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Museum Honors "In The Service Of The State"

The Rhode Island State Police Museum preserves the legacy of law enforcement in our smallest state. Located on the Department of Public Safety campus in North Scituate, the museum literally fulfills the agency motto, "In the Service of the State."

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

NORTH SCITUATE, R.I. – The Rhode Island State Police motto, "In the Service of the State," comes alive at the State Police Museum on the sprawling Department of Public Safety headquarters campus in rural North Scituate.

The museum traces the history of the agency, founded in 1925, through highly professional exhibits spanning every era. It occupies its own New England-style building adjacent to the headquarters and surrounding support facilities.

The museum is owned and operated by the State Police Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization. It receives no public funding. A team of dedicated volunteers conducts tours, mostly by prior arrangement.

"We've come a long way with the museum. We're really proud of it, but we've got plans to expand and improve in the future," said Trustee Ken Bowman, a retired lieutenant. Bowman and Secretary Lori A. Tellier conducted our tour on October 4 and couldn't have been better, more helpful hosts.

State Police history The General Assembly created the State Police in 1925 to provide rural areas of Rhode Island with law enforcement and traffic regulation. It was patterned after the Pennsylvania State Police.

"Troopers didn't join. They enlisted for three years. They could reenlist but only after a performance review and physical exam. That's the way it still is; troopers have to reenlist every three years," Bowman said. "If you do your job, you're fine. If not, well..."

The first troopers patrolled on Indian motorcycles and were dispersed to local barracks around the state. Some rural barracks were rented rooms in a private homes. "They lived with families. The state paid the family for the trooper's room and board," Bowman said.

Beginning in the 1930s, troopers assigned to more populated areas lived in houses converted into barracks. These residences were known as patrol houses. Several old barracks house signs are displayed throughout the museum.

It wasn't long after the State Police was formed that troopers also began patrolling in automobiles.

"We've always had both criminal and traffic enforcement responsibility. We still have it,



A vintage Rhode Island State Police cruiser is permanently displayed outside the State Museum at Department of Public Safety headquarters. The car is gray with blue markings and blue overhead emergency lights. It always attracts a great deal of attention. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The Rhode Island State Police Museum in North Scituate is a fitting tribute to the agency's long and proud history. Funded entirely through private donations and fundraising, the museum resembles an old fashioned state police barracks. The facility opened in 2006. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

but now we work a lot more with local departments because a lot of places now have their own police that didn't years ago," Bowman said. The agency provides technical services to departments across the state.

Because Rhode Island is the smallest state, the State Police has divided it in half. District "A" is the northern half, while District "B" comprises the southern half. There are four patrol commands, still known as barracks, in Lincoln, Richmond, North Scituate and North Kingstown. Of course, it's been many years since troopers were required to live at the barracks.

Bowman said State Police uniforms and insignia have changed very little over the years. "We've only had a few patches. We don't have shirt badges, just hat badges," Bowman explained. Rhode Island is one of only five states whose troopers wear only hat badges.



Retired RISPL Lieutenant Ken Bowman volunteers at the State Police Museum and often serves as a docent for visitors from throughout the region and beyond. He joked that he looked a lot like the trooper on the left when he graduated from the academy years ago! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Remember patrol vehicle trading cards from the 1990s? The Rhode Island State Police Museum certainly does! This museum display features a set of state police and highway patrol cards, “Trooper Cars.” The RISP car is shown at the top. Every car was a four-door sedan. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Rhode Island State Police ...Continued

Troopers are issued wallet badges for identification.

Coggeshall property purchase Perhaps the most significant purchase in the 99-year history of the Rhode Island State History was the Coggeshall Mansion and its sprawling grounds near North Scituate. Today, it serves as State Police headquarters and home to the museum.

The state bought the property in 1936 and used the mansion as State Police headquarters. The mansion was torn down and replaced by a new building in 1960. That

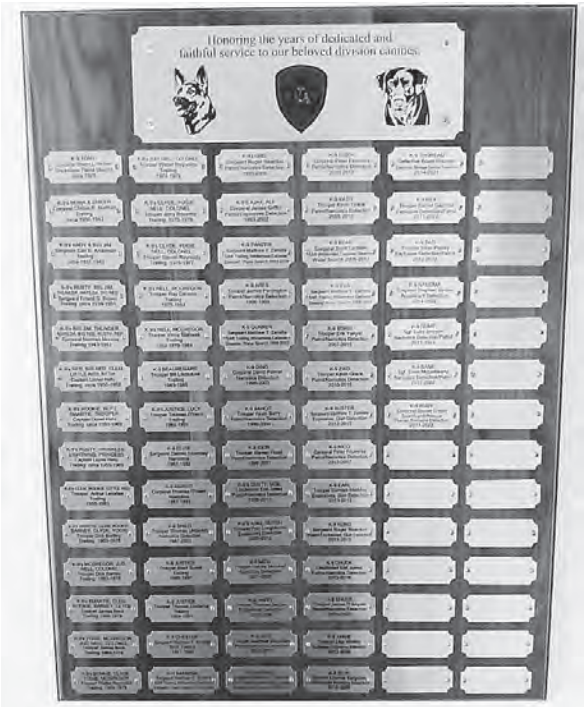


“Dedicated to Serve” is the theme of the second exhibit hall at the Rhode Island State Police Museum. A collection of RISP badges is kept in the six-sided display case in the foreground. The wall mural shows historic photographs from the agency’s history. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

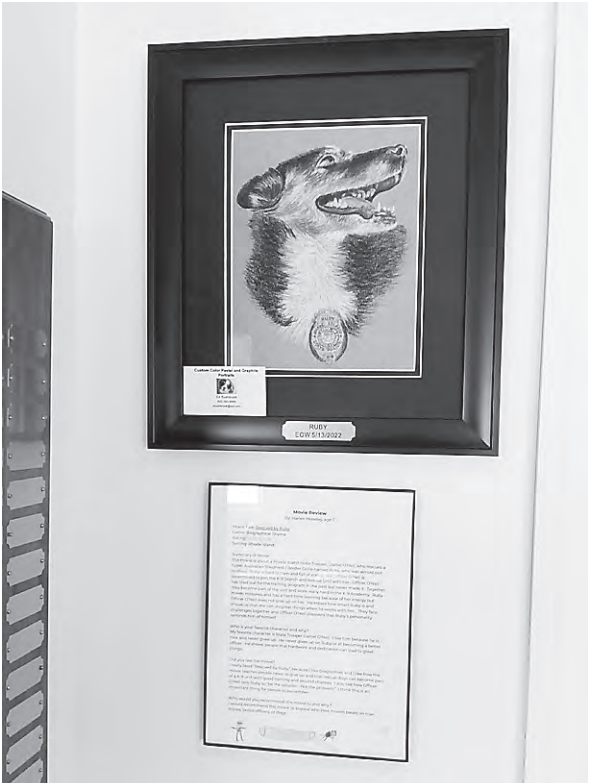
structure was torn down and replaced by the ultra-modern current Department of Public Safety headquarters in 2010. It houses several other DPS agencies.

“We were told we could locate the museum on the grounds, but we had to raise the money to build it,” Bowman said. The foundation was formed and diligently raised the necessary funds, but the project took ten years. The museum opened in 2006.

“I wasn’t involved back then. I got interested after I retired. I started volunteering here five or six years ago. Now, I’m a trustee and host a lot of tours,” Bowman said. “We get



The Rhode Island State Police has a strong canine history back to the first bloodhounds of the 1920s. The museum has a Wall of Honor showing the names of modern agency canines, their handlers and dates of service. RISP dogs have deployed around the world. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



An exhibit is devoted to ‘Ruby,’ one of the most honored search, rescue and cadaver dogs in the United States history. Handled by Trooper Daniel O’Neil, “Ruby” overcame all odds to serve heroically. She was named 2018 National Search and Rescue Dog of the Year. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

people from all over, but also a lot of school children. I’m not a collector, but I do take in things donated to us.” Most donations come from State Police families, he said.

State Police management has been very supportive of the museum, but it has always been privately funded.

The late Lieutenant Everett “Gus” Armour launched the idea for an agency museum in about 1996. It’s origins are explained in a professional video produced and narrated by Frank Coletta, a still very popular but retired local television news anchor. He narrates other videos that explain specific exhibits elsewhere in the museum. Visitors are shown his



Large vintage State Police barracks signs are shown on a sub wall that separates the exhibit halls at the Rhode Island State Police Museum. The open area in the foreground is where visitors gather to view an introductory video on the museum and agency history. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

introductory video as they enter the museum.

Today, the beautifully maintained building and grounds serve as a repository for State Police history. There are other items that could be displayed but there is no place to show then, at least for now. Curators have emphasized showing a wide variety of RISP history from every era. “We can’t show everything we’ve got, but we try to include as much as we



An exhibit of model Rhode Island State Police patrol cars is displayed behind an old sign from the former Recruit Training Barracks in one of the three exhibit halls at the State Police Museum. Museum curators have assembled an amazing repository of RISP history. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



A fully restored 1967 Harley Davidson motorcycle once ridden by a Rhode Island state trooper is prominently displayed at the State Police Museum. It is shown with historic photographs of troopers on patrol and a collection of State Police motorcycle license plates. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

can,” Bowman said.

“We’ve got plans to expand. Right now, the museum has two wings. We want to square up the building and add restrooms, a kitchenette and a classroom. We’re raising money now. As soon as we do, we’ll start adding on,” he said. There is no timeline for the building project.

Bowman spent 25 years with the RISP. He enlisted in 1974 and retired in 1999. He worked at different barracks across the state and retired as patrol commander of a nearby barracks.

Insignia and uniform histories Several museum exhibits are devoted to State Police insignia and uniform histories. However, because troopers have worn similar styles throughout RISP history with few style changes, these are not large exhibits. Obviously, upholding tradition matters to the department, as it always does for SH/HP agencies.

Red and black have always been the primary State Police colors. These colors are dominant on the four CHP-shaped standard issue emblems troopers have worn since about



The United States was all about Civil Defense during World War II to protect our coasts from foreign invasion and then again during the Cold War of the 1950s and ‘60s when we faced the prospect of nuclear war. The museum chronicles RISP Civil Defense involvement. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

1935 or 1936.

The first emblem had red lettering and borders on a black background. The only design was the legend, “RHODE ISLAND/ STATE/ POLICE.” This insignia was worn only for only a short time until 1938.

The second was worn from 1938 to 1966. It, too, has red lettering and a red center



Seven members of the Rhode Island State Police have made the ultimate sacrifice “In the Service of the State.” These heroes gave their lives to protect and serve the people. The museum honors their memories with photos, personal histories and death scenarios. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Weapons are an important part of every law enforcement agency’s legacy. This exhibit at the Rhode Island State Police Museum chronicles the weapons state troopers have utilized since the agency was founded. It shows the transition from revolvers to semiautomatics and beyond. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

design on a black background. The state crest, a ship anchor with “HOPE” inside it, appears as the center design. The legend reads, “R.I./ STATE/ POLICE.”

A entirely new design appeared in 1966. It was designed by Hugh Frayne, a lieutenant, and approved by Superintendent Walter E. Stone. It shows the State Capitol in Providence in gray and black, crossed full color United States and state flags and “1925,” the year the RISP was founded. It has a red and black border and red-on-black legends, “RHODE



One of the largest and most impressive exhibits at the Rhode Island State Police Museum is devoted to the uniforms that troopers have worn throughout the years, going back to the days when they patrolled on motors despite the harsh New England winters. Brrr.... *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

ISLAND” at the top on a black banner bordered in red and “STATE/ POLICE” on a bottom black panel, also bordered in red. However, unlike the previous designs, it has a gray background.

It was replaced by the current style in the 1990s but the exact date is unknown. The current version is virtually identical, except the gray background was replaced by all



This display at the Rhode Island State Police Museum features a variety of equipment once used by state troopers for traffic enforcement, driving while intoxicated arrests and motor vehicle crash investigation. The museum collection covers every area. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The badge collection at the RISP Museum shows wallet badges worn by troopers assigned to various duties or those carried by supervisors. Rank and file troopers do not wear breast badges on their uniforms. They wear gold badges on their hats. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Rhode Island State Police ...Continued

black. The Capitol and flags are shown in finer detail because of improvements in loom technology since the 1960s.

State Police uniforms are unique. They have a military appearance and somewhat resemble the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The primary colors are black with red trim. Unlike most law enforcement agencies, which use black leather gear, troopers wear brown leather and footwear. The first superintendent liked brown better than black. The tradition has never been broken.

There are two issued Mountie-style campaign hats, tan felt with a brown band in the winter and gray straw with a brown band in the summer.

All ranks wear a gold hat badge. It is mounted on the hat with a brown leather holder. The badge is a rounded triangle showing the full state crest with the legends beneath it, "IN THE SERVICE" on the left and "OF THE STATE" on the right.

On coats, jackets and shirts, troopers wear a rectangular black band bordered in red with their badge number on it in brass numerals. Single digit and low teens numbers are reserved for higher ranks. The colonel wears "1," lieutenant colonel "2," etc.

A small name tag is worn beneath the breast insignia.

The shoulder patch is worn on the left sleeve. Rank chevrons, such as corporal and sergeant, are worn on the right shoulder, except for command ranks which are not designated by uniform insignia.

Rhode Island has several special unit emblems. One of the best known is for the Canine Unit.

Troopers are issued a gold-colored wallet badge for identification and off-duty use. It is a small eagle-topped shield. The state crest appears in gold on a blue shield in the center. The officer's rank (colonel, major, lieutenant, sergeant, trooper, etc.) or duty assignment (detective, pilot, etc.) is shown at the top in blue enamel legends, while "RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE" is seen around the crest. The badge number does not appear.

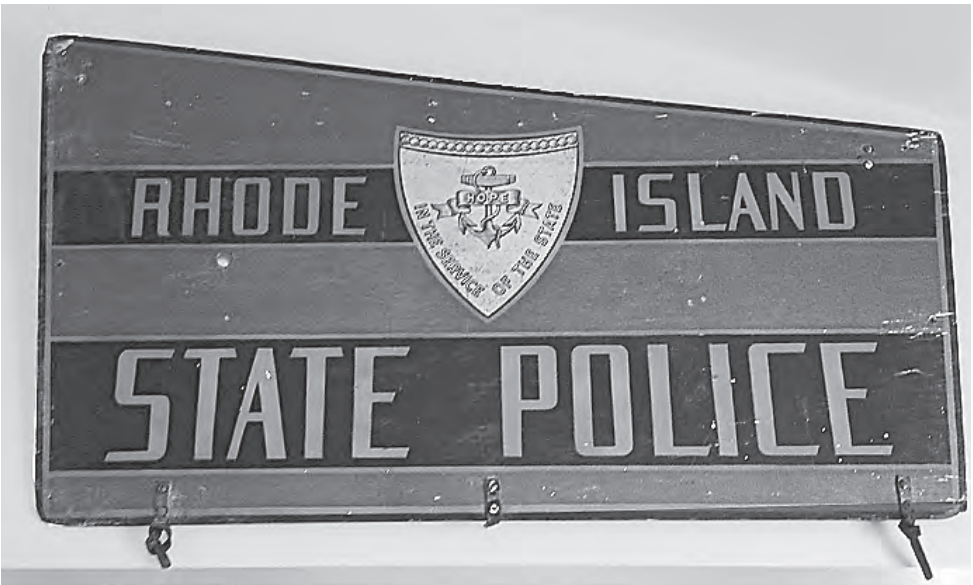
Interestingly, troopers undergo three uniform changes each year. The winter uniform is dark charcoal gray with high boots, breeches, long sleeve shirt and Sam Browne leather strap. The spring and fall uniform is a lighter shade of gray. It has regular brown shoes, regular uniform pants, long sleeve shirt and the leather strap. In the summer, the uniform is also a light gray. It is regular brown shoes, regular uniform pants, short sleeve shirt and no strap.

The winter and dress uniform includes high top black leather gloves.

Current ranks are colonel, lieutenant colonel, major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant,



One of the best displays for insignia collectors at the Rhode State Police Museum is devoted to the agency's emblem history, which goes back to about 1935. A framed drawing of the second issue is shown in the upper right, alongside an explanation. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Historic signs that once led to Rhode Island State Police barracks adorn the walls or hang from ceilings at the museum in North Scituate. Curator Ken Bowman said many of the earliest barracks were private houses. The state paid the owner to rent a room for a resident trooper. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

corporal and trooper.

Bowman said the first colonel, Everitte St. John Chaffee, insisted everything the first troopers wore be made in Rhode Island and had to be of the highest quality. He had been a Army officer and World War I veteran, so he gave the agency a military look by choice.

"The only thing they bought from out of state was handguns because we don't have a manufacturer in Rhode Island. They bought Colts because the Colt family had a place in Bristol and spent their summers there. I imagine they gave us a pretty good deal," he explained. (Founder Samuel Colt was a Hartford, Conn. native, so he had New England ties.)

Taking a tour Bowman escorted us on a tour.

Near the main entrance is an old-fashioned telephone booth with a pay phone still in it. It was rescued from the training academy and used by recruits to call home, if and when allowed. Telephone privileges had to be earned. They were not automatically granted. "I never got to use it!" Bowman chuckled. I didn't ask why...

There are two mounted patch collections. One contains eight different RISP emblems including a few special units. The other is an exhibit of state police/highway patrol emblems from throughout the country.

Historic photographs of several obsolete barracks comprise a display augmented by old barracks signs. Most of these signs were made of metal and hand painted. Several show weather damage and some rust but remain readable.

A display case shows scale models of numerous RISP patrol vehicles driven over the years. Additional barracks and headquarters signs are mounted to a wall that separates the front exhibit hall from the two other halls. The display case also contains a variety of obsolete restraints and prisoner containment devices.

There is an exhibit of RISP and SP/HP patrol vehicle trading cards. These were popular during the 1990s. Many state and local agencies produced them as giveaways for young people. Of course, collectors also wanted them.

The second hall shows an agency timeline depicted on a large mural. Another mural portrays the rigorous training that recruits undergo to become troopers.

A large exhibit is devoted to RISP canines. The agency is known nationwide for its outstanding canine program, which began in the late 1920s when troopers started using bloodhounds for tracking. Search and rescue and patrol dogs were soon added. Today, there are also bomb detection, cadaver search (even underwater) and computer detection dogs.

"Our canine unit has a strong history. We've deployed dogs all across the country and even other countries. We had dogs and handlers in New Orleans after Katrina, New York City after September 11 and Boston after the Marathon Bombing," Bowman said.

The RISP sent dogs to Vietnam to search for remains of American soldiers still missing in action and was honored by the United States military for its efforts.

Interestingly, the state police does not purchase dogs. Every dog is rescued from a local shelter. The most famous rescue is dramatized in *Rescued by Ruby*, a captivating 2022 Netflix movie about "Ruby," a hyper Australian shepherd-border collie rescued and trained by Trooper Daniel O'Neil.

Trooper O'Neil got a call from the Rhode Island chapter of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals about a difficult to train, full of energy young dog in their Gloucester shelter, "Ruby." Trooper O'Neil drove to the shelter and met "Ruby." Even though she was likely to fail search and rescue training, he saw something in the young dog that no one else had seen and adopted her. He began training her.

Despite numerous setbacks and failures, Trooper O'Neil persevered, refusing to give up, despite advice to return her to the shelter. "Ruby" overcame the odds and successfully completed her search and rescue and cadaver dog training. She became a certified law



The sprawling grounds of the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety make the perfect backdrop for the State Police Museum, which is just out of sight on the far right. The modern headquarters opened a few years ago on the site of the former Coggeshall Mansion. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

enforcement canine. Little did anyone know she would become one of the nation's best specialty canines!

"Ruby" and Trooper O'Neil logged numerous successful searches and body recoveries, including locating people in several high profile cases. She won the 2018 award for the National Search Dog of the Year, the most prestigious honor that can bestowed on a search dog.

The story behind the relentless Rhode Island canine team captured the attention of a Netflix movie producer and *Rescued by Ruby* debuted in March 2022. It quickly became the most watched family film on the network. A reviewer wrote, "'Ruby' redefines the word 'hero.'"

Sadly, "Ruby" was diagnosed with cancer just before the movie came out and died two months later in May 2022.

News anchor Coletta produced a 37-minute video on the history of the RISP canine program. It can be viewed at the museum. "Ruby" is prominently featured.

Other exhibits show a badge collection, historic photographs and a display case filled with old radio and patrol car equipment and gear.

The third hall is highlighted by a large historic uniforms exhibit in a lighted floor-to-ceiling display cabinet, a large collection of weapons troopers have carried over the years, exhibits devoted to seven fallen troopers, state police superintendents and World War II and Cold War Civil Defense law enforcement.

A particularly interesting display is devoted to the Division of Criminal Investigation. It features the evolution of investigative tools like polygraphs, fingerprint kits and cameras.

There is a fully restored 1967 Harley Davidson motorcycle and a collection of RISP motor license plates.

According to Bowman, in addition to the forthcoming building project, the museum is planning additional video productions to bring more RISP history to life and provide additional interactive exhibits.

2025 centennial celebration The Rhode Island State Police will celebrate its centennial next year. Planning is underway for the year-long celebration.

There is special insignia, public events and open houses. While it is as yet unknown what specific programs the RISP is considering, it is known that a celebration will take place at the museum. A patch and challenge coin are already available.

Visiting the museum The museum is located at 311-A Danielson Pike (Highway 6) in North Scituate. Tours by appointment can be arranged in advance by contacting the volunteers through the website, RISPmuseum.Org.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

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.

Hamilton Square, N.J.

The 33rd Annual "Central Jersey" Police and Fire Collectors Swap Meet will be Sun., Nov. 24 from 8 am to 1 pm at the Ancient Order of Hibernians, 2419 Kuser Rd., Hamilton Square, N.J. Dom Botteri is the host. **Please note this is a new location for this show.**

Tables are \$30 each and payable in advance. One admission is included with the tableholder. The hall will open for exhibitors set up at 7 am.

Admission for collectors is \$5. Wives, girlfriends and children are admitted free. Displays are encouraged. There will be display awards and a patch drop. Food will be available.

Reproductions available for sale or trade must be marked as reproductions. Contact Botteri with any questions or for additional information regarding this policy.

For table reservations, directions or additional information contact Botteri at (609) 571-8201 (voice or text) or email ltd104@aol.com.

Claremont, Calif.

The 43rd Annual "The Porky Show" will be Sat., Jan. 18, 2025 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. A waiting list is being maintained.

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 \$139 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. Reservations must be made by December 14 to receive the discounted price.

The show website is ThePorkyShow.Com.

For additional information, email the hosts:

Nick Cardaras nick@theporkyshow.com

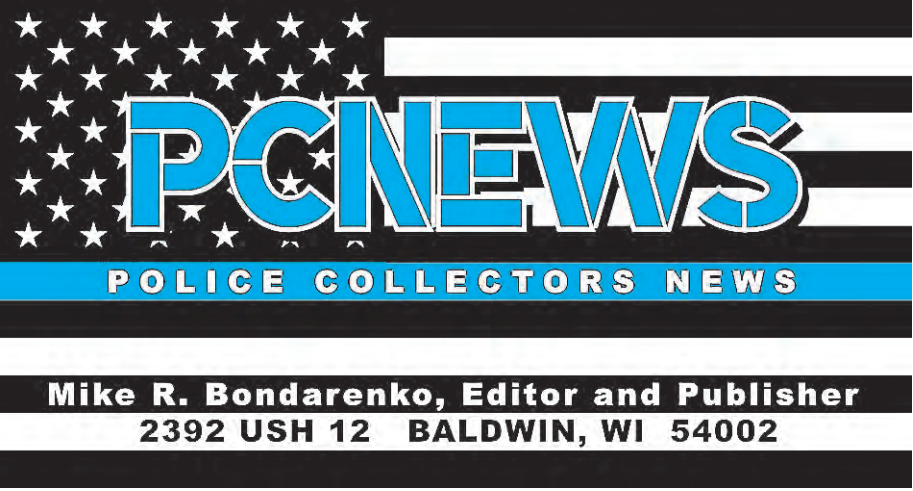
Dennis Smith dennis@theporkyshow.com

Cocoa, Fla.

The 38th Annual "Space Coast" Patch, Badge and Coin Show will be Sat., Jan. 25 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Walter Butler Community Center, 4201 N. Cocoa Blvd., Cocoa,

Norwood Badge Gifted A display at the Norwood, Mass. Police Department features a badge and photograph gifted to the agency by the family of a former officer. Richard "Dick" Murphy served from 1928 to 1944 and wore badge number "111." The silver shield is known as a column style because sculpted columns appear on either side of the number in the center design. His son, Paul Murphy of Walpole, Mass., decided to return it to the department so it could be kept as a tribute to his father's memory. The picture shows Murphy in uniform wearing the badge.

Susie The Duck Lodi, Wis. has a unusual claim to fame, Susie the Duck. In 1948, a mallard duck made a nest in a decorative basket in Veterans Memorial Park. The chief of police's granddaughter named her Susie. The duck has been Lodi's mascot ever since. Children feed ducks at Susie the Duck Park. "HOME OF SUSIE THE DUCK" appears on the police department's shoulder emblem. It shows the creek side park where the famous mallard once nested. The colorful insignia debuted in 2016. It was designed by an officer on the department.



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Camera ready work is welcome. (Copy submitted by fax is not camera ready.) Ads must be printed on a high-resolution laser printer.

Photocopies can not be used in lieu of photographs.

All advertising must be paid for in advance unless prior arrangements are made with the Advertising Manager. Frequency discounts are available. Discount rates are offered for insignia show hosts. Please contact the Advertising Manager for information.

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Swap Meet Calendar ...Continued

Fla. Steve and Karen Bridges will host it. **Please note the change in show hours from previous announcements.**

This is the third show at this new location. The previous venue in Titusville became unavailable. It is 12 miles from I-95 and S.R. 50 in Titusville where most hotels are located. Admission is one colorful patch, preferably from the attendee's agency.

Seventy six-foot tables are available for \$25 each before December 31 and \$30 after December 31. Early reservations are recommended because tables are offered on a "first come" basis. The show is a sellout every year. Early reservations are recommended. Please send payment with reservations. Table setup begins at 8 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 reasonable cost.

The host hotel is the Hyatt Place Titusville-Kennedy Space Center in Titusville. Reduced room rates of \$139 per night are available from Thursday through Sunday nights. Make reservations on (321) 383-2280. Please mention the police patch collectors show to qualify for the special rate.

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.

Forsyth, Ga.

The first Georgia-Southeast Regional Patch and Challenge Coin Show will be Sat. Feb 15 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Monroe County Conference Center, 475 Holiday Cir., Forsyth, Ga. Elton Rosser is the host.

General admission is \$5.

At least 55 tables are available for \$25 each for six foot tables or \$30 each for eight foot tables. Forty tables and all wall tables were reserved as of October 31. Setup is Friday, Feb. 14 from 5 pm to 6:30 pm or 7 am on Saturday. Table reservations being accepted now.

An award will be presented for the best display.

A state shape show patch will be given to tableholders. The patch may be available to attendees depending on availability.

Chick-a-Fil will offer a catered lunch for tableholders. Refreshments will be available.

Forsyth is located about an hour south of Atlanta west of I-75 in Monroe County. It is known as the public safety capital of Georgia. The last show in 2018 attracted a large turnout of hobbyists from California, Canada, Florida and Georgia.

For table reservations or additional information, contact Rosser by email at patchshow@outlook.com or visit the show Facebook page, "2025 Georgia Patch and Coin Show."

Reno, Nev.

The first Reno-Sparks Public Safety-Law Enforcement Collectors Show will be held on Sat., Apr. 26 from 8 am to 3 pm at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Gymnasium, 34 Reservation Rd., Reno, Nev. It is sponsored by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Police Department. Chief Jarrod Nunes is the host.

This event is a reorganization of the former Silicon Valley Collectors Show.

Admission is \$5.

Fifty tables are available for \$40 each.

All proceeds will go the RSIC cadets and community programs.

Awards will be presented for the three best displays.

Make table reservations by email to jnunes@rsic.org. Use the Pay Pal address, nunesjj@aol.com, for online payment. By mail reservations can be made by sending a check to Chief Jarrod Nunes, RSIC PD, 405 Golden Lane, Reno NV 89502.

Email questions to Chief Nunes or call (775) 530-1173.

Cleveland, O.

The 2025 Police Collectors Show sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS) and hosted by Tony Gorsek will be Sat., May 17 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Double Tree Hotel, 1111 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, O.

Admission is free.

Tables are \$20. Buy two or more tables and get a display-only table free. Setup begins at 8 am.

The show is an official event of Police Week in Cleveland. Police Week attracts hundreds of active and retired law enforcement officers from throughout the Midwest and Canada. Please see the GCPOMS website for the week's activities, PoliceMemorialSociety.Org.

Find the show on Facebook at "Cleveland Police Collector's Show."

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

Southgate, Ky.

The Third Annual Northern Kentucky-Cincinnati Area Police Collectors Show will be Sat., Apr. 19 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Southgate Community Center, 301 W. Walnut, Southgate, Ky. John Christmann will host it.

Admission is free.

Fifty-two eight-foot tables are available for \$15 each. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. The hall will also be open for setup on Fri., April 18 from 6 to 8 pm.

Awards will be presented for the best displays.

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

For table reservations or additional information, contact Christmann: jchristmann23@gmail.com or (859) 743-5250.

Bentonville, Ark.

The annual Tri-State Police Collectors Show will be Sat., May 31 beginning at 8 am at the First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 200 S.W. "A" St., Bentonville, Ark. Dustin Carlton will host it.

This show is a benefit for the Benton County Sheriffs Office Fraternal Order of Police and the "Shop With A Cop" program.

Tables are \$20 each. Table fees are non-refundable.

Challenge coin, patch, badge, emergency vehicle equipment, photograph and all other law enforcement collectibles and collectors are welcome.

In addition to the insignia, the show will feature a live DJ, drawings for door prizes and

giveaways.

Food and beverages will be available.

Make table reservations with Dustin Carlton on (479) 381-4088.

Gettysburg, Penna.

The Second Annual Mason-Dixon Police and Fire Patch and Memorabilia Show will be Sat., June 28 from 9 am to 3 pm at The Barn Resort, 75 Cunningham Rd., Gettysburg, Penna. Adam Reid and Lou McAlexander are the hosts.

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

Sixty eight foot tables will be available.

A new exclusive limited edition show patch and coin will be available.

The Barn Resort offers free parking for show participants, discounted lodging, a restaurant, full service bar, general store and arcade on site. The hotel is only minutes from downtown Gettysburg.

Additional details will be announced.

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

Email questions to the hosts on masondixonpatchshow@gmail.com.

National Police Collectors Show

The 2025 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 13, Sat., June 14 and Sunday, June 15 at the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. Third St., Phoenix, Ariz. It is sponsored by the Phoenix Police Museum and hosted by Mike Lucas and Bryan Richard. The show is a fundraiser for the museum.

The hobby's annual convention will begin on Fri., June 13 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. Tableholder packets will be available beginning at 9 am on Friday.

The show will be open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm on Sat., June 14 and 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on Sun., June 15. Tableholders only will be admitted for setup beginning at 8 am both days. An opening ceremony is scheduled for 8:30 am on Saturday. Display awards will be presented at 2 pm on Sunday.

Admission is \$5. An early bird pass is available for \$75. The pass will allow a non-tableholder admission to the hall during setup times. A limited number of these passes are available and can be purchased through the show website.

Two hundred sixty-five eight foot tables are available for \$100 each. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one assistant.

There is no host hotel. A list of downtown Phoenix hotels near the convention center is available on the show website.

The hosts plan on a tour of the Phoenix Police Museum for collectors and guests.

Vintage police vehicles will be shown inside the show hall.

Use the website PhoenixPoliceMuseum.Org for hotel information, make table reservations or ask questions.

Columbus Show Doubles As Midwest Miniature National

Bill Swank and his team welcomed more than 300 collectors from throughout the country to the Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show in Columbus on September 14. The popular swap meet is a fundraiser for the Columbus Public Safety Cadets.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

COLUMBUS, O. – What began as a small local show in Grandview Heights, a Columbus suburb, in 1983 has evolved into one of our hobby's most popular, well attended swap meets. Founded by Larry Balla and George Maciejunes as the "Central Ohio" show, and having transitioned through new hosts, locations and even a several year hiatus, the "Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show" keeps setting new standards.

Bill Swank and his team hosted another record-breaking show at the Marriott Hotel in upscale suburban Dublin, a Columbus suburb, on Saturday, September 14. Hobbyists traveled from as far as Hawaii, California, Florida, New England and Canada to attend the 108-table sellout. It was an event that will truly be long remembered.



Vinnie Turocy (third from left) won "Best of Show" at the 2024 Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show. The award was presented by judges (left to right) Gregory Bodker, Dallas Baldwin and Charles Linek. Turocy won for his Tennessee Highway Patrol display. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Vinnie Turocy has the hobby's leading Tennessee Highway Patrol collection and it's far more than just badges and patches. The former trooper includes old equipment, uniforms and accouterments, artifacts and even historic accident report and ticket books. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Many leading collectors regard Columbus as "must go" and describe it as a miniature National Police Collectors Show.

"We do this to bring collectors together. That's what it's all about in this hobby. It's the friendships, the relationships that matter," said Swank. "We also want to showcase the hobby; show people what we do as collectors and how we advance police history."

Swank was joined by fellow co-hosts Alex Behnen, Columbus PD commander; Greg Franey, Westerville PD lieutenant; Tennessee collector Vince Turocy; Colby Chandler, Knoxville, Tenn. PD; and former "Central Ohio" hosts JJ Meade, Guy Forberger and Bruce Muraco.

The show is a major annual fundraiser for the Columbus Public Safety Cadets. Advisor



"Best Badge Display" went to Georgian Gary Teragawa (second from left) for his world class California Highway Patrol collection. Judges (left to right) Gregory Bodker, Dallas Baldwin and Charles Linek look pleased with their selection. Teragawa is CHP retired. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

their families took advantage of the excellent hotel restaurant and bar as well.

Swank announced the 2025 show will be either at the end of August or in early or late September. Ohio State has a home football game on the second weekend of September, making it unavailable as a date. "We'd lose a lot of local collectors and tableholders because of public safety responsibilities at the football game," he said. "And, the hotels are all sold out on football weekends, including the Marriott."



A complete collection of Tennessee Highway Patrol cloth insignia is among the highlights of Vinnie Turocy's award-winning collection. He is interested in anything and everything THP, even the spotlight off an old patrol car or old trooper hat in the foreground. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The award-winning California Highway Patrol exhibit that Gary Teragawa put together for the Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show was so large that it required two identifying table covers! The retired lieutenant has the finest CHP collection in our hobby, bar none. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Jonathan Johnson and his 30 cadets are heavily involved throughout the day, helping tableholders with displays, selling door prize raffle tickets and promoting a popular silent auction. Johnson reported a record \$2155 was raised through raffle ticket sales and admissions. The money helps finance the program aimed at introducing young people to public safety as a career.

Attendance was 309 with 109 walk-ins coming from all over Ohio and the surrounding region. It always has a large turnout because Columbus attracts collectors and tableholders from all over the country offering a massive variety of law enforcement collectibles for sale or trade. Every major hobby interest is always well represented.

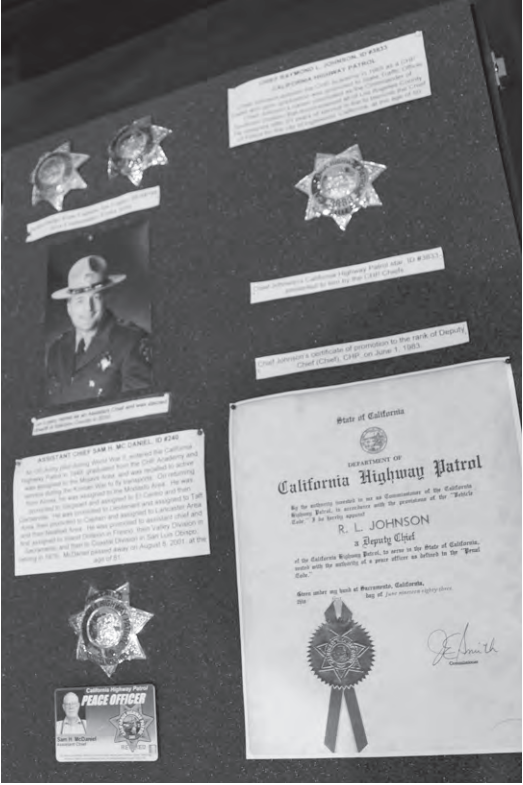
The Marriott has become Columbus's home. It's a cop-friendly venue that caters to numerous other law enforcement and public safety events throughout the year. The Marriott offers attendees discount room rates, numerous amenities and free parking. Collectors and

Tables again sellout One hundred eight tables represented another sellout for the "Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show." Every table was taken months in advance by hobbyists and dealers from across the country.

Tableholders were Steve Curry, Alex Behnen, JJ and Larry Meade, Columbus Public Safety Junior Cadets, Bill Swank and Bob Bruce, Guy Forberger and Bruce Muraco,



A selection of plain Tennessee Highway Patrol badges in the Vincent Turocy Collection in the ranks of communications, trooper and sergeant is shown with two old emblems. Newer issue THP badges have full color state seals surrounded by an enamel ring. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Gary Teragawa likes to supplement his California Highway Patrol badges with photographs and career summaries about the officers who wore them, such as Assistant Chief Sam H. McDonnell (left) and Deputy Chief Raymond L. Johnson (right), both longtime CHP. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dave Fox (third from right) was honored with “Best Specialty Display” at the Columbus show for his unique collection of law enforcement emblems with chain stitch lettering. He was chosen for the award by (left to right) Gregory Bodker, Dallas Baldwin and Charles Linek. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Columbus Show ...Continued

Tony Aleria (California), John J. Connors Family, Vince Turocy, Daniel Woodworks, Chip Greiner (New Jersey) and Julio Martinez (New York), Keith Bushey (California), Mark Pyne (Florida), Andy Castro (Hawaii), Glenn Hughes, Larry Raudebaugh, Gary Teragawa (Georgia), Dave Fox, Jason Duffield, Todd Hansen, Tom Herring, Matt Morgan, Al Levy, Andy Watson and Clay Loving, Police Collectors News, Kevin Roszko, Larry Balla, Anthony Moores, Tony Gorsek, Max Bellard, David Urso (Colorado) and Pete Belos (Illinois), Columbus PD Honor Guard, Dean Cameron, Charles Rizzo and John Fatta, Michael



Glenn Hughes featured his world class antique collection of outstate New York police department badges and photographs supplemented with other artifacts and memorabilia from these cities. Numerous very early shields and photographs from each agency are prominently displayed. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

(Massachusetts), Steve Petro and Bradley Parker (New York), Doug Sarubbi (Florida), Scott Dunlop, Russ Penka (North Carolina), Don Magruder, Ken Lucas (Maryland), Leonard Hanham, Phil Lind and Randy Adams, Ed Sachs, Jake Bushey (California) and Norm Ratcliffe (Canada).

Swank said before the show the tableholder list represented a who’s who of public safety collecting. He was absolutely right.

Fabulous display contest Columbus is known for one of the best display contests outside the National Police Collectors Show. This year did not disappoint! Attendees enjoyed numerous outstanding exhibits.

“Best of Show” went to Vince Turocy for his world class Tennessee Highway Patrol collection. It features a wide array of historic agency artifacts and memorabilia, including extensive badge and patch collections. He chronicles THP history.



It was about ten years ago that Dave Fox collected his first chain stitch patch. He thought it was “pretty cool because they’re so old and different,” so he started a collection. These are mostly first or early department issues and have become highly desirable collectibles. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



This segment of Glenn Hughes’s award-winning Ohio Public Safety Collectors Show exhibit shows beautiful antique badges and historic photographs from the New York City Police Department, including rarities. The longtime collector received won “Best Historical Display.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Creamer Jr. and Michael Creamer Sr., Steve Ferrell and Jim Fightmaster, Roger McLean and William Herald, David Hume and Scott Starns, Bill Steinkuller and Kent Jefferies (Virginia), Damir Krdzalic, Jim and Melody Shattuck, Steve Rivers (Maryland), Doug Harmer, Parker Higby, Dave Backman, Vic Elliott, Tom Dye, Ian Von Gordon and Prithvi Pant, Shawn Spohn, Ezra Stout, Joe Morrison (New Hampshire) and Steve Kelly, Don Howell, Jeffrey McGunnigle, Rob Jackson, Jack Genius (Illinois), Howard Schechter and Josh Davenport (New York), Gerry Tibbs (New Jersey), Hervey Cote

Gary Teragawa won “Best Badge Display” with his museum-quality California Highway Patrol exhibit. Like Turocy has done with the THP, Teragawa documents CHP history through historic badges, patches, photographs and other artifacts and memorabilia. It’s a one of a kind collection that must be seen to be fully appreciated, just like Turocy’s.

“Best Specialty Display” went home with Dave Fox, a former Ohio lawman who now lives in Florida, for a unique collection of obsolete emblems with chain stitch lettering, a unique specialty he has pursued for the past decade but never shown before. A majority of Fox’s award-winning collection comes from current and defunct agencies in Ohio and



Judges (left to right) Gregory Bodker, Dallas Baldwin and Charles Linek congratulate Ohio’s Glenn Hughes (third from left) for winning “Best Historical Display” at the Columbus show. He was cited for his extremely well presented and documented badge and antique photographs. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Retired Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Monte McGowen (left) is regarded as a living legend in his former agency for his expertise in stolen vehicle recovery, especially semi-tractor trailers. He is shown with Norm Radcliffe, noted police license plate collector. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Norm Ratcliffe dazzled state police and highway patrol license plate collectors at the show with his Ohio State Highway Patrol collection. He has a wide variety of OSHP plates shown with photographs of cruisers displaying them. Ratcliffe is the hobby's "go to guy" on SP/HP plates. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Michigan. Ohio hobbyist Glenn Hughes received the "Best Historical Display" award for an extremely impressive historic badge and photograph collection from the New York Police Department and other New York agencies. He exhibited many extremely rare badges and historic pictures of officers wearing many long obsolete badge styles.

Turocy, who recently retired from the THP as a lieutenant after more than 25 years, continues to improve his vast agency collection by upgrading existing pieces and adding new ones. He brought two large patch frames and two large badge frames showing complete collections.

Supplementing the insignia exhibits were hats, clothing and other uniform accouterments, batons, an old spotlight from a patrol car, a well used K-15 handheld radar unit made by MPH Industries and even old citation and accident report books. The handwritten crash reports were used in 1930 and 1973.

"Everything here was actually used by the department. I've been able to find quite a few things from our history. I know there's a lot more out there. Finding it is the fun part," said a grinning Turocy.

Taragawa retired from the California Highway Patrol before moving to Georgia but was collecting the agency long before his departure. His three-table 18-frame award-winning exhibit is a remarkable achievement, arguably the best CHP collection outside the agency museum in West Sacramento. (I've seen collections both and prefer Teragawa's.)

A judge told me the two most impressive elements of Teragawa's exhibit were his career displays from early and notable CHP officers and his written explanations describing each piece. "I like it when people remember former officers. I also like knowing what I'm looking at," he said.

Among his career displays was one devoted to Chief Raymond L. Johnson. He joined the CHP in 1965. Twenty-one years later, he retired as commander of the Southern Division that encompassed all of Los Angeles County. He became chief of police in Inglewood, Calif. at age 50. It features his star (number 3833) in the rank of chief and his promotion certificate to deputy chief in 1983.

Another exhibit features State Traffic Officer Charles D. Gandy who served in Riverside County from 1930 to 1942 when he retired. It shows his retirement star, certificate of appointment, letters of commendation from Chief Raymond Cato dated 1934 and 1939 and a few other career mementos.

Gandy's retirement badge is particularly interesting. Teragawa explained why: "His retirement star was not issued by the CHP but by the California Association of Highway Patrolmen (CAHP). Prior to 1973, a retiring officer turned in his department issued uniform badge on his retirement. The badge was destroyed by the CHP until 1973.

"In order for a retiring officer to receive a retirement badge, the officer had to be a member in good standing with the CAHP. The badge was issued without a number with the word "Retired" in place where the number would be. 'Presented to (name of officer) by the Calif. Assn. Of Highway Patrolmen,' with either the dates or years of service.

"Gandy's badge is inscribed, 'Presented to C.D. Gandy, by the Calif. Assn. Of Highway Patrolmen, 1930-1942.' The badge is made of sterling silver with a gold wash by Irvine and Jachens, S.F. During World War II, with the shortage of metal such as brass, copper and bronze, there were no yellow based metals to make badges."

Teragawa added that Gandy's certificate of appointment was signed by the director of



(Top) The 1990 Ohio State Highway Patrol issue of the "Ace" license plate in Norm Ratcliffe's incredible collection. Fifteen "Ace" plates were issued that year. (Bottom) Trooper John E. Spitzer won the 1972 first issue "Blue Max" plate for recovering seven stolen cars. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



"Central Ohio" show founder (1983) Larry Balla displayed his fine New Orleans, La. Police Department collection at the Columbus show. Balla now specializes in The Big Easy. He became interested through his longtime friendship with the late Lou Gaydosh. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

the Department of Public Works and the chief of the Division of Motor Vehicles. The CHP in 1930 was then referred to as the Bureau of Enforcement.

A display highlighted the career of Assistant Chief Sam H. McDaniel, a United States Army pilot during World War II. He joined the CHP in 1949 and assigned to the Mohave area. He missed a few years because he was recalled to active duty during Korea to fly transport aircraft.

McDaniel was assigned to the Modesto area upon his CHP return and promoted to sergeant. He was reassigned to El Centro and then Garberville. Promotions to lieutenant and captain took place and moved him to Taft, then Lancaster and finally Newhall. His final promotion to assistant chief took him to Inland Division in Fresno, Valley Division in



(Left) Chip Greiner obtained this numbered Southern Pacific Railway and Steamboat Police star from Gary Teragawa. It was buried underground for years. He cleaned it. (Right) Julio Martinez added this very old NYPD reserve captain shield with a silver eagle. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Sacramento and Coastal Division in San Luis Obispo.

He retired as assistant chief in 1976 and died in 2001. He was 81 years old.

Teragawa has McDaniel's photograph, retired badge and ID and a summary of his career.

Teragawa added a significant piece at the National Show this year when he obtained the deputy commissioner's star worn by William Kelly, the first Black officer to achieve that high rank. He was able to identify it through Kelly's identification number.

Chain stitching was a way early embroiderers lettered law enforcement emblems long before modern computerized looms. While this lettering method appears crude by today's standards, chain stitching worked because most cloth insignia back then showed only the name of the city or county and police or sheriff. A few members added a star or another



Chip Greiner (left) and Julio Martinez (right) returned to New Jersey and New York, respectively, with smiles on their faces after picking up needed badges in Ohio. Greiner holds his top find, a railroad police star from California. Martinez collects NYPD reserves. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Ezra Stout showed his collection from the long defunct Kentucky Highway Patrol. The KHP started with 40 highway patrolmen in 1936 and grew to more than 200 officers by 1948 when it was abolished by the State Legislature. Lawmakers then created the State Police. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Columbus Show ...Continued

simple design. Chain stitching was also used to add department personalization to generic emblems.



Ed Sachs collects the Omaha, Nebr. Police Department. He displayed this vintage uniform and helmet. It was worn by a special officer. Sachs had the very old, rare badge but did not leave it on the jacket for obvious reasons. Omaha PD was formed in 1857. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

“Vintage Patches With Chain Stitch Lettering” was Dave Fox’s award-winning exhibit. He showed 17 frames of this specialty; all were early or first issues. A lot are from Michigan but other states are also represented. Fox has been collecting these oldies but goodies for about ten years.

“I came across a couple from Ohio at first. I thought they were really cool because they’re so old and so different than what we have now. I decided to start a collection,” said Fox. “Now, they’re really hard to find and expensive because most are first issues.



An array of Omaha law enforcement and other city badges in the Ed Sachs Collection as displayed in Columbus. Some easily recognized buffalo-topped shields are shown in the upper right. Omaha badges have been this style since 1941 to honor its prairie heritage. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Larry Balla has a very impressive New Orleans Police Department collection that features a wide variety of cloth and badge insignia old and new, including some interesting assignments, as well as other city agencies. He now specializes in The Big Easy. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Everybody wants first issues. I’ve paid from \$20 to \$80 each.”

Glenn Hughes must have been in a New York state of mind when he decided on his Columbus exhibit. He went home with a trophy for his historic badges and photographs from New York law enforcement agencies. His NYPD exhibit was particularly impressive.

“I’ve got quite a bit from New York City. It’s got a lot of mystique about it. I thought it would be a good theme for an exhibit, so I put this together,” said Hughes. “Like I’ve said before, I obtained most of the photos before I added the badges. I really enjoy collecting historical pictures.”

He showed frames showing items from Troy PD, Gowanda PD, Tarryton PD, and Buffalo PD, but his NYPD display was truly exceptional with old early issue badges, about 25 in all. The oldest pieces were from the mid-1840s. Historic photographs shown with most of them are as rare as the shields, perhaps even more rare.

Hughes’s photo collection shows officers in full uniform, most with badges predominantly displayed, which makes them even more interesting. Most are portraits with the officer posed in front of formal background.

Display judges were Ohio State Highway Patrol Lieutenant Colonel Charles Linek, Franklin County Sheriff Dallas Baldwin and Columbus PD Assistant Chief Gregory Bodker. Swank thanked them for supporting for the show and promoting the hobby.

Contest winners received a beautiful etched glass plaque and a custom yellow on black commemorative license plate.

Meet OSHP’s Ace Never heard of Monte McGowen? You’re not an Ohio state trooper then, because the retired patrolman is a living legend within the Ohio State Highway Patrol. I had the honor of meeting and interviewing McGowen during the show, thanks to Bill Swank who told me about him and introduced us.

Beginning in 1972, insurance companies in Ohio encouraged the OSHP to recognize troopers who recover the most stolen vehicles in the state, which, of course, is good for the insurance industry and victims. Troopers who recover five vehicles in a year qualify as Aces and get to display a special “Ace” plate on the front of their cruisers. The most recoveries in the entire state each year earns Blue Max status and a different front plate than Ace.

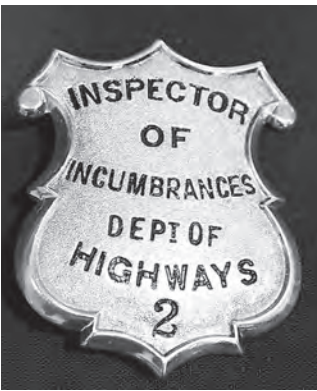
McGowen recovered an incredible more than 230 stolen vehicles during his 38-year OSHP career from 1971 to 1999, mostly on the Ohio Turnpike. He developed an uncanny ability to locate stolen vehicles, including many semi-tractor trailers. He won several Ace awards and Blue Max twice. He even recovered a stolen truck while on a Florida vacation!

The hobby connection to McGowen is through legendary state police and highway patrol license plate collector Norm Ratcliffe, who displayed his OSHP collection outside the main show hall. If there was an Ace or Blue Max award for license plates, he’d win it.

“I got to know Monte because he wanted to sell his Ohio police license plate collection with the Ace and Blue Max plates in it. I did a little research and jumped on the chance to get them. We’ve kept in touch,” said Ratcliffe.

McGowen developed stolen vehicle apprehensions into an art form, usually leading the Buckeye State in recoveries. His secret? Curiosity. And good old fashioned police work.

“Other officers were always asking me how I did it. I told them it’s not that hard. You have the same tools I do. It’s just being curious, running plates and when the plates don’t match with the vehicle, finding VINs [vehicle identification numbers] and hidden VINs and running them. If the vehicle has been reported stolen, it’ll come up as stolen. That’s how it’s done,” he said.



(Top) A pre-1900 handmade silver-colored circled star from Gilberton, Penna. from Dave Fox’s collection. (Lower left) A shield with the unusual rank of Inspector of Incumbrances, possibly from Ohio. (Lower right) A unique sheriff’s posse comitatus with a high number. *Mike R. Bondarenko photographs*



Clay Loving brought his outstanding cloth insignia collection from the Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. It features obsolete and current badges, emblems and other insignia. Featured is a set of rockers worn at institutions across the state. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

McGowen worked stolen vehicle insurance fraud cases for GEICO Insurance for 14 years following his OSHP retirement. McGowen saved the license plates, especially the Ace and Blue Max plates, off his patrol cars and created a small collection before he opted to sell it a few years ago.

Oldies but goodies Veteran collectors love oldies but goodies, not only those great nostalgic songs on the radio; we love vintage badges just as much.

Shawn Spohn gave us a lot to love, featuring numerous antique and historic stars and shields in seven display cases. Many are first or very early issues.

He showed a Gilberton, Penna. Police silver-colored circled five-point star with engraved lettering showing “GILBERTON” on the top and “POLICE” on the bottom. The badge is hallmarked by George Schalk, a known master gunsmith and target rifle maker in Pottsville, Penna. during the Civil War era. “Badge is hallmarked ‘G. Schalk Pottsville,’ the same as he marked his rifles,” Spohn wrote on a description card.

Schalk was born in Germany in 1825 and died in 1893. He immigrated to the USA in 1854 and settled in Pottsville where he opened his gunsmith shop. He was also an engraver, maker of shooting metals, miniature guns, knives and even violins. Obviously, a very skilled and talented craftsman. It’s a beautiful engraved old badge.

An interesting silver-colored shield caught my eye. I’ve never seen a badge for an inspector of incumbrances for the highway department of an unknown state. The legends read, “INSPECTOR/ OF/ INCUMBRANCES/ DEPT. OF/ HIGHWAYS/ 2,” in black legends.

“I’ve got another one just like it with the number ‘5.’ I think it’s from Ohio, but I’m not a hundred percent certain about that,” said Spohn. He, too, doesn’t know what an incumbrances inspector does. Nevertheless, he’s got an interesting old piece.

Another interesting badge is a silver-colored five-point circled ball-tipped star carrying the legend, “SHERIFF’S/ POSSE COMITATUS” on the ring and “1235” on the star, all in black legends. The originating county or state is unknown.

Finally, Spohn showed a silver-colored numbered shield from the Cincinnati Home Guard with the city seal as the center design. The legends appear on banners, “CINCINNATI” above the seal, “HOME GUARD” beneath it and “2369” at the bottom.

According to our longtime columnist, the late Pat Olvey, who researched and wrote about the agency in his “The Badge Beat” column, the Home Guard was organized in May 1917 to supplement local police during World War I. It was a private all-volunteer police force of 500 members. The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce paid for their armaments, badges and uniforms. Taxpayers incurred no equipment costs.

The Home Guard was commanded by Army Colonel Charles F. Hake Jr., a veteran of the Spanish-American War. He organized it as a para-military unit. Members trained up to three nights a week and were subject to call at anytime by city, county, state or national authorities. The Guard gave the police department a supplementary force of about 500 able-bodied, trained men to help during an emergency available for call outs any time. It was a valuable asset for the city.



Doug Sarubbi journeyed from Orlando, Fla. to Columbus for the show and brought an exhibit of his signature badge and patch sets, as well as displays from Cincinnati and the Kentucky State Police. Sarubbi is a retired Orange County deputy sheriff and longtime show host. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Scott Dunlop has returned to the hobby after a hiatus and is once again collecting badges and now patches. The Tennessee collector made his show return in Ohio. His primary interests are state police/highway patrols, the Old West and major cities. Welcome back, Scott! *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Guardsmen were called several times, most notably during the disastrous Ohio River floods in early 1918.

Olvey’s research showed a primary reason Cincinnati authorized a home guard was because so many police officers were serving overseas during the war.

The Home Guard was disbanded in 1921, three years after World War I ended.

The Crescent City Larry Balla lives in Ohio but now specializes in the New Orleans Police Department, thanks to his longtime friendship with the late Lou Gaydos. I wrote about my friend’s NOPD collection in my story about the Bloomington, Ind. show, but he didn’t show it there. He did bring some of it to Columbus. It is impressive to say the least.

Balla featured six frames, one with badges and patches and five with patches only. There were five first issue emblems in the exhibit, K-9 Corps, police officer, SWAT, Emergency Squad and Emergency Services Section.

“I’ve got enough for two or three more frames. A lot of these things came from Lou’s collection,” said Balla.

I asked Balla if he ever envisioned the small show he and George Maciejunes started in 1983 would ever grow into the current version. “Well, no. I could lie and say, ‘Sure,’ but remember we had a different hobby back then. Shows were just starting. Most shows were on the coasts; there wasn’t much here. We did 22 shows in 12 years,” he said.

Great badge finds Chip Greiner and Julio Martinez flew back to Newark, N.J. with a couple recent great badge finds for their collections.

Greiner, the hobby’s leading railroad police collector, came up with what he described as a “home run badge.” It’s an old six-point star from the Southern Pacific Railway and Steamboat Police and carries the number “262.”

“I got this from Gary Teragawa. It’s got an interesting story behind it. It was found buried in the ground in California by a guy with a metal detector. Nobody knows how it got there or long it was buried, but there’s a lot of patina and no findings on the back,” he said. He believes the findings dissolved underground.

Greiner said he was going to clean up the badge once he returned home and did. He found it is hallmarked by H.C. Magnus and Company in San Francisco. He estimates it is from 1890.

This is a very rare piece. It’s unusual, too, because it reads ‘Railway’ instead of ‘Railroad.’

Not to be outdone, Martinez, who collects NYPD reserve badges and has the hobby’s largest collection, found an early badge that once belonged to the late Pat Olvey. It’s a gold shield reserve captain with a silver eagle at the bottom. The city seal is the center design. Legends read, “RESERVE” at the top and “CITY OF NEW YORK” on the bottom.

“I’ve been looking for this badge for a long time. I knew Pat Olvey had it. Now, I’ve got it,” Martinez said.

The veteran collector and retired NYPD detective is missing only two badges from achieving a complete collection of early reserve badges. He’s still looking for a special deputy commissioner rank and reserve captain number “334.”

“I know Olvey had the special deputy commissioner because he showed it in his PCNEWS column. He sold it to someone, but I can’t find out who bought it. Someday, I’ll find out who has it, and I’ll get it. It’s coming home to New York City,” Martinez said.



Mike Creamer Sr. (left) and Jr. (right) are among Ohio’s most accomplished law enforcement insignia collectors. The father-son collecting duo brings displays to every show and there is always something new. Their USMS emblems are on the left with badge and patch sets on the right. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Kevin Roszko exhibited his unique displays of buffalo theme law enforcement emblems. He shows these colorful creations on custom made wooden buffalo figures arranged so that the prairie animals are running across his table from right to left like they once did on the prairie. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Columbus Show ...Continued

Kentucky State Police Ezra Stout is our hobby's "go to guy" for the Kentucky State Police and its forerunner, the Kentucky Highway Patrol. His collections from these agencies are world class, museum quality achievements.

Stout brought four large frames of KHP and KSP badges augmented with a few old patches. He has some of the original first issue shields from both agencies. The KHP existed from 1936 to 1948 as a traffic enforcement agency. It was abolished when the KSP was created by Kentucky legislators.

KHP badges are a unique shape that's difficult to describe in words. Legends read, "(NUMBER)/ HIGHWAY/ PATROL" at the top. Surrounding the state seal at the bottom is "KENTUCKY STATE/ HIGHWAY COMMISSION." Technically, highway patrolmen worked for the commission because it oversaw the state highway department.

"I could've showed a lot more, but I ran out of room. I've got a bunch of displays out in the car. Should've gotten another table," Stout said.

Omaha police collection Veteran collector Ed Sachs lived in Omaha, Nebr. for five years and still collects city law enforcement insignia, especially badges. He had a nice OPD display.

"I started this collection when I lived there. I've kept it up; in fact, I've been able to add to it," said Sachs, who has been in the hobby for more than 50 years.

Omaha is best known for its unique buffalo-topped badges. According to the department, prior to 1941, police wore an eagle-topped shield: "Numerous non-law enforcement people were given badges for a variety of reasons. A decision was made to remake the police badge and only have it worn by law enforcement officers. Today, there are two different badge colors. The silver badge represents an officer rank, and the gold badge represents a command officer. Great herds of buffalo once roamed the vast plains of Nebraska. The buffalo on top of the shield commemorates the city's heritage."

Omaha's city seal appears as the center design. It represents the agricultural heritage of the Nebraska plains. The Native American pictured is a historical reminder of the many tribes that lived on the plains. A buffalo head is centered on the seal.

The police department was founded in 1857. Sachs has many early badges of various ranks and styles in his fine collection. He also showed other city agencies. His display featured police badge styles introduced in the 1870s, 1883, 1890s, 1917, 1950 and 1985, which is the current badge.

Columbus PD history The Columbus Police Honor Guard sold the fabulous book, *History of the Columbus Division of Police: 200 Years of Service 1816-2016*, at a bargain price. It's a great reference for collectors; one of the best centennial books I've seen. Why not more collectors don't buy books like this when they have a chance is beyond me.



Andy Castro showed three new Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement sheriff emblems. (Top left) The administration patch. (Center right) The deputy sheriff emblem with "EST./ 1846" added on either side of the star. (Lower left) Only Internal Affairs wears Investigations. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dave Urso took this historic shield back to Colorado with him. It's for an inspector of the Michigan State Fire Division, which was an agency of the Department of Insurance. Urso said the Fire Division was merged in the State Police in 1910. Notice it's badge number "1"? *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Information like this is not going to be found on Google or anywhere else online.

Silver and gold embossed early badges adorn the cover, while the inside back and front covers and facing pages carry drawings of early police chiefs, including their years of service, as well as a list of city marshals from 1816 to 1873.

A highlight is a beautifully illustrated, highly detailed history of Columbus badges by collector Alex Behnen, CPD commander and show co-host. There are four full pages chronicling the agency's badge history in full color photographs. These pages are a treasure trove of reliable information for Ohio and state capital city badge collectors.

Like Cincinnati and a few other cities, Columbus officers wear white hats. The chapter, "Ethics and Image: Should I Wear My Hat?", by Lieutenant David Ruddick shows hats in each rank with the hat badges affixed, as well as agency service awards.

"Legacy" chronicles agency history with old photos, pictures of old and current emblems and challenge coins, while "Timeline" pictures the old and new police academy, old and new headquarters buildings, dozens of historic images of officers in uniform, vehicles, and noteworthy events.

Additional sections are devoted to the Honor Guard, Pipes and Drums, Chaplains, and special units, such as canine, SWAT, mounted and others.

The coffee table-size book was published by The Donner Company.

Columbus table talk ...Clay Loving, co-host of the Southeast Ohio shows, collects the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, the agency that operates the statewide prison system. He brought a very impressive display of corrections insignia showing badges, patches and individual prison rockers, as well as some obsolete styles.

...Veteran badge collector **Dave Urso** journeyed from Colorado to attend the show and was glad he did. He went home with what he described as the "pick of the show," an inspector shield from the long defunct Michigan State Fire Division of the Department of Insurance. Best of all, it's numbered "1." Urso said state fire inspectors were merged into the Michigan State Police in 1910. The silver-colored shield is in exceptional condition for its age.

...Iowan **Larry Raudebaugh** leads our hobby in law enforcement chaplain insignia. However, he took a step back in time in Columbus and brought a fine exhibit of badges and patches from the Broward County, Fla. Sheriff's Office, including some obsolete styles. Raudebaugh began his career as a deputy in Broward County. In all, there were four frames of department badges and three frames of patches.

...Longtime collector and Florida show host **Doug Sarubbi** has a philosophy that's served him well. Simply put, if he likes it, he collects it. It differs from those interested only in a particular state, department or genre.

Sarubbi had a display of his signature antique badge and patch sets, as well as three old game warden shields and a historic badge worn by a West Virginia deputy Prohibition officer back in the '20s and '30s. Imagine the tales it could tell about chasing moonshiners and busting stills!

...Welcome back, **Scott Dunlop**! The longtime hobbyist from Tennessee is back active again after a several year hiatus. Previously exclusively a badge collector, Dunlop has added patches. "I've got about 520 badges in my displays. I also collect patches now," he said. His specialties are state police/highway patrols, major cities and the Old West.

...Michigan collector **Kevin Roszko** is into buffaloes, and it showed in Columbus. He brought his unique exhibit of buffalo theme law enforcement emblems mounted on large wooden buffalo-shaped display boards. The way he arranged it, it appeared as though the animals were running across his table from right to left. Pretty cool...

...**Mike Creamer Sr.** and **Mike Creamer Jr.** featured some displays on their tables I



Jim Fightmaster (left) and Steve Ferrell (right) drove up from Kentucky and shared a table. Ferrell exhibited four frames of his unique court security collections, while the duo showed badges for sale or trade in the middle. Fightmaster specializes in Kentucky insignia. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

hadn't seen at previous shows: probation officer insignia from across the country, Texas sheriff and constable badges and patches, a set of Texas Department of Public Safety insignia including a real Rangers circled star, a badge and patch from Gun Barrel City, Tex., United States Marshal Service patches from Ohio (mostly the Southern District) and insignia from Nevada and other western states.

The father-son collecting duo exhibited Madison County, O. Sheriffs Office badges from 1920 to today and insignia from other law enforcement agencies in the county.

...**Andy Castro** lives in Honolulu but is a regular in Columbus. He showed the very colorful new State of Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement emblems. Of course, as anything new, they generated considerable interest.

"I've been seeing on the internet that some people think there is only the Sheriff patch, but there are really three," Castro said. "They're about same, but there are differences." The three new patches are State of Hawaii, State of Hawaii Sheriff and State of Hawaii Investigations.

The CHP shapes are predominantly gold on black. The two-tone background is black on the top half with the red, white and blue Hawaii state flag on the bottom half. The gold DLE seven point star bordered in black and white appears as the center design. It shows the very colorful state seal surrounded by the black legends, "DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT."

Top lettering differs on each emblem but all is gold-colored.

"STATE OF HAWAII" is worn only by agency administrators.

"STATE OF HAWAII/ SHERIFF" appears on deputy sheriff uniforms. "EST." (left) and "1846" (right) is added to deputy sheriff emblems because Hawaii has had a sheriff since 1846.

"STATE OF HAWAII/ INVESTIGATIONS" is worn only by internal affairs investigators.

Castro said the former gold and black emblem with the islands depicted in green was worn for about 30 years.

"The state consolidated all the small police agencies under one department a few years ago. That's how the Division of Law Enforcement was created," he said. "The new style is a 2024 patch."

Warning: There is already a reproduction of the new Sheriff style selling for exorbitant prices on the internet. Sadly, because Hawaiian law enforcement insignia is so popular, rampant repros have plagued Aloha State collectors for years. Just as any Hawaii collector.

...Veteran badge collectors **Jim Fightmaster** and **Steve Ferrell** shared a table. The Kentuckians made some nice pieces available. Ferrell brought four frames of court bailiff and security badges from his fine collection.

...All former "Central Ohio" hosts were present, **JJ Meade**, **Bruce Muraco**, **George Maciejunes**, **Mike Creamer Jr.** and founder **Larry Balla**.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Colorado State Patrol Celebrates 90th Anniversary

It was October 20, 1935 when the first Colorado Courtesy Patrol officers began patrolling the state. Now the Colorado State Patrol, the agency celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2025. The milestone is being marked with a full year of events, as well as outstanding commemorative insignia designed by a collector.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

DENVER, Colo. – The Colorado State Patrol marks its 90th anniversary in 2025. A year-long anniversary celebration is planned, including commemorative badges, shoulder emblems, a pin and challenge coins.

It was 1935 when the Colorado State Highway Courtesy Patrol, forerunner to the State Patrol, was founded. Seventy-five hundred men applied for 44 patrolmen positions. The agency was a division of the state highway department. The first chief was Joseph J. Marsh. Troopers underwent six weeks of intensive training at Camp George West.

Ever since their humble beginnings, including name changes to Highway Patrol (1945) and State Patrol (1947), troopers have patrolled the state and served the people of the Rocky Mountain State.

Collector and retired CSP Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Davisson designed the commemorative insignia. The badges are made by Sun Badge Company, while fellow collector Tony Aleria did the patch and challenge coins, which are available to collectors. The badge is unavailable outside the agency.

"The badge will be same high quality as the regular badge," Davisson said. "Sun always puts out a great product, so they'll be something special, a real nice keepsake."

The seven-point star features the anniversary logo as the center design. It shows "90TH" in large gold numerals bordered in black. "ANNIVERSARY" is seen on small gold letters on a black scroll-like banner beneath the numbers.



(Left) The Colorado State Patrol 90th Anniversary commemorative star will be worn throughout 2025. It is gold-colored and features the anniversary logo. (Right) The winged wheel hat badge shows the logo. It, too, is gold-colored. Bruce Davisson designed them. *Contributed photographs*



It's not the museum, but what a piece of history! Bruce Davisson had been searching for this shield for 35 years. It was used by the Colorado Department of Public Safety from 1917 to 1921. The title member was used in lieu of officer. DPS was established in 1917. *Bruce Davisson photograph*

The gold winged wheel hat badge also shows the logo, as does the gold matching pin. Both commemorative shoulder patches show the logo, one on a French blue background, the other on a black background.

The challenge coins come in silver and blue or black and gold versions. The face shows the logo surrounded by "COLORADO STATE PATROL/ 1935-2025." The reverse has the state seal and "COLORADO STATE HIGHWAY COURTESY PATROL."

Port of Entry officers, who enforce commercial motor vehicle laws, have commemorative insignia as well.

With the exception of the badges, the insignia is available from the Colorado State Patrol Association through their website, costatepatrol.org.

State Patrol history As automobiles became increasingly part of American lifestyle in the early 1900s, like many states, Colorado had no statewide traffic law enforcement agency.

County sheriffs and municipal police lacked sufficient resources to enforce motor vehicle laws. Yet, many sheriffs and police chiefs opposed formation of a statewide traffic agency, fearing its ultimate expansion into a state police force. Others called collection of license and registration fees a state, not county or municipal, responsibility.

Nevertheless, state government created several different traffic law enforcement agencies between 1919 to 1935. All were short-lived; most lasted a year or less, their names and functions all but forgotten.

However, the popularity of the automobile in the 1920s and '30s necessitated an agency with statewide jurisdiction to investigate and document crashes and fatalities and enforce motor vehicle laws. In addition, county and local law enforcement faced a then-unique concern: automobiles gave criminals mobility to travel beyond jurisdictional lines to avoid detection and capture. Statewide jurisdiction was needed for apprehension.

Even as the Courtesy Patrol was being formed, it was questionable whether patrolmen would be allowed to carry firearms. Governor Edwin C. Johnson staunchly opposed arming the patrolmen, saying, "There is no courtesy in a shotgun." He argued the patrolmen were not peace officers. The governor ordered patrolmen be issued motorcycles, not automobiles, despite the harsh Colorado winter.

Soon, despite the governor's opposition, the board overseeing the new agency authorized arming the officers and putting them in automobiles rather than on motorcycles.

During the Session Laws of 1933, Senate Bill 483 addressed the concerns of sheriffs and chiefs over the potential formation of a statewide police force:

"...The duties of the Patrolmen are to promote safety, protect human life and preserve the highways of this state by the intelligent, courteous and strict enforcement, exclusively, of the laws and regulations of this state relating to the highways and the traffic upon such highways, not withstanding any provisions of the law charging any other department or



(Upper left and right) The front and back of the Colorado State Patrol 90th Anniversary challenge coin. There are two versions, one silver and blue, the other gold and black. (Bottom) 2025 commemorative shoulder patches. One has a black background. The other is French blue. *Contributed photograph*



The Colorado State Patrol Museum is filled with hundreds of historic artifacts and exhibits chronicling the 90-year history of the agency, which began in 1935 as the State Highway Courtesy Patrol. This is one of the early Courtesy Patrol cars in the museum collection. *Bruce Davisson photograph*

Colorado State Patrol ...Continued

agency of the state with the enforcement of such laws, and in order that there may be no duplication with respect to such enforcement...”

The law provided for the appointment of a patrol supervisor, and a number of patrolmen dependent on the time of year. Initially, the department was authorized to employ ten patrolmen from October 1 to May 31 and 20 patrolmen from June 1 to September 30.

Subsequent legislation established the Colorado State Highway Courtesy Patrol in 1935. The number of patrolmen authorized was increased to 44. They worked throughout the year. Seasonal employment restrictions were dropped.

Upon graduation from the training school on October 20, 1935, the 44 men of the Courtesy Patrol appeared on the highways for the first time. After a number of years with practically no supervision, a number of citizens were fairly lax with regard to securing license plates, paying taxes, observing safety rules and complying with laws and regulations governing highway use.

When the Patrol first began its work on Colorado’s highways, erring motorists were warned, given a polite smile and waved on their way. After the break-in period to give motorists a chance to correct bad practices and unsafe methods, court citations were issued to those who repeatedly violated state laws or refused to cooperate with the Patrol’s efforts to promote greater safety on the highways.

As the Ports of Entry were established, they were used as a training ground for Courtesy Patrol officers. When a new man came into service, it was customary to assign him to one of the Ports to learn the duties of an officer. Tourists and travelers were encouraged to stop at the Ports when they entered Colorado. There, they were greeted and welcomed by a Courtesy Patrol officer and given a windshield sticker with a safety tip on it. Public relations were one of the biggest services the Courtesy Patrol provided.

Every member of the Patrol emphasized safety, in the schools, at civic clubs and groups and to organizations and associations of all kinds. It was very gratifying to see a sharp decline in the number of accidents due to the Patrol’s diligence in promoting traffic safety.

State Patrol Museum The Colorado State Patrol Museum chronicles agency history by displaying artifacts, memorabilia, insignia, photographs, equipment and patrol vehicles. It is located at 1500 South Golden Road in Golden. The museum is open to the public on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm, weather permitting.

“I had the honor of volunteering at the museum today. Every time I come here, it has grown. There are seven cars on display with several others on loan to other museums, and three from the 1960s and 1970s in the process of being restored,” Davisson said. “So much history, and if you are ‘experienced’ like me, you recall using some of the antique items.”

Copies of both volumes of *Worn With Pride*, the reference books on state police and highway patrol shoulder emblems written by Davisson and Tony Aleria, are shown among the displays.

The museum mission statement is a summary of its role in preserving agency history: “The Colorado State Patrol Museum is dedicated to preserving, honoring and



The Colorado State Patrol Museum in Golden has a fine collection of uniforms that patrol officers have worn over the years. Each uniform is complete with badges, emblems, collar brass, belts and other accouterments. The museum is open to the public on Thursdays. *Bruce Davisson photograph*

showcasing the history of the agency through the collection of artifacts, documents and photographs. The museum aims to honor decades of service and sacrifice of law enforcement professionals while fostering a better understanding of their work and its impact on communities.

“The museum provides an overview of how the agency has evolved over the decades while remaining committed to its mission of providing modern policing services for all persons to protect life, peace and property throughout Colorado.”

The museum is staffed by volunteers from the Colorado State Patrol Alumni Association, an organization of former and retired troopers.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

“Central Indiana” Turns Up The Bloomington Heat

The up and coming “Central Indiana” Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show made a hot early August weekend even hotter as host Kyle Landgrebe welcomed 90 to 100 collectors from seven states his fifth annual show. It was a 40-table sellout.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – A small brick building near rabbit and chicken barns on a rural Indiana county fairgrounds seems an unlikely location for an up and coming swap meet, but it worked for Kyle Landgrebe and his “Central Indiana” Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show.

On a blazing hot Saturday, August 3 in Bloomington, about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, Landgrebe welcomed between 90 to 100 collectors to his fifth annual show in the Community Building at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The bucolic venue hosted a larger and better attended show than 2023. All 40 tables were rented.

Collectors traveled from seven states, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The Indiana turnout was particularly impressive and included several hobby newcomers attending their inaugural show.

Tableholders were Ernie Hamm, Indiana; Pete Belos and Jack Genius, Illinois; Dan Bukala, Ryan McClain, Wesley Allen, Alan Levy and Trent Strouder, Indiana, David Hume, Jim Shattuck, James Karas, Steve Curry and John Christmann, Kentucky; Richard Fitzmaurice, Michigan; Larry Balla, Phil Lind, Vince Turocy, Ohio and Mike R. Bondarenko, Wisconsin. Two out of state tableholders were late cancellations.

“It was definitely a bigger and better show than last year,” said Landgrebe, a former Bloomington police officer. “We got the Indiana collectors to come out, and we had quite a few people from other states. It was a good day.”

“Central Indiana” was strictly a buy, sell and trade affair with only a smattering of displays. Landgrebe did not sponsor a display contest, a recent trend among insignia show hosts.

It was a very good show for badge collectors. Veteran hobbyists Curry, Levy, Genius, Belos, Hume, Lind and Willie Herald offered impressive arrays of historic vintage stars and shields in search of new homes. Most would enhance any collection.

Patch aficionados had plenty to choose from, too, at the tables of Burks, Bukala, Strouder, Karas, Hamm, Turocy, Christmann, Fitzmaurice and Detwiler.

Not to be outdone, McClain solicited custom diecast vehicles, and Hamm had pre-merger scale model cars from Indianapolis PD.

Although Landgrebe has not announced the date for his 2025 show, “Central Indiana” has traditionally been the first Saturday in August. He plans to make an announcement in early 2025.

Historic Bloomington collection Kyle Landgrebe has carved a niche among



Kyle Landgrebe, a former Bloomington officer, hosted his fifth “Central Indiana” Law Enforcement Memorabilia Collectors Show at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on August 3. He welcomed between 90 to 100 collectors from seven states on a stifling hot summer day. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Kyle Landgrebe recently assembled this exhibit of artifacts, including badges, from the career of Bloomington police Officer Charles Robinson, who served from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. He obtained these pieces from Robinson's family following his death. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

his fellow Indiana collectors, the only known complete collection of Bloomington Police Department insignia.

The former BPD officer featured a new display dedicated to the career of Officer Charles Robinson, who served from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. Following his death in 2008, the family donated his police department artifacts to Landgrebe for his collection.

"I've had these items since his death. I finally put this display together," he said. It includes Officer Robinson posing in six squad images taken during his career, his personal badge in the rank of sergeant and two other badges from his time on the department.



The largest and most complete Bloomington Police Department insignia collection in our hobby belongs to Indiana collector Kyle Landgrebe. The only piece he's missing is the very rare first issue badge. Only one is known to exist; it's in a local museum exhibit. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Another exhibit shows Robinson's personal patch and patrolman badge. It also includes pictures of Bloomington's first motor officer, as well as Chief of Police Raymond Hinkle, who served from 1948 to 1951. Robinson reached the rank of detective.

Landgrebe has compiled an extensive department history going back to the first marshal, David B. Juhan, who served from 1847 to 1852. City marshal was an elected position until 1860. He was Bloomington's only law enforcement officer.

Between 1860 and 1899, the city was patrolled by civilians known as the Night Watchers. The Police Department was founded in September 1899.

Landgrebe's Bloomington collection encompasses three large freestanding frames of badges and emblems. It is complete except for the first issue badge, a large silver-colored



Earnest P. "Larry" Pletsch, 29, was arrested without incident by Bloomington Police and Indiana State Police officers not long after he landed a stolen airplane near the city. The "Flying Romeo" was wanted for murder and felony theft in Missouri in late October 1939. *Contributed photograph*

shield. "The Monroe County Historical Society has one. It's the only one I've ever seen," he said. "Maybe someday I'll find one for myself."

His exhibit featured a set of insignia from every public safety agency in Monroe County.

The Flying Romeo One of the most bizarre cases in Bloomington police history was the apprehension of Earnest P. "Larry" Pletsch, 29, the so-called "Flying Romeo," on October 28, 1939. It is noted in Landgrebe's department timeline.

Pletsch was taken into custody at a country store by Bloomington and Indiana State Police officers after he landed a stolen two-seat Taylor Cub in a pasture not all that far from the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol had issued a bulletin that Pletsch was wanted for murder and theft of the aircraft. He was last seen taking off from a field near Cherry Box, Mo.

Pletsch shot and killed his flight instructor, Carl Bivens, 39, in mid-flight somewhere over three eastern Missouri counties. He landed the plane near Cherry Box, hid Bivens's body in a grove of trees and then took off toward Indiana.

State Police officers transported Pletsch to Indianapolis where he was held for Missouri authorities. He was returned to Missouri by highway patrolmen.

Initially, Pletsch claimed he shot Bivens in self defense after concocting a bizarre bogus story that he and his flight instructor decided to steal the plane and fly to Mexico together so he could test a high performance aviation fuel he claimed he had developed. Later, he changed his story and admitted he had shot Bivens ion the back of the head while he was flying for no reason, telling detectives, "I just don't know why I killed him, but I did."

Pletsch said he intended to crash the stolen plane into his parent's home near Frankfort, Ind. and commit suicide but changed his mind and landed near Bloomington instead.

The killer surprised Missouri authorities when he pleaded guilty to murder and felony theft at his preliminary hearing on November 1. He was sentenced to life at the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City. It was only five days between the time Pletsch killed Bivens in mid-air that he was on his way to the penitentiary for the rest of his life.

Newspapermen called Pletsch the "Flying Romeo" because he gave teenage girls free airplane rides, usually landing in a remote spot seeking romance. He left one 16-year girl who spurned his advances sitting under a tree as he sprinted to his plane and took off without her.

The unusual murder case made front page news across the Midwest. The *Chicago Tribune* called it one of the most spectacular crimes of the 20th century, adding it was the first mid flight murder.

Pletsch died in prison in 2001.

40 year career Imagine the book that Ernie Hamm could write after 40 years as an Indianapolis police officer! Joining the force in February 1969 and retiring in December 2007, then adding three more years as a reserve officer, he saw it all, from Vietnam war protests to computerized policing and everything in between.

"Yeah, I had a good career. I had my ups and downs, like everyone, but I can honestly



"The Indiana Gang" of tableholders and attendees at the August 3 show in Bloomington. Never let it be said that Hoosier State hobbyists don't support their shows. Not included in this group are the local collectors, mostly newcomers, attending their first show. Shown from left to right are Ryan McClain (Cardinal Die-

casts), Wesley Allen, Dan Bukala, Ernie Hamm, Peter J. Belos, Kyle Landgrebe, Trent Strouder, Alan Levy, (Unidentified) and Cody Hickie. Landgrebe welcomed between 90 to 100 collectors to his 40-table sellout. The Hoosier State now has three regularly scheduled shows. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



An unnamed detective interviews Earnest P. “Larry” Pletsch (right) at the Indianapolis jail only hours after he was arrested near Bloomington. Initially, he denied killing his pilot instructor or stealing his airplane, but later he changed his story and pled guilty a day later. *Vintage Image photograph*

Central Indiana Show ...Continued

say I loved being a cop,” said Hamm, now 80 but still going strong. “Yes, if I had it to do over, I’d do it again.” Hamm said his final years walking a downtown beat near the State Capitol were his most enjoyable. “I loved it. I got to know everyone downtown. I met a lot of great people who came downtown to see the Capitol and the sights,” he said. The veteran officer wore the same shoulder patch and badge his entire career, the



Ernie Hamm was a patrolman in Indianapolis for 40 years. He worked full time from 1969 to 2007, then added three more years as a reserve. His career included a year as a member of the Metropolitan Police, created by the mergers of city and Marion County police. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

now-obsolete blue and gold on black triangle and the eagle-topped silver shield. Both Indianapolis PD insignia depict the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, which rises 275 feet above a square in downtown Indianapolis. Hamm said the biggest change for him was the merger of Indianapolis PD and the Marion County Sheriffs Office on January 1, 2007 at the beginning of his final year on full-time duty. “Everything changed. We had different patches, badges, even hats. They made us wear Smoky the Bear hats. Everyone hated them. Pretty soon we went back to police hats,” he recalled. Now, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, officers wear a custom shoulder



Larry Balla has a very impressive New Orleans Police Department collection. This frame shows a variety of cap and breast badges, as well as early patches, including the first issue patrol and first issue SWAT. Many badges came from Lou Gaydosch’s collection. *Larry Balla photograph*

patch with a variation of the original IPD badge. Hamm was very active in the Fraternal Order of Police during his career. He offered a commemorative diecast Indianapolis police car sold as an FOP fundraiser. It has IPD markings. “This was our last car. Like I said, everything changed after the merger,” he added. “Anything from Indianapolis older than the merger is no longer used.”

The Big Easy A longstanding friendship with a New Orleans collector led Larry Balla, veteran Ohio collector and former show host, to concentrate on the Big Easy. He has built an impressive collection.

“It was Lou Gaydosch who got me started. We met for the first time at the first Saint Louis



The late Pat Olvey assembled this outstanding piece of Michigan State Police history with the personal badges of Commissioner Frederick E. Davids, who served under Governor George Romney in the mid-1960s. It includes his photograph and two business cards. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

National. We had done some trading in the mail. That started a started a friendship that lasted until he died. I’m still in contact with his daughter. She calls me Uncle Larry,” said Balla. Balla acquired his first New Orleans police badge from Gaydosch, the familiar crescent and star. Now, his collection has grown to about 40 badges and several frames of patches, including the rare first issue patrol and SWAT emblems. Among the more unusual NOPD badges is the rank of brake inspector. “Crash your car? Claim the brakes failed? A brake inspector would come down and check your brakes. If your brakes were working, you got a ticket for lying about it,” he explained. “Isn’t it funny how we start collecting things from people we meet?” said Balla. “I couldn’t



Larry Balla, founder of the Columbus show in Grandview Heights when he was a city officer, said his primary interest now is New Orleans Police Department insignia. Longtime friend the late Lou Gaydosch got him interested in collecting the NOPD many years ago. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Kentucky hobbyist Steve Curry purchased the late Pat Olvey’s collection from his wife, Judy, a couple years ago. He has been selling it at shows ever since. It includes the Michigan State Police exhibit depicting the career of Frederick E. Davids, who retired as director. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Dan Bukala, who specializes in public safety agencies from Lake County, Ind., didn't bring his massive collection to the "Central Indiana" show. He did bring large full color pictures of it. He could have won an award for "Best Patch Collection Not Really Here..." *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

resist after hearing Lou talk about being a New Orleans cop. He told some great stories about things that happened down there. The more I heard, the more interested I got."

Gaydosh, who died in 2020, was originally from Philadelphia but relocated to Florida where he split ten years between two small departments. Then, he was off to New Orleans where he spent 31 years on the job, rising to the rank of lieutenant.

Much of his collection was lost when his home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, including his badge collection. He faced the unenviable task of collecting every badge twice.

"Lou had his quirks, like me all do, I guess, but he had a great New Orleans collection and knew everything about their badges and patches. When he died, his family let me take what I needed. I sold the rest of his collection for them," he said.

When Balla was asked if he's about the only Ohio collector who seriously collects the



Ryan McClain (left) and his father, Greg McClain, at the Cardinal Police Diecasts table in Bloomington. Ryan McClain became interested in modeling at a young age, especially law enforcement vehicles, and turned his hobby into a business by making customs. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Big Easy, his responded with his typical tongue in cheek humor, "I sure hope so. Maybe they'll buy me out when I finally get want to get rid of this stuff!"

Balla had a 32-year Ohio law enforcement career with the Franklin County Sheriffs Department and mostly with Grandview Heights PD where he was a patrol sergeant and motor officer. He founded the Columbus shows in 1983.

Commissioner Frederick Davids Frederick E. Davis was Michigan State Police director during the 1960s, a turbulent time for the agency as it dealt with riots in several major cities, including Detroit, and widespread, often violent Vietnam anti-war protests on college campuses across the state.

Governor George Romney appointed Davids as commissioner after a distinguished



What goes up must come down, at least on these Florence, Ky. Police Department emblems! The one on the left shows an airplane descending, while the variation on the right shows an airplane ascending. Otherwise, the patches are nearly identical. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Vinnie Turocy, who recently retired from the Tennessee Highway Patrol as a lieutenant after nearly 26 years, was a "Central Indiana" tableholder. He will continue building his world class THP collection even though he no longer works for the agency. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

career as a trooper, detective sergeant, detective lieutenant and captain, all in the Detroit and Wayne County areas. He wanted a director familiar with policing in large urban areas as unrest grew statewide over civil rights and Vietnam.

The late Pat Olvey collected four badges that Davids wore during his career, including his captain's shield. Longtime *PCNEWS* readers will recall Olvey devoted one of his "The Badge Beat" columns to Davids and his collection.

Steve Curry now owns the Olvey Collection and showed the Davids set at "Central Indiana." Even though I usually don't feature badge collections for sale in show stories, this one represents a significant piece of Michigan State Police history.

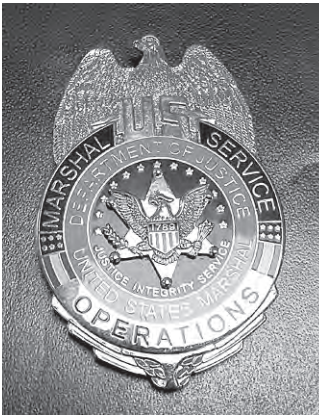


A very hard to get current Tennessee Highway Patrol emblem is from the Law Enforcement Strike Team. Vinnie Turocy had one for trade on his table and Mike R. Bondarenko drooled over it. The agency has specially trained self-sustaining teams that respond to crises. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Olvey showed a black and white photograph of Davids seated at his desk at MSP headquarters, two business cards and four shields, Trooper number "238", Detective Sergeant number "14," Detective Lieutenant (unnumbered) with gold chain and Captain. He commanded the Detroit area district, now known as Metro, prior to becoming director.

Curry showed several other significant Olvey badges:

...A very rare United States Marshals Service eagle-topped shield in the rank of Operations. Only 11 badges in this rank were made. Curry has number "18." The others are



(Top) A very rare United States Marshals Service Operations eagle-topped shield, one of only 11 made. (Lower left) A sparkling solid gold chief of police badge from Dayton, O. (Lower right) A mysterious old badge from Cincinnati on Steve Curry's tables. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Central Indiana Show ...Continued

numbered 4, 5, 7, 8, 9,,15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. As explained in the definitive reference *Badges of the United States Marshals* by George Stumpf and Ray Sherrard, several numbers were skipped.

...A solid gold chief of police eagle-topped sunburst from Dayton. O. It was made from an estimated \$3000 worth of gold in today's market.

...A rare but mysterious Cincinnati police badge. It's a six point shield forged from black metal. The shield-shaped center design shows the old Cincinnati city seal with "CINCINNATI POLICE" in gold lettering beneath it.

"No one knows anything about it. Olvey thought it was Civil War era but couldn't find anything to document that. All we know it's very old and from Cincinnati. That's it," said Curry.

Not really here Dan Bukala came up with a unique "not really here" method to show his Lake County, Ind. public safety collection. Rather than lug around a big pile of heavy display boards on a hot day, he showed his extensive collection in large color pictures mounted inside plastic stands instead.

The co-host of the Northwest Indiana show collects only agencies in the county and has about 600 different emblems. He is missing only one he knows about, a patch worn by police volunteers in the Town of Cedar Lake.

"I know it exists because I've seen one. But, they don't give them out. Believe me, I've tried! I have no idea why they're so hard to get. Hopefully, I'll finally be able to get one soon. It's my number one need," Bukala said.

He started in the hobby by collecting all of Indiana but soon decided to concentrate on his home county where he is involved in the family construction business. "I grew up wanting to be a police officer, but the family business came first," he said.

When Bukala saw a large patch collection as a youngster at the county fair, it sparked his interest in law enforcement insignia. He began collecting, as he put it, "here and there," at first but got serious about the hobby later in life.

It is believed he has the largest and most complete Lake County collection in the hobby.

Just like real The big thing in the police diecast hobby these days is customs. These highly-detailed creations replicate actual law enforcement vehicles. They look just like real cars or SUVs, except for their size, of course. They are known as customs because each vehicle is custom ordered to match an agency vehicle, either by a collector or department employee.

Customs can be pricey, but look awesome in a diorama or as accent pieces to badge or patch displays.

It takes skill, patience and resources to build top shelf customs. Young Ryan McClain turns out fine looking customs as Cardinal Police Diecasts in Westfield, Ind. He showed several vehicle replicas in Bloomington.

"I got into custom diecasts right after college. I've always been into models, especially police cars. I saw a few that I didn't think were very good. I thought I could do better, so I went to work to build one. That's how Cardinal Police Diecasts started," McClain said.

McClain said authenticity is crucial to building just like real, only smaller, vehicles. He utilizes modern computer graphics and digital imaging to replicate and manufacture decals used on vehicles he builds for customers or his own collection. "If it doesn't look real, then it's not a good job. It's got to be real," he added.

Although custom diecasts have been around for years, only since the advent of sophisticated computer-generated digital imagery has the industry skyrocketed. Custom builders can be found across the country, as well as overseas.

McClain proclaimed 1:24 scale vehicles are the most popular customs, followed by 1:18. He has created a few smaller vehicles. "Blank 1:24s are more available than 1:18s. They're out there but not in all the different vehicles," he said. "Most all my orders are for 1:24. It's a nice size."

McClain begins each project with a blank diecast vehicle purchased from a manufacturer. He duplicates agency decals and other markings using digital images provided by the customer. Some vehicles need to be painted, but most solid color models come with factory paint jobs. Graphics are applied precisely to replicate the real vehicle.

The next step can be a challenge, installation of authentic spotlights, emergency lights, antennas and push bumpers. Manufacturers sell miniature versions of the most common emergency vehicle equipment, as well as interior details such as computers, prisoner screens and even dash-mounted radar sets.

"Sometimes it gets hard to find miniatures of new things that come out right away, like different lightbars and such, but they are out there eventually. I've got some pretty good sources," McClain said.

The hobbyist adds battery operated working LED lights and audible sirens to some customs. He showed me a sheriffs office canine vehicle from Indiana that has working flashing red and blue lights, even under the doors, just like the real one. Diecasts have come a long, long way since the days of Road Champs!

McClain makes and markets custom graphics to other modelers.



Megan Maki of Creative Creations, caterer for "Central Indiana" show, offered custom homemade cookies made like law enforcement agency emblems, even a semiautomatic pistol. She had cookies for the Illinois State Police and the Indiana State Police, too. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

"Central Indiana" notebook ...An interesting set of Florence, Ky. patches was found on **Jim Karas's** table. The round mostly gold and black emblems with custom center designs are virtually identical except for one detail.

The two-tone blue design shows an aircraft in flight over the city skyline. On one version, the aircraft appears to be descending; it is ascending on the other version. It makes me wonder why?

John Christmann, who specializes in Kentucky police emblems, told me Florence is located near the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport. However, he doesn't know why the PD had two varieties of the same emblem.

...Christmann said the 2025 Southgate show will again be the Saturday before Easter at the same venue. He plans a formal announcement soon.

...Everyone who follows **Vinny Turocy** on Facebook knows that the Tennessee Highway Patrol collector spent time in Italy and other European cities over the summer. He posted numerous photographs of the places and areas he visited.

Turocy had the table next to mine, so we had a chance to chat about his trip and his recent THP retirement. He was able to make friends with a couple Vatican police officers and got about as close as anyone gets to the Pope for a mass in Vatican Square. He posted a picture.

He had a patch on his table that I drooled over, a very hard to get THP Law Enforcement Strike Team emblem. The colorful emblem shows the head of a bald eagle holding a lightning bolt in its beak and the motto, "QUICK TO RESPOND...LAST TO LEAVE."

Strike Teams are specially trained, self-sustained units that respond to assist local law enforcement in crisis situations throughout the state. Two teams were called out during severe flooding in West Tennessee in early May, according to Commissioner Bill Gibbons of the state Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

...It is said an army crawls on its stomach, meaning it needs food to function. So do us collectors! Once again we were in good hands, thanks to **Megan Maki** of Creative Creations, who catered a delicious lunch featuring homemade Italian beef sandwiches and much more.

Very popular as well were her police shoulder patch cookies representing several departments and other pastries, all homemade, of course. She even had sugarless cookies for those trying to take off a few pounds.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

Boston Hosts Third Annual Collectors Show

Brian and Meredyth Dunn hosted their third Metropolitan Boston Police Collectors Show on October 6. The 80-table sellout was the best yet with a large, enthusiastic gathering of collectors from throughout New England and far beyond.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

BOSTON, Mass. – Neither the Red Sox or Patriots had big years in 2024, but the Third Annual Boston Metro Boston Police Collectors Show and Swap Meet sure did. Brian and Meredyth Dunn hosted their biggest and best show on October 6.

Eager hobbyists flocked from all over the Northeast and Ontario to attend the 80-table sellout at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers hall in Dorchester, a Boston neighborhood. A record 151 walk-ins and 55 tableholders and assistants enjoyed a great show on a pleasant, sunny autumn Sunday.

"Collectors from all of the New England States, Maryland, New York, New Jersey and Canada. This was our third show, and it was bigger than last year," Brian Dunn said. "The hall is already inquiring about our date for next year."

Dunn reported seeing a number of younger collectors he had never seen before. He said their presence is "a great thing for the future of the hobby."

In addition to intense buying, selling and trading inside the hall, collectors also enjoyed several restored cruisers outside, as well as a Massachusetts Air Wing flyby.

The Dunsns organized their first show in 2022 after Massachusetts went without one for several years following the retirements of previous hosts.

"Boston needs a show. When we didn't have one for a few years, I thought it was time to put one together. I've got the time now since I retired," said Brian Dunn. "Meredyth has been a lot of help. And, we've gotten really good support from Boston PD and all the local collectors."



Meredyth and Brian Dunn hosted another outstanding Metropolitan Boston Police Collectors Show on Sunday, October 6. It was an 80-table sellout with an excellent walk-in crowd from all over New England and beyond. In only three years, it has become a major show. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Connecticut dominated this year's display contest in Boston. Brian Dunn (far left) presented awards to (left to right) Nick Leary (Best Badge), John Baker (Best Patch) and Lisa and Bob Arsenault (Best of Show). It was the first clean sweep for Connecticut. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

The hosts thanked the IBEW Council with making the modern, well-appointed hall and secure adjacent parking lot available at reasonable cost. Venue availability and cost have become major obstacles for many new hosts across the country. Not in Boston thanks to the union.

Dunn said the show was held in honor of the late Jim Aitken, longtime Massachusetts collector, who died over the summer. He retired to South Carolina after a long career with the Massachusetts State Police Fleet Section where he served as supervisor. He was a



Dom Montano of Dirty Water Collectibles owns this absolutely beautiful retired Massachusetts State Police cruiser. He said it saw service on the Massachusetts Turnpike, as denoted by a small decal in front of the front tires. The interior is outfitted as it was on patrol. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

consummate MSP and Massachusetts collector.

Boston also honored the memory of the late collector Bruce Petro of Maryland, who also died earlier this year. Petro was a major with the Anne Arundel County Police Reserve and brother of New York hobbyist Steve Petro, who attended the show.

80 tables sold Tableholders were Hervey Cote, Steve Lyons, Rich Pontes, New England Art and Frame, Rob Arsenault, John Baker, Paul Morrison, Josh Searle, Paul Sicard, Rich Shailor, Tony Kalicki, Roger Gauthier, Rhode Island State Police Museum, Nick Leary, Salem Fire Department, Barbara Haven, Pete Dernier, Gary Smith, Brian Lyons, Gerry Tibbs, Bob Webber, Bob Ryder, Tony Balzano, *Police Collectors News*, Salem Fire Department, Joe Morrison, Dirty Water Collectibles, John Cizsek, Steve Petro, Dave Matte, Underdog Patch, Beate Bolen, Josh Beedle, Jeff Noyes, Dave Post, Mike Crosby, Mike Doucette, Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, Xavier Dugratyn



Boston is the oldest police department in the country. It was founded in 1838 and has a long and proud legacy. BPD artifacts and memorabilia took center stage at the show with numerous displays devoted to agency history. This photo shows motor cops in the 1930s. *Boston Public Library Collection*



"Best of Show" winners in Boston were Bob and Lisa Arsenault. The husband-wife duo was honored for their incredible Connecticut law enforcement badge display featuring more than 550 different styles. Arsenault is a retired State Capitol Police officer. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

(Canada), Justin Corriveau (Canada), John Powers, John Raiche, Marty Cassidy, Robert Yuchniuk and Cambridge Police Association.

While northeastern states law enforcement insignia predominated, collectors with large patch and badge quantities for sale or trade brought insignia from throughout the USA and beyond. Challenge coin and fire insignia aficionados found plenty to choose from as well.

Boston PD and Massachusetts State Police collectors had a field day with a wide variety of insignia, uniforms, historic photographs, artifacts and memorabilia from both agencies.

The Boston Police Relief Association offered BPD theme hats, clothing and swag as fundraisers to help department officers and families in need, as did the Fire Department.

The Retired Boston Police Officers Association was well represented. Members commented on displays, reminisced and shared memories with many tableholders, including *PCNEWS*. They were eager to answer badge and patch questions, too.

Former Boston Police Commissioner William G. Gross was a special guest again this year. He visited nearly every table, posed for pictures and even autographed some BPD patches. He served as commissioner from 2018 to 2021, capping a Boston police career that began as a patrol officer in 1984.

Gross was an extremely popular commissioner among the rank and file and remains in high regard. "He put us first. He cared about us. He was one of us," a retired officer said. "Without mentioning any names, he was the opposite of some other commissioners."

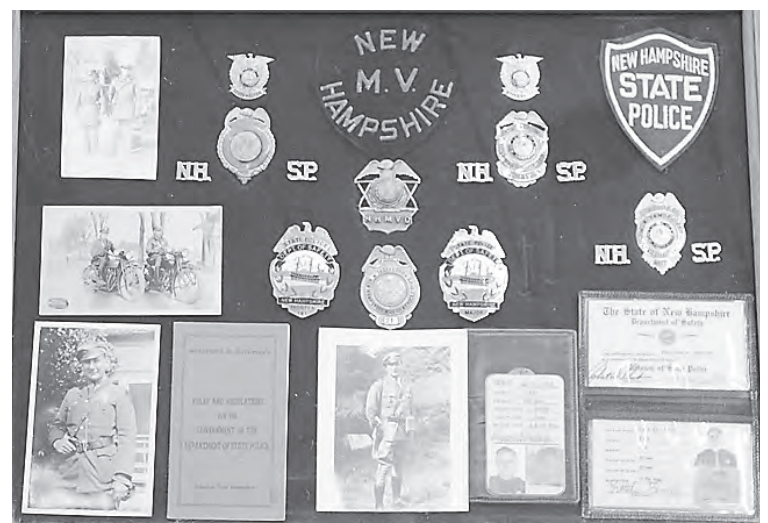
Arsenaults "Best of Show" Connecticut won big in Boston. Even though it was a Massachusetts show, the Constitution State swept the display contest, winning all three awards.

Bob and Lisa Arsenault captured "Best of Show" for their amazing Connecticut badge collection.

"Best Badge" went to Nick Leary of Connecticut for his unique antique state police and highway patrol shield and artifacts collections.

Longtime Connecticut hobbyist John Baker took "Best Patch" with his United States Postal Service Police, Connecticut Capitol Police and Connecticut tribal collections.

The Arsenaults' unique Connecticut shield exhibit fills 18 large glass-covered frames. It includes about 550 stars and shields, old and new, from state, county and municipal agencies. (The state has not had counties since 1960. Counties are now statistical areas



(Top) Nick Leary's collection from the Maine State Police features a complete collection of badges and cloth insignia. (Bottom) Leary's historic New Hampshire State Police collection shows patches, badges, historic pictures and even an old regulations book. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Top) A beautiful old Connecticut State Police shield in excellent condition, Iowa Motor Vehicle Department inspector (lower left) and Arizona Highway Department Motor Vehicle inspector (lower right) are among Nick Leary’s museum quality collection of antique badges. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Boston Show ...Continued

without governments. All county badges are predate 1960.)

“I only collect Connecticut. I’ve been at this for 40 years,” said the retired State Capitol police officer. “I used to keep everything in boxes. It was Lisa who pushed me to put everything in frames. We started the framing project about ten years ago.”

Lisa Arsenault, also a law enforcement officer, said it’s a shame to store badges in boxes. “You can’t see them. You can’t enjoy them. Why have them in the first place?” she said. “I told him he needed to show them off. I told him I’d help. That’s how this started. I had to keep after him for awhile, but it paid off.”

Arsenault said his best badge is a solid gold Hartford police commissioner’s shield from the turn of the century. “It’s one of the nicest badges Connecticut I’ve ever seen,” he said. “I was really lucky to get it.”

The husband-wife collecting duo has been busy. They’ve added about 100 badges since the last time the collection was put on display, certainly enough for additional frames. Undoubtedly, Lisa will make sure those additional frames become a reality!

Connecticut law enforcement history dates well before the Civil War when some towns had night watchmen, long before police departments were formed. Other towns relied on sheriffs, although the state never had strong county governments. As a result, law enforcement was minimal, especially in rural areas.

The State Police was founded in 1903. Initially, five officers were hired to combat the growing problem of illegal liquor manufacture and transportation. The agency evolved into a statewide police force. Connecticut was the first state police department to celebrate 100 years of service in 2003.

Leary has a phenomenal state police and highway patrol collection, especially from agencies in the Northeast, as those who have enjoyed his exhibits at numerous shows can attest. His award-winning Boston exhibit on centered on the Maine State Police, New Hampshire State Police and a world class array of historic SP/HP badges, mostly first or



Another sampling of rarities in Nick Leary’s SP/HP antique badge collection. (Top) Oregon State Police captain and Pennsylvania State Police. (Bottom) An old Rhode Island State Police shield next to an antique South Carolina Highway Patrol. Leary won for “Best Badge.” *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



John Baker won “Best Patch Display” for his collections from United States Postal Police (left, four frames), Connecticut tribal and gaming agencies (upper right) and Connecticut Capitol Police (lower right). Baker specializes in Connecticut and has an incredible collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

other very early issues.

Leary’s Maine frame features all five shoulder patches, complete sets of badges and other uniform cloth insignia. It shows a great photo of troopers in full uniform lined up outside their headquarters many years ago.

It was 1921 when the first 34 Maine troopers, who were also called inspectors, commissioned by the state highway commission began patrolling to enforce motor vehicle laws and collect registration and driver license fees. Today, the agency is a full service law enforcement agency.

The New Hampshire State Police originated in 1937 when the state merged traffic officers from the state highway department and investigators from the attorney general’s office into a single 48-member agency. The first director was a former county sheriff.

Leary’s New Hampshire collection features an extremely rare original New Hampshire Motor Vehicle shoulder emblem, badges, identification cards and historic photos of troopers in uniform.

His 49-piece nationwide antique SP/HP badge collection features many first issues, as well as a few stars and shields worn by predecessor agencies. A few highlights that caught my eye were:

...An early gold-colored five-point ball-tipped star from the Oregon State Police. It has a plain state seal.

...A long obsolete four-digit numbered shield from the Pennsylvania State Police Force with a plain commonwealth seal. It is silver-colored.

...A historic small silver-colored eagle-topped shield from the Rhode Island State Police. It has the blue shield with silver anchor seal on it. It is numbered “63.”

...A very early Connecticut State Police issue is a well worn gold-colored traditional shield with a raised state seal as the center design. The legends appear on banners and read, “CONNECTICUT” at the top and “STATE POLICE” on the bottom. There is no number.

...South Carolina is represented by an ornate eagle-topped shield. It is brass-colored and numbered “53” at the bottom. A plain state seal appears as the center design. The legends read, “PATROLMAN/ SOUTH CAROLINA/ HIGHWAY PATROL.” This badge shows considerable wear, meaning it saw its fair share of duty.

...From Iowa comes a numbered examiner eagle-topped shield from the Motor Vehicle Department. “IOWA” appears on a small banner being carried by the eagle, while “EXAMINER/ MOTOR VEHICLE DEPT.” surrounds the plain state seal. The number is “119.”

...Arizona offered another motor vehicle inspector badge. It’s a silver-colored eagle-topped shield with black incuse enamel lettering, “INSPECTOR/ ARIZONA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/ M.V. DIVISION.” It is numbered “33” and has a plain center seal.

It is not only the age of these badges that makes them extremely desirable; it’s also how each represents previous generations of badge manufacture and design, using plain basic metals and state seals and legends. No colorful seals, bright enamel panels or other so-called modern features can be found on these stars or shields. Each is truly a throwback to earlier times of the badge making art.

John Baker usually exhibits segments of his outstanding Connecticut State Police or Hartford Police Department collections. However, this time he chose to feature other interests. His effort won an award as he displayed four frames of emblems from the United States Postal Police and single exhibits from the Connecticut Capitol Police and Connecticut tribal law enforcement agencies.

The Postal Police is the United States Postal Service law enforcement agency. It has nationwide jurisdiction, of course, so Baker featured dozens of colorful department issue and local office emblems from around the country.



The gang from the Rhode Island State Police Museum Foundation made the trip from North Scituate to promote the museum and sell collectibles in Boston. Ken Bowman (far right) serves as a trustee. The museum is gearing up for the RISP anniversary milestone. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Top left) The face of the Rhode Island State Police 1925 to 2025 centennial challenge coin. (Upper right) The coin reverse shows RISP emblems. (Bottom) The 2025 commemorative emblem celebrating the RISP centennial features the anniversary logo. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

When asked why he chose to collect the Postal Police, Baker's response was simply, "Because I hate the Postal Service." I didn't delve into his specific reasons why, but let it suffice to say he is not alone among collectors who have had badge and patch mail lost or damaged. We all feel your pain, John!

His Capitol Police collection was impressive. It features a progression from the earliest triangles to the current LASD shapes. The exhibit includes awareness emblems, such as breast cancer and autism, as well.

Connecticut has four large Native American tribal agencies, Nantucket Pequot, Mohegan, Eastern Pequot and Potluck Pequot. Some operate casinos, including the massive Foxwoods (the largest) and Mohegan Sun. Each also has its own in-house security agency.

The state Division of Special Revenue licenses tribal casinos. Its officers monitor and inspect operations to ensure the highest degree of integrity. Baker added their emblems to his tribal exhibit.

Tribes also operate their own gaming commissions with insignia worn by inspectors. He has them, too.

Show judges were Rich Pontes, retired New England show host; Ken Bowman, Rhode Island State Police Museum trustee; and Mike R. Bondarenko, *PCNEWS* editor and publisher.

RISP countdown underway The Rhode Island State Police Museum is counting down to 2025 when the agency kicks off the department's long-awaited centennial celebration. State troopers have protected and served the state since 1925.

Museum volunteers, headed by curator Ken Bowman, offered a sneak preview by offering an unofficial commemorative anniversary shoulder patch and challenge coin depicting the centennial logo. They also took advance orders for a 1925 to 2025 centennial history book and sold a souvenir t-shirt with the anniversary logo on the front.

"The patch and coin are little different than what the troopers will have, but they're close," Bowman said. "We're selling them as fundraisers for the museum."

Official emblems and badges will not be available outside the department. Bowman said the badge will be worn, but the anniversary patch will not.

The curator was particularly excited by the new book. "It's going to be a very complete history of the State Police with lots of pictures," he said. "It's going to coffee table size. Very professionally done."

In addition to making collectors aware of the forthcoming centennial, volunteers also sold Christmas tree ornaments, stuffed bears as uniformed troopers and numerous other RISP collectibles and swag.

The museum is planning several special events and exhibits for the centennial celebration. They will be announced as the celebration progresses.

The Rhode Island State Police was created by the General Assembly in 1925. Members responded to rising concerns over the lack of law enforcement in rural areas and small towns; even some cities had no police protection of their own. The agency was modeled after the Pennsylvania State Police.

Twenty-three troopers were hired and worked out of a Marine Corps armory in Providence. They patrolled mostly on Indian motorcycles, even during the cold weather months.

L&J marks 34 years Nowadays, many collectors design, produce and market law enforcement insignia. Several collector-owned business set up shop in Boston. A



LJ Badge and Emblem in Connecticut was among the first collector-owned insignia businesses. Owners Larry Botting (left), Josh Searle (center) and customer Gilbert Gonzales attended the Boston show. Botting and Searle began their venture in 1990, 34 years ago. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



LJ Badge and Emblem is out with these emblems from Connecticut. Columbia Marine Patrol (cap and shirt) is a boat patrol on Lake Columbia. (Lower left) Danbury motor officers wear this patch. (Lower right) Groton PD's subdued style for tactical uniforms. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

few collectors have turned their businesses into full-time jobs. They make their living off marketing and selling badges, patches, challenge coins and other collectibles.

Things were much different in 1990 when Connecticut collectors Josh Searle and Larry Rotting launched LJ Badge and Emblem. Back then, only a handful of collectors were involved in insignia businesses, nearly all very part-time.

"Larry and I always have been collectors first, salesmen second. We've kept our prices low on purpose. We want officers to wear nice patches; we can't stand ugly patches," said Searle, a retired police officer.

This business philosophy carries over to insignia they make available to fellow collectors. LJ patches always sell for \$3 to \$4 each. No one will ever find \$10, \$15 or \$20 emblems on their tables. And, Botting and Searle are always willing to trade for emblems they need for their personal collections or to add to their trade stock.

Searle remembers their first creation, Hebron PD, in 1990. The duo was on a collecting road trip and stopped at the police department. They told the officer they met, a resident Connecticut state trooper, he had an ugly patch. "We told him we weren't leaving until he let us design him a new one," Searle said. He said, "We all hate the patch!" Even though their creation is no longer worn, it remains LJ's inaugural foray into insignia production.

Interestingly, even though he lives in Connecticut and produces mostly Connecticut insignia, Searle is an avid New York collector.

Botting and Searle offered their latest creations from Connecticut:

...New London PD has a new wellness dog, "Traveler," a female black Labrador. The lovable canine provides support and comfort to crime victims and officers following critical incidents. Handler Officer Christina Nocita is wearing a triangle depicting "Traveler" as the center design on her uniforms. It's black with gold legends and borders.

...A set of emblems depict the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial in Meriden. The colorful insignia shows the Memorial and the motto, "Never Forget," on two different custom shapes. Botting serves as a member of the foundation that operates the hallowed Memorial honoring fallen law enforcement officers.

...Columbia PD Marine Patrol has new shoulder and cap emblems, both light blue triangles with gold legends and borders. The difference is the cap patch is a smaller version of the shoulder emblem. The center design depicts an anchor.

The Marine Patrol is operated by the township during the recreational boating season on Lake Columbia. Officers ensure boater safety and compliance with state laws and town ordinances.

...Motor officers in Danbury have a new unit emblem. It is round with a light blue background and gold legends and borders. The center design shows a protruding red and white arrow bisecting a white and gold winged wheel, the traditional traffic enforcement insignia. It is worn on the left shoulder; the standard patrol patch is worn on the right.

Motors is part of the Patrol Division and was resurrected in 2011. Danbury dropped its motorcycle patrol in the 1970s and went without motorcycle officers for nearly 40 years before wisely bringing them back.

...Groton PD has a green and black subdued version of their emblem for tactical gear wear. Otherwise, it is identical to the full color standard issue. The department is large enough to have its own Special Response Team.

Finally, I was able to score a hard to get set of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles inspector emblems from Searle. While they didn't produce the insignia, he was able to get a few sets for trade from a friend. These current and a previous shoulder emblems and a cap patch are very welcome additions to my commercial vehicle enforcement collection.

Collect Connecticut? Undoubtedly it would be well worth your while to contact LJ and see what they have available. You won't have to take out a loan or max out your plastic to buy from them either. \$10 or \$15 patches? Not LJ! Email Searle at jonassearle159@yahoo.



(Left) Recent styles from LJ Badge and Emblem include New London's "Traveler," a support dog, and two Connecticut Police Memorial emblems. (Right) Hebron was where it all began for LJ. They created a cloth badge and cap and shoulder patches for the PD. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Hi ho Silver! Rich Pontes showed this one of a kind badge ordered by actor Clayton Moore who portrayed “The Lone Ranger” on TV for many years. It was made by GaRel in Rhode Island. Moore wore this style during personal appearances after the show ended. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Boston Show ...Continued

com or Botting at ljpatches@yahoo.com or call (860) 604-9448.

Pontes liquidating collection Someday, we are all going to be where Rich Pontes, founder and host of New England shows, is now. He’s 80 and has decided it’s time to liquidate his collection. The longtime federal law enforcement officer had some really neat things still available on his table.

“It’s time. I’ve got no one to pass this on to, so it’s time to sell out. Let younger collectors enjoy what I’ve enjoyed all these years,” said Pontes. “It wasn’t an easy decision, but it had to be made. I made it.”

In his typical quiet, unassuming way, Pontes has been offering segments of his impressive collection to longtime friends and collectors who will appreciate them.

Pontes revealed he has already sold many of his federal badges, including Federal Protective Service shields. He spent his entire career with FPS and his department collection was the finest in the hobby, bar none. If it was FPS, he had it. I know because I had the privilege of seeing the incredible collection, although he later added numerous pieces.

A promotional badge he had caught my eye. Like pretty much everyone my age, I grew up watching *The Lone Ranger* in the ‘50s. It’s still a timeless classic of the Old West TV genre. While reruns can be found on satellite or streaming TV these days, us old codgers saw each episode live as it happened!

Thanks to longtime friend Joe Brancato, I have a personalized autographed photo signed by Clayton Moore, who played the Ranger on the series that ran from 1949 to 1957. Brancato sold Moore some Weatherby hunting rifles years ago and became friends with the actor, who died in 1999.

Pontes has a one of a kind shiny silver-colored six point star badge that Moore wore during personal appearances after the show went off the air. Although the Lone Ranger was not a law enforcement officer on the show, he certainly was on the side of law and order. And Moore was very, very pro-cop in real life. He lived a Lone Ranger life.

“He [Moore] ordered it from GaRel in Rhode Island. The original got lost at the factory. They had to make another one for him. I got the one that was lost,” said Pontes. When I asked him how ever managed to get it, he laughed and replied, “Ask Tonto!” I thought that was a great comeback.

(Okay, Generation X’ers, Tonto was the Lone Ranger’s Native American sidekick played by Jay Silverheels. Google Tonto, kids!)

It’s sad when a world class collection like Pontes’s that took him decades to assemble is



Josh Beede specializes in law enforcement emblems from New England, especially New Hampshire. His exhibit featured some of his New England rarities. Beede said he has between 3000 and 4000 different New Hampshire patches, no doubt the largest collection. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



(Left) Josh Beede’s collection includes this first issue from the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police. It is gold and blue on black felt. (Right) Malibu Police was a private police force in Malibu, Calif. It is green and gold with black legends. Beede showed it in Boston. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

liquidated, but, ultimately, we’ll all reach that point. Father Time waits for no one. Not even for old editors and publishers...

New Hampshire specialist Massachusetts collector Josh Beede specializes in New Hampshire, Essex County, Mass. and Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police emblems. He showed a three frame collection of long obsolete styles and rarities that attracted lots of attention from envious New England collectors. He had some real rarities.

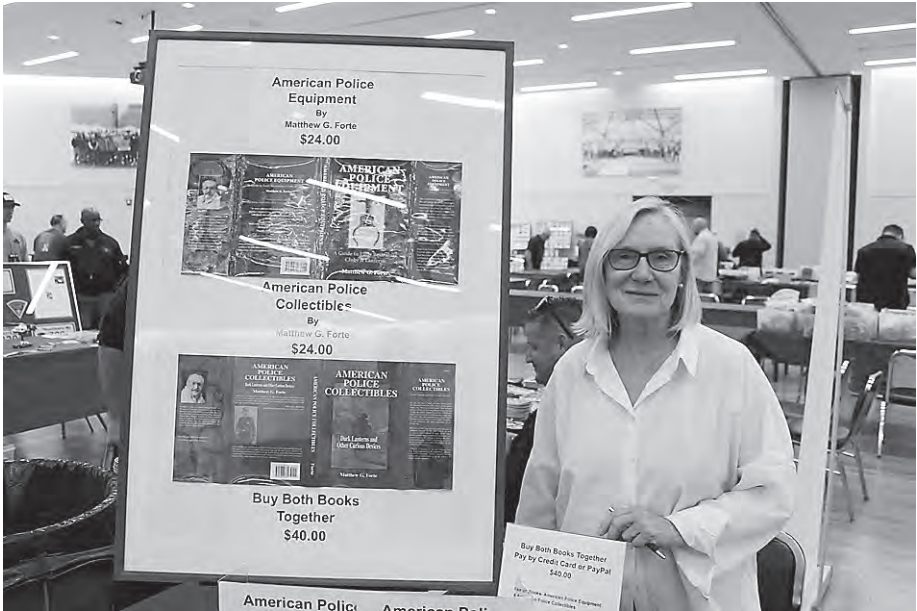
“I live in Mass[achusetts], but my big interest is New Hampshire. I’ve got between 3000 and 4000 New Hampshire patches. A lot of very old ones. I like older patches,” Beede said.

Beede featured some very early New England emblems, such as:

...A round gold-on-black felt early issue for a New Hampshire conservation officer.

...Beverly, Mass. once had Civil Defense Police who wore a black-on-gold rounded rectangle with the full color city seal as the center design.

...Gold-on-black triangles from four Maine police departments, Wells, South Berwick,



Beate Bolen, the late Matthew Forte’s life partner, brought the remaining stock of his books, *American Police Collectibles* and *American Police Equipment*, for sale. Forte specialized in antique police equipment, especially restraints and other prisoner control devices. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Ogunquit and York.

...New Hampshire Turnpike Patrol is a gold-on-black felt shield.

There were many others, including a hard to get New Hampshire State Police Narcotics state shape with a green background and gold border. It features the colorful State Police badge as a center design.

Beede had two interesting non-New England old styles, a first issue Washington Metropolitan PD and a private police force in Malibu, Calif.

Metro is a shield shape made on felt. It is blue and mostly gold on black. The blue legend “METROPOLITAN POLICE” appears on a gold banner across the top with “WASHINGTON D C” in small gold letters beneath it. A gold depiction of the United States Capitol appears as the center design. Beede didn’t know the exact dates of use, but judging by the design and manufacture, it’s got to be 1940s or ‘50s, perhaps even earlier. Does anyone know? Send us an email.



New England Art and Frame owner Ara Anjoorian is a cop movie and TV series buff. He puts together nicely framed collections from current and former programs and films and offers them for sale. Anjoorian has also framed police collectibles for many collectors. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Have a favorite police theme movie or television show? Chances are good that Ara Anjoorian of New England Art and Frame has created a display devoted to it showing cast members in an autographed photo with prop insignia and a plaque with show information. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Beede had two other old Metro patches with the very colorful District of Columbia seal on them. Malibu Police is a green rounded triangle bordered in gold with a superimposed elongated gold star with black legends, "MALIBU/ POLICE." Beede said California collector Randy Grago researched it and determined it was worn by a private police force in Malibu many years ago.

Remembering Matt Forte Memories of the late Matt Forte, a longtime *PCNEWS* reader and contributor, our hobby's leading antique restraints collector and researcher, came to mind as I stopped at the table of Beate Bolen. She offered the remaining copies of Forte's outstanding reference books, *American Police Collectibles* and *American Police Equipment*.

Forte, 78, died two years ago. He was widely regarded as an expert on antique restraints and prisoner control devices, lanterns, rattles and equipment. "Matt loved to do research. He was meticulous about it. He was always upgrading and adding to his collections," Bolen said. The books show the original patent drawings for many of the early devices described in both volumes. The detailed pen and ink drawings came from United States Patent Office files.

The first volume of *American Police Collectibles* was published in 1998 and subtitled *Dark Lanterns and Other Curious Devices*, although much of it was devoted to early restraints, whistles and nightsticks and clubs.

"Modern handcuffs hadn't been invented and any number of restraining devices were patented to help the officer subdue his prisoner. Flashlights didn't exist so the police carried lanterns to light their way. Billy clubs and nightsticks were invented which had been built into them whistles, knives, rattles, handcuffs, tear gas dispensers, and almost everything but the kitchen sink," wrote Forte.

The second book came about in 2000. It was titled *American Police Equipment* and subtitled *A Guide to Early Restraints, Clubs and Lanterns* and provides a treasure trove of additional, highly detailed information, as well as photographs of noteworthy pieces from Forte's collection and historic photographs of inventors and officers.

New Jersey hobbyist Pat Minutillo specializes in old law enforcement restraints. He purchased a lot of Forte's collection, which was auctioned following his death. "Matthew was the top collector in this hobby," he said. "He had pieces that no one else did. I was very fortunate to get some of them. His books are solid gold."

Bolen said Forte intended to donate his entire collection to the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C. However, the museum wanted only a portion of it and would accept only the pieces it selected.

"Matthew knew what he had. The museum wanted to cherry pick. He told them no; they'd have to take the entire collection. When they didn't, it was decided would be auctioned off. He really wanted all of it to go to the Museum, but not under their terms, under his terms. He was disappointed because that's what he wanted," Bolen said.

Those who were unable to attend the show can contact Bolen about book availability on beateb@aol.com. Forte's collection has been sold. No items remain.

Bolen said once the remaining book supply is exhausted, both volumes will no longer be available. These books will not be reprinted.

Meet Ara Anjoorian Ara Anjoorian loves getting framed! No, not in the sense of a crook on an old cop TV show or movie claiming he was framed. Instead, he enjoys designing and building custom frames.

Anjoorian owns and operates New England Art and Frame in Tewksbury, Mass. He



Gary Smith was a longtime Boston Metropolitan Police officer. He assembled an impressive collection of MPD cloth and metal insignia over the years. He is shown with a complete collection of Metro cloth insignia. It includes some rarities. The department is long defunct. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

is well known among badge, patch and photo collectors in the Northeast for his framing talents. He has framed collections for many leading hobbyists.

Anjoorian is a police theme TV series and movie buff. He creates and markets custom frames devoted to a wide variety of programs and films as recent as *Bosch*, *NCIS* and *Blue Bloods* and as vintage as *The Andy Griffith Show* of Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Barney Fife fame, *T.J. Hooker*, *Donnie Brasco* and many others. Each frame is a highly desirable collectible in its own right.

"I try to get a photo of the star or stars on the cast autographed, then I find a badge or patch that looks like they wore on the show. I try to get it as exact as I can," said Anjoorian. "I put on a plaque with the title of the show and a little but about it if there's room."

Among the most interesting frames he showed was one dedicated to the '80s hit *CHiPS* about two California Highway Patrol motor officers in the Los Angeles area. It has a photo of co-stars Erik Estrada and Larry Wilcox who portrayed the motor officers. What makes it unique are that it includes two Massachusetts State Police cruiser license plates, one signed by Wilcox and the other by Estrada. The Massachusetts plate numbers are the same as the CHP plates on their *CHiPs* motors!

A harrowing night The night of February 7, 1982 is forever etched in retired Massachusetts State Trooper Mike Crosby's memory. It was a harrowing night no law enforcement officer ever wants to experience. He and another trooper came under fire while checking on a suspicious vehicle.

Crosby attended the show with a display devoted to that fateful day, as well as other artifacts from his career. He collects state police and highway patrol license plates and brought a few with him to the show.

The story begins on December 21, 1981 when New Jersey State Trooper Philip Lamonaco, 32, an 11-year NJSP veteran, was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Interstate 80 in rural Knowlton Township. A gun battle ensued between Trooper Lamonaco, the driver and two passengers. He was fatally shot. A passerby found his body alongside the highway. The shooters escaped.

Trooper Lamonaco's murder initiated an intensive investigation by the NJSP and other agencies. The suspects in his murder were identified as Richard Charles Williams, 34, Thomas William Manning, 32, and Raymond Luc Levassuer, 35. The trio had previously served time together at the New Jersey State Prison on unrelated convictions.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the Northeast began a relentless search for all three suspects. Authorities kept their residences under surveillance and tracked down their known associates. They began looking for Christopher E. King, 22 and Jaan Carl Laaman, 32, because they associated with Williams in prison.

Troopers in surrounding states, including Massachusetts, joined the search for the suspects. Detectives believed all were on the run. Troopers paid particular attention to men sleeping in vehicles in rest stops, thinking they might still be together, possibly in a stolen



Mike Crosby put together this exhibit about the most harrowing night in his long career as a Massachusetts State Trooper. It was February 7, 1982 when he and Trooper Paul Landry came under fire from two suspects in a suspicious car they were checking on. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



With encouragement from his wife, Melissa, Robert Yuchniuk decided to downsize his badge and patch collections. He put a significant segment up for sale in Boston at very reasonable prices. Yuchniuk is a retired Connecticut law enforcement officer and longtime collector. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

Boston Show ...Continued

vehicle.

Massachusetts Trooper Paul Landry was on patrol the night of February 7. He radioed that he was going to check on two men sleeping in a car in an I-95 rest area near North Attleboro. He called for backup. Trooper Crosby was on his way home from his shift when he heard the backup request. No other troopers were nearby, so Crosby responded.

“Paul decided to take the passenger [King] out first. He saw that he was wearing body armor and had a gun. We didn’t have portable radios back then. Paul was heading back to his car when I got there. I saw the driver [Laaman] getting out of the car,” Crosby recalled.

Laaman pointed a handgun he was carrying at Crosby. The trooper took cover by a large rest area trash bin. Laaman began firing at Crosby. Fortunately, he was not hit.

“The passenger started shooting, too. He shot at Paul who was still by his car,” Crosby said. Rounds struck both patrol cars. One round struck the license plate on his cruiser.

Laaman and King fled in the car the troopers had shot at and hit several times. The shooters’ bullet-riddled car was found abandoned soon after. Investigators were able to lift two identifiable sets of fingerprints from the vehicle. Two suspects were identified by their prints as King and Laaman. Now they were wanted for attempted murder of the two state troopers.

King was captured later that day, while Laaman wasn’t apprehended until 1983 in Ohio despite a relentless nationwide search.

“I kept the plates off my cruiser. I decided to put together a display about that night.” Crosby said. He showed it on his table. It features his numbered MSP plates, “329,” including the one damaged by a bullet, his badge and patch, a key chain he was carrying, a picture of his car and an article written about the incident by license plate collector Norm Radcliffe for a license plate hobby publication.

Crosby and Landry still stay in touch 43 years after surviving a nightmare scenario together, an armed assault by convicted felons who probably thought they were wanted but actually were not. Troopers had been instructed to only question them about any knowledge they might have had on the whereabouts of Williams, Manning and Levassuer. They probably would have been released afterward questioning. Instead, they chose to put the lives of two state troopers in peril by turning the contact into a shootout.

Boston Metropolitan Police Former Boston Metropolitan Police Officer Gary Smith displayed an impressive complete collection of emblems worn by the long obsolete agency. He collected them while he worked for Metro before the department was merged into the State Police in 1992. He also had some MPD badges.

“They made us all state troopers after the merger. It was a completely different job from what we were doing. A lot of guys left. I stuck around but retired as soon as I could,” said Smith.

The 1992 merger folded four law enforcement agencies into the Massachusetts State Police: the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Division of Law Enforcement, Massachusetts Capitol Police and the Metropolitan District Commission Police. The State Police strongly opposed the merger but to no avail.

The Boston Metropolitan Police was formed in 1893 under the auspices of the Metropolitan District Commission. MPD was the third largest law enforcement agency in New England with more than 600 officers working mostly around Metropolitan Boston.

MPD jurisdiction included primary law enforcement responsibility for all facilities and roadways controlled by the MDC, as well as all Massachusetts Water Resources Authority facilities, reservoirs and watersheds.

Officers had primary jurisdiction over U.S. Route 1 in Chelsea and Revere and Interstate 93 in Boston and Milton.

Metro officers had full law enforcement authority in cities and towns with MDC facilities or property.

The department provided tactical assistance to cities and towns in the form of regional SWAT and tactical operations units. It also had a Marine Unit.

MPD had a full service detective unit to investigate crimes in its primary jurisdiction, as well as provide detectives as undercover agents to small cities and towns, drug task forces, the Governor’s Auto Theft Strike Force, the DEA Boston Task Force and the FBI.

The last MPD chief was William Bratton, who went on to become the New York City police commissioner and later the Los Angeles police chief.

“It was a good outfit. We caught a lot of bad guys. We did a lot of other things too,” Smith recalled. “It was a good system, until the merger.”

Boston table talk ...Brian Lyons, co-host of the popular New York-New Jersey show, said the 2025 show will be April 13, a week later than usual, because the Hilton Meadowlands hotel ballroom is booked for the first weekend in April. A formal show announcement will be out soon. However, arrangements will be pretty much the same as previous shows, he said.

...**Joe Morrison** brought a very impressive badge exhibit. He showed framed collections from the Los Angeles Police Department, San Francisco Police Department, California Highway Patrol, New York Police Department and United States Marshals Service.

...**Robert Yuchniuk**, a retired Waterford, Conn. police officer, has decided to downsize his collection. He offered a wide variety of badges and patches for sale at very reasonable prices. I was able to find some nice things for my collections on his tables.

“I told him he had to start cutting back because we’re out of room. It [the collection] just got too big,” said his wife, **Melissa**. After I bought some patches from her, she handed back my purchases and said, “Please buy some more! Buy them all!” We laughed about that the rest of the show.

Yuchniuk will remain active in the hobby, but his collection will be leaner and meaner.

...Four collector-owned insignia businesses offered their wares and services in Boston, **Underdog**, **Dirty Water**, **Salem Fire Department** and **L&J**. They proved that no one can design better emblems, badges and challenge coins than the officers who wear and trade them. They offered standard and novelty issues created for agencies they serve. While I don’t collect novelties, such as Halloween emblems and the like, I do admire the design work involved in creating them.

...Although he was ineligible for an award, host **Brian Dunn** brought an impressive patch display. He showed an exhibit of current and obsolete styles from agencies on Cape Cod. It covered two large frames, one depicting current styles and other showing obsolete patches. Dunn’s career began as a police officer on the Cape. Later, he became a Massachusetts state trooper.

MIKE R. BONDARENKO (Baldwin, Wis.)

CTA Badge Display Chicagoan Jeff Bell is working to build a collection of defunct Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Police Department artifacts to display at CTA Headquarters in Chicago. He is searching for badges, patches, photographs and uniforms. Bell also plans to display at shows. The agency went defunct in 1981. “This department existed for many years, then due to politics, it was disbanded and all officers were fired,” said Bell. “I spoke with a handful of the officers, but most of them have passed away.”



The Wisconsin State Patrol entered this picture of a current cruiser and motorcycle in the 2024 “Best Looking State Police Car” contest sponsored by the American Association of State Troopers. The Badger State did not win; Florida did, and by a wide margin. *Wisconsin State Patrol photograph*

Letters To The Editor

Meeting Friend Yields Old Badge

I have a great story to tell everyone.

My first law enforcement job was for the Salem, Mo. Police Department. I began in June 1996.

I accepted the first law enforcement job offered to me. I had separated from the Marine Corps in October 1995 and quickly realized I wanted to be closer to Springfield, Mo. where my parents were living at the time.

I worked for Salem for 73 days, then was employed by Rogers PD where I worked until I became a Missouri trooper in 1998.

Recently, at our ‘Heart of the Ozarks’ show, which I co-host in Branson, Mo., I was approached by a patron of the show. He said he heard my name mentioned a couple times and sought me out.

I started talking with this gentlemen and realized he was one of the officers I worked with at Salem PD. He had since retired. I asked him about obtaining a Salem badge. He said he would talk to the chief for me.

I described my badge as being titled ‘Patrolman’ and missing the enamel in ‘Salem,’ ‘Police’ and ‘116.’

A few weeks later, I met up with my old friend in Rolla, Mo. while traveling to the National Police Collectors Show. He handed me the badge, and it was exactly as I remembered it. I have shown a picture of it.

Thank you, Damir Krdzalic and Pete Alexander, for a great venue and National Show. Thank you everyone I got to visit with. These shows provide great fellowship with other collectors.

TERRY BIBLE (Stotts City, Mo.)

N.Y. Railroad Cop Was Trooper

I have a new acquisition to the collection from New York State. It’s an eagle-topped shield with a large state seal and the legends, ‘TROOPER/ R.R. POLICE/ STATE OF NEW YORK.’ ‘Trooper’ is shown on a banner across the eagle. With the ‘C.D. Reese, 57 Warren Street, NY City’ hallmark and a tongue catch, this badge dates to the 1930s.

I was a personal purchase from a railroad policeman who worked in New York state. Since there is no railroad name on it, we will never know what railroad he worked for.

What I found interesting is the title, ‘Trooper,’ on the banner in the eagle’s mouth. There are many states that railroad police authority comes from the state police, secretary of state or governor, or a combination of those authorities. Not many officers are called troopers.

My New York and New Jersey railroad police commissions come from the state police. My New Jersey commission is through the secretary of state but signed by the governor.



Left) When Terry Bible began his law enforcement career, he worked for Salem, Mo. and wore this shield. He recently got it back as gift from the police chief. (Right) Chip Greiner recently acquired this old Railroad Police badge in the rank of trooper from New York. *Contributed photographs*



Chip Greiner’s railroad police collection includes several old badges with state police titles. These are from (left to right, top to bottom) Alabama, West Virginia, Washington, Oregon and Washington. Greiner finds it interesting that state police titles are used on them. *Chip Greiner photograph*

I have found several other badges in my collection with a ‘State Police’ designation on them, which I find interesting.
CHIP GREINER (Bogota, N.J.)

Florida Wins “Best Looking Car”

The Florida Highway Patrol was the runaway winner of the 2024 “Best Looking State Police Car” competition put on by the American Association of State Troopers. The FHP received about 2900 more votes than the second place car.
I voted for the Wisconsin State Patrol. However, they finished 43rd out of the 49 SP/HP agencies. (In case you are wondering, North Dakota Highway Patrol was last.)
The top 13 winning cars will be on the AAST’s 2025 calendar, which goes on sale in October. I usually buy a few; they’re only \$10 each. (You can order calendars online at statetroopers.org.)
The lucky 13, in order, are Florida Highway Patrol, Kentucky State Police, Nevada Highway Patrol, West Virginia State Police, Mississippi State Highway Patrol, Texas Highway Patrol, Arkansas State Police, Michigan State Police, Georgia State Patrol, Iowa Highway Patrol and Nebraska State Police.
I’m a new reader and really enjoy your newspaper. Lots of great articles.
TY KLEINMACHER (Madison, Wis.)

National Police Collectors Show Reviews

I am a relative newcomer to the badge hobbyist world, but I have been collecting presidential inauguration police badges since 1969.
Now reaching that time in life when you start considering how you are going to dispose of your collection, I immediately thought of Ebay, which introduced me to a wonderful world of retired and current serving officers. And Ebay’s jail.
But along the way, I garnered introduction to various police badge and patch shows and events, providing just the perfect excuses to travel to the region.
We recently drove out to Davenport, Iowa for the National Police Collectors Show. Davenport is certainly well off the beaten path, but interestingly, it is a very clean and large city located on the shores of the Mississippi.
The show was held at a relatively clean and new, well-operated municipal convention center located on the river in downtown Davenport. Bluntly, the city is home to the nicest group of folks you would ever hope to meet.
The owners of the show were certainly no rookies. Registration, check in and set up were accomplished in minutes. Lay out was perfect and no surprises or misunderstandings. A huge amount of business was accomplished in the hall while setting up. For me, it was rather disconcerting to see ten or so vendors who had purchased tables but decided not to attend. Empty, naked, stark tables are never pleasant for an exhibitor to see.
Sunday, everyone was all smiles. But, honestly, attendance was rather small. For comparison, attendees that I saw at the first Gettysburg show outnumbered the National Show by at least five to one. Now, party wise, the National Show gave the boys from the New York/New Jersey show was decent run for their money!
Badge wise, I came home all smiles. I sold two badges, Smithsonian and Cape Kennedy. But found enough coins in my sock to buy 32. The money I spent was right around fire sale prices; got over 25 badges at an average price of \$45 each. I did buy five



Damir Krdzalic (left) and Peter Harris (right) capably hosted the 2024 National Police Collectors Show in Davenport, Iowa in June. The co-hosts said they were delighted with the show. Harris reports the duo is looking to do another National Show in the future. *Contributed photograph*



Very young looking collectors Rich Pontes (left) and Jim Aitken (right) are shown in an old *PCNEWS* picture at the first Massachusetts State Police Museum in the early 1990s. Pontes hosted the New England shows for many years. Aitken, who died recently, was a show regular. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

prime inaugurals for around \$100 each.
These prices raise a meaningful question. Lower valuations in the past year or so have me scratching my head. Is this the economy or perhaps an election year? Then again, it might just be the aging of the badge hobbyists. Please feel free to share your thoughts.
JOHN SEAY (Stafford, Va.)

I woke up at 3:30 in the morning yesterday in the Blackhawk Hotel and was on the road home by 3:45. The ten-hour drive to my home in eastern Tennessee was long and uneventful, but it gave me time to reflect on the show Damir and I just hosted.
All in all, we are delighted how it came off. We had a few lessons learned; things we will change or eliminate for next time, but we went into this endeavor to knock it out of the park. I believe we did just that, and we hope you did too...
...We also wish to thank everyone who attended our show, especially those who supported it by patronizing our host hotels. In our opinion, the host hotel is critical in planning these events. We understand some hosts opt not to employ a host hotel because it is the most significant financial risk if the rooms do not sell. However, we feel this is a mistake. Attendees need to have a gathering place outside the show. Our host hotels not only sold the allotted rooms but had to add more to accommodate everyone.
Lastly, thank you to the non-profit organizations who joined us and those who supported them. We understand the effort it takes to travel long distances, and we were grateful for their presence. We provided space for them to share their missions because we believe in their incredible work. They’re all outstanding organizations. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
We will see you all next year in Phoenix and Saint Louis in 2026.
Rest assured, Damir and I are not done. We are already talking about a potential 2027 or 2028 show. We may have to revisit Davenport.
PETER HARRIS, Co-Host, National Police Collectors Show

Hobby Friends Remember Jim Aitken

What a shock it was when I learned that Jim Aitken had passed! I knew he had cancer but not the extent. He was online and would mention it and what was happening. Words of encouragement and prayers were offered to him, not only by me, but by numerous collectors and friends. He was loved by all.
I first met Jim at one of my early shows, the New England Police Memorabilia Collectors Show. He was new at collecting and came to the show to meet other collectors and learn about the hobby. He was a pleasure to be around, young, asking lots of questions, wanting to learn and was an all-around great guy.
When I would send out my notices of upcoming shows, there were two collectors named Aitken and they weren’t related. I always referred to Jim as the ‘Kid’ because he was so young. He was considered a regular at these shows. We got to be friends and hold many discussions.
Aitken and another collector were instrumental in starting the Massachusetts State Police Museum. He worked for the MSP in Framingham as a mechanic and worked his way up to being in charge. At the shows, he would tell me how to he had contacted retired troopers about the museum and they would donate some very interesting items.
Mike R. Bondarenko, editor of *PCNEWS*, attended many of my shows and on one occasion met Jim, who invited us to the Framingham facility and showed us around.
Another interesting thing about Jim. He designed the license plate for the Massachusetts State Police vehicles. He was presented with one having the number “1” on it. I believe it was the pride of his collection.
The last time I got to see Jim was at a National Show in Massachusetts. He loved collecting state police license plates and had a collection second to none. Tableholders were setting up before the show opened to the public, and Jim had an outstanding group of traders. While away from his table and looking around the hall and talking with old friends, someone went to his table and took an old rare plate and left a more common one in its place. He was heartbroken about it. I never got to see him again as he moved to South Carolina.
To me, Jim is in a place where he is back with his loved family and friends, and he will be watching down on us. He will be smiling when he sees a collector get and enjoy an item from his beloved Massachusetts State Police.
Rest in peace, Jim, and God bless.
RICH PONTES (North Dartmouth, Mass.)

Most of us know what an incredible person that James G. Aitken was. We met a few times at National Troopers Coalition picnics and visited on Facebook. But, for those who didn’t know him, here is a story on the type of guy he was.
Aitken loved the hobby and treasured his friendships even more. He know of me through others at first. Once we met in person, we were instant pals.
One day out of the blue, he asked if I had an Oklahoma plate. My answer was, ‘No.’ He asked for my address. Then, this little gem showed up. He explained it was a county government plate, but more importantly, it has my Texas DPS number on it, 8336. Talk about falling out of my chair!
That was his level of attention to detail. He saw that plate, found out it was my ID number and sent it to Texas where I live.
God bless you, Jim. I will forever be grateful for your gift, friendship and love for the hobby. May you rest in eternal peace.
RYAN E. MC KITTRICK (Lampasas, Tex.)

Tribute To Scott Barksdale



John Malyna (center) was honored at a reception to celebrate his 100th birthday on May 23. It was hosted by his son, John Malyna Jr. (left) and daughter. Despite his advanced age, Malyna is still collecting law enforcement patches and coins and reading *PCNEWS*. *Craig Boan* photograph

Letters to the Editor ...Continued

I am a retired police officer here in Michigan. I retired from Bridgman City Police in Fall 2014 after 37 years. I began my career with Benton Township Police in 1976. When I did that, I also started collecting patches, and as most things happen, patches grew into uniforms from other countries, model police cars and recently challenge coins (105), etc. My patches number about 3000.

Early on, I met officers at schools, seminars and so on. I had the distinct honor of meeting through telephone and mail Officer Scott Barksdale. We would talk about once a month and trade some patches, never meeting each other in person.

Then Scotty began a business of designing patches for police agencies and when they were completed, he would send me photocopies of patches he made. I would buy one or two (one for trade).

As time passed by, Scotty needed to get some money as medical bills were getting bigger and bigger, so I had some extra cash and helped out by purchasing patches. In the last issue of *PCNEWS*, I read where my friend Scotty lost a battle with a dreaded disease. I wish I could have met Scotty in person. I know I always had the excuse, too busy, and now it's too late.

I have been collecting patches since I retired and feel that I'm running out of space, so they are in shoe boxes. I also have some file cabinets with patches in them, and they are categorized by state.

My dad is still alive and doing well. He retired from the Saint Joseph Fire Department many years ago as a captain. He is helping me come up with ideas what to do with the many items. I have five mannequins in one office at home with full complete uniforms from other countries. They are all very impressive. I also have 15 British Bobby helmets.

Before I close, I would like to say I am going to send a card and letter to Scotty's family and send my condolences and prayers.

DAVID E. MC NEIL (Benton Harbor, Mich.)

Manitoba Collector Malyna Turns 100

Veteran patch and coin collector John Malyna of Winnipeg, Manitoba turned 100 years of age on May 23. Despite a few health challenges, John has been able to continue collecting law enforcement patches and coins from around the world and shows no sign of slowing down. He always anxiously awaits the latest *PCNEWS* edition to discover what's happening in the patch collector universe.

To mark the special occasion, his daughter and son hosted a small reception for him on his actual day of birth. Approximately 40 guests attended, including family and friends, members of his church, past co-workers and a contingent of comrades in arms from his



Texas Highway Patrol Ryan E. McKittrick was a longtime friend of the late Jim Aitken, as well as a fellow collector. Aitken gifted McKittrick with an Oklahoma county government plate that has his Texas DPS number on it, 8336, as can be seen on the patrol car plate. *Ryan E. McKittrick* photograph

local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

In addition to some snacks and beverages, there was cake and I read an ode written to celebrate the occasion.

Among the attendees was local patch collecting legend Craig Boan, who presented John with two limited edition patches observing the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Winnipeg Police Service.

I gave him a commendation from the President of the United States. A local collector passed along a few traders, and John was grateful to receive patches in the mail from some thoughtful *PCNEWS* readers. He also received special congratulations from King Charles III of England.

PCNEWS readers who might be interested in communicating with him can write to: John Malyna, 927 Atlantic Avenue, Winnipeg MB R2X 1L5, Canada.

JOHN MALYNA JR. (Winnipeg, Man.)

Bellingham PD Says Thanks

I'm a current *PCNEWS* subscriber and have been collecting just a few years now. I have worked in law enforcement for about 25 years.

I just wanted to pass along that I was thrilled to see in the July-August publication, there was a segment on my department's new badge. I'm a detective with Bellingham, Wash. PD, and along with another detective, we designed the new badge and oversaw its implementation.

I just wanted to pass along a thank you, and if there are any additional questions about the project, let me know. I don't know how it came about to make the *PCNEWS* publication, but again it was great to see.

JUSTIN FRYSDALE (Bellingham, Wash. PD)

Open Letter To Fellow Collectors

I would like to take this time to advise *PCNEWS* subscribers and fellow collectors as to why I have not been writing my columns in *PCNEWS* for a considerable period of time. My last columns appeared in *PCNEWS* issues in March-April 2023 and May-June 2023. That column was the first of three columns dealing with the Police Specials of the San Francisco Police Department. And prior to that two piece column, I had been writing on a very reduced basis.

Collectors and *PCNEWS* subscribers have contacted me more than a few times over these past 18 to 20 months inquiring as to why I have not been writing my columns. I have felt quite badly on a number of occasions that although I informed *PCNEWS* Editor and Publisher Mike R. Bondarenko that a column or columns would be forthcoming, the promised columns were not produced.

Without getting into real details, all I will tell you is that I have had to deal with the same serious health concerns for the second time in my life after having dealt with this condition many years ago. I have again recovered from his health situation but have had to deal with ongoing side affects of prior medical treatments and medications that have, even after more than 18 months since all of that had stopped, are continuing to effect me with at times some very debilitating side effects.

As a result of these ongoing side effects, it is quite often a difficult situation to even write a column(s) no matter how much I wanted to do it. I had just recently finished writing my second column on the Police Specials of the San Francisco Police Department for this current issue of *PCNEWS*.

It had meant a great deal to me to finally get things back up and running as to my columns to start appearing again in *PCNEWS*. Even more importantly it meant even more to get back on track with Mike and the *PCNEWS* subscribers who greatly enjoyed my many previous columns over these past ten years.

However, as luck would have it, the column writing Gods had a different idea. Not even a day after finishing my column for this issue, I had a computer crash that killed my column before I could back it up. So, here we are. Back to square one.

I do plan to actively get back to writing my column(s) again for *PCNEWS* in the next issue and look forward to once again bringing some reading enjoyment to both *PCNEWS* subscribers, as well as fellow collectors.

And I want to give a special thanks to Mike R. Bondarenko for his patience and understanding, as well as keeping my trust in keeping my personal health situation confidential.

RICK ULAND (San Francisco, Calif.)

Butch Cassidy Connection The handsome seven-point circled star worn by the Elko County, Nev. Sheriffs Office has a connection to outlaw Butch Cassidy. A photograph of Deputy Ed Kendricks wearing what officials believe was the first badge made in the county, a circled star, inspired the current badge, which debuted in 2016. Kendricks was photographed riding in a posse alongside Humboldt County deputies chasing Cassidy in autumn 1900. The outlaw and his gang were wanted for bank robbery.



Doug Brimmer poses with Emily Joyce after accepting the prestigious 2024 San Bernardino County Sheriff's "Deputy of the Year" award. He flies helicopters for the department. Brimmer is a member of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Board of Directors. *Contributed photograph*



California Police Historian

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



The California Law Enforcement Historical Society "California Police Historians of the Year" are permanently recognized on this large plaque at the CLEHS headquarters in Arroyo Grande. Andrew Scott, the 2024 winner, was recently added. Who will win the honor in 2025? *Gary Hoving photograph*

CLEHS News Updates

2025 Membership Renewal It is that time of year to renew your membership in the California Law Enforcement Historical Society for 2025. Please take a moment to renew your membership today with a payment of \$40 for one year or \$500 for a lifetime membership.

You can make your payment online at the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com. On the CLEHS homepage, click on the "Membership" tab on the right margin to renew.

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

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

Year End Donation As we approach year end, will you join us in making a year end, tax deductible gift to the California Law Enforcement Historical Society in the amount that's right for you and your family?

Your donation makes it possible to take the California Police Museum to various venues up and down the state, continue to publish the bimonthly newsletter, *California Police Historian*, to host the annual collectors show in San Luis Obispo and expand the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com.

You can donate online at the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com. On the right side of each page is a black and yellow "Donate" button below the page listing. Click on the button



John Bianchi was a police officer in Monrovia in the early 1960s. He left law enforcement to design and produce gun leather for law enforcement, the military and sportsmen. Today, he owns Bianchi International, a leading supplier of leather gear based in Temecula. *Contributed photograph*



Nothing garnered more attention at the October 5 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show than the fly over and landing of a Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office helicopter on the grounds of the Community Center. The chopper won "Best of Show" honors at the vehicle show. *Gary Hesson photograph*

to make a safe and secure donation through Pay Pal.

All donations are listed on the "Donate to the CLEHS" web page, which is found in the right margin.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

CLEHS Collectibles Looking for that special Christmas gift? You can show your support of CLEHS with an embossed hat with the CLEHS logo. The hat is made by Flex Fit and available in sizes large or extra large. The price is \$20 for CLEHS members and \$25 for non-members. All orders must add an additional \$10 for shipping.

Or, how about a CLEHS patch, either the original, the new museum patch, or both?

For a stocking stuffer, we have a new challenge coin available with CLEHS on one side and the California Police Museum on the other. The price is \$10 for CLEHS members or \$15 for non-members. All orders must include an add \$10 for shipping.

You can order any of these items on the CLEHS website, CalPoliceHistory.Com. Click on the "Store" page to go to the store.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

Doug Brimmer Honored CLEHS director and member Doug Brimmer recently received the San Bernardino County "Sheriff's Deputy of the Year" award. Congratulations on such an outstanding professional accomplishment!

Brimmer is president of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Historical Society and a past CLEHS "Police Historian of the Year" winner (2023).

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

Historian of the Year Updated The perpetual CLEHS Police Historian of the



(Left) Chris Villegas won "Best of Show" at the Ripon show for his Calaveras County Public Safety exhibit. Scott Welch presented it. (Right) "Best Historical Display" went to John Hernandez for an outstanding exhibit of State of California state law enforcement agencies. *Brian Smith photographs*



John Hernandez, who won an award in San Luis Obispo last summer, is on a roll! He won another award in Ripon. Hernandez collects old badges from State of California state law enforcement agencies. His collection has grown to six large display frames. *Contributed photograph*

Year plaque has been updated to include the 2024 honoree, Andrew Scott. The plaque is proudly displayed at our headquarters office in Arroyo Grande. *Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

Archive Donation Received A side benefit of attending collectors shows is that we occasionally receive a donation for the California Law Enforcement Historical Society archive.

At the October 5 Ripon Show, Randy Keenan presented a beautiful low production book, *John Bianchi An American Leather 50 Years of Gunleather*. Bianchi was famous for making leather goods for law enforcement creating a very successful business while helping protect officers. His business is now known as Bianchi International and is the largest producer of gun leather for police, the military and sportsmen. It is located in Temecula in Riverside County.

John Bianchi was a former police officer in Monrovia. He is a true innovator of holsters for duty, off-duty and undercover wear.

The book is extremely well illustrated and shows the history of his business and life. He created the Bianchi Frontier Museum in 1982. It exhibits the finest collection of Western memorabilia in America. His collection formed the foundation for the creation of the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, now known as the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles.

This gift by Keenan is greatly appreciated as it provides an in-depth history of law enforcement leather goods and will serve as a valuable resource and reference guide. *Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

CLEHS Show Heats Up Ripon It was hot, as in 100 degree-plus hot, but the oppressive heat made no difference at the 2024 Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show. CLEHS hosted another very successful annual event on Saturday, October 5 at the Ripon Community Center. Scott Welch is the host.

While the 50-table insignia show takes over the interior of the Community Center, the annual Menlo Park and Ripon Police Emergency Vehicle Show takes place outdoors. Under the skilled guidance of founder Darryl Lindsay, the event has become one of the largest emergency vehicle shows in the country.

"I'd like to thank everyone who made this show the best ever. Even though we had one of the hottest shows (100 degrees plus), we had the largest crowds, and it sounds like everybody made some great deals and super finds!" Welch said.

President Gary Hoving agreed and noted the increase in walk-in traffic and table reservations. "Trading activities were very brisk this year, purchases, sales and trades resulting in a very productive show."

He congratulated host Welch. "This show has turned into a great venue for Northern and Central California," the president said.

Welch said the display contest judges faced a challenging task. "The judging was difficult, as we had many wonderful displays, but the judges scrutinized the displays and came up with the winners," he said.

"Best of Show" went to Chris Villegas for his Calaveras County Sheriffs Department



Host Scott Welch presented Ripon Public Safety Collectors Show awards to Mike DeVilbiss (left) and Gary Hesson (right). DeVilbiss won "Best Badge Display," while Hesson was honored with "Best Patch Display." Welch said the show was the best yet despite the oppressive heat. *Brian Smith photographs*



Gary Hesson specializes in the Bay Area Rapid Transit Police Department in and around San Francisco. He showed his outstanding collection of emblems from the BART Police. Hesson also brought a couple exhibits of railroad law enforcement shoulder patches. *Gary Hesson photograph*

exhibit, the only one of its kind, and one of the finest department collections in California. It occupied several tables and thrilled tableholders and walk-ins alike.

John Hernandez won "Best Historical Display" for his large exhibit of historic badges and patches from California state agencies and select county and municipal agencies. He has added several exhibits over past years.

Mike DeVilbiss won "Best Badge Display" his one of a kind massive Sacramento County Sheriffs Department collection, another of the finest department collections in the state. DeVilbiss has sheriff badges going back to the origins of Sacto countywide law enforcement.

Gary Hesson received "Best Patch Display" for his also one of a kind Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police Department cloth insignia exhibit. Hesson has an outstanding BART collection. He also collects railroad police badges.

Villegas collects all things Calaveras County public safety, especially the Sheriffs Office where he now serves as the undersheriff. He showed several large frames of sheriff badges and patches, uniforms, headgear and a wide variety of other artifacts and other memorabilia. He also showed insignia from other Calaveras County agencies.

Hernandez's California state agency collection continues to grow. What started out with a couple frames only a few years ago has grown to six frames! In addition to state agencies, he also some county and municipal badges. However, state law enforcement is his passion.

"I was very proud to have been presented with the award," Hernandez said. DeVilbiss has assembled an incredible exhibit of Sacramento County Sheriffs Department over the years. He has it all, badges and patches galore supplemented by artifacts and memorabilia such as hats, model cars, old equipment, restraints and even some swag, such as a sheriffs Teddy bear!

Hesson said of his BART collection, "With the newest patches that came out last year, the display is officially full. If all the rumors I hear are true, I will need to start using my spare three panel display next year as a continuation.

"The past chief, and especially the current chief, are very amenable to well done special cause patches and new patch ideas. This year, there was a November 'Salute to the Military' patch, April 'Autism Awareness,' June 'Pride,' and September-October 'Men's and Women's Cancer Awareness.'

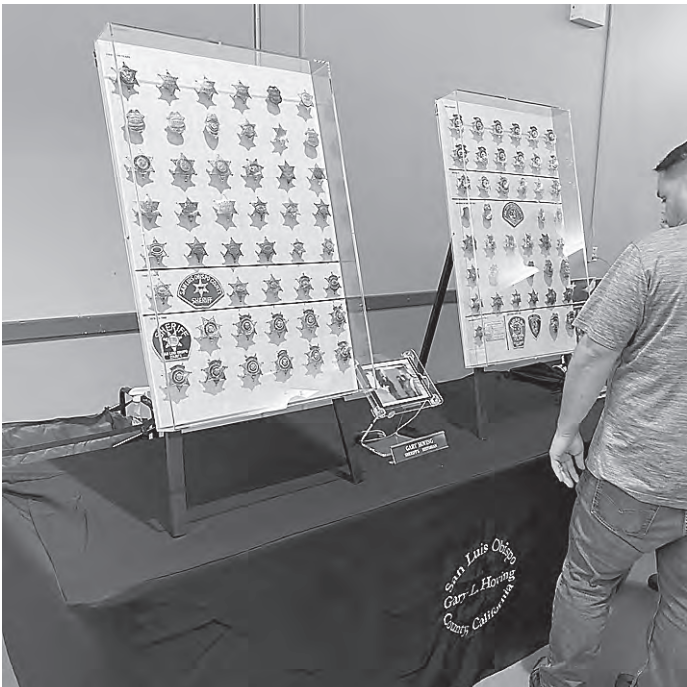
"The patches are mostly sold (\$10 each) to department members, and the proceeds go to local applicable charity organizations or an internal charity fund. The patches have been very popular and are optional for wear during the applicable month. The patches have been very well done and many employees have contributed to the design ideas."

Submitted by President Gary Hoving, Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith, Scott Welch and Gary Hesson

Museum Gallery Sponsorships Offered The CLEHS Board of Directors approved accepting sponsors for each of the 13 galleries in the California Police Museum, President Gary Hoving announced.

Thirteen members stepped up and became sponsors: Gary and Crystal Hoving, Kim and Phil Colonnelli, Doug Brimmer, Brian and Karen Smith, *Police Collectors News*, Dennis Shell, Gary Teragawa, Stan Berry, Robert Tanaka, William Tully, Dennis Lovejoy, Jake Bushey and Mark and Carol Bay.

The cost to sponsor a gallery is \$150 a year. Each sponsorship is tax deductible



California Law Enforcement Historical Society President Gary Hoving brought a display of San Luis Obispo County law enforcement insignia to the Ripon show on October 5. He mixed agency badges with shoulder emblems. SLO County is his specialty. He was once chief deputy there. *Brian Smith photograph*



A highlight of the annual Ripon Police and Menlo Park Police Emergency Vehicle Show is the emergency vehicle parade around Ripon. The vehicles are allowed to activate their code three lighting during the event. The parade always attracts a lot of public attention. *Gary Hesson photograph*

because CLEHS holds 501c3 standing with the Internal Revenue Service. Sponsorship will be recognized with a plaque identifying the donor.

“This is a great opportunity to support the museum program and receive recognition,” said President Hoving. Similar sponsorship programs and programs are found in museums and art galleries around the country.

Gallery themes are (1) 1850 to 1880, (2) 1880 sheriff diorama, (3) 1880 to 1920, (4) 1920 to 1930, (5) 1930 to 1940, (6) 1940 to 1980, (7) today, (8) use of force (under construction), (9) current California sheriff patch collection, (10) city enforcement, (11) county enforcement, (12) state and federal enforcement and (13) rotating exhibits (currently Women in Policing).

“We thank you for your support of the California Law Enforcement Historical Association,” President Hoving said.

Courtesy of President Gary Hoving

CLEHS Museum Statistics The California Law Enforcement Historical Society has counted the visitors through the California Police Museum since the original grand opening on September 9, 2007. The first event was for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Day at the Ranch Program, a community public safety event.

Financial seed money was provided by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriffs Advisory Foundation kicking off the museum project fundraising.

While our appearance in Arroyo Grande on October 3 wrapped up the annual display schedule, it provides down time to upgrade and enhance the displays.

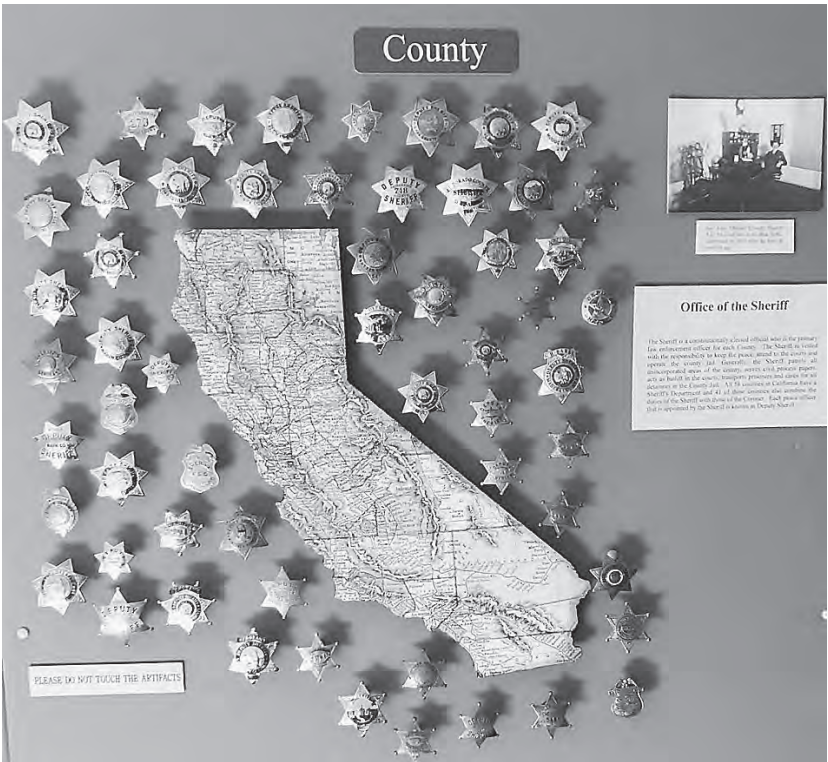
A grand total of 34,322 people have toured the museum during 13 appearances!

- ...November 3, 2019 Cops and Kids Day, Arroyo Grande, 487
- ...May 18, 2022 Food Truck Rodeo, Lompoc, 448
- ...September 10, 2022 Sheriff’s Day at the Ranch, SLO, 641
- ...October 1, 2022 Ripon Collectors and Car Show, 287
- ...October 8, 2022 Kid’s Day in the Park, Guadalupe, 320
- ...May 17, 2023 Food Truck Rodeo, Lompoc, 455
- ...June 2-3, 2023 National Police Collectors Show, San Bernardino, 223
- ...September 9, 2023 Sheriff’s Day at the Ranch, San Luis Obispo, 807
- ...November 5, 2023 Cops’ and Kids’ Day, Arroyo Grande, 908
- ...May 15, 2024 Lompoc Food Truck Rodeo, Lompoc, 389
- ...May 28, 2024 Paso Robles Catholic School, Paso Robles, 288
- ...September 15, 2024 Sheriff’s Family Day, SLO, 735
- ...October 3, Cop’s and Kid’s Day, Arroyo Grande, 727

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

Virtual Collectors Show The California Law Enforcement Historical Society will sponsor another Virtual Collectors Show on Saturday, December 7 from 8 am to 1 pm (PST).

This online event allows collectors to buy, sell or trade California law enforcement collectibles. President Gary Hoving announced a change from previous online shows. All members of the Facebook page, “Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society,” are now welcome to buy, sell or trade during the event. There are no fees but a five percent donation to CLEHS is requested.



CLEHS now has sponsorships for the 13 galleries displayed inside the mobile California Police Museum which travels throughout the state giving police history and our hobby widespread exposure. A sponsorship costs \$150 a year and is tax deductible. *CLEHS photograph*



Complete rules and additional details will be posted on the Facebook page, which is also the show venue.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving

Captain Isaiah W. Lees: Greatest SFPD Sleuth

It is a commentary on the impermanence of fame that few modern San Franciscans could identify Isaiah Lees, the first captain of detectives in the San Francisco Police Department.

Similarly, it would have been difficult to find anyone in San Francisco in the second half of the 19th century who was unfamiliar with Captain Lees and his accomplishments.

In his book, *Dark and Tangled Threads of Crime*, author Bill Secret begins to set things right by rescuing Lees from an undeserved obscurity. Lees, whose almost 50-year career as a San Francisco police detective gained him an international reputation as one of the world’s leading detectives, is reflected in his biography as one of those rare individuals whose talents and temperament are uniquely suited to their time, place and situation.

When municipal police departments were first established in 19th century cities, the initial concept was that uniformed “preventive” police officers would, by their presence on patrol, inhibit those inclined to commit crime. Some of the proponents of the new system believed that predatory crime could actually be eliminated by these methods.

As a practical matter, no municipality has ever had a tax base sufficient to provide enough preventive patrols to eliminate crime, and it soon became apparent that something more was needed.

Beginning in Boston in 1846, American cities began forming detective police units. Patrol officers would attempt to prevent crime or make an arrest if possible. Detectives were expected to follow up on those cases in which no arrest was made in order to identify offenders, or, when arrests were made, to do the post-arrest collection of evidence necessary to secure a conviction.

The police force established in San Francisco in 1849, the year Lees arrived, was a preventative or protective department; there was no detective element. By early 1851, however, as offenders slipped through the justice system, the *Daily Alta California*, after one particularly egregious lapse, commented that “It should be the duty of someone, when notorious thieves are thus arrested, to hunt up evidence and convict the suspected persons, if guilty.”

Like many others, Lees was unsuccessful in his efforts to find gold, and he returned to San Francisco where he went to work for the Union Iron Works, on South of South Market Street. It was there, in 1852, that he received his first taste of the work that was to consume his life.

In September, adjacent to where Lees worked, a Spaniard named Jose Forni was observed by several witnesses to chase down a Mexican named Rodriguez in broad daylight and stab him to death. There was no question that Forni had done the stabbing, but his story was that he killed the man in self-defense after the man had tried to kill and rob him of \$300 he was carrying. Though not yet a member of the police department, Lees became involved in the crime through friendships with police officers, and he aided materially in prosecuting the case. Forni was found guilty in District Court and later that year was hanged on Russian Hill before a crowd of thousands, earning the dubious honor of being the first man legally executed in American San Francisco.

In response to a spate of unsolved robberies, several months later, the editor of the *Alta* again brought up the subject of establishing a detective police force. “[We] would suggest the organization of a small ‘detective police’ of about six men here,” he wrote, “who would be selected with the greatest care as to their integrity and capabilities.” Nothing came of the suggestion at that time, either.

On October 26, 1853, the 23-year-old Isaiah Lees was appointed to the police force, unknowingly putting himself on the ground floor of a new era of police work in the Far West. A year later a basic detective unit was indeed finally initiated.

The new officer’s abilities were quickly recognized, and he was put in charge of the detective unit with the title of assistant captain. In those days, Lees and his men had to depend on natural abilities, rather than a criminal science that was yet to evolve. They became incredibly adept at gathering evidence, isolating and prosecuting suspects, and recognizing criminals from meager descriptions originating hundreds of miles away.

Although appointed captain of detectives in 1856, in the turbulent political climate of the early police department, Lees was soon bounced back to patrolman. Reappointed again in late 1859, he was to hold that post until appointed chief of patrol in 1897.

Lees led a life on high excitement and drama, ranging from correlating burglars and con men to chasing stage robbers and forgers around the country. His physical prowess, as well as his innovative, psychological approach to fighting crime, made him truly a legend in his own time.

In his detailed study of Lees’ career during the second half of the 19th century, Secret takes us from the turbulent days of the Vigilance Committees of the early 1850s to the “crime of the century” Belfry Murders near the century’s end. Along the way he records the criminal justice history of the city, and the important part that Lees played in the story. In accomplishing this task, Secret shows us the exciting evolution of a fascinating city, the development of detective police, and the life of Isaiah Lees.

Lees has long deserved to be the subject of a full biography, and Bill Secret is a worthy chronicler of that life.

Dark and Tangled Threads of Crime: San Francisco’s Famous Police Detective Isaiah Lees by William B. Secret was published by World Press (\$15.95).

Written by Kevin Mullen, a retired San Francisco deputy police chief. He is has written extensively on the history of the SFPD and is a frequent contributor to the San Francisco Police Officers Association Journal.

Courtesy of SFPOA Journal



San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez has changed the name of her agency to the Sheriffs Office, dropping the name Sheriffs Department after 174 years. The old (left) and new (right) sterling silver stars are shown. “DEPT.” has been dropped. Other changes are forthcoming. *Contributed photograph*

San Diego County Changes From Department To Office

San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez has changed the name of the agency to “office,” a departure from its longstanding title, “department. The change became effective on September 10.

“I do think it’s important. I think there is value in identifying appropriately as an office,” Sheriff Martinez said. “Every other elected official in this county is referred to an office. I think the sheriff should be the same.”

The transition is in keeping with a national trend advocated by the National Sheriffs Association. The organization asserts since sheriffs are elected officials, their agencies are offices, not departments of county government. However, most California sheriffs have been reluctant to change names.

The change comes with a six-figure price tag. Thus far, San Diego County has spent \$214,000 on 1013 new sterling silver stars costing \$206 each.

Signs, banners, flags and some uniforms will be changed to reflect the change, the sheriff said.

The current gold on black shoulder emblem already reads “San Diego County Sheriff” in keeping with the name change.

The agency was known as the Sheriffs Department since 1850.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

San Luis Obispo County Insignia In CLEHS Spotlight

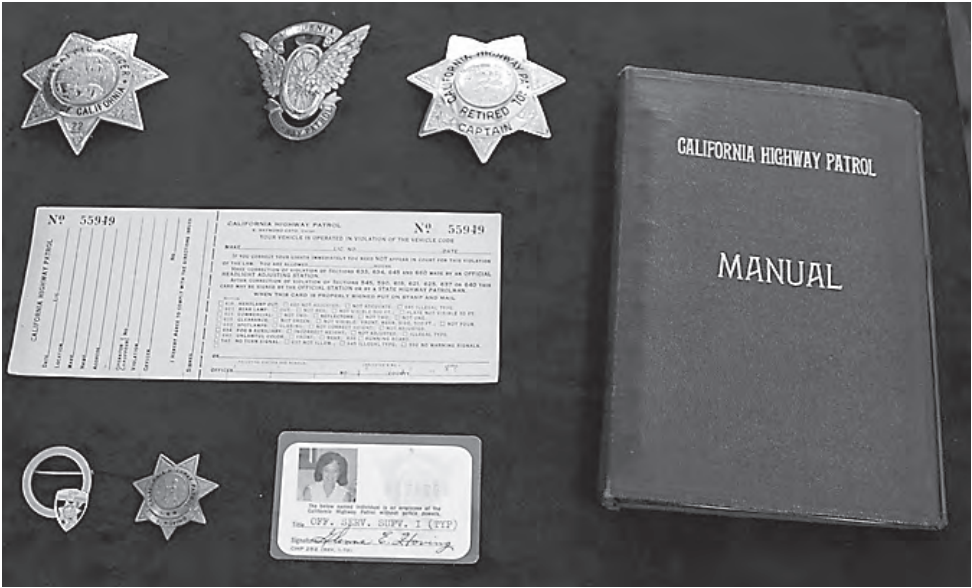
The annual California Law Enforcement Historical Society show is always held in San Luis Obispo County, so it’s the perfect venue to shine a spotlight on local insignia and artifacts. President Gary Hoving more than filled the bill.

A former Sheriffs Department chief deputy, Hoving presented a museum-quality exhibit of SLO insignia. His sheriff and police collections were particularly noteworthy.

Two large frames displayed sheriff’s insignia grouped into four eras, the first 100 years, 1960 to 1970, 1970 to 1988 and 1988 to the present. A very special piece was the oldest known sheriff’s badge. Hoving also showed specialty badges, such as those worn by county constables, who were absorbed into the SO in 1975. He had a SLO County Airport Police badge. The agency was abolished in 1990.

An exhibit was devoted to Sheriff A.C. McLeod, who served from 1885 to 1891. He wore a genuine “tin star” affixed to his outer garments with thread, mainly because there was no local jeweler to make a pin for it. There is a photograph of the sheriff wearing the badge as he and his deputies celebrate the opening of a new jail, which was nothing more a small windowless shed.

“The CHP [California Highway Patrol] operates here, so I included them,” said President Hoving. A display was devoted to CHP badges and Glenna Hoving, an office supervisor, whose personal badges and ID card were shown. Other artifacts were a old traffic citation



The California Highway Patrol has a headquarters in San Luis Obispo, so President Gary Hoving included the CHP in his county collection. This exhibit features CHP badges and artifacts from Glenna Hoving, a local officer supervisor. Her ID and badges are shown. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

and officer manual. Yes, she is a relative of the president.

He featured framed insignia collections from the police departments in San Luis Obispo, Redlands, Grover City (Grover Beach), Arroyo Grande, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and Atascadero.

Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor



The Redlands Police Department is among municipal agencies in San Luis Obispo County. This is President Gary Hoving’s department collection featuring old and new badges and patches. Redlands has worn five different patch styles in its history dating back to 1888. *Gary Hoving photograph*

California Rangers Killed Joaquin Murieta In 1853

Only July 25, 1853, near what is today Coalinga, Harry Love and his California Rangers, who look a damn sight scarier than the outlaws, ambushed a group alleged to be Joaquin Murieta’s outlaw gang.

Murieta was legendary, but there may have been as many as five of him. A Joaquin



A bird’s eye view of CLEHS President Gary Hoving’s outstanding San Luis Obispo County law enforcement badge and emblem collection. It showed insignia from the CHP, Sheriffs Office and each of the seven municipal police departments in the Central Coast county. *Gary Hoving photograph*



Who had the scarier look? These California Rangers, led by Harry Love (center) or the equally nasty-looking Joaquin Murieta Gang? The Rangers battled the gang in the San Joaquin Valley on July 25, 1853 and killed one the several bandits known as Joaquin Murieta. *Contributed photograph*



Joaquin Murieta was among the most famous border bandits of the mid-1800s. He and his gang often crossed over the Mexican border into California and committed numerous robberies and thefts. It is said that there were as many as five bandits who used the name of Joaquin Murieta. *Contributed photograph*

would pull off a robbery in what is today Thousand Oaks and another the next day in San Juan Bautista.

Whoever this Joaquin was, the California Rangers wanted the \$5000 reward, and they needed to prove it. So, the weather being what it is in the San Joaquin Valley in July, they preserved his head in a jar of alcohol and presented it to the state government.

The reward was rewarded.

There were more rewards to come. The more-or-less preserved head of Murieta became part of a traveling show. It was exhibited all around Gold Country. People paid hard cash, or gold dust, to see it.

Sadly, or maybe not, Joaquin's head disappeared in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.

(My late friend Earl Clester, who grew up in Kansas, saw the Bonnie and Clyde Death Car, but he didn't have to pay. The grisly Ford made the rounds of high school assemblies on the evils of crime for the rest of the 1930s.)

Another California Ranger, Patrick Connor, 12 years later, led the Powder River Expedition in which he promised to kill every Native American over the age of 12. Didn't work out that way.

Connor and his horse soldiers, including two Arroyo Grande settlers, were attacked by Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Roman Nose and Crazy Horse. They made it back to the fort that had been their starting point, but as foot soldiers. They had to eat their mounts to survive.

Submitted by Jim Gregory

Research Shows LAPD Issued 7843 Juice Badges By 1938

The lament "Everybody has badges in this town!" certainly applies to Los Angeles in the 1920s and '30s. Research by collector David Doss in Michigan shows the Los Angeles Police Department had issued an incredible 7843 honorary badges as of October 28, 1938.

Collectors and historians define so called "juice" badges as honorary police (special police in some jurisdictions) shields issued to non-sworn celebrities, politicians, influential business or community leaders and financial benefactors.

Doss's research uncovered a *Washington, D.C. Evening Star* story, "Los Angeles Police Present 7843 Badges," that reported LAPD Chief James Davis presented honorary police officer shields to such luminaries of the day as Major Ed Bowes of network radio fame and child movie stars Shirley Temple and Freddie Bartholomew.

Newly-elected Mayor Fletcher Bowron asked Chief Davis for an accounting of honorary badges in an effort to discontinue the practice. Chief Davis said honorary badges were issued to provide Los Angeles with an auxiliary police force subject to call during emergencies.

However, the police service some honorees could have provided during a citywide emergency was questionable, Mayor Bowron alleged. Honorary police officer and actress Shirley Temple was born in 1928 and would have been nine years old in 1938, while actor Freddie Bartholomew was born in 1924 and would have been 14 years old.

The *Evening Star* reported the list of badge holders, which Chief Davis provided to Mayor Bowron, included bankers, wrestlers, whiskey brokers, preachers, priests, embalmers, body guards, meat packers, artists, judges, politicians, lawyers and laborers,



Los Angeles Police Chief James Davis, who served from 1926 to 1929 and 1933 to 1939, presented many of the 7843 "juice badges" LAPD issued by October 28, 1938. The chief defended practice, saying it was carried out to form an auxiliary police force for emergencies. *LAPD official photograph*

as well as an extensive group of film notables and even a few Mexican Army officers.

Doss contacted City Records Management Officer Todd Gaydowski and requested a copy of the list. He was told it no longer exists.

"Unfortunately, I am not aware that the records of those badges from 1938 still exist under city control. However, I did reach out to Sergeant Bob Alaniz, who is the director of the Los Angeles Police Museum," Gaydowski told Doss by email.

"Bob tells me in those days they issued what were called 'juice badges' to various celebrities and notables. The process was eventually discontinued. The Museum eventually acquired several of these badges and some of the research files that went into each issuance. They are happy to look up a specific individual if there is a name of interest or concern to you, but to compile all of the records would be extremely time consuming."

Courtesy of David Doss

The Chicken Coop Murders Terrorized Riverside County

The Wineville Chicken Coop Murders was a series of abductions and murders of young boys that occurred in Los Angeles and Riverside Counties between 1926 and 1928.

The murders were perpetrated by Gordon Stewart Northcott, a 19-year-old farmer who had immigrated to the United States from Canada two years earlier, as well as his mother, Sarah Louisa Northcott, and his nephew, Sanford Clark.

The case received national attention because one of the assumed victims was Walter Collins, the nine-year-old son of Christine Collins, who had gone missing in March 1928. Christine Collins had given her son money to go a movie theater near her home in Los Angeles. He never returned. Christine Collins launched a nationwide crusade to find him.

While authorities initially considered the possibility that the total number of boys Northcott killed might have been as high as 20, the theory was eliminated as the investigation began to unfold.

Northcott was born in Bladworth, Sask. and raised in British Columbia. He moved to Los Angeles with his parents in 1924.

Two years later, he asked his father to purchase a plot of land in the Riverside County community of Wineville, where he built a chicken ranch and a house with the help of his father.

After he claimed he needed help with the chickens, Northcott arranged for his 11-year-old nephew, Sanford Clark, to leave Bladworth and join him and his mother in the USA. Upon Clark's arrival at the Wineville ranch, Northcott began to physically and sexually abuse him.

In August 1928, concerned for Clark's welfare, his 19-year-old sister, Jessie Clark, visited him at the ranch. Sanford Clark told her that he feared for his life and Northcott had murdered four boys at the ranch.

Upon her return to Canada a week later, Jessie Clark informed an American consul of Northcott's crimes. The consul wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Police Department detailing Jessie's sworn complaint. Because there was initially some concern over an immigration issue, the LAPD contacted the United States Immigration Service to determine facts regarding the complaint.

On August 8, 1928, Immigration Service Inspectors Judson F. Shaw and George W. Scalorn visited the ranch. Northcott, having seen the agents driving up the long road to his ranch, fled to the timberline at the edge of his property, telling Clark to stall them and threatening to shoot him from the tree line with a rifle if he did not comply.

For the next two hours, while Clark stalled, Northcott continued to flee. Finally, when Clark felt the agents could protect him, he told them Northcott had fled.

Northcott and his mother, Sarah Louisa, fled to Canada but were arrested near Vernon, B.C. on September 19, 1928.

Later, Clark testified at Sarah Louisa's sentencing that Northcott had kidnapped, molested, beaten and killed three young boys with the help of his mother and Clark himself.

He also testified about the murder of a fourth boy, possibly a Mexican citizen. Northcott ordered him to burn the boy's severed head in a fire pit and crush the skull.

Northcott later testified he had left the headless body by the side of the road near La Puente because he had no other place to put it. He stated that quicklime was used for disposal of the remains and the bodies were buried on his ranch.

A newspaperman coined the bizarre case the "Chicken Coop Murders" because the slayings took place in the chicken coop on the Northcott ranch.

Authorities found three shallow graves on the property in the exact location given by Clark. The graves contained no complete corpses, only human body parts.

Clark and his sister Jessie testified that Northcott and his mother had exhumed the bodies on the evening of August 4, 1928, a few weeks before Clark was taken into protective custody. They had taken the bodies to a secluded area where they were likely burned in the night. The bodies were never recovered.

The evidence found in the graves consisted of "51 parts of human anatomy...those silent bits of evidence, human bones, have spoken and corroborated the testimony of living witnesses," as a prosecutor told jurors at Northcott's trial.

Wineville changed its name to Mira Loma on November 1, 1930, in large part because



Canadian-born Gordon Stewart Northcott was 21 years old when he and his mother, Sarah Louisa Northcott, committed the grisly Chicken Coop Murders in Riverside County. Northcott kidnapped young boys in Los Angeles, took them to his ranch and murdered them, including Walter Collins. *Contributed photograph*



The ramshackle unkempt chicken coop on the Gordon Stewart Northcott chicken ranch near Wineville in Riverside County, Calif. is where Northcott admitted he molested, beat and murdered at least five young boys in 1928. He was convicted of three murders in 1929 and hung in 1930. *Contributed photograph*

of the negative publicity surrounding the murders.

Clark returned to Saskatoon, where city records show he died on June 20, 1991. Canadian police arrested Northcott and his mother on September 19, 1928. Because of errors in the extradition paperwork, they were not returned to Los Angeles until November 30, 1928.

While the two were being held in British Columbia awaiting extradition to California, Sarah Louisa confessed to the murders, including the murder of nine-year-old Walter Collins. But before extradition, she retracted her confession, as did Northcott, who had confessed to killing more than five boys.

After Northcott and his mother were extradited to California, Sarah Louisa once again confessed and pleaded guilty to killing Collins. She was not tried. Upon her plea of guilty, a Superior Court judge sentenced her to life imprisonment on December 31, 1928, sparing her a death sentence because she was a woman.

During her sentencing hearing, Sarah Louisa claimed that her son was innocent and offered numerous claims about his parentage, including that he was an illegitimate child of an English nobleman, that she was Gordon's grandmother and that he was the result of incest between her husband, Cyrus George Northcott and their daughter. She also stated that as a young child, Gordon was sexually abused by the entire family.

After sentencing, Sarah Louisa attempted suicide and begged authorities to spare her son's life. She said, "I got a square deal. If they'll just be good to my boy, if they just won't hang him." When she learned Gordon would be hanged, she begged authorities to hang her as well. She served her sentence at Tehachapi State Prison and was paroled in 1940. She died in 1944.

Gordon Northcott was implicated in the murder of Collins, but because his mother had already confessed and been sentenced for it, the state did not prosecute him for that murder.

It was speculated that Northcott may have killed as many as 20 boys, but the state of California could not produce evidence to support the allegation. Ultimately, the state brought an indictment against Northcott for the murders of an unidentified underage Mexican national, known as the "headless Mexican" and the brothers Lewis and Nelson Winslow, aged ten and 12 respectively. The brothers had been reported as missing from Pomona on May 16, 1928.

In early 1929, Northcott's trial was held before Judge George R. Freeman in Riverside County. The jury heard that he had kidnapped, molested, tortured and murdered the Winslow brothers and the "headless Mexican" in 1928. On February 8, 1929, the 27-day trial ended with Northcott being convicted of the murders.

On February 13, 1929, Judge Freeman sentenced Northcott to death. He was hanged on October 2, 1930 at San Quentin State Prison. Northcott was 23-years-old.

The Chicken Coop Murders captured the attention of Hollywood director and actor Clint Eastwood. He produced and directed the 2008 movie, *Changeling*, starring John Malkovich and Angelina Jolie. It centers around Christine Collins, her struggles with the LAPD, and her search to find her missing son, Walter. Northcott was played by Jason Butler Harker.

As pointed out by retired Riverside County Sheriff Cois Bryd in the last *California Police Historian*, even though the murders took place in Riverside County and his former department was heavily involved in the investigation, the Los Angeles Police Department received top billing in *Changeling*. "I guess it was because the boys who were killed were kidnapped in Los Angeles," he said.

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

Hosts End Annual Doug Messer "49'er" Show

The annual Doug Messer "49'er" Pubic Safety and Military Collectors Show is no more. Hosts Brian Smith and Mike Lynch announced in late September their decision to end the popular Roseville swap meet and exhibit.

"After almost 30 years, Mike Lynch and I have decided it's time to end the Doug Messer '49'er' show in Roseville," said Smith.

"The name of the show and location has changed over the years, but the purpose remained the same. It was to raise money for charities, a meeting place for law enforcement memorabilia collectors and to see great badge and patch displays."

Over its 28-year span, "49'er" raised over \$25,000 for various law enforcement non-profit groups. The International Police Association, California Park Rangers Association and CLEHS were among its beneficiaries.

The show provided Northern California hobbyists an opportunity to buy, sell, trade and display without having to travel to Montclair for "Porky" or San Luis Obispo for the CLEHS show. It also gave the Golden State three long running, well established shows with veteran, dedicated hosts.

The final "49'er" was the 28th annual show. It was held on February 24. Originally named the "49'er" show and founded by Lynch and the late collector Doug Messer, Messer's name was added to the marque the year following his death in October



Long Beach, Calif. police officers are wearing this retro badge to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their original 1924 badge. It is an updated version of the shield, according to Chief of Police Wally Hebeish. Officers have worn this style for the past century with no plans to change. *LBDP photograph*

Long Beach Police Wear 2024 Centennial Badge

Long Beach police officers are wearing a special badge to celebrate the 100-year anniversary debut of their historic 1924 badge.

The LBDP was founded in 1888. It wasn't until 1924, under Chief James Yancy, that the department adopted what would become its modern-day badge. It has a distinct shape and style. The badge has remained unchanged since 1924.

The commemorative is an eagle-topped shield. A large five-point star with "24" appears as the center design.

At a recent Long Beach City Council meeting, Police Chief Wally Hebeish was joined by three members of the Long Beach Police Historical Society to unveil the commemorative centennial badge in honor of the 100-year anniversary of the shield debut.

"This is a significant milestone in our department's rich history," said Chief Hebeish. "We're taking this opportunity to reflect on the lessons and accomplishments of the past, acknowledge the commitment we have for the present, and look ahead to the vision we hold for the future."

LBDP officers are authorized to wear the special badge until the end of the year. In homage to the original 1924 badge, officers had the option of having their badges read "Patrolman," "Patrolwoman" or "Patrol Officer."

While many agencies celebrate milestone years with commemorative insignia, Long Beach is unique observing its badge centennial.

Chief Hebeish said Long Beach has no plans whatsoever to change its longstanding traditional symbol of authority.

Courtesy of Long Beach Police Department

Fresno County Deputy Sheriff Claude Fay

While searching my files for a Pismo Beach image, I came across the file of Claude Fay. He was a career deputy sheriff in Fresno County, serving a portion of his career in a psych ward. The county sheriff was often responsible for such units in the early days.

During his tenure at the psych ward, Fay was brutally attacked by an ax-wielding ward of the facility. Fortunately, he survived despite this injuries.



(Top) Claude Fay served as a Fresno County deputy sheriff from 1918 to 1946. He worked in Pismo Beach after retiring. (Lower left) His retirement badge as presented by the department. (Lower right) A beautiful solid gold deputy shield from an appreciative community. *Gary Hoving Collection*

The Fresno County Sheriffs Office presented Fay with a retirement badge with his years of service. In addition, the community presented him with a solid gold deputy sheriff badge. Fay's career lasted from 1918 to 1946 when he retired to beautiful Pismo Beach. Of course, retirement didn't work out too well. He joined the Pismo Beach Police Department in 1947. One of his favorite duties was to act as the crossing guard for the school children. A big shift from his duties in Fresno County but still very important.

I never met Fay but was called by his family who presented me with his badges, wallet, newspaper clippings and photographs based on some local articles about my research of law enforcement history.

Submitted by President Gary Hoving



Orange County Sheriffs Department history as told through old photographs, emblems, old equipment and cloth insignia adorns this segment of Stan Berry's OCSD Career Day and Open House exhibit. Mike R. Bondarenko calls Berry our goodwill ambassador. *Stan Berry photograph*

Stan Berry Displays Fabulous Orange County SD Collection

Stan Berry, the hobby's unofficial Southern California goodwill ambassador, once again promoted law enforcement history with an outstanding exhibit of his museum-quality Orange County Sheriffs Department collection over the summer.

Berry staged a massive display of badges, patches, artifacts and memorabilia at the Sheriff's Career Day and Open House in Santa Ana. He even featured an old Mounted Enforcement Unit saddle.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to share the department's rich history with the communities they serve and many OCSD employees," said Berry. "I'm really grateful for this chance to honor and celebrate the department's legacy."

The veteran hobbyist puts up displays for special events at agencies throughout the county, as well as the annual Anaheim Ducks Law Enforcement Appreciation Night, all at his own expense.

Courtesy of Stan Berry and Editor Mike R. Bondarenko

History Of San Francisco Police Inspector Rank

Recent internet dialog between California badge collectors Calvin Chow and Robert Jay revealed the history of the inspector rank in the San Francisco Police Department.

Chow posted on the popular Facebook page Detective Badge Collectors, a photograph of a beautiful 14-karat gold inspector star, "523," and background on the rank.

"As far as I am aware, San Francisco Police did have a detective rank at the end of the



Stan Berry featured his incredible Orange County Sheriffs Department collection during the 2024 Sheriffs Career Day and Open House in Santa Ana. This segment shows historic photographs and an old Mounted Enforcement Unit saddle with OCSD markings. *Stan Berry photograph*

19th century.

"Then sometime in the early 20th century that rank disappeared and the detective sergeant rank was used.

"SFPD discontinued the detective sergeant rank and adopted the inspector rank in 1931. The inspector rank was discontinued around 2005.

"Today, SFPD just assigns newly-promoted sergeants or those requesting a transfer to various investigative units within the department. Now they just use the regular sergeant star."

Jay responded to the post by adding additional details.

"The detective sergeant continued until 1936 (records and articles I've found in research) until it was completely obsolete. [The] last [officer] I've found was promoted to detective sergeant in August 1936...

"...I have seen in papers [from] the late '20s [and] early '30s that there was an Inspectors Bureau and [a] Detectives Bureau at the same time."

Chow said a lawsuit kept the rank alive after 1931.

"Most likely, the inspector's rank was established in 1931 and the detective sergeant rank continued until it was phased out in 1936.

"[The] same thing happened with the inspector rank. Even though the rank was phased out, a lawsuit was brought by those still on the active Civil Service list for inspector. The department ended up promoting about 20 or so off the list to satisfy the lawsuit."

So, the shiny inspector's star that Inspector Harry Callahan tossed into the Bay at the conclusion of one of his Dirty Harry movies is even more desirable. After all, it's now an obsolete rank!

Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko



Peralta Community College District Public Safety History

The Peralta Community College District was founded in 1964 and consists of Laney College, Oakland; Merritt College, Oakland; Berkeley City College (formerly Vista College and the College of Alameda, all in Alameda County.

A security force was established in 1967, and the Police Department was formed around 1976. The Peralta Community College District PD was a California POST-certified agency from 1981 to 1996. It is now defunct.

On August 16, 1995, Lieutenant Herbert Stovall was shot and killed while assisting in the apprehension of an auto burglary suspect near the Laney College campus. His death was the impetus to dissolve the department as many deficiencies in equipment and training came to light. The cost to correct the issues was too great, so a contract was signed with the Alameda County Sheriffs Office for police services.


At the time the PD was dissolved, they had only nine police officers for the four campuses despite having a budgeted total of 15. The starting salary was one of the lowest in the state for police officers of \$33,600 a year.

The sheriff began patrolling the campuses on August 12, 1996. The contract lasted until December 31, 2020 when the district eliminated law enforcement officers from its campuses and instituted a community policing model with community-based public safety companies providing security.

Submitted by Chris Keden



(Top left) Peralta Community College District patch. (Top right) An early Peralta Colleges security officer star. (Lower left) A more recent security officer star numbered "1." (Lower right) A police officer star from the defunct district police. Peralta went from security to police to security. *Contributed photographs*



PCNEWS
POLICE COLLECTORS NEWS

Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor and Publisher
2392 USH 12 BALDWIN, WI 54002

AMAZING: “BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM” offers pictures and stories regarding Police Memorabilia with a focus on Newark, N.J. The view of this blog is free, however if you have New Jersey items for sale or trade contact: DENNIS BEYER, email: jerseychief@gmail.com (104)

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WANTED

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION POLICE BADGES

**Buying at top current market
prices. Substantial budget in
hand. I am hoping to
acquire 70 to 100 more badges
before April 1st, 2025.**

**My collection has been
accepted as a donation to a law
enforcement charity next year.**

JOHN SEAY
JohnGSeay@aol.com
or email for telephone numbers.

WACO, TEXAS

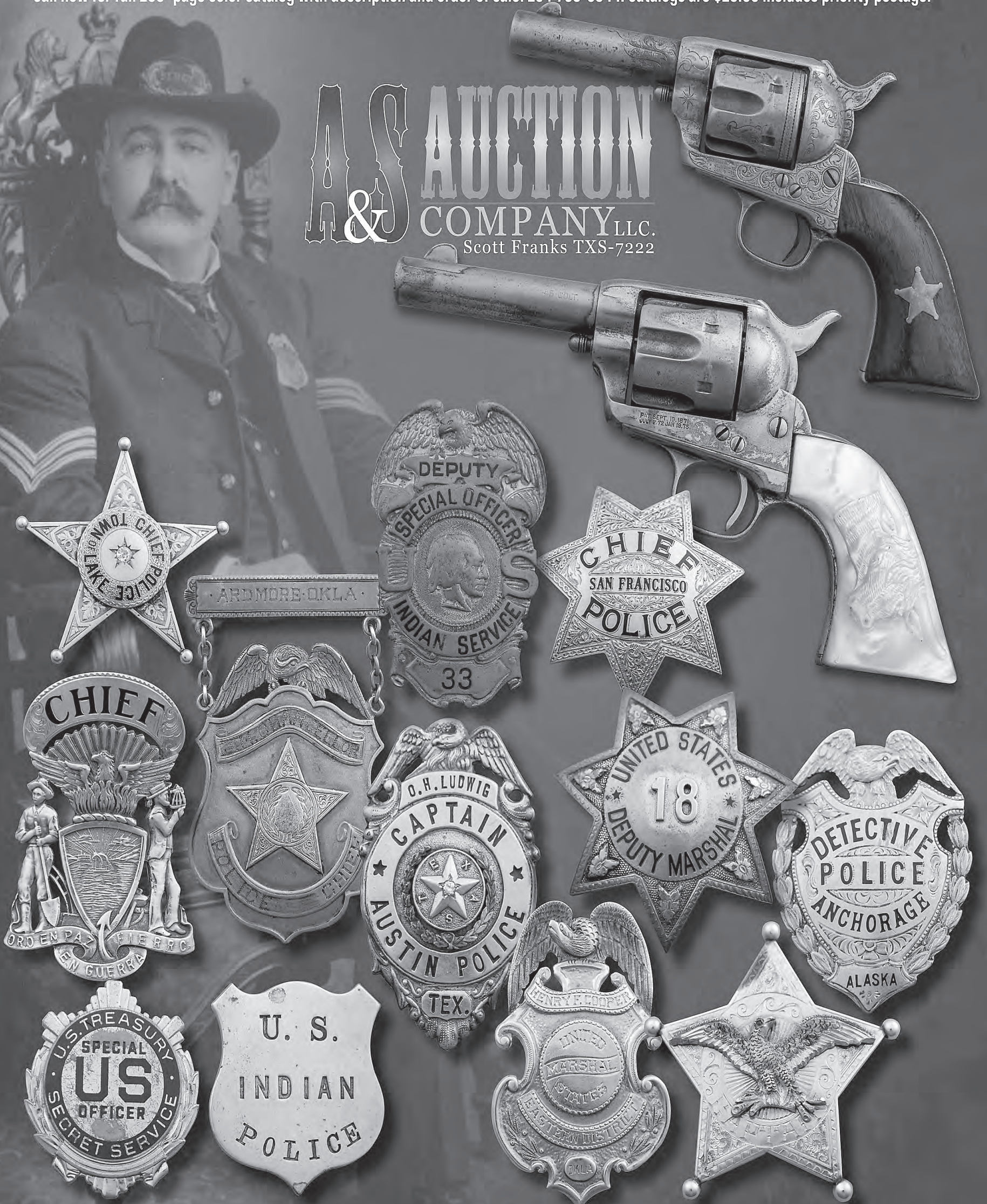
ADVANCE NOTICE: Special 2-DAY Auction scheduled for March 22-23, 2025


Featuring the vintage Law Enforcement Badges (approximately 250) Huge Firearms and Gun Leather Collection from Lee Hutcheson of Jonesboro, Georgia. Also included will be many documented items of Art and Old West Artifacts from the late Jim & Theresa Earle Estate, College Station, Texas.

Conducted by A&S Auction Co., Waco, Texas. Auction to be held at the A&S Auction facility at 900 E. Loop 340, Waco, Texas, 76705.

Call now for full 200+page color catalog with description and order of sale. 254-799-6044. Catalogs are \$25.00 includes priority postage.

A&S AUCTION
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2025
NATIONAL POLICE
COLLECTORS SHOW

JUNE 13-15, 2025

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



HOSTED BY PHOENIX POLICE MUSEUM
OUR HOBBY'S PRMIER EVENT SINCE 1985
265 TABLES --\$100 EACH

Displays
Buy, Sell, Trade

Meet Collectors
From Around
The World



Top Quality
Vendors

All Public
Safety Collectibles
(No Firearms)

PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER, 100 N. THIRD STREET

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 TABLEHOLDERS ONLY SET UP **9 AM – 5 PM**
SATURDAY, JUNE 14 **9 AM – 6 PM**
SUNDAY, JUNE 15 **8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

ADMISSION \$5.00

RESERVE TABLES, HOTEL INFORMATION,
COMPLETE SHOW SCHEDULE ONLINE

PHOENIXPOLICEMUSEUM.ORG

Early table and hotel reservations highly recommended!