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Gatlinburg Hosts First Tennessee National Show

The National Police Collectors Show visited Tennessee for the first time on June 17, 18 and 19. Co-hosts Jim Clark, Richard Stoffle and Brad Redmond welcomed 870 tableholders, assistants and collectors to the massive Gatlinburg Convention Center, an outstanding venue.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

GATLINBURG, Tenn. – When a small group of hobby pioneers gathered in Phoenix, Ariz. in March 1984 to establish the National Police Collectors Show, co-founder the late Rich Salchunas stressed the show needed to move around the country and visit new places often.

And, Salchunas believed each show should establish firsts, such as being the first show in a state or region, as well as being the first show for local collectors who never attend shows.

Salchunas would have been proud, had he lived long enough, to attend the hobby's 37th annual convention in Gatlinburg, Tenn. on June 17, 18 and 19 because it was truly a show of firsts.

The 2022 "Ole Smoky" National Police Collectors Show was the first in Tennessee. It was the first since 1986 without host hotels. It was the first supported by city government and commercial sponsors. It was the first in many years to sellout of tables. It was the first to donate all proceeds to a prominent local charity. It was first to offer multiple show commemorative patches. And, Jim Clark is the first collector to host Nationals in more than one city and state. (He hosted the 2008 show in Louisville, Ky.)

After two long, frustrating years battling the pandemic, the National came roaring back in the lush, picturesque Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee, thanks to the dedication of Clark and co-hosts Richard Stoffle and Brad Redmond, who produced an incredibly successful show. Many collectors said it was the best National Show yet.

"We couldn't have done it without the support of our tableholders, collectors who traveled across the country to attend, our sponsors and especially the City of Gatlinburg. Everyone did their part," Clark said.

Officially known as the "Ole Smoky National Police Collectors Show" in appreciation of its major sponsor, the three-day event attracted 170 tableholders and assistants and 700 collectors from throughout the United States, Canada and Ukraine.

"I can vouch for those numbers based on the table sellout and the amount of money we collected at the door," Clark said. The show asked for a \$5 donation from walk-ins. However, there was no sign-in requirement.

The venue was the massive, ultra-modern Gatlinburg Convention Center in the heart of the city, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the state. The hall easily accommodated 273 tables with wide aisles and more than ample display and exhibit space.

Although there was no host hotel, many collectors and tableholders found accommodations, restaurants and entertainment venues within walking distance, while others opted to stay elsewhere in Gatlinburg or nearby Pigeon Forge.



"Ole Smoky" National Show display contest winners were (left to right) Don Magruder (Historical), Christine Calhoun (Patch), Gary Teragawa (Badge), Peter Harris (Specialty) and Vinnie Turocy (Best of Show). Gatlinburg will long be remembered for world class exhibits. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Show sponsors were G-Man Emblem, Code 4 Public Safety Emblems, Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery, Smoky Mountain Knife Works, Alcatraz East Crime Museum, Extreme Vinyl Graphics and Holston's Catering.

"Ole Smoky" was highlighted by one of the most hotly-contested display contests in National Show history, non-stop buying, selling and trading of every imaginable law enforcement collectible and the return of camaraderie that was absent from the mostly online hobby during the pandemic.

\$12,000 donated to charity The National Show was a fundraiser for the Smoky Mountain Autism Success Hub (SMASH), a local organization that provides various services and programs to people on the autism spectrum and their families.

On Sunday afternoon, Clark and the co-hosts presented a \$12,000 check to board of directors President Lisa Meade Roberts, who fought back tears as she accepted the donation. It represented all show proceeds.

"When we decided to make this show a charity fundraiser, we considered several local organizations. We wanted all the money to stay in this area. We settled on SMASH because of the great work they do," Clark said.

"No one up here made a dime off this show. Everything was donated to SMASH. We raised money through donations at the door, sales of show patches, badges and challenge coins and what our sponsors donated. We took everything leftover from the hall rental and donated it, too," he said.

President Roberts told *PCNEWS* \$12,000 was the largest single donation ever made to SMASH.

"We feel so blessed to be chosen as the benefactor of the show. Not only did we receive the biggest donation in our 15 years as a group, but we learned how autism awareness is present within police departments all over the country from the patches we picked up. The



The Gatlinburg Convention Center hosted the 37th Annual National Police Collectors Show on June 17, 18 and 19. It was the first time the hobby's annual convention was held in Tennessee. The show attracted 170 tableholders and assistants and about 700 collectors. *Gary Schott photograph*



Collectors across the country heaped lavish praise on the hosts of the 2022 "Ole Smoky" National Police Collectors Show for an outstanding convention. (Left to right) Brad Redmond, Richard Stoffle, Jim Clark and Bailey Redmond labored tirelessly to stage a memorable event. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



2022 National Police Collectors Show collectibles were a black bear-shaped challenge coin (bottom left and right), a beautiful show logo silver and black breast badge and moonshine jar-shaped cloth patch with a blue background. All three souvenirs were immediate sellouts. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*

2022 National Show ...Continued

show was a great experience, and we’re so thankful for the generosity of the volunteers that put on an awesome show,” she said.
It was our hobby’s finest hour.

A hobby who’s who “Ole Smoky” tableholders represented a hobby who’s who. Collectors and dealers from across the country featured virtually every known law enforcement collectible from badges, patches and challenge coins to antiques, equipment, uniforms, historic photographs and documents, books and everything in between.

One hundred seventy registered tableholders and assistants made the show a 273-table sellout. (Assistants who are known collectors are shown in parentheses.)

Randy Adams (Phil Lind), Alcatraz East Crime Museum, Tony Aleria, John Baker, Craig Bauer, Peter Belos (Jim Collins), Iliya Berdichevski, Ryan Bertalotto, Mike R. Bondarenko, Steve and Karen Bridges, John Brothers, Chris Brown, Chris and Dave Calhoun, Rachel Canning (Kathie Strong), Marty Cassidy,

David Chandler, Darryl Chapman (Gary Jeffers), Bill Charles (Ben Roberson), Jim Claflin (Steve Pirtle and Anthony Benigno), Jim Clark, Hervey Cote, Sam Cox, Russell Crimmins, Steve Curry, Hal Daniel, Dennis Daniels, Bob Davis (Collin Sparr), Bruce Davisson, Tom Doran, Beau Douglas, Daymon Ellsworth,

Tom Engelmann, Steve Ferrell (Jim Fightmaster), Alex Forsman, Dave Fox, Don Fraser, Gary Gaffney, Jack Genius, G-Man Emblem, Tony Gorsek, Leonard Hanham (Leonard Hanham Jr. and Justin Hanham), Jim Hardy, Peter Harris (Mike Halasi), Marge Haworth, Dave Henley, Willie Herald (Jimmy Jordan), Jeremiah Herderich (Matt Carlson), Michael Hickmon,

Rodney Hicks, John Homa, Dennis Houser, Dave Hume (Scott Starns), Steven Ilo, Rob Jackson, Kent Jefferies, David Jensen, Chris Jensen (Allen Beck), Marcel Jojola, Jim Karas, David Kellner, Kimber Kessel (Austin Godfrey and Robert Rodriguez), David King, Dave Kolberson, Damir Krdzalic (Mike Moon),

Joe LaFrier, Ken Lucas, Mike Lucas, Brian Lyons, Keith Mackey (Bill Burks, Dick Coon, George Rodriguez and Donnie Woolard), Don Magruder, David Martin (Billy Thompson), Bert Matia, Jim McClary, Roger McLean, Jim McMillian, Mike Moore, Michael Morgan, Joe Morrison (Edward Kelly, John Carroll and George Scherbakow),

George Motley, Skip Murray, Herman and Lynne Naring, Andrew Nelson, Ken Nunes, Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery, John Panayotidis, Russ Penka, Steve Petro, Mark Pyne (Gary Hoving, Larry Allison, Glenn Hughes, Fred Yorsch and Andrew Castro), Kathi Redrup,

Tom Rees, Austin Reising-Shirley, Craig Richmond, Steve Rivers, Manny Rodriguez, Elton Rosser, Kevin Roszko, Matt Rudnik (Dave Seier), Ed Sachs, Doug Sarubbi, Gary Schott, Jake Schwalb, Noel Sevilla, Jim and Melody Shattuck, Bob Speed, Dave Sprinkle (Augie Lofstrom), Steve Srozinski,

Mark Stamfl, Richard Stoffle, Ezra Stout, George and Peggy Stumpf, Keith Sutherland, Gary Teragawam, Jim Thomas, Gerry Tibbs, Vinnie Turocy, Dave Urso (Jim Signorelli), Justin VanHalanger (Jerry Cuffe), Aaron Waldo (Kelly Coopman), Aaron Ward, Jim Ward, Daryl Weseloh, Jerry Winston, Zane Ziegler, Ed Zitek and Pat Znajda.

A notable international guest was Sergeii Giltai, a retired colonel in the Ukraine National Police. He lives in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Samuel Smith of Easton, Penna., a collector friend, invited him to the National Show.

“He has been in the USA for about two weeks after a horrific past few months,” Smith



“Best of Show” winner Vincent Turocy featured far more than badges and patches in his award-winning Tennessee Highway Patrol exhibit. He showed uniforms, license plates, an old red revolving roof light and accident investigation paraphernalia in this segment. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

said. “He’s an avid police collector and has never been to an American patch show before.”

Colonel Giltai spoke no English, so, using my friend and fellow Minnesota collector Iliya Berdichevski as translator, I introduced myself and told him my father was Ukrainian. I held up my tableholder ID and pointed to my last name. He smiled as soon as he saw it and said, “Ukraine!” (Bondarenko is a common name in that embattled country.) We traded patches, and I gave him a few things to welcome him to the USA.

Later, I learned that Joe Morrison fixed him up with a round badge that he really wanted for his collection.

Berdichevski told me the colonel was like “a kid in a candy store” at the show. He had never seen anything like it. He freely admitted he was completely overwhelmed.

Smith urged collectors to make our Ukrainian visitor feel welcome. I know that we did! Every time I saw him, he had a big, big smile on his face.

Turocy wins display contest “Ole Smoky” offered one of the finest display contests in National Show history. Competition for the awards was intense. The quantity and especially the quality of the exhibits were off the charts.

“The three judges told me it was a very close competition. They changed their minds several times before they chose the winners. Any of the winners could have been ‘Best of Show,’” Clark said.

“Our judges are stalwarts, pillars of this hobby, with 30, 40 and 50 years experience each. They’ve judged many, many times before. They know what this hobby is all about. All three told me this was the toughest competition they’d even seen. I agree with them totally. How do you pick winners when every display is a winner?”

Awards were presented in five categories, Best of Show, Best Badge, Best Patch, Best Specialty and Best Historical. There were also two Honorable Mention awards.

“Best of Show” went to Vinnie Turocy for his incredible collection of Tennessee Highway Patrol insignia, license plates, uniforms, headgear, artifacts and historic memorabilia. He also featured the Tennessee Capitol Police and other state agencies.

“It’s one of the best all-inclusive department collections in the hobby,” Clark said. “Anything and everything, he’s got it. That’s what this hobby is all about, preserving the histories of agencies. And, Vinnie had a little home field advantage, too!”

Recently promoted to lieutenant by the THP, Turocy specializes in his department and has amassed one of the finest department collections in the hobby. It covered 14 tables and must be seen to be appreciated.

“It’s been a lot of work, but it’s been worth it. It is just awesome to win this award,” Turocy said.

Gary Teragawa won “Best Badge Display” for his museum-quality exhibits from the California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Police Department and his long multi-agency law enforcement career in California.

“This is one of the best collections from California and beautifully done. It could have easily been a ‘Best of Show’ winner. It was put together by a veteran collector who knows what he’s doing,” Clark said as he presented the award.

Teragawa’s exhibit was shown in 28 beautifully arranged, freestanding display cases on eight tables. Although it also included patches, he showed hundreds of CHP and SFPD badges, all labeled and documented by many historic photographs. He featured badges from such well-known CHP personnel as Commissioner Dwight “Spike” Helmick and many others.

The veteran collector retired from the CHP several years ago and now lives near Savannah, Ga.

Christine Calhoun of Northfield Center, O. went home with the “Best Patch Display” award for her very unique collection of forensic law enforcement, medical examiner and crime scene investigation emblems from across the country.

Her massive collection is portrayed on five large, freestanding colorful display boards cut into the shapes of a human skull, blood splatter, body position chalk outline, the Grim Reaper and a DNA strand depiction.

“It’s an awesome presentation and well deserving of the award,” Clark said.



Volunteer State hobbyist Vincent Turocy was honored with “Best of Show” at “Ole Smoky” for his museum-quality Tennessee Highway Patrol collection. A THP lieutenant, Turocy collects anything and everything from his department and made a beautiful presentation. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



“Taking A Trip Back In Time” was the theme of Don Magruder’s “Best Historical Display” at the Gatlinburg National Show. The veteran collector was honored for his massive collection of pre-1900 law enforcement badges from across the country. It features extremely rare pieces. *Contributed photograph*



Peter Harris, a 31-year Los Angeles Police Department veteran, won “Best Specialty Display” for his fabulous department collection. He showed badges, patches, weapons, uniforms, headgear, equipment, artifacts and memorabilia. Harris now lives in eastern Tennessee. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Gary Teragawa was honored with the “Best Badge Display” award at the “Ole Smoky” National for his one-of-a-kind collections from the California Highway Patrol and the San Francisco Police Department. His massive exhibit filled an entire corner of the hall. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Calhoun said she began collecting forensic law enforcement several years ago and wanted a different way to show her collection. Her husband, Dave, who is also a collector, helped her come up with the forensic-related freestanding frames.

The outstanding Los Angeles Police Department collection of Peter Harris won “Best Specialty Display” honors. A retired LAPD officer who now lives in Tennessee, Harris put together a very complete, highly educational exhibit of badges, patches, weapons, artifacts, memorabilia and photographs, as well as equipment and uniforms, from his former department.

“He covered all the bases for the LAPD. His collection is much more than just badges and patches; he’s got everything. Weapons, emergency lights, helmets, you name it. A lot of history,” Clark said.

Harris retired as an LAPD sergeant after 31 years on the job last year and relocated to eastern Tennessee. He has been collecting since 2006.

Don Magruder of Indianola, Iowa won “Best Historical Display” for his breathtaking exhibit of pre-1900 law enforcement badges, “Talking A Trip Back In Time.” He featured six frames of fully documented badges dating back to the 1800s, including several major city first issues. These are among the finest badges ever in law enforcement.

“Don’s display is incredible. It’s pre-1900 badges from major cities that go back to the earliest days of our profession. We’ve got to know where we’ve been. He’s made a tremendous investment in saving badge history,” Clark said.

Magruder, who formerly lived in Saint Louis and helped host National Shows there, started collecting reserve law enforcement officer badges many years ago. They were his only focus.

Due to his age, he sold his entire collection a few years ago, although he retained an active interest in the hobby. Then, last year, he realized he missed the hobby and got back in, only this time specializing in high-end, rare and expensive pre-1900 badges.

Veteran collectors George Stumpf of Cheyenne, Wyo. and Jim Shattuck of Elizabethtown, Ky. won the Honorable Mention awards.

Stumpf was honored for his museum-quality collection of historic United States Marshals Service badges and artifacts.

Shattuck featured his incredible array of United States Air Force Security Forces insignia, artifacts, memorabilia, collectibles and vehicle scale models.

“George has the best Marshals Service badge collection the hobby has ever seen. I spend hours at every show looking at it. I always learn something. He could have easily won ‘Best of Show,’ and it would have been richly deserved,” Clark said.

The co-host also had high praise for Shattuck’s exhibit. “It’s an awesome salute to our military, beautifully displayed with badges, models and more. It’s very impressive. It’s great to see a military veteran do something like this,” Clark said.

The top five winners won beautiful, top quality, custom-engraved Buck knives displayed in presentation cases with a wooden laser-cut rendition of the show patch and the Smoky Mountain Knife Works logo. The company donated the knives and displays cases at no cost to the show.

Honorable mention winners went home with a beautiful special edition die-cast 1937 Ford pickup truck in 1:24 scale in a presentation box. It is adorned with a “Blue Lives Matter” logo, badges and a large American flag. The replica was custom made by MotoMax.

National earns rave reviews “Ole Smoky” received highly positive social media reviews from collectors greatly appreciative of the hard work that Clark, Stoffle and Redmond performed in hosting their well run event.

Dave Hume, well-known Lexington, Ky. badge collector, has attended all but one National show. He missed only the 1986 event in New Jersey.

“...This National was another good one. I was able to pick up 12 Kentucky badges, all from the collection of my late friend, Bob Murray. Thanks to his son, Skip, for making some of the collection available to collectors.

“I remember in the 1980s when Bob’s friend, retired Louisville police chief Hyde, gave

him all the Louisville Housing Police badges after the agency went defunct or changed badges. Hyde was head of the Housing Police at the time.

“Of course, Bob kept a rank set and made the others available to collectors. I ended up with a patrolman, corporal and sergeant. Now, I have the only known rank set of the red, white and blue Housing Police badges. In another 40 years, someone else will have it.

“And, yes, I have already made hotel reservations for next year’s National in California.”

Another longtime National participant, Willie Herald, a retired Kentucky state trooper now living in Southern Illinois, thanked the hosts and those behind the scenes who made for a successful show.

“Our group can be notorious for complaints, gripes and opinions, but the slogan for this year’s show could be summed up by a line from a song, ‘Never is heard a discouraging word.’

“As I get older, my collecting excitement has waned somewhat, but the most important part is seeing old friends and making new ones. Every year these friends become more important as we loose someone from the year before...”

Jerry Lecomte, a collector in Monroe, N.C., waited 31 years to get a chance to attend a National Show and Gatlinburg did not disappoint.

“Awesome job to yourself [Jim Clark] and your team for making this happen. I have waited 31 years to be able to make a National. It was well worth the wait. It was great seeing so many people I don’t get to see more often, and I got to talk with some I talk with regularly,” he said.

“I was able to come up with lots of cool stuff. But, the best part was seeing the next generation of collectors with the same energy and excitement I have enjoyed over the years. These are the folks who will pass along our stories and gems for the next generation, like the trade or purchase they will remember and be able to tell the story for decades to come,” Lecomte posted.

Hunter Simmons, a young and very dedicated North Carolina Highway Patrol collector and protege of Jim “Mr. NCHP” Thomas, attended his first National and described it as an “awesome experience.” He attended with his grandfather, a retired trooper.

“Meeting new people and hanging out with great friends was amazing. My grandpa, Jack Richardson, who is not a collector and never was in his 30 years as a trooper, had a blast simply trading stories with many of you folks. I was blessed to pick up a few NCHP pieces for my collection but that was just an added bonus.

“Additionally, I want to thank everyone who had a hand in seeing that this show was as successful as it was. The many hours and dollars you all put into it are greatly appreciated and noticed. I also need to offer a big thank you to all who extended kindnesses to me as a younger collector. It means a lot.

“Next, the money raised for SMASH was amazing and says a lot about the people in this community, many top notch people, and something I hope to see continue...”

Gary Gaffney, who co-authored the recent book on bomb squad and EOD patches with Tom Rees that has been featured on these pages, had high praise for “Ole Smoky.”

“I was able to pick up at least ten different bomb squad patches for my collection. A tip of the hat for those who hosted the event with a great location for the show and our week-long vacation away from the Houston, Tex. heat. A great show. I am looking forward to my retirement so I can attend more shows in the next few years,” he wrote.

Andrew Nelson, NYPD collector, patch designer and producer and accomplished crime novelist, reported having acquired more than 400 patches for his collection, which is testament to the show from such an advanced hobbyist.

“Another National is in the books, and it’s time to reflect. To start, I want to thank my amazing wife, Nancy, who supports my shenanigans. Second, a round of applause to our dear friend, Jim Clark, for all he does and has done for the hobby. Kudos to the hosts who succeeded in putting on a class show.

“As much as I love getting new stuff for the collection, the time spent with friends is what makes these shows amazing. It’s always great to catch up with folks like David Martin, Billy Thompson, David Kellner, Damir Krdzalic, Gary Teragawa, Mike R. Bondarenko, Steve Petro, Kent Jefferies, Bill Swank, Beau Douglas, Iliya Berdichevski, John Carroll, Augie



Forensic-related emblems are Ohio collector Christine Calhoun’s primary interest. She displays her collection on large, freestanding cutouts of a human skull, blood splatter, body chalk outline, the Grim Reaper and a DNA strand. She won “Best Patch Display.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Jim Shattuck went back to Kentucky with an Honorable Mention Award for his all-inclusive United States Air Force Security Forces exhibit. He featured badges, patches, models, dioramas, headgear, weapons, posters and photographs to honor our nation’s military. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



George Stumpf, a retired deputy United States marshal in Cheyenne, Wyo., won an Honorable Mention Award for his museum-quality exhibit of badges from the United States Marshals Service. Stumpf has specialized in his former agency for 50-plus years. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

2022 National Show ...Continued

Lofstrom, Leonard Hanham, Leonard Ross, Vinnie Turocy, Mark Preuss, Chris Calhoun, Keith Mackey, Jim Thomas, Tom Engelmann, Brian Lyons and all the new friends I made," Nelson posted.

There were many other highly complimentary posts.

True hobby dedication "Ole Smoky" took place on a challenging weekend for air travel. The major airlines canceled about 1300 flights nationwide, including a significant number in and out of Charlotte, N.C., a busy hub about five hours from Knoxville, the closest airport to Gatlinburg. Many collectors had scheduled flights to and from Charlotte.

Michael John Matkowsky, a New Jersey patch collector from Monroe Township, N.J., and his family spent the week before the show on vacation in southern Florida. After five days in the Keys, they caught an American Airlines flight from Fort Lauderdale to Charlotte on Friday morning and planned to spend the weekend at the National.

"We got into Charlotte about one o'clock on Friday afternoon. Things went bad after that. American told us our connecting flight to Knoxville had been canceled. No flights to Tennessee were available until Sunday. No rental cars were available anywhere. Every car available car was gone because of all the flight cancellations," Matkowsky recalled.

The collector and his family frantically explored numerous options to get to Gatlinburg. They even looked at riding an Amtrak train.

Matkowsky turned to the "Ole Smoky" Facebook page and posted, "I'm in jam. Connector flight from Charlotte, N.C. to Knoxville got canceled. I'm stuck in Charlotte. No rentals anywhere. No flight to Tennessee until Sunday. I'm completely stranded. Anyone going to the show that is leaving from this area who wouldn't mind me and my wife hitching a ride? I don't know what else to do."

After Matkowsky was unable to connect with another Gatlinburg- bound collector in the area, an American Airlines baggage handler, who told them their luggage could be shipped to Gatlinburg, suggested Uber, as did other collectors.

Matkowsky spoke with four Uber drivers at the Charlotte airport. The first three turned him down due to the four and one-half hour one-way trip. Too far to go on a Friday night.

"The fourth guy pulled up. I told him we needed to go to Knoxville. I was absolutely elated when he said, 'I love long rides!' He drove us right to the Knoxville airport where we had a rental car reserved," Matkowsky said.

Matkowsky paid \$269 for the one-way ride. He was so appreciative that he gave the driver a \$100 tip just for taking the job. "Besides, he had to drive all the way back to Charlotte alone. I wanted to make it worth his while," he said.

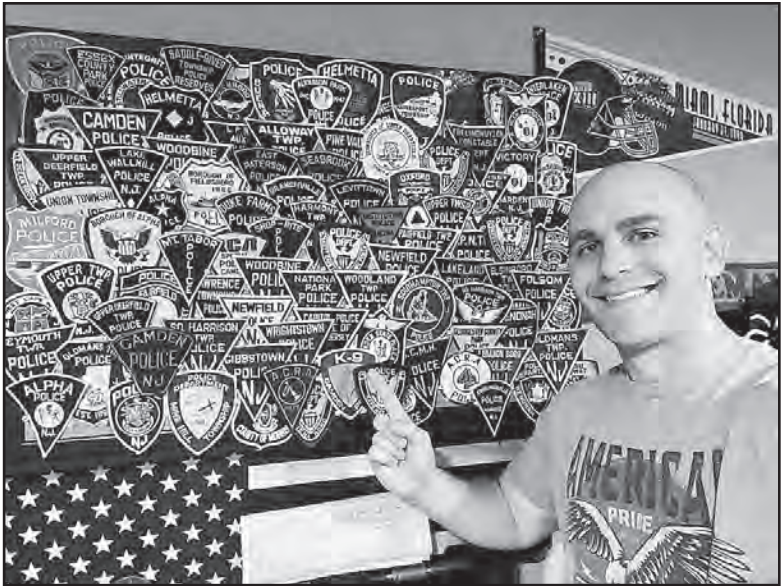
Matkowsky and his family picked up their rental car and drove to Gatlinburg on Friday night. Since they didn't have their luggage, they stopped at a Wal-Mart for clothes and other necessities. "We got to our rented cabin at 11:30 pm," he said.

Not everything went wrong for the collector. Fortunately, like a vigilant cop, he had packed his trading patches in his carry on bag, rather than in his luggage, so he had traders when he arrived at the Convention Center the following morning.

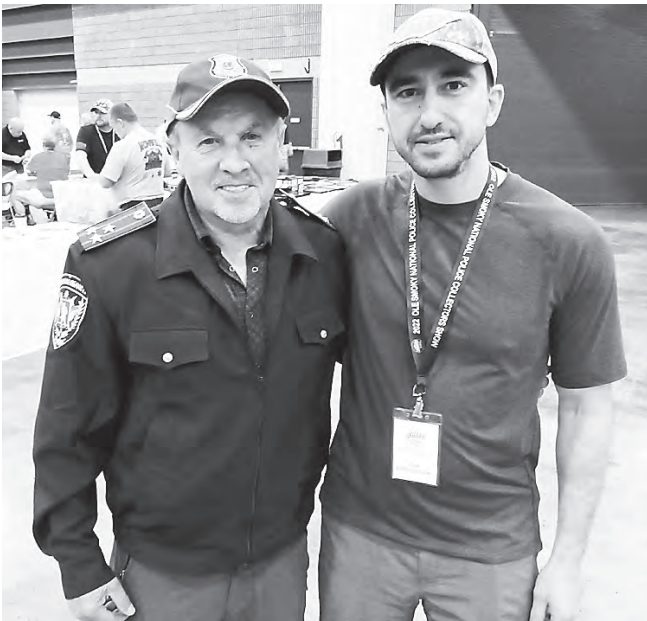
"It was well worth it. I picked up some good things and got to spend time with Jerry Lecomte, who is from New Jersey but now lives in North Carolina...", he said.

Matkowsky has only been collecting since 2019 but has already assembled an excellent collection from South Jersey. He has a fine personal Web site at NJPolicePatches.Com.

A side note: Matkowsky and a collector friend are considering hosting a show in Southern New Jersey, either in September or October this year or next year. They are looking for venues. They will announce the show in *PCNEWS*.



Michael John Matkowsky overcame all odds to attend the "Ole Smoky" National Show in Gatlinburg, Tenn. When his flight to Knoxville was canceled on setup day, he hired an Uber driver to take him and his family to Knoxville where he picked up a rental car and drove to the show. *Contributed photograph*



Sergei Giltai (left), a retired colonel in the Ukraine National Police, and an avid police insignia collector, attended the National as a guest of Samuel Smith, a Pennsylvania collector. Giltai escaped the Russian invasion. He is shown with collector Iliya Berdichevski. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

California, here we come! The 2023 National Police Collectors Show will be the first weekend of June in San Bernardino, Calif. It will be sponsored by the San Bernardino Police Historical Society.

President Dennis Houser and his wife, Nancy, were in Gatlinburg to promote the show and sell table rentals.

The hobby's annual convention will take place at the National Orange Show Events Center in San Bernardino on June 1, 2 and 3.

Setup day is scheduled for Thursday, June 1 from 9 am to 5 pm. Only registered tableholders and assistants will be admitted. A tableholder meeting has been scheduled after 5 pm to prepare for the show and choose sites for future National Shows. A tableholder/sponsor reception is scheduled from 6 to 8 pm.

"The show hall is about as large as this one. We have room for 280 tables. It's a very nice venue," Houser said.

The host said a vintage police and fire vehicle show will be held in conjunction with the show. About 15 to 17 historic police cars and motorcycles will be on display inside the show hall. "We've arranged for some really nice old cars and motors," he said.

The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. The hall will open at 8 am both days for tableholders and assistants only.

An opening ceremony is planned for 8:30 am on Saturday. It will feature the San Bernardino Police Department Honor Guard to present the colors, as well as a performance by the Los Angeles Police Department Pipes and Drums Corps. "You don't want to miss it. It's going to be awesome," Houser said.

Tables are \$90 each with no limit. Reservations can be made online beginning July 1 on the show Web site, National-Police-Collectors-Show.Com.

Houser and the historical society board of directors are working on a number of other special events and attractions for the show.

"We are going to do absolutely everything we can to make this a show to remember. We're going to pull out all the stops," he said.

There will be four host hotels, all within five minutes of the Orange Center, Double Tree Inn, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn and Hilton Garden Inn. Hotel reservation information will soon be published in *PCNEWS* and on the Web site.

Local police officer associations will offer food and refreshments.

The official 2023 show patch is already out and an official badge is being created and will be offered for sale.

When Houser made his successful bid for the show in Reno last summer, he said it would be held at the San Bernadino airport terminal. However, then the circumstances changed.

"Right after Reno, we entered into an agreement with the airport to have the show in the terminal. However, about two months later, we were notified that the terminal would no longer be available because Breeze Airlines was coming in. So, they canceled us; we didn't cancel them. They made a nice donation to the historical society to compensate us," Houser said.

No bids for 2024 Tableholders gathered at the hall entrance following the conclusion of setup day to consider bids for the 2024 National Police Collectors Show. However, there were no bids.

Traditionally, the next opportunity to choose the 2024 venue will be in San Berardino next June. However, *PCNEWS* once again offers to manage and certify a "by email" selection process if it is needed to secure a venue before next June if necessary.

Potential 2024 show hosts are asked to contact *PCNEWS* to review the site selection process. All inquiries will remain confidential until an official announcement is agreed upon.



Dennis and Nancy Houser will co-host the 2023 National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino, Calif. next June. They were in Gatlinburg to promote the show and offer tables for rent. The show will mark the National's fourth visit to California and the first since 2017. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Lisa Meade Roberts (center) gratefully accepts a \$12,000 check on behalf of the Smoky Mountains Autism Success Hub (SMASH), benefactor of the “Ole Smoky” National Show. Show proceeds were donated by Richard Stoffle, Jim Clark and Brad and Bailey Redmond. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Close encounters of the bear kind Up close and personal black bear encounters were an unintended first for “Ole Smoky.” Several collectors reported seeing bears roaming around looking for food near their hotels and elsewhere in the city. Gatlinburg is located in the heart of black bear country in the Great Smoky Mountains, so the sightings were no surprise. Bears thrive in mountain forests. A Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency officer, who attended the show, said bear sightings are common throughout the Gatlinburg area. “It happens every day. Because we’re in the city, and there’s a national park nearby where bears are protected, there isn’t much bear hunting around here, so the bears thrive in this environment. No predators or hunters,” he said. New York hobbyist and New York-New Jersey show co-host Brian Lyons encountered black bears at the Howard Johnson Hotel near the Convention Center, not once but twice! “We were coming back from dinner on Saturday night. We saw one rooting through a garbage can in front of the hotel, not far from the front door. I couldn’t believe it!” Lyons said. When he mentioned the sighting to the person at the registration desk, he was told it happens all the time. However, the Saturday night sighting paled in comparison to Lyons’s Sunday morning close encounter. “I’m walking here from the hotel at 7:30. I see this guy sitting in the shade near the street. He’s drinking a beer and is already well on the way. I was keeping an eye on him, but then I saw something moving across hotel parking lot. I looked. It was another black bear, only bigger than the one from the night before,” Lyons said. As the former New York state trooper walked toward the good old boy enjoying an early morning libation, he told him, “Hey, there’s a bear over there,” and pointed toward the parking lot. The fellow must not have understood Lyons the first time, so he repeated the warning. “Look, there’s a bear over there!” he said. The man looked toward where Lyons was pointing. He jumped to his feet and yelled out loud, ‘Dare’s a bar o’ver der!’ He ran away in the opposite direction down the street. “Best of all for him, he never spilled a drop of his beer!” Lyons said. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

Exclusive PCNEWS coverage of the 2022 National Show will continue in our September-October edition with collector interviews and photographs of outstanding displays. Additionally, readers will meet “Emery,” an autistic child who loves police officers, see the finest Memphis Police Department collection, meet two Volunteer State deputy sheriffs who have preserved their departments’ histories, learn about old and rare badges in Ed Sachs’s incredible collection, find out why there were so many show patch variations and much, much more. Don’t miss it! Make sure your subscription is up to date. EDITOR



Collectors reported close encounters of the black bear kind in Gatlinburg during the National Show. Brian Lyons met this hungry fellow up close and personal as he rooted through a garbage bin in front of the Howard Johnson Hotel. Lyons reported two bear sightings during the show. *Brian Lyons photograph*



The five “Ole Smoky” display contest winners received custom-made awards courtesy of Smoky Mountain Knife Works in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. The engraved Buck knives carry the name of the winner’s category and show information. SMKW was a show sponsor. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



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Magruder, Krdzalic Announce 2024 National Show Proposal

BETTENDORF, Iowa – Don Magruder and Damir Krdzalic have announced plans to host the 2024 National Police Collectors Show at the Isle Casino Hotel in Bettendorf, Iowa.

“Since there were no bids for the 2024 show, Damir and I have decided to put together a proposal. We want the National Show to continue and move around the country as the show founders intended in 1985, so we want to host it in 2024,” Magruder said.

The show will be held July 12 to July 14, 2024.

“I visited the casino hotel in Bettendorf. It is a super nice modern hotel, conference center and casino facility that is affordable for us,” he said.

Bettendorf is part of the Quad Cities area of southeastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois. Davenport is adjacent to Bettendorf in Iowa, while Moline and Rock Island are across the Mississippi River in Illinois. The area is easily accessed by I-80 and I-74.

Davenport has an international airport.

The hosts have not determined table fees, hotel room rates or other details as yet.

In keeping with longstanding National Show rules, tableholders usually approve future show bids. However, the standard has never been applied when there has been only one bid for a show, such as San Bernardino in 2023. Iowa is the only known 2024 bid.

If there are other bids for 2024, then a vote should be held. *PCNEWS* has volunteered to conduct and certify the vote, if necessary. It would take place online.

“We want to get the convention center and hotel reserved as soon as possible so we can guarantee our dates. I will also give us plenty of time to plan the show. A year is not enough lead time to book a good location like this because they fill up,” Magruder said.

Magruder has co-hosted multiple National Shows in Saint Charles, Mo. He now lives in Iowa.

Krdzalic lives in the Quad Cities area. He owns an insignia business, Code 4 Emblems, which made the 2022 “Ole Smoky” National Show commemorative badge.

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

San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The annual California Law Enforcement Historical Society Police Memorabilia Collectors Show will be Sat., July 16 from 8 am to 2 pm at Veterans Memorial Hall, 800 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, Calif. It will be hosted by CLEHS.

Free admission.

Fifty-five eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. CLEHS members pay \$20 each. Early table reservations are recommended because this show sells out every year.

Awards will be presented for the best badge, patch and Best of Show.

Table reservations can be made online through the Web site CalPoliceHistory.Com or by mailing a check to CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4975, (805) 441-4936.

See the CLEHS Web site or Friends of the CLEHS Facebook page for show updates.

Bloomington, Ind.

The 2022 Indiana Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 6 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 W. Airport Rd., Bloomington, Ind. Kyle Landgrebe will host it.

Free admission.

Tables are \$20 each. The hall will be open for exhibitor setup from 5:30 to 7 pm on Friday, August 5 and beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday.

Parking is free.

Food and drink will be available.

There are hotels close to the show site.

For table reservations or general information, please contact Landgrebe at kc9agm@gmail.com or (812) 3690-7641.

Columbus, O.

The 2022 Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 13 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Marriott Columbus Northwest Hotel, 5605 Blazer Pkwy., Dublin, O., a Columbus suburb. Bill Swank and Guy Forberger will host it. JJ Mead and Bruce Muraco are hosts emeritus.

General admission is \$5. Spouses and children are admitted free.

The show is a sellout. A waiting list is being maintained. The hall will open at 8 am for tableholders. The hosts will attempt to accommodate all special and location requests. This hall is larger than the previous location at the Fraternal Order of Police.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

This is a closed show. Please vouch for your invited collector friends or have them bring public safety identification.

The hotel is offering a discounted room rate of \$122 for Friday and Saturday nights. Make reservations on (614) 791-1000.

To get on the table waiting list, contact the hosts: Swank (614) 638-7245 (cell) or bill319cmh@gmail.com, or Forberger (614) 288-3980 or forberger@gmail.com.

Orlando, Fla.

The 20th Anniversary “Vacation Capital” Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Sept. 3 beginning at 9 am at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Dr., Orlando, Fla. Doug Sarubbi, Ron Bartholome and John Holmes are the hosts.

Admission is \$5.

Ninety tables are available for \$40 each. The hall will open at 7:30 am for exhibitor setup.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

The Rosen Hotel is offering a special room rate of \$119 a night for Friday and Saturday nights. Please make reservations on (800) 627-8258 and mention the “Doug Sarubbi Vacation Capital Police Show” by name. Special rate availability ends on August 3.

The hotel now charges for parking. A rate of \$5 has been negotiated by the hosts. The usual parking rate is \$20.

For additional information or to make table reservations, contact Sarubbi on (407) 883-6959 or sarubb@aol.com. Please confirm reservations by mailing payment to Doug Sarubbi, 4023 Salmon Drive, Orlando FL 32835.

Shelby Township, Mich.

There will be a police and fire insignia collectors show on Sun., Sept. 25 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 8311 Wilson Dr., Shelby Township, Mich. Bob Blickensdorf will host it.

General admission is \$5.

Thirty-five eight-foot tables are available for \$20 each with a two table per collector limit. This show is open to police officers, firefighters and known collectors only.

Shelby Township is a Detroit suburb about 15 miles north of the Motor City in Macomb County.

Table reservations can be made using Pay Pal friends and family only.

For additional information or to make reservations, contact Blickensdorf on blick068@hotmail.com

Clinton, Tenn.

The Eighth Annual “Smoky Mountain” Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 1 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Second Baptist Church, 777 Public Safety Lane, Clinton, Tenn. Rob Jackson will host it.

Admission is \$5.

Eight-foot tables are available for \$15 each. Registration includes two table assistants. Tables are not guaranteed until payment is made. Payment can be made using Pay Pal Friends and Family (robpatches@aol.com) or by check. The hall will be open for setup from 5 pm to 8 pm on Fri., Sept. 30.

For more information, please contact Jackson on robpatches@aol.com or call or text on (727) 455-1213.

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, California Parks 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 sellout 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 on the Web site.

Fairfax, Va.

The 2022 Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show will be Sat., Nov. 5 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Fairfax County Police Association Hall, 5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, Va. The hosts are Bill Steinkuller and Kent Jefferies. The show is sponsored by the Fairfax County Police Association.

This show is dedicated to Larry Wilkins, a highly respected 37-year-old law enforcement veteran and avid badge collector. He passed away on May 25, 2022 leaving behind admiring colleagues, long-time friends and fellow collectors too numerous to mention. This longstanding and popular event will continue in his memory.

General admission is \$5. Spouses and children are admitted free.

Tables are \$20 each. Admission for the tableholder and an assistant is included. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. All tables must be paid for in advance and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please specify special needs, such as a wall table or an electric outlet. Internet service will be available.

Food and drink will be sold at the hall.

There will be display awards.

There is plenty of free parking.

All show proceeds will be donated to the FCPA.

There are numerous hotels near the show site.

To reserve a table, please mail a check made payable to Public Safety Cadets and mail to Public Safety Cadets, 50 Catoctin Circle NE-St. 325, Leesburg VA 20176-3124.

For additional information, etc., contact Steinkuller or Jefferies at FCPAShow@aol.com.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The First Southeast Florida Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Nov. 12 beginning at 9 am at the Florida National Guard Armory, 400 SW 24th St. (State Road 84), Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It will be sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Broward Sheriffs Lodge No. 32 and hosted by Joe Williams.

Admission is free.

Seventy tables are available for \$25 each. Table setup will begin at 7:30 am.

The shows will offer free parking, a patch drop, award for the best display and a food truck for lunch.

For table reservations and additional information, please contact Williams on (954) 275-6121 or deputydawg316@aol.com.

Maryland “Eastern Shore”

The Second Annual Maryland “Eastern Shore” Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., Dec. 3 from 9 am to 3 pm at the American Legion Post 278, 800 Romancoke Rd., Stevensville, Md. Tyler Argubright, Frank Edward and Ryan Abey will host it. (Please note the location change from last year.) Admission is \$5. Children are admitted free. The location has been changed to increase the number of tables available from 30 to 50. Please contact the hosts for table availability and information. All proceeds will benefit the Concerns of Police Survivors. The American Legion will offer food and beverages. There will be a cash bar from 11:30 am to 3 pm. Parking is free. There will be a patch and challenge coin drop, as well as a charity raffle. The Holiday Inn Kent Island, 1020 Kent Narrows Rd., Grasonville, Md. is offering a special rate of \$119 plus tax for December 2 and December 3. Make reservations on (410) 827-4454. The show has a Facebook page, “Maryland Eastern Shore Police Memorabilia Show 2022.” For more information or table reservations, contact Argubright on Messenger or email tyler.argubright@gmail.com.

Roseville, Calif.

The 27th Annual Doug Messer “49'er” Public Safety and Military Collectors Show will be Sat., Feb. 25, 2023 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall, 110 Park Dr., Roseville, Calif. This show is named in memory of Doug Messer, one of the original show hosts, who passed away in October 2009. The hosts are Mike Lynch and Brian Smith. Admission is free. Forty-eight eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. Display only tables are \$20 each. Early table reservations are recommended because the show sells out each year. Tableholders only setup begins at 8 am. There will be awards for the best four displays. American Legion Post 169 Boy Scout Troop 11 will offer food and beverages for sale. 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 the International Police Association Region 29 and Roseville American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post No. 169. Table reservations can be made online at CalBadgeShows.Com. Collectors who wish to pay by mail can send a check to Mike Lynch, PO Box 3212, Bowman CA 95604-3212. His telephone number is (530) 613-4732.

2023 National Police Collectors Show

The 2023 National Police Collectors Show will be Thursday, June 1, Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 at the National Orange Show Events Center, 689 S. “E” St., San Bernardino, Calif. It will be hosted by the San Bernardino Police Historical Society and President Dennis Houser. Thursday, June 1 will be setup day for tableholders and vendors. The hall will be open from 9 am to 5 pm. Only registered tableholders and vendors and their assistants will be admitted. A business meeting will be held from 5:15 pm to 5:45 pm followed by a tableholders and vendor reception from 6 pm to 8 pm. The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. The hall will open at 8 am each day for registered tableholders and assistants only. The show will feature a vintage police and fire vehicle show. It will be held inside the show hall. Two hundred eighty tables are available for \$90 each. Tables are eight feet long by two feet wide. There is no table limit. For reservations, please mail a check to San Bernardino Police Historical Society, 710 N. “D” St., San Bernardino CA 92401 or register online at National-Police-Collectors-Show.Com. For additional information, contact Houser at npcs2023@sbcity.org or (951) 295-9360. The 2023 National Police Collectors Show official Web site went active on July 1. It can be used to learn more about the show and make table reservations online. EDITOR



John J. Connors poses with part of his state police/highway patrol license plate collection at his Toledo, O. home in May 1988. In addition to a wide variety of badges, Connors avidly collected SP/HP plates and (correctly) predicted they would become popular. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

Badge Collectors John J. Connors, Larry Wilkins Dead

The hobby is mourning the loss of longtime badge collectors and hobby pioneers John J. Connors of Toledo, O. and Larry Wilkins of Winchester, Va. Connors, 77, died last October. Wilkins died on May 25. He was 75. Both are sorely missed.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – John J. Connors and Larry Wilkins, two of the hobby’s most experienced badge collectors, have died. Connors, 77, died last October 17 at a hospice in Sylvania, O. His death was unknown to the hobby until the National Police Collectors Show in Gatlinburg, Tenn. when it was revealed by an Ohio collector. Wilkins died on May 25 at a Winchester, Va. hospice following a two-year long courageous battle with cancer. He was 75. Connors collected state police and highway patrols, 50 largest USA cities, state capital cities, state game wardens and Toledo and Lucas County, O. badges for nearly 70 years. He was also a dedicated state police/highway patrol vehicle license plate collector and historian. Wilkins built the largest and most complete collection of Virginia sheriff and police badges during his more than 50 years in the hobby, although he was most passionate about Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. He was also longtime co-host of the Fairfax, Va. shows with his friend, Bill Steinkuller. Both veteran collectors were in law enforcement, although they chose different paths. Wilkins spent nearly 38 years with the Fairfax County Police and the Loudoun County Sheriffs Office, while Connors served as a municipal court bailiff in Toledo for 37 years. Stalwarts of the hobby, Connors and Wilkins will be sorely missed by their many longtime collector friends and colleagues, as well as by the entire hobby. We have lost two of our finest.

Kicked up a badge In 1955, when he was 11 and growing up in Sylvania, O., John J. Connors was swinging in a neighbor’s backyard one day. He was dragging his feet on the ground as he swung back and forth, kicking up dust, like most kids do. Suddenly, he unearthed an honorary Lucas County deputy sheriff’s badge buried in the dirt beneath his feet! Connors kept the badge he had found. He told no one about it for two years because he feared someone might take it from him. Years later, he discovered the badge had been issued to an honorary deputy who lived in the neighborhood and lost it. “I’m guessing another kid found it. Then he lost it while swinging, just like I was when I found it. But, I just couldn’t give it back. There was something about it that fascinated me. I used to get it out and look at it a lot, wondering about what badges mean to police officers like the ones I saw on TV,” Connors said in a 1988 interview with *Police Collectors News* at his Toledo home. It was that dusty badge that sparked a lifelong interest in law enforcement and badges and later license plates for Connors. Although Connors did not become a serious collector until after his high school graduation in the early 1960s, he picked up badges here and there all the while he was in school. “It didn’t matter what kind of badge it was. A badge was a badge, police, fire, military, you name it. I wanted every badge I could get,” he recalled. “Other guys would look for comic books or baseball cards. I looked for badges. I found them in antique stores, yard sales and even had a few given to me by people who knew of my interest.” The young collector had an advantage because his father, John, was a well-known three-term Ohio state legislator and then a municipal court and appellate court judge. He helped him obtain a few badges. Connors began researching Toledo and Lucas County badges. Later, he wrote and published the first book ever about law enforcement badges, *Badges of Toledo and Lucas County*. It took him three years to research it before he published the book in 1973. By 1978, he had sold all 500 copies. It was never reprinted.



(Top left and right) John J. Connors’ early Alaska Highway Patrol (number “16”) and Alaska Territorial Police Officer badges are extremely valuable pieces. (Bottom left and right) Two old badges from Nevada, Nevada State Police and Nevada State Highway Patrol. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph



(Top left and right) John J. Connors had these gems from Idaho, DMV Examiner and Idaho Highway Patrol number “17.” Today, it’s the State Police. (Bottom left) An ornate Sacramento sergeant’s star. (Bottom right) A very early pie-plate-style badge from Minneapolis. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Veteran Collectors Dead ...*Continued*

“The book title was a little misleading. Yes, it was about Toledo and Lucas County badges, but it was also everything I knew about police badges at the time,” he said.

“I’m a history buff. And, I love to do research. That makes my badge hobby even more rewarding. There wasn’t a lot of information or documentation about badges when I started collecting, so I decided to do my part,” Connors said. He wrote and published several hobby-related books.

In 1970, Connors saw advertising in *Shotgun News* placed by collectors wanting to buy police badges. He wrote to them and did some trading through the mail. There were no insignia collector shows back then. “It was really comforting to know that I wasn’t the only person in the world who collected badges!” he said.

Connors learned through his correspondents that an organization for badge collectors, the Police Insignia Collectors Association (PICA), was being formed in California. He became a life member. It was through the club newsletter, *Kollectors Korner*, that he was able to find a few collectors in the Midwest, including the late Pat Olvey in Cincinnati, O.

In 1973, the collector hosted his one and only swap meet in Toledo. It was held in a city park shelter and attracted between 15 and 20 collectors, which was a huge turnout for the time. He welcomed badge and patch hobbyists from Ohio, Indiana, New York and New Jersey. Among the attendees was the late Bob Cicala of Teterboro, N.J., who later took over PICA and moved it to the East Coast.

“Things were different then. Collectors mailed out handwritten or typed want, trade or sale lists. Everything was done through the mail. It was mostly trading, although some people were buying and selling. And, you could get badges pretty easily from the departments because no one wanted them, especially the old ones,” Connors recalled.

By 1988, Connors had about 600 badges in his collection, 185 state police/highway patrols, 250 state capital and 50 largest cities, 80 Toledo and Lucas County, 19 state game warden (one per state) and about 50 other badges, mostly first and second issues from throughout the country.

In addition, his collection featured more than 200 SP/HP vehicle license plates, including many first issues going to the earliest days of statewide law enforcement.

He estimated he had acquired and later traded or sold another 3000 badges over the years. “I get them in trades or whatever. They don’t mean anything to me, so I put them out for others who might want them for their collections. I like to bargain back and forth for badges,” Connors said.

Connors described the five most outstanding badges in his collection.

...Texas State Police 1870-1873 is a small silver-colored shield with applied copper numbers, “111.”



Oldies but goodies from the John J. Connors Collection. (Left to right, top to bottom) Little Rock, Ark. PD “525,” “City of Toledo Police,” San Francisco Police Corporal number “863” and Houston, Tex. Police “11.” He collected badges from the 50 largest cities in the USA. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Linda and Larry Wilkins share a smile in 2010. They were married for 53 years before his death on May 25 following a two-year battle with an aggressive form of cancer. One of his last Facebook posts was to wish his wife a Happy Anniversary and hope for the best. *Contributed photograph*

...A beautiful presentation badge that once belonged to Harvey S. Fawcett, the city marshal in Leadville, Colo. The large eagle-topped shield has jewels on a center star and is engraved, “PRESENTED BY THE LEADVILLE POLICE FORCE AND MANY CITIZENS JULY 11, 1884.” Connors turned down two \$25,000 offers for the badge. (Remember, these offers were made in the 1980s.)

...A deputy United States Marshal badge that was once worn by Robert Sumter, who was shot and killed on duty in Lehigh, Okla. on August 9, 1933. It’s a wreath with a six-point star in the center. He had a photograph of Deputy Marshal Sumter wearing it. The deputy’s son signed the picture to authenticate it.

...A 1917 issue New York State Police wallet badge.

...A pre-World War II Anchorage, Alaska police number “2.” It’s a small, silver-colored, eagle-topped shield with a territorial seal. The legends read, “PATROLMAN/ ANCHORAGE/ POLICE/ 2.”

“Anchorage had only five cops back then. I believe it was 1942. The population was 2500. There was the chief, deputy chief and three patrolmen. I was thrilled to get it because only five of these could have ever been made,” Connors said.

Interestingly, there were only a handful of federal badges in his collection. He never became interested in feds, he said.

In addition to collecting their badges, Connors conducted exhaustive research into the histories of all 49 SP/HP agencies, as well as territorial law enforcement in Hawaii.

He intended to write books about SP/HP license plate history and SP/HP agency history. However, neither was ever completed.

Connors compiled an extensive history on Toledo badge history which remains posted on the city Fraternal Order of Police Web site.

And, he co-authored a price guide to United States and Canadian chauffeur badges and license plates. It was updated four times.

Connors was deeply involved with the Toledo Police Museum as a volunteer researcher and docent.

Funeral services were held in Toledo on October 23, 2021. He is buried at Resurrection Cemetery.

“Never a bad day” It was February 1, 1968. Larry Wilkins and two other recruits walked into Fairfax County, Va. police headquarters in Fairfax to be sworn in as officers. Little did he know he would spend the next 37 wearing a badge.

“We were just young kids. Officially, we were recruits or rookies, whatever, but we had absolutely no idea what we doing. Yet, there was something special about that day. It just doesn’t seem possible that it was 54 years ago,” Wilkins said at the Riverdale, Md. show in early April, which, sadly, was his last one.

Only seven weeks later, Wilkins, a legend among Virginia badge collectors, was gone. He succumbed to a highly aggressive form of cancer on May 25 following a nearly two-year battle against the dreaded disease.

“No one fought cancer like Larry did. He was in and out of the hospital a lot, but it never broke his spirit. He joked that he was on a first name basis with the ER (emergency room) nurses. No matter how sick he was, he was always smiling and cracking jokes,” longtime friend and fellow Virginia badge collector Bill Steinkuller said.

Wilkins was introduced to law enforcement when he became a military policeman in the United States Army. He learned the trade in the early days of American involvement in the Vietnam War when he was deployed in country as an MP.

“I decided then and there that was what I wanted to do for a living. It wasn’t something I was forced to do. It was something I wanted to do. It gave me satisfaction to do my part for law and order,” Wilkins said.

Following his return to the USA, he applied to the Fairfax County Police and was hired, largely based on his military law enforcement experience. He entered the profession at a turbulent time. Social unrest. Rampant drug use. Riots in many major cities. Growing opposition to the war from which he had just returned. These were bad times for good young cops like Wilkins

Yet, his life changed on February 1, 1968. He spent the next 20 years with Fairfax County as a master police officer and detective. “It was a great ride. I was mentored by



A look at very old, highly desirable state police and highway patrol vehicle license plates from the John J. Connors Collection that surround an old Pennsylvania Highway Patrol Station sign. Connors began collecting SP/HP plates in the 1970s, long before anyone else. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Bill Steinkuller (left) and Larry Wilkins (right) were longtime hosts of the Fairfax County show. They attended the Riverdale, Md. show on April 2. Sadly, it was Wilkins’s last show. He had offered his outstanding Virginia law enforcement collection for sale during the event. *Contributed photograph*

some incredible policemen. It was a different department back then, a different era all together. Nothing at all like today,” Wilkins recalled.

Wilkins quickly became interested in department history, particularly badges. His first badge number was “241.” It wasn’t long before he began actively collecting badges.

“There was something about that ‘241’ number, which I was very proud of, that made me want to find other ‘241’ badges, but I never did, even though I eventually came up with more than 100 department badges.

Gradually, his collecting interests began to expand. “It was only into my department at first, but then I got interested in collecting other Virginia badges, especially sheriffs. I collected police, too. But, sheriffs are my primary interest,” he said.

Wilkins retired after 20 years at Fairfax County and looked for a new adventure. He moved on to the Loudoun County Sheriffs Office in Leesburg where he spent 17 years in various assignments, including administration at the end of his career. He retired as a major in 2005.

“I had a great career. Thirty-seven years is a long time. But, I never had a bad day. I enjoyed coming to work every day. I always looked forward to coming to work,” he said.

Wilkins was well-known in the hobby as an expert on Virginia sheriff badges. He built an extensive collection of sheriff badges, although he collected police badges as well.

“I guess I stay in my lane, Virginia. I have picked up some badges from other states, but not too many. I usually trade or sell them off because my interest is Virginia,” he said.

Wilkins and Steinkuller took over the Fairfax County show several years ago after longtime host John Lawson retired and moved to Tennessee. It is a purely non-profit affair; all proceeds are donated to the Fairfax County Police Association.

Wilkins’s life changed about two years ago when he was diagnosed a very aggressive form of cancer. He underwent ten rounds of chemotherapy and endured several major surgeries. Yet, he never stopped collecting or hosting the annual show.

“Early this year, Linda and I made the decision to stop the treatments and concentrate on my quality of life. Any further treatment would do nothing more than make me sick, and I sure don’t need any more of that,” he said in Riverdale. His doctors had given him between one and six months to live. He died six weeks later.

Wilkins began selling his badge collection two years ago following the cancer diagnosis.

“Larry was doing good. His spirit was upbeat. He really wanted to go to Gatlinburg, put his badges up for sale and promote the November show,” Steinkuller said.

“Then, all of a sudden in late May, he started going downhill really fast. It surprised everyone because he had been doing so good. His death came as a big shock.”

Steinkuller was a tableholder at a Riverdale show about 15 years ago. He had a very rare Fairfax County badge on his table. Wilkins was also at the show, walked past Steinkuller’s table and immediately spotted the rare badge, which was for sale.

“He told Linda, his wife, ‘Get the checkbook out. I just bought a badge!’” Steinkuller recalled. The two Virginia collectors became friends, traveled to National Shows on the East Coast together and began hosting the Fairfax show together.

Steinkuller called his friend an “old-school cop” who always maintained a high degree of professionalism in everything he did on the job.

“Larry was never late for work. Not one time in his entire career. How many cops can say that?” he said.

“And, he looked the part. Shirts and trousers always pressed. You could cut paper on the crease in his trousers. Leather always polished. Every piece of metal on his uniform polished. Shoes always spit-shined. He commanded respect.”

Steinkuller recalled an incident in which Wilkins’s insistence on a professional appearance may have saved him a trip to the hospital.

“Larry and another officer got sent out to pick up a frequent flyer. This guy was always getting arrested. He always resisted arrest; he fought every time. Usually, one of the cops who tried to arrest him ended up in the ER. It was always a fight,” he recalled.

“So, Larry and his partner locate the crook. He arrests him without incident and takes him to the jail. The jailers and other officers couldn’t believe it. This guy always, always fights. Not this time.



Patrolman Larry Wilkins poses for his Fairfax County, Va. identification card on February 1, 1968, the day he launched a 37-year career in Virginia law enforcement. The veteran badge collector started as an MP in the United States Army in the mid-’60s in South Vietnam. *Contributed photograph*

“No one could figure it out, so they asked the crook, after he gets booked in, why he didn’t fight. He said, ‘I don’t mess with people who look that good. They know what they’re doing. I know he’ll do his job.’”

Our greatest generation Connors and Wilkins represent our hobby’s greatest generation. They were among the trailblazers who transformed the early days of the 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s hobby into the modern hobby we enjoy today.

Yet, they were both more than pioneers. They represented the highest standards of ethical dealing and honesty. Their word was their bond when they made trades.

If at any time a collector wanted to negate a deal for whatever reason, the deal was negated cheerfully with no hard feelings. Like a California collector once said about guaranteeing the authenticity of his badges in a sale or trade, ‘Till hell freezes over.”

My early May 1988 interview with Connors at his home lasted two and one-half days. I took 52 pages of notes. I taped many hours of it on a cassette recorder. John helped me setup a makeshift photography studio on his patio so I could photograph his badges in black and white using a film camera. Those were the good old days!

Our July 1988 edition featured the cover story, “John J. Connors Celebrates 33 Years of Badge Collecting,” based on the interviews. It was the longest article in our history, 21 pages, and included a state-by-state rundown on early and current SP/HP badges.

Connors enjoyed it immensely because he wanted to share his research with the hobby. And, I was honored he allowed me to do so.

Wilkins was a collector’s collector. Unlike many badge hobbyists, he stuck mostly to his passion, Virginia sheriff badges, although he did collect a few other agencies. He never collected badges merely to accumulate them.

Yet, Larry’s legacy remains one of promoting the hobby for many years with the annual Fairfax County show in November. While it’s strictly a fundraiser for the police officers’ association, it also brings East Coast collectors together and usually attracts a variety of hobbyists from Washington, D.C. not usually seen at other shows.

Sadly, John J. Connors and Larry Wilkins are gone, but they will never be forgotten as badge collecting pioneers.

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It’s Summer Time And New Insignia Is Hot

It may be summer time and the livin’ is easy, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t new insignia to challenge collectors across the country. Police departments in Arizona, Connecticut, Ohio and Massachusetts are wearing new or specialty styles.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Police departments in Arizona, Connecticut, Ohio and Massachusetts are out with a variety of new insignia this summer, everything from patches honoring high school graduates and a racetrack to specialty emblems for a college campus.

New Connecticut Creations From LJ LJ Badge and Emblem in Monroe, Conn. is out with three large, colorful new specialty emblems for Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, the oldest publicly founded university in the state, established in 1849.

The new creations are breast cancer awareness (pink) and diversity and autism



(Upper left) The current Central Connecticut State University police patch compared with the three LJ Badge and Emblem creations for the agency, (upper right) breast cancer awareness (pink), (lower left) diversity awareness and (lower right) autism awareness. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*



The new (left) and former (right) Avondale, Ariz. police emblems. The new style features a full color center design depicting sun rays, mountains and a saguaro cactus. The checkered flag represents the Phoenix Raceway located in the city. The previous patch was pretty plain. *Avondale PD photographs*

New Insignia Debuts ...Continued

awareness. Each is a variation of the standard patrol officer insignia, a large tombstone shape with a full color state seal and United States and state flags in a square center design.

Breast cancer awareness is pink-on-black. The legends, "POLICE," at the top and "CENTRAL CONNECTICUT/ STATE UNIVERSITY" at the bottom, are pink. There is a pink merrowed edge. The state seal and flags are shown in subdued colors.

Diversity and autism are identical except for the designs behind the full color seals and flags. Diversity has red, orange, gold, green, blue and purple horizontal stripes and black legends, "POLICE" at the top and "CENTRAL CONNECTICUT/ STATE UNIVERSITY" at the bottom. Autism has black, green, red, purple and blue puzzle pieces and identical legends. Both have black merrowed edges.

The standard uniform emblem is mostly gold and blue, typical colors for a Connecticut state agency. The legends are blue, while the background is gold. There is a blue outer border and merrowed edge.

The campus police has 30 employees, including 18 sworn officers. It is a full-time, full-service law enforcement agency.

The new patches are available as a set only for \$16. Orders can be sent to LJ Badge and Emblem, 5 Castlewood Drive, Monroe CT 06468-5206. Online orders can be placed on jonassearle159@yahoo.com. Pay Pal, Venmo and personal checks are accepted for payment.

Courtesy of LJ Badge and Emblem

Avondale PD Adopts New Style A colorful new shoulder emblem has been adopted by the Avondale, Ariz. Police Department, according to an announcement by Chief of Police Memo Espinoza. It is now being worn by all uniformed personnel.

The large rounded triangle has a black background, white legends and gray outer border.

The legends read, "POLICE/ EST. 1947" above the center design and "AVONDALE/ ARIZONA" beneath it.

The unique center design features an Arizona state outline with an Estrella Mountain vista in purple with red and gold sun rays behind it and a large saguaro cactus in the foreground. A full color United States flag is shown on the left and a black and white checkered flag appears on the right.

The checkered flag denotes the city as home to the Phoenix Raceway, which hosts two national NASCAR events each year, as well as other numerous races.

"It captures the essence of this city. It truly represents the community we serve," Chief Espinoza said of the new insignia.

He credited former Chief Dale Nannenga, who was recently promoted to city public safety director, as developing the idea for the style change. The previous design was a plain red, white, blue and gold rounded triangle with "AVONDALE" in white legends at the top, "POLICE" on a red banner in gold letters in the center and "ARIZONA" in white legends at the bottom.

The new patch was designed in-house by the city marketing and public relations staff. Chief Espinoza said his department provided input for the design.

It is the fourth emblem the department has worn since it was established in Maricopa County in 1947.

Courtesy of Avondale, Ariz. Police Department

Massachusetts Patch Honors Graduating Seniors Police in Reading, Mass. wore a special patch in June to show town spirit and recognize graduating seniors at the local high school. Graduation took place on June 5.



(Left) This new shoulder patch is being phased-in in Bratenahl, O., a tiny village on the Lake Erie shoreline northeast of Cleveland. The community has 11 full-time officers. (Right) The new logo of the Richmond Heights, O. PD features a motto about the gold standard of policing. *Contributed photographs*



Reading, Mass. police may be the only law enforcement officers in the country to wear a special patch to honor graduating high school seniors every June. The red and white on black insignia depicts the Reading Memorial High School sports team logo, a large "R," for Rockets. *Reading PD photograph*

The red-on-black, CHP-shaped emblem features the high school sports logo, a large letter "R" bordered in white with a red, black and white rocket through it as the center design, to symbolize the Reading Memorial High School Rockets.

The emblem is being sold to collectors and the community for \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the local food pantry.

"I am extremely proud of our seniors who are getting ready for the next chapter of their lives and graduating from high school. This program is a great way to bring the community together and show support for Reading Memorial High School students," Chief David Clark said in a news release.

He said the patch will be worn every June.

"This is a great opportunity to give back to those in need. The food pantry is a great organization, and we are honored to be able to give back," Chief Clark added.

Patches are available for \$10 each and a stamped self-addressed envelope by writing to CSO Kristen O'Shaughnessy, Reading PD, 15 Union Street, Reading MA 01867. Please make checks payable to the Reading Food Pantry.

Courtesy of Reading, Mass. Police Department

New Patch, Logo In Ohio A handsome new patch and a new logo that would make an equally handsome emblem have debuted n two Ohio police departments.

Bratenahl is a small, affluent village on the Lake Erie shoreline in Cuyahoga County northeast of Cleveland. The population is about 1300.

The new patch is a CHP shape with a dark blue background and gold, blue and white legends and borders. The legends are "BRATENAHL/ POLICE" in gold at the top and "PROTECT/ 1905/ SERVE" in blue on gold concave banners at the bottom. The police department was founded in 1905.

The round center design features a full color depiction of the historic, mansion-like Village Hall. It is bordered by a dark blue ring with "HONOR/ SERVICE/ INTEGRITY" on it in white letters.

According to Chief of Police Charles F. LoBello, the new patch was being phased-in starting in mid-May.

Interestingly, the village of only 1300 residents has 11 full-time sworn officers, as well as 13 part-time officers, according City-Data.Com. The 2019 police budget was \$1.457 million.

Richmond Heights PD has a new patch-like logo. It is a rounded rectangle in mostly gold-on-blue with full color United States and Ohio flags and an eagle head atop a small round state seal. The legends read, "RICHMOND/ HEIGHTS/ POLICE" at the top and "STRIVING TO BE THE/ GOLD STANDARD OF POLICING."

It is unknown whether the logo will eventually become the agency's shoulder patch, but it would certainly make a good one.

Courtesy of Bratenahl and Richmond Heights, O. Police Departments

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Edmonton Hosts First Swap Meet In Three Years

The Edmonton Area Emergency Service Swap Meet roared back to life like a Canadian grizzly awakening from winter hibernation as Phil Bailey and the International Police Association hosted their first show in three years on May 28.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

EDMONTON, Alta. – Phil Bailey nailed it when he described the first Edmonton Area Emergency Services Swap Meet in three years as a "long overdue family reunion."

Bailey and the International Police Association welcomed about 40 collectors from throughout Alberta to the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Saint Albert, an Edmonton suburb, on May 28. "That is a very good turnout for Alberta," Bailey said.

The 2020 and 2021 shows were canceled due to the pandemic, so collectors throughout the province were eager to buy, sell and trade, as well as renew friendships and acquaintances. After all, it had been three long years!

"After 45 years of collecting, my interest is focused on Atlantic Canada and the Edmonton Police Service," Bailey said. "I came home with 11 new additions to collections from those areas. Unbelievable!"

The International Police Association Canadian Section has three regions in Alberta. Each one was represented at the show. President Bryan Tighe and member Jason Hiscock came from the Calgary Region. The Medicine Hat Region was represented by member Ken Montgomery. President Bailey and member Dave Black hailed from the Edmonton Region.

Twenty-four tables were taken by 15 tableholders. While there were tableholders who only offered items for trade or sale, others brought extremely impressive displays from their collections. However, there was no display contest.

Longtime collector Julien Veuger collects the long-defunct Alberta Provincial Police



Alberta has three International Police Association regions. Each was represented at the show. (Left to right) Calgary President Bryan Tighe, member Jason Hiscock, Ken Montgomery (Medicine Hat) and Edmonton President Phil Bailey and member Dave Black. *Phil Bailey photograph*



Longtime Alberta collector Julien Veuger attended the Edmonton show with his grandson. Veuger brought some very rare Alberta Provincial Police items. The APP existed from 1917 to 1932 after the Royal North-West Mounted Police pulled out of the prairie provinces during World War I. *Phil Bailey photograph*



A closeup look at a segment of Hiliary Bouzek's outstanding commercial motor vehicle enforcement collection from Alberta shows badges, emblems and rank insignia. He spent most of his time with the Alberta Highway Patrol. He is now with the Alberta Sheriffs Branch. *Phil Bailey photograph*



Three old-timers from the Alberta law enforcement insignia collecting hobby gathered at the Edmonton show, (left to right) Ken Montgomery, Medicine Hat; Jim Drummond, Edmonton; and Bruce Romaniuk, Stony Plain. It was the first time in three years that Albertans could gather. *Phil Bailey photograph*



Hiliary Bouzek (left) is the undisputed king of commercial motor vehicle enforcement insignia collectors in Alberta. He has devoted most of his 40-year law enforcement career to CMVE. Bouzek showed his outstanding collection of CMVE insignia from Alberta and Canada. *Phil Bailey photograph*

(APP) and featured a display of cloth and metal insignia from his fine collection. It included several rarities. He offered a few duplicates for trade or sale.

The provincial police served Alberta from 1917 to 1932 after the Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP) left the prairie provinces during World War I. The Mounties claimed they had insufficient personnel and resources to meet national security demands during the war and concentrated their forces elsewhere. They had policed Alberta since 1874.

It has also been reported that the Mounties were reluctant to enforce Alberta's new prohibition law, which was similar to the United States. They had been responsible for enforcement of a territorial prohibition against alcohol years before, and it did not go well for the Mounties.

The APP officially replaced the RNWMP on March 1, 1917. It was headquartered in Edmonton. Two hundred and one constables were stationed at 105 barracks across the province.

After a very rocky start, gradually, the provincial police became increasingly effective in combating illegal alcohol production and trafficking, especially slowing the flow of illegal whiskey from Canada to the USA after the USA adopted Prohibition in 1919. They did their jobs with a pride and professionalism that endeared the new police force to Albertans.

Despite its efficiency, including an 80 to 90 percent conviction rate, the APP became a casualty of the Great Depression. It was disbanded by the provincial government as a cost savings measure in 1932.

The federal government re-assumed responsibility for policing Alberta that year. Today, it is policed by the "K" Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Might the APP return someday? Only time will tell. However, as recently as 2020, after Premier Jason Kenney appointed a nine-member Fair Deal Panel to listen to Albertan's ideas for the province's future, one of the recommendations was to re-establish a provincial police force similar to the APP to replace the RCMP.

Dave Black featured a display of mostly 1:32 and 1:24 scale model law enforcement vehicles mostly from Canada and the USA.

Hiliary Bouzek is the undisputed king of Alberta's commercial motor vehicle enforcement (CMVE) collectors. He has devoted most of his 40-year law enforcement career in the province to CMVE under several agencies with different names. He brought a large display of CMVE insignia. It included many rare pieces.

"When Hiliary started his career, commercial vehicle enforcement was the job of the Alberta Highway Patrol. Just recently, he received new markings on his patrol vehicle, a new uniform, including a firearm, and is now an Alberta sheriff with an enhanced role, in addition to commercial vehicle enforcement," Bailey said.

Bouzek also brought non-CMVE patrol vehicle scale models, patches and much more.

Ken Montgomery of Medicine Hat showed a variety of beautifully framed gold bullion force crests on banners and flags for sale or trade. He also had badges, patches, books, license plates, statues and figurines and even police ceremonial swords.

Bailey featured a selection of Edmonton collectibles at his table. He thanked his wife,



Jason Hiscock (left) and Ken Montgomery (right) are deep in negotiations before Hiscock walked away the proud owner of a nice framed gold bullion Calgary Police Service crest for his collection at the Edmonton show. Montgomery is an IPA member from Medicine Hat. *Phil Bailey photograph*



Phil Bailey collects Atlantic Canada and the Edmonton Police Service from which he retired several years ago. He showed off Edmonton area collectibles at the show, including a hat, framed crest, patches and challenge coins. Bailey will host the next Edmonton show in May 2023. *Phil Bailey photograph*

Edmonton Show Returns ...*Continued*

Donna, for handling his table while he was meeting and greeting attendees and searching for additions to the collection he shows on his outstanding Web site, CrestCorp.Ca. The 2023 Edmonton show will be Saturday, May 13 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Saint Albert. Bailey said a show is being planned for Calgary in September. However, the arrangements have not yet been finalized. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

Mass Casualty Commission Holds Hobby Hearing

The Mass Casualty Commission held a hearing in Nova Scotia in late April to consider the impact on Canadian law enforcement insignia collectors of a possible nationwide law banning the hobby. Phil Bailey represented the Canadian Police Insignia Collectors Association.

By Phil Bailey, Guest Writer

TRURO, Nova Scotia – I participated in a roundtable on police paraphernalia and police impersonators before the Mass Casualty Commission making an independent inquiry into the April 18 and 19, 2020 mass casualty shootings in Nova Scotia. It was held in Truro, N.S. on April 28.

I was very pleased that the collector respective was included in the discussions and proud to be able to represent Canadian collectors.

The media and everyone else who was present or accessed the Mass Casualty Commission Web site to view the webcast of the event were provided with a link to my personal Web site, CrestCorp.Ca. I know the media accessed the site as they used photos shown on it on the national news.

They were able to see the true side of police paraphernalia collecting, and the retention and display of historical items, versus what was used to commit the multiple murders in Nova Scotia.

This is the roundtable description from the Commission:

“This roundtable establishes a basis for a conversation in Phase 3 about how best to regulate access to police uniforms and equipment in order to balance competing values and interests.

“These core values were addressed:

“The cultural significance of police uniforms and equipment and the role that symbols of policing play in public and community relationships with police, including collectors of police paraphernalia.

“The cultural significance of police uniforms and equipment for police, including retired police, and the personal possession of police equipment by police, including retired police.

“The problem of police impersonators, the scale of this problem in Canada and the impact of this problem on public trust in police.”

I am a retired member of the Edmonton Police Service with 40 years service. I collect police paraphernalia, particularly badges and crests focused on Atlantic Canada.

Other roundtable participants included:

Brian Carter, representative of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans in Nova Scotia. (The killer in the mass casualty event impersonated a Mountie and drove a former RCMP automobile.)

Julia Cecchetto, former chief of the Kentville Municipal Police Service and the former chair of the Nova Scotia Chief of Police.

Meaghan Daniel, lawyer (and “occasional academic”) focusing on a social justice legal practice, various forms of state violence, civil rights and civil disobedience and Indigenous legal traditions.

Ian Loader, member of the Commission’s Legal Advisory Board and professor of criminology at the University of Oxford. Among other topics, his published research explores the cultural significance of police iconography and the ways in which police services use symbols and material objects of policing to actively cultivate positive effective relationships with the communities they serve.



Phil Bailey (right) shows members of the Mass Casualty Commission a law enforcement challenge coin during a roundtable in Truro, N.S. on April 28 as moderator Krista Smith (left) looks on. Bailey represented the Canadian Police Insignia Collectors Association. *Contributed photograph*

The concerns for collectors with the pending recommendations is it is a joint federal and provincial commission, so any recommended restrictions on the possession of police paraphernalia in their final report, like those now in effect for the province of Nova Scotia, could be put in place for all of Canada.

The law restricting the possession of insignia of police agencies in Nova Scotia was restrictive with the first version, but the amendment effective May 12, tightened everything to restricting the possession of any current Canadian insignia.

It is interesting that I could have taken a current Edmonton Police Service patch with me to the roundtable to gift to someone, but after May 12, that person would be in violation of of the law with that patch in their possession.

The May 12 law amendment was part of Phase 2 of a three-phase project for the Commission that is a year away from conclusion. The Nova Scotia legislation restricting possession of police items was outside the scope of the Commission roundtable.

While there is a possibility the Commission report may contain recommendations to restrict access to police insignia in Canada, that is a long way off. I went away knowing that police collectors were provided a seat at the table and asked for input.

PHIL BAILEY (26 Grosvenor Boulevard, Saint Albert AB T8N 1P1, Canada)

Sean Higgins of the Canadian Police Insignia Collectors Association also attended the roundtable and offered his observations on the proceeding.

“...For those of you who may not know, the Mass Casualty Commission is the federal government’s examination of what took place during the mass shooting in Nova Scotia two years ago, the factors that allowed it to happen and the steps that can be taken to prevent a similar incident. The topic of the day was concerning police paraphernalia and impostors.

“I attended the meeting in person to observe and give my support to Phil Bailey for representing us on the federal level.

“The commission was joined that day by Bailey, speaking n behalf of collectors, a retired chief of a Nova Scotia police agency representing the opinions of the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police, as well as a retired RCMP member representing RCMP veterans. Joining the Commission remotely was a professor of criminology from the University of Oxford in England, and a lawyer from Ontario.

“The discussion of the day was mostly centered around what former police officers may have in their possession and what changes may need to be made as to what they are able to keep upon retirement.

“There was a lot of discussion around what policing symbols mean and how various members of the public react to these symbols and sometimes the lack of symbols.

“The issues around impersonation were discussed. The main piece out of that discussion was that somebody wanting to impersonate a police officer does not need and usually does not have any identifying piece, patch or badge, to collaborate their claim.

“On a couple of occasions, Bailey was able to share stories from collectors, both law enforcement-associated collectors as well as civilian collectors. He was able to talk about the reasons why we collect and the historical side of collecting.

“My opinion after the day was over was that there seemed to be very little support behind preserving our hobby. There seems to be very little interest in what we are doing, and the support is not there from the administrative side of the policing community. The representative of the Nova Scotia chiefs seemed quite adamant that no one should possess these items with the exception of perhaps a retired police officer having their retirement badge in a plastic block and that’s all.

“Their opinion of collecting became most apparent to me when the final question of the day was, ‘Do the pros of allowing people to possess their items outweigh the risks?’

“This Commission is examining what can be done to prevent future events like the Nova Scotia mass shooting. If the topic of allowing anyone to be permitted to possess police items became a question of federal legislation, it does not seem likely to me that there would be any interest from the government in anything but introducing legislation to prevent people from having them.

“There does not seem to be any support from various levels of government or the public to allow the hobby to continue. What could that legislation look like? If it was like Nova Scotia’s law, I’d say we got lucky.”

Police Collectors News will continue to closely monitor the possible insignia possession ban in Canada for its impact on the international hobby. EDITOR

Lueders Leaves Hobby Longtime Fredericksburg, Va. law enforcement insignia collector Bill Lueders, 89, has left the hobby. He announced in late May that he and his wife have been living in an assisted living and memory care facility for the past six months. “I have had to give up my hobby,” he wrote. “I have always enjoyed your PCNEWS and thank you for your kind and efficient service.”

Sheriff Requests Assistance Montgomery County, Tex. Sheriff Rand Henderson is seeking public assistance in recovering and cataloging some of its lost history since the department was founded in 1837. He wants to add more artifacts and memorabilia to the agency collection at the Criminal Justice Center in Conroe. “We are interested in memorializing old photos and memorabilia, such as badges and equipment, connected to Montgomery County,” the sheriff said. There is a particular need for pre-1960 items, which can either be donated or loaned to the county.

Badge Number “1” On March 30, Massachusetts State Police Trooper Salvatore Lamonica was presented with badge number “1” as the longest-serving member of the department. He is assigned to the Commercial Driver Unit and has served with the MSP for 45 years. The presentation was made by Colonel Christopher Mason, superintendent of the department, and deputy superintendent Lieutenant Colonel Scott Warmington. Trooper Lamonica was praised for his dedication to the agency and the commonwealth.



After a two-year stint as a reserve police sergeant in South Tucson following his United States Air Force discharge, Stanley Benjamin became a patrolman in Tucson in 1967 when he was 25 years old. He spent 20 years with TPD and was named department historian. *Contributed photograph*

Stan Benjamin Truly Was “The Man” In Arizona

Our hobby lost a giant in late April when longtime Arizona patch collector and law enforcement historian Stan Benjamin died at age 79 in Tucson. A 20-year Tucson police veteran, who served as department historian from 1974 to 1980, self-published 19 hobby-related books and is believed to have been the first hobbyist to complete an Arizona patch collection.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

TUCSON, Ariz. – It was summer 1998. Stan Benjamin announced that he and Tony Cox would host a badge, patch and Road Champs car show at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge in Tucson in mid-September. (Remember Road Champs?)

After he sent us a notice for the “Swap Meet Calendar,” he called and invited Paula and I not only to attend the show, but to visit two of his favorite places in Southern Arizona, Tombstone and Patagonia.

“There is some really interesting history I’d like you to see. You could write some articles for the paper and maybe get collectors more interested in their department history. I think it would be good for the hobby,” Benjamin said.

How could I say no?

We had gotten to know Stan and Connie Benjamin well over the years after attending a small private swap meet at their Tucson home in 1984, along with such Arizona hobby stalwarts as Harry Blazer, Tony Cox, Keith Tucker, Nat McKelvey, Kevin Garrett and a few others. It sparked my interest in Grand Canyon State patches.

Benjamin wanted to introduce me to Max Hurlburt, a police memorabilia collector and historian from Washington state, who had been appointed as the new Tombstone city marshal, and show us historic sites in Patagonia. He had been researching the law enforcement histories of both communities.

So, even though it was still nasty hot in Southern Arizona, we packed lots of sunscreen and journeyed to Tucson to see our friends, attend what was a great show and experience



A young Stan Benjamin poses with one of the arsenal of automatic weapons that Tucson police officers seized from the John Dillinger Gang following their arrests on January 25, 1934. The gangsters had trunks filled with weapons and ammunition when they arrived. *Contributed photograph*

what Stan had planned for us in two small towns.

Always the genial host, even though he was co-hosting a show that weekend, Benjamin arranged trips to Tombstone on Friday and Patagonia on Sunday.

We drove to Tombstone through the Cochise County desert and spent several enjoyable hours in the “Town Too Tough To Die.” Stan showed us all the historic sites, Boot Hill, the OK Corral, Birdcage Theater, the old courthouse and a stage stop where visitors often reported hold-ups, all from a law enforcement perspective. I kidded him that he should start doing Tombstone cop tours.

Benjamin had extensive knowledge of Tombstone law enforcement history. He dispelled several legends, what he called “tall tales” and myths that were untrue, especially about the epic 1881 gunfight between the Earp brothers, Doc Holliday and five cowboys at the OK Corral. “The Earps were professional gunfighters. The cowboys had no chance,” he said.

The highlight was a couple hours at the Marshals Office where he introduced us to Marshal Hurlburt. The marshal told us about the history of his office, made sure I was photographed behind bars in the small one cell lockup and went home with a couple patches and other things for my collection. We also did some trading and enjoyed a BBQ lunch at the marshal’s favorite restaurant.

The day after the show, we made a picture postcard-worthy trip through the desert to Patagonia, a small town in Santa Cruz County, south of Tucson. Benjamin had befriended a former town marshal who shared previously undocumented history of his office and showed us the medieval first town jail, which had been built inside a steep hillside cave back in 1800s.

After we met the former marshal for lunch, he took us on a tour of the current marshal’s office, which is about the size of a small garage, and saw the old jail hidden on the outskirts of town.

Benjamin brought a notebook and camera because he had follow-up questions to ask the former marshal for his research, which he later turned into one of his many Southern Arizona history books.

The former marshal was an Arizona history buff like Benjamin and kept us enthralled with riveting stories about gunfights, desperadoes and the chaotic early days of the town. Stan took more notes and pictures than I did.

The highlight for me was seeing the jail. It had been abandoned long, long ago and has been all but forgotten. No signs, historical markers or any indication of its existence can be found. But, the marshal and Stan had come to know it well. It still had the original jail door that had been chained shut, probably to keep local kids from getting into it, but the chain had been cut and the door pried back by vandals. They warned me about trying to go inside because of rattlesnakes, a warning I heeded without question!

Benjamin knew as much about Patagonia law enforcement history as he did about Tombstone law enforcement history. He even shared stories and names of retired officers that the former town marshal had never heard.

I share this tale because it tells the story of Stan Benjamin, a kind and generous man, who truly enjoyed sharing his extensive research into Southern Arizona law enforcement insignia and department histories. He was a historian’s historian in every respect.

Benjamin was among the first to document the law enforcement histories of many southern Arizona cities and towns. While historical societies and authors focused on general history, he emphasized law enforcement history. Everything he did was from a collector’s perspective, too. He always included patches and badges.

Whenever he discovered something new about a small agency’s history, he was relentless in his desire to learn more and as much as he could. His research always included extensive patch and badge chronologies when he could find them.

Benjamin was truly a collector’s collector as well. Never content to acquire patches and show them in a book or display, he wanted to know everything about every emblem, dates of use, the designer, how it fit into the agency’s insignia chronology, why it was replaced, etc. He also wanted to know about agency history, its most famous lawmen and all about major crimes that took place in the city or town.

Sadly, my longtime friend died on April 27 in Tucson. He was 79 years old. The Arizona hobby lost a giant.

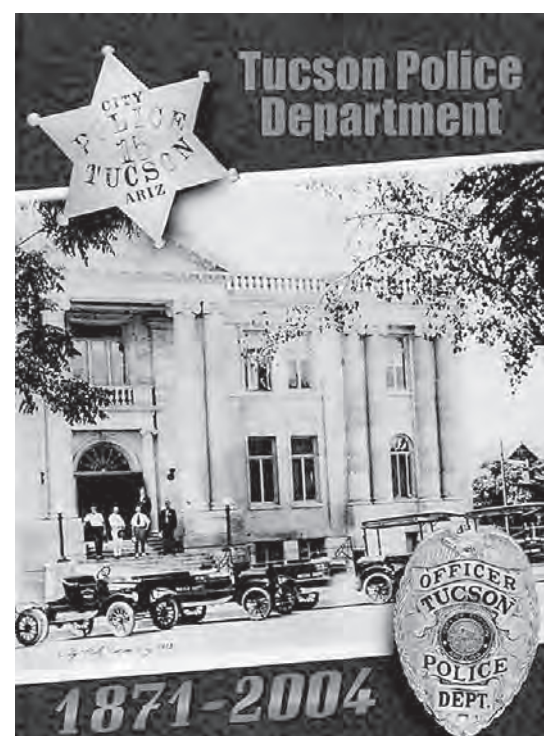
“Always been a collector” Benjamin was born in Miami, Fla. in 1942.

He joined the United States Air Force at age 18 and became a security policeman. His first assignment was at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson where he met Connie, his future wife. They were married for 60 years.

Deployed to Guam in the western Pacific Ocean for a year, Benjamin was among the youngest security officers on the base. His superiors knew he was too young to go into bars, which made him a perfect choice to work with a Marine Corps unit at the base brig. It became his favorite assignment. I often called him “Jailer Stan.”

Benjamin became interested in military insignia while in the Air Force and collected unit patches. “I’ve always been a collector,” he later recalled. “I got interested in Air Force and Marine Corps patches. I still have quite a few.”

Following his Air Force discharge, he continued his law enforcement career and became a reserve sergeant for the South Tucson Police Department. He was also their firearms instructor.



Veteran Tucson, Ariz. police officers Stanley Benjamin and Terry Rozema co-authored the definitive department history book, *Tucson Police Department 1871-2004*. The profusely illustrated coffee table-size volume is a thoroughly researched history of Tucson law enforcement. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Stan Benjamin self-published 19 books about Arizona law enforcement insignia and department histories, such as *Gila Bend, Arizona Police 1962-1980*. He painstakingly researched agency histories, as well as their patches and badges. These books are long out of print. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Stan Benjamin Remembered ...Continued

In 1967, he took a full-time job as a patrolman with the Tucson Police Department. In addition, he enrolled at the University of Arizona where he earned his bachelors degree in public administration.

Benjamin served as official department historian from 1974 to 1980 before he was promoted to detective in the robbery detail.

He developed a concealed camera program while on the detail that revolutionized armed robbery investigations in Tucson and resulted in a dramatic increase in arrests and convictions. In fact, his concealed cameras were so successful (a 100-percent conviction rate) that other Southern Arizona agencies soon began using them as well.

Benjamin retired from TPD in 1987. He was hired by the Circle K Corporation to install and maintain concealed cameras in their dozens of convenience stores throughout Tucson.

The former police officer developed methods to conceal miniature cameras around displays near cash registers at checkout counters, which not only helped solve robberies but employee theft cases as well.

Benjamin had health issues late in life.

His is survived by his wife, Connie, daughter, Margaret, son, Stan Jr., and grand-children and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held with full police honors in Tucson on May10. He is buried in Tucson.

Prolific author and hobbyist Benjamin began collecting Arizona law enforcement emblems, as well as a few badges, in earnest in 1974. He had collected at least one emblem from every department in the state by the early 1980s.

He fulfilled his love of history by researching the histories of numerous agencies, mostly in Southern Arizona, which was his other pastime.

Benjamin self-published a series of reference books on Arizona law enforcement emblems in the late 1980s. He was the first collector-historian to publish Arizona patch reference books. His first one was about police department patches. The second volume covered sheriff department and tribal emblems.

"I really like putting the books together because other collectors need this information. Without a reference, how does anybody know what's out there to collect or what patches a department has had?" he said.

Benjamin's Grand Canyon State collection was far beyond complete. It included many previously unknown first issues he had discovered while researching agency histories.

He was among the first to acquire the extremely rare (and now, sadly, often-reproduced) first issue Gila Bend emblem (with a Gila monster on it, of course), which many veteran collectors believe is still the rarest patch in the state. He obtained it from a long retired former marshal that he interviewed for a department history.

Although he also collected county sheriffs, his primary focus was on police departments, especially from Southern Arizona.

"I guess it's because I was a police officer and never worked for a sheriff. I've got their patches, but I like police better," Benjamin said.

Following his retirement, Benjamin self-published more history books on small Arizona towns and cities and their police departments. Nearly every one showed patches and badges.

In 2004, he joined TPD Captain Terry Rozema to co-author a painstakingly-researched book, *Tucson Police Department 1871 to 2004*. He called it his most satisfying achievement. The highly-regarded book is among the finest department histories ever published in Arizona. It, too, is long out of print.

Unfortunately, later in life, Benjamin became disillusioned with the hobby. Reproductions, unethical trade practices and skyrocketing insignia prices angered him. He disdained a lack of collector interest in his later department history books. He stopped attending shows and actively collecting. Ultimately, he sold his incredible collection for a rock bottom price.

John Dillinger expert Benjamin was a recognized expert on the most significant arrests Tucson PD ever made, the January 25, 1934 capture of notorious bank robber John Dillinger and three members of his infamous gang.

While serving as department historian, he became fascinated by the Dillinger arrests, which focused national attention on Tucson. He scoured police records, poured over newspaper accounts and interviewed 12 retired officers involved in the historic arrests of Dillinger and disciples Charles Makely, Russell Clark and Harry Pierpoint.

Benjamin wrote a lengthy, highly-detailed account of how TPD took down the Dillinger Gang, "Without A Shot Fired," which was widely published throughout Arizona.

Later, he made in-person presentations about the Dillinger case to historical societies in Tucson and as far away as Tubac and Casa Grande. His presentations also received extensive local media coverage.

"It was a combination of good luck and good police work," Benjamin said of the historic apprehensions. "Dillinger didn't take us very seriously because we were a small town



Stan Benjamin stands next to a Tombstone Marshals Office patrol car, a white fully marked Ford LTD Crown Victoria, in front of Marshal Max Hurlburt's office in September 1998. The veteran Arizona collector and historian later wrote a book on the marshals office history. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

department, but we got the last laugh."

Dillinger and his cohorts were wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for multiple bank robberies and numerous other crimes in the Midwest, including escape from custody. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover proclaimed him Public Enemy Number "1."

The heavily armed mobsters drove across the country with their girlfriends to hide out in Tucson for the winter after their most recent crime wave and a jail break. The gang traveled in separate cars and posed as husbands and wives on vacation along the way. They aroused no suspicions during their westbound treks, even though their photographs appeared on wanted posters the FBI had distributed throughout the country.

"Remember when post offices put up wanted posters? These guys' pictures were up in pretty much every post office and police station in the country," Benjamin said.

Makely and Clark arrived in Tucson first and rented a large house. However, it was not ready for occupancy until the following day, so they got rooms on the third floor of the downtown Congress Hotel for the night.

Only hours after they checked into the hotel, there was a small fire in another third floor room. Firefighters evacuated the building and extinguished the fire, but there was smoke and water damage that made the floor uninhabitable for the night.

"They had to leave their rooms in a hurry, so they left their travel trunks," Benjamin said. "They offered a couple firemen \$12 to go back into the hotel and bring down their trunks. That was a lot of money back then. They wanted their trunks so badly because they had hidden guns and cash inside them. They didn't care about their suitcases, which was a big mistake. They left them behind for some reason."

No one had any idea that Makely and Clark were wanted federal felons and on the run.

The following day, a firefighter, who had been at hotel fire, was reading a detective magazine at the downtown fire station. He noticed a picture of Clark and recognized him from the day before at the hotel. He contacted police.

Police searched the hotel rooms and recovered the abandoned luggage that the crooks had left behind. The suitcases were easily traced to the rented house because they had written the address on them. Apparently, they intended to have them shipped from the hotel to the house.

All four criminals were apprehended without a shot being fired on the same day, January 25, 1934. The occasion is still celebrated in Tucson.

Clark was arrested at the rented house following a strenuous battle between police and the husky man. He was finally taken into custody after an officer hit him over the head with a nightstick. He collapsed while digging for a gun hidden in a trunk. Clark's car with Florida plates was parked outside.

Elsewhere in the city, police began tailing another car with Florida plates. It drove to a store that sold radios. It was driven by Makely, who told officers he had gone to the store from the hideout to buy a shortwave radio that could receive the Tucson police frequency. Unlike Clark, he was taken into custody without incident.

Later in the day, a motor officer remembered seeing a car with Florida plates parked at a motel. He recalled speaking earlier with a guest who looked like Pierpont. Officers pulled the car over just as Pierpont and his girlfriend were driving away. Using a ruse that Tucson required out of state visitors to register their cars with the police in case they were stolen, Pierpont was nabbed without incident after he followed officers to the police station.

It was twilight when police returned to the rented house only to find Dillinger inside. He had been staying elsewhere in the city and had driven to the house to visit Clark. He also surrendered without resistance.

"Dillinger was laughing while he was being taken to the city jail. He told the arresting officers he couldn't believe that a bunch of small town 'hick cops' had found him when the FBI couldn't catch him. He also said he would soon be back on the street," Benjamin said.



The American Civil Liberties Union would probably not have thought very much of the original Town of Patagonia jail, which was built inside a cave on a steep rocky hillside on the outskirts of town in the 1800s. Long ago abandoned, the jail has nevertheless survived. Sort of... *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

It didn't happen, at least not in Tucson.

The gangsters were transferred from the city jail to the Pima County Jail where the sheriff held an open house so people could see Dillinger and his gang locked up behind bars. Hundreds of Tucsonans filed past their cells. One woman sarcastically told a grinning Dillinger that his mother must be proud of him.

Every January, Tucson celebrates the arrests with "Dillinger Days" at the Congress Hotel and a downtown theater. Events include live reenactments of the arrests, 1930s gangster films, walking tours, lectures by authors and historians and big band music.

The Arizona Historical Museum puts on exhibits of Dillinger artifacts, memorabilia and photographs, furniture from the house they rented and his death mask. The police department puts its Dillinger Gang weapons collection on display as well.

A true hobby pioneer Benjamin was truly a hobby pioneer, a giant among collectors in the desert Southwest.

My longtime friend accomplished remarkable things during his years in the hobby.

He completed an Arizona patch collection by the early 1980s, likely the first to do so. He completed the state before shows or *PCNEWS*. The only ways collectors could get patches back then was to write to agencies or swap with fellow hobbyists who were few and far between.

Benjamin published hobby books and department histories long before Internet use became common. He photographed patches with a film camera. All of his research was done by writing to agencies, tracking down and interviewing police chiefs and officers over the phone or in person and digging into histories in historical society and museum archives, old newspaper accounts and public records. Today, many people think typing something into Google constitutes research.

Stan was a kind, generous man who loved Arizona, the hobby and relished in his many accomplishments. His death is not only a personal loss for me, but creates a void in the Arizona hobby that may never be filled.

No legacy of Stan Benjamin would be complete without calling him "The Man." It fits him perfectly.

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The Illinois State Police is 100 years old. The agency launched its year-long celebration on April 1. The official centennial logo features a saluting trooper and 1922 and 2022 badges. The logo appears on official commemorative vehicles, as well as other insignia and collectibles. *Contributed photograph*

The ISP is comprised of seven divisions, Patrol Operations, Forensic Services, Justice Services, Academy and Training, Internal Investigations, Statewide 911 and Criminal Investigation, which was reestablished under Governor Pritzker.

The ISP and the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation have planned a variety of events through the state to celebrate the centennial from now until April 2023. Among them is a celebration and historic exhibit at the state fair in mid-August.

Illinois State Police Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The Illinois State Police is 100 years old. Governor J.B. Pritzker proclaimed April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 as the Illinois State Police Centennial. The first eight state troopers began patrolling the Land of Lincoln on World War I surplus motorcycles on April 1, 1922.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPRINGFIELD, Ill – The Illinois State Police is celebrating its centennial anniversary, 1922 to 2022.

Governor J.B. Pritzker signed a proclamation designating April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 as the "Illinois State Police Centennial." The signing ceremony took place at the State Capitol in Springfield on March 29.

"Illinois can only thrive when its people are safe, and it's our Illinois State Police who make it possible for working families to safely live their lives, on the road and in their neighborhoods," Governor Pritzker said.

Director Brendan F. Kelly told the governor, command staff, dignitaries and ISP retirees, "I want to thank the great men and women who have worked at the Illinois State Police over the past 100 years and helped build one of the premier policing agencies in the country."

Ninety-one year-old retired Captain Donald V. Norton, who served from 1960 to 1990, received an Achievement Medal and posed with the governor and director for the official presentation photograph. He served as a district commander and supervisor in the Division of Narcotic Control and Division of Criminal Investigation.

Before the ceremony, the governor, director and dignitaries reviewed the ten handsome retro black and white 2022 Ford Police Interceptor sport utility vehicles that the agency has outfitted with special markings and emergency equipment to celebrate the centennial. The SUVs and troopers lined up in front of the statue of Abraham Lincoln on the Capitol grounds.

Director Kelly said the agency has grown from eight sworn officers and two civilian employees to nearly 3000 sworn and civilian employees. He is the agency's eighth director since the position was created in 1987. Previously, the ISP was commanded by a superintendent.

Early State Police history The Legislature recognized the need for statewide enforcement of motor vehicle laws and regulations, particularly in rural areas. County sheriffs and municipal police devoted nearly all their attention to criminal and public order offenses. Traffic enforcement was minimal at best.

On June 24, 1921, legislators enacted the "State Highway Patrol Law of 1921." The Department of Public Works and Buildings was authorized to hire a "sufficient number of state highway patrol officers to enforce provisions of the motor vehicle laws."

The new agency was named the State Highway Patrol. It became the first statewide law enforcement agency in Illinois and was made a sub-agency of the Division of Highways.

Former Kankakee police chief John T. Stack was hired to recruit, hire and train eight patrol officers to patrol state highways and enforce traffic law. He was named as superintendent and served until 1929.

Beginning on April 1, 1922, officers started patrolling on World War I military surplus motorcycles and wearing surplus Army uniforms. They concentrated on main highways.

As Illinois began paving more rural roads between major cities after World War I, the State Highway Maintenance Department, which was separate from the Division of Highways under the state public works agency, became increasingly concerned over road damage being done by overweight trucks.

Even though Illinois had overweight truck laws on the books, there was no enforcement. In 1923, the department received legislative approval to create its own police force to reduce and prevent road damage. It was named the State Highway Maintenance Police. One hundred officers were hired.

Initially, maintenance police officers had no motorcycle training and the heavy portable scales they carried made the bikes unstable. Troopers had several accidents, especially in the winter months. Snow and ice removal was primitive at best back then.

Nevertheless, the officers proved highly effective at truck weight enforcement. Additional enforcement responsibilities were soon added to their duties.

Thus, beginning in 1923, Illinois had two statewide traffic law enforcement agencies, the State Highway Patrol and the State Highway Maintenance Police. The Highway Patrol concentrated on general traffic law enforcement, while the Highway Maintenance Police worked mostly truck weight enforcement.

The Highway Patrol grew quickly. By the end of 1922, the agency had grown to 20 officers. In early 1923, there were 25 officers. The force expanded to 159 men by 1927.

Black Chrysler coupe patrol cars replaced most of the motorcycles in 1927.

The World War I surplus Army uniforms that Highway Patrol officers wore in April 1922 were soon replaced by new uniforms almost identical to those worn by Cook County sheriff's deputies.

Even though the agency was officially known as the Highway Patrol, officers wore badges and patches with the title Highway Police, not Highway Patrol, on them.

Officers wore chrome-colored, numbered six-point ball-tipped stars, also very similar to Cook County. Highway Patrol stars had legends that read, "ILLINOIS STATE HIGHWAY" at the top and "POLICE" at the bottom. Maintenance Police badges carried the legends, "ILLINOIS STATE HIGHWAY MAINT." at the top and "POLICE" at the bottom.

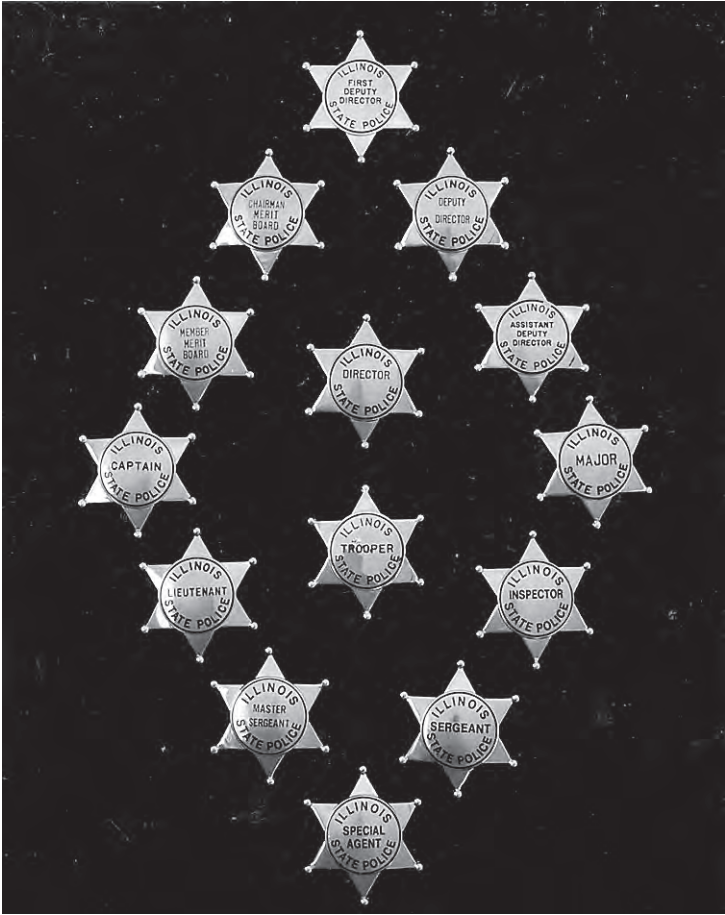
Both agencies wore the same gold-on-black state-shaped emblems beginning in 1923. The legend reads, "ILLINOIS/ STATE/ HIGHWAY/ POLICE." The word "Highway" is



A collectible commemorative centennial anniversary emblem (right) has been created for the Illinois State Police. It features the centennial logo. The official patch (left) is gold-on-black with a large six-point star badge superimposed over the state outline. *Contributed photograph*



The Illinois State Police has a fleet of ten Ford Police Interceptor SUVs outfitted in retro black and white with a single red revolving roof emergency light, a retro front door state-shaped decal and the anniversary logo above the rear fenders. The cars are patrolling statewide. *Contributed photograph*



An official department collection of Illinois State Police badges shows all current ranks and titles. Director and trooper are shown in the center, surrounded by 12 rank and title stars, such as deputy director, assistant deputy director, major, captain, lieutenant and inspector. *Contributed photograph*

Illinois State Police ...Continued

enclosed in a rectangle. The patch has a gold border.

Gradually, but steadily, additional responsibilities were given to the Highway Police, as well as the State Highway Maintenance Police, although their focus remained primarily on truck weight enforcement.

During Prohibition (1920-1933), Highway Patrol officers often assisted county sheriffs and local police with raids on illegal liquor production facilities and drinking establishments. They used their traffic enforcement authority to stop suspected bootleggers at the request of sheriffs, police chiefs and even federal agents.

In 1931, the state created the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, which later became part of the State Police.

Trooper J. Frank Nuckolls When officers of the Illinois State Highway Patrol lined up in full regalia in 1923, J. Frank Nuckolls of Auburn wore one of the patrol's brand-new badges on his chest. He had a big job ahead of him.

The Highway Patrol, ancestor of the State Police, had been in existence less than a year at the time. It isn't clear if Nuckolls was one of the original eight patrolman, but he was definitely on the force by the time it assembled in Springfield on January 31, 1923.

The *Illinois State Journal* recorded the event the next day:

"Seventeen highway patrol officers assembled in the city yesterday, dolled up in their new uniforms, passed inspection before state officials and departed in search of law violators. The delegation of riders assembled in the highway department and discussed plans for activity, after which each was presented with a new outfit, including a shining star.

"The patrol officers are assigned to various sections of the state. J. Frank Nuckolls of Auburn has been assigned to duty on the hard [paved] road between Carlinville and Mason City."

At first, Nuckolls was the only officer deployed to the area, but he was joined by John Goveia of Springfield later in 1923. In September, the two announced a crackdown on speeders and motorists who failed to dim their headlamps. The *Journal* quoted Nuckolls:

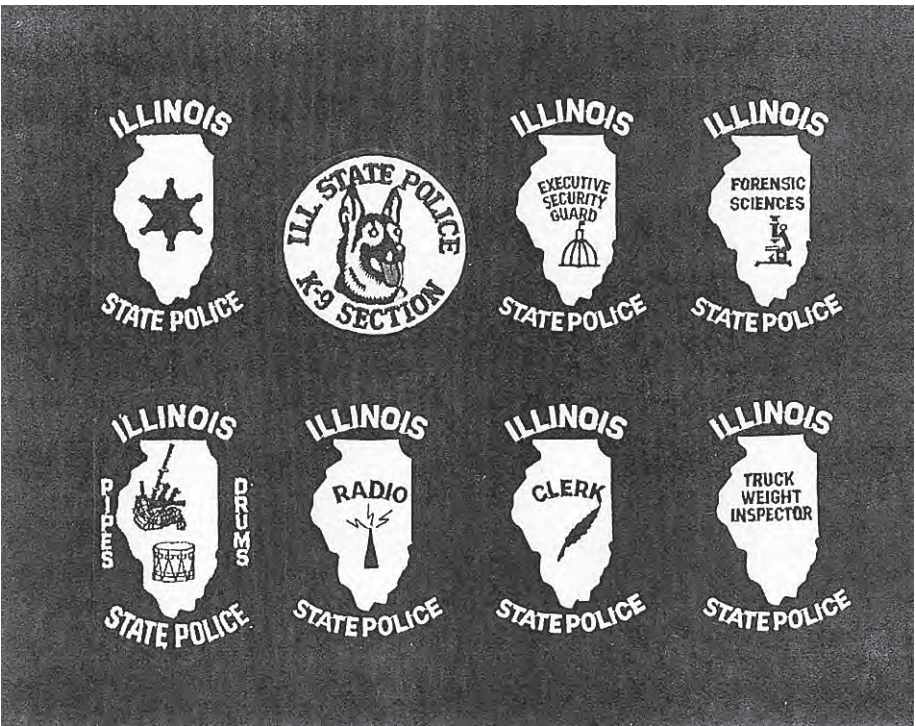
"Speeding will not be permitted on the roads. For some time we have tried to be lenient with offenders, but some of them do not heed warnings, and it has been necessary to make arrests."

Highway Patrol hiring was based mostly on political affiliation. These were patronage jobs. Nuckolls, hired under Governor Len Small, presumably was a Republican. However, he had a law enforcement background.

Nuckolls was the night marshal in Auburn on August 1, when two "yeggs," as the *Illinois*



A chronology of Illinois State Police badges from 1939 to 2022 following creation of the Department of Public Safety. Early emblems were state shapes. In 1954, the agency went to vertical rounded rectangles and continues to wear them to this day. *Contributed photograph*



A collection of mostly obsolete Illinois State Police special unit emblems, K9 Section, Executive Security Guard, Forensic Services, Pipes and Drums, Radio, Clerk and Truck Weight Inspector. Each patch is done in the style of the current emblem shown in the upper left. *Contributed photograph*

State Register called them, tried to blow open the safe at the post office:

"Nuckolls, attracted by the shock of the explosion, which wrecked the safe, hurried to the post office building...where one of the men stationed himself on the outside of the building while his partner was at work attempting to rifle the safe. The man immediately fired on the officer. Two shots were fired. Neither struck its intended mark.

"When the officer reached the place, one of the men on the inside of the building was reaching into the safe to get what money was there. The robbers lefty immediately after the attempt to Nuckolls' life was made, without getting any of the money."

As the highway patrol/highway police grew, Nuckolls rose to the rank of sergeant in a district that eventually ran from Quincy to Decatur.

He was relieved of duty, allegedly for conduct unbecoming an officer, on January 14, 1933. The actual reason was political patronage; a Democrat, Henry Horner, had taken office as governor only five days earlier. He gave the jobs to Democrats.

Nuckolls died in a fall in Springfield in 1954. He is buried in Omaha, Nebraska.

Modern era begins The modern era of Illinois state law enforcement began in 1939. The State Highway Patrol Law of 1921 was repealed. The Legislature created the Department of Public Safety in its place.

The Highway Patrol became an agency of the DPS. Former Highway Patrol troopers were given criminal law enforcement authority in addition to their traffic responsibilities.

The Highway Maintenance Police remained under the jurisdiction of the Division of Highways until 1941 when it, too, became part of the DPS. The officers were also granted criminal authority.

In effect, Illinois had a state police agency with dual criminal and traffic enforcement authority, although it was known as the State Highway Police under the jurisdiction of the DPS. Nevertheless, troopers wore state-shaped DPS patches with six-point State Highway Police star-shaped badges.

In 1954, the DPS changed its cloth insignia to clarify and emphasize the State Highway Police moniker. The patch was a black rounded vertical rectangle with gold legends that read, "ILLINOIS" at the top and "DEPT/ PUBLIC SAFETY" the bottom.

A gold state shape appeared as the center design. Black legends read, "STATE/ HIGHWAY/ POLICE." A black five-point star denotes the location of Springfield, the state capital.

The Department of Public Safety changed the name of the Highway Police to the State Police in 1967 to better represent its evolution from traffic to a full service law enforcement agency.

In 1970, Illinois reorganized statewide law enforcement. The Department of Public Safety became the Department of Law Enforcement.

Illinois State Police today Today, the State Police helps protect Illinois by patrolling roadways, responding to calls for service, investigating traffic crashes and crimes, conducting narcotics investigations and providing law enforcement information technology systems to the criminal justice community.

Additionally, the ISP provides firearms services, including the Violent Crime Intelligence Task Force, firearm owner identification cards, concealed carry weapons permits and gun dealer licensing.

The State Police also provides support to sheriff and police departments, including



The Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation owns this beautiful black and white 1951 Ford with a state-shaped Department of Public Safety door decal, roof-mounted red light and siren and driver's side spotlight. A volunteer is wearing a period correct uniform. *Contributed photograph*



The Illinois State Police kicked off its centennial anniversary celebration with a ceremony at the State Capitol in Springfield on March 29. All ten retro cruisers were parked in front to welcome Governor J.B. Pritzker and other dignitaries to the event. The celebration will go on until next April. *ISP official photograph*

forensic services and 911 call centers.

Troopers serve in 22 districts statewide. There are eight classifications, patrol trooper, canine officer, criminal patrol officer, safety education officer, vehicle identification officer, evidence officer, court officer and investigative trooper.

The Chicago District is located in Des Plaines and serves Cook County.

District 15 in Downers Grove works the Illinois State Tollways.

The other 20 districts serve multiple counties throughout the state.

Sixty-seven troopers have died in the line of duty. The first was Albert J. Hasson, who was struck and killed by a vehicle in 1924, only four months after he joined the agency following his service in the military.

The ISP uniform differs from neighboring states. Troopers wear light tan/khaki shirts, dark green pants with black trim and dark brown campaign hats. Leather duty gear is black high gloss. A chocolate brown all-weather jacket is worn in cold weather.

While there have been two emblem styles (state shapes and vertical rounded rectangles), troopers have always worn plain six-point stars with oversize centers that show legends only. There are no state seals or custom designs like on other state police/highway patrol agency badges.

ISP Heritage Museum The Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation, headquartered in Springfield, is group of active and retired State Police employees with a strong commitment to preserving agency history. It was founded in December 2000 as a non-profit organization.

The Foundation preserves and protects the history, evolution and development of the agency; educates the public about its roles, functions and contribution; inspires young people to consider law enforcement careers; honors fallen officers and supports the families of those who have lost their lives in the service of the state.

In 2004, the Foundation purchased land in Springfield upon which to construct a building for the Illinois State Police Museum. The building was constructed, and the museum opened in 2005. It housed artifacts and vehicles owned by the Foundation. Two nearby houses were used as offices and for artifact storage.

The museum offered a variety of displays and exhibits:

...Full dark brown Auxiliary Police uniform with a badge and patch worn in the 1950s. It was worn by auxiliary officers for the State Fair and crowd control at the State Capitol.

...Three-quarter-length dark leather brown cloth Reefer, which was worn as the trooper uniform winter coat from 1954 to 1988.

...Stars and rank insignia

...1951 Ford black and white police car

...1966 Ford black and white police car

...1996 Ford 75th anniversary (1922 to 1997) squad car

...John Dillinger's death mask

...1922 original Highway Patrol uniform

...Pipes and Drums uniform

The Foundation sold the property in 2020 and a new site is being explored. Fundraising efforts are underway to relocate the museum to a larger and more suitable facility.

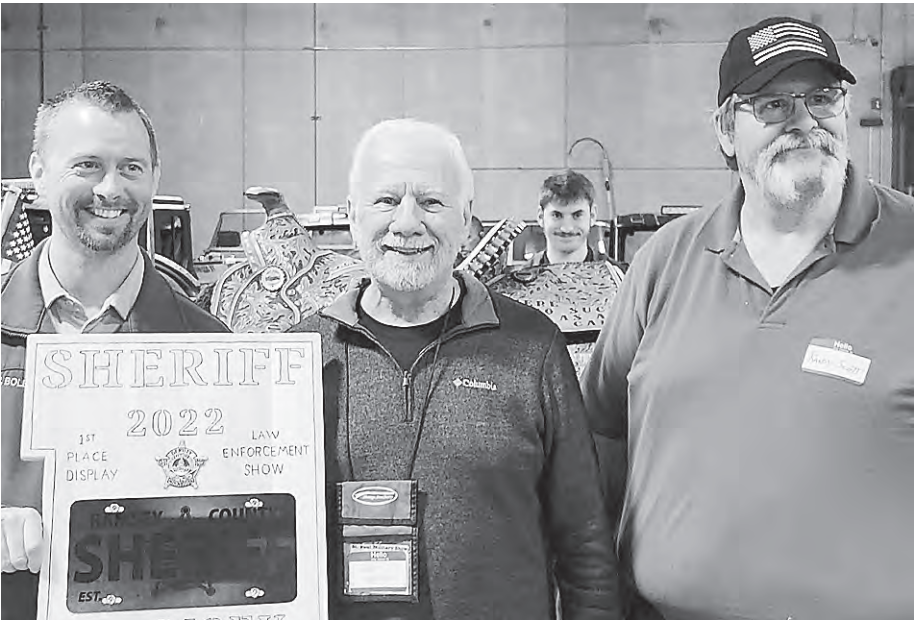
To help celebrate the centennial, the Foundation sold commemorative stars to active and retired troopers.

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Stars Over Tennessee A Columbia, Tenn. native recently published a 516-page book on the history of Tennessee law enforcement from the early 1800s to the present, *Stars Over Tennessee*. Ronnie Erwin and his late wife, Judith, spent more than ten years researching and compiling information for the book. Sheriff department histories for all 95 counties are included. The author credited his late wife with having the vision to compile the history. She died in 2019.

Baltimore Impersonators Charged The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland has charged four Baltimore area men for three kidnappings and numerous other felonies committed while they impersonated law enforcement officers. Prosecutors allege the men, who range in age from 28 to 32, wore police vests, badges and equipment and drove a vehicle equipped with emergency lights when they stalked and kidnapped three people. Two victims worked for check cashing businesses. They group wanted to gain access to the businesses to steal cash. The other victim was an alleged drug dealer. The perpetrators threatened the victims with firearms and a blow torch.

Patches Get Personal The Bolton, Mass. Police Department recently presented a \$3600 check to the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism to help families with autistic children. The check represented proceeds from sales of Bolton police autism awareness patches and t-shirts. The presentation was personal to Sergeant Walter Nadeau, president of the police union, who has three autistic daughters. The agency also markets charitable emblems for domestic violence victims, Alzheimer's awareness and military veteran assistance.



Gary Bettcher (center) accepts the "Best Display-First Place" award at the "Ramsey County" show in Saint Paul on April 30. He was honored for his Saint Paul Police Department exhibit. Bettcher was recognized by co-hosts Sergeant Jeremy Bolen (left) and Randy Scott (right). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ramsey County Hosts Collectors' Garage Sale

The Ramsey County Law Enforcement Collectors' Show on April 30 was the first Minnesota law enforcement insignia indoor garage sale! Held in the county Water Patrol garage, hosts Randy Scott and Jeremy Bolen welcomed about 100 collectors from three states.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – Law enforcement insignia shows have been held in a wide variety of venues. Convention centers, hotel ballrooms and FOP and VFW halls are common today. Years ago, there were forest preserve shelters, livestock judging arenas and even collectors' homes backyards. Yet, a show in a sheriff's water patrol garage might be a first.

But, that's where the Second Annual Ramsey County Law Enforcement Collectors' Show took place on Saturday, April 30. The venue was the Ramsey County Sheriffs Office Water Patrol garage at the East District Station in Saint Paul, Minn. I kidded Randy Scott that he and co-host sheriff's Sergeant Jeremy Bolen had hosted the biggest police collectors' indoor garage sale ever.

Even though it was a dreary, wet, cold and windy early spring day, the show was a big success, attracting about 100 collectors and visitors from throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. There were 39 tables.

The swap meet was a fundraiser for the Ramsey County Sheriffs Explorer Program. The Explorers attended in uniform and helped tableholders with their exhibits and collectibles. They acted as display contest judges and served lunch.

"It was a real good show. Bigger than last year. Everyone said they enjoyed it. Too bad the weather wasn't better. But, that's Minnesota for you," Scott said.

There were many newcomers and a lot of on-duty deputies and officers. Several uniformed officers went home with patches. "This is pretty cool," said a sheriff's canine handler. "I could get into this..."

Sergeant Bolen, the Explorers' adviser, said it was a good learning experience for the



Gary Bettcher's award-winning Saint Paul Police Department exhibit features a 1930 motor officer's hat and jacket with the correct duty belt. He had a frame filled with documented SPPD badges, as well as a couple early shoulder patches. He won first place in the display contest. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Gary Bettcher is an antique firearms aficionado but collects badges and other memorabilia. These are early Saint Paul Police Department-issue handguns, as well as an old holster. The two weapons in the upper right were issued to Deputy Chief Ed Steenberg. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ramsey County Show ...Continued

potential law enforcement officers under his charge. “They had a chance to meet officers from other agencies, look at police history and see for themselves how dedicated you collectors are to law enforcement,” he said. “And, we had a pretty good fundraiser, too.”

Tableholders were Gary Bettcher, Kyle Helvig, Jerry Cuffe, Alex Forsman, Justin VanHalanger, Jason Mork, Chris Flatten, Rachel Canning, Kathie Strong, Pat Znajda, Dave Pasicznyk, Iliya Berdichevski, Bernard Michael, Mike R. Bondarenko (Wisconsin), Jeremiah Simonson, Daryl Weseloh (Illinois), Ramsey County Sheriffs Foundation, Hennepin County Sheriffs Department and Randy Scott.

Bettcher, Canning win awards Minnesota collectors Gary Bettcher and Rachel Canning won the display contest awards.

Bettcher won first place for another incredible exhibit of historical insignia, artifacts, memorabilia, uniforms, equipment and weapons from the Saint Paul Police Department. It is among the finest all-inclusive department collections in the state and must be seen to be fully appreciated.

Canning went home with second place for her extremely impressive collection of Minnesota and state police/highway patrol vehicle license plates, historic restraints, badges, patches and much more.

The unique awards were large handmade wooden plaques. Bettcher’s award was a Ramsey County shape, while Canning’s was a depiction of the long arm of the law.

Saint Paul law enforcement history goes back to 1854 when the police department was formed. It is the oldest in the state. Bettcher has several badges and photos that date from the earliest days of the agency when the city was a bawdy western frontier town. Of course, he also has more modern items.

“I’m more of an antique firearms collector, but the other things display well with firearms, especially the badges and pictures,” Bettcher said.

He had two mannequins showing an old SPPD uniform and hat worn from 1930 to 1964 and a first issue motor officer jacket with a winged wheel patch on the left shoulder and the accompanying hat. It debuted in the 1930s.

There was memorabilia from the 36-year public service career of Gustave “Gus” Barfuss, a patrolman who came on the job in 1912. He was promoted to sergeant in 1920, inspector of traffic in 1923, superintendent of traffic in 1931 and inspector of police in 1931. A year later, he became assistant chief.

Describing himself, “The Man For The Job,” Barfuss ran for City Council. His campaign card showed him in full uniform as assistant Saint Paul chief. He won the council seat and was named police commissioner in 1936. He held the post until his 1948 retirement.

He worked in a department plagued by widespread corruption, especially during Prohibition, when many officers and supervisors took bribes and payoffs from gangsters, local criminals and favor-seekers.

Bettcher has two badges from the infamous career of Chief “Big Tom” Brown, perhaps the most corrupt Saint Paul cop of them all. His story has been chronicled on these pages.

There were several large frames filled with a wide variety of Saint Paul badges old and new. He also showed stars and shields from the Soo Line Railroad Police, Saint Paul Stockyards Police, a press shield once issued to a police beat reporter for the *Saint Paul Pioneer-Press* newspaper and the Minnesota Emergency and Safety Squad.

Bettcher exhibited official department-issue weapons, such as a 1930 Colt .38 Police Special with pearl grips.

He has two weapons issued to Deputy Chief and Commander Ed Steenberg (1964 to 1999), president of the Saint Paul Police Historical Society, a Smith and Wesson M36 .38 Special (1964) and a Smith and Wesson 66-1 .357 Magnum (1981). He has Steenberg’s ID



A thing that makes Gary Bettcher’s outstanding Saint Paul Police Department collection so educational are the historic photographs he includes in each display. On the right is an old SPPD uniform jacket. This style jacket was worn from the 1930s to 1964, he said. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Jeremy Bolen (left) and Randy Scott (right) present the “Best Display-Second Place” award to Rachel Canning (center). She featured her collection of Minnesota and state police/highway patrol license plates, as well as historic restraints and prisoner control devices. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



An array of Minnesota county sheriff department license plates in Rachel Canning’s fine collection. Some are canine plates. Minnesota law does not regulate law enforcement vehicle plates, so every agency is free to choose a style. Canine plates are very popular. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

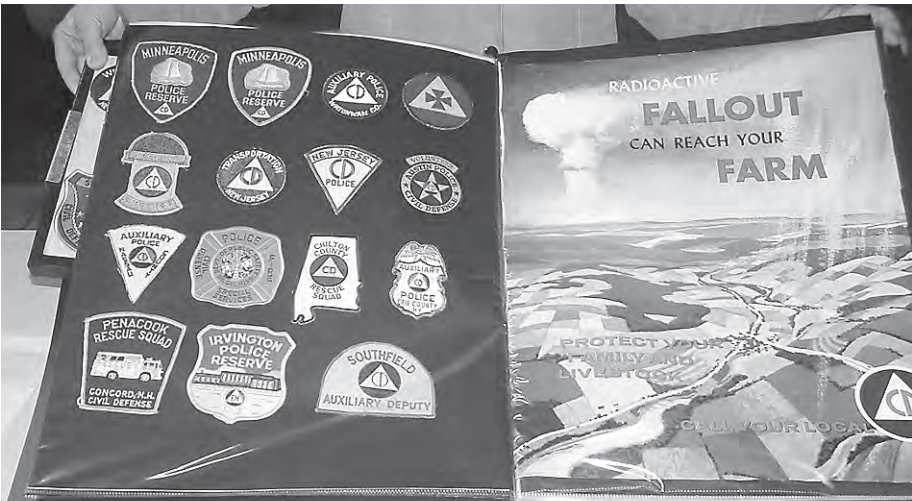


Rachel Canning’s award-winning “Ramsey County” exhibit included a wide variety of historic law enforcement restraints and prisoner control devices, such as nightsticks, batons, come-alongs and saps. Police used these long before anyone had ever heard of a Taser. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

(Right) A fine collection of unique Civil Defense badges and badge pins was shown by Kathie Strong. Government employees wore these badges to convey their authority during a national emergency. The armband at the bottom is a rarity from the Civil Defense Corps in England. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



What's better to bring to a "Ramsey County" show than a collection of Ramsey County Sheriff's Office badges and patches? Rachel Canning featured this exhibit. It's a nice mixture of old badges and patches, although the current county shape is also displayed. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Kathie Strong augmented her significant Civil Defense patch collection with a collection of large, colorful posters that the agency circulated throughout the country to help prepare people for a nuclear attack. This poster warns farmers that radioactive fallout can reach them. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Kathie Strong featured a variety of collectibles, including challenge coins, badges, FBI Airport Liaison patches and Drug Enforcement Administration federals, but the main focus was on Civil Defense, reminiscent of the Cold War of the '50s and '60s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mike Bray from Monticello, Minn. poses next to his beautiful brown leather saddle, "Honor the Badge," which is adorned with 138 state, local and county badges from all over the country. He shows the saddle at the State Fair, county fairs and law enforcement events. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

card and retirement badge encased in Lucite.

Canning has assembled one of the largest collections of law enforcement vehicle license plates in Minnesota. She has plates from the State Patrol, police departments and sheriffs offices across the state displayed on large freestanding boards.

There is also a large collection of state police and highway patrol plates.

"I started out like everybody else, collecting patches and then a few badges. Pretty soon, I got interested in other things, such as license plates. That's how this hobby works. One thing leads to another. But, that's what makes it fun," Canning said.

Another thing for Canning is old law enforcement restraints and prisoner control devices, such as the "Iron Claw" come-along, a familiar tool to us law enforcement old-timers. She also has several pairs of classic handcuffs and pocket saps, another tool old-timers recall fondly. Old restraints are becoming increasingly harder to find and prices have skyrocketed. She picked a good time to begin a collection.

In addition, Canning brought two large collections of patches, badges and artifacts from Ramsey County SO and Saint Paul PD.

Other outstanding displays Kathie Strong always brings something different to every show. Saint Paul was no exception.

Her exhibit emphasized Civil Defense, a relic of both world wars and the Cold War, very colorful Federal Bureau of Investigation airport liaison emblems and gold bullion federal patches.

Although civil defense existed in various forms during both World Wars, particularly along the East and West Coasts during World War II, it was the most prominent during the years following the second war, the so-called Cold War. The federal government authorized and opened the Office of Civil Defense in 1949 to prepare the American public for the possibility of nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

Civil Defense was a national mobilization effort to educate people about the dangers of nuclear attack, prepare bomb and fallout shelters and establish a radio early warning and information network known as CONELRAD. (Later, it was renamed the Emergency Broadcast Network.) Thousands of volunteers were recruited to assist in the effort in every state.

Many high-ranking officials were issued police-like official government badges to convey their authority during a national emergency. Strong has a collection of ten badges and four badge pins, as well as a white helmet with the Civil Defense insignia on it, a blue circle with a vertical white triangle and red letters "CD" in the center.

Strong brought a nice collection of CD patches. She displayed them alongside large colorful posters that CD used educate people on the dangers of nuclear fallout. One shows a rural farm scene with the logo, "RADIOACTIVE/ FALLOUT/ CAN REACH YOUR/ FARM." It carries the CD logo.

Today, the function of the former Office of Civil Defense falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

The FBI Airport Liaison emblems are round, very colorful and show specific airports identified by their three-letter Federal Aviation Administration identification codes. Her collection includes Dallas- Fort Worth, Dulles (Virginia), Orlando, Chicago O'Hare, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Miami, John F. Kennedy (New York City), San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and Ronald Reagan (Washington).

Mike Bray of Monticello, Minn. offered the most unusual exhibits at the show, a saddle and a boat. But, these beautiful creations are by no means ordinary because both honor law enforcement.

Bray is a highly accomplished custom leather craftsman. While he has never been in law enforcement, he greatly respects what police do. "I thought I would make some things to



Mike Bray's "Honoring Their Service" water patrol boat is a converted 12-foot 1957 Crestliner Commander that he has custom-covered with custom brown engraved leather. The boat has a revolving red light and "WATER PATROL" markings. Bray is civilian police supporter. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Jeremiah Simonson’s outstanding Minnesota badge collection includes a rare patch and three badges from the Gopher Ordinance Works, a World War II manufacturing plant in Rosemount that supplied smokeless gunpowder to the Navy in the final years of the war. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ramsey County Show ...Continued

show my appreciation for law enforcement,” he said.

The handmade saddle, “Honor The Badge,” which is itself a work of art, is adorned with 138 official law enforcement badges that agencies donated to the project. Each badge is attached to the saddle.

“I’ve showed it at the State Fair, county fairs, open houses and whenever I’m asked. Glad to do it. I get a lot of nice comments. No one has seen anything like it,” Bray said.

Bray said a country and western singer in Oregon, Joni Harms, heard about the saddle and wrote a song about it, *Honor the Badge*. She posted it on You Tube where it can heard today.

He converted a vintage 1957 12-foot Crestliner Commander fishing boat into a tribute to law enforcement boat, “Honoring Their Service.” It is covered in finely crafted brown leather with “WATER PATROL” markings and a red emergency light.

The cockpit displays a vintage leather-covered “Honor the Police” guitar to pay homage to Elvis Presley, who was the most popular pop singer of the time and a strong law enforcement supporter. Presley also collected badges.

Jeremiah Simonson, who started collecting patches but soon progressed to badges, featured five cases of current and obsolete Minnesota badges.

“I really enjoy history. I spend a lot of time researching, trying to find out as much as I can. It’s amazing what you can find out about old badges, if you take the time to look,” he said.

Simonson featured a Saint Paul PD badge from 1899 that was once worn by Patrolman Michael Scannell, who joined the department in 1887, only two years after arriving in the city.

Born in Ireland, Scannell immigrated to the USA as a young man and worked his way west to Saint Paul, where he took a job in the Great Northern Railroad shops as a freight handler. He applied for the police department and got hired.

He started at the Margaret Street Station and was later transferred to the Central District in 1896.

“Officer Scannell is generally liked by all who meet him, as well as by his colleagues and superiors in command,” according to information Simonson found about his career.

Who says all the Irish cops were on the East Coast?

The collector had an exhibit showing a patch and three police badges from the Gopher Ordinance Works, a World War II military ordinance production plant that operated from 1943 to 1945 in Rosemount, a Twin Cities suburb.

The patch is round with a yellow background and red legends, “GOPHER/ ORDINANCE WORKS.” The center design is a red bomb about to explode.

The plant was owned by Dupont Chemical and had a private police force. He has two patrolman badges, which are silver-colored eagle-tops with the company logo as the center design. He added a sergeant’s badge at the show. It is also silver-colored but slightly different in shape, an unusual eagle-topped nine-point sunburst.

“The patch is super rare. The badges are out there because there were a lot of them, but they are getting harder to find,” he said. His patrolman shields are numbered.

“They must have had a fairly large police force because there are pretty high badge numbers,” Simonson said.

The 11,000 acre plant had 858 buildings and 3000 employees who produced gunpowder for the artillery on Navy ships. Smokeless powder production required manufacturing protocols different from other ordinance.



Megan Braun represented the Hennepin County Sheriffs Office at the show. She sold department-issue shoulder patches and key chains, including the new autism patch. Braun is the mother of an autistic child and convinced the sheriff to authorize the patch. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Hennepin and Ramsey Counties are the only counties in Minnesota with autism awareness emblems, according to Meghan Braun. The patches feature the multicore puzzle, black legends and borders. All sale proceeds go to the Minnesota Autism Society. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Gopher Ordinance Works closed in October 1945 following the surrender of Japan a month earlier.

Great cause supported The show was a fundraiser for the Explorers, but the Ramsey County Sheriffs Foundation and the Hennepin County Sheriffs Autism Awareness Project sold patches to raise money for autism research. Both agencies have autism patches this year, which is a first.

Ramsey County SO is a combination embroidered and silk-screened county shape on black plastic. The background is the multicore puzzle. There is a black outer border.

The agency’s current large blue and gold five-point star badge is silk-screened in the center. The State Capitol in Saint Paul is depicted on it.

“SHERIFF” appears at the top and “RAMSEY COUNTY” is seen at the bottom in large black embroidered letters.

Ramsey County also had 2021 breast cancer awareness emblems on sale.

The 2022 autism awareness patch was a first for Hennepin County SO, which is headquartered in Minneapolis, according to Megan Braun, an administrative assistant to Sheriff Dave Hutchinson. She represented the agency at the show.

“This cause is near and dear to me because I am the mother of an autistic child. All the proceeds go to the Autism Society of Minnesota, which provides services to autistic children, such as summer camps and get-aways,” Braun said.

Hennepin County went with a fully embroidered version of it’s rounded rectangle patch with a black outer border, autism puzzle piece background, and black legends, “SHERIFF” at the top and “HENNEPIN/ COUNTY” at the bottom.

The center design is a unique version of the agency’s five-point ball-tipped star badge. It is black with sparkling gold Mylar thread legends, “HENNEPIN COUNTY/ SHERIFF’S OFFICE/ STATE OF MINNESOTA,” and a small full color state seal.

“When I saw that Ramsey County was doing an autism patch, I talked to Sheriff Hutchinson about our department also doing one. He was 100 percent supportive. He said, ‘Let’s do it. Get it done.’ Of course, I was very happy with his decision,” Braun said.

The first run of 250 patches sold out almost immediately. As of April 30, 400 patches had been sold. She anticipated a complete sellout of the second run.

Hennepin County also offered their patrol deputy emblem, a Water Patrol rocker, breast cancer awareness patch and a key chain for sale as fundraisers.

“Hennepin and Ramsey are the only two counties in Minnesota doing autism awareness patches,” Braun said.

All patches sold for \$10 each.

Meet K-9 “Archie” June 28, 2019 was a very, very sad day for the tightly-knit Minnesota collector community.

Debra Schott, the wife of longtime collector Gary Schott, was killed in a emergency medical helicopter crash in Brainerd. Ms. Schott, 58, was a paramedic flight nurse for North Air Care. The helicopter went down in fog while trying to land to pick up a patient. The pilot was also killed in the horrific crash.

Ever since her tragic death, her collector husband has kept her legacy of dedication to her profession and willingness to care for critically ill patients alive through a variety of remembrances.

Recently, the Schott family blended Debbie’s love of dogs with a need expressed by his former department, the McLeod County Sheriffs Office, for a second canine. The family donated \$10,000 toward the purchase of the second dog, which came from Slovakia.

“We were just talking, and all of a sudden, it came up, ‘Let’s donate to the canine,’” Schott said. “I used to work for McLeod County, and they always said they wanted another canine.”

Sheriff Tim Langenfeld asked the family to name the new dog, which arrived in Glencoe in early March. They chose “Archie” because it means “truly brave.” Schott said the dog, a combination German shepherd and Belgian malinois, is bold and brave like his wife.

Deputy Nick Draper, the handler, and “Archie” spent almost three months in training.



Gary Schott devoted his display to his family’s recent \$10,000 donation to the McLeod County Sheriffs Office to purchase a second canine for the agency, “Archie.” He showed canine memorabilia from his former department and large photographs of the new dog. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



These are the last Ortonville, Minn. Police patches ever. The agency will disband on July 1. Chief Jason Mork has always created descriptive insignia for his agency. Big Stone County will take over policing the 2000-person community and Mork may become a county deputy. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

They graduated in early June and now are on patrol together.

"We would like to thank the Schott family and the numerous organizations and individuals that donated to the McLeod County K9 program. We truly appreciate all the support," Sheriff Langenfeld said.

Minnesota collecting news ...Bad news from longtime collector, Jason Mork, the chief of police in Ortonville. His department will become defunct on July 1 when the Big Stone County Sheriffs Office takes over law enforcement in the community of 2000 along the Minnesota and South Dakota border.

"Everything is still up in the air right now as to what will happen to me, but I will be the



McLeod County Sheriffs Office K9 "Archie" has his own handsome challenge coin with his badge on one side and the canine emblem on the other. The department's canine emblem is brown with gold legends and depicts "Archie" as the center design. Nice! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

last police officer in Ortonville. Right now, I am working alone," Mork said. He hopes to finish his career as a county deputy sheriff working in the city.

The reason OPD is going defunct? It's not budget. It's the lack of applicants for open positions.

"We can't pay what bigger departments can pay, so no one is applying. They're all looking for higher-paying jobs or bigger departments. It's just the way it is in law enforcement these days," the chief said.

Chief Mork offered all of his agency's three emblem styles for sale at the show, so I grabbed a set because they will soon be obsolete. Even though it is a small city, the chief has created two very attractive, colorful designs. The first patch was a plain gold-on-black semicircle.

...According to veteran Gopher State collector Dick Coon, Spring Lake Park PD adopted a new patch in mid-April. It's a rounded triangle with a black background, gray borders, a black, gray and gray thin blue line flag and the legends, POLICE," at the top in blue and "SPRING LAKE PARK" beneath it in gray.



Retired McLeod County deputy Gary Schott got to meet "Archie," the second canine, soon after it arrived in Minnesota following his trans-Atlantic journey. The Schott family donated \$10,000 to help buy "Archie," which is probably why he was able get so close! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dave "Da Paz" Pasicznyk was finally able to attend a show after battling a serious health condition for a couple years. He was welcomed to "Ramsey County" by Rachel Canning (left) and Kathie Strong (right). Of course, he found a bunch of new patches for his collection. *Gary Schott photograph*

The center design is a black Minnesota outline with gray borders, silver and gold fireworks and the city's red, white and blue water tower.

Coon had no information on collector availability.

...Daryl Weseloh, the chief of police in Minier, Ill., has become a regular at the Minnesota shows. He collects Gopher State patches and has family in the Twin Cities area. He brought a large variety of patches for trade or sale, as well as a few other collectibles.

..."Ramsey County" marked the return of longtime collector Dave "Paz" Pasicznyk, one of the legendary "Four Horsemen" of Minnesota patch collecting. The former Forest Lake police officer has battled serious health issues the last couple years but brought his four-table mobile patch store that hadn't been seen for a long while. He had a good day.

"I'm doing better. It's a struggle, but I just had to come to this show. It's been way too long. It's great to see everybody," he said.

"Paz" and Dave "Gooz" Gislason are the only two "Horsemen" still actively collecting patches. ("Gooz" has also battled serious health issues.) Pat Romano is pretty much out of the hobby, and Jerry Cuffe has transitioned to license plates and challenge coins.

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

Letters To The Editor

Malyna Celebrates 98th Birthday

I look forward to receiving the paper. I thoroughly enjoy it, and it's nice to read about and see photos of collectors I personally know from visiting various patch shows.

The last one I attended was in Saint Louis, Mo. hosted by Frank Selvaggio. Gary Schott from Minnesota was there and had a table. I got to know him. We still chat from time to time.

I liked the article in March-April issue about Maui patches. I have them in my collection. I had a chance to meet the chief of police at a convention in Orlando, Fla. a few years ago. He has since retired. I spoke with him a few weeks before he left. The chief sent me some patches; a very nice man.

I celebrated my 98th birthday on May 23 and am still actively collecting. Right now, I am concentrating on covered bridge and grist mill patches. I have about 70 bridges and 40 grist mills.

I don't know if I will be able to go to the show in Saint Paul on April 30 but will if I feel good and am able to travel. We'll see. At least I'll have my two great-grandsons to help me.

Thank you for publishing the newspaper.

JOHN MALYNA SR. (927 Atlantic Avenue, Winnipeg MB R2X 1L5, Canada)

Collectors Remember Stan Benjamin

The passing of dedicated collector, historian and author (who specialized in Arizona law enforcement agencies), Stan Benjamin, is a great loss. He passed away peacefully at his home in Tucson on April 27. He had experienced various illnesses over the years.

Benjamin was very well known across the United States and in other countries by hundreds of fellow collectors.

After he retired from the Tucson Police Department, Stan and his wife, Connie, traveled across the state and interviewed police chiefs which enabled him to write several department histories.

In addition, Benjamin and Bruce Drewett published four volumes of their books on Arizona police and sheriff patches. The books were especially valuable to Arizona collectors because of the pictures and dates of usage.

My condolences to Connie, their family and all those who knew him well.

MIKE LUCAS (PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211)

Stan Benjamin was one of the guys who helped me with the patch reference books that I did throughout the 1980s. He was a very stand up guy; honest and helpful beyond words.

Stan's death is a great loss to the hobby.

WES MARONEY (2804 Diamond Spur Street, Kingman AZ 89401)

Way Too Many Deaths

I hope I don't get criticized for writing this, and don't take it wrong, but I want you to know I appreciate reading the obituaries you write and publish.

Of course, I don't refer to the deaths, which are all very sad, but reading about the many hobby achievements these collectors accomplished during their lifetimes is very interesting



The National Law Enforcement Museum was a popular venue during the recent Police Memorial Week observance in Washington, D.C. as hundreds of officers and deputies visited the nation’s capital. The museum is dedicated to preserving law enforcement history. *Contributed photograph*

Letters to the Editor ...*Continued*

and educational. Most of these collectors had long law enforcement careers and were active in the hobby for decades. They helped establish the hobby.

Every death of a veteran collector impacts his friends in the hobby. As a friend of Rick Vanderlock, it hurt me to read about his death. He got me started in collecting.

There have been way too many collector deaths this year. I hope you don’t have to write any more obituaries for a long time.

J.D. NICASTRO (111 Broadway, Paterson NJ 07505)

National Peace Officers Memorial

I was honored to attend the National Peace Officers Memorial Service in Washington, D.C. in May for the first time. It was something I'll never forget. It brought home what it means to wear a badge and protect and serve.

The National Law Enforcement Museum is unforgettable. I hope every police officer who ever gets the chance to see it will take the time to visit. The overall experience, exhibits and themes made me proud. It would have been great to bring the family, too. Kids I saw checking out the many exhibits seemed to have a good time.

I was surprised by how much patch and challenge coin collecting was going on almost everywhere there were cops in D.C. I brought a bag of traders with me. They were all gone the first day. I could have traded a lot more with cops from all over.

Another surprise was how many vendor booths had patches, challenge coins and other collectibles for sale.

Count me in if someone ever puts on a badge and patch show in Washington during the memorial weekend. It would be awesome.

MARK BROWN (via email)

Stan “The Man” Benjamin

The hobby mourns another loss. Stan Benjamin of Tucson, Ariz. passed away in his sleep on April 27 at the age of 78. No cause of death was reported. He leaves behind his wife, Connie, two children and several grand- and great-grandchildren.

Stan was considered by many to be the father of Arizona patch collecting and was sometimes referred to as “Stan the Man.” He was responsible for attracting several collectors to the hobby. He was one of the first to document patch designs used over the years by various departments in Arizona. Thanks to his efforts, that history is now preserved for all to enjoy.

During his lifetime, Stan published 15 books on Arizona patches and department histories. He loved to travel to different towns and cities to learn all he could about their local history and policing practices.

I had the good fortune of going on a few of those road trips with Stan. I learned a lot and saw a lot of great historical memorabilia. One of my favorite things was to visit the first jails. Some were abandoned mine shafts. One jail was simply an old oak tree in the center of town. Another jail was a single room with a big metal ring in the center of the floor.

Although Stan was mostly into patches, and I was mostly into badges, we more closely shared our love of history, most noticeably the Tucson Police Department. Pretty much all I know about TPD history, I learned from Stan, both from private conversations and watching the outstanding presentations he would give to groups. I still have a cassette tape he gave me where he interviewed members of the department from the 1930s to the 1950s. It hold some great information regarding badge styles and uniforms of the day.

Stan, along with Connie, always present with him at shows, put together some of the most beautiful collections of patches from around the country. It was not just Arizona that interested them. My favorite groupings of patches contained themes like fruits,



A collection of historic major police badges on display at the National Law Enforcement Museum. This collection is among several displays devoted to stars and shields once worn across the country. The museum can be found in Washington, D.C. near the police memorial. *Contributed photograph*

vegetables or animals. I've always thought patches offer the most varied themes and color combinations for collectors. It was visits to their home that got me started in patches, part time, mind you.

A well kept secret about Stan’s collection that most never knew was its full extent. Collectors only saw what he put out for display in three-ring binders, or what he had hanging on the walls throughout his house. Folks thought he had one of the most complete Arizona patch collections. Fact is he had three of the the most complete sets of Arizona you could ever hope to acquire, not just one. He did not want others to know just how many patches he had tucked away.

He once took me out to a metal shed in his backyard. It was packed top to bottom, back to front with large garden trash bags. When I asked what was in them, he said patches he had gotten from departments after they went to a new design and others he picked up here and there. There must have been thousands of patches in those bags.

Stan was never in the hobby to make money, so those patches never saw the light of day at shows as sale items. He mostly liked to trade. They were his trading stock.

As time passed, Stan withdrew from the hobby and sold off his collection.

Several items from his collection were to be donated to the TPD after Stan’s death. If not for Stan, there would be few historical items for display because at one point in their history, the department sent quite a bit of their history to the city dump.

When Stan found out about it, he closed down the dump and organized a search to retrieve their history, which had been discarded to make room for someone’s office. Space was at a premium and history be damned! He recovered as much as he could and returned it to the PD.

If you are ever in Tucson, pay a visit to the main police headquarters to view some of the history made possible by “Stan the Man.” He will be missed by all.

Thank you, Stan, for serving our country, our community and preserving our history. And, thank you for sharing that knowledge with me over the years. Let us not forget the memories you left for us to cherish.

SKIP SKINNER (4685 North Makohoh Place, Tucson AZ 85749-9279) azbadgeguy@aol.com

Controversial
Colorado Prison
Warden Roy Best

Supporters praised him as a kind man who reformed a turbulent prison. Critics say he meted out cruel and inhumane punishment to inmates. Needless to say, Roy Best’s two decades as Colorado State Penitentiary warden were highly controversial.

By David Urso, Guest Writer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Governor Billy Adams appointed Roy Best as the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility warden in 1932 when was, incidentally, 32 years of age. This made Best the youngest warden in the history of either the state and federal prison systems at that time.

Best, nicknamed the “Cowboy Warden,” wasted no time in earning his reputation as the most notorious warden in Colorado history. A strict disciplinarian, he pioneered the use of painful and degrading punishments inside and outside the prison walls.

Among these was the “Old Gray Mare,” a wooden sawhorse upon which inmates were bent over, tied down and flogged with a leather strap. Although Best used the “Mare” as a means of punishment and deterrence, the device would later play a central role in the controversy that led to his removal.

Homosexual inmates were not spared. Early in Best’s tenure, male prisoners caught in amorous liaisons were forced to wear dresses and push a wheelbarrow filled with rocks as their punishment. A 1935 photograph documents the practice.

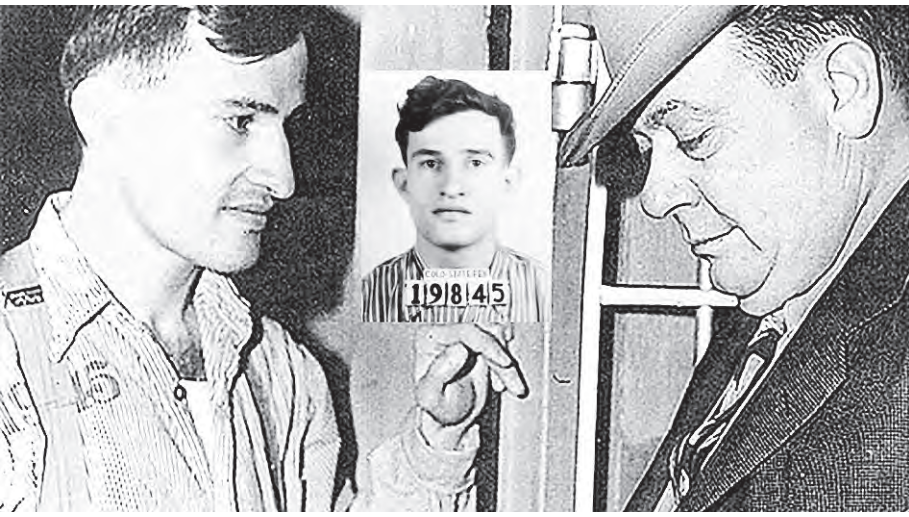
But, Best also pioneered modern rehabilitative practices. He opened ranches, workshops, gardens and other facilities to keep inmates busy, provide them with skills to earn a living upon release and reduce the prison’s operating costs.

Best separated female prisoners from dangerous males, implemented a dental care program and took young and developmentally disabled inmates, like Joe Arridy, under his wing.

Arridy was a man who was falsely convicted and executed for the 1936 rape of Dorothy Drain, a 15-year-old girl, in Pueblo. He was manipulated by the police to make a false



Roy Best’s personal badge as warden of the Colorado State Penitentiary features the state seal as the center design and his name on a panel at the top. It is chrome-colored with black incuse lettering, “ROY BEST/ WARDEN/ COLO. STATE PENITENTIARY.” *David Urso photograph*



(Top) Inmate Joe Arridy (left) and Warden Roy Best (right) at the Colorado State Penitentiary. The severely mentally challenged Arridy was wrongly arrested, convicted and executed. (Bottom) Warden Roy Best punished homosexual prisoners by forcing them to wear dresses. *David Urso Collection*

confession due to his mental incapacity. Arridy was severely mentally disabled. He was 23 years old when he executed.

Best's defenders preferred to focus on these rehabilitative efforts. "Many were led to believe that [Best] was unduly harsh and inhumane," wrote *The Steamboat Pilot newspaper* upon his death. "But for those who knew him...he was an efficient operator of an institution that was difficult to handle."

A prison break in 1947 was among the difficulties that confronted Best during his controversial tenure. On December 30, 12 inmates escaped Best's prison in the middle of a snowstorm just before New Year's Eve. The warden organized a search party and successfully captured or killed all of the escapees with most of the survivors suffering some degree of frostbite.

Hollywood wasted no time capitalizing on the dramatic events. Just months later, director Crane Wilbur, actors Scott Brady, Jeff Corey and Whit Bissell and a film crew arrived at Best's prison gates to recreate the escape for the silver screen. The result was *Canon City*, a noir film shot almost entirely on location and in the Royal Gorge area.

Best played himself in the film. Throughout the movie, he can be seen inspecting the prison, explaining his duties and coordinating the search results, all while wearing his Stetson with his two Dobermans, Chris and Ike, by his side. The *New York Times* effusively praised the warden's acting skills, writing that his performance evoked "a naturalness few actors could stimulate."

By the early 1950s, Best's floggings had reached the public eye and spurred significant backlash. In response, Governor Daniel J. Thornton launched an investigation and called for Best's removal.

A federal indictment followed, and Best faced a trial for violating his prisoners' constitutional rights, among other charges.

Although the jury ultimately acquitted Best, the attention spurred a separate civil service inquest which found that he had mixed his personal finances with those of the prison. He received a two-year suspension of his two decades long wardenship.

Best died of a heart attack on May 27, 1954, just three days short of the lifting of his suspension. He was buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Canon City just two miles from the prison.

Best's life remains controversial.

Supporters remember him as a kindly man who took charge of the penitentiary when it was in a state of chaos. "When prisoners were whipped," they wrote, "he did not ask someone else to do it. He did the job himself."

Others criticize his brutal floggings of prisoners, humiliation of homosexuals, financial misdeeds and relentless self-promotion.

Regardless, Roy Best remains inextricably linked with the culture of prisons and jails in the United States. Gardens and employment training remain in place to encourage good behavior and prepare inmates for the outside world. The film, *Canon City*, also remains a cult classic. And, each year, thousands of visitors learn from his complicated legacy at the Colorado Prison Museum and elsewhere.

"Because of the many attacks against him," read Best's obituary, "many were led to believe he was unduly harsh and inhumane." "But for those who knew him, the obituary continued, "they had a far different opinion."

DAVID URSO (6015 Fence Post Drive, Colorado Springs CO 80919)

Saskatoon Prohibits Patch The Saskatoon, Sask. Police Board, which oversees the city police service, has concluded the thin blue line flag has been "co-opted" by extremist groups for use in their own protests or movements and recommended it be prohibited from display on police uniforms. Provincial regulations allow chiefs of police to authorize officers to wear only symbols of their heritage or the Saskatchewan or Canadian flag. The board recently issued a report that the regulations do not allow display of thin blue line flags and forwarded it to chief of police.

Milwaukee Police Emblems The Milwaukee, Wisc. first issued and began wearing a shoulder emblem in 1955. It was authorized by Chief John Polcyn. The original patch was blue shield with yellow lettering. It was worn for 30 years until 1985 when Chief Robert Ziarnik replaced it with a shield shape featuring symbols appropriate to the city. The current patch was adopted by Chief Edward Flynn in 2014. Its a shield with a four-part center design enclosed inside a gear-like ring. Traffic officers have worn a generic round "Police Traffic" winged wheel since the 1930s.



Marvin Roberts wore this badge during his two terms as the sheriff of Lincoln County, Okla. He was elected in 1938 and 1940 after losing two previous elections. Roberts also served as the chief of police in Davenport, Prague and Tecumseh, as well as on Chandler PD. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*

Lincoln County Oklahoma Lawman Marvin Roberts

By Ronnie Jackson, Staff Writer

DAVENPORT, Okla. – The Town of Davenport, Okla. had employed a city marshal as far back as 1907, but since June 1927, the four-member city council had been deadlocked on the question of appointing a new officer to enforce the law.

While the town was without any lawman, the doors of the town jail stood ajar, bats and owls roosted unmolested and spiders built their homes and rested in peace.

A group of concerned citizens felt that they were at the mercy of thieves and thugs without police protection and decided to contact the governor's office, seeking an investigation into the council. After receiving the complaint, the governor's office turned it over to the attorney general.

Attorney General Edwin Dabney announced his office would meet with the concerned citizens of Davenport and bring a resolution to the problem. In January 1928, Attorney General Investigator W.O. Gordon traveled to Davenport to investigate the complaint.

Assistant Attorney General P.K. Morrill met with the delegation on January 31. Two of the four city councilmen attended the meeting. Morrill told the delegation the town was governed by conflicting statutes. The statute declared that the city council "may" appoint a marshal, instead of "must" appoint a marshal. Morrill told the citizens he would brief the case and work toward some relief.

It took the creation of a new ward and the election of a fifth city councilman in May 1928 to end a ten-month long stalemate over the appointment of a peace officer. After the fifth vote was cast, Otto Durham was named chief of police. Marvin Roberts was named night deputy.

Roberts was born on February 9, 1896 in the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. In June 1917, he signed up for the military draft during World War I. His registration card indicated that he was self-employed as a farmer in Stroud in Lincoln County.

In July 1917, Roberts was drafted into the Army and ordered to report for training at Camp Travis in Texas. He was later deployed to France as a member of Company F of the 111th Engineers.

In the 1920 United States Census, Roberts was shown living in South Fox in Lincoln County and working as a laborer. In July of that year, he married his wife, Leila, and lived in Davenport. Eight years later, Roberts began his law enforcement career with the Davenport Police Department.

It did not take long for Roberts to move up in the department. By April 1929, he had



Sheriff Marvin Roberts (center) is shown at the Lincoln County Jail. (The other men are not identified.) Roberts served as an Oklahoma lawman for four decades, as well as serving in the Army during World War I and the Navy in World War II. He died in 1987 at age 91. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*



Illegal stills were a problem for Oklahoma lawmen during Prohibition (1920 to 1933) and beyond. Lawmen busted this one in Lincoln County with the help of Sheriff Marvin Roberts (center) and Prohibition agents like Wylie Linn. Roberts was involved in preventing Linn’s murder. *Ronnie Jackson Collection*

Ronnie Jackson ...Continued

taken over as chief. Soon after he was appointed chief, he proved he was worthy of the job. On April 22, 1929, he captured escaped Tennessee State Penitentiary fugitive F.B. Wilson and prevented the murder of a former Prohibition officer at the same time.

A month earlier, officials conducting a headcount at the prison discovered that Wilson was missing. Wilson and fellow yegg, H.B. Bullock, had been convicted and sentenced to 75 years attempting to crack a safe with explosives. During the time Wilson was on the lamb, he had made his way to Davenport where he had family.

A passenger bus was due to arrive in Davenport on April 20. One of the passengers was Wylie Lynn, a former Prohibition officer.

Fifteen minutes prior to the bus’s arrival, Chief Roberts laid his hand on the shoulder of a stranger and placed him under arrest. The stranger raised his hands, smiled grimly and said, “All right, Chief, I’ll go. You’d better take my guns.” Chief Roberts removed two .45 caliber handguns from the stranger. The stranger was identified as F.B. Wilson.

Wilson was an alias used by William “Young Bill” Matthew Tilghman, the son of legendary Oklahoma lawman William “Old Bill” Tilghman. “Young Bill” said he took the name F.B. Wilson to protect his family, which was prominent in business circles in Oklahoma City.

On November 1, 1924, “Old Bill” Tilghman was serving as the city marshal in Cromwell, Okla. when he was shot and killed by Prohibition Officer Lynn. Marshal Tilghman had arrested Officer Lynn and was taking him to the city jail. The two had an animus toward each other. Both believed the other to be corrupt.

On this occasion, Officer Lynn was in Cromwell to serve a warrant on suspected bootleggers. He was said to have unlawfully discharged his weapon in front of Murphy’s Dance Hall, giving Marshal Tilghman a reason to arrest him.

Believing he had completely disarmed Officer Lynn, Marshal Tilghman had missed a third handgun that Officer Lynn had concealed. He pulled the weapon and shot and killed Marshal Tilghman. He claimed self-defense and was later acquitted of the killing.

Wilson asked Chief Roberts why he had stopped him. Chief Roberts told Wilson that he had been spotted by town folks. The chief asked Wilson why he was in town. Wilson told him that he was waiting for Lynn to arrive on the bus. Wilson had been told that Lynn was looking for him. Wilson had traveled to Davenport to kill Lynn to avenge his father’s death. Young Tilghman was later returned to the Tennessee State Prison from where he had escaped.

As the new decade of the 1930s began, Roberts was still the chief in Davenport. On February 17, he was making his rounds when he saw two men attempting to break into a dry goods store. As Chief Roberts questioned the two, one of them attacked him with a steel bar, knocking him to the ground. As Chief Roberts regained his feet, he feared being hit again, so he fired his weapon, killing the man. The second man escaped in an automobile.

The dead man was later identified as Turner Barnes. He had been released from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary only a week earlier after serving a five-year sentence for burglary.

Chief Roberts left Davenport to take a position with the Lincoln County Sheriffs Department. On December 11, 1930, Sheriff-elect Lew Wallace announced that he would hire Roberts as a field deputy in his new administration beginning in January 1931.

Deputy Roberts ran as the Republican candidate for sheriff of Lincoln County in 1934 and again in 1936. He lost both elections.

In November 1938, Deputy Roberts beat incumbent Sheriff Buck Gillaspy and served his first two-year term. In 1940, he was re-elected and began serving his second term in January 1941.

During Sheriff Roberts’s second term, he found himself involved in the high-profile murder of 18-year-old Billie Grayson, whose nude body was found on August 18, 1941, stretched across a grave in the Oak Park Cemetery a mile and a half north of Chandler. Her neck had been broken, and there were other signs of trauma to her body.

The night before, Grayson and Helen Grindstaff were walking along Route 66, between Warwick and Wellston, when a vehicle stopped. The male driver told the two girls they should not be walking on the highway at night. He told them to get in the car with him. The girls got into the vehicle, thinking it was the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

The driver eventually stopped the car near the home of Grindstaff. At that time, Grayson and Grindstaff began to get out. However, the driver grabbed Grayson and pulled her back into the car. He sped away. Grindstaff was able to escape, chasing after the vehicle as it drove away.

Grindstaff was able to give Sheriff Roberts a description of the driver. In September, an arrest warrant was issued for Courtney Douglass Orrell. He was later arrested in Ohio and transported back to Oklahoma to stand trial. On June 12, 1942, Orrell was convicted of the murder and sentenced to life in prison.

After serving two terms as sheriff of Lincoln County, Roberts was defeated for re-election in July 1942 by former deputy Andrew Orr. He served out the remainder of his second term.

Roberts joined the Navy during World War II and was assigned to the Shore Patrol at the Naval Training Center in Norman, Okla.

By August 23, 1945, Roberts was out of the Navy and became the chief of police in Prague, Okla.

On the night of August 22, Chief Roberts and Night Marshal John Wamostek arrested J.A. Young and his son, Virgil, for public drunkenness. After arriving at the city jail, Virgil Young attacked Marshal Wamostek and disarmed him. Young fired one shot, hitting Marshal Wamostek in the arm and four more shots that struck Chief Roberts in the head, shoulder and hand. Despite being shot multiple times, Chief Roberts returned fire, hitting J.A. Young in the arm, side, shoulder and thigh.

Chief Roberts was rushed to Oklahoma City where he was hospitalized in serious condition. He eventually recovered but lost sight in his right eye. He resumed his duties in February 1946.

Virgil Young was charged with two counts of assault with intent to kill for shooting Chief Roberts and Marshal Wamostek. In September 1945, Young pled guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in prison on each count.

In 1946, Chief Roberts took another shot as the Republican candidate for sheriff of Lincoln County. However, he was the runner-up to Abbie Moore in the July primary.

Roberts was appointed to the position of chief of police for the City of Tecumseh in May 1955 and served until taking a position with the Chandler Police Department in August 1957.

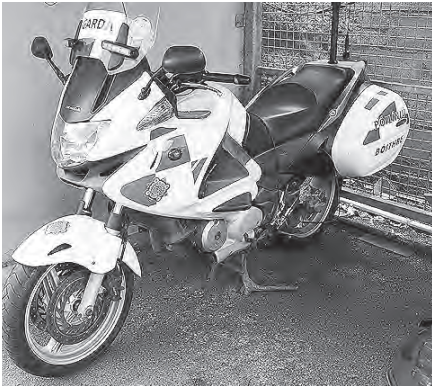
Roberts returned to his hometown of Davenport in July 1963 to take the position of night policeman. In September, he was appointed as constable of the 10th District of Lincoln County.

After a law enforcement career that stretched over three decades, Roberts passed away at the age of 91 on April 1, 1987. He is buried in his hometown of Davenport.

RONNIE JACKSON (5350 West Bell Road-Ste. C122-336, Glendale AZ 85308)

Fall River Badges Veteran collector Jim Bradford recently discovered an 1893 local newspaper article mentioning the cost of the then-new Fall River, Mass. police badges. “The city marshal’s badge is valued at \$110, assistant marshal \$100, four captains \$65 each, four captains \$60 each and five inspectors \$6 each,” the *Fall River Daily Herald* reported.

Oldest Police Agencies According to the United States Department of Justice, the three oldest federal law enforcement agencies are the United States Marshals Service, 1789; the United States Park Police, 1791 and the United States Mint Police, 1792. The four oldest major city agencies are Philadelphia, 1751; Richmond, Va., 1807; Boston, 1838 and New York City, 1845.



(Left) Garda Siochana Officer David Harney (left) and Eric Wollman (right) with one of the agency’s brightly-marked Road Policing (highway patrol) cars. It’s white with blue and gold markings. (Right) A Honda motorcycle used for traffic enforcement by the Garda. It is yellow and blue. *Eric Wollman photographs*

New York Minute

By Eric Wollman, Senior Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – An Garda Siochana, meaning “the guardian of the peace,” more commonly referred to as the Gardai, or “the guards,” is the national police service of the Republic of Ireland.

I recently took a trip to the Emerald Island to visit family and, through my membership in the International Police Association, I had contact with the officers at the Tullamore Station House.

Tullamore is a small town about one hour west of Dublin on the eastern side of the republic.

As everyone I met during my holiday there, the cops were friendly and proud to show off their station and equipment.

The Gardai are mainly unarmed but do wear an equipment belt with handcuffs, radio and the other usual equipment.

Radio service is centrally located in Dublin but Tullamore station has its own radio room, too.

The latest numbers I found show that there are nearly 15,000 Guardi members nationwide. While I was in the country, the service was about to start a recruitment drive.

The service is the main law enforcement agency at the local and national level.

Their vehicle fleet seemed to be a mix of Fords and Hyundais. Roads in Ireland can be fairly narrow, so supersized American cars are not seen.

Some cars are designated Garda Roads Policing, their version of a highway patrol. They also employ Honda motorcycles for traffic enforcement.

One of the photos features me and Dave Harney, an officer from the Tullamore station, who towers over me; he’s about six-foot-five, I guess.

Gardai often come to New York City for the annual Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, so I hope to see some of these lads next year.

Stay safe, wear your vest and keep reading the New York Minute.
ERIC WOLLMAN (2209 East 28 Street, Brooklyn NY 11229) stnonradio@yahoo.com



A Garda Siochana patrol wagon. It is white with blue and gold markings, including the agency’s badge in the upper right. The markings include the force’s Internet address and their toll-free telephone number. Most of the Garda’s patrol vehicles are either Fords or Hyundais. *Eric Wollman photograph*



California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society

Mike Bondarenko, Editor

CLEHS News Updates

CLEHS Museum On The Road After a two-year COVID-19 hiatus, the California Police Museum is back on the road.

The first exhibition was at the Lompoc Police Department on May 18 for a local community event. This event was designed to enhance relations between the community and law enforcement.

It was a wonderful event. Police Chief Joe Mariani and Captain Kevin Martin were wonderful hosts and most appreciative of our participation.

My wife, Crystal, and I served as docents for the 448 visitors who came through the museum.

Overall, it was a very nice event in a community that appreciates their public safety personnel.

The annual San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Family Day (previously Sheriff's Day at the Ranch) will be September 10 at the Madonna Inn Meadows in San Luis Obispo. This annual event draws a huge crowd. Typically, we see over 800 visitors through the museum.

Assistance is needed for this event, which is generally much cooler weather-wise than the remainder of California, making for an enjoyable presentation.

For the second time ever, the California Police Museum will be on display in Ripon during the 32nd annual public safety vehicle show and the adjoining collectors' show on October 1.

The logistics for transportation are much more challenging than for the local events near San Luis Obispo where the trailer lives, but we are excited about this opportunity. Of course, volunteers will be needed in Ripon to help make this showing a big success.

One way to measure the success is to count the number of visitors through the museum. CLEHS has counted visitors since the first viewing on September 9, 2007. We have seen 28,094 visitors, which is rather remarkable for a traveling display.

The highest daily visitation was at the California State Fair in Sacramento on July 19, 2012 with 1280 visitors. Of course, it was a lot of work for the docents, but Brian Smith, Russ Snow, Mike DeVilbiss and Gary Hoving covered the event with ease.

There are two primary ways to help us share rich law enforcement history through the California Police Museum: volunteer or donate. Volunteering is a great deal of fun and an excellent way to help the historical society. The other way to help is through your donations to CLEHS, which helps us on the road.

We hope to see you soon on the road with the California Police Museum.

Please make donations through our Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

CLEHS show sold out With only a couple weeks until the annual CLEHS Police Memorabilia Collectors' Show on Saturday, July 16 in San Luis Obispo, the show is now sold out, according to Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith.

The show will take place from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 800 Grand Avenue.

Admission is free but donations to CLEHS are gratefully appreciated.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Please see the CLEHS Web site or the Friends of the CLEHS Facebook page for late show updates.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

National Police Collectors Show The 2022 National Police Collectors Show was held in mid-June at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The city is located in the Great Smoky Mountains. The nearest commercial airport is in Knoxville.

The show hosts did a great job of coordinating a world-class event with longer hours



Gary and Crystal Hoving served as docents for the post-pandemic return of the California Police Museum in Lompoc on May 18. The outstanding museum will be back on the road on September 10 for an SLO County Sheriffs Family Day and at the October 1 Ripon show. *Gary Hoving photograph*

than is typical.

Trading seemed brisk among the many collectors with the greatest interest in the southern states.

The displays were outstanding. California collectors Gary Teragawa and Peter Harris won display awards. But, there was a noticeable absence of California collectors at the event.

Next year, the National Show will be in San Bernardino. It will be sponsored by Dennis Houser and the San Bernardino Police Historical Society. It will be held at the National Orange Show Events Center.

Sadly, there were no bidders for the 2024 show, so it will be interesting to see how that plays out.

On a personal note, I was able to spend a little time with my cousin, Dale White, who retired from San Bernardino County and now lives in Tennessee. He worked for the county marshal's office prior to their consolidation with the sheriff's department.

Overall, the show and surrounding activities made for a great vacation. I only wish we had been better represented.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show The 2022 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Saturday, October 1 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth Street, Ripon, Calif.

The hosts are Mike McCarthy, Scott Welch and Gary Hoving.

This show is a fundraiser for the CLEHS, Concerns of Police Survivors and the Ripon Volunteers In Police Service. It will be sponsored by the CLEHS.



The California Police Museum was finally back on the road, post-pandemic, on May 18 for a well-attended annual police-community event sponsored by the Lompoc Police Department. President Gary Hoving reported the mobile museum welcomed 448 visitors during the day. *Gary Hoving photograph*



CLEHS President Gary Hoving promoted the organization at his 2022 National Police Collectors Show table in Gatlinburg, Tenn. It was pointed out that CLEHS membership is open to anyone anywhere interested in California law enforcement history. (PCNEWS is free with membership!) *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Admission is free.

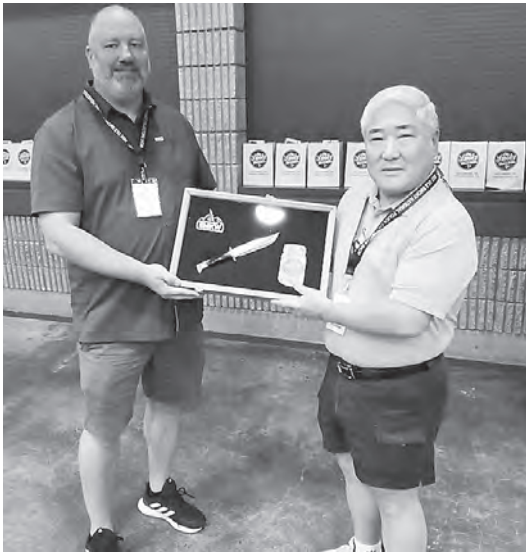
Awards will be presented for the best patch, badge, historical, educational and Best of Show exhibits.

Fifty-five eight foot-by-36 inches tables are available for \$40 each. Early reservations are recommended. This show is always a sellout.

To make a table reservation and pay online, go the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

To make a table reservation and pay by check, please contact Gary Hoving, President, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. His telephone number is (805) 441-4936.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith



National Police Collectors Show co-host Jim Clark (left) presented the “Best Badge Display” award to longtime California collector Gary Teragawa (right). Teragawa, who retired as a CHP lieutenant, featured his massive CHP and San Francisco collections. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Historic California Collections Win Awards At National Show

California Law Enforcement Historical Society members won two of the five display contest awards at the 2022 National Police Collectors Show in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Gary Teragawa won “Best Badge Display” for his phenomenal collections from the California Highway Patrol, the California State Police and the San Francisco Police Department. In all, there were 28 freestanding side-by-side frames of rare badges, patches, photographs and documents. It was an awesome presentation.

The display contest judges praised Teragawa’s amazing collection because each item is labeled and identified. “It’s an education, not a collection,” said one. “He has pictures of many officers wearing the badges he shows. What is better documentation than that?”

Teragawa has badges once worn by many well-known CHP and SFPD officers, such as CHP Commissioner Dwight Helmick, who was among the most progressive managers in the agency’s long history.

He also featured a very impressive display devoted to the long defunct California State Police, which protected state government facilities and officials, including the governor. Ironically, Teragawa was a member of the CSP when the agency was merged into the CHP in 1995. He became a CHP lieutenant.

“All this represents a lot of years of collecting, searching and documenting badges, patches and photographs,” Teragawa said.

A display was devoted to documented SFPD badges with pictures of the officers or supervisors who wore them. It includes a miniature 1918 World War I star in sterling silver.

Teragawa relocated to Georgia from California a few years ago and has since become a fixture at East Coast shows.

“Best Specialty Display” went to former LAPD sergeant Peter Harris for his world-class Los Angeles Police Department collection. He brought badges, patches, uniforms, headgear, weapons, old equipment, photographs and much more. The collection was beautifully presented on multiple tables with custom table covers and flags.

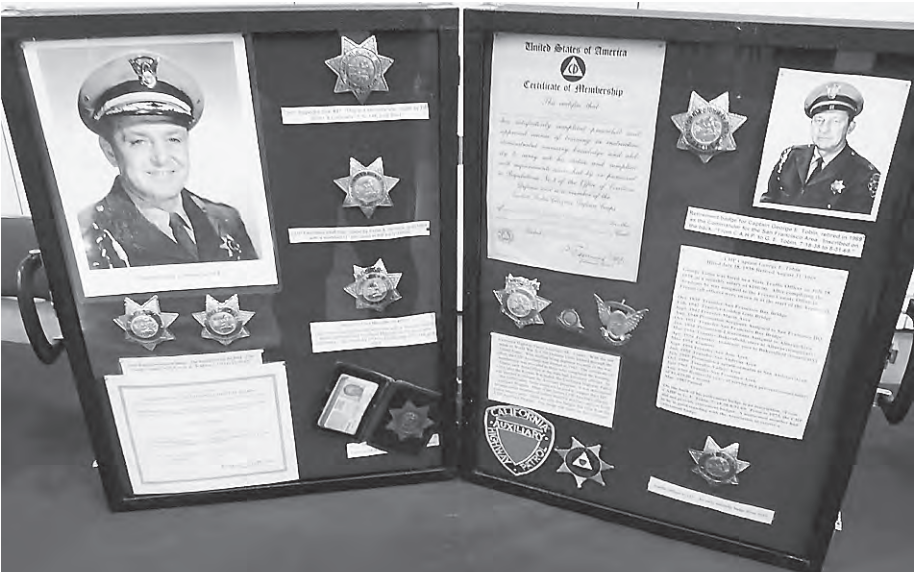
“I am so humbled by the decision of the judges to award my LAPD historical display as ‘Best Specialty Display’ at the show. The competition was so fierce with such awesome displays of some fantastic collections that I was surprised I received more than an honorable mention,” Harris said.

Harris spent 31 years with the LAPD from 1991 to 2021. He retired with the rank of sergeant and has since relocated from Southern California to Loudon, Tenn. near Knoxville.

“I’ve always been interested in police history. I think of myself as an amateur historian. I’m always reading and learning something new about our past,” he said.

Harris heard about the “Porky” show and decided to attend for the first time in 2006. He has been collecting ever since.

“I wanted to see what this hobby is all about. I was very impressed by the displays and the knowledgeable people. I started collecting LAPD patches, but it wasn’t long before I



Donald A. Watkins (upper left) was a California Highway Patrol inspector. Gary Teragawa has a great picture of him in uniform, as well as two of his retirement badges. On the right are badges and items from Captain George T. Tobin, as well as CHP Auxiliary pieces. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The California State Police was the oldest state law enforcement agency when it merged with the Highway Patrol in 1995. It was founded in 1887 to protect state facilities, including the State Capitol, and high-ranking state officials, such as the governor. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Gary Teragawa has one of the most complete San Francisco police collections. This segment shows documented badges worn by SFPD officers, as well as other badges and a few patches. There are old Police Band and Police Revolver Club emblems. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



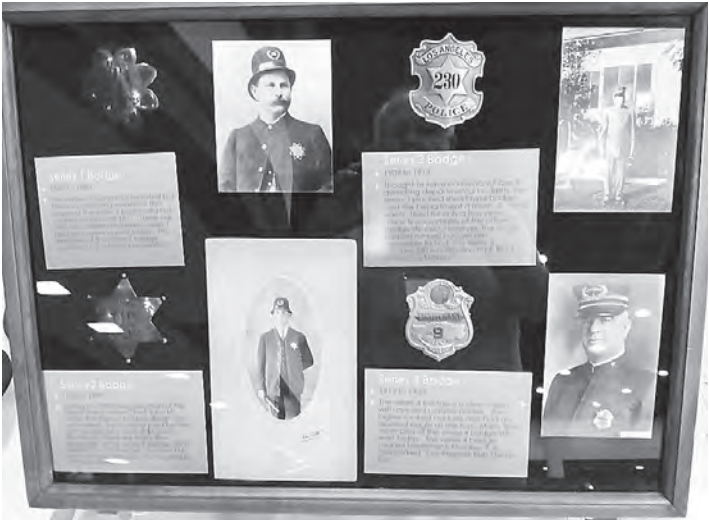
A rank set of California Highway Patrol surrounds a photo of Dwight Helmick, who served as the CHP commissioner from 1995 to 2004 when he was ousted by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The badges on the right were worn by high-ranking CHP officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



An exhibit devoted to San Francisco police reserves and auxiliary police badges, patches and photos. The upper right corner of the left case shows a very old reserve patch and badge, probably first issues. The patches along the bottom come from reserve companies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Peter Harris (right) accepts the “Best Specialty Display” award from co-host Jim Clark at the 2022 National Police Collectors Show on June 19. The display contest judges honored the CLEHS member for his fine Los Angeles Police Department collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Only top flight Los Angeles police collectors have achieved collections of all six badge styles the department has worn beginning in 1869 when Series One was introduced. Peter Harris is one of them. He showed an example of each badge; here Series One to Series Four. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Chester A. Welsh was a Los Angeles police officer from 1927 to 1951. Peter Harris assembled this career collection featuring his photo, ID cards, weapon, handgun and three badges. Welsh achieved the rank of captain. He was able to acquire his two captain badges as shown. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Badges have a certain mystique for me. They represent history and authority. Anyone can get a patch, but a badge has to be earned. That’s what makes it so special,” he said. Harris’s collection features a wide variety of LAPD badges from all eras, ranks and services.

“We refer to our badges as being in a series from Series One to Series Six. Right now, we are wearing Series Six. Each style has been different with interesting, often subtle variations in each series,” he said.

In addition to cloth and metal insignia, Harris collects all things LAPD. Each piece in his outstanding collection documents department history, which is his goal.

Harris has progressed to LAPD department-issue weapons and devoted a segment of his award-winning display to them. He showed a shotgun stamped “LAPD,” as well as three handguns, although handguns are not stamped as department issues.

He exhibited three generations of LAPD handguns. The first was a Smith and Wesson Model 15 .38 Special issued to Patrolman James Carrick in the 1970s. The display shows Officer Carrick’s badge, retirement identification card and silver-colored sharpshooter medal.

Next came a Smith and Wesson Model 67 .38 Special with a metal speed loader, badge and marksman medal. It was issued in the late 1970s.

“There’s a story behind the metal speed loader. I want one to display with the weapon but couldn’t find one. I did some research and found an LAPD officer designed them. I was able to get one through his family. It might be the only one outside the department that has survived,” Harris said.

The last handgun was Harris’ personal Beretta Model 92-FS. It is displayed with his sergeant’s badge, identification card and a sharpshooter medal. The department issued Berettas from 1989 to 2004.

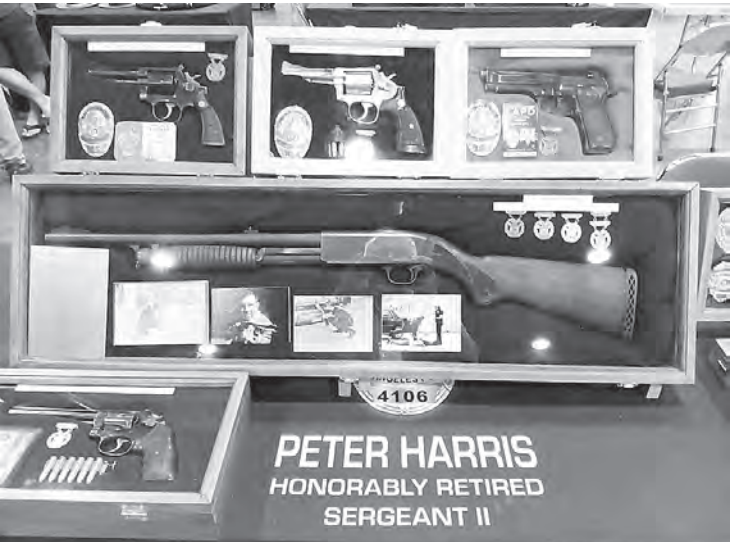
Harris featured a career collection from Captain Chester A. Welsh, who joined the department as a patrolman in 1927 and rose through the ranks to captain. He retired in 1951. The display shows his photograph, business cards, ID cards, handcuffs, weapon and



Peter Harris’s Series Five and Series Six badges are shown with photos of officers wearing them. Series Five was worn from 1923 to 1940. Series Six was introduced in 1940 and is still being worn. It is arguably the most coveted badge among law enforcement collectors. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Homer F. Broome was the first African-American captain on the Los Angeles Police Department. He was appointed by Chief of Police Edward Davis (1969 to 1978). He joined the department in 1954, made captain in 1971 and commander in 1975. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A beautifully-displayed collection of Los Angeles Police Department weapons by retired Sergeant II Peter Harris. It includes a department-issue shotgun and three handguns, two Smith and Wessons and a Beretta. The Beretta Model 92 FS was his personal duty weapon. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Peter Harris has an outstanding collection devoted to the Los Angeles Police Reserves. It includes badges, identification cards and photos. The City of Angles has one of the nation’s largest and most active reserve officer forces. See the diamond-shaped badge? *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

three badges.

Another career display chronicles Homer F. Broome, LAPD’s first African-American captain and commander. He has a photograph of Commander Broome in uniform, his breast and hat badges and a copy of the official announcement of his promotion by Chief of Police Edward M. Davis, who held the office from 1969 to 1978 and approved the historic promotion.

Harris devoted a display to the Los Angeles Reserve Police. It featured eight badges in mostly different styles and pictures, ID cards and a Reserve patch.

It was a strong testament to their museum-quality historically-significant California collections that Teragawa and Harris won awards at a show thousands of miles away from the Golden State. It proved, once again, that CLEHS members are truly dedicated to preserving Golden State law enforcement history.

Congratulations, Gary and Peter, for winning and sharing your California collections with collectors from across the country!

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

Wide Spot In The Road

After gold was discovered on the American River in January 1848, prospectors trying to strike it rich arrived in the area later known as Paradise.

The original inhabitants of the area were the Maidu Indians. They had lived there for many years. Since the land had tall trees and the climate was much cooler than the valley floor below, the Indians made the ridge their summer and fall home.

Paradise was known by many names after the discovery of gold, including Leonard’s Mill, Poverty Ridge, Pair O’ Dice and Paradise. The original name was Dogtown.

While the prospectors were moving into the area, Mrs. Bassett walked in without a horse or wagon and set up her tent. All she had was her three dogs, and the will to give prospecting a try. She did not do well at her attempt to find the elusive gold and had to try something else to make a go of it. It turned out to be a blessing when her two female dogs had pups and multiplied.

Mrs. Bassett became the go-to person for a dog for companionship and security. Since so many dogs were found in the streets and in the businesses, a post office was established for Dogtown as it was called, in 1857.

It was April 12, 1859 when Ira Weatherbee was in the West Branch of the Feather River Canyon looking for gold. And, boy, did he find it! It was a single nugget that weighed 54 pounds. The discovery site was near the town of Magalia just outside Paradise.

Back in 1859, gold was \$18.93 per ounce, giving the nugget a value of \$16,355.52. Today, gold is valued at \$1949.20 an ounce. That means the Dogtown nugget would be worth \$1,684,188.80 at today’s prices! Shortly after its discovery, the Dogtown Nugget was taken to the nearby town of Oroville and melted down into ingots.

With many families and businesses moving into the area, the Butte County Railroad Line was extended into the region in 1904. The arrival of the railroad made it so much easier for the lumber mills, mines and the prune, pear and apple farms to get their goods out to more consumers throughout California.

The first time I went to Paradise was in 1978, it was so refreshing to find a small town where the people were so warm, friendly and welcoming, and there were no fast-food restaurants or traffic lights. Paradise! The name itself conjures up visions of some sort of Utopia.

Paradise and the surrounding area must have been thought of as the best place to live. But, on the morning of November 8, 2018, Paradise was about to turn into Hell.

The morning was the same old routine for children going to school, businesses opening up for the day, while others started their morning commute to work. Little did they know what was coming their way.

At about 5:30 that morning, the main power company in California, Pacific Gas and Electric, had an electrical line fall onto dry brush due to high winds, starting what was to become known as the Camp Fire.

The community of Pulga is where the fire started. It is about ten miles as the crow flies northeast of Paradise. By 6:30 when the fire was reported, no one in Paradise was concerned because of the distance involved and the rough terrain between Pulga and Paradise.

But, because of the high winds and rough terrain between the two communities, responding firefighters could not get the fire under control. It swept through the entire town in a very short time. “The Ridge,” as the locals referred to it, had been destroyed. The fire moved on to Paradise.

When the fire was finally put out, 17 days after it started, 18,000 structures were destroyed (of which 9000 were homes), 52,000 people were evacuated, 150,000 acres were burned and 85 people lost their lives. This made the Camp Fire the single deadliest wildfire in the last 100 years.

To put the area destroyed by this fire in perspective, 150,000 acres is the size of the city of Chicago or three-quarters the size of New York City.

I later learned that 18 of the 38 Paradise Police Department employees lost their homes in the fire, including the chief. I cannot imagine the sickening feeling, knowing your house and all its contents are burning while you are working that close to home.

When the fire was at its worst, there were about 29 fire stations throughout Northern California that sent men and equipment to help fight it. Eleven county sheriff’s departments and at least 25 police departments sent officers and equipment to the fire area to help



When Mike DeVilbiss saw the Paradise Police Department for the first time, he thought it was new after the devastating Camp Fire in 2018. It turned out he was wrong. Although almost everything around it was destroyed, the building somehow survived the conflagration. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



(Left) Paradise police wear a seven-point star. It’s gold tone with the state seal. The number appears on the bottom star point. (Right) Uniformed officers wear a shield-shaped shoulder patch with a large seven-point star. It shows a snowcapped mountain with a halo over it. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

Paradise PD. Now that is some outstanding lateral agency support!

Many residents were forced to take up residency in other areas of the county and throughout the state. It has been about three and a half years since the fire. The population of Paradise before the fire was approximately 27,000. Today, the population is coming back slowly. It is now about 7000.

As I was approaching Paradise, I noticed numerous construction trucks on the road, obviously involved in the rebuilding process. I started looking for the ever-present city limits sign. I was greeted by a sign that read, “PARADISE REBUILDING THE RIDGE.”

On both sides of the road were charred tree trunks and bare ground. Well, not completely bare. Since it has been almost four years since Paradise endured the Camp Fire, as a kind of hope for the future, the ground had a green covering of young plants, grass and a few small young trees.

Insurance companies are probably still dealing with the thousands of claims submitted.

Paradise is located in the lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Butte County about 170 miles northeast of San Francisco, which relates to about a two hour and 45-minute drive.

I have to relate one of my observations over the years. If you ask a native of back East how far away a city is, they will reply, it is about 170 miles away. If you ask a native westerner the same question, they will say it is only about a three-hour drive. I guess you can be in three or four states back East on a three-hour drive, while in the West you can drive all day and be in the same state.

Paradise is roughly in the middle of the state, between Reno, Nev. and the Pacific Ocean. Chico is the nearest large city close to Paradise, about 12 miles to the west.

When I arrived at the Paradise Police Department, I was surprised to see a fairly new building standing there with so much bare ground around it. I assumed the building had been built after the Camp Fire. I was surprised to learn the building had survived it.

I was warmly welcomed by Chief Eric Reinbold. He led me to his office and made me feel right at home.

I learned the department was formed in 1980, one year after the city was incorporated. Currently, there are 16 officers covering an area of 19 square miles with a budget of approximately \$5,200,000. The department currently has a person in the academy who will be starting in June.

Sometime in the near future, the officers will be working a three days on with three days off, then a four days on with four days off schedule, commonly known as the three twelve, four twelve schedule.

There are currently two lieutenants, four patrol sergeants and one detective, who is interviewing for sergeant. Support staff includes an administrative secretary, a support supervisor who helps with records and dispatching, about 112 volunteers, an evidence tech (who also can transport prisoners) and a community service officer, who is non-sworn.

Currently, there is no school resource officer. The city has six schools. As soon as their staffing level allows it, there will be an officer assigned to that position.

When I asked Chief Reinbold if they had an Explorer program in place, he said they do not.

Chief Reinbold relayed that Paradise currently contracts with the Butte County Sheriffs Department for dispatching services. I also learned there were 11,000 calls for service in 2021.

I found out the city has an animal control division. After hours, police handle any animal complaints.

Chief Reinbold said they have 15 vehicles, some of which are Ford Explorers and some of which are hold over Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors. The department has requested Chevrolet Tahoes. When the Tahoes will be in use is still unknown.

There is also an unmarked vehicle, a Ford F-250 crew cab, which is used for towing their radar trailer and picking up evidence, three Dodge Journeys and a Ford Escape.

Chief Reinbold told me the police building has two holding cells and a space for testing drunk drivers and for some of the paperwork required for booking a suspect.

After the arrest, officers have to drive to the Butte County Jail in Oroville, which is about 22 miles away. The round trip translates to about an hour that the arresting officer is away



Paradise PD uses Ford Explorers and Crown Victoria Police Interceptors but is awaiting the arrival of a new fleet of Chevrolet Tahoes. The vehicles are black and white. The badge is seen on the wheel wells in front of the front doors. “PARADISE STRONG” also appears. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



Chauncey Woods's father, Joseph Woods (far left), was the sheriff of Navajo County, Ariz. from 1907 to 1914. He is shown with four of this deputies (left to right), Nigger Jeff, Nat Greer, Hi Hatch and Albert F. Potter. Research shows that Joseph was Chauncey's stepfather. *Peter Harris Collection*

way. His life had meaning. His life was important. He needs to be remembered.

I grieve for those who left no remembrances behind; those whose families sold off the memories of their dead police officer ancestors just for a few dollars profit. Once this history is split up, sold off or given away, it is nearly impossible to recreate it.

I am honored to have become the steward of the memories of Policeman Chauncey J. Woods, serial number 2270.

Little can be found online about Woods. According to census records, he was born on February 17, 1894 in Illinois. His mother was Rowena Woods and his father was listed as Joseph F. Woods. However, the 1920 census showed Chauncey as a stepson to Joseph.

Further research would be necessary to determine Chauncey's true origins. The 1910 census showed the Woods family as residents of Holbrook, Ariz. and Joseph as the Navajo County sheriff. To further confuse Chauncey's origins, his 1940 census record, as well as his military enlistment documents, showed his place of birth as South Dakota.

The Navajo County Sheriffs Department Web site showed Joseph Wood as sheriff from October 1907 to December 1914. The site is sparse of information as many of the past sheriffs have listed biographies. However, Joseph's bio is absent.

Joseph Wood was also a saloon keeper at one time.

I was able to locate two photographs online, one from the Arizona State Archive and the other was published in *True West Magazine*. One is a saloon front with Joseph Woods's name at the Bucket of Blood in Holbrook. The other depicts Sheriff Woods with presumably four of his deputies. (Disclaimer: Please remember the times when you read the names because one of them would be considered offensive today.)

Chauncey joined the LAPD on April 1, 1925. He attended training with 321 other recruits at what they then called "Police School." R. Lee Heath was the chief of police, and he officiated at the graduation ceremony held at Exposition Park.

Chauncey clipped newspaper articles and included them in his scrapbook. An article of interest was titled, "Police Baby Stars," and referred to a change in uniform from 1925 from blue to olive drab. His class was able to don the new uniform early to avoid their having to pay for new ones when the department change occurred. The olive drab uniform would have been the first uniform in which Chauncey was photographed. It clearly shows a number "4" collar brass indicating he was assigned to the Hollenbeck Division.

Chauncey was also included in a series of photographs which showed him in a dress uniform and captioned, "And those inspections of the Police Department." These would have been taken after 1930 when another uniform change occurred at the department.

He is also depicted in another photograph wearing what would be the equivalent of a class "C" uniform today. It is captioned, "At the Tournament of Roses parade, Pasadena, Cal. My little friend and I." The walking bear cap piece and old style traffic patches are what helps to date this photo.

Another series of photos included Chauncey in front of a black and white police car. They are captioned, "Drove speed that cold winter we had." These photos were also taken in the 1930s.

During that time, traffic units were painted in the black and white color scheme we are all so familiar with. Regular patrol units, however, were not marked and were typically all black.

On these pages Chauncey also included a photo of him and another officer by the last name of Shadwell at location marked as 6th and Hill Street.

Lastly, there is a photograph of Chauncey taken on December 7, 1943 during Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The location is marked as 7th and Broadway and was published in another news article. The original photograph, along with a cropped copy inscribed "Happy Birthday. To Mother. Love, Bud," was included.

Submitted by Peter Harris



Chauncey Woods was photographed with a youngster during a Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, probably in the 1930s. The officer spent most of his career in traffic enforcement, so parade duty would be a legitimate duty assignment. Note the traffic patches. *Peter Harris Collection*



Chauncey Woods was a Los Angeles police officer. He was hired on April 1, 1925. LAPD collector Peter Harris obtained a scrapbook in which the officer chronicled his career. He included photographs and newspaper clippings. Woods spent most of his career as a traffic officer. *Peter Harris Collection*



Chauncey Woods was photographed at the 1943 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day commemoration in Los Angeles. He was depicted rendering a salute in an intersection. His scrapbook shows a cropped version of the picture, as well as a newspaper clipping about it. *Peter Harris Collection*

Marcel Jojola Specializes In California Defunct Agencies

Marcel Jojola is a living legend among California police chiefs and law enforcement insignia collectors. Now retired and living in Medina, Tenn., the 50-year veteran hobbyist devoted his recent “Ole Smoky” National Police Collectors Show exhibit to historic Golden State badges and patches.

Jojola served as chief of police in Rio Dell, Calexico, El Centro, Huron and Bear Valley Springs. He was honored by the State Assembly following his retirement as Police Chief Emeritus, one of the few chiefs ever so honored. He was the youngest chief in state history, 26, when was appointed in Rio Dell in 1972.

“I started collecting in 1972, so I’ve been doing this for 50 years. I was working as chief in Rio Dell. We arrested a Hell’s Angel and booked him into the [Humboldt] county jail. He was wearing a leather vest with seven or eight police patches sewn on it. A lot of Hell’s Angels wore police badges and patches on their colors,” Jojola said.

After the outlaw biker was booked in, one of the jailers was cutting the patches off the vest. “The jailer said, ‘I’ll be damned if he’s leaving here with those.’ I noticed one of the patches was San Gabriel PD. I asked him if I could have the patches. He gave them to me. That’s how I got started collecting patches,” he recalled.

Jojola collected only in person, at least at first. Whenever he had business at another agency or met a fellow chief, he always asked for a patch. He got one every time. Often, he was also given badges, too.

“It was a lot different back then. No one collected patches and badges but other cops, and there weren’t too many of us cops who collected,” he said. “Sometimes, I left a department with two or three different badges and a bunch of patches. I never paid for any of them. Everything was trades or gifts.”

Initially, Jojola collected California police departments only, although he occasionally acquired patches and badges at out-of-state conferences and conventions, usually in Las Vegas.

It was a chance encounter with a former police officer at a resort in Lake County that ignited his longtime passion for defunct California departments.

“I went to training at a resort in Lake County in the mid-’70s. I ran into the resort director. He told me he formerly worked as a cop in Montclair in San Bernardino County when it was still Monte Vista. We got to talking, and I told him I was a cop and collected badges. I asked him if he had anything from Monte Vista,” Jojola said.

The former officer gave him three old badges, two from Monte Vista and a Montclair chief’s badge. It was the first chief’s badge in his collection.

“That got me hooked on defunct departments. I’ve been able to get quite a few patches and badges over the years. These are my favorites,” he said.

Jojola explained that agencies go defunct for a variety of reasons, such as mergers and amalgamations, contracting for policing with another agency (such as a county sheriffs office), budget shortfalls or local politics.

He had no idea that defunct agency insignia was valuable until he attended his first insignia show in Hanford in the early ‘80s. “I had a guy walk up to my table and offer me \$600 for an old patch. This was 40 years ago! Nobody paid that kind of money for patches. I told him I couldn’t sell it because it was a gift. I can’t remember which patch it was” Jojola recalled.

Among the patch and badge sets he showed in Gatlinburg were Anaheim, Blue Lake, California State Police, Del Monte Forest Police, Indio and Isleton. There were several others.

“I had four offers for the Indio set today,” he said. It includes a chief’s badge, hat badge and shoulder patch.



Former California police chief Marcel Jojola (left) visited with longtime friend and fellow collector Dennis Daniels (right) at the Gatlinburg, Tenn. National Show. Daniels was also in California law enforcement before he relocated to Nevada. Both were tableholders at the show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



In 1995, Anaheim PD commissioned Sun Badge Company to recreate a set of all the law enforcement badges worn in the city since 1870. The earliest badges, shown at the top, were for marshals and constables. The city is now the tenth largest in California. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

In 1995, Anaheim PD contracted with Sun Badge Company to produce a set of reproductions of the nine badges that the agency has worn since 1870. It includes early marshal and constable badges. It’s a beautifully-presented set that was sold in a glass-front frame. He had one displayed on his tables.

Jojola’s legendary law enforcement career began in 1965 when he joined the Los Angeles County Park Patrol. He told a hilarious story about how his first-ever criminal arrest was for poachers stealing ducks at Padding Stone Lake.

“I got assigned to stop people from stealing ducks off the lake. Since it’s a county park, the ducks are protected. But, they were being stolen,” he said. He decided to stake out the lake and catch the thieves in the act, or duck-handed, as opposed to red-handed.

Since park patrolmen drove their own cars back then, he aroused no suspicion when he parked near the lake and watched for the duck thieves. The stakeout lasted three long days. “It got pretty boring. Not much to do in a park at night,” he said.

Finally, on the fourth day, he apprehended four Chinese in the act of stealing ducks. It turned out they were selling them to local Chinese restaurants for slaughter. The restaurants served the stolen ducks as Peking duck.

“It was pretty funny. Of all the things I did as a cop, arresting people for stealing ducks at a lake was the first thing. I kind of wondered what I had gotten myself into,” Jojola said.

Jojola enjoys collecting badges and patches from little known state agencies, such as the California Cemetery Authority Police. Created by the state in 1939, these uniformed officers patrolled major cemeteries, such as Forest Lawn in Los Angeles. The agency still exists, he said. However, it is now as a contract security agency.

He obtained their patch 51 years ago, but it took him another 30 years to get their badge.

“I was in Coloma on business. They have 13 cemeteries there. It’s the graveyard of San Francisco. I stopped at a restaurant for coffee and noticed a black-and-white that looked like it was an old CHP car. But, it didn’t have CHP markings,” Jojola said.

“I went inside and saw an officer wearing a CHP-style uniform getting coffee, too. I started talking to him. I asked him what he did. He said he works graveyards, which I thought was pretty funny. Then he told me about his job and gave me a patch,” he said.

Many years later, Jojola finally came across one of their badges and added it to his collection.

“Coloma was an interesting place back then. The mayor owned a company that made tombstones. His son was the chief of police. I stopped at the PD that day. Their patrol car was parked out front. It also looked like a hand-me-down, but they had a Thompson sub-machine gun in the gun rack, which I couldn’t believe,” Jojola related.

“I met the chief and asked him about the machine gun. He said, ‘You never know when there will be a shootout at a funeral.’ I thought he was kidding, but he was serious.”

Another interesting display was from the Treasure Island Public Safety Department in San Francisco. He had a patch and a couple badges. Both are handsome high quality seven-point gold stars made by Sun Badge.

“Treasure Island is a man-made island in San Francisco Bay that was built for the World’s Fair in 1939. It was where Pan Am planes used to take off on intentional flights years ago. It was also a Navy base for many years. It was where sailors departed for the Pacific War,” he said.

After the Navy base closed, in 2012, the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission initiated plans for a 8000-residence housing development with commercial space, parks and green space on the island.

“They had a security force for about two years while the development was being built.



Marcel Jojola specializes in California defunct agencies and obsolete styles. He showed badges and patch sets from (left to right, top to bottom) Blue Lake, California State Police, Isleton and the Del Monte Forest Police. The retired police chief started collecting in 1972. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

I've got a couple of their badges," he said.
Jojola is looking forward to the 2023 National Show at the National Orange Show Event Center in San Bernardino.
"I'll be there. It's a very nice facility. I used to work in the area and have been there many times. It's a good place for a show. I support it 100 percent," he said.
Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

End California
Police Historian

Goshen Township
Sued Over Patch
Copyright Violation

The designer of the Goshen Township, O. police emblem adopted in 2016 has sued the township and the police chief in federal court for copyright infringement. Louis M. Kohus claims he was not compensated for his design and township altered it without his permission. The suit was recently filed in federal court Cincinnati.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

GOSHEN TOWNSHIP, O. – Goshen Township, O. and police Chief Bob Rose have been sued in federal court in Cincinnati for copyright infringement over the police department's previous shoulder patch design.

Louis M. Kohus of Cincinnati, a graphic artist and designer, alleges he was contacted by former Chief Rick Combs in February 2015 and asked to create a new emblem. He produced three different designs for the township, each with several variations for the chief to consider.

After Chief Combs selected a design with a custom center seal, Kohus copyrighted his creation with the United States Patent Office. He worked with the patch manufacturer to ensure the approved design had a small "C" to indicate it had been copyrighted.

Kohus's lawsuit declared he expected to be compensated for his work. According an affidavit from Chief Combs, he agreed that Kohus was to be paid for his design work, although the amount was not specified.

Chief Rose succeeded Chief Combs in April 2016 and implemented the new design. However, in addition to the patch, the chief also displayed Kohus's design on patrol vehicle decals, identification cards, memorabilia and signage. The suit alleges the additional uses violated his agreement with the township because he was not compensated for the additional use.

Kohus also claims, "The Goshen Police Department specifically altered and defaced the design by removing the copyright symbol. Goshen removed this copyright symbol intentionally and without the consent of the Plaintiff [Kohus]."

The designer made repeated demands for payment for his creations but has not been compensated, despite having been promised on several occasions that he would be paid, according to the lawsuit.

Kohus's Cincinnati-based attorney filed the suit in Cincinnati on April 7 seeking compensation for his design work, as well as punitive damages for copyright infringement and attorney fees.

According to records of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, the lawsuit was served on the township and the police chief on April 13. They had until June 13 to file answers. The chief is also being sued personally.

Chief Rose has since adopted a new, very patriotic emblem. It is mostly red, white and blue with a different center design than the previous insignia.

Nevertheless, the department's official Web site included (as of May 17) a Department Patch History tab under a Goshen Police History page that still describes Kohus's design, not the new emblem:

"The P-51D plane named 'American Beauty' flown by Goshen native WW II Ace Colonel John J. Voll...

"The log cabin is the Cook Log Cabin restored and sitting upon the grounds of the Goshen High School and the scene of many community events...

"The Indian is the great Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh on his buckskin horse. Much of the history about Chief Tecumseh's travels in and around Goshen include his role to protect tribal territory from encroachment by settlers in and around Goshen and Stonelick Townships...

"The first settler, Jacob Meyers, is portrayed tending to his early garden around 1798...

"The bright green open field represents Sam's small farm on Main Street that drains



(Left) Goshen Township and Chief of Police Bob Rose, who has held the office since 2016, are named in a copyright infringement lawsuit filed in federal district court in Cincinnati, O. on April 7. (Right) The agency has since adopted a new shoulder emblem design. *Goshen Township PD photographs*



Cincinnati graphic artist and designer Louis M. Kohus created this new shoulder emblem design for the Goshen Township, O. Police Department in 2015. His lawsuit alleges the copyright symbol (left) was removed (right) when Chief Bob Rose adopted the design in 2016. *Santen & Hughes photograph*

lazily down the Ohio Valley...

"Two baseballs are atop the flag poles to celebrate the life and career of Major League Baseball star, teacher and Goshen native Sam Leever, a pitcher with an awesome curve ball that reportedly could curve around the back of a barn when thrown winning the 7th all-time record for pitching, along with his many shutouts during his time with Pittsburgh Pirates from the 1890s until 1904...

"More than a shoulder patch...it is truly of our community's heritage."

PCNEWS reached out to Chief Rose and the law firm representing Kohus for comment on the lawsuit. We received no response from the either the plaintiff or the defendants.

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

Salem Police
Sell Patches
For Charity

The Salem, Mass. Police Department, through its police officer associations, has raised thousands of dollars for community-based charities by selling "The Witch City" patches and collectibles. It even has a one of a kind patch vending machine in the police station lobby!

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SALEM, Mass. – Communities across the United States are known for the many things depicted on their law enforcement insignia. Gold mining, fishing, oil derricks, cattle, fruit, vegetables, local landmarks, historic figures, hot air balloons, outer space exploration, Old West lawmen and former presidents are among the many people, places and things portrayed on patches, badges and challenge coins.

Yet, only one place, Salem, Mass., has a patch with a witch on it. Known as "The Witch City," the eastern Massachusetts community is known worldwide for the infamous Salem Witch Trials in the late 1600s.

Rather than suppress its dark witchcraft past, the city revels in it. Not only does it have the largest and most well-attended Halloween celebration in the country, a month-long event, but witch tourism is big business in Salem. Thousands of tourists from around the world visit to tour the Salem Witch Museum, see the place where witches were executed (now a city park) and take in a unique aspect of colonial American history.

"Our population is 45,000. We get between 100,000 to 200,000 tourists a year,



A witch appears on the unique shoulder patches of the Salem, Mass. Police Department, arguably among the most collected in the world. The standard issue, which is black, blue and gold, and two subdued versions are shown on top. There are also Dive Team and Bike Unit patches. *Contributed photograph*



The Salem Police Officers Association and Police Supervisor's Association set up this booth to sell Salem police collectibles during the summer tourist season and on weekends in October when the city celebrates Halloween. Collectibles sales raised \$60,000 for charity last year. *Contributed photograph*

Salem Police Patches ...Continued

especially on weekends in October. Its wall-to-wall people. It's crazy, but people love it and keep coming back every year. There's no place like Salem for Halloween," said Eric Gagnon, a city police officer.

The 100-member police department is all in on witches. A black witch, riding a broomstick with a full Moon shining in the background, has appeared on Salem police patches for years. A witch appears on patrol vehicle decals and signage but not on the officers' metal badges, which show the commonwealth seal.

"We get a lot of comments on the shoulder patch. We like it because its unique. People like it because they think its pretty cool, especially tourists. Everybody wants one," Officer Gagnon said.

"What makes our patch special is we combine history with having fun. Rather than take it serious, we have fun with it. It's really helped us connect with the community."

Salem receives countless letters, calls and emails from people all over the world asking for patches, some from collectors and retired officers, but also from civilians who have visited the city or want a police patch with a witch on it. The city may have the most popular police emblem in the country.

However, keeping the Halloween theme, by having such a popular shoulder emblem, Salem created a Frankenstein. In addition to all the letters, calls and emails, people come into the police department lobby regularly to ask for patches from the office staff.

"Its a problem. Its not that we've don't appreciate people wanting our patch, but the office staff is busy doing their jobs. They have to drop what they're doing and call an officer in off the street for a patch request," Officer Gagnon said.

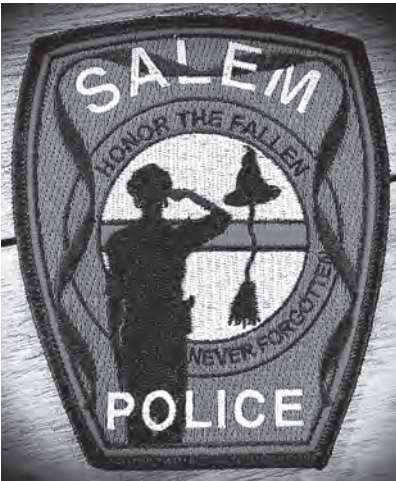
Frankenstein has been tamed A few years ago, the Salem Police Officers Association (POA) came up with a novel idea to tame the department's patch Frankenstein's Monster: take over patch sales from the department and donate proceeds to local charities.

Command staff quickly approved the POA proposal. The Salem Police Supervisor's Association soon joined the project.

Now, not only do the dual POAs sell the standard duty emblem, a large black, blue and gold rounded rectangle with the flying witch, it has added additional patches commemorating veterans, autism awareness, breast cancer awareness, Police Memorial Day, Halloween, Christmas, gay pride and Saint Patrick's Day, as well as Canine, Dive Team and Bike Unit, which are official issues.

There are also Salem police hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee cups, challenge coins and other novelties.

"This is not a money-making thing for the POA. All profits go 100-percent to charities in Salem. We don't keep any money. Everything goes to the stays here," Officer Gagnon said.



Specialty patches from Salem PD. (Upper left) Police Memorial "Honor the Fallen," (upper right) Canine (with the dog clutching a witch's broomstick), (lower left) a salute to veterans and (lower right) Saint Patrick's Day. These patches are available to collectors from the POA. *Contributed photograph*



Just before Christmas last year, the Salem Police Officers Association presented the Salem Children's Charity with a check for \$10,000 for its programs to help needy children and their families. The money represents profits from the sale of patches and collectibles. *Contributed photograph*

The POAs raised \$60,000 for charities in 2021.

The associations market Salem police collectibles in three ways, an online store (WitchCityPolice.Com), a tent-like booth manned by POA members on downtown streets on busy summer weekends and every weekend in October, and a vending machine in the lobby at police headquarters. Yes, a police collectibles vending machine!

"Online sales have been unreal. We average about 100 orders a day from all over the world. We've shipped all over the US, Germany, Australia, England, you name it. We're hoping 2022 is better than 2021, and last year was very good," Officer Gagnon said.

The largest sales volume so far occurred last October when the POA received an incredible 450 online orders on a single day!

The eye-catching street booth caters to tourists during busy summer weekends, special events and the month-long Halloween celebration. A large black table cover shows the patch and "Witch City."

"The booth has been big. People buy patches, shirts and hats, whatever we've got, to take home. We get a chance to chat with them about the city, answer questions, help them find restaurants and all that," Officer Gagnon said.

The most frequently asked question is "Why is there a witch on your patch?"

The POAs decry reproduction Salem insignia being sold by knockoff artists on Web sites, particularly on eBay, the primary source for reproduction law enforcement insignia. Sadly, a dealer from New York sold Salem patch knockoffs at the recent National Peace Officers Memorial Day in Washington, D.C.

"It's disgusting. We're not doing this to make money. They are. We do this to raise money for charity. Every time they sell a bogus patch, they steal money from a charity here. That's just wrong," Officer Gagnon said.

Last Christmas, the POAs made a \$10,000 donation to an organization that helps needy children with basic needs. They purchased 11 I-Pads for city schools. Previous donations included Christmas presents for needy children, food for 20 families in need and overnight hotel rooms for displaced people.

The idea for a patch vending machine began as a joke. A POA member wondered if there was a way to sell collectibles to people who walk into the lobby without involving the office staff or taking an officer off the street.

"We laughed about the patch vending machine at first. When someone brought it up, everyone said, 'You want to do what?' But, we contacted a local vendor to see if it even could be done. They told us it was no problem, so we got one. It's worked out great," Officer Gagnon said.

Now, patch seekers who visit the PD are directed to the self-service machine, which looks exactly like a soft drink, sundries or sandwich machine, except it dispenses patches, challenge coins and other collectibles, not a Pepsi, bag of chips or a ham and cheese on rye!

Who you gonna call? Gagnon and his partner, Jonathan Julio, a fellow city police officer, opened their own insignia design and production company last year, Ghost Patches. It is not affiliated with the charity patch and collectibles project. It is a for-profit business.

"The word got out about our patch project. We started getting calls from other departments asking about it. We were asked about helping design patches for them, so we decided to start Ghost Patches to do that. It's separate from the POA," Gagnon said.

Since Ghost Patches, the perfect name for a company based in Salem, was founded last November, it has already been contacted 275 times by departments looking for patches, challenge coins and the like.

"We've been really busy. It's been a big success. We've helped other departments set up fundraising projects like we have in Salem. It's been a fun ride so far," Gagnon said.

In addition to law enforcement agency insignia, Ghost Patches has created novelty emblems, such as the Cinema Public Safety Series, as well as morale support patches for the military and a few X-rated styles for a character named "Boomer." 'Nuff said!

Ghost Riders made its insignia collectors show debut in early April when it was a tableholder at the New York-New Jersey show in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. The owners said they had a successful day.

"We're having fun. That's what its all about," Gagnon said.



Between 100,000 to 200,000 tourists from around the world descend on Salem, Mass., "The Witch City," every year to experience witch history firsthand. A crowd lines up waiting to enter the Salem Witch Museum, which tells the story of the infamous Salem Witch Trials. *Contributed photograph*



“Just for fun” Salem patches available from the lobby vending machine. (Left to right) The 2020 Halloween patch with an orange pumpkin next to the witch. Frankenstein’s Monster holding a patch with a chunk bitten out of the top. An Salem police Pepsi soft drink can patch. *Contributed photograph*

Salem Witch Trials Witches have been associated with Salem since 1692 and 1693 when the Puritan settlement began trying men and women suspected of being witches or practicing witchcraft in local courts. Nearly 200 people were accused of being witches or practicing witchcraft. Thirty were found guilty and 19 were executed, often brutally.

Settlers who experienced a personal loss, death of a loved one or other setback often blamed witchcraft. Living in a bastion of extreme religious intolerance, the aggrieved could formally accuse anyone even remotely involved with their loss of being a witch or practicing witchcraft.

After a complaint was lodged against someone, a hearing was held in front of a magistrate to hear the accusations. If the magistrate, usually a church official, agreed there was the possibility of witchcraft, he ordered the person arrested and brought before him to answer to the charge. Often, defendants were pressured by the magistrate to confess.

Settlers were taken into custody in Salem and Salem Village (now Danvers), as well as other surrounding towns.

Most people were accused of “afflicting with witchcraft” or “making an unlawful covenant with the Devil,” both capital offenses in the colony. The penalty was death by hanging or “pressing,” which was piling stones on the accused’s chest until he or she was unable to breathe and suffocated. One pressing took two days before the defendant finally died.

Witches were tried by a jury of settlement residents. Trials often took place the same day that the person was arrested. Most defendants were young to middle age women. An 81-year-old man who refused to enter a plea before the grand jury was pressed to death for his refusal to plead. He was never tried.

Executions were carried out in public as settlers gathered to watch the spectacle unfold before them.

The Salem Witch Trials represent a dark chapter in the history of colonial America.

Salem police history Salem was settled in 1626, only six years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. It was not incorporated as a city until ten years later.

The first constable was John Woodbury, who was appointed in 1630. He dealt with an ongoing rivalry between Quakers and Puritans over their opposing religious beliefs. When Quakers demonstrated against the Puritans and interrupted one of their church services, Quakers protested the Puritan’s “vanity of dress” by running through the streets naked.

Every man was required to take his turn as a watchman.

The first paid patrolman was Arthur Hughes, who signed a contract in November 1876 to be “bellman and walk the streets from ten o’clock until daybreak and give notice of the time of night and weather.” This practice continued until 1817.

The first police station was called a “watch house.” It was located inside a church. A permanent watch house was built sometime after 1866. For years, a uniformed soldier stood on top of the house and watched over the city.

The first official city marshal was appointed in May 1836, although some records indicate there were marshals as far back as 1692.

The modern police department was established in 1865 with construction of the first police station at 11 Front Street.

A new station was constructed at 17 Central Street in 1914.

A \$6 million modern police headquarters was constructed at 95 Margin Street in 1992.

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The world’s first and only police patch and collectibles vending machine can be found in the lobby of the Salem, Mass. Police Department. Rather than ask office staff for patches, visitors can serve themselves and make their own selections. The machine accepts credit cards. *Contributed photograph*



Sarah Simons, 8, with some of her Canadian police patches at the family home in Victoria, Tex. After telling a nurse she wanted 100 police patches for her birthday in March, she has been overwhelmed with more than 2600 cloth emblems and in excess of 400 challenge coins. *Aimee Simons photograph*

Supergirl Is A Patch Collector

Sarah Simons, 8, is a law enforcement patch collector in Victoria, Tex. battling a life-threatening disease. When she asked for 100 patches for her birthday in March, Simons and her family were overwhelmed by more than 2600 patches and 400 challenge coins from agencies around the globe. Go Supergirl!

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

VICTORIA, Tex. – Supergirl is a very special name on the personnel rosters of a growing number of law enforcement agencies in southeastern Texas.

Supergirl is always smiling eight-year-old sweetheart, Sarah Simons of Victoria, Tex., a dedicated patch collector, who has been made an honorary Texas Ranger, deputy sheriff in Victoria and Bee Counties and police officer in Encinal, Freeport, Richwood, Brehnam and Victoria.

Despite her love of the fictional character Supergirl, the female Superman, what has made her so special to these agencies is her love of law enforcement and her courage and resolve in battling serious health issues that have resulted in numerous lengthy hospitalizations since her birth.

Sarah has had one, and only one, ambition: to become a law enforcement officer, like her father, Bryan, a Victoria County deputy for 19 years, Bryan’s mother and his grandfather. Sarah’s mother, Aimee’s, father and grandfather were police officers in Michigan.

“It’s all she talks about. Maybe that’s why she loves Supergirl so much; she’s all about helping people and law and order. She’s an amazing little girl who has never given up on her dream,” Aimee Simons said.

Sarah has adrenal insufficiency, a rare life-threatening condition in which her body doesn’t not have the ability to produce the hormone cortisol, which helps the body adapt to illness and stress. There is no cure, her mother said, only ongoing treatment.

The Victoria community has been extremely supportive of Sarah and her family, which has faced daunting medical expenses her entire life. She makes monthly visits to the Texas Children’s Hospital Cancer Center in Houston and regularly sees a specialist in Missouri.



Victoria County Sheriff Justin Marr (left) presented Sarah Simons with her deputy sheriff commission, uniform and hat as her father, Bryan Simons, looked on. The eight-year-old patch collector is known as Supergirl around the agency. Her father is a county deputy. *Victoria County SO photograph*

“Supergirl Sarah” ...*Continued*

There have been numerous fundraisers, t-shirt and patch sales and cash donation drives for her and the family.

The pandemic was particularly harrowing for the Simons family. Sarah contracted COVID-19 in November 2020 and nearly died. She spent 12 days in the pediatric intensive care unit at Texas Children’s Hospital.

“They warned us it would be bad. And, it was bad. She coded once. They were able to bring her back, but I was told to call my husband and tell him to call her and say goodbye because she wasn’t going to make it. It was the most horrible thing ever. I’ll never forget that phone call,” Aimee Simons said.

Miraculously, Sarah survived and ultimately returned home. But, she had suffered lung damage and has required regular treatment ever since to strengthen her lungs.

Following her February 2022 appointment in Houston, a nurse asked her what she wanted for her eighth birthday, which was coming up in March. She said she wanted 100 police patches. The nurse told Aimee her daughter wanted patches. After Aimee shared Sarah’s wish with her deputy sheriff husband, she launched a chain reaction that hasn’t slowed in four months.

Through social media, word of mouth, and officers telling other officers telling other officers, Sarah has received more than 2600 patches and 400 challenge coins, not only from all over the USA but from as far away as Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong and beyond. Several agencies have sent her entire boxes full of patches, hats and coins.

Victoria County Sheriff Justin Marr made Sarah a deputy sheriff at a formal swearing in ceremony a week before her March 12 birthday attended by the entire department and representatives from other agencies, including the Texas Rangers. The sheriff had a uniform and hat custom made for her.

Bee County Sheriff Alden Southmayd presided over a formal swearing in ceremony at his office in Beeville a few days later, attended by most of his department, as well as Governor Greg Abbott, who spoke with Sarah and her family. The swearing in was covered by a local television station.

Sarah has been the guest of honor at swearing in ceremonies at four other agencies. Brehnam PD also had a uniform custom made for her. Each agency presented her with a framed commission and a badge.

The most recent presentation was on June 2 when the Encinal Police Department invited her to their department. Chief of Police Pablo Balboa presented her with a commission and an assistant chief badge. She proudly wore her Victoria County uniform.

“We’ve just been overwhelmed by how amazing the law enforcement community has been. I’ve never seen Sarah happier than she is when she is with police officers. She just beams,” Aimee Simons said.

“Sarah just loves the patches. I thought her asking for a hundred was a stretch and still can’t believe how many she has now. She gets them out and looks them over. She picks out things she likes, like flags or bridges or whatever.”

If anyone can overcome the challenges facing her, it would have to be Supergirl Sarah. I wouldn’t bet against her, y’all.

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Aimee Simons maintains a Facebook page that provides regular updates on Sarah and her collections. It can be found at “Supergirl Sarah’s Fight.” EDITOR

Long Lost Badge Back In Montana

A well-worn, rusty six-point star worn by a Rosebud County, Mont. deputy sheriff more than 100 years ago has been returned to the department. Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Trey Sheets was gifted the badge by his parents, who found it at a Texas flea market. He has since donated it to the department.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

FORSYTH, Mont. -- Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Trey Sheets recently donated a 100-year-old deputy sheriff badge to the Rosebud County, Mont. Sheriffs Office, much to the delight of Undersheriff Scott McDermott.

“It’s pretty surprising to see somebody take the initiative to reach out like that. You’d think a lot of people would want to keep that for themselves,” Undersheriff McDermott said.

The badge is a very well worn, rusty six-point ball-tipped star with an oversize round center. The equally well worn legends read, “DEPUTY/ SHERIFF/ ROSEBUD/ CO./ MONTANA.”

Trooper Sheets’ mother and father were at flea market in Amarillo, Tex. in February and purchased an ornate storage box for about \$20. When they returned home to Oklahoma, they found the badge inside it. They gave it to their son since he is a law enforcement officer.

The trooper emailed the undersheriff and told him about the badge.

Trooper Sheets is not a badge or patch collector. “I always wanted to be in law enforcement as a small child. I was a deputy sheriff for five years, then joined the Highway Patrol in 2002. I’ve spent over 25 years in law enforcement, so I understood what the badge would mean to that department,” he said.

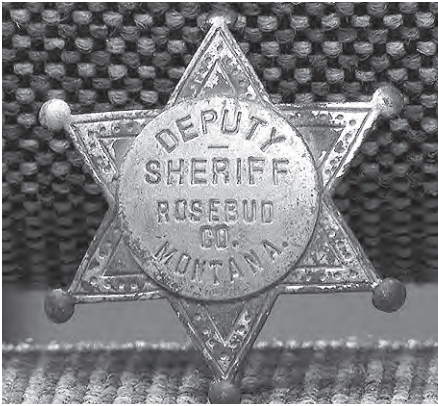
“That fraternal bond plays into it,” Undersheriff McDermott said. “You understand on a different level the significance of something like that to an agency.”

Rosebud County offered to buy the badge for its department collection, but Trooper Sheets insisted on donating to it. He said the badge is a part of their history and belongs in Montana.

Since the badge was reunited with its original owner, the trooper and undersheriff have exchanged some patches and challenge coins.

Undersheriff McDermott researched the badge’s history. It is almost identical to the badge worn by Sheriff John Vander Pouwer in a 1914 photograph, meaning it is over a century old.

Rosebud County plans to display it in a case highlighting department history along with



A well-worn, rusty deputy sheriff star from Rosebud County, Mont. was recently donated to the department by Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Trey Sheets, whose parents found it at a flea market in Texas. Undersheriff Scott McDermott believes the badge dates back to 1914. *Contributed photograph*

the photographs of previous sheriffs.
MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net

New Palmini Book Longtime California law enforcement officer and insignia collector Bill Palmini of Novato is out with a new book, *Know What Cops Know*. Palmini said his book will help readers avoid becoming crime victims. “It will teach them to think like a cop in identifying potential law-breaking situations,” he said. The book is available on Amazon.

Badge, Uniform Controversy Nevada voters will have to wait until May 2023 for a panel to determine whether Joe Lombardo, the Clark County sheriff and Republican candidate for governor, violated state ethics laws by appearing in campaign ads wearing his badge and uniform. The state ethics commission scheduled the hearing for more than six months after the November 2022 election. Under state law, public officials and employees can not use government time, property, equipment or other resources to benefit themselves or their campaigns. However, the law does not specifically include elected officials. Sheriff Lombardo told local media the public he is an elected official and voters are entitled to know what he does for a living, so he wears his uniform.

Sparks Police History The Sparks, Nev. Police Department recently celebrated National Police Week by staging a display of historical artifacts and memorabilia at the Sparks Heritage Museum. “Where Community Comes First: The History of the Sparks Police Department” featured a variety of exhibits, including a refurbished cell panel and door from the Sparks Jail in 1941. The department staged a display of vehicles and a canine demonstration on the opening day of the exhibition.

Waverly, Iowa Working Toward Agency Museum

Slowly but surely, the Waverly, Iowa Police Department is working toward an agency museum to bring together various artifacts and memorabilia collections displayed in supervisors’ office and adjacent hallways.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WAVERLY, Iowa – What is now a collection of frames and artifacts in supervisors’ offices and hallways may soon become a first step toward a historical museum in the Waverly, Iowa, Police Department.

Chief Richard Pursell said former officers and their families have donated photographs, artifacts and memorabilia to the department. Some things are displayed in his office, the hallway outside his office and the offices of his two captains.

Waverly police history began in 1868 when H.S. Halbent was named the first chief of police. He served for five years.

One hundred fifty-four years later, Chief Pursell, the 35th person to hold the office, said he often thinks about his predecessors went through during their terms. His thoughts led to the historic displays.

The daughter of former Chief Clarence Wickham, who served from 1962 to 1977, donated his photograph, mementos and his weapon, a .38 Smith and Wesson. He joined the police department in 1956. After his police retirement, he served as the Waverly mayor from 1978 to 1983.

Jerry Greenlee was a city police officer from 1980 to 2007. He worked as a patrol officer, hostage negotiator and Drug Abuse Resistance Education instructor before he was appointed assistant chief in 2003. Sadly, he died of cancer only six months after his retirement. His widow gifted a variety of artifacts and memorabilia from his career.

A display of vintage Waverly PD trading cards from the 1990s can be found in the chief’s office. It includes a picture of Arthur Simpson, the longest-serving chief of police (1978 to 2005). The photograph itself is legendary. Chief Simpson waited for it to be taken until the sun was at the angle he wanted for his image outside police headquarters. He even had the State Patrol block the street in front of the building so passing vehicles wouldn’t cast shadows!

Chief Pursell would like to establish a collection of as many former police chief photographs as he can find and list their dates of service to the community. The department already has a list of every chief.

Captains Don Eggleston and Jason Leonard, who are both nearing retirement, have conducted interviews with several retired officers to learn more about their careers and city law enforcement history. They are also going through historic records and newspaper clippings when they can to document artifacts and memorabilia.

Although Chief Pursell hasn’t established a timeline for the department museum project, he hopes it will come together in the near future.

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AMAZING BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM offers pictures and stories regarding Police Memorabilia with a focus on Newark, N.J. The view of this blog is free, however if you have New Jersey items for sale or trade contact: DENNIS BEYER, email: jerseychief@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 Buffalo, NY badges and/or patches. Call or text. KEN (617) 285-2706 (89)

LOOKING FOR these badges, will buy or trade: Fairmont Park Police (Phila, PA style), Minneapolis Police shield and Baltimore OH Southwestern Railroad shield. VINCENT PAPE, retired officer, 19 Valley Forge Dr., Bohemia, NY 11716 Phone: (631) 567-3248 (92)

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)

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: JHCrumpack@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 (93)

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 (92)

WANTED: Oregon and Washington badges, one badge or a whole collection, and no collection too large. I have some badges to trade from my over 50 years of collecting. FRED MILES, 10350 N. Vancouver Way, Suite 273, Portland, OR 97217-7530 (91)

WANTED: Railroad police badges and artifacts, early badges, office signs, marked guns, old uniforms, RR police commissions, etc. Highest prices paid for 10K, 14K and 18K solid gold badges, early custom die badges, hand engraved sterling silver badges and any railroad "pie plate" stars. See my website for updated "Wanted" list: www.railroadpolicebadges.com CHIP GREINER, P.O. Box 125, Bogota, NJ 07603 (201) 390-7372 (93)

WANTED: Cylindrical lock and brass key for a Detroit Police call box. JURGEN MOHR, email : jurgenmo@yahoo.com or call (720) 635-8794. (89)

WANTED: Fish and Wildlife and Conservation Agency badges. I am also buying Idaho, Washington, and Oregon police and sheriff's badges. Older badges preferred and top prices paid for quality items. DEAN TRESCH, P.O. Box 30054, Spokane, WA 99223 Ph. (509) 939-1296 email: militarycollector7711@gmail.com (91)

WANTED: New Jersey badges from the following towns: Mantoloking, Bergenfield, Matawan, Green Brook, Berkeley Heights, Edison, Metuchen and New Jersey State Police. I also collect Lehigh Valley Railroad Police items. Email DAN at email: jasperdan26@gmail.com (732)452-0322 (92)

WANTED: Shoulder patch from NE-Blaine County Sheriff and S.D. Sheriffs: Buffalo, Campbell, Hanson, Tripp to complete my U.S. County Sheriff should patch collection. BEN ROBERSON, (480) 580-3897 or benspatc.tradelist@gmail.com (92)



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Please confirm reservations by mailing payment to:
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2022 Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show

Saturday, August 13, 2022

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Doors open at 8:00 am for table holders. Tables are \$30.00 until July 13th and then \$40.00 after July 13th. All special requests/locations will be attempted to be honored. This hall is larger to accommodate more tables and collectors.

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Show Hosts – Bill Swank, Guy Forberger, JJ Mead-emeritus and Bruce Muraco-emeritus

For information and/or to book tables contact show hosts:
Bill Swank cell: 614-638-7245 email: Bill319cmh@gmail.com
Guy Forberger cell: 614-288-3980 email: Forberger@gmail.com



Let's go to the show!

LARGE WORLDWIDE POLICE COLLECTION FOR SALE IN LOTS

This collection includes the majority of my late father’s and my collection. It includes patches, badges, hats, buttons, uniforms, and even die cast vehicles. Nothing is newer than 1998. There are hundreds of different items all packed in multiple plastic bins. Since there are so many items, the best way to see the collection is in person.

Clayton Otto
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2022 INDIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORABILIA COLLECTORS SHOW

DATE: Saturday, August 6, 2022 **TIME:** 9 AM - 4 PM EST

LOCATION: Monroe County Fairgrounds, Community Building
5700 W. Airport Road, Bloomington, IN 47403

SETUP: Friday, August 5th from 5:30-7 PM and 8:30 AM Saturday

TABLE COST: \$20 **ADMISSION COST:** FREE

Badges, Challenge Coins, Diecast, Patches, and much more!

Food and drink available • Free parking • Local hotels close to the show

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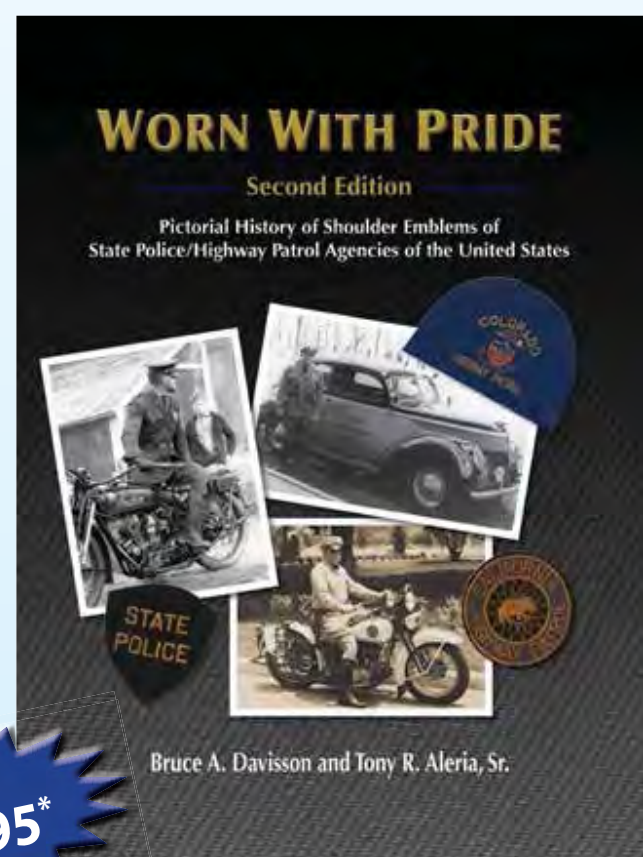
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Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show

*Sponsored by Fairfax County Police Association
In conjunction with the Public Safety Cadet Program*

"The Larry Wilkins Show"



The Longest Running show in Virginia

***** Saturday, November 5, 2022 *****

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Fairfax County Police Association Hall
5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, VA 22030-5802**

General Admission at 9:00 a.m.

Admission: \$5 per person (Spouses and children free)

Table Rental: only \$20 per table

(Admission for Table Holder and 1 Designated Assistant included)

Table Holder Set-up begins at 8:00 a.m.

For table reservations, make checks or money orders payable to:
Public Safety Cadets and mail to: **Public Safety Cadets, 50 Catoctin Circle,
NE, Suite 325, Leesburg, VA 20176-3124.** Mark checks for "FCPA Show".
*Tables assigned on first-come, first-serve basis and need to be paid in
advance, per FCPA requirements.*

- ✓ **Food and drink available for purchase**
- ✓ **Plenty of free parking**
- ✓ **Numerous local hotels close to show site**
- ✓ **Best of Show Trophy awarded**
- ✓ **Judges' Award Trophy presented**

This show is dedicated to Larry Wilkins, a highly
respected 37 year law enforcement veteran and avid
badge collector. Larry passed away on May 25, 2022,
leaving admiring colleagues and long-time friends &
fellow collectors too numerous to mention. This long-
standing and popular event will continue in his memory.

R.I.P. Larry

For additional information contact Bill or Kent at: FCPAShow@aol.com

WANTED

(NOT INTERESTED IN REPRODUCTIONS)

GRAFTON : Police / Sheriff and Fire - Cap Badges / Breast Badges . Interested in all Ranks . Old style and current.

ARIZONA HIGHWAY PATROL : Breast Badge - Sergeant or above .

PAPAGO TRIBAL POLICE : Breast Badge - Sergeant's rank .

NAVAJO TRIBAL POLICE : Breast Badges - Interested in all ranks. Old style and current .

NAVAJO POLICE : Shoulder Patch with Buffalo in middle - Old style.

JOINT USE - Shoulder Patch . Used when the Navajo Tribe lost some of their land.

NAVAJO TRIBAL PARKS 1957 : Shoulder Patch.

NAVAJO TRIBAL PARKS - Recreational Resources Dept. - Old style Shoulder Patch .

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