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2392 USH 12 BALDWIN, WI 54002

Volume 42-Number 1 January-February 2024 Issue Number 98

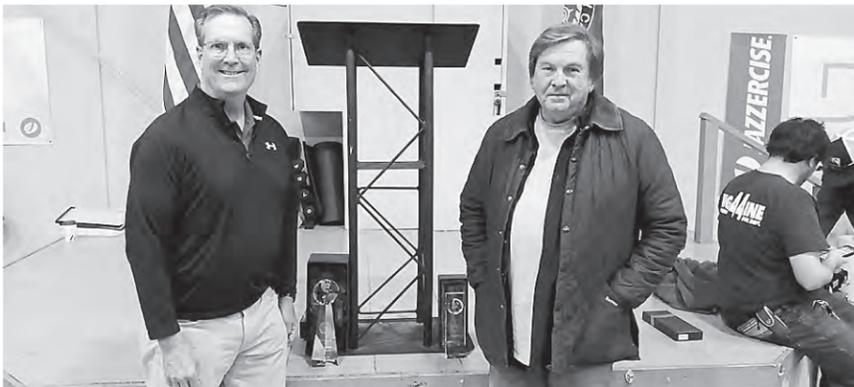
Fairfax County Show Successful Despite Holiday

The Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show in Fairfax, Va. was a success despite reduced participation as a result of the Veterans Day holiday. Bill Steinkuller and Kent Jefferies welcomed collectors from 11 states to their benefit show for the Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets on November 11.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

FAIRFAX, Va. – It's the only event that turns law enforcement insignia collectors into woodsmen.

The annual Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show takes place at the Fairfax County Police Association tucked away deep inside a lush hillside forest in Fairfax, Va. The impressive, modern building is accessible by a narrow road that winds between trees.



Kent Jefferies (left) and Bill Steinkuller (right) hosted the annual Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show in Fairfax, Va. on November 11. Although the Veterans Day holiday impacted the show, it was nevertheless well attended and attracted some excellent displays. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

As co-host Bill Steinkuller said, "It's in the middle of nowhere." But, it works. It really works! The POA has hosted every Fairfax show since founder, the late John Lawson, held the first one in in the early 1980s. Steinkuller and the late Larry Wilkins maintained the



Tom Rees (right) accepts the "Judge's Award" from Bill Steinkuller (left). The judges chose to honor Rees's fine exhibit of explosive ordinance disposal emblems from several states. His collection numbers more than 700 patches and growing. He is always looking for more. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

tradition after they took over 13 years ago. After Wilkins died in early 2022, Kent Jefferies became his new co-host.

Steinkuller and Jefferies welcomed collectors and tableholders on Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11. Although participation and attendance was down due to the holiday weekend, hobbyists from 11 states, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin attended.

According to Jefferies, even though the number of tableholders was down, walk-in



Explosive ordinance disposal collector Tom Rees won the "Judge's Award" in Fairfax. He had a fine display of EOD insignia arranged by states and agencies from across the nation. Rees collaborated with fellow hobbyist Gary Gaffney to produce an EOD insignia book. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

attendance was up. Attendance was 79; 25 tableholders, five assistants, 36 paid walk-ins, 24 cadets and six mentors. Most cadets were exposed to the hobby for the first time and purchased patches, challenge coins and coffee cups and went home with sample copies of



"Best of Show" award winner was longtime collector Gary Teragawa, who journeyed from Georgia to show his incredible California Highway Patrol collection. He worked for the CHP and the California State Police before retiring and moving across the country. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Bill Steinkuller presents the "Best of Show" award at the Fairfax show to Gary Teragawa for his outstanding California Highway Patrol and California State Police collection. Although he collects other SP/HP agencies as well, Teragawa specializes in the CHP and CSP. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Longtime friends and fellow Virginia collectors Jim Thomas (left) and Dave Martin (right) were among the Fairfax show tableholders and most active traders. Thomas collects North Carolina and Virginia; Martin has a phenomenal Richmond PD collection and much more. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Fairfax Show ...Continued

PCNEWS.

"Usually, we sell every table [60] and get a big crowd. We had about 20 open tables and five cancellations this time, all because of Veteran's Day," Steinkuller said. Forty-two tables were rented and occupied.

The hosts explained the POA hall is used nearly every weekend all year. It's a popular venue for weddings, birthdays, retirements and many other social events hosted by members and their families. Veterans Day was only open date remaining this year. "We had to take it or cancel," he said. "We had no choice."



The California State Police was one of California's oldest law enforcement agencies. It protected state government facilities from 1887 to 1995 when it was absorbed into the California Highway Patrol. Gary Teragawa has a very fine historic collection from the agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

display contest. "Best of Show" went to former CHP officer Gary Teragawa, while Virginia hobbyist Tom Rees received the "Judge's Award." Both went home with beautiful engraved glass trophies.

Teragawa joined the State Police before the merger with the Highway Patrol in 1995. He became a CHP lieutenant after the merger. The veteran collector has outstanding badge, patch and photograph collections from both agencies.

"I am humbled to have been selected by the judges for the best display," said Teragawa, who now lives in Georgia. He thanked the hosts for an exceptional show and singled out the Public Safety Cadets for helping collectors unload and reload their exhibits.



Gary Teragawa's award-winning California Highway Patrol exhibits devoted a segment to the California Highway Patrol D.O. "Spike" Helmick (upper left). The popular commissioner was ousted after nine years by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Nevertheless, there was still a respectable walk-in turnout, a lot of mostly Maryland, Virginia and East Coast insignia available on the tables and several impressive displays.

The show is a fundraiser for the Fairfax County Public Safety Cadets and the POA. The hosts have not yet announced total donations from the show.

Collectors who rented tables were Joe Tauro, Gary Teragawa, Tom Rees, Jim Thomas, Michael Ashworth, Kent Jefferies, Bill Steinkuller, Elliott Grollman, Eric Boody, Jim Shattuck, Steve Rivers, Jim Crumpacker, Bill King, Brian Lyons, Bob Speed, Mike R. Bondarenko and PCNEWS, David Martin, Ken Marshall, Steven Newsome, Fred Repp, Brett Kraynack, Tyler Argubright, Phil Lind, Bill Swank, Mike Bishop, Candace Fitzsimmons, Russ Penka, John Gatton and the Fairfax County PSC Cadets.

Tours of two prominent law enforcement agency headquarters initially scheduled for Friday were canceled because neither facility was open the day before Veterans Day.

Teragawa and Rees honored California Highway Patrol and State Police and explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) insignia captured top honors in the Fairfax County



Tom Rees brought several state displays to the Fairfax show, including these from Illinois (left) and Wisconsin (right). Illinois shows emblems from the State Police, Secretary of State Police, Chicago Police Department and several others. He was honored with the "Judge's Award." *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Teragawa's award-winning exhibit included seven large display cases, five devoted to the CHP and two with CSP insignia and artifacts. Each case opens in the middle to allow for collectibles on either side. It's very comprehensive, virtually complete insignia collection from both agencies. Every item is labeled and well documented. It's like a mini-museum.

"It took me years to find a lot of these things, especially the old patches and badges," he said.

There are career collections from several prominent or noteworthy officers, such as set of eight badges from the distinguished tenure of Dwight "Spike" Helmick, who was commissioner from 1995 to 2004, only the fifth commissioner to rise through the ranks.

Other career exhibits chronicled Deputy Commissioner Scott Silber, Don Lopey, who commanded the Yreka Area, Chief Raymond C. Johnson and Captain George Tobin.

A particularly noteworthy collection documents the career of Officer Charles D. Gandy, who served in Riverside County from 1930 to 1942 when he retired. It includes his



Many of Gary Teragawa's California Highway Patrol displays feature career collections from prominent CHP figures, such as Deputy Commissioner Scott Silbee (center left), Assistant Chief Sam McDaniel (center right) and Chief R.L. Johnson (far right). Each is well documented. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Another segment of Gary Teragawa's award-winning Fairfax display was devoted to mostly California State Police patches and badges. As always, he added a historic photograph and ID cards to augment it. Teragawa was a CSP supervisor during the 1995 CHP takeover. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Co-host Kent Jefferies has an extensive collection from the Fairfax County Police that includes badges, patches, uniforms and other artifacts and memorabilia. He has collected the agency since he worked as a patrol officer from 1977 to 1979 before becoming a fed. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

retirement badge from the California Association of Highway Patrolmen. Until 1973, retiring CHP officers were required to turn in their issued star and return it to the department. These stars were destroyed. However, the ACHP issued new retirement badges to its members.

Teragawa's exhibit includes photographs, his appointment certificate signed by the chief of the Division of Motor Vehicles, his CAHP membership cards and two letters of commendation from the chief. He points out that in 1930 when Gandy was appointed, the CHP was referred to as the Bureau of Enforcement.

There is Captain George E. Tobin's retirement badge. He served from 1938 to 1969. His final assignment was commander of the San Francisco Area. However, he spent much of his career in Fresno County.

Among the most outstanding patches in the CHP collection are a Crossing Guard armband in excellent condition and a real Auxiliary. Auxiliary members performed Civil Defense functions from 1942 to the end of the Korean War in 1953. Auxiliary reproductions abound, but the real thing is hard to find. He has the real thing, of course.

Teragawa happened to mention during dinner the night before the show that longtime



Michael Ashworth displayed his collection of Virginia Game Warden sidearms from 1968 to 2023. He marveled at how public safety cadets asked him about the revolvers shown at the top. "I couldn't believe how curious they were. They'd never seen revolvers before!" *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Fairfax table talk ...Longtime North Carolina collector Jim Thomas showed his respect for his late friend and fellow Tarheel State hobbyist Ron Johnson, who died four years ago, by placing a photo of them together at a sporting event prominently on his tables.

"Ron was a great collector and a good friend. He had a great collection, too, from both North Carolina and Virginia. I think about him a lot," Thomas said.

Thomas recently purchased Johnson's collection, which was kept in his home in a rural Virginia community. His wife died before him. Their residence remained intact. His children intend to sell it and contacted Thomas about the collection.

"I drove up there thinking they'd let me go through it and buy what I wanted, but they told me I could have all of it because they had no idea what to do with it," Thomas said. "I had quite a bit of cash with me, so I gave them all of it. I just couldn't take it for nothing."

Thomas brought a couple tables worth of collectibles from Johnson's collection with



Another segment of Keith Jefferies's Fairfax County Police Department collection features historic uniforms, as well as patches and badges. The agency was formed in 1940 and has nearly 1800 sworn officers. It's among the largest police agencies in Virginia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block, who served from 1982 until his death in 1998, may have been a badge collector; at least that's he's heard from Los Angeles County sources.

"What I was told was that when he was number two man in the department, he went to the place where they destroyed confiscated guns and badges not in service anymore," Teragawa said. "These badges could be damaged, worn out or whatever."

The unwanted weapons and badges were transported in a barrel. They were lifted toward a smelter by a magnet. The heavier guns stayed attached to the magnet, but the badges fell off and onto the floor.

"What I've been told is that Block picked up the badges and kept them. Was he a badge collector? I don't know, but if this story is true, why would he pick up the badges and leave with them?" Teragawa said.

PCNEWS will investigate and attempt to determine whether the 29th county sheriff, who died in office, was a badge collector and what happened to his collection, if he was, of course. It's an intriguing mystery but is not yet solved.

Although Rees was never a law enforcement officer, he is among the hobby's leading EOD emblem collectors. He partnered with Houston collector Gary Gaffney to produce an outstanding full color book featuring EOD insignia from every state, the federal government and even foreign nations, *Bomb Squad and EOC Patch Reference Guide*. It's the definitive guide for collectors of this challenging sub-hobby. It is nearly sold out.

Rees featured 12 frames of EOD emblems from several states, as well as a frame, "Different Ways to Collect Bomb Squad Patches," showing patches from a variety of law enforcement agencies with bomb squads, etc.

I chuckled when I saw the educational theme frame because Rees is a retired educator. I told my friend, "Once a teacher, always a teacher!"

Rees has sold all his copies of the EOD book, but his co-author, Gaffney, still has a few copies left. He can be contacted at gagaffney@aol.com. Hurry if you want one!



Retired Virginia Game Warden Michael Ashworth served the agency for 30 years as a game protector. He attended his first show after reading about it in PCNEWS and brought an excellent exhibit from his fine collection. Virginia game wardens are now called conservation police. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) The Virginia Conservation Police patch was worn from 2007 to 2020 following a name change from Game Wardens. (Right) The current patch was adopted in 2020 after another name change to Department of Wildlife Resources from Game and Fisheries. *Michael Ashworth photograph*

mostly Virginia and North Carolina patches, some badges and a variety of other collectibles and offered them for sale. Among the highlights are a large badge pin display and a set of state police/ highway patrol emblems put together before 1982.

...Kent Jefferies showed his phenomenal Fairfax County Police Department collection. There were five large patch exhibits, a couple badge frames and two uniforms on mannequins. He also brought a personal career display.

While the department has had only a handful of standard patrol officer patches over the years, there are a lot of special service and unit emblems.

Currently, the agency is wearing a large rounded triangle. It is mostly gold and red on a black background with the county seal as the center design. The gold legends read, "POLICE/ FAIRFAX/ COUNTY/ VIRGINIA."

The badge is an eagle-topped shield with the seal in full color as the center design. Supervisors wear gold, while lower ranks wear silver.

"I worked there from 1977 to 1979. I wanted to be a fed, but I needed experience. Fairfax County was good for me. I spent a lot of my time on nights. One of the mannequins is wearing my shirt, tie and hat," Jefferies said. He went on to a long federal career with the Secret Service first and then the Air Marshals Service.

...Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander journeyed from Pennsylvania to promote the first Mason-Dixon Police and Fire Patch and Memorabilia Show they will host on June 29 in



An exhibit of historic Virginia Game Warden emblems, badges and belt buckles in Michael Ashworth's fine collection. He served as a warden from 1974 to 2004. "The job has changed a lot. Officers have more responsibilities now, but wildlife still needs our protection." *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Fairfax Show ...Continued

Gettysburg, Penna.

"So far, the response has been great. We've sold way more than half of the 55 tables and hope to sell out by the end of the year," Reid said.

"The Pennsylvania guys are going nuts. We haven't had a show for quite awhile. They can't wait to get together," McAlexander added.

The show will take place at the Gettysburg Fire Department in downtown Gettysburg. The venue is within walking distance of everything, hotels, bars, restaurants, entertainment and historic attractions.

"Gettysburg is a great place to visit for anyone interested in history, especially the Civil War," Reid said. "They have done a great job saving history. It's true American history."

Historic Civil War battles between Union and Confederate troops took place near the city. The battlefield is now a national military park. The city was where President Abraham Lincoln delivered the epic Gettysburg Address in 1863. A marker memorializes the site.

"We're hoping collectors will bring their families and take a vacation here," Reid said. "It's busy in the summer, but it's not crazy like some places."

Complete information on the new show is available in "Swap Meet Calendar" and in a display advertisement in this issue.

...Michael Ashworth is a retired Virginia state game warden. Over his 30 years with the agency, he put together an outstanding collection of badges, patches, memorabilia and artifacts. He retired as a captain.

"We're now called the Virginia Conservation Police. They changed our name from game wardens in 2007. Patches and badges changed too," he said.

Ashworth also collects old game warden firearms.

The collector has conducted extensive research into agency history and compiled a history book for his own reference. It has not been published but would make a great book.

Fairfax was Ashworth's first show. He knew Larry Wilcox but never attended one of his shows before his death. He read about the show in *PCNEWS* and decided to get a table.

...Federal badge news from veteran collector Steve Rivers of Maryland: Collinson Enterprises is out two beautiful new badges, a colorful 75th anniversary oval for the Central Intelligence Agency and an equally colorful eagle-topped circlet from the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigation 75th anniversary.

The CIA oval is two-tone silver and gold with the agency logo on a round blue center design bordered in black with gold legends, "SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY/ 1947-2022."

"UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" appears in silver letters on a blue top banner with "75" beneath it. The center design is the CIA seal on a blue background circled by a black and gold ring with "SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY/ 1947-2022" in silver legends.

"POLICE" is shown in silver on a blue concave banner beneath the design with full color United States flag banners on either side.

The rank and badge number appear on gold convex bottom banners.

OSI is gold-colored with a cutout eagle at the top and "OSI" in large light blue letters beneath it.

"SPECIAL AGENT" is seen in black letters on a top banner.

The center design is round and shows a special agent badge on a brown and gold background surrounded by "OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS" in black on a gold inner ring. The outer ring is white.

The USAF crest is depicted in full color on a blue vertical banner to the left of the center design, while the United States Space Force crest is shown in full color on a black vertical banner on the right.

"1948 75 2022/ YEARS" in silver-colored raised numbers and legends complete the design at the bottom. "75" appears in large numerals.

There are accompanying anniversary challenge coins for both agencies.

Rivers helped design this impressive insignia. He said the badges were recently delivered.

"Collinson always does a great job. These are really nice high quality badges," he said.

Rivers also offered a large display of badges from federal, state and local agencies for sale.

...The Fairfax County Police Public Safety Cadets put on a fine exhibit of PSC emblems from across the country and helped collectors carry their exhibits in and out of the hall. They were much appreciated.

Every time I meet these future law enforcement officers, my faith in our profession is renewed. Anyone who proclaims law enforcement has no future needs to spend some time with these fine young people. Their professionalism and curiosity is infectious.

Great place to visit Fairfax County is a great place to visit. Paula and I extended our trip to see some of the sights in Washington, D.C. and surrounding area.

We toured the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum near Dulles Airport. I noticed both uniformed police and plainclothes officers on the grounds, as well as a couple Office of Protective Services marked cars patrolling the area.

An officer told me uniformed officers are sworn federal law enforcement officers, while the plainclothes people are non-sworn security officers. Police officers are armed and wear white shirts with Office of Protective Services patches and a federal shield. Security officers are unarmed and wear dark blue blazers with a reduced size emblem on the breast pocket.

The Smithsonian employs about 850 police and security officers who patrol 27 different facilities in the United States and Panama. Each facility is its own unit.

We spent an afternoon at Mount Vernon, the residence of George Washington, our first



(Top) Mount Vernon officers have special conservator of the peace status that gives them full police powers while on duty. (Bottom) The Wall of Honor pays tribute to fallen first responders, such as Loudon County Deputy Anthony R.C. Yost, who was killed in Afghanistan. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

president and hero of the Revolutionary War. It's a fascinating glimpse into the life and times of the man depicted on the \$1 bill.

Mount Vernon is an 8000-acre farm with a beautiful Potomac riverside mansion that was Washington's home before and after his military service. The grounds and mansion are policed by uniformed armed officers wearing LAPD-style uniforms.

"We're called special conservators of the peace under Virginia law. We have full police powers, but only here on the grounds. Once we leave here, we're civilians," an officer told me. They must meet Virginia law enforcement qualifications and successfully complete police training.

The colorful patch is a shield shape with white legends, "POLICE" above the round center design and "SPECIAL CONSERVATOR OF THE PEACE/ 1858" on an outer ring. A striking full color depiction of the mansion appears in the middle. There is a gold border. 1858 was when the Mount Vernon Ladies Association purchased the property from the Washington family and began renovating it.

We discovered Honor Brewing and Kitchen in a shopping area not far from our hotel. It's one of the most pro-military and public safety eating and drinking establishments I ever had the pleasure to visit. Uniformed officers or military personnel are cordially welcome. The place is decorated in a military theme with service flags and pictures on the walls. Best of all, the food is great!

There is a Wall of Honor dedicated to Fairfax and surrounding counties first responders who lost their lives in the line of duty, including police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians killed while serving in the military. Each fallen hero is honored with a photograph and his or her agency shoulder emblem.

I spoke with a manager who told me the owners want to honor local first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice either on the job or in the military. "We always do something special for Police Week and Veterans Day," she said. "It's just something we want to do."

A shout out to Honor Brewing and Kitchen! We need a lot more places like it. Pay them a visit when you attend the Fairfax show this year. You will be pleased!

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

Swap Meet Calendar

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SPECIAL – These are the latest police insignia show and swap meet announcements.

Collectors interested in attending these events should contact the sponsors at the addresses or telephone numbers listed for additional information, such as driving directions, table availability, hotel or motel accommodations, handicapped accessibility, parking or possible last-minute changes and/or cancellations.

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

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

Claremont, Calif.

The 42nd Annual "The Porky Show" will be Sat., Jan. 20, 2024 from 8 am to 3 pm at Taylor Hall, 1775 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont, Calif. Nick Cardaras and Dennis Smith will host California's longest-running patch, badge and police collectibles swap meet.

This show is a benefit for the Claremont Police Explorers.

Admission is \$5.

All 102 tables have been sold in advance. There is a waiting list.

There will be a display contest.

Food and beverages will be available.

The Double Tree Hotel, 555 W. Foothill Blvd., which is across the street from Taylor Hall, is offering a special room rate of \$129 a night. Their regular room rates are \$239 to \$309 a night. Make reservations directly with the hotel on (909) 445-1824 or use the link on the Web site, ThePorkyShow.Com. The deadline for discount rooms has passed, but regular rate rooms may still be available.

For additional information, email the hosts:

Nick Cardaras nick@theporkyshow.com

Dennis Smith dennis@theporkyshow.com

Cocoa, Fla.

The 37th Annual "Space Coast" Patch, Badge and Coin Show will be Sat., Jan. 27 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Walter Butler Community Center, 4201 N. Cocoa Blvd., Cocoa, Fla.



New 75th anniversary federal shields from Collinson Enterprises and Steve Rivers. (Left) A two-tone silver and gold colored oval from the Central Intelligence Agency Police. (Right) A handsome USAF OSI badge showing the Air Force and Space Force logos. *Steve Rivers photographs*

Steve and Karen Bridges will host it.

This is a new location for this show because the previous location in Titusville became unavailable. It is 12 miles from I-95 and S.R. 550 in Titusville where most motels are located. However, there are numerous hotels in the city as well.

Seventy six-foot tables are available for \$30. Early reservations are recommended because tables are offered on a "first come" basis. The show is a sellout every year. Please send payment with reservations. Table setup begins at 7:30 am.

Reproductions must be marked.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

There will be a food truck on site to serve lunch at a reasonable cost.

There is no host hotel.

Make table reservations by calling the host on (321) 302-1983 (cell) or emailing csteveb170@gmail.com. Confirm reservations by mailing table fees to Steve Bridges, 1535 Justin Court, Titusville FL 32796.

Griffin, Ga.

The Fifth Annual Griffin, Ga. Patch and Badge Show will be Sat., Feb. 11 from 9:30 am to 4 pm at the Southern Events Center, 232 S. 10th St., Griffin, Ga. Tim Shaw will host it. General admission is \$5.

Tables are \$30 each. Setup will begin at 8 am.

Prizes will be presented for the best badge and patch displays.

There will be a door prize raffle after lunch. BBQ, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for purchase.

There are three local hotels, Country Inn, Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn Express and Suites, all in Griffin.

Country Inn is located at 1900 N. Expressway. It offers continental breakfast and an indoor pool. The telephone number is (770) 228-9799.

Comfort Inn is located nearby at 1906 N. Expressway. The contact number is (770) 233-4747.

The Holiday Inn is at 1361 N. Expressway. Their telephone number is (678) 408-6693.

Griffin is located 45 miles south of Atlanta west of I-75 in Spalding County. The population is 24,000.

For tables or for additional information, contact Shaw on (404) 734-4527 or email tim_s_30008@yahoo.com.

Little Canada, Minn.

The Fourth Annual Ramsey County Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be Sat., Feb. 17 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ramsey County Sheriffs Water Patrol Headquarters, 5 S. Owasso Blvd., Little Canada, Minn. Jeremy Bolen and Randy Scott will host it.

Admission is \$5.

Tables are \$10 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. Explorers will be available to help unload and load exhibits and collectibles from collector vehicles.

All proceeds go to the Ramsey County Sheriffs Explorer program.

Awards will be presented for the best overall displays (first place and second place).

Food and beverages will be available onsite.

There will be patch drop box.

For further information or to make reservations, email the hosts:

Jeremy.Bolen@Co.Ramsey.Mn.US

RMScott@StThomas.Edu.

Roseville, Calif.

The 28th Annual Doug Messer "49'er" Public Safety and Military Collectors Show will be Sat., Feb. 24, 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall, 110 Park Dr., Roseville, Calif. The hosts are Mike Lynch and Brian Smith.

This show is named in memory of Doug Messer, one of the original hosts, who passed away in October 2009.

Admission is free.

Forty-eight eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. Display only tables are \$20 each. Early reservations are recommended as this show sells out every year. Tableholders only setup begins at 8 am.

There will be awards for the best four displays.

American Legion Post 109 Boy Scout Troop 11 will offer food and beverages for sale.

This show is a fundraiser for the Ranger Foundation, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society, American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post 169, Boy Scout Troop 11 and American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post 169.

Table reservations can be made online at CalBadgeShows.Com. Collectors who wish to pay by mail can send a check to Mike Lynch, PO Box 3212, Bowman CA 95604-3212. His telephone number is (530) 613-4732.

Griffith, Ind.

The Second Annual "Northwest Indiana" Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 16 from 9 am to 2 pm (CST) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1400 South Broad St., Griffith, Ind. The hosts are Pete Belos and Dan Bukala.

Free admission. Admission is restricted to active or retired police and fire personnel and known collectors only. The hosts reserve the right to deny admission or check identification.

Sixty six-foot tables are available for \$25 each. Please mail checks or money orders to Pete Belos, 1100 Perthshire Lane, Dyer IN 46311.

Displays are encouraged.

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

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

Contact either host for additional information, directions and hotel information:

Belos (708) 646-2837

Bukala (text only) (219) 775-1886.

Sterling Heights, Mich.

The 39th Annual Detroit Area Police and Fire Collectors Show and Exhibit will be Sat., Mar. 23 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Mound Palace Banquet Hall, 38435 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.

Eighty eight-foot 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 Hliebav gliebav1@comcast.net.

North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The Second Annual North Myrtle Beach Patch Show will be Sat., Mar. 23 from 8:30 am to 2 pm at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, 801 11th Ave., North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Loren Finch will host it. This is the same location as last year.

Twenty-five tables are available for \$20 each. Tableholders may enter the hall and set up at 7:30 am. If set up is completed early, the hall may open early.

Police and public safety will be the mainstay. Displays are encouraged.

Coffee and snacks will be available for purchase.



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2392 USH 12 BALDWIN, WI 54002

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Police Collectors News (USPS 001759) (ISSN 1071-1724) is published bimonthly for \$15.95 for one year (6 issues) by the Police Insignia Collectors Association (PICA) doing business as Police Collectors News, 2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002-7000. Periodical postage paid at Baldwin, Wis.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Police Collectors News*, 2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002-7000.

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Police Collectors News merged with the Law Enforcement Badge and Patch Collectors Society (LEBPCS) on June 1, 1985.

Police Collectors News merged with the Police Insignia Collectors Association (PICA) on January 1, 1992.

Police Collectors News merged with Casey's Police Guide on September 1, 1998.

PCNEWS has been published continuously since 1982.

Subscription Rates \$15.95 for one year (6 issues) periodical class mail delivery in the USA. \$30.95 for first class mail delivery in the USA. \$50 for one year (6 issues) airmail delivery worldwide. Only US funds are accepted for subscriptions.

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Publication Dates *PCNEWS* is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November. Please contact our office for advertising deadlines and printing dates.

PCNEWS is printed by Publishers Printing Service, Inc. in Amery, Wis.

Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

Please send checks for tables to Bill Finch, 721 Prestbury Dr., Conway, SC 29526. Collectors with questions or special needs, such as wall space, electricity, etc., can reach him on (410) 935-2878.

Southgate, Ky.

The Second Annual Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati Area Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Mar. 30 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Southgate Community Center, 301 W. Walnut, Southgate, Ky. John Christmann will host it. This is the same location as last year.

Admission is free.

Fifty-two eight-foot tables are available for \$15. each. The hall will open on Friday from 6 to 8 pm for set up only. Set up on Saturday is from 8 to 9 am. Early reservations are recommended; the 2023 show was a sellout.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

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

Food and drinks will be available on site.

For tables and information email the host on jchristmann23@gmail.com or telephone (859) 743-5350.

Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

The Sixth Annual New York and New Jersey Metropolitan Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sun., Apr. 7 from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights Hotel, 650 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. Gerry Tibbs, Brian Lyons and Ed Zitek will host it.

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

Tables are \$70 each. Reservations can be made online using Pay Pal by email on uspcld2016@gmail.com or mailing a check or money order to US Police Collectors, PO Box 53, Tappan NY10983-0053.

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

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

Reproduction material must be marked as such.

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

Hotel reservation information will be announced soon.

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

Marshall, Minn.

The 2024 Marshall Area Law Enforcement Swap Meet will be Sat., Apr. 20 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Marshall Merit Center, 1001 West Erie Road, Marshall, Minn. Kyle J. Helvig will host it.

Free admission.

Tables are \$10 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor set up.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

Food and refreshments will be available.

For tables or further information, contact Helvig on (507) 829-1569.

Cleveland, O.

The 2024 Greater Cleveland Police Collectors Show will be Sat., May 18 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Double Tree Hotel, 1111 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, O. It will be hosted by Tony Gorsek and sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society as an official event of Police Memorial Week from May 11 to 18.

Free admission. Everyone is welcome.

Vendor tables are \$20. Rent two or more tables and get one free. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup.

The Double Tree offers discount accommodations for collectors and their families.

To reserve a table or for additional show information, contact Gorsek on (216) 482-6407 or email gorsek@att.net.

Mesa, Ariz.

The new Phoenix/Mesa Public Safety Badge and Patch Show will be Sat., Apr. 27 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St., Mesa, Ariz. Mike Lucas and Brian Richardson will host it.

General admission is \$5 for adults. Children under 12 will be admitted free.

All 50 tables have been sold for \$65 each. The hall will be open from 8 am to 9 am for tableholder set up. A table waiting list is being maintained.

Awards will be presented for the best displays in three categories, Best Badge, Best Patch and Best Overall.

Richardson is curator of the Phoenix Police Museum. The museum will have an exhibit in the lobby.

The 2025 Phoenix Police Museum National Police Collectors Show show dates and site will be announced at the "Porky" show on January 20.

Potential tableholders can email Lucas to be placed on the waiting list. His email address is mauirebel@cox.net.

Leavenworth, Kan.

The First Annual Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be held on Sat., May 25 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Riverfront Community Center, 123 S. Esplanade, in historic downtown Leavenworth, Kan. Ken LaMaster will host it.

One hundred forty tables are available. The first table costs \$35. Each additional table is \$5. The hall will be available for exhibitor setup only on Fri., May 24 beginning at 12 noon. It will also be open for exhibitor setup only from 8 am to 9 am on Saturday.

This show is a fundraiser to help establish the Leavenworth County Prison Historical Society. LaMaster is a retired corrections officer. He was on the job for 27 years. LaMaster has written four books on Leavenworth history, including a volume on prison history. There are five prisons in the immediate area.

A tour the historic United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth is being

planned. It opened in 1827.

The city is home to the famous United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, the oldest in the Federal Bureau of Prisons system.

The First City Museum at 742 Delaware St. is open on Thursdays. It has an extensive collection of prison and jail artifacts and jail memorabilia.

Riverfront Community Center is within walking distance of the Hampton Inn and the Fairfield Inn, as well as numerous restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. Discount rooms are available at the Hampton Inn for out of town collectors. Discounts may also become available at the Fairfield Inn. Both hotels are close to the show venue.

The new Kansas City International Airport is only 16 miles from Leavenworth.

Table reservation and additional information will be posted on the Leavenworth Law Enforcement Collectors Show Facebook page. See their display advertisement.

Athens, O.

The 2024 Southeast Ohio Police Collectors Show will be Sat., June 1 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Athens Community Center, 701 E. State St., Athens, O. Andy Watson and Clay Lowing will host it.

Tables are available for \$15 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor set up.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Watson on (740) 707-0254 or aawwatson@icloud.com or Lowing on (937) 308-3158 or cl1237@gmail.com.

Branson, Mo.

The Ninth Annual "Heart of the Ozarks" Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 14 and Sat., June 15 at the Americ-Inn by Wyndham, 275 Tanger Blvd., Branson, Mo. The show will take place from 12 pm to 4 pm on Friday and 8 am to 3 pm pm Saturday. Jim Post, Terry Bible and Tom Breen will host it.

Free admission.

Seventy-five six-foot tables are available for \$20 each. Early reservations are recommended. Reservations can be made with Breen at mshp297@hotmail.com. Checks, major credit cards and Pay Pal accepted. Reservations can also be made by mail to Breen at 1205 Markway Mills Road, Jefferson City MO 65101.

The show is an official event of National Law Enforcement Week in Branson. Many merchants and attractions are offering deep discounts to active and retired law enforcement officers and their families.

There will be a display contest.

Lunch will be served on Saturday.

The Americ-Inn is offering discount rooms, free breakfast and WiFi and a large lobby for early or late trading. Parking is free. Please mention Law Enforcement Week when making reservations to qualify for discounts.

For more information on National Law Enforcement Week, please visit LawEnforcementWeek.Org.

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

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

Chicago, Ill.

The 2024 Chicago Police and Fire Collectors Show will be Sun., June 23 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Medinah Shriners Center, 550 Shriners Dr., Addison, Ill. Michael Chuchro, owner of Blue HQ LLC, will host it. This is the first show in Chicago since 2006.

Admission is \$10. Children under 12 will be admitted free. The show is open to the public.

Sixty-six six-foot and eight-foot tables are available. Six-foot tables are \$40. Eight-foot tables are \$45.

There is ample free parking.

The Hilton Garden Inn just off I-365 at Army Trail Road is the host hotel. It is located close to the show hall.

Please visit the show website, ChicagoShow.Net, for additional information, buy tickets or make table reservations.

Gettysburg, Penna.

The First Annual "Mason Dixon" Police and Fire Patch and Memorabilia Show will be held on Sat., June 29 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Gettysburg Fire Department, 35 N. Stratton St., Gettysburg, Penna. It will be hosted by Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander.

Admission is \$5 for adults. Children are admitted free. Early admission at 8 am is \$10.

Fifty-five tables are available for \$35 each. The hall will open at 7 am for exhibitor setup.

The show is located downtown within walking distance from everything. There is free parking. Nearby lodging and food is easily accessible. A food truck will be on site.

For table reservations, email masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com.

The show has a Facebook page: Gettysburg PA Mason Dixon Patch Show.

National Police Collectors Show

The 2024 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., July 12, Sat., July 13 and Sun., July 14 at the Adler Theater and River Center, 126 E. Third St., Davenport, Iowa. It will be hosted by Damir Krdzalic and Peter Harris. Jake Bushey and Darren Nozaki are supporting hosts.

The hobby's annual convention will begin on Fri., July 12 with table setup from 9 am to 5 pm. There will be a tableholder meeting from 5:15 to 5:45 pm. It will be followed by a tableholders reception from 6 to 8 pm.

The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Sat., July 13 and 9 am to 3:30 pm on Sun., July 14. Tableholders only will be admitted for setup beginning at 8 am both days. Display awards will be presented at 2 pm on Sunday.

Admission is \$5. A three-day VIP Pass is available for \$40. A limited number of these passes are available and can be purchased through the show Web site.

Tables are \$75 each and can be purchased through the show Web site.

The show Web site is www.npcsusa.com.

The primary host hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton, which is connected to the 32,400 square foot River Center by a skywalk. It is offering a special discount room rate of \$129 per night. Parking is an additional \$10 per day. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel on (563) 322-2200. Please mention the group code "NPC" to qualify for the special rate. Reservations can also be made by using the show Web site.

The secondary hotel is the historic, luxurious Hotel Blackhawk, a classic Four Diamond property, which has welcomed presidents and other dignitaries from around the world. It is offering a special discount room rate of \$169 per night. Parking is an additional \$12 per night. Rooms may be booked now by through the show Web site.

Both hotels are connected to the River Center by covered skywalks.

Collectors are urged by Visit Quad Cities, the local convention and visitors bureau, to consider a family vacation in the area. The discount rates at both hotels are available for four days before and two days after the National. There are a wide variety of family

activities and attractions in the area. Please see VisitQuadCities.Com for complete information on Quad Cities vacations.

The closest air transportation is Quad Cities International Airport, which is 15 minutes from the show site in Moline, Ill. It is serviced by Delta, American, United and Allegiant Airlines. Neither host hotel offers airport shuttles.

Eastern Iowa Airport is 90 minutes away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is serviced by Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier and United.

O'Hare International Airport is three hours away in Chicago where nearly every major national or international carrier has flights.

The hosts are working on possible group tours of selected local attractions.

Show questions can be directed to the hosts through the Web site under the "CONTACT US" tab on the home page.

San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The 2024 San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show will be Sat., July 27 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo, Calif. The hosts are Gary Hoving and Brian Smith. The show is sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Free admission and parking.

Fifty-five eight foot tables are available to CLEHS members for \$40 each. Tables for non-members are \$50 each. Early reservations are recommended because this show is an annual sellout.

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

The 2024 California Law Enforcement Historian of the Year will be honored during the events ceremony.

Table reservations can be made online at the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com, or by mail by sending a check to President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95875-4875.

For additional information, contact Hoving on (805) 441-4936 or by email through the CLEHS website.

Bloomington, Ind.

The 2024 "Central Indiana" Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show will be Sat., Aug. 3 from 9 am to 2 pm EST 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. The hall will open for exhibitor setup only from 5 to 7 pm on Friday and beginning at 7 am on Saturday.

Parking is free.

Food and beverages will be available on Saturday.

For table reservations and general information, contact Landgrebe on kc9agm@gmail.com or (812) 360-7641.

Ripon, Calif.

The 2024 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., Oct. 5 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth St., Ripon, Calif. It will be hosted by President Gary Hoving, Scott Welch and Mike McCarthy and sponsored by the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Admission is free.

Fifty eight-foot tables are available for \$40 each. Display only tables are \$20 each. Reserve tables early because the show is always a sellout.

The show is a fundraiser for CLEHS, Concerns of Police Survivors and Ripon Police Volunteers in Police Service.

Online reservations can be made by visiting the CLEHS website, CalBadgeShows.Com and clicking on the Ripon Show tab.

Checks can be sent to President Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

Contact President Hoving on (805) 441-4936 for additional show information.

Saint Louis Area Hosts 38th "Gateway" Show

The 38th Annual "Gateway" Police Collectors Show blasted another home run as Frank Selvaggio, Bob Shockey and Cody Umfress made a triumphant return to Arnold, Mo. They welcomed about 125 hobbyists from throughout the region to their 55-table show.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

ARNOLD, Mo. – The "Gateway" show is like a hard-hitting Saint Louis Cardinals slugger at Busch Stadium. Every time he steps up to the plate, chances are that something good will happen. The venerable swap meet, celebrating its 38th year, hit another home run on November 4, and a lot of good things happened.

Despite having to change locations on very short notice, Frank Selvaggio, Bob Shockey and Cody Umfress nevertheless hosted a 55-table sellout that attracted hobbyists from Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina and Wisconsin to the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge in Arnold, Mo. about a half hour south of Saint Louis along Interstate 55.

The Saint Louis Area "Gateway" Police Collectors Show had already been announced and advertised at the Elks Lodge in High Ridge, Mo. when the hosts were informed the hall would be unavailable. High Ridge would have been their third new location in three years.

"The Elks Lodge people called and told us they'd double-booked the hall, so we had to find another place. This was about three weeks ago. It came as a big surprise," Selvaggio said.

The hosts scrambled to find an affordable venue large enough to accommodate the



Frank Selvaggio (left) and Cody Umfress (right) are two of the "Gateway" show hosts. The third is Bob Shockey. Selvaggio has been a co-host from the beginning 38 years ago and plans to do two more shows before he retires. Umfress will then take over the popular show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

show. Fortunately, Shockey is the retired longtime police chief and city administrator in Arnold, where the show was held for many years, and very familiar with the city. The hosts contacted the Eagles. Fortunately, their large and comfortable hall was available.

"Gateway" is similar to many long established shows in that it has a very loyal following of local collectors and tableholders who attend every show, no matter when or where. They turned out in force once again on November 4.

Tableholders were Dave Hume (Kentucky), Matt Hanewinkel and Dave Menendez, Leonard Hanham (South Carolina), Tim Greer, Terry Bible, Daryl Weseloh (Illinois), Jack Genius and Pete Belos (Illinois), Jim Shattuck (Kentucky), Jason Halloway, Marshall Gellman (Illinois), Mike Monticelli, Don Magruder and Mike Leeper (Iowa), Tom Breen, Bill Burks (Georgia), Kevin Mueller, Damir Krdzalic (Iowa), Dave Brown, Cliff Kierstead, Mike



Even though badges and patches dominated the "Gateway" show on November 4, there was a large variety of other collectibles available on the tables, such as statues and figurines from Mike Monticelli of Hazelwood, who will soon be retired and California bound. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Martin, *Police Collectors News* (Wisconsin), Selvaggio, Shockey and Umfress.

Between 90 and 100 walk-in collectors came mostly from the Saint Louis metropolitan area and eastern Illinois. There were several new collectors attending their first show. "This is always a good thing. We need to start seeing more brown hair than gray hair at these shows," Selvaggio said.

"Gateway" was another good show for both patch and badge collectors, but there were a lot more emblems than stars and shields on the tables. It was also a bonanza for police figurine and scale model cars collectors. Tim Greer continued to liquidate his late father's massive collection, and Mike Monticelli offered hundreds for sale as well.

Selvaggio plans to host two more shows before he retires as a host in 2026 after 40



(Left to right) Bob Shockey, Frank Selvaggio and Cody Umfress dedicated this "Gateway" show to the late "Cookie" Greer, who attended every show with her late husband, Charles. Tim (left) and Amy (right) Greer tearfully accepted the accolade on behalf of their mother. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Don Magruder (forefront) won "Best of Show" First Place. He was honored by co-hosts (left to right) Cody Umfress, Frank Selvaggio and Bob Shockey for his pre-1900 badge collection, "Taking A Step Back In Time." It's a "must see!" Check it out at the upcoming National Show *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Saint Louis Show ...Continued

years. He is grooming Cody Umfress, who works for him at Byrnes Mill PD, to take over. He already handles table reservations.

"I want to keep the show in the Jefferson County area. It would be good to find a permanent place so we don't have to move around," Umfress said.

As far as most collectors were concerned when asked about the new venue, the Eagles Lodge would make a good permanent home. Arnold is a large modern city with nice hotels, plenty of places to eat and drink and easily accessible off I-55. It is convenient for Missouri and Illinois collectors and easily accessible from other states.

The show was dedicated to the memory of "Cookie" Greer, longtime wife of the late co-



"Taking A Trip Back In Time" is longtime collector Don Magruder's award-winning collection. He specializes in badges worn in the 19th century. His display shows badges dating back to the Civil War, as well as many first or second issues and other premium pieces. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

host Charles Greer, a retired Saint Louis police officer. She died earlier this year. Their son, Tim Greer, is a collector and inherited his father's massive collection.

"Cookie" was with Charlie at every show. She's been with Tim at every show since he passed away. She was a special person and will always be remembered here," Selvaggio said while presenting a plaque honoring her to Greer and his sister, Amy. It was an emotional, heartwarming moment for the Greers and Selvaggio.

Breen, Magruder win top honors "Gateway" is renown for excellent insignia displays. The 38th annual edition did not disappoint.

Veteran collectors Don Magruder and Tom Breen won top honors in the display contest, capturing first and second place, respectively, for "Best of Show." Magruder was honored for his "Taking A Trip Back In Time" antique badge exhibit, while Breen's world class motor



A recent addition to Don Magruder's "Taking A Trip Back In Time" is this frame of historic stars and shields worn by railroad police officers. These brave officers rode the rails west as railroads began to expand across the nation toward California and the Pacific Ocean. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Retired Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper Tom Breen (second from left) won "Best of Show" Second Place for his incredible collection of mostly early motor carrier enforcement insignia from state police and highway patrols nationwide, his specialty. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

carrier enforcement badge and patch collection was recognized.

Among badge aficionados, "Best Badge Display" went to former Kirkwood police officer Cliff Kierstead, first place and Missouri state trooper Terry Bible, second place.

"Best Patch Display" awards were presented to Tim Greer, first place and retired United States Mint police officer Jim Shattuck second place.

Magruder dressed up his ten frame exhibit of pre-1900 badges with pieces of history corresponding to each collection. He showed a very old Baltimore Police Department 1774 to 1907 history book with early badges from that city. He had a mint condition Sears and Roebuck mail order catalog from 1887 alongside his Baltimore collection. The catalog offered firearms for sale by mail order; vintage pistols and shotguns worth thousands today sold for \$15 or less! (I didn't look through the thick catalog to see if Sears and Roebuck sold mail order police badges, but it wouldn't surprise me.)

"I thought it would be interesting to show things that were out there when these badges were being worn. They match the period," he said. He was correct!



(Top to bottom) Tom Breen's motor carrier enforcement collection features framed badge and patch sets from agencies across the United States. He is particularly proud of his exhibit from his former agency, the Missouri State Highway Patrol. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Cliff Kierstead served as a Kirkwood, Mo. police officer from 1974 to 2015. He collects anything and everything from his department, including badges, patches, publications, photographs, license plates, signs and even signage. Kirkwood is a large Saint Louis suburb. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Magruder recently added a frame of antique railroad police badges. "The railroad badges are special because that's how people traveled back then. It was by train. That was it. Couldn't jump on an airplane like today!" he said.

Breen began collecting state motor carrier enforcement insignia at the Kansas City National Show in 1991 when he acquired his first badge. Since then, he has obtained mostly older badges and emblems from every state and has one of the finest collections in the hobby. Seeing it for the first time left me green with envy.

"I got interested because several states were enforcing motor carrier laws before they started their state police or highway patrols. Missouri was one. The state highway department had truck inspectors before the Highway Patrol was created," he said.

His beautifully framed collection appears in 21 matching frames, usually two states represented in each one. Breen knows I, too, collect motor carrier. He warned me the night before the show that he was bringing his collection and asked me not to drool all over the frames! I can't promise I didn't drool a little, but my meager collection pales in comparison.



Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper Terry Bible (second from left) went home with the "Best Badge Display" Second Place award He was honored for his MSHP collection. Many of Bible's badges go back to the agency's earliest days in the turbulent post-Great Depression 1930s. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

First place badge winner Kierstead served as a Kirkwood, Mo. police officer from 1974 to 2015 and specializes in his former department. He featured four cases of old and current badges and two cases of patches. He also showed a career display, as well as license plates, signs and other memorabilia. He has a virtually complete collection of Kirkwood insignia and memorabilia.

Kierstead's badges go back to the earliest days of Kirkwood law enforcement augmented with a few other city-issued badges. He also includes special police and Civil Defense auxiliary police shields.

Like many cities during the Cold War of the 1950s and '60s, the Saint Louis suburb received federal funding to subsidize an auxiliary police force that would assist local police during a "national emergency," which, of course, meant a nuclear exchange between the



Bob Shockey (second from right) presents former Kirkwood, Mo. police Officer Cliff Kierstead (second from left) with the "Best Badge Display" First Place award as Cody Umfress (far left) and Frank Selvaggio (far right) look on. He specializes in Kirkwood PD collectibles and insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

He's in the majors with those Cardinal sluggers; I'm still stuck in the low minors.

Breen called attention to an old Idaho Department of Law Enforcement Weighmaster patch and a couple oldies but goodies from Utah, Highway Patrol Weighman and Highway Patrol Checking Station Division.

He has a particularly impressive collection from Missouri motor carrier enforcement dating back to when the state highway department created a team of weight officers to enforce truck weight regulations.



Hat and wallet badges from throughout the history of the Missouri State Highway Patrol are featured in the award-winning collection of Trooper Terry Bible. He added some pilot's wings to this display. Bible specializes in his department, which only wear hat badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

USA and the former USSR.

Kierstead has three old Civil Defense badges from Kirkwood, a silver-colored hat shield and breast badge for an auxiliary officer and a gold-colored breast badge for a deputy commander. All three shields are in excellent condition.

"I started out as a paid police cadet in Kirkwood in 1974. One of the jobs I had to do was help clean out a storeroom that had a lot of old Civil Defense stuff in it, like barrels of food and candy. I guess they were supposed to hand it out if they needed it," Kierstead said. "There were also helmets and that sort of thing, but no badges. I got those later."

He showed suicide, breast cancer and autism awareness eagle-topped shields that the city authorized for uniform wear this year, even though officers had to purchase them. "I think we're the only department around that has the suicide badges," the collector said.

Bible received second place for an outstanding collection of historic Missouri State Highway Patrol badges. He has first and second issues, as well as a variety of rank issues and old pilot's wings.

He specializes in his department and is a keen student of its history, often focusing on the careers of early and long-serving troopers and supervisors across the state. His knowledge of MOSP badges and patches is nothing less than encyclopedic.

"I've been fortunate enough to get to know some of the pioneers in my department.



A historic segment of Cliff Kierstead's award-winning Kirkwood, Mo. Police Department badge collection is devoted to Civil Defense shields from the Cold War. (Top) Two styles of Auxiliary Police. (Bottom) Civil Defense Auxiliary hat and breast badges. These are hard to find. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A most significant exhibit by Terry Bible is this Smith and Wesson .38 Military and Police revolver. It was among the first 50 handguns the Missouri State Highway Patrol purchased from a Saint Louis dealer to arm the first academy class of troopers in 1939. *Terry Bible photograph*



“Best Patch Display” First Place went to Tim Greer (second from right) for his Saint Louis Police Department collection. Bob Shockey, Cody Umfress and Frank Selvaggio (left to right) presented it. Greer is the son of former city police officer and show co-host Charles Greer. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

Saint Louis Show ...Continued

Some of them have entrusted me with things they wore on duty many years ago,” Bible said.

He recently obtained a notable addition to his collection, a vintage Smith and Wesson .38 Military and Police firearm verified and documented by S&W historian Don Mundell in September. The gun has “MO. S.H.P. 34” on the backstrap.

“It was shipped from our factory on October 13, 1931. It was ordered by the Simmons Hardware Company in Saint Louis. It was delivered to the Missouri State Highway Patrol in Jefferson City,” Mundell wrote in his letter of documentation.

“1931 was the year our first class went through the academy. This weapon was issued



Tim Greer has an outstanding Saint Louis Police Department emblem collection that was started by his late father, Charlie Greer. He also has a wide variety of other department memorabilia. Greer won “Best Patch Display” First Place. His goal is to keep expanding the collection. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

to the trooper who wore badge number 34,” Bible said.

A firearms collector in Oklahoma owned the historic gun and offered it for sale. Bible said purchasing it was a unique opportunity to add a premium piece to his MSHP collection. “I couldn’t turn it down. I’ve already been offered \$5000 for it, which is more than I paid for it,” he said.

Bible also showed his Medal of Valor at the show. He received it last year for saving the life of a traffic crash victim in Lawrence County.

Greer won the first place patch award for his outstanding Saint Louis Police Department emblem collection, which was started by his late father, Charlie Greer, who served as a patrol officer in the city from 1968 to 1988. It shows a variety of general issues and special



The “Best Patch Display” Second Place award at the “Gateway” show went to retired law enforcement officer Jim Shattuck (second from left) for his fine United States Mint Police collection. He joined the agency following his Air Force Security Police retirement. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph



Jim Shattuck put together this outstanding informational exhibit on the United States Mint Police showing a complete patch collection, photographs and historic documentation. The display offered a lot of little known information. He also had a model patrol vehicle, badges and artifacts. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

units in a large freestanding frame.

He also featured Saint Louis badges, miniature patrol cars, old photographs and department issue weapons.

Although he is still liquidating much of his father’s collection, he is keeping his Saint Louis PD segment and hopes to add to it over the years.

Second place patch winner Shattuck was honored for his complete United States Mint Police collection. He worked for the agency at Fort Knox, Ky. after his United States Air Force discharge and retired from it. His display showed seven patch designs including cloth badges worn by Mint Police officers.

Shattuck designed the current shoulder insignia adopted nationwide in 2013. It is a predominantly a gold, silver and black rounded vertical rectangle with a black background and gold border. An enhanced agency logo is featured on a gold badge as the center design.

“I designed it to give us a better looking patch. Chief [William] Daddio liked it. It was adopted for wear at every Mint. We didn’t have a standard patch for a long time. Every Mint had their own,” Shattuck said.



The Saint Louis Craft was a Masonic organization inside the Saint Louis Police Department. Although Matt Hanewinkel and David Menendez know very little about it, their collection at the Arnold show showed two spatula-like awards and a suspension badge. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph

Across the bottom are six stars, one for each Mint facility, and “1792,” the year the agency was founded, all in gold.

In addition, the collector designed the current handsome blue and gold marking scheme for Mint patrol vehicles. “Our cars were really plain. I designed a new look. Chief Daddio liked it as soon as he saw it, so we started using it. It’s all over the country now,” Shattuck said.

The Mint Police was founded in 1792. One of the nation’s oldest law enforcement agencies protects \$311 billion in Treasury and government assets (coin and cash production facilities, gold and silver, etc.) at facilities in Philadelphia, San Francisco, West Point and Denver. Fort Knox is where silver and gold are deposited.



(Left) Jim Shattuck designed the handsome current shoulder patch worn by the United States Mint Police. His creation has been worn nationwide since 2013. (Right) The collector transformed a G.I. Joe police figurine into a Mint Police officer by adding insignia, etc. Mike R. Bondarenko photograph



Mike Monticelli is moving from Hazelwood, Mo. to San Diego County, Calif. and liquidating his large collection of law enforcement figurines and scale model cars. He covered four tables with them. The event was a hotbed for these collectibles with several large offerings. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

About 300 officers ensure the safety of more than 1800 Mint employees, as well as thousands of visitors who tour their facilities every year. They also protect national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Shattuck showed other Mint Police memorabilia, such as photos, a G.I. Joe figurine dressed as a patrol officer, miniature patrol cars and even three small gold bars to represent Fort Knox.

Judges were Damir Krdzalic, 2024 National Show host, and PCNEWS Editor Mike R. Bondarenko.

“Gateway” collecting news ...What did Daryl Weseloh do on the third day of his retirement? Road trip to Arnold with his son, who is now a police officer in Market Heights, Ill. near Pekin, of course!

Weseloh retired as chief of police in Minier, Ill. after 23 years on November 1 when he brought his 36-year law enforcement career to an end. With his successor in place, he was able to begin his well-deserved retirement immediately.

“Nothing is going to change for me in the hobby. I’m going to keep on with my collection. The only difference is now I’ll have more time for it,” he said.

...Damir Krdzalic promoted the 2024 National Show in Davenport, Iowa and signed up more tableholders. So far, about 220 of 270 tables have been rented. He remains hopeful the show next July will be a sell out.

He also brought a wide variety of badges for trade or sale.

...It took 30 years, but Dave Brown finally scored a Clark County Sheriffs Department “keyhole” patch to all but complete this historic segment of his phenomenal Missouri collection.

“Tom Breen had one. We were able to make a deal. I really wanted it because I needed one to complete that collection,” Brown said.

Beginning in the 1950s and ‘60s, many Missouri county sheriffs adopted similar emblems for their uniformed deputies. They are called “keyholes” because of their shape. They look like an old style door keyhole.

Brown brought a small display of his keyhole collection from counties beginning with letters “A” to “C.” He showed the entire collection in Branson earlier this year. His displays are very well done with a county map, “keyhole” patch and an emblem from a police agency in each county.

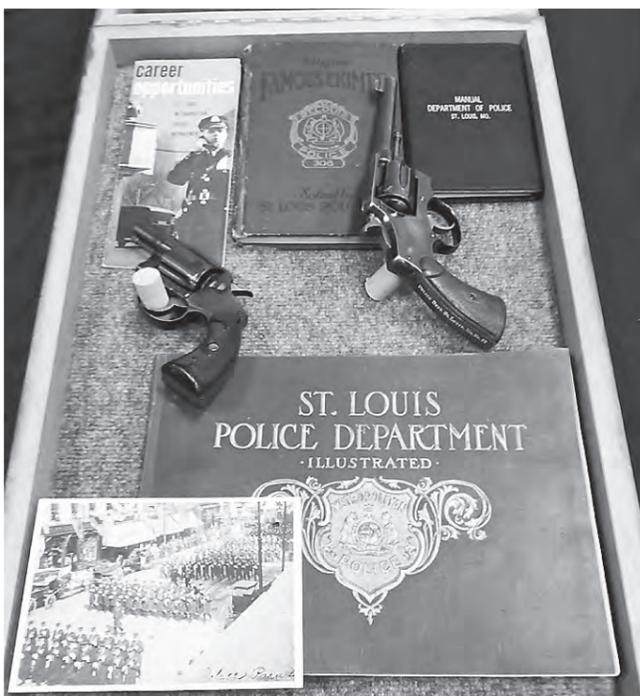
...Longtime Kentucky collector Dave Hume is helping sell the Noel Roberts family sell the late hobbyist’s collection. He is also assisting Steve Curry with liquidating the incredible Pat Olvey Collection that Curry purchased earlier this year.

Roberts was a patch collector from the Saint Louis area and accumulated a massive collection during his lifetime. Olvey had one of the hobby’s largest and extensive badge collections.

“Since I go to a lot of shows, I’m helping them out by putting things they want to sell on my tables,” Hume said.

Although Curry has sold a significant portion of the Olvey Collection, dozens of badges from all over the nation remain unsold.

He also offered his outstanding badge history books from the Saint Louis Police Department and the Kentucky Highway Patrol and State Police for sale. Both volumes are very well done and contain a treasure trove of reference information for KHP, KSP and Saint Louis collectors. This information is not available by searching the internet.



Matt Hanewinkel and David Menendez put together another fine Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department exhibit for the “Gateway” show, including this display featuring two weapons, photographs and historical documents. Both are retired Saint Louis officers. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

...Saint Louis collectors and longtime friends Dave Mendendez and Matt Hanewinkel, both retired Metropolitan Police officers, chose not to bring their usual massive joint exhibit, but nevertheless featured several outstanding artifacts.

“We both have our own collections, but we work together all the time, so it’s kind of like I have things he doesn’t have, and he has things I don’t have. Together, we’ve got a lot,” Menendez said. He also collects old Saint Louis law enforcement firearms and restraints.

The duo brought five large display cases and frames showcasing items from their collections. There were three cases of old badges, one showing showing antique restraints and another featuring historic STLMPD memorabilia.

My attention was attracted to unusual small spatula-like awards in the memorabilia frame. I learned these were awards bestowed upon members of the Saint Louis Police Craft in the 1950s. The Craft was a Masonic organization inside the police department back then. The awards are adorned with the engraved legends, “ST. LOUIS/ POLICE/ (Masonic symbol)/ CRAFT.”

“I don’t know much else about them, other than they were Masons. If anyone knows anything else about them, I’d like to hear from them,” Menendez said.

There was also a display devoted to the STLMPD Major Case Squad with three badges, two patches and pins.

...Retired Hazelwood, Mo. police officer Mike Monticelli is westward bound! He and his wife are moving to California in June. His wife is Native American. They will be living on her tribe’s reservation in eastern San Diego County.

“I’ve been asked about becoming their first chief of police. They don’t have a police department now but want to start one. I don’t know whether I’ll do it or not, but I’m thinking about it,” Monticelli said.

He took four tables to liquidate his massive collections of law enforcement figurines and statues and scale model patrol vehicles of all kinds at very reasonable prices.

“We have to take everything we own to California, so I’ve got the downsize. I hate to break up my collection, but it’s just has to be. I just can’t keep everything,” Monticelli said.

“Gateway” show notes I jotted down some comments, observations and tidbits from “Gateway,” which is one of the Midwest’s top shows and among my favorites.

...Returning to Arnold is a plus for the future. It’s a large city only a short drive south of Saint Louis along Interstate 55 that offers nice hotels, abundant restaurants, bars and shopping and a wide variety of services. Best of all, Arnold is safe and law enforcement officers are welcome everywhere.

The Eagles hall is a good venue with enough room for a Midwest-size show without crowding. It’s a clean, well maintained and affordable facility.

In an unexpected but pleasant surprise, the Eagles opened the kitchen for very reasonably priced lunches and refreshments, which was greatly appreciated by all. Selvaggio had been told the kitchen would not be open and warned attendees to bring their own food and refreshments.

...Co-host Cody Umfress, who will be taking over the show in a couple years, brought a nice exhibit from Byrnes Mill PD, which, thanks to Chief Selvaggio, has outstanding insignia, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He is a patrol sergeant on the police department.

Umfress and his lovely wife welcomed their first child a few months ago, so I couldn’t resist designating the youngster as Missouri’s newest patch collector. Mom was holding the baby during my interview with Dad. I told the happy couple that I swear I heard the child say, “Badges!”

...There were more patches than badges at “38” than I remember from previous shows. Jack Genius, Peter Belos and a few others offered a lot of nice badges for sale or trade, but several major Saint Louis and Chicago badge aficionados did not attend. Hopefully, the badge guys will return in force next year.

...The hosts donated at least \$500 from table fees and admissions to the Backstoppers, a very worthy citizen group that supports the families of law enforcement officers and other public safety personnel in time of need.

...Selvaggio came up a great line when he announced Magruder had won first place “Best Overall” display. “Some of the badges in Don’s display are older than he is!” which elicited a laugh from the crowd. The longtime collector is in his 80s, but his collection goes back to before he was born.

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Cody Umfress featured his fine collections from the Byrnes Mill Police Department and Missouri State Highway Patrol. (Top) Byrnes Mill has undergone an insignia makeover, thanks to Chief Frank Selvaggio. (Bottom) His MSHP emblem display. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Longtime friends Al Mize (left) and Jim Casey (right) were fellow badge collectors and longtime friends. They shared an interest in antique gold and sterling badges. Mize died at age 81 in his beloved Northern California. He was among the first serious West Coast hobbyists. *Jim Casey Collection*



Dennis Gilbertson served as a Phoenix police officer for more than 20 years and worked as a patrol officer, detective and member of the Bomb Squad. He collected law enforcement insignia from all over the world. His goal was to represent every nation in his international collection. *Mike Lucas Collection*

Hobby Says Goodbye To Three Collectors

Our hobby said goodbye to three veteran collectors in late November and early December with the deaths of Al Mize in California, Dennis Gilbertson in Arizona and Dave Pasicznyk in Minnesota. Each will be sorely missed by their many colleagues and friends across the nation.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Our hobby ended 2023 with great sadness over the loss of veteran collectors Al Mize of California, Dennis Gilbertson of Arizona and Dave Pasicznyk of Minnesota. All three hobby pioneers died in November or December.

Mount Rushmore career Vernon Alan Mize, 81, died the day after Thanksgiving, November 24. He lived in Orangevale, Calif. His death was announced by his longtime friend and fellow collector Jim Casey, who also lives in the city.

Mize collected law enforcement badges since the mid-1960s. His first love was sterling and gold badges from anywhere in the United States and Canada. California and other western states were another primary interest. He became widely known for mailing his "Badges For Sale" lists to fellow collectors across the country for many years while the hobby was in its infancy.

"We got together for coffee and breakfast a few times a week. We were joined by Budd Johnson, who also lived nearby. We always had a great time talking about badges, listening to Budd tell war stories and chatting about the latest hobby news," Casey said.

Unfortunately, several years ago, Mize began experiencing frequent pneumonia infections which often resulted in hospitalizations. Only very recently, while in the hospital, he was told he had pulmonary fibrosis and had only months to live.

Mize was born in Los Angeles in April 1942. His family moved to Idyllwild, an unincorporated community in the San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside.

Idyllwild is a mountain resort about one mile high in altitude. As a teenager, Mize delivered groceries to the likes of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin while the entertainers stayed at the resort.

He joined the Navy during the Vietnam War. Following his discharge from the military, he became a Mountain View police officer. Then, he went to work for the Veterans Administration Police at the Palo Alto Hospital where he served as deputy chief of police.

Mize became a recognized expert on Department of Defense contract compliance and went to work full-time as a private contractor. He spent the remainder of his career in

private business.

"I first met Al in 1981 at the San Jose Gun Show. I was a new collector back then. Al was already well known as a 'go to' badge collector. He was always able to dazzle me with beautiful hand-engraved sterling badges. His knowledge and memory was phenomenal, and I relied on him and trusted his advice constantly," Casey said.

Ed Kalinowski, an antiques dealer in Roseville, Calif., recalled that Mize was always on the lookout for badges and became one of his best customers.

"I'm not a collector, but I like looking for badges. I'm primarily a military collector. I like the quality of police badges, so I pick them up when I can. I probably have 75 badges in the store right now. No modern stuff, just older badges. Mize just loved old badges," he said.

Whenever Kalinowski found a badge that he thought Mize would be interested in, he gave him a call. "Usually, Al was here in about 30 minutes or less. Old badges were really his thing," he said.

Mize was an early subscriber and supporter of *PCNEWS*. He always enclosed a note with his subscription renewals thanking the newspaper staff for hobby coverage. "Only way to know what's going on," he wrote a few years ago.

"If badge collecting had a Mount Rushmore, Al Mize would be on it," Casey added. No funeral arrangements were announced.

Worldwide insignia collector Dennis Gilbertson was a former Phoenix, Ariz. police officer and worldwide insignia collector. He died peacefully on December 4 at age 78. He lived in suburban Peoria.

"Gilbertson was well known and highly respected by police officers, command level administration and other public safety personnel in countries throughout the world," longtime friend and fellow collector Mike Lucas said.

Gilbertson was a Phoenix police officer for more 20 years. He served as a highly decorated patrol officer, detective and member of the Bomb Squad. He was the lead officer in sweeping venues for explosives prior to the arrival of government officials and VIPs. He was also responsible for many sensitive security situations.

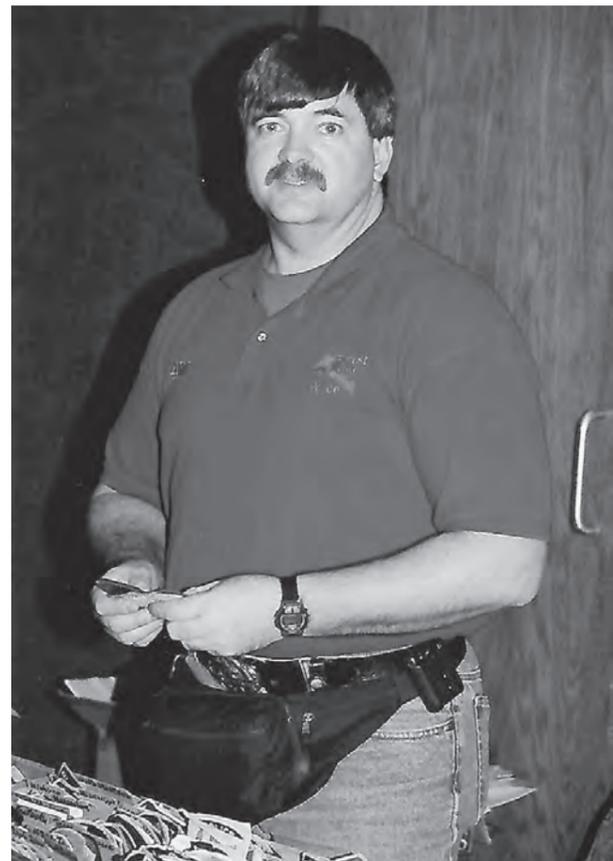
The veteran hobbyist specialized in collecting badges, emblems and other insignia from nations throughout the world. He brought small displays to Phoenix area insignia shows for many years.

"I'm a little different than most of the guys here. I collect Phoenix because I worked there, but my biggest interest is patches and badges from around the world. I'm trying to get something from every country," he said during an interview at a Phoenix show in the 1990s.

Lucas said Gilbertson donated thousands of items to the Maricopa Sheriffs Office Youth Cadets. He also gave cadets badges and patches to help them learn about worldwide law



Veteran worldwide insignia collector Dennis Gilbertson (back row, center) served as a member of the Phoenix, Ariz. Police Department Bomb Squad for much of his long law enforcement career. He died in the Phoenix area on December 4 at age 78. The cause was not specified. *Mike Lucas Collection*



Dave Pasicznyk, 68, longtime Minnesota and Colorado collector and veteran law enforcement officer, died on December 5. Known far and wide as "Paz," he was a longtime Forest Lake police officer and designed their current colorful state-shaped shoulder patch. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Jim Hart of Turtle Lake, Wis. (left) and Dave Pasicznyk (right) of Stacy, Minn. were co-hosts of the popular Saint Paul Police Collectors Show for five years. Hart collected federal insignia, while "Paz" specialized in Minnesota and Colorado. Pasicznyk died at age 68 on December 5. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

enforcement, always stressing the importance of making international contacts.

"Dennis was a dedicated public safety statesman and diplomat whose hobby of collecting and trading worldwide law enforcement memorabilia touched people around the world," Lucas said.

Gilbertson said the reason he never brought a large display to shows was because he felt there would be little interest. "Arizona collectors want Arizona stuff. They don't care about things from other countries. I could put up a big display from around the world, but no one would care except me," he told *PCNEWS*.

No cause of death or funeral arrangements were announced.

Another Horseman Passes David Pasicznyk, 68, died at his Stacy, Minn. home on December 5 following a long and valiant struggle with cancer. His passing was announced by his wife, Linda Pasicznyk.

Known far and wide as "Paz," Pasicznyk was a veteran Minnesota patch collector who built a massive collection from across the state. He had a particular interest in Washington County, both the Sheriff's Office and municipal agencies. He served as a police officer in Lindstrom and Forest Lake, as well as a Chisago County sheriff's deputy.

Several years ago, Pasicznyk purchased emblem and cloth badge overruns from owner Gary Downing of ITL Patch and Monogram, a leading producer of Minnesota law enforcement insignia. His stock included hundreds of emblems and cloth badges from throughout the state and neighboring Wisconsin. These were overruns, not reproductions.

Co-host of the popular Saint Paul Police Collectors Show with Jim Hart and Mike R. Bondarenko for five years, "Paz" set up what became known as "Paz's Traveling Patch Store." The emblems were offered in alphabetical order in large cardboard display boxes. All were made for the agencies.

"Everybody had to go through the boxes to see what was new. Paz never charged more than \$3 or \$4 for patches. He was dead set against cops ripping off other cops. In reality, he gave away as many patches as he sold," Bondarenko recalled.

Pasicznyk's other passion was Harley-Davidson motorcycles. He owned four and did most mechanical work himself in his garage which resembled the repair shop at a Harley shop. He served as a motor officer in Forest Lake during his law enforcement career.

He was a member of the Four Horsemen of Minnesota patch collecting with the late Dave Gislason, Jerry Cuffee and Pat Romano. The hobbyists went on two and three day road trips across Minnesota in the mid-1990s, stopping at police and sheriff departments large and small in search of badges and patches. Sometimes, they traded with local officers well into the wee small hours of the morning!

"The road trips were a lot of fun. We were all friends and got along great. We found out we had more success if we visited a department together than trying on our own. I guess it's harder to turn down four cops than one," Cuffee recalled.

He said there was always a friendly competition over who could eat the biggest steak when they stopped for dinner, or who could come up with the best insult of one of the others. "Paz usually won that," he added.

It was Pasicznyk who coined the Four Horsemen moniker. He shared that he came up with the name because they literally rode across the state of Minnesota with a common goal: adding emblems to their collections.

Pasicznyk began collecting in 1976 before he became a Lindstrom police officer. He was interested in Minnesota and Colorado. He amassed large collections from both states.

Cuffee was a police officer in Arizona when he saw Pasicznyk's name and address in a list of patch collectors published in a magazine in 1986. They began corresponding and trading by mail before they met after Cuffee returned to his native Minnesota in the early 1990s. They were friends and traders for nearly 40 years.

Cuffee sold his collection and no longer collects patches. Now, he specializes in law enforcement license plates and challenge coins.

Romano became a collector in 1990 and described himself as the "newbie" on the patch collecting trips. He said "Paz" was his hobby mentor.

"These guys had all been collecting a lot longer than me, but they let me come along. We always had a great time. We found patches and badges in small towns that no one else had; most of the other collectors didn't know they existed. I learned a lot," Romano said.

"Paz" was always there, helping me whenever I needed it. He helped me find patches and identify ones I couldn't figure out. I was really sad when I found out that he was sick, although he kept collecting as long as he could," he added.

Cuffee and Romano vividly remembered a trip to a small town somewhere north of Saint Cloud. They drove around town looking for a police officer in an effort to get patches.

"We were going down this street. Gooz spotted the lightbar of a police car in what had to be the officer's house. We stopped and knocked at the door. The officer came out and talked with us. He had a couple patches that he gave us. He promised to mail a couple more so we could each have one. And, he did send them out," Cuffee said.

"We all needed a patch from Atwater, a small town. We found a police officer on the street. He called in departments from all over the area. Guys came over. We traded patches on the hood of a squad car until like 1 o'clock in the morning or so. But, we all got eight or ten patches we needed, so it worth it," he recalled.

Romano is also getting out of the hobby and selling his collection. "It's time to move on," he said. "I've got other interests."

Gislason, the third horseman, died in 2022. Ironically, he, too, succumbed to cancer. Now, only two remain in the saddle.

A celebration of life for Pasicznyk is planned for late spring or early summer and will include his beloved Blue Knights, the law enforcement officers' motorcycle club.

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Canadian collector Don Edy of Calgary recently donated this old Gatesville, Tex. police badge to the Gatesville Lions Club, which in turn donated it to the police department. It is believed it was worn in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Two cowboy charms hang from star points. *Contributed photograph*

Wayward Star Returned To Gatesville PD

No one knows how an antique Gatesville, Tex. police badge made it to a resale shop in Calgary, Alta., but it's now back at the Police Department, thanks to the generosity of Canadian collector Don Edy. It is believed the small gold star was worn in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

GATESVILLE, Tex. – A unique antique badge once worn by a patrolman in Gatesville, Tex. has been donated to the police department on behalf of a longtime Canadian collector.

Don Edy of Calgary, Alta. recently mailed the badge to the local Lions Club and asked it to be presented to Police Chief Bradley Hunt on behalf of the club. Edy has been a member of the Calgary Lions Club for 52 years and is an avid Canadian insignia collector.

The small gold-colored six point star has unique hollow ball tips. The legends are stamped into the badge, "PATROLMAN/ POLICE/ GATESVILLE/ TEXAS." Small charms are suspended from two of the ball tips, a cowboy hat and a cowboy wearing a hat.

Chief Hunt said little is known about the badge, except it is very old. It was worn long before the department had a standard issue. "No one knows much about it," he said.

Edy purchased the badge in a resale shop in Calgary. He has no idea how it made its way to western Canada, or why it was offered for sale. The Christian resale shop accepts donations, so it is speculated the badge was given to the shop to sell as a fundraiser.

He sent it to Lions club President Jeremy Stills with a note, "I thought at that time this is something special that someone needs to have, so I decided to send it to the Gatesville Lions Club."

"How it ever got from Gatesville to Calgary is a mystery. We'll probably never know,"



The president of the Gatesville, Tex. Lions Club, Jeremy Stills (left), presents the old Gatesville badge that Don Edy donated to Chief of Police Brad Hunt (right). The badge is now back home after a trip to western Canada. *Contributed photograph*

Gatesville Badge Returned ...Continued

Lions club member Rhonda Mohler said.

She contacted former longtime Chief of Police Carroll Duke and asked him about the badge. He vaguely remembered the style and thought the charms were awarded to officers for outstanding achievements. "Kind of like receiving a sticker, but we really don't know," Duke said.

Traditionally, Gatesville officers have worn stars, although the current badge is an oval. However, in the late 1800s, officers wore a variety of stars, including five, six and seven point styles.

President Stills presented the donated badge mounted in a small frame to Chief Hunt in a brief ceremony at police headquarters.

Gatesville is located near Killeen in central Texas. It is the county seat of Coryell County. The city of 16,000 is home to five of the nine prisons the Texas Department of Criminal Justice operates for female offenders.

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(Left to right) Frank Wulff, John Morales and Tyler Argubright at the "Eastern Shore" show on December 2. Wulff and Argubright are co-hosts, while Morales was a tableholder. The event attracted 150 collectors from as far away as Georgia, Florida and some Midwestern states. *Contributed photograph*

Dispute Over Onondaga Sheriff Patch Settled

A legal battle between the deputy sheriff's union and Onondaga County Sheriff Toby Shelley has been settled out of court. The union filed a grievance after Sheriff Shelley announced plans to transition to a single agency-wide shoulder emblem.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – A dispute over shoulder patches between the Onondaga County, N.Y. Sheriffs Office and the deputy sheriffs' union has been settled. The union dropped its grievance. In return, Sheriff Toby Shelley dropped a lawsuit against the union.

The union filed the grievance after Sheriff Shelley announced plans to discontinue five different emblems worn by corrections, civil, custody, police and patrol division deputies and issue one general issue insignia to replace all of them. It would be a new style.

Sheriff Shelley, who took office last year, said the new emblem would unify the department and save taxpayer money. The agency could order emblems in bulk, rather than place five different orders.

"The administration feels strongly that the sheriff's office is a single entity and should reflect that. Having a single patch goes a long way toward that goal," Undersheriff Jeffrey Passino said.

The patrol deputy's union filed the grievance, claiming the sheriff's decision violated the collective bargaining agreement. President Laura Collins said the union was also concerned over the cost of replacing the insignia and its impact on safety. The patrol deputies asked the current separate patch tradition continue.

The sheriff said a single patch would save the county about \$10,000 a year. The union disputed the savings, saying it would cost money to replace the emblems on all existing uniforms.

Collins told local media the patch change should be bargained with the union, not arbitrarily imposed on it. She said it was a mandatory subject of bargaining.

In response to the union's objections, Undersheriff Passino said the administration has the right to alter uniforms and has done so on multiple occasions in the past.

The sheriff's lawsuit asked the court to dismiss the grievance. Dismissal would allow the county to proceed with the patch transition.

After the grievance was withdrawn and the suit dismissed, Sheriff Shelley announced the patch transition would begin. Chief of the Police Division, Matthew Fischer, said the transition will be gradual as uniform garments are replaced.

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Our thanks to Howard Friedberg for his assistance with this story. EDITOR



Corrections, Civil, Custody, Police and Sheriff (top, left to right) are being replaced by a new emblem (bottom) by Sheriff Toby Shelley. The union dropped a grievance over the transition, while the sheriff dropped a lawsuit to have it dismissed. *Contributed photograph*

Attendance Down, Tableholders Up At "Eastern Shore"

Even though attendance dropped at the 2023 Maryland "Eastern Shore" show on December 2, the event set a record with 65 tables taken by collectors from throughout the East Coast and Midwest. Tyler Argubright, Ryan Abey and Frank Wulff were the hosts in Stevensville, Md.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

STEVENSVILLE, Md. – It was a foggy, rainy day on December 2 as Tyler Argubright, Ryan Abey and Frank Wulff hosted the 2023 Maryland "Eastern Shore" Police Memorabilia Show.

Although attendance was down, a record 65 tables were rented by collectors from as far away as Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Argubright said 150 collectors made their way to the show, down from the first two shows. The previous record was 55 tables.

"I was happy with the show overall, but the attendance was down quite a bit," Argubright said. He attributed the smaller crowd to collectors and their families returning to normal life after the pandemic.

"The first two years, everyone wanted to get out again after COVID, and they did. This year, things have pretty much returned to normal. One hundred fifty people is still a pretty good turnout."

The hosts received many positive comments on the much anticipated event, which was held at American Legion Post 278. The hall accommodated 65 tables this year.

"Eastern Shore" raised about \$1400 from admission and table fees for the Maryland chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors.

"Two things really impressed me. The number of families that attended, and the number of new collectors, people I hadn't seen before. Best of all, these guys were in their 20s, 30s and 40s. If we can get them to keep coming, they are our future collectors," Argubright said.

Tableholders were Mark Pyne, Richard Pontes, Tom Rees, Ken Lucas, Clayton Otto, Chris Smith, Bob Speed, David Heck, Larry Weikert, Anthony Kalicki, Brian Lyons, Jerry Tibbs, Chase Armington, Michael Lathroun, Hervey Cote, Adam Reid, Gary Teragawa, Chris Whitcraft, Natalie Kerpelman, Sean McNaughton, John Brothers, Michael Matkowsky,



Virginia hobbyist Tom Rees (center) brought a fine display of bomb squad and explosive ordinance disposal unit emblems to the show in Stevensville, Md. on December 2. He specializes in this segment of the hobby and has one of the largest collections in the United States. *Contributed photograph*



Chris Smith was among the tableholders at the "Eastern Shore" show. He had a variety of items at his table. About 150 collectors attended the event. It attracted a record 65 tableholders, up from 55 in 2022. Attendance was down but tables were up at the December show. *Contributed photograph*



Chris Whitcraft features old police badges, photographs and headgear from Boston and other East Coast agencies at Stevensville show. There seems to be growing interest in the hobby in gathering and displaying historic pictures of early police officers and their equipment. *Contributed photograph*



Tyler Argubright was able to add this nice old badge to his fine Baltimore collection. It is for a police officer from the Baltimore Transit Company which operated trains and trolleys in the city before the Maryland Transit Authority. The agency existed from 1935 until 1970. *Contributed photograph*

Steve Rivers,

Josh Ashley, Chip Greiner, Marty Cassidy, Max Bellard, Joe Morrison, Bill King, Lou Alexander, Gerry Lindenhauf, Joseph Bunce, John Kelly, Russ Penka, Fred Repp, Eric Bernard, John Olivari, Herman Naring, Jim Karas, Bill Steinkuller, Russ Crimmins, Anne Arundel County Police Hockey Team, Elliot Grollman, Brian Thomson, Bruce Green and Juan Morales.

Non-tableholders came from as far away as Canada.

"It was great to see so many tableholders offering \$3 and \$4 patches. Collectors didn't have to spend a lot of money here to help out their collections," Argubright said.

Although there was no display contest, there were several excellent exhibits.

Teragawa featured a segment of his massive California Highway Patrol insignia collection featuring historic patches, badges, photographs and other artifacts.

Rees brought several frames of his specialty, bomb squad and explosive ordinance disposal unit emblems.

Lyons featured a nice collection of badges from the New Jersey State Police and the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

Whitcraft had an exhibit of early policing in the USA, especially from Boston and the East Coast. He had pictures, badges and even old headgear.

A show highlight was a raffle for a large cooler filled with 255 patches, 209 challenge coins and several other collectibles. The lucky winner was Alex Cardella.

There were also raffles for bottles of high-end alcohol. The show spent about \$500 on top shelf bottles of whiskey and liquor to raffle off as a fundraiser.

Argubright added a very nice old Baltimore Transit Company police badge. It is circa 1910. The Transit Company ran public mass transportation in the city until 1970, mostly



New York collector and show co-host Brian Lyons featured excellent displays from the New Jersey State Police and the North Carolina Highway Patrol at his "Eastern Shore" table. There was no display contest, but there were several very fine exhibits like this one. *Contributed photograph*

trains and trolleys in the early days; now, the Maryland Transit Administration runs mass transit throughout the area.

He said there will be another show this December. He took a poll among attendees to determine whether the show should take a year off due to drop in attendance, but there was overwhelming support for a 2024 show.

Argubright also announced plans are in the works for a bid for the 2026 National Police Collectors Show in Maryland. He said many collectors want the show to return to the East Coast and the Baltimore area would be a good location.

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

Longstanding Prosecution Nearing End

The prosecution of people involved in illegal tribal police commissions and badges sales in Southern California is nearing its end after five years. Two Los Angeles area men are the final defendants prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for federal crimes in a very profitable bogus badge scheme.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – The lengthy prosecution of two Southern California men for unlawful sales of tribal police badges has finally come to an end.

Akiva Grunewald and Colin Gilbert pled guilty in mid-December to federal charges in Los Angeles federal court for misrepresenting themselves as agents of the Manzanita Tribal Police Department in southeastern San Diego County and selling tribal police commissions and badges. As tribal police officers, buyers were empowered to carry concealed weapons and other law enforcement privileges.

Grunewald, 45, of West Los Angeles, agreed to plea guilty to one count of bribery. He faces up to ten years in federal prison, according to United States Attorney's Office.

Gilbert, 80, of Marina del Rey, agreed to plead guilty to one count of making false statements. A conviction could result in five years in federal prison.

In 2021, former Manzanita police chief Anthony Reyes Vasquez pled guilty to stealing \$300,000 from the tribe between 2012 to 2018. He was charged with keeping money donated to his department for memberships in an organization he called the VIP Group. In exchange for their donations, members received badges and commissions as tribal police officers, even though they performed no law enforcement duties and had no responsibilities with the tribe. Most badge buyer donors had never been to Manzanita.

Vasquez solicited recruiters for his VIP Group. It appears as though Grunewald and Gilbert fulfilled this role by soliciting memberships from wealthy Southern Californians. Neither defendant is a member of the tribe or has any affiliation with the tribe, which is located near Boulevard. "They did it because it was easy money," a prosecutor said.

The Manzanita Police Department is not recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the state of California as an official police agency. It does not have the authority to enforce federal or state laws, either on or off the reservation.

Prosecutors alleged that Grunewald and Gilbert asked "police recruits" to make large payments ranging from \$5000 to \$100,000 masked as donations to the department in exchange for tribal police commissions. Buyers told investigators they were promised benefits that would come with being a law enforcement officer, including concealed carry.

In 2019, Grunewald told FBI investigators that everyone he solicited to join the department had proper credentials and proper training. "Everything had been done correctly," he said. His statements later turned out to be false.

In fact, in 2018, Grunewald paid Vasquez \$20,000 for his own tribal police commission and badge, even though he has no law enforcement training or experience. He wanted to be able to carry a gun without state or federal restrictions.

Stopped by Culver City police for a registration violation in 2018, Grunewald produced

Manzanita Tribal Badges ...Continued

a Manzanita police badge and told officers he was a police officer. He was wearing a holstered semiautomatic pistol when asked to exit the vehicle.

A search of his vehicle produced two other loaded firearms, a police gun belt with handcuffs and a collapsible baton, a tactical vest, pepper spray and numerous other law enforcement badges and credentials. Police also found 43 Oxycontin pills.

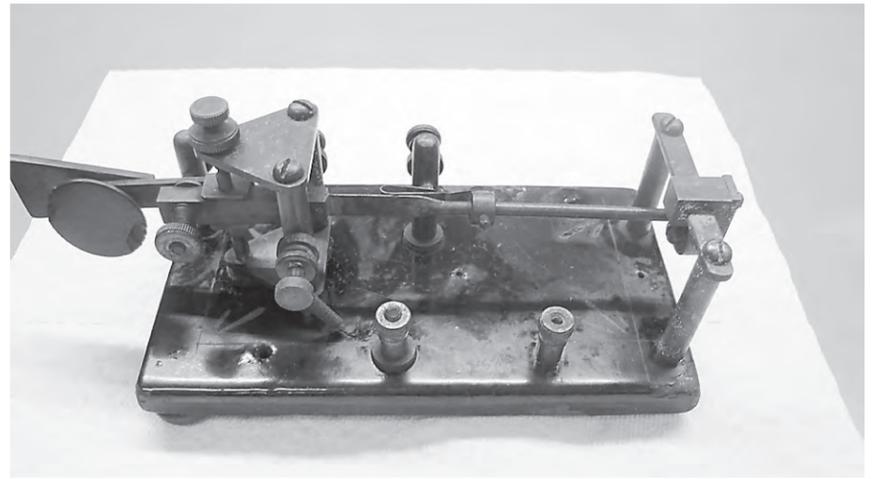
Vasquez is scheduled for sentencing on April 29.

Sentencing dates for Grunewald and Gilbert have not be set.

The Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay National Reservation adjoins the Campo Reservation on the south and the LaPosta Reservation on the west. It is about 67 miles east of the city of San Diego on Interstate 8 or six miles from Boulevard. It lies ten miles north of the Mexican border.

The reservation was established in 1893.

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The cobbled "Bug" Morse key is now on display by the Champaign Police Department Historical Society. President Zane Ziegler is related to Charles Hopper who used it during his career as an ISP radio operator. A relative found the key in a storage unit and donated it. *Contributed photograph*

Historical Society Obtains Rare ISP Radio Artifact

Champaign, Ill. collector and police historian Zane Ziegler, president of the department historical society, recently obtained a Morse Code key once used by Charles Hopper, inventor of the "10" Code in the mid-1930s. It is now part of a historical display.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – Public safety agencies nationwide have utilized the "10" Code to speed radio communications since the late 1930 and early 1940s.

While the meaning of each "10" number varies from state to state, and even locality to locality, learning the code is must for entry level police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel. "Plain English" is a growing trend, particularly in some states, yet the "10" Code remains predominant nationwide.

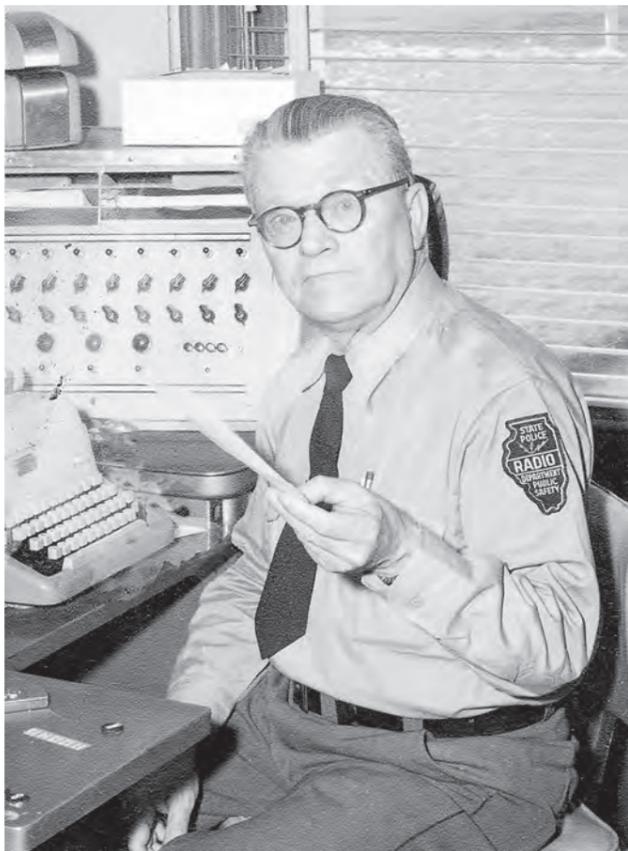
Recently, Zane Ziegler, a Champaign, Ill. police officer, collector and historian, discovered he is related to Charles L. "Charlie" Hopper, an Illinois State Police radio operator, the inventor of the "10" Code.

"My local newspaper has a feature called #Mailbag where people write in with questions. Last August 25, the #Mailbag answered a question about the police radio '10' codes being invented here in Champaign County..." Ziegler said.

"Charlie Hopper is my cousin, Missy Murphy's, grandfather. I visited Charlie a few times while growing up and knew he was a high-speed Morse code operator for the ISP and a Ham radio operator. Charlie and I shared law enforcement and Ham radio in common. Missy and I talked about him over the years, but neither of us knew he invented the '10' code."

The Association of Police Communications Officials (APCO), which was founded in the mid-1930s, recognized the need for a way to keep radio transmissions as short as possible to keep radio use to a minimum. It became an APCO priority. Hopper was an early APCO member while serving the State Police.

"Apparently, Charlie took this APCO recommendation to heart and invented the '10' Code in 1938 to 1940. [State Police] district-to-district and nationwide police communications had been achieved using high speed Morse code by radio," Ziegler said.



Illinois State Police radio operator Charles Hopper works at a console at District 10 in Champaign County in 1938 or 1939. He responded to an effort by the Association of Police Communications Officials to standardize radio traffic by creating the "10" Code. *Contributed photograph*

He thought like any collector would that Hopper's Morse key is a significant artifact in the history of police communications. He asked Missy Murphy about it and was told she was "pretty sure" his key went to another relative following his 1977 death. Nevertheless, she searched a storage unit and found it. It was located among photographs and other Hopper artifacts.

"As I did a little more research, I found that Charlie would have been working in the State Police HQ in Springfield in 1938 to 1940. He moved to Urbana District HQ in 1949 and worked there and in Pesotum from 1964 until retiring in 1968 after 30 years," Ziegler said. District 10 ceased to exist a couple years ago and is now a part of Zone 7.

Neither Ziegler or Murphy were aware that Hopper invented the code until seeing the #Mailbag story.

A unique collectible Hopper's Morse code key is a one-of-a-kind police and Ham radio artifact, especially since he invented the "10" Code. Ziegler said it will be displayed at the Champaign Police Department. He described the key as being to a radio operator what a badge is to a police officer.

"Charlie's semi-automatic Morse code key, also known as a 'Bug,' is likely from the 1930s. It is a hybrid of more than one 'Vibroplex' model. It features parts on it that were most likely 'home brew' by Charlie himself to keep it in running order," Ziegler said.

Today, the key is rusty and dull, which make it an even greater artifact. Murphy agreed to allow him to display it in the Champaign PD collection, which is shown during special events, like their open house.

State Police confirmation The origin of the "10" Code in the Illinois State Police has been confirmed by the agency.

"We have found some information that indicated in the late 1930s, District 10 (Pesotum) Communications Director Charles "Charlie" Hopper came up with the '10' codes to simplify ISP radio transmissions. This stemmed from recommendations by APCO to standardize radio radio communications. APCO was created in 1935," said Trooper Jayne Buford, a public information officer.

According to the #Mailbag story, by 1940, APCO member agencies in the Midwest had been testing '10' codes for a few years and the organization released a standard set of codes recommended for use across the country. 10-4 meant "affirmative" or "I understand." 10-6 meant "busy." 10-24 meant "trouble at station, unwelcome visitors, all units (in) vicinity report at once." "10-29 meant "check for wanted."

A favorite is 10-32, "Is Drunkometer available?" The McGill University web page tells us the Drunkometer functioned very differently from modern Breathalyzers. It relied on a color change due to the reaction between alcohol in the breath and acidified potassium permanganate. Without a quantitative scale, it simply relied on the idea that a deeper purple color indicated more alcohol in the breath.

Why is "10" the prefix for Hopper's codes? There are two possible explanations, although no definitive answer is known.

One theory is the code was developed in ISP District 10, so 10 was a natural choice for the prefix.



Illinois State Police radio operators wore this gold-on-black state shape on their uniforms from 1941 to 1954. Red radio waves that resemble lightning bolts appear as the center design. The legends read, "STATE POLICE/ RADIO/ DEPARTMENT/ PUBLIC /SAFETY." *Contributed photograph*

The other is that early radio transmissions were “clipped” for a fraction of a second at the beginning. The important part of the message was the digit(s) that came after the 10. Officers were trained to depress their microphone key for a second or two before transmitting to reduce or eliminate the “clip.”

An Illinois State Police radioman would have dispatched calls, and use high speed Morse Code to communicate with other ISP districts statewide or other agencies nationwide. They were also responsible for tuning and repairing communications equipment.

Ziegler seeking enhancements Ziegler hopes to enhance the display with an authentic ISP “Radio” emblem used from 1941 to 1954. He has a reproduction but wants an original patch.

He also hopes to find photographs of ISP radio operators using Morse Code keys or radios.

His address is in care of the Champaign Police Department, 82 East University Avenue, Champaign IL 61820.

Ziegler is president of the department historical society.

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Letters To The Editor

Fairfax Co-host Offers Thanks

Many thanks to you and Paula for coming out and visiting our show. I enjoyed sharing stories over dinner and look forward to the opportunity to do it again.

Bill Steinkuller and I would like to thank everyone who attended the Fairfax show. There were 42 paid and occupied tables, down from the max of 60 we usually have. There were 25 tableholders and eight assistants. However, walk in attendance was up from previous years with 36 paying, with an additional 24 public safety cadets and six sworn mentors.

It was so good to see the cadets catching the collecting bug through the generosity of tableholders and attendees, trading patches and coins and buying their patches, pins, coins and coffee cups.

The tally and bill payments are in process, so we don't have the count yet, but proceeds after expenses will be split between the public safety cadets and the Fairfax County Police Association.

As you may recall, the Fairfax County Police Explorers, started by Joe Tauro back in the mid-1970s, and now the Fairfax County Police Department Public Safety Cadets, have long supported the badge and patch show through Larry Wilkins's recruitment.

FCPD was the very first law enforcement agency to partner with the Public Safety Cadets in 2018. Today, their PSC program consists of three units dispersed throughout the county and is being brought under the command of a department major. They have plans in near future to assign a sergeant full time to coordinate these units and create a fourth unit in another section of the county.

Although the show did not max out to the customary 60 tables, the variety of badges, patches, coins and law enforcement memorabilia was very good. No surprise [that] many federal historical items made their way here as a result of our proximity to the metro Washington area.

I was pleased to see so many current and retired folks from Fairfax County and other area agencies attend the show. I certainly learned much more about the emblems and badges of the county, which I concentrate on since having served there at the outset of my 46-year law enforcement career.

It is always a pleasure to see my old friend, Joe Tauro. We had lockers near each other at the Mason District Station back in the late 1970s. He has always been generous to help me out with some vintage Fairfax and Virginia patches, many of which are the old “triangle” styles with cheesecloth backings! Living in Georgia now, where Joe comes up with these scarce items these days is a trade secret he just smiles at.

Gary Teragawa was kind enough to make the very long trek from his home in Georgia as well. We met nearly 35 years ago at the 1989 National Show in Arlington, Va. Ray Sherrard introduced us, and as a result, I was able to obtain my first Los Angeles Police Department Series Six, for a reserve policeman. It has the Entenmann-Rovin diamond hallmark.

Gary is the consummate gentleman. As a historian, his collections of California badges are second to none in their presentations and respect of the great professionals who have gone before us. I can't wait to see what he brings next year!

I can't say enough about Tom Rees and his extraordinary collection of EOD and bomb disposal collections. He is always so humble about his passion, but his collection explodes with enthusiasm when you get the story behind each one. He has deep connections to this unique profession within the law enforcement and security profession that result in some very rare and impressive emblems occupying his display.

Since I teamed up with Bill to host this event, it seems I don't get to hit the tables to see what I might find as in the past. But I enjoy displaying my collections each year and try to change it up with the variety of things I have gathered during my 50 years of collecting badges, patches, hats from overseas and other stuff.

It is a standing joke in my house the night before a show, “Will Dad pull an all-nighter?” as I update my displays and load the Jeep. But, all in all, it has always been well worth the effort to learn more about the hobby because with all the “experts” out there that are not bashful to tell you something. In the end we only know what we think we know. Opinions are abundant.

With the inspiration of my longtime friend, Mike Leeper, of the Des Moines Police Museum and his comrade, Don Magruder, I have decided to delve much deeper into the history of the badges, patches and uniforms of Polk County, Iowa law enforcement agencies. The goal will be to create a historical paperback picture book telling the stories of these agencies through the origins of their badges over the years.

If that project works out and doesn't end in divorce, I plan to do a similar book regarding the U.S. Secret Service looking at their badges, patches, pins, challenge coins and special event souvenirs. Should keep me busy for a while!

KENT A. JEFFERIES, fcpashow@aol.com

Martin Milner Remembered

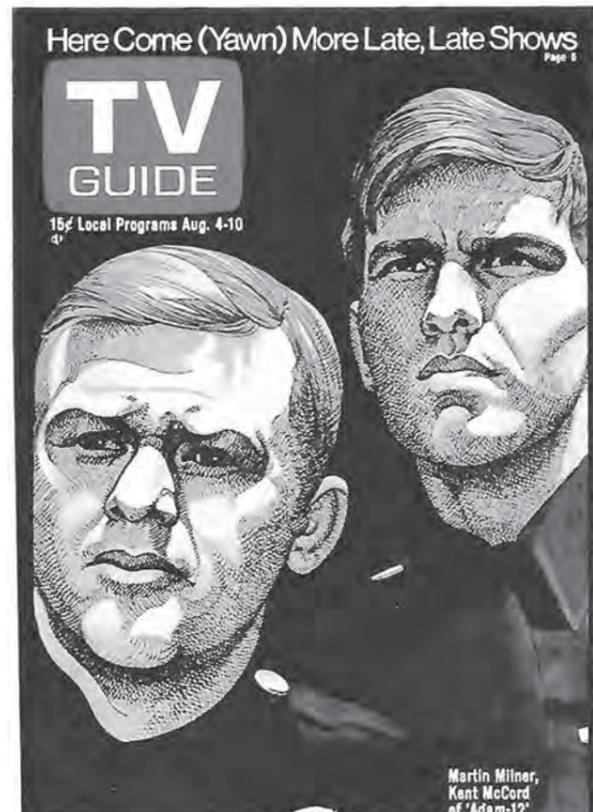
I recently found an interesting biographical article about Adam-12 co-star Martin Milner that I thought you might be interested in sharing with readers.

“Law and Order's Peter Pan” was written by Bill Davidson and published in the April 4, 1973 edition of *TV Guide Magazine*.

Side by side drawings of Milner and co-star Kent McCord were pictured together on the front cover.

The cost of the magazine? Fifteen cents!

Here is the article in its entirety:



Martin Milner and Kent McCord, the stars of *Adam-12*, were depicted on the cover of *TV Guide Magazine* on April 4, 1973. The issue contained a feature on Milner, McCord's partner, on the Los Angeles Police Department-themed show. It became one of the most popular cop shows ever and is still being shown. *Contributed photograph*

“It was hard to believe that this was Pete Malloy, the perennial cop-behind-the-wheel of *Adam-12*, now entering its sixth season on NBC. Martin Milner as Malloy is a law and order Peter Pan who never seems to age beyond 26 or so.

But on his home grounds, his 24-acre avocado ranch near Fallbrook, Calif. 130 miles southeast of Hollywood, the real Marty Milner stands up. Or sits down. Because, as usual, he can't get out from behind the wheel (he also drove a Corvette for four years on Route 66). This time, it's a Jeep he's driving, through row after row of the 2500 venerable-looking trees from which hang the lush purplish-green avocados he grows, for considerable profit.

The real Marty Milner is venerable-looking too; and away from the makeup men and the cameras, he doesn't seem to care. His 40 years show: a small potbelly pushes out against his yellow shirt and jeans. There are vague pouches under the green eyes. Milner's freckles and red hair now make him look more like a rejuvenated Arthur Godfrey than Huckleberry Finn with a badge.

He is as serious about the avocados as El Exigente is about coffee. As he talks with his Mexican-American ranch foreman, the black-and-white Universal TV patrol car in which he makes \$10,000-a-week or so is simply a toy, pushed aside for the more serious business at hand.

“The Chicago market is opening up to us,” Milner says to the foreman. “We might be ready to break into the Florida monopoly on avocados in the Midwest.” Then, scanning the thousands of blossoms festooning the gnarled tropical trees, “If the neighbor's bees don't fly over here to pollinate the blossoms soon, we'll have to hire a beekeeper to set up three or four hives on the ranch. Not only do they charge \$150 for that, they keep all the damned honey.”

In avocado-growing, as in television, Milner is a tight man with a buck. He does not maintain a pad in Hollywood. During the three days a week *Adam-12* is being filmed, he sleeps in his dressing room on the Universal lot. When does a charity event, he figures out how many professional fundraisers are living off the charity.

“If I find there are 30 guys making a nice salary out of it,” he says, “I charge them a full personal appearance fee. If it's for pure charity, like the hospital ship, *Experanca*, down on the Amazon, where American doctors and dentists work for nothing, I help them raise money by working for nothing, too.”

Milner is as full of angles as a Swedish modern furniture store. One day recently, as he rode with Kent McCord in pursuit of some car thieves in an episode of *Adam-12*, he was quiet and thoughtful, not taxed much by the usual there-they-are, let's-go-get-'um quality of the dialogue in the script.

Suddenly, Milner said, “I just got it figured out.”

“You just got what figured out?” asked the puzzled McCord.

“The Marines. If I make a personal appearance for a Marine Corps dance at Camp Pendleton, I can ask them for a pass to cross the base in my car. Then I can cut 15 miles out of the trip from here to the ranch in Fallbrook.”

When he does a talk show like Dinah Shore's, Milner always insists on plugging his avocados. Then he phones all the avocado wholesalers in a crucial market, say Chicago, to let them know the day the show will air there, so that, hopefully, they will buy Fallbrook area avocados rather than Florida avocados.

On the other hand, when he is asked to do guest shots on shows such as the now-canceled *Laugh-In*, or the still viable *Mike Douglas Show*, he demands that McCord appear with him, thus cutting his fee in half. He likes McCord, unlike like his bellicose relationship with George Maharis in *Route 66*.

“When Kent and I started in *Adam-12*,” Milner says, “he seemed stuffy, and all his conversation was about his days at Mount San Antonio Junior College. I said to myself, “Oh brother, what I am talk to this kid about?” Then Universal sent us on a promotion tour, and I had a seat next to the kid on the plane. He began to tell me funny stories about auto racing. He's an Indianapolis Speedway freak. I not only found out he had a sense of humor under that upright exterior, but he converted me into a racing buff as well.”

Milner also has a loyal reverential attitude toward his boss, Jack Webb, who owns *Adam-12*, along with *Emergency!*, *Chase*, and *Hec Ramsey*. Says Milner, “Even if Jack asked me for half my avocados, I'd give them to him. I owe everything to him.”

Milner's debt to Webb goes back nearly 25 years. Milner (born in Detroit, the son of a construction worker who graduated to magazine ad salesman and eventually into movie distributing) started his own show business career as if he was going to be the next Van Johnson, whom he resembles. At the age of 14, Marty played the redheaded John Day in the 1947 film *Life With Father*, starring William Powell and Irene Dunn.

Then he was bedded with polio from which he recovered completely with the help of the Sister Kenny method. But Milner's career had lost its impetus. When he worked at all, he was reduced, simultaneously, to the hobbled boyfriend of both Stuart Erwin's daughter in *The Trouble With Father*, and William Bendix's daughter in *The Life of Riley*, in those

Letters To The Editor ...Continued

unregulated, ill-paying days of live TV series.

In 1951, when he was only 18 (and close to starvation), Milner got a part in the film, *The Halls of Montezuma*. Jack Webb had a part in that movie, along with Richard Widmark, Richard Boone, Jack Palance and Robert Wagner. Milner did not particularly distinguish himself in competition with such a brilliant cast, but off stage he managed to win \$150 off Webb in gin rummy.

"The end of the picture came," Milner told me, "and Jack didn't pay up. I could have used that hundred and a half, but my father said to forget it; that Jack would never settle the debt. But a couple months later, I got a phone call. It was Jack. He said, 'Come down to NBC Radio and pick up your check.' So, I took the bus and went down to the studio where he was doing *Dragnet* on radio."

Webb gave young Milner the check and said, "Hey, did you ever do radio?" Milner told him he hadn't, but Webb said, "What difference does it make? We've got a lot of parts for you here."

Continues Milner, "So, I went to work on the *Dragnet* radio series. Because I couldn't be seen, I played old guys and middle-aged guys. One whole summer, I was even Jack's police partner in the series. Then I was drafted into the Army during the Korean War and got stationed at Fort Ord in Northern California.

"Jack really saved my sanity then. The Army drove me crazy and he knew it. Every weekend he'd have me come down to work on *Dragnet*, which was now on television as well as radio. On Saturday, because I looked young, I was the house male juvenile delinquent for the TV series. Carol Jones was the house female juvenile delinquent. On Sundays, I played an old guy again in the radio version. It did not only keep me from flipping out, but I needed the money. The Army was paying me a fast \$104 a month."

Webb continued to help Milner get parts after the Army, including the one that pushed him along as a medium magnitude star. One was in the John Ford film, *The Long Gray Line*. Others were *Sweet Smell of Success* and *Marjorie Morningstar*. These, in turn, led to his starring role with George Maharis in TV's *Route 66* in 1960. Maharis left in a huff in 1963 and the show folded the following season.

A couple of movies later, Webb was waiting for Milner again. He said, "Kid, you're going to be a cop in a series I and a fellow named Bob Cinander dreamed up. We're going to call it *Adam-12*."

Today, nearly six seasons later, Milner is still plugging away behind the wheel of that black-and-white *Adam-12* patrol car. The show's executive producer, Herman Saunders, (who has known Webb even longer, having served with him in the Army Air Corps in World War II), gives Milner much of the credit for the show's longevity.

"We keep getting good scripts, of course," Saunders said, "but with all the griping about how tired and lazy he is, Marty's the cement that holds it all together. He's got an even temperament, he thinks; like Bill Conrad, he just can't misread a line. Also, he's got a wry comedic sense and will break everyone up with a Don Rickles-type insult line just when tedium and frayed nerves are settling in. Most important, he and Kent really like each other. That's a necessary ingredient in all successful shows. It comes through on the screen and makes audiences like them. I think that's the main reason we get as high as No. 2 in the Nielsen ratings, and why this crazy little show might go on as long as *Dragnet* did."

Kent McCord concurs. He says, "There isn't a day that I don't learn something from Marty and he doesn't make me laugh. Like when I came in and told him we had won an award for the best dramatic show on TV. He said, 'Congratulations. That's like winning at solitaire. We're the only half-hour dramatic show in TV, nut.' This summer we've got a two-week vacation and we're taking it together, with our families. A sailing trip. On other shows, guys can't wait to put 3000 miles between them during hiatus."

Milner absorbs all this praise with grumbling good humor. "The reason I like the show," he told me, "is because it's ideal for a guy who doesn't want to work very hard. Three days a week and I'm home at the ranch in Fallbrook with my avocados. The only thing better would be if I got promoted to sergeant and they put another guy in the patrol car with McCord. Then it would be only one day's work a week and I'd be home at the ranch in Fallbrook with my avocados."

When you see Milner's home, you can understand why he wants to spend so much time here. It's a rarity for Southern California; an authentic reproduction of a New England colonial with high beamed ceilings, field stone fireplaces, antique hutches, wide-planked pegged floors, framed Gilbert Stuart-type 'ancestor' paintings on the walls and copper pots hanging all over the kitchen.

It looks like 18th century Williamsburg, but Milner says, "We built it only three years ago. It's been aged by four kids, three dogs and three cats running through it all the time. We also have two horses, but they're not allowed in the house."

Recently, I had lunch with Milner in the kitchen of the extraordinary abode. It was avocado pizzas, prepared by Milner's slim, pretty wife Judy (a band singer when he married her 16 years ago). Throughout the lunch, the house was being aged by four superlative Milner children, Amy, 14, Molly, 12, Stuart, 11 and Andrew, 9. Milner kept making deals with avocado packers on the phone.

There was only one phone call relating to show business. It was a request for him to star as a guest fisherman on a TV show called *Championship Fishing*. He was to go after catfish and trout on Table Rock Lake in southern Missouri.

Milner was just as he was in his dealings with the avocado packers. "Only if my wife and



This Champaign, Ill. Police Department retirement badge was recently stolen in a car burglary. It is a flat wallet badge. A full color state seal appears as the center design. The legends are "CHAMPAIGN POLICE/ PATROL OFFICER RETIRED/ 1." Any information will be greatly appreciated by the PD. *Zane Ziegler photograph*



The Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles has begun issuing new license plates to the Pennsylvania State Police for marked patrol vehicles. The new tags feature a full color State Police emblem. The plate is blue at the top, white in the center, and yellow on the bottom. *Bob Speed photograph*

four kids can go along," he said. "We can use a free vacation."

And the Milners got it.

DAVID DOSS, Allen Park, Mich.

New Pennsylvania License Plate

The Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles has just started issuing new plates on marked trooper cars.

The plate is blue at the top with white letters, "PENNSYLVANIA," white in the center with a full color State Police patch and a blue plate number and a gold banner at the bottom with "OFFICIAL USE."

BOB SPEED, Monkton, Md.

Hoving Helps Grover Beach

On December 8, the Grover Beach, Calif. Police Department hosted an open house combined with a toy drive. The event was a huge success, thanks to Chief John Peters and his staff.

There was a steady flow of visitors through the station and into the back parking lot to inspect the patrol units. I was honored to participate with a display of badges and patches from Grover City PD which is now Grover Beach PD. Celebrating the history of the city lends itself to credibility based on organizational tenure and was interesting to the attendees.

By the way, Chief Peters is a supporter and member of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

GARY HOVING, Pismo Beach, Calif.

Stolen Retirement Badge Sought

A Champaign, Ill. Police Department retiree badge was stolen in a motor vehicle burglary. The retiree is Chris Young. The badge number is "701."

The badge is a flat wallet style and has the number "1" on it. Please contact me or the Champaign Police Department with any information or if you see this badge.

ZANE ZIEGLER, Certified Technical Investigator, High Tech Crime Unit (Champaign Police Department, 82 East University Ave., Champaign IL 61820)

We have changed our policy on publishing home addresses of PCNEWS contributors effective January 1. We will no longer publish home address, only hometowns or email addresses if commonly known. EDITOR

The Grumpy Collector

By Greg S. Hatzis, Staff Writer

NEW YORK, N.Y. – Attention all patch designers!

Below you will find a list of the 46 states and four commonwealths that make up the United States of America. After each, you will find, based on United States Postal Service Publication 28 Appendix B, a two-letter Postal Service abbreviation.

Alabama AL, Alaska AK, Arizona AZ, Arkansas AR, California CA, Colorado CO, Connecticut CT, Delaware DE, Florida FL, Georgia GA, Hawaii HI, Idaho ID, Indiana IN, Illinois IL, Iowa IA, Kansas KS, Kentucky KY, Louisiana LA, Maine ME, Maryland MD, Massachusetts MA, Michigan MI, Minnesota MN, Mississippi MS, Missouri MO, Montana MT, Nebraska NE, Nevada NV, New Hampshire NH, New Jersey NJ, New Mexico NM, New York NY, North Carolina NC, North Dakota ND, Ohio OH, Oklahoma OK, Oregon OR, Pennsylvania PA, Rhode Island RI, South Carolina SC, South Dakota SD, Tennessee TN,



Greg Hatzis admonishes collectors not to be afraid to grab a pair of scissors and do this to defective, soiled or otherwise non-collectible patches. A great idea! (Disclaimer: No real collectible emblems were injured in the production of this edition of "The Grumpy Collector!") *Greg Hatzis photograph*



Notice the subtle, yet significant difference between these two Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes and Drums emblems that the addition of two little letters, "NY," at the bottom make? "NY" leaves no doubt the insignia is from New York, not any other Hudson Valley. *Greg Hatzis photograph*

Texas TX, Utah UT, Vermont VT, Virginia VA, Washington WA, West Virginia WV, Wisconsin WI and Wyoming WY.

I graciously provide this listing for the benefit of all patch designers who haven't already thought of incorporating the appropriate two letters somewhere in their patch designs. Just two more letters. You may know where your client is based, but rest assured, outside of your little geographical area, no one else knows where they are based. So, as their members travel to National Police Week events, or their state or regional equivalents, and start to trade patches, here's a simple way to help avoid them having to be questioned, "Where's that?"

Bonus points to you if you could include the county that agency is located in, especially if there is more than one say, Washington, in your state. (Hello, New Jersey!) Obviously, if you're including a municipality's seal already as part of the logo, there's no need to repeat it.

To all the quartermasters out there reading this missive: When your stockpile of patches at your uniform vendor has been depleted and it's time to reorder more, if there isn't somewhere on the patch already a clue as to where your agency is based (say perhaps



While going from a divisions and squadrons through what is now a unit and troops, it took 124 years and five different iterations before the Mounted Police and the New York Police Department recognized their parent agency of their patch. These are three versions. *Greg Hatzis photograph*

it bears a state seal or is keystone or state shaped), find a small corner and have the manufacturer include the appropriate two letters from the list above in the next run. Not only will us collectors appreciate it, but so will your members.

While on the subject of patch lettering, let me address special unit patches. Incorporating some sort of reference to the parent agency would be hugely helpful. Sure, I get that budgets might sometimes prohibit you from customizing your canine unit or highway patrol patches, so you need to use generic, off the shelf stuff on the uniforms of members of these units. But, when the time and effort is taken to custom design and produce a patch for your "Station 4," complete with a witty motto and a colorful mascot, then how about having some pride in who's "Station 4" it is?

Get rid of them! So I'm at a swap meet this past fall and I find at a table a New York



By using the very handsome town seal in its entirety, it is clear that this law enforcement agency protects Charlton, Mass., not Charlton, N.Y. or Charlton, Ga. Greg Hatzis is a strong advocate for law enforcement agency identification on their insignia. A very good idea! *Greg Hatzis photograph*

City Transit Police Department patch that I knew a fellow collector was looking for. I offer my traders box to the tableholder from which he finds something worthy of a trade.

Before I complete the trade, I carefully re-inspect the item and notice that it has been over-stitched across the city seal displayed in the center of the patch. I bring this error in stitching to the tableholder's attention, and we agree to terminate the deal.

I hereby grant permission to all collectors, tableholders, Ebayers and anyone else who deals in patches permission to destroy them if they are defective. Whether it's dropping them into paper shredders (not as an effective technique as you'd think), cutting them up with a pair of scissors or incinerating them in a burn barrel (an extremely effective technique), it is perfectly okay to thin out from the total population of patches that exists today those that are defective.

Merrow got damaged when you were un-shirting the patch? Cut it up and throw it away.

The patch is heavily soiled, especially if it's by blood? Cut it up and throw it away.

The patch has been through the wash too many times and is completely faded? Cut it up and throw it away.

Patch stinks from being stored improperly? (I hope that's the reason...) You guessed it. Cut it up and throw it away.

Something cathartic takes place when one lifts a wastebasket to the edge of a desk with one hand while using the other hand to sweep across the desktop and push the cut up remains of a patch into the wastebasket, all the while knowing it will no longer contaminate a collection again.

There's a group of patches that deserves special attention. I am not referring to ones that are complete but sustained some sort of damage after being worn on a uniform, but those that were manufactured wrong in the first place. Such is the New York City Transit Police Department patch that I found and somehow escaped the plant.

We're not talking about a coin that was double struck or a piece of currency that has a fold-over error. Numismatic items such as these have an intrinsic value in and of themselves, and collectors add an increased value to them because of the rarity of such anomalies. In other words, a \$20 bill that is miscut is still worth at least \$20; a quarter that suffered a planchet error is worth at least 25 cents. A patch that an embroidery machine mangled has no intrinsic value. It's garbage. Any value bestowed upon that patch is completely artificially created.

There are those, especially on Ebay, who take this garbage to the next level. They take the concocted term "salesman's sample" and associate it with these patches when posting them for sale. Let's think about this for a moment.

Why on Earth would a patch salesman be carrying around in his briefcase something that is obviously a mistake, such as missing three and one-half letters from the word "County?"

Are you suggesting that as this salesman is sitting across from a potential client at a desk, he'd whip out this partially lettered and/or missing logo'ed and/or frayed edge, unmerrowed piece and say, "Hey, look at the quality of our work!" Or, he is trying to pass off the piece as a sample of his competitor's product?

Either way, I don't know about you, but I'd throw the guy out of my office in the blink of an eye.

Anytime I've needed a patch created for an agency I was affiliated with, I've sat down with a salesman, usually along with some chilled beverages, and they'd break out their three-ring binders containing the best of the best of their prior clients' pieces to show off as samples, not something that an embroidery machine spit out by mistake and should have been destroyed on the spot.

What ices my cake is that certain sellers on Ebay are asking premium prices for these scraps of cloth. I don't know what to think when I see posts like this. Comical or shameful? GREG HATZIS, New York, N.Y.

Poor Attendance Concerns Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain officers have expressed concern over poor attendance at last year's annual general meeting. Writing in the latest *PICA Magazine*, Chairman Keith Jackson lamented that AGM turnout was "disappointingly poor." He asked members to contact him and explain why they did not attend. The annual business meeting is followed by lunch and a swap meet.

Seaside Patch Vote Seaside, Calif. will soon undergo a shoulder patch style change. In November, the agency posted three proposed designs online and asked city residents to vote for their favorite. The agency said the public input would help them make the decision in selecting the new insignia. The results have not yet been announced by the department.

Patches Raise \$3700 The Methuen, Mass. Police Department raised \$3690 for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute by selling a pink version of its shoulder emblem during October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Chief Scott J. McNamara said his department raised the most money among agencies offering pink patches for the Farber institute. Officers who chose to could wear the emblem on duty during October.

COVID Outbreak Sinks 2024 "Central Jersey" Show

ROBBINSVILLE, N.J. – A sudden illness caused by the COVID virus forced host Dom Botteri to cancel the "Central Jersey" show scheduled for November 19 literally at the last minute. Both Botteri and his wife tested positive for COVID the day before the show after suffering symptoms he described as similar to having a "very bad cold."

Botteri, who is still recovering, canceled the 32nd annual swap meet on Saturday. It was to take place the following day.

"It was a disaster. A total disaster," he said. "I had three collectors from out of town already here and staying at hotels. I felt really, really bad about canceling at the last minute, but we were way too sick to put on the show."

"Central Jersey" was another 22-table sellout. Hobbyists from several states and Canada were among the tableholders. Their table fees were refunded and Botteri apologized profusely for their inconvenience.

Botteri also had to cancel the local Patrolman's Benevolent Association which was scheduled to have provided refreshments and food for the show.

"I'm very disappointed, but I didn't know what else to do. It was a nightmare," he said.

Mercer County where he lives experienced a COVID outbreak this autumn. It was second time the Botteri family experienced symptoms from the virus.

Botteri said "Central Jersey" will "definitely" come back in 2024. It will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving, which is November 24. Thanksgiving is November 28 this year.



California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society

Mike Bondarenko, Editor

CLEHS News Update

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

A cash donation makes it possible to take the California Police Museum to various venues up and down the state, publish the *California Police Historian*, host the San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show and operate our new headquarters office in Arroyo Grande.

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

You can also create a birthday fundraiser on Facebook with all donations going to support CLEHS. Information on this program can be found on the website.

Thank you for supporting the California Law Enforcement Historical Society.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

2024 Membership Renewal Have you renewed your 2024 membership to the California Law Enforcement Historical Society? If not, please take a moment to renew your membership with a payment of \$40 for one year or \$400 for a life membership!

You can renew by sending a check to California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875. If you prefer, you can make your payment online at the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Click on the "MEMBERSHIP" tab.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

2024 Historian of the Year Nominations are open for the 2024 California Police Historian of the Year.

The 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 Gary Hoving no later than April 1, 2024. There is a link to his email on the website.

The prestigious award will be made at the San Luis Obispo Police Memorabilia Show on July 27, 2024.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

CLEHS Store Looking for some CLEHS items to purchase? You can find them at the store on our website, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

Once on the home page, just click on the "STORE" tab. You can then purchase the CLEHS baseball hat, Museum patch or challenge coin.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

Stores And Articles Needed The *California Police Historian*, included in each issue of *PCNEWS*, would not exist without articles written by local historians and CLEHS members.

Have you written a story on California peace officers, departments, collections or events? Or know someone who has? It can be published in the *Historian*.

If yes, please reach out to Mike R. Bondarenko, editor of the *California Police Historian*, by email to pnews@baldwin-telecom.net for more information.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith

2024 Doug Messer "49'er" Show The 28th Annual Doug Messer "49'er" Public



A recent addition to the California Law Enforcement Historical Society's official store is this beautiful challenge coin with the new CLEHS badge on one side and the old CLEHS patch on the other side. It sells for \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Add \$4.50 for shipping. *CLEHS official photograph*

Safety and Military Collectors Show will be held on Sat., February 24, 2024 from 9 am to 12 pm at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall, 110 Park Dr., Roseville.

The show is named in memory of Doug Messer, one of the original hosts, who passed away in October 2009.

Show hosts are Mike Lynch and Brian Smith.

The show is a fundraiser for the Ranger Foundation, the California Law Enforcement Historical Society and the Roseville American Legion Alyn W. Butler Post 169 Boy Scout Troop 11.

The show is sponsored by the International Police Association Region 29 and Alyn W. Butler Post 169.

There are 48 eight foot by 36 inch tables available for collectors at \$40 each. Display only tables are \$20. Reserve your table early as the show sells out every year.

Admission is free.

Tableholders only setup starts at 8 am.

Boy Scout Troop 11 will provide food and beverages for sale.

Awards will be presented for the four top displays.

You can reserve a table and make payment online by using the Cal Badge Shows website and clicking on "TABLE RESERVATIONS."

If you wish to reserve a table and pay by check, please contact Mike Lynch, PO Box 3212 Bowman CA 95604-3212, (630) 613-4732 or use the link on the site to send an email.

Submitted by co-hosts Mike Lynch and Brian Smith

2024 Ripon Show Announced The 2024 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show will be Sat., October 5 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Ripon Community Center, 334 Fourth St., Ripon.

The show is a fundraiser for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society and the Ripon Volunteers In Police Service. It is sponsored by CLEHS and the show hosts are Gary Hoving, Mike McCarthy and Scott Welch.

There are 50 eight foot by 36 inch tables available. Seller tables are \$40 each. Display only tables are \$20 each. Reserve your table early because the show sells out every year.

Free admission.

To reserve a table and make payment online, go to Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show on the website, Cal Badge Shows. Com. Or, mail a check to Gary Hoving, CLEHS, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Brian Smith



The latest California Law Enforcement Historical Society collectible is this handsome t-shirt with a historic theme. The logo shows an old patrol wagon, named the California Police Museum, two police officers and their prisoner. Nevada collector Doug Gist designed it. *CLEHS official photograph*



A better look at the colorful logo that adorns the new California Law Enforcement Historical Society t-shirt. It was designed by Doug Gist, a CLEHS member. The logo is on a dark blue shirt. Shirts sell for \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$6 for shipping. *CLEHS official photograph*

New Release By CLEHS Now available! A new California Law Enforcement Historical Society t-shirt with a custom logo designed by the talented Doug Gist. These handsome shirts make great gifts.

The high-quality shirts are dark blue and feature an oval-shaped design on the front. It depicts an old fashioned black and white patrol wagon featuring a couple uniformed cops and a forlorn prisoner in the back, all in full color.

"CALIFORNIA POLICE MUSEUM" is lettered on the prisoner compartment, while "POLICE/ MUSEUM" is shown on a seven point star door decal.

Shirts are available in children's sizes S, M and L and adult sizes M, L, XL and XXL. The cost is \$20 for CLEHS members or \$25 for non-members. XXL shirts cost \$5 more. Shipping is \$6.

Ordering information is available on the CLEHS website.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving



A vintage Auburn Police Department badge was auctioned at the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Virtual Show on December 2. It is mostly gold on black with a gold and white mountain as the center design. The desirable item was offered by Dennis Lovejoy. *CLEHS official photograph*

CLEHS December Virtual Show Highlights

The last virtual show of the year was held on December 2, 2023. The show provides an opportunity to sell, buy and trade items from the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Facebook page. Site rules prohibit the selling of items other than during sanctioned events.

This show ran from 8 am to 1 pm PST allowing items to be posted to buy, sell, trade or offer a bid. Once a deal is struck, the parties then finalize the transaction via messaging and are supposed to promptly list that the item has sold.

While there is nothing to compare to a live in-person event, this show allows collectors to attend without the need to travel or pay to participate. There is no fee for posting or selling an item during the event. However, the sales opportunity is provided as a benefit to members of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society. A donation is requested from participants but no fees are attached.

Of interest during the show were some higher end badges and patches. The most uncommon items were vintage portraits of several Los Angeles police officers in uniform which were quickly purchased.

The next virtual collectors show is scheduled for April 13. Be sure to join the CLEHS to participate without limitations. Membership can be found at calpolicehistory.com.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

Colton Police Department Tribute To Virgil Earp

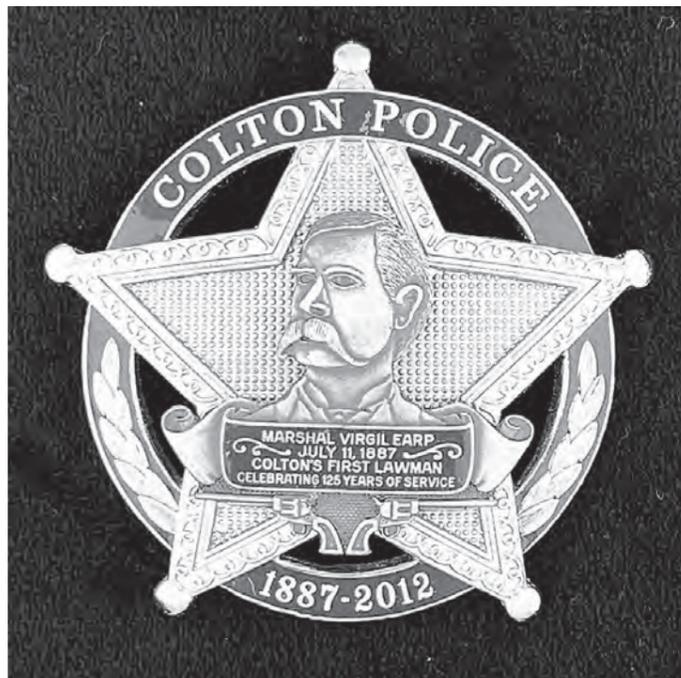
Back in 2012, the Colton Police Department gave tribute to their first city marshal, Virgil Earp. In addition to the placement of a headstone on his grave in the city, they issued a commemorative badge featuring Earp's likeness.

Keith Bushey and I attended the headstone placement ceremony. I presented a historic perspective to the attendees. The best part of the event was the Earp family members who attended and expressed their gratitude for recognizing the accomplishments of Virgil Earp.

One of the commemorative badges was presented as an honorarium for my speech. That badge was promptly gifted to the CLEHS and remains in the California Police Museum collection.



A portrait of an early Los Angeles police officer wearing a vintage badge was offered for sale by Carl Frank. It is black and white and appears to show a ranking officer. The CLEHS Virtual Show is always more than just badges and patches. The next online only event is on April 13. *CLEHS official photograph*



The Colton Police Department commemorated the 125th anniversary of Virgil Earp becoming the first city marshal, 1887 to 2012. The gold-colored circled star features his likeness and two six-shooters. Forty-seven active and retired officers purchased the unique collectible. *CLEHS photograph*

The *San Bernardino Sun* carried a story on the badge in its January 14 edition. It was written by Ryan Hagen under the headline, "Colton police get anniversary badges commemorating Marshal Virgil Earp." It appears below.

After 125 years, Virgil Earp is back on the police force.

The lawman is widely known for his participation in the gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Ariz., but in Colton he's celebrated as the man who became the first city marshal in 1887.

So when Corporal Robert Drey began designing commemorative badges for the Police Department's 125th anniversary, everyone knew what the centerpiece should be.

"It kept going back to Virgil," Drey said. "We had this likeness from a couple of years ago, and it stuck."

Drey said 41 of the department's 47 officers, plus a few who've retired, put in \$125 each for a commemorative badge with Earp's mustachioed face gazing out above a pair of six-shooters. The imagine, along with text reading, "Celebrating 125 Years of Service," is emblazoned on a five-point star like the one Western lawmen traditionally wore.

No city funds were used to buy the badges, Drey said.

For the next year, officers may wear either the commemorative badge or the typical badge, which is a shield with a picture of City Hall and the seal of California.

Earp led the Colton Police Department from just after the city's incorporation, July 11, 1887, until March 1889 at a salary of \$75 a month.

In 1881, the Earp brothers, Virgil, Wyatt and Morgan, and John "Doc" Holiday went to disarm a group of cowboys, sparking a gunfight that has been the subject of several popular movies.

"We can thank Tombstone, because in law enforcement circles, it put Colton on the map," Drey said.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

Wide Spot In The Road

I don't know about you, but I think I would have to pack up and move from a town with the name of Bed Bug. During the California Gold Rush, the quaint town, later named Lone, was named Bed Bug and Freezeout by the miners. Lone became one of the main supply depots for miners throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Before the Gold Rush, the area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains foothills where Lone is now located was once occupied by over 100 villages of the Sierra Miwok Indians. It is estimated there were more than 11,000 Indians in the four different Miwok areas of Central California.

It was in January of 1848 that gold was discovered by James Marshall at a sawmill by Coloma. Marshall had no idea his discovery would lead to floodgates opening for the



Adam Weiner brought this vintage Los Angeles Police Department badge to the CLEHS Virtual Show. It's a fine Series Five shield for a detective lieutenant and is numbered. This badge series was worn from 1923 to 1940. Authentic Series Five badges are hard to find. *CLEHS official photograph*



Current badges in Ione are an LAPD-style oval with a white metal sunburst behind the Preston Castle in yellow metal. A yellow ribbon runs along the top with "POLICE OFFICER" lettered in blue. The seal is shown in the center, along with the badge number, which appears on a panel. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

immigration of gold seekers from all over the world trying to strike it rich. The presence of these new arrivals decimated the Miwok population. During the 1930 census, only 491 Miwok were counted.

While most communities in Amador County were built around gold mining, Ione was a supply center, stage stop and railroad and agriculture hub.

The fertile area around where Ione is today is believed to have been named by Thomas Brown around 1849 after a heroine in a drama by Edward Bulwer-Lytton named *Last days of Pompeii*.

It only took about four years of growth before Ione opened the first post office and school to accommodate the town and surrounding area. Later in the same year, 1853, the city incorporated as a general law city. A general law city in California is one where the general law of the state defines the municipality's government structure and powers.

In 1876, Ione held a celebration for the nation's centennial. The population was 600 hearty souls with 100 of those people being Chinese living in the section of town known as Chinatown.

During this time in Ione's history, the city included a brewery, four churches, public school, four general stores, meat market, laundry, art gallery, barber shop, drug store, millinery shop and six saloons. This same year, the railroad finally reached Ione.

Before Ione incorporated, Daniel Stewart built the Stewart Company Store in 1855. Amazingly, this store is still owned and operated by the Stewart family.

In December 1890, the cornerstone was laid for what was to be known as the Preston School of Industry. When the building was complete, it quickly became known as Preston Castle. The building really does look like a castle!

The school opened in June 1894. It is famous for being the best known and oldest reform school in the United States. It was closed by the state in 1960. The castle stayed closed and in great disrepair until September 2001 when the Preston Castle Foundation leased the property and began restoring as much and as often as funds allowed. These days the castle is open for public events like haunted tours and wine tasting events.

The Ione of the Gold Rush days has developed into quite an idealistic rural community in Amador County, which is only 47 miles southeast of Sacramento with a population of about 7918 according to the 2010 census. It is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains about 120 miles northeast of San Francisco and about 130 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean.

After a nice relaxing drive through the countryside, I arrived in Ione. It had been 41 years since I had been there. (More on that later.) I was surprised that very little had changed in that many years. There were a couple more housing developments and a few new businesses, but the atmosphere was still one of rural America.

I met Chief John Alfred in the PD lobby. I was immediately aware of how busy the department is; it would be a while before he was free enough to sit down and chat.

It seems before Chief Alfred came to work for Ione PD, he worked at the University of Pacific in Stockton and the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department. The old chief begged Alfred to come to Ione and work for him. The rest is history. Alfred started as chief in April 2022.



While Ione has opted for a modern LAPD-style oval, the shoulder patch is a more traditional style. It's a white-on-black CHP shape with a white border. The center design is a seven-point star with the city seal superimposed over the US flag in white and black. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*



The previous style badge worn by Ione police officers was a traditional gold-colored seven-point star with a large, colorful California state seal as the center design. The legends appear in blue, "POLICE/ IONE CALIF." The badge number is seen on a small bottom banner. *Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

The police department started in 1953. The area covered by the department is 4.6 square miles. It serves close to 8200 citizens, not including the prisoners at the nearby Mule Creek State Prison. Ione works closely with prison officers performing training exercises.

As of this writing, there are 4000 inmates incarcerated at Mule Creek. One of the most notable inmates is the murderer, Scott Peterson.

I asked Chief Alfred if he was aware of Ione ever having a marshal or constable? All he could offer was that he had heard there was a constable back around the turn of the century.

Chief Alfred mentioned the Preston Castle Preservation and the Ione Business and Community Association helping with the preservation of most historical aspects of the city. The chief said the city is looking into building a museum in the train depot which will hold most of the relative artifacts for the department and the city.

The subject of badges came up. I asked Chief Alfred how many badges his department has worn. There have been three, a seven-point star and two shields. The first shield was a two-tone.

Current department policy is that while a new officer is on probation, he is issued badge number "1" through "7." After probation, their real shield is issued with their own number.

Chief Alfred told me the department has had eight shoulder patches and invited me to take a picture of the display case in his lobby with those patches on display.

There are currently ten sworn officers. There are six officers, two corporals, a sergeant and the chief. The department currently has two reserve officers. There is only one paid support staff member. Ione is blessed to have 20 volunteers who work as administrative and clerical workers and the front desk.

An outreach program with the schools is called "Cops for Kids" and is intended to be turned into an Explorer Scouts program. There is no school resource officer. He said day shift officers handle anything related to the schools. The city has an elementary school, junior high, charter school and Head Start school. The kids that are high school age have to go to school in the city of Jackson about 11 miles away.

The city has a contract with the Amador County sheriff for dispatch services. When I asked Chief Alfred how many calls for service they handle annually, he said last year they had 1346 calls for service and 6206 incidents.

When I asked Chief Alfred what vehicles his department uses, he said they have six Ford Explorers with the police package, a Ford with a Taurus-style body, a BMW motorcycle and a Chevrolet Tahoe the chief is using. The department has a Pontiac Grand Am and a pickup truck for miscellaneous chores.

I asked Chief Alfred if his department has or has ever had a canine. He said they used to, but not currently. If they really need a dog, the Amador County Sheriff's Department is more than willing to help out.

Ione does not have a holding cell. They take arrestees to the Amador County Jail in Jackson about 12 miles away. The city is in the planning stages for a new police station that will have a holding cell or two, along with a sufficient area for booking arrestees.

Chief Alfred said if his department needs back up, the California Highway Patrol and the Amador County Sheriff's Department are always available, along with the Jackson Police Department if needed.

Ione officers handle animal control calls for service. The nearest shelter is in the town of Sutter Creek about 11 miles away.

Asked about significant cases, the chief could recall only one, the recent arrest of a local citizen for child pornography. He expressed frustration that after a three-month investigation, the suspect was almost immediately released back into the rural family-oriented community.

I was interested to find out if Ione has any special events worth mentioning. Chief Alfred immediately started telling me about the Ione Homecoming, which is an annual celebration of the first centennial celebration in 1876. The celebration is usually held in the first week of



In the lobby of the Ione Police Department hangs a large frame that shows all eight shoulder patches and cloth badges worn by the Central California agency. The current emblem is shown in the lower left next to a full color version. *Mike DeVilbiss visited the agency. Mike DeVilbiss photograph*

May and includes a parade down Main Street, live music, fireworks, carnival, kids' events and, of course, food and merchandise vendors. The department handles security.

Ione also has a large Christmas parade the city is proud to put on, along with numerous biking events and a substantial farmers market they are proud of. Other local attractions are Harrah's Casino and award-winning fishing in rivers and lakes a short drive away.

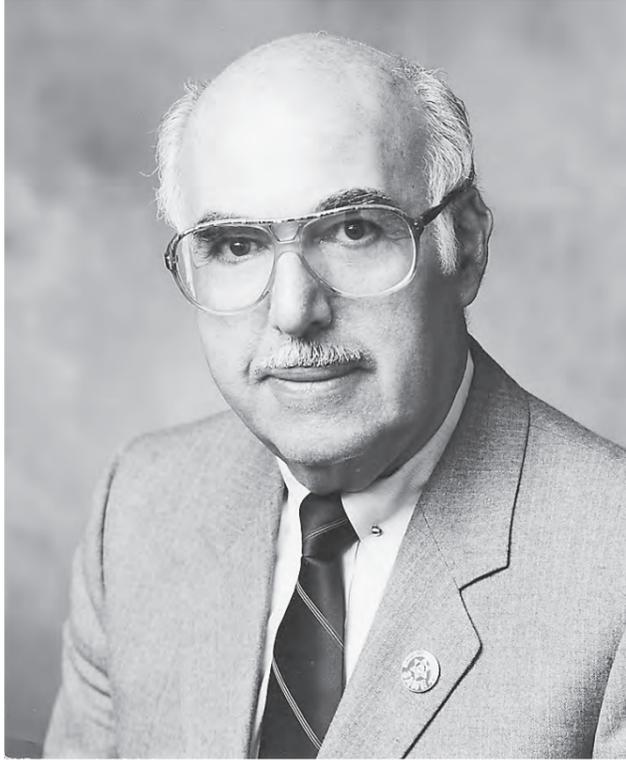
I asked Chief Alfred what he felt was the best thing about working in Ione. He said it was the city's people and the professionalism of all those he works with.

Of course, I told the chief I wasn't trying to put him on the spot, but maybe he could share with me where the best place in town was to eat. After saying there are a few nice places, he mentioned Bert's Family Restaurant as having good food. I had already eaten lunch at Don Luis Mexican Restaurant and can say it was top-notch.

So, if you find yourself meandering through the California Gold Rush area of Central California, make sure you make time to swing by Ione and take in the small-town flavor, friendly people and feel the atmosphere of a Gold Rush town previously called Bed Bug!

Who knows? Maybe by then the museum at the train depot will be open!

Submitted by Mike DeVilbiss



Sherman Block served as the Los Angeles County sheriff from 1982 until his death during his re-election campaign only days before the 1998 election. Block respected LASD history and helped establish the current museum. Many artifacts disappeared after his death. *LASD official photograph*

LASD Collector Consensus: Sheriff Block Not A Collector

A casual dinner conversation in Virginia generated a mystery that ended across the country in California with a look back at Los Angeles County law enforcement history.

Longtime California collector Gary Teragawa, Fairfax show co-hosts Kent Jefferies and Bill Steinkuller and *California Police Historian* editor Mike R. Bondarenko met for dinner the night before the Fairfax show in November. Jefferies had chosen a nice place.

Teragawa happened to mention during dinner there is speculation that longtime Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block, who served from 1982 until his untimely death in 1998, might have been a badge collector; at least that's what he's heard from several sources.

"What I was told was that when he was number two man in the department, he went to the place where they destroyed confiscated guns and badges not in service anymore," Teragawa said. "These badges could be damaged, worn out or whatever."

The unwanted weapons and badges were transported in a barrel. They were lifted toward a smelter by a magnet. The heavier guns stayed attached to the magnet, but the badges fell off and onto the floor.

"What I've been told is that Block picked up the badges and kept them. Was he a badge collector? I don't know, but if this story is true, why would he pick up the badges and leave with them?" Teragawa said.

Other Southern California collectors have related similar accounts over the years. Is it true? Was Sheriff Block a collector? Or, is it not true, and the sheriff wasn't a collector. *California Police Historian* launched an inquiry.

We contacted leading Los Angeles area collectors who worked for the department



Ed Godfrey and Andy Thompson were both able to obtain one of the LASD badges that Sheriff Sherman Block saved from destruction. He had them encased in a Lucite presentation case and gave them to politicians, celebrities, prominent citizens and even President George Bush. *Ed Godfrey photograph*

during Sheriff Block's tenure (1982-1998), Ed Godfrey and Andy Thompson. Both specialize in LASD and its history. They had heard versions of the story that Teragawa related. It was their consensus the story may or may not be true, but Sheriff Block was definitely not a collector.

"Absolutely not. He was not a collector per se, but he did have some nice badge displays in his office. Every sheriff that comes in decorates his office. Most of them put up displays from the department, badges, old pictures and that sort of thing," Thompson said.

Godfrey said he never heard anyone on the department say Sheriff Block collected badges. However, like other sheriffs, he handed out badges encased in Lucite to politicians, Hollywood stars and other celebrities and supporters. "Those badges had to come from somewhere. He used a lot of 'A' and 'S' badges that had been turned in. He had the pins removed, then they were put inside the plastic," he said. There is a small presentation plaque on the back.

"A" badges were so-called "juice" badges handed out to supporters, politicians and VIPs by many years. They carried no law enforcement authority and were recalled due to widespread abuse by holders.

"S" badges were carried by special deputies, forerunners of the reserve deputy program. Even though they had law enforcement authority, mostly during emergency call outs, they were not compensated for their service.

Thompson related that noted California badge collector the late Rich Salchunas, co-founder of the National Police Collectors Show in Los Angeles in 1985 and a LASD veteran, told him the badge rescue story many years ago.

"Salchunas was a lieutenant in personnel at the time. He was with Block when he was undersheriff. They accompanied the guns and other things to be destroyed. When Block saw there were badges in some of the boxes, he had them pulled out and kept them. These were the badges he gave out when he was sheriff, only he had them put inside Lucite. He also had some put in a display in his office," Thompson said.

This would have occurred before 1982 when Block became sheriff.

"Block certainly valued the history of the department and was instrumental in the founding of the first actual sheriff's museum at the then-new Sheriffs Academy at the S.T.A.R.S. Center in Whittier. He respected historical documents and items and encouraged their display at the Hall of Justice, as well as at local sheriff's stations and facilities," Thompson said.

"On the second floor of the Hall of Justice where Sheriff Block and his command staff had their offices, he had framed displays of old badges, old photographs, documents such as maps, wanted posters and so on, and other historical items, handcuffs, equipment and so on. I had the privilege of seeing them on one occasion, and they embodied the reverence and respect Block had for the history of his department."

Sadly, Block died only days before 1998 election in which he sought a fifth four-year term. He was 74. His successor was Lee Baca, now a convicted felon serving time in a federal prison for obstructing an investigation into his department.

The Hall of Justice was damaged in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake in Los Angeles and closed after 69 years. It wasn't until 2004 that restoration effort began. It has since reopened.

"Andy and I were department historians back then and got into the building after it was closed. We wanted to see what history could be salvaged because the renovation had started. We thought they'd come in and just throw everything away. We were told we could look around but not take anything. Yeah, right... We took as much as we could carry because we figured it would get thrown out," Godfrey recalled. It turned out they were right.

"We went into Sheriff Baca's office. There were things missing that we remembered seeing. A big frame with numerous old badges was gone. There was a display with chief's badges from every contract city. It was missing. No one knows what happened to either of them."

Later, Godfrey assisted Baca with an inventory of his belongings before his incarceration. "He said his belongings had apparently been ransacked from his office or the container where they were placed after his indictment. He was upset that many of his mementos were missing," he said.

According to Thompson, many second floor displays disappeared during the transition between Sheriff Block and then- newly-elected Sheriff Baca. "Many were literally thrown into large trash bins, others likely taken as souvenirs by current staff. It was a devastating historical loss," he said.

He obtained the framed photo of the long-missing badge display when a captain at a sheriff's patrol station, during the early Baca era, wanted to redecorate his office and told his administrative staff to "get rid of this old shit." It ended up in the Dumpster in the station parking lot.

"I heard about this the next morning and fished out the photo. Many other photos and frames had been broken, torn or ruined when they were unceremoniously dumped in the garage," Thompson said.

The photograph the collector rescued depicts an actual display of real badges and a



This incredible collection of early Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department badges has been missing since the Hall of Justice was closed after a 1994 earthquake. Andy Thompson, a former deputy, was able to resurrect an official photograph but not the missing collection. *Andy Thompson photograph*

large metal plaque usually affixed to a podium, wall or some other prominent area in a sheriff's facility.

"These badges were put together randomly in no historical order, per se, just old badges spanning from the late 1890s to about 1948. They were put together in an aesthetically pleasing pattern. This display contained a pre-1900 L.A. County constable badge on top over three includes in size, one of the largest I've seen," Thompson said.

"There is a pre-1900 'generic' deputy sheriff badge to its right and continuing around the circle clockwise, six 'A' badges and constable badge '1' with the dual title 'deputy sheriff' on the bottom ribbon. Then, three older issued deputy sheriff badges, a deputy sheriff dress badge and finally an old style detective sergeant badge."

So, the consensus is that Sheriff Block was not a collector but had a keen interest in preserving the department's history. The badge rescue story is essentially true, but the sheriff was not a collector.

And, it appears that people not interested in preserving LASD history, whether they were law enforcement officers or civilians, either stole or destroyed numerous historic treasures now lost to future generations.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko with thanks to Gary Teragawa, Ed Godfrey and Andy Thompson



The Robinson Rancheria Police emblem is blue with white legends. It features a black, light blue, silver and orange center design surrounded by a blue and black border. It depicts an orange and black band superimposed over crossed arrows and represents law enforcement. *Official Tribal photograph*

First Robinson Rancheria Police Officer Commissioned

The Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians in Lake County recently reached a historic milestone. Kyle Wheeler became the first fully commissioned officer on the tiny tribal police department.

Family members, tribal members and local officials gathered at the tribal offices in Nice as Wheeler's wife pinned a new tribal badge to his chest. She called him a "wonderful man in blue." Wheeler was presented with his California peace officer certificate.

Although it was established in 1999, ten years after the tribe opened its profitable hotel and casino, it was not until early 2022 when 20-year law enforcement veteran Derrell Hochstein became police chief that the agency began working toward an independent police department.

Until Officer Wheeler, all Robinson Rancheria police officers since 2009 have received special law enforcement commissions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs authorizing them to enforce federal and California penal code laws on the reservation. Only under certain limited circumstances did their jurisdiction extend beyond reservation boundaries. Officer Wheeler now also has off-reservation jurisdiction without BIA-imposed restrictions.

Chief Hochstein called it a "historic evening" that will help elevate his department's status as a law enforcement agency.

Sheriff Rob Howe praised the tribe's ongoing effort to make its police department more professional and receptive to the community. He praised Officer Wheeler for his hard work and dedication for not only meeting but exceeding expectations during his six months at the California POST-certified training academy.

Prior to 2009, tribal officers mostly worked security at the casino and were empowered



Mrs. Kyle Wheeler pins a new badge to their husband's chest during a recent ceremony at the Robinson Rancheria tribal offices in Nice in Lake County. Kyle Wheeler is the first fully commissioned officer in tribal history. The police department has two officers. *Contributed photograph*

to enforce tribal ordinances and regulations. However, serious crimes were handled by other agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Chief Hochstein and Officer Wheeler are the only two officers on the reservation. The tribe hopes to increase that number in the near future.

According to the BIA, 104 federally-recognized tribes are located entirely in California, while five others have a presence in the state. Most operate under federal jurisdiction only.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko



Cunningham and Co. is a great new book by historian and former law enforcement officer John Basalto on the career of legendary San Joaquin County Sheriff Thomas Cunningham and his deputies from 1872 to 1899. It's a must read for CLEHS members and friends. *Contributed photograph*

It Doesn't Get Any Better Than "Cunningham & Co."

Early California law enforcement history just doesn't get any better than in *Cunningham and Co.*, the spellbinding new book by John Basalto, a fast-paced collection of stories about the exploits of legendary lawman San Joaquin County Sheriff Thomas Cunningham and his deputies from 1872 to 1899.

During his 29-year career in San Joaquin County, Sheriff Cunningham did it all, corral desperadoes, chase fugitives as far away as Los Angeles, San Diego and beyond, run his jail, serve legal papers and protect the court, all with honor and distinction.

Cunningham and Co. gives collectors a fascinating, up close look at how the Golden State's pioneer lawmen did their jobs with only horses, six-guns, rifles and plenty of courage, determination and old-fashioned grit.

Basalto offers evidence beyond any doubt that Sheriff Cunningham was among the finest early California lawmen. The book shows he got much needed help from his dedicated team of deputies.

"Cunningham was truly ahead of his time. He approached the job with a different attitude. He used his skills and intelligence to out think criminals. Even though he arrested many desperate outlaws, he was never hurt or killed anyone. He had a style all his own," Basalto said during an interview with *California Police Historian*.

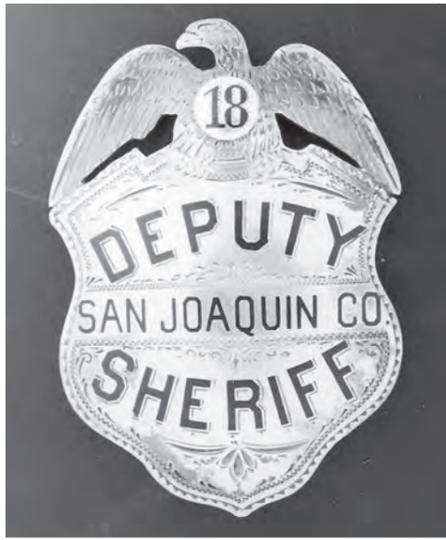
Each chapter chronicles an event in his career or an aspect of what it was like to be a West Coast sheriff and deputy sheriff in the early days of law enforcement. A veteran San Joaquin County law enforcement officer himself, Basalto scoured newspaper and agency archives and collected stories about Sheriff Cunningham's historic career. It took him 30 years to compile and write the book.

"Sergeant Basalto has captured the significant visions and accomplishments of Sheriff Cunningham. Sheriff Cunningham advanced our office with new ideas and procedures. The support from staff for Sheriff Cunningham is well illustrated throughout this book," said Sheriff-Public Administrator Patrick Withrow, who pointed out that Basalto has been a member of the Sheriff's Historical Committee since 1990.

A favorite story from *Cunningham and Co.* describes Sheriff Cunningham's role in a high profile case in August 1889. A shooting in the Lathrop train station captured national



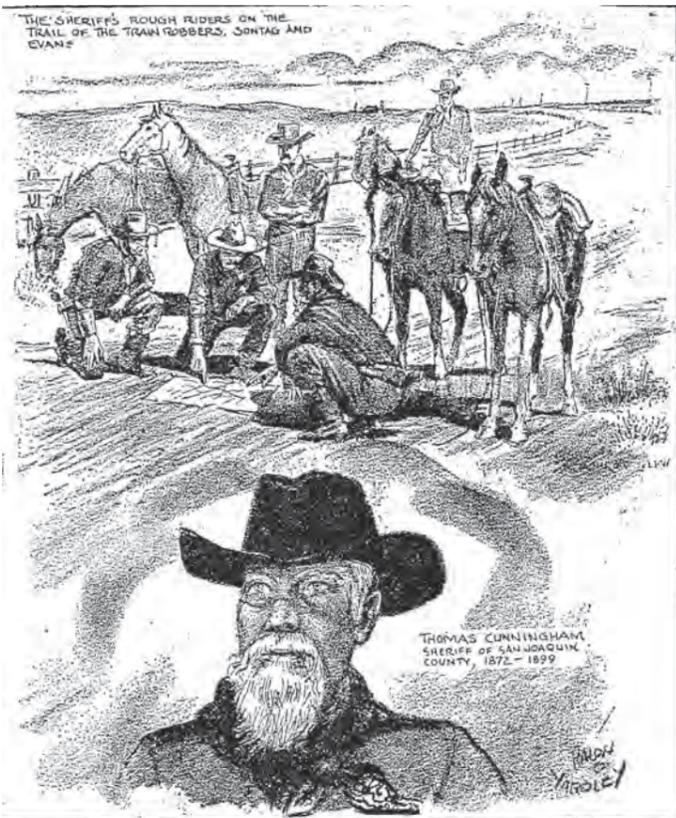
Thomas Cunningham was an Irish immigrant to Northern California and served as the sheriff of San Joaquin County for 29 years. He is long remembered for his courage, honesty and progressive approach to law enforcement. Cunningham died in California in 1900. *Contributed photograph*



A San Joaquin County deputy sheriff's badge that would have been worn in the late 1800s when Thomas Cunningham was sheriff. Reportedly, the sheriff's personal badge is still in the possession of his family and is in a safe deposit box in San Jose. Only his family has seen it. *Contributed photograph*

attention because it involved a United States Supreme Court justice, a former chief justice of the California Supreme Court, a deputy United States marshal and the former mistress of a United States senator and Nevada silver tycoon!

United States Senator William Sharon had filed for divorce from his wife, Sarah Althea Sharon, whom he had secretly married following a lengthy affair after his first wife died. The senator rented a San Francisco apartment and gave her \$500 a month in exchange for her affection before their marriage. He was 60. She was 27.



A beautiful pen and ink drawing of Sheriff Thomas Cunningham and his deputies in pursuit of train robbers in San Joaquin County by artist Ralph Yardley. Sheriff Cunningham held the office for 29 years during one of the most violent and trying times in county history, 1872 to 1899. *Contributed photograph*

Senator Sharon, who was elected to a six-year term in 1875, was rarely in Nevada among his constituents. Even more rarely did he travel to Washington, D.C. for Senate business. In fact, he was absent for 92 percent of all floor votes during his term. Having made a fortune in his Nevada silver mine, he owned a downtown San Francisco hotel and lived there with his new wife, all the while having affairs with several mistresses.

Sarah Althea soon learned of her husband's infidelity. She hired David Terry, a brilliant San Francisco attorney who had been a California Supreme Court chief justice, to file for divorce from Senator Sharon. The case was hotly contested and dragged on through the courts with appeal after appeal for so long that the senator died in 1875 before a final



San Joaquin County Sheriff Thomas Cunningham (center) and his deputies in 1898. This picture was said to be his favorite. Sheriff Cunningham retired as sheriff on January 3, 1899 and was succeeded by Walter Sibley. He died about a year later of an apparent heart attack. *Contributed photograph*



Sheriff Thomas Cunningham (seated, left foreground) and four deputies in his busy office in Stockton. He had a 29-year career in San Joaquin County law enforcement after owning a saddle and harness making business and serving as a volunteer firefighter in Stockton. *Contributed photograph*

judgment was rendered. The divorce provided ample fodder for the scandal-loving local newspapers.

Terry and Sarah Althea had fallen in love and were married shortly after the senator's death. Nevertheless, he continued to represent her in the yet unsettled divorce proceeding.

United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Field, who was in California assisting with the Circuit Court calendar, read the final order of a three-judge panel in the divorce case in 1888. Sarah Althea Terry became angry when the judges disallowed a reported marriage contract between her and the late senator. They ruled it was invalid. The contract would have made her his sole heir. She stood to inherit his fortune.

Sarah Althea stood up in the courtroom and began berating the judges for their decision. After she refused to sit down and be quiet so the judge could finish reading the order, Judge Fields ordered her removed from the courtroom. When a deputy U.S. marshal approached her, Terry, her attorney and husband, slapped the marshal across the face. He warned him not to touch his wife and was admonished by the judges.

However, the deputy marshal and an other officer successfully dragged Mrs. Terry out of the courtroom and into the U.S. Marshal's Office nearby. Attorney Terry ran from the courtroom and attempted to free her. He pulled a knife and threatened to kill the deputy marshal guarding the door. He was subdued. Both Mr. and Mrs. Terry were taken to the Alameda County Jail and held for contempt of court.

Eleven months later, Judge Fields and his bodyguard, Deputy U.S. Marshal David Neagle, were onboard a train from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Ironically, Terry, who was still practicing law in San Francisco, and his wife had boarded the same train during a stop in Fresno, also enroute to San Francisco. Neither was aware of the others' presence on the train.

When the train stopped at a Lathrop hotel in San Joaquin so passengers could have lunch, former judge Terry saw Judge Field in the dining room and confronted him, still angry about the ruling. He walked up to the judge seated at a table and slapped him across the face. Deputy Marshal Neagle warned him not to strike the judge again. When Judge Terry raised his arm to deliver a second blow, Deputy Marshal Neagle shot him through the heart. He died instantly from the gunshot wound.

Even though the shooting involved a federal officer protecting a United States Supreme Court, Sheriff Cunningham and his deputies conducted an investigation. The sheriff arrested the deputy marshal for murder because Judge Field was unarmed, sitting down and not aggressive toward Terry. The arrest and charge generated a high-profile legal battle between San Joaquin County and the United States Marshals Service. Sheriff Cunningham was caught up in complex legal argument that once again generated national publicity for him and his department. The federal government claimed the officer was doing his duty; the state alleged the marshal overreacted to a slap across the face and murdered the attorney and former judge who posed no threat to him.

What happened to Deputy Marshal Neagle after he was charged with killing Terry? Read Chapter 9 in *Cunningham and Co.* and find out!

Basalto became interested in department history early in his 31-year career. He wondered what it was like to do the job in the early days of law enforcement without modern equipment or conveniences.

"I had known about Sheriff Cunningham, but I really got interested in him after meeting Tod Ruse. He is our historian and gave me some insight on how to research him and his career. It took 30 years, but I finally did the book," Basalto said.

Authenticity and realism are cornerstones of *Cunningham and Co.* Nothing has been dramatized, sensationalized or fictionalized. Basalto tells the stories of Sheriff Cunningham and his deputies as they were, not as he or anyone wished they were. Too many authors



San Joaquin County Sheriff Thomas Cunningham maintained a museum of confiscated weapons and other artifacts related to law enforcement in the county in a large room outside his office. He called it his museum. It is pictured in the new book, *Cunningham and Co.* *Contributed photograph*

stray from the facts to make their works more “readable.” Basalto doesn’t, and produces a great read for everyone interested in early California law enforcement history.

It is believed Sheriff Cunningham’s badge is still in possession of the family. A niece told Ruse the badge is in a safe deposit box in San Jose. However, no one outside the family has ever seen it. “I’m not a collector. I’m a historian. But, it would be fun to see the badge,” Basalto said.

The author takes great satisfaction in preserving the early history of San Joaquin County law enforcement history through his focus on Sheriff Cunningham. “It was an awful lot of work, but if I wouldn’t have done it, it probably would have been lost,” he said.

Cunningham and Co. is available from Amazon or Barnes and Noble for \$29.99. It is also available from department historian R. Tod Ruse by emailing him at truse@sjgov.org or telephoning him on (209) 468-4359. There is a display advertisement with ordering information elsewhere in this edition.

A portion of the proceeds from each book sold benefits the Sheriff’s Historical Committee and its ongoing effort to preserve San Joaquin County law enforcement history.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko and R. Tod Ruse



San Quentin 1935

San Quentin Prison as it appeared in 1935, the year that four convicts escaped in the warden’s car with six hostages, two of them prison guards and four civilian members of the California State Prison Board. It took only about two hours to recapture them following a shootout. *Donald Mitchell Collection*

The Big Break At San Quentin

It was January 16, 1935. The California State Prison Board was holding a meeting inside San Quentin Prison when what is known as the Big Break made California law enforcement history.

A group of convicts suddenly stormed into the room where the board was meeting, took four members and two guards hostage and escaped in the prison warden’s automobile.

The prison guards were used as human shields against bullets fired by pursuing guards. They were held on the running boards of the auto to protect those inside from the rounds as the car sped through the main gate.

Warden James Holohan, a veteran peace officer and former United States Marshal in San Francisco, was in serious condition after being severely beaten during the escape. Four convicts entered his home on the grounds. They were armed with two machine guns and beat him. The warden was found in a pool of blood near his residence.

Then convicts barged into a nearby room where the board members were finishing their lunch. They were scheduled to resume their meeting after lunch; instead they were taken to the car at gunpoint and driven outside the prison walls as hostages.

Prison officers near the meeting room, Lieutenant Harry Jones and Guard Frank Duzey, were overpowered and then used as human shields.

The hostages were Frank C. Styles, San Francisco, board president; Joseph Stevens, Sacramento; Warren Atherton, Stockton and Mark Noon, secretary, all prominent California politicians.

The escape triggered an immediate massive manhunt. Law enforcement agencies had been notified by teletype and radio to be on the lookout for the automobile. Since it belonged to the warden, they had a complete description. Responding agencies were told it contained convicts who had escaped San Quentin and had hostages with them in the vehicle. They were armed with at least two machine guns.

Freedom was short-lived for the convicts. They had turned north from the prison gate. After about an hour, they pulled off the road at Black Point near Ignacio where they released three of the four hostages after taking their civilian clothes. Later, they forced the remaining hostage, Noon, out of the car as it was being pursued.

Police in a hastily organized posse saw the automobile in Hicks Valley west of Petaluma. Three patrol cars and a motorcycle began pursuit. Officers fired at the fleeing automobile as they approached. One police car began to overtake the suspects and officers fired into it, deflating the tires.

The convicts suddenly stopped the warden’s car in front of the nearby Valley Ford Creamery and ran inside. They began firing their machine guns out the windows at officers outside. A brief but ferocious gun battle ensued.

After a few minutes, the machine gun fire stopped and the convicts surrendered.



A newspaper photograph shows the three living convicts who escaped from San Quentin Prison, (left to right) Fred Landers, John Christie and Alex McKay, after they were captured and returned to the institution. The fourth escapee died after being shot by law enforcement. *Donald Mitchell Collection*



A beautiful vintage gold-colored officer’s seven-point star from San Quentin Prison. It features a small state seal as the center design. California collector Donald Mitchell worked at the prison from 1974 to 1988. The prison has housed some of the state’s most infamous inmates. *Donald Mitchell Collection*

Fred Landers, 24, serving time for robbery and assault in San Francisco, John Christie, Los Angeles, serving 15 years for kidnapping, and Alex McKay, serving 13 years for a Los Angeles robbery, were taken into custody and returned to San Quentin.

Rudolph Baker Straight, 34, Alameda County robber, had been wounded inside the creamery. He died after being taken back to the prison in an ambulance. Straight had been shot by Marin County District Attorney Albert Bagshaw, who had joined the posse and helped surround the building.

While the Big Break had come to an end, a new infamous chapter in the history of San Quentin Prison had been written.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko and Donald Mitchell II

San Diego Police Historical Association

The San Diego Police Museum had a busy 2023, according to a year end summary by Vice President Steve Willard.

Accomplishments included memorializing more than three dozen former officers who died in the past year, remodeling the museum and back kitchen area, mechanically upgrading its vintage patrol car fleet, and adding a five and one-half foot long model helicopter to its Air Support exhibit.

“With all new cabinetry, we were able to create a number of exciting exhibits to showcase our incredible history,” Willard said.

The back kitchen was transformed into a break room. It’s kept open 24/7 for San Diego patrol officers who take a break, use the restrooms or write reports. A refrigerator is stocked with water, soda and energy drinks.

“We also made significant mechanical upgrades to the flagship of our historical fleet of vintage police cars,” Willard said. Their 1932 Ford patrol wagon was outfitted with new tires, belts and hoses. “It runs as good as new, at least for a 91-year-old car,” he added.

The model helicopter is outfitted in current livery. “Yes, the helicopter is actually designed to fly!” he said.

Willard asked collectors to consider a donation to the museum, either by mailing a check to SDPHA, 1401 Broadway, MS 734, San Diego CA 92101 or by going to the website sdpolicemuseum.com. The police historical association is a non-profit organization.

The website offers more than 4000 pages of San Diego police history and photographs, including a virtual tour of the museum.

Submitted of Steve Willard



The San Diego Police Museum is located at 4710 College Avenue. The vast collection documents the history of a law enforcement agency which refers to itself as “America’s Finest.” The museum is operated by the police historical association, a non-profit organization. *Contributed photograph*

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In 1944, Wyoming Highway Patrol patrolmen and their cars were lined up along a downtown Casper street for an event. It's hard to see in the picture, but the cars are white with a black roof and markings that extend across the hood. This picture is part of the WHP historic display. *Contributed photograph*

California Police Historian Ends



The Wyoming Highway Patrol is one of the smallest state police/highway patrol agencies with a little more than 200 troopers. A recent graduating class photograph shows the current trooper uniform. They wear green hats and jackets with gold-colored seven point stars. *Contributed photograph*

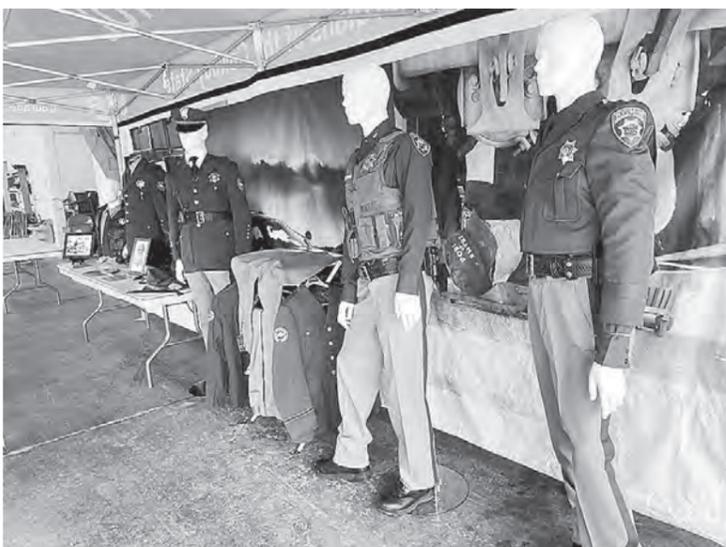
Wyoming HP Celebrates Gala 90th Anniversary

It was 1933 that the Wyoming State Legislature decided the state needed a statewide traffic law enforcement agency. It created the state highway patrol and hired a captain and six patrolmen to begin patrolling state highways. The WHP turned 90 in 2023 and celebrated throughout the year.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – It was the impending end of Prohibition in 1933 that left Wyoming without a statewide law enforcement agency.

When Prohibition was about to be repealed, the state dissolved the Department of Law Enforcement, which had originally been created in March 1921 to enforce Prohibition laws.



Retired troopers and volunteers acted as docents for the Wyoming Highway Patrol heritage exhibit as it moved around the state during several day-long celebrations sponsored by the agency to commemorate the anniversary. These mannequins show various trooper uniforms. *Contributed photograph*

Later, its authority was expanded to all criminal laws.

The Department of Law Enforcement had been disliked by county sheriffs and police chiefs. It was created by the State Legislature because many sheriffs and some police chiefs either refused or were ill equipped to enforce liquor control laws, which were very unpopular in the West. Many local law enforcement officials also opposed the later expansion of its criminal authority.

Wyoming elected a new governor, Leslie Miller, in 1932. When he took office in January 1933, he proposed abolition of the Department of Law Enforcement. He wanted to create a new agency, the Department of Labor and Public Relations. It would take on all statewide law enforcement duties, including gasoline tax and motor vehicle inspections, as well as enforcement of labor laws. Apparently, the governor believed law enforcement's function was public relations.

The State Legislature agreed to abolish the Department of Law Enforcement but not to create the new statewide law enforcement agency as proposed by Governor Miller. In effect, lawmakers left Wyoming without a statewide law enforcement agency.

Like many other states, Wyoming was experiencing a marked increase in traffic crashes, deaths and injuries. There was virtually no traffic enforcement by sheriffs and police departments. When legislators proposed creation of a statewide traffic agency, most sheriffs and chiefs gave the concept begrudging approval or at least acceptance.

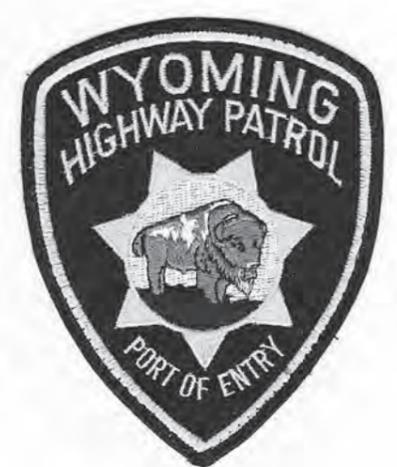
The State Legislature created the Wyoming Highway Patrol on March 31, 1933 and placed it under the jurisdiction of the state highway commission. Its mission would be very similar to the California Highway Patrol, which had been established in 1929. However, with several added responsibilities. The agency would have a captain (paid \$200 a month) and six traffic officers (paid \$175 a month). Members would be deputized by the Livestock and Sanitary Board, Public Service Commission and the State Treasurer, as well as the Highway Department, so they could be empowered to perform other duties.

On May 23, 1933, George "Red" Smith was named captain and authorized to hire six officers. There were 1000 applicants. Good paying state jobs were hard had to come by during the Depression.

Captain Smith was also authorized to give each officers ten days of training prior to their deployments. The training was conducted by Inspector William H. White of the California Highway Patrol. The CHP had a strong influence on the agency, including uniforms, badges (seven point stars), patches (a winged wheel) and black and white vehicles.

In an attempt to head off opposition to the new Highway Patrol from police chiefs, sheriffs and other local officials, the Highway Commission issued a statement, "It is not intended that the work of the highway patrolmen will in any way interfere with or remove the duties or responsibilities of the other peace officers in the state, counties or cities but rather to cooperate in every way with all other officers."

The official uniform was a green military coat, oak brown breeches and brown riding boots. Patrolmen began their duties on June 7 even though their uniforms did not arrive



(Upper left) An original first issue Wyoming Highway Patrol patch. (Upper right) The short-lived Cowboy Courtesy Patrol emblem. (Lower left) The WHP has worn this patch style since 1976. (Lower right) Port of Entry officers wear this patch while enforcing commercial vehicle laws. *Contributed photographs*



The 2023 Wyoming Highway Patrol 90th anniversary badge features a buffalo in the center design. It is gold-colored with black legends. It's the same style and shape as the current standard issue. Current badges are gold-colored and numbered with blue enamel. *Wyoming Highway Patrol photograph*

Wyoming Highway Patrol ...Continued

until June 26.

Captain Smith made the first arrest by a state patrolman on June 10. An 18-year-old tried to outrun him after he attempted to stop his car for having no taillights. He was able to stop the violator's vehicle near Cheyenne and apprehend him.

The new patrolmen generally covered four counties and worked an average of ten hours a day seven days a week. Their initial emphasis was on unregistered cars and trucks operating without required permits. Later, Captain Smith began emphasizing drunk driving enforcement and then speed enforcement.

The first Highway Patrol office was a small room in the State Capitol basement near the Highway Department office.

Cowboy Courtesy Patrol In 1940, the Highway Commission chairman handed down an order changing the name of the Highway Patrol to the Cowboy Courtesy Patrol. However, the name change never officially took place.

Chairman George Schoonmaker wanted to go farther than the name change. He proposed that patrolmen take on a cowboy appearance by wearing cowboy hats, cowboy boots, leather jackets, "Western style" trousers, a five point star badge and a low-slung holster instead of their traditional CHP-style uniform.

The chairman's proposal was not accepted. However, the officers did begin wearing a blue shoulder patch reading, "Cowboy Courtesy Patrol," in gold letters. It has a bucking bronco on it. The patch was only worn for about nine months in 1941 before it was discontinued.

Cowboy hats were worn with the Courtesy Patrol insignia, but were discontinued when the emblem was no longer worn.

Badge and patch history The Highway Patrol insignia history isn't long because the agency has made only a few insignia changes over the years.

WHP badges have always been seven point stars like the CHP. In fact, the badges have been made mostly in California. Among the manufacturers which have had the contract are Irvine and Jachens, Entennman-Rovin and V and V Manufacturing.

A large state seal is shown as the center seal. The seals were plain on early badges. Over the years, background colors of white or light blue have been added. Now, the seal is surrounded by a blue ring upon which appears, "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF WYOMING."

The legends read "WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL/ (NUMBER)" in blue legends for many years, but on recent issues, the legend was changed to "HIGHWAY PATROL/ WYOMING," also in blue legends.

Ranks appear on a bottom panel.

There have been three standard issue patches.

The first patch debuted in 1933 and was worn until 1976. It was round with a white



A large exhibit of Wyoming Highway Patrol artifacts and memorabilia traveled around the state to help celebrate the 90th anniversary of the agency in 2023. A uniform worn by Lieutenant Howard Heiduck, who served from 1951 to 1987, is displayed in the center by his picture. *Contributed photograph*

buffalo as the center design. The legends are "WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL." The first issue had orange letters and blue background behind the buffalo. Later versions had gold lettering and either black or blue backgrounds behind the buffalo.

The second issue was the short-lived Cowboy Courtesy Patrol emblem.

The third and current emblem is a green and gold CHP shape. A buffalo appears in brown and white on a light blue background centered on a seven point star. The legend, "WYOMING/ HIGHWAY PATROL," is shown in gold letters.

Wyoming troopers transitioned to green uniforms in the mid-2000s after wearing military-style khaki for many years.

Ports of Entry The Highway Patrol Commercial Carrier Section operates 14 ports of entry around the state where specially trained officers enforce motor carrier laws, inspect trucks and issue permits.

The ports of entry are located near the borders with surrounding states Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah, as well as at strategic locations inside the state.

The Commercial Carrier Section works closely with the Department of Transportation and motor carrier enforcement officers in the surrounding states.

Officers wear gray uniform shirts and blue pants with a gray stripe. Long sleeve shirts are worn with black ties. They wear ball caps and black coveralls when inspecting trucks.

The POE emblem is similar to the one worn by troopers, except it has a dark background and the legend "PORT OF ENTRY" appears across the bottom.

The POE badge is an oval. The state seal appears as the center design. The legends are, "WYOMING" and "HIGHWAY PATROL" above the seal and "PORTS OF ENTRY" beneath it, all on banners.

These officers are non-sworn WHP employees. However, they have authority to make arrests while on duty at their port of entry stations. They are unarmed.

Anniversary celebration The Highway Patrol held celebrations throughout the state to mark its 90th anniversary. Each gathering gave people an opportunity to meet troopers, learn about the WHP and its history, view current and historic vehicles and enjoy refreshments, family activities and have a fun day.

A large tent was set up at each celebration that was filled with WHP artifacts, memorabilia, uniforms, badges, emblems and historic photographs. Retired troopers and others volunteered as docents.

In addition, there were retired, fully restored Highway Patrol vehicles going back to the 1950s, both publicly and privately owned, as well as current vehicles. It was pointed out that the WHP transitioned from white cars with black roofs to all black cars with white doors. This style was used until the early 2000s when they went to all-black cars with gold markings.

Now, the WHP is going to all-green cars with minimal markings, only the shoulder patch as a door decal and "STATE TROOPER" in gold letters over the front fenders. According to the agency, the black with gold vehicles are being phased out.

Among the attendees at the gathering in Rock Springs was former Sweetwater County Sheriff Gary Bailiff. He spent 26 years with the the Highway Patrol before he left the agency to run for sheriff. The former trooper ran the sheriff's office from 1991 to 2002 when he retired.

"Times flies when you're having fun. I was 24 when I joined the Highway Patrol," Bailiff said.

Bailiff rose through the ranks to become the captain with jurisdiction over the southern half of the state.

He was working construction when a friend inspired him to apply for the WHP.

Two collectibles emerged from the anniversary celebration.

There is a handsome seven point star 90th anniversary commemorative badge. It was authorized for wear but troopers had to purchase it. Colonel Timothy Cameron modeled the star to the media and wore it throughout the year.

The seven point star is gold with extensive filigree. The legends are dark blue.

"90TH ANNIVERSARY" appears on a banner across the top two star points.

The center is a black and white buffalo surrounded by a black inner ring with white lettering, "WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL." It is encircled by a gold outer ring with "WYOMING HIGHWAY PATROL/ 2023" in blue legends.

"TROOPER" completes the design on a bottom panel.

No commemorative shoulder emblem was created, according to the agency.

There is a yearbook-style volume commemorating the 90th anniversary. It's a coffee table book created by Acclaim Press to honor WHP members past and present and document agency history. It contains hundreds of historic and current photographs. It was



(Top) The Wyoming Highway Patrol is transitioning to green vehicles with plain markings, only the shoulder emblem decal and "STATE TROOPER." (Bottom) A still current black and gold WHP patrol car. The agencies has SUVs in both liveries on patrol across the state. *Contributed photographs*

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (2392 USH 12, Baldwin WI 54002)



An elementary student at one of the United States Army garrison schools on Kwajalein is congratulated by a uniformed officer for outstanding achievement. He is wearing the current issue uniform, badge and shoulder emblem. The badge is a gold-colored eagle-topped shield. *Contributed photograph*



An honor guard of Republic of the Marshall Islands police officers in full dress uniform (South Pacific style) welcomes a dignitary at the Majuro airport. Rather than a red carpet, the honored guest walks on a series of grass mats in keeping with a long-honored welcoming tradition. *Contributed photograph*

Policing USA's South Pacific Testing Ground

Kwajalein Atoll has been the South Pacific testing ground for United States nuclear and missile defense systems since 1946. The ultramodern, high-tech military installation is policed by the Army Military Police, while the surrounding area falls under the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Police.

By Joshua Goldsmith, Guest Writer

KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands – Law enforcement on the Marshall Islands is confusing, especially for anyone interested in collecting insignia. It's changed a lot since I worked there a long time ago, so it took me awhile to figure it all out.

When Mike R. Bondarenko asked me to do this story, I had to do some research to keep up with the changes that have been made since the atoll became a republic with its own civilian government in 1979, although a civilian police force has existed since back in 1952.

When I was there, law enforcement was either all military or civilian contractors working for the military. Now, there are also civilian police with off base jurisdiction. (There were civilian police back then, but we never saw them, even off base. We only saw the MPs.)

I collect military insignia, but since I lived on "Kwaj," which is what we called it, I am interested in their police force, as well as the military police. It's hard to find out a lot about the civilian side without actually going there, which is not an easy task because the atoll is restricted to active duty and authorized personnel only.

Kwajalein Atoll and the Marshall Islands are among the most isolated places in the South Pacific, a long way from everywhere. Except for United States military, there isn't much contact with the rest of the world. Islanders live a very laid back lifestyle and keep to themselves, even though the USA has occupied the atoll since World War II. Now, we lease the base from the islands government.

My understanding of Kwajalein law enforcement required a look back at history, which I will make brief. I got plenty of orientation when I was over there but didn't take any notes.

Taking a look back The Republic of the Marshall Islands with its own government has only existed since 1979. It became a sovereign nation in 1986. It's basically a coalition of tribes that live on the islands and atolls that make up the Marshalls. The country has a constitution, elected president and two legislative bodies.

It's hard to believe the whole country has a land mass of only about 70 square miles. The population is only about 42,000, so its one of the smallest nations in the world, but it's had a big impact on United States history.



United States Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll military police vehicles are sport utility vehicles. The patrol vehicles are white with distinctive green and gold markings in keeping with the atoll's importance to the Marshallese people as the home of the revered plumeria flower. *Contributed photograph*

Japan took over the Marshall Islands in the 1800s and turned them into a military outpost after World War I, although it was not heavily fortified until well into World War II. During World War II, the United States began aerial bombardment of selected targets on Kwajalein in February 1942, mostly airfields and merchant shipping. However, the attacks were sporadic and had little strategic value.

Significant World War II battles between the United States and Japan took place on the Marshall Islands beginning with Marine amphibious landings on Majuro, Kwajalein and Eniwetok on January 31, 1944. These were among the bloodiest battles of the Pacific War. Of the 8782 Japanese troops on Kwajalein, 7870 were killed. Almost 400 Marines died in the fighting.

The Marines captured the islands on February 6 after a week of savage fighting. The Marshalls immediately became an American trust territory. The military transformed the atolls and islands into forward air bases, supply depots and staging areas for its westward drive across the South Pacific toward the Japanese mainland. It was key to winning the war.

After the war ended, the military occupation of Kwajalein and the Marshalls continued. The military chose the atolls as its primary testing site for nuclear weapons during the Cold War because they are so remote. Most tests took place on Bikini and Enewetak Atolls, but the base was on Kwajalein. There were 67 nuclear detonations from 1946 to 1958.

After 1958, as the United States transitioned toward development of intercontinental ballistic missiles to deliver nuclear warheads, the Kwajalein Missile Range was created as the primary missile test site.

Kwajalein today Today, "Kwaj" is officially the President Ronald Reagan National Defense Test Site at the United States Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll (USGKA). It has become a high-tech research and development facility for America's Earth and deep space defense systems. About 2800 military personnel, government civilians, technical support civilians and scientists live and work on the atoll.

The military installation is policed by Military Police and sworn civilian police officers hired by the United States Army. There are also non-sworn civilian guards who provide facility access control, Customs and TSA services, marine patrol and explosives and narcotics detection canines to support the military.

Most of what goes on at USAGKA is top secret, so security is always a top priority. A buddy of mine was a military cop on "Kwaj." We spent some time together but never talked much "business" because we couldn't and didn't want to. He did tell me they are often called to family disturbances and deal with a lot of drunks. Serious crime occurs but only occasionally.

Having lived there, I can tell you it's a lot like anywhere else in some respects but unlike anywhere else in others. It's a small military outpost about 2300 miles from Hawaii with no commercial airport. It's hot and humid all year. It rains an awful lot.

There aren't many entertainment options. It's great duty for someone who likes a tropical lifestyle of pure sandy beaches, diving and snorkeling, swimming and fishing. It's not so great for anything else. A white Christmas on "Kwaj" means white sand, not snow.

But, it has its advantages. There are a lot of opportunities working on the military's cutting edge defense and missile systems, and actually getting to test these systems with live fire exercises.

The Military Police wear dark blue (almost black) uniforms with the Army Military Police patch on the left sleeve. The United States flag is on the right shoulder. Badges are gold eagle-topped shields with the Army crest as the center design.

Even though the Kwajalein garrison police are almost all civilians, they have full law enforcement authority over all military and civilian personnel.

Their patrol vehicles are white SUVs with green and gold markings.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands has a national police force, known as the Kalgov



(Left) The current Marshall Islands Police patch shows the national seal as the center design. It represents an angel over the ocean. (Right) This colorful insignia is worn by members of the Majuro Atoll Local Government Police Department. It polices the national capital. *Contributed photograph*

Policing Marshall Islands ...Continued

Police. It operates outside military installations and deals mostly with islanders.

There are also small local government police departments in the cities of Majuro, the national capital, and on a few other islands and atolls. The National Police has jurisdiction everywhere. Some atolls have local police.

The National Police Department is largest civilian force in the country. It has about 200 sworn officers. Considering there are about 42,000 islanders, they are spread pretty thin.

Among their most prevalent duties are combating organized crime in human trafficking and protected flora, fauna and marine life smuggling. Both are lucrative but illegal enterprises. The police work closely with INTERPOL.

A police commissioner heads the agency, which is deployed across 34 coral atolls and more than 1000 islands. An assistant commissioner is primarily responsible for logistics and administration. The department is part of the Ministry of Justice, Immigration and Labor.

MIPD has numerous special units, although only a handful have their own patches: Criminal Investigation Division, Community Policing, Corrections and Rehabilitation, Finance and Human Resources, Fire and Rescue, Internal Affairs, INTERPOL, Recruitment and Development, Maritime Sea Patrol and Traffic Control.

Collecting is tough I have found collecting Kwajalein Atoll and Republic of the Marshall Islands police patches a tough assignment. I haven't gone after non-military metal badges, only patches, but badges are even tougher.

If you want to start collecting these departments, be aware there are a lot of reproductions and fakes.

Prices for real patches are high when and if they can be found.

My best source has been military collector shows. (I don't go to many police shows.) I've been able to make some pretty good trades. A lot of military guys don't collect police; I don't either, except for Kwajalein.

It wasn't my intention to discourage anyone from collecting the atoll. Just be aware it's not easy, unless, of course, you have deep pockets and can buy your way to a nice collection. Even then, good luck.

Lokwe aolep!

JOSHUA GOLDSMITH (Washington, D.C.)

The Patch Man

By Don Brockman, Staff Writer

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – I went into the hobby of collecting law enforcement paraphernalia in 1976. Gradually, I went worldwide and completed many displays from countries around the world.

This article on England law enforcement insignia appeared in *The Milwaukee Badge* in 1992. Since this was 25 years ago, I decided to rewrite the article for *Police Collectors News*. I've been writing articles for *PCNEWS* since 1983 but have gradually slacked off because it is difficult with my eyesight. I am now inactive in the hobby.

One country visited several times gaining correspondents and making personal visits was England. Having correspondents there, we found out about the Royal Family.

In 1995, my wife, Jaclyn, and I started sending birthday cards to Her Majesty Queen Mother Elizabeth on her birthday of August 4th every year. Responses from her through her ladies in waiting each year were very kind. Alas, she died in 2001 at the age of 101.

My goal of obtaining police badges from all 43 constabularies in England was difficult to achieve. In 1990, I found the Wiltshire Constabulary helmet plate was missing. I had all the other helmet plates and cap badges, along with many sets of collar dogs, so in 1991, I decided to make two displays.

The large England display measures 38 by 45 inches. The collection was put in alphabetical order. Three English flags were used to enhance the display. There was a vacant space in the lower right corner where I hoped to obtain the Wiltshire helmet plate in the future.

The smaller England display measures 28 by 35 inches. It starts with the English flag in the upper left corner. In the center are the City of London helmet plate and the helmet plate of the Markets Constabulary on white felt.

On the right are shown the cap badge and epaulets from Her Majesty's Prisons, along with a set of lapel badge numbers from one of my correspondents.

English coins of 50, ten, one and one-half pence fill the right side.

Just to the left of the coins are the Ministry of Defense helmet plate and the Isle of Man helmet plate and cap badge. The Isle of Man is in the British isles and has the status of Crown dependency.

It is interesting to see a three-legged man in the middle of the Isle of Man helmet plate with "QUOCUNQUE JECERIS STABIT" in a circle surrounding the legs. It means "Whichever Way You Throw It, It Will Stand."

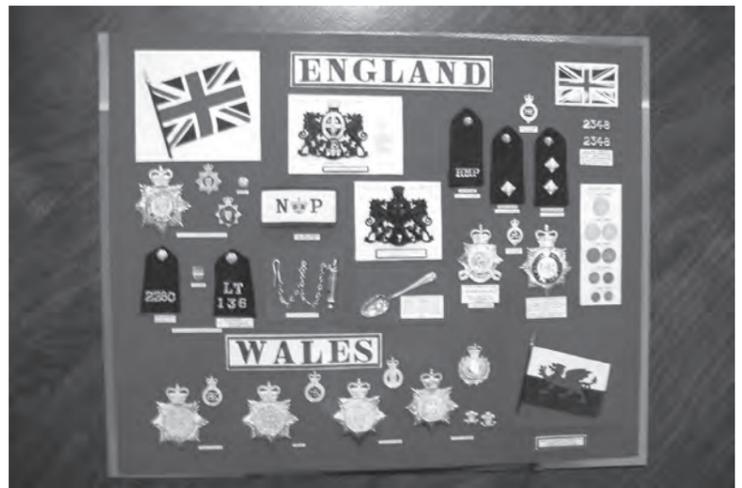
There is a dessert spoon from Scotland Yard stamped with "PEEL HOUSE" named after the founder of the modern police force, Sir Robert Peel.

A police whistle and chain are shown with an arm badge of Her Majesty's Navy Provost.

Along the far left are the British Transport Police helmet plate and cap badge, along with a button. Below are old and new epaulets with numbers and identification.



Don Brockman began collecting English law enforcement helmet plates and cap badges in the 1980s and put together this display of all 43 helmet plates and cap badges in 1990. He was missing only the Wiltshire Constabulary badges, which he added years later. He was serious foreign insignia collector. *Don Brockman photograph*



Another of Milwaukee, Wis. collector Don Brockman's English displays features a variety of paraphernalia from law enforcement agencies, such as collar badges, a whistle and even a spoon from Scotland Yard. He also shows badges from police forces in Wales. He has a very impressive British collection. *Don Brockman photograph*

At the very bottom are the four constabularies of Wales, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales and South Wales represented with helmet plates and cap badges. South Wales collar dogs are also shown, as is the colorful Wales flag in the lower right corner.

After an effort of several years, a couple of my English correspondents gave me the discouraging news that the Wiltshire Constabulary would not give up any metal, nor would the Home Office in London assist me.

I wrote to Princess Diana, the Prince of Wales and Queen Elizabeth and sent photos of my displays.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother replied on June 17, 1991 through her lady in waiting. She was very gracious and praised me for my efforts of putting these two beautiful displays together. However, she told me she could not assist me with my request.

Princess Diana and the Prince of Wales also replied that they could not get involved in state affairs but wished me success with completing the display.

I thought these three replies from the Royal Family were noteworthy, so I framed them for posterity.

In 1994, an envelope arrived that contained a Wiltshire helmet plate! It was postmarked in England. I thought perhaps Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother sent it.

This idea left me when I realized the envelope did not have the Royal Mail postage paid stamp from Buckingham Palace, but then I decided Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother didn't want it known that she sent it. I clearly remember her lady in waiting told me in her reply in 1991 that Her Majesty could not assist me.

The Wiltshire helmet plate and cap badge completed my display.

A Sussex constable we visited in 1982 was responsible for another frame. It measures 16 by 24 inches and is titled "Sussex, England." The display has old and new metal insignia under the English flag.

Before 1968, the County of Sussex had five police forces. These consisted of East Sussex and West Constabulary, and the three town borough forces of Eastbourne, Hastings and Brighton.

In 1967, the government reorganized police forces throughout United Kingdom. It amalgamated small forces into larger ones so there were 43 forces, most of which police a county.

The Sussex display holds the old and new style cap badges, old and new inspector's cap badges and old and helmet plates.

The next row has four metal lapel badges from the pre-amalgamated forces from East and West Sussex Constabularies, Eastbourne Borough Force and Hastings Borough Force. The Brighton lapel badge is missing. These four pieces are very, very rare, according to my English correspondent.

On the right side along the same row are mounted a pair of the present lapel badges of Sussex Constabulary.

The last row shows a pair of Brighton lapel badges, a king's crown from 1939 to 1945 and the special constabulary lapel badge.

The next two pieces are cap badges from East Sussex Constabulary. The first one has the pre-1952 king's crown. The second has the pre-1968 queen's crown.

The last item is the present cap badge worn by the Police Traffic Warden. This officer has powers pertaining to traffic only.

I have shown a photograph of the three bobby helmets worn in England, ball and spire, rose and cockscomb.

I have also shown two pieces of headgear from the Isle of Man. The chief superintendents cap once belonged to Alan Killip. The other is the dress helmet worn by all constables.

DONALD E. BROCKMAN (Milwaukee Wisc.)



Don Brockman's law enforcement insignia display from Sussex, England features helmet plates and cap badges, as well as other metal insignia. Sussex is one of the 43 police forces in the United Kingdom that he has collected since he joined the hobby in 1976. Much of this insignia is now obsolete. *Don Brockman photograph*

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FOR SALE: A Pennsylvania set of badges. My email is: michaelbloodhound@yahoo.com (98)

LOOKING FOR TENNESSEE BADGES to add to my collection. Let me know what you have. I will buy or trade. I'm a retired LEO. Email: trooper357@netzero.com (98)

WANTED: BOLO for the following shoulder and/or badge patches: 1. Cottey College police/security (located in Nevada, MO); 2. Mission Township (Kansas) Police Dept. I am willing to buy or trade to complete my collection. DAN PATZ, 10409 San Simeon Ln., Ft. Worth, TX 76179, or email: dlpatz@aol.com (97)

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 (103)

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)

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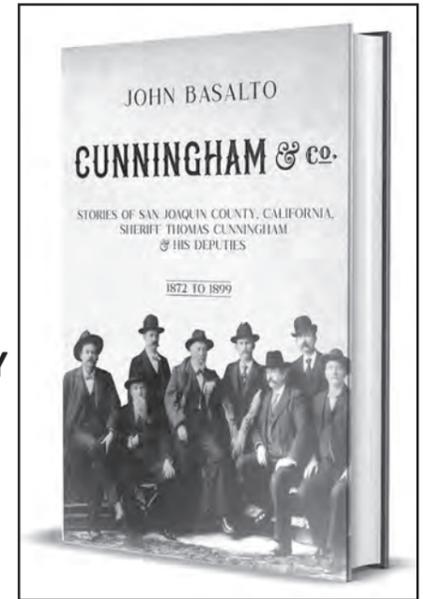
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\$10 Per Table and \$5 Donation at the door. All proceeds go to the Ramsey County sheriff's Explorers' Program.

The tables are 6ft x about 18 in wide.
To reserve tables: Send a message on messenger or send a e-mail to JEREMY.BOLEN@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US OR RMSCOTT@STTHOMAS.EDU

Food There will be a 1st and 2nd place overall award **Drop Box**



JULY 12-14, 2024

RiverCenter 136 E 3rd St, Davenport, IA 52801

Friday, July 12, 2024

0900-1700 Hours	Set Up
1715-1745 Hours	Table Holder Meeting
1800-2000 Hours	Table Holder Reception

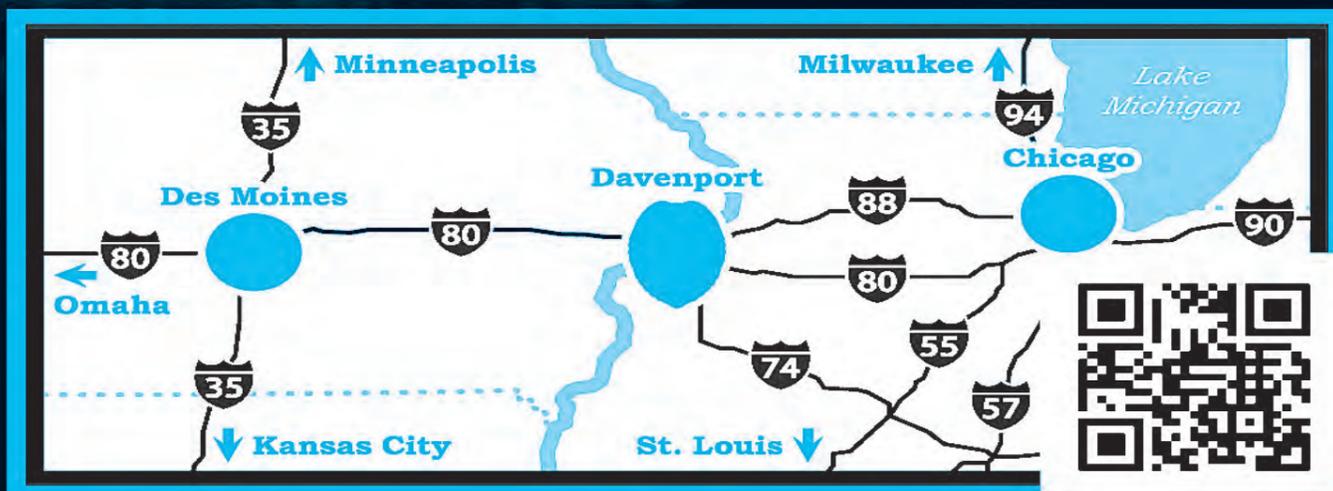
Saturday, July 13, 2024

0800 Hours	Open to Table Holders
0830 Hours	Opening Ceremonies
0900 Hours	Doors Open to Public
1800 Hours	Doors Close

Sunday, July 14, 2024

0800 Hours	Open to Table Holders
0830 Hours	Doors Open to Public
1400 Hours	Awards Presentation
1530 Hours	Doors Close

**\$5 Entry Fee / \$40 3-Day VIP Pass / \$75 Vendor Table Fee
On Duty / In Uniform Public Safety Personnel - FREE
Children Under 5 - FREE**



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