

Volume 41-Number 2 March-April 2023 Issue Number 93

# San Bernardino Ready For 2023 National Show

As the National Police Collectors Show looms on the horizon, the San Bernardino Police Historical Society is finalizing plans for the hobby’s 38th annual convention. Collectors from throughout the USA , Canada and beyond will converge on the National Orange Show Event Center on June 1, 2 and 3.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – The big stage is ready and waiting. Now, it's only a matter of time.

Dennis Houser and the San Bernardino Police Historical Society are gearing up to host the 38th Annual National Police Collectors Show on June 1, 2 and 3 at the National Orange Show Event Center, a massive, modern convention facility in San Bernardino, Calif.

“We’re really excited. Final plans are in the works. It should be a great event. We want this show to be one to remember,” Houser, the historical society founder and president, said. He will serve as show host.

San Bernardino marks the National Show’s fourth trip to California. The hobby’s annual convention was founded in Los Angeles by Richard Salchunas in 1985. Since then, it has visited Ontario twice, 2011 and 2017, and was hosted by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Only 15 of 290 tables remained available as of February 20. The hosts anticipate the remaining tables will be sold by April 1, which would ensure San Bernardino of hosting the largest National Show in several years.

“We want this to be more than just a badge and patch show. We want this to be an event; the best National so far, one to remember,” Houser said.

In addition to non-stop buying, selling and trading, and exhibits of many of the finest collections in the hobby, 18 vintage law enforcement vehicles will be displayed inside the show hall, many interspersed among the exhibitor tables.

“Every vehicle will be from the 1960s and ‘70s and of historical interest,” he said. “We might have a few newer vehicles outside the hall, but everything inside will have historic value.”

Vintage car enthusiasts Jay D’Angelo and George Hernandez have committed to bringing their mid-1960s Southern California police vehicles. Hernandez has a beautiful Los Angeles Police Department black and white. D’Angelo owns a 1966 model.

Other vehicles will come from the Riverside County Sheriffs Department and the Long Beach Police Department, among many others.

There will be raffles, including a 50-50 cash raffle, with prizes donated by local merchants and collectors. Houser promised numerous highly desirable prizes.

Food trucks operated by the San Bernardino Police Officers Association and the



The National Orange Show Event Center in San Bernardino, Calif. is a massive, modern convention facility. It will be the venue for the upcoming National Police Collectors Show. The exhibit hall can accommodate 290 tables, as well as about 18 vintage law enforcement vehicles. *Contributed photograph*

Riverside County Sheriffs Association will offer food and beverages on Friday and Saturday.

“We invited them to the show to take care of concessions. Both are non-profit organizations, so the profits they make will benefit them. And, they serve really good food. It’s a win-win,” Houser said.

The historical society plans to promote the National throughout Southern California and beyond with newspaper and television coverage. “We want people to know about the show. We want an event that will showcase law enforcement history,” Houser said.

There is a possibility the show may have law enforcement-related celebrity guests. However, no appearances have been finalized.

**Busy show schedule** While all but two previous Nationals have been Friday, Saturday and Sunday events, San Bernardino will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Registered tableholders only will be admitted to the hall on Thursday, June 1 from 9 am to 5 pm for exhibit setup.

“We wanted to give exhibitors plenty of time for setup and get ready for the show. There will be no need to rush. You’ll have all day,” Houser said.

A tableholder meeting is scheduled for after five o’clock for a review of show rules, as well as consideration of potential bids to host the 2025 National. The hosts have asked potential hosts to make oral presentations with projected venues, dates, table costs and hotel accommodations. Gary Hoving, president of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, will help facilitate the site selection meeting.

Dubuque, Iowa will host the 2024 show, which will be the first time the National has visited the Hawkeye State. The three-day event will be hosted by Don Magruder, Kent Jefferies and Mike Leeper.

San Bernardino will be open to the public on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 from 9



Dennis and Nancy Houser will join fellow San Bernardino Police Historical Society members in hosting the 2023 National Police Collectors Show on June 1, 2 and 3 at the National Orange Show Event Center. Houser serves as society founder and current president. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The National Police Collectors Show has official insignia, a badge (left), shoulder patch (right) and challenge coin (top). Each features the custom-designed show logo depicting an arrowhead, Route 66 sign and steam engine. These collectibles are available from Dennis Houser. *Contributed photograph*





The San Bernardino Police Museum, created by the police historical society headed by President Dennis Houser, is located at police headquarters in downtown San Bernardino. It features an extensive collection of artifacts, memorabilia, insignia, uniforms and much more. *Contributed photograph*

## 2023 National Show ...Continued

am to 6 pm. Exhibitors only will be admitted at 8 am both days for setup.  
An opening ceremony is scheduled for 8:30 am on Saturday.  
Display contest awards will be presented at 5 pm on Saturday.

**Badge, patch and coin** San Bernardino continues the tradition of an official show badge, patch and challenge coin. The custom insignia is available from Houser before the show. Any remaining insignia will be available at the show while supplies last.

Entenmann-Rovin manufactured the attractive show badge, a Southern California-style silver-colored oval with gold-colored panels. The colorful show logo, which features an arrowhead, Route 66 highway sign and a steam engine, appears as the center design. Blue legends on the gold-colored panels read, "NATIONAL POLICE/ COLLECTORS SHOW/ SAN BERNARDINO, CA./ 2023." Only 50 badges were made.

The CHP-shaped patch is predominately white and blue with the full color logo as the center design. White legends read, "NATIONAL POLICE/ COLLECTORS SHOW/ SAN BERNARDINO, CA/ 2023."

The colorful challenge coin features the badge on one side and the patch on the other on gray backgrounds surrounded by black outer bands. "2023 NATIONAL POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW" is lettered in white on the badge side and "SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA/ JUNE 2-3. 2023" on the patch side.

The badge costs \$140. The patch is \$10. Challenge coins sell for \$12. Orders can be placed by emailing Houser on [houser\\_de@sbcity.org](mailto:houser_de@sbcity.org).

"Anyone who wants these items should order as soon as possible. They may be sold out by show time," Houser said.

**No host hotel** There is no host hotel. Collectors and their families have the option to choose their own accommodations, much like at the 2022 National in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Brand name hotels within two miles of the National Orange Show Event Center include Hilton Garden Inn, Double Tree, Residence Inn, Best Western, Hampton Inn. Homewood Suites, Fairfield Inn, Quality Inn and Comfort Inn. Many of these hotels are located along Interstate 10 or Interstate 215.

"San Bernardino and the surrounding areas, such as Loma Linda, Redlands and Riverside, are unique communities that have a variety of options available for lodging in the area. There are dozens of five-star hotel options within a short drive of the event center," Houser said.

**Popular tourist destination** San Bernardino, a city of 220,000, is a popular tourist destination as the economic, cultural and political hub of the Inland Empire and the San Bernardino Valley. It is easily accessible.

The city is located about an hour east of Los Angeles and nestled in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains and the San Bernardino National Forest. It has a desert climate. Early June temperatures will be in the 80s and 90s.

Collectors who bring their families will find world-famous theme parks, Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm, less than a hour away in Orange County.

There are two major public safety museums within a one hour drive, the Los Angeles County Fire Museum and the Los Angeles Police Museum.

The fire museum includes a wide variety of antique and recently-retired fire apparatus, as well as the actual Squad 51 and Engine 51 vehicles used in the *Emergency!* television series. It is located at 16400 Bellflower Boulevard in Bellflower. Telephone (562) 925-0234 for information.

The LAPD museum can be found in the old Highland Park Police Station at 6045 York



Among the most popular exhibits at the San Bernardino Police Museum is a historic motorcycle, complete with a uniformed, helmeted officer. The museum also features a large collection of historic framed photographs chronicling the law enforcement history of the city. *Contributed photograph*

Avenue in Los Angeles. It chronicles the history of the LAPD through extensive collections of artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, insignia and vintage vehicles. Telephone (323) 344-9445 for information.

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# Swap Meet Calendar

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

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

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

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

## Dunedin, Fla.

The Florida Gulf Coast Police and Fire Badge, Patch and Challenge Coin Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 18 from 8 am to 1 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Conny Hall, 750 San Salvador Dr., Dunedin, Fla. John Radcliffe will host it.

Admission is free.

Eight-foot tables are available for \$20 each. Five six-foot tables are available for \$10 each. The hall will open at 7:30 am for table setup.

Please confirm table reservations by mailing payment to John Radcliffe t 1025 McLean St., Dunedin FL 34698.

For additional information, contact the host on (727) 733-5076 (home), (727) 900-3661 (cell) or [johndrjr52@verizon.net](mailto:johndrjr52@verizon.net).

## Griffith, Ind.

The first Northwest Indiana Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 18 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1400 So. Broad St., Griffith, Ind. The hosts are Pete Belos and Dan Bukala.

Admission is free.

Fifty tables are available for \$25 each. The hall will open at 8:30 am for exhibitor setup. Displays are encouraged.

Admission is restricted to active and retired police and fire personnel or known collectors. The hosts reserve the right to refuse entry and check identification of attendees.

This is a not for profit show. Table fees defray the cost of the facility, refreshments and table rental fees.

There are numerous restaurants, hotels and amenities in the area.

Please send checks or money orders for tables to P.J. Belos, 1100 Perthshire Lane, Dyer IN 46311.

Contact either host for additional information, directions and hotel information: Belos (708) 646-2837 or Bukala (219) 775-1886 (text only).

## Riverdale, Md.

The 41st Mid-Atlantic Regional Police Collectors Extravaganza will be Sat., Mar. 25 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Elks Lodge, 6700 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale, Md. Andy Ferraro will host it.

Admission is \$5. Spouses and children are admitted free.

Tables are \$23 each. The hall will open for exhibitor setup at 7 am.

A trophy will be awarded for the best display.

Please mail checks for tables to Andy Ferraro, PO Box 1, Brentwood MD 20722. He can be reached on (240) 723-0507.

## Fayetteville, Ga.

The Fourth Annual Georgia Patch and Badge Show will be Sat., Mar. 25 from 9 am to 5 pm at the American Legion Fayette County Post, 180 S. Glynn St., Fayetteville, Ga. Tim Shaw will host it.

Fifty tables are available for \$20 each.

There will be an award for the Best Table.

Show patches will be sold for \$6 and challenge coins for \$25 while supplies last.

Fayetteville is located 22 miles south of Atlanta.

Make reservations with Tim Shaw, 123 Bridle Path, Glynn, Ga. Call or text (404) 734-4527.

## Detroit Area, Mich.

The 2023 Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 25 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Mound Palace Banquet Hall, 384 Mound Rd., Sterling Heights, Mich. Bob Blickensdorf, Mike Duvall, Todd Hansen, Bill Pace, Dave Loar and Gino Hliebav will host it.

Admission is \$5, Children under 12 will be admitted free.

One hundred tables are available for \$25 each and must be paid for in advance. The hall will open for table setup at 7 am.

Awards will be presented for the Best Overall Display, Best Badge Display, Best Patch Display and Best New Display.

There will be a patch drop drawing.

This is a closed show. You must be a known collector or have valid police or fire identification or accompany a known collector or valid police or fire ID holder.

Current style badges may not be bought, sold or traded at the show or on the property. Failure to comply with this policy will result in expulsion from the show and possible



exclusion from future shows. Displays which contain current badges must be marked "Display Only."

For table reservations, contact Blickensdorf on blick068@hotmail.com. Payment can be made by Pay Pal, check or money order.

For show information, contact Duvall duvalim70@yahoo.com, Hansen 2933hansen@gmail,.com, Pace wpace423@aol.com, Loar cdloar@hotmail.com or Hliebay ghliebay1@comcast.net.

## Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

The Sixth Annual New York and New Jersey Metropolitan Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sun., Apr. 2 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Hilton Hasbrouck Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. Gerry Tibbs, Brian Lyons and Ed Zitek will host it.

Admission is \$5. Spouses and children under 12 will be admitted free. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup.

Tables are \$65 each. Reservations can be made online using Pay Pal Family and Friends to uspcld2016@gmail.com. Checks for tables can be mailed to US Police Collectors, PO Box 53, Tappan NY 10983-0053.

Displays are encouraged. Awards will be presented for the best badge, patch and overall displays.

There will be patch and challenge coin drop boxes at the door.

Reproduction insignia must be marked as such.

Only public safety personnel and known collectors will be admitted. Identification is required.

The room block at the hotel is now sold out. However, alternative lodging in the immediate area is available. Contact the hosts for information or see the show Facebook page.

The latest information is available on the show Facebook page, "2022 New York-New Jersey Police and Fire Collectors Show."

Send email inquiries to nynjpca@gmail.com.

## Southgate, Ky.

The Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati Police Collectors Show is back! John Christman will host the return show on Sat., Apr. 8 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Southgate Community Center, 301 W. Walnut, Southgate, Ky. This is the show founded many years ago by Pat Olvey, Dic Gross, Linny Cloyd and other former hosts.

Admission is free.

Eight-foot tables are \$10. Table setup will be Fri., Apr. 7 from 6 pm to 8 pm and Sat., Apr. 8 from 8 am to 9 am.

This is a closed show. Only known collectors and their families and first responders will be admitted.

Food and Drinks will be available on site.

## Marshall, Minn.

The 2023 "Gooz" Memorial Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 22 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Marshall Merit Center in Marshall, Minn. Kyle Helvig will host it. This show continues the tradition established by longtime host, the late Dave "Gooz" Gislason, who died in 2022.

Admission is free.

Tables are \$10 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. All proceeds will be donated to Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Food and refreshments will be provided.

For table reservations or additional information, contact Helvig on (507) 829-1569.

## Athens, O.

The 2023 Southeast Ohio Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 29 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Athens Community Center, 701 E. State St., Athens, O. Andy Watson and Clay Lowing are the hosts.

Admission is free.

Eight-foot tables are \$15 each. Exhibitor setup will be from 8 am to 9 am.

This is a closed show open only to first responders and known collectors.

For table reservations, contact either host: Lowing (937) 308-3158 or cl1237@gmail.com, or Watson (740) 707-0254 or aawwatson@icloud.com.

## North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

There will be a police patch collectors show on Sat., Apr. 29 from 9 am to 2 pm at Saint Stephens Episcopal Church, 801 11th Ave. North, North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Loren Finch will host it.

Admission is \$5 and a good condition patch. Patches will be raffled off at the end of the show.

Twenty-five tables are available for \$20 each. The hall will open at 7:30 am for exhibitor setup.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available.

All proceeds will be donated to Tunnels 2 Towers, a foundation that assists Gold Star and fallen first responder families.

Please mail checks for tables to Loren Finch, 721 Prestbury Dr., Conway SC 29526 or Pay Pal to lfinch091944@gmail.com.

## Bentonville, Ark.

The next Tri-State Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 29 beginning at 8 am at First Baptist Church Bentonville Gymnasium, 200 SW "A" St., Bentonville, Ark. Dustin Carlton will host it.

Admission is \$2. Children and spouses are admitted free.

Six-foot tables are available for \$20 each on a first-come basis. Early setup and trading before the show for tableholders. Reservations are final.

The show will benefit the Benton County Sheriff's Office Fraternal Order of Police and the "Shop With A Cop" program.

Law enforcement officers in uniform will be admitted free and enjoy free breakfast and lunch.

Food and beverages will be available.

For additional information or reservations, contact Carlton on (479) 381-4088.

## Edmonton, Alta.

## March-April 2023 POLICE COLLECTORS NEWS

The 2023 Edmonton Area Emergency Services Swap Meet will be Sat., May 13 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion Saint Albert Branch, 6 Tache St., Saint Albert, Alta. Phil Bailey and the International Police Association Canadian Section will host it.

Free admission.

Tables are 10 each. The hall will open at 8:30 am for exhibitor setup.

For table reservations or additional information, contact Bailey at crestcorp@shaw.ca.

## Cleveland, O.

The Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) will host the 2023 Police Collectors Show on Sat., May 20 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Double Tree Hotel, 1111 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, O. Tony Gorsek will host it. He is a former National Police Collectors Show host.

Free admission. All are welcome.

Tables are \$20 each. Purchase two or more tables and get one free. The hall will be open from 8 am to 10 am for exhibitor setup.

The show will be an official event of the annual GCPOMS Police Memorial Week celebration, which attracts law enforcement officers from throughout the United States and Canada. Please see the GCPOMS Web site at PoliceMemorialSociety.Org for information on other official events.

The show has a Facebook page, "Cleveland Police Collectors Show."

For table reservations or additional information, contact Gorsek on (216) 287-5343 or gorsek@att.net.

## Bluffton, S.C.

The First Annual "Palmetto State" Police Collectors Show will be from 9 am to 4 pm on Sat., May 20 in the Cafeteria Building Room 105 at the University of South Carolina Beaufort-Bluffton, Bluffton Campus, 1 University Blvd., Bluffton, S.C. The South Carolina Low Country Retired Law Enforcement Officers Association will host it. Gary Ogurek is the show director.

Admission is \$5.

Tables are \$50 each which includes entry for the tableholder and an assistant.

Food and beverages will be available at the USC Cafeteria.

Table payments can be made by mail by sending a check or money order payable to LCRLEOA, 198 Okatie Village Dr.-Ste. 103-120, Okatie SC 29909, using Pay Pal to LCRLEOA@gmail.com or contacting Diane at LCRLEOA@gmail.com.

For additional information, contact the hosts: Ogurek on (562) 714-8309 or garyogurek@gmail.com; Mike Sisino on (802) 881-3899 or pointman612@gmail.com or Russ Penka on (802) 353-6768 or rwpenska@aol.com.

## 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 ninety 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.

## Branson, Mo.

The Eighth Annual "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 16 from noon to 4 pm and Sat., June 17 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Americ Inn by Wyndham, 276 Tanger Blvd., Branson. Mo. (This is the former Camden Hotel.) Jim Post, Terry Bible and Tom Breen will host it.

Admission is free.

Seventy-five tables are available for \$15 each. Payment can be made by check, Pay Pal or major credit cards. Early reservations are recommended. Mail to Tom Breen, 1205 Markway Mills Rd., Jefferson City MO 65101. Email mshp297@hotmail.com. His telephone number is (573) 864-4736.

There will be a display contest with awards, a patch drop box, lunch available on site and level loading from the parking lot.

"Heart of the Ozarks" will be held during National Law Enforcement Week. Huge discounts are offered to current and retired law enforcement officers and their families.. Events include a motorcycle competition and police car parade. For additional information on Law Enforcement Week, please telephone (844) 529-9335 or see the Web site, LawEnforcementWeek.Org.

Branson is accessible by air for out-of-state collectors. The airport telephone number is (888) 359-2541.

For show information, contact Post on kopcars@arkansas.net or (479) 253-6333.

For area information, contact Bible on terry.bible264@gmail.com.

## San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The 2023 San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., July 29 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, Calif. The show is sponsored and hosted by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Admission is free.

Fifty-five eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each for CLEHS members or \$50 each for non-members. Early table reservations are recommended. The show is an annual sellout.

Awards will be presented for the Best Patch Display, Best Badge Display, Best Historical Display, Best Educational Display and Best of Show.

Online table reservations can be made by using the official CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

Reservations can also made by mail by sending a check or money order to President



## Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. His telephone number is (805) 441-4936. He can be contacted by email by using the CLEHS Web site.

### Bloomington, Ind.

The 2023 “Central Indiana” Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 5 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 W. Airport Rd., Bloomington, Ind. Kyle Landgrebe will host it.

- Admission is free.
- Tables are \$25 each. Exhibitor setup will be Fri., Aug. 4 from 5 to 7 pm or 8:30 am to 9 am on Saturday.
- Parking is free.
- Food and drink will be available.
- There are hotels close to the show venue.
- For table reservations and general information, please contact Kyle Landgrebe at kc9agm@gmail.com or (812) 360-7641.

# “Space Coast” Flies High Once Again

The “Space Coast” Patch Show has been an end of January hobby tradition for 36 years. Steve and Karen Bridges welcomed more than 100 collectors from 12 states and Canada to their 70-table annual swap meet in Titusville, Fla.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

TITUSVILLE, Fla. – Titusville is a mecca for space flight aficionados. Millions from around the world have visited the place the then-fledgling National Aeronautics and Space Administration chose as the site for launching manned space flights. Cape Canaveral is where rockets are still launched. The massive Vertical Assembly Building that readied the Apollo moon missions looms on the horizon. The city is home to the NASA museum at the Kennedy Space Center and the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

It was 36 years ago during the Space Shuttle era that Steve and Karen Bridges chose the Atlantic Ocean-front community for their first “Space Coast” Patch Show. Back then, Steve Bridges was a Titusville police officer and an avid Florida law enforcement collector. He has retired from the department but remains a dedicated hobbyist.

“Other than writing letters to departments, trading at shows was about the only way we collected when we started this. We didn’t have shows in Florida, so Karen and I decided to give it a try,” he recalled. “We’ve been doing this since 1987. It’s hard to believe it’s been that long!”

The Bridges always host their show on the last Saturday of January. It is still going strong. Even though it’s still officially named a patch show, “Space Coast” has expanded into badges, challenge coins and historic law enforcement artifacts and memorabilia. It is a major regional show that attracts collectors from throughout the United States, especially the East Coast, and Canada.

The hosts welcomed more than 100 collectors to their 70-table swap meet on January 28.

Hobbyists from 12 states and Ontario splashed down in Titusville for a fun-filled day. Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin were represented by tableholders and attendees. Xavier Dugardyn traveled from Quebec in Canada.

“Space Coast” tableholders were Joseph Banco, Mike R. Bondarenko (Wisconsin), Steve Bridges, Bill Burks (Georgia), Kelly Coopman, Hervey Cote (Massachusetts), Xavier Dugardyn (Quebec), Joe Feigenbaum, Lance Fisher, Dave Fox, Sam Goldstein, Paul Goldstein, John Holmes, Rob Jackson Tennessee), Rollin Kuch, Kevin Lashells, Jerry Lecomte (North Carolina),



Kelly Coopman (right) won the “Best Overall Display” award in Titusville. It was presented by Steve Bridges and one of his granddaughters. It was the first time that Coopman featured his breast cancer awareness collection at a Florida show. It debuted at the last National. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Sandra Leman, Keith Mackey (North Carolina), David Matte (Massachusetts), David Pate, Russ Penka (North Carolina), Gregory Quinn, Ben Roberson (Arizona), Steve Robertson, Ricky Robinson, Manny Rodriguez, Bob Schreiber, Gary Scott, William Seese, Jim Shattuck (Kentucky), Paul Simon, Ricky Suyono, Dave Teems, Eric Wollman (New York), Nathan Yarusso, Aaron Waldo and Pat Znadja (Minnesota).

Fifty-six collectors registered as walk-ins. They came mostly from Florida but six other states as well. At least ten walk-ins were newcomers, which greatly pleased Bridges. “This hobby needs new collectors. It was great to have them here. I hope they keep coming



Kelly Coopman's Pink Patch Project collection features nearly 500 emblems from federal, state, county, municipal, college and university agencies. The array is shown on ten large freestanding display boards. It was the first time he won an award at “Space Coast.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

back,” he said. He was particularly encouraged that several first-time attendees traveled from as far away as New York and North Carolina to attend.

“Space Coast” is also a popular venue for challenge coin collectors. Several members of the popular coin collectors group, Southern Law Enforcement Officers, were among the attendees.

**Coopman wins “Best Overall”** Florida collectors won all three display contest awards.



Steve and Karen Bridges have hosted 36 “Space Coast” shows in Titusville since 1987, always on the last Saturday in January. While most other long duration shows have had multiple hosts, the couple has done each one together. They look forward to 2024. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Steve Bridges (left) and one of his grandchildren honored William Seese (right) with the “Best Patch Display” award. He featured fine large framed collections from the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office, Florida Highway Patrol and the Tampa Police Department. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



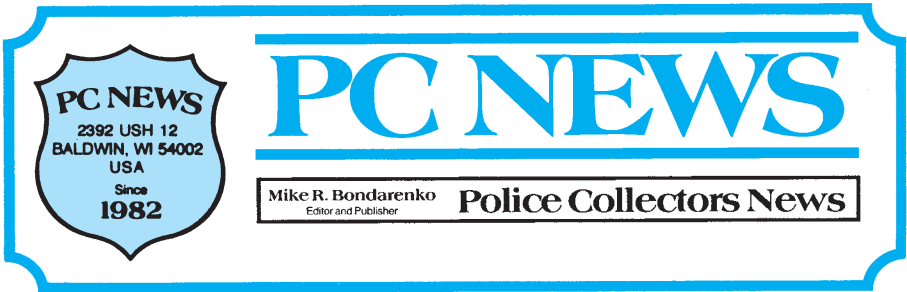


“Space Coast” was the first time that William Seese ever displayed his collections from the Florida Highway Patrol, Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office and Tampa Police Department. He is a nephew of veteran Florida hobbyist Gerald Vander Ham. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The prestigious “Best Overall” award went to Kelly Coopman, who specializes in breast cancer awareness or so-called pink patches. John Holmes, a transplanted New Yorker, won “Best Badge Display” for his beautifully-framed displays from New York City and Florida law enforcement agencies. William Seese was selected for “Best Patch Display” for large nicely-framed, impressive collections from the Florida Highway Patrol, Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office and the Tampa Police Department. He is the nephew of longtime Sunshine State collector Gerald Vander Ham, so the hobby is in his DNA.



New York special police badges from the John Holmes Collection. It includes special officer badges from Buffalo (lower left) and New York City, including a captain's shield in the upper left. Notice the unique round special officer badge (number 90) in the lower right. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



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William Seese's Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office collection includes this exhibit showing Board of Criminal Justice emblems, a badge, handcuffs, antique jail key and old jailer and bailiff insignia. The county is in west central Florida and encompasses the Tampa area. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Coopman introduced his unique Pink Patch Project collection to the hobby at the 2022 National Police Collectors Show in Gatlinburg. He has added more patches since that show and exhibited 482 emblems from throughout the country on ten large freestanding display boards.

“I wanted to get to 500 patches for this show but didn't quite make it. But, I got a few more today,” Coopman said.

Hundreds of federal, state, county, municipal, college and university agencies have joined the project to raise money for breast cancer research and victims by selling the emblems.



“Best Badge Display” at the Titusville show went to longtime hobbyist John Holmes (left). He accepted it from Steve Bridges (right) and one of his granddaughters. Holmes featured exhibits from the NYPD, Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police and several others. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Joe Banco offered four volumes of his United States Border Patrol history books. Following his Border Patrol retirement, Banco extensively researched and documented the agency’s history. The Border Patrol will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2024. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

### “Space Coast” Show...Continued

“I’m real proud of it. I got interested [in pink patches] because I was intrigued that departments would make pink versions of their patches,” the collector said.

Coopman believes his collection will only continue to grow as additional agencies create pink patches. “When I hit 500, I’ll go for 600,” he quipped.

He has found some pink patches difficult to obtain for a variety of reasons, mostly availability. “They only make so many every year. A lot of times they sell out before I find out about them, so I have to get them from other collectors,” he said.

Coopman paid \$50 for a San Francisco Community College Police pink patch that originally sold for \$10. “I wanted it, so I paid the price. I usually don’t pay that much. It was special,” he said.

Holmes was honored for his extremely impressive framed badge exhibits from New York City, which included shields worn by several family members who have served on NYPD, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, 1998 Utah Winter Olympics law enforcement and several others.

A unique exhibit featured prototype shields that William Bratton ordered when he was NYC Transit Police chief of police. He took over the agency in 1990 after he left the Boston Police Department. He would later become New York City police commissioner.

“The badges are the same design as the NYPD shield, but Bratton had lightning bolts added to the hat badges. I guess it was to make them different than NYPD,” Holmes said. He believes the bolts were added to represent electricity used to power subway trains.

“I don’t know a lot more about them, but I like them. I’ve never seen any other transit badges with lightning bolts,” he added.

He exhibited several framed badge and patch sets from a variety of agencies.

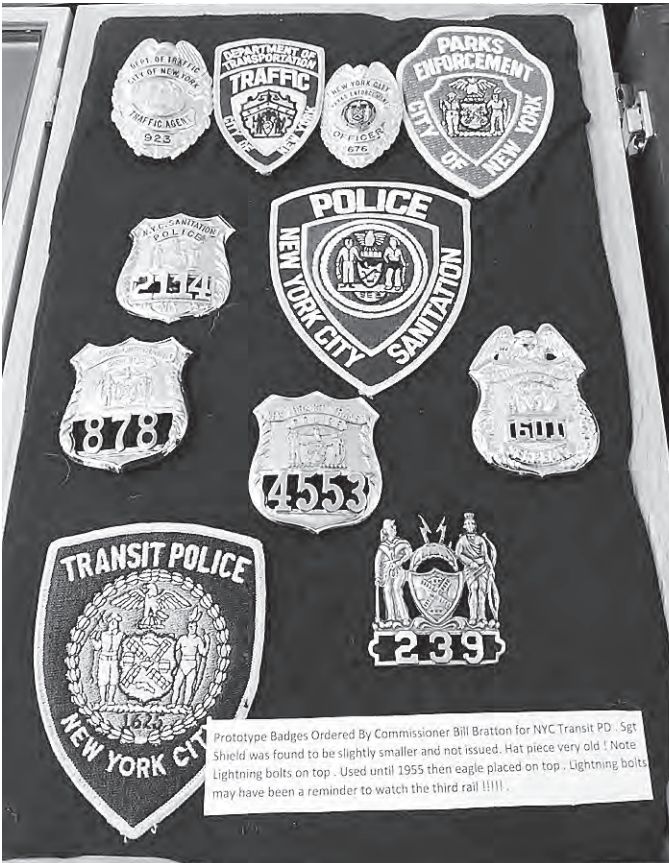
Holmes also showed insignia and artifacts from the United States Coast Guard. He holds the rank of commodore in the USCG Reserve in Florida and has a fine Coast Guard collection. The Coast Guard combats smuggling and drug trafficking in coastal waters utilizing its federal law enforcement authority in coastal waters.

Bridges’ grandchildren accompanied him as he presented the awards to Coopman, Sesse and Holmes in keeping with the show’s strong family friendly tradition.

A grandchild also selected patch drop winner Dave Teems’ entry and presented him with the contents of a bowl filled with emblems.

“We always have nice displays, but this year was really good. We had some new ones. [William] Sesse had never brought one before today and won. We also had our first pink patch display. It wasn’t the same people who’ve won in the past,” Bridges said.

### U.S. Border Patrol history Joe Banco had a long and distinguished United



John Holmes is a native New Yorker and avid NYC collector. His “Space Coast” display featured a badge and patch collection from the Transportation Department, Parks Enforcement, Sanitation Police and Transit Police. (Note the lightning bolt hat shield.) *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Joe Banco created this interesting United States Border Patrol challenge coin (bottom) for special agents who helped integrate the University of Mississippi. (Top) Banco offered this Canada Desk emblem from the USBP for sale. It features U.S. and Canadian flags. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

States Border Patrol career, serving on both the Mexican and Canadian borders. He retired as a deputy chief patrol agent and now lives in Saint Johns, Fla.

While Banco is a longtime law enforcement insignia collector, having joined the hobby in the early 1980s, his primary interest has always been history, especially the Border Patrol. He has conducted extensive research into USBP history for many years.

Banco has authored three books on his former agency’s past, which began when it was founded on May 28, 1924 as a Department of Justice agency, *Honor First, The Story of the United States Border Patrol*. It is a chronological set of four volumes. Three volumes have been published. A fourth is in the works. (“Honor First” is the Border Patrol motto.)

Volume One (367 pages) covers the years 1924 to 1948, the agency’s formative years, as it assumed responsibility for securing the nation’s borders with Canada and Mexico. Interestingly, while the 1989-mile Mexican border is a news media focus, the United States and Canada share a 5252 mile boundary. And, there are also 95,000 miles of coastal shoreline and navigable waters under USBP jurisdiction.

Volume Two (398 pages) is devoted to the years 1949 to 1974 when agency focus centered not only on illegal immigration, which was rampant in the 1950s, but also protecting our country during the Cold War. It is not widely known that Border Patrol agents were heavily involved in the integration of educational institutions in the ‘60s. The agency celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1974.

Volume Three (612 pages), which was only recently published, chronicles the Border Patrol’s transition to a high-tech federal law enforcement agency from 1975 to 1999. The Border Alliance, Southeast Asian refugees (post-Viet Nam War), BORTAC and other special operations and the 1993 Southwest Border Strategy are covered extensively.

Banco also authored a fascinating companion book, *Honor First, The Unsung Heroes of Oxford*, an in-depth history of the Border Patrol’s deployment to the University of Mississippi in September and October 1962 after President John F. Kennedy ordered federal law enforcement to protect Black student James Meredith as he desegregated the Ole Miss campus.

Five agents were shot by white supremacists trying to prevent Meredith from enrolling in the previously segregated university. The insurrectionists were influenced by the Klu Klux Klan and strongly supported by Governor Lester Maddox. In all, 77 agents were injured during civil disobedience in Oxford that surrounded the Meredith enrollment.

“While the Marshals Service was in charge, the Border Patrol had the largest federal [law enforcement] presence in Oxford. We sent in 316 agents. They were deputized as deputy marshals. The Marshals Service had 123 deputies compared to our 316,” Banco said.

The book is a highly-detailed account of how Border Patrol agents and other federal officers stopped the insurrection. “It was a pivotal point in the Civil Rights movement,” Banco said.

The yet to be published fourth book will be devoted to 1999 to the present. He hopes it will be completed before the USBP celebrates its centennial next year.

Of course, Banco’s books feature agency insignia, uniforms, vehicles and equipment,



David Teems (left) and Nathan Yarusso (right) have joined forces to design and produce public safety insignia. Their business, Naps and Donuts, is off to a great start. They have already done badges, emblems and coins for several Florida and out of state public safety agencies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Naps and Donuts is out with these beautiful custom-designed emblems for three Florida police departments, Cross City, Carrabelle and Chattahoochee. Carrabelle features the famous World's Smallest Police Station, which is an old fashioned telephone booth. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

so they are an excellent insignia reference source.

"We had our 50th anniversary while I was still working. I realized we didn't have a comprehensive history of our agency. So, I started collecting as much reference material as I could. I knew I wanted to put out something about our history. I never thought it would cover four books, but the more I looked, the more material I found," Banco said.

Although Banco bills himself as an unofficial USBP historian, it is doubtful his books could be bested by anyone holding an official title. Each volume makes for a fascinating read.

The *Honor First* series is reasonably priced and available on Amazon. About 1000 copies have been sold so far. Autographed copies are available from the author by writing to Joe Banco, PO Box 600187, Saint Johns FL 32260 or emailing him through his Web site, MigraJoe.Com.

Banco is getting out of the hobby to concentrate on further research work and writing. He offered a large portion of his collection for sale. I was able to acquire his United States Secret Service collection, most of it from the 1980s and '90s.

I also went home with a USBP Special Operations Division Canada Desk patch made by G-Man Emblem and a challenge coin he made for the unsung heroes of Oxford.

**Nap and Donuts Designs** What happens when a napping cop and a doughnut-eating firefighter enjoy producing public safety insignia get together? They form Naps and Doughnuts Design, a new source for top quality insignia and challenge coin creations.

Florida collectors David Teems, the firefighter, and Nathan Yarusso, the cop, have teamed up to design and produce badges, patches and challenge coins. They offered a variety of their handsome creations on their show tables.

"Nate is the designer. I'm the marketer. We've done quite a few projects already and are always looking for more," Teems said. "Our business is growing the more the word gets out about us."



(Top) Naps and Donuts did these first-ever Halloween theme emblems in Florida for the Franklin County Sheriffs Office and the Midway Fire Department. (Bottom) Havana PD has two canines, a Belgian malinois named "Bella" and a bloodhound named "Charlie." *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Nathan Yarusso featured an outstanding badge and patch exhibit. He brought frames from the police departments in Tampa, Fort Myers and Mexico Beach, as well as general Florida badges. Some of his badges are shown with agency ID cards and cloth insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Why Naps and Doughnuts? "Because the name fits us as a cop and a firefighter. I like naps. He likes doughnuts," Teem said.

They offered recent Florida creations, including Cross City PD, Carrabelle PD, Havana PD canines and first-ever Halloween patches for the Franklin County Sheriffs Office and Midway Fire and Rescue in Gadsden County. There is also a new emblem for the Midway Police Department.

Cross City in Dixie County is a colorful custom design. The large rounded triangle features a train station and the motto, "IN GOD WE TRUST." It also commemorates notable city resident the late Prince B. Oliver, an renown educator who taught in the Dixie County public school system for 46 years.

Once known as Crossroads, the city is a hub of the logging industry along the Gulf Coast. The railroads made it possible to ship forest products throughout the region.

Carrabelle lays claim to the World's Smallest Police Station, a an old-fashioned telephone booth, which is depicted on their handsome new emblem. It is also a rounded triangle. In addition to the police station, the colorful center design depicts a sailboat and the Carrabelle Lighthouse on the Carrabelle River.

"WORLD'S /SMALLEST /POLICE STATION" is lettered on banners beneath the design.

Long before the days of emergency call and dispatch centers, Carrabelle residents used the telephone to summon police. They called the phone in the booth. Officers used it to return calls. The police-only phone booth was erected at a central location, the corner pf USH 98 and County Road 67, in May 1963. It replaced a call box.

The World's Smallest Police Station is also world famous. It has been seen on three television shows and in a feature film.

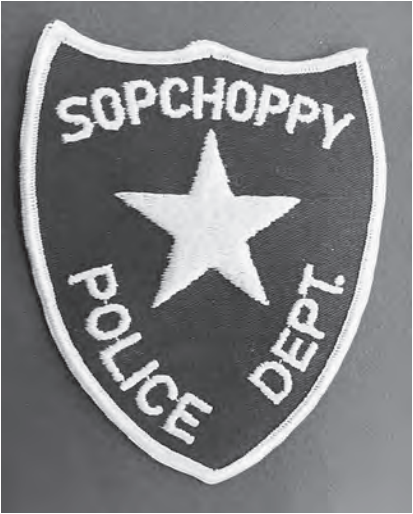
Chattahoochee in Gadsden County depicts a large, old time ferryboat. Before construction of a bridge over the Apalachicola River in the 1920s, boats ferried passengers and cargo across the river into the city. In addition to the full color emblem, there is an identical version in subdued colors.

Havana PD has two canines, "Bella," a Belgian malinois and "Charlie," a bloodhound. The dogs appear on their own insignia in full color. The special unit patches are based on the department's unique multicolored background patrol officer emblem.

Naps and Donuts was first in Florida to produce Halloween theme patches, one for the Franklin County Sheriffs Office and the other for the Midway Fire Department. A highly-detailed headless horseman is shown in frightening full color on both styles.

"We did the new 90th anniversary [1933 to 2023] badge and challenge coin for the Florida Department of Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Police. Both turned out really nice. The department is very happy with them," Teems said.

Collectors like Teems, Yarusso and many others have become significant players in the public safety insignia industry. When I started collecting in 1980, only a handful of fellow hobbyists were involved in designing and producing badges and patches. Now, there are



(Top) Sopchoppy Police Department officers wore this gold-on-green shield shape. The agency went defunct in 1994. (Bottom) Badges once worn by three-time police Chief Claxton Vause, his hat piece and his Wakulla County deputy sheriff star. The sheriff now policies it. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Claxton Vause served three tenures as the police chief in tiny Sopchoppy, Fla., 1955 to 1959, 1973 to 1978 and 1987 to 1992. He turned in his Sopchoppy breast badge when he left the department. David Teem said what happened to the valuable badge is unknown. *Contributed photograph*

### “Space Coast” Show...Continued

collector-owned and operated businesses like Naps and Donuts all over the country. It's been a boon for the hobby.

Although I don't collect them, challenge coins continue to soar in popularity among public safety agencies. The coin collecting craze has attracted several collector/designers to the industry as well.

Theme emblems, such as Halloween, Christmas, breast cancer awareness and many others, have sparked creativity and given collectors additional hobby options. While I also don't collect them, theme patches are also soaring in popularity.

**Welcome to Sopchoppy** David Teems and Nathan Yarusso featured impressive displays from their collections. Yarusso has a Florida badge collection that needs to be seen to be believed. Teems is also an accomplished Sunshine State collector.

While I was looking at their displays and taking notes, I noticed a plain, yellow-on-gold shield-shaped patch that read, "SOPCHOPPY/ POLICE/ DEPT." I chuckled. I thought it was one of those novelty emblems flooding the hobby these days. But, it looked old and piqued my curiosity. "There can't be a place named Sopchoppy," I said to myself. "This has to be someone's idea of a joke."

I was wrong! I was looking at an absolutely authentic patch from the long defunct Sopchoppy Police Department in Wakulla County. The small city is about 45 minutes southwest of Tallahassee on the Gulf Coast. The population is about 500.

"I've done quite a bit of research into Sopchoppy because I like old stuff from Florida. The PD went out of service in 1994. The county took over," Teems said.

It appears the department was formed in the mid-1950s, based on a chiefs of police chronology compiled by Teems during interviews with former Chief Claxton Vause, now 90 years old, at his Sopchoppy home.

"Claxton still remembers a lot of about the police department. I went through his daughter to contact him. He let me visit. I took pictures of his badges and other things he saved. His daughter sent me some pictures of him in uniform and his patrol cars," Teem said.

Interestingly, Vause served as chief three times, 1955 to 1959, 1973 to 1978 and 1987 to 1992. Teem said the dates are approximate based on his recollections.

The first shoulder patch was introduced in about 1960.

Chief Vause turned in his Sopchoppy badge when he retired but kept his hat shield and deputy sheriff badge. What happened to his badge is a mystery.

Teems said Chief Vause told great stories from his career in the small coastal community, such as being called to a fight between two brothers. Evidently, one sibling got the best of the other in the altercation, so the chief arrested him. However, his brother needed medical attention.

Sopchoppy doesn't have a hospital, so Chief Vause loaded both brothers into the back seat of his patrol car and drove them to Tallahassee. He dropped the battered brother off at a hospital to get treatment for his injuries, then took the arrested brother to the jail. On the way back from jail, he picked up the injured brother from the hospital and drove him back to town. Imagine transporting a perpetrator and a victim side-by-side in the same car today?



Steve and Marcie Robertson offered a variety of badges, patches and other collectibles at their well-stocked table. The former Alaska state trooper said he is liquidating some of his collection. "I'm getting old. I don't have anyone to pass it off to, so why not sell?" he said. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Sopchoppy's claim to fame is the annual Worm Grunting Festival. There is a way to attract worms to surface by driving wooden stakes into the ground and rubbing them with metal slabs. The vibration causes worms to emerge where they can be gathered as fish bait. I included this tidbit only because wouldn't a worm festival make a cool patch if the PD is ever reinstated? "Sopchoppy Florida's Worm Capital!"

**“Space Coast” table talk** Greg Quinn, a retired NYPD officer living in Florida, displayed several vintage badges from his department collection. He also had two large frames of NYPD patches.

"I retired in 1998 and moved down here. I was a really serious NYPD badge guy back then. I went to the Mineola shows all the time. But, I've sold off a lot the last few years. Now, I guess you could say I only dabble in badges, off and on, mostly off. I don't go after them like I used to," Quinn said.

Quinn's career is featured in the book, *Second To None*, by best selling author Peter Thron, a collection of true to life stories told by NYPD officers. Six incidents from Quinn's career are chronicled in the book.

The veteran hobbyist joined the NYPD auxiliary in 1979 where he logged more than 2500 hours. He became a Transit Police officer in 1983, then an NYPD patrolman a year later. He was promoted to sergeant in 1988.

Quinn was involved in five shootings. He was awarded numerous awards for bravery, including the Medal of Valor in 1982 as an auxiliary officer.

"I don't why he chose me to be in the book, but it's an honor," he said.

Thron is coming out with a new book this spring, *Fear City*. It will be a collection of stories from the careers of New York City law enforcement officers from agencies other than the NYPD.

...Although Russ Penka's primary interest is vintage law enforcement vehicle license plates, he also collects badges, particularly from the Vermont State Police, his former department. He also featured a display of all the badges he wore during his long career, 12 in all.

He lives in North Carolina but is active in the Low Country Retired Law Enforcement Officers Association (LCRLEOA) in South Carolina. "It's a really good organization. They raise money for charities and do a lot for members, like pistol qualification shoots and lobbying for pro-cop legislation," he said.

Penka announced the LCRLEOA is sponsoring its first public safety collectors show, the "Palmetto State" Police Collectors Show, on May 20. It will be held at the University of South Carolina Bluffton Campus in Bluffton. All proceeds will go to charities.

"Bluffton is between I-95 and Hilton Head Island. The campus is easy to find with lots of hotels, bars and restaurants in the area. It's nice place to spend a weekend," he said.

The show will take place in the food service building. The cafeteria hall can easily accommodate up to 100 tables with plenty of room for displays.

Additional information can be found in "Swap Meet Calendar" elsewhere in this issue. There is also a display advertisement with contact information for table reservations.

Penka showed a Vermont State Police emblem I hadn't seen before. It was created by the agency's communications personnel during the agency's 1997 50th anniversary. It's identical to the anniversary insignia. However, "PUBLIC SAFETY" appears above the center design.

...The father/son collecting team of Sam and Paul Goldstein filled several tables with a wide variety of law enforcement-related collectibles and equipment for sale or trade, including hundreds of badges and thousands of patches. I described it to other collectors as Goldstein's Bargain Basement.



Russ Penka is a dedicated law enforcement vehicle license plate collector, but he also has some badges. He will be involved in hosting the first "Palmetto State" Police Collectors Show in Bluffton, S.C. on May 20. Penka is a retired Vermont state trooper. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) When the Vermont State Police celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1997, no commemorative emblem was made for dispatchers, so they made their own! (Right) Sam Goldstein went home with this fine Cook County, Ill. retired deputy badge given to him by a collector. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Steve Robertson showed this wooden shield featuring seven badges worn by the Unified Division of the United States Secret Service. The collection was sold as memento to department personnel in the 1980s. The badges were made from the original dies. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

There was a big selection of toys and scale model police cars. A local school teacher, whose husband is a police officer and patch collector, bought nearly all the toys and cars. She plans to give them to her students as Christmas presents this year. “When she said she wants her students to appreciate the police, I gave her a really, really good deal,” Sam Goldstein said.

Another local collector saw several items from German law enforcement agencies on the



Rollin (left) and John Kuch (right) are a father/son collecting team. Rollin Kuch grew up in Minnesota and collects the Gopher State. John Kuch worked in Fairfax County, Va. and is retired. Father collects Minnesota, while son specializes in dive team and underwater recovery. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Secret Service Uniformed Division, now known as the White House Police.

It was sold only to Uniformed Division officers as a historic collectible in the 1980s. A few have found their way into the hobby over the years, but not many. It had been a long time since I had seen one for sale. (Robertson was asking \$1000.) It shows seven badges reproduced from the original dies. It’s an impressive USSS collectible.

A plaque affixed to the shield reads:  
“The White House Police was created by an act of Congress on July 1, 1922 at the request of President Warren G. Harding. It became operational on October 22, 1922 with a total of thirty-three officers. These officers were furnished by the Metropolitan Police Force of the District of Columbia and the United States Park Police.

“Over the years the Force has grown in size and mandated responsibilities. As a result of these added responsibilities, the name of the Force has undergone two changes: the Executive Protective Service from 1970 to 1978 and the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division from 1978 to the present.

“The badges displayed on this plaque were reproduced from the original dies and are a complete collection of the police badges of the White House.”

...Floridian Manny Rodriguez is another very talented insignia designer and producer. He has created handsome custom insignia for law enforcement agencies all over the country and brought a large selection for sale or trade. His business name is MROD Emblems.

Rodriguez offered an update for Florida collectors living out of state: Pembroke Park PD in Broward County went defunct but was reinstated about 18 months ago. He designed a new emblem for the reorganized agency and had it available for trade or trade.

MROD created the current Surfside police and canine emblems. The colorful patrol officer insignia features a sailboat on the water between palm trees along a beach. The dog’s head replaces the center design on the canine emblem.

He did a patch for the tiny Seminole Gulf Railway Police Department. It has a beautiful, colorful center design depicting the state seal.

“I did it for the chief. It’s a one-man department. Right now, the railway is shut down because the tracks were badly damaged from Hurricane Ian. It’s not running right now,” Rodriguez said.

Seminole Gulf Railway is a short line based in Fort Myers that operates 100 miles of track. It carries passengers and freight.

The railway also has a very popular Mystery Murder dinner train that operates five nights a week. Passengers ride in a former Ringling Brothers Circus club car and help solve a murder mystery portrayed by actors.

...Rollin and John Kuch are another Florida father/son collecting team. They featured a variety of displays from their fine collections.

Rollin Kuch is originally from Robbinsdale, Minn. but relocated to Florida, where his wife was born, after retirement. He still collects Minnesota and brought several nice displays



Manny Rodriguez is accomplished law enforcement insignia designer and producer. His business is called MROD Emblem. The veteran Florida collector featured a variety of colorful custom emblems he has done for law enforcement and public safety agencies from all over . *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

tables. He gave Sam Goldstein a beautiful vintage Cook County, Ill. Sheriffs Department retirement badge in trade for several German badges and patches. “He has a German heritage and collects German police,” Goldstein said.

...Steve and Marcie Robertson featured several cases of badges for sale or trade. Of particular interest was a large wooden shield showing badges worn by the United States



Recent MROD Emblem creations for Florida police departments, Pembroke Park, Surfside (patrol officer and canine) and Seminole Gulf Railway. Pembroke Park went defunct but returned about 18 months ago. Seminole Gulf is a single officer railroad agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Rollin and John Kuch featured several excellent displays at the “Space Coast” show, such as emblems worn by law enforcement agency volunteers (freestanding frame) and dive team and underwater recovery patches, which are shown on red and white diving flags. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Rollin Kuch has a display devoted to his father, George Kuch, one of the original eight members of the Minnesota Highway Patrol. He was captain from 1929 to 1933. The exhibit shows his Highway Patrol, Robbinsdale PD and Hennepin County deputy badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Space Coast” Show...Continued

from his collection.

He has a collection from his father, George J. Kuch, who was one of the eight original members of the Minnesota Highway Patrol in 1929. It includes both of his original badges, patrolman number “2” and captain. He served as captain from 1929 to 1933. Kuch left Robbinsdale PD to take the state job.

“They rode motorcycles back then, even in the winter. It couldn’t have been too pleasant to ride through a Minnesota snowstorm,” Kuch said.

The display includes newspaper stories about his appointment as captain, as well as a photo of him in uniform.

Kuch has another display devoted to his father’s police career in Robbinsdale and as a Hennepin County deputy sheriff. Many sheriffs routinely deputized every municipal police officer in their counties back then, long before the days of mutual aid agreements.

There was a two frame exhibit of volunteer police officer emblems in Florida and other states. “I really like it. The way things are now, volunteers come in pretty handy. It’s a good thing,” he said.

John Kuch collects law enforcement dive team and underwater recovery emblems. He shows them on red and white diving flags.

“I was a police officer in Fairfax County [Virginia] before I retired. In fact, I was on the same patrol squad as John Lawson in Franconia. He was a big time collector,” he said.

...Steve Bridges shared the sad news that longtime Florida badge collector Roger Khatri died in August 2022. He won display contest awards in Titusville for his outstanding badge exhibits.

“I haven’t been able to find out much else. He was an Orange County sheriff’s reserve and ran a dry cleaning business in Orlando. I can’t find an obituary or anything else,” Bridges said.

Khatri battled multiple serious health issues over the last several years.

PCNEWS hopes to find enough information for an obituary and tribute. He was a very dedicated badge collector.

Looking forward to 2024 Steve and Karen Bridges will host another show next January at the same location, a large, modern senior citizen center. Details will be announced later this year.

“We ran out of tables at the end of December, but I had a few cancellations, so everyone who wanted a table got one,” Bridges said.

“It was nice to see patches at cheap prices. What some people are paying these days is insane. That’s one nice thing about the Florida collectors. We keep it affordable,” he said.

The hosts received numerous compliments on the food, which was provided by Reel Pit Barbecue, a local food truck. A retired Titusville police officer is one of the owners. My wife, Paula, ordered beef brisket for lunch and let me taste it. It was to die for! Absolutely delicious.

My thanks to Steve and Karen for hosting one of the best shows in the hobby over the last 36 years. Now, it’s on to year 37!

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



Arranging dive team and underwater recovery unit patches on a red and white diving flag is a neat way to display a theme collection like this one. John Kuch specializes in this insignia and has an impressive collection. He showed part of at the recent “pace Coast” show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Mick Kalin, longtime Chicago law enforcement insignia collector, was a River Grove, Ill. officer for 30 years where he retired as a patrol sergeant. Her also worked for other suburban Chicago police and security departments. Let It Be lyrics appear on his funeral card. *Contributed photograph*

# Veteran Chicago Collector Mick Kalin Dies At 70

Mick Kalin, one of the pioneer Illinois badge and patch hobbyists, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack on November 1. He was only 70 years old. Kalin spent more than 40 years as a police officer and security guard in suburban Chicago.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Longtime Chicago area collector Mick Kalin, 70, of River Grove, Ill. died of a heart attack on November 1, according to his family.

Kalin began collecting Chicago area law enforcement insignia in the late ‘70s. He specialized in western and northwestern suburban police departments, as well as the Chicago Police Department. While his primary interest was badges, he also amassed a large shoulder emblem collection.

“Mick absolutely loved being a police officer. He also loved badges and patches. He never missed a show,” said his ex-wife, Joanne Kalin. Although the two were divorced in 1998, they remained close friends.

A Ukrainian American extremely proud of his heritage, Kalin was born and raised in Humboldt Park, Ill., the son of immigrant parents. He had a lifelong interest in police work and served with the River Grove Police Department for more than 30 years. He was also a patrolman in Melrose Park and at Triton College.

“Mick loved to work. He was about as dedicated to being a police officer as anyone could ever be. He was full-time in River Grove and had part-time jobs with other departments. He also worked some security jobs. It was common for him to have two or three jobs at the same time. He loved them all,” Ms. Kalin said.

Kalin was a regular tableholder at Chicago area shows. He also attended swap meets in Milwaukee, Wis. and Merrillville, Ind.

“I went a lot of shows with him. I was the table watcher while he checked out all the other tables. He was always looking for something new for his collection. He was really, really into it. He loved Chicago area things,” Ms. Kalin said.

Kalin featured his virtually complete suburban Chicago collections at the 1987 National Police Collectors Show in Chicago. He told PCNEWS he was attracted to law enforcement at a very young age, even though no one else in his family had ever served as a police officer.

“It’s just something that’s always interested me, even when I was a kid. I never wanted to be anything else,” he said.

He became interested in the hobby when he met collectors at training and conferences. “Guys were trading patches and asking me for patches. It looked like it would be fun, so I gave it a try. I was pretty much hooked after the first trade,” he recalled.

Kalin helped design the badges and patches worn by the River Grove Police



Mick Kalin (second from right) was honored by Chicago Tribune company management for his 30 years of service to the newspaper as a security guard at the company printing plant. After the plant was sold and relocated to Wisconsin, Kalin was laid off from his position. *Contributed photograph*





Mick Kalin served as a patrolman and then a sergeant at the River Grove, Ill. Police Department for 30 years before his retirement six or seven years ago. He is shown with his patrol car, a black and gold Ford Crown Victoria, in the '90s. It had a then-state of the art overhead lightbar. Contributed photograph

Department during his career.

His badge and patch displays were devoted to River Grove, Melrose Park, Ford City (a shopping mall police agency) and other security agencies, Chicago PD and the Illinois State Police, as well as several other Windy City area agencies. The displays were supplemented by headgear and antique duty equipment.

Interestingly, he concentrated in police departments, not county sheriffs offices. "I guess it's because I've always been a police officer, not a sheriff," he said.

Kalin was highly regarded by his fellow Chicago area collectors. Among his longtime friends were Dave Nagel, Jim Kelledy, Pete Belos, Jim Signorelli and Jimmy Hall, among others. He was well liked for his positive attitude, quick wit and infectious smile.

In addition to his police career, Kalin worked security at the Chicago Tribune newspaper printing plant for more than 30 years where he was highly regarded and a favorite among his fellow employees.

"Mick loved his job at the paper. He never missed a day. He worked there full-time after he retired from River Grove six or seven years ago, part-time before that," Ms. Kalin said.

Kalin held the rank of patrol sergeant upon his River Grove retirement.

Kalin was also a serious collector of toys, such as G.I. Joe, Hot Wheels and Matchbox, and Beatles memorabilia. "Mick went to toy shows all the time. He never opened a package. Everything is in pristine condition. It had to be in perfect condition," Ms. Kalin said.

His Beatles memorabilia included "anything and everything," she said.

Lyrics from the 1970 Beatles smash hit, *Let It Be*, one of his favorite songs, appear on his funeral announcement card.

The family has made no decisions on the disposition of his collections. "We're going through things. There are boxes and boxes full of stuff. It's going to take us a long time," Ms. Kalin said. Kalin's son, Andrew, is not interested in them, she added.

"Mick was a very funny man. He loved to tell jokes and kid people. There were a lot of Mick stories at the funeral. Everybody laughed. Everyone liked him. He was an all-around great guy."

Kalin is buried at Elmwood Park Cemetery.

His death was the 21st reported in the hobby in 2022.

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# United States Marshals Museum Opening Planned

The long-awaited opening of the United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Ark. is tentatively slated for this summer, according to museum officials. Nearly \$50 million has been raised to fund the official agency museum. It has been planned since 2007 when the Marshals Service chose the Fort Smith site.

By Thomas Saccente, Guest Writer

FORT SMITH, Ark. – The United States Marshals Museum reported making serious headway in 2022 as it prepares to open this year after more than a decade of development.

Ben Johnson, the museum president and chief executive officer, and Doug Babb, chairman of the museum board, provided an update on the project during the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Breakfast in early January. They also gave insight into what people can expect to see when it finally opens, which they expect to happen this summer.

Johnson, the event keynote speaker, said it's both very rare and a sizable development for a community that isn't a major coastal economic hub and international museum. He said he expects the Marshals Museum to have a significant impact in terms of economic, social, cultural and educational value.

Babb described the progress on the project in 2022 as "nothing less than extraordinary." He said Little Rock-based CDI Contractors has erected walls for the galleries and completed other work, such as installing lights and an electrical system. This process began in October.

"The entry to the museum was cut just yesterday, so they will be done in a couple weeks," Babb said.

Babb said Thinkwell, a Los Angeles company, has been coordinating with about 60 or 70 vendors across the United States and Canada to design and build the museum exhibits. The museum signed a \$7.8 million contract with Thinkwell in November 2021.

"There are over 41 interactive experiences that will be installed," Babb said, adding that work will be done over the next few months.

More than \$46 million has been raised since Fort Smith was announced as the official museum site in 2007, Babb said. The Marshals Museum Foundation has about \$2 million to \$3 million left to raise to achieve its approximately \$50 million capital campaign fundraising goal, which will be used for the exhibit space and create the exhibits, along with other things such as furniture, fixtures and equipment.



Officials hope to finally open the United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Ark. this summer. The oft-delayed opening has been delayed by Arkansas River flooding, construction issues and lack of adequate funding. It is projected to become a popular tourist destination. *USMS photograph*

Babb has said the price of the exhibits went up as a result of inflation and supply chain issues, among other factors, that came about after the museum signed the Thinkwell contract. The company will also prepare the shipping of finished exhibits to Fort Smith and their installation.

"We are in the process of meeting with a large number of current and potential donors over the months of January and February, and we'll be making requests for additional donations," Babb said. "And, we're currently cultivating some new donors in the state of Arkansas who've never given before."

Johnson, who started his position in August, disclosed details on the museum exhibit experience, which will include dedicated galleries, such as "To Be A Marshal," "Frontier Marshals, The Campfire," "A Changing Nation" and "Modern Marshals."

"This is not just an Old West museum with old pictures hanging on the wall. This is 18,000 to 20,000 square feet of interactive, immersive information about, yes, the United States Marshals Service, but also the Constitution of the United States, the way our government was formed, how it is theoretically supposed to work, the role of the marshals and a variety of other things all the way from 1789 to the current day," he said.

Johnson also reiterated data the museum had previously presented to the community. The museum expects an annual attendance of 125,576 people during a typical year based on data provided by Leisure Development Partners, a consulting practice headquartered in London via a feasibility study in 2018. The first couple years after opening are expected to over-perform in comparison.

Johnson estimated people would visit for one to two hours, depending on how much they interact with the five permanent galleries. The museum will also have another 4000 square-foot gallery that can facilitate temporary, rotating exhibits a couple of times per year to give people a reason to come back.

Johnson estimated the museum will begin refreshing or improving its exhibits after four or five years.

Fort Smith voters rejected a proposal in March 2019 to levy a nine-month one percent sales tax to pay for the museum's completion. Construction of the main museum building, which consists of about 53,000 square feet at 789 Riverfront Drive along the Arkansas River, was completed in January 2020.

THOMAS SACCENTE (*River Valley Democrat-Gazette*, 5 Court Street, Fort Smith AR 72901)

Courtesy of Jim Post. EDITOR

**Career Collection Stolen** A large career badge and patch shadow box belonging to retired LaGrange, Ore. police Chief John Courtney was stolen recently while the chief was moving back to the Pacific Northwest from Arizona. He believes it was stolen in Arizona and filed a police department report. A former Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department lieutenant, the shadow box contains Courtney's personal LASD and LaGrange PD insignia. It is believed the collection could show up on Internet auction sites. Collectors are asked to be on the lookout.

**"Officer Hulk" Sworn** Actor and competition bodybuilder and weightlifter Lou Ferrigno, who portrayed the comic hero "The Incredible Hulk" on television, is now an honorary Syracuse, N.Y. police officer. Chief Joe Cecile swore Ferrigno in before a large crowd of current and former officers last year. Ferrigno is a strong law enforcement supporter. He served as a sheriff's deputy in California for 17 years before he became an actor and has volunteered at the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office in Phoenix, Ariz. Ferrigno's father was a New York City police lieutenant.



The new United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Ark. will feature more than 41 interactive exhibits to tell the story of the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency, which was founded in 1789. Fort Smith was chosen for its significance to early USMS history. *USMS photograph*



# History Matters: A Missing State Police Badge

A long lost early Connecticut State Police badge recovered near a school playground in 1984 is now on permanent display at the Connecticut State Police Museum in Meriden. It was found by Gerald Mayer, a metal detector hobbyist in East Lyme, and researched by a local history teacher.

By Jim Littlefield, Guest Writer

EAST LYME, Conn. – January is a great month for reflection. When the old year passes and another begins, it offers us the perfect time to look ahead, as well as look back to special past moments.

I was doing that just the other day, and an investigation we undertook about a decade ago came to mind. What was so special about this “history mystery” was that unlike so many archaeological investigations we had attempted, this one left so little uncovered. The “Five W” boxes, who, why, what, where and when, were all checked off, with “i’s” dotted and “t’s” crossed along the way.

The story began in 2012 when an East Lyme resident by the name of Gerald Mayer came forward to share with my anthropology class a very special discovery he had made while metal detecting at a local playground. He had uncovered a gold Connecticut State Police badge with the numeral “5” imprinted on it.

“I remember the day I found it,” Mayer said in recounting his story. “It was back on March 4, 1984. I had already found 52 coins that day and was still searching the southwest corner of the Niantic Center School playground when my Fisher metal detector registered another find.

“I reached for a small trowel I carried in a leather case on my belt and cut a small plug from the ground so it could be replaced when done. About four inches down, I found myself in possession of a gold badge, a Connecticut State Police badge, to be more exact. It was quite worn but still looked very official and had the single digit “5” inscribed on its face.”

Mayer stored this artifact away for many years, but after reading how our classes had successfully researched an old class ring from a now-defunct southern military academy, thought we might be able to help him piece together the story of the badge. We eagerly embraced the task.

Researching the history of the Connecticut State Police, we learned that an early governor by the name of Abiram Chamberlain had, on June 15, 1903, publicly announced its creation. He listed five men during his press conference who would serve as our state’s first troopers, William Clark from Bethel, William O’Brien of New Haven, Frank Barnes of Plymouth, John Flynn of Wetherfield and Merrill Louks of Ashford.

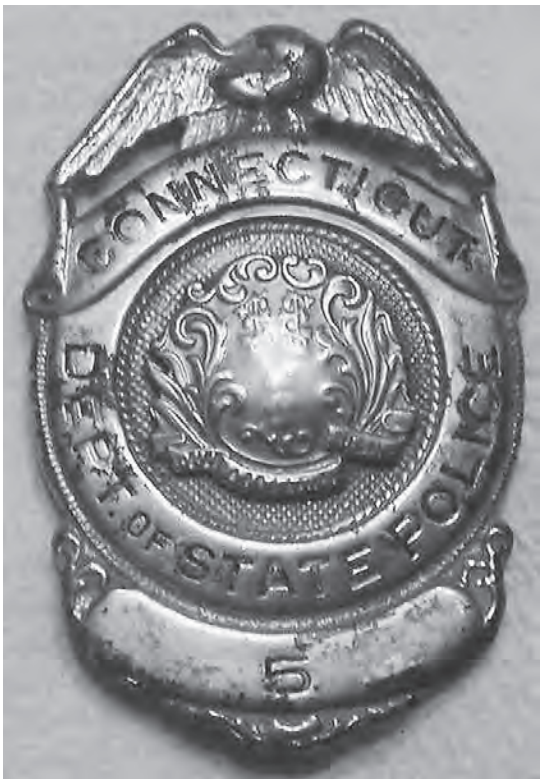
“The department is now organized and ready to attend to the cases,” the Governor had enthusiastically told the press that day.

Did the order in which the governor listed those men have any significance, we wondered. Were those early troopers issued badges with numbers that corresponded to that listing? More specifically, was Trooper Merrill Louks of Ashford the man who once wore badge number “5.”

That lead dead ended. Aside from the fact that the first badges turned out to be a much different style than the one we had, we found that badge numbers had not even been given out at that early time. Also, early troopers did not wear uniforms until 1921.

Further investigation determined the badge in our possession was actually one of 50 distributed to state troopers during the 1920s. Mayer discovered that a similar style badge (number “3”) had been matched to one of the troopers from that time. However, badge number “5” remained a mystery.

As in most of our archaeological endeavors, someone could be expected to come forward during the investigation to add a necessary piece to the puzzle. Former state police officers Susan Kumro, Jerry Longo and Joe Perkins, along with local mailman Bill Cavanaugh, would be the ones to shed light on the mystery of state police badge number “5,” and the man who wore it.



East Lyme, Conn. resident Gerald Mayer discovered this long lost Connecticut State Police badge while metal detecting in 1984. He contacted local history teacher Jim Littlefield whose research determined that it was lost by Trooper Jacques Palmer many years earlier. *Contributed photograph*

Kumro is a Niantic Main Street businesswoman and former state police officer. Knowing that she served on the force, I thought she might be the one to contact. She redirected me to retired state police Sergeant Longo.

“He was always to go-to guy on the force when it came to anything historical,” she assured me.

I found that Sergeant Longo was the president of the Connecticut State Police Academy Alumni Association and was also the director of the newly established Connecticut State Police Museum in Meriden. Mayer had earlier journeyed up to Meriden to show the badge to Longo.

“He was very excited about the badge. I really felt it was only a matter of time before he solved the mystery of who wore it,” Mayer excitedly reported.

And then came the breaking news in an email from Longo to Mayer dated July 12, 2012.

“As we were recently preparing to build a shadowbox to house the fallen Connecticut State Police heroes (in the museum), we made a discovery. Our first trooper in the line of duty, Pearl E. Roberts, carried badge number ‘5!’” Longo wrote.

Further research indicated that Trooper Roberts had been on duty in New Haven on Saturday, November 25, 1922 at the Yale-Harvard football game. As he headed home on his Excelsior-Henderson motorcycle, his front tire caught in the grooves of a trolley track, pitching him forward over the handlebars with the vehicle landing on top of him.

His head was fractured as it hit the curb, and he died shortly after, it was reported. To compound the tragedy, Trooper Roberts left an expectant wife at home in Norwich.

We now knew the name of the man who one wore the mystery badge, but one question still remained. How did the badge come to be buried at the Niantic School playground, most likely decades after Roberts’ tragic death?

The phone rang. Kumro had found the answer. She said I should contact former East Lyme mailman Cavanaugh, who would fill me in on all the specifics. The following came from our conversation.

“It was in 1958, as I recall, as I had just returned home from the service and had plans to get together one night with some old friends on Herster Drive, which is out behind the Niantic school playground. We hadn’t seen each other in some time, and we were all looking forward to the party we had planned.

“I guess the police got wind of this and figured it could become quite rowdy, maybe even illegal. The resident state trooper at the time, Palmer Jacques, staked out the area and lay in the bushes near the big rock that used to define the southwest border of the playground. I remember that rock from my days as a student when our principal would take her binoculars and spy on students at recess to see if they crossed that forbidden landmark.

“Well, Officer Jacques must have laid in that area for some time unbeknownst to us, but, finding nothing illegal, went home without making an arrest. The next day, however, he reappeared on the scene with another officer. He had a lawnmower and also a rake in hand and spent a great deal of time looking for something in the general vicinity of that rock. Frustrated, he finally let it be known to curious onlookers that he had lost his badge the night before.

“He was frantic, really, telling us it was valuable, old and had a very low serial number. In his frustration, he accused one of my friends (who he didn’t like anyway) of having found the badge, refusing to return it.

“I always wondered what happened to that state police badge. Did Jacques ever find it? Did my buddy really have it and managed to keep quiet about it? Was it found by someone else later on, or did it remain lost? When Sue told me about your investigation, I knew you would be interested in this part of the story,” Cavanaugh concluded.

Perkins, another retired state police officer who lives locally, confirmed that Palmer Jacques wore badge number “5.”

“I remembered that Captain Louis Leitkowski served with Palmer and knew him quite well. I contacted him down in Florida and he confirmed that Jacques wore badge number ‘5’ as he remembered seeing it on his uniform many times over the years,” Perkins remembered.

It was also discovered that badges were returned to the department when an officer retired, but some badges were recycled, perhaps because of family or other connections.

Sergeant Longo added the following. “Curious thing. Per your request we looked up Palmer Jacques’ record and found an index card with ‘Badge Number Five’ typed over his original badge number. Very interesting stuff. You and Mayor took us on quite a ride.”

The badge was donated by Gerald Mayer to the Connecticut State Police Museum in Meriden and can be viewed there.

JIM LITTLEFIELD (The Day Publishing Company, PO Box 1231, New London CT 06320-1231)

*Jim Littlefield is a retired history teacher in East Lyme who has written two local history books and two historical novels. His columns can be found in the Post Road Review.*

EDITOR

**PICA-GB AGM Announced** The annual general meeting of the Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain will be Sunday, May 21 in Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire, England. The Risborough Community Center is the new venue for the AGM. Chairman Keith Jackson will preside. The hall will open at 9 am. A swap meet will begin after the annual meeting. PICA-GB moved the AGM and swap meet following a five-fold increase in rental fees for the former venue was announced by its owners.



A day at the office behind the wheel of one of the newly-outfitted New York Police Department radio motor patrols (RMPs). The SUV features high-tech communications, observation and emergency control equipment. All electronics are at the operator’s fingertips. *NYPD photograph*



An NYPD collector described the new look as a “new low” for the department. “It’s a total sellout to ‘feel good’ policing with the cameras and QR codes. But, it’s also the worst-looking police car I’ve ever seen. Green and blue? The best they got?”

“We’re going to have the sharpest-looking RMPs in the country. No one else has anything like it,” another officer wrote.

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## Dave Gislason Collection Given To Lyon County

Mary Gislason, the widow of longtime Minnesota law enforcement insignia collector Dave “Gooz” Gislason, has donated his extensive Lyon County emblem collection to the county. Sheriff Eric Wallen announced the collection will be displayed at the Law Enforcement Center in Marshall.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

MARSHALL, Minn. – Dave Gislason’s outstanding Lyon County, Minn. law enforcement emblem collection has been donated to the Sheriffs Office, Sheriff Eric D. Wallen announced.

The donation was made by his widow, Mary Gislason, and accepted by the department and county commissioners in late December. It fulfilled a wish Gislason had that his extensive county collection remain in Marshall where he lived and worked.

Gislason, a dean of the Minnesota hobby, died last August. Before his 2013 retirement, he was a law enforcement dispatcher in Lyon County for over 30 years, serving first with the Marshall Police Department and then with the Minnesota State Patrol Communications Center in Marshall. His wife is a longtime Lyon County dispatcher.

“Mary donated a portion of Dave’s collection to the Lyon County Sheriffs Office. She donated the pieces that have ties to the county and local police departments,” Sheriff Wallen said.

Three large frames show virtually complete collections from the county sheriff and municipal police departments in Lyon County. The collections will be put on permanent display in the Law Enforcement Center in Marshall.

In addition to the sheriff, current and defunct police departments in Marshall, Balaton, Minneota, Cottonwood, Ghent, Russell, Tracy and Amiret Township are represented. Gislason’s Amiret Township emblem is one of only four known to exist.

“This feels good because that’s what Dave wanted. It’s there for everyone’s enjoyment,” Ms. Gislason said.

Ms. Gislason recently turned over her husband’s massive Minnesota patch collection to his longtime friends and fellow collectors Jerry Cuffee and Pat Romano. She is hopeful many of the most prominent segments can be placed on permanent display. Smaller segments, such as duplicates, as well as other artifacts and memorabilia, will be sold.

“The other items in his collection, challenge coins, decals, license plates, other patches and badges, have been turned over to them to do with what they think would be best, what would be in my best interest and what Dave would have wanted,” she said.

Even though Gislason often proclaimed he wasn’t a badge collector, a significant number of Minnesota police and sheriff badges were found in his collection following his death. Cuffee offered them at auction on the Minnesota collectors’ Facebook page. The sale generated about \$8000 for Ms. Gislason.

Cuffee told PCNEWS he was pleased by the strong response to the auction. “He had some really nice badges. They went for good prices. Just about everyone in the group bought at least one to show their support. It went very well,” he said.

He is considering two potential locations for permanent displays of the Gislason collection, Minnesota North College in Hibbing and the House of Shields in Rochester, the home of world famous Mayo Clinic.

Minnesota North College offers state-certified law enforcement basic training as well as degree programs. “The only problem is that their last class only had nine students. I’ve heard they might close the training center because they aren’t getting new students,” he said. “It would be a nice place for displays, but only if it stays open long term. I don’t want to put up a bunch of displays, then have to take them down.”

The House of Shields is a charity that provides free lodging for active and retired law enforcement officers and immediate family members while receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic. It was founded in 2008 by Donald Bray, a retired Rochester police officer.



The late Dave Gislason (left) and Mike R. Bondarenko (right) were longtime friends and fellow Minnesota insignia collectors. They were photographed at one of the early “Capital City” Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collector Shows hosted by the Saint Paul Police Historical Society and *Police Collectors News*. Gary Schott photograph



Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell unveiled the new look NYPD radio motor patrol at a news conference in early January. While cars will remain white, the markings are now green and blue, based on the 100-year-old NYPD flag. The makeover has drawn decidedly mixed reviews. *NYPD photograph*

## Makeover For New York City Police Vehicles

The New York City Police Department has unveiled a new look for its massive fleet of marked patrol vehicles. Commissioner Keechant Sewell announced the makeover is based on the century old NYPD flag and features green and blue stripes.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

NEW YORK CITY – The New York Police Department has announced its marked patrol vehicles will undergo a major rebranding, including new markings, beginning this year.

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell announced the NYPD has begun transitioning to a mostly electric-powered patrol fleet. The traditional gas-powered fleet will be phased out as new vehicles are introduced, she said.

The department is in the process of rebranding its fleet of patrol vehicles. While vehicles will remain white, the traditional blue and red marking scheme is being changed to a new look green and blue based on the 100-year-old NYPD flag.

Commissioner Sewell said the new high-tech vehicles will have 360-degree cameras installed on them for constant monitoring of streets, as well as emblazoned with a QR code people can use to communicate with the department.

“The NYPD RMP is iconic,” Sewell said. RMP abbreviates radio motor patrol, a name given to patrol vehicles in the 1930s when radios were first installed for two-way communications.

Each vehicle will have a QR code printed on the outside so that the public can scan it with a cell phone and connect to the NYPD Web sites.

The redesigned high-tech interior will provide a “more efficient and comfortable work environment for our officers,” the commissioner said.

New all-electric Ford Mustang Mach-E sport crossover utility vehicles, which were shown at last year’s New York Auto Show, are among the models expected to become prominent as the NYPD gradually retires its traditional, gas-powered sedan-based fleet.

According to Commissioner Sewell, New Yorkers will still see traditional blue and white RMPs on the street for the foreseeable future. “It will take us several years to complete the transition. New vehicles will feature the new markings and updates, while some existing newer models will be retrofitted,” she said.

The redesigned RMPs have drawn mixed reviews on social media and unofficial NYC police officer Web sites.

“It’s a bold new look. I like it. It’s going to take getting used to, but the more I see it, the more I like it,” an officer posted.

“Ugly. Awful. Embarrassing. Need I say more?” another officer wrote.

A PBA member posted, “How much did the big brass spend on this? We’re down hundreds of street cops, but this is what they spend money on? Spend money on cops, not car decorations.”



Current New York Police Department radio motor patrols are white with blue and red markings. The fender-to-fender stripes and lettering are blue, while the shoulder patch is depicted in full color. Red is used for the first letter on the motto, “COURTESY/ PROFESSIONALISM/ RESPECT.” *NYPD photograph*



## Gislason Collection ...Continued

Officer Bray had interacted with law enforcement officers from throughout the country and around the world staying in Rochester for medical treatment. He saw a need to help them and their families reduce costly housing expenses.

“Hotel bills and other expenses can add up fast. We wanted a way to help out with a rent free apartment close to Mayo that officers could use when they come here for treatment,” he said.

A federally-registered non-profit organization, the House of Shields presently has three apartments in a building about six blocks from the sprawling Mayo Clinic campus. The apartments and operating expenses of about \$20,000 annually are funded by private and corporate donations, as well as the Rochester Police Benevolent Association, which raises money through various events throughout the year, including a golf outing.

“It’s a great organization. They do a great job for cops and families when they really need it. They just bought a house that families can use and are closing on it in March. What I’d like to do is put up some displays in the house to help them feel at home and show support from Minnesota cops,” Cuffee said.

Cuffee is planning a trip to Rochester to meet with the organization and determine their interest in patch displays. “I’d like to see how much room they have, and where the collections would look best,” he said. “I think it would be a great place to show the collection, or as much of it as they want or have room for.”

Gislason’s longtime friend said the House of Shields would be particularly appropriate since Gislason underwent long term treatment for medical conditions before his untimely death at only age 67.

Ms. Gislason said her husband wanted to make sure patches representing Lyon County law enforcement were preserved and remained in the county. He was a lifelong resident of the county and met her when he was a State Patrol dispatcher in Marshall.

She thanked Sheriff Wallen and county officials for helping her carry out her husband’s wishes.

Cuffee said he will make every effort to ensure that Gislason’s collection is appropriately displayed in a Minnesota law enforcement environment. “He was all about Minnesota. That’s all he collected. He didn’t collect anything else and wanted the collection to stay here forever,” he said.

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# Minnesotans Melt Winter Doldrums With Insignia Show

Randy Scott hosted the Third Annual Ramsey County Law Enforcement Collectors Show on February 18. Seventy-five hobbyists from Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin took a welcome respite from the harsh winter to buy, sell and trade and show off their collections at the popular 41 table event.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

LITTLE CANADA, Minn. – Upper Midwesterners endured a particularly harsh winter with frequent ice storms, bone chilling cold, heavy snow and blizzards that tested endurance.

So, it came as no surprise there was a record turnout for the Third Annual Ramsey County Law Enforcement Collectors Show on February 18. Badge, patch, challenge coin and patrol vehicle license plate collectors took advantage of good weather to break their cabin fever and shake the winter doldrums. What better way to cheer up than a show!

Randy Scott and the Ramsey County Sheriffs Office Explorers welcomed about 75 collectors from Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The swap meet was held in the garage at the Ramsey County Sheriffs Office Water Patrol headquarters in Little Canada, a Saint Paul suburb. It was a fundraiser for the Explorer post.

“Overall, it was real good. A lot of new faces, and, of course, all the regulars. We had 41 tables, so it was bigger than last year,” said Scott, a sergeant with the Saint Thomas University Department of Public Safety in Saint Paul.

Many on- and off-duty Ramsey County deputies and a few Saint Paul police officers visited to learn about our hobby.

A Ramsey County patrol sergeant who wasn’t a patch collector before the show, stopped by out of curiosity. He left with a handful of patches in his jacket pocket. “This is pretty cool,”



Rachel Canning (center) won first place for “Best Display” at the Ramsey County show. The custom award, a wooden five-point badge with a Ramsey County license plate as the center design, was presented by Sergeant Jeremy Blom (left) and Randy Scott (right). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Rachel Canning’s award-winning Ramsey County show exhibit featured an outstanding collection of historic badges and emblems from the Saint Paul Police Department, the Minnesota state capital city. Canning’s display featured several other city agency badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

he said. “I had no idea this is a hobby. I’m probably going to get into it. It’s a lot of fun. I enjoyed it.”

Forty-one tables were rented. Minnesota tableholders were Gary Bettcher, Kyle Helvig, Jerry Cuffee, Alex Forsman, Gary Schott, Justin VanHalager, Richard and Chris Flaten, Rachel Canning, Kathe Strong, Randy Scott, Pat Znajda, Illiya Borisovich, Jeremiah Simonson, Brian Peterson, Dick Coon, Matthew Stiehm, ITL Patch Company and Steve Mathews. Daryl Weseloh (Illinois) and Mike R. Bondarenko (Wisconsin) came from out of state.

Canning, Bettcher recognized Veteran Gopher State hobbyists Rachel



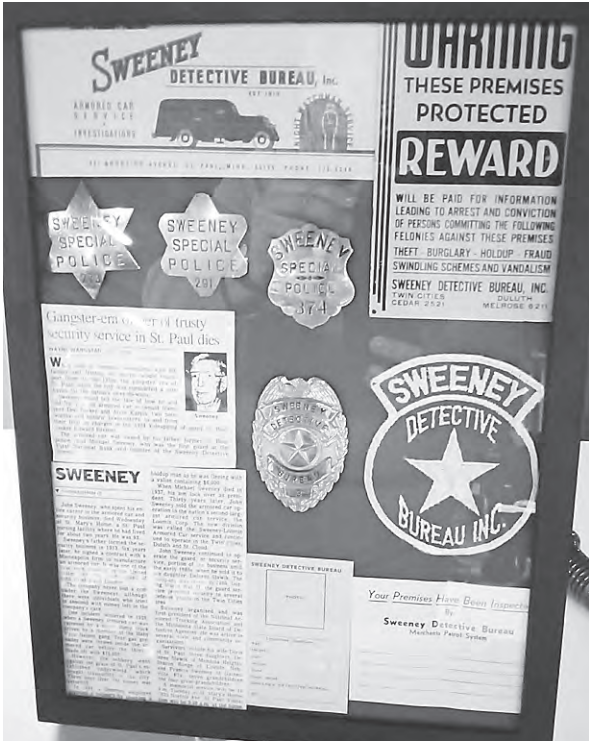
Rachel Canning has an impressive collection of badges and patches from the Ramsey County Sheriffs Office, which was the first county sheriff’s department in Minnesota. She displayed a pennant (lower right), as well as an old park ranger emblem (lower left). *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Canning and Gary Bettcher were presented with the best display awards at “Ramsey County.”

Canning won first place for her phenomenal multi-table variety of law enforcement collectibles from Minnesota and beyond featuring badges, patches, challenge coins, license plates, restraints and photographs. Most of her collection is shown in large frames.

Canning, who works at the Anoka County Jail, is interested in nearly anything and everything law enforcement-related. She takes an eclectic approach to the hobby. “If I like something, it goes into the collection,” she said. “I’ve gone to shows and come back with stuff that I never thought I would collect, but I did.”

Her most unusual exhibit showed a vintage Chinese police ceremonial dagger and emblems from Taiwan. A large armband carries the legends, “TAIWAN/ ARMED FORCES/ POLICE.” It is believed these items are from either the late 1940s or early 1950s when the



The Sweeney Detective Bureau was established in Saint Paul in 1913 by Michael Sweeney, a former Saint Paul police detective. Sweeney owned an armored car that was used to transport gangsters from jail to court and back. Rachel Canning has this fine Bureau display. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Second place for “Best Display” at “Ramsey County” went to Minneapolis collector Gary Bettcher (center). Sergeant Jeremy Blom (left) and host Randy Scott (right) presented it. The award was hand-carved clasping hands adorned with a Ramsey County SO emblem. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

United States had a large military presence on the island in the aftermath of the Communist take over of the mainland.

The silver-colored dagger and scabbard are beautifully engraved presentation pieces, while the colorful emblems show Chinese and English characters and a circled sun, the symbol of the Taiwanese National Police Force.

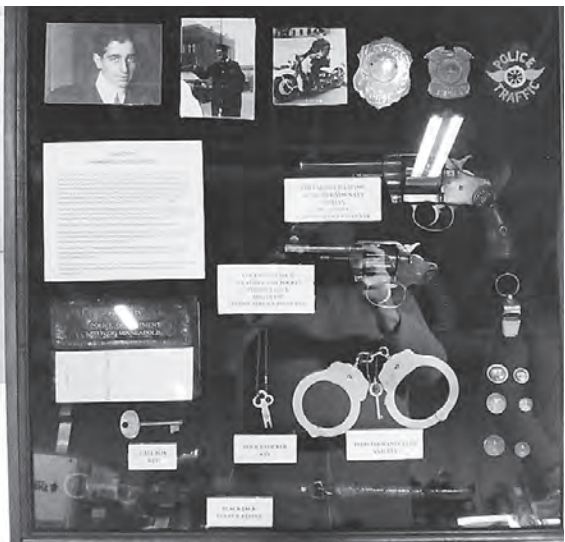
“I got this collection from Melvin ‘Bud’ Dynes. He was a longtime Twin Cities collection. He got it many years ago from an American serviceman who served in China. He willed it



Gary Bettcher has an outstanding Minneapolis Police Department collection. It includes six generations of badges dating back to the 1800s, including two variations of the current issue (large and small numerals). He also has some other very old city shields. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

to me a few years before he died. Bud and I became really good friends. He wanted me to have it,” Canning said.

There was an interesting exhibit devoted to the Sweeney Detective Bureau in Saint Paul, which was founded in 1913 by former Saint Paul police Detective Michael F.



(Top) Rachel Canning’s exhibits featured a collection devoted to Minneapolis police Patrolman Clair Tripp, who served from 1923 to 1954. (Bottom) A display from Taiwan that features a unique ceremonial police dagger, as well as shoulder patches and a badge. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Jeremiah Simonson (left) and Chris Flaten (right) will host the next Minnesota law enforcement collectors show in October in Rosemount. The duo has decided to team up for a single autumn show rather than host two of their own. It will be held in mid to late October. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Sweeney. It was later taken over by his son, John J. Sweeney. The investigative and security agency flourished during the notorious gangster era of the 1930s.

Canning’s display features four badges, white-on-red patch, letterhead, warning sign, identification card and a copy of John J. Sweeney’s obituary from the local newspaper.

“Sweeney’s dad was a Saint Paul cop when gangsters were pretty much left alone. There was a lot of corruption in the department back then. They left the gangsters alone. The gangsters left them alone. A lot of cops were on the take and all that. Quite an interesting era when compared to today,” Canning said.

Michael Sweeney worked as a bank security guard and owned an armored car. In addition to picking up and delivering cash to and from downtown banks, he was hired to transport mobsters Alvin Karpis and Doc Barker in his armored car to and from jail during their famous 1934 federal court trial in Saint Paul for kidnapping prominent banker Edward Bremer. They held millionaire banker for ransom.

John J. Sweeney took over the business from his father and ran it for more than 30 years until the early 1980s when he sold it to his daughter. It went out of business in 1986.

“I guess the gangsters didn’t want to make any waves with the Saint Paul cops. One day, the Baby Face Nelson Gang robbed Sweeney’s armored car and got about \$15,000. Sweeney must put out the word because three days later, the money was returned. Can you imagine that? Gangsters returning stolen cash?” Canning said.

According to the Saint Paul Police Historical Society, the armored car was donated to the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Department in 1961. A newer 1938 International Harvester armored car used by the Sweeneys has been refurbished by the Cops ‘n Rodders organization. It will debut on April 1 and 2 at a car show at the State Fair Coliseum.

Another unique exhibit, which Canning called a “gem” of her collection, showed two original Federal Bureau of Investigation photos and a teletype message print out detailing the 1936 arrest of gangster Russell “Flea” Huston by special agents in Minneapolis.

A career criminal involved in bootlegging and jewelry theft, Huston had robbed two Chicago jewel salesmen of more than \$100,000 worth of precious stones. He was spotted in Minneapolis, where he was holed up in a downtown luxury hotel. When FBI agents closed in to arrest him, “Flea” tossed the jewels out the window of his tenth floor room onto the street below.

One of the photographs shows a special agent counting and cataloging the sparkling gems, which were recovered by the FBI from the street in front of Huston’s room.

She had a display devoted to the Minneapolis police career of Officer Clair Tripp, who served from 1923 to 1954. He held the ranks of patrolman, sergeant and lieutenant.

Although Tripp spent most of his career riding a three-wheel motorcycle in the Traffic Division, he later joined the Detective Division, where he was a detective lieutenant until he retired.

The exhibit features photographs of Tripp, two of his badges and handcuffs, keys and a black jack he used on the job.

Canning had large collections of badges and emblems from the Saint Paul Police Department, Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office and Minnesota State Fair Police Department.

Second place winner Bettcher exhibited an incredible collection of Minneapolis police badges and patches, including representative pieces from all six generations of MPD stars



ITL Patch Company, founded in 1982 by the late Gary Downing in a Minneapolis-Saint Paul suburb, created the so-called Minnesota style patch. It was adopted by many police and a few sheriff departments in the state and Wisconsin. These are representative styles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Rich and Chris Flaten purchased the stock of ITL Patch Company late last year. They offered thousands of company-made patches from sheriffs offices, police departments and fire departments for sale. Mike R. Bondarenko added this set from North Hudson, Wis. PD. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

## Ramsey County Show ...Continued

and shields. The frame also included specialty badges from the City of Lakes, such as Civil Defense, School and Park Police. It's an extremely impressive collection.

Bettcher offered a Minneapolis badge chronology. The first issue was worn from the 1800s to 1905. The second issue was used from 1905 to 1915. It was followed by the third issue, 1915 to 1925, and the fourth issue, 1925 to 1932. The fifth issue with three-digit numbers went into service in 1932 and was retired in 1976.



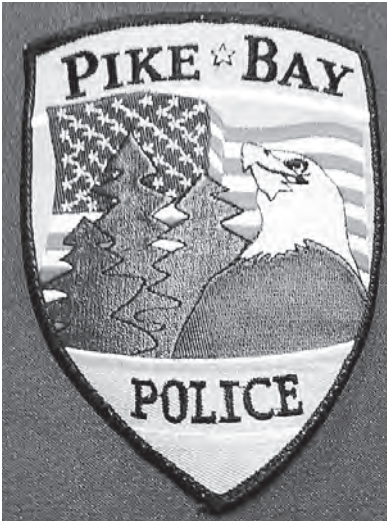
Longtime Minnesota collector Gary Schott devoted his Ramsey County show table to "Archie," the patrol canine his family purchased for the McLeod County Sheriffs Office. The \$10,000 donation to buy the dog was made in the memory of his late wife, Debbie, who died in an accident. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The current issue came about in 1976. There are two versions, one with large badge numbers and another with small badge numbers. Both variations are being worn.

Although he is primarily an antique weapons with a particular interest in law enforcement, Bettcher has an interest in Minneapolis public safety agencies. He brought an interesting exhibit of badges from the Minneapolis Fire Department, including a collection from the career of John J. Moe (1866-1937), who served as a firefighter from 1898 to 1931. He was the captain in charge of Engine Company No. 26 from 1910 to 1927. It featured his badges and a photograph of him in uniform.

**Flatens Purchase ITL Stock** ITL Patch Company was the first Minnesota-based public safety officer-owned insignia producer when it was founded in 1982 by Gary Downing, a University of Minnesota police officer. He died last August at age 83.

Downing's then-fledgling business quickly became a player in the insignia business, then dominated by out-of-state major designers and manufacturers. He specialized in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin agencies at first, later reaching out to North Dakota and other states as his reputation for quality and service grew. Soon, ITL was



Pike Bay was a three-officer department in Cass County in northern Minnesota before it went defunct in 2019. Their patch is hard to come by. It shows an eagle, trees and a flag. Their badge was a Minnesota eagle-topped shield showing the state seal in full color. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*



McLeod County sheriff's Deputy Jonathan Robbin is the new handler of canine "Archie," which recently celebrated its first year of service to the county. "Archie" is an all-purpose patrol dog. After the original handler left, the dog retrained with Deputy Robbin. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

creating insignia for agencies across the country.

"What makes me different is personal service. I make direct contact with chiefs and sheriffs about patches and badges. No one else does that. And, I know Minnesota. The others don't," said Downing in an interview with *PCNEWS* in the mid-1990s.

"I also don't just ask them what they want. I take a look at what their city or county is known for and come up with something that'll make them different. If all they want the state seal, that's fine. I'll do that. But, I like to give them alternatives. It's worked out pretty well. I've gotten a lot of word of mouth customers," he added.

ITL provided custom emblems, badges and pins to military, law enforcement and fire agencies. Challenge coins were added about ten years ago. Downing operated the business out of his home in a Twin Cities suburb.

ITL's claim to fame is an innovative emblem design that has become known as the



Pat Znajda had two large frames of one-of-a-kind collectibles from the Minnesota Highway Patrol and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He has badges which were worn by some original members of the Highway Patrol from 1929 to 1934. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Minnesota style. Downing hired a talented designer who created it. "I wanted something different," he said.

The Minnesota style is a tall kernel-shaped, fully embroidered emblem with a large, very colorful oversize center design depicting something well known to the community. Some emblems depicted the design on a state shape. "POLICE" always appeared in a matching color on an arc across the top. Often, the agency or city motto was also shown, usually to the right of the state shape in small type.

The innovative design represented a new look for Minnesota. It was an instant hit with mostly police chiefs but also with a few sheriffs as well. Each design was customized to the



Veteran law enforcement insignia and artifacts collector Daryl Weseloh has become a regular at the Minnesota shows. He brought hundreds of patches from across the country, as well as other artifacts and memorabilia. He is retiring as Minier, Ill. police chief this August. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*





Among the emblems that Pat Znajda offered for trade at the Ramsey County show were these rare patches from the Minnesota Driver License Examiners, a state agency. It started in the Highway Department and then transferred to the Department of Public Safety. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

department. Most emblems showed seven or eight colors. A few had as many as ten colors.

Wabasha, Jordan, Morgan and Moose Lake are examples of the Minnesota style made by ITL. Each is more like a work of art than a law enforcement emblem.

Wabasha is home to the National Eagle Center, which rescues injured birds and returns them to wild whenever possible. It is also a nationally-recognized eagle research center. The city motto is "Eagle Capitol of the USA."

The city police patch shows a bald eagle swooping down upon a fish catching its prey in the water along the Mississippi River bluffs. The bridge traverses the Mississippi between Minnesota and Wisconsin is depicted in the background.

Jordan was built along the Minnesota River. Early settlers operated a lumber mill powered by a waterfalls. The emblem shows the falls as part of a beautiful outdoor scene.

Morgan is a small city in southwestern Redwood County. It shows a small farm at sunset. A brown bobcat climbing down a tree is shown in the foreground. The motto, "Where City Meets Country," also appears.

Moose Lake features a large bull moose standing in the lake as the sun rises in the background. Pine trees surround the water. Ten colors appear in the eye-catching design.

"We couldn't have done these patches years ago. Embroidery machines have gotten so much better. We can do more colors and better designs," Downing said.



Kyle Helvig will continue to host the law enforcement collectibles show in Marshall, Minn. that "Gooz" Gislason founded and hosted for many years. He featured his Minnesota badge collection and other collectibles at the Ramsey County show on February 18. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The firm had customers far beyond the Upper Midwest, as far west as Arizona. However, in recent years, ITL underwent a downturn, largely as a result of increased competition in the insignia industry.

In the aftermath of Downing's death, a family member, will take over and re-energize the business.

"I've done business with ITL. I was contacted about taking over the business after Gary's death. I said, 'No thanks,' but asked about the stock. They kept it in Gary's house. They didn't want to move it, so they decided to sell it. We made a deal. I bought everything,



Jerry Cuffee (left) offered a segment of the late Dave "Gooz" Gislason's collection and traders for sale (both tubs) at the Ramsey County show. He had just completed a license plate trade with Gopher State collector Alex Forsman (right). "Gooz" also collected police plates. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

badges, patches, files, you name it. All of it," said Rich Flaten, a veteran Minnesota badge and patch collector.

Flaten and his son, Chris, who is also an accomplished collector, ended up with about 50,000 police, fire, sports and commercial emblems, as well as dozens of badges.

"We started selling on eBay. We've already recovered our investment," Flaten said. "We only brought Minnesota and Wisconsin patches today. We've also got patches they also did all over the country."

The Flatens offered ITL-made patches at the nice price of \$3 each or four for \$10.

There were thousands of Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota police and sheriff emblems in quantity, all in new, unused condition. There were also numerous Gopher State fire emblems.

I was able to add about 75 Minnesota and Wisconsin patches to my collection, including current North Hudson, Wis. patches and cloth badges from Saint Croix County where I live. It was a lot of fun digging through the display boxes, looking for patches I needed.

Flaten said the ITL files consist of hundreds of patch orders placed by public safety agencies. Downing stapled a completed patch to each order.

"We found a lot of prototypes they made but never delivered. There were a lot of things I'd never seen before," he said.

The Flatens will reopen their mobile patch store at the show that Chris Flaten and Jeremiah Simonson will co-host this autumn, probably in mid to late October. Details will be announced later this year.

"Ramsey County" table talk Kathe Strong, who worked at the Anoka County Jail with Rachel Canning, decided her 2023 display would be devoted to the president of the United States.

She featured a nicely-arranged frame showing Air Force One, the presidential aircraft, surrounded by White House Communications staff patches, whose members always accompany the president on the plane, and other presidential emblems. The exhibit includes a remembrance card from when the body of former President Gerald Ford lain in state in the United States Capitol Rotunda on December 30 and 31, 2006 and January 1, 2007.

Strong also showed a collection of four large bronze presidential seals.

There was a collection of colorful, custom-designed FBI Airport Liaison emblems from 12 cities.

...Pike Bay was small police department in Cass County in northern Minnesota. It went defunct in 2019. I didn't have their patch, so I was pleased to get one from Matthew Stiehm, who was a law enforcement program instructor at the Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass County. He is now with Clearbrook PD.

"They [Pike Bay] shut down because they couldn't get any recruits to apply. It was a three-man department, the chief, an officer and a school resource officer. It was a good little agency. I was sorry to see it go," Stiehm said.

The patch is mostly two-tone blue and shows a bald eagle and evergreen trees superimposed over a full color United States flag.

"It was a township department. They took care of citizen complaints. Actually, they were other jurisdictions in the township, the Leech Lake Tribal Police, City of Cass PD and the Cass County Sheriffs Department," he said. Cass PD disbanded in 2008.

...Gary Schott dedicated his exhibit to "Archie," the patrol canine that his family donated to the McLeod County Sheriffs Office in memory of his late wife, Debbie. The dog has now been on the job for about a year and has a new handler, Deputy Jonathan Robbin.

"Archie" is doing great. The first handler left the department, so he had to train with a new one. He [Deputy Robbin] has done a good job with him so far," Schott said.

...Daryl Weseloh journeyed north from Minier, Ill. and covered a couple tables with patches and other collectibles for sale. He had some neat old Illinois law enforcement vehicle license plates, including a set from the State Police from 1971. I was surprised it didn't sell because old SP/HP plates are red hot collectibles.

Weseloh is retiring as Minier chief in August. He has headed the agency since 1999 and is responsible for its current insignia.



Jeremiah Simonson's display at the Ramsey County show featured a vintage Saint Paul police badge (top) that was once worn by Officer Michael Scannell. He also showed frames of patrol vehicle license plates (bottom). The state allows custom law enforcement plates. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



## Ramsey County Show ...Continued

The collector has relatives in Minnesota and has become a regular at local shows. ...Pat Znajda, who recently retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, brought his one-of-a-kind collections of historic badges from the Minnesota Highway Patrol and the Minnesota game wardens. The Highway Patrol is now known as the State Patrol. Game wardens are with the Natural Resources Department. Znajda's MHP exhibit is highlighted by insignia from the careers of early patrolmen Elmer Chelstrom, Raymond Smith, Arthur Ousley and Robert Reed. They wore badge numbers "10," "26" and "34," respectively. They worked for Earle Brown, who was appointed as the first chief of the agency in June 1929. In addition to the badges, his exhibit includes the first uniform blouse patches. Trooper blouses were oxford gray back then. The gold-on-black emblems were worn on the right sleeve, while a traffic winged wheel was worn on the left sleeve. The emblems were made on felt and worn from 1929 to 1934. Znajda specializes in vintage insignia from Minnesota, North Dakota and Alaska. He also has a world-class collection of state police and highway patrol patches featuring many first and other early issues. I drooled over several frames of long obsolete SP/HP patches he offered for trade only. He also showed a couple of very rare driver's license examiner emblems from the Gopher State. The examiners were part of the Highway Department. Now, they are part of the public safety department. ...Jerry Cuffee brought a large number of patches collected by the late "Gooz" Gislason to sell on behalf of his wife, Mary Gislason. There was a large tub filled with a variety of Gopher State emblems, as well as another tub packed full of traders, including a lot of

Minnesota State Patrol patches. He sold patrol officer patches for \$5. Tacticals, tribals, dive teams and other special units were \$10. Minnesota State Patrol Special Response Team patches went for for \$30. ...Kyle Helvig promoted the upcoming Marshall, Minn. show, which will be held in honor of the late "Gooz" Gislason on April 22, who founded and hosted the annual swap meet. "I'm going to continue the tradition, that's for sure. We'll do everything 'Gooz' did, including the free lunch," Helvig said. He lives in Marshall and co-hosted the 2022 show. Helvig is hoping for a 50-table sellout. Table reservations are being taken. Please see "Swap Meet Calendar" for details. ...Jeremiah Simonson featured two freestanding displays of Minnesota law enforcement vehicle license plates and five cases of Minnesota badges. He has great collections from the Saint Paul Police Department and Rosemount Police Department. He showed a vintage Saint Paul Police badge once worn by Patrolman Michael Scannell, who joined the agency in 1887. It is a silver-colored Old West-style, a shield with a cutout five point star. His badge number was "119." ...Sergeant Jeremy Blom heads the sheriff's Explorer program. He presently has 12 members and eight volunteer advisors. "It's a great program. We've got a great bunch of kids. They want to learn and do things. It re-energizes me every time I meet with them. I see their enthusiasm for our profession. It makes me hopeful for our future," he said. "Ramsey County" is the primary annual fundraiser for the Explorers, who sold hot dog and chips lunches, acted as display contest judges and helped collectors unload and load their displays. I told Sergeant Blom that any veteran law enforcement officer who believes our profession is doomed needs only to spend some time with Explorers. I only hope that all of them become full-time officers or deputies. Our profession needs top quality candidates. MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002) pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net



# California Police Historian

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

## CLEHS News Updates

**CLEHS Office Progress** The new headquarters office of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society is making progress, according to President Gary Hoving. With a donation of surplus desks, computers, printer, cabinet and television from the Grover Beach Police Department, CLEHS realized a substantial savings and accelerated assembly time. "Several members made cash donations to assist with the purchase of an alarm system and other items to make the space operational. We greatly appreciate the assistance," President Hoving said. All CLEHS operations are conducted by volunteers. There is no paid staff. "We now have a conference table and chairs," he added. CLEHS thanks all who have supported this project and hopes to accommodate visitors at the new office in the near future. Submitted by President Gary Hoving

**2023 Membership Renewal** Thank you to all those members who have renewed their CLEHS memberships for 2023! If you have not renewed your 2023 membership, you still can. You can renew online at the CLEHS Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Go to the Membership page. If you prefer, you can renew by sending a check to California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

**2023 California Police Historian of the Year** Nominations are open for the 2023 California Police Historian of the Year. The selected candidate will have distinguished themselves through dedication and

action in preserving law enforcement history, publishing material, service to the Society or other contribution for the good of the order. Nominations should be emailed to President Gary Hoving through the Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com, no later than April 1, 2023. The presentation of the prestigious award will be made at the show in San Luis Obispo on July 29. Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

**2023 San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show** The San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be held on Saturday, July 29 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veteran's Hall, 801 Grand Avenue, in San Luis Obispo. It is sponsored by the CLEHS. Admission is free. There are 55 eight-foot tables available at \$40 each for Society members or \$50 each for non-members. Reserve your tables early because the show sells out every year. Awards are presented for the Best Patch Display, Best Badge Display, Best Educational Display and Best of Show. To reserve a table and make payment online, go to the CLEHS Web site and then select the "Collector's Show" page. If you wish to reserve a table by check, please send payment to Gary Hoving, President, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. He can be reached by email through the Web site. His telephone number is (805) 441-4936. Check out our Web site, CalPoliceHistory.Com, or Facebook page, Friends of the CLEHS, for show updates. On Friday, July 28, the CLEHS will hold its annual corporate meeting at our new headquarters in Arroyo Grande from 5 to 6 pm. The address will be released as we get closer to the meeting. Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

**2023 National Police Collectors Show Update** The CLEHS is providing



A handsome conference table is the latest addition to the new offices of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society in Arroyo Grande. It was donated by a local law enforcement agency. The new office will host the 2023 Board of Directors meeting on July 28. Gary Hoving photograph



The 2023 CLEHS Police Memorabilia Collectors Show will be Saturday, July 29 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo. Admission is free. Tables are now available for \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Fifty-five are available. Gary Hoving photograph





A good way to stay informed on the latest updates from the California Law Enforcement Historical Society is to visit the Facebook page, "Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society." Among the most popular regular features is "Friday Favorites." *Gary Hoving photograph*

assistance to the National Police Collectors Show hosts by creating a Facebook page for the event. This show is a benefit for the San Bernardino Police Historical Society and not a CLEHS event. Our involvement is limited to managing the Facebook page in an effort to spread additional information to our membership and show attendees through this well-established forum.

On display at the show will be the California Police Museum on the exhibit floor. Admission to the museum is free but donations are greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed to staff the museum, and all interested parties are asked to reach out to President Gary Hoving on [sloghov@aol.com](mailto:sloghov@aol.com).

A tableholder meeting will be held at discuss the 2025 National Show. The time of the meeting will be determined and shared in advance of the show.

Any prospective hosts may contact President Hoving, who will be assisting Dennis Houser in facilitating that meeting. It is requested that host contenders provide an oral briefing with the proposed site, table costs, accommodation locations and estimated pricing and potential event dates.

The selection of venues two years in advance has proven to be a great asset to the show hosts who have to do a significant amount of work to provide an enjoyable show.

Less than 20 tables remain for the 2023 National Show. The venue in San Bernardino is top notch. The inclusion of historic public safety vehicles on the show floor will be fun. The nearby attractions are plentiful. The mountain areas above San Bernardino are awesome. California's greatest beaches are one hour away. It is a short trip to the Los Angeles Police Museum, the NHRA Museum in Pomona and major theme parks in Orange County.

We are looking forward to an outstanding event and having the opportunity to see you at the show.

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

## California Hobby News

**New Sheriff Means New Insignia** Yesenia Sanchez is the new sheriff of Alameda County. She was sworn into office on January 3. One of her first acts was to change the agency's shoulder patch and breast badge.

The new patch is gold-on-black. It is the same size and shape as the previous design. However, it has a black rather than a blue background. The previous colorful badge in the center design has been replaced by a plain gold seven-point star, which contains the legends, "DEPUTY/ SHERIFF/ CA." "ALAMEDA COUNTY" appears above the star in gold letters with "SHERIFF" beneath it in gold block letters.

The new badge is gold-colored and larger than the previous seven-point ball-tipped star with a walking bear as the center design. There are no ball tips. Ed Jones and Company will make the new style, which will be phased in over time.

In the past, deputies kept the same badge for their careers and received a new rank panel upon promotion. Now, deputies will receive a new badge upon promotion. Stars in the ranks of lieutenant and above will be hand-engraved.

A department spokesman confirmed the style changes but was unable to provide additional information. She said Sheriff Sanchez is wearing the first new badge.

A uniform change is also under consideration.

*Courtesy of Alameda County Sheriffs Office*

**SFPD Commissions 175th Anniversary Star** The San Francisco Police Department has officially announced the issuance of a 175th anniversary commemorative star in recognition of the department's founding in 1849.

Police Chief Bill Scott issued Department Notice 22-110 on November 14, 2022 notifying all SFPD members of the commemorative star.

The anniversary badge will be available only to current sworn members of the SFPD. Retirees, civilian employees and others not active sworn personnel are not authorized to



The California Law Enforcement Historical Society Police Museum will be on display and available for tours during the National Police Collectors Show in San Bernardino in June. It features an outstanding collection of California law enforcement insignia and artifacts. *Gary Hoving photograph*



Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez, the new sheriff of Alameda County, has adopted a new style shoulder emblem for her department. It has a black background with gold lettering and borders. The center design shows a plain seven-point star badge, which is also the agency's new style. *Department photograph*

receive the commemorative star. It will not be issued until January 2024.

The commemorative star was designed by SFPD star vendor Irvine and Jachens and approved by the department. It will be authorized for wear by SFPD personnel on any uniform class during 2024.

The star will not be paid for or provided directly as an issued badge. Members will be personally responsible for all costs with payment made directly to Irvine and Jachens.

The design maintains the traditional silver seven-point star and incorporates "175 YEARS" and "1849-2024" with the seal of the city and county seal in the center. Ranks above the position of officer will be denoted by an attached ribbon. Officer rank badges will have no ribbon.

Stars for the sergeant rank will have an attached silver ribbon, while ranks for the commissioned ranks of lieutenant and above will have a gold ribbon.

Noticeably absent from the commemorative star rank structure is inspector. The rank of inspector within the SFPD was that of an investigator. A number of years ago, the SFPD eliminated the investigative inspector rank with sergeants taking over investigative duties. The last inspector retired in late 2022.

The cost of the commemorative star has a graduated price range. Officer will be \$235. Sergeant will be \$280. The ranks of lieutenant, captain, commander, deputy chief, assistant chief and chief will be \$302.

All commemorative stars will be sterling silver with the ten-karat gold-filled city and county seal. The sergeant ribbon will be sterling, while commissioned ranks will have a ten-karat gold-filled ribbon.

Individual star numbers will appear at the bottom of the star. Lettering and numbers will be black enamel.

Although SFPD is not paying for the stars and payment must be to Irvine and Jachens by the purchasing SFPD member, the order form and payment check must be submitted directly through official channels with the order form and payment check submitted to the Administration Bureau at Police Headquarters.

The bureau will compile the order forms and submit the orders with payment to I&J for production of each commemorative star. All stars will be maintained by the bureau until the announced date of January 2024.

The entire process related to the planning, design, manufacturing and issuance of the star was kept under tight security and within the purview of the Administrative Bureau until the official announcement was made on November 14, 2022.

An added layer of security and control was put in place with each individual star to be kept under the direct possession and control of the SFPD until the official release date.

*Compiled by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

**Wasco Planning New PD Debut** Wasco will soon be home to California's newest police department. The newly-reborn agency will take over law enforcement services from the Kern County Sheriffs Office, although no target date has been announced.

On November 16, the City Council voted to hire Charlie Fivecoat, a 33-year law enforcement veteran, as the city's new police chief. He has established a startup team to re-establish the agency, which was disbanded after the city contracted with the county. The startup team includes Chief Fivecoat, a lieutenant and a records manager.

Chief Fivecoat was officially sworn in at a council meeting in early January. He introduced drawings of proposed shoulder patch and badge designs, which council members approved.

Wasco's new emblem is a CHP-style and will feature the city logo, which depicts the city name in green cursive letters and a red rose. The background is dark blue. There are gold and black borders.

The badge is a seven-point star featuring the state seal, according to local media. Chief Fivecoat is passionate about empowering the community through a sense of



The Wasco city logo, green lettering and a red rose, will be the center design on the newly re-established police department's shoulder patch. The design was approved by the City Council in early January. The agency badge will be a seven point star with the state seal. *Contributed photograph*





Charlie Fivecoat is a 33-year law enforcement veteran. He served as the Kern County contract city police chief in Wasco, McFarland and Tehachapi, as well as the police chief in Shafter. Chief Fivecoat has also worked as a security consultant and law enforcement instructor. *Contributed photograph*

security and trust.

"I am very excited to re-establish a police department for the citizens of Wasco. Law enforcement has always been my calling, and having the city's trust to build a police department from the ground up is truly a once in a career opportunity," he said.

Chief Fivecoat resigned from Kern County to accept the new position. Previously, he was contract city police chief in Wasco, McFarland and Tehachapi while working for the county. He served as the Shafter police chief from 2006 to 2011.

Wasco is located 24 miles northwest of Bakersfield in the San Joaquin Valley. The population is 28,200. The city is the headquarters of the Tejon Indian Tribe of California, a federally recognized tribe.

Kern County deputies will continue patrolling the city until the new agency is prepared to take over from them.

*Courtesy of Wasco Tribune*

**Thieves Steal San Fernando Badges** Three of five replica memorial badges honoring fallen officers were stolen from a display case in the San Fernando Police Department lobby in the early morning hours of January 2, according to an agency news release.

Lieutenant Irwin Rosenberg said the badges were taken from a 24-hour memorial to the five city police officers who have been killed on duty since 1932. The display case was pried open. The two remaining badges have since been removed from the exhibit.

"We have been reviewing the surveillance video in an attempt to try and identify who took them. We also collected some evidence, which is being processed, and we are just continuing to investigate at this point," he said.

The stolen badges were not those actually worn by the deceased officers, The duplicates are memorial badges created to honor them. Two of the three are obsolete styles. All three have screw-on posts rather than the pin backs normally used for wear on a uniform shirt.

Lieutenant Rosenberg said the motive for stealing the badges is unclear. He speculated they could have been stolen as collector items or taken with the intent to use them in a future crime. "It also could just been the thrill of stealing something from the police station," he added.

While most law enforcement agencies close their lobbies after business hours, San Fernando leaves its lobby open 24 hours a day. It never closes.

"We have an officer on duty at the station 24 hours a day and leave the lobby open so people can come in and talk to the officer if they feel unsafe," the lieutenant said. "The lobby is also available as an overnight homeless shelter in cold weather."

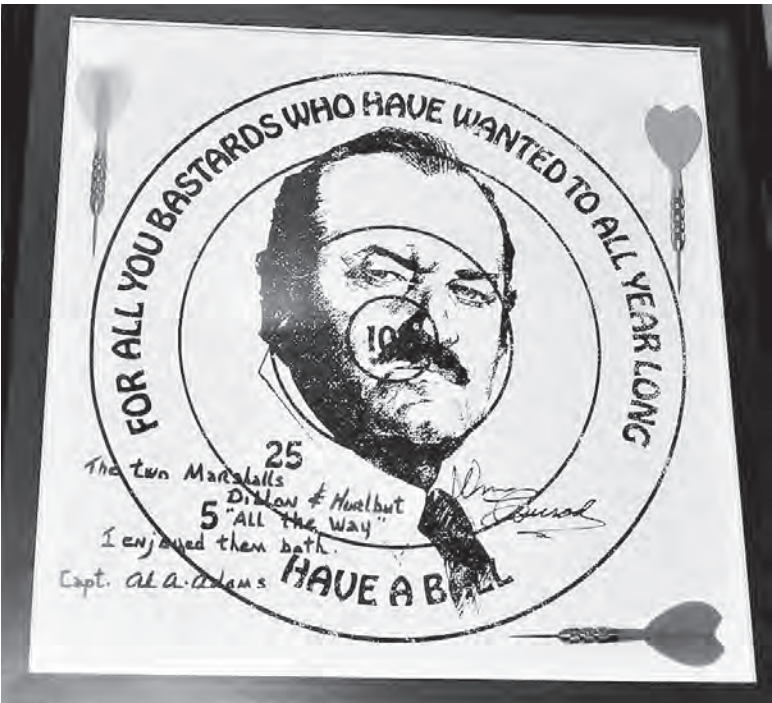
There are no plans to close the lobby despite the badge thefts.

Lieutenant Rosenberg said SFPD notified area law enforcement agencies in the event that someone attempts to use the stolen badges for identification.

He added the agency plans to replace the missing memorial badges but display them in a more secure case in the lobby. "It is unfortunate that someone would take advantage of us doing that as a service to our community and steal those badges," he said.

The stolen badges memorialized three slain officers.

Officer Benjamin Mushaney was shot and killed on October 7, 1930 while responding to a landlord-tenant dispute. The shooter was a female attempting to obtain a \$2 refund from



William Conrad (1920-1994) enjoyed a five-decade entertainment industry career as an actor, director, producer and narrator. He is best known for his role as private detective Frank Cannon in the popular 1971-76 television series, *Cannon*. Max Hurlbut has his Christmas card. *Max Hurlbut Collection*



Marie Lawler's career as a serial pickpocket in turn-of-the-century San Francisco is documented in the Jesse Brown Cook police history collection at the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley. She absconded after her final arrest on February 26, 1906. *Jesse Brown Cook Collection*

her landlord.

Officer Dennis Webb was shot six times and killed by a holdup suspect during a traffic stop on December 24, 1980. The robbery occurred in nearby Sylmar. When the officer stopped a vehicle matching the description of the get-away car, the driver opened fire on him as he approached.

Officer Jose Paderez was accidentally shot and killed by his own weapon when it fell out of his holster and discharged in the police station parking lot on July 17, 2002. The round struck him in the head. He was killed instantly.

*Courtesy of San Fernando Police Department*

**Hurlbut Shares William Conrad Memories** Max Hurlbut, a well-known collector and law enforcement veteran, was a Los Angeles police officer in the 1960s, working uniformed patrol in the Hollywood Division.

"Those of us working the Hollywood Division in uniform in the 1960s worked movie jobs, directing traffic and as security," Hurlbut recalled. "The off-duty pay and food were good."

Hurlbut collected law enforcement-related artifacts and memorabilia from feature films and television shows, including many personally autographed photographs.

One of his most unique items is a signed Christmas card from actor William Conrad (1920-1994), who is best remembered as private detective Frank Cannon on the popular television series, *Cannon*, which aired 122 episodes from 1971 to 1976.

"But, he was better known to us kids of the 1940s and '50s as a movie gangster and the more realistic version of Marshal Matt Dillon on *Gunsmoke*. His horse farts. When he enters the Long Branch Saloon and calls for Miss Kitty, Georgia Ellis shouts, 'I'll be right down, Matt. I'm with a customer...' Scalpings, lynchings and burning outlaws to death in their hideouts unfolded before our alert ears tuned into my folks' old Atwater-Kent [radio]," Hurlbut recalled.

The card is unique and fits the actor's gruff persona. It depicts Conrad's image centered as the target on a dartboard. Around the target is lettered, "For All You Bastards Who Have Wanted To All Year Long/ Have a Ball." It is autographed. It is personalized to Hurlbut by a LAPD captain.

Conrad is credited with creating the role of Marshal Dillon in the popular *Gunsmoke* serial, which aired on network radio from 1952 to 1961.

However, he is best remembered as Frank Cannon, the portly but stylish former Los Angeles police detective who becomes a gritty private detective, and for his signature Lincoln Continental two-door luxury cars equipped with a then-rare radio telephone.

Conrad had a radio, film and television career that spanned five decades. He was also a prolific narrator and voice actor with a deep, resonant voice.

Hurlbut had a long and distinguished law enforcement career, including holding the office of city marshal in Tombstone, Ariz.

*Submitted by Max Hurlbut*

**Cook Collection Chronicles SFPD History** Jesse Brown Cook (1860-1938) was a San Francisco police officer from 1890 to 1930.

Cook was a 40-year beat cop with a passion for history. He assembled an incredible collection of 39 scrapbooks chronicling SFPD history from the 1895 to 1936. His scrapbooks contain more than 12,000 photographs, newspaper clippings and documents. There are 8000 photos and 4000 clippings.

The officer focused not only on spectacular, headline-grabbing crimes, but also on routine cases that occupied beat cops, such as those involving Marie Lawler, an old-time pickpocket, who was arrested numerous times but never convicted. She was arrested for the final time on February 26, 1906. After being released on bail, she absconded and was never recaptured.



John M. Boyes served as the Sonoma County sheriff beginning in 1922 after serving as the police chief in Santa Rosa. He was presented with this custom badge. It is gold with black enamel banners and gold letters. It has extensive filigree. A jewel in the center is missing. *Todd Shulman photograph*



Cook’s collection is housed at the Bancroft Library on the campus of the University of California in Berkeley. It has been described as the most comprehensive compilation of early San Francisco police history.

Cook spent most of his career as a sergeant in the Harbor District and then the infamous Chinatown Squad, which has been chronicled in several books and feature films. He retired as police chief but returned as police commissioner. He served as a law enforcement officer in San Antonio, Tex. and San Diego before joining the SFPD.

Bancroft Library makes the Cook Collection available to researchers by appointment.

*Courtesy of Matt Davenport*

**Car Donated To CHP Museum** The California Highway Patrol Museum recently accepted a unique donation, a miniature NASCAR race car in the CHP livery.

The donation was made by Dick Laycock of Sierra Vista, Ariz., who delivered it to the museum in West Sacramento.

The car, which somewhat resembles a Chevrolet Monte Carlo, is 110 inches long, 32 inches wide, 42 inches tall and weighs 415 pounds. It is powered by a Honda GX 390 engine and is capable of a top speed of 148 miles per hour.

*Courtesy of CHP Academy*

**Shulman Shares Rare Badge Photo** Todd Shulman, founder and president of the Napa Police Historical Society, has shared photographs of a very rare, stunning piece of Sonoma County Sheriffs Office history, a beautiful presentation badge.

“One of my former co-workers has a relative who was a Santa Rosa police chief and elected Sonoma County sheriff in 1922, John M. Boyes,” Shulman said.

The badge is an eagle-topped gold shield with extensive filigree and a raised outer border. The legends, “SHERIFF” at the top and “SONOMA COUNTY, CAL.,” appear in gold letters on black enamel banners bordered in gold.

A five-point star appears as the center design. It has black enamel and a gold border. When the badge was presented, there was a jewel centered on it. However, it is missing in the photograph.

“The family still has this presentation badge and just shared photos of it. It looks like it’s missing a precious stone from the center,” Shulman said.

The family also has a deputy sheriff badge from the same era.

“Very unique pieces of history! Shulman added.

*Courtesy of Todd Shulman*

**Ventura County SO Celebrates Anniversary** This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Ventura County Sheriffs Office. The agency is celebrating with a commemorative badge, according to Sheriff Jim Fryhoff, who took office on January 2.

The commemorative is an adaptation of the department’s original silver-colored six-point ball-tipped star. It has a green enamel outer ring with gold legends, “150 YEARS OF SERVICE” at the top and “1873-2023” at the bottom.

“DEPUTY/ VENTURA. CO. SHERIFF” is lettered in black enamel.

Interestingly, Sheriff Fryhoff has also authorized deputies to wear cowboy hats. A promotional photograph released by his office shows a deputy wearing a white cowboy hat and the special badge.

The anniversary badge will be worn until December 31.

*Courtesy of Ventura County Sheriffs Office*

**Stanislaus County Major Crimes Unit** The former Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office Robbery-Homicide Team is now known as the Major Crimes Unit, according to collector Jess Tovar, a member of the department and CLEHS member.

The unit has its own emblem, which was adopted last year. It is round with a white outer border.

A round center design depicts the agency’s seven-point silver-colored star badge with gold banners and a gold walking bear. Legends read “SHERIFF” at the top and “STANISLAUS COUNTY/ CALIFORNIA” at the bottom in black letters.

A black outer ring carries the unit name, “STANISLAUS COUNTY SHERIFF” at the top and “MAJOR CRIMES UNIT” at the bottom in white letters.

The emblem was produced by Will’s Patches in Hisperia, Calif. owned by collector William Tully.

*Courtesy of Jess Tovar*

# Kings County Sheriff Ties To “Dragnet”

## Part Two

This is a continuation of “Kings County Sheriff Ties To Dragnet” from the last edition of the *California Police Historian*.

On January 9, 1930, the *Hanford Sentinel* reported, “Extradited Man Confesses to Killing. DA Clarence Wilson said today he is preparing a case against George Pankey, self confessed slayer of Billy Dean.

“Pankey, in presence of Sheriff Buckner and a court reporter, dictated a complete confession of Dean’s murder.

“Pankey said they had been drinking canned heat and Dean attacked him. Dean was



(Left) The Ventura County SO is celebrating its 150th anniversary with this commemorative badge. It replicates the agency’s first star. (Right) The Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office Major Crimes Unit had this handsome insignia made that shows the agency’s badge. *Contributed photographs*

drunk. He struck Dean three or four times with an iron pipe and dragged his body to a canal bank.

“He took the victim’s car north to Hanford and abandoned it near the County Hospital when it ran out of gas. He and Jack (accomplice) parted. He has not seen Jack since they parted. He bummed a ride to Fresno on a freight train.

“Pankey committed a petty theft and was sentenced to 25 days in the Fresno County Jail. He was released and bummed his way to home in Roseburg, Ore.

“He claimed he was forced to defend himself against the victim’s advances as Dean was a pervert. Sheriff Buckner admitted that Dean had such a reputation.

“He led officers to the crime scene where an iron pipe was found. Witness Salvador identified Pankey as one of the two white youths who accompanied Dean in the car with Dean when he left the Salvador Ranch on November 21, 1929, the same day Dean disappeared.”

On January 15, 1920, the *Hanford Sentinel* reported, “Confessed Slayer Held to High Court. George Pankey, self confessed killer of Billy Dean, was bound over to Superior Court at his preliminary hearing by Judge H. Warnock.”

Information regarding Pankey: He was born on June 14, 1910 in Yelm, Wash. He died on November 15, 1982 in Kings County, Wash. His father was Marion Augustus Pankey and his mother was Alicia Mary Pankey.

He was married numerous times. He married Beatrice Smith on February 24, 1942 in New York City, Doris F. Brookman on July 16, 1945 in Douglas County, Ore., Violet Maryjean Rawn on July 3, 1 948 in Douglas County, Ore., Mildra E. Enlow on August 3, 1954 in Douglas County, Ore., Loretta Nygard on March 15, 1957 in Seattle, Wash. and Mary Robinson on July 5, 1957 in Seattle, Wash.

The 1920 Census showed him living in Coos County, Ore.

The 1930 Census had him as an inmate at San Quentin State Prison.

The 1940 Census had him in Marshfield, Coos County, Ore.

Pankey was a member of the crew of the *USS Jacob Luckenbach* that departed Balboa in the Canal Zone on August 17, 1940 and arrived in New Orleans on August 22, 1940. He was a messman. He was on the crew of the *USS Walter Forward* that departed Santiago, Cuba and arrived in New York City on April 13, 1943. He was a cook. He was a crewman on the *USS Wilcox* which departed San Antonio, Chile and arrived in New York City on December 10, 1941. He was a messboy.

Parties identified in the Coroner’s Inquest:

Oran D. Strong was born in 1882 in Indiana and died in 1958 in California. His father was Alvenas and his mother was Clara. His wife was Ola Harden. In 1910 he lived in Denver, Colo. In 1920 he was in Corcoran, Calif. and was an insurance agent and assessor. In 1930 he was in Corcoran as public administrator and coroner. In 1940 he remained in Corcoran as welfare director. His World War II draft registration showed him on the King County Board of Supervisors.

Juror Jack E. McNaughton (1930-1938) lived at 217 East Ivy in Hanford.

Juror Shelton Parker Wilson was born in 1903 in Arkansas and died in 1958 in Monterey County, Calif. His father was Charles and his mother was Amanda. His wife was Zelna Phillips. They were married in 1922 in Sharp County, Ark. In 1930 he was a Hanford bookkeeper. In 1940 was a Hanford bookkeeper to Thomas Dodge.

Juror Osmond David Smith was born in 1891 in California and died in 1962 in Kings County, Calif. His father was Clark and his mother was Georgie. In1910 he was a laborer. In 1930 he was a laborer in a packing house. His World War II draft registration showed he was a laborer at Kings County Prune and Apricot Packing House.

Juror James Floyd Brewer was born in 1890 in Tulare County and died in 1958 in Hanford. In 1920 he was a laborer. In 1930 he was a manager of a rooming house. His World War I draft registration showed him working at Hildebrand Farms southwest of Corcoran.

Juror Rudolph Pfiel was born in 1874 in Minnesota and died in 1953 in Spokane, Wash. His father was Adam and his mother was Matilda. His wife was Martha. They were married in 1900 in Clark County, Wash. In 1910 was in real estate (1900-1918) and manufacturing (1920-1928). In 1940 he was Hanford as a retired farmer.

Juror Harry Markle Frisbie was born in 1864 in Illinois and died in 1933 in Hanford. His wife was Cora Duncan. In 1920 he was a Hanford garage employee (1920-1928) and retired in 1930 in Hanford.

Constable Daniel Joseph Leary was born in 1866 in Grass Valley, Calif. and died in 1951 in Kings County. His parents were from Iceland. He was a peace officer from 1900 to 1918, 1920 to 1938 a constable and in 1940, he was a permanent resident of the Old Men’s Ward at the Kings County Hospital.

Chief of Police Robert Everett Springer born in 1894 in Ohio and died in 1969 in Corcoran. His father was William and his mother was Matilda. His wife was Bessie. They married in 1915 in Ohio. His World War I draft registration showed him as a farmer in Ohio. In 1930 and 1940, he was a chief of police.

Constable Charles W. Baker was born 1880 and died in 1954. His wife was Carrie. He was constable of the Riverdale Judicial District in Fresno County and assisted in the investigation regarding by obtaining information on Dean in Burrell.

Chief of Police John R. McDonald was born in 1881 in New York and died on October 13, 1934 in Fresno. He was chief of police in Tulare in 1929. He provided information regarding an arrest of Billy Dean on October 5, 1929.

Witness Charles Harrison was identified in reports as a shoeshine man. I was unable to locate additional information.

Witness Antonio Rocha Salvador was born in 1896 in the Azores Islands, Portugal and died in 1973 in Portugal. His wife was Ida. In 1920, 1930 and 1940 he was a farmer. His World War I draft registration showed him in Corcoran as a farmer, as did his World War II draft registration.

Victim Willie Dean (also known as Billy Dean). He was between 33 to 38 but his date of birth was unknown. He was a victim of homicide on November 21, 1929 at Rognon Ranch southwest of Corcoran.

From the inquest transcript regarding identity:

“Question: Did you find anything that gave you a clue as to the identity?

“Answer: Sheriff Buckner: I found a receipt and also an application for an operator’s license.

“Question: In whose name were they issued?

“Answer: Willie Dean. The operator’s license gave his address as Burrell, California. The receipt, Received of Billy Dean, 10-5-1929, \$15.00 deposit on Ford. The Sheriff’s Office in Bakersfield went over and interviewed this garage. This Billy Dean bought a Ford from those people on 10-5-1929. I learned from the chief of police in Tulare that one Billy Dean was arrested in Tulare on October 5, the same date as the receipt.

“ I think this is the body of Billy Dean. An operator’s license and this receipt were wrapped up very carefully in a piece of paper. They gave me the license number and motor number of the car sold to Billy Dean in Bakersfield and that car checks up with the numbers of that car standing out just west of Hanford.

“Question: Has the body been positively identified by anybody?

“Answer: No, not positively.

“Question: To the best of your knowledge and belief, it is the Willie Dean described in that receipt?

“Answer: I firmly believe that that is Willie Dean, or at least, the man that bought the car. The body was in a very bad state of decomposition.



“Question: How old would you say this man was?  
“Answer: Around 35, hard to estimate, being covered with slime, he might be ten years older than that.  
“Question: Are you satisfied there was a Willie Dean in this neighborhood sometime previous to this time?  
“Answer: There was a Willie Dean in Hanford about a year ago. I am told by the constable in Riverdale who went to Burrell that he found that there was a Willie Dean at Burrell in the cotton harvest last year, but he had not been there this year. The colored people there moved to San Joaquin. The marshal of San Joaquin checked and failed to find anybody that knew Willie Dean.”  
From the Inquest on Page 8:  
“Witness Charles Harrison: Question: You knew a man by the name of Willie Dean?  
“Answer: Yes sir. I seen him last November, just about the height of the cotton picking.  
“Question: What was the age was this man?  
Answer: Between 35-38 years old.  
“Question: Have you seen the body of this man?  
“Answer: Yes sir.  
“Question: Do you think that is the body of the man you knew, or was it in such a shape that you could identify it?  
“Answer: It was in such a shape that I couldn’t identify it. I noticed a little bit of a scar right in the corner of his left eye.  
“Question: The Willie Dean you knew had a little scar in the corner of his left eye?  
“Answer: Yes sir.  
“Question: It might have healed and not left a scar?  
“Answer: Yes sir, it had a chance to heal up and not leave a scar.  
“Question: Does this man seem heavier than the Willie Dean you knew?  
Answer: Yes sir, it might be Willie Dean. He’s just about the right height. His face is bloated up a little. I realize that the water would swell him up.”  
California voting registration shows the following for 1920-1922: William Dean, tractor driver, Burrell and John W. Dean (wife Cora) laborer Burrell.  
Submitted by Russ Snow

The third and final installment of this series summarizes the murder investigation into the death of California Highway Patrol Loren Roosevelt. EDITOR

Police Specials Of The San Francisco Police Department

Part One

The City of San Francisco came into existence in the late 1840s, basically born out of the great California Gold Rush of 1849. In a very short time in those early days of San Francisco, the population did not grow but exploded from several hundred to tens of thousands.  
Along with such a monumental increase in population also came an explosion in crime, violence, gangs, corruption, brothels, opium dens, shanghaiing and all other sorts of other debauchery and criminality known to man.  
Unfortunately, in those dark and dangerous early days of San Francisco, there was almost no cohesive, organized or functional system in place to control or check the violence, crime and vice that had descended upon the city, caused by gold fever and its associated madness.  
Putting aside that San Francisco had become overwhelmed with criminals and their associated criminal enterprises, any form of organized law enforcement or a criminal justice system was almost nonexistent. What did pass as early day policing was an interesting conglomeration of various ad hoc groups, associations, committees, organizations, societies and vigilantes.  
Mixed in with these various self-appointed protectors of the citizenry were wealthy, law-abiding citizens and equally wealthy and very influential railroad barons, oceangoing shipping magnates and owners of major lumber mills. Added to this list of wealthy and influential citizens and businessmen were the increasing numbers of bankers and investors flocking to San Francisco to participate in the growing gold fever and associated wealth.  
As the infamous Barbary Coast neighborhood grew in size and attracted more and more unsavory characters and criminals from points in the United States east of San Francisco and from various far points of the globe, an official police force was established in 1849.  
The beginnings of the present day San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) consisted of a force of just 34 officers. It was commanded by the city marshal, not a police chief, until 1856. Under the newly-created position of police chief, the SFPD consisted of 150 officers.



A historic photograph of the last San Francisco Patrol Special squad taken in about 2005. Alan Byard, the last patrol special on the department, is shown in the back row, second from the left. It is evident that patrol specials looked very similar to regular civil service SFPD officers. Rick Uland Collection



San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Cody Clements (right) was the last patrol special sworn in by the SFPD in 2017. He was sworn in by Chief of Police Bill Scott (left). Patrol specials have served the city since the 1850, mostly as privately-funded patrol officers. Rick Uland Collection

It should be noted that also in 1856, the City of San Francisco officially consolidated, creating the City and County of San Francisco. The city and county became one and the same and occupied the same geographical boundaries. Thus, the SFPD became the police department for both the city and county.  
Even after the SFPD was officially established, from 1850 to 1856, crime and lawlessness in San Francisco steadily grew out of control. The small police department became overwhelmed. As a result, the San Francisco Vigilance Committee was formed by concerned citizens who took the law into their own hands.  
During those chaotic six years, the Vigilance Committee was established once and then re-established a second time. It succeeded in noticeably reducing crime and violence, while assisting the overwhelmed and understaffed SFPD. It was during 1850 to 1856 that the initial beginnings of what in later years would officially become the San Francisco Patrol Special Police came into existence.  
During those violent, turbulent six years, wealthy and influential citizens, as well as powerful business owners and banking officials, gathered together and decided a more specialized police presence was needed to protect them in their residences and neighborhoods, but more importantly, protect their businesses, commercial properties and financial investments.  
A privately-funded special police force was organized in 1849 or 1850 to patrol, protect and police various businesses, neighborhoods and residential properties. They were paid for by private, non-governmental funding. This private police force, for all intents and purposes, were Patrol Special police officers but not officially recognized as such. The officers were hired to specifically engage in “patrol” as a special police force.  
It is believed this special police force evolved directly from earlier established constables dating back to 1848 or 1849. The constables were a small group of privately-financed protectors who were deputized and authorized to provide special policing for properties of wealthy citizens and influential business groups.  
The newly-created special police laid the future ground work for what eventually and officially would become the Patrol Special Police. Patrol special police eventually became the first tier of a more involved and very interesting three-tier system within San Francisco policing.  
The second tier (much further down the road time wise) was that of the second version of the Special Police. It was a completely different entity from the first version and later became known as the Inside Specials.  
Eventually, both the Patrol Special Police and the Special Police (Inside Specials) would be put under the direct control, command, supervision, management and oversight of the Police Department.  
The third tier to all of these special police operations, but independent of the Police Department, was that of the Special Police. Yes, to add to the official confusion, a third Special Police operation was created later on. Members of the third special police operation were under direct control of whatever San Francisco city department or governmental agency the specific special police officers were assigned to or worked for.  
The second and third tiers of these special police operations will be discussed in future columns listed as San Francisco Special Police (Inside Specials) and San Francisco Special Police.  
From the Gold Rush to the turn of the century, the Special Police operated as a patrol



San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Cody Clements (right) posed with two regular civil service officers while on patrol in the city. Patrol Special beats were owned by officers and were worth millions of dollars to the owners. They were funded by private business interests. Rick Uland Collection



force mirrored and moved along by in large in the shadow of the Police Department.

Although there are very few, if any, official records from that time outlining the operations or subsequent interactions of parallel police forces in San Francisco, it is assumed, for better or worse, that both the SFPD and the private Special Police forces had an amicable relationship and worked well together when such joint policing or crime enforcement activities crossed their paths.

Of course, in cases where detective work, criminal investigative activities or criminal justice enforcement duties were needed, the SFPD would take charge and have control over anything above specific police patrol and street enforcement actions performed by the Special Police.

However, in special cases and at other times when the SFPD needed additional manpower, street enforcement assistance and/or just an extra set of strong hands in apprehending street criminals, thugs and ruffians or controlling unruly crowds, the Special Police were called upon to assist. As a result, a good, forward-looking professional relationship developed between regular police officers and their special police counterparts.

Official badges of the SFPD and all other San Francisco police and law enforcement agencies have always been known as stars. The very first stars in the city date back to the early 1850s for both SFPD and Special Police. They were six-point stars. The design of the six-point star was copied from the Star of David. From time to time early on, the stars changed to eight and seven points.

Eventually, SFPD ended up with seven-point stars permanently. Interestingly enough, the San Francisco Special Police remained using the six-point star from the very beginning until present day. This is a very important fact as to the official beginnings of police stars within the SFPD and other San Francisco City and County law enforcement agencies and departments.

The official SFPD-issued stars for patrol special police remained the original six-point star design from the 1850s, while the SFPD changed the original six-point star to a seven-point star.

Original six-point stars issued to both SFPD and Special Police are historically and officially noteworthy because the original star design remained with the Special Police rather than with the SFPD. It made perfect sense that the SFPD would have wanted to differentiate themselves from the Special Police by having a seven-point, not a six-point, star.

Basic uniform designs and standards of both SFPD and the Special Police were almost, if not, exactly the same. This means that from the very beginning of policing in San Francisco, both the official SFPD and privately-funded police specials operated in an almost parallel or closely cooperative system.

The privately-funded system of police specials during the 1800s up to the turn of the century laid the groundwork in the very early 1900s for the government-sanctioned establishment of what then officially became the Patrol Special Police.

It is not exactly clear what specific time period or date the privately-funded, patrol-oriented Special Police became officially recognized and deputized and as such put under the control of the Police Department.

As best as can be determined, it was somewhere between 1900 and 1910 that the Patrol Special Police came into official existence and established as an entity within the Police Department.

The first officially recorded line of duty death of what could be classified as a Patrol Special police officer was in August 1900 when Officer George Nichols was shot and killed by two armed burglars as he attempted to arrest the suspects.

Although Officer Nichols was identified as a special policeman, he was on patrol working his duty shift as a special policeman and could quite reasonably have been classified as a patrol special police officer within the framework of such an official definition.

Since 1850, the Special Police were at all times acting in a total and complete police patrol function but had not yet been officially renamed, reorganized or reclassified as the Patrol Special Police.

On April 18, 1906, the great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire struck the city. The city was catapulted into a hell of death, destruction and chaos in a only very few short minutes.

After the initial death and destruction, San Francisco was sadly thrown into a spiral of looting and rampant street crime caused by crazed individuals, organized gangs and just plain old everyday opportunistic criminals. As a result of this chaos, Mayor Eugene Schmitz issued his famous Shoot to Kill proclamation.

Mayor Schmitz gave the following orders: "The Federal Troops, the members of the Regular Police Force and all Special Police Officers have been authorized by me to KILL any and all persons engaged in Looting or in the Commission of Any Other Crime."

This appears to have been the very first governmental public order and official assignment given to the Special Police.

It is clear because of the previously mentioned and identified duties and police patrol history since 1850 that the special police were operating as the Patrol Special Police. They were now being officially directed by city government officials to operate in official policing operations.

The first line of duty death of an officially identified Patrol Special police officer and listed as an SFPD line of duty death is that of Officer Theodore Canham, who was electrocuted and died while assigned to the North End Police Station on December 11, 1909.

Officer Canham and another officer were attempting to remove a downed electric power line that was threatening a group of school children. During his attempts to save the children from injury or death, Officer Canham was electrocuted and died of his injuries.

By the time of Officer Canham's tragic death, the Special Police had officially become the Patrol Special Police directly under the command and supervision of the Police



In August 1946, four San Francisco firefighters died while battling a blaze at the Hotel Herbert on Powell Street. The uniformed officer standing on the right is a patrol special who was assisting with crowd control at the fire scene. He is wearing the first Patrol Special cap badge. *Rick Uland Collection*



San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer John Candido served with the department for nearly 45 years before he retired in 1994. Rick Uland described him as one of the most notable patrol specials in modern times. He also served as president of the SFPSPOA. *Rick Uland Collection*

Department.

The somewhat gray area and quasi-status of Special Police operating unofficially as what could be classified as Patrol Special Police for some time had officially become the Patrol Special Police. Although paid privately for their services, the new Patrol Special Police were put under direct command, control and supervision of the Police Department.

In addition to their new, officially recognized status, the Patrol Special Police were also written into the city and county charter.

Along with this official recognition came the creation of patrol beats established in all police districts for patrol and policing operations.

Although the Patrol Special Police were still operating within the arena of a privately funded patrol operation, over time, the officers became very much aligned with the SFPD as to their duties, authority, operations and oversight They would be integrated into the Patrol Bureau and later the Field Operations Bureau when the Patrol Bureau was disestablished.

Patrol special beats were very much akin to the regular SFPD foot beats or radio car sectors geographically drawn within each police district.

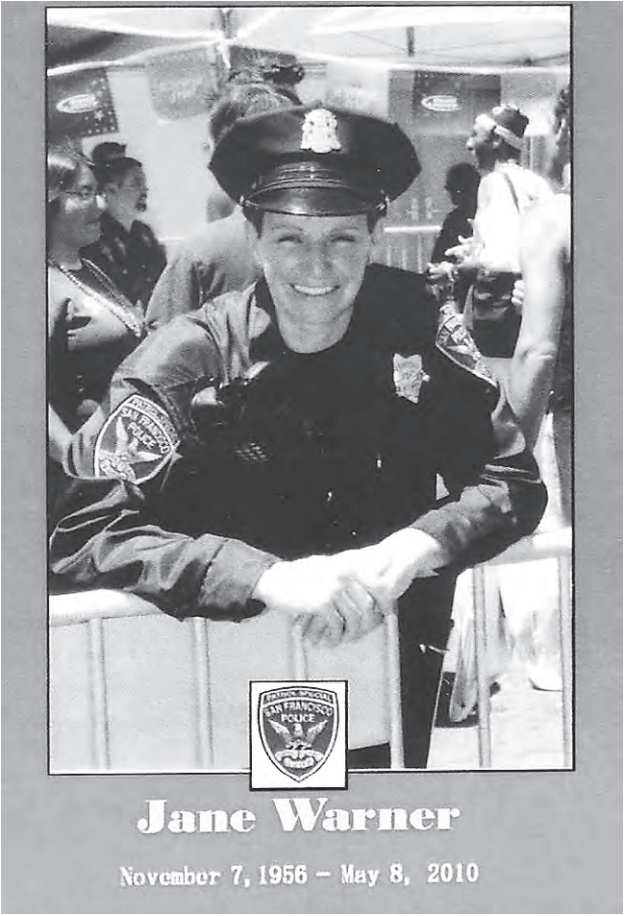
There was no official rank structure within the Patrol Special Police system. However, each individual patrol beat had a beat owner who was classified as a Patrol Special police officer. Individual officers assigned to such beats were designated as assistant Patrol Special police officers.

This slightly tweaked difference in titles was based upon the fact that a Patrol Special Police beat was owned by a Patrol Special Police officer, while the officers assigned to each beat or multiple beats were assistants to the owner. Patrol Special beats were valued at millions of dollars.

Eventually, the entire Patrol Special Police system was drawn more and more into the operational sphere of the Police Department. Patrol specials became subject to all SFPD rules, regulations and procedures and became subject to a secondary set of SFPD operational rules specific to Patrol Special Police beat operations.

Patrol Special Police officers were officially determined to be policemen of the city. The officers were classed as members of the Police Department. Beat owners were appointed by and sworn in by the Police Commission, while assistant Patrol Special Police officers were appointed and sworn in by the chief of police. Patrol specials were classified as peace officers under Section 830.1 of the California Penal Code.

The best way to explain any difference between Patrol Special Police officers and assistant officers is to imagine a beat owner as a sergeant and an assistant as a patrolman or police officer. In jest, some people even referred to Patrol Special beat owners as beat captains. However, both were officially Patrol Special Police officers.



This photo card memorialized the life of the late San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner, who died in 2010 when she was only 54 years old. She was assigned to the Mission Police Station and patrolled beats in the Castro District. She was SFPSPOA president. *Rick Uland Collection*





A legacy photograph taken in about 2015 shows a number of retired San Francisco Patrol Special Police beat owners as well as their sons serving as patrol specials or regular civil service police officers. Officer Ed Curtis (seated) died only two weeks after this picture was taken. *Rick Uland Collection*

Patrol specials were classed as sworn members of the Police Department and subject to all rules, regulations and procedures as regular civil service SFPD officers. This included all of the same investigative and disciplinary procedures related to Internal Affairs actions as taken against regular personnel.

In the performance of police enforcement duties unrelated to the patrol beat clients, Patrol Specials were covered by worker compensation and disability protections if injured or killed in the line of duty.

Patrol specials issued city traffic tickets, misdemeanor citations, made felony arrests and wrote their own arrest and other related police reports.

Due to the fact that the overall basic duties of the Patrol Special Police were that of mainly patrolling the streets of their assigned beat areas and assigned police district, many Patrol Specials became quite expert in and developed a very special knowledge of various criminal elements and activities, criminal suspects and related unlawful activities that took place on a regular basis in their patrol areas.

This specialized knowledge and information allowed some patrol specials to work very closely with SFPD special units, investigative bureaus and street crime abatement operations. In some cases, a patrol special officer would be called upon and assigned officially by special request or order by supervisory personnel or command staff to assist where that the officer had specialized knowledge, information or ability.

In such instances when a Patrol Special Police officer was called upon by SFPD for such specialized specific duty, there was a pay mechanism that existed under which the officer received payment from the city.

Patrol Special Police officers were eligible for all SFPD meritorious awards and special recognition citations.

In very unusual circumstances, and with extreme infrequency, a Patrol Special Police officer could be called upon to operate an official vehicle. It was not uncommon for a patrol special and a regular officer to walk a beat together, or even have a patrol special ride along in an SFPD patrol vehicle with a regular officer.

The working relationship between the Patrol Special Police and the SFPD was amicable, friendly and professional. However, there were some difficulties from time to time. In most cases where a problem arose, it was usually a matter of individual personalities, minor misunderstandings or what may have been considered as stepping on each other's toes.

There was many a time when a patrol special responded to a regular SFPD officer's call for assistance or a patrol special saved a regular officer from serious injury or even death.

Patrol specials were assigned regular radio unit call signs and operated on SFPD radio frequencies.

It was not uncommon for a patrol special to answer a radio call related to a serious crime or accident. In some cases SFPD dispatch would call upon a patrol special unit to respond to an emergency call if no SFPD units were available.

Patrol specials booked their own prisoners, either at their assigned district police station or at the Hall of Justice City Prison if necessary.

Patrol specials stood line up as required when reporting for duty at their assigned police station and were authorized to run subjects and vehicles through the various criminal and



Businesses and other private entities patrolled by San Francicso Patrol Special Police officers often displayed warning signs like these to deter would be trouble-makers and criminals. The officers worked the owners of their patrol areas, which were known as "beats." *Rick Uland Collection*

vehicle computer systems and databases.

Patrol specials patrolled on foot and by vehicle. Beat patrol vehicles had to be authorized by SFPD officials.

While on duty and working in their assigned police districts, the officers were under direct supervision and control of SFPD supervisory and command staff.

Patrol Special Police applicants were required to go through the same basic process (except for civil service testing) as regular SFPD civil service police officer applicants. They attended the San Francisco Police Academy.

Patrol specials were required to work a minimum number of duty hours per month, maintain firearms proficiency and be up to date on any other required SFPD and California POST training mandates specific to their official duties.

The applicant pool for those who applied to be Patrol Special Police officers was a very wide ranging and extremely interesting group of able-bodied individuals. The vast majority were males but some females did serve as patrol specials. Requirements for Patrol Special officers were very similar in most cases to that of regular SFPD civil service officers. Therein lies a very interesting twist and difference as to who eventually ended up as an officer.

This is directly related to the fact that Patrol Specials were not civil service employees and did not receive a paycheck from the department. There were any number of Patrol Special officers mainly working part-time who were actually active serving police officers or other sworn officers from various police and law enforcement agencies in San Francisco or other Bay Area departments and agencies. These included municipal, county, special districts, state and federal entities. They even included military police and Armed Forces Police.

As long as the employing department, agency or service allowed their personnel to serve as a Patrol Special Police officer and the applicant met all SFPD requirements and guidelines, these individuals could serve as Patrol Special Police.

To the best of my knowledge, I know of no instance where a retired or former SFPD member served as a Patrol Special Police officer. However, reserve police officers could serve as Patrol Specials due to the fact that reserve officers were unpaid. Also, San Francisco Special Police (Inside Specials) were also allowed to serve concurrently as a Patrol Special and vise-versa.

Many Patrol Special officers worked full-time. In such cases, those officers served only as patrol specials, although they may have had secondary employment elsewhere unrelated to law enforcement. Although a number of Patrol Special Police officers (as did nearly all beat owners) served their entire police career as a patrol special, many did not. In such instances, those patrol specials moved onto regular civil service police jobs, including with the SFPD.

Later on in the Patrol Special Police system, SFPD loosened assignment requirements for the officers so officers could be assigned to multiple beats in multiple police districts.

Up to that time, Patrol Special Police beats owned by beat owners were required by SFPD to geographically border each other by beat boundaries in order for an owner to own multiple beats. The department then loosened the requirements for beat ownership so owners could own multiple unattached beats regardless of which police district to which the beats were assigned.

Of course any such decisions had to be approved by the Police Commission as was the case in many (but not all) operational and personnel matters pertaining to Patrol Special operations.

Background investigations on Patrol Specials were conducted by SFPD background investigators.

Administrative oversight, personnel control, training and certification requirements came under the supervision of a SFPD sergeant or lieutenant assigned to Personnel.

Patrol Special field operations came under the Patrol Bureau and later on the Field Operations Bureau, which were commanded by a senior command officer.

Disciplinary actions against Patrol Special Police officers was directly controlled by the Police Commission and the police chief.

Overall supervision, management and administration of both the Police Reserve and Patrol Special Police was later on merged into the same oversight by an SFPD supervisory officer.

Patrol Special Police had an independent association that was separate from the SFPD Police Officers Association or POA. The reason for this was quite simple. SFPOA represented SFPD regular civil service officers. Patrol specials were not regular civil service officers.

Regardless that Patrol Special officers were sworn officers of the city and county and members of the SFPD, they were not hired through civil service examination. nor did they receive a salary from the SFPD. They served in non-union police positions. In some ways they were at-will employees but had various hearing procedures and protections under established Police Commission guidelines.

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officers Association assisted and represented them but was mainly concerned with various matters that directly or indirectly affected the operation of police beats, as well as the financial interests of beat owners.

SFPSPOA worked closely with city politicians and officials, as well as neighborhood residential groups, business associations and community benefit districts regarding specialized enforcement activities.

This feature will continue in the next edition of the *California Police Historian*.  
*Submitted by Rick Uland*

## Fresno County Sheriff Made California History

Margaret Mims was a young single mom working as a teacher's aide and library and cafeteria helper in Kernan when her father called her one night in December 1979.

A Kernan police officer, her father needed a dinner date for the retirement of his chief. Her mother had taken ill and was unable to attend, so her dad asked her to accompany him. She accepted.

Little did Mims know that evening out with her father would change her life. It sparked a 42-year law enforcement career that included 16 years as the Fresno County sheriff. Sheriff Mims retired on January 3.

As she reflected on her career while packing her office late last December, Sheriff Mims recalled she spoke with the incoming chief, and he told her of his plans to hire Kernan's first woman cop. She thought it was "cutting edge."

"On our drive home from the party, I told Dad that I was going to apply for the position," the sheriff said. "I'm a woman of faith. I know that phone call did not happen by accident that night because that started my very long and rewarding law enforcement career."

Mims was hired for the Kernan PD job. Her first day on duty was January 1, 1980.

Her four years in Kernan resulted in a badge style change. The agency retired its "Patrolman" badges and replaced them with new shields carrying the legend "Police Officer."

"The chief had already planned for new badges when he decided he wanted to hire a female officer. However, not everyone was all that thrilled with dropping the 'Patrolman' title, but they accepted it after awhile," Mims recalled.

In 1985, Mims applied for and was hired by the Fresno County Sheriffs Department where she initiated a career of "firsts." She served as the first female canine handler. She





Margaret Mims served as the Fresno County sheriff for 16 years, winning four elections after serving in various capacities with the department since she was first hired in 1985. Mims spent four years as a Kernan police officer before she joined the sheriff's department. *Contributed photograph*

was the first female to achieve the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain and assistant sheriff.

Ironically, it was another retirement, that of the sheriff, that motivated her to run and become the first female Fresno County sheriff in 2006. She was re-elected three times. Sheriff Mims focused on defending constitutional rights, improving community relations and tackling immigration reform, a topic she discussed with former Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

She made national headlines during the 2020 pandemic when she announced that the Fresno County Sheriffs Department would not enforce health-related laws, including wearing a mask.

The sheriff announced last year that she would not run for a fourth term, leaving behind her legacy of “firsts” with the Kernan Police Department and the Fresno County Sheriffs Department.

Sheriff Mims planned to take some time off, then focus her attention on community service. “Who knows what the future will bring?” she said. “But whatever it is, it will be here in Fresno County.”

John Zaroni was sworn in as the 26th Fresno County sheriff on January 3.  
*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

## Grisly Placer County Murders Captured National Attention

Julius Weber achieved only modest success brewing beer in his native Germany. He yearned to work for himself and perfect his favorite lager, yet he lacked the resources to open his own brewery and make a name for himself and his brand in the saturated market of his homeland.

In late 1800s, Weber read about the post-Gold Rush Northern California population explosion and decided the Golden State was where he could achieve his lifelong goals: owning his own brewery and perfecting his classic lager beer.

Weber, his wife, Mary, and their three children, Adolph, Earl and Bertha, immigrated to the USA and settled in the Placer County community of Auburn, where Weber established the Auburn Brewing Company. He boasted in news advertising that he made the “very best lager beer to be found in the state.”

The Auburn Brewing Company met with instant success. Weber's beer became enormously popular, and he reaped the rewards. Within just a few years, the brewmaster and his family took their place among Placer County's most wealthy and illustrious citizens. Weber built a beautiful hillside mansion overlooking downtown Auburn. He paid cash for it.



Adolph Weber, 22, was convicted and executed for murdering his parents and two siblings in Auburn on November, 10, 1904 before setting the family mansion on fire to conceal his crimes. His case resulted in a new state law that prohibits killers from collecting victims' assets. *Contributed photograph*



The sensational trial of Adolph Weber focused national attention on the ornate Placer County Courthouse in downtown Auburn. Ironically, the historic building is not far from where the 22-year-old murdered his family and then set the family mansion on fire to cover it up. *Contributed photograph*

People considered the Webers a fairly ordinary family. Bertha was one of the most popular young ladies in town. Earl was born with a paralysis that affected his speech and mobility but managed to overcome his disability. Eldest son, Adolph, was a loner, quiet and aloof, and showed no interest in taking over his father's brewery. He refused an apprenticeship.

Like many wealthy Northern California families, Julius Weber enrolled Adolph in an exclusive San Francisco high school where he lived by himself in a dormitory for four years, returning to Auburn only rarely during his studies.

When Adolph Weber returned home from San Francisco after graduation, he was 20. He had become “morose and brooding,” according to family members. His hatred was directed at his family, especially his mother and father.

His aunt, Louise, who had also immigrated to California and lived nearby, warned the Webers that she feared Adolph might do “something dreadful.”

Adolph became an avid reader of crime novels and often discussed the plots with his small circle of friends.

Louise Weber's dire prediction came true on November 10, 1904. Adolph ate an early dinner by himself and then left the mansion between 5 pm and 7 pm, which had become his routine. Julius, Mary, Bertha and Earl remained behind.

Fire bells began ringing all over Auburn about 7:30 pm. The stately two-story Weber mansion was fully engulfed by fire.

Adolph returned home as several men broke windows in an effort to rescue the family trapped in the inferno. Oddly, he did not join them. Instead, he threw a balled up pair of pants through a broken window into the blaze.

Julius, Mary, Bertha and Earl were all pronounced dead at the fire scene. However, police immediately determined that Julius, Mary and Bertha had been shot, while Earl had suffered massive head trauma.

Investigation by the Placer County officials showed Julius, Mary and Bertha died of gunshot wounds and Earl succumbed to blunt force trauma unrelated to the fire. Deputies surmised the house has been set on fire following the murders in an apparent attempt to conceal the crimes.

“Someone murdered them, set their bodies ablaze and escaped the house,” the county sheriff said.

Suspicion immediately focused on Adolph. When the county convened a coroner's inquest into the deaths ten days later, the young man was evasive and argumentative during his testimony. He contradicted himself several times, most importantly, accounting for his actions before his return to the house following his early dinner and departure.

Initially, Adolph testified he had gone for a leisurely walk. After he was unable to recall his route, he said he went for a run and had torn his trousers after he ran into a fire hydrant. He told the prosecutor he stopped at a store to purchase a new pair of trousers and threw his torn pair into the fire when he returned home.

However, he could not recall his route or where he made the purchase. He could not explain why he did not dispose of the torn trousers before returning home.

Placer County brought in an experienced Pinkerton's homicide detective to help them unravel the case. The detective found Adolph's trousers in the wreckage of the mansion with blood stains on them, but no tears.

Then, the case took an unexpected twist when the detective found a pistol and over \$5000 in gold coins hidden in a barn behind the Weber mansion.

In late 1903, a man wearing a mask, fake beard and goggles robbed the Placer County Bank at gunpoint and fled with almost \$6000 in gold coins. The case remained unsolved until the discovery.

Prosecutors determined that Adolph had taken a trip to San Francisco where witnesses said he flaunted his sudden wealth. Missing from the barn was about \$800 in gold coins. Adolph paid for his hotel and other expenses with gold coins. Speculation ran rampant that the Weber family had discovered his crime and he murdered them all to cover it up.

It was believed greed also motivated Adolph to kill his family. The Weber estate was worth an estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000 in 1904, or between \$1.5 to \$3 million today.

The Weber's eldest son was charged with the murder of his family but steadfastly maintained his innocence despite overwhelming evidence against him. He was found guilty and transferred from the Placer County Jail to Folsom Prison.

Adolph refused to attend his sentencing hearing. He was sleeping on his cot when a prison guard entered his cell to tell him he had been sentenced to death. He responded, “I wish you would go away and let me sleep.”

Adolph Weber was hung at Folsom Prison in September 1906. When his body was taken to the Sacramento morgue, thousands of people lined up to see it.

The *San Francisco Call* reported, “Many fashionably dressed women were in the long procession, and as they emerged to the sidewalk, could be heard discussing the appearance of the executed murderer with the same apparent enjoyment they would display upon leaving a theater.”

Although the murder of the Weber family has long been forgotten, it changed California criminal law forever.

Even though Weber had been convicted of murdering his family, he nevertheless inherited the family fortune, much to the horror of Californians. He spent all but \$3700 by hiring big name attorneys from San Francisco to represent him at his trial and during appeals of his conviction, all of which were unsuccessful.

As a result of the outrage, the legislature changed state law to prohibit convicted killers



from inheriting the assets of their victims. The law remains in effect today.  
Adolph Weber was the last man to make a legal profit on the murder of his family.  
*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

## End California Police Historian



Active and retired New York City police officers love Florida, and New York collectors flock to the annual “Space Coast” show. Among the tableholders were Eric Wollman (left), who is still active with the NYPD Auxiliary, and John Holmes, a former NYC resident. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

# New York Minute

By Eric Wollman, Senior Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – On a recent trip to southern Florida, I was able to attend the annual “Space Coast” show in Titusville.

Hosted by retired Titusville police Commander Steve Bridges, this show has been around for three decades or longer and always draws a nice crowd from the Sunshine State and even as far as New York City. I have been a tableholder for many years.

Among the odd and rare items seen at this show was a New York City Transit Police cap device, commonly known as a hat badge. Badge number “239” features the traditional Dutch sailor (Dexter) and Native American (Sinister), but it’s different than the usual design. This version has two lightning bolts out of the top. According to our historical research, the lightning bolts were added since transit officers wore it. (Electricity?)

I incorporated the NYPD flag into my display. The green, white and blue motif mimics the American flag, but contains the colors of the department. The field of white stars on a blue background represents the towns and villages of old New Amsterdam and New York with alternating white and green bars.

In addition to me, New York was nicely represented by both active and retired folks, such as Sam Goldstein, Howard Friedberg, John Holmes and Lewis Surrey, an honorary New Yorker.

I am an associate member of the Retired Transit Police Officers Association, so I ride mass transit where I can. The Tri-Rail commuter line runs from Miami north to Boynton Beach. The interesting part is that pubic safety is provided by armed, uniformed security guards, not police officers.

The guards walk the length of the trains. There also seems to be a very visible uniformed presence on every platform. This is in sharp contrast to current NYPD transit deployment. Transit Bureau cops huddle together on platforms, but rarely, if ever, board the subways.

ERIC WOLLMAN (2209 East 28th Street, New York NY 48127)



(Left to right) Lewis Surrey, Sam Goldstein and Paul Goldstein were among former New Yorkers at the recent Titusville, Fla. show. Surrey collects NYC and conservation law enforcement, while the Goldsteins collect NYC, Florida and a wide variety of other interests. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A highlight of Anthony Rzczidlo’s Dearborn Heights police Explorer career was working at the Michigan State Fair in summer 1971. He got to meet singer and actor Roy Rogers, the King of the Cowboys, a popular television and movie personality in the 1950s. *Anthony Rzczidlo Collection*

# Letters To The Editor

## My Years As A Police Explorer

Upon reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, on June 24, 1969, I joined Dearborn Heights, Mich. Police Explorer Post 1809. The Explorer program is an extension of the Boy Scouts of America, and the program is open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 who have interest in learning more about careers in law enforcement.

When I joined the post, it is my belief that the police Explorer program was just beginning, especially in the Metro Detroit area. Even though we were sponsored by the police department, we really did not receive any financial support from the department over the course of my years with the post.

Just as my days in scouting, my dad, the late Edward Rzczidlo, became the post’s second advisor. He had been involved with scouting since 1963 and served as my troop’s scoutmaster for several years. Robert Gauither, a police officer who later retired from the department as a sergeant, assisted my dad as the assistant post advisor.

When I first joined, we obtained our uniforms from an Army/Navy surplus store. We wore khaki shirts and pants. We had a small half moon shoulder patch that was brown with gold lettering that had “Dearborn Heights Police” arched at the top, “Explorer” in the middle and “Post 1809” on the bottom. A little while later, we added an American flag patch above the left pocket to match the American flags that officers were wearing on their uniforms.

When I first joined, we did not have uniform hats, and we never had any type of breast badge. We did add name badges, which had a black background with white letters.

During one of my two terms as post president (captain), I organized a way for the post members to raise money so that we could purchase uniform hats, hat badges and ties. The activity that we used to raise the money was selling bumper stickers door to door. The bumper stickers, if I recall, were made available to us from the Dearborn Heights Police Officers Association. The bumper stickers read “Support Your Local Fire & Police Departments. We Do.”

We raised enough money to cover ordering hats, badges and ties for every post member. The hats were deep brown with an oxblood visor, and ties were dark brown as well.

Officer Gauither and I went to a uniform store in downtown Detroit (Metropolitan Uniform) and placed an order for hat badges. Officer Gauither had to provide his police identification for the post to order the badges.

The hat badge, which was silver, had an eagle on the top with its wings fully extended. In the center was a five-point star. Below that, in an arched ribbon, the word “Explorer” was engraved and below that where a badge number would normally go, we had “Post 1809” and below that, “Dearborn Heights.”



Tom Wayne (left) from a Veterans of Foreign Wars post is shown presenting an American flag to Dearborn Heights Police Explorer Post 1809. Also seen are Chief of Police Donald Loose (center) and Explorer Anthony Rzczidlo. The collector was an Explorer in the ‘60s and ‘70s. *Anthony Rzczidlo Collection*





Anthony Rzucidlo put together this collection of medals and the shoulder patch he wore as a police Explorer in Dearborn Heights, Mich in the 1960s and '70s. He was post president. Rzucidlo's Explorer experience led to a lifelong interest in service to the city in numerous ways. *Anthony Rzucidlo Collection*

Members of the post, besides attending meetings, had the experiences of working the front desk, going on patrol in unmarked cars with police officers, taking part in firearms training and working the city's annual July 4th celebration.

The highlight of the program and for me took place in the summer of 1971, when the post was contacted by officials with the Michigan State Fair to see if members would be interested in working alongside personnel from the Michigan State Fair Police Department. The State Fair department was comprised of off-duty police officers and college students working toward a degree in law enforcement. In exchange, the State Fair would donate to the post treasury.

Originally, two other police Explorer programs besides Dearborn Heights were contacted to work the event, but in the end, members from Dearborn Heights were the only Explorers that worked the fair that year.

I had several experiences and memories from working the fair that I still remember today. However, one of the best ones had to be when I was able to have my picture taken with Roy Rogers, who along with his wife, Dale, were appearing at the fair.

For those who might not be familiar with Roy and Dale Rogers, they were a married couple who were both singers and appeared on television. From 1951 to 1957, they had a television show called *The Roy Rogers Show*. The show had a western theme which was popular back in the day. From his involvement in western films, Rogers was called the "King of the Cowboys."

The Michigan State Fair ran for 17 days, the longest in the fair's history. Out of 17 days, I worked 13 days which related to 100 hours of duty time.

On April 12, 1972, I attended the National Explorer Presidents Congress in Washington, D.C. Post presidents from across the county attended this event. Besides the various meetings that we attended, we also had time to explore the Capitol. One of the more interesting events that we went to was to a U.S. Army base where the history of the Army was put on display. It started with the soldiers that took part in the Revolutionary War to the present time. On the way back to our hotel, we were being transported in military buses with a police escort during rush hour traffic.

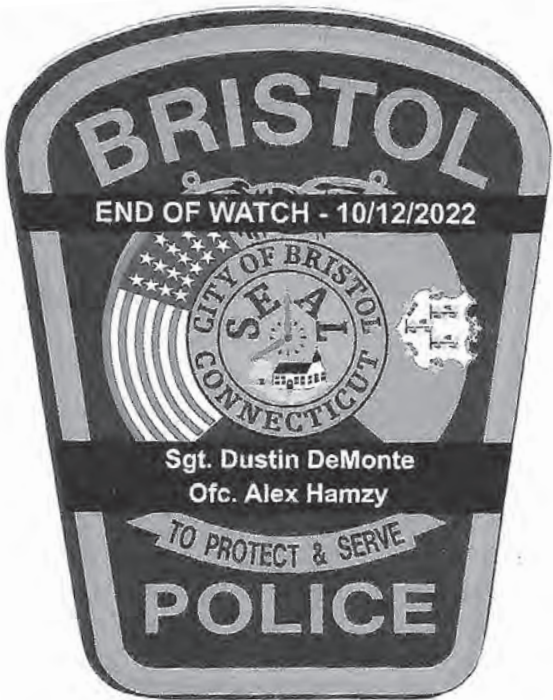
In June 1972, I graduated from high school and was hired the day after by the Dearborn Heights Police Department as a clerk/dispatcher. However, by July 1973, funding for that position had been exhausted, and I was laid off. After being laid off, I was hired by the Ford Motor Company (third generation Ford employee) in the security and fire department. The company paid for my college education, and I obtained two degrees. In 2007, I retired after 33 years of service and was assigned to the Corporate Security Department out of World Headquarters.

The Dearborn Heights Explorer post went inactive around 1972. The three years that I was a member of the post were enjoyable times and lead to me getting my first job.

Since I have lived in Dearborn Heights my entire life (I go back to the Dearborn Township days), I have tried to be involved in causes or programs that I believe in.

I served as the chair of the public safety committee for the Dearborn Heights Strategic Planning Task Force, along with my wife. Two of the committee's recommendations were fulfilled which were that a new north end fire station and police station be built to replace aging buildings.

My wife and I became members of the Dearborn Heights Community Emergency Response Team, and I serve as the group leader for administrative and training. CERT members are trained to backup firefighters and police officers in disaster situations. CERT can also be used for non-emergency situations as well.



Bristol, Conn. PD commemorated the deaths of Sergeant Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy with a commemorative "End of Watch" shoulder emblem. It is an adaptation of the patrol officer insignia and carries legends memorializing the officers and their date of death. *John Searle photograph*



LJ Badge and Emblem created the Bristol, Conn. memorial patch. (Left to right) Officer Kory St. Pierre, Deputy Chief Matthew Moskowitz, Josh Searle, Officer Retired Brendan Mulvey and Lieutenant Lang Mussen gathered at the PD lobby to promote the emblem. *Contributed photograph*

I was a member of the 50th anniversary committee for the city. In fact, I authored a book on the history of the city, which included a deep dive into the history of the police department that had never been done before.

Finally, for about 18 months I served as an Act 78 Fire/Police Civil Service commissioner.

This article is my way of comparing police Explorer programs today to those of years ago, and what we had to do to get uniform hats and hat badges. If you look at police Explorer programs of today, they have uniforms comparable to regular officers and are involved in national events. None of that was around back when I first joined in the 1960s.

It was my purpose to show how things have changed over the years, and how by being involved with the program guided me to be involved with and supporting my city in various ways.

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

## FallenBristol Police Officers Honored

LJ Badge and Emblem had the honor and privilege to supply a commemorative patch to honor the two Bristol, Conn. police officers killed in the line of duty on October 12, 2022.

Sergeant Dustin DeMonte and Officer Alex Hamzy, along with Officer Alec Iurato, were dispatched to a home on Redstone Hill Road around 10:30 pm in what officials suspect was a false 911 call involving a dispute between brothers, Nicholas and Nathaniel Brutcher.

Nicholas Brutcher was waiting for them outside with an AR-15-style assault rifle. Sergeant DeMonte and Officer Hamzy were killed and Officer Iurato, who was shot in the leg, subsequently killed the gunman.

Nicholas Brutcher had been kicked out of a local bar and interacted with police earlier the night of the attack, before returning to his house and getting into an altercation with his brother, who was also shot in the legs during the exchange of gunfire. Nathaniel Brutcher was treated at a hospital and returned home.

The deaths of these two beloved officers shattered the close-knit city of 61,000, resulting in an outpouring of support and anguish in equal measure.

Sergeant DeMonte and Officer Hamzy were the first Bristol officers to be killed on the job since 1944. A memorial ceremony was held on October 21 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. Chief Brian Gould posthumously promoted DeMonte to lieutenant and Hamzy to sergeant.

There was a window decal made which all Connecticut police departments received to place on their cruisers.

A limited number of the patches are available for \$10 each. A portion of the sales goes back the police department. Emblems can be ordered from LJ Badge and Emblem.

JOSH SEARLE (LJ Badge and Emblem, 5 Castlewood Drive, Monroe CT 06468-5206, jonassearle159@yahoo.com)

## Ukraine Morale Insignia Nearly Sold

Thank you for advertising our Ukraine morale patch in your magazine. It really helped boost sales. We only have five patches and about 20 coins left. We were able to raise a little over \$8700 for the Ukraine and still counting.

We are doing an autism patch and coin. They are currently in production. The coin will be the front of our autism patch. The back is a picture one of our autistic kids colored at our elementary school where teachers voted on the winner.

Thank you again.  
MICHAEL MC NEAL, Chief (Salem Township Police Department, 38 Bomboy Lane, Berwick PA 18603)

## NY/NJ Show Expects Sell Out

We are excited to announce that we have sold 99 tables for the New York/New Jersey show this year. We are thrilled by your level of support and are hoping to sell out in the coming weeks. Our maximum this year appears to be approximately 125 tables, which we fully expect to sell.

Those who have a table please make sure to message Savannah Lyons with your tableholder assistant's name so she can get them on the guest list for early access on April 2. Tableholder setup will be from 8 to 9 am, then the doors will open to the public at 9 am.

If you have not gotten your table yet, please contact us as soon as possible. We have 99 tables in the main ballroom. Once the last table sells, we will be placing people in Salon E, the adjacent room. While it's still a great place to be, no one wants to miss out on the action in the main room. Don't let it pass you by.

Also, the block of guest rooms at the host hotel has been sold. The block rate was good until February 28. It is now gone. We have posted some alternative lodging venues on our show Facebook page. Contact us if you have any questions about lodging.

Finally, we have had discussions with the food and beverage department at the hotel and have been assured that the restaurant will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner all weekend. As we did last year, we will post the names of a couple of eateries where you can pick up food or order in at the show.

As always, we are available for any questions you may have. Please reach out for anything you need. Use the show Facebook page to contact us quickly.





Bob Fry wants to know if this Saint Stephen emblem that depicts a Mountie on the horseback is actually from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. If it was, then when was it used? The patch is mostly red and gold. The Mountie and his horse are depicted in full color in the center. *Bob Fry photograph*

Letters To The Editor ...Continued

GERRY TIBBS, BRIAN LYONS, ED ZITEK, Hosts, New York/New Jersey Police Collectors Show (PO Box 53, Tappan NY 10983-0053)

Fry Asks For Identification Help

I was given a patch that I need help to identify.  
It is red and gold and shows a Royal Canadian Mounted Police constable on horseback in full color. The legends read "ST. STEPHEN/ N.B." It is felt.  
What I would like to know is, is it an RCMP patch from New Brunswick and, if so, when was it used?  
Any help appreciated.  
BOB FRY (766 Schroder Avenue, Aiken SC 29801)

Rare NCHP Lieutenant Badge Discovered

I was able to pick up this beautiful North Carolina Highway Patrol second lieutenant badge just before Christmas. You just never know what you are going to come across or when things are going to turn up.  
While there certainly might be others out there, this badge turning up and me being able to add it to my collection now makes a grand total of two known to exist.  
Both badges are Hahn-made. Hahn was the original manufacturer of NCHP badges in 1929 and held the contract until the mid-'70s when Blackinton took over. Blackinton still makes them today.  
A few years ago, the trooper's association gained permission to enter into a contract with Hahn to produce reproduction "Patrolman" badges, as well as others like "Chaplain" and "Caisson," off the original dies, so Hahn is once again making badges for the NCHP in this manner.  
Now for a little on the rank itself. In the mid-1950s, probably 1954, the rank of technical sergeant was created as the third in command in each troop behind captain and lieutenant. There were never more than about eight or nine technical sergeants in the state at one time. Around 1968, the first sergeant rank was established. First sergeants acted as district commanders. This meant that there were technical sergeants, first sergeants and line sergeants in the ranks of the NCHP.  
All three sergeant ranks utilized the sergeant badge. None were ever produced in the ranks of first sergeant until Blackinton received the contract. None were ever produced for technical sergeants, either by Hahn or Blackinton.  
Here is where the history gets a little fuzzy. I have seen limited explanations and heard only hearsay from members of the Patrol at that time, but in 1972, the agency decided there was no reason for three different sergeant ranks. The solution was to promote all technical sergeants to lieutenant. The guess is that this decision might not have sat well with lieutenants who already held the rank, so the ranks of first and second lieutenant were born.  
Technical sergeants, who were third in command in each troop, were all promoted to second lieutenant so they could be (you guessed it!) third in command. Makes a lot of sense to me. However, this did not last long. Eventually, first and second lieutenants were merged, and the Patrol once again had a single rank of lieutenant. The positions held by technical sergeants and second lieutenants ceased to exist.  
HUNTER SIMMONS (152 Forest Lane, State Road NC 28676)



(Left) Hunter Simmons added a rare and highly collectible North Carolina Highway Patrol second lieutenant badge to his collection. It was made by Hahn, which made agency badges from 1929 into the '70s. (Right) A very old sergeant badge from this era. *Hunter Simmons photographs*



(Left) The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special commemorative seven-point star. (Right) The agency's 50th anniversary patch shows the commemorative badge, furl U.S. and state flags and "1873-2023." *Contributed photographs*

New Insignia Arises From The Deep Freeze

As the harsh winter fades into spring, law enforcement agencies across the country have introduced a variety of new insignia, including handsome anniversary throwback badges, as well as colorful shoulder patch designs. The 2023 collecting year is off to a strong start.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Law enforcement agencies across the country are celebrating anniversaries in 2023, including the Texas Rangers, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police and others. Meanwhile, other departments have adopted new look emblems as winter fades into spring.

Las Vegas Metro Celebrates 50 Years The Las Vegas, Nev. Metropolitan Police Department is celebrating a half century of service with a commemorative badge, shoulder patch and challenge coin.  
Founded in 1973 after Clark County and Las Vegas consolidated their law enforcement agencies, the agency is headed by an elected sheriff who also serves as Las Vegas city police chief.  
The badge is a gold-colored seven-point star with extensive filigree on the star points. The oversize center design features blue enamel. "METROPOLITAN POLICE" appears on a gold ring around the center design. The blue center design shows "50" (for 50th anniversary) in gold numerals surrounded by a blue ring which carries the legends, "LAS VEGAS/ CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA," in gold lettering.  
The commemorative was available only to active and retired LVMPD members. It sold for \$210 with proceeds going toward maintenance of Police Memorial Park in Las Vegas.  
The patch is the same size, shape and colors as the department issue shoulder insignia. The colors are gold on green. The commemorative badge appears in full color as the center design. "LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN/ POLICE DEPARTMENT" appears at the top. Furl United States and state flags can be seen behind the badge, while "LAS VEGAS, NV" is shown beneath it. Upon a gold banner at the bottom is "1973-2023" in green numerals. There is a gold merrowed edge.  
The commemorative badge appears on the challenge coin face. The United States and Nevada flags are seen on the reverse.  
The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Foundation, a non-profit organization, is marketing the commemorative insignia. The patch and challenge coin are available to collectors through their Web site, LVMPDFoundation.Org. The patch costs \$15, while the challenge coin is \$20. There is also a lapel pin for \$15.  
The badge and patch were designed by members of the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Foundation.  
Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on January 7 kicked off the agency's official 50th anniversary. The event was held at Police Memorial Park and featured displays of agency history, as well as food trucks, games, music and vendors. A special program showcased the anniversary.



(Left) The new Mount Healthy, O. police patch features a two-tone blue color scheme and white legends. City Hall is seen as the center design. (Right) The previous patch featured the state seal superimposed over a gold eagle as the center design. *Contributed photographs*





Meridian, Idaho police officers are wearing retro insignia during the celebration of the department's 120th anniversary. The badge is a throwback to when the officers wore six-point ball-tipped stars. So is the shoulder patch, which brings back the triangular Dairy City emblem. *Contributed photographs*

Prior to July 1, 1973, the Clark County Sheriffs Department and Las Vegas Police Department were the largest law enforcement agencies in the county. The PD policed the city, the gambling capital of the world, while the SD covered unincorporated areas of the sprawling 8000-square mile county. The municipalities of Boulder City, Henderson and North Las Vegas maintained their own police departments.

For many years, consideration was repeatedly given toward a countywide law enforcement consolidation. As a result of strong opposition from local officials in Boulder City, Henderson and Boulder, a compromise was reached in late 1972 to merge Las Vegas and Clark County, while the three other cities could continue to provide their own law enforcement services.

The Nevada Legislature approved a bill to consolidate the city and county and place the new law enforcement agency under the jurisdiction of the elected county sheriff. The merger took effect on July 1, 1973.

*Courtesy of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Foundation*

**New Patch In Mount Healthy** The Mount Healthy, O. Police Department made a dramatic patch style change in late 2022, according to now-retired Chief of Police Vincent L. Demasi.

The emblem was custom designed by Officer Nick Michael and members of the police officers' association. It gives officers a modern new look while preserving the history of the Hamilton County community located near Cincinnati.

"The project was started about eight years ago by Officer Michael and the Mount Healthy Police Association. It finally became reality last year," Chief Demasi said.

The new patch is a CHP shape with a dark blue background and white outer border. "POLICE" is seen across the top in large light blue letters. Historic City Hall is depicted in white and surrounded by a thin white border. "MOUNT/ HEALTHY/ 1817" appears next to City Hall in white legends. "OHIO" completes the design at the bottom, also in white letters. It replaced a rounded rectangle with the state seal superimposed over eagle wings.

"The patches were designed to reflect our city's trademark logo of City Hall with focus on our hometown and to portray our local community and its rich history more accurately," the chief announced.

The local Fraternal Order of Eagles club funded the patch project.

Mount Healthy has 12 full-time officers to protect and serve the city of 6900.

Originally known as Mount Pleasant and settled in 1817, the city changed its name to Mount Healthy when it was able to avoid cholera epidemics in nearby Cincinnati. It was incorporated in 1893.

*Courtesy of Mount Healthy Police Department*

**New Year, New Meridian Look** Meridian, Id. police officer uniforms are looking different in 2023, as the department celebrates 120 years of service. The department has adopted new badges and patches paying homage to the department's early years.

The police department began its service to what was then the village of Meridian in 1903 with one officer serving the tiny community of 200 people.

Records indicate that a six-point star badge was worn by officers as early as the 1940s



(Upper left) The 1898 to 2023 Azusa, Calif. commemorative badge is a throwback shield. (Upper right) The anniversary shield is patterned after this deputy constable's badge. (Lower left and right) Very early badges from the Azusa Police Department are ball-tipped stars. *Jake Bushey photographs*



(Top) The former Isle of Palms, S.C. emblem was a stock eagle variation with U.S. and state flags. (Lower and lower right) Two proposed Isle of Palms designs, one traditional and the other non-traditional. The non-traditional patch won! It is the multicolored current issue. *Contributed photographs*

but were phased out in the 1970s, eventually transitioning to the oval modern shape worn today.

The shoulder patch worn by Meridian officers during this time frame was a triangle depicting a dairy cow and the motto, "THE DAIRY CITY."

The new patch and badge designs are a flashback to the past, bringing back the six-point star and white-on-blue version of the original cow design.

"We are really fortunate as officers to serve such a wonderful community," said Captain Berle Stokes, a 20-year department veteran. "We are excited to have their opportunity to honor the past 120 years of service to the city while looking to the future and how can best serve the city of Meridian."

With well over 120,000 residents, the department has grown to 120 officers and 43 professional staff.

*Courtesy of Meridian Police Department*

**Azusa PD Celebrates 125 Years** The new year marked the 125th anniversary of the Azusa, Calif. Department, 1898 to 2023. It's time to celebrate!

Chief Rocky Wenrick authorized officers to wear a retro badge similar to the shield worn by the city's first law enforcement officer, J.C. Preston, who was elected constable in 1898. It went into service on January 1.

In 1898, a ride to Los Angeles was a full day to alert the county sheriff of trouble. By the time a posse of deputies arrived, the outlaws had already escaped into the canyon. So, the citizens took matters of law and order into their own hands by creating what would evolve into the Azusa Police Department.

The eagle-topped shield features extensive filigree. "125 YEARS/ 1898-2023" appears in raised legends as the center design framed by banners. "DEPUTY" and "CONSTABLE" are seen on banners above and below the design, respectively. "AZUSA TWP." completes the design at the bottom on a large banner. (Twp. abbreviates township.)

Veteran California collector Jake Bushey, who is an Azusa police lieutenant, said the badge is based on the original deputy constable's badge, which carries the number "H 4" as the center design.

"We are very proud and excited to honor this [heritage] by donning this reproduction badge made based on the original design," Lieutenant Bushey said.

Azusa is located in the San Gabriel Valley Region 24 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. The population is 50,000.

Chief Wenrick commands 55 sworn and 28 support staff.

*Courtesy of Jake Bushey*

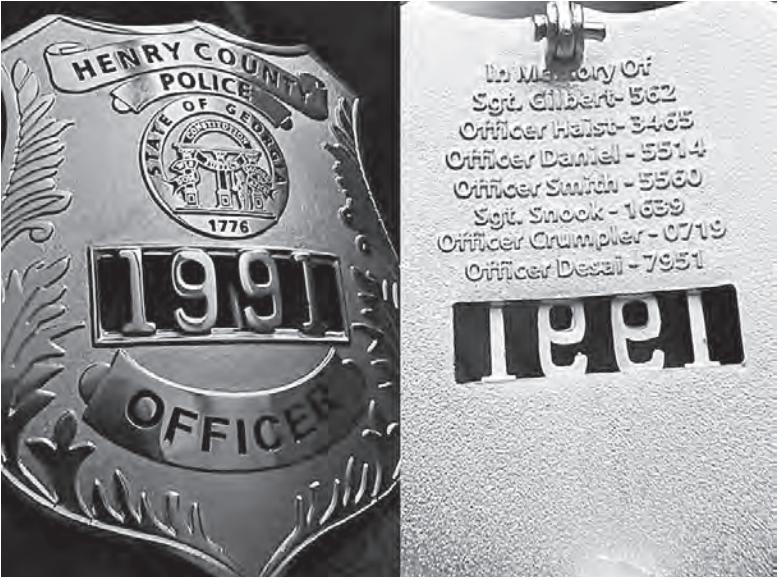
**Isle Of Palms Patch Chronicle** It was 2019 and the Isle of Palms, S.C. Police Department was looking for a unique uniform patch to reflect the island's identity.

Officers hoped to showcase the island's unique identity, but the community had mixed feelings on whether the police patch should be strictly business or a little fun.



The new look City of Fairfax, Va. Police Department shoulder patch is predominantly red, white and blue. It is highlighted by the recently-adopted redesigned city seal, which features City Hall and the motto, "Speak Do," which is shown in Latin. *Contributed photograph*





Henry County, Ga. Police Department has added the names and badge numbers of seven officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty since the turn of the century to the backs of their unique shields (right). The agency is headquartered in Mc Donough. *Contributed photographs*

## New Insignia Debuts ...Continued

Police Chief Kevin Cornett said an officer came to him shortly after he took office in June 2019 with an idea to change the patch.

“They wanted to have a fresh start. I think they were a little taken aback when I said, ‘Yes, let’s do this,’” he said.

Isle of Palms officers worked together as a team to design a new patch. They settled on two options, which they floated to the community. Police staff had the final vote.

According to Chief Cornett, officers wanted to design an emblem that would be distinctive to the agency. “We wanted it to stand out,” he said.

The first design included sea turtles because of the department’s efforts to keep them safe. The second design was more original.

Staff chose the very colorful, unique second offering, a CHP shape with a unique orange, gold and blue background, a full color palm tree and the legends, “ISLE OF PALMS/ POLICE,” in blue letters. There is a bright blue outer border.

“No other department has a patch like that,” Chief Cornett said.

The previous emblem featured spread eagle wings, United States and South Carolina flags and the city seal.

“I think the second version is a unique design that projects the relaxed and friendly feeling of our little island. I loved the inclusion of the sea turtle on the first design but thought the second design better incorporated the character of the island,” island resident Lee Weatherly said.

*Courtesy of Isle of Palms Police Department*

**Fairfax, Va. Adopts New Seal** Last December, the City of Fairfield, Va. held a ceremony to retire the city seal used since 1973, as well as Police Department and Fire Department badges and patches, in use since 1980 and 2002, respectively.

The city unveiled the new seal and new public safety badges and patches, which were designed under the guidance of police and fire personnel.

The new city seal is similar in shape to the one designed by the College of Arms in London, England in 1973. City Hall is now the central image, replacing a Confederate soldier and Lord Fairfax standing next to a shield sporting a griffin. The seal retains the city’s year of incorporation, 1805, as the Town of Providence, and the city motto, *Fare Fac* or *Speak Do*. The seal also keeps dogwood blossoms in the border.

The new public safety badges and patches removed the elements of the old seal with current images of the city, including the police station, City Hall and the United States flag.

*Courtesy of City of Fairfax, Va. Police Department*

**Henry County Badge Honors Fallen** The Henry County, Ga. Police Department recently added a unique feature to its badges, the names and badge numbers of seven fallen officers. Their sacrifices now engraved on the backs of officer’s shields.

The agency, which is located south of Atlanta in north central Georgia, honored Sergeant Gilbert, Officer Haist, Officer Daniel, Officer Smith, Officer Snook, Officer Crumpler and Officer Desai.

Captain Randy Lee said the names and badge numbers have been added to the back of each badge “as a way to honor the service members’ lives and devotion to the local department.”



The Mount Washington Hotel, Twin Mountain and a moose highlight the current colorful Carroll, N.H. Police Department shoulder emblem. However, just for fun, Carroll created the “tourism humor patch” featuring the moose holding a sign offering to work for money. *Contributed photographs*

Officers wear a silver-colored New York-style shield that features the state seal and the badge number in cutout numerals beneath the seal. “HENRY COUNTY POLICE” appears on two banners above the seal, while “OFFICER” is seen on another banner beneath the badge number at the bottom. Laurels are engraved on either side of the shield.

All seven officers were killed in the line of duty between 2004 and 2021.

“Their names and badge numbers are placed on the back of the badge closest to our hearts, reminding us of those before us who gave all to Henry County,” Captain Lee said.

*Courtesy of Henry County, Ga. Police Department*

**Carroll PD Creates Hilarious Patch** It’s just for fun but nevertheless significant for the Carroll, N.H. Police Department. They call it their “tourism humor patch,” and it features a moose holding a sign, “WILL DO MOOSE STUFF FOR MONEY.”

The tiny Coos County community (population 820) is home to the famous Mount Washington Hotel, located near Twin Mountain, a popular tourist attraction.

Carroll police officers wear a colorful, custom-designed emblem featuring the hotel with the snow-capped mountain in the background and a moose in the foreground. Moose roam the countryside around the city and often opt to stroll down streets, visit homeowners’ decks and backyard pools and disrupt traffic, especially during mating season.

The agency is selling the comic version of their emblem, created by Ghost Patches in Salem, Mass.

Chief Tadd Bailey said the agency adopted a moose, affectionately called “Jail House Moose,” as its official mascot. The wooden creature, wearing a white and black jail uniform, adorns the lawn in front of police headquarters.

“The patch shows people that cops have a sense of humor; that we don’t take ourselves too seriously,” he said.

“POLICE” appears at the top and “CARROLL/ N.H.” is seen at the bottom in white letters.

According to the agency’s Facebook page, the emblem is being sold for \$15 at the town police station. Mail order sales are being considered but unavailable as yet.

*Courtesy of Carroll, N.H. Police Department*

**Texarkana Badge Celebrates 150th Anniversary** The Texarkana, Tex. Police Department is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a beautiful, custom-designed commemorative badge.

According to police Chief Kevin Schutte, the department was formed in 1873 when the community, which straddles the Arkansas border, was a major railroad hub. It is the twin city to Texarkana, Ark. A white line along a downtown street represents the stateline.

The gold-colored circled star badge is a throwback to when officers wore a five-point star. It features full color United States and Texas flags. The legends are “TEXARKANA POLICE” on a banner across the top star point, “1873-2023” appears on a small banner above the center design, “OFFICER” is seen beneath the designs on a small banner and “150” (the anniversary year) is shown at the bottom, also on a small banner.

The center design is a large five-point star surrounded by the legend, “THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS.”

A committee of officers designed the badge.

Officers are authorized to wear it throughout 2023 but were required to purchase it with their own funds. No tax dollars were involved, Chief Schutte pointed out.

“This is a great way to display the pride we have in our department and for the city on its 150th anniversary,” he said.

Chief Schutte commands an agency with 91 sworn officers who protect and serve 36,000 residents.

*Courtesy of Texarkana, Tex. Police Department*

**Patch Becomes SFPD Holiday Tradition** The San Francisco Police Department goes all out for Christmas.

There is an annual Christmas parade featuring an array of SFPD vehicles led by motor officers with Santa Claus riding in a festively decorated police truck. The entourage stops at the University of California San Francisco Benioff Children’s Hospital and Family House so officers can deliver bags filled with toys for hospitalized children. Chief of Police William Scott, wearing a string of blinking Christmas lights on his uniform, was a participant in the December 23rd event.

The agency has annual Christmas toy drives for underprivileged children, a 50-year SFPD tradition. Thousands of kids have shared the joy of the holiday, thanks to generous donations by employees, businesses and residents.

A colorful commemorative Christmas shoulder patch has become a more recent SFPD tradition. It is a green, red, white and gold variation of the uniformed officers’ emblem and shows candy canes and Christmas bells. It is a highly desirable collectible.

While the patch is unofficial and not worn on duty, the department uses it to publicize charity events around the holidays, especially the toy drives, according to the department.

*Courtesy of San Francisco Police Department*

**Salem Township Celebrates Christmas Holiday** The Salem Township, Penna. Police Department celebrated Christmas 2022 with a commemorative shoulder patch and challenge coin, according to Chief of Police Michael McNeal. Both creations remain available to collectors in limited quantity.



In Texarkana, Tex., police officers are celebrating the 150th anniversary of their department with this beautifully-designed throwback badge. The center design features a five point star, the official Texas symbol. The legends read, “TEXARKANA POLICE/ 1873-2023/ OFFICER/ 150.” *Contributed photograph*



The emblem is a CHP shape with a bright red border and green and black inner and outer borders, respectively. The round center design, which is bordered in bright green, shows Santa Claus in his sleigh in flight over a neighborhood. "MERRY CHRISTMAS" appears in white letters on the green border. "SALEM TWP" is shown at the top and "POLICE/ 2022" at the bottom, also in white lettering.

The challenge coin has a red background and gold border. The Christmas patch appears on one side, while an elf and Christmas sleigh appear on the other side, along with mistletoe.

The patch costs \$12, while the coin, which could double as a tree ornament, is \$15. The insignia can be ordered online through the department's Web site, SalemTwpPolice.Com.

Chief McNeal's nine-member agency in Luverne County has sold several other emblems as fundraisers for various causes, such Ukraine War support, commercial vehicle enforcement and current and previous uniformed officer emblems (two styles).

Salem Township is one of the original 11 townships in the county and was formed in 1786. It is named after Salem, Conn. The police department was formed in 1958.

Both insignia were made by Ghost Patch in Massachusetts.

*Courtesy of Tom Doran and Salem Township Police Department*

**Muscle Shoals Marks City Centennial** Muscle Shoals, Ala., world famous for its music recording studios, is celebrating its centennial in 2023. The Police Department has joined the festivities with a handsome, custom-designed 100th anniversary badge.

Police Chief Clint Reck said the commemorative badge is meant to represent all of the officers who have served on the department over the past 100 years.

When Muscle Shoals in far northwest Alabama was formed in 1923, the small city had only a handful of police officers. Today, there are 50 sworn officers. The population is now 16,700.

The badge is a silver-colored eagle-topped shield with City Hall as the center design. A blue banner across the eagle's wings carries the legend, "100TH ANNIVERSARY," in silver letters. Two banners appear above City Hall. One is blue with silver letters and reads, "1923-2023," while the other is silver with "OFFICER" in blue letters. Beneath the center design are "MUSCLE SHOALS" and "POLICE" on separate banners in the same color schemes. "AL" (Alabama) completes the design at the bottom in silver letters on a blue panel.

"We took the original badge from back in the early '20s and combined it with the badge we wear today," Chief Reck said. "We wanted to do the retro look to kind of honor the beginning of the department."

Muscle Shoals is known as the "Hit Recording Capital of the World." Among hundreds of artists who performed popular songs at recording studios in the city are such notables as Percy Sledge, Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding, Bob Dylan, Rod Stewart, The Rolling Stones, The Allman Brothers and Carrie Underwood. In addition, local artists have developed the "Muscle Shoals sound," a blend of jazz and blues.

"We're just proud, you know, proud of our heritage here, proud of the police department. I'm proud of the men and women here and the job that they do..." Chief Reck said.

*Courtesy of Muscle Shoals Police Department*

**New Emblem Debuts In Richland** Police in Richland, Wash. are wearing an exceptional new shoulder patch that depicts the city's heritage as a center of nuclear energy development during World War II.

Richland, in Benton County at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers in south central Washington, is the home of the Hanford Nuclear Site operated by the U.S. Department of Energy. It was essential to the creation of the atomic bombs that ended World War II in the Pacific.

The style change is a LASD shape with a black background and gray borders and legends. The colorful, round center design depicts a mountain sunrise and a World War II-era bomber, ostensibly carrying an atomic bomb toward Japan. Circling atoms, symbols for atomic energy, are seen to the left and right of center design, respectively. The legends read, "RICHLAND" at the top and "POLICE" at the bottom. There is a gray merrowed edge.

In July 1943, the United States Army purchased 640 square miles of land along the Columbia River. The 300 residents of Richland and two surrounding communities were relocated and the military developed the area into housing for Manhattan Project workers at the Hanford Engineering Works, now the Hanford Nuclear Site. The population swelled from 300 to 25,000 by August 1945.

After World War II ended, the Hanford site produced plutonium for the United States nuclear weapons arsenal beginning in 1947.

The last nuclear reactor was shut down in 1987. Today, the Energy Department is tasked with cleaning up nuclear waste and other hazardous materials used at the site during World War II and the Cold War.

According to Washington collectors, the department has also ordered badges and challenge coins to match the new shoulder patch.

City history remains deeply tied to nuclear bomb production and development of peacetime nuclear energy. Several city streets are named after pioneering nuclear scientists, while others are named after famous World War II generals. The high school sports teams are known as the Bombers.

Chief Brigit Clary commands a staff of 58 officers and support staff. They police the community 60,560 people.

*Courtesy of Richland Police Department*

**2023 Marks Texas Rangers Bicentennial** This year marks a milestone in the storied history of the Texas Rangers, the agency's bicentennial. The Rangers were formed in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin under the authorization of the governor

of the Mexican State of Texas.

Spearheaded by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, the Texas Department of Public Safety Foundation and the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, the year-long celebration will feature a variety of events and commemorations across the state, historic publications, commemorative insignia and recognition of the earliest members of the service.

The first commemorative is a unique challenge coin. It is round with a silver and gold center design and a maroon inner border. A gold state outline with "200 YEARS" in large legends adorns the design with a Ranger captain's badge attached to the upper left. A red die-cut banner bordered in gold carries the gold-colored legends, "BICENTENNIAL OF THE/ TEXAS RANGERS." Six gold stars are seen on the red outer border. There is gold outer border.

The Rangers, the oldest state law enforcement agency, is the only agency to serve under five national flags, the Mexican State of Texas (1823), the Republic of Texas (1836-1845), the United States State of Texas (1845-1865), the Confederate States of America (1861-1865) and the United States State of Texas (1870-present).

The Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, the official historical center of the Rangers, first began preparing for the bicentennial in June 2012 with the opening of the Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center. Since 1976, the Hall of Fame and Museum has served more than 120,000 researchers worldwide. It is legislatively-designated as the official repository for Ranger archives.

In 2016, the museum created a Bicentennial Publications Program to recognize quality works of nonfiction and reprints of classic works contributing to the knowledge and appreciation of Ranger history. In this way, a permanent legacy has been created for the future. The program has exceeded expectations with over 15 books accepted through 2022.

In 2018, the Texas Rangers and the Department of Public Safety authorized the addition of current badges to the Hall of Fame and Museum collection for the 200th anniversary. Current badges are tightly controlled and produced only by specific warrant from the Rangers.

"After we called for sponsors, Fred Bucy III of Fischer, Tex. donated the gold 50-peso coins to bring the collection up to date. Kevin Johnson of Bits and Spurs graciously offered to create examples of eight current ranks, Ranger, Lieutenant, Staff Lieutenant, Captain, Staff Captain, Major, Assistant Chief and Chief," a spokesman said.

"It is especially meaningful in that Kevin is one of just two artisans authorized to make badges for the Texas Rangers. By tradition, they are made from Mexican silver five-peso, gold-plated and gold 50-peso coins. We are deeply grateful for the gift and will be displaying it during the Bicentennial year."

*Courtesy of Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum*

# Multiple MSP Challenge Coins Prompt Discipline

Maryland State Police have conducted four internal investigations into controversial challenge coins produced by troopers since 2020. Each investigation resulted in disciplinary action. A coin is also involved in racial discrimination accusations filed by three troopers that may ultimately result in a class-action lawsuit.

By Darcy Costello, Guest Writer

BALTIMORE, Md. - One challenge coin created by a police lieutenant reads, in part, "Hunt the animal," and depicts a knight brandishing a state flag-embazoned shield.

Another features a bulldog in a Maryland State Police uniform holding money bags and surrounded by cash above the words "Overtime Driven."

And a green token in the shape of a penis contains a message about the agency "screwing troopers since 1921," the year it was founded.

Maryland State Police made headlines late last year for an offensive challenge coin with a graphic depiction of female genitalia and a message about being "offended." Onlookers questioned what it said about the agency's culture, and some suggested it was meant as a message for Black troopers. Officials said days later that a former state trooper was behind the coin.



(Left) Muscle Shoals, Ala. police officers are celebrating their centennial with a striking shield that incorporates the agency's badge chronology. (Right) The first official Texas Rangers 200th anniversary collectible is this gold and red challenge coin. It features a captain's badge. *Contributed photographs*



A penis (redacted) is depicted on both sides of a green and red challenge coin made for a Maryland state trooper. The legend on one side reads, "OPERATION/ BUTT HURT," while the other side reads, "THE BIG VA GREENIE." It also references troopers being "screwed" since 1921. *Baltimore Sun photograph*



## MSP Challenge Coins ...Continued

Now, disciplinary files obtained by *The Baltimore Sun* under Maryland's public information law show state police have produced and circulated a series of questionable tokens in recent years, leading to at least four disciplinary actions since 2020.

The state police superintendent, Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III, has forcefully denounced the coins, calling some of the depictions and slogans "demeaning, disgusting and unbecoming of Maryland state troopers."

The agency declined to make Jones available for an interview, but he made his position clear in a statement emailed to current and former troopers.

"If you are a current employee, but no longer care about the perception or success of the Maryland State Police and would rather participate in these childish, offensive and divisive behaviors, then be bold enough to take off that uniform and turn in your badge," Jones wrote in his two-page statement, which has not been previously reported. "Those who are willing to tarnish the reputation of our shield and badge, and the legacy of the fallen, do not deserve to wear it."

Despite the unequivocal rebuke, consequences for disciplined troopers have varied, according to the investigative files, ranging from verbal counseling to two days' suspension with pay. How extensive the investigations were also appeared to vary.

Policing researchers say the coins should be treated as indicators of an agency's culture, that they are not "trivial tokens," but rather statements about troopers' values.

If a police force wouldn't be comfortable with such "cultural signifiers" pinned to a uniform or posted on social media, then it should "think hard" about whether they're acceptable as challenge coins, said David Harris, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who has done research on criminal justice and racial profiling.

"If police departments or the state police say, 'We're dedicated to serving and protecting all citizens of Maryland, with equality and dignity,' but there are cultural signifiers in which they refer to people as 'animals,' then that's troubling," Harris said. "It doesn't matter if it's in the form of a coin or Facebook post."

One of the coins was cited in a complaint filed October 24, 2022 in federal court by three troopers who accuse the agency of racial discrimination and seek a class-action lawsuit on behalf of employees of color. They say the state police fail to properly address racial harassment, including an example of a coin with a slogan inspired by "Make America Great Again."

**"We make all kinds of bad things possible"** When an anonymous complaint in October 2021 to state police about an "offense and inappropriate" coin that read "Hunt the Animal" on one side and "Don't Lie, Work Hard, Give A F\_\_k" on the other, an investigation began.

The complaint identified the coin's creator as Lieutenant Robert Connolly, who commands the Centreville Barracks in Queen Anne's County.

A captain tasked with investigating noted in a file on the case that Connolly "does not dispute" he designed the coin and "has taken full responsibility." The file shows that Connolly received a written reprimand that November, ordering him to stop using the phrases and "be mindful" of language "so as not to offend employees or the public." The file does not reflect whether Connolly was asked what he meant by "Hunt the animal."

Harris questioned the coin's words.

"When we start talking about people who deserve police attention...as animals, we direct our police officers into methods and thinking that I think any police department would find unacceptable," Harris said. "When we dehumanize, we make all kinds of bad things possible."

The cases involving other challenge coins resulted in various internal charges and different punishments.

There was a May 2021 investigation into a coin that read "Make Waldorf Great Again." The allusion to former President Donald Trump's campaign slogan was connected to a traffic enforcement campaign at the Southern Maryland barracks. The slogan drew media attention and one administrative investigation, resulting in then-First Sergeant Edward Luers being suspended for two days without pay.

The Charles County NAACP at the time called the use of the phrase reckless and irresponsible, according to news reports, adding that it "raises troubling issues of the state police engaging in harmful racial stereotypes," in part because Waldorf and the county are now majority Black.

Luers, who has since retired, told *The Sun* in an interview that he thought the coin had



Woodrow Jones III was the superintendent of the Maryland State Police during the investigations of controversial challenge coins by state troopers. The 35-year law enforcement veteran retired at the end of 2022. He spoke out strongly and forcefully against the coins. *MSP official photograph*

been mischaracterized, and while he didn't work on the traffic initiative, he created the coin to honor its successes. It was the second he had made, he said.

Luers said he didn't know there was an investigation into the initiative's name or any controversy until he saw a news story after he created the coin.

"I had no clue about any of that," said Luers. "Challenge coins are very popular these days."

Requests for comment sent by email to the other troopers who were disciplined for coins were not returned.

The investigation into the overtime coin, in August 2021, led to a loss of a day's leave and a written reprimand for Trooper Kamil Kozoil.

The July 2020 probe into the green phallic image challenge coin that mentioned "screwing troopers," meanwhile, led only to counseling for Trooper William Crook, following a finding that a charge of opening up the agency to criticism or ridicule was sustained.

In that investigation, a corporal said he tried to "head it off early before it became an issue" by speaking with Crook about how it "ridicules MSP and how it does not look good in today's climate to have items circulating between troopers." The corporal, who does not appear to have alerted Internal Affairs to the coin before advising Crook about its negative effects, said he believed the coin design stemmed from an earlier investigation in which Crook felt "targeted."

Of the four files obtained by *The Sun*, the most extensive investigation appears to have taken place for the "Make Waldorf Great Again" coin, the only one that received news media attention during its probe. It was the only file to state how many coins were ordered or produced (200 coins for \$865); the only one to include messages between the trooper and the business that created the coin (U.S. DOD Coins); and the only one with a signed investigative letter outlining findings and recommendations.

A state police spokeswoman said last month that there were no open internal investigations of challenge coins.

**How should the coins be handled?** Challenge coins in law enforcement, generally, are small items exchanged within or between agencies, to commemorate group membership or specific experiences.

Kym Craven, the executive director of the National Association of Women in Law Enforcement Executives, described them as symbolic of camaraderie and positivity, and said her organization gives coins to conference attendees or sells them in silent auctions.

Craven said that in her 36 years in law enforcement, she's never heard of so many offensive coins in one organization. She called the number of occurrences, the vulgarity of some of the coins and the targeting of specific groups "egregious."

But that there have been investigations is a positive sign about how seriously the agency is taking the coins, she said.

In the statement from Jones, the state police superintendent, he told current and former troopers his response to each challenge coin incident has been to "order immediate investigations."

The statewide law enforcement agency with roughly 1440 sworn employees, according to a 2021 report, enforces criminal and traffic laws across Maryland and coordinates with or assists other law enforcement agencies.

Jones lamented in his message there were more "Google alerts" about the challenge coins in the previous several days than "anything positive" done by the agency, and that critics hold the issue up as an example of "why law enforcement cannot be trusted to to treat all people fairly and with respect."

"It is credibly said that the actions of a few have become a national embarrassment for the Maryland State Police," Jones wrote.

Harris and Michael Sierra-Arevato, a sociologist at the University of Texas at Austin who has researched police culture, agreed the questionable coins warrant the same kind of investigation as any other message from law enforcement.

Sierra-Arevato said the coins' themes, distrust of administrators, denigration of women, sexism, likely aren't beliefs unique to the agency. Challenge coins across American agencies tend to "look a certain way," and Maryland State Police isn't outlier in terms of the topics troopers highlight on the coins, he said.

Agencies in Arizona, New York, Texas and several other states have faced scrutiny for coins circulating among members in recent years. And Sierra-Arevato noted other signifiers, such as tattoos, T-shirts and wristbands, can reflect law enforcement values and culture.

"These are armed agents of the state with profound authority to deprive people of liberty and life," Sierra-Arevato said. "The standards are, and should be, different than essentially saying, 'Boys will be boys.'"

DARCY COSTELLO, Justice Reporter (*The Baltimore Sun*, 300 East Cromwell Street, Baltimore MD 21230) [dcostello@baltsun.com](mailto:dcostello@baltsun.com)

**Virginia Beach Milestone** Virginia Beach, Va. PD reached a milestone this year, their 60th anniversary. The agency is celebrating with a special commemorative emblem. It is the same size, shape, colors and design as the current patch, except for legends added beneath the colorful center design, "1963 60TH 2023/ ANNIVERSARY."

**Elmira's Petticoat Cops** Elmira, N.Y. police matrons in the 1800s were called "petticoat cops." Matrons were required to live at the police station and take care of female prisoners and their children. The city made them wear dresses while on duty. Even though police matrons performed a law enforcement function, they were non-sworn employees appointed by the mayor. They were not issued badges.



(Top) The controversial "Overtime Driven" Maryland State Police challenge coin shows a clock and bear holding money bags. (Bottom) The "Make Waldorf Great Again" coin details the results of a traffic enforcement initiative, which appear around the state flag in the center. *Baltimore Sun photographs*





Clint Eastwood portrayed San Francisco inspector Dirty Harry Callahan in the 1971 smash hit, *Dirty Harry*. His weapon, a Smith and Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum, became a focal point of the film. The weapon is displayed at the NRA National Shooting Arms Museum. *Contributed photographs*

# NRA Museum Exhibits Historic Police Artifacts

The National Rifle Association National Shooting Arms Museum in Springfield, Mo. is a treasure trove of law enforcement history. While firearms are predominant, there are also law enforcement badges, patches and historic photographs.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Planning to attend the two-day “Heart of the Ozarks” show this summer?

In Springfield, Mo., along the main highway to Branson, US 65 South, is the National Rifle Association National Sporting Arms Museum, a must-see for hobbyists interested in historic law enforcement weapons.

The large, beautifully-presented museum can be found in the Bass Pro Shops headquarters complex retail store. It’s open seven days a week. Admission is free.

The museum is supported by the NRA. It features more than 1000 antique and historic firearms. Fifteen galleries represent six centuries of firearms evolution with emphasis on the United States. Weapons represent the military, the Old West, shooting sports and personal



Captain Frank Hamer was a legendary Texas Ranger who was responsible for stopping the crime sprees of outlaws Bonnie and Clyde in May 1934. His weapon was a Colt 1873 Single Action Army .45. It was presented to him by his brother, Harrison, who was also a Ranger. *Contributed photograph*

protection. There are even Daisy BB Guns, which are made in nearby Rogers, Ark.

Collectors will be particularly interested in two galleries, “Firearms Traditions For Today (1950 To Present)” and “Hollywood Guns.”

A segment of the Firearms Traditions gallery is dedicated to “Arms of Law Enforcement” and features 87 different popular police weapons, old and new. It chronicles the transition from the small caliber police specials of the ‘50s and ‘60s to the higher caliber revolvers of the ‘70s and ‘80s to modern semi-automatic pistols. Most major manufacturers are represented.

A large display is devoted to weapons carried by the Texas Rangers and includes handguns and rifles. A few impressive artifacts, such as badges, photographs and career memorabilia, augment the exhibit.

A display is dedicated to legendary Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer (1884-1955), who ended the criminal careers of outlaws Bonnie and Clyde in May 1934. His personal Colt 1873 Army .45 is shown. The gleaming silver revolver is beautifully engraved and outfitted with custom grips. The gun was given to him by his brother and fellow Ranger, Harrison Hamer.

“Hollywood Arms” exhibits weapons once owned by stars of stage and screen or used in famous movies and television programs.

John Wayne’s personal Winchester Model 1892 .44-40 caliber rifle used in his movies *Hondo* (1953), *McClintock* (1963) and *Big Jake* (1971) is displayed. It carries the marking “BATJAC,” which was Wayne’s production company.

The Smith and Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum revolver that Clint Eastwood carried in the 1971 smash hit movie, *Dirty Harry*, and the 1973 follow up, *Magnum Force*, is on display. The weapon carries authentication.

Weapons used in such popular productions as *American Gangster*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Die Hard*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Magnum P.I.*, *Public Enemies* and *S.W.A.T.* are also shown.

Tom Selleck starred in original *Magnum P.I.*, which ran from 1980 to 1988. It turns out the popular actor collected several outstanding and historic firearms. He donated them to the NRA for display in the museum.

Selleck was presented with several commemorative weapons by law enforcement agencies and fellow celebrities during his nine-year run as *Magnum P.I.* star. They are included in the collection.

The museum is located inside the Bass Pro Shop at 1935 South Campbell Avenue. It is open from 9 am to 9 pm Monday through Saturday and 9 am to 7 pm Sunday. The telephone number is (471) 891-5346.

Still planning that trip? Branson is about 45 minutes away.

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



“Arms of Law Enforcement” is a segment of the larger “Firearms Traditions For Today” exhibit at the NRA National Shooting Arms Museum in Springfield, Mo. It features a wide variety of handguns and rifles. The exhibit also shows some patches and badges. *Contributed photograph*



(Top) The NRA National Shooting Arms Museum is located inside the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, Mo. It’s on the corporate headquarters grounds. (Bottom) The beautifully-presented museum collection features about 1000 firearms, mostly from the the United States. *Contributed photographs*





# 2023

## NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY

# POLICE COLLECTORS SHOW



# SUNDAY APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>

Table holder set up 8:00am

Doors open to public 9:00am

Hilton Hasbrouck Heights  
650 Terrace Ave  
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Tables \$65.00 each  
To reserve & pay for table  
online at Paypal (Friends & Family)  
go to: [uspcld2016@gmail.com](mailto:uspcld2016@gmail.com)

Use Show Code \*PCA  
to get show room rates

Or send a check or MO to:  
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Mail to:  
USPC  
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Tappan, NY 10983-0053

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\*\*\*IDENTIFICATION IS A MUST.\*\*\*

IDS will be checked prior to entering the show

Police- Public Safety- Fire & EMT & Bonafide Collectors

\*We will be strictly following NJ Department of Health Guidelines\*





# PC NEWS

## Police Collectors News

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Each Month By Advertising In PCNEWS! Ads For This Section  
Are Only \$3.00 Each For Up To 50 Words Per Ad. Send to:  
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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 (97)

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 (102)

FOR SALE: Large collection of patches from: AL, CT, FL, GA, IA, KS, MA, MO, NJ, NC, OH, VA. Smaller collection of patches and badges from other states. Also selling foreign patches and badges. Call: LOIS ETZEL (402) 504-1364

RETIRED STATE POLICE OFFICER looking to trade my depart. Patch, Oregon State Police, for yours or traders you may have. These are from old and near new uniforms from the past, like 2000 and older. Some have felt backings. Send up to three, and I will do the same. CLAUDE CARPENTER, 282 Mize Rd., Salem, OR 97302 (93)

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: JHCcrumpack@aol.com (95)

WANTED: Any Alcohol Beverage Commission / Liquor Commission patches. Contact me at [www.abcpatchcollector.weebly.com](http://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 (97)

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 (97)

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 (97)

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 (98)

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](http://www.railroadpolicebadges.com) CHIP GREINER, P.O. Box 125, Bogota, NJ 07603 (201) 390-7372 or rrbadges@aol.com (93)

WANTED: Always buying police, sheriff, marshal, railroad, fish & game, WWII, German and US medals as well. What do you have? Badges needing repairs, pins, catches, etc. sought. I can buy entire collections. I prefer western states. Phone calls preferred or email: emandpilot@gmail.com or (916) 622-9710. (94)

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 (103)

WANTED: Maryland State Police pistol, qualification badges, any period. RANDALL MANNING, P. O. Box 958, Riverton, UT 84065 (801) 041-8868 (6:00 pm)

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 (98)

WANTED: State or Highway Patrol campaign, one hat with accord cord, with hat badge. Western states wanted, summer straw style issue in brown, or blue color. RANDALL MANNING, P. O. Box 958, Riverton, UT 84065 (801) 041-8868 (6:00 pm)

WANTED: Utah Highway Patrol license plate. Name your price, within reason. RANDALL MANNING, P. O. Box 958, Riverton, UT 84065 (801) 041-8868 (6:00 pm)



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# SOUTHERN MARYLAND

# PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORABILIA SHOW

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**When:** Saturday April 15, 2022

**Times:** 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Where:** [Charles County Volunteer Rescue Squad](#)  
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**Admission fee:** \$5.00 / **Cost is** \$20.00 a table.

**Vendors:** Email/call Jason Posey at  
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*All proceeds benefit La Plata Police's Public Safety Cadets youth program.*



# NKY/CINCINNATI AREA POLICE

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mikerbondarenko@baldwin-telecom.net



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Will buy or trade  
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SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2023  
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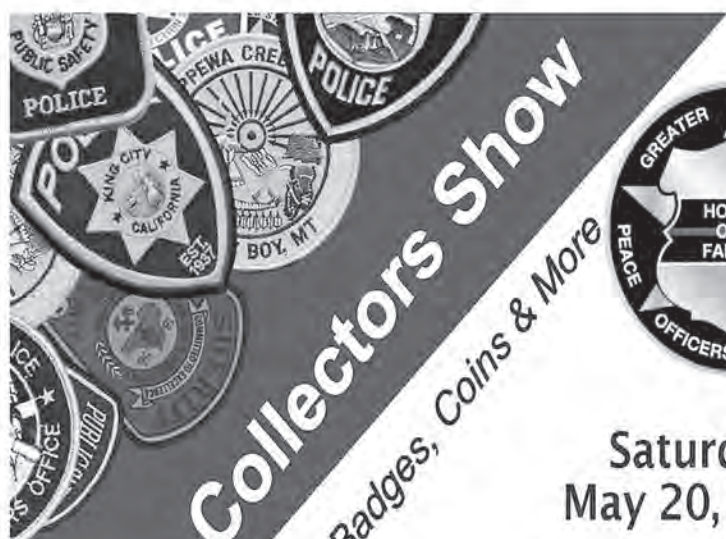
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...Police Week in Cleveland, May 13-20, 2023...

Go to GCPOMS website for week's activities

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# PALMETTO STATE



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**INFORMATION CONTACTS**

 Palmetto State Police Collectors Show

<b>Gary Ogurek</b> Show Director	562-714-8309 garyogurek@gmail.com	<b>Mike Sisino</b>	802-881-3899 Pointman612@gmail.com
<b>Diane</b>	240-291-0298 LCRLEOA@gmail.com	<b>Russ Penka</b>	802-353-6768 Rwpenka@aol.com

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Ask about free gifts.

# WANTED!

## BY JERSEY COLLECTOR

Looking for Badges, Handcuffs, Whistles or Pictures from Muicipal Police or County Probation Departments with a particular interest in all items from Newark, N.J.

**DENNIS BEYER**  
(collecting N.J. For 50 Years)

**Producer: [badgecollector.blogspot.com](http://badgecollector.blogspot.com)**  
**email: [denb22@GMAIL.COM](mailto:denb22@GMAIL.COM)**



**2023 MARSHALL GOOZ**  
*"I never get anything good"*  
**MEMORIAL SWAP MEET**

Patches, License Plates, Badges, Challenge Coins  
Anything Law Enforcement Related

**April 22, 2023**  
**0900 – 1400**

**Marshall Merit Center**  
**1001 West Erie Road**  
**Marshall, MN 56258**

**Table Set up 0800**  
**\$10 per Table**


Proceeds will be donated to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Awards Presented for Best Displays  
Food and Refreshments Provided

For tables, questions contact Kyle Helvig at 507-829-1569

# CALIFORNIA FIRE PATCHES

# WANTED



FIRE DEPARTMENT, ENGINE CREW, FIRE MANAGEMENT, ARSON INVESTIGATION, MILITARY, AND INDUSTIAL: I WILL BUY OR TRADE, NEW OR USED, CALIFORNIA ONLY.

**STEPHEN MIZROCH**  
**(415) 747-4884**  
**EMAIL: [STEPHENMIZROCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STEPHENMIZROCH@GMAIL.COM)**





# POLICE COLLECTOR'S SHOW

To benefit the Benton County Sheriff's Office Fraternal Order of Police and shop with a cop program.

**\$2 DONATION ADMISSION**

Children and spouses FREE

Law enforcement in uniform get free admission and free breakfast/lunch

**Host: Dustin Carlton 479-381-4088**

Challenge coins, patches, badges, lights, photos and everything else law enforcement related.

**SHOW DATE AND TIME:**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 @ 8AM**

**SHOW LOCATION:**

**FBC Bentonville gym:  
200 SW A st, Bentonville AR.**

**Table info:**

6' tables are \$20 on a first come first served basis. Early set-up and trading before show for table holders.

Reservations are final.

**MORE INFO: 479-381-4088**

**SCAN QR Code**  
for additional info on our facebook events page



\*Food and beverage available



proceeds Benefit The San Bernardino Police Historical Society

# 2023 NATIONAL POLICE COLLECTOR'S SHOW



## JUNE 2-3, 2023



NATIONAL  
ORANGE SHOW  
EVENT CENTER  
San Bernardino, California  
*(Enter gate 8 – Arrowhead Avenue Side)*

**FEATURING OUR  
VINTAGE POLICE & FIRE  
VEHICLE SHOW**

ENTRY FEE **\$5** (CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS – FREE)  
ON-DUTY / IN UNIFORM  
POLICE & FIRE PERSONNEL - FREE