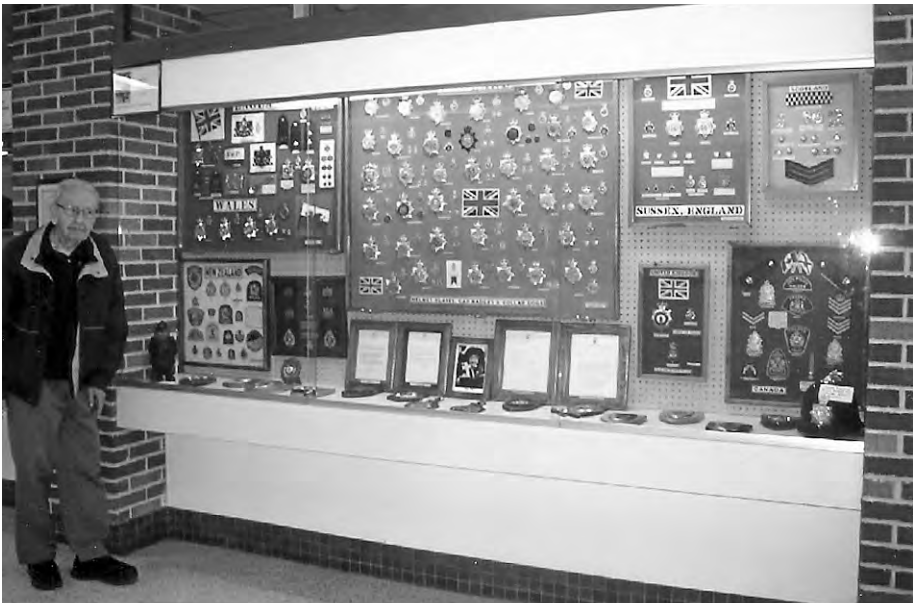
Brockman, 90, now lives in an assisted living facility near his former Milwaukee home, which is up for sale. He made the generous donation because he no longer has room to display his collection after putting his house up for sale.

“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 it, if I made the donation. I said, ‘Yes,’” Brockman said.

The collector related that five society members worked for nearly five hours to remove the massive collection from his basement where it was carefully mounted on the walls or



Retired Milwaukee police Officer Don Brockman, who is a second generation city policeman, stands next to his personal display at the Milwaukee Police Academy. It’s part of the massive insignia and artifacts collection that Brockman donated to the historical society in 2021. *Contributed photograph*



In addition to more than 100 framed collections of Wisconsin and United States cloth emblems, Don Brockman's donation to the Milwaukee Police Historical Society includes a wide variety of insignia and artifacts from other nations, including England, Wales and New Zealand. *Contributed photograph*

Brockman Collection ...Continued

neatly arranged in cabinets.

Brockman began donating custom-frame patch collections from through Wisconsin and the United States for display on the third floor of the academy in the early 1980s. Eventually, 132 framed collections were donated, as well as worldwide police hats, badges and other insignia. Every collection went on display, until a former chief ordered them removed. He wanted to replace them with Milwaukee police memorabilia, but the changeover never happened.

Historical society officials got approval from the current chief to return the collections to the academy walls. "We're thrilled to get it [the collection] and put it where everyone can enjoy it," member Fred Haas, a fellow Wisconsin collector, said.

Brockman is particularly pleased that his personal career badge, patch and photograph display is shown next to his father's career display. His father was also a Milwaukee police officer.

"I really like how they have displayed the collection. They did a great job. I can't wait until everything is on the walls, so I can see what it looks like now," Brockman said.

The Police Academy is located in downtown Milwaukee at 6680 North Teutonia Avenue. The telephone number is (414) 935-7190.

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Police Museum
Now Open In
Kansas City, Kan.

The Kansas City, Kan. Police Department has opened a new museum dedicated to its history. Located at police headquarters, the museum features more than 100 pieces of department history, including an exhibit devoted to gangster "Pretty Boy" Floyd.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The Kansas City, Kan. Police Museum opened in late October. It is open to the public.

The museum, which is a first for the department, is located inside police headquarters in downtown Kansas City. It is open the first Friday of every month from 9 am to 4 pm or by appointment.

"This is really an opportunity for us to really look at the history, learn about some things and how policing has changed. This is another opportunity for the community to come together, work on our differences and move forward together," Chief Karl Oakman said.

The agency has assembled a wide-ranging collection of department artifacts and memorabilia, including badges, patches, uniforms, historic documents and even a patrol car. There are about 100 items in all.

The Fallen Officer Memorial Exhibit chronicles the deaths of every Kansas City officer killed in the line of duty. There are crime scene artifacts, personal items and audio recordings of slain officer's final radio transmissions. Twenty city police officers have died on duty since the agency was formed in 1898.

"My favorite part is the dedication to the officers who lost their lives in the line of duty throughout the history of our department," the chief said.

An exhibit shows a mugshot and fingerprints of bank robber Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, who partnered with criminals across the state line in Kansas City, Mo. in the late 1920s and early '30s.

The mugshots and fingerprints were taken four years before the bloody Union Station Massacre. Four law enforcement officers were murdered in a shootout with Floyd and his gang on June 17, 1933, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Floyd and his gang were trying to free a bank robber being held in custody by Kansas City, Mo. police at the train station. However, historians have disputed Floyd's involvement.

An exhibit features Boston Daniels, the first black police chief in the city. Although he headed the agency for only a year in 1970 before he retired in 1971, he had a distinguished career that began in 1955. He is best remembered as a legendary detective who was



A collection of Kansas City, Kan. police uniforms is nicely displayed on full-size mannequins and now can be seen at the entrance to the new Kansas City Police Museum at police headquarters. The museum, which was two years in the making, debuted in October 2021. *Contributed photograph*

credited with solving more than 5000 cases. He was the major in charge of investigations when he was promoted to chief.

Chief Oakman is the department's second Black chief.

The department worked closely with the Wyandotte County Historical Museum to develop the exhibits. Most of the exhibits will be changed periodically, but the Fallen Officer Memorial Exhibit is a permanent display, the chief said.

Former Chief Terry Ziegler is credited with having the idea for the museum in 2019. The county museum asked him to help them create a police exhibit at the county facility, but the chief wanted a police museum at the downtown headquarters.

David Hartman, curator for the Wyandotte County Historical Museum, volunteered to work on the museum and said the police union and the department paid the costs, approximately \$26,000.



Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, who was once J. Edgar Hoover's Public Enemy No. 1, was active in criminal activity in the Kansas City area in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The new Kansas City Police Museum features his mugshot and fingerprints taken in 1929. *Contributed photograph*

Appointments to view the exhibits can be made by email at museum@kckpd.org.

A police officer who works at headquarters told PCNEWS it is best to make an appointment to view the exhibits, especially for out of town visitors, or anyone who is unable to visit on the first Friday of the month.

"We've been told visitors have to be escorted into the museum, so plan ahead to make sure someone is available. I wouldn't try and just walk in any time and ask to see it. But, the public is welcome, that's for sure. It's really nice," the officer said.

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The Fallen Officers Memorial Exhibit at the new Kansas City Police Museum is dedicated to the 20 city police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The bullet-riddled patrol car was involved in an officer's death. Chief Karl Oakman said the exhibit will be permanent. *Contributed photograph*



(Left) A thin blue line flag highlights the new Bella Villa, Mo. police patch. It also features the state seal in full color. It's a Saint Louis County agency. (Right) Although it met with some controversy when it was introduced, the new California City patch has been adopted. *Contributed photographs*

The Spokane County, Wash. Sheriffs Office has gone retro with its new patch design (right), which is a modification of an insignia worn in the 1950s. It is now being worn. (Left) The previous shoulder patch has been worn since the 1970s. It features a badge and a mountain. *Contributed photographs*

New Insignia Debuts Across United States

The new year began with a very impressive array of new law enforcement insignia from California to Missouri to Minnesota and Wisconsin. It's 2022 and police chiefs and sheriffs across the country are celebrating with new styles.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – New law enforcement agency emblems have debuted across the country to celebrate 2022 as police chiefs and sheriffs have approved impressive style changes across the country.

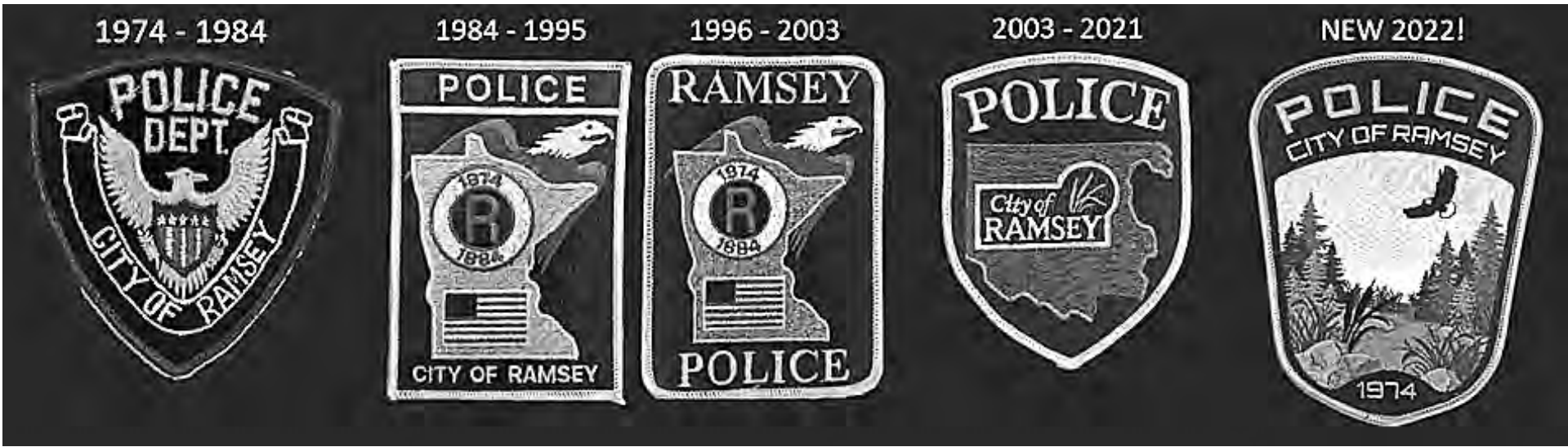
Thin blue line A silver, white and blue flag highlights the latest Bella Villa, Mo. emblem.
The CHP shape is black with white legends and borders.
A full color state seal appears on a round center design superimposed over the flag.
The legends read "POLICE" in large letters at the top, "CITY OF BELLA VILLA/ SERVE & PROTECT" around the center design, "EST. 1947" beneath the flag and "MO" at the bottom.
Red, white and blue stars on either side of the bottom legends complete the design.
The city of 815 people southeast of Saint Louis in southern Saint Louis County has five full-time police officers. It was incorporated in 1947. The first law enforcement officer was a city marshal, but the title changed to police chief in the early 1950s.
In 1956, the city applied to the Saint Louis County Police Commission to deputize the police department. The application was approved officially creating the agency.
The first police station opened in 1963, and the first police car, a used 1959 two-door six-cylinder Chevrolet Bel Air, was purchased for \$900 in 1964.
Courtesy of Thomas Doran

California City controversy When Chief of Police Jon Walker presented a proposed new shoulder emblem design for the California City, Calif. Police Department to the City Council as a courtesy, he didn't expect a controversy.
Chief Walker showed council members a full-color artist's rendering of the colorful new patch and explained it would replace an emblem that had been worn, it is believed, since 1965. He told Mayor Jeanie O'Laughlin and council members the new emblem would enhance recruitment and improve morale.
The new emblem is a CHP shape with a blue background and gold legends and borders.
The round center design shows the golden sun rising over a snow-capped blue and white Eastern Sierra Mountains peak and the red, white and blue United States flag.
It is surrounded by the legends, "PROTECTION AND SERVICE WITH PRIDE," the department motto, at the top and "LAND OF THE SUN," the city motto, at the bottom.

"CALIFORNIA CITY" is lettered on an arc across the top and "POLICE" appears at the bottom in gold letters.
There is a gold outer border.
Donations paid for the initial order of 200 patches, which cost \$550, Chief Walker said, so the style change would have no impact on the city budget.
Mayor O'Laughlin immediately opposed the new emblem. She said symbolism and insignia should be uniform citywide.
The mayor was also skeptical of the chief's assertion that a new patch would improve morale. "All we have to do is get patches and we improve morale?" she asked.
Two residents who attended the council meeting also expressed opposition. One said the change should be considered by the entire community, while the other said changing the longtime design represents "redefining who we are as a community."
Despite the objections, the council approved the style change.
California City is located in the scenic high desert 100 miles north of Los Angeles at the base of the Eastern Sierra Mountains in Kern County. It has the third-largest land size in the state, covering more than 200 square miles. The population is 14,120.
Courtesy of California City PD

Spokane sheriff updates The Spokane County, Wash. Sheriffs Office has replaced the shoulder patch worn by deputy sheriffs since 1972 with a new design.
According to Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, the style change is actually a modification of a retro design the department wore from the mid to late 1950s.
"The choice to incorporate a logo designed in the 1950s represents the office's longstanding dedication and service to our community, while ushering in a new era and generation of deputies with pride and professionalism," Sheriff Knezovich said.
The new emblem is green, black and gold. The center design is a green seven point star badge with gold legends, "SPOKANE/ SHERIFF/ COUNTY." It has a black background with gold and green borders.
The 1972 patch is nearly the same size and shape. It features a black background with a gold seven-point star at the top, "SHERIFF" in gold letters, a snow-capped brown mountain with evergreen trees and "SPOKANE/ COUNTY," also in green letters, at the bottom. There is a gold border.
"The change comes from a desire for a new design while connecting with the history of our agency," the sheriff said.
Spokane County policies the county and five contract cities, Deer Park, Medical Lake, Millwood, Spangle and Spokane Valley.
Deputies assigned to Spokane Valley, the largest contract city, wear a two blue and gold police department emblem.
Courtesy of Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich

Ramsey unveils emblem The quality and beauty of Minnesota law enforcement insignia has improved steadily through the years. A fabulous new emblem in the Anoka County city of Ramsey is the latest impressive creation. It debuted in January.
After wearing the same shoulder patch since 2003, the new and colorful design shows an eagle in flight over a riverbank with cattails and weeds in the foreground and evergreen trees in the background. Gray and blue are the predominant colors.
"There's some pride that goes with it. It's the identity of the department and the community that they serve, so it's symbolic of that," Chief Jeff Katers said.
The idea to replace the 2003 emblem came from inside the department.
"A group of our officers and employees within the Police Department said we should look at updating or changing our patch to be more reflective of the community we serve," the chief said.



This is the progression of Ramsey, Minn. police patches since the first style was introduced in 1974. It shows a so-called stock eagle that was worn until 1984. Ramsey introduced the first of two tall rectangular emblems in 1984 that were fairly similar, except for the legends. "POLICE/ CITY OF RAMSEY"

was worn until 1995. It was succeeded by "RAMSEY/ POLICE" in 1996 and was worn until 2003. The CHP-shaped "City of Ramsey" insignia has been worn ever since until the agency underwent a complete makeover with the beautiful new 2022 patch shown on the far right. *Ramsey PD photograph*



Gustine, Calif. Police Department wore the first and only “Happy Halloween” shoulder patch last October, thanks to Chief Ruben Chavez and collector Jarrod Nunes, a city police officer, who designed it. The center design depicts a witch on a broomstick and a jack-o-lantern. *Contributed photograph*

New Insignia Designs ...Continued

In 2020, Ramsey formed a committee to come up with ideas, present them and then work with a graphic artist to refine the favorite.

The final product depicts a river running among trees and cattails, evoking the natural resources of the city, which is bordered by the Mississippi and Rum rivers. An eagle representing freedom soars above the scene.

“We worked through a lot of different iterations of it,” Chief Katers said.

This is the fifth patch the department has worn since 1974.

The changeover will cost the city about \$10,000.

Ramsey is a far northwest Minneapolis-Saint Paul suburb. The population is 27,000.

Courtesy of Hometown Source

Gustine Halloween patch The specialty patch craze has gone all occasion, just like greeting cards, at least in Gustine, Calif. where police officers wore a first-ever “Happy Halloween” emblem to promote Halloween safety.

Chief Ruben Chavez told the local newspaper that his department was the first in California to wear “Happy Halloween” shoulder patches.

The colorful emblem is the same size, shape and colors as the standard insignia, except the center design depicts a witch on a broomstick in flight and a snarling jack-o-lantern, all in full color. Otherwise, it has a blue background and gold legends and borders, except for “HAPPY HALLOWEEN,” which appears in blue letters.

Gustine police wear a variety of patches throughout the year, including patches to support breast cancer awareness and a Veteran’s Day patch.

“We want to promote Halloween safety,” Chief Chavez said.

The insignia was designed by Gustine police Officer Jarrod Nunes, a well-known California patch collector.

Chief Chavez said no other California law enforcement agency has a Halloween patch like Gustine.

Courtesy of Gustine Police Department

Police honor clans The Meskwaki Nation Police Department in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is honoring tribal clans with a new badge and patrol vehicle markings.

Chief of Police Jacob Molitor said it is important for the department to connect with the community. That’s why the tribal police officers pitched in their own money to create and produce a custom badge with the tribal logo as the center design. The previous badge showed the Iowa state seal.

The old badge is a seven-point star with the legends, “OFFICER/ MESKWAKI NATION/ POLICE/ (NUMBER).”

The new style is an eagle-topped shield with the red and green tribal seal and the legends, “OFFICER/ MESKWAKI NATION/ POLICE/ IOWA/ (NUMBER).”

“We appreciate the state of Iowa as state-certified peace officers, but we represent our community here, and it means so much to them,” Chief Molitor said.

Twenty-five hundred people live in Meskwaki, but only about 1400 are enrolled tribal members.

Department funds went to outfit every patrol vehicle with a different clan symbol, such as eagle, fox or swan.

Tribal members have reacted positively to the new badge, as well as the patrol vehicle decals.

Wabikemi Seymour, a swan clan member, said the project has brought the community together.

All eight clans are now represented by decals on the agency’s five patrol vehicles.

Courtesy of Meshkawi Nation Police



(Left) The obsolete Meskwaki Nation Police Department badge was a seven-point star with the Iowa state seal as the center design. (Right) The new badge features the tribal seal as the center design. It is a handsome eagle-topped shield with colorful seal predominant. *Contributed photographs*



The Portage, Wis. Police Department will transition from the previous shoulder emblem (left) to the new style (right) early this year. Chief Keith Klafke said the old style triangle has been worn for at least 50 years. The new design features a Native American portaging a canoe. *Contributed photograph*

Portage changes styles The Portage Police Department celebrated 2022 with a new shoulder emblem, the first style change in the south central Wisconsin city in 50 years.

Chief Keith Klafke announced his agency will begin wearing a completely new emblem, still distinct to Portage, beginning in January.

“We’ve had officers and people at conferences and other people ask us what the design on our patch is. To us, it’s clear that it’s two people carrying a canoe, but others don’t know that,” Chief Klafke said.

The outgoing insignia is a yellow triangle with a black border and legends. The red and black center designs shows two Native American carrying a canoe on their backs. The legends read, “PORTAGE CITY POLICE” at the top and “PORTAGE/ WIS.” on the bottom.

Portage occupies the lowlands between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers that Menominee Indians once used to portage their canoes between the two rivers.

Chief Klafke said it was important to his department to keep the canoe in the patch design. “We’re the portage between two rivers; we needed to keep the canoe,” he said.

The updated patch is a CHP shape. It’s royal blue, black and gold with “POLICE” across the top in gold letters centered on a black arc surrounded with white legends.

“PORTAGE” is seen in white letters above the center design, which is a Native American portaging a brown canoe on the royal blue background.

The city motto, “WHERE THE” (left) and “NORTH BEGINS” (right), appears in gold letters on either edge of the center design.

“WI” completes the design in white letters at the bottom.

Chief Klafke said the patch preserves the history of the area with a fresh design that hasn’t been updated in over 50 years.

“There was some confusion about the phrase, ‘Portage City Police.’ We are the Portage Police Department, so we wanted to clean that up. Having ‘POLICE’ across the top in bold letters cleans that up,” Chief Klafke said.

He said the previous design was introduced in the 1970s but was not certain when.

Portage PD staff gave input on the new patch over the last year as the design was being created.

“It will be better to have this nice patch to stop people from asking what that thing is, or what is the Portage City Police? With this new patch, there will be no doubt,” Chief Klafke said.

Courtesy of Portage Police Department

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US Border Patrol The United States Border Patrol was founded on May 18, 1924 with 450 officers. Today, the agency is composed of 21 sectors and employed 19,740 special agents in 2020. The Border Patrol is responsible for patrolling 6000 miles of international borders between Canada and Mexico and 2000 miles of coastal waters surrounding the Florida Peninsula and the island of Puerto Rico. Special agents wear green uniforms with gold insignia and drive white vehicles with green and gold markings.

Florida Strawberry Capitol Plant City is the Winter Strawberry Capitol of Florida. The 11-day annual Florida Strawberry Festival attracts more than 500,000 visitors to the city of 40,000 between Tampa and Lakeland. The Police Department was founded in 1885. It has 67 sworn officers and 18 civilian employees. Uniformed officers wear a shoulder emblem depicting the very colorful city seal. Well-known Florida collector James Bradford was recently named the city’s new chief of police.



The Sheriff John C. Vogel chalice (far left) was a centerpiece of David Brown’s “Missouri Law Enforcement Memorabilia” exhibit at the 2021 National Police Collectors Show. It was featured among collections of badges, patches and a variety of artifacts and memorabilia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Saint Louis deputy sheriffs presented this beautifully hand-engraved silver and gold chalice to Sheriff John C. Vogel in October 1866. Vogel was sheriff from 1862 to 1866, so it is possible this was a retirement gift. David Brown now has this historic piece in his Missouri collection. *Contributed photograph*

David Brown Preserves An 1866 Chalice

John C. Vogel was the sheriff of Saint Louis County from 1862 to 1866. In October 1866, his deputies presented him with a beautifully hand-engraved silver and gold chalice. David Brown has preserved it in his outstanding Missouri collection.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAINT LOUIS, Mo. – David Brown may have one of the oldest documented pieces of Missouri law enforcement history in his outstanding collection, a silver and gold chalice nearly 160 years old.

The one-of-a-kind chalice was the centerpiece of his display, “Missouri Law Enforcement Memorabilia,” at the 2021 National Police Collectors Show in Saint Louis. It was featured among badges, patches and a wide variety of Show-Me State artifacts and memorabilia.

John C. Vogel was the Saint Louis County sheriff from 1862 to 1866, the turbulent years when Missouri seceded from the United States and became part of the Confederate States of America.

The beautifully hand-engraved chalice was presented to Sheriff Vogel by his deputies in October 1866, possibly as a retirement gift since it was his last year in office. The inscription reads, “PRESENTED TO/ JOHN C. VOGEL/ SHERIFF OF ST. LOUIS/ COUNTY/ BY HIS/ DEPUTIES/ OCT/ 1866.”

According to the “Find A Grave” database, Vogel was a German immigrant who settled in Saint Louis in 1836. A baker by trade, he worked for a bakery and then opened one of his own.

Vogel was naturalized in 1841 and became active in city politics after he became a United States citizen. He got a job as city weigher in 1843 checking commercial scales for accuracy for three years. Then, he worked as justice of the peace from 1851 to 1858.

Vogel was elected to the City Council in 1855 and served until 1861.

Somehow, he became associated with the Saint Louis Fire and Marine Insurance Company while he was justice of the peace and ultimately became company president. The firm became one of the most successful insurance companies in the West.

Vogel was a leader in the large German community in Saint Louis and ran for sheriff in 1862. He won the election despite having no law enforcement experience, which was common in an era when sheriff elections were largely popularity contests. He held the office for four years.

The duties of the Saint Louis County sheriff when Vogel held the office and today still involve enforcement of court writs and executions. Not much has changed in 150-plus years!

A sheriff’s sale notice signed by Sheriff Vogel on July 5, 1864 lists personal property to be sold at auction to satisfy a court judgment.

Ferdinand and Magdalena Rheydt must not have paid their bills, so Sheriff Vogel seized, “one bedstead, two mattresses, one wardrobe, one table and cover, one lounge and mattress, one desk, one washstand, six chairs, one stove and cooking utensils, one cupboard, one kitchen table, one bathtub, two clocks, two pistols, one pair window curtains, lots of machinery, tools, work bench and fixtures.”

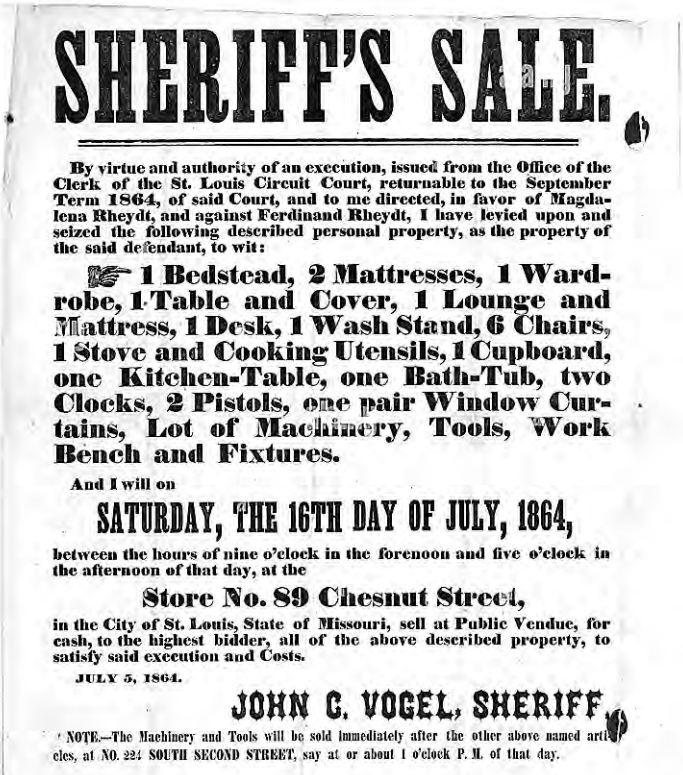
It appears the sheriff pretty much cleaned out the Rheydt residence! Not all that much different from a modern day sheriff’s sale to satisfy a court judgment.

Interestingly, Vogel became involved in a statewide political scandal after he left office. The Iron Mountain and Cairo and Fulton Railroads went bankrupt. The state foreclosed on the railroads and put them up for auction. Vogel was among the group of successful bidders, all prominent businessmen.

The scandal erupted after Vogel and the group sold the railroads for a \$375,000 profit only a month after Governor Thomas Fletcher, described as a radical Republican, approved the foreclosure sale. The governor’s political opponents claimed the low bidders, who were all his supporters, bought the railroads at unrealistically low prices, then resold them at fair market value. Perhaps it was a case of insider trading, 1800s style?

Vogel died in 1884 at age 68. He is buried in Saint Louis.

Congratulations to Brown for preserving an outstanding piece of Saint Louis police



Sheriffs have always been responsible for enforcing writs and executions issued by courts in their jurisdictions, even during the Civil War. Sheriff John C. Vogel auctioned personal property belonging to Magdalena and Ferdinand Rheydt on July 16, 1864 to satisfy a judgment. *Contributed photograph*

history. Thankfully, a 156-year-old law enforcement collectible has survived.

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Waterloo Police Say Goodbye To The Red Griffin

The Waterloo, Iowa Police Department has transitioned to a new patch following retirement of the red griffin emblem that generated controversy in the Black community. The previous design was popular among officers and the city. Its successor is not. Will the new patch and Chief Joel Fitzgerald soon be replaced?

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WATERLOO, Iowa – The controversial removal of the red griffin with a green eye that has appeared on Waterloo, Iowa police patches since the 1960s is complete. A new emblem is now being worn.

Two current and one retired city council member volunteers spent a few weeks



(Top) The new shoulder patch was adopted last year on a five-to-two council vote. It is black on gold. (Bottom) The griffin emblem Waterloo police officers had worn since the 1960s. The griffin is red with a green eye. The legends are black on a gold background. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*



Joel Fitzgerald has been the first Black police chief in four cities, most recently in Waterloo, Iowa. Quentin Hart, the first Black mayor, brought Fitzgerald in to reform a police department with a long history of tension with the Black community. He was hired in April 2020. *Contributed photograph*

Goodbye, Red Griffin ...*Continued*

transporting uniforms and other garments between police headquarters and a company that removed the old patches and sewed on the new styles.

The new style is the same Los Angeles County Sheriff-shape as the previous design, which featured the dragon-like creature as the predominant feature. The legends are “WATERLOO” on an arc across the top, “POLICE” in the center and ‘VIGILANCE” and “EST. 1868” at the bottom. The background is yellow, while the legends are black. There is no center design.

Patrick Morrissey, one of the volunteers, told the council at a recent meeting their efforts ensured an earlier mandate that the patches be removed by last September 30 had been met, except for the last batch of clothing that couldn’t be updated because there weren’t enough patches. The transition was completed after the meeting after additional emblems were delivered.

Morrissey praised Major Joe Leibold and the police department for their “cooperation, good nature and willingness to work with us.” Previously, Morrissey and other council members accused the department of being uncooperative with the changeover.

“The clothing we brought back on our last trip meant that all people within the Waterloo Police Department can now wear their clothing with the new patches. And, I think it looks great,” Morrissey said.

Officially, the red griffin was retired on August 20, 2020 on a unanimous council vote. The new logo was approved last May 17 on a five-to-two vote.

The red griffin became controversial following the appointment of Joel Fitzgerald, the city’s first Black chief of police, in April 2020. Black citizen groups and community activists complained to the new chief that the red griffin dragon was adopted by the Klu Klux Klan as a symbol of White supremacy. They claimed its appearance on the police patch had furthered community tensions and distrust of police over the years and asked it be discontinued. The chief promised to voice their concerns to the city council.

When Chief Fitzgerald brought the Black community’s concerns before the council and recommended a new emblem, there was an almost immediate backlash from some council members, as well as police officers who wear the insignia.

Soon, current and former officers and citizens took to social media and the local news media to strongly defend the red griffin insignia. They said it was part of the department’s heritage and vehemently disputed claims the red griffin with a green eye is symbolic of the KKK.

A political action committee, Cedar Valley Backs the Blue, was formed as a pro-law enforcement group to endorse “pro-police” candidates for city council seats.

Following several lengthy 2020 council meetings during which the red griffin patch was hotly debated, the council voted last May to replace the emblem with a new style. The transition was to have taken place last summer. However, the style change did not occur. Council members who supported the change accused police management of “stonewalling” and “dragging it out.” They volunteered to facilitate the transition.

Waterloo hired Chief Fitzgerald in April 2020 to reform the police department after longstanding allegations of racial inequality and poor relations with the Black community. About 17 percent of the city’s 67,000 residents are Black.

The red griffin controversy triggered intense opposition to Chief Fitzgerald inside and outside of the department. There have been calls for his ouster and removal of Quentin Hart, the city’s first Black mayor in the next election.

Chief Fitzgerald has described his tenure as a “case study” for what Black police chiefs face as they seek to build community trust and hold officers to higher standards.

The chief and the red griffin patch controversy have focused national attention on Waterloo. Major television network news programs and *Time* Magazine have featured stories. The controversies are already hot button issues in the upcoming spring election.

Ironically, if removal of the chief over the red griffin patch ever happens, he may become the first police chief ever ousted over a shoulder patch recommendation.

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London Metropolitan Police According to recent research published by the Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain, the first London Metropolitan Police uniforms debuted in 1829. Robert Peel deliberately designed them to look civilian; “the standard dress of a gentlemen.” Peel was keenly aware that uniforms are an identifier and mark of authority. However, he keenly gauged public resentment toward to the uniformed British Army for suppressing riots and protests. Peel wanted his officers to look civilian, not military, to promote greater public acceptance.

Adams County Anniversary Collector Monty McCord has compiled an extensive 150-year history of the Adams County, Nebr. Sheriff’s Office. It appeared in the latest edition of *Historical News* published by the county historical society. McCord covers the years from the agency’s founding in 1871 through 2021. He points out that Worthy B. Wood was the dean of Nebraska sheriffs having held the office from 1936 to 1962. McCord designed a 150th anniversary badge for the department.



Ken Lucas Sr.’s collection features the badge once worn by Dixon, Ill. police Chief Jack D. Van Bibber. He is the officer who arrested then-11 year-old Ronald Reagan, the future president, for a fireworks violation in 1922. Reagan was fined \$14.50 for shooting off a “torpedo.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

National Police Collectors Show News Highlights

The 2021 National Police Collectors Show in Saint Louis generated a great deal of hobby news. Highlights include displays of badges once worn by a cop who arrested a future president and a Wisconsin sheriff with White House political connections. There was a new reference book and a great story about a rare Ford Edsel police car.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAINT LOUIS, Mo. – One of the best things about every National Police Collectors Show is the opportunity to see many of the finest collections in the hobby and get to know the dedicated hobbyists who create them.

I thoroughly enjoy each show, no matter where it is, especially when exhibitors describe their collections, show outstanding pieces and report on how they document and research them.

The Internet is a tool best utilized for buying, selling and trading for those willing to risk dealing mostly with unknown individuals. However, the Web is not a reliable or dependable source for hobby-related information. Veteran collectors and collector-produced reference books are by far the best sources. Shows like the National are where they can be found.

Saint Louis did not disappoint. The three-day October show was a treasure trove of fascinating exhibits that chronicled law enforcement history. It generated a lot of hobby news.

These are some stories I gathered while viewing the displays and talking to the devoted collectors behind them.

Illinois Chief Arrested Ronald Reagan Chesapeake City, Md. badge collector and historian Ken Lucas Sr. showed a unique item, a badge once worn by an Illinois police chief who arrested Ronald Reagan, a then-future president.



(Top) The Ford Edsel had a unique vertical grille. Although the car was a commercial failure during its 1958 to 1960 run, about 900 were sold to law enforcement agencies. (Bottom) Former Bear Valley, Calif. Chief Marcel Jojola restored a ‘58 model and added it to the PD fleet. *Marcel Jojola Collection*

Although the 40th president was born in Tampico in northern Illinois, Reagan grew up in nearby Dixon. When he was 11 years old in 1922, he got a hold of a “torpedo,” a piece of fireworks. He set off the “torpedo” on the Fourth of July just as a local police officer happened to be in the area. He was caught red-handed.

Fireworks were illegal in Dixon. The officer flashed his badge and turned Reagan over to Chief of Police Jack D. Van Bibber, who arrested him. Reagan’s father, Jack, a local businessman, played cards with the chief, so he was familiar with the family.

Chief Van Bibber fined Reagan \$14.50 for the fireworks violation, which was a lot of money in 1922, especially for an 11-year-old boy.

Lucas’s display featured a newspaper article about the arrest written many years later, as well as the chief’s badge. It’s a silver-colored six-point ball-tipped star with the legend, “CHIEF/ POLICE/ DIXON, ILL.”

Interviewed about his brush with the law as a youth in 1922, Reagan wrote, “The police chief took the ban on fireworks very seriously, and I guess my smart aleck attitude didn’t help.”

What a great story about a former president and a unique piece of law enforcement history!

Jojola Owned Edsel Police Car Veteran collector Marcel Jojola shared a fascinating tale about owning one of the relatively few Ford Edsel cars used for police work.

Old-timers remember the ill-fated Edsel, arguably one of the ugliest cars ever built by a major American manufacturer.

Ford began developing the Edsel, which was named after Henry Ford’s son, in 1956. The idea was to create an entirely new line of automobiles to better compete with Buick, DeSoto, Dodge, Oldsmobile and Pontiac. Ford hyped the Edsel as the car of the future.

When it debuted in 1958 with its unique vertical grille, the Edsel was a commercial failure. Ford sold only about 120,000 cars, or less than half of the sales needed to break even, during the model years of 1958, 1959 and 1960. When the Edsel was discontinued midway during the 1960 production year, Ford had already lost about \$350 million (in 1959 dollars) on it.

Nevertheless, some law enforcement agencies bought Edsels because they were less expensive than other models. Jojola estimated about 900 Edsels were purchased as police cars.

“It was the oddest-looking police car I ever saw. It just didn’t look like a police car. It looked like a family car. And, the grille was a dead giveaway, so it was useless as an undercover unit,” Jojola recalled.

During his 14-year tenure as police chief in Bear Valley, Calif., Jojola decided he wanted to own a police Edsel. He found one in New Mexico that had originally been used by a law enforcement agency in Minnesota. It was a Ranger model.

“It hadn’t been driven for 17 years when I bought it. I found out later the department needed a car, so they bought it off the lot from a Ford dealer. There was no such thing as a police package Edsel,” Jojola recalled.

“When I got the car, I opened the trunk and was surprised to see the Motorola police radio still in there after all those years. I guess when the department in Minnesota sold it, they decided to leave the radio in the car. I don’t know why.”

Jojola had the Edsel restored, painted bright blue and outfitted with a period-correct roof-mounted red emergency light and other law enforcement gear. In 1997, it became an official police vehicle in Bear Valley. He actually stopped a Corvette for speeding while driving it around the city. One can only imagine the driver’s reaction!

“We used the Edsel for parades. We showed it at functions. It was a big PR [public relations] hit, especially with older people who remembered the Edsel. Many of them didn’t believe there really were Edsel police cars until they saw one,” he said.

Jojola once drove his car to an Edsel rally in Las Vegas. “It was pretty popular at the show. Most people had never seen one set up as a police car. I think I had my picture taken more times than anyone else that weekend,” he said.

Jojola is officially a Chief of Police Emeritus in California. He served as chief in Rio Dell, Calexico, El Centro, Huron and Bear Valley. He also served as police chief in two other states before he finally retired.

He wants his many collector friends across the country to know he no longer lives in Mississippi. He and his wife now reside in Madina, Tenn. (His contact information is available through the PCNEWS office.)

Nationally Known Wisconsin County Sheriff In Wisconsin, when a county sheriff resigns, or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term of office, the governor appoints someone to fill the remainder of the elected sheriff’s term.

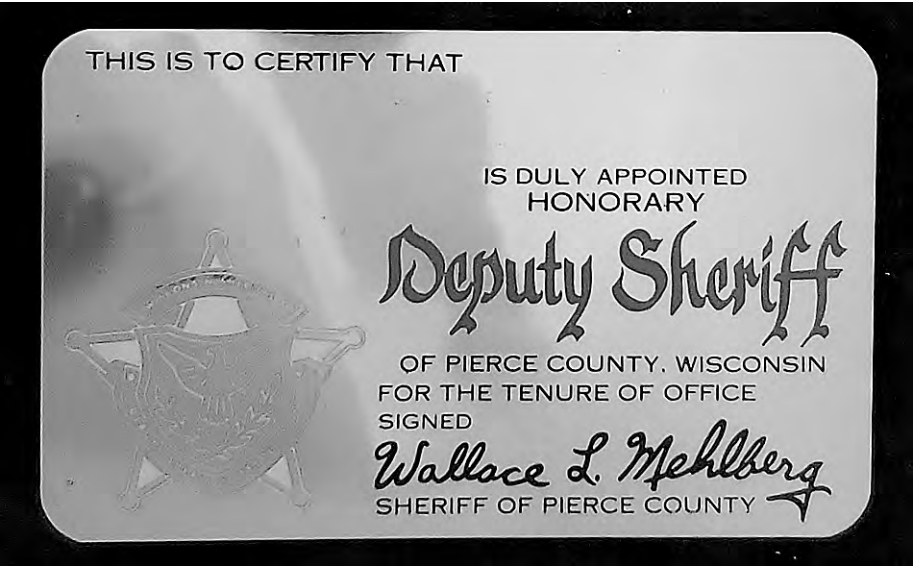
State law gives the governor authority to appoint anyone to complete a sheriff’s term. Sometimes, governors appoint law enforcement officers. Other times, they appoint political supporters or friends. Because a sheriff is elected official, there is no requirement he or she be a trained and certified law enforcement officer.

In 1973, Democratic Governor Patrick Lucey appointed fellow Democrat Wallace L. Mehlberg as Pierce County sheriff. Elected Sheriff Roy Simonson had resigned due to ill health only a few months into his January 1973 to January 1975 term. Mehlberg became sheriff on May 24, 1973.

While it is common for an appointed sheriff to have political connections to get the job, it is very rare when those connections stretch all the way to the White House and a



Wisconsin’s governor appointed Wallace L. Mehlberg as Pierce County sheriff in 1973 after the elected sheriff resigned. Mehlberg was involved in Democratic Party politics and personally acquainted with President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy and their families. *Contributed photographs*



Bruce Von Haden’s outstanding Pierce County sheriff collection includes one of the controversial gold-colored metal honorary deputy sheriff identification cards that Sheriff Wallace L. Mehlberg handed out to his political supporters and friends as “get out of jail free” passes. *Bruce Von Haden photograph*

powerhouse political family, the Kennedys.

A prized segment of retired Pierce County Deputy Bruce Von Haden’s department collection is devoted to Sheriff Mehlberg. He has his personal badge, identification card, vehicle license plate and an honorary deputy sheriff courtesy card that Sheriff Mehlberg handed out to friends and supporters.

When Von Haden told me at the show that Sheriff Mehlberg had strong political connections, I had no idea he was so well connected until I did some research into his career.

I learned much to my surprise that the Pierce County sheriff had strong personal connections to both President John F. Kennedy and United States Attorney General, United States senator and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy. Of course, there have been other sheriffs with national political standing, but rarely from small, rural counties in western Wisconsin.

“Mehlberg got the job because he had connections to the Democratic Party. He had absolutely no law enforcement experience. He had no idea how the sheriff’s department ran, the jobs we did or anything else. He was a politician, but he was the sheriff, so he was the boss,” Von Haden said.

Needless to say, Sheriff Mehlberg was not popular among his deputies.

“I’ve been told the thing that bothered the department the most was his courtesy cards. He put out an order that as soon as someone showed the card to a deputy, contact with that person was to be terminated immediately, no matter what, or the deputy would face discipline. His honorary deputies were untouchables. Basically, they got get out of jail free cards. The real deputies resented them,” Von Haden said.

Mehlberg, who grew up on a farm in rural Shawano County, Wis., became active in Democratic Party politics while studying agriculture education at the University of Wisconsin River Falls from 1942 to 1946. He obtained a degree in agriculture with a minor in education.

After graduation, Mehlberg returned to north central Wisconsin where he taught high school agriculture in Wausau. He continued his involvement county and regional Democratic politics.

In 1952, he and his wife purchased a farm near River Falls in Pierce County where they raised beef cattle part-time while they both taught in area schools full-time. Mehlberg was soon elected chairman of the Pierce County Democratic Party.

In 1960, Mehlberg became an early and enthusiastic supporter of Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy, who sought the Democratic nomination for president. Wisconsin was one of the first primary states and the energetic, handsome young senator campaigned extensively across the state in the dead of winter. Kennedy felt strongly that Wisconsin could propel him to the White House.

Mehlberg volunteered for the Kennedy campaign and met the future president during a swing he made through western Wisconsin. He also worked for the Kennedy campaign at the congressional district and state levels.

Kennedy personally named Mehlberg as Wisconsin director for the national Farmers for Kennedy and state chairman of Wisconsin Farmers for Kennedy.



Wallace L. Mehlberg’s personal badge and identification card when he served as appointed Pierce County, Wis. sheriff from 1973 to 1975. The ID card is signed by the county clerk. Mehlberg was unpopular in the department and lost his bid for election to a second term in office. *Bruce Von Haden photograph*

National Show News ...Continued

When Kennedy visited River Falls to campaign in early 1960, Mehlberg and his wife joined the future president's entourage. They also hosted Robert F. Kennedy as an overnight guest in their home, where Mrs. Mehlberg hosted an invitation-only coffee party for Kennedy supporters. Guests included Mrs. Peter Lawford, Kennedy's sister.

After Kennedy won the Wisconsin primary, and months later the Democratic nomination, Mehlberg worked tirelessly to help the senator carry Wisconsin in the November general election.

Kennedy narrowly defeated Vice President Richard Nixon for the presidency in what was then the closest election in United States history.

Mehlberg's dedication to the Kennedy campaign was soon rewarded. In 1961 he was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman as Wisconsin chairman of the federal Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee. Two years later, he was promoted to national director of the Land Use Adjustments Program. He and his wife moved to Washington, D.C. where he carried out his duties at the Agriculture Department.

In the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963, Mehlberg resigned his federal government position to return to Pierce County to prepare for a congressional race in 1964. Ultimately, he chose not to run against a popular, well-known Republican incumbent congressman. Instead, he ran against an incumbent Republican state senator, but he lost.

Mehlberg returned to full-time farming. However, when the former president's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, sought the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination after President Lyndon B. Johnson opted not to seek re-election, Mehlberg became very active in the Kennedy campaign on the local, state and national levels.

Sadly, Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles not long after winning the California Democratic primary on June 6, 1968. Within hours after he was murdered, the late senator's family asked Mehlberg to fly to New York City to help organize his funeral. He was placed in charge of credentials.

Two days later, Mehlberg was among 700 invited guests who rode on the special 21-car railroad train that carried Senator Kennedy's body from New York City, where his funeral had taken place, to Washington, D.C. for his burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mehlberg joined then-future governor Lucey and other state Democratic Party leaders, including Senator Bill Proxmire and Governor John Reynolds, in the Wisconsin delegation at both the Kennedy funeral and burial. (Lucey served from 1971 to 1975.)

Wisconsin sheriffs served two-year terms back then. When Sheriff Mehlberg came up for election for a second term in November 1974, he was soundly defeated by Stanley Christenson, a Republican, which was unusual because Pierce County was a Democratic stronghold. He never sought public office again.

Mehlberg died at age 78 in 2000.

"I knew where he had lived, so I kept an eye on the place when I was out and about, but there never seemed to be anyone home. I wanted to ask someone in the family if there was anything they would part with for my Pierce County collection," Von Haden recalled.

One day, much to his delight, Von Haden found Mehlberg's son at home and asked if he had anything from his father's years as county sheriff. He was able to obtain his badge and ID card in an old wallet and add them to his department collection. He also obtained one of the honorary deputy cards, as well as his patrol car license plate.

The badge is a gold-colored six-point ball-tipped star with extensive filigree and plain state seal. The legend reads, "SHERIFF/ PIERCE COUNTY."

His identification card is a standard design used throughout Wisconsin. It is signed by the county clerk.

The license plate is yellow with black legends and numerals. His plate number was "B 2." The sheriff drove his own car on county business, which was common back then.

The honorary deputy sheriff identification cards that Sheriff Mehlberg handed out to friends and supporters were created by the Badger State Sheriffs Association. They closely resembled the ID cards carried by full-time deputy sheriffs. The impressively-looking cards are made of gold-colored metal with red, black and blue legends.

Von Haden's acquisitions from Mehlberg's brief but controversial tenure as sheriff are not only pieces of Pierce County history, but also slices of Americana that link his former agency to a friend of two of the most influential and revered political leaders of the 1960s.

Anthony Helps Find Stolen Badges In late June 2020, the daughter of the late Lamar, Colo. Firefighter Clarence Leroy Carter reported the burglary of her residence to the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department. Among the items stolen was a display of five personal badges and several service pins commemorating her late father's career.

The family reached out to Bob Anthony, a well-known Kansas City collector, in an effort to recover the stolen badges and pins.

"Ms. Carter thought that if someone offered the badges to me, I might be able to recover some or all of them. Her story struck me and pulled at my heart strings," Anthony said.

He circulated a flier at the National to inform badge collectors about the theft and ask they be on the lookout for the stolen insignia. The fire department badges carry Carter's name on them.

"As I said, her story struck me hard, maybe because my grandfather was also a fireman with Kansas City back in the day. Maybe it was because I also lost my own father years ago



Badges once worn by slain Champaign, Ill. police Officers Robert Tatman (left) and Thomas Dodsworth (right). Tatman was shot and killed in 1967. His assailant has never been apprehended. Dodsworth died in 1913 during a shootout with a bootlegger. His killer also died. *Contributed photograph*

and have little to remember him by. Or, maybe I just like a good challenge," Anthony said.

After he obtained as much information as he could on the missing heirlooms, "I attacked the project like a pit bull with a rag doll," he said. He contacted local pawn shops and flea markets, placed advertisements on Craig's List and joined several Facebook groups dedicated to recovering lost or stolen property.

"The KCPD told my friend there was basically zero chance of her ever seeing her father's badges again, but she didn't know she had solicited the help of 'bulldog!'" Anthony said.

It took three months, but he found one of the stolen badges for sale on the Internet. He met the seller and bought it. Unfortunately, the seller had only one of the missing badges.

"One down and four to go! She almost passed out when I told her that we recovered one of the missing badges," he said.

A year passed before Anthony recovered two more of the stolen badges after receiving a second lead.

Anthony continues to actively pursue the two remaining missing badges.

"I am still very hopeful that with your help, and the collecting community's help, we will be successful and find the last two badges. My wife always accuses me of losing stuff, and I have argued for years now 'that I'm not always losing stuff, but I am always finding stuff!'"

Anyone with any information about a Lamar, Colo. fire badge with the name "C.L. Carter" on it is asked to please contact Anthony on (816) 665-2798 or corkscrewkc@gmail.com.

Granite City Police History Documented Granite City, Ill. has had a police department since 1896 when Henry Fosseick became the first police chief. William Cool was hired as the first patrolman. They had an office in city hall and a single jail cell.

In 1929, Granite City constructed a police station and city jail, which was used until 1978.

Today, the police department and jail are housed in a new building. The jail can accommodate 22 prisoners in 11 jail cells.

Eric Stacy has been diligently researching and chronicling the history of his department and showed some of his collection at the show. He had two frames of GCPD badges displayed with photographs of the officers who wore them. He augmented his exhibits with summaries of log book entries that chronicled significant cases.

"I found a lot of old log books in the basement. These books were kept by officers and supervisors to record patrol activities. This was before the days of the police reports we write today. Officers hand wrote what they did in the log book," Stacy said.

Long Lost Champaign Badge Found Zane Ziegler helped found the Champaign, Ill. Police Historical Society in 2015, but his interest in department history goes back to the city sesquicentennial in 2010.

"I'm not really a collector, but I've always been interested in history. When we celebrated the 150th anniversary, we [the police department] didn't have much history to show, so I decided to see what I could find," Ziegler said.

The veteran Champaign officer, who is retired after 28 years of service, went to work. He recruited a small cadre of retirees to help generate interest in preserving department history. He also began researching it in earnest. (He is now the department historian.)

"There was almost nothing when we started. We had moved into a new building in 1984, but only a few things were saved from the old place. So, I reached out to retirees, and they started donating badges, uniforms and equipment. We started out with zero badges; now, we have about 100," he said.

Ziegler recalled the historical society was fortunate in that the department decided to retain its photo negative library dating back to the 1940s, so it had access to hundreds of historic photographs.

"The department let us use part of a small room in the building for a historical exhibit. There are pictures on the walls and display cases with things that we were able to find and add to the collection," Ziegler said.

Like many Illinois police departments, Champaign adopted Chicago-style uniforms and equipment, including the "pie plate" badge, a five point star with a plain state seal.



Eric Stacy is documenting the history of the Granite City, Ill. Police Department by collecting badges, photographs of officers and old documents, including radio call logs. He has been fortunate to recover a historic treasure trove in store rooms at police headquarters. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Zane Ziegler of the Champaign, Ill. Police Historical Society found a badge at the National Police Collectors Show that was worn by Officer Robert Tatman when he was shot and killed on duty in 1967. The historic badge had found its way into a Chicago collection. It's back in Champaign. *Contributed photograph*



When Carlos Salazar puts on a display, it's always timely and beautifully presented. He showed off his collection of Rio Grande Valley, Tex. law enforcement agencies, "Border Watch." Salazar also exhibited a piece of steel from the border wall he got from a contractor. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ziegler has found badges in various ranks, including badges issued to newspaper reporters and special police officers brought in from other jurisdictions to police University of Illinois football games. Officers came from as far away as Chicago.

Champaign has lost three officers in the line of duty, Thomas Dodsworth in 1913 in a shootout with a bootlegger; Robert Tatman in 1967, shot and killed with his own gun but under unknown circumstances and Chris Oberheim, 44, who died last May in a shootout after responding to a domestic call.

Ziegler focused interest on the Dodsworth and Tatman badges because the agency did not have them. He doesn't know how or why the slain officer badges went missing. (Oberheim's star has been retained.)

"I looked everywhere for their badges. I couldn't find them. I knew Dodsworth's badge number was '7,' and Tatman had badge number '80.' We had Tatman's shirt badge, but we didn't have his coat badge. We know he was wearing his coat when he was killed, so pie plate '80' was missing," Ziegler said.

He got a break in 2012 when he saw Dodsworth's badge offered for sale on an Internet auction site and immediately purchased it.

"I couldn't believe it. I never thought it would be found. I have no idea how it got out of the department, but its back now," Ziegler said.

His search for Tatman's coat badge continued until the Saint Louis National. He met Charles Molnar, a Chicago collector who specializes in pie plate badges, and mentioned he was looking for a historic Champaign piece, badge number "80."

Ziegler was shocked when Molnar showed him a photo of the badge from his collection that he had on his cell phone!

"I almost fell over. I was shocked. I thought I would never see the badge, but he had it. He was reluctant to sell it to me at first, but he did. I'm very happy he did," he said.

Ziegler said the badges of all three slain officers will be on permanent display at police headquarters.

The historic find received considerable media coverage after a Champaign reporter learned of it and contacted him for a story. It was picked up by newspapers and TV stations as far away as Saint Louis and Chicago.

Anyone with any Champaign police artifacts or memorabilia for sale or interested in donating it to the department is welcome to contact Ziegler on (217) 493-4570 or by email on zane.ziegler@champaignil.gov.

Salazar Focuses On Rio Grande Mississippi collector Carlos Salazar has a great collection from Texas and showed his Rio Grande Valley display, "Border Watch."

Salazar featured patches and badges from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies that police the river that separates the United States and Mexico. The collection is highlighted by large exhibits from the United States Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Pubic Safety.

"This display honors the brave law enforcement officers who fight human trafficking and drug dealing on the border," he said.

Icing on the cake, according to the veteran collector, is a piece of steel from the border wall erected during the Trump presidency. He has a friend from Mississippi who was a contractor on the wall and obtained it from him. "I had to have a piece of it," Salazar said.

Des Moines Police Museum Sells Collectibles Thanks to the ongoing efforts of dedicated collectors and historians, the Des Moines, Iowa Police Department has one of the largest and most complete museums in the Midwest.

Mike Leeper, a retired Des Moines sergeant instrumental in the development of the museum, was a tableholder in Saint Louis. He offered a wide variety of DMPD collectibles and memorabilia, including framed sets and individual patches at very reasonable prices.

I was fortunate to purchase a copy of *Behind The Badge*, the 1999 book chronicling Des Moines police history dating back to 1843. It was compiled by 24 local writers, historians and artists who pooled their talents to document it.

The profusely-illustrated book is organized into chapters by decades and then into



Mike Leeper, a retired Des Moines, Iowa sergeant, has been a driving force behind the department museum, which is located at police quarters and open to the public. He sold Des Moines collectibles at the National Show to raise funds for the operation of the museum. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



This Harley-Davidson Police Servi-Car once ridden by Des Moines police officers is displayed at the police museum. Harley produced this unique motorcycle from 1932 to 1973. Servi-Cars were used in Des Moines from 1946 to 1976. Notice the old "No Parking" sign on the far right. *Contributed photograph*

separate articles.

Once I began reading the book, it was very hard to put down. It features hundreds of historic photographs, true crime stories, biographies of fallen officers and much more. Of course, there are a lot of great pictures of badges, patches and officers in uniform.

I never knew Al Capone's Chicago mob branched out to Des Moines in the mid-1920s and soon owned or controlled most of the saloons, brothels and casinos in the city.

Capone dispatched one of his top lieutenants, Charlie "Cherry Nose" Gioe, to oversee his criminal activities in the Iowa state capital from 1928 to 1936. He was the fourth highest-ranking gangster in the Capone organization, so obviously the Chicago mobster took his Des Moines operation seriously.

There is a well-documented history of Des Moines police vehicles. Los Angeles has been credited with introducing black and white patrol cars, but DMPD wasn't far behind. The department began driving black and whites in 1940. However, the roof and doors were white, while the rest of the car was black.

The agency had a patrol wagon named "Black Mariah."

The book is made even more readable because the stories are brief and well illustrated.

I have read a lot of agency histories. *Behind The Badge* is one of the best and most entertaining.

All Things That Go Kaboom Gary Gaffney and Tom Rees are out with a great new book on cloth insignia worn by the law enforcement officers who courageously serve on bomb squads and explosive ordinance disposal teams across the country.

Bomb Squad and EOD Patch Reference Guide is the "go to" resource for bomb squad collectors or hobbyists interested in starting a collection. There are 1300 full-color images of patches from all 50 states, as well as federal agencies and railroad police. Variations are included.

The format is well designed and easy to follow with a maximum of 16 patches images per page. The emblems are organized by states. The pages could easily serve as checklists for serious collectors.

I learned there are 16 Wisconsin bomb squad and EOD patches. I have only less than half of them. I would bet other collectors will see similar results after checking their states of interest as depicted on the pages.

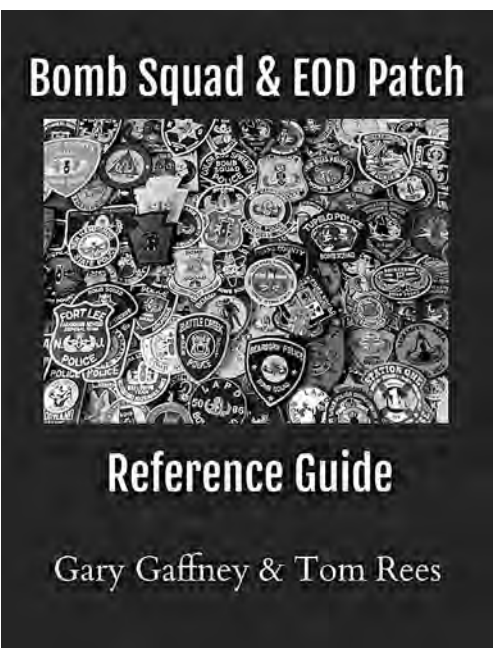
The authors anticipate publishing a second volume in a few years as they continue to discover previously unknown and/or new styles.

Don't Mess With Texas Collection Fort Worth collector Don Brannon featured an impressive exhibit of Texas Department of Public Safety and Native American tribal law enforcement agency emblems.

Brannon brought a large display of current and obsolete DPS patches arranged around a "Welcome to Texas" sign. He featured current and obsolete styles.

He also had several frames of tribal police patches. A few were shown on a large dream catcher.

"I have some other things in my collection, but the DPS and the tribals are my favorites,"



ALABAMA - ALASKA			
ALABAMA	AL #1 - Alabama State Trooper 1st Issue EOD Troopers Used 1964-1987	AL #2 - Alabama State Trooper 1st Issue EOD Troopers with slightly different colors and lettering Used 1984-1987	AL #3 - Alabama State Trooper Prior Issue EOD Troopers Used 1987-1992
AL #4 - Alabama State Trooper current	AL #5 - Alabama State Trooper current subunit	AL #6 - Cochran Police Department prior issue	AL #7 - Cochran Police Department current
AL #8 - Florence Police Department	AL #9 - Hoover Police Department	AL #10 - Mobile Police Department EOD Unit with subunit flag cluster	AL #11 - Mobile Police Department EOD Unit with white bomb craft in center
AL #12 - Mobile Police Department EOD Unit with white bomb craft in center	AL #13 - Mobile Police Department EOD Unit with white bomb craft in center	AL #14 - Mobile Police Department EOD Unit with white bomb craft in center	AL #15 - Mobile Police Department EOD Unit with white bomb craft in center
ALASKA	AK #1 - Anchorage Police Department Polar Bear with gold lettering on shirt	AK #2 - Anchorage Police Department Polar Bear with gold lettering on shirt	AK #3 - Anchorage Police Department Polar Bear with gold lettering on shirt

(Left) Gary Gaffney and Tom Rees debuted their new book, *Bomb Squad and EOD Patch Reference Guide*, at the National Show. Thirteen hundred images of federal, state and local law enforcement explosive ordinance disposal patches are shown, arranged by states (right). *Contributed photograph*



Fort Worth collector Don Brannon specializes in Texas Department of Public Safety and Native American law enforcement insignia and showed his collection at the National Police Collectors Show. The dream catcher (left) features some tribal patches. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

National Show News ...Continued

Brannon said.
See you in Gattlinburg for the 2022 National this summer!
MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

Military Police Museum Marks 80 Year History

The United States Army Military Police Corps is celebrating its 80th anniversary as a standalone unit. The Military Police Museum at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. is marking the occasion with updated displays and exhibits honoring corps history.

By Bill Andecker, Guest Writer

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. – Recently, it was my pleasure to honor the 80th anniversary of the United States Army Military Police as a standalone unit by visiting the Military Police Museum at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
It was September 26, 1941 when the Army formally established the Military Police Corps. Of course, this doesn't mean there weren't MPs until then. Military police officers have been serving the Army since the Revolutionary War.
The museum has a new display of MP uniforms worn over the last 80 years. A big change in uniforms took place in the 1970s when women became MPs after being limited to auxiliary functions for years.



The Military Police Museum at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Military Police Corps. The exhibits have been updated and portray the proud history of the agency, which can trace its roots back to General George Washington. *Contributed photograph*



Marvel Joos had a distinguished career as a military police officer during World War II. She was working auxiliary duty at a Des Moines, Iowa training center when her brother was killed in combat. She volunteered for full-time MP duty at the train station in Saint Louis. *Contributed photograph*

I found a great article on the new museum on Saint Louis Public Radio. It is written a lot better than I could write one. The following is part of it.
“Women MPs wearing skirts while performing law enforcement duties, you know that's not the most practical aspect of a uniform. And so, right here we have a green pantsuit which debuted in the 1970s, the time when women became involved,” said Megan McDonald, an Army museum specialist.
Kathy West was one of the first women to wear that green pantsuit. She was part of the initial wave that took on the full range of MP duties. Now the museum director, seeing the uniform reminded her of her first assignment at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.
“I wasn't greeted with hostility, but there wasn't any big enthusiasm with, ‘Yeah! We have an MP officer that is a female!’ It was more like, ‘What do we do with her?’ But I had some really great leaders, and everybody adjusted,” West said.
West is proud to have paved the way for women currently serving as MPs, but she is also grateful for those who came before her. One of them, Marvel Joos, enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Corps during World War II.
“She was serving at the WAC [Women's Army Corps] training center in Des Moines, Iowa when she learned one of her brothers had been killed in the Battle of the Bulge. So, she felt that there was more that she could contribute. When a call came in for two women to be part of the MP detachment at the railroad terminal in Saint Louis, she volunteered and got the assignment,” West said.
There is an exhibit devoted to Joos that shows her uniform and tells the story of her experience as a woman in an otherwise all-male unit in the 1940s.
Another visible change in uniforms started as United States involvement in the Vietnam War ended. With the Army scaling back on the number of troops it needed after the war, MPs wanted to make the case that they were essential in both war and peacetime. It was during those years that MPs saw the transition from uniforms that looked a lot like civilian police to battle dress uniforms (BDUs) that look more like military fatigues.
“MPs are really trying to prove their value and necessity in the Army as it was going through this reduction of force, so they wanted to emphasize their combat arms expertise. And so they started wearing the BDU exclusively,” McDonald said.
During wartime, MPs process and guard prisoners of war. McDonald said some of the most popular and interesting items in the museum collection came from when soldiers guarded POWs for extended periods, including paintings, cut paper artwork and even a scorpion made out of spoons from meals ready to eat.
“There are works of art by POWs that they gave MPs following their release, creating a more complex portrayal of the relationships that MPs may have had in those relationships,” McDonald said.

Colonel Steve Yamashita, assistant commandant of the Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, said, “If you just walk around the museum, you'll see different eras in how we have contributed to the good ordered discipline of the force and to help with America's wars.”
Yamashita is proud of the MPs' work during wartime; he said that it is an additional benefit of the corps stemming from its primary function, law enforcement.
“We are a professional police force. We've come a long way in our history. A great deal of it is geared towards professional policing, so we are on a par, if not better than, many other law enforcement organizations in the United States,” he said.
The article summarizes what I saw very well.
I learned that investigations are conducted by military police investigators or special agents of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID).
During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington created the office of provost marshal to investigate disciplinary issues in the Army. William Maroney was appointed the first provost marshal in January 1776.
In 1778, Congress approved creation of the Provost Corps. General Washington referred to the corps as the Marechussee, which is French for “the marshalcy.” It existed until 1783 when it was disbanded.
The Army formed the Office of the Provost Marshal General during the Civil War. These soldiers oversaw a group of civilians, the Veterans Reserve Corps, during the conflict. The VRC maintained order at garrison areas, while provost marshals worked on the front lines.
The service of military police officers progressed through World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.
During World War I and World War II, MPs were mostly involved in guarding prisoners of war. However, in World War II, they also conducted a variety of more traditional police duties, such as traffic control, policing soldiers on leave and investigating crimes, including theft, fraud and even murder.
Today, the MPs are the worldwide law enforcement agency for the worldwide professional United States Army. Always proud of their 80-year heritage, they look forward to the future with confidence and resolution for their ongoing mission.
BILL ANDECKER (2550 Saint Louis Avenue, Saint Louis MO 63106)

Walter Ruch Dead Longtime law enforcement emblem collector Walter W. Ruch Jr., 81, of Saint Louis, Mo. died on January 3 in Saint Louis, according to his friend and fellow collector Jim Ward of Mesa, Ariz.
Ruch, a United States Air Force veteran and former 18-year reserve police officer in Michigan, collected Arizona, Michigan and Missouri insignia.
Ruch loved Arizona and spent numerous winters in the Phoenix area before he returned to Missouri. He also loved Arizona law enforcement patches.
A complete obituary will be published in the March-April edition.



California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society

Mike Bondarenko, Editor

Gary Teragawa Preserves Legacy Of SFPD Patrolman Alvin Johnson

It was 1966. The Vietnam War and anti-war protests were ramping up, particularly on college campuses. The hippie movement was burgeoning with its symbolic peace sign. Make love not war. Psychedelic drugs, mostly LSD, were becoming readily available. "Bad trip" took on a new meaning.

San Francisco was the undisputed capital of the counterculture movement. Haight-Ashbury was its epicenter. Named after the intersection of two city streets, the neighborhood was known for war protests, drug use, acid rock music and all things hippie. Long hair, no bras, tie dyes, bell bottoms and brightly painted vans were everywhere.

Across San Francisco Bay, in Oakland, another counterculture movement, the Black Panther Party, founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, organized Blacks to resist what they proclaimed was rampant police brutality against them. Wearing black berets and black leather jackets, Newton, Seale and their militant followers formed armed citizen patrols to "resist police brutality." They called police officers "pigs." Their slogan was "Burn, Baby, Burn." Black Panthers were active in San Francisco as well.

On the afternoon of September 27, SFPD Patrolman Alvin J. Johnson, 51, was on patrol in Hunters Point, a blighted predominantly Black ghetto with rundown housing infested by rodents and vermin with leaking roofs, sagging foundations, rotting plumbing. People lived in what locals called "cracker boxes," single-story multi-apartment buildings built to give temporary workers in the nearby shipyards a place to live during World War II.

About 2:30 pm, Officer Johnson spotted a car, a 1958 Buick, occupied by three young men, later identified as Matthew "Peanut" Johnson, 16, Clifton Bacon 15 and Darnell Mobley, 14. He suspected the car might be stolen because as soon as the young men saw him, they abandoned it and fled on foot. (The car was later reported stolen by the owner at 8:30 pm. She was a teacher at the high school the thieves attended.)

Officer Johnson began to pursue Johnson and Bacon on foot, but they outran him. He saw them flee toward Navy Road and Griffith Street, so he returned to his patrol car and continued the pursuit. He saw them again, stopped his car, exited and warned them to stop or he would shoot.

The patrolman got back into his car a second time as the suspects continued fleeing. He saw Johnson emerge from behind a building. The officer exited his car and warned him a third time to stop or he would shoot.

Johnson continued to flee Officer Johnson. He once again commanded him to stop, then fired four warning shots into the air. After the fourth shot, he saw Johnson pitch forward and fall to the ground.

Thinking Johnson had given himself up in response to his verbal commands and the warning shots, Officer Johnson approached the 16-year-old car thief and saw his final warning shot shot had struck him in the back. He died of his wounds moments later.

Chief of Police Thomas Cahill suspended Officer Johnson from duty at 6 pm pending investigation of the fatal shooting.

Word of the shooting of an unarmed Black teenager by a White police officer spread quickly through Hunters Hill. By late afternoon, a group of 40 to 60 youths gathered at a community center and loudly and openly discussed storming the nearby Potero Police Station to retaliate. Station commanding officer, Captain Harry Nelson, met with the youths, answered their questions about the shooting and told them the shooting was still under investigation. He left the crowd standing outside the station.

Soon, the youths who had met with the captain began smashing windows, uprooting street signs, throwing trash bins and later tossing rocks and bottles in the neighborhood. What quickly became known as the Hunters Hill Riot was declared about 7:30 pm.



San Francisco Patrolman Alvin J. Johnson was 51 years old and had been on the street for 23 years when he accidentally shot and killed Matthew Johnson, 16, after firing a warning shot at the fleeing felon. Matthew Johnson and two other juveniles had stolen a car and fled from the vehicle. *Gary Teragawa Collection*



San Francisco collector Gary Teragawa has this historic SFPD star in his collection. It was worn by Officer Alvin J. Johnson from 1944 to 1969. The badge was made in 1915 by Irvine and Jachens in San Francisco. Officer Johnson was a city policeman for 27 years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The violence spread throughout the entire neighborhood during the evening hours and intensified overnight. It also spread to the Northern and Fillmore Districts. Mayor John F. Shelley and Chief Cahill asked Governor Pat Brown for additional manpower from the California Highway Patrol and the National Guard to quell the disturbances.

The governor declared a state of emergency around midnight, imposed a midnight to 6 am curfew and ordered 2000 troops into San Francisco. It was the largest law enforcement mobilization in the city since the end of World War II.

The violence escalated the following day, September 28. By early afternoon, rioters were setting fires and throwing rocks and bottles at firefighters and police. Riots erupted at two high schools. Youths blocked traffic and tossed bricks, rocks and bottles at passing cars. A shooting took place at a community center. Snipers fired at police and firefighters. An SFPD officer was wounded by sniper fire. Firefighters, police officers and guardsmen were injured.

National Guard Commander Lieutenant General Harland Smith ordered his troops to shoot to kill if attacked or fired upon. This order was in sharp contrast to the 1965 Watts riots in Los Angeles during which guardsmen were ordered to shoot over the heads of attackers but not at them.

Looting, arson and gunfire continued throughout the evening but diminished significantly on September 29 as the massive deployment of about 450 SFPD officers, around 100 CHP officers and hundreds of guardsmen began to restore order.

The citywide emergency was declared over 128 hours later at 11 pm on October 1.

In the 128 hours that followed the shooting of Matthew Johnson, 359 people were arrested. Fifty-one civilians, numerous police officers, 27 firefighters and a municipal bus driver were injured. Property damage was estimated at \$45,000 and inventory loss from looted businesses was estimated at \$91,000. These estimates are in 1966 dollars.

Officer Johnson's suspension from duty became a political issue. Black leaders called on prosecutors to charge him with murder, while the police union and many residents claimed the shooting was justified because Matthew Johnson was a fleeing felon and the officer was allowed to fire warning shots. It was accidental that a pistol round struck the youth and

RIOTS IN S.F.--- GUARD CALLED

**Mayor
Declares
Emergency**

THE WEATHER
Bay Area: Fair and warmer today with high temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Low: Wednesday 54-60, Thursday 56-62, Friday 58-64, Saturday 60-66, Sunday 62-68. See Page 41.

102nd Year No. 271
CCCCAAB

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1966
10 CENTS

FINAL

**The City's Troubled Night
---Looting and Arson Erupt**

Governor Orders A Curfew

A major riot broke out in Hunters Point last night in the lightning.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* covered the Hunters Point Riot the morning after Patrolman Alvin J. Johnson accidentally shot and killed a 16-year-old car thief on September 27, 1966 after firing a warning shot. The mayor and police chief called for the California National Guard. *Gary Teragawa Collection*



San Francisco patrolmen and California Highway Patrol officers came under sniper fire near a community center during the Hunters Point Riot on September 28, 1966. Rioting broke out at several locations throughout the city. The lawlessness lasted for 128 hours before it was quelled. *Contributed photograph*

killed him, they asserted.

California state law allowed law enforcement officers to shoot at fleeing felons and fire warning shots back then. Needless to say, those laws have since been changed.

Officer Johnson spoke with reporters after the shooting. “I’m sure sorry,” he told them. “I thought I had a couple of fellows caught red-handed in a stolen car. The last thing I thought would happen, the last thing I wanted to happen, was what happened.”

Suspects Bacon and Mobley were cited for auto theft at their homes without incident the same evening as the shooting took place. They were not taken into custody.

Less than a month after the shooting, Coroner Henry Turkel convened a coroner’s jury. On October 20, the jury ruled the police shooting was justified and the death of Matthew Johnson was “accidental and misfortune.”

Within two hours after the verdict, Chief Cahill returned Officer Johnson to duty and awarded him back pay for the days he was suspended.

Longtime California collector Gary Teragawa, who has an incredible San Francisco collection, purchased a well-worn SFPD star, number “22,” a few years ago at a National Police Collectors Show. He was attracted to the badge because it was old, had a low number and showed plenty of wear.

“I found it was issued to [Patrolman Alvin] Johnson. When I started researching him, I found that I had a piece of San Francisco history,” Teragawa said. Officer Johnson wore the star from 1944 to 1969.

The star is silver-colored with black legends, “SAN FRANCISCO/ 22/ POLICE.” It is dated April 27, 1915 and was made by Irvine and Jachens at 1027 Market Street. There is a “T” pin and “C” catch.

Last year, the veteran collector located Officer Johnson’s son, who lives in Phoenix, Ariz. He contacted him to inquire if he or his family had any artifacts related to his career and the Hunters Point Riot. His son told him that he had the complete SFPD case file and agreed to let him see and copy it.

Teragawa traveled to Phoenix and met with him. He copied dozens of pages of newspaper clippings, official SFPD reports and documents and letters of support from businesses, labor organizations and residents that Officer Johnson received after the shooting.

“They still have the weapon he carried. I would love to have it in my collection to go along with the badge and the documentation, but they aren’t ready to part with it, yet. Maybe someday they will be,” he said.

Teragawa was impressed by the overwhelming outpouring of support for Officer Johnson, not only in the newspapers, but in the letters from businesses and citizens alike. “We might not see that same kind of support for a police officer today,” he said.

A newspaper clipping reports 2500 people, including 1250 off-duty police and firefighters, turned out for a rally at City Hall to show support for the officer while he was on suspension. People carried signs reading, “San Francisco Supports Law and Order,” “Citizens Who Care” and “Do You Lose Your Job For Doing Your Job?”

The influential *San Francisco Chronicle* editorialized on October 24 that it was “delighted” that Officer Johnson had been reinstated to the force with full pay for the period of his suspension.

“The finding of the Coroner’s jury that this was ‘accidental and misfortune’ led it to the only proper verdict, one of excusable homicide. For his conduct of the inquest in a dignified and compassionate manner, typifying the best tradition of San Francisco, Coroner Henry Turkel deserves the public’s appreciation,” the newspaper editorialized.

Supportive letters included offers to donate cash to him and his family, pay their bills



California National Guard members, with orders to shoot to kill anyone who attacked them, clear a street in the Hunters Point neighborhood during the riots on September 28. The soldiers are moving forward with fixed bayonets. The riot lasted 128 hours after a police shooting. *Contributed photograph*

and cover their health care costs. A dentist offered free care. A sampling of letters from prominent citizens shows the depth of the widespread public support for the officer:

Richard Harris wrote to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “If Officer Johnson suffers any financial or other loss because of his forthright and heads-up action, I’d like to know about it, because I will make a contribution and take up a collection for his benefit. And if he loses his job, I want to join the campaign to defeat the gutless soul responsible for throwing a good officer on the ash heap because he had the courage to do his duty.”

“May I preface a complaint by a compliment and say that I have always admired the San Francisco Police force feeling that they do a magnificent job against prevailing odds, but I must, as a citizen, add my protest for the suspension of a good officer, in his line of duty, in trying to protect us, the public,” asserted Evelyn La Mar in a letter to Chief Cahill.

Jerd F. Sullivan, former president of the Police Commission and president of Crocker National Bank, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “It is unfortunate to note what these fine men are being subjected to in some quarters, making it more and more difficult for a good policeman to do his job! The Good Lord only knows it’s difficult enough without these additional obstacles being put in their way.”

Richard Horberg, president of Scandia Realty, a prominent local real estate brokerage, sent Officer Johnson a personal letter to his Mill Valley home. He wrote, “The purpose of my letter is to tell you that I am proud of you. Not, of course, that a boy was slain, but that you did your duty to the best extent of your ability as a policeman protecting [the] life and property of the citizens of San Francisco.”

Well-known architect Edward Hageman, who grew up with sons of former SFPD Chief Charles Dulles and served with Mayor Shelley in the United States Coast Guard Port Security Force in San Francisco during World War II, admonished Chief Cahill, “Please don’t let ‘them’ crucify him.”

He added, “At this time I wish to ask your full consideration for the career of Officer Alvin J. Johnson. I have known him for at least 25 years. He is and always has been a gentleman of the highest caliber, a devoted husband and a father (soon to be a grandfather). His character is beyond reproach and definitely not a person of poor judgment. He is, in my estimation, one of San Francisco’s Finest and definite asset to your department.”

The Deputy Sheriff’s Association of San Francisco sent a personal letter of support signed by more than 100 members.

Other letters came from crime victims who expressed strong support of Officer Johnson and the Police Department.

Of course, not everyone was supportive.

In early 1967, Eula Johnson, Matthew’s mother, filed a \$505,000 wrongful death lawsuit against the city, alleging that Officer Johnson “recklessly, carelessly, wantonly and imprudently” shot and killed her son. She was represented by famed attorney Melvin M. Belli, who represented Jack Ruby, the killer of presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, and many other high-profile clients. The outcome of the civil suit is not reported in the SFPD file.

Officer Johnson retired on March 2, 1971 after 27 years of service. Sadly, he died on October 26, only seven months later, at age 56.

“His shot may have started the initial riot, but years of poverty, terrible housing conditions, meaningless federal job training with no jobs available and years of being ignored led to this build up. Sounds like we haven’t progressed much,” Teragawa said.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko and Gary Teragawa

CLEHS News Updates

Ways to Support Your Historical Society There are many ways to support the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, like membership dues, in-kind contributions and grants.

An easy way to help is through a cash contribution. A cash donation makes it possible to take the California Police Museum to various venues up and down the state, continue to publish the *California Police Historian* and to host the annual collector’s show in San Luis Obispo.

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

Another way to support the Historical Society is by shopping at Amazon Smile. When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Historical Society.

You can also create a birthday fundraiser on Facebook with all donations going to support CLEHS. More information can be found on the Web site.

Thank you for supporting the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

2021 Donations to the CLEHS The CLEHS is a non-profit, tax exempt organization that receives no government support or assistance and is entirely supported by membership dues and cash donations.

The Board of Directors thanks the following members and organizations for donations in 2021:

Amazon Smile \$24, Andy Thompson \$110, Anthony Weisz \$125, Arnold Nichols \$25, Cletus Hyman \$50, Craig McKend \$17, Dennis Pettersson \$100 (\$10 per month), Dennis Shell \$25, Don Williams \$375, Don Mitchell \$50, Doug Brimmer \$100, Doug Gist \$40, Ed Godfrey \$100, Gary Hoving \$425 (\$25 per month), Gary Teragawa \$250, Howard Jay \$10, James Cost \$100, Joel Blumenthal \$10, John Biber \$40, Kent Delbon \$10, Mark Bray \$100, Mark Pyne \$70, Mark Simens \$5000, Mike R. Bondarenko \$100, Mike DeVilbiss \$100, Mike McCarthy \$500, Network for Good \$1800, Peter W. Percy \$40, Phil Colonnelli \$100, Randy Grago \$255, Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show \$1035, Sara Lazarus \$10, Stan Berry \$250, Stephen Neumann \$25 and Todd Schulman \$25.

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

2022 Membership Renewal Have you renewed your 2022 membership in the California Law Enforcement Historical Society? If not, please take a moment to renew your membership with a payment of \$40 for one year or \$400 for a life membership!

You can renew by sending a check to: California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

If you prefer, you can make your payment online at the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

2022 Historian of the Year Nominations are open for the 2022 California Police Historian of the Year.

The selected candidate will have distinguished themselves through dedication and action in preserving law enforcement history, publishing material, service to the Society or other contribution for the good of the order.

Nominations should be emailed to President Gary Hoving through the CLEHS Web site no later than April 1.

The prestigious award will be made at the annual show in San Luis Obispo on July 16.

CLEHS Store Looking for some CLEHS items to purchase? You can find them at the Store on our Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com.
Once on the home page, click on the "Store" tab. You can purchase the CLEHS baseball hat and the new Museum patch designed by CLEHS member William Tully Jr.
Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith



The Clayton PD is located in a historic three-story stone building that was built in 1885 as a winery. It became a private residence in 1962 before the city bought the property in 1988. The building was renovated as a combination community center, city offices and police station. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

A Wide Spot In The Road

As I drove through the East Bay area city of Concord on my way to Clayton, I was aware of the clamor as if I were in one of the chaotic, larger cities associated with the Bay Area. As soon as I passed the Clayton city limits sign, I felt a sense of calm and tranquility. I immediately noticed the clean streets, people out walking their dogs and lots of joggers. For a moment I believed I had entered the Twilight Zone.

Clayton is located on the northern slopes of Mount Diablo (Spanish translation is Devil Mountain), which is home to the Mount Diablo State Park. The elevation is 394 feet, while the mountain has an elevation of 3849 feet.

The area was home to the Miwuk Indians. In 1772, and again in 1776, there were Spanish expeditions into the area. This intrusion brought diseases to the Indians and the establishment of missions. Needless to say, the Indian population took a nose dive, and by the early 1800s, only a few Miwuk Indians remained.

Joel Henry Clayton was born in the United Kingdom in 1812. He migrated to the United States in 1837.

After years of living in other states, Clayton settled in the foothills of Mount Diablo in Alta California as our state was known before statehood. He bought land and became quite the entrepreneur, getting into cattle, mining, farming, trading and dairy farming.

Clayton and Charles Rhine were co-founders of Clayton. When it came time to name the city, the two had to settle who the town would be named after. They flipped a coin. Clayton won.

On October 14, 1861, a post office was established. This makes this post office one of the oldest in California.

The first attempt to incorporate Clayton was in 1960. The incorporation finally came about in 1964.

During the 1970s, Clayton experienced steady growth.

It was about 1987 when the city land area more than doubled to its present boundaries.

I was delighted to find that Clayton has its own museum. Unfortunately, (you guessed it) due to the pandemic, the day I visited, the museum was closed. If you travel to Clayton, I suggest you call ahead on (925) 672-0240 to see if the museum is open. It is located at 6101 Main Street in Old Town and open Sundays and Wednesdays from 2 to 4 pm.

Clayton is located 49 miles northeast of San Francisco in Contra Costa County, which is considered part of the Bay Area. Since the city is in a valley on the east side of the Bay Area foothills, the climate is a bit warmer. It does not get as much fog as the Bay Area west of the foothills.

When I arrived at the address I had for the Police Department, at first, I thought I had

the wrong address. The building I was looking at was an old winery made out of stone. It was built around 1885. The three-story structure was used by the DeMartini Winery. The building was turned into a private residence from 1962 to 1979. In 1988, the city bought the building and the surrounding eight acres. It was renovated into a community center, city offices and the PD.

I was given a warm welcome by Stacy Corr, one of two administrative assistants, who showed me into Chief Elisa Warren's office. I was immediately impressed with her professionalism.

When I asked Chief Warren to give me some information about her career in law enforcement, she said she had spent 28 years with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, coming up through the ranks of that department before becoming the Clayton chief in February 2018. She has the distinct privilege of being Clayton's first and Contra Costa County's only female police chief.

The PD was founded on May 1, 1972. This was eight years after the city was incorporated. During the eight years after the city was incorporated, the city contracted with Concord for police services.

The city consists of about four and a half square miles, and as of the 2010 census, the population was 10,897. Chief Warren told me the population has grown by another 2000 citizens since then.

With the fourth female officer they recently hired, there are currently 11 sworn officers working the streets, seven patrol officers, three sergeants and the chief.

Dispatching done by Concord PD dispatchers.

There is no Explorer program in the city, and there are no canines.

When asked if Clayton has any school resource officers, Chief Warren said not at this time, but each officer is, in a sense, a school resource officer.

The department's annual budget runs about \$2.6 million.

I believe Clayton is the youngest department I have visited. I asked Chief Warren if she knew how many badges and patches have been worn by Clayton officers. She said she is only aware of one badge and one patch.

Clayton currently has nine vehicles, which include two old Ford Crown Victorias, a Ford Explorer and a Ford F-150, all with police packages. There is a motorcycle. There is also a command trailer, SERT vehicle and two radar trailers.

When asked how many calls for service her department handles, Chief Warren said it was 8439 in 2020.

I asked the chief if the department had a holding cell available and she said no. If Clayton makes an arrest, the suspect is transported 15 minutes away to Concord where there is a holding cell. Clayton contracts with Concord for the use of that cell and transportation eight miles north to the county jail in Martinez.

I wanted to know if Clayton has any special events that draw large crowds. There is art and wine festival in April that is drawing more people each year. There are outdoor concerts on Saturdays throughout the summer where the city hires local talent to perform. There is a car show that draws quite a lot of people. An old fashion soap box derby is held on Labor Day Weekend. A Fourth of July celebration brings people from all over Contra Costa and adjoining counties. For such a small town, I am told the annual Christmas tree lighting draws quite a crowd.

During our conversation, Chief Warren relayed an incident when her department lost one of their own in the line of duty. It was on September 18, 1977 when Officer Roger Lovell Scott was shot by a person on PCP. He never recovered from his injuries and died six years later.

I asked the chief what she considered the best thing about working in Clayton. Without hesitation, she said it was the chance to mentor young officers starting their careers in law enforcement.

I told Chief Warren I hoped I was not putting her on the spot by asking what she considered to be the best place in town to eat. She thought for a minute and said she would have to say Skipolini's Pizza was probably the best bet. It is located in Old Town at 1033 Diablo Street near the museum. Skipolini's is not open for lunch, so I guess I missed out on some good pizza.

If you find yourself in Contra Costa County near Concord, it would behoove you to make the short drive out Clayton Road to the beautiful town of Clayton.

If you enjoy hiking, bring your shoes and enjoy a hike at Mount Diablo State Park.

Oh, if you get by Skipolini's, let me know what you thought of the pizza!

Submitted by Mike DeVilbiss

Mike DeVilbiss travels the highways and byways of Northern California to visit small police departments and feature them in "California Police Historian." He photographs their insignia and vehicles and interviews their chiefs. EDITOR



(Left) The badge is an eagle-topped shield with the state seal as the center design. The legends appear on blue panels. (Right) The patch is a custom creation that depicts Mount Diablo and a badge-like center design with the state seal and "ESTABLISHED/ 1857." *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

(Top) This Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor is still on the job in Clayton. It was once the staple of the fleet. (Bottom) The new workhorse of the fleet is the Ford Explorer with the police package. All vehicles are black and white with blue and black markings. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



The Villamil Family Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department badges. (Top left) William Villamil's star number "7173." (Top right) Aaron Villamil's former star number "8187." (Bottom) William Villamil bought one of the 2000 LASD 150th anniversary commemorative stars. *Contributed photograph*

The Legacy Of LASD Badge Number "7173"

When Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Deputy William Villamil retired on March 29, 2019, he laid his service weapon on a desk at the Employee Service Center in East L.A., unpinned star number "7173" from the leather holder on his belt and handed it to a worker. His three decades long LASD career had come to an official end upon his retirement.

Customarily, the star that Deputy Villamil had worn with pride and professionalism since September 1988 would have been reassigned to another deputy. However, his son, Aaron Villamil, surprised his father by telling him he wanted to wear his badge.

Aaron Villamil has been a deputy at the Santa Clarita Sheriffs Station since 2015 and accompanied his father to the service center to get his retirement badge and ID card. As the worker was explaining the badge retirement process to Deputy Villamil, his son interrupted him in mid-sentence. It was a complete surprise to the elder Villamil.

"He said, 'I want to wear the same badge as you. I want to wear your badge. Do you think I can get it?'" William Villamil said. "I'm so proud that's what he wanted."

Aaron Villamil was allowed to turn in his issued star, number "8297," and went home with his father's well worn badge. He now wears it every day.

William Villamil watched his son grow up in Santa Clarita, where the boy became a young man who signed on with the LASD Explorers program and was assigned to the Pitchess Detention Center. Later, he was hired as a deputy sheriff.

Law enforcement is a Villamil family tradition. William's grandfather was a police officer in Cuba before the family immigrated to the United States.

William Villamil finished his career at the Santa Clarita Courthouse after years of patrol duty that found him involved in numerous sensational incidents.

He vividly recalled working the 1992 riots in the aftermath of the Rodney King arrest. "There were shots fired at us. There were foot chases and fights with suspects resisting arrest," he recalled.

William Villamil was honored by his son's request wear his star as opposed to having his badge encased in Lucite for display purposes only, which is an option for deputies who want to keep their stars. He would have chosen not to keep it had his son not asked for it.

"A lot of guys like to have double digit or triple digit badge numbers, so they trade their badges in when a lower number becomes available," he said.

Single digit stars are highly coveted.

There was one deputy, William Villamil recalled, who was offered badge number "666," which is written in the Book of Revelation of the New Testament as representing the mark of a beast. The deputy asked for a different number.

William Villamil has signed up to work as a part-time deputy for up to 120 days a year. He was issued a new star. Will that badge be handed down someday?

Only time will tell.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko



Aaron Villamil (left) and his father, William Villamil (right), show their Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department badges. Aaron is holding his badge, number "7173," which was worn by his dad, while William is holding his new part-time deputy sheriff star. He retired after 30 years. *Contributed photograph*



An armed posse, including a police dog owned by the Colfax mayor, formed to pursue Joe Tanko and Floyd Hall. About 1000 law enforcement officers and posse members were involved in the manhunt, which lasted for days before the duo was tracked down. *Contributed photograph*

1925 Crime Spree In Northern California

A true crime story from 1925 in Northern California that involved law enforcement agencies from several counties.

Fleeing in desperation from a hundred armed men, tried by a police dog, hemmed in by posses from three counties and driven toward the snow-bound heights of the Sierras, two desperadoes, well identified as Joe Tanko and Floyd Hall, are believed to be caught in a trap where they will have to make their last stand.

Sheriff Gum of Placer County declared that the fugitives undoubtedly were trapped in a wild canyon known as Long Ravine east of Auburn. "It seems impossible for them to have broken through the surrounding posses, and we expect to fight it out with them soon after daylight," he said.

Ten additional policemen from Sacramento were expected due at Colfax to join the expected battle.

All trains were searched but no tickets had been issued to men of their description.

They are in a pocket famous since the days of 1849 as the pitfall of daring bandits and desperadoes. It was here that the notorious Rattlesnake Dick took his own life to avoid capture. Half a dozen other highwaymen have been shot down with their boots on in the blind ravine. A sheriff and several deputies have lost of their lives in battles with bad men in that part of Placer County.

For a whole day, these modern desperadoes spread excitement and terror through Nevada, Sierra and Placer Counties, racing wildly through towns and villages in a stolen mail stage and firing recklessly at those who threatened to halt them. Later, they abandoned the car in Long Ravine.

Their first confirmed local sighting was by John Hippert, who occupies a lonely cabin in the hills. A deputy sheriff went to investigate and was fired upon by two men who refused to halt. He recovered a pack with items stolen from the Plumbago Mine north of Nevada City.

The manhunt had begun in that section when the dastardly duo confronted the auto stage at Graniteville and threw out driver Jack Muscadini and one passenger. They turned it around and headed back to Nevada City.

Along the way, they apparently abandoned that vehicle and held up "Buster" Brown, driver of the local Dodge mail truck between Graniteville and North Bloomfield, stealing his vehicle. It was police interviews with two drivers that convinced authorities the culprits were fugitives Hall and Tanko. Word spread quickly throughout the region.

Arriving at the outskirts of Nevada City, as they paused to study the highway signs, they were spotted and sped off, pointing their weapons as the cry went up. They raced through Grass Valley where they were closely pursued by a sheriff's car in a madcap chase.



Mugshots of Joe Tanko (top) and Floyd Hall (bottom) are superimposed over newspaper images of the pursuit of the two criminals across counties in Northern California in 1925. Tanko was killed in a shootout with Oakland police. Hall was sentenced to prison. *Contributed photograph*

Converging posses from nearby towns mistook the sheriff's car for the fugitives, pulled it over and allowed the bandits to escape.

Between Grass Valley and Colfax, the chase grew so close that only a freak of fate prevented the Sacramento posse from overtaking the fugitives. When almost within striking distance, the pursuing car caught fire and was destroyed.

A costly ten minutes passed before the officers commandeered a passing auto and again took up the chase. Emboldened by this turn, the fugitives slowed down, waved and called out, "Howdy, boys," to potential ambushers and vigilantes. The ruse worked to perfection for miles permitting them to swing around Colfax until the ruse was discovered and the chase began again.

They turned onto Highway 490 and about one mile north of Colfax and turned down the dirt road to Long Ravine, abandoning the machine in the brush. Ten minutes later, a posse arrived, spotted the figures in the brush and fired. That was the last seen of them. They were near the snow line, and it was believed their only way out was back toward the valley.

Mayor Fred Roumase, who had received a trained police dog from Germany a few months ago, offered his services in tracking the men. Coincidentally, he had only the day before received a list of commands in German the dog understood. The dog responded and was sent out with the posse. Unfortunately, the physical evidence had been handled so much by police that the dog went after the investigators and had to be relieved of duty.

Meanwhile, in the confusion and excitement of preparing for the dangerous manhunt, a detective in Sacramento accidentally shot off one of his own fingers with his gun.

Not much is known of Tanko, but Hall was from Louisiana and said he ran away from home at age 14. Long members of the Bay Area criminal underworld, Hall and Tanko had been involved in crimes together. They were associates of the "Yacht Club," a gang that had terrorized Vancouver from their 50-foot yacht and sailed south to San Francisco where they began robbing banks.

In September 1923, Tanko and Hall, aged 21 and 19, shot to death the chief of police of San Bruno in the Bay Area when he pulled them over on his motorcycle. They were hunted down through detective work and brought to justice being sentenced to life in prison at San Quentin.

They attempted escape on the way to the prison by beating an officer and wrenching a gun from him, but ultimately the other officers recovered the gun and they were locked away in San Quentin.

On April 7, 1925, they made a successful escape from the prison by picking locks and scaling a wall with a rope made from collecting string.

They were then pursued through Petaluma, Healdsburg and Sacramento, stealing provisions, guns and ammunition. In Sacramento on April 18, they robbed a store and killed the owner when he refused to open the till. On the 21st, they committed a holdup, stealing a car during which they shot and injured a Sacramento police officer making their escape. From then until May 4, they dropped from sight as the region's police forces busied themselves chasing false sightings and general hysteria.

After the sightings and chases on May 4, the desperate bandits finally hid out in Long Ravine, had dinner and bedded down for the night.

By now, police from Reno, Quincy and Lake Tahoe were preparing for their anticipated escape over the Sierras into Nevada. An armored police car was sent up from Sacramento to patrol the back roads. The federal government flew in agents due to the theft of the mail truck. Local Indians and prospectors were enlisted due to their knowledge of the local terrain. It was estimated by the *San Francisco Examiner* that 1000 men were searching the area.

The next morning, the bold bandits awoke and each had a leisurely shave with a kit stolen from the mail in the truck.

Now, dozens of law enforcement officers formed a fan and began methodically moving through the ravine, sure their manhunt was nearing an end.

But, the convicts' incredible luck held out once again. A deputy, double-checking his rifle, accidentally discharged a shot and Hall and Tanko sprang from their camp and raced down the hills towards Auburn, leaving their shaving supplies behind. By the time officers realized what had happened and reorganized, they were gone.

Late that night, after walking many miles, they came across the ranch of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Therault, two miles east of Auburn. After sleeping in their barn, they knocked on the front door of the house, introduced themselves and demanded breakfast. Satisfied, they tied up the couple and stole their automobile.

Arriving in Sacramento at a high rate of speed, they collided with another car and theirs ended up turned over in a ditch. As usual with their luck, both were unhurt and crawled out. They tried to steal another car at a garage, but when it failed to start, hoofed it brazenly along the streets. Several people recognized them and gave alarm, and they pulled their guns on several.

Finally, alarmed at their celebrity, they ran through yards and over fences and came upon Henry Hanson washing his car. At gunpoint they stole the car and took Mr. Hanson hostage, commanding him to, "Drive like hell!"

After colliding with another car, they kicked him out and took over, finally abandoning the vehicle near the State Capitol. At the same time, 1000 World War I veterans were called up with their personal arms to search for desperadoes.

Finally on foot again, they were starving and stuffed themselves at a couple of downtown restaurants. They were recognized and reported everywhere but kept one step ahead.

They entered a theater to hide out. When they left, they decided to split up. A citizen recognized Hall at the the theater and followed him to a seedy boarding house. That's where a citizen called it in, and the law immediately closed in. That night, Hall was captured, exhausted, without incident hiding under a bed. He had on him a pocket knife, nail file, handkerchief, \$20 and some rifle cartridges.

The Sacramento sheriff predicted a quick arrest of Tanko. However, he disappeared. Nearly two years later, the *Oakland Tribune* reported on November 13, 1926 that Tanko

had been killed in a shootout with Oakland police. After enjoying freedom for those two years, Tanko was accidentally located as detectives were investigating another crime.

As one detective entered a back window, he was shot in the leg by Tanko. Another detective announced himself at the front door and Tanko said, "Come in." The detective, apparently not hearing the shot, opened the door and was shot in the abdomen. As he was falling, the brave detective fired five shots from his automatic pistol into Tanko, one hitting his heart and causing instant death.

It was surmised that Tanko was the head of a newly-formed gang of petty thugs with the nickname of "Spannie," "Curley Red," "Creepy Wilson" and "Society Red."

This event ended his lamentable legacy and his criminal ambitions. The California Supreme Court eventually reversed Hall's conviction on the Sacramento killing on a technicality. Two jurors could not agree with guilty, so the judge overruled them and sentenced him to death after two previous trials with juror indecision. Much debate followed and inspired criminal justice reforms.

Hall was referred to prison for life on his original conviction of killing the police chief. He was paroled in 1958.

Meanwhile, life in Napa, Sacramento, Nevada and Placer Counties returned to semi-peaceful tranquility.

Rick Cooper submitted this story to a Web site that publishes Western Nevada Memories. It is reprinted with full credit and thanks to the author for preserving California law enforcement history. EDITOR

LAPD Magazine Featured Keith Bushey Collection In 1975 Edition

Beat was the official magazine of the Los Angeles Police Department. It was published by and for LAPD officers.

The Summer 1975 edition featured a front page story, "Badge Happy," about the badge collection of longtime collector and CLEHS member Keith Bushey, then a sergeant in the Management Services Division.

"In cleaning out my garage, I ran across a stack of LAPD *Beat* magazines from the summer of 1975. At the time, I acquired a bunch of them for my police badge collector friends because that edition featured my collection," Bushey said.

"Since I ended up with far more copies of this magazine than collector friends, I thought I would send these to folks who might enjoy a blast from the LAPD past! Of particular interest is a picture of my son, Jake, on page 6; he is now an LAPD lieutenant!"

The front cover features a display from Bushey's collection that shows badges worn by each of the 48 police departments in Los Angeles County.

The author of "Badge Happy" is unknown: When five-year-old Keith Bushey paid a nickel for a used federal agent's badge he found in an Alhambra thrift shop, he wasn't planning to start a hobby. He just wanted to look like a real G-man when he played cops and robbers.

Today, some 25 years and 2500 badges later, Sergeant Keith Bushey (Management Services Division) has one of the largest private collections of law enforcement emblems [badges] in the country.

His collection is rivaled only by that of former El Monte Police Chief Orval Davis. It includes shields and stars from city, state and federal police agencies, fish and game commissions and railroad security forces.

"Badge collecting can teach you a lot about history and geography," said Keith. He has a star from each of California's 58 counties and has memorized the names of every county and county seat.

He needs only one more badge to round off his section of badges from every city in Los Angeles County and lacks emblems [badges] from Frankfort, Kentucky and Helena, Montana to finish up the state capital section.

Because the sergeant has relatives who are conservation officials, he has a personal interest in game warden insignia and lacks only six to complete the set of one from each state.

He is looking for old LAPD badges, especially the eight-point star or "sunburst" model first used in 1869.

Law enforcement badges come in two major types. Shields, used mainly by metropolitan and smaller city police departments, which are derived from knights' coats of arms, and stars worn mainly by sheriff's deputies, which reflect the wild west days.

Whether Bushey's collectibles are shields or stars, they're made of tin, gold or nickel silver, and are etched or enameled.



The cover of the Summer 1975 edition of *Beat*, the official Los Angeles Police Department magazine, shows badges from the 48 Los Angeles County municipal police departments in Keith Bushey's collection at the time. "Badge Happy" was an article about his collection. *Contributed photograph*



Lawmen commandeered an automobile and began chasing Joe Tanko and Floyd Hall near Auburn, Calif. Hall was captured after hiding in a rooming house in Sacramento. He surrendered without incident. Tanko escaped but was later killed in a shootout with Oakland police. *Contributed photograph*

“The most unusually shaped device in my collection is from the Louisiana State Police,” said Keith, Made from nickel silver, the badge was designed in the shape of the state.

Bushey’s personal favorites have histories. He calls one the “Volstead badge.” It reads “USA Treasury Department Special Agent Bureau of Prohibition.” History buffs may recall that Andrew J. Volstead authored the 18th Constitutional amendment which established Prohibition and is known as the Volstead Act.

Among the oldest items in his collection are a Metropolitan Police shield used in Washington, D.C. in 1858 and a Colorado and Eastern Railroad badge circa 1870.

Another of Keith’s favorites was worn in 1918 by E.B. Van Slike, a South Dakota deputy, who became an agent of the Bureau of Identification [Investigation], forerunner of the FBI.

As the Bureau did not provide badges for its agents, Van Slike had one made to his own design. Bushey acquired it from Van Slike’s widow with the stipulation it will be used for display purposes as a memorial to her husband.

Many of his badges were given to him with that stipulation from next of kin, he says.

Bushey obtains most of his badges from personal contact with active or retired law enforcement officers or their families. He has accumulated his 2500 badges despite the fact that other collectors are unable to obtain badges from this Department. LAPD badges are issued only by the Department and belong to the City.

Travel plays an important role in making the necessary personal contacts, he adds. His status as a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserves has prompted many useful travel opportunities.

Sometimes coincidence also figures fortuitously in his collecting. While at Fort Benning, Georgia last summer, Bushey tried three times to see the chief of police in nearby Columbus but missed him by a few minutes each time he called.

One afternoon a man came to MSD’s Manuals and Orders Section and asked Sergeant Bushey for information.

“When he identified himself as the police chief of Columbus, Georgia, I almost dropped the manual I was holding,” Keith recalls. After the chief returned home, he sent the sergeant a patrolman badge, a hat piece and a detective’s badge.

Another chief of police, Jay Hubbard of Memphis, Tennessee, came to Los Angeles and asked the sergeant for information. Hubbard recognized Keith as having worked for him when Hubbard was a general in the Marine Corps. He sent Keith a patrolman’s badge when he returned home.

“What I enjoy most about collecting is meeting many interesting people in police departments throughout the country,” Bushey said.

His recent visit to the New York Police Department was highlighted by a patrol car ride throughout the city. That visit netted him a unique badge that reads, “J.J. Carroll Stationed at Door 6th Precinct 1898.”

He also obtained a hostler’s badge worn by an officer of the NYPD Mounted Patrol sometime before 1898.

Both New York insignias are from the estate of the late Jay Irving, whose son, Clifford Irving, is the author of a faked biography of Howard Hughes.

The sergeant doesn’t always have to leave town to add to his collection. In 1967, while working a vice assignment in downtown Los Angeles, he passed a jewelry store which had a state police badge displayed in the window. At end of watch, Bushey returned to the store and asked the owner if he ever received old badges in trade. Learning of Keith’s displays, the jeweler gave him the badge in the window.

Bushey returns the courtesy shown him by other police agencies when their personnel come to Los Angeles. His wife, Barbara, is getting used to phone calls telling her that Keith is bringing a captain from Podunk PD home to dinner.

Bushey’s most recent addition to the collection is a star from Roosevelt City, Utah, sent by a retired sergeant who knows Keith’s interest in badges. Like his other 2500 emblems [badges], this one was cleaned and polished, then placed in a display case with others of the same type.

The collection is divided into 12 classifications. The major classes are the LAPD, cities in L.A. County, California counties, state capitals, state police/highway patrols, as well as several state fish and game commissions.

“One special case holds inaugural souvenir badges,” says Keith. These souvenirs are awarded to Washington, D.C. police officers assigned to presidential inaugurations. Embossed with the names of both the president and vice president, the badges have been presented since January 1937.

Smaller sections of the collections include old Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, California sheriffs and federal badges, as well as U.S. Marine Corps and ceremonial presentation badges.

Each wooden-framed glass case houses a panel covered in dark green felt to which the badges are pinned. The panels can be removed from the cases and are stored in a three-ton safe at the sergeant’s home.

His badges have been featured for Basic Car meetings, station open houses, police recruiting and police hobby shows. Several people have viewed the collection and asked him if he could use a badge their grandfather had worn. Only once did he get something that way that he couldn’t use.

After viewing part of Keith’s array of badges at a police hobby show at the Academy, a



Keith Bushey looks sharp as he poses for a picture for the article about him and his badge collection, “Badge Happy,” in the official LAPD magazine in 1975. Bushey was a sergeant then. He rose to the rank of commander before his retirement following a distinguished career. *Contributed photograph*

middle-aged gentleman gave the sergeant a box full of old shields.

“That looked like a real windfall,” Bushey says. “Until I discovered that the badges had been worn only by chauffeurs, and not even police chauffeurs at that!”

He later gave the box to a friend interested in chauffeur’s badges.

Badges, unlike stamps, coins or baseball cards, aren’t the most readily available items, says Keith, so there aren’t any organizations for badge collectors.

“That’s just fine,” the sergeant maintains, “as badges are hard enough to find now with only a few collectors after them.”

Bushey’s collection has value to investigators as well as to recruiters. Bunco-Forgery investigators show photos of some of his badges to victims to police impersonators to determine the exact type of badge used.

“If you don’t know badges, it’s easy to think the badge someone quickly flashed was from the LAPD,” Keith says. “Victims realize their mistake when they see the variety of badges available.”

Already familiar with many of the badges worn by police offices throughout the country, the sergeant is building up a knowledge of uniforms, too. He maintains a file of newspaper and magazine clippings which show uniforms, obsolete and current, worn by police officers throughout the country. The file is categorized by date and place and sometimes serves as a research source for motion picture studios.

Keith first donned his first LAPD uniform in 1966 and has worked Central, Central Jail, Administrative Detectives, Intelligence and Rampart before coming MSD in 1973. The Duarte High School graduate obtained his A.A. Degree from Citrus College and his B.S. Degree in police administration from what was then California State College at Los Angeles. He is now completing a thesis on police reserves for his master’s degree at California State University-Los Angeles.

He met his wife when they were both assigned to the Intelligence Division, Barbara as a clerk typist. They were married in April 1970, the same year he was appointed to the rank of sergeant.

The Bushey’s children have already shown in interest in badges. Bushey keeps a box of extra badges on hand, and Jim, 11, and Jacob, 3, wear realistic sheriff’s badges when they play cowboys and Indians. Daughter Stacy Ann, one and one-half, teethes on them.

White Keith has never estimated the monetary value of his collections, he notes that some badges are made of gold and silver and are studded with diamonds and other precious stones.

One badge in the collection has increased in value 800 times. That federal agent’s badge he paid a nickel for in 1949 is now worth \$40. However, the sergeant says he wouldn’t sell that badge for any price. It’s almost as valuable to him as LAPD badge number 526, the one he worked hardest to get and the only one he carries every day.

Submitted by Keith Bushey

The Cop Who Became A Robber

Randy Adair was a highly decorated Los Angeles police officer. He rose quickly to the rank of detective and spent nearly two decades in the crime-ridden Rampart Division. Adair won numerous commendations for his work investigating a wide variety of crimes. He retired with honors.

In 2017, Jeff Maysh wrote a great story, “The Cop Who Became A Robber,” for *Los Angeles Magazine*. It details how, almost unbelievably, Adair became a bank robber following his LAPD retirement:

Randy Adair was a familiar face in Rancho Santa Margarita. With a shock of white hair and a bushy white mustache, the 70-year-old grandpa was popular among the deep sea fishermen at the harbor, where he’d pose for photographs holding 30-pound yellow tails. He coached football players at Dana Hills High School, and he even appeared in court on behalf of boys who found themselves in trouble.

Adair was the perfect character witness, having spent two decades in the Los Angeles Police Department, many of them in the crime-pocked Rampart Division.

Then one day in July 2015, Adair steered his red Dodge SUV into a strip mall two miles from his home. He parked, put on a Panama hat, and walked across the parking lot, studying the rooftops of the KFC drive-through and the Bowl of Heaven acai joint. Satisfied that there were no security cameras, Adair headed toward the First Citizens Bank, opened the door, and checked to make sure there weren’t any customers. Then he went to the first teller and flashed a note that read, “Relax, be calm.” Seeing a revolver inside the man’s waistband, the terrified teller emptied her register.

This wasn’t the first time Adair had robbed a bank. It wasn’t even the first time he’d robbed this branch. Between March and July of 2015, the septuagenarian pulled off five bank heists, all in broad daylight and with little more than a hat for a disguise.

Adair knew to hit branches without bulletproof “bandit barriers” to protect their employees and avoided the dye packs that teller sometimes slip into the money they give to robbers. He left few clues. For a time he seemed unstoppable.

When Adair was finally arrested near his home on July 22, 2015, the day after his last robbery, the question was not how a 70-year-old retiree could rob a bank but why a



Randolph “Randy” Adair served as a Los Angeles police officer for more than two decades. He spent most of his time as a detective in Rampart Division and worked many high-profile cases. Following his LAPD retirement, Adair became a bank robber and served time. *Contributed photograph*



Los Angeles police Officer Randy Adair (center, left) escorts Sirhan Sirhan, the killer of United States Senator Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, out of the building moments after the shooting. He and his partner dropped Sirhan off at the county jail. *Contributed photograph*

decorated detective would.

"Anyone who worked for the department, is getting his pension and is committing bank robberies, I'm blown away," Jim Wilke, a retired LAPD detective who knows Adair, told the *Orange County Register*.

After Adair pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in prison, I sent him a letter asking for an interview. In slanted capitals, he wrote back, saying that if I was "interested in the truth," then a meeting could be arranged.

And so this spring, I drove across a short bridge in San Pedro to FCI Terminal Island, a grim federal prison complex surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire. Passing through a maze of corridors that Al Capone and Charles Manson had once walked through, I arrived at the visitor's room.

There, in a glass-enclosed space within the room, the Snowbird sat like a museum curiosity. He wore a tan-colored prison uniform and offered a weak gap-toothed smile as he peered at me through spectacles held together by green tape.

"Ask what you wanna ask, and I'll try and answer," he practically yelled after I sat down, adding that his hearing aid was broken. His robbery method was speed, he said; "Zip. Bam. Boom. In. Gone." But the forces that led to his downfall had been slowly percolating for decades.

The son of a rodeo-riding dairy farmer, Randolph Adair was born in 1944 and grew up in Artesia. He acquired a taste for detective work during police science classes in junior college. It was the only school work that ever interested him.

In 1965, during the Vietnam War, Adair was drafted and assigned to the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command in Panama. As soon as he returned, he enrolled in the LAPD Academy, graduating near the top of his class. As was normal in those days, he had to buy his own uniform.

Six months later, on June 5, 1968, the 23-year-old cop clocked onto a swing shift that started with a crackling voice on his police radio announcing a shooting at the Ambassador Hotel. Adair and his partner pointed their '65 Plymouth toward the scene. The victim, shot three times at close range during a campaign rally, was Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

"We got to the pantry, and you could see that Kennedy was down on the floor," Adair told me as a prison guard stared at us from afar, "He's lying face up, and I saw fluid, you know, from the head injury; brain matter looks kinda like snot, you know?"

Almost casually, Adair remembered arresting the shooter, Sirhan Sirhan, who was still at the scene. "I thought he was, you know, just like crazed," he recalled. "A little bitty guy. So we handcuffed him, and we took him out the back way."

After delivering the suspect to the station, Adair was in his police car again when he saw a station wagon speed through a stoplight on Alvarado, Adair threw on his red lights and gave chase.

"When we got close, it looked like a government car, and there's two fan belt inspectors [a derisive old cop term for FBI agents] in the front," he said. In the back sat Kennedy's wife, Ethel, and the astronaut, John Glenn. They were lost, so Adair led the way to the Central Receiving Hospital on Sixth Street.

Inside, as Ethel Kennedy argued with a doctor, Adair walked to a small treatment room and pulled back the curtain. "There was Kennedy on the gurney," he told me. "Nobody around him; he wasn't hooked up or anything. My opinion was he was graveyard dead."

In late 1968, Adair was promoted to detective with LAPD Metropolitan Division, an elite mobile crime-fighting unit. One of its primary occupations: catching bank robbers. There were a lot back then. "At one time, I was involved in seven bank robbery arrests," Adair told me.

His first was on the afternoon of March 24, 1969, when a silent alarm inside the United California Bank in Mid City signaled a robbery in progress. Exiting the bank with the cash and a loaded revolver when Adair and company arrived, the thief turned and ran back into the building. They found him in a second floor restroom, where Robert Lee Whit surrendered. He'd eventually confess to being the Wilshire Bandit, who'd hit nine banks in the area, and to being the Blue Blazer Bandit of Fort Worth, Tex. Adair's career was in full swing.

As the arrests mounted, the detective earned praise from superiors for his "initiative, his alertness and his imagination." He felt proud to wear the badge and enjoyed the perks: Half-price chili burgers at Tommy's on Beverly and free smokes at Sam's Corner Liquor Store on Sixth Street left him with enough cash to play the ponies and buy bottles of Jim Beam.

If there's a point when Adair began edging toward the day that he, too, would begin robbing banks, it's probably here. The gambling and the booze would figure prominently in his life, as would the health problems he would trace back to a January night in 1971.

That's when Adair, cruising through Westlake in an unmarked car, spotted smoke billowing from a fire in the basement of a rundown apartment building. With no sign of the fire department, Adair dashed into the building. "They had paint and loads of cables covered in grease and oil. Highly toxic fumes." He could barely see or breathe as he began to carry residents, some too drunk or disabled to move, over his shoulders to safety.

Adair told me saved "25 to 30" victims that night. He received a Class A commendation for bravery, but there was a cost.

"We didn't know about smoke inhalation," Adair said, referring to the long-term damage it can wreak. He just squirted water onto his face and went about his business. Days later, he was in riot gear at an anti-war march when he collapsed. The doctor diagnosed him with bronchial pneumonia and directed him to take time off.

Free from the structure of shift work, Adair drank all day. Returning to duty helped slow the drinking, but he was an alcoholic. "I started sneak drinking. I wouldn't drink on the job," he said. "I didn't go out and party with the guys. I wasn't a bar drinker."

Adding to the strain, Adair's son, Andrew, had been born in 1971 with hearing loss and speech problems, requiring frequent medical visits, and it was a battle to get his son the appropriate education. But Adair told me he joined Alcoholics Anonymous and was sober by the time his daughter, Kateri, was born in 1975.

When he was promoted to homicide detective at the Rampart Division, the same one that would be engulfed in a corruption scandal in the late 1990s, he moved his family from Walnut to Dana Point, wanting to get as far as away from the madness of the city as possible.

Working on homicides wore on him.

One of his cases in 1979 was William George Bonin, also known as "The Freeway Killer," who raped, tortured and murdered at least 21 boys.

Another was Richard Ramirez, the rapist and serial killer known as "The Night Stalker."

The worst memory for Adair, though, was the case of Johanna Nevarez, who went missing one August in MacArthur Park in Westlake. "She was a beautiful little girl. Four years old," Adair recalled.

The police searched much of the area before noticing that a nearby apartment had two refrigerators. "We opened the door, and there she was," he said. "She was stuffed inside the refrigerator on a rack, nude." As he detailed her gruesome injuries, Adair sounded like he was dictating a police report. "She was dead, of course," he added.

It was around the time of the Nevarez autopsy that Adair grew distant at home, his wife would later tell me. "He couldn't sleep," Susan said. "He'd wake up in the night, and he'd be standing in the hallway, staring at Kateri."

The killer, Manuel Gomez Gonzalez, a 31-year-old drifter, fled to Mexico. The Federales apprehended him.

"The return trip sitting next to this suspect was one of the longest drives I've ever experienced," he said. "My desire was for him to attempt to escape. I would have killed him in a heartbeat."

Written by Jeff Maysh for Los Angeles Magazine

The second installment of "The Cop Who Became A Robber" will appear in the next California Police Historian. EDITOR

LAPD 77th Street Station History

It's a misconception that the Los Angeles Police Department, protecting and serving the home of Hollywood, Beverly Hills and all things glitterati, has always worked in the lap of luxury. Far from it.

From 1925 until 1995, the LAPD 77th Street Division, was headquartered in a dilapidated, turn-of-the-century, fortress-like stone building.



The old Los Angeles Police Department 77th Street Station was built in 1925. A photographer captured this image of the solid brick and stone structure before it opened. The car port on the right led to a rear parking lot to provide space for off-street parking for LAPD vehicles. *Contributed photograph*



LAPD Officer Randy Adair and his partner escorted Ethel Kennedy, the wife of slain Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and astronaut John Glenn to the Central Receiving Hospital after the presidential candidate was fatally shot. Mrs. Kennedy got lost on her way to the hospital. *Contributed photograph*



The art-of-the-art new Los Angeles Police Department 77th Street Station opened in 1997 about two years after the temporary station with connecting trailers was closed. The building retains several of the classic features of the former station, such as stone roof ornaments. *LAPD Official photograph*

“It was bad. Really bad. As bad as it gets,” recalled Terri Tatreau, who was a sergeant in the old building for eight years. “We had to contend with falling ceiling tiles, gaping holes in the walls and just plain awful toilets.”

In some of the facility’s busiest corners, duct tape kept water-stained tiles from falling. Holding areas for prisoners were just as dingy and neglected, as was the officer’s bunk room. And in the interview rooms, fallen or ripped tiles formed a yellowed glue and chipped paint patchwork across the walls and ceilings.

The station was so rickety that a sign outside the front door warned that the building’s unreinforced masonry construction might crumble in a major earthquake.

The building was finally torn down in 1995. The station operated in temporary quarters for two years before moving into a new \$30-million state-of-the-art facility with a helicopter landing pad.

The temporary 77th Street Station was unique in department history. It was a group of 37 interconnected trailers that the LAPD got for free from the Harbor Department. The trailers were used to house ship hands while their vessels were docked in Los Angeles Harbor for repairs.

LAPD found the trailers in storage at the former Todd Shipyard site in San Pedro. They had been stored since 1990.

It cost LAPD about \$1.2 million to refurbish the trailers and transform them into a temporary police station.

Submitted by Paul Montgomery

Lindsays Host Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show

The last edition of the California Police Historian reported on 2021 Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show and Recruitment Fair last October 2 in Ripon. However, there was insufficient space available in the November-December issue to show more of the outstanding vehicles on display. This is final part of the story.

Submitted by Darryl Lindsay



Collectibles from the LAPD 77th Street Station include (top) a miniature badge with “77TH” on the rank panel and (bottom) a colorful challenge coin. The front shows an LAPD badge featuring the station number, 12, while the back features the unofficial station logo. *Contributed photographs*



Jerry Boyle won first place in “Best Restored Vehicle 1900-1974” for his 1956 Dodge Coronet in the familiar black and white livery of the California Highway Patrol. The car is period correct with a red spotlight, which was used as the emergency light, and the proper license plate. *Greg Reynolds photograph*



The first place winner in the “Best Restored Vehicle 1975-2000” group was this unmarked 1989 San Diego County Sheriffs Office Chevrolet Caprice brought by Rico Ravello. It is light blue with dual spotlights and a single red dash-mounted emergency light. The car has the proper license plate. *Greg Reynolds photograph*



“Best Novelty Police Vehicle 1900-1964” first place went to a 1930 Ford Model “A” sedan as outfitted by the California Highway Patrol. It is owned by the CHP Museum in West Sacramento. It is black and white with a small red and gold round door decal. The museum is at the Academy. *Greg Reynolds photograph*



Rich Austin owns this 1976 Ford LTD station wagon outfitted as a California State Police vehicle. It was the first place winner among the “Best Novelty Police Vehicle 1965-2000” entries. The car is white with blue front doors, a “double bubble” red emergency lightbar and a whip antenna. *Greg Reynolds photograph*



"Best California Highway Patrol Vehicle (Currently Used)" went to CHP Officer Ruben Jones for this nicely-outfitted 2020 Dodge Charger. It's all white with blue and gold markings. There are dual red spotlights, as well as small red and blue LED lights mounted on the windshield and grille. Greg Reynolds photograph



Jeff Leathley owns this 1953 Ford Mainline four door sedan from the Nevada Highway Patrol. It is black (top) and white (bottom) with a large roof-mounted red emergency light, as well as a red spotlight. Leathley won the "Participants Choice Award." He has shown it at car shows for years. Greg Reynolds photograph



First place in the category, "Best Public Relations, Volunteer, Explorer, Cadet or Recruitment Vehicle," was won by Suzie Zaragoza representing the Stockton Police Department. The 2013 Ford Utility is used for recruitment and outfitted in a red, white and blue flag theme. Greg Reynolds photograph



The "California Highway Patrol Commissioner's Award" went to Ron Hurwitz for a 1969 Dodge Polara from the CHP. It is black with white doors and roof and has a red spotlight and black push bumpers. Notice the tall rear-mounted antenna. Back then, antennas were huge compared to today. Greg Reynolds photograph



The Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office won "Best Specialty Emergency Vehicle" for their 2018 Ford F-350 Bomb Squad truck. The rig is white with black and gold markings. It is towing an explosive ordinance disposal trailer. The overhead emergency lights are red and blue with white lights. Greg Reynolds photograph



A 1954 Ford Mainline sedan owned by Dutch DeVries was honored with the "Menlo Park Police Chief's Award" presented by Chief of Police David Norris. The four-door is in the livery of the Sacramento Police Department. It has two roof-mounted red lights and a large siren. Greg Reynolds photograph

Future "California Police Historian" Features And Stories Previews

Upcoming features and stories in the "California Police Historian" as previewed by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko.

"The Cop Who Became A Robber"...The second installment of the sordid post-retirement bank robbery career of former Los Angeles police Officer Randy Adair, including details on the five robberies he committed.

"Like Father, Like Son: Legacy of the LAPD Riddick Family"...Los Angeles Patrolman Earl Riddick was shot and killed in 1970 after he intervened in a bank robbery while off duty. Now, his son, David Riddick, wears his father's oval and reflects on his father's legacy.

"San Bernardino Police Historical Society"...A tour of the SBPD museum and a look at the organization that will host the 2023 National Police Collectors Show.

"LAPD Reserve Corps: 72 Years Of Service"...The history of the Los Angeles Reserve Police Corps, their badges and uniforms and a chronology of their service to the Police Department and the city.



San Francisco police and fire collector Mike McCarthy won first place for "Best Police Motorcycle 1990-1995" for his 1986 Honda outfitted in the livery of the San Francisco Police Department. It is black and white with the blue and gold SFPD logo. He showed it at the Reno National Show. Greg Reynolds photograph

Earl P. Gordon

Oklahoma Police

Radio Pioneer

Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Sheriff and Radio Man Earl Philetus Gordon was instrumental in the development of the first two-way radio system in Oklahoma in the early 1930s. He was involved with installation and operation of the first two-way radio in a law enforcement aircraft for his department.

By Ronnie Jackson, Staff Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – Sheriff Stanley Rogers appointed Earl Philetus Gordon as a deputy for the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office on June 2, 1931.

In September 1932, Gordon was an operator for the Oklahoma County-Oklahoma City police radio station, KGPH. The station went on air in July 1931 as a joint city-county project that provided one-way radio broadcasts of calls for service to police, sheriff and fire departments 24 hours a day.

Deputy Gordon spent the remainder of his career as the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office radio system subject matter expert. On November 1, 1932, he was promoted to the position of supervisor for the radio system. He succeeded his predecessor, George Prell, who resigned as the station engineer.

After his promotion, Gordon continued to perform duties as a deputy sheriff at night. At that time, Gordon’s salary was reported to be \$157.50 a month.

During the day, Gordon operated and supervised the police radio system from the Oklahoma County Courthouse tower and broadcast calls that came into the sheriff’s office. The radio system was a direct link to 25 sheriff patrol cars, 30 local police department scout cars, 14 fire department cars and 14 fire stations.

On Saturday, August 12, 1933, a series of violent explosions at Allied Film Exchange’s 704 West Grand Avenue offices damaged three other buildings and gutted the exchange. Four thousand rolls of film ignited and blew out the front windows and a second blast tore through the rear walls.

Flames flung across the street and ignited a three-story building at 10 South Lee Avenue. Damage also occurred to the Majestic Pictures Film Exchange at 706 West Grand and Columbia Pictures at 702 West Grand. Fourteen fire trucks arrived with their crews to stifle the blazes.

Less than three years later, another fire broke out in Allied’s offices due to rolls of smoldering film. Gordon was getting ready to end his shift for the day when he heard the explosions. He dispatched the fire department which got the fire under control in 30 minutes. The response was credited with saving as many as ten lives.

In May 1934, the office received new radios that permitted officers in scout cars to communicate with each other. Gordon said the new equipment allowed officers to communicate with the police radio station as well. The system in operation at the time was only capable of transmitting to cars in the field. The new equipment could not be used until each unit was issued a license by the Federal Radio Commission, which was replaced in 1934 by the Federal Communications Commission.

On September 24, the FCC gave permission to KGPH to install the new two-way broadcasting equipment in patrol cars for testing. Gordon said that if the tests were successful, the broadcasting equipment would be placed in police department scout cars, sheriff’s office cruisers and fire department automobiles. One of the experimental radios was installed in his automobile.

In November 1934, Sheriff Rogers announced that he would purchase an airplane equipped with a two-way radio and machine gun to pursue outlaws. He was confident that an airplane communicating with units on the ground would result in quicker capture of criminals, specifically referring to bank robbers.

On December 13, 1934, the office received unofficial approval from FCC Radio Inspector W.D. Johnson for the installation of a radio transmitter in the airplane. Johnson wrote Gordon and expressed the idea that a radio-equipped airplane was a worthwhile idea. He believed the application would get due consideration. Johnson also wrote that his office had never received a request of this type.



(Left) Oklahoma County Deputy Sheriff Earl P. Gordon had a knack for radio equipment and was instrumental in the development of radio as a crime-fighting tool in Oklahoma. (Right) The personalized badge that Gordon wore after he joined the agency in 1931. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*

Sheriff Rogers instructed Gordon to immediately purchase the parts to build a transmitter for the airplane. On February 1, 1935, the sheriff was notified that the FCC had granted a permit to install a two-way radio in the anti-crime plane. This was the first ever permit issued in the United States for an airplane exclusively used for police work.

Gordon tested the radio for approximately one month. The new radio system call letters would be KNGO and have a range of 200 miles in all directions.

While in the process of testing two-way radio systems in cars and airplanes, Sheriff Rogers decided to add one more piece of equipment to his crime-fighting arsenal. The new piece of equipment turned out to be a 20-foot motorboat to be used on Lake Overholser. The new vessel was also equipped with a shortwave crime radio installed by Gordon.

On May 01, 1935, the federal government granted broadcasting privileges to the new crime-fighting airplane radio system. Deputy Gordon reported that in the first month, KGPH made a total of 6352 broadcasts.

In April 1936, a branch of the Association of Police Communication Officers of America (APCOA) was formed at the end of the state’s first police radio school. Gordon was selected as the vice-president of the newly-formed organization.

During the school, members met and discussed methods for apprehension of criminals using radio. Eight more Oklahoma cities would soon join in the use of the county-city radio system.

In July 1936, Oklahoma City began the move to acquire the city-county radio station KGPH. It was announced that Gordon would take on the responsibilities as supervisor of the radio station. The station soon moved from the courthouse to a city park located away from the downtown area to eliminate radio interference.

In November 1938, Sheriff Rogers was defeated for re-election by George Goff. The office employed 35 deputies. It was believed that Goff would only retain nine of them when he took control as sheriff in January 1939. Gordon was on the list to stay employed.

Gordon continued to work for the office as a deputy, radio technician and dispatcher. Newspaper articles show that he was also employed with the Oklahoma City Fire Department as an electrician.

By 1944, Gordon was operating a radio service business in Oklahoma City.

On October 14, 1968, Gordon passed away in Oklahoma City.

RONNIE JACKSON (5350 West Bell Road-Ste. C122-336, Glendale AZ 85308)

The Proud History

Of The Original

Arizona Rangers

Arizona Rangers historian Nick Cain has extensively researched the history of Lewis Mickey, an original Ranger, who was killed in Clovis, N.M. while working as a railroad police officer in 1925.

By Nick Cain, Guest Writer

SEDONA, Ariz. – On November 7, 2020, the Arizona Rangers commemorated the 153rd anniversary of the death of Lewis “Lew” Hathaway Mickey, one of our original Rangers from the 1901 to 1909 era.

Born in Nebraska, he eventually relocated to Arizona Territory, where he became a Ranger in 1905, taking the Lawman’s Oath under Lieutenant Harry Wheeler at Phoenix.

When the Rangers were disbanded in 1909, Mickey relocated to New Mexico and became a railroad policeman, only to die in a 1925 gunfight with a robbery suspect atop a boxcar in the Clovis Railyards where Mickey discovered the 17 year-old gunman hiding in a train.

This is the account of my own journey to the Land of Enchantment where I hoped to further chronicle Mickey’s life and murder.

I made contact with Patsy Delk, president of the High Plains Historical Foundation in Clovis. After researching her organization’s archives, she was able to locate four newspaper articles from the time period, copies of which she agreed to provide me during a research trip I had planned to the area last January.



Local historian Patsy Delk and Nick Cain meet at the gravesite of former Arizona Ranger Lewis Mickey in Clovis, N.M. He was shot and killed by a juvenile robbery suspect in March 1925. Cain’s research was chronicled in the local newspaper, including a front page picture. *Nick Cain Collection*

Delk put me in touch with David Stevens, publisher of *The Eastern New Mexico News*, the local area newspaper, who agreed to see what he could come up with in regard to feature articles his newspaper might have published in connection with the crime spree in 1925.

I met with Delk and was presented with copies of old newspaper articles she had found about the Mickey gunfight, along with a map she'd prepared of the section of graveyard where my former Ranger rested for all eternity.

We visited the cemetery where Mickey is buried. His tombstone seemed a bit smaller than it was portrayed in all the Internet photos I'd seen. "Lew H. Mickey 1867-1925" seemed to wink at me in the bright sunlight from beneath a Mason's symbol and flowery designs etched in the granite along the top.

Gravel popping in the narrow pathway behind us announced the arrival of Stevens, who was working on a little story about what brought an Arizona Ranger all the way to a lawman's grave in Clovis. He asked a few questions about the Rangers and my investigation.

That night a front page article appeared in his newspaper, "Man On A Mission," with a photo of me gesturing to Delk beside Mickey's tombstone, a nice summary of my quest, and my contact information in the event any readers had additional information on the 1925 gunfight.

Delk had been kind enough to provide me with four newspaper articles from March 1925 pertaining to the Mickey gunfight; none carried a photo of him.

The first is uncredited and undated with the headline, "Santa Fe Special Agent and Youth Victims of Their Deadly Aim. Youth Resisted Arrested, Said Officer in His Dying Statement."

It identified Mickey's assailant as Leslie Starr, a 17-year-old-youth, and described how he and Mickey "...fought a duel to the death with pistols atop a Santa Fe fruit train.

"It was believed the boy was implicated in a robbery in Mountainair...and...the special agent had been requested to search the train...by authorities in Mountainair."

The confrontation occurred shortly after midnight beneath a nearly full moon at 1:45 in the morning on a Saturday.

"Mickey found Starr hiding in a ventilator of a fruit car and made him climb out onto the roof of the car. While Mickey was going over his clothes in search of firearms, Starr whipped out a .32 automatic pistol concealed in a holster swung around his neck, and began firing. Six bullets entered Mickey's body, and he fell to the boxcar's roof.

"As he fell, he drew a .45 Colt pistol and fired three shots at Starr, the first of which struck Starr in the stomach, causing almost instant death. The other two shots broke Starr's legs.

"Three of Starr's bullets penetrated Mickey's abdomen, and he died three hours later at the company hospital here. There were no witnesses to the tragedy, although brakemen of the train were but two car lengths from the duel and heard the shots of both men.

"The bodies of the men were about ten feet apart when railroad employees reached them. Starr was dead and Mickey was bleeding profusely."

Little was known of the robbery suspect, Starr, other than "...he was said to have been a rather uncontrollable youth who had a love for adventure and through much practice had become very proficient with a pistol..."

Another news clipping gave the suspect, Starr's, age as 16 and the time of the gunfight as two o'clock in the morning.

Sheriff E.P. Kennedy was the lawman who received word from Mountainair police about a store robbery in their town the night before and relayed the information to Officer Mickey, who located Starr in one of the ice compartments of a boxcar. He was one of the first lawmen to reach the scene, where he found Starr dead and Mickey dying.

One of the most important things I was missing was the railroad police report pertaining to the Mickey-Starr gunfight, but on my long cruise home that evening, my cell phone rang. It was Randy Dunson, a long-retired historian mentioned by a train master during a visit to the railroad station in Clovis earlier that day.

Dunson was enthusiastic about my investigation, but not about my chances of locating a railroad report pertaining to the gunfight, revealing, "I doubt you'll be able to find any records about your Ranger's death there at the railroad building in Clovis.

"If there were any records about the shooting, they'd have been kept there in the basement, which was full of a million fallin' apart, dusty files going back to the ancient cowboy days.

"But back in the 90's, management decided they needed more space, and some boss brought in a truck, ordered a few of the guys to bring up all the records from downstairs, fill up the back of the truck, and take them all out to the dump, where they were disposed of."

There are some leads I will continue to pursue; my priorities are a documented photo of Mickey and the ever-elusive railroad police crime report that has just got to be out there somewhere. I will not rest until I've got my gunhand tightly around whatever remains of it!

NICK CAIN (PO Box 20825, Sedona AZ 86341)

The writer is a historian for the Arizona Rangers. The first installment of this story appeared in the May-June 2021 edition. This is the second and final installment. It is an abridged adaptation of Cain's extensive report on Lewis Mickley's murder. The report is an outstanding and enduring preservation of Arizona law enforcement and railroad police history. EDITOR



After Terri and Jim Post closed "The Last Precinct," their law enforcement museum in Eureka Springs, Ark., they faced the daunting task of disposing of the entire museum collection. Eventually, every collector or his or her family will have the deal with similar issues. Post offers firsthand advice on disposition *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Suggestions For Disposing Of A Police Collection

Eventually, every collector and/or his or her family will face the difficult decision of disposing of a collection that may have represented a lifetime of dedicated effort. Jim Post offers suggestions that could make the process less stressful.

By Jim Post, Guest Writer

LOWELL, Ark. – Mike R. Bondarenko and I were talking at the Saint Louis National Show and reminiscing about all the senior collectors, the good old guys, we've lost over the last year. The subject came up about their collections, and we wondered whatever happened to some of them.

Sadly, as George Jones once sang, "They hung a wreath upon his door." There have been times in our hobby when the wreath was followed immediately by the vultures. Spouses have been left with no idea what collections were worth and sold them for a fraction of their value. Some have been left selling collections for years on end or giving them away to family members who lacked the desire of ownership.

Knowing I had disposed of not just a collection, but an entire museum, Bondarenko suggested I write an article about how I accomplished this feat. My situation might not mirror yours, or you already have plans you are satisfied with, but I hope sharing my story might help you, or give you some ideas, to ease the pain while disposing of what you have spent the last few decades accumulating. In my 40-plus years in the hobby, I've seen wonderful, historic collections picked to pieces and sold off.

Most of you know I'm also a car collector (addict), and I'll share a car story with you.

A dozen years ago, there was a car museum in Branson, Mo., "Fifty-Seven Heaven." The owner had collected and meticulously restored one of every American car built in 1957, what many collectors consider the pinnacle year of American designers and builders.

This collection was not just one 1957 Chevy, but there was a 1957 Chevy sedan, convertible, station wagon and pickup. Every model. Multiply this by Ford, Mercury, Plymouth, etc., and you get an idea how extensive this collection was. Each vehicle looked better than it had on the showroom floor!

The collection also included a gas station, a city street with businesses, a drive-in movie and a complete 50's house with all with correct period accessories.

As it happened, the owner over-invested in real estate and other ventures and needed to sell the car collection. An auction was held and the collection was broken up. The cars went to literally every corner of the world. The sad story is that this spectacular, historical collection can and will never be replicated.

Serious car collectors, myself included, consider ourselves not just car owners but temporary custodians. I put the great police collections we all know and love in that category and personally I'd love to see them remain whole, but I'm realistic enough to admit this is not always possible.

I'll share one more personal story. My favorite aunt never married but doted on her nine nieces and nephews. She was a rare successful female business executive in the years following the Depression and the war that followed. As her siblings made their own way, she concentrated on their children and never showed favoritism to any one of us over another.

Late in life, she established how she would dispose of her material goods equally among the nine of us. She did set up a trust fund for her financial holdings, but for her personal property, she used another method. She had a household full of valuable artwork and antique furniture, and in later years when we all gathered at Christmas, she instructed us to go through her home and anything we were interested in to put a Post-It note somewhere on the item with our name on it. Wonderful, extremely fair idea on her part, right?

But, she never indicated this in her will or notified the folks that conducted her estate sale after her death. So, feeling entitled I guess, my oldest cousin arrived with three U-Haul trailers and emptied the entire home, Post-It notes and my aunt's wishes be damned! Bottom line is, don't believe in wills!

My best advice is dispose of your collection while you are alive. This way you won't burden your wife or children, and you can gift the friends you've traded and associated with in the hobby. Your wife probably won't know what your collection is worth, and it's likely your kids won't either (or they would prefer the money anyway).

In the town where our museum was located, there was another museum, "Miles Musical Museum," which was a world-class museum of rare coin-operated musical machines located on prime real estate. According to the collector's wishes, he left everything to his children, but they were not interested in the collection and too impatient to earn their inheritance through admission to the museum, so an auction with buyers from the world over was held. Once again, another collection was scattered to the wind.

The next best plan is to pick a knowledgeable friend to help your wife or children dispose of the collection or at least value it for them. You can make this formal by naming the friend as executor of your estate, but remember they are entitled to compensation for their time and expenses and no one should disrespect them for this. (I'm currently disposing of a friend's collection and, after two Nationals, I'm about 95% complete. He's alive, and we worked out compensation before I started.)

Regardless of the method you choose, you should inventory everything and establish a fair market value while you can.

My situation was different as we had a full-blown brick and mortar museum, and there were a bunch of police cars, too. Our closure was precipitated by both taking care of my ill father and a real distaste for dealing with non-law enforcement tourists.

Once the difficult decision was made to close, I contacted as many collectors as I could and invited them to an open house. We had several collector tours and were literally selling items right off the walls! Due to my concern about weapons and police items ending up in the wrong hands, I restricted buyers to collectors known to me. I sold my law enforcement weapon collection to federal firearms license dealers.

Toys and collectible items I sold online. At one point, the curator of the (proposed at that time) National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington D.C. contacted me after buying some items online. Ultimately, she flew out, and we negotiated a purchase and/donation agreement listing the most expensive pieces and badges. They sent a crew to pack everything to their specs.

I am a strong believer of the importance of this museum as a long-overdue recognition of American law enforcement, and we wanted to donate a portion of my collection. If this



Jim Post exhibited these beautiful handmade dioramas at the recent National Police Collectors Show in Saint Louis. These creations represent (left) the Detroit Police Department and (right) the Choctaw County, Ala. Sheriff’s Office. They feature cars and buildings. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Collection Disposition ...Continued

interests you, these agreements are simple and easily done; their legal staff prepared mine, and, of course, your donated portion is deductible. Through the invaluable assistance of *PCNEWS*, I determined a market value of my badges.

A portion of our museum contents were donations to me that I didn’t feel appropriate to sell, so we made every effort to return them to the donors or re-donate them.

In the months following the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, which was three hours away, our museum became a sanctuary of sorts for first responders, rescuers and even the medical examiner who processed every fatality, as they sought solace from the horrors they worked in. They gave me uniforms worn at the site, photos, memorabilia and even a large chunk of the granite from the building.

I responded by creating a museum display with the artifacts and when we closed, Terri and I boxed everything and delivered it to the Murrah Building Museum in Oklahoma City. They were thrilled to get it all.

An eight-foot banner welcoming President Bush (41) to a narcotics conference in Kansas City we delivered and donated to his presidential library in College Station, Tex.

I donated props from a small movie I worked on to the museum in the city where it was filmed.

I donated county sheriff patches and memorabilia I created for a local sheriffs office to a city museum that has a display of their items and a fully dressed and equipped firefighter mannequin went to my local fire department museum.

The police cars presented a unique situation most of you won’t have to deal with, and they literally went around the world. Utilizing Internet auctions, one went to a police officer in Madrid, Spain; two went to a collector in southern Florida who, because of their wonderful weather, has been able to show and drive them in law enforcement support parades year-round. Others went to other states, as well as collectors in Sweden, Australia and the United Kingdom.

But the relocation I’m proudest of is the Chevy Impala that I sold to the Los Angeles Police Historical Society through a broker. It was restored by the LAPD garage and reincarnated into a correct LAPD unit.

Now, it resides in the President Reagan Presidential Library. It sits between two restored LAPD motorcycles and in front of Reagan’s armored limo and Air Force One. Had I known when I sold it where it was ultimately headed, I’d have gladly donated it! Regardless, I am honored it lives there and, yes, I have all the documentation.

Disposing of a collection is a bittersweet experience certainly, but for me, and most of you, I’m sure, the real fun was the hunt, the trading, the negotiating and the excitement of finally getting that badge, patch, license plate that has evaded you for years.

And, most of us old guys did it the old-fashioned way without cell phones, faxes and the Internet. We did it with visits to departments, a hand-full of local shows and, of course, *Police Collectors News*.

While I did have the fun and pride of sharing my collection with some 25,000 museum visitors, the real pleasure (just like the collecting) was meeting new law enforcement friends from around the world. The collection may be gone and being enjoyed by others now, but the friendships will last forever.

Good luck!
JIM POST (5922 South Primrose Road, Lowell AR 72745)

The Show Must Go On

By Rick Uland, Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Like in the old days of the Vaudeville stage shows and when the big tent circuses still came to town, the saying was that no matter what, the show must go on.

Taking into account all the horrors that have come down the road and all that has turned everything upside down these past nearly two years, it is the same with the world of collecting and specifically collector shows. The show must go on.

Now, having said that, I will, I am sure, going to rile up more than a few collectors and show attendees, and may even have some of you screaming at this column once it is fully read and digested.

Let me take you back to my column that appeared in the January-February 2021 issue. Admittedly, I was wrong in my conclusions that as the world of law enforcement was attacked, defunded, reviled, hated, demonstrated against and just plain kicked to the curb, all of those hateful and misguided actions would in some way affect the hobby and specifically affect the police collectible shows.

Now we get to the main point of this column and the title. I am not a show person and, quite honestly, do not believe in the real sense of collecting that obtaining such items at shows is not actually collecting.

Have I attended shows? The answer is yes.

Have I set up at shows. The answer is also yes.
Have I obtained items at shows to put into my collection? The answer is again yes.
So, here is the analogy. Does a person who does not drink alcohol, drinks rarely or is just a plain old teetotaler go to a bar? The answer is yes. Such a person rarely goes to a bar, may have just one drink and other drinks few and far in between.
I have always had a love-hate relationship with shows. For many decades, my main focus of collecting was primarily associated with military regalia, paraphernalia and related items.

I can honestly say when it comes to making a tally of shows I have attended over the years and decades, the number of these shows is heavily weighted toward militaria rather than law enforcement.

That was pretty much because of the ease of traveling to those shows. They have been the San Jose Militaria Show and Bay Area Military (BAM). Both were in close driving range of my residence in San Francisco. In the case of BAM, which was held in Hayward, I was able to take Bay Area Rapid Transit to the show.

The involvement of time, expense, travel, packing, long distance driving or traveling by air and all the rest just does not excite me enough to want to put up with all that is involved for one or two days to wander around a hall and look at a bunch of stuff set out on tables.

However, what may not be of interest to me is, of course, a point of great interest to many others. Over the decades of collecting and having read *PCNEWS* and other related publications, I have found a great deal of what takes place at the shows is actually more about camaraderie than it really is about collecting.

As hobby participants have become older, grayer and, sadly, as some members have passed away, shows have become even more of a point of friendship and camaraderie. The badges, patches, uniforms, challenge coins, vehicles, photos, equipment and all the rest is the icing on the friendship cake.

I must also bring up the fact about what the Internet, social media, Facebook, Twitter, Ebay and all the rest of the virtual world have done to collecting and shows.

The big virus that seems to never want to go away has also relegated a lot of what used to be done in person to a Never Never Land of Zoom, abstract viewing and chatting in real time.

I believe all of the previously-mentioned technological attachments have turned the collecting world and the shows upside down. All of it has opened a flood gate of fakes, copies, bogus items, reproductions, fantasy pieces, stolen pieces, ridiculously priced items and just plain old greed driven hucksters like at a carnival side show.

Although I am not a show person, I do believe for those who are show people, it is good for them to attend shows because they are, by and large, open operations attended by many longtime collectors who know one another. That makes it more simple and safer for the gathered masses to work and collect among others they know and trust.

Of course, we must realize the shows are established and supervised by known, honest and well respected promoters. That makes all the difference when it comes to the show must go on. However, the shows can go on without me.

I come back to a main point of this column, my belief that attending and obtaining items at shows is not true collecting. The caveat is true collecting. This statement is really going to get me in trouble with I am sure many collectors, especially those who attend and set up at shows.

Walking around a big room full of tables with various items laid out on them is sort of like going grocery shopping at your local supermarket. It is sort of like a hunter who shoots animals for the harvesting of meat rather than shooting an animal to put its head up on a wall as a trophy display.

Let me explain exactly what I mean. I have been very lucky and quite fortunate to have obtained the vast majority of pieces in my personal collections from the actual sources of these items.

Readers have found that I travel a great deal throughout the country, spend time in multiple locations and have done so for a number of years. I have also over the course of many decades traveled throughout foreign countries mainly in correlation with my overseas professional work.

Additionally, having worked nearly 45 years in law enforcement and related professional positions, I have worked with and met many police, law enforcement, investigative, intelligence and other public safety officials, both nationally and internationally.

This extremely fortunate ability has allowed me to do what I call “source collecting;” the ability to have been presented with, gifted, handed over and/or with a wink and nod, any number of badges, patches, regalia and other related items. It is sort of like opening a Cracker Jack box and ending up with the prize inside.

Of course, I fully understand that in most cases this collecting ability does not make itself available to most other collectors, especially in the case of collectors with a non-law enforcement background.

It is also difficult as well to obtain items from the source for any number of reasons whether legally, professionally or financially.

So, in that regard, shows do serve an invaluable purpose to many, if not most, collectors. Time and distance, as well as visiting far-flung places, is also another reason why attending shows is beneficial to most collectors. The shows are centralized and well planned in advance.

However, I do not personally share the same sort of excitement, enjoyment, satisfaction and wanderlust present at shows in comparison to source collecting when I am out in the wilds, so to speak.

The show must go on but pretty much without me. There is method to madness, and it is no different when it comes to shows and collecting. I stick with my take on what I believe is the main point of shows. They are social functions based on friendship and camaraderie. The collecting aspects are secondary and serve as icing on the cake.

I hope none of you as collectors, show attendees, show promoters or subscribers will take anything I have said in this column in any personal way. I fully understand the great importance that shows and the hobby have to most, if not all, of you. I just have much different opinions and viewpoints on both.

I wish all the best to everyone in the New Year and hope the collecting gods look out for you, protect you and guide you safely in a very dangerous and ever changing world.

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

Haunted Police Museum It is a Vancouver, B.C. Police Museum tradition that whoever locks up after closing must say “good night” to the ghosts. Built in the 1930s, the grand building that now houses the museum once served as a coroner’s court, crime lab and city morgue. It has housed 20,000 dead people. Some museum staff refuse to be in the building alone, much less at night. One evening a volunteer forgot to say “good night.” She swore the door lock would not turn; that is, until she remembered the nightly custom, and then, she says, the lock turned by itself. That’s just one of many ghostly encounters staff are at a loss to explain.

Suffolk County Museum The Suffolk County, N.Y. Police History Museum has reopened to the public. It is now open on Mondays. Commissioner Stuart Cameron said the museum underwent a renovation and added several new exhibits after it shut down during the pandemic more than a year ago. “I wanted to update it, and I wanted to make it more technologically advanced,” the commissioner said. “We put in some flat panel TVs, which allows us to change the displays easily and show more things.” The museum is located at 30 Yaphank Avenue in Yaphank. The contact number is (631) 857-6011.



John L. Sullivan is shown at his desk in his office at Chicago Police Headquarters. He served as the chief of detectives for ten years from 1934 to 1944, longer than anyone else in department history. He joined the department in 1912 and retired in 1950. Sullivan died in 1973. *Contributed photograph*

John L. Sullivan: Legendary Chicago Chief of Detectives

John L. Sullivan, the grandson of Chicago Police Department Chief of Detectives John L. Sullivan, who served from 1934 to 1944, has preserved the badges from his grandfather's legendary career. Chief Sullivan served as chief of detectives longer than anyone in Chicago police history.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHICAGO, Ill. — As chief of detectives from 1934 to 1944, John L. Sullivan helped guide the Chicago Police Department through a decade of unprecedented violence as rampant organized crime cemented the Windy City's reputation as the nation's crime capital. He served as chief of detectives longer than anyone else in department history.

Notorious mobsters the likes of Al Capone, John Dillinger, "Bugsy" Siegel, Frank Nitti and many others were household names during Sullivan's watch. Crimes committed by them and their fellow gangsters made banner headlines in Chicago newspapers throughout the decade.

Sullivan personally directed investigations throughout the city, often in cooperation with federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Treasury Department and the United States Attorney's Office. He also faced widespread corruption in his department which often hampered or endangered pending cases.

Sullivan lied about his age when he joined the police department in 1912. He said he was 22 (the minimum age was 21), but he was actually only 18 when he got his first star and became a patrolman.

A no nonsense, tough-talking street cop, Sullivan rose quickly through the CPD ranks. During an era in which Chicagoans were terrorized not only by mob-on-mob violence but also by rampant street crime as well, he got results that pleased the public and his supervisors.

Sullivan held the ranks of patrolman, sergeant and lieutenant before he was promoted to captain and became involved with security for the 1933 to 1934 Century of Progress Exposition (also known as the World's Fair) in Chicago.

When the mayor and other city officials openly worried pickpockets would victimize fair-goers, Sullivan came up with a novel solution. He ordered his officers to round up all known pickpockets in the area and break their fingers! Other pickpockets got the message and stayed out of the Chicago.

Not long after Sullivan became captain of detectives in 1934, FBI special agents working out of the Chicago office gunned down Dillinger, Public Enemy No. 1, as he left the



John L. Sullivan joined the Chicago Police Department in 1912 at age 18. (He lied about his age. The minimum age was 21.) His grandson, John L. Sullivan, has a photo of him in uniform, as well as his patrolman star (top) and chief of detectives star (bottom), which is gold. *Contributed photograph*



"1313" was the Chicago Police Department official magazine in the 1930s and 1940s. John L. Sullivan was shown on a cover as the Superintendent of Police in the Town of Cicero, a second job. His grandson has his badge, as well as his chief's staff and hat badges. *Contributed photograph*

Biograph Theater with a lady friend who had secretly tipped off authorities.

Twenty FBI agents and Chicago police officers staked out the theater. As Dillinger and his friend left after seeing a movie, agents approached and ordered him to surrender. Instead, the mobster ran toward a nearby alley. He was gunned down by officers in foot pursuit after he pulled a weapon.

Sullivan and his army of detectives kept close watch on the mob, which, like in other major cities, had its various factions, associations and, of course, rivalries and turf wars. The latter often resulted in gruesome, bloody assassinations on street corners, in restaurants and bars and even at weddings and funerals. The mob's weapon of choice in that era was either a shotgun or a machine gun.

The Chicago Outfit started in about 1910 on the South Side. It was an Italian-American organized crime syndicate. It was headed by Al Capone and Johnny Torrio and rose to prominence as the largest and most powerful underworld organization in the city and perhaps the USA. (It later branched out to other cities and states.)

One of the many famous cases that Sullivan worked while chief of detectives was the 1935 murder of Thomas Maloy, president of Local 110 of the Motion Picture Operators Union. The mob wanted protection money from his movie theater employee union. When Maloy refused to pay, he was killed by multiple gun blasts from a pair of gunmen as he drove his car on Outer Lake Shore Drive. The case was never solved.

In 1939, prominent attorney Edward O'Hare, who worked for the Outfit while at the same time feeding information on mob activities to Chicago police for years, was shot and killed by two gunmen who drove alongside his car on Ogden Avenue. (His son, Edward O'Hare Jr., was the Navy's first ace fighter pilot and a Medal of Honor winner. O'Hare International Airport is named after him.) The murderers were never apprehended.

In 1944, Lawrence Mangano, who oversaw the Outfit's operations on the Near West Side, and his bodyguard, were murdered on their way home from a party. Apparently, the mobsters pulled over to see why they were being followed from the party. Gunmen in a car behind them opened fire as Mangano stepped out of his car. An autopsy found more than 200 shotgun pellets in his body. Reportedly, then-new Outfit top boss Tony Accardo wanted Mangano out of the way as a potential rival.

While these were some of the high profile cases detectives worked under Sullivan's watch, he and his men also investigated thousands of other murders, rapes, burglaries and thefts. Imagine a decade of managing cases in a city of three million!

Despite his legendary successes, Sullivan was unexpectedly demoted as chief of detectives in 1944. Newspapers speculated it was because the department was unable to solve the spectacular high-profile murder of Mrs. Frank Starr Williams, a prominent wealthy socialite, in a downtown Drake Hotel room.

However, it appears Sullivan actually lost his job because he was allied with State's Attorney Thomas J. Courtney, who was locked in a political feud with Mayor Edward J. Kelly.

Sullivan became captain of the Summerdale and Chicago Avenue police districts until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 63 in 1950. Because he said he was 22, when he was actually 18, when he applied to the police department in 1912, Sullivan claimed he was really four years younger and could continue to work. The city disagreed. Sullivan chose to retire.

He moved to Florida and died in North Miami Beach in 1973 at age 83.

Sullivan's career badges Sullivan's brother, Sidney T. Sullivan Sr., was also a



John L. Sullivan's Cicero Police Department superintendent of police star, a smaller chief's staff star and his signed certificate of appointment are among the items that John L. Sullivan has preserved. The document was signed on June 20, 1932. It appoints him as superintendent. *Contributed photograph*



All of the badges that John L. Sullivan wore during his long law enforcement career in Cicero and Chicago, Ill. His Cicero badges are shown at the top. Only his sergeant's badge is missing from this collection. Notice the upside-down supervisor badge in the center? *Contributed photograph*

John L. Sullivan ...Continued

Chicago policeman. He was a detective sergeant assigned to the 26th District on January 31, 1937 when he was killed on duty.

According to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, Sergeant Sullivan was investigating a series of taxicab robberies in the district. He was enroute to interview an informant who was supposed to give him the name of bandits responsible for the robberies when he lost control of his car on an icy road and drove into the ditch.

Sergeant Sullivan walked approximately two miles to get help when he struck and killed by a passing motorist. The motorist was held, but a coroner's inquest determined the death accidental.

Sergeant Sullivan's star, Number 1258, appears in the Superintendent's Honored Star Case at Police Headquarters and on the Gold Star Families Memorial Wall.

His grandson, John L. Sullivan, has preserved his family's badge heritage and shown many of them on Chip Greiner's Facebook page, "Chicago Police 'Pie Plate' Badge Collectors."

Grandson Sullivan and his father were also law enforcement officers. His father was the personal bodyguard for two mayors, including Richard J., Daley. Grandson Sullivan recently retired after 50 years in Illinois law enforcement, seven with the Cook County Sheriffs Department, 23 with CPD and 20 with the Lake County Sheriffs Office.

Sullivan has a photo of John L. Sullivan taken not long after he joined the CPD in 1912, as well as his pie plate badge, silver with applied copper numbers "2890," and his gold chief of detectives five-point star. It has a blue enamel ring with gold legends, "CHICAGO POLICE/ CHIEF OF DETECTIVES."

John L. Sullivan is shown at his desk at Chicago Police Headquarters during his decade-long tenure as chief of detectives.

"1313" was the official Chicago Police Department in-house magazine in the 1930s and 1940s. Sullivan was featured on the cover wearing his dress uniform as superintendent of police in suburban Cicero, his second job. He took the job in the Cook County township in 1932. His grandson has his Cicero badges and his handwritten certificate of appointment.

There is also a collection of every badge that Sullivan wore during his career with the exception of his sergeant's badge. It consists of three Cicero badges (two shirt badges and a cap device) and his CPD badges, patrolman (2890), captain (two styles), chief of detectives and lieutenant.

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

Our thanks to Chip Greiner for his assistance with this story. EDITOR

Argyle Police Wearing Texas's Newest Badge

ARGYLE, Tex. – Emmitt Jackson, the progressive new chief of police in Argyle, Tex., a fast-growing Fort Worth suburb, says he is a big believer in branding. "Symbols make a big difference," he said.

So, even though the process began before he took over on January 2, Chief Jackson enthusiastically embraced the department's unique new custom-die badge.

Designed by Sergeant Antonio Seguna, the gold-colored shield is a unique shape that somewhat resembles a pinched shield. The center design is an oversize five-point star on a black disk with the city logo, a large cursive letter "A" with smaller letters that spell out the



(Left) The previous Argyle, Tex. PD shield was what new Chief of Police Emmitt Jackson describes as a "catalog" badge. (Right) Sergeant Antonio Seguna designed the agency's new badge, which is a custom-die. The center design is the city logo. *Argyle Police Department photograph*

city name.

"POLICE" appears across the top in black letters on a banner with "EST. 1981" in small black letters on a small black banner beneath it.

"POLICE" and "OFFICER" are shown in black letters on parallel gold banners beneath the center design.

Each officer's four-digit badge number completes the design at the bottom. The numbers appear on a small panel.

Chief Jackson said it is the first time an officer's number has appeared on a department-issue badge in Argyle. Badge numbers stay with the officer throughout his or her career.

"Our badge is available in a catalog, and there may be ten agencies in Texas with the same badge. I said we could design something new, and they said they wanted something that would just be ours," Chief Jackson said.

The department first discussed new badges during a meeting last summer not long before Chief Temple Cottle announced his retirement.

Argyle is a city of 4100 in Denton County. It has ten full-time officers.

Courtesy of Argyle, Tex. Police Department



The infamous "Mafia Cops," detectives Louis Eppolito (left) and Stephen Caracappa (right), in their NYPD office in the 1980s. Both died in prison after their convictions on multiple felony convictions in 2006. They acted as hit men for prominent crime families and sold intelligence. *Contributed photograph*

HBO Producing Series On NYPD's Mafia Cops

NEW YORK CITY – Stephen Caracappa and Louis Eppolito were among the most corrupt cops in New York history. They were NYPD detectives convicted and sentenced to life in prison for working as informants and hit men for the Lucchese and Gambino crime families for about ten years in the 1980's and '90s. Both were nicknamed "Mafia Cops" and later died in prison.

Now, Home Box Office (HBO) is producing a true crime limited series on them based on the best-selling 2003 book, *Friends of the Family: The Inside Story of the Mafia Cops Case*, which was written by former NYPD Detective Tommy Dades, former Brooklyn prosecutor Mike Vecchione and David Fisher.

The book chronicles the true story of the decorated NYPD detectives who had access to the department's most sensitive intelligence and sold it to the Mafia in exchange for thousands of dollars in payments. Later, they murdered for the mob.

The series will be created by Terrence Winter, who created the former popular HBO series, *Boardwalk Empire*, which chronicled 1920s and '30s Prohibition-related crime in Atlantic City, N.J. and was based on real-life gangsters and police.

Detective Dades and Assistant District Attorney Vecchione led the investigation that ultimately led to the arrest and conviction of the "Mafia Cops."

Winter said several active and retired NYPD and District Attorneys Office investigators who worked on the Eppolito and Caracappa cases will be consultants for the series.

Courtesy of HBO

Pickens Patches Stolen "Billy" and "Maggie" are two large goat statues in front of the Pickens, S.C. Police Department. Each week, the goats are stars in an online hide and seek game, "Goats on the Run," where members of the community find the goats using clues given by police officers. The community-relations effort has been a huge hit, especially among youngsters. Sadly, four large wooden representations of the Pickens shoulder patch mounted on either side of each goat were recently stolen. "If you want a patch, we'll gladly give you one, but please don't mess with 'Billy' and 'Maggie'," an officer posted on Facebook.

Florida Election Police Florida Governor Ron DeSantis recently called on lawmakers to create a statewide law enforcement agency tasked with tracking down election-related crimes. He said the new police force would investigate election crimes, clean voter rolls, prohibit "unsecured, haphazard" ballot drop box locations and refer cases for prosecution. It would be known as the Office of Election Crimes and Security and comprised of sworn law enforcement officers. The new agency would cost \$5.7 million in its first year and have 52 employees.

\$39.50 RCMP Blazer In 1953, Delahay's of Ottawa, a uniform store, offered members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police a high-quality, department-authorized blazer complete with the agency crest and custom buttons for \$39.95. Matching trousers were \$19.95. Regimental ties sold for \$2.50. Mounties could purchase the blazer and/or trousers for \$10 down and \$10 a month. Shipping and handling was \$1. The embroidered RCMP crest, valued at \$10.50, was free.

Massachusetts Runaway Day The Massachusetts State Police Museum and Learning Center in South Grafton hosted a Runaway Day on December 5. Remember the famous Norman Rockwell painting of a state trooper talking to a runaway child at a small-town diner counter? The little boy was Ed Locke, a Rockwell neighbor, who posed for the artist. The event was a fundraiser for the museum. Locke autographed prints of the Rockwell painting. Visitors could sit at a replica diner counter and recreate the famous scene for family and friends.

BADGES FOR SALE

PRICED 10% TO 35% LESS

All reasonable offers considered. All badges shipped either priority or first class with tracking number. I offer a 10 day return policy. If you want to see pictures, email me with request. Shipping is \$5.00 to \$8.50.

CALIFORNIA BADGES Less 10%

Merced D/S Explorer #43, Sun Badge 2 ¼ “ star \$100
Corning Reserve eagle top shield, #20, no HM \$235
Plumas Co., 7 pt gold star, named #101, HM Blackinton \$250
Torrance Captain, eagle top shield, HM Entenmann-Rovin \$375
Desert Hot Springs, 7 pt star, #5, HM Entenmann-Rovin \$375
Palm Springs, 7 pt star, #35, HM Sun Badge \$375
Coachella Lieutenant, 3/12” shield, HM V & V, 1992 \$400
Adelanto California, 3” Patrolman, gold in color, shield, eagle top, HM Geo. Cake, Berkley, 1970’s, includes patch \$300
Nice Deputy Sheriff Shasta Co., 6 pt ball tip star, HM L.A. Stamp, repro \$75
Sacramento Deputy Sheriff, 2 ¼” eagle top, #863, J-pin repro \$75
Silver star Butte County, CA, HM L.A. Stamp repro \$75
Riverside Co. Sheriffs Office, 18 different badges

If you don’t see what you are looking for, I have many other CA badges not listed. Just ask.

SAN BERNARDINO BADGES Less 25%

San Bernardino Regional Parks, 1/12” shield, HM Entenmann-Rovin, Los Angeles \$150
3 each San Bernardino Deputy Sheriff, J-pins, no HM, Circa 1920’s or earlier \$250 each
San Bernardino Deputy Sheriff, Bear Valley # 8, 6 pt ball tip star 2 ½ “, no HM \$260
Walt Disney World, #132 eagle top shield and hat piece, no HM \$300

CONNECTICUT Minus \$30

Connecticut State Police #185, HM W.A., no gold in badge \$125

GEORGIA

- 1. Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Commemorative 1996 Olympic Games
 - 2. Atlanta Police, Commemorative 1996 Olympic Games
 - 3. Felton County Sheriff’s Department, Commemorative 1996 Olympic Games
 - 4. Georgia State Police, Commemorative 1996 Olympic Games
- All Four badges are in blue Lucite. Badges are \$150 each and manufactured by G. R. Davis.

NEVADA BADGES All Less 25%

Older Clark Co. Deputy Constable, 6 pt ball tip star, #13, no HM \$325
Clark Co. Special Deputy Sheriff, 6 pt ball tip star, #853, HM Sun Badge Los Angeles \$260
Clark Co. Deputy Constable, named, North Las Vegas ball tip, HM Entenman-Rovin, maybe 1960’s \$275
Clark Co. Deputy Sheriff, #19, 5 pt star ball tip star, maybe 1950’s or earlier, HM George Schenck \$275
Clark Co. Special Deputy Sheriff, 6 pt ball tip star, #389, HM George Schenck \$290
Clark Co. Police Officer School District, 3 ½” oval w/cut out star, HM V & V 2009 \$140
Same Detective, HM Nielson Mfg. 2012 \$150
Mesquite Police Officer, eagle top shield, 3 ½” , HM BNB \$260
North Las Vegas Detective, #391, 3 ½” eagle top shield, HM Sun Badge \$330
Dept. of Public Safety Nevada, 2” circle w/star gold with lots of enamel, HM Police Supply \$120

LOUISIANA BADGES Less 20%

State Police Sergeant, older authentic, not a reproduction, protruding state seal, hard blue enamel, no HM, includes patch \$400
Plaquemines Parish hat piece, 7 pt star \$45

NEW JERSEY BADGES Less 25%

Audubon Detective Sgt., circle eagle top, 2 ½ x 1 ½”, 50-60 years old, HM S.H. Reese 57 Warren St \$140
Newark Dept. of Sanitation Inspector, eagle top 3 x2”, no HM \$115
Mercer Co. Special Deputy Sheriff, named, eagle top 1 ¾ x 1 ½”, no HM \$95
Roxbury Township Auxiliary Police, 2 ¼ x 1 ½” circle eagle top, no HM \$85
Middletown Township Special Officer, circle eagle top, #60, \$100, over 100 yrs old
Bogota Police Reserve, shield, maybe 1960’s, 2 ½ x 2 ½”, no HM \$85
Dept. of Corrections 3” eagle top, #490 \$100

PENNSYLVANIA BADGES Less 30%

Delaware Co. Deputy Sheriff, circle eagle top, 2 ½ x 1 ¾”, HM ALT _____
Philadelphia, Penn \$185
Bradford Co. Constable, silver shield, J-pin, 100 year old or so, 1 3/4” x 1 ¾”, excellent condition, HM Tower & Lyon 35 Chambers New York \$200
Heggins Fire and Police, #15, 1950’s or so, circle with eagle top, no HM \$95
Railway Watchman P.R.R., very old pin, HM E. G. Clover Co. New York \$125
Hamburg Fire Police circle eagle top, special 2 ¾”, HM Ga-Rel. \$125
Hamburg Police similar to above badge, HM Ga-Rel. \$125
Berks Co., Police #467, similar to above, HM Ga-Rel. \$125

TEXAS BADGES All Minus \$50 each

Hewitt Police Lieutenant, L.A.P.D. type, #119, HM Sun Badge Los Angeles \$145
Montgomery Co. Constable, Pct. 4, circle, HM April \$150
Muenster Police Sergeant, 3 ¼ “, HM TCI Phoenix 2000 \$150

UTAH BADGES All Minus \$50 each

Midvale Sgt., 6 pt ball tip, HM Entenmann-Rovin \$235
Kane Co. Deputy Sheriff, 7 pt ball tip, HM Sun Badge Los Angles \$250

MISCELLANEOUS BADGES All Minus \$20 each

Wells Fargo Security, eagle top, 3 ½”, no HM \$25
100 different Dick Tracy, Capt. Midnight, Lone Ranger, Melvin Purvis, etc. from the 1930’s, 1940’s and 1950’s

FEDERAL BADGES

Internal Revenue Service, circa 1930’s, named, HM Weyhing Bros. Detroit \$1400

NEW YORK BADGES All Less 35%

District Attorney Assistant, N.Y. County, sunburst \$125
Horsehead Police Community Service, eagle top shield, #482, clip on back, no HM \$125
Sullivan County under Sheriff Thomas Darby, 5 pt ball tip star, HM Neilson NYC \$140
Sylvania Police, #7, circle eagle top, no HM with #7 hat piece \$150
Morris Police, gold color, 2 ½ x 2 ½”, no HM \$125
Ossining Special Police, #15, circle eagle top, J-pin, 100 years old, no HM \$150
Cayuga Co. Deputy Sheriff, circle eagle top, #63, 80-100 years old, no HM \$150
Town of Dover Police, part of pin missing, badge # 11, looks 70 years old approx., no HM \$135
Seneca Co. Deputy Sheriff, eagle top, old, no HM \$225
Seneca Co. Auxiliary Police 2 ¼ x 2”, 50’-60’s \$115
Seneca Co. Special Deputy Sheriff, eagle top, 50’s-60’s, no HM \$115
Seneca Co. Special Deputy Sheriff, named, 2 ¼ x 1 ¾” \$115
Buffalo Special Police, shield, eagle top, 100 years old approx., 3 ¼ x 2 ½” J-pin \$135

NEW MEXICO BADGE Minus \$50

Albuquerque Police, #7, silver color eagle top shield, no HM \$250

NEBRASKA BADGES All Less 30%

Seward, named, per department, he worked there, no HM \$100
Blair Patrolman, 3” eagle top shield, no HM \$150

ROBERT BUND Landline (760) 251-5890 (preferred)
Email: robertjbund@gmail.com
Please note: I am unavailable from Feb. 12 through Feb. 26, 2022



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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)

BUYING OR TRADING patches, coins, pins, badges, etc. from /depicting the U.S. Federal Protective Service (FPS, FPSD, or FPSP), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and Dartmouth, Massachusetts Police. Contact: RICH PONTES, 8 Cedar Crest Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747 or email: tyall@comcast.net (90)

LOOKING FOR these badges, will buy or trade: NJ Transit Police shield, Twp. Of Union NJ, New Brunswick NJ, North Fork Police Virginia, and Philadelphia style Fairmount Park Police PA. VINCENT PAPE, retired officer, 19 Valley Forge Dr., Bohemia, NJ 11716 Phone: (631) 567-3248 (88)

RAILROAD POLICE BADGES, signs, guns, paper, etc. wanted. I will buy or trade. I am especially looking for: Penn Central, PRR, NY Central, New Haven, Reading, Lehigh Valley, Conrail and other eastern roads. GARY FARMER, P.O. Box 55, Maytown, PA 17550 (717) 426-4409 or email: pharmer15@embarqmail.com (90)

RETIRED POLICE OFFICER SELLING: Police patches, models, memorabilia, badges and much more. Also available a 1988 Plymouth Gran Fury former Ohio State Patrol car with miscellaneous equipment with new tires and has been repainted. Call for prices and pictures. DAVID STEINER, 3350 Central Ave. SE, Canton, OH 44707 (330) 931-2901 (86)

VINTAGE MASSACHUSETTS POLICE PATCHES WANTED: Pre 1980 and especially Western Massachusetts cities and towns. Contact: MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (86)

WANTED: Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) badges, patches and challenge coins (including Force Protection Detachment coins) not already represented in my collection. I am willing to buy or trade. JIM H. CRUMPACKER, P. O. Box 523357, Springfield, VA 22152-5357 or email: JHC Crumpack@aol.com (95)

WANTED: Any Alcohol Beverage Commission / Liquor Commission patches. Contact me at www.abcpatchcollector.weebly.com or on Facebook at "Jeremy's Alcohol Patch Collection" (95)

WANTED: Boy Scout memorabilia of all types: Patches, Pins, Medals, Handbooks Pre-1936. CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (91)

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 (91)

WANTED: I collect South Carolina police metal badges and embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (91)

WANTED: Long-time collector looking for old Michigan police badges with emphasis on old Detroit badges. I am willing to trade or purchase. STEVE LEWIS, 8018 Morrow Rd., Clay MI 48001 (810) 531-6197 Email: srlewis@hughes.net (87)

WANTED: Massachusetts Police Badges: Hampden, Springfield Police/Fire, Springfield Armory Guard/Fireman, West Springfield, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Holyoke, Chicopee, Monson, Palmer, Ludlow, Northampton, Westfield, Agawam, Southwick, South Hadley, Holland, Brimfield, Wales, Westover Field MP, or any other Massachusetts badge. Please contact MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (86)

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I have some badges to trade.

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SPACE COAST PATCH SHOW

Titusville Florida

The 35th Annual "Space Coast" Patch Show will be Saturday, **January 29 2022** at the North Brevard Senior Center, 909 Lane Ave., Titusville, FL. Steve and Karen Bridges host the show. **Note the change in location!** This is your opportunity to buy-sell or trade law enforcement patches, badges, as well as other Police or Fire memorabilia.

Seventy (70) tables are available for \$25 each **before** December 31. **After that tables will be \$30.** Early reservations are recommended because tables are offered on a "first come" basis. Each year the show is a sellout. Please send payment with your reservation. Set-up begins at 8am and the show will run from 9am until 4pm. There is a spirited display contest and awards are presented for the best displays. **Reproductions must be marked.**

We will have a food truck onsite to provide a lunch at a reasonable cost, they were a big hit at the last show. The **hotel** for the show is the **Holiday Inn Titusville/Kennedy Space Center** 4715 Helen Hauser Blvd. the rate is \$119.00 (plus tax), this rate will be valid **January 27-30, 2022 and the cutoff date is December 28, 2021.** The phone number is (321) 383-0200 and ask for the **Space Coast Patch Show.** The hotel includes a hot/cold breakfast. **Early reservations are recommended as there is another event in Titusville at the same time. Be aware of their cancellation policy.**

Titusville is close to Kennedy Space Center and other central Florida attractions. The Police Hall of Fame, which moved from Miami to Titusville, is open and is a well-done attraction promoting Law Enforcement and has some fabulous patches and other memorabilia on display.

Make table reservations by calling: 321-302-1983 (cell) or e-mail @ csteveb170@gmail.com. Confirm your reservations by mailing table fee to Steve Bridges, 1535 Justin Court, Titusville, FL 32796.



CALIFORNIA FIRE PATCHES WANTED



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40th Annual -The Porky Show

CALIFORNIA'S LONGEST RUNNING PATCH & BADGE POLICE COLLECTIBLES SWAP MEET



Saturday, January 15, 2022 - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Taylor Hall, 1775 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont, CA
\$5.00 Admission, Tables \$55.00 (includes one admission)
Displays ONLY may be placed FREE of CHARGE on the stage area
Display contest, Food, Drinks & Fun!!!



Badges-Patches-Toy Police Cars-Buckles-Photos-Historical Documents-Hats-Helmets-Cuffs-Antique Batons-Mini Badges-T-Shirts-Pins

YOUR HOSTS:

Nick Cardaras

nick@theporkyshow.com
(Webmaster-Table reservations)

To make table reservations
go to:

www.theporkyshow.com

Dennis Smith

dennis@theporkyshow.com
(Facilities coordinator - publicity)

DIRECTIONS:

From all areas, take I-10 (San Bernardino Freeway) to Indian Hill Blvd. Go North for approximately 2 1/2 miles on Indian Hill Blvd. to Taylor Hall - **or** - From the 210 (Foothill) Freeway exit Towne Avenue, go north one block turning east on Baseline Road to south on Indian Hill Blvd to show location.

Exclusive Hotel for The Porky Show



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Regularly \$239 to \$309 a night.

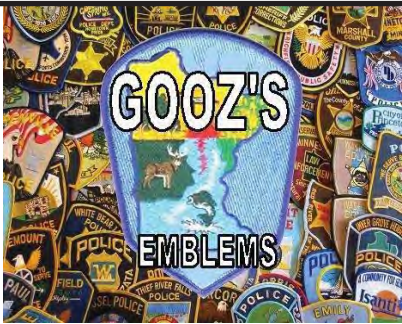
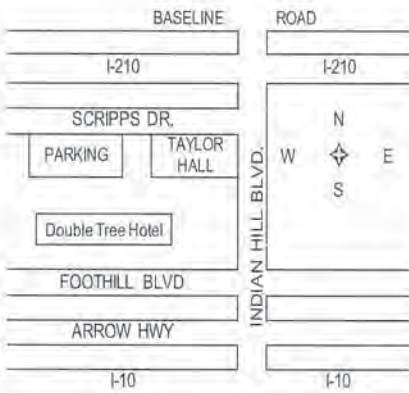
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Patches? We need some stinkin' patches!

Also license plates, badges, challenge coins, anything Law Enforcement related

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February 12, 2022
0900-1300

Marshall Merit Center
1001 West Erie Road

Awards presented for best displays
Refreshments will be available

For tables, questions call Gooz at
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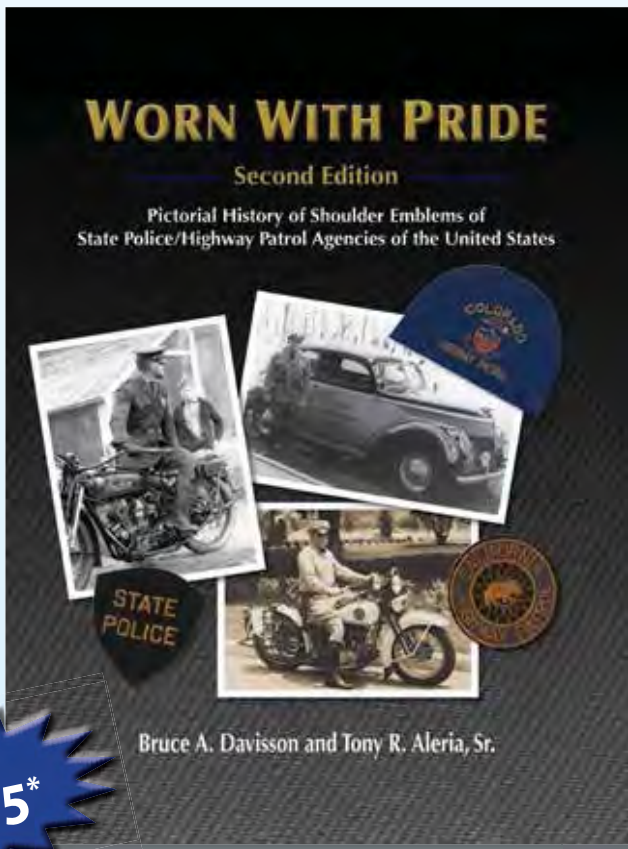
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By Bruce A. Davisson and Tony R. Aleria, Sr.

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“Create Your Own” is a program where shops in the Arts & Crafts Community offer hands-on workshops or make your own participating crafting.

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- OBER GATLINBURG
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2022

NATIONAL POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW

June 17, 18, 19

Gatlinburg Convention Center

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\$5.00 General Admission (proceeds benefit local charities)

- 273 EXHIBITOR TABLES \$85 EACH
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- "OLE SMOKY" TASTING EVENT
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(Exhibitor set up only)
- SATURDAY, JUNE 18 9 AM – 6 PM
(Tableholders set up 8 AM – 9 AM)
- SUNDAY, JUNE 19 9 AM – 2 PM
(Tableholders set up 8 AM – 9 AM)

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For Table Reservations And Information

Email NPCS2022@gmail.com or visit www.national-police-collectors-show.com

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