

# The Man Behind The Badge

Early sterling silver badges are highly desirable collectibles, especially for law enforcement historians because these badges document and preserve city, county, state and federal agency histories. Toni and Don Fraser are dedicated veteran sterling silver collectors.

By Toni and Don Fraser, Guest Writers

PORTLAND, Me. – Back in the early 1950s, *The Man Behind the Badge* was a popular television show with half-hour episodes based on stories taken from the files of law enforcement agencies in different cities, counties and states.

My husband, Don, was already a budding collector in those days. His small childhood bedroom and a career in the Air Force, with international moves, kept him focused on smaller items. Conveniently, a 1970s change of markings on the Air Force Security Police badge prompted him with a souvenir sample of the previous style and sparked an interest in this rarely available collectible.

The pieces in this article are mostly from the early days of law enforcement when few badges were manufactured and many were jeweler-made from sterling silver.

(Figure 1) This grouping of three badges shows shapes that are generally found in the northeastern part of the country.

“Portland Police 21” (Maine) is an octagon shape badge. It dates to the 1860s and was the second style used by that city. It is similar to Boston police badges of that same era.

The interesting little eight-lobed “Deputy Sheriff York Co.” (Maine) badge is a jeweler-made, hand-engraved, hard black enamel piece in a unique design.

The “Deering Police” (Portland, Maine) badge is in a frequently seen New England oval style, which is a form that was used by cities, county sheriffs and constables. Originally a separate adjacent town, Deering is now a neighborhood within Portland.

This is an example of something that happened many times with large cities, such as New York and Boston. They would consolidate into one overall municipal entity and the former towns became named neighborhoods or, as in the case of New York City, the five boroughs.

(Figure 2) These three merchant police badges indicate that apparently there was a need for this form of private security in earlier days when perhaps a lot of petty theft occurred.

The “Lewiston and Auburn Marketmens Association” (Maine) piece is all jeweler-made and the only badge that Don has ever seen with an original paper maker’s label affixed to the back, “From, Pollard, Alford & Co., Boston, Mass.”

The private detective badge marked “Mt. Laurel P&D Co.” is interesting in that it includes the incorporation date of the agency, “May 5,-71” (1871). The P&D is assumed to stand for Policing and Detective Company.

With a date of 1871, this is a rather early badge for the law enforcement realm since the first solidly documented use of badge wearing is the New York Police Department’s requirement for such starting in 1845. Other major cities started using badges in the 1850s, and by the late-1870s, most cities required the use of an identifying badge.

There were certainly many municipal policing agencies before 1840, but uniforms were not universal and indications of authority were more in the line of a staff, a truncheon (billy club) such as the British used, or some other tool that gave an indication of authority. Hats with identifying marks on them were also used.

(Figure 3) Irvine and Jachens, an early and prolific San Francisco badge maker,



(Figure 2) Merchant police badges from when private security officers could wear badges similar to those worn by police officers. The authors believe the detective badge (lower right) comes from the Mount Laurel Policing and Detective Company. It is dated May 5, 1871. *Contributed photograph*

produced this attractive “Town Marshal” badge with its considerable hand-graved embellishment and hard black enamel.

Up until the turn of the 20th century, many law enforcement individuals outside of major cities were called marshals or constables as opposed to police. Police was reserved for a well-established and larger area that bore the title city. A city, such as our own Portland, had city marshals up until the early 1900s when the title changed to chief of police rather than city marshal.

Likely New Orleans would be the home of this “Special Officer” badge with its considerable hand engraving and hard blue enamel. New Orleans, the Crescent City, has had this crescent encircling a cutout star style since before the Civil War. For a short time during the Reconstruction Era, the shape was changed to a shield, but as soon as federal occupation was over, the city went back to the crescent star and the style is still in use today.

The circular “Police” badge is interesting in that it retains the star shape in hand engraving on the surface with much added peripheral engraved embellishment. This provides the convenience of a circular outer area that saves the uniform from getting caught on star points. The same idea is used in the cutout circle star “Town Marshal” badge as discussed earlier.

Matron badges are not frequently found and especially so in the 19th century. This “Matron City Jail” is jeweler-made with hard black enamel, considerable hand engraving, and, best of all, it has a nice size faceted garnet mounted in its center.

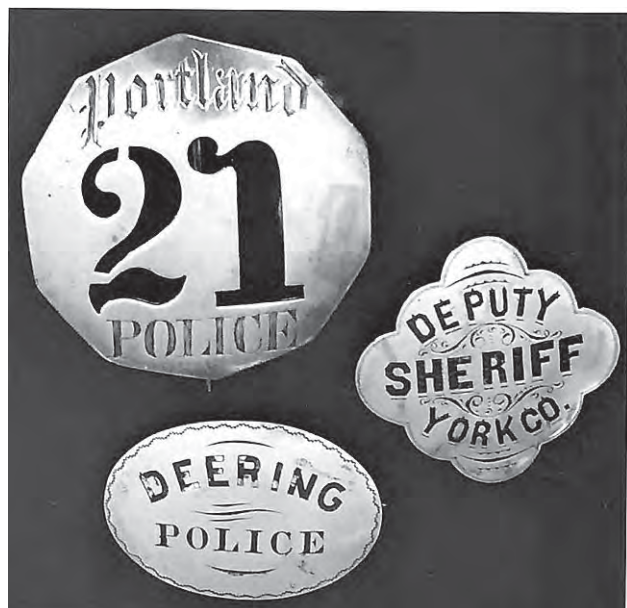
(Figure 4) An interesting variation on badge wear and style is the jeweler-made, hand-engraved “Constable Town Of Vernon,” which has a long pin attached to the back so it can be used as a stick pin for a gentleman’s tie.

The six-point “Boston Constable” star is the only known such piece and dates to the mid-19th century. This officer was probably a court process server as opposed to a city police officer.

The “City Marshal” circle cutout star shows one of the early design styles; whereas, many of the first star badges are orientated with the “V” part of of the five-point star at the top of the badge and the star’s center point faces down. In today’s badges, the five-point star’s center point is always facing up. Whenever one finds a badge with this inverted orientation, you can be reasonably certain of it being a 19th century piece.

(Figure 5) This group of generic badges shows some classic shapes. Generic badges are enjoyable to collect because they can be imagined to come from any part of the country and are frequently less expensive to collect than those with a specific location.

The plain “Deputy Sheriff” shield is very simply made, and it is an excellent example of



(Figure 1) These are three police badges from Maine, Portland, York County and Deering, that represent shapes generally found throughout the Northeast. Portland is an octagon from the 1860s. York County is jeweler-made. Deering is now a neighborhood inside the city of Portland. *Contributed photograph*



(Figure 3) A variety of old badges, including a town marshal circled star made by Irvine and Jachens in San Francisco (lower left), and a unique city jail matron shield (lower right). The authors believe the special police crescent star (upper right) comes from New Orleans. *Contributed photograph*



(Figure 4) The Town of Vernon constable badge (upper right) has an extra long pin so it could be attached to a tie. (Lower right) The Boston constable six-point star is believed to be the only one in existence. The authors believe these early constables served court papers. *Contributed photograph*

**Man Behind The Badge ...Continued**

something a local jeweler would fashion using thin sheet silver.

The big "Deputy Sheriff" star came with a group of named city items, and it may relate to that area; however, since it is jeweler-made with no identifying markings, the actual area of use will most likely never be known. It most likely dates to the 1890s since it has a T-pin and C-catch that weren't used to any extent after 1900.

Nebraska badges are not frequently found dating back to the 19th century. The circle cutout star, "Deputy Sheriff Phelps County," is the most interesting badge of this lot. It shows the early form of a five-point star with the "V" up and the point down, but its most



(Figure 5) Classic shapes for deputy sheriff badges include a six-point star, a shield, an oval and a circled five-point inverted star. The inverted star comes from Phelps County and was fashioned from the back of a watch case by a jeweler. The state in which it was worn is unknown. *Contributed photograph*

unusual feature is that was fashioned from the back of watch case. Some long-forgotten jeweler took the back of an old watch case, removed any findings or designs, cut out a star, engraved the new markings, and added a pin.

(Figure 6) The "San Francisco Police 642" seven-point was made by Irvine and Jachens. The San Francisco firm started in the late 19th century as J.C. Irvine and continued on into the 1950s when it was known as Irvine and Jachens.

An unusual feature on this badge is the date that has been hand-stamped on the back, "6.12.20" (1920). This is something that it is rarely noted in major jurisdiction badges but was done by the San Francisco Police Department and the California Highway Patrol in



(Figure 6) An outstanding group of beautiful early California badges, including San Francisco (top two and lower right), Los Angeles County (center) and a very impressive California Fish and Game Commission six-point ball-tipped star. These are top-quality badges. *Contributed photograph*



(Figure 7) (Upper right) A very unique, early Hialeah, Fla. Motor Police shield features an oversize city seal with an eagle and a shield. (Lower left) United States Bureau of Animal Industry is a rare sterling silver federal badge. It was made in the mid-1940s during World War II. *Contributed photograph*

their early days.

The "San Francisco Sergeant" badge is a bit different in that it has three marks on the back, "(the maker)/ Irvine & Jachens/ 14K (for gold numbers) and also "Coin Silver," as opposed to sterling. The "coin" or "coin silver" marking was generally used during the 19th century. It is frequently an indication of an early badge; however, in this case, it does appear on a later period badge.

Deman was a rare early maker of badges who operated in Los Angeles from 1917 to 1919. This "Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff" shield bears this maker's mark. It is also a bit unusual in that the number is on a separately applied plate, apparently so it could be changed if desired. Sometimes, these separate number or duty title plates are riveted onto the badge front so that if a person moves up from being a rank-and-file officer to either a superior officer or receives a special duty title like detective, the panel can then be changed without the need for a whole new badge.

(Figure 7) These three badges show the variety that is found in badge company products, which can frequently rival the beauty of hand-made jeweler-made pieces.

The unique and outstanding custom design of the "Wichita Police" (Kansas) star dates to 1935 to 1953. Now, sadly, they have gone to a more common shield that is nowhere this artistic in style.

The "City Of Hialeah Motor Police" dates to the early days of both that Florida city, which was incorporated in 1925 (per seal), and the arrival of the automobile. It was constructed of at least four pieces, a wreath and rays form the frame or base piece to which is added a city seal, an eagle and a police-marked shield.

It is unusual for the government to make 20th century badges out of sterling, but this "Federal Bureau Of Animal Industry" shield was probably issued during the World War II years when brass and nickel were war-essential metals; therefore, many badges were made out of sterling.

Old Federal Bureau of Investigation badges, until very recently, were passed from retiring agents to incoming new hires. A friend of ours is a former FBI agent whose badge was originally made during this World War II time. The badge was made in sterling and gold-plated, but as it was carried over its years of service, the plating wore off. He was one of the very few agents carrying a silver-colored badge. Another FBI friend proudly carried a badge so old that nearly all the design was worn away and only the control number remained visible on the back.

(Figure 8) Both the "Las Vegas Police" and "Nevada Highway Patrol" badges make an interesting point in that sterling badges are seldom found in most of the rest of the country in semi-modern times. The West Coast and silver mining states tended to use that material more than anywhere in the country. The Las Vegas badge is a particular classic with a hand-graved saguaro cactus and sage brush added in the top points.

(Figure 9) The "Special Police 301" circle star is from Portland, Ore. Their badges are quite distinct with a large circle around a five-point cutout star to which they have added ball tips that extend beyond the circle edge.

It is particularly large with its three-inch diameter, plus the ball tips. Usually, ball tips are not full balls at all but just cup-shaped extensions of the star points. Further indication of its high quality is the beautiful hard black enamel lettering. Its large jeweler-made T-pin and tube catch are also further indications that this piece was made not much later than 1900.

(Figure 10) Collectors refer to this "Houston Police 1267" shield, produced by the Nelson Company, as a custom badge. Custom badges required two dies. In this case, that means



(Figure 8) These beautiful old sterling silver badges are from the Las Vegas Police Department and the Nevada Highway Patrol. (The Las Vegas badge predates consolidation with Clark County.) Sterling silver badges were more common in the silver mining states of the West. *Contributed photograph*



(Figures 9) The front of a unique special police badge from Portland, Ore. that is believed to have been made no later than 1900. It is a large circle superimposed over a five-point star and is numbered "301." There is a jeweler-made T-pin and tube catch. Note the star points. *Contributed photograph*

one die had the face design on it and a second die created the raised lettering.

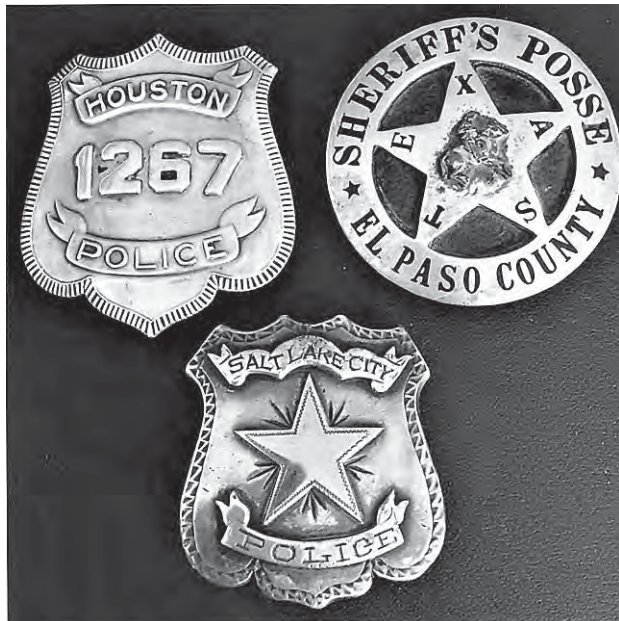
The "El Paso County Sheriff's Posse" circle star with this hard enamel lettering is nicely enhanced with a mounted rider applique. It also has a common design feature found on many Texas badges with the letters "T-E-X-A-S" found on the points of the stars. Texas, ever since its beginning, has always favored the five point star.

The "Salt Lake City Police" shield is a style used by that city from its earliest days. This sterling hand-engraved badge with an applied karat gold star is a 19th century version. Later versions were done in nickel with a brass or enameled seal.

(Figures 11) Mexican coins were used for three of these badges. Collectors refer to these as "coin badges."

A dollar-size silver coin (generally about one and one-half inches in diameter) was a very handy piece for a jeweler to use when making a badge. All they had to do was remove the markings from one side of any old appropriate size silver coin and add findings to the back.

From what I have observed, Mexican coins were most frequently used, but I have also seen badges from United States and French coins.



(Figure 10) Beautiful, hand-crafted badges from Houston, Tex., El Paso County, Tex. and Salt Lake City, Utah. The Houston badge was made by the Nelson Company. El Paso County is for the sheriff's posse. The Salt Lake City shield has an applied karat gold center star. *Contributed photograph*

A Mexican coin, dated 1852, was used for the "J.B. Russell Old Town Constable" (Maine), which would have been used in the late 1800s.

A U.S. half-dollar from the 1860s was used for the small (one and one-eighth inch), five-point V-up "Constable" badge.

"State Ranger Texas" is an archaic marking used by the Texas Rangers from the 1800s to the early 1900s. That marking was put on this old cutout star Mexican coin badge.

This "Texas Ranger Dept. Of Pubic Safety Sgt." is hallmarked "star engraving"/ Houston,



(Figure 11) These badges were fashioned by hand from coins. Texas Ranger badges are extremely rare and made from Mexican five peso coins. The State Ranger star was worn from the 1800s to the early 1900s. The inverted constable was fashioned from a half-dollar. *Contributed photograph*

Texas" and is an extremely important and highly desirable example because maker's marks are rarely found on these badges. The Rangers still use this style, which is traditionally made using a Mexican cinco peso coin. Many copies are found and legitimate badges are rarely encountered.

These badge groupings constitute a small but interesting sample that reflects some of the history of law enforcement. They also represent the skill, artistry and imagination of those who designed and created them.

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# Swap Meet Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

## Fall River, Mass.

The 2021 "Bay State" Police Collector Shows scheduled for Sun., May 2 and Sun., Oct. 9 have been canceled. No future show dates have been announced.

## Cleveland, O.

The 36th Annual Police Memorial Commemoration Week will take place May 15 to 22 in Cleveland, O. All events will be hosted by the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society (GCPOMS).

There will be a police insignia collectors show and exhibit on Sat., May 22 from 10 am to 3 pm at the host hotel for all events, the Holiday Inn Lakeside at 1111 Lakeside Avenue. (This is the hotel that many collectors stayed at during the 2014 Cleveland National Show.) Admission is free.

Exhibitor tables will be available. Please contact GCPOMS on (216) 337-3537 or send email to [info@policememorialsociety.org](mailto:info@policememorialsociety.org) for information.

Collectors and their families are welcome at all Police Memorial Commemoration Week events, including a candlelight vigil on Monday at 7:45 pm at the Police Memorial in Huntington Park in downtown Cleveland; a solemn ceremony at the Memorial Badge Case at Cleveland Police Headquarters, 1300 Ontario St., at 11 am on Thursday; the annual Police Memorial Parade and Memorial beginning at 10:30 am at 12th St., and Lakeside Ave. and the extremely popular International Tattoo at the Cleveland Public Hall at 7 pm. The tattoo features police pipes and drum corps from the United States and Canada. Advance tickets are highly recommended. The event is usually a sellout.

## Athens, O.

The 2021 Southeast Ohio Police Collectors Show will be Sat., May 22 at the Athens Community Center, 701 E. State St., Athens, O. Andrew Watson and Clay Loving will host it.

Tables are \$15 each for the first and \$10 each for each additional table.

Table reservations can be made by emailing the hosts.

Andrew Watson [aawwatson@icloud.com](mailto:aawwatson@icloud.com)

Clay Loving [cl1237@gmail.com](mailto:cl1237@gmail.com).

## National Police Collectors Show

The postponed 2020 National Police Collectors Show will be Fri., June 11, Sat., June 12 and Sun., June 13, 2021 at the Nugget Casino Resort, 11 Nugget Dr., Sparks, Nev. It will be hosted by the 2020 National Show Committee.

Friday is reserved for tableholder setup only from 12 to 6 pm. Only tableholders and assistants will be admitted.

Show hours for the public are Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm.

Admission is \$5 per day. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

Twenty-eight tables are available. It was previously announced the show was sold out, but there have been cancellations. In all, there will be 252 tables.

The Nugget has been the site of three previous National Shows (1992, 1994 and 2007). The recently renovated hotel and convention center are only eight minutes from the Reno-Tahoe Airport. There is complimentary airport transportation for hotel guests.

The hotel offers free parking, complimentary WiFi and a large swimming pool and fitness center.

There are numerous dining and entertainment venues on the premises.

The casino is open 24 hours.

The National Show hotel rate for the Resort Tower has dropped to \$85 per night plus resort fees and taxes for Friday and Saturday. All other nights for the four days before the show and the three days after the show are \$44 per night plus resort fees and taxes.

Reservations can be made on (800) 648-1177. The booking code is GNPCS20. Rooms can also be booked online through the show Web site, [Reno2020.US](http://Reno2020.US).

The show has Facebook page.



Tables are \$20 each and must be paid in advance. The fee includes admission for the tableholder and one assistant. Tables will be assigned on a first come basis. Please specify whether a wall or electrical connection are needed. The hall will open at 8 am for exhibitor setup. Please make checks payable to FCPA Show.

The show is a fundraiser for the Fairfax County Police Association.

There will be a "Best of Show" trophy awarded for the best display.

Food and drink will be available for purchase, and there is plenty of free parking.

Please mail checks for table reservations to Larry Wilkins, 154 Abrams Pointe Blvd., Winchester VA 22602.

The show has a Web site at FCPABadgePatchShow.Com.

For more information, contact the hosts on FCPAShow@aol.com.

# New York Man Held After Stealing Officer's Badge

Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone suffered multiple injuries and a mild heart attack while attempting to protect the United States Capitol from insurrectionists on January 6. Thomas Sibick, 35, of Buffalo, N.Y. is charged with stealing his badge and police radio. The stolen shield has been recovered.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A Buffalo, N.Y. man who stormed the United States Capitol on January 6 has been arrested and charged with tearing off and keeping the badge of Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone and stealing his police radio, according to federal court documents.

Thomas F. Sibick, 35, was among hundreds of insurrectionists who breached a police line and confronted officers, including Officer Fanone, as they unsuccessfully attempted to stop them from entering the Capitol.

Rioters pulled Officer Fanone off the West Terrace steps, beat him with a Thin Blue Line flag pole and Tasered him. His ammunition magazines, badge and radio were stolen. Fellow officers rescued him after he suffered multiple injuries at the hands of insurrectionists and a mild heart attack.

Video shows Sibick taking Officer Fanone's badge and radio as the riot-helmeted officer struggled with him and other rioters on a calamitous police line. Later, Sibick posted videos of himself on Instagram inside the Capitol with the narration, "Just got tear-gassed, but we're going, baby, we're going! We're pushing forward now!"

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents arrested Sibick at his Buffalo home and charged him with entering a restricted government building, disorderly conduct, obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder and taking something of value by force. A federal magistrate released him from custody soon after his arrest.

During four interviews with the FBI, Sibick, 35, initially minimized his role in the insurrection, telling investigators he was a good Samaritan and tried to protect Officer Fanone from the crowd. He denied any wrongdoing, other than breaching a police line and entering the Capitol.

Sibick said the officer's badge fell off his tactical vest as he tried to protect him from the crowd. He told investigators he reached for his radio to activate an orange emergency button.

However, the FBI investigation revealed the emergency button was activated 16 minutes after Officer Fanone was rescued from the mob while Sibick had the radio in his possession.

FBI reports indicate Sibick changed his story three times during subsequent interviews with special agents. First, he said he never took the badge or radio, then he said he picked them up off the ground and threw them into a trash can at the Capitol before he finally admitted that he took the badge and radio and brought them back to Buffalo with him. He said he buried the badge in his backyard and tossed the radio in a Dumpster. He could not recall where he disposed of the radio, which has not been recovered.

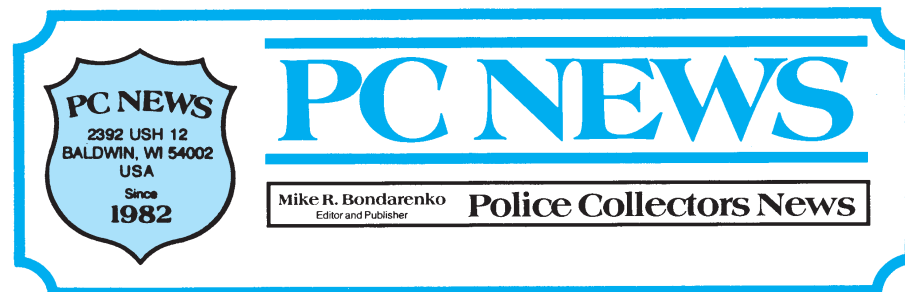
However, special agents recovered Officer Fanone's muddy badge, number "3603," which Sibick ultimately turned over to them after the officers showed him surveillance video that showed he had indeed taken it, despite his earlier denials.

Chief United States District Court Judge Beryl A. Howell issued an arrest warrant for Sibick a few days after his release by the Buffalo magistrate. He was taken into custody and returned to the District where is being held without bond pending trial.

The judge noted stealing an officer's radio is stealing his lifeline. She called Sibick's



Thomas Sibick, who faces multiple federal charges for his participation in the January 6 insurrection at the United States Capitol, admitted he took Officer Michael Fanone's badge and buried it in his backyard. The FBI recovered the badge, number "3603," in March. *FBI official photograph*



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Officer Michael Fanone, 40, suffered multiple injuries and a mild heart attack after he was attacked by insurrectionists while guarding the West Terrace of the Capitol on January 6. The officer was beaten with a Thin Blue Lives flag pole. His badge was torn off his vest. *DC Metro Police photograph*



Officer Michael Fanone (center, wearing riot helmet) battles Thomas Sibick (right, long hair and beard), holding a Thin Blue Line flag pole, on the West Terrace of the Capitol on January 6. Officer Fanone was dragged off the terrace and beaten. His badge and radio were stolen. *FBI official photograph*

### Officer's Badge Stolen ...Continued

"lawless behavior a danger then, now and in the future." She also pointed out that Sibick gave multiple accounts of his role in the insurrection.

Officer Fanone, 40, who is a father of four daughters, has recovered from his injuries. He said he heard said someone say, as he was being beaten with the Thin Blue Line flag pole, "We got one! We got one! Kill him with his own gun."

Sibick's federal public defender argued his client was not a mastermind of the insurrection and does not represent a danger to the public.

Judge Howell disagreed, ruling that Sibick only confessed after he realized the evidence against him was overwhelming. "He dug up the badge and brought it in only after he knew his true actions had been discovered," she said.

Sibick remains in federal custody. His trial date has not been set.

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

# Jim Clark Announces National Bid

Jim Clark will bid for the 2022 National Police Collectors Show. The host of the 2008 show in Louisville, Ky. would hold it next June in Gatlinburg, a popular tourist destination in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains in eastern Tennessee. It would be the first time the National Show has visited the Volunteer State.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -- Jim Clark of Louisville, Ky. will bid for the 2022 National Police Collectors Show in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Clark, owner of G-Man Emblem, hosted the hobby's annual convention in Louisville in 2008. "I've been thinking about it for a while and decided I'd like to host another show," he said.



Jim Clark (right), who hosted the 2008 National Police Collectors Show in Louisville, Ky., has announced he will bid for the 2022 show in Reno next month. The veteran Louisville law enforcement officer is owner of G-Man Emblem. Longtime hobbyist Dave Kolberson is on the left. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



The City of Gatlinburg Convention Center will host the 2022 National Police Collectors Show if Jim Clark's bid is accepted. The venue can accommodate between 260 and 270 tables. It is located in the heart of the popular tourist destination. The show would be June 17 to 19. *Contributed photograph*

No other 2022 bids have been announced.

If Clark's bid is accepted by tableholders at the upcoming Reno National, it will mark the first time the show has visited Tennessee in its 36-year history.

Clark chose Gatlinburg because it's been a favorite weekend getaway and vacation destination for his family for years. "I live south of Louisville, and Gatlinburg is like a second home for us. It's just a great place to visit. We go there every chance we get, at least three or four times a year. It's a perfect place for the National Show," he said.

Gatlinburg is situated in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. It is 30 minutes from Pigeon Forge, another popular venue. The area offers virtually unlimited family-friendly entertainment options.

Clark has been particularly impressed by the patriotic pro-police mindset in Tennessee. "It's a very patriotic place. You see American flags flying everywhere. And, its very cop-friendly. Blue line flags are everywhere, too. They love cops. It's not that way everywhere.

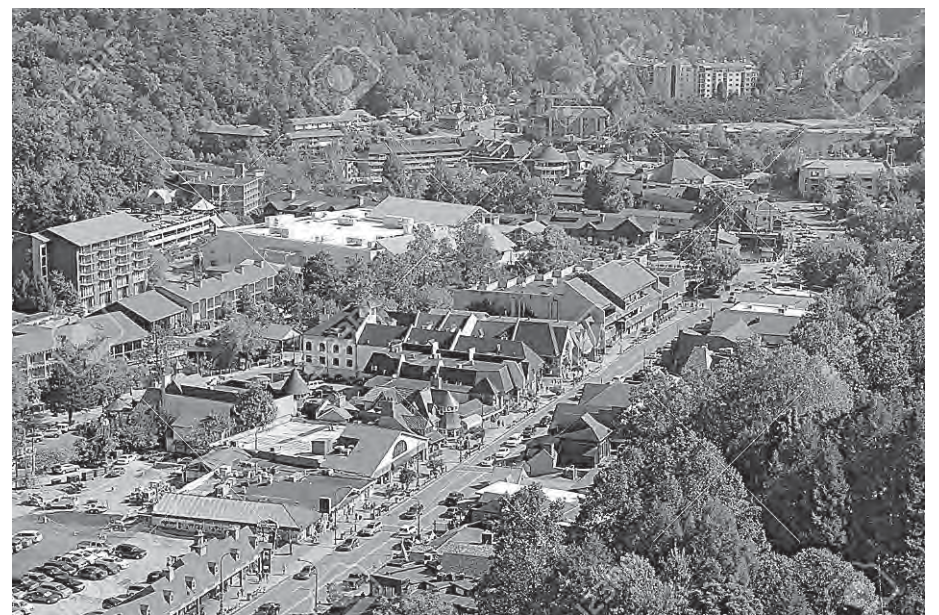


The versatile convention hall at the Gatlinburg Convention Center offers a spacious, comfortable venue for trade shows and conventions. The main hall is 67,000 square feet, which can easily accommodate between 260 and 270 tables. The center is located in the heart of the city. *Contributed photograph*

We need to go where we are welcome. We'll be very welcome in Gatlinburg," he said.

As owner of G-Man Emblem, Clark paid a courtesy call to the Sevier County Sheriffs Office in Gatlinburg and met Sergeant Richard Stoffle late last year. "I went there to tell him about my company and ask about getting their insignia business. We got to talking, and I mentioned I was thinking about putting on a police collector show in Gatlinburg. He was all for it and has been very supportive. We've become good friends," Clark said.

He will propose a three-day show, June 17, 18 and 19, at the City of Gatlinburg Convention Center, a modern venue capable of accommodating 260 to 270 exhibitor tables. Friday would be exhibitors only setup day from 1 pm to 5 pm. The show would be open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 9 am to 2 pm on Sunday.



A bird's view of a segment of The Strip in Gatlinburg nestled in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains. In all, there are ten miles of hotels, motels, cabins, restaurants, shopping and entertainment values. Jim Clark said one visit is not long enough to see and do everything! *Contributed photograph*

Clark had not determined the table price during our early April interview but will have a price when he makes his presentation.

There would be a display contest, as well as a meeting to choose a venue for the 2023 show, and a few surprises that this writer vowed not to spoil for the host. (Hint: Think Tennessee...)

Rather than settle on a single host hotel, which has been a National Show staple, Clark said at least three options will be offered, from traditional full-service hotels to more rustic Smoky Mountain options, such private cabins surrounded by lush green forests.

"Captain Stoffle is very well connected. His wife runs the Marriott Vacation Club, and his sister runs a hotel on the Strip [the main tourist area]. They're working on getting us the best prices they can. I can promise the show will be very affordable," he said.

The local chamber of commerce supports the show and is working with Clark to provide discounts for entertainment and dining venues. "They have been great to work with. They really want the National to come to Gatlinburg," he said.

"What I really like about this is collectors and their families will have a choice. We'll have a full-service hotel for those who like to stay in a traditional hotel. But, we'll also have non-traditional options, such as cabins in the woods that are ideal for families or people like peace and quiet but still want to be close to the show," Clark explained.

The Strip is a ten-mile stretch of state highway through the heart of the city, which is nestled in a valley with the picturesque mountains either side. There are dozens of tourist attractions, restaurants, shops and entertainment venues. "You could easily spend a week and not see everything," Clark said.

Seventy percent of the continental United States lies within a ten-hour drive of Gatlinburg

The nearest major airport is McGhee-Tyson in Knoxville. Shuttle service to Gatlinburg is available.

"It won't be necessary to rent a car, but a car would be nice because there is so much to see and do in and around Gatlinburg. And, there's a great new Alcatraz Prison Museum in Pigeon Forge. It's a legitimate law enforcement museum with a lot of neat displays," Clark said.

The airport is serviced by five major airlines, Allegant, American, Delta, Frontier and United, with connections to 24 major cities, mostly in the Midwest and on the East Coast. Non-stop flights are available from 20 cities as far west as Las Vegas and Dallas to as far north and east as Boston, Chicago and Detroit.

"I really hope collectors bring their families to the show and take advantage of all that Gatlinburg has to offer. A week in the area would make a nice summer vacation. And, we'll do our part to get many discounts as we can. I want this to be affordable for working cops and retirees," Clark said.

Clark said Tennessee has become a hotbed for law enforcement insignia collectors. "They've had very successful shows in Clinton. Each one has been a sellout. I've been down there, and it's a nice show. The Clinton guys are 100-percent behind having the National in Tennessee. I think we'll get a lot of walk-ins from all over," he added.

Clark will make his presentation in Reno. He will also attend the Saint Louis show to further publicize the show and take table reservations. "I'll have all the information on hotels, discounts and attractions by then," he said.

Clark hopes tableholders will support his bid.

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# Collectors Hail New Outstanding Reference Books

New editions of *Worn With Pride* and *The Encyclopedia of Federal Law Enforcement Patches* have debuted to rave collector reviews. *Worn With Pride* updates the 1985 first edition, while *The Encyclopedia of Federal Law Enforcement Patches* enhances the original books published by Ray Sherrard.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

SPECIAL – Law enforcement emblem collectors are hailing the recent debuts of two new and long-awaited reference books, *The Encyclopedia of Federal Law Enforcement Patches* by Steve Petro and *Worn With Pride* by Tony Aleria and Bruce Davisson. Both are now available for purchase.

*The Encyclopedia of Federal Law Enforcement Patches* greatly expands and enhances the iconic three-book series that legendary collector, historian and author Ray Sherrard began publishing in 1983. The second volume was published in 1987 and the third in 1999. Petro spent years updating the original books by adding thousands of new federal emblem styles, as well as obsolete styles not previously shown.

However, Petro opted to forego a traditional printed book in favor of an online electronic book, which will allow him to update the volume without having to publish another edition. An incredible 30,380 federal emblems are shown in high-quality full color images.

"Sales haven't been as good as I hoped, but I've gotten very positive reviews from those who have bought it. I'm hopeful more collectors will buy it, and I'm going to keep advertising it the rest of the year," Petro said.

The author has yet to receive a single negative comment on *The Encyclopedia Of Federal Law Enforcement*. He has been pleasantly surprised by the reaction to the online format, which he said collectors like because it can be accessed on demand over the Internet. "No need to carry around a book. You can download it to any device," he said.

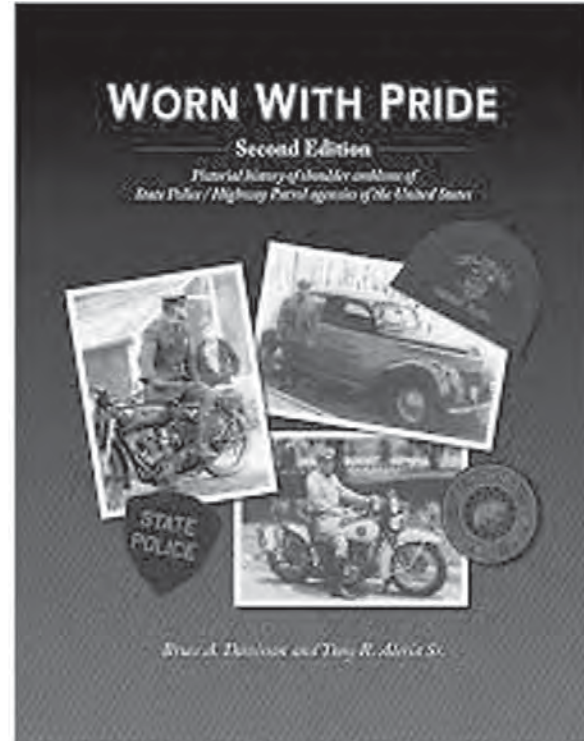
Petro recalled when he initially spoke with Sherrard about publishing an update to his books, the federal insignia collecting pioneer told him, "It was obsolete the day I published it because new patches are coming out all the time."

"I never forgot what Ray said that day, so when I decided to go ahead with the project, I decided an e-book was the best way to go," Petro, a retired United States Secret Service special agent, said.

Petro continues to actively solicit federal collectors to submit digital images of emblems in their collections not shown in the book. Since the publication first went online earlier this year, he has already received more than 200 additional images. "It's a mix of old styles and new styles. These patches will be added to the next edition when I decide to publish it," he said.

Petro shared a May 2 comment from veteran collector Andy Castro in Honolulu, Hawaii, as a typical review of his project.

"I just wanted to take a minute to say that I downloaded your e-book. Wow! What an



The second edition of *Worn With Pride* by Tony Aleria and Bruce Davisson debuted in early May. The definitive guide to state police and highway patrol insignia updates and enhances the original book, which was published in 1985 by Davisson and the late Frank Brown. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*

awesome accomplishment. I also wanted to thank you for mentioning me in the book. I really appreciate your act of kindness! The new collectors coming into the hobby now have the book of federal patches!" Castro wrote.

Meanwhile, the second edition of *Worn With Pride* debuted in early May. Initial reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. The book is definitely a big hit with state police and highway patrol collectors.

Jim Thomas, who has an incredible North Carolina Highway Patrol collection, called the new book "a cut above." "Phenomenal work in putting this together. Thank you to the two authors. Love the incorporation of the vintage pictures along with the patches," he said.

The book is an update to the original volume published by Davisson and the late Frank Brown in 1985. However, the format has been completely revised and updated. The first book was six by nine inches. The emblems were shown consecutively on the center pages and separated from the text for each state. The new volume is eight and one-half by 11 inches. Each state is presented as a separate chapter and emblems are interspersed with text. The images are also considerably larger.

The new *Worn With Pride* features historic vehicle photographs and pictures of officers in uniform, which greatly enhance the emblem collections for each state.

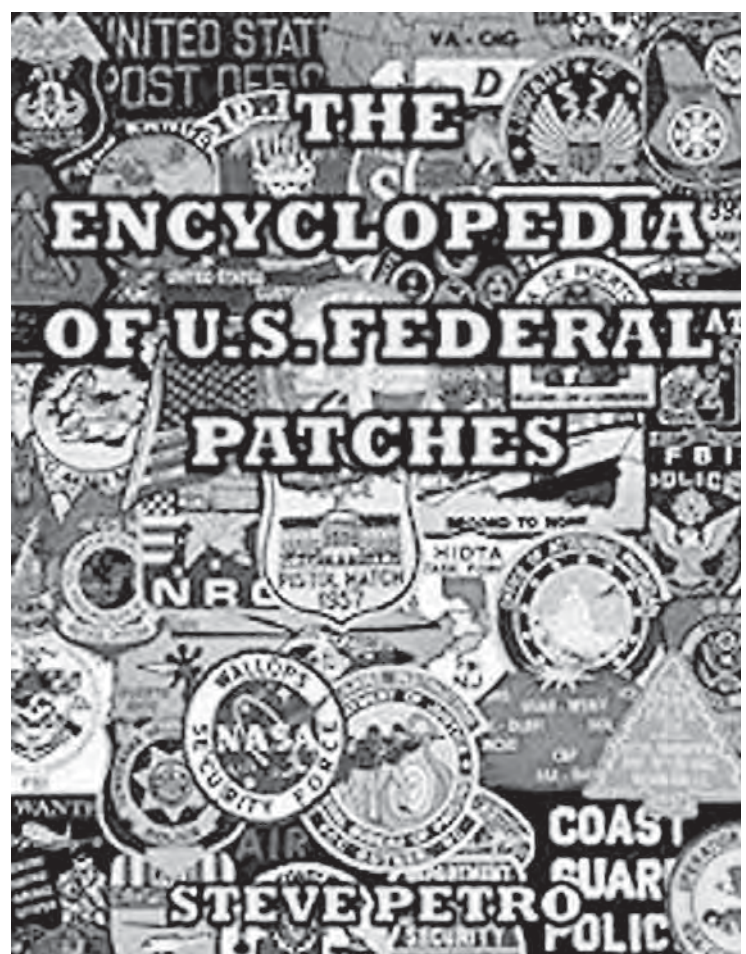
Both books are advertised elsewhere in this issue.

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

**Columbus Show Scheduled** The 2021 Columbus, O. Police Collectors Show will be Saturday, August 7 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, 6800 Schrock Hill Court, in Columbus, Ohio. It will be hosted by J.J. Mead and Bruce Muraco. Forty tables are available for \$20 each. Please make reservations by phone or text to Mead on (614) 598-6169.

Out of town collectors should contact Mead for hotel and motel information.

This announcement was received too late for the "Swap Meet Calendar."



*The Encyclopedia Of U.S. Federal Patches* by Steve Petro is an electronic book that updates and enhances the original three books by veteran collector Ray Sherrard. The online volume shows 30,380 different images of federal law enforcement emblems. *Mike R. Bondarenko photograph*



Tucson police officers, many wearing their six-point stars, pose for a squad picture in 1916 with one of their new motorcycles. Police officers wore plainclothes and western hats back then. Tucson was a city of about 16,000 during World War I. Now, the police department is 150 years old. *Skip Skinner Collection*



According to veteran Tucson collector Skip Skinner, who is working on a history of city police badges for this newspaper, the police department introduced this second issue badge in the 1890s. The original Tucson badge was a shield, which is probably why it was not chosen for badge. *Skip Skinner Collection*

# Tucson Police Celebrating 2021 Sesquicentennial

The Tucson Police Department was born on May 17, 1871 when residents approved incorporation and elected the first city marshal. The department is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a commemorative badge, challenge coin and miniature badge made by Sun Badge Company.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

TUCSON, Ariz. – Tucson was a rough and tumble Wild West town in the 1850s. It was a place where desperadoes, gamblers, horse thieves, murderers and corrupt politicians gathered, mostly in saloons, brothels or hideouts.

Only about 60 miles north of Mexico, criminals knew they could easily escape south of the border and evade the law, if need be. But, since there was all but no law enforcement in Tucson, the need to escape to Mexico was probably rare.

While Pima County had a sheriff, people in Tucson endured ongoing gunfights, robberies, beatings, thefts and rowdiness. It was not uncommon for men to settle their differences with quick draw shootouts in the streets, or blow off steam by discharging their weapons, especially after they left the saloons and brothels.

According to the great 2004 book, *Tucson Police Department 1871-2004*, by well-known Arizona patch collector Stan Benjamin, a retired city police officer, and Terry Rozema, a city police captain, lawlessness became so rampant that by late 1860, the 600 town residents decided they had had enough.

They met and adopted a code of laws, a first for the community. A justice of the peace, Mark Aldrich, and a constable, Juan Elias, were chosen. Thus, Elias became the first official law enforcement officer in Tucson, according to the book.

“...Together, [Constable Elias] and Aldrich gave it their best shot. Aldrich heard cases, setting penalties of various lashes at whipping post. He would then instruct Elias to

administer half the number of [leather whip] stripes, after which the offender was told to report on the following day to receive the second half of his sentence. None ever did, having suddenly remembered urgent business elsewhere,” Benjamin and Rozema wrote. In other words, they left town, which was not bad strategy to reduce the crime rate!

Aldrich resigned after only two months in office. He alleged citizens did not want law and order because most Tucsonans failed to press charges against felons. (Perhaps there was some victim and witness intimidation involved?) It is unknown whether Constable Elias also resigned, but seems highly likely he did.

In 1864, citizens met again and chose a mayor and five councilmen. Wisely, they appointed local druggist Charlie Meyer as the new justice of the peace. Jose Veremende was elected constable. The whipping post was reinstated, but the judge also implemented a chain gang, sentencing prisoners to hard labor. Justice Meyer’s harsh punishment helped implement a semblance of law and order and improved the quality of life in Tucson.

Tucson became capital of newly-formed Arizona Territory in 1867.

By 1871, Tucson had grown to 3200 people, largely due to the opening of large copper, gold, silver and lead mines in the area. The discovery of gold in nearby the Santa Catalina Mountains sparked a California-style gold rush.

On May 17, a petition to incorporate Tucson as a village was approved, even though only 66 out of 3200 people voted.

William Morgan, a former Pima County deputy sheriff, was elected as village marshal. His election marked the foundation of the Tucson Police Department, which is why “1871” appears on the shoulder patch the officers wear today.

The department is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2021 with a commemorative badge, challenge coin and badge pin offered for purchase by active and retired officers. The badge is authorized for on-duty uniform wear until December 31, 2021, according to the chief of police’s office.

The commemorative badge, which was manufactured by Sun Badge Company in Ontario, Calif., features a replica of the second issue Tucson badge, a six-point star, as the center design of a large eagle-topped shield, which is the current style.

Active and retired officers paid \$75 for the badges, \$7.50 for challenge coins and \$5 for the badge pins. They were also offered a set of these three collectibles arranged in a presentation case for \$95, and a replica of the second issue six-point star badge for \$65.

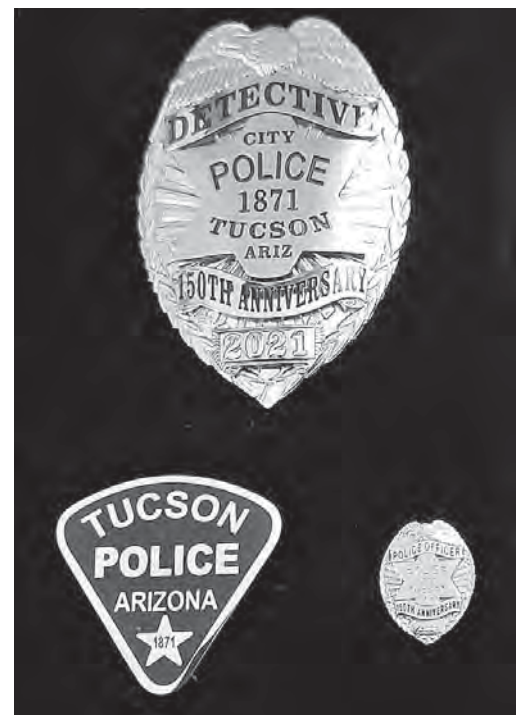
Buyers were required to sign a statement that they would not sell, trade or auction these items to anyone outside the police department.

According to longtime Tucson badge collector Skip Skinner, a veteran *PCNEWS* columnist, the star was the second issue and dates to the 1890s. It was probably used because the first badge was a shield.

The six-point silver-colored star is nickel-plated. The legend on the only known badge to survive reads, “CITY/ POLICE/ 4 TUCSON/ ARIZ.” It is hallmarked, “NORTHWESTERN STAMP WORKS/ ST. PAUL, MINN.”

Skinner pointed out that Sun Badge Company changed the badge number in the center from “4” to “1871.” Otherwise, the legends remain the same on the replica.

The shield features a rank banner across the top with “150TH ANNIVERSARY” on a banner beneath the star and “2021” on a number panel at the bottom.



(Left) The 2021 Tucson Police Department 150th Anniversary badge in the rank of detective. The eagle-topped shield was offered to active and retired officers. (Right) The six-point star in the center of the commemorative is a replica of the second Tucson badge from the 1890s. *Contributed photographs*

A collection of Tucson Police Department anniversary collectibles, the commemorative badge (in the rank of detective), the challenge coin (lower left) and the miniature badge. Active and retired officers could purchase the Sun Badge Company-made set for \$95. *Jeff Stratton photograph*



Our thanks to retired Tucson police officers Jim Christian and Jeff Stratton, as well as collectors Skip Skinner and Stan Benjamin, for their assistance with this story. EDITOR

# Father Helping Son Replace Lost Collection

Ten-year-old Xander Ahrens of Medford, Ore. wants to be a police officer. He has been collecting patches, challenge coins and badges since he was eight. Tragically, his entire collection was lost when his grandmother's home in Talent, Ore. was destroyed by the Alameda Fire last September. Now, his father is helping him rebuild his collection.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

MEDFORD, Ore. – Xander Ahrens has been enamored with police officers ever since he was just four years old.

"My close friend is a police officer here, and so is a cousin, so I think that's how he got interested. I have been close with law enforcement for a long time and have always been a huge supporter. So, naturally, that rubbed off on Xander," his father, Jimmy Ahrens, a United States Postal Service letter carrier in Medford, Ore., said.

Two years ago, when he was eight, the youngster told his father he wants to become a police officer and work in special weapons and tactics (SWAT). "I think it's mainly because he sees how they protect people; somebody that will stick up for and protect those who can't do it themselves," Ahrens said.

Coincidentally, a police officer friend gave Xander a couple police patches since he was so interested in law enforcement and becoming a police officer. That's all it took to spark his interest in patches.

"His eyes lit up as soon as he saw the patches. He said, 'These are awesome!' He just couldn't put them down," his father said.

Ahrens decided then and there that he would help young Xander start a patch collection. He began writing and emailing law enforcement agencies across the country asking for patches for his son. "Some were more than happy to, and some flat out told me no, but that's okay," he said.

Even though Ahrens was at a disadvantage because he has no law enforcement affiliation, he worked diligently to help Xander build his collection. Unaware of the organized hobby and insignia shows, he turned to the Internet and admitted to paying premium prices for emblems that his son really wanted.

"He loves them all, but especially California patches. So, a lot of my focus was getting him California patches, along with their SWAT patches. Unfortunately, eBay was the place where I found a lot of them. But, I wanted to get him the baddest collection out there," Ahrens said.

In only two years, Xander's collection had grown to about 1500 emblems, as well as some challenge coins, which he really likes, and even a few badges. "It was super cool. He would lay them all out on the living room floor and go through them one by one, but he had no way to show them off," Ahrens said.

Last summer, Xander turned to his grandmother, Susan Ahrens, who lives in nearby Talent, and asked if she could figure out a way to help him frame some patches and display all of them. She was only too happy to help.

"Susan and Xander are very close. I took his patches over to her house, hoping she would help him find a way to show them off. I left the collection with her at her house," Ahrens said.

Everything changed for Xander Ahrens a few days later.

On September 8, the Alameda Fire broke out along Interstate 5 between Phoenix and Talent, which is just south of Medford. A man-made fire that investigators traced to a burning brush pile quickly grew into a rapidly-moving raging inferno that spread easily in



Ten-year-old Xander Ahrens shows off some of his patch collection before it was destroyed in a house fire last September. The Medford, Ore. youngster wants to be a SWAT officer when he grows up. His father is helping him try to rebuild his collection after the fire. *Jimmy Ahrens photograph*

tinder-dry conditions with low humidity and high winds.

Susan Ahrens' house was among more than 700 homes destroyed in the Talent area. Xander's beloved patch collection was consumed by the blaze, except for about 30 emblems the family was able to salvage by picking through the ruins. "Mom evacuated just in time but didn't have time to save anything. She lost everything in the fire, too," Ahrens said.

"I didn't tell Xander about his patches until I took him to the site where the house used to be. Being the selfless person he is, he was more worried about Grandma and the loss of Truly, her dog. But then it sunk in a few days later, and he was pretty upset. But, I told him not to worry. I would get back to writing," Ahrens said.

In the several months, Ahrens has been reaching out to police and sheriff departments, including many in Oregon and California, asking them if they would help replace some of the emblems that Xander lost in the fire. He said Albany, Ore., South San Francisco, Calif., San Mateo County, Calif., Del Norte County, Calif. and El Dorado County, Calif., have been particularly helpful.

"Some departments heard about Xander's collection on Facebook and sent him patches. That's pretty cool," Ahrens said.

Ahrens said his son would be thrilled if collectors across the country would be kind enough to help him rebuild his collection by donating a few patches. Patches can be sent to Xander Ahrens, 2801 Alameda Street, Medford OR 97504.

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Our thanks to Ben Roberson of Squad Room Emblems in Mesa, Ariz. for sponsoring an advertisement elsewhere in this issue asking collectors to consider donating a patch to help restore youngster Xander Ahren's collection. His firm markets top quality custom insignia to agencies in the Pacific Northwest. Contact him on (480) 580-3897 for a quote. EDITOR

Northern Territory Police Police in the Northern Territory of Australia are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year with a wide variety of events, as well as publication of a history book and production of challenge coins and other collectibles. Most events took place in September and October. The agency was created in 1870 with six constables who patrolled on camels and horses! Today, 1500 uniformed officers police nearly 521,000 square miles of the harshest territory in Australia. The population is only 245,000.



Xander Ahrens of Medford, Ore. has been enamored with law enforcement ever since he was four years old. He was proud to pose with a police officer and his patrol car. Now ten years old, Xander wants to be a police officer. He collects patches, especially from California. *Jimmy Ahrens photograph*



The horrific Alameda Fire on September 8, 2020 destroyed the home of Susan Ahrens, the grandmother of Xander Ahrens. The youngster's 1500-piece patch collection was inside the house when it burned. Ms. Ahrens was going to help Xander create patch displays. *Jimmy Ahrens photograph*



# California Police Historian

The Official Publication of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society

Mike Bondarenko, Editor

## CLEHS News Updates

**Calling All Authors** The California Police Historian is the official publication of the historical society and is now included in PCNEWS, which is sent to all CLEHS members six times a year.

The CPH includes interesting articles regarding the history or achievements of California peace officers, departments, collections or events. Most are written by members or California historians. But, we need more stories!

Have you written an article on California law enforcement history and wish to share it with our members? Please send it to Mike R. Bondarenko, CHP editor, at [pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:pcnews@baldwin-telecom.net).

**2021 Collectors Show** The annual California Law Enforcement Historical Society Police Memorabilia Collectors' Show will be held on Saturday, July 24 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Veteran's Hall, 800 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo and is sponsored by the CLEHS.

There are 55 eight-foot tables available at \$40 each; Society members pay \$20 each. Reserve your table early as the show sells out every year!

Free admission!

Awards are presented for the Best Badge Exhibit, Best Patch Exhibit and Best of Show.

COVID-19 guidelines will be in effect. Masks or facial coverings are required. Hand sanitizer stations will be provided. Social distancing will be enforced. Please do not attend if you have a fever or exhibit other virus symptoms.

To reserve a table and make payment online, go to the CLEHS Web site, [CalPoliceHistory.Com](http://CalPoliceHistory.Com).

If you wish to reserve a table and pay by check, please send payment to Gary Hoving, President, California Law Enforcement Historical Society, PO Box 254875, Sacramento CA 95865-4875, (805) 441-4936 or email him through the Web site.

Check our Web site and Facebook page, Friends of the CLEHS, for show updates.

**Board of Directors Election** The nomination period for the five California Law Enforcement Historical Society Board of Directors members up for election to 2021 to 2025 terms was extended to May 1.

CLEHS is governed by a nine-member, volunteer board which meets annually to set policy for the society.

The board consists of five elected at large directors and four appointed directors, who represent specific areas of the state, Northern, Central, Central Coast and Southern.

A ballot will be sent to all eligible members by May 15. Please note: Article 12 Section 1 of the CLEHS Bylaws do not allow associate or corporate members to vote; therefore, no ballot will be sent to those members.

In order for your vote to count, you completed ballot must be returned no later than June 15. Election results will be announced in July.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Smith

## Longtime California Collector Steve Nibarger Dies At 81

Steve Nibarger, a dean of the California hobby, died in a Newport Beach hospital on March 29. He was 81 years old.

According to his son, Michael, Nibarger had been in failing health for several years but



The California Law Enforcement Historical Society will host its annual Police Memorabilia Collectors Show on Saturday, July 24 at the Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, Calif. Admission is free. Fifty-five tables are available. Early reservations are recommended. *CLEHS photograph*



Steve Nibarger, 81, died on March 29 at a Newport Beach hospital. The California Highway Patrol officer and state police and highway patrol collector served with the CHP from 1966 to 1970, left the agency for ten years, and rejoined in 1980. He retired in 1999. *Contributed photograph*

did not seek treatment for his conditions.

Nibarger was a renown California Highway Patrol and state police and highway collector for many years. He befriended fellow CHP Officer Tony Aleria, a fellow state police and highway patrol collector, as well as many other well known hobbyists.

Nibarger was fixture at California and National Police Collectors Shows from 1994, when he began collecting, until he left the hobby in 2015 and sold most of his collection.

Nibarger joined the CHP as a state traffic officer in 1966 and was assigned to the Santa Ana area. He left the agency in late 1970 to pursue a career in real estate but rejoined the CHP in the late 1980s after a ten year separation. He was reassigned to Santa Ana where he served before he retired with the rank of sergeant in 1999.

"Dad was mostly into CHP badges and patches. He was a collector for as long as I can remember, but he was very particular. He only collected the real thing, meaning he had to be sure what he collected was authentic," Mike Nibarger said.

Nibarger expanded beyond the CHP and state police/highway patrols to include other agencies. "Dad was a true collector. He loved badges and patches. If he saw something he liked, he got it," his son said.

After Nibarger sold most his collection and left the hobby in 2015, he decided to move to Canada. Quietly, he began collecting again in 2016 and 2017 after deciding to remain in California.

"Dad had a lot of different interests. He loved to go on cruises later in life. In fact, I would say he loved ocean cruising more than anything the last few years," Mike Nibarger said.

Mike Nibarger followed in his father's footsteps and served as a California Highway Patrol officer for 21 years in the West Valley from 1999 to 2019. "I was partially inspired by my father to join the CHP. But, I knew what I was getting into," he said.



California Highway Patrol Officers Tony Aleria (left) and Sergeant Steve Nibarger (right) are shown at a recruitment event where they showed state police/highway patrol insignia and a CHP motorcycle. Aleria and Nibarger were not only co-workers but friends for 25 years. *Contributed photograph*



Steve Nibarger's retirement plaque shows that he was a police officer in Santa Ana before he joined the California Highway Patrol in 1966. His Santa Ana and CHP badges are shown, as well as his CHP ID, service and sergeant stripes, as well as a name tag and miniature badges. *Contributed photograph*

Mike and Corrie Nibarger hosted a celebration of Steve Nibarger's life at their Stevenson Ranch home on May 1. Several longtime collector friends of Steve Nibarger, including Tony Aleria, Keith Bushey and others, attended.

"We're going to put up a lot of pictures and show Dad's memorabilia. He would have liked it," Mike Nibarger said.

News of Nibarger's death was met with sadness and sorrow by many of his longtime collector friends and associates.

"Steve was a true gentleman. May he rest in peace. He will truly be missed," said Brian Lyons, a former New York state trooper.

"How do I find the words with the passing of Steve Nibarger? There are so many who know how devastating his loss is. For more than 25 years, we traveled the country together to meet up with a host of great friends in the badge collecting hobby," Aleria said.

"Collecting with Steve was always a good time, but our friendship was much more than that. He was one of my closest friends. We had a lot of laughs and great times over the years," he continued.

"If you're lucky, there are several times in your life when you meet a true gentleman and a great human being. Over 20 years ago, I met Steve through my hobby of badge collecting. We shared visits to our homes on the West and East Coasts and met up at many badge shows across the country," North Carolina Highway Patrol badge collector Jim Thomas said.

"Being a wealth of knowledge on state police and highway patrol badges, he shared it frequently. I am a better person for having known Steve Nibarger," Thomas added.

Ohio collector Bill Swank said, "He was a giant of a person, not just in his tall frame, but by the generosity of his friendship and the love he gave freely. If there was a photo for salt of the Earth, a photo of Steve Nibarger would be fitting. He was the best representative the California Highway Patrol could ever have..."

*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

## CLEHS Holds Another Virtual Collectors Show

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a negative impact upon the entire planet. Every aspect of our lives has been altered, from work, social activities, shopping, travel, and family gatherings to even our ability to collect law enforcement memorabilia. In most states, a gathering for a collectors show would have been deemed illegal.

The California Law Enforcement Historical Society was forced to cancel our annual collectors show in July 2020, as were most other planned events in California. As an alternative, we opened our Facebook page for the purchase, sale and trade of collectibles by hosting virtual collectors shows.

Our Facebook page focuses on articles about law enforcement and collecting history and does not permit the sale of any items. The intent is to maintain a clean forum for the hobby and not turn it into another marketplace.

In order to maintain our goal, specific virtual show dates were selected with start and finish times, just like our traditional in-person shows. Generally, the "doors" opened for virtual show-goers at 8:00 am and ran until 1:00 pm Pacific time. However, just like real shows, we frequently opened early by allowing postings by 7:00 am and typically remained open for business for 30 to 60 minutes after the designated close of the event.

The format for each posting was wide open and included any item of interest to collectors in the many public safety disciplines. The majority of items offered were badges



The latest California Law Enforcement Historical Society Virtual Collectors Show was held on April 17 from 8 am to 1 pm on the CLEHS Facebook page. President Gary Hoving initiated the online shows after the CLEHS show last July was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Gary Hoving photograph*



(Top) This long obsolete Fresno County Constable patch was listed for \$75 plus \$2 postage during the CLEHS-sponsored sale. (Bottom) An old California constable's badge was offered for sale at the April 17 CLEHS Virtual Collectors Show on the CLEHS Facebook page.. *Gary Hoving photographs*

and patches, but we had everything from T-shirts, caps, holsters, saps to helmets.

Most items were sold with a "buy it now" price similar to the large commercial auction sites.

Others followed the "deal, no deal" format with the potential buyer posting an offer and the seller either accepting or rejecting the offer. "Deal or no deal" is a little bit cumbersome for the seller to continue to monitor as we do not have a special sorting and retrieval system like the commercial sites.

It was a little surprising how successful the virtual show events became.

Just like the in-person shows, our collectors were able obtain items that they would not have access to without this virtual venue during the worst of the pandemic.

Another benefit was the ability to access items from anywhere in the world. There were regular attendees from Florida, Wyoming, Illinois, Arizona, Nevada and internationally from Sweden, Germany and Japan.

Similar to any show, there must be a monitor at all times to deal with any issues that may arise. However, the cost of the venue for hosting the show, such as liability insurance, does not exist.

Another benefit of our online shows were that we did not charge a fee to participate. We asked for a donation based on the items sold at the end of the show and most sellers



(Top) A Vacaville Police Department detective badge was a "buy it now" offering. It is gold with black enamel legends. It is numbered. (Bottom) This San Luis Obispo PD patch had only been out for a week before three went up for sale on April 17. It has a custom design. *Gary Hoving photographs*



The Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society Facebook page only allows postings of items wanted or for trade or sale during the virtual shows. Otherwise, it is strictly history-related. President Gary Hoving took advantage of the show to post his wants. *Gary Hoving photograph*

contributed between three and five percent of their sales. We have been very fortunate that many of the sellers were much more generous, but, of course, there were those who donated nothing.

Our virtual shows were limited to two or three times per year and have been a replacement for our canceled show. Now, that the pandemic is subsiding, and we are reopening in-person events, we will certainly offer fewer virtual shows but may fill in some gaps in the California show circuit with virtual shows.

Interested collectors must preregister as a Facebook member on our site, Friends of the California Law Enforcement Historical Society. Three qualifying questions are asked during the registration process. Those failing to answer these questions are declined membership. These questions and a quick review have become necessary as a minimal level of screening based on some attempts by anti-law enforcement advocates to access our site.

Membership in the California Law Enforcement Historical Society is available at [CalPoliceHistory.Com](http://CalPoliceHistory.Com).

*Submitted by President Gary Hoving*

## Two Hundred Collectors Gather At Second Livermore Show

An estimated 200 collectors attended the second Tri-Valley Police Collectors Show in Livermore on March 6. Matthew Hutchens, Jarrod Nunes, Nick Kanaya and Greg Gilstrap hosted the event at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge.

"We didn't keep a sign-in list, but I know there were a few out-of-state collectors. We had a nice turnout from this area, and there were a lot of collectors from Southern and Central California, too. It was pretty much an all-California show," Hutchens said.

Tri-Valley was a 30-table sellout. The first show last August was also a sellout. "We're pretty proud of that considering the pandemic restrictions. California collectors are ready to get out and go to shows again," Hutchens said.

Despite the large turnout, Tri-Valley was described as "low-key and relaxed." Many veteran collectors had a chance to catch up with each other after not seeing each other for many months, as well as buy, sell and trade, of course.

"I got absolutely great feedback on our show. People told me it was the way shows used to be, fun, carefree and worth going to. There was zero drama," Hutchens said.

Veteran badge collector and historian R. Tod Ruse, who specializes in San Joaquin County Sheriffs Office memorabilia and artifacts, agreed. "It was a good event. Very positive atmosphere. The show hosts' efforts paid off," he said.

Hutchens received positive feedback from California Law Enforcement Historical



Mike DeVilbiss won "Best Badge Display" honors at the Tri-Valley show in Livermore on March 6 for his Sacramento County Sheriffs Office badge, patch and artifacts collection. DeVilbiss specializes in the agency. About 200 collectors attended the show. *Matthew Hutchens photograph*



Jess Tovar is a dedicated collector of Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office badges, patches and artifacts and was among the exhibitors at the second Livermore show on March 6. Tovar has assembled a fine collection, including several complete regular and tactical uniforms. *Matthew Hutchens photograph*

Society President Gary Hoving and as well as other collectors.

There was strong interest in recent California patch style changes. However, as usual, the demand far exceeded the supply, so prices or trade values were high.

"I was happy quite a few badge collectors came to the show, including Keith Bushey from Southern California. I'm a badge collector, so it was nice to see a lot of really



President Todd Schulman represented the Napa Police Historical Society he helped found in 2006 at the Livermore show. The organization is dedicated to the preservation of police history. Schulman brought an impressive display of badges, patches and uniforms. *Matthew Hutchens photograph*

awesome collections," Hutchens said.

There was a spirited display contest featuring impressive California collections shown by several veteran hobbyists.

"Best of Show" went to Mike McCarthy for his incredible San Francisco Police Department and San Francisco Fire Department collections. McCarthy has one of the largest and most complete San Francisco public safety collections in the hobby and has captured numerous display awards over the years.

Mike DeVilbiss, who won "Best Badge" display for another incredible Sacramento County Sheriffs Office exhibit, complete with badges, patches and historic memorabilia and artifacts. He is another multiple show display contest winner.



Livermore show co-host Matthew Hutchens brought an impressive display of badges from his collection to the show. Even though he has been collecting law enforcement badges for only two years, Hutchens has already amassed a fine 700-badge collection. *Matthew Hutchens photograph*

Former Inglewood police Officer Phil Colonnelli went home with the "Best Patch" display award for his exhibit of framed California police and sheriff patches. He, too, is a multiple show award winner.

Hutchens pointed out there were several other outstanding exhibits that did not win awards.

Jess Tovar featured his Stanislaus County Sheriffs Office collection, which featured badges, patches and uniforms. He is an up and coming California collector, who is rapidly taking his place in the top echelon. Anyone who believes there are no young, new California collectors needs to stop by his table at a future show.

The Napa Police Historical Society set up an informational exhibit on the department's history. It was presented by President Todd Schulman, who founded the organization in 2006. It is dedicated to the preservation of Napa law enforcement history.

Another Tri-Valley highlight was the continued disposition of the extensive Marc Keller Collection of California badges and patches by Gago Sargsyan.

Tableholders were Colonnelli, Sargsyan, Nunes, Hutchens, Gilstrap, Kanaya, Al Mize, Ruse, Hoving, Art Pegg, Alan Wegschneider, Ed Kalinowski, Chuck Lawshe, McCarthy, DeVilbiss, Tovar and R.C. Yoshioka.

"We're definitely going to have another show soon. I'm looking at setting up something at a larger hall so we can get more tables. There is a lot of interest in this show, so we need to do another one. If I can't find anything larger, we'll go back the Eagles lodge," Hutchens said.

The hosts have tentatively scheduled their third show for the end of August. However, the date and venue have yet been finalized.

*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*



California Highway Patrol Santa Rosa Commander Aristotle Wolfe (left) presents retired Officer Jim Emmons, 93, with his replacement retirement badge during a ceremony at the Rohnert Park office. Officer Emmons lost his badge and career memorabilia in a 2017 fire. *CHP photograph*

## California Highway Patrol Gifts Badge To Retired Officer

James Emmons grew up in Sonoma County. He wanted to become a state traffic officer for the California Highway Patrol, so he applied to the CHP in 1956. He was accepted into the CHP Academy in 1957. Upon his graduation, he received badge number "2310." (Current CHP badge numbers are well into the 22,000-plus series!)

Emmons's first assignment was in the Compton area in Los Angeles County where he worked in a patrol car. He recalled it was a "beat up Oldsmobile." Then, he transitioned to motors and worked in Orange County for about 15 years.

In 1972, Officer Emmons was reassigned to Santa Rosa, which allowed him to return to his beloved Northern California. He retired from the CHP in 1982 after a distinguished 25-year career and was presented with his retirement badge.

Emmons, now 93, and his wife, Barbara, settled in the Santa Rosa area where they still reside.

In October 2017, the infamous Tubbs Fire, one of the most destructive in Northern California history, completely destroyed the Emmons home and its contents.

"We got out with the clothes on our backs and whatever we could grab on our way out the door. That's it. We didn't have time to save anything. But, we got out. A lot of people didn't," the retired officer said.

Sadly, Officer Emmons was unable to save his retirement badge or any other mementos



Although 93-year-old former CHP motor Officer Jim Emmons needed a little help to get on it, he was all smiles as he sat on a 2020 Harley-Davidson. He served as a motor officer in Orange County for 15 years in the late 1960s and throughout the '70s before he relocated to Santa Rosa. *CHP photograph*

of his career when the raging inferno destroyed his home. He described his CHP badge as his greatest treasure. "I worked awfully hard to get that badge. It meant a lot to me. It was a big part of my life," he said.

The CHP has a retired badge replacement protocol. Officer Emmons applied for a new star in 2018, even though he realized his other career mementos were lost forever.

About a year ago, a CHP supervisor contacted him to inform him that he qualified for a replacement badge at no cost to him. The supervisor told him that the agency wanted a formal presentation ceremony.

On February 13, 2020, Santa Rosa CHP Commander Aristotle Wolfe presented Officer Emmons not only with a new retirement badge to replace the one he lost, but a beautiful frame with his CHP Academy acceptance letter, a copy of his academy class roster and a copy his first assignment orders. He was also gifted with a presentation box in which to display his retirement badge made out of rosewood by a CHP sergeant.

The presentation ceremony was attended by about a dozen CHP officers at the Rohnert Park Office. Officer Emmons was overcome by emotion and fought back tears as he thanked Commander Wolfe and the officers for their generosity.

Afterward, Officer Emmons was invited to check out one of the current Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Although he needed some help mounting the bike, the retired officer sprouted an ear-to-ear grin as he recalled his days riding a 1970 model Harley. "I rode a Harley with dual drive, rear shocks and a kick-starter," he said.

Officer Emmons was particularly impressed with the in-helmet communications system used by modern CHP motor officers. "It was hard to hear the radio and use the mic while answering calls when I worked. This is so much easier to use than what we had," he said.

*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

## History Of The SFPD Chinatown Squad

The first installment of "History of the SFPD Chinatown Squad," which appeared in the July-August 2020 edition of the *California Police Historian*, chronicled the origins of this unique San Francisco Police Department special unit.

SFPD created the squad in 1875 to suppress criminal activity in notorious Chinatown, which was then the largest Chinese settlement outside China anywhere in the world.

Beginning a few years before the Gold Rush, thousands of Chinese immigrated to the United States to work. Some went to the gold mines. Others labored on the San Francisco waterfront, some voluntarily and others conscripted, and settled in the densely-populated, closely-knit Chinatown neighborhood.

While the overwhelming majority of immigrants became productive workers and business owners, a criminal element followed them in their journey across the vast Pacific Ocean.

Soon, imported Chinese gangs, known as tongs, terrorized Chinatown. Tongs were behind extortion schemes, protection rackets, illegal drugs, prostitution, illegal gambling and other vices. Gang members brought with them inherited tong rivalries from China that often played out with violent, bloody confrontations on San Francisco streets.

The Chinatown Squad had only limited success combating crime in the neighborhood. Traditional methods proved largely ineffective policing the Chinese immigrants, largely because crime victims mistrusted police.

As a result, Chinese-on-Chinese crimes were rarely solved. Language was a nearly insurmountable barrier; all but a handful of police officers spoke Chinese, and victims were uncooperative and maintained a code of silence in fear of the tongs.

Jesse B. Cook became the Chinatown Squad sergeant in 1899. He headed the unit until the 1906 earthquake and fire when he was named chief of police. He maintained an extensive collection of scrapbooks containing photographs, newspaper clippings and ephemera related to the Police Department during his years of service, especially in Chinatown. Today, the collection is housed at the Bancroft Library.

Cook was familiar with Chinatown since he lived only a few blocks away growing up a child in San Francisco and learned even more while serving as a city police officer.

Cook wrote articles for local newspapers on policing Chinatown following his retirement as chief of police after he was appointed as a police commission member.

He believed the Chinese-on-Chinese violence in San Francisco was deeply rooted in Chinese culture. He identified what he called six "companies" or neighborhoods where families and extended families settled together. The companies immigrated from the same regions and spoke the same dialects.

Cook also researched Chinatown tong origins. He traced most of the gangs back to China where he was able to identify their idiosyncrasies and traits. This information proved helpful to SFPD in learning how to best police Chinatown.

Nevertheless, despite Cook's best efforts to make the Chinatown Squad more effective at policing an estimated 40,000 Chinese immigrants by 1905, the unit was besieged by rampant internal corruption, allegations of police brutality and nearly universal mistrust among the people they served.

The squad became all but dormant after the 1906 earthquake and fire until late 1920s when a series of particularly gruesome hatchet murders terrorized Chinatown and resulted in an outcry for police protection among not only Chinese businessmen, but other business owners in the vicinity, as well.



The San Francisco Police Department Chinatown Squad wore plainclothes when they get together for a photograph in 1902. They were shown with axes, ropes and tools they used to enter brothels, opium dens and gang houses as they policed the Chinatown neighborhood. *Contributed photograph*



Jesse B. Cook was sergeant in charge of the San Francisco Police Department Chinatown Squad for seven years from 1899 to 1906 when he became chief of police. Cook was a student of the Chinese immigration beginning in the 1840s and developed strategies. *Contributed photograph*

In early 1921, Police Chief Daniel O'Brien, frustrated that Chinatown's eight square blocks were draining a disproportionate share of his department's resources, assigned veteran Inspector John J. "Jack" Manion to head up the Chinatown Squad. He had enjoyed a distinguished career as a detective.

Determined to quash the rampant violence, Inspector Manion came up with an ingenious idea. He approached tong leaders with an ultimatum: he would order a complete shutdown of all social activity in Chinatown if another murder occurred. He told the tongs to police themselves and threatened to deport not only gang members who committed crimes but their entire families as well.

Nothing was more important to Chinatown residents than the great banquets and festivities that preserved Chinese culture and tradition. And, the Chinese knew deportation would result in a return to oppression, abject poverty and even greater violence in their homeland.

While Inspector Manion's methods were often unconstitutional, such as his threat to manufacture charges against tong members' relatives, they proved effective. He and his hand-picked team of 16 veteran officers raided brothels, gambling houses, speakeasies and opium dens with impunity. He metered out his own version of justice.

Chinatown violence and crime plummeted dramatically after Inspector Manion took over. The legitimate Chinese business community thrived as people felt safe on the streets and patronized shops and restaurants. Chinatown became a local tourist attraction for the first time.

When Inspector Manion retired in 1946 after 25 years heading the squad, Chinese leaders conferred upon him the honorarium *Woo Que Bo Mun* or "Guardian of the Peace, Protector of Chinatown." He was made an honorary Chinese citizen.

Chinatown flourished as a popular tourist and local destination in ensuing years. Although there were ongoing gambling and drug issues, tong street violence did not return until the mid-1960s, nearly 20 years after Inspector Manion's retirement and six years after his 1959 death.

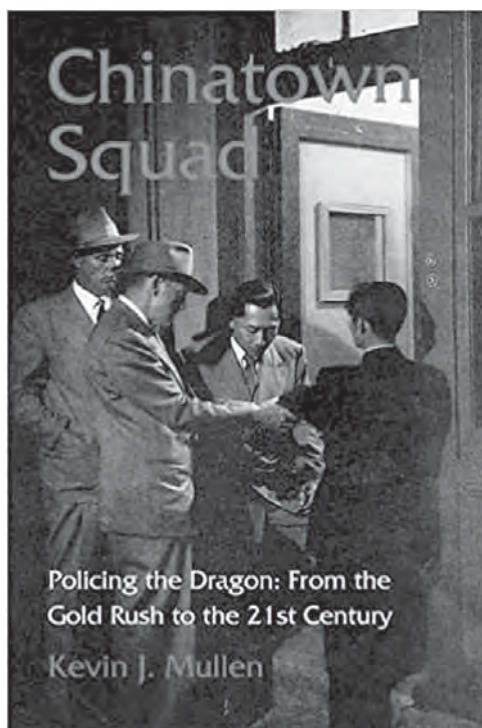
The history of the squad is told in an excellent book, *Chinatown Squad: Policing the Dragon from the Gold Rush to the 21st Century*, by Kevin J. Mullen, a retired SFPD deputy chief.

Not only does Mullen trace the origin and history of the unique squad, he follows it into the 21st century. Remnants of the former Chinatown Squad and its successor, the Asian Gang Task Force, are now part of the SFPD Intelligence Unit.

The 208-page volume was published in 2008 and can be ordered from major booksellers. It is a must read for SFPD collectors and historians.

Mullen has written five other books, as well as newspaper and magazine articles on San Francisco crime and police history.

Mullen served with the SFPD from 1959 to 1985 after serving in the United States Army where he was a paratrooper.



Kevin J. Mullen, a former San Francisco deputy police chief, compiled *Chinatown Squad*, a book about policing the Dragon from the Gold Rush to the 21st century. It chronicles the service that Inspector Jack Manion gave the squad during his 25-year tenure in charge of it. *Contributed photograph*

The third and final installment in this *California Police Historian* series will chronicle the infamous Golden Dragon Massacre in 1977 during which five people were killed and 11 others wounded during an epic gun battle between rival Chinese tongs in a popular Chinatown restaurant. The massacre gave rise to the formation of the Asian Gang Force, which later became the Gang Task Force.

*Submitted by Mike R. Bondarenko with research assistance from Rick Uland, retired San Francisco police officer*



George Gong's California collection features this accurate, detailed replica of a Riverside County Sheriff's Department prisoner transport bus. It is white and green with green and yellow markings. Gong is moving away from patches and badges to motor vehicle replicas. *George Gong photograph*

## California Recognizes Vehicle Role In Law Enforcement History

Vehicles, whether real, restored or portrayed by models, deserve their rightful place in California law enforcement history. The many conveyances law enforcement officers have driven or flown over the years are as much a symbol of our profession as uniforms, badges and cloth insignia.

California is the only state which has a combined law enforcement insignia and vehicle show, held annually in Ripon, which attracts insignia collectors, as well as vehicle enthusiasts from throughout the state and beyond.

While traditional four-door sedans have given way to sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, law enforcement utilizes a wide variety of other vehicles, including motorcycles, which replaced horses in the early 1900s in many jurisdictions, helicopters, airplanes and even buses, which are used mostly for prisoner transportation.

Veteran collector George Gong has a custom-made scale model replica of a Riverside County Sheriff's Department green and white transport bus with authentic decals, "SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE," on the sides in large green letters and gold-colored recruitment information on the back in smaller letters, "JOIN TODAY! 1-800 JOIN RSD/ WWW.JOIN RSD.COM." "RIVERSIDE COUNTY/ SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT" also appears on the back.

"Over the years, I've sort of moved away from patches and badges within the police collectibles hobby. I find it much easier and maybe in some cases even cheaper to purchase replicas of law enforcement vehicles," Gong said.

The bus makes a handsome addition to his collection and could be displayed with other collectibles.

Historic vehicles are represented at the Los Angeles Police Museum and the Glendale Police Museum.

The Glendale display also pays tribute to the modern Ford Crown Victoria, known later as the Police Interceptor, which was one of the longest-serving law enforcement vehicles ever produced. It was the predominant police vehicle in Glendale from 1992 to 2021, although it has been gradually phased out since 2014.

The museum collection features front doors salvaged from Crown Victorias and Police Interceptors driven for nearly 30 years with different decals, markings and color schemes. Glendale began replacing its Police Interceptor fleet with Ford Explorers in 2014.

*Submitted by George Gong and Mike R. Bondarenko*



The Glendale Police Museum, which is well worth a visit by California collectors, features driver's side front doors from several Ford Police Interceptors and Crown Victorias over the last 30 years. They show the colors and marking schemes the agency has used. *Glendale Police photograph*



The driver's side front door of the last Ford Police Interceptor driven in Glendale has been preserved and will be displayed in the department museum. Glendale police rode in Crown Victorias and then Police Interceptors for nearly 30 years from 1992 to 2021. *Glendale Police photograph*

## Los Angeles Police Museum News

Exciting news from the Los Angeles Police Museum! A movie is about the life and career of Robert Stewart, the first Black LAPD officer, is in the works. A 1972 article about legendary TV series Adam-12 in the LAPD magazine, *The Beat*, has come to light. The museum will soon reopen to the public.

Los Angeles journalists David Mendez and Kate Cagle are trying to secure funding for a feature film about Stewart, the six-foot-eight ex-boxer, who joined the department as a patrolman in 1889.

Officer Stewart served with distinction for ten years before he was wrongly accused of



Patrolman Robert Stewart was honored in a Los Angeles Police Department yearbook as the city's first Black police officer. The six-foot-eight former boxer was appointed in 1889. He served for ten years before he was terminated after being falsely accused of rape. *Contributed photograph*

raping a white teenager he had encountered for a curfew violation. Even though he was acquitted by a court, the LAPD terminated his employment before his trial. There was no due process.

Museum staff contacted Southern California film producer and director Keishawn Blackstone, known for making films telling true stories impacting culture, politics, laws and history, and asked him if he was interested. His answer was an enthusiastic yes!

"Given that he went through so much adversity and came out still standing, it's a light of hope that people need in today's world," Blackstone said.

It is believed the Police Museum will offer its full support to the project, once it is funded.

Stewart was born into slavery in Kentucky in 1850. After slavery was abolished, he drifted west to California and joined Joseph Green as the first two Black men appointed as LAPD officers. (Green was laid off after ten months and never called back to duty.)

After the LAPD refused to re-hire him following his acquittal, despite his sterling record,



(Left to right) Kent McCord, assistant producer Tom Williams, producer Herman Saunders and Martin Milner were presented with official commendation citations by the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners for their roles in *Adam 12*. President Frank Hathaway is at the right. *Contributed photograph*



The Los Angeles Police Museum exhibit devoted to Adam-12, the popular '60s and '70s television series, now features a copy of the March 1972 edition of *The Beat*, the LAPD official publication, autographed by Martin Milner and Kent McCord, the co-stars of the show. *Contributed photograph*

Stewart spent the rest of his life as a laborer and janitor. He died in 1931 at age 82.

Last September, Chief of Police Michael Moore promised to reinstate Officer Stewart and give him an honorable retirement. Castings of his badge are being created and an exhibit is planned for the museum.

Blackstone and screenwriter Sam Jordan Dudeck are working on a script for the movie, which has a working title of *A Giant In Blue*. While the project is still in its infancy, they firmly believe Stewart's story must be told.

The Police Museum Adam-12 display now features a copy of the March 1972 edition of *The Beat*, the official LAPD publication, autographed by Martin Milner and Kent McCord, who played Officers Pete Malloy and Jim Reed on the popular series, which aired from 1968 to 1975.

The actors signed the magazine cover not long before Milner's death in 2015. Milner's daughter, Molly, presented it to the museum.

The publication features a story about the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners honoring Adam-12 upon the filming of the 100th episode in early 1972. The commissioners presented official framed commendation citations to McCord, assistant producer Tom Williams, producer Herman Saunders and Milner. Saunders accepted the citation on behalf of producer Jack Webb of Mark VII Productions.

The award presentations took place during a private luncheon at Parker Center, the former LAPD headquarters, attended by Chief of Police Edward M. Davis, numerous assistant and deputy chiefs and the five commissioners, as well as Milner, McCord and the producers.

Commission President Frank Hathaway cited Adam-12 for its positive portrayal of the LAPD and thanked the producers for maintaining a close relationship with the police department. He pointed out that many story ideas originated with LAPD officers.

Because Milner and McCord were always filmed wearing their hats outside their patrol car in strict compliance with official LAPD policy, Deputy Chief Robert F. Rock presented them with gold-colored LAPD hats enclosed in display cases.

Museum officials said the autographed magazine cover is particularly significant because it marked only the second time that a fictional television series has ever been featured in its pages. The only other time was in the 1950s when Jack Webb was shown behind a camera filming *Dragnet*.

The *Beat* was published from 1947 to the early 1990s.

Finally, Executive Director Erica Arias recently announced museum will soon reopen as California and Los Angeles County remove COVID-19 restrictions.

"We can't wait to once again welcome visitors. They will see a lot of very positive changes we have made since the lock down last year," she said.

*Submitted by Los Angeles Police Museum*

## Solano County Preserves Sheriff's Office History

The Solano County Sheriff's Office continues its ongoing effort to document its history through an outstanding entertaining Facebook page, "Solano County Sheriff's Office History." It is a treasure trove of information for California collectors and police historians alike.

Popular Coroner and Public Administrator B.J. Klotz died in office in 1923. He had held the office since 1907 and was serving his fifth term. County supervisors unanimously appointed his wife, Gertrude, to succeed him, although her medical credentials are unknown. (California coroners are elected officials and not required to have a medical background.)

Whether or not she was qualified didn't seem to matter to voters. Not only did Mrs. Klotz fill out her husband's term, but she was re-elected five times, serving as coroner and public administrator from 1924 to 1946.

The department has a historic photograph of Mrs. Klotz taken in August 1944 when she addressed deputies assigned to the Vallejo area. She posed with Deputy Coroner William Wiggins, Sheriff John R. Thornton, Captain Guy Headlee and Deputy Coroner Tom Hannigan.

Coroner Klotz was the first female to hold the office in the county.

The sheriff's department is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. They reintroduced their 1941 to 1948 first issue shoulder emblem as a heritage patch in a rank set of sheriff, under sheriff, chief deputy, deputy sheriff, corrections, security officer and animal control.

The round insignia is dark blue on gold. Gold legends on the round blue center design reads, "(RANK)/ 1941 1921/ HERITAGE PATCH," while blue legends on a gold outer ring



Gertrude Klotz (center) was appointed to succeed her husband, B.J. Klotz, as Solano County coroner and public administrator after he died in office in late 1923. She served until 1946 and was re-elected five times. She is shown with two of her deputies and sheriff's officials. *Contributed photograph*

display, "SHERIFF'S OFFICE/ SOLANO COUNTY." There is a blue merrow border.

A star appears in the center design on the sheriff and chief deputy patches. The other patches feature a diamond shape.

Research indicates the first issue shoulder patch was worn on the right shoulder. It was pointed out the 1941 to 1948 dates of use are approximate.

"We didn't have corrections, animal control or security officers at the time and the sheriff never had a patch or wore a uniform, but we wanted to include everyone on this celebration," according to the department.

Deputies have the option of wearing the heritage patch until the end of December 2021. It remains unknown whether the set will be made available to collectors.

The Suisun City Police Department in Solano County is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. The department was founded in 1921 when Anson Burdick was named the first police officer.

Research shows local business owners planned to hire a night watchman and work with the city to develop a light system to alert the police officer and the watchman of a pending call.

The plan was to erect remote-activated red lights around the city. When someone would call for the police, the telephone operator could activate the red lights so the officer would know that he needed to contact the operator for a call.

On March 15, 1963, Solano County Deputy Sheriff Hale Humphrey was killed when he was struck by a car occupied by two teenagers who had committed an armed robbery at a gas station in Fairfield.

California Highway Patrol Officer Charles Sorenson, who was on patrol in the area, saw the suspect vehicle and attempted to stop it. The suspects fled but crashed their car. When Officer Sorenson tried to arrest them, the 18-year old driver shot him in the neck. He died instantly at the scene.

The 18-year old shooter and his 16-year old accomplice fled in Officer Sorenson's patrol car and led police on a chase that reached speeds up to 130 miles per hour.

Deputy Humphrey set up a roadblock about six miles east of Fairfield. However, the suspects rammed his parked patrol car and killed him. They were soon apprehended.

Both were convicted of first degree murder for the death of Officer Sorenson and second degree murder for the death of Deputy Humphrey. The 18-year old was sentenced to death in 1963. His sentence was reduced to life imprisonment in 1966. He was paroled in 1978.

Deputy Hale served with the United States Navy in World War II and Korea. He joined the Fairfield Police Department following his discharge but then went to work for the sheriff's department.

Deputy Hale's outstanding investigative and people skills immediately impressed Sheriff Thomas Joyce, who called him "one of my best men." He became the department's lead criminal investigator.

The deputy was also a sharpshooter who could shoot better with a snub-nose revolver than most officers could with a full-size weapon. He organized a competition pistol shoot between the Sheriff's Department and Fairfield PD. The losers had to buy beer for the winners. While the shoot took place, there is no record of which agency emerged victorious.

One of the most heinous crimes in Dixon history was the poisoning of his brother and sister by Frank Belew in 1887. He denied any responsibility for the deaths, which were caused by arsenic poisoning. He told Constable B.F. Newby he discovered his brother



Solano County S.O. is celebrating its 80th anniversary with a set of seven heritage patches based on the agency's first issue worn from 1941 to 1948. The rank set is sheriff, undersheriff, chief deputy (not shown), deputy sheriff, corrections, security officer and animal control. *Contributed photograph*



Left) Cyril McDonald was a funeral director in Vallejo when he ran for Solano County coroner and public administrator in 1946. This is his campaign matchbook. (Right) George "Sturgeon Mouth" Pensacola was arrested and convicted of a murder in Suisun City in 1903. *Contributed photographs*

and sister unconscious in his cabin, summoned a nurse and helped her in her attempts to revive them.

Sheriff Benjamin Rush immediately suspected Belew, but he denied any involvement. Constable Newby believed Belew was innocent as he claimed, but Sheriff Rush didn't.

Coroner F.W. Trull and District Attorney Frank Devlin held a coroner's inquest to determine the cause of death of Belew's brother and sister. While the coroner's jury determined the cause of death was poison, they could not agree whether Belew was responsible.

Sheriff Rush disagreed with the jury's determination. After being told by Belew's brother-in-law that Belew had confessed the crime to him, the sheriff arrested Belew and charged him with murder and attempted murder, even though he had been warned the arrest was premature based on the coroner's jury findings.

Belew confessed after two days in custody. He was found guilty and put to death by hanging at Folsom Prison nine months after the murders.

Department historians have *San Francisco Call* newspaper articles about the murders, the coroner's inquest and Belew's arrest and conviction.

Undertakers as coroners? Funeral directors from the McDonald Family have held the post of coroner and public administrator in Solano County twice.

J.J. McDonald was an undertaker in Vallejo in the late 1800s when he served as the county coroner from 1899 to 1907. He ran for sheriff in 1907, won and served until 1926.

His son, Cyril McDonald, founded the Twin Chapels Mortuary in Vallejo in 1942. He followed in his father's footsteps and ran for coroner and public administrator in 1942. He won and held the office until 1961.

The department collection has a red, white and blue matchbook that McDonald distributed during one of his re-election campaigns.

Finally, how about a murderer whose nickname was "Sturgeon Mouth?" His real name was George Pensacola and he lived in Suisun City.

In 1903, Pensacola murdered Fred Potter by fatally stabbing him and dumping his body into Suisun Bay.

The Sheriff's Department obtained information that Pensacola, who was a Greek fisherman, was an assassin for the Greek Fisherman Colony, a company of fishermen.

Potter was killed when he tried to intrude on the Greek colony fishing operation in Montezuma Slough. He was among several other fishermen who had been found murdered or gone missing in the area over the past ten years.

Sheriff James A. Keys worked with Contra Costa County Sheriff R.R. Veale to develop Pensacola as the suspected killer. They tracked him from the crime scene to Vallejo, San Francisco and finally New Westminster, B.C., where he was found working in a fishing camp.

Sheriff Keys traveled to Canada, arrested Pensacola and got him to confess to the Potter murder.

The sensational case received extensive coverage in the San Francisco newspapers.



Scene in Vendome Hall at Dixon During the Belew Inquest.

The Frank Belew murders in Dixon made news across the Bay Area in 1897. Belew poisoned his brother and sister but maintained his innocence. Sheriff Benjamin Rush believed he was guilty. A coroner's inquest determined the cause of death but didn't name Belew as the killer. *Contributed photograph*





Solano County Deputy Sheriff Hale Humphrey was a highly regarded criminal investigator when he was killed in the line of duty in 1963. A Navy veteran and former Fairfield police officer, Humphrey died when fleeing armed robbery suspects crashed into his patrol car. *Contributed photograph*

*Submitted by Solano County Sheriffs Office*

## Dorothea Puente: Sacramento "Death House Landlady"

Dorothea Puente ran a two-story Victorian-style boarding house in Sacramento from the mid-1970s through the late '80s.

A kindly, innocent-looking, white haired grandmother, Puente rented low cost rooms to chronic alcoholics, drug abusers and people suffering from mental illness, often taking them in when they had no place to live.

Although Puente had previous criminal convictions for check fraud and operating a brothel, she presented herself as a born again Christian who had devoted her life to helping the disadvantaged.

Puente became known as a community resource. She hosted Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the boarding house, helped her tenants get Social Security and public assistance and funded local charities that serve disenfranchised people. She cooked for her tenants and often fed homeless people.

Little did Sacramento police know the innocent-looking, well-kept residence at 1426 F Street was the site of at least nine murders. Puente had buried the bodies of seven former tenants in her fenced-in backyard. Police determined they had been killed between 1982 and 1988.

Puente murdered her victims by drugging them with sleeping pills and then suffocating them. She hired men, mostly convicts, to dig the holes in her lawn that she used to bury seven of her nine victims. The unsuspecting gravediggers were told she intended to plant trees in the holes.

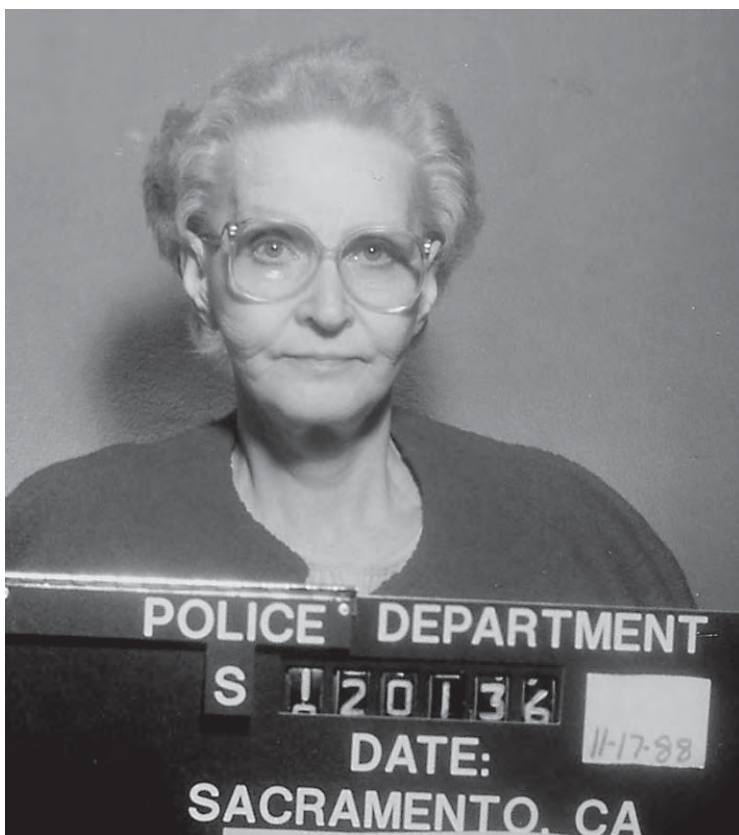
One body had been concealed in a large coffin-like box that she hired a handyman to build for her, telling him the wooden box would be used to dispose of unwanted books and household items. The box was dumped along a riverbank in Sutter County.

Sacramento police discovered the first body in the backyard on November 11, 1988 after a social worker was unable to reach a client who had been one of Puente's boarders. The worker contacted the police and asked them check on her welfare. Puente told the officers the 78-year old woman had left house and she had no idea where she had gone.

However, police became suspicious after noticing freshly-disturbed soil near the house. Later, they discovered the body of a 78-year old woman in a shallow grave.

"It came as a shock. That's an understatement," said John O'Mara, homicide supervisor at the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, who prosecuted the nine murders.

Once the grisly discoveries were made, Puente became one of California's most notorious serial killers. Local media called her the "Death House Landlady."



The Sacramento Police Department made headline news across California and around the USA after detectives arrested Dorothea Puente, 59, who became known as the "Death House Landlady," and charged her with nine murders. She was convicted and died in prison. *Contributed photograph*



The current owners of the former Dorothea Puente death house have allowed a few local city history and crime tours to visit the property, which was once the home of the notorious serial killer. Puente killed at least seven people at the house and buried them in her yard. *Contributed photograph*

She was suspected of killing six other people who had rented from her before they went missing but was never charged due to lack of evidence. None of the missing people has ever been found.

O'Mara said eight of Puente's victims were either Social Security or public assistance recipients who rented rooms from her. She intercepted their checks, forged their signatures and then cashed them. She gave her tenants a small allowance but kept most of their money for "rent and expenses."

She also killed her 77-year-old boyfriend whose decomposed body was found inside the wooden box that she dumped in Sutter County.

Puente's victims ranged in age from 51 to 78. Seven were over 60.

Sacramento detectives, district attorney's investigators and state agents spent four long years preparing the nine murder cases against Puente. It was one of the most time-consuming, exhaustive investigations in Central California law enforcement history.

The sensational murder trial was moved to Monterey County after the judge granted a change of venue filed by the killer's attorneys. It lasted 12 months.

Prosecutors portrayed Puente as a cold blooded serial killer who preyed on vulnerable people that she pretended to help by giving them low cost room and board in exchange for their Social Security or public assistance checks.

The defense argued even though the victims were buried on her property, the state failed to prove Puente had either drugged or suffocated them. She steadfastly maintained her innocence and claimed her boarders died of natural or drug-related causes.

The jury deliberated for a month. It deadlocked 11 to 1 to convict Puente on all nine counts. Finally, the lone holdout juror agreed to two first degree and one second degree murder convictions. The state opted not to retry her on the six other cases.

Puente was sentenced to life without parole. She spent the rest of her life at the women's prison in Chowchilla where she died of natural causes in 2011 at age 82.

The former boarding house has long been an unofficial Sacramento tourist attraction. Curiosity seekers drive or walk by and take pictures. After being vacant for several years, the house again became a rental property.

The current owners bought the place in 2013 and turned it into their private residence. The older couple redid the infamous backyard as a place for their grandchildren to play.

The new owners have a sense of humor and posted signs warning people about ghosts and reminding them the house is innocent.

They have also allowed some local history and crime tours to visit the property and even dressed a mannequin to look like Dorothea Puente and placed it on the lawn. The mannequin is holding a shovel!

The "Death House Landlady" case is one of the most prominent in Sacramento police history.

*Submitted by Editor Mike R. Bondarenko*

## End California Police Historian



Sacramento police detectives and coroner's investigators recovered seven bodies buried in the yard behind Dorothea Puente's boarding house. All seven victims had rented from Puente. Prosecutors said she drugged them with sleeping pills and then suffocated them. *Contributed photograph*



This fully-restored 1969 Plymouth Fury I four-door recently sold at auction for \$12,000. It was a Nassau County Police Highway Patrol unit. The car has 136,000 miles. The seller described it as being in excellent road ready condition. The markings are gold and black. *Eric Wollman photograph*



Metropolitan Police Department 1861, 59th Presidential Inauguration, Intelligence Branch Gang Unit, Homeland Security Bureau, Battle at the Capitol January 6, 2021, OC Tunnel, Police Academy and Special Operations Harbor Unit are more District of Columbia novelties. *Wes Maroney photograph*

# Letters To The Editor

## Lou Gaydosh Remembered

I met Lou Gaydosh in October 2007 when I traveled to New Orleans for the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. It was about two years after Hurricane Katrina, and the city was still a mess.

I made contact with Gaydosh through *PCNEWS*. We shared our interest and love for patch collecting.

I had asked for a ride-along to see New Orleans from a cop's perspective. Gaydosh met me in a radio car and said, "Sorry, we don't do ride-alongs. So, just get in the car and we'll ride." And that's what we did.

Gaydosh took me into his district, past flooded-out buildings, to the mobile homes where his squad was then located. I saw National Guard vehicles, ruined homes and washed-out stores. We drove by a pastoral plot in a nice suburban setting where he told me his house once stood. We swung by the levee pumps that had failed and many other signs of damage by the hurricane.

Despite the awesome wreckage and devastation, Gaydosh was positive and a perfect host to this visitor. What a great guy!

Over the years, Gaydosh and I exchanged emails several times a year, so I was extra surprised to read in *PCNEWS* of his loss. I appreciate Mike R. Bondarenko and this newspaper for printing the news we need to know.

On another note, I recently learned that a former Nassau County Police 1969 Plymouth Fury I marked radio car with 136,000 miles sold at auction for \$12,000. The seller described the car as being in "excellent condition, turn key ready to run, interior in perfect shape."

I believe I saw this car displayed at the police car show at the NYPD Police Museum in Old Slip.

Also, remember the mystery Florida Highway Patrol patrol car parked off the Belt Parkway I wrote about in "New York Minute" recently? It is gone. I guess someone bought it or it is at least storing it indoors. Being outdoors was not good for this car.

ERIC WOLLMAN (2209 East 28th Street, Brooklyn NY 11229)

## Metropolitan Police Patches

I have shown some Metropolitan, D.C. Police Department novelty patches that I have picked up since last summer. A current D.C. cop is producing them and doing a really nice job.

The novelties are for Autism Awareness, Breast Cancer Awareness, Armed Forces Appreciation, Intelligence Branch, Gay Pride, Fourth Platoon, 59th Presidential



Novelty emblems from the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, Autism Awareness, Breast Cancer Awareness, Armed Forces Appreciation, Intelligence Branch, Gay Pride and Fourth Platoon "Guts and Gears." These emblems are based on the standard issue. *Wes Maroney photograph*

## Lieutenant Lucille Holmes

Lucille Holmes was a Jacksonville, Fla. police lieutenant. I have been told she was also the first female lieutenant in the state.

As many know, I am fairly aggressive in my collecting. I use genealogy to look up family members or retired officers looking for items. This actually works very well for me. No, I do not lie to them, but I show them a display or something else from my collection and tell them what I am trying to do. My reputation is everything to me, so I always tell them what I am trying to do with their items.

This brings me to meeting retired Lieutenant Wade Taylor, the son of Lucille Holmes. He lives in a very nice home in Ponte Verda. So, one day I drove out there in my patrol car; yes, my patrol car. I met him, and we talked for several minutes. I did not know that he, too, has served with JPD and was also a lieutenant. He gave me some background information on his mom.

I told him I am attempting to document the history of the department through my collection. He said he did not have Lucille Holmes's badge but knew where it was. Glock was getting big back then, and everyone wanted a Glock Model 27. So, I made him an offer for the badge. He said he would think about it. (No, it was not an item for item trade.)

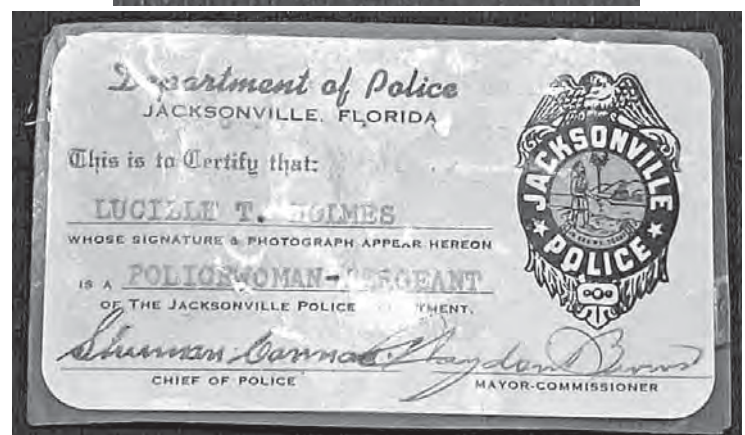
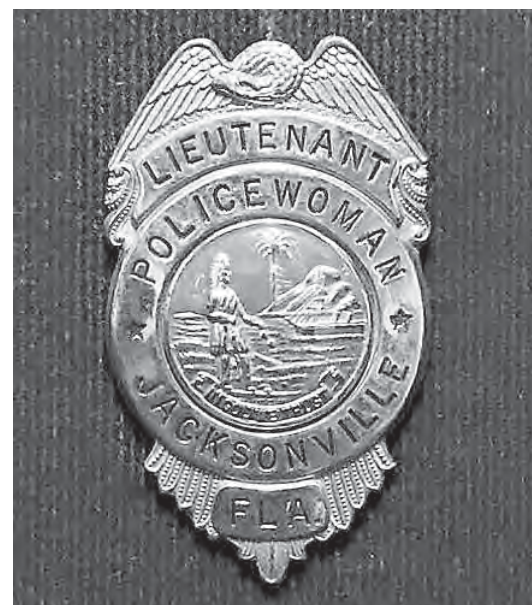
Anyway, he called me, and we met again. He said he actually felt sorry for me. I started to laugh and told him I had been told 'no' before. But, his answer was not no. It was 'yes!' We made the trade for her badge and her sergeant's identification card.

This is the only known female Jacksonville police lieutenant badge. It is rarer than a chief's badge, although three chief's badges were made in this style.

The badge is a gold-colored shield with blue legends, "LIEUTENANT/ POLICEWOMAN/ JACKSONVILLE/ FLA." The otherwise gold-colored state seal has a blue background.

The ID is white with red letters and a blue and gold badge.

STEVE STROZINSKI (via Facebook)



(Top) A one-of-a-kind Jacksonville policewoman lieutenant badge that was once worn by Lucille Holmes, who served as the first female lieutenant in agency history. She may have also been first in the state. (Bottom) Holmes's ID card when she was a policewoman sergeant. *Steve Strozinski photographs*



December 21, 1970 was the one and only time a collector, Elvis Presley, ever met the president in the Oval Office at the White House. Presley asked President Richard Nixon for a federal drug agent's shield and got one! The visit even inspired a book. *White House photograph*

## All Things Federal

By Ray Sherrard, Staff Writer

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. – Longtime readers know I have always been interested in celebrities who have collected law enforcement badges. I have written about them several times over the years.

Celebs like Bud Abbott of Abbott and Costello, the comedy duo, Chuck Connors of *The Rifleman* fame and actor and comedian Buddy Hackett, among others, were collectors just like us.

However, the most famous celebrity badge collector ever, hands down, was entertainer Elvis Presley, who was probably the most serious collector of all the Hollywood people.

"The King" was a very avid collector. Although a lot of his extensive badge collection has been sold by his estate, you can still see some of it at his Graceland mansion, which remains a popular tourist destination in Memphis years after his death.

Elvis dreamed of being a cop and may have very well become one had he not had such incredible talent. Yet, he managed to actually work some shifts, in uniform, no less, as a police officer in several cities, including Memphis and Denver. One can only imagine someone saying to his or her self, "That cop sure looked like Elvis..."

Presley was presented with dozens of honorary badges and commissions from police and sheriff departments throughout the country. He truly enjoyed hanging out with cops, visiting departments and especially doing ride-alongs, but always insisted on wearing a uniform and "working" incognito.

In some of my previous columns, I have quoted police chiefs, sheriffs, patrol officers and deputies saying that Presley was always very interested in them and their agencies, befriended a lot of them, asked good questions and never turned down a request for an autograph or photo for anyone wearing a badge. He has been described "down to Earth" and "nothing like he is on stage."

Officers and their families were often backstage guests at his usually sold out concerts. He also did some very nice things behind the scenes to help see police families through hard times in their lives, but almost always anonymously.

Believe it or not, Elvis enjoyed keeping a low profile off the stage or away from the camera. His wife, Priscilla, was quoted as saying Presley felt safe and accepted as "one of the guys" around police and envied cops' ways of life and attitudes.

Although his motto, "Taking Care of Business," appeared as the abbreviation "TCB" on the patch worn by his bodyguards, who accompanied him everywhere, especially later in his meteoric career when they literally protected him from paparazzi, it has been reported he felt strongly police that also take care of business and longed to become an officer, even late in life.

What has this to do with federal collecting? A lot.

Elvis Presley is the one and only badge collector ever to obtain a real federal badge directly from the president. And, he is the only one of us who ever showed our collection to the president in the Oval Office at the White House.

Elvis' memorable visit with President Richard M. Nixon on December 21, 1970 has gone down in history as one of the most unusual and celebrated White House visits ever. But, for federal collectors like me, it was a watershed moment.

Imagine having the "juice," as Pat Olvey always says, to arrange a personal visit with



Actor Chuck Connors, who starred in the popular western series, *The Rifleman*, from 1959 to 1963, was a badge collector and received numerous honorary deputy sheriff badges and identification cards. He also wore what he called his "patch jacket." *Contributed photograph*



Elvis Presley always wanted to be a law enforcement officer. Despite his burdensome travel schedule, the entertainer found time to visit police and sheriff departments. He went on several ride-alongs with officers in uniform, including with Denver PD. *Denver PD photograph*

the president in his office, show him your badge collection and ask him for a Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (forerunner to the Drug Enforcement Agency) shield!

These are things pleasant hobby dreams are made of! "While you're at it, Mr. President, can you throw in a nice FBI badge. I'd like one of those, too..." Or, "Since I'm here, how about one of those neat Secret Service badges I saw out front? They look really nice..."

New collectors unfamiliar with the story of how Elvis arranged the visit to the White House to ask for a badge can easily research it on the Internet.

One of President Nixon's advisors, Egil Krogh, wrote a book about the visit. It shows a lot of pictures taken by the official White House photographer.

Presley, who ironically would die of health issues complicated by prescription drug abuse only less than seven years later, was on a health and fitness kick (remember the karate videos?) and wanted to keep young people away from dangerous drugs.

According to his wife and other sources, the entertainer, who was then at the height of his career comeback, wanted to become an undercover agent for the federal government. Of course, no one will ever know which he wanted more, the title or the badge.

Anyway, Presley was going to fly from Los Angeles to Washington on an overnight flight. He was on the same flight as California Senator George Murphy, who had been an entertainer before becoming a politician. The two met and hit it off. Senator Murphy may have inspired Presley to want to meet the president.

Elvis wrote President Nixon a six-page note on American Airlines stationery during the long flight, then hand-delivered it to startled Secret Service officers at the White House main gate at 7:30 am. Presley, a friend and a bodyguard had driven directly from the airport to the White House after they landed in D.C.

Imagine being a Secret Service Uniformed Division special agent working a day shift four days before Christmas when a limo pulls up, Elvis Presley gets out and walks up to you and hands you a note for the president? I would have sung *All Shook Up* after he left!

The note said Presley wanted to use his popularity among people of all ages, especially teenagers and college students, to promote President Nixon's anti-drug efforts, as well as "help out in any way I can," noting he had been named one of the year's most outstanding young men. Specially, he wanted credentials to become a "Federal Agent at Large," which, of course, was a non-existent rank.

The note made its way to the president's Oval Office staff. At first, they thought it was a hoax or a in-house staff-inspired prank, but gate guards assured them it had come from "The King" himself.



This beautiful collection of artifacts from the legendary United States Customs Service of Inspector Alvin F. Scharff contains his certificate of authority, two credentials, a photo and his Colt semi-automatic pistol. It was sold at auction in Texas in 2012. *Contributed photograph*



A very rare example of a very old Customs Service cred issued to Alvin F. Scharff in 1922. It is made even more rare in that it was signed by no other than the Secretary of the Treasury himself. Inspector Scharff served for 48 years from 1913 to 1961. *Contributed photograph*

**All Things Federal ...Continued**

Getting into the Oval Office to see the president is no small task, but Elvis couldn't have timed it any better. The president was looking for a new way to connect with young people.

The request went quickly up the White House chain of command all the way to H.R. Haldeman, who discussed it with the president a couple hours later. Surprisingly, Mr. Nixon liked the idea and agreed to the visit later that morning.

Arrangements were hastily made by Dwight Chapin, who was in charge of the president's daily schedule. The face-to-face meeting was scheduled for 11:45 am, only about four hours after the note was delivered.

In 1970, few people had the pure star power of Elvis Presley. After all, he was everywhere; on the radio and TV, in the movies and every magazine and newspaper. White House police and staff were in awe when the entertainer arrived in a stretch limo wearing a purple leisure suit and matching cape, a massive solid gold belt buckle, custom cuff links and purple-tinted glasses.

There was a brief glitch at the gate when Presley tried to bring in a customized Colt .45 handgun in a presentation case that he wanted to give to the president as a gift, but, of course, the Secret Service had other ideas. Mr. Nixon did accept the gun during the visit, but an agent brought into the office and took it with him after it was presented...minus the seven bullets Elvis had included in the box

Presley had filled his pockets with badges he had collected. He spread them out on the president's desk and showed some of them to Mr. Nixon.

Then, he asked Mr. Nixon for a drug agent badge. The President told aide Krogh, "Get him a badge. I want him to have one." Presley was so overjoyed he walked up to the president and hugged him!

Remember, at that time, no one but no one outside the BNDD had a real badge. Later, it was reported the drug agency administrator, shocked by the request, initially refused it, but the White House insisted.

The historic meeting lasted for more than a half hour and Presley was able to bring in two friends who had accompanied him. They, too, met the president.

After the trio left the Oval Office, they were given a brief tour and joined star-struck White House staffers for lunch. Presley kissed most of the secretaries and signed autographs.

The famous badge, which has been featured in this column, was delivered to him at his hotel later by a White House courier.

Of course, Presley had no impact on the drug war, nor did he ever do anything with the badge but add it to his collection. But, nevertheless, what a score by a famous collector, and what a great story!

**Customs Inspector Alvin Scharff** One of the most well known early United States Customs Service inspectors was Alvin Freidheim Scharff, who worked out of the San Antonio, Tex. office in the 1920s and '30s.

It has long been said cops need to think like crooks to catch crooks. Inspector Scharff took that notion to a higher level. He actually was a smuggler, cattle rustler and passer of counterfeit Mexican pesos along the Texas-Mexican border!

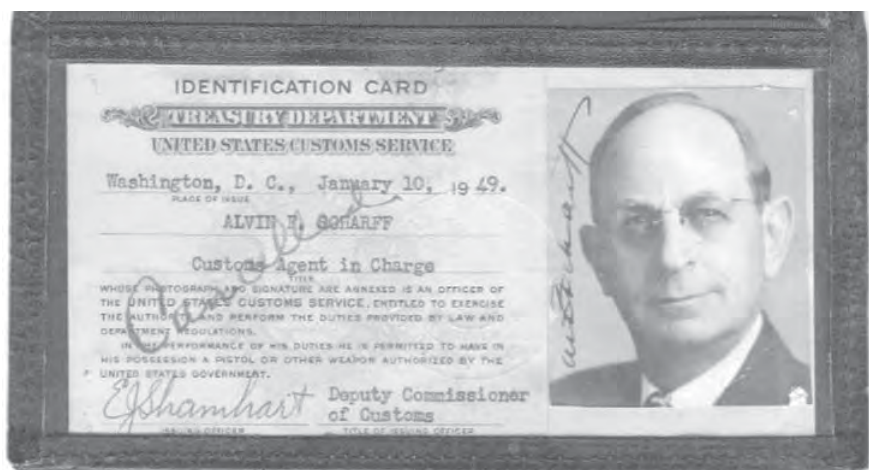
Yet, for whatever reason, Scharff decided to turn from bad guy to good guy and joined the Customs Service as an inspector in San Antonio in 1913.

He became one of the most effective inspectors ever along the border and broke up numerous small and large smuggling operations between the USA and Mexico. It takes one to know one, right?

A reason the inspector was so good at his job was his uncanny ability to come up with innovative new ways to track smugglers, confiscate their contraband and arrest them.

Among his many accomplishments was the first known use of aircraft to thwart smugglers along the border in the early 1930s.

Scharff became frustrated over how difficult it was to maintain surveillance along remote



Now the Customs agent-in-charge in Houston, Alvin F. Scharff carried this cred beginning in 1949. It was signed by the deputy commissioner. The legendary inspector spent all but two years of his career working out of the San Antonio and Houston offices. *Contributed photograph*



Six very, very old and rare United States Treasury Department Internal Revenue Service badges, mostly from New York City. Some of these incredible pieces are from before 1900. Obviously, Customs was very active at the very busy Port of New York. *Contributed photograph*

smuggling routes, as well as how long it took to alert other agencies to incoming shipments. (Remember, no cell phones back then!)

When mounted agents surprised a group of smugglers who had flown in a shipment of alcohol and drugs from across the border and landed near Cotulla, Tex., Inspector Scharff confiscated the smuggler's rundown, battered aircraft and used it against other smugglers.

Encouraged by the inspector-in-charge in San Antonio, Inspectors Scharff and Drew Connor, who was brought in from San Francisco, and two Texas Rangers volunteered to chase down smugglers using aircraft.

When they forced an unlikely rum-runner, former World War I combat ace, Lieutenant William Thomas Ponder, to land with a cargo of illegal alcohol in 1932, the story about their exploits reached the Washington, D.C. agency headquarters.

Inspectors Scharff and Connor chased Ponder, who had won the Distinguished Flying Cross for breaking up an attack of 13 German planes over France in 1918, for more than 200 miles from the border to San Antonio! Despite his superior flying skills, Ponder was unable to shake the daring lawmen in hot aerial pursuit.

They also confiscated additional planes. In fact, the unofficial Customs Service air brigade grew so large that the United States Army Air Corps at Fort Sam Houston, near San Antonio, volunteered spare parts, materials and use of an old hanger at their air field!

Inspector Scharff was undoubtedly disappointed when Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau put all Customs air operations under the control of the Coast Guard in 1934, although four Customs pilots were transferred to the Coast Guard to fly them.

By then, Scharff had been promoted to special agent and spent two years in Europe heading anti-drug smuggling operations. He returned to Texas and became agent-in-charge in Houston in 1938 and then supervisory agent-in-charge in 1943.

Scharff reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 1961. In all, he served in the Customs Service for 48 years. He died in 1968.

A book was written about his unique life and legendary career by well known Texas author Garland Roark, *The Coin Of Contraband*. It's a great read. The book was published in 1964 and is long out of print, but I found and bought a copy from an online bookseller.

In 2012, Heritage Auctions sold a beautiful collection of artifacts from Inspector Scharff's career, including his certificate of authority, two identification credentials, a photograph and his personal Colt Model 1903 semi-automatic pistol. The buyer was not disclosed.

I have shown a picture of the collection and the two creds, His 1922 Treasury Department cred is signed by the secretary himself, which is very rare.

The other more modern cred is from 1949 and signed by the deputy commissioner. Inspector Scharff is a Customs Service legend yet today.

**Great old badges** Collectors have shared a lot of great information and photographs with me over the years as part of my ongoing research into the history of Treasury Department law enforcement badges and artifacts.

I have shown a picture of six very old, rare and absolutely authentic Internal Revenue Service badges from New York. Most of these are priceless to IRS collectors like me.

From left to right, top to bottom:

...A small eagle-topped circlet with the legends, "U.S./ INTERNAL/ REVENUE/ 1ST DIST. N.Y.," on a round center disc, and, "F.M. WILSON/ DEPUTY COLLECTOR," on a ring around it. There were quite a few personalized badges in the early days of the service, long before badges were standardized.

...A larger eagle-topped circlet with a bottom banner. The legends are "US" in large letters a round disc in the center and "INTERNAL" (top) and "REVENUE SERVICE" bottom in large black letters on a ring around the center. It is believed the letters "WGO" on the



Although Ray Sherrard doesn't know much about the law enforcement structure of the Environmental Protection Agency he showed these fairly modern agency badges, Office of the Inspector General (left) and Criminal Investigation Division (right). *Contributed photograph*

small bottom banner are the initials of the officer who wore them.

...A small, very unusual ornate eagle-topped circlet with side and bottom banners upon which appear scroll work. The round center disc carries the legends, "U.S. INT/ REV. COLL.," around a flag-like shield. ("Coll." abbreviates "collector." These officers collected taxes, mostly at points of entry.)

...A large, very old shield from the Port of New York. This one has an oval-shaped center design showing sailing ships passing the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. The legend is hard to see because it is very worn, but it reads, "REVENUE INSPECTOR/ PORT OF NEW YORK."

...A small, round disc depicting a steam ship in a harbor with the legends, "UNITED STATES" at the top and "REVENUE COLLECTOR" at the bottom on a ring around the design.

...A small eagle-topped shield with "US" in raised letters as the center design and a top banner with "DEPUTY" and "COLLECTOR/ INTERNAL REVENUE" on a ring around the design.

Some of these are pre-1900.

Finally, for a change of pace, I have shown two fairly recent pieces from the Environmental Protection Agency, a special agent shield from the Office of the Inspector General and a Criminal Investigation Division shield on the front of a credentials case. Both are gold with blue banners and reverse gold-on-blue legends. Each shows a federal eagle as the round center design, but neither eagle is in color.

The badge reads, "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY," in very small letters on a banner beneath the eagle, "OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL" in gold letters on a blue ring around the seal and "SPECIAL AGENT/ 69" on banners at the bottom.

The cred badge reads, "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY," on a horizontal banner beneath the eagle, "OFFICE OF CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT" around the seal, "U" (left) and "S" (right) on either side of it with "SPECIAL AGENT/ 10" on a banner across the bottom.

The face of the cred reads, "ENVIRONMENTAL/ PROTECTION/ AGENCY" at the top and "CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION/ DIVISION." It is black with gold lettering.

I don't know much about the EPA's law enforcement structure, but it can reasonably be assumed that CID falls under the jurisdiction of the Office of Criminal Enforcement.

Next time My next column will feature pictures and stories about my TV and movie prop collection. It will focus on two of my favorites, *Dragnet* and *Adam-12*, both Jack Webb productions which are still two of the most popular cop shows ever filmed. I will also throw in a little Charles Bronson and a neat Secret Service cred from a popular show.

RAY SHERRARD

Due to health reasons, Ray Sherrard is no longer collecting or writing. He was a prolific writer and submitted columns, articles and stories for this newspaper for 30 years. After his federal law enforcement retirement, he submitted dozens of additional unpublished stories and photographs from his extensive research files. We have material for several additional columns and will continue to publish them as he requested. EDITOR

# Benefits Of The Trade

By Rick Uland, Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Upon reading the title of this column, you will quite understandably come to the immediate conclusion that when I say "trade" that I mean trading a badge, patch or other related piece of memorabilia for another collectible. However, such a conclusion could not be any further from the truth.

When I use the word "trade," I mean quite literally in the sense of one's employment, profession, position or job. And, in the case of all four, I am speaking specifically about collectors serving in police departments, law enforcement agencies or other public safety activities. This is true whether active or retired.

In the hobby of collecting police, law enforcement and public safety memorabilia, there are many collectors who have not served in police departments, sheriff's departments, law enforcement agencies or public safety departments, such as fire and emergency medical services. These collectors are great and honorable supporters of the professions they collect and without question add greatly to the overall hobby.

On the other hand, there are many other collectors who have served in law enforcement and public safety departments and positions. These collectors are what I call a "double-sided collector," meaning they obtain pieces for their collections from or through their profession and at shows and related venues as well.

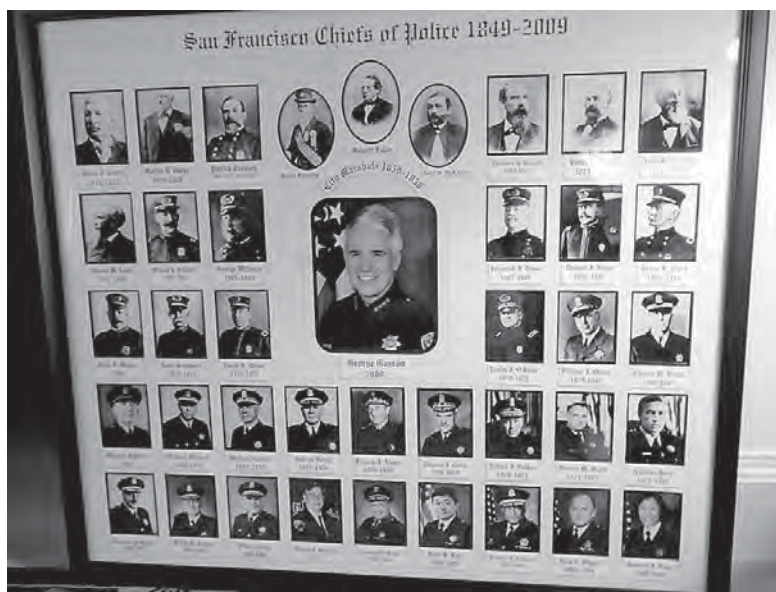
There is some difference when it comes to obtaining various pieces of memorabilia, mementos and other related items for your collection. The difference being obtaining collectibles at shows, swap meets, flea markets, conventions or through the internet versus obtaining collectibles from the actual source, such as a police department, law enforcement or public safety agency.

Even more specifically is personally obtaining or having presented to you a collectible as a gift or for your collection that comes directly from a police chief, sheriff, law

enforcement director, fire chief, public safety director or criminal justice official.

The length and breath of one's own police, law enforcement or related career determines how you add to your collection by receiving such specifically obtained pieces.

I am a double-sided collector and have been extremely fortunate in my nearly 45 years service in police and law enforcement to have received many collectibles and personally been presented pieces that I have added to my collection. I could probably fill this issue with many pages of photos, scans and words outlining and showing many dozens of these collectibles and presentation pieces.



A classic composite portrait of every San Francisco city marshal and police chief from 1850 to 1910 that was presented to Rick Uland during his career. It is 45 inches wide and 39 and one-inches high. George Gascon (center) was the SFPD chief when it was created. Rick Uland photograph

Law enforcement agency supervisors often have personal challenge coins. (Left (face) to right (obverse), top to bottom) SFPD Chief George Gascon, LAPD Chief William Bratton Los Angeles Police Chief, LAPD Chief William Bratton, LAPD Chief and LAPD Chief William Parker. Rick Uland photograph



Law enforcement presentation paraphernalia comes in many forms, including beautiful San Francisco and Los Angeles police wristwatches given to Rick Uland. SFPD features their iconic patch, while LAPD shows the Series Six oval badge. Note the 24-hour outer band. *Rick Uland photograph*

### Benefits of the Trade ...Continued

However, for the sake of continuity, I shall only cover the time period from January 2006 through October 2019 as my final and total retirement from law enforcement took place in October 2019. During that time, I served as special advisor to the Office of the San Francisco Police Chief and also as special projects advisor and chief research historian to the San Francisco District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigations.

In this column I will specifically showcase various collectibles and memorabilia I received during my service with both the SFPD and the Bureau of Investigations. It was a great honor to have been given such incredible items that are now proudly displayed in my collection.

I have in the past written columns titled "Patches From The Road" and "Patches From Beyond The Road." This then takes me back to the beginning of this column wherein I describe the great ability to obtain badges, patches and related collectibles for one's collection during personal service in policing and law enforcement.

In both columns I showcased collectibles that were presented to me or given to me by various law enforcement officials and departments internationally and in the United States as gifts that ended up in my collection. I am proud and honored to display such items that are now part of my lifelong collection.

Pictured are various challenge coins, watches, cups and mugs from the SFPD, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles Police Department.

The premier item of great historical value is the very large 45 inches wide by 39 and one-half inches high photo display frame showing every San Francisco city marshal and police chief from 1850 to 2010. There is some real personal and professional history in that frame.

As a San Francisco police officer, I served under Chiefs Donald Scott, Charles Gain and Cornelius "Con" Murphy. Chief Scott swore me in as an officer. Chief Murphy served as my night watch lieutenant and then station captain when I worked at Northern prior to him becoming police chief. His brother, Dan Murphy, was captain of the Intelligence-Gang Task Force when I did work for them in the 1970s and '80s.

When Chief Fred Lau was a lieutenant at the Richmond Police Station, he was my swing watch lieutenant in the 1980s when I worked in the Richmond District.

Chiefs Heather Fong and George Gascon were at the chief's office when I was a special advisor there. Gascon was district attorney when I worked at SFDA-DAI. I worked with Fong when she was a patrol officer back in the '70s.

Chief Richard Hongisto was a personal friend of mine going all the way back to when he was San Francisco County Sheriff in the 1970s.

RICK ULAND (PO Box 460211, San Francisco CA 94146)



A lot of cops live on coffee, so law enforcement agency mugs like these are often presented as gifts. (Left to right, top to bottom) San Francisco PD, San Francisco D.A. Victim Services Division, LAPD Southeast Area and the unique L.A. Regional Fugitive Task Force. *Rick Uland photograph*



The Maricopa County Sheriffs Advisory Committee commissioned Henry Repeating Arms in Rice Lake, Wis. to design and produce a custom-engraved commemorative rifle for its 150th anniversary. The designs show historic and current badges. *Henry Arms photograph*

## Arizona Collecting News

By Mike Lucas, Guest Writer

MESA, Ariz. – This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office, the largest sheriffs office in Arizona.

To help celebrate this historic milestone, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Advisory Council selected Henry Repeating Arms in Rice Lake, Wis. to create a limited run of custom-engraved Big Boy rifles chambered in Colt .45 through their custom law enforcement program.

Serial number "1" of the first 150 rifles sold at auction for \$20,000 at the Barrett Jackson Auction in March. Proceeds from this limited production rifle will support the department's Memorial Fund.

"Artwork on the right side of the rifle stock represents the historical past, the proud present day, and the progressive future of the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office. From the 1870s to the present day, sheriffs and their deputies utilized horses for transportation and patrol," according to a news release.

"The deputy and his horse are seen in the foreground of the Four Peaks Wilderness wearing his timeless Stetson cowboy hat and holding his trusty Henry rifle. The rider looks up to the modern future...the Bell 429 twin engine rescue helicopter. With the most advanced avionics and rescue capabilities, it represents the forward thinking of the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office. The helicopter will be put into service in 2021."

Engraved on the right side of the receiver is the current badge, a seven-point star. The serial number also appears on this side.

The right side of the fore grip proudly displays the years of service with "1871-MCSO-2021" in bold lettering.

Artwork on each side of the receiver is outlined with a chain. This represents the largest portion of the department staff, the men and women who work as detention officers.

On the left stock is shown the current shoulder patch with banners overlaid showing the years of dedication and service to the community. The Arizona flag is in the background, and a rose, which is the insignia of the Memorial Fund, which honors fallen officers and raises funds for their families, is displayed in front of the stock.

Engraved on the left side of the receiver is the original badge design, along with a heart bearing a "911" banner. The banner represents true first responders, the dispatchers and call takers in the Communications Division, who answer tens of thousands of calls for assistance from the citizens of Maricopa County. The heart design recognizes the heart of the office, the many civilians who work for the department.

The commemorative rifles sell for \$1581.56 each.

MIKE LUCAS (PO Box 5317, Mesa AZ 85211)

## The Louisiana Man

By Fred Hancock, Staff Writer

MONROE, La. – I was bewildered by an article in the September-October 2020 issue, "Record High Prices For Old SP/HP Patches."

I had to pick myself up off the floor and start over after I saw the prices being paid for some old styles.

And, I had to clear my eyes for second look at the picture of the first issue North Carolina Highway Patrol emblem accompanying the article. I thought I was having the big one when I saw the price of \$6800 that was paid for the patch.

The reason is I have this patch, but it is not in my collection, is because it does not fit well into my collection. It is sewn onto a piece of shirt sleeve material torn from a shirt. I got it years ago from someone I traded with.

I thought to myself, 'It's just another shoulder patch. It's kind of junkie. It's been sitting in a storage bin for years, not bothering anyone. It hasn't been missed. Then, I saw the auction price. Gosh, I wish Mike wouldn't have printed it!'

One has to understand that my office can only hold so many boxes and books of patches. I have about 9000 military and 43,000 law enforcement patches, which does not include duplicates, of which I have many. So, storage is a problem since my wife will only allow one room in the house devoted to storage of my collection. So, my overflow has to go upstairs, which is accessible only by pull-down stairs. It's not convenient.

The walls of my home are covered with displays devoted to some of my other collections, such as bayonets, guns, documents, steamboat pictures, badges, coins, stamps, tank models, airplane models and HO-gauge train cars. Yes, I am a pack rat.

My patch collection is a lifelong achievement.

As of today, I have not yet been able to find the first issue North Carolina. But, I know it is up there, somewhere!

Oldies but goodies My remembrance of the first issue North Carolina Highway



(Upper left) A weight enforcement emblem from North Carolina. (Upper right) Second issue Pennsylvania State Police. (Lower left) Pennsylvania Deputy Game Protector is an early issue. (Lower right) Pennsylvania State Capitol Police is possibly first issue. *Fred Hancock photographs*

Patrol sent me scurrying to my collections. I came across another early patch from North Carolina, as well as some others from Pennsylvania.

North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles Weight Enforcement is a rectangular shape with cheese cloth backing, black stitched edge and lettering. It has an orange twill background. The center design is a red winged wheel with a blue "N" and white "C" on it. (There is no arrow between through the script and wheel.)

I assume this patch is in the same series as the first issue NCHP emblem?

It can correctly be assumed a keystone-shaped State Highway Patrol emblem with a winged wheel in the center is from Pennsylvania. It is their second issue worn from 1923 to 1937. I have shown it next to a quarter-dollar coin to show its size.

The patch is black felt with a cheese cloth back and black stitched border. The center design is a blue and red winged wheel. (Both wings are red, while the wheel is blue.) The legend reads, "STATE HIGHWAY" at the top and "POLICE" in large blue letters at the bottom.

Pennsylvania deputy game protector is a deep red or maroon shield shape. It was made from felt with a cheese cloth backing. There is no center design. The yellow gold legend reads, "PENNSYLVANIA DEPUTY/ GAME/ PROTECTOR." There is also a yellow gold inner border.

Pennsylvania State Capitol Police is an elongated teardrop shape made of gray felt coat material. The center design of a keystone and the legends, "STATE CAPITOL" at the top and "POLICE" at the bottom, are black. It is very obvious that this patch was cut off of a coat long ago.

Pennsylvania Fire Police is a heavy gray keystone shape with cheese cloth backing. There is no center design. The legend reads, "PENNA/ FIRE/ POLICE", in black letters. There is also a black outer border.

Pennsylvania State Police is the sixth issue worn from 1943 to 1959. It is a black felt keystone shape. There is no center design. The legend, "PENNSYLVANIA/ STATE/ POLICE," appears in gold letters inside a gold keystone outline that serves as an inner border.

My patch was cut off a twill shirt.

Finally, there is the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement keystone insignia. It is black felt with cheese cloth backing. There is no center design. The legend is, "DEPT./ OF/ AGRICULTURE/ DOG LAW/ ENFORCEMENT," in gold letters. There is a gold outer border.

Each of these patches was acquired in the late '60s or early '70s.

I have no clue where most of these fall in issue sequence, such as first issue, second issue, etc., so any help would be appreciated.

FRED HANCOCK (411 Fortune Drive, Monroe LA 71203) fredhanco@gmail.com



(Top) Pennsylvania Fire Police is a very old felt issue. (Lower left) The second issue Pennsylvania State Police insignia. (Lower right) Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement is from Pennsylvania. All of these patches are at least 40 years old. *Fred Hancock photographs*



Nick Cain believes this might be a photograph of former Arizona Ranger Sergeant Lewis Hathaway Mickey, although he has as yet been unable to confirm it. Sergeant Mickey served from 1905 to 1909 when the force was disbanded. Later, he was killed as a railroad officer. *Nick Cain Collection*

# The Proud History Of The Original Arizona Rangers

Lewis Hathaway Mickey served as a member of the original 1901 to 1909 Arizona Rangers from 1905 to 1909 when the force was disbanded by the Territorial Legislature. He rose to the rank of sergeant. Collector Nick Cain is researching the history of the legendary law enforcement agency.

By Nick Cain, Guest Writer

SEDONA, Ariz. – Lewis "Lew" Hathaway Mickey, one of our original Arizona Rangers from the 1901 to 1909 era, was born on November 7, 1867 in Nebraska.

It is not clear what year Mickey migrated southwest from the Cornhusker State to Arizona Territory.

The Rynning *Document* indicates he enlisted under Lieutenant Harry Wheeler at Phoenix on August 1, 1905, re-enlisted there a year later and was promoted to sergeant in January 1907.

He may have had a short break in his service between August 1 and November 25 1907 but re-enlisted again on November 25, this time at the infamous border town of Naco under newly-promoted Captain Wheeler. He got his sergeant stripes back on July 22 1908, re-enlisted there once more on November 25 1908 and remained with the outfit of legendary lawmen until it was disbanded the following year, in 1909.

It unclear what transpired in Mickey's life in the decade after he and his fellow Rangers suddenly found themselves without their five-pointed silver stars, but it appears he relocated to the so-called Land of Enchantment (New Mexico) and hired on with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad as one of their police officers. He was stationed at Clovis.

Unfortunately, we next find mention of him on the Officers Down Memorial Page.

On March 25, 1925, Special Officer Mickey "...was shot and killed while searching a 16-year-old boy he had found hiding in a railroad car at Clovis, N.M. The boy was suspected of being involved in a robbery at a store in Mountainair, N.M.



Lewis Hathaway Mickey is buried in Clovis, N.M. He was killed in the line of duty on March 25, 1925 while serving as a police officer for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. He was shot and killed in Clovis by a 16-year-old hiding on a train. The officer killed his assailant. *Nick Cain Collection*



Lewis Hathaway Mickey became a sergeant with the original 1901 to 1909 Arizona Rangers. He served from 1905 until the force was disbanded by the Territorial Legislature in 1909. This current sergeant badge illustrates the insignia worn by the Rangers over the years. *Nick Cain Collection*

## Arizona Rangers History ...Continued

"As Officer Mickey conducted the search, the boy produced a .32-caliber pistol and opened fire, striking Officer Mickey several times. Despite being mortally wounded, he was able to return fire and killed the suspect.

"Officer Mickey was survived by his wife and two young children..."

His remains rest in peace at the Mission Garden of Memories in Clovis (Curry County).

It is always a bittersweet moment for a Ranger historian when he spends an hour or so typing up a summary of one of his often colorful predecessors, thinks he's got the man's life wrapped up, only to discover his law enforcement career did not end when heartless politicians destroyed the Ranger organization in 1909, but continued with another agency.

That's the "sweet" part of the unexpected discovery; the "bitter" part is learning our former Ranger died in the line of duty at age 57, several hundred miles east of what had once been his stomping grounds, Arizona Territory, 15 years earlier.

Since I make a monthly trip between my home state of Colorado and my adopted state of Arizona, and that 800-mile, 12-hour journey takes me south on I-25 over Raton Pass through the heart of New Mexico to Albuquerque, then west to the Grand Canyon State, it was only natural that I would plan a detour to Clovis in the coming months during an otherwise routine road trip.

During the course of my research for this article, multiple attempts to locate a file photo of Mickey produced the grainy picture I have shown, but I have yet to confirm this is our hero Ranger. I am hoping to find a definitive likeness from surviving next-of-kin. I will let you, kind reader, know when that arrives.

The photo I located of Mickey's tombstone does not show any modification resulting from the usual Ranger grave-marking ceremony, but I wanted to visit this true hero's final resting place to confirm that and perhaps check out the railroad yards where he was killed.

Written inquiries to the BNSF Railroad Police, Clovis Police Department and Mountainair Police Department have thus far gone unanswered.

I will report to you in a followup article what I find in Clovis.

Perhaps we can arrange for our counterparts in the Land of Enchantment, the New Mexico Rangers, to help us honor Arizona Ranger Mickey with the memorial recognition he deserves.

NICK CAIN (PO Box 20825, Sedona AZ 86341)

*The author is a sergeant with the Verde Valley Company No. 17 of the Arizona Rangers. He is also the historian. EDITOR*

**San Diego Museum** The city charges the San Diego Police Historical Association nearly \$3900 a year to lease space at 4720 College Avenue for the non-profit police museum, which is now temporarily closed due to COVID-19. The museum is operated by historical association volunteers. Normally, it is open from 12 pm to 4 pm Wednesdays through Fridays and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. Admission is only \$3. The association relies on donations to remain solvent.

**Civil Nuclear Constabulary** Law enforcement and security at all nuclear installations in the United Kingdom is provided by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. According to the Police Insignia Collectors Association of Great Britain, the police agency was formed in 2005 and replaced the former Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary, which was established in 1955. It has 1500 officers. Interestingly, it is an agency of the Department of Energy rather than the Home Office, which commands most other kingdom-wide constabularies.



New Arizona State Trooper patches will debut on June 1 as the agency's seventh shoulder patch since 1931. Most state troopers will wear the full color version (left), which is mostly red, gold and blue. Those who wear tactical uniforms will wear the silver-on-black patch (right). *Contributed photograph*

# New Arizona State Trooper Patch Debuts

Arizona Highway Patrol officers have been rebranded as state troopers. The new title has appeared on patrol vehicles since 2016. Beginning on June 1, a new state trooper shoulder patch will debut as the seventh cloth insignia in agency history.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

PHOENIX, Ariz.-- The Arizona Department of Public Safety decided six years ago to rebrand the Highway Patrol and project a new image to the Grand Canyon State.

When former Colonel Frank Milstead took over the agency in 2015, he concluded its most visible component, the Highway Patrol, needed to better symbolize its law enforcement role.

He pointed out that Arizonians are as likely to encounter DPS officers as they travel the interstates and state highways as they are county sheriff's deputies and local police officers, especially in rural areas. Yet, most people are unaware of the agency's mission and jurisdiction, he said.

"People don't know what a highway patrol is. We get asked all the time, 'Are you guys cops?' Some people think we're highway helpers because we stop for stranded motorists. This needs to change," Colonel Milstead said.

The Arizona State Troopers Association agreed with Colonel Milstead that most people are unaware of the role DPS officers have in law enforcement, especially the Highway Patrol.

"When they see one of our marked vehicles on the road, they don't realize the differences between us and other agencies. They don't know what we do. They don't know the difference between us and sheriffs or police," a spokesman said.

Among Colonel Milstead's first decisions after taking office was to rebrand the Highway Patrol officers as state troopers in keeping with other agencies with similar statewide law enforcement responsibility, even though traffic remains their primary function. Many states rebranded their highway patrols long ago, such as Alabama, Alaska and others.

Doubtless, the duties of state traffic officers have evolved well beyond original strict adherence to traffic enforcement and accident investigation. Now, nearly every state grants state traffic officers law enforcement authority equal to deputy sheriffs and police officers. Traffic officers routinely become involved in criminal cases, especially drug interdiction and enforcement, particularly in rural areas.

Colonel Milstead decided his agency needed a new identity reflective of changes in its law enforcement responsibilities over the years, so he commissioned an in-house committee to study how the agency could rebrand itself. Changing from DPS officers to state troopers was among the first recommendations. Rebranding vehicles and insignia were among others.

The moves, especially the name change, were not without in-house controversy. Like most state police/highway patrol agencies, the Arizona Highway Patrol is steeped in tradition. Many felt the change to state trooper was contrary to traditions maintained over the last 51 years.

After Colonel Milstead changed the title of uniformed personnel from "officer" to "trooper," he began working on vehicle markings and insignia to complete the transition.

Troopers were invited to propose new vehicle marking schemes and colors. Over 120 drawings were submitted. Two finalists were chosen, traditional white with bolder blue graphics and new black and copper colors with black graphics. Troopers were asked to vote for their favorite. The election was very close, but black and copper won.

With the exception of blue stripes added in the 1990s to improve visibility, Highway Patrol vehicle markings had remained virtually unchanged since the 1950s, all-white cars with the DPS star on the front doors, so the new look was a radical departure.

Colonel Milstead implemented the new look in 2016 as the DPS continued to transition from four-door sedans to sport utility vehicles. The black SUVs featured wide copper diagonal stripes across both doors and the roof and "STATE TROOPER" graphics. The original 90 SUVs had "ARIZONA HIGHWAY PATROL" lettered beneath the trunk lid, evidently in an effort to retain tradition.

The traditional seven-point DPS star badge used as the door decal was retained but underwent a title change from "HIGHWAY PATROL" to "DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY." "DPS" appeared in large letters on the rear fenders and "COURTEOUS VIGILANCE," the agency motto, was lettered on the front fenders.

In 2019, Colonel Milstead agreed with in-house recommendations to change the color scheme from black and copper to silver and black, in keeping with the increased use of black tactical uniform gear for some duty assignments, such as motor carrier enforcement, as well as requests to change the door decal to reflect the new state trooper title. In addition, troopers complained the black vehicles got too hot in the scorching desert heat.

Now, new SUVs and Dodge Chargers are silver with wide black diagonal stripes across both doors and the roof and "STATE TROOPER" markings. The badge used as the door decal now reads, "DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY/ STATE TROOPER." A subdued black and silver state flag is seen on the rear fenders. ("DPS" no longer appears on the rear



The Arizona began its rebranding effort in 2016 with the introduction of new vehicle markings that included their new name, "STATE TROOPERS." The SUVs were black with copper-colored stripes and roofs. "DPS" appeared on the rear fenders. The star decal was retained. *Arizona DPS photograph*





Arizona state trooper vehicles are now silver and black and feature a new Department of Public Safety "state trooper" door decal badge. The color scheme will replace the black and copper look the agency adopted in 2016. Public reaction to silver and black has been positive. *Contributed photograph*

fenders.)

Since the DPS only replaces a relatively small segment of its fleet each year, all three vehicle marking schemes can be seen around the state, traditional white and light blue, transitional black and copper and the new silver and black. The silver and black colors will be phased in by attrition as vehicles are removed from service and replaced over the years.

Arizona has 575 troopers, 97 sergeants, 18 captains, five majors and one lieutenant, who doubles as deputy DPS director. The DPS director also holds the rank of colonel.

**New shoulder patch** The next phase of the agency's historic transition will begin on June 1 when a new shoulder patch debuts. It will replace the patch that has been worn since 2015.

The new style is virtually identical to the current predominantly blue, gold and red state shape, except the legend has been changed from "DEPARTMENT/ OF PUBLIC/ SAFETY" to "STATE/ TROOPER" in large gold letters.

There is also a subdued silver and black version for tactical uniform wear, such as motor carrier enforcement.

According to *Worn With Pride*, it will be the agency's seventh shoulder patch style since 1931. Interestingly, once the new style debuts, the agency will have modified its state shape three times in the last seven years. Previously, had been only one modification between 1969 and 1998.

**New badge style?** Presently, state troopers wear the Department of Public Safety badge with the title, "Officer," and a custom-die hat badge with the legend "Arizona Highway Patrol," as well as a saguaro cactus, pine tree and saguaro cactus flower. The hat badge has been worn since 1941 and was designed by a newspaper artist.

Now that DPS officers are officially state troopers, will badges change? Officially, there has been no announcement by the agency, but prominent state police/highway patrol collectors believe the seven-point star badge and hat badge will be retained.

"I've heard from a couple troopers they will keep the badge but new troopers get new badges with 'trooper' instead of 'officer.' Current employees keep their badges," a Phoenix area collector said.

Another Phoenix area collector said he would be very surprised if the hat badge changes any time soon, if ever.

"There's too much tradition behind it. It's the one thing that hasn't changed in 70 years. I can't see them dropping it," he said.

Yet another Arizona collector believes even if the agency wanted to change the badge title from "officer" to "trooper," it would be a tough sell getting the state to fund it.

"There's a reason they are phasing in the new SUVs and a new badge [title]. It costs a lot of money. No way the state would go along with a whole new fleet just to change colors, or buy badges just to change the name. Patches aren't that much money, but cars and badges are different story," he said.

**A note of caution** A few of the new State Trooper patches have already found their way out of the department, much to the chagrin of the DPS.

And, reproductions are already being offered for sale on the Internet. A knockoff is currently for sale even has the wrong colors.

There is already a frenzy to obtain the new style among state police and highway patrol collectors. However, be patient and use caution. The criminal element in our hobby is hard at work finding ways to rip off those of us eager to obtain one.

Buyer beware!

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

## Monty McCord Designs Adams County Badges

Monty McCord, law enforcement insignia collector and historian, designed handsome 150th anniversary commemorative badges for the Adams County, Nebr. Sheriffs Office. The unique six-point star inside a larger seven-point star creation is being worn by the sheriff and his deputies throughout 2021.

By Monty McCord, Guest Writer

HASTINGS, Nebr. – Adams County, Nebr. was established in December 1871 at elections held in Juniata, the first county seat.

Isaac Stark was elected the first sheriff and served until 1873. He had arrived from Michigan in early 1871 and was one of four founders of Juniata.

Buffalo hunting wasn't an official duty, but Sheriff Stark was reportedly on a hunt with six others. "The party returned Friday, having seen over a hundred of those native bovines.



(Left) Sheriff John Rust and his command staff are wearing a gold-colored version of the 150th anniversary badge designed by former deputy Monty McCord. (Right) The nickel-colored version of the commemorative is being worn by county deputy sheriffs. *Monty McCord photographs*

Killed two, and wounded the others, all being novices in the business," was the somewhat humorous newspaper report.

The sheriff and his one deputy were able to acquire a two-way radio system in 1954.

Robert Anderson, a large man with an intimidating personality, was elected sheriff in 1962. He had been a Lancaster County deputy sheriff involved in the Charles Starkweather-Carol Ann Fugate mass murder case.

Sheriff Anderson designed a patch and introduced the first uniforms in 1963. New radios and Winchester .30-30 rifles were also added.

In 1967, the funeral homes decided to disband ambulance services, so Sheriff Anderson integrated the county ambulance services into the sheriff's office.

After studying refrigeration at a local community college, which bored me to tears, I knew I finally had to do what I'd wanted for some time, join the Hastings Police Department. Being only 21 years old in 1974, I decided to apply at the sheriff's office.

I knew of Sheriff Anderson and was extremely nervous about seeing him for a job. I was so nervous, in fact, that upon entering the courthouse, I had to use the restroom. Positioned safely at a urinal to regroup myself, who shows up and occupies the spot right next me? Sheriff Anderson!

I let him leave first and waited a couple of minutes before entering the sheriff's office.

He knew me and my family and I was hired on the spot. All new deputies started on the ambulance, which included duties as jailers and in communications. After a couple of years of 70-plus hours a week, I had to move on.

A long time interest in law enforcement history blended into badges and writing. I designed 150th anniversary badges for the Adams County Sheriff's Office in February, nickel in color for deputies and gold in color for the sheriff and upper ranks. Both badges are pictured.

I have also written a short history article on the sheriff for an upcoming issue of the Adams County Historical Society's *Historical News*.

I'm in the process of doing challenge coins for them as well.

MONTY MC CORD (2012 Boyce, Hastings NE 68901) silstar@charter.net

## Wife Collects Police Patches For Husband

Phoenix Police Officer Matthew Litman, 28, is suffering from a rare spinal cancer that has left him unable to walk or move his arms. Officer Litman is an avid patch collector. His wife, Stephanie, is collecting law enforcement insignia to help her husband keep up his spirits as he deals his life-changing condition.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Matthew Litman joined the Phoenix, Ariz. Police Department as a patrol officer two years ago. He was assigned to the Desert Horizon Precinct Station.

A healthy, athletic 27-year-old with a wife and two young children, he enjoys vacations with his family, outdoor activities and working out.

Litman is also an avid patch collector. Although he has never attended a show and is not active in the organized hobby, he has traded for patches with fellow officers in person, especially officers from Phoenix area agencies and officers he met on vacations with his family.

One day in early January, Litman went for a routine workout. He complained of a backache the following morning, according to his wife, Stephanie. He thought he had injured his back during the workout.

"He thought it was no big deal and would go away in a couple days. But, the pain got worse, so Matt saw the doctor. He was checked out. They took an x-ray but couldn't find anything. They thought he had probably a pinched nerve or a disc. They gave him meds and sent him home," Ms. Litman said.

However, Officer Litman's symptoms did not subside. One night a day or two later, she recalled, he told her he had trouble moving his left arm. By the following morning, the police officer was unable to move either arm, stand or walk.

The officer was rushed to a hospital where an magnetic resonance image revealed an advanced tumor inside his spinal cord that could not be seen on an x-ray. He was immediately referred to cancer specialists at the Mayo Clinic.

Doctors told the Litmans he has a very rare tumor that is usually found in the brain and in much older people. Physicians described his tumor as "one in a million."

After being hospitalized for a few days, the Phoenix patch collector was transferred to the Mayo Clinic cancer treatment and rehabilitation center for chemo and radiation therapy. He was paralyzed from the chest down and unable to move his arms.



Phoenix police Officer Matthew Litman, 28, spent 71 days at an Arizona cancer rehabilitation and treatment center undergoing chemo and radiation therapy for a rare spinal tumor. He is now home but unable to walk, stand or move his arms. Yet, he remains in good spirits. *Contributed photograph*

**Officer Matt Litman...Continued**

Stephanie Litman started collecting law enforcement patches to keep her husband in good spirits. She enlisted the help of the Phoenix Police Employee Assistance Unit, as well as the officers he worked with. So far, several hundred patches from around the world have been donated to the growing collection.

"Matt loves being a police officer. He likes collecting patches. It's really his only hobby, so I thought if I could get him some patches, he would have something fun to make him happy. He really enjoys the patches," Ms. Litman said.

"When we would take vacations, in whatever city we were staying in, if he saw an officer, he would ask if they have patches. He would always bring some with him, and they would trade," she said.

Ms. Litman said family members and friends are using social media to solicit patch donations as well. The response has been strong. "When patches come in the mail, our son, who is three, lights up and says, 'Patches for daddy!'" she said.

When her husband turned 28 in the rehab center on March 3, he got the patches that had been collected thus far as a birthday gift. (Many more have arrived since then.) His PPD squad showed up as a group to help him celebrate as well.

"The patches are really cool. A lot of them are so detailed and intricate. He'll look through them, he'll read the letters, [and] he gets emotional a lot of the time," Ms. Litman said.

Surgery to remove the spinal tumor in mid-April was unsuccessful. He remains paralyzed and his prognosis is unknown. However, he remains in good spirits.

Officer Litman was discharged from the cancer treatment center after 71 days on April 30. He is now home. He was escorted by a Phoenix police motorcade and welcomed by neighbors and friends waving American flags and banners. Of course, there were plenty of patches waiting for him in the house!

Patch donations can be mailed to Phoenix Police Department, Employee Assistance Unit, Patches for Officer Litman, 620 West Washington, Phoenix AZ 85003.

There is also a Go Fund Me page to raise funds for the Litman family. As of early May, about half the \$150,000 goal had been raised.

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



Friends and coworkers of Phoenix Officer Matthew Litman have collected hundreds of emblems for his fast-growing patch collection. Some of them have been sewn onto a large quilt with the motto, "Blessed are the Peacekeepers," that was recently presented to him. *Contributed photograph*



One of these six proposed designs will become the new shoulder emblem and logo of the Waterloo Police Department. The Police Rebranding Committee voted in early March to have samples of each design made for future consideration. It will replace the current patch. *Contributed photograph*

**Waterloo Rebranding Committee Finalizes New Patch Designs**

Six proposed shoulder emblem designs have been advanced for final consideration by the Waterloo Police Rebranding Committee, which will ultimately chose a new change to replace the current red griffin patch that has been worn continuously since 1964.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

WATERLOO, Iowa – The Waterloo, Iowa Police Rebranding Committee has chosen six potential new shoulder emblems for the Police Department.

The 12-member committee, which consists of citizens and police officers, has spent the past several months considering rebranding the agency's cloth insignia after some local residents objected to the appearance of a red griffin on the current shoulder patch.

Meeting by Zoom in early March due to pandemic protocols imposed by the city, the committee reversed an earlier decision to choose four potential styles that had received the most approval in four categories. Instead, it selected the top six designs submitted by the public for advancement an final consideration.

Opponents of the current insignia claim the red griffin with a green eye is similar to a symbol used by the Klu Klux Klan. The green-eyed griffin has appeared on Waterloo police uniforms since 1964.

Major Joe Leibold told the committee he will work with the vendor who supplies cloth insignia to the city to create 72 sample embroidered emblems. One sample of each of the six final designs will be provided to each committee member.

It was pointed out during the meeting that four of the six proposed designs show either an eagle or a griffin-like creature, while two others depict the Fourth Street Cedar River Bridge, a Waterloo landmark.

The decision to move forward with six designs was not without controversy.

Dave Boesen, a city councilman and non-voting committee member, asked for the patch style change be postponed until the committee can meet together and see the embroidered patch designs in person. "It would be a lot easier to see them in a meeting with everyone in the room than on a computer screen," he said.

Committee Member police Officer Spencer Gann supported Councilman Boesen and made a motion to postpone the decision, which he said was also supported by the police officers. However, the motion failed.

Officer Gann asked a red griffin be included on some of the proposed new patches, but Committee Co-Chair Tavis Hall said the group had previously rejected continuation of the red griffin.

"We're here to move forward, not go back. A yellow griffin could be done, but a red griffin has already been voted down," he said.

Police Officer Rhonda Weber brought an entirely new patch design drawn on a piece of paper and asked that it be considered. However, the committee responded the design had not been submitted prior to the deadline last December 26.

"If we were to accept submissions now after the due date, we'd have to start the process all over," said Committee Member Teresa Culpepper.

Another non-voting committee member, Councilwoman Sharon Juon, suggested the rebranding take place over multiple city budget cycles, beginning with patrol vehicle markings, continuing with uniforms and then ending with handguns, stationery, signage, etc. (Waterloo police handguns traditionally carry the agency logo.)

No date has been set for the next rebranding committee meeting. However, it is assumed manufacturing the six different sample patches will take several weeks.

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

**Maine State Police Decals** The Maine State Police is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021. The Retired Troopers Organization is offering a replica of the original 1921 green and red patrol vehicle decal as a fundraiser for the group. The decals are full size and measure 14 inches tall by nine inches wide. The is marking ten patrol vehicles this year with vintage markings to celebrate the anniversary. Each vehicle will feature this door decal. The decals are available for \$30 each, which includes shipping. Contact RTO member Timothy Culbert for ordering information by email on tsculbert@aol.com.

**One-Third LASPD Cut** In a major overhaul of one of the nation's largest school district police agencies, the Los Angeles School Police Department, the Unified School District Board of Education voted to cut one-third of its uniformed officers and ban the use of pepper spray on students. The board voted to use the money saved on police salaries to improve the education of Black students. Board member George McKenna strongly objected to the overhaul, saying "Parents expect is to have safe schools. If you think the police are the problem, I think you got a problem yourself."

# Utah Craftsman Creates Badge For Fallen Hero

When Nate Eye, owner of a custom woodworking business in Ogden, Utah learned that Officer Eric Talley was among ten people who died during a recent mass shooting at a Boulder, Colo. supermarket, he created a large wooden replica of his badge for presentation to the Talley family.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

BOULDER, Colo. – Once again, the nation mourned a mass shooting on March 22 when a heavily-armed man wearing a ballistic vest shot and killed ten people at a Boulder, Colo. supermarket. Among the dead is Police Officer Eric Talley, the first officer to arrive at the horrific scene.

When Nate Eye, who owns and operates a custom woodworking shop in Ogden, Utah heard about Officer Talley's tragic death, he did what he has done before to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. He immediately went to work on a 30-pound four-foot-tall wooden replica of the fallen officer's badge, No. 295.

Officer Talley arrived at the busy supermarket to find wounded shooting victims down in the parking lot. Bystanders told him and backup officers the shooter was inside the building. He radioed he was going in to search for the gunman. Investigators said the officer was the last person shot before the shooter was slightly wounded by another officer and captured.

"It really made me sad when I heard about it because I understand he had seven kids. I've got a wife and daughter. I can't imagine what his family is going through," Eye said.

Eye, 35, a Louisville, Ky. native, has made several absolutely beautiful, highly-detailed custom badge replicas to present to fallen officer survivors in Utah. He has donated a badge to the family of every officer killed in the state since he began making them several years ago.

He closed his shop for three full days to work on the Boulder replica. His wife and daughter helped him.

Fifteen generous donors paid for the badge and a police officer friend made the 16-hour round trip to Boulder to deliver the keepsake to the family before the funeral service, which was attended by an estimated 3000 people. It was prominently displayed at the funeral.

Eye starts with a photograph of the officer's badge. He uses a computerized laser device to create a full-size template. He uses the template to hand carve the badge on poplar wood. Carving takes about six hours. Finally, the badge is burnished, sanded and painted, which gives it a weathered look, much like a well-worn veteran officer's badge.

Initially, Eye paid for the fallen officer badge replicas himself but now accepts donations. "It's just something this community does. We care about people. Its evil versus good," he said. He includes a card with the names of the donors to present to the family.

Officer Talley grew up in Albuquerque. While he had a childhood dream of becoming a police officer, he became an information technology specialist in Thornton, Colo. He launched his law enforcement career in Boulder in 2010, telling his family he "heard a calling" to become a police officer.

Chief Maris Herold described Officer Talley as a caring professional who was popular among his fellow officers and the community.

"Eric always had a smile on his face. He was willing to help anyone at any time. He never hesitated a second to go into the store because he knew there were people inside his might need his help. That's the kind of officer and person Eric was," the chief said.

Co-workers called Officer Talley their shift computer guru and mentioned he was first to volunteer for the drone team, which was created in 2017, because he was proficient with computer-generated three-dimensional mapping. He worked on more than 100 calls for service during which a drone was deployed.

He is survived by his wife and seven children, ages seven to 20.

The shooter faces ten counts of first degree murder and one count of attempted first degree murder.

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

Our thanks for the Boulder Police Department and 710 Custom Woodwork for their assistance with this story. EDITOR



Nate Eye, owner and operator of a custom woodwork business in Ogden, Utah, donated this beautiful hand-crafted badge to the family of slain Boulder, Colo. Police Officer Eric Talley, who was killed on March 22. The replica of his shield was prominently displayed at his funeral. *Contributed photograph*



Police officers in Columbus, Ind. are wearing this custom-designed badge this year to commemorate the city's bicentennial. The very colorful star-topped shield features the United States and Indiana flags and the state seal. There are silver and gold versions. Columbus PD photograph

## Columbus, Ind. Police Celebrate 200th Anniversary

Columbus, Ind. is celebrating its bicentennial this year with a very colorful commemorative police badge that shows United States and Indiana flags and the state seal. Chief of Police Michael Richardson authorized active and retired officers to purchase the badges as personalized career keepsakes.

By Mike R. Bondarenko, Editor

COLUMBUS, Ind. – While the East Coast, especially the Northeast, has numerous 200-year old cities, not many Midwestern cities have reached the milestone.

Columbus, Ind. is an exception. The Bartholomew County seat, which is about 40 miles south of Indianapolis in southeastern Indiana, was settled in 1821. The city is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

Police officers are wearing a handsome, very colorful bicentennial badge, according to Chief of Police Michael Richardson. It is authorized for wear throughout 2021.

The commemorative badge is a custom-designed shield. There are silver and gold versions, silver for patrol officers and gold for rank officers. The legends are black enamel.

The center design is a full color state seal surrounded by a blue enamel ring upon which is lettered, "STATE OF INDIANA."

A blue five-point star appears at the top. The officer's rank is seen on a banner beneath the star.

An eagle above the seal protrudes from a ring that carries the legend, "COLUMBUS POLICE DEPT." "BICENTENNIAL" is seen on a banner beneath the ring. Full color United States (left) and Indiana (right) flags are shown on either side, respectively.

"1821-2021" and the officer's identification number appear on bottom banners that complete the design.

According to department spokesman, Lieutenant Matt Harris, active and retired officers were allowed to purchase badges at their own expense. The officers can keep them as career mementos at the end of the year, he said.

The badges were made by a New York company, Badge and Wallet.

"We looked at a number of designs and wanted something different than what our officers usually wear. But, at the same time, we also wanted badges that assure the public they were addressing a genuine police officer," Lieutenant Harris said.

He pointed out the current badge does not show the officer's number, so officers who purchased the commemorative will have a personalized keepsake.

Chief Richardson said his department is working with the Columbus Area Bicentennial Committee to participate in several anniversary events this year, if pandemic-related health restrictions allow.

Obviously, because it has a 200-year history, Columbus is a historic place. The downtown historic district hosts several buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places, including one of the oldest courthouses in the state.

The city of 44,000 is located at the confluence of the Flatrock and Driftwood Rivers which meet to form the White River.

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

**Beath Speaks At Service** Rob Beath, longtime Australian law enforcement collector and Police Insignia Collectors of Australia officer, delivered a tribute to Trevor Thompson at the veteran collector's funeral service. Thompson died on December 20. Beath talked about "TT's" dedication to the hobby and his popularity among his fellow collectors, not only in Australia but around the world. "He was unique, and he will be missed," he said. Several PICAA members attended the service. Peter Thompson, one of his sons, delivered the eulogy.



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AMAZING [BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://BADGECOLLECTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM) offers pictures and stories regarding Police Memorabilia. Focus is N.J. The read is free, however if you have N.J. items for sale/trade contact: DENNIS BEYER, email: denb22@gmail.com (90)

BUYING OR TRADING patches, coins, pins, badges, etc. from /depicting the U.S. Federal Protective Service (FPS, FPSD, or FPSP), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and Dartmouth, Massachusetts Police. Contact: RICH PONTES, 8 Cedar Crest Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747 or email: tyall@comcast.net (90)

LOOKING TO BUY anything from the National Geospatial/Intelligence Agency- NGA, NGIA, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, National Institutes of Health – NIH, National Imagery and Mapping Agency – NIMA, David Taylor Model Basin – DTMB, Department of Defense Navy District Washington – NDW Police, Walter Reed – NMMC. KEN MARSHALL. email: hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227

RAILROAD POLICE BADGES, signs, guns, paper, etc. wanted. I will buy or trade. I am especially looking for: Penn Central, PRR, NY Central, New Haven, Reading, Lehigh Valley, Conrail and other eastern roads. GARY FARMER, P. O. Box 55, Maytown, PA 17550 (717) 426-4409 or email: pharmr15@embarqmail.com (90)

RETIRED OFFICER, I have some old patches from a defunct security department (State of Oregon) I will trade one for one, or all used from Capital Mall Patrolman and General Services Security. CLAUDE CARPENTER, 282 Mize Rd., Salem, OR 97302 (82)

RETIRED POLICE OFFICER in Florida looking for Police ID cards. I'm mainly looking for State Police and Highway Patrol IDs. I'm also, looking for Sheriff, Police, Game Warden, Federal and Park Ranger as well. I'm only looking for IDs that have the person's picture on them. Let me know what you have. Contact: VERNON HAMMOCK, email: trooper357@netzero.com (82)

RETIRED STATE POLICE OFFICER looking to trade my department patch, Oregon State Police, for your or trades you might have. These are from old and near new uniforms from the past, like 2000 and older. Some have felt backings. Send up to three, and I'll do the same. CLAUDE CARPENTER, 292 Mize Rd, Salem, OR 97302 (82)

VINTAGE MASSACHUSETTS POLICE PATCHES WANTED: Pre 1980 and especially Western Massachusetts cities and towns. Contact: MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (82)

WANTED: Anything from the Anchorage and Nome Police Departments, Alaska, specifically a Blackinton Deputy Chief badge from Anchorage. Also I want Coconut Creek Police, Florida; Miami Gardens Police, FL; Chevy Chase Village Police, Maryland; Town of Kensington Marshal or Police, Maryland; Montgomery County Police and Sheriff, Maryland; City of Erie Police, Pennsylvania. KEN MARSHALL, email: hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227

WANTED: Anything from the Maryland National Capital Park Police - MNCPP, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - MNCPPC, The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police - DNR. Maryland Park Police. Looking to buy: patches, badges, pins, coins, license plates, door decals, ID's documents, etc. KEN MARSHALL, email: hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227

WANTED: Badges, patches, challenge coins, etc. from Western Pennsylvania, specifically: Latrobe, Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg, South Greensburg, Derry Borough, Ligonier Township and Ligonier Borough, Ligonier Valley, Homer City, Indiana Borough, Indiana County, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Saltsburg, Somerset Borough, Shade Township, and Westmoreland County, PA. KEN MARSHALL, email: hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227

WANTED: Boy Scout memorabilia of all types: Patches, Pins, Medals, Handbooks Pre-1936. CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (84)

WANTED: I collect Police Explorer (Boy Scout) metal badges or embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN, PO Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (84)

WANTED: I collect South Carolina police metal badges and embroidered patches. Send picture of items that you have for sale to: CHRIS JENSEN, PO

Box 1841, Easley, SC 29641, email: CJENSEN@STREAMWOOD.NET (84)

WANTED: Long-time collector looking for old Michigan police badges with emphasis on old Detroit badges. I am willing to trade or purchase. STEVE LEWIS, 8018 Morrow Rd., Clay MI 48001 (810) 531-6197 Email: srlewis@hughes.net (86)

WANTED: Massachusetts Police Badges: Hampden, Springfield Police/Fire, Springfield Armory Guard/Fireman, West Springfield, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow, Holyoke, Chicopee, Monson, Palmer, Ludlow, Northampton, Westfield, Agawam, Southwick, South Hadley, Holland, Brimfield, Wales, Westover Field MP, or any other Massachusetts badge. Please contact MICHAEL COONEY at (413) 784-3378 (86)

WANTED: Oregon and Washington badges, one badge or a whole collection, and no collection too large. I have some badges to trade from my over 50 years of collecting. FRED MILES, 10350 N. Vancouver Way, Suite 273, Portland, OR 97217-7530 (91)

WANTED: 2021 Collinson Enterprises Presidential Inauguration badge from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Police Department – NGA Police. I have 2021 Montgomery County, Maryland Police and Maryland National Capital Park Police to trade or will pay cash. KEN MARSHALL, email: hkusp45@comcast.net, phone: (412) 554-2227

WANTED: Minneapolis, MN PD shield. Will buy or trade. VINCENT PAPE, Phone: (631) 567-3248 (88)

WANTED: New Jersey badges from the following towns: Mantoloking, Bergenfield, Matawan, Green Brook, Berkeley Heights, Edison, Metuchen and New Jersey State Patrol. I also collect Lehigh Valley Railroad Police items. Email DAN at email: jasperdan26@gmail.com (732)452-0322 (80)

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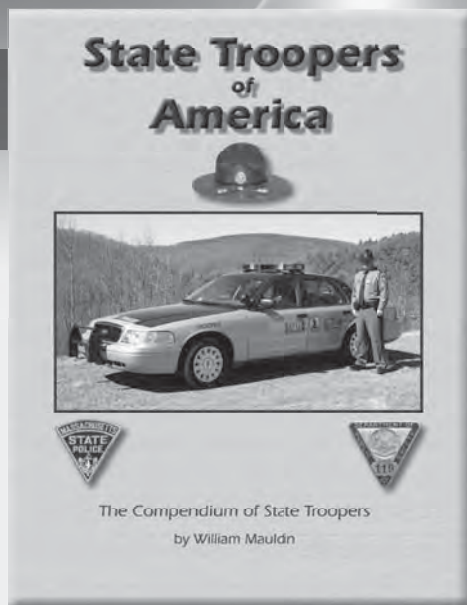
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## 2nd Annual Griffin, GA Patch And Badge Show

Come join us on July 17 at the Griffin First Assembly of God Church located at 2000 West Macintosh Road, Griffin, Georgia.

Tables are \$15 each. Show participants can start setting up at 8:00 am. Doors open to everyone at 9:00am until 5:00 pm. General admission is \$5.

There will be prizes for the best patch and badge displays. Barbeque, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available to purchase. A raffle will be held after lunch for door prizes.

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**Joe Tauro at (678) 850-0499  
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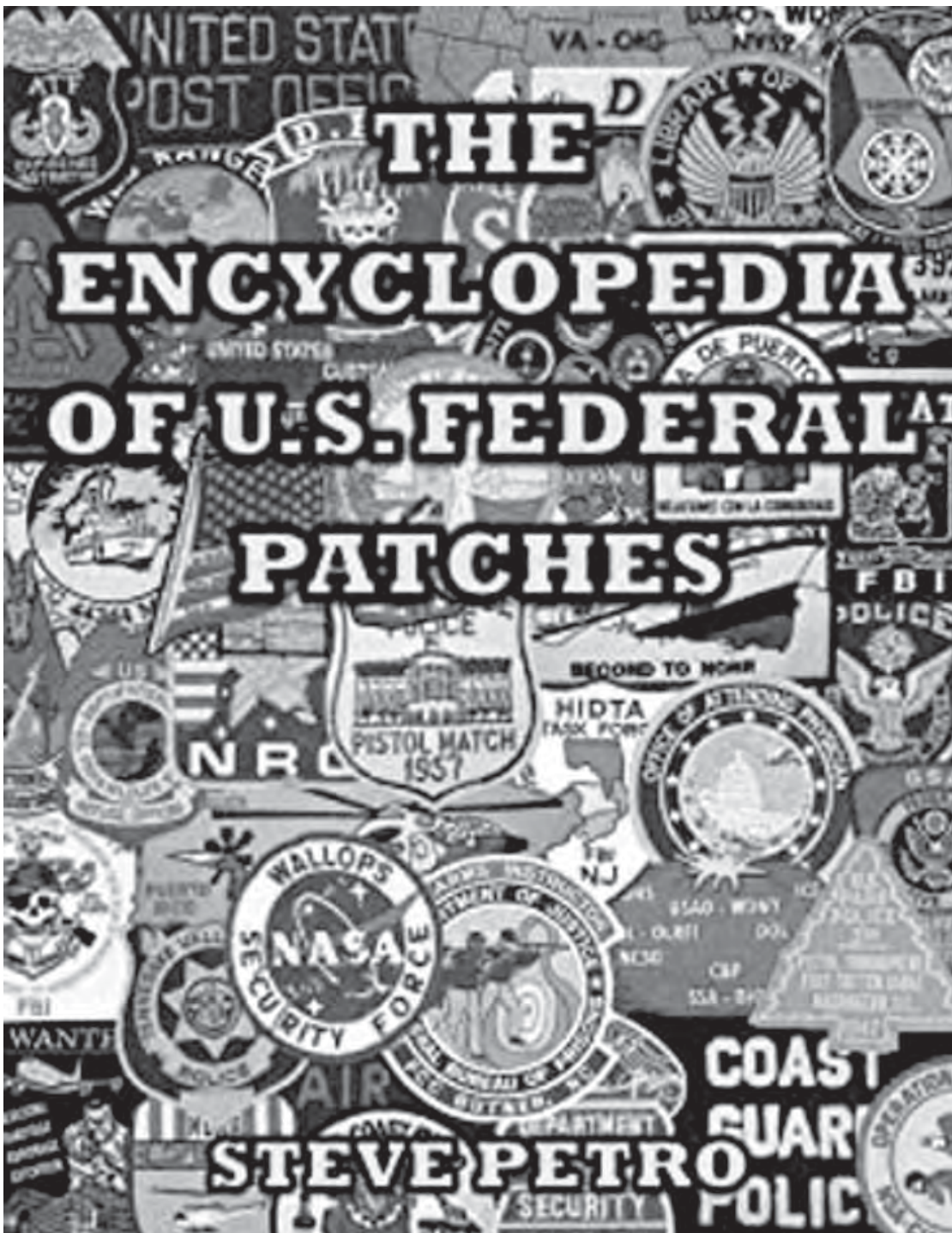
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**Steve Petro, [spetro1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:spetro1@rochester.rr.com)**

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Portland, OR 91217

## FAIRFAX VIRGINIA

The Fairfax Regional Badge and Patch Show will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 9:00 am to 2:0 pm. The show will be at the Fairfax County Police Association Hall at 5625 Revercomb Ct., Fairfax, VA

Table holders will be able to enter at 8:00 am to set up their tables and general admission, \$5.00 per person, will be at 9:00 am. Tables will be \$20.00 per table and must be PAID IN ADVANCE and are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Please specify if you need to be assigned to a wall or need an electrical connection. Internet services are available. (Please bring any equipment and extension cords.)

Please make checks payable to **FCPA Show** and mail to Larry Wilkins, 154 Abrams Pointe Blvd., Winchester, VA 22602. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. There is plenty of free parking. Best of Show trophy and Judges' Award trophy will be awarded.

All proceeds from the show will be donated to the Fairfax County Police Association. For any questions, please email Bill or Larry at **FCPASHOW@aol.com**. Show Website: **www.fcpabadgespatchshow.com**.

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TABLES: TOM BREEN (MOSH) Retired) <a href="mailto:mshp297@hotmail.com">mshp297@hotmail.com</a>	573-864-4736

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## COLLECTOR LOSES

### 1500 PATCHES IN A TRAGIC FIRE



Xander Ahrens is 10 years old and wants to be a police officer. He is a patch collector and his entire 1500 patch collection was destroyed in a fire at his grandmother's home in September 2020.

Pacific Coast collectors are trying to help Xander replace his lost collection. He loves California and SWAT patches.

#### **WILL YOU HELP?**

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Give us a try. We look forward to hearing from you.

# National Police Collectors Show

## October 22, 23 and 24, 2021



**This is the fifth National Police Collector show to be held in the Saint Louis area.**

The show hosts are: Frank Selaggio, Bob Shockey and Don Magruder

The show will be held at the Saint Charles Missouri Convention Center which is attached to the Embassy Suites Hotel allowing easy access to the show. The show rate for the hotel is \$144 a night. The Embassy Suites stay includes a fully cooked to order breakfast, a free evening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 that includes complimentary drinks and light snacks, free parking, a whirlpool, 24 hour fitness center and a high tech business center. The hotel is a short distance to Lambert airport, about a 15-minute drive. The hotel is also a short distance from shops and restaurants in the Saint Charles historic Main Street area. The downtown Saint Charles area with its cobbled streets and many shops and great restaurants is always very popular. The Saint Louis area also offers a number of fun places to visit. Of course the arch is always popular, the History Center, Art Museum and Zoo are at Forrest Park.

The 8-foot tables for the show are \$90.00 each, and there are 260 tables available with the ability to expand to a total of 280 if necessary. More than half are already reserved. The website for the show is: [national-police-collectors-show.com](http://national-police-collectors-show.com)

For tables reservations or more information contact:

**Don Magruder (515) 962-5220**



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I obtained these patches (new and used) over the past 30 plus years by trading with and purchasing from legitimate and trustworthy patch collectors from around the world. Both the Arizona and California collections consist of over 95% of old style department issues. This would be a great and rare opportunity to acquire some very old and hard to get Arizona and California patches for your collection. If interested, please contact me for details.

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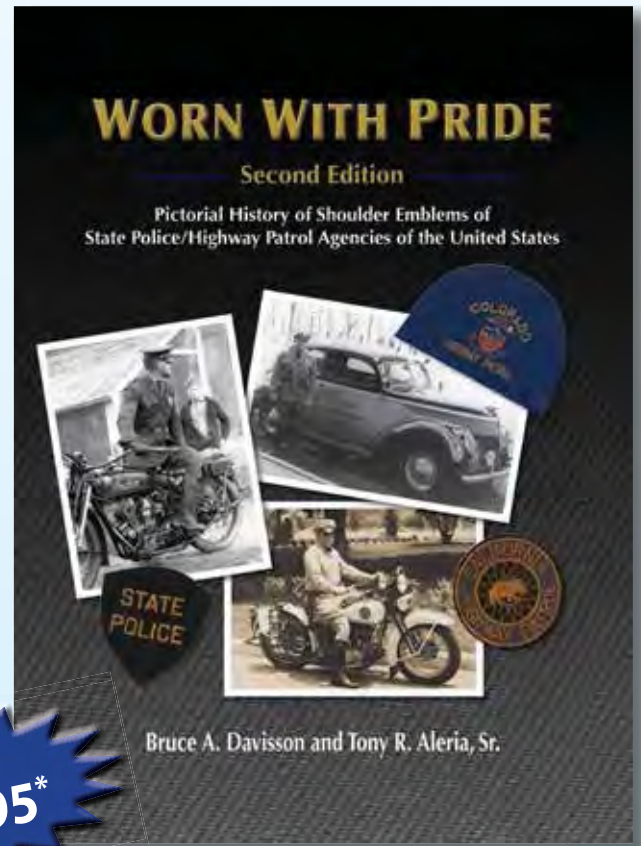
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**1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV**



# 2020 National Police Collectors Show

## **POSTPONED**

### *Returns to Reno, Nevada*

Friday, June 11, 2021

Setup/table holders only  
12:00 noon to 6 P.M.

Saturday, June 12, 2021

Public Show Hours are  
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Public Show Hours are  
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

[www.reno2020.us](http://www.reno2020.us)

## **Hosted at the Nugget Casino Resort**

In neighboring Sparks, Nevada



**About the Show:** The National Show is a special show for many collectors as it draws hobby enthusiasts from all over the United States, North American, and across the globe. This show is the premier event for hobbyists, historians, and more come to meet and trade, swap, buy or sell collectible public safety memorabilia. Located in the Sierra Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Nugget, the show will have 252 tables displaying, trading, and selling. Originally scheduled for October 2020, the show had to be postponed until June 2021. General show admission is \$5.00 per day (Kids 12 and under FREE).

**About the Location:** The Nugget Casino Resort was the location of the 2007 Reno National. 8 minutes away from the Reno Tahoe Airport, the hotel and convention center are in the same location. There is a free airport shuttle / transport to and from Reno Tahoe Airport. Free parking is also available for hotel guests and visitors. With 24/7 on site security, the Resort Tower was recently renovated in 2018. All guest rooms have a refrigerator and free wi-fi in all hotel rooms. There is also a fitness center and pool on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, an arcade for kids, the casino, and several dining options all under one roof.

### **Affordable Hotel Costs**

- \$44 a night plus taxes for Monday-Thursday leading up to the show and Sunday-Wednesday after the show.
- \$85 a night plus taxes for Friday, June 11, 2021 & Saturday, June 12, 2021
- Learn more about the hotel at: [www.nuggetcasinoresort.com](http://www.nuggetcasinoresort.com).
- Reservation code is **GNPCS20** and can be booked by calling 800-648-1177

Email: [2020nationalpoliceshow@gmail.com](mailto:2020nationalpoliceshow@gmail.com)

On Facebook: "2020 National Police Collectors Show" [www.facebook.com/reno2020](https://www.facebook.com/reno2020)

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