

A History of the Evansville Police Department 1863-2013

The Beginning – 1863

When the Settlement of Evansville, Indiana, obtained its city charter in 1847, the town was uniquely poised to become one of the principal commercial hubs of the Midwest. As the Indiana Territory became more inhabited, the “Landing for the Wabash” provided a link between trade and travel on the Ohio to tributaries of both the Wabash and White Rivers. The first Evansville Business Directory published in 1857 pronounced the town to be “surrounded by all the elements to support population and create wealth”. The statement was not mere boast; in 1847 the city recorded about 5,000 inhabitants and ten years later the population had more than doubled to 12,250.

Much like other river cities of the day, a by-product of population growth was an increased opportunity for vice and crime. Hospitality at the Evansville landing included illegal gambling, prostitution, and an assortment of saloons all within a short walk from the wharf. Newspaper reports from the period offer vivid accounts of a rowdy and sometimes unpredictable downtown.

“Last night a group of roughs entering the gambling hell, Café de Cuba, No. 32, Bayard Street, one of the lowest haunts in the Tenth Ward. The proprietor, O. Hoffman, attempted to expel them, and was shot at by one of the crowd, Big Mike, a scoundrel, then drew a knife and stabbed him severely in the right shoulder. Dan Wallace and John Conners, two of the rioters, were arrested and locked up. Big Mike made his escape and took refuge in Reddy, the blacksmith’s saloon. The officers following, he passed out the rear entrance, and all traces of him were lost.” *The Evansville Journal Newspaper*

At the time of the charter, the elected position of city marshal was established to oversee law enforcement within the corporate limits of the 280-acre city. The first City Marshal, William Bell, served from 1847 to 1850. The city marshal’s staff increased over a period of time as the city grew to include, in addition to the marshal, a deputy marshal and constables.

In 1863, the city police department was created as a night watch to supplement the marshal’s staff which still held primary law enforcement responsibility within the city. City Marshal Ed Martin served as acting chief of police and the first two members of the department were Philip Klein and George Bates. Klein went on to become the first Chief of Police, as he had already been elected Wharfmaster. Bates and Klein would also serve as fireman since there was not yet a professional fire department.

Two years later, due to a rise in crime attributed to returning Civil War Veterans, the force was increased to 16 officers. An ordinance in 1866 expanded police officers’ duties beyond serving as a night security detail which, in 1867, would evolve into the city’s night law enforcement agency. By 1869, there were 23 officers on the department with only two ranks; chief of police and patrolman—and there was plenty to keep them occupied.

Among a number of burglaries, robberies, batteries, thefts and horse thefts, the year 1870 in Evansville was also backdrop to violent crime. Street assaults with life threatening injuries, stabbings and cuttings were not uncommon. Four murders were committed in the city that year.

Over 150 men applied for a position with the police force in 1875; of those, only 25 were chosen. And though appointments to the department were highly coveted, it was not unusual for officers to come and go from administration to administration.

The Evansville Police Department would suffer its first loss of an officer killed in 1887. During this era, officers worked 12-hour shifts; 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. In the early morning hours of December 29th, Officers Abe Smock and Mike Cahill were between shifts and walking in the area of Virginia and Baker Streets when they were mistaken for burglars by on-duty Officer Joseph Ziegler. Believing they had been recognized, when Ziegler yelled for the two men to “halt”, Smock and Cahill ran into a side alley as a way to “have a bit of fun”.

When recounting the story later, Ziegler reported that after firing a warning shot into the ground, he thought one of the individuals pulled a gun. Fearing for his life, Ziegler fired a second shot which struck one of the men. Officer Abe Smock, 47-years-old and a five-year veteran of the department, would die within minutes.

The coroner’s inquest, held a few days later, would result in Officer Joseph Ziegler being exonerated in Smock’s death. By Cahill’s own account, the two officers were “endeavoring to mislead Officer Ziegler”, and the alley so dark it would have been almost impossible to distinguish any individual at a distance.

Officer Abe Smock was a Wagonman for the police force at the time of his death. After he was killed, the police department’s adopted dog, Snot—who had been rescued from the streets by Smock and faithfully escorted the officer on his wagon runs—continued to reside at police headquarters until his death in 1896. He was buried in the yard of Police Headquarters.

1883 – The Metropolitan Police System

It is not clear as to what, if any, training policemen received during the early days of the force. There is evidence of a written guide, but primary law enforcement education was “on the job”. The lack of professional department was a constant source of editorial comment from newspapers.

For example; during a court appearance in February of 1871, “Police Officer No. 8” appeared as the defendant in a case of assault and battery, the victim was identified as being a young man. The *Evansville Daily Journal* reported that when No. 8 was arrested, the officer was in a “state of intoxication”. The account goes on to say that in his defense, the accused officer proposed that on the afternoon in question, his (uniform) hat and coat had been taken and was “worn by a citizen, who masqueraded in it for a while on Third Street opposite the Court House”. Expanding on that theme *The Journal* wrote;

“Perhaps it is but fair that a citizen should masquerade in that garb, for it is well known that in many instances during the past year the uniform has been but a masquerade for a majority of the officers from the Chief down.”

Officer No. 8 was removed from his position.

Appointments to the police force prior to the Metropolitan Police Act of 1883 were based largely on politics. This served a dual purpose; it was favor repayment for those who worked to get their party elected, and it unified the department with goals of an administration.

It would also fall under the politicized system that African-Americans would be granted appointments. Roy Nichols—a highly respected, politically active business owner—was named to the force in September 1874 following the mayoral election of Democrat J.J. Kleiner. Nichols

would soon leave the department to take a job in state government but in 1877—also under Kleiner’s administration—John Miller, Allston Shorter, and J.C. Thompson would be named. Thompson would serve less than a year before his death in 1878. The account of his passing is poignant documentation of the value Thompson placed on his position. Officer J. C. Thompson was buried in full police uniform at Oak Hill Cemetery. (See photo, “Death of an Officer”)

But as the city grew, politics got in the way of operating an efficient police agency. In 1977, all 24 patrolmen were replaced by 24 new appointees. Referred to in *The Journal* as “The Big Bounce”, the newspaper bemoaned the exchange of police personnel by writing, “There must be an end to everything, even the best organized force in the world must decay before the breath of adverse political majorities”.

Talk of legislation that would place oversight of police departments under the administration of a commission and remove it from the hands of local councils began to circulate in 1879. Other large departments—considered to be “forward thinking”—had already adopted its model. At the core of the legislation was the desire to de-politicize law enforcement. Druggist T.C. Birdwell, who occupied a business at Third and Main, summed up the sentiments of many when asked his opinion on the proposed change;

“I am not particular as to what the force is called, but I am certainly in favor of taking it entirely out of politics. The way things have been running, a man could scarcely get on the force and become acquainted with the people on the beat to which he was assigned, before there would be a change in the complexion of the city, and off his head would go. A green hand would be appointed, and before he got fairly warm in his place he would have to follow the footsteps of his predecessor.” *The Evansville Journal*; January 11, 1879.

Though the adoption of the Metropolitan Police Act would not immediately eradicate the influence of politics on the department, it was a first step. The measure also succeeded in providing a solid foundation for law enforcement to be considered as a profession. One observer noted that being a member of the police force could now provide a man with a “life situation” as long as he maintained “good conduct”.

A City of Evansville *Police Manual of the Metropolitan Police Department* was published and issued to officers as combination rule, law, and advice manual. In addition to general rules and description of duties, the manual provided guidelines for hoop rolling, bathing in the Ohio River, and hitching horses.

The perception of the police force shaped by the department’s first twenty years was neither a testament to professionalism nor to good conduct among its members. But by 1886, led by Police Superintendent Frank Pritchett, the force seemed to have found its footing and was a more competent organization.

The Metropolitan Police Commission established the first physical requirement for officers in 1889; applicants were required to be at least 5 feet, 8 inches in height. In 1891, physical examinations were required and officers were required to “furnish a certificate from a medical examiner, giving height, weight, girth of chest expansion, complexion, eyesight, hearing and general appearance to the chief and to the captain.” The superintendent (chief) and the captain constituted an “examining board” to determine if an officer would be retained after his probationary period. Still officially divided between Democrats and Republicans, aspiring candidates were chosen to replace those retiring or resigning according to the most qualified of

their party. Applicants had to also undergo a rigorous interview by the three-person Police Commission and be a member in good standing of the community.

Working twelve hour shifts, men were required to be neat and clean when reporting for duty and wear full uniform in any appearance before the court. As the city expanded the department grew to a force of 36; the Superintendent, two Captains, a Roundsman (one who inspected patrol officers and made sure they were attentive to their beats) a Surgeon, a Detective, one Court Officer, 24 Patrolmen, two drivers, two Turnkeys, and one Stationary.

As a way of introducing discipline and instruction into the ranks, the department practiced drills at least one time a week which consisted of military-style marching. The theory behind this was that officers, as a whole, could be effectively handled in a serious situation if tactical applications were involved. When in need of police, citizens were to go to the nearest Hose House where the Stationary Officer would summon help by ringing the station bell. A series of codes were established to differentiate specific needs.

Payroll for the entire force was over \$500 a month. Officers were paid in cash every Tuesday.

The department continued to evolve as the needs of the city changed. A detective bureau was established in 1892 and “Chief of Detectives”, was the second highest rank on the force. The position of Humane Officer—charged with handling sensitive issues, family and domestic situations, abandoned children and animals—was also introduced. In September of the same year, the responsibility for sanitary conditions in the city fell under police jurisdiction.

In 1893, the metropolitan police act was revoked and the Metropolitan Police Commission disbanded. In its place, was a three-member Board of Public Safety, which would oversee both the police and fire departments.

Turn of the Century

On the first day of the 20th Century, Evansville woke to ice floating down the Ohio which would result in river navigation and commerce being suspended. The city population stood at 59,000 and William Akin, a Democrat, was in his second term as mayor.

Upon Akin’s re-election, Frank Pritchett who had been a law enforcement officer since 1853—either in an appointed or elected capacity—had been named Superintendent (Chief of Police). Pritchett had also served in this position from 1882 to 1886 and was regarded to be honest and brave. However, after only two years, Pritchett resigned from his job citing a lack of support from the mayor.

“In relinquishing this office I desire to say that I resign merely because I can no longer maintain the dignity of the position or the discipline of the force without stronger support than I have received. Several members of your administration have, since my appointment and during my whole term of service, sought to embarrass and harass my management of the police department and I do not care to longer burden you with these difficulties.”

Conventional wisdom at the time observed the department to be “in a tangle”. When naming a replacement for Superintendent Pritchett, Akin made what was considered a bold choice. Though the mayor’s appointee did not have law enforcement experience, King Cobbs—a former steamboat captain and popular manager of Evansville’s Grand Opera House—was chosen for his keen managerial skills and business acumen.

Mayor Akin suffered criticism for not following through with campaign promises that addressed the town's unsavory social issues. Vice continued to be a source of contention with a vocal segment of the population. The temperance movement was gaining momentum and Evansville's 250 saloons provided fertile ground for gambling, prostitution, drunkenness, theft, and assaults.

Superintendent Cobbs set the tone for his administration right away. When the annual city fair was held downtown in October of 1899, Cobb's command was essentially "zero tolerance" enforcement.

"The city is overrun by suspicious characters. Whenever a stranger cannot give an excuse for being here, and has no business, send him in. The city is looking to you for protection, and I have every confidence in your ability to carry out these orders."

Throughout his brief tenure as Superintendent, Cobb took a business-like, pro-active approach to law enforcement. Vagrancy laws were enforced and officers were charged to, "Search the low dives and bring in all idle characters". Returning to the private sector after Republicans secured the mayor's office in 1901, Cobb left office with his integrity intact and the collective good opinion of him unshaken.

Selection of a chief from the ranks resumed with Mayor Charles Covert naming Fred Heuke to lead the department. During these early years, the pay scale for officers ran from \$624 per year for a rookie patrolman to \$912 for the chief of police. Officers on days worked 12-hour shifts—7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Officers working nights alternated between a 12-hour shift and a 9-hour shift—7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Day shift beats were worked singly except for high-crime areas which were manned by two-man teams as were all night beats.

The long hours worked by officers in the early years differed little from those who labored in the private sector. Men employed by factories and mills worked 10-hour days and 6-day weeks. The police department was able to patrol the city with fewer officers during those years because of the lengthy work week and density of the population.

But in February of 1903, law enforcement as a career became more attractive with establishment of the first police pension fund. Other than the military and some public safety occupations, most jobs did not offer retirement plans and, as yet, there was no Social Security System. State and local officials were almost unanimously in favor of the law, including those from Vanderburgh County. "If the act becomes law," reported *The Evansville Journal*, "it will be an incentive to better service to the city by the policemen whose tenure should depend alone upon smart work and good behavior."

The plan provided that officers could retire after 20 years of service at \$30 per month and \$50 per month after 25 years of service. An officer's widow was entitled to receive \$30 each month and dependent children \$6 until they reached the age of 18.

It would be only a few months before the first real test of the pension act's deeper worth.

Patrol Officer Louis N. Massey – First Line of Duty Death

On Friday, July 3, 1903 Officer Louis Massey was making his rounds in the area of Tenth and Canal Streets. Considered to be part of the vice district, Officer Massey's beat was one of the day-shift beats normally patrolled by two officers. But because of a manpower shortage that day, Massey took the shift alone.

At about 4:00 that afternoon, Lee Brown (a.k.a. Robert Lee, John Tinsley) entered Ossenberg's Saloon and Grocery at Tenth and Canal Streets and ordered a glass of beer. Taking his drink, Brown left the saloon without paying. The store clerk followed Brown outside, spotted Officer Massey and reported the theft. Massey pursued Brown and caught up to him at Tenth and Mulberry.

Brown pulled a pistol from his pants pocket and shot Massey in the abdomen. The shot was so close it left powder burns on the police officer's uniform. Massey was able to pull his service revolver and return fire, hitting Brown once in the chest. Massey and Brown exchanged gunfire until their weapons emptied.

Meanwhile, a call had been placed to headquarters and soon backup officers in a patrol wagon arrived and hurried Massey to Deaconess Hospital. Following a trail of blood, Brown was located and arrested, taken also to the hospital and later to jail.

The bullet had passed through Officer Massey's abdomen and lodged near his spine. Optimistic to the end, Massey told his wife and daughter, "It's a bad case. It will be a hard fight, but I'll win". Seconds after uttering these words, he died. Patrolman Louis Massey was the first officer in police department history to be shot while making an arrest and killed in the line of duty.

The death of Louis Massey and subsequent attempts by an impassioned mob to remove Brown from the jail would result in Governor Winfield Durbin mobilizing the Indiana National Guard. Though many were certain Brown was still held in the city—because of the emotional impact of the crime—the suspect had already been transferred to Vincennes.

After three days of violence the rioting would come to a horrifying conclusion. Ignoring Mayor Charles Covert's proclamation to "remain at home", a mob gathered where troops stood guarding the jail. Curiosity seekers lined streets and sidewalks. A more boisterous contingent hurled insults at the soldiers, then finally pushed against their line.

"It was like a man sitting on a keg of powder with a lighted pipe in his mouth. A spark was all that was needed to cause an explosion, and in this particular instance, that spark was the firing of a gun or revolver. The deed was done and did the work as the terrible bloody record of the night will attest." *The Evansville Journal*; July 7, 1903.

Seven citizens were killed straightaway; five would later die from their wounds. Scores of others—including soldiers—were injured. With that last bloody encounter, the Evansville Riot of 1903 came to an end.

Lee Brown did not stand trial; he died at Jeffersonville prison on July 31st. When the attending physician informed Brown there was little chance for him to recover, the dying man gave an account of the event and confessed to having shot the officer. He told the doctor that as Massey approached that day, Brown moved toward the policeman in a crouched position and with his head down. Brown then fired two shots. He said when Massey fell to his knees, the officer grabbed his gun in both hands and managed to shoot Brown with what would be a fatal bullet.

Officer Louis Massey's widow would have the unfortunate distinction of being the first to benefit from the police pension fund.

Moral vs. Immoral

When John W. Boehne was elected mayor in 1905, he believed he had been given a mandate to redirect the town's moral compass. Ordinances governing hours of operation for saloons had been established, but time and a blind eye to enforcement had created a "wide open"

environment. Saloons operated around the clock, seven days a week; if the front door to an establishment closed, a side or back door opened. Slot machines, dice, craps, unfettered solicitation by streetwalkers—vice was flaunted and flourished.

The new mayor would choose Captain Fred H. Brennecke, a highly respected and disciplined officer, to serve as Superintendent of Police. Brennecke wasted no time in handing down Boehne's revised rules for governing the city, adding a few edicts for officer behavior as well.

-Policemen will be permitted to enter saloons to see what is going on and not loiter in them, and pay for what they get.

-The habit of going to breweries for beer must stop at once.

-No patrolman shall attend any dances where immoral women attend.

The improvised "open door policy" was over; saloons were to close promptly at 11:00 p.m. Wine rooms, public poker, pool and gambling rooms were to shut down at once. Slot machines were banned from the jurisdiction and street walkers arrested. Added to duties of the police, in January 1907, the department was tasked with enforcing a law that closed drinking establishments on Sunday.

Given the number of saloons in Evansville, this was no easy task. However, Brennecke had stretched the effectiveness of his men by adding a sub-station at Hose House No. 8 and by implementing a bicycle squad.

Prior to the latter, calls to the station house for aid were answered by a captain who then summoned a beat officer through the ringing of a bell. Bicycle officers were dispatched to contact patrolmen or they dealt with problems firsthand. In 1907, with a squad of five men, bicycle officers answered 2,406 calls and made 540 arrests.

The effort exerted under Brennecke's leadership greatly reduced the incidence of crime. A number of saloons and billiard rooms that violated closing rules or entertained violence were closed and their licenses revoked.

In January 1907, following a particularly raucous series of events, Brennecke announced a "cleaning up of Fourth Street". Fourth was considered to be the problematic epicenter of drinking and lounging, the lowest point of immoral behavior in the city. Prostitutes, vagrants, drunkards and criminals collected on what was known as "The Midway" or "Cat Alley" to gamble and to fight. Particularly egregious were dives and saloons between Walnut and Locust on Fourth Street which shared a common alley with the Police Station.

**CHIEF BRENNECKE ISSUES ORDER THAT LOAFERS ON FOURTH STREET MUST CLEAR OUT!
TWO FIGHTS WITH SWORDS AND PISTOLS TAKE PLACE IN NEIGHBORHOOD TUESDAY!**

Women shoppers, in particular, were finding it increasingly troublesome to pass through the area on their way to Evansville's downtown shopping district. Eighth Street between Main and Sycamore—the area of the current Civic Center—was worse yet, and orders were given for a thorough evacuation of the "many vicious" people who inhabited the area, and the "dives" broken up.

On the other side of Brennecke's hardnosed approach—following the lead of Cleveland Ohio's police chief—also instructed the force to use common sense when dealing with "small cases"; family situations where no one was hurt, other assaults, and some heat-of-the-moment

confrontations. The Superintendent also asked officers to apply the Golden Rule when dealing with such matters as a way to both resolve confrontation and streamline the court process.

“Take the common case of the family quarrel in which a man slaps his wife and an arrest follows. The next morning she is as eager to have her husband released as she was the night before to have him arrested. Perhaps she denies having made a complaint to the patrolman and it looks like a put-up job on the officer’s part to make a case”.

In 1910 Charles Heilman was elected mayor and named George Covey as Superintendent of Police. Captain Covey was no stranger to the office having functioned in that capacity under two previous Republican administrations. Covey also bore the distinction of serving the most continuous years on the department having been appointed in 1884.

With the appointment of Covey the media pounced and challenged the superintendent to abandon the “golden rule” method of policing. Court watchers asserted that the decline in the crime rate under Brennecke was achieved only because crimes were not prosecuted.

But former Superintendent Brennecke had left the department in good shape. In January 1910, the force had a roster of 81, including two telephone operators, a matron, a surgeon, and a janitor. Covey would be the last Evansville Police Department Superintendent; his successor would carry the title *Chief of Police*.

The Road to Prohibition

In 1912, the question of the town’s morals reared its ugly head once again when the effectiveness—or willingness—of police to clean up areas of vice was publicly challenged. During the October City Council Meeting it was brought to the council’s attention that city streets were not being adequately swept by the individual under contract for that purpose. Democratic Councilman Ludson Worsham suggested that the inquiry into dirty streets should be taken a step farther.

“I hope this investigation of the street cleaning will be an incentive to clean up the whole city and do away with the great immorality and gambling that I am reliably informed takes place within a stone’s throw of police headquarters. And yet the superintendent of police doesn’t seem to know where. Notwithstanding this, the department comes to us regularly for increases in salary.”

Indignant at the accusation, Council Chairman Philip Klein—a great advocate of Superintendent Covey—quickly scheduled a public hearing which would allow “witnesses” an opportunity to provide testimony naming specific instances of vice. When informed of the council’s move to include public input, Mayor Charles Heilman replied, “You cannot suppress gambling and street walking,” but conceded that it was the “business of the chief to know these things.”

One of the witnesses who would speak out during the hearing was Mrs. Hannah Hickman. Hickman testified she had long been interested in reform work, “in a quiet way”, and had gathered evidence of gambling and of saloons violating the Sunday closing laws. But in her view, most disturbing was the use of young women for prostitution, “victims of the immorality flourishing here”.

Within a month, Hickman—an active member of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union—would petition the Board of Public Safety to be given police powers and added to the force. On December 14th her application was approved. Though recognized as an EPD officer, the W.C.T.U. paid Policewoman Hickman’s salary. Her duties included being present at the train station to meet unescorted young women coming to the city, as well as investigative and relief work.

Mayor Benjamin Bosse and Edgar Schmitt

Though the Metropolitan System was intended to take politics out of the police department, the department had not been taken out of politics. This was never more evident than Election Eve, 1913, when Officers Andy Friedle and Edgar Schmitt were suddenly suspended from the department. The two men were vocal supporters of mayoral candidate Benjamin Bosse, a Democrat, who was running to unseat the incumbent Republican Heilman.

After Bosse was elected—and in keeping with his business model of bringing young blood into the workplace—he would appoint the 34-year-old Schmitt as Chief of Police and Friedle as Captain serving in the role as Assistant Chief. Schmitt’s eight-year career on the department had been stellar. As a member of the Autocycle Unit, he was credited with ending the speeding menace in Evansville’s downtown as well as single-handedly capturing some of the most high profile crooks and criminals in department history.

Bosse’s inaugural address to the city included a pledge to end gambling with enforcement uniformly applied throughout the city. Along with the police department, Bosse was also challenged to come up with an adequate plan for the “ultimate and complete elimination of the Red Light District and legalized vice in Evansville.”

Schmitt took charge of the department with confidence and definition of purpose. The first order of business was for officers to notify illegal drinking establishment operators to shut down and remind saloon owners that hours of operation and other ordinances would be strictly monitored by police.

“I believe that my force is going to show the people of Evansville that they are enforcing the law, every man of them, working in cooperation. I have a fine set of men on the force. If I find a man who has not this spirit of cooperation, I want his star.”

As part of enforcement, Officer John “Irish” Cain and Officer Tilden Irvin were assigned to a two-man night beat—7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.—in an area of the city then known as “Baptisttown”.

Baptisttown was a neighborhood that developed around Seventh and Oak Streets when Liberty Baptist Church put down roots there in 1865. Founded by former slaves who had migrated north after the Civil War, the church provided focus and leadership for the neighborhood’s social, political, and religious life.

On June 14, 1914, Officers Cain and Irvin were walking their beat around Lincoln and Riley Streets (now the area of Lincoln and Governor) at midnight just as saloons were closing. At the center of a group gathered on the corner they spotted Robert Collier, recently paroled, who appeared to be quarrelling with some of the other men. Collier was familiar to police; he was known to carry a gun and had appeared in court just the week before, involved in a shooting where he claimed self-defense.

Approaching Collier, witnesses testified that Officer Cain put his hand on the man's shoulder saying, "What's the matter with you, Bob?" Collier pulled a revolver and shot Cain at almost point-blank range. Though response to the shooting was swift, Cain died within minutes, his aorta severed by a bullet. Irvin pursued Collier on foot but lost sight of him before returning to the scene where Cain had fallen.

Following what he referred to as "a hunch", Patrolman Melvin Jenkins apprehended the fugitive on Water Street (now Riverside Drive, downtown) as Collier made for the trains in Howell. Collier was arrested without incident and two days later, June 16th, pled guilty to murder.

Collier was sentenced to death. On October 16th, four months after the murder of Officer Cain, he would die in the electric chair at state prison in Michigan City, only the third person in Indiana to be executed in this manner. Robert Collier was 25-years old.

John "Irish" Cain was 47 and a 14-year veteran of the department. Cain was held in the "highest esteem" by fellow officers and his death incited yet another volley from the media, begging the mayor and the police to attack vice that plagued the city.

"A real cleanup is what is needed out there. The police have known it right straight alone. They ought to realize it now more than ever since Patrolman John Cain was compelled to pay the penalty with his life to the desperation of the situation. Will Mayor Bosse and Police Chief Schmitt take heed of this death warning? Or will they not? This is the question that every law abiding citizen of Evansville is now patiently waiting to see answered and answered correctly!" *The Evansville Journal*; June 15, 1914.

In spite of the rough reputation earned in some quarters, under the decisive hand of Benjamin Bosse the city found its footing in the 20th Century. From the onset, the Bosse Administration was one of innovation and progress, an era of construction and growth. Included in this expansion was a new building to house the police department. The station was conceptualized in 1914 and construction completed in 1917. Located across the street from "Old Number Eleven" at Third and Locust, the police headquarters was "state of the art" and featured many modern innovations.

Spaciousness of the new offices allowed Bertillon Officer John Heeger to expand the Bureau of Identification to include a recently developed method of identification known as the Henry Fingerprint System. Heeger spent his own money—and time—to learn the process and became so knowledgeable he would eventually be recognized throughout the region as one of the early experts in the new field. The Bertillon System, which was based on photographs and the physical measurements of known criminals, would become obsolete though Heeger's photographs would continue to serve as "mug shots".

By 1918 the department had increased in size to 102 employees. Officers comprised 97 of this number with five civilians making up the remainder. There were 16 walking beats in 1918 on days and 34 on nights. The number of automobiles had increased to four by that year.

The Arrival of Prohibition

Evansville's ongoing issues with vice, liquor, and prostitution were further complicated when Indiana, almost two years before enactment of the 18th Amendment, would pass a statewide prohibition bill effective April 2, 1918. *The Evansville Journal-News* would report in that afternoon's paper, "247 LOCAL SALOONS WILL PROBABLY CLOSE TONIGHT".

However, across the river—just a boat ride away in neighboring Kentucky—there were no restrictions on the sale, manufacture, or distribution of alcohol. This created yet another pressure point for enforcement by Evansville police. And for some, it would also create a most damaging business opportunity.

In February of 1919, a “booze boat” was apprehended in Evansville by Sheriff Herb Males and his deputies, seizing 159 cases of whiskey from Kentucky. Ironically, the boat belonged to Chief of Police Edgar Schmitt. Schmitt had purchased the craft personally to loan to the city as a patrol boat in his “anxiety to stop the liquor traffic”. Schmitt reported that the boat was kept under the charge of Police Captain Friedle. A former city employee who was a member of the landing party that night—the boat’s mechanic—was arrested during the affair.

But in October of that same year, a committee of men and women representing local temperance interests called on Chief Schmitt at the station house. They asked to see the cache of “booze” confiscated by police from arrests and raids made during the 1 ½ years since Indiana had gone dry. The appropriated alcohol was purported to be locked in the basement of police headquarters. Hearing the committee’s request, Chief Schmitt was said to have behaved “something awful”, losing his temper and denouncing the group. “You have come here to accuse me of being a thief—a bootlegger”, Schmitt was said to have challenged. He furthered his indignation by inviting a public probe either by grand jury or the City’s Common Council. While the notion was bandied about, in the end neither entity would hold an investigation. The drama of the event waned and eventually fell from public view.

But even Edgar Schmitt could not escape the long arm of the law. On Tuesday, May 11, 1920, Schmitt’s name would head the list of 89 politicians, liquor distributors and others indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for conspiracy in violating the laws of the United States.

In addition to Schmitt, Sheriff Herbert Males, Fred Ossenberg (member of the Safety Board), Captain Andy Friedle, Detectives James Trautwein, Enoch Weir, William Fuchs and Motorcycle Officer William Perrett were among those indicted in a conspiracy to import illegal whiskey into Evansville from Henderson, Kentucky. Males was exonerated; Schmitt, Ossenberg and Friedle were found guilty. Schmitt was handed the stiffest sentence; two years in Federal Prison in Atlanta and a fine of \$2,000.

Schmitt was incarcerated for almost 19 months before being paroled as a “model prisoner”. Upon his return to Evansville, he went into the construction business with his sister and would later work for Cook Brewery. When he died in 1951 at age 72 his obituary read, in part,

“Mr. Schmitt was the former Police Chief under the Bosse Administration. He retired from politics shortly afterward.”

Ira Wiltshire became the department’s 21st chief of police on July 19, 1920. Captain Fred Heuke was promoted to chief of detectives to fill the vacancy left by Wiltshire’s promotion. Upon his appointment, Chief Wiltshire made the following statement:

“Now, Mayor and Gentlemen of the Board, I want to thank you for this honor. I feel I am able to handle the department. I have had twelve years service in all branches. Reorganization of the police department will be a great undertaking. I want to promise you as head of the police department that I will conduct the department in a gentlemanly way and will be on the square.”

As the scandal around Edgar Schmitt started to unfold, the rank and file of the Evansville Police Department felt they were finally free to express past frustrations. When it came to clamping down on vice and enforcing the law of prohibition, officers reported they were never certain which course to take as some commands issued by Schmitt were sincere, others issued for public benefit and not intended to be acted upon. Wiltshire made it plain to his officers that he wanted the law enforced to the letter and stressed that he would not issue orders only to contradict them the next week; orders would remain or he would resign. Wiltshire said:

“I feel kindly toward each man, and I don’t believe I have an enemy on the force. If I have, it isn’t my fault. The department has been very lax. How it happened, I am not in a position to say. Possibly, the leader might have been bad.”

In 1920 representatives from the Evansville Police Relief Association approached Mayor Bosse with a proposal to shorten the workday from twelve to eight hours. Mayor Bosse considered the request, but felt the extra manpower required would be too expensive for the city. Members of the department continued to work 12-hour days for another six years until the state legislature shortened the workday to eight hours. Bosse would, however, give three substantial pay increases to officers during his tenure; in 1915, 1918 and again in 1921. The 1915 raise brought a rookie patrolman’s annual salary to \$766 and the chief’s to \$2,000.

Policewomen – The First Wave

Though Hannah Hickman had been given police powers and the title of “Policewoman”, her appointment was considered somewhat of a novelty. When women were given the vote after passage of the 19th Constitutional Amendment, law enforcement agencies—both nationally and internationally—began to see the value of women as police officers.

The issue of appointing policewomen to the Evansville force became part of the dialogue in the 1921 mayoral contest pitting Benjamin Bosse against Republican Stuart Hopkins. The assurance of at least two female officers was even inserted into the Republican Platform.

After winning the race, Bosse appointed Mrs. Cora Foley as Court Matron, with pay commensurate with that of a police sergeant. Foley had campaigned vigorously for the mayor as part of Bosse’s Independent Voters Organization and would oversee the other five appointees; Police Matron Anna Duffy, and Officers Mae Dusky, Katherine Kerney, Addie Maddox and Ella Skelton.

From the beginning, policewomen walking their beats—in tandem—were a sensation. Within a week of their appointment, the newspaper would declare, “Evansville is becoming clean”.

“Where the street walkers walked, the policewomen now walk. As a result, the street walkers have given over their territory to the policewomen. Where else they have gone, we do (not) know, but as soon as we become aware of their newly chosen tramping grounds, it will become ours also until they are cleaned entirely from Evansville.” Sergeant Cora Foley, *The Evansville Courier*; January 8, 1922.

But when Benjamin Bosse died suddenly in April, just four months into his third term, the new mayor, City Controller William Elmendorf immediately set to examine the workings of each city department citing need for efficiency. There had been complaints regarding the policewomen and the unseemly aspect of women arresting men, *especially* if the men were intoxicated. By the

end of 1922, with the exception of Maddox and Kerney, all of the women were slated to go. The reason given was that they were not “adaptable for all classes of work” that fell to the lot of the average officer. The two remaining policewomen were reassigned to work under the Board of Health as Sanitation Officers.

Kerney would resign her appointment in 1926, and rejoin in 1930 as Sanitary Officer with the Health Department. Maddox remained in that capacity until Mayor William Dress forced resignations from both women in January, 1935.

Addie Maddox filed suit against the City of Evansville asserting her discharge from the department was illegal as no charges were filed against her before the Safety Board. Though she would wait over four years for validation, in February of 1940, the Indiana State Supreme Court affirmed an earlier Vanderburgh County Probate Court’s ruling awarding back pay for illegal discharge. Maddox was reinstated to her position at the department and would stay on until December 1958 when forced to retire under the new state merit law. Officer Maddox was 74-years-old with 37 years of service.

Katherine Kerney would resume her career with the police department when named as a Police Matron in November of 1942. Though no date can be verified, it is believed she continued in that position for at least ten years before leaving public service.

Age of The Machine

In January of 1914, Mrs. Emma Lauderdale issued a plea to Evansville’s police imploring them to enforce motorbike laws which prohibited “tank riding” and “crossbar passengers”. Lauderdale was seeking assistance in controlling her 16-year-old daughter, Mary, who refused to stay home, enticed by older men with “autocycles” who were leading the girl astray.

“When the motorcycle ordinance was passed I thought perhaps the double-riding and the ruining of young girls would stop but so far as I see no attempt has been made to enforce the ordinance.” *The Evansville Journal*; January 2, 1914.

Along with an increase of motorcycles on city streets, Henry Ford had dropped the price of the Model T to \$490—about one-fourth of what they cost during the previous decade—making them affordable to the average consumer. The new “machines”, as they were called, would forever alter the city landscape as well as create another area of enforcement for the police.

When Benjamin Bosse stepped into the mayor’s office, he brought with him big plans for the town. Among those projects was building a serviceable police department headquarters and finalizing development on a new coliseum which had topped the city’s wish list for years.

Bosse also recognized the need for a police traffic bureau and—in his address to the city upon taking office—he outlined plans for the same. Following a trend the mayor had observed in other metropolitan cities, traffic officers would wear special uniforms and be placed at the most active intersections downtown.

Motorcycle officers were also pressed into service that year. “Joyriders” had become a genuine menace on city streets while protests about them escalated. Specifically targeted was Riverside Avenue where citizens complained of traffic ordinances being defied by the automobile and motorcycle joyriders. One Evansville newspaper reported:

“Machines filled with shrieking men and women tear up and down Riverside Avenue at terrific paces between 11:30 and 2:30 o’clock at night without any interference from the

police. Screams of sirens, loud shouts of laughter and whoops of gleeful joy rent the atmosphere until sleep is rendered impossible.” *The Evansville Journal*; June 21, 1914.

Prescott C. Ritchie, age 30, would have the dubious honor of being the first person arrested for speeding when he was clocked by Motorcops Barlett and Scales going between 50 and 60 miles an hour on Main Street. Speed was determined by use of an officer’s stopwatch.

Laws *requiring* a driver’s license and testing to receive that license would not be enacted until 1929. Drivers learned to operate motorcars through trial and error and with little knowledge of road rules or mechanics. Crashes involving horses, wagons, pedestrians, trees and ditches were common; hit and run accidents were epidemic. And for the “joyrider” who wanted the use of a car for only few hours—or until it was wrecked—the sophisticated skills of a thief were not required.

In 1912, while Mayor Heilman was still in office, the Board of Public Safety had approved purchase of an automobile to be used as police patrol wagon to replace the horse-drawn wagon which ferried prisoners from their arrest point to the station house. However, due to budget constraints, the vehicle’s purchase was postponed. After soliciting bids, finally, in 1915 the custom-finished 1915 Cadillac, with seating capacity for fifteen, made its debut on city streets in April.

The Evansville Courier Newspaper waxed poetic regarding the department’s acquisition;

“Class, distinction and greater efficiency is added to Evansville’s police department by the new motor-driven patrol which was placed on the streets today for the first time.

Resplendent with paint, ornamented with gilt letters and smelling freshly of the carriage maker’s shop, the new patrol rolled smoothly and almost silently along the streets.” *The Evansville Courier*; April 17, 1915.

This first motorized police patrol—dubbed “Black Annie”—would serve the police department for 11 years. It died while on a run in March of 1927 and was eulogized in the newspaper before being replaced with a “resplendent maroon combination patrol and ambulance machine”.

Finally, in January, 1921, Chief of Police Ira Wiltshire announced the acquisition of four Ford automobiles which were to be used to patrol the outskirts of the expanding city.

The vehicles went into service on February 1st, and by April the move was touted a success by members of the department and the Safety Board. Wiltshire contended that patrolling by automobile meant that officers could “turn up in any part of their district at any time.” And, as at least one car checked in at the station every fifteen minutes, it was believed the system was favorable to the prevention of crime as well as apprehending the criminals.

But in January of 1922, less than a year after their much heralded debut, the vehicles were temporarily sidelined. “Patrolmen lose the direct touch of their beats when they patrol them in Fords,” said Wiltshire. But a frustrated Chief of Police would announce, in June, that he was putting his thumb down on speeders, that the men were doing their best to stop accidents caused by reckless drivers. By July, six automobiles were in use, “always available to rush men to scenes of trouble”.

The traffic bureau was separated from the patrol force at the beginning of 1922, becoming a distinct unit. Sergeant William Perrett, an eight-year veteran of the department, was assigned to head the bureau. Sergeant Perrett had seven years of traffic experience as a motorcycle officer.

In heavily traveled downtown Evansville, the flow of traffic was controlled by officers in the center of an intersection using a semaphore to designate *Stop* and *Go*. Eventually, the manually operated semaphore would be replaced with illuminated red and green lights that functioned automatically. Not only was this a safety measure for the patrolman—more than one man had experienced a near-miss—but freedom of movement allowed them to check that cars were properly parked and address needs of the pedestrians.

Switching gears in order to adjust to the influence and effect of the new “machines” was not an easy transition for the police force. But under the leadership of Ira Wiltshire, who refocused the department after the imprisonment of Schmitt and death of Mayor Bosse, the EPD was ready to, literally, roll.

The Roaring 20's

Though *white lightning* is the term most often associated with the clear, illegally distilled high-octane alcohol manufactured and sold during Prohibition; in the Evansville area it was referred to as *white mule* because of its ferocious kick.

Police and courts were kept busy trying to enforce dry laws, but the Red Light District—bordered roughly by Fulton, Eighth, Sycamore, and High (Riverside Drive) Streets—was alive and thriving despite on-going threats and promises to stamp it out. Though vice was quieter and gambling kept under wraps, the city still suffered its vice district. In 1925, this was concentrated primarily in the Third Ward. As the election loomed, Evansville's morals would once again take center stage.

Herbert Males, former Vanderburgh County Sheriff and member of the Board of Public Safety, was in the race for mayor against Democratic Candidate John K. Jennings, a prominent local businessman. Males' pledge to make Evansville a “cleaner city” appealed to voters, especially women. Males won the office in a landslide and named as Police Chief, Detective William Nolte—a 21-year veteran—to help execute promises made during the campaign.

By March of that year, Nolte would resign his position citing illness; an illness—*The Journal Newspaper* empathized—that was due to “worries attached to the office of chief of police”. Nolte had, in fact, suffered a nervous breakdown, falling victim in a fight-to-the-death battle between factions of the Republican Party.

The Old Guard G.O.P. had pushed for Harry Anderson—Deputy County Clerk and former police officer—to be selected chief. The New Guard, which had leanings toward the Ku Klux Klan, wanted Males to choose a chief who shared their political views; specifically a patrolman named Fred Walton.

Evansville was, by definition, the birthplace of the KKK in Indiana. In the early 1920s, the city was home to the most powerful *Klavern* in the state. It was no secret that Herbert Males' had both courted and enjoyed Klan support during the election. Though Fred Walton had been the Klan's first choice, Nolte was ultimately agreed on as a compromise.

Political observers marked the appointment of Harry Anderson as chief to be a sign that Klan influence on City Hall was waning. Others took the view that Anderson was selected to pacify party members considering a break with Republicans *because* of the Klan. Ultimately, it would fall to Anderson to prove his worth as a public servant rather than a politician.

By 1927 the department had increased to 132 members, including officers and civilian employees. The number of day-shift beats reached 34 and a mounted patrol consisting of two horses—Dick and Mary—was implemented to assist in directing downtown traffic. There were

yawning attempts to curb vice and enforce dry laws. Chief Anderson declared war on “mashers who accost women on the street”:

“It has become a habit with a number of young men of this city, apparently of the ‘drug store cowboy type’, to think they are free to talk to unescorted girls and women with whom they are not acquainted. I have instructed officers to see that this practice is stopped.”
Police Chief Harry Anderson, August 8, 1926.

But the relative passivity of Anderson’s tenure was shattered on Labor Day, 1927. After a fight with his wife, Wesley Cooksey—twice an inmate at the Southern Indiana Hospital for the Insane—barricaded himself in their home at 823 Williams Street (now Sycamore) declaring, “I’m going to kill somebody!”

Emergency Officers Ray Lankford and Everett Jones were first to respond. Jones knocked at the Cooksey door and, receiving no reply, flung it open to yell, “What’s the trouble here?” Cooksey’s response was a shotgun blast that tore into Jones’ knee; Lankford was struck in the face by a load of buckshot as he exited the patrol car.

After a four hour standoff, fifteen people—including six officers—had been shot. Thousands of onlookers rushed to the scene to witness the crisis. Of the nine civilians shot, one incurred serious injury in what was described as a “withering gun battle”.

“Five thousand thrill-seekers who saw the four-hour gun battle between Wesley Cooksey, 39-year-old desperado and 50 policemen yesterday afternoon and last night, were turned back by streams from a fire hose when they attempted to overrun police lines.” *The Evansville Courier*; September 6, 1927.

Three of the policemen were critically injured though all—even Lankford who lost an eye—would eventually return to service. Wesley Cooksey was mortally wounded after a fire set by police finally drove him from the house, guns blazing, ending the dramatic siege.

As a direct result of the street battle, Chief Anderson obtained the department’s first bullet proof vests. Constructed of overlapping steel plates and covered by a material designed to absorb the shock of a gunshot, the vest was constructed to turn back a .45-caliber steel jacketed bullet. Also introduced into the department’s arsenal for quelling riots and flushing out barricaded gunmen, was a shipment of 24 Darlchlorite Bombs—also known as tear gas, a weapon developed during World War I.

Chief Harry Anderson had proven himself to be a public servant. He was so effective that in the off-year election of 1928, Males would support Anderson’s bid for the Office of County Clerk. Behind the scenes, the police chief was not the compliant department head the mayor thought he had chosen. When Anderson won the clerk’s race and resigned his position with the police, Males was free to choose, for a third time, the man to head that department.

But *The Evansville Courier Newspaper*—which had never shied from exposing the city’s political underpinnings—ran this headline soon after the November election:

Gambling Crowd To Select Next Chief of Police
Anderson’s Successor Must Meet With Gambling Bosses’ O.K., Is Report

The last Chief of Police to serve the decade of the 1920's would be Detective Chief Edward Sutheimer. And as if to reprise the refrain that had inspired or condemned every police chief since the department's inception in 1863, Mayor Herbert Males made this pronouncement;

"I'll say that I am going to reorganize the police department. There are too many blind policemen walking beats in this city. A policeman should know what is going on in his beat and district. And according to the newspapers there is plenty going on around the city, that is bootlegging and gambling and a combination of the two in joints all over the town."

Introduction to Technology—The Radio

The city election of 1929 put Democrats back into the driver's seat. Frank Griese became Mayor in 1930 and appointed the popular Emmett Bell as Chief of Police replacing Sutheimer. Former Chief Ira Wiltshire made his way back to the department after a two year hiatus and was promptly appointed Chief of Detectives.

When Griese presented his inaugural message to the city, he specifically addressed challenges facing the local department, including on-going enforcement of liquor laws and problems created due to an increase of traffic within the city.

By 1931, the cutting edge technology for police in larger cities across the country was the radio patrol car. Nationwide, over 60 cities already had, or were constructing, police radio systems which operated from police headquarters to patrol cars. In March of that year, Chief Bell pointed out the need for such a system after a bank holdup on the city's north side. "If police cars had been equipped with radios," he said, "the car nearest that point could have started out immediately".

When the system was installed in June, only two detective cars and the chief's car were equipped with radio sets. A radio microphone was installed in Chief Bell's office which served as the dispatch center. Arrangements had been made with the radio station—WGBF—allowing the chief permission to interrupt any local radio program at any time to issue instructions to police in the outfitted cars.

Though few automobile models offered the luxury of an in-car radio (price of the average car was \$600, an installed radio would add an additional \$150 to the cost), the number of radios in homes increased. To the great interest of the public, when police suspended a radio program to issue an alert, those listening at home were privy to the information as well.

The car radio system would eventually affect the very structure of the department. The city had applied for a government loan to pay for an updated radio system that would operate on its own frequency. Contingent on approval of that loan, the city committed to purchase at least eight "speedy automobiles" to be used as cruisers. Emergency Officers stationed at Hose House No. 8 would no longer be necessary—or the sergeants who supervised them. Patrolmen—those with walking beats—would be increased in the downtown and areas with a higher incidence of crime.

Finally, in October of 1934, the City Council would approve a \$15,000 appropriation for installation of the police radio system. Vacant rooms on the second floor of the police department were to be converted into a broadcasting station, and a shortwave permit secured from the federal radio commission. It was also decided that several members of the police department could be trained to pass an examination allowing them to secure a radio operators license.

Though the radio system would not be fully operational until 1935 after a change of administrations, credit should be given to Mayor Frank Griese for his vision and perseverance in giving the force its first taste of technology.

On Tuesday, January 8, 1935, at 8:48 a.m., Evansville Police Department Chief Radio Operator Roy McConnell made the first official call:

“Calling car Number 13...calling car Number 13...Go to 1219 North Third Avenue...complaint about children...Repeat...”

Twenty Natural Teeth

In 1930, Evansville’s population bloomed to over 102,000 which placed it 88th on the list of largest cities in the United States. As the town moved forward into the modern age, so did the police department.

One of the first orders of business by the Board of Safety in early 1931 was to authorize a police school for those already serving—and hoping to serve—as members of the department. Established officers would be required to attend lectures by attorneys, judges, and teachers, in order to better acquaint themselves with laws and ordinances. Those seeking appointment would also participate in a course of study.

Alvin Strickler, Ph.D., a Chemistry professor at Evansville College who was interested in social service work, offered to volunteer his time to assist in the school’s development and oversight. Along with other national trends that evolved as the profession took shape, there was a need to develop a method of preparing officers for careers in law enforcement.

“This training shall be established in an honest effort to raise the standards of the member of the force, by giving actual training in police methods and instilling in the minds of the members the principles of good citizenship and moral stamina. Emphasis shall be placed on policing as a profession and an effort made to create in the officer a desire to advance in his profession through observation and study.”
Evansville Board of Public Safety; March, 1931.

When the first class took their seats at the city building on October 19th, fifteen officers of various ranks and assignments were in attendance. Instruction was provided by veteran officers and addressed specific concerns faced by different areas of the department;

- problems of the patrolman,
- problems of the traffic officer,
- records and reports,
- firearms and target practice,
- first aid and rescue,
- history and geography of the city.

In addition to the continuing education of officers already in service, the school was set to serve as the training ground for those hoping to be hired. Prospective candidates of the force would be given an intelligence exam and physical test before appointment to the ranks. At the end of the six to eight week school term, after passing the test, the candidate would be made a patrolman. The Safety Board determined that all policemen added to the force should meet these requirements:

- To be not over 30 years old nor under 21.

- Be at least five feet and nine inches tall.
- Weigh not less than 150 pounds.
- Be well proportioned.
- Have at least 20 natural teeth.
- Able to read and write.

The print media—ever eager to take a swipe at the police whenever an occasion presented itself—published this report on the new school, March 13, 1931. *The Evansville Press* offered this observation;

“By adding a clause requiring the men to be ‘well proportioned’, the board struck a death blow to the rotund type of police officers that have been regarded as more or less standardized for a great many years.”

The Great Flood of 1937

Among stories headlining *The Evansville Press*, January 7, 1937 issue was a pictorial account of the wedding of Princess Julianna of the Netherlands at The Hague. Tucked into a corner on the same page was the local weather report which forecast rain or snow for the evening, with a minimum temperature below freezing. Evansville had experienced its mildest morning of the week; 56 degrees and the previous days rain totaled .43 inches. Another paragraph in the weather report read;

“The Ohio River may reach flood stage by the week-end, with a continued moderate rise predicted. The river stood at 32.1 feet at 7 a.m. Thursday, a rise of 2.1 feet in 24 hours. Flood stage is 35 feet.”

Even when the Ohio River reached a crest of 41.3 feet on January 17th after heavy rains, and though the river lapped at businesses on Evansville’s waterfront, the danger was perceived to be “slight” that peril due to flooding lay ahead.

A week later families were being evacuated from downtown as buildings were effected—particularly older structures with basements—and all sections of the city were touched directly by the rising water or cut off because of the flood. Motorist sightseers were cautioned to keep away as high water rose and pushed its way farther east into the city.

Louis Geupel, City Engineer, charged with building barricades to warn motorists against unpassable streets, could not keep up with the demand. Geupel advised, “Stay at home if you are dry and comfortable and don’t go out and get in trouble.”

City police worked 24-hour shifts patrolling the stricken areas assisting with traffic details, evacuations, and guarding against looters. In addition to the water, freezing temperatures created yet another barrier when canals of river water turned to ice.

But before the Ohio River ended its rampage cresting at 53.7 feet on January 30th, Indiana Governor Clifford Townsend declared Vanderburgh County, along with 25 other southern Indiana counties, to be placed under martial law. Colonel Louis Roberts, commanding officer of the 139th Field Artillery National Guard stationed in Evansville, stepped in with 150 troops to maintain the peace.

By February, the primary crisis had passed; waters began to recede and Evansville began to assess the overwhelming damage to its people, property, businesses, and city structure.

After twelve days acting as relief workers, members of the Evansville Police Department returned to headquarters. By all accounts, all officers—from the chief to patrol—had worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of those placed in harm’s way by the siege.

It was reported that when Mayor Dress walked into the traffic office of the police station on February 3rd, he addressed Captain Bill Nordhaus, Sergeant James Crawford and Chief Ira Wiltshire.

“As soon as we can spare you fellows,” he (the Mayor) said, “we’re going to have to can you—temporarily, so you can get some sleep. You’ve been working like hell!”

The 1940’s and World War II

When Benjamin Bosse lost Edgar Schmitt to Federal Penitentiary in 1920, the mayor looked to Ira Wiltshire to step in as Chief of Police. Ten years later, when Mayor Frank Griese demoted Emmett Bell from Chief to the rank of Detective, he also chose Wiltshire to fill that role. Wiltshire was still commanding that position in July of 1940 when he died of a heart attack at the age of 67.

Wiltshire was first appointed to the department in 1900 and would serve the city as Chief of Police during two of the department’s most stressful transitions. Though described as being “ostensibly brusque” and the personification of a “tough chief”, Wiltshire had twice brought harmony to a force divided by loyalty, politics, and demoralized by its leadership.

His administrations were unique in their absence of scandal; he was respected by a department that both feared and admired him. Upon his death, Ira Wiltshire was described as “first and above all, a police officer.” It was said that he would never ask any officer to go where he would not go himself—and his peers offered stories to back that claim. William Hyland, who had been serving as Assistant Chief, was named as Wiltshire’s successor. Hyland would suffer a fatal stroke in September of the following year.

*

Inspector Norman Hooe was named Chief of Police in October of 1941. Hooe (pronounced *Hoe*) was a 15-year officer who had come up through the ranks because of hard work and knowledge of law enforcement. He was also a bit of a rarity in that he had no distinguishable political connections. One of his first acts as chief was to warn against the dice and card games purported to be operating in the downtown district as well as issuing a taboo on the newly available “punchboards” where money was awarded as prize.

But after December 7th and the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hooe’s focus turned to defense and protecting industrial plants, the airport, and utilities. Working with Civil Defense, the outline of a wartime plan had been hammered out the spring before and the department wasted little time implementing steps. Hooe established a system of civilian auxiliary defense protection districts for Evansville to assist public safety organizations

Twenty-one petitions for Special Police were approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety; five were for airport security, the remainder for industrial police in local plants.

Police were also to report anti-American statements and activities. One detective recorded his interview with a man whose Americanism was being questioned. Apprehended in a tavern, the man had been speaking out against the president, Congress, and the government. The detainee’s defense was that he was drunk. Before releasing the man, the officer gave him a lecture on patriotism.

“Yes, just drunk enough to prove to everyone who could hear you what a dirty, nasty, unpatriotic kind of citizen you are. You would have been beaten to within an inch of your life by the people in that tavern if the officer hadn’t brought you to headquarters.”

But not everyone was feeling patriotic. As a result of rationing, almost every item associated with vehicles was subject to theft. Gasoline and auto parts were in short supply, and stealing tires was rampant. Police gave tips on how to prevent theft, cautioning car owners not to park on the street overnight. In some cases, cars would be jacked up and all the wheels removed. For some, the cost of operating an automobile during the war was impractical. Or cars had been ravaged by theft and abandoned on the street. Chief Hooe issued a warning that those “jalopies” were to be removed or they would be towed referring to the cars as “war victims”.

Because of the declared national emergency, cars were unavailable for purchase by the general public. However, agencies of public safety and individuals whose transportation needs were tied to the war effort were allowed to buy them on a limited basis. In 1942, the Evansville Police Department obtained four vehicles contingent on the trade of four older units. The department utilized its fleet of motorcycles both for patrol and traffic enforcement.

In an ironic turn of events, it would take the United States Army to dismantle Evansville’s beleaguered Red Light District—for so long a bone of contention between mayors, police, and the more genteel residents of the city. As the construction of Kentucky’s Camp Breckinridge neared completion, General Daniel Van Voorhis, Commanding Officer of the Fifth Army Corp, communicated to Mayor William Dress that the area should close.

Even before Pearl Harbor, a representative from the National Office of Defense Health and Welfare had visited the city to inform Dress that the area would have to shut down. Now that war was a fact and soldiers would be frequenting Evansville when on leave, the request had become a command. In his letter to the mayor, General Van Voorhis wrote:

“Experience has shown that whenever houses of prostitution and clandestine prostitution are tolerated, our venereal disease rate is high. I request that you take necessary steps to close all houses of prostitution and to take such steps as necessary to repress clandestine prostitution”.

The General furthered his argument by reminding the administration that two ordnance plants and one naval plant were being constructed in Evansville with employment projected at about 50,000 men and women. With so much at stake, it was essential there be as little lost time among workers as possible.

The opening of Breckinridge presented police with another facet of law enforcement. The population of the camp at any given time would be 30,000 soldiers in training. At least one-third of the camp would be scheduled for leave at the same time—sometimes more.

A detachment of six Military Police and one Sergeant from Camp Breckinridge arrived in Evansville in October 1942 to take up permanent residence at the police department where they were quartered. The MPs would operate under the direction of local police and address problems relating to soldiers.

After the election of 1942, Republicans and Democrats would again switch places. Mason Reichert, a real estate developer and contractor, ousted William Dress from the mayor’s seat, and appointed Harry Freer, described as a “Tough Irish Copper—short on diplomacy, long on action”, as chief. Norman Hooe returned to the ranks as a Detective Sergeant.

Bingo was illegal in 1945, but in June the mayor's "hermetic seal" on gambling loosened a bit to allow charitable and patriotic organizations to conduct games though political clubs were still forbidden. An organization known as the "Young Men's Democratic Club" announced a bingo fundraiser scheduled for downtown on the 11th, publically challenging the mayor's edict. Reichert remained firm; "I will stop the game if I have to go down there myself," he said, "And take the whole police force with me!"

The game was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., but by early afternoon, people began to gather in the area of First and Main in anticipation of a showdown. Ed Klingler of *The Evansville Press* reported;

"As early as 1 p.m. yesterday, cars were parked near First and Main Streets with the intention they later should become reserved seats to the most bizarre free show in Evansville in many years."

And so it would be; by evening over 10,000 people—toddlers to adults—would surge into the area. Traffic stalled as vehicles were trapped by crowds in the streets, all pushing toward the Union Club where the game was to be staged. At the end of the day, two police cars were vandalized, eight game operators were arrested and game paraphernalia confiscated. Less than a week later, Harry Freer would resign as Chief of Police—at the request of the mayor—and Wayne Berry named as replacement.

The department had a complement of 173 personnel in 1945; the traffic bureau had grown to 36 officers, two automobiles, and sixteen motorcycles.

Members of the department who served in the armed forces during World War II were:

ARMY: Lester Brown, Ralph Davidson, William Door, Wayne Heironimus, Frank Long,
Paul Prather

NAVY: Russell Cox, Floyd LaMar, Harry Payne, John Reutter

COAST GUARD: Jack Pride, Ted Wardrip, Herschel Wire

The Devil's Brigade – Sergeant Paul Prather

Among the 22 names of new police recruits scheduled to begin training on July 1, 1941, was that of Paul Prather. Upon completion of the six-month police school, Prather and seven others were made "special" officers assigned to guard Waterworks property. In May of 1942, Prather was appointed a first year patrolman and just a week later was granted indefinite leave from the department to begin his military service.

Early in 1942, leaders of Allied troops formed the idea of putting together a small, elite military force capable of fighting behind enemy lines in winter. The idea was for a commando unit to be secreted into occupied Norway and work strategically to sabotage enemy industrial and other key sites. The unit had to be assembled and quickly trained.

The First Special Service Force was activated in July of 1942 as a joint Canadian-U.S. force of three small regiments and a service battalion. Army Corporal Paul Prather was selected for the unit and trained at Ft. William Henry Harrison in Helena, Montana. The "SSF1" would travel to Alaska and Africa before fighting Nazis in the mountains of Italy and along the French Riviera. This unit became the model for future special forces—including the Green Berets and Navy SEALs—trained to endure extreme conditions and fight using unconventional methods.

The SSF1 Unit was dubbed “The Devil’s Brigade” by Germans during the battle of Anzio in Italy because of an ability to undermine the enemy through stealth and psychological intimidation.

Prather’s army enlistment ended on November 9, 1945. Within a month he was reappointed to the police force and in 1949 promoted to sergeant. In November of 1965, he earned the rank of Lieutenant assigned to the Detective Division. Paul Prather died while still in that assignment at the age of 53, after 27 years of service.

In July of 2013, The First Special Service Force was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award to be granted by the United States Congress. It is awarded to persons "who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement."

School Safety and Safety Patrol

The concept of a school safety patrol originated with George Albrecht, a reporter for *The Evansville Press*, in 1918. In the fall of that year, the first School Boy Safety Patrol in the United States went on duty at Fulton School. Though attempts were made to organize patrols city-wide, school principals strongly opposed the idea and the endeavor folded. In 1926, Albrecht joined the Automobile Club, one of the city’s most active civic organizations and the idea was reprised.

In February 1930, an organizational meeting of the School Safety Patrol took place in the offices of The Auto Club of Evansville—as it was known then—with Mayor Frank Griese presiding. Mayor Griese, who was instrumental in securing a modern radio system for patrol cars, was Chairman of the organization’s Safety Committee and keenly aware of the danger created by an increase in vehicles on the road and children walking to school.

The Auto Club was largely in control of the program though a representative from the police department served in an advisory capacity. At its first meeting, 175 boys were in attendance. They were provided with badges, basic guidelines and the promise of a picnic at the end of the school year.

By 1943, the number of patrol boys—along with traffic—had increased. And after two children were injured in September, the Auto Club prevailed upon the Safety Board to add police patrol to assist with the growing problem, stating that the situation was beyond being solved by the use of patrol boys.

In February of 1948, the “reorganized” Citizens Traffic Safety Committee of the Southern Indiana Auto Club had its first meeting at the club’s headquarters. EPD Traffic Patrolman C.B. Hoover, who had been placed in charge of School Safety Patrols, announced changes to the program including updated uniforms and equipment.

Also that month, the police department proposed a city ordinance that would give the Safety Patrol official backing, granting them legal authority to direct traffic at school crossings. The ordinance would require motorists to obey orders and signals of patrol boys on duty.

Under Hoover’s direction, the school safety program evolved as new challenges were presented. In 1951, Sergeant Hoover would oversee the first training of patrol at Camp Carson. Hoover was also instrumental in the construction of a walkway overpass for students crossing Highway 41 to attend Glenwood Elementary School.

By the time *Lieutenant* Chuck Hoover left EPD in 1961, his legacy with the department—and the city—was established. Hoover had selflessly dedicated his last twelve years of service to the safety of the community. He is credited with building the School Safety

Patrol into one of the finest in the nation. In fact, in eight consecutive years before Hoover's retirement, the Evansville organization placed first in the National Safety Council's competition for cities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000.

Hoover's integrity, foresight, and dedication to the program are integral components to the School Safety Patrol's current success.

Mid-Century Modern

The second half of the 20th Century started on a high note for Evansville Police when they won first among Indiana cities in the National Safety Council's annual traffic safety contest. Serving a population of over 128,000 in 1950—a 31% increase over the previous decade—the department's manpower stood at 178 of which 159 were sworn officers.

While Paul Bonham had ushered in the decade as Chief of Police under Mayor Edwin F. Diekmann, the election of 1951 would see Detective Sergeant Kirby Stevens appointed to the job by newly elected Henry O. Roberts.

Less than a year into the new administration, EPD's standing with the National Safety Council had slipped to third place. The statistics were sobering. Chief Stevens reported to the Safety Board that an additional 50 policemen were needed to provide adequate patrol and enforcement. In the end, the board recommended 29 additional officers, ten of those assigned to traffic.

To add to the department's woes, the issue of a police merit system re-emerged in remarks following a grand jury investigation regarding pay-offs to the Police Vice Squad. Though the merit system concept had been bandied about at different junctures during the department's history, its momentum was interrupted by political mood swings.

One of the on-going occupations of local police was adjusting to the city's official stance on vice as administrations changed; the "lid" was on, it was off—the "lid" was loose or clamped tight. The post-war Red Light District had set up shop in its old haunt downtown and—again—police were ordered to diligently patrol and maintain order.

To underscore the need for such a merit system, in November of 1952, the grand jury would recommend adoption of the system. Their report read, in part:

"Promotion on the basis of merit as a policeman would appear preferable to simply political loyalty. There would perhaps be less opportunity for public suspicion of the activities of any police officer or officers if their appointment or promotion was removed from the realm of political spoils."

The "Mad Dog Killer", Leslie Irvin

One individual mentioned early in the argument for a merit system was Chief of Detectives Dan Hudson. It was pointed out in an *Evansville Courier* editorial that neither the safety board nor head of the Detective Bureau—Hudson—had been consulted when personnel were assigned to his unit, and that the best men for positions were not always placed in them.

Whether officers assigned as detectives were best for those jobs or not, events beginning on December 2, 1954, would test their abilities. The body of Mary Holland was discovered in the bathroom of a liquor store on Bellemeade Avenue, a business she helped operate with her father. When Mary's husband arrived at just past 11:00 p.m., he found her gravely injured, bleeding from a head wound. It was only after police were able to move her body that a single

bullet wound to the head was detected. The cash register, with the exception of a few coins, had been emptied.

Dan Hudson would head the investigation into Holland's death—an investigation which marked the beginning of one of the most notorious murder sprees in tri-state history. From the onset, there were no leads, no witnesses, and no clues except for fingerprints on a liquor bottle that would yield nothing.

Three weeks later, on December 23rd, 29-year-old Wesley Kerr, an Army veteran who had survived the Battle of the Bulge, was shot to death in the Standard Station at Fares and Franklin where he worked as an attendant. Police determined the murder had occurred sometime between 1:30 and 1:45 a.m. when the body was discovered by a customer. It appeared that Kerr had been robbed then forced to enter an office bathroom and kneel with his head on the commode. The married father of three was shot once through the base of the skull.

Again, there were no leads. But similarities existed between the two crimes and police worked every angle of the murders while businesses and family members posted rewards. By year's end, a frustrated Chief Stevens speculated that the Holland and Kerr killings might go into the "unsolved file".

The murder of a Posey County farm wife on March 21, 1955, grabbed the attention of local police; 47-year-old Wilhelmina Sailer had been shot through the head with a .38 caliber bullet. The apparent motive for the slaying was robbery though the victim's husband reported little money was kept in the home. A witness reported seeing a vehicle parked at the residence that afternoon as well a man on the Sailer's porch. An investigating sergeant with the Indiana State Police remarked;

"I can't see any similarity in the Kerr and Holland murders in Evansville and this death, except that a .38 caliber pistol was used and the victim was shot in the head."

Whether the work of one killer, two, or three; those living in Evansville and the surrounding area were afraid that a "maniacal killer" was at large, ready to strike again. In Evansville, Hudson and his team worked around the clock following the slimmest bits of information—including one false confession. The city was on edge.

The fear was not unfounded. On March 28th, three members of a rural Henderson, Kentucky family were brutally murdered and a fourth critically wounded. Goebel Duncan, his son Raymond, and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Duncan (wife of another son) had all died from gunshots to the head. Goebel's 49-year-old wife, Mamie, survived but would lose her sight and all memory of the attack.

The Duncan men were found in a swampy area three miles from their home by a passing motorist. When authorities drove to the home to notify Mrs. Duncan, they discovered the women along with Elizabeth Duncan's 2-year-old daughter, Shirley, sitting on the bed with her mother's body.

Unlike the other cases, the Kentucky slayings produced clues. Individuals driving the Duncan's road that day would provide investigators with the first leads in any of the murders. A description of a suspect vehicle was released. This elicited information from three Sturgis, Kentucky residents who had been involved in a minor accident near Henderson that morning. This aided police in fleshing out a profile of the driver and his car.

Everyone in the area was on alert and looking for the killer. Earlier that year, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Frank McDonald had organized the Junior Sheriff Patrol for 7th and

8th grade boys as a way to combat delinquency. Two days after the Duncan murders, kids riding in the Vienna Road area spotted a car that resembled the vehicle connected to the crime. Taking note of the license, the plate number made its way to police who traced it to Leslie Irvin, a 30-year-old parolee living in the 1200 block of John Street.

Six days after his arrest by Evansville Police, Irvin asked to see Chief of Detectives Hudson.

“He told me he wanted to set the record straight and wanted to give a true statement about the Holland, Kerr murders. He told me he was concerned about some of the ‘guess work’ he had been reading in the newspapers.” *The Evansville Courier*; April 15, 1955.

In long-hand, Hudson took down Irvin’s word-for-word account of the two Evansville slayings and the three in Kentucky. Irvin also provided a statement on the Sailer case to Lieutenant Willard Wallis of the Indiana State Police.

Bringing Leslie Irvin to justice would include a trial, a death sentence, an escape, a second arrest (after fleeing to San Francisco), a Supreme Court decision, and life in prison.

But it was Chief of Detectives Dan Hudson’s quiet handling of Irvin in those first days of his incarceration that earned him the trust of the “Mad Dog Killer”. Leslie Irvin confessed to each of the six murders. His disclosure brought a sense of security back to the community, as well as relief to families of the victims. Irvin died in prison at the age of 59 from lung cancer.

The Police Merit System

After years of discussion regarding the wisdom of placing the EPD under a police merit system for the hiring and promotion of officers, the state legislature passed a bill in March of 1957 making the merit statute law.

Though candidates from both parties had supported such a bill during the 1955 mayoral campaign, Mayor Vance Hartke, Chief of Police Charles Gash and the top commanders of the police department opposed the measure. Ronald Shively, a state representative from Evansville, pushed the bill through the legislature with support from The State Fraternal Order of Police. Jim Barney, an officer on the department, was a member of the FOP State Legislative Committee responsible for lobbying for passage of the statute. In retaliation for his vigorous efforts to get the merit law enacted, he was demoted from lieutenant to patrolman. Barney was able later, under the merit system, to regain his former rank.

The merit system established maximum and minimum age requirements, a 40-hour work week for officers and department reorganization.

With advent of the merit system, a unit was needed to act as liaison with the merit commission and conduct testing required under such a system for both hiring and promotion. The personnel unit was established in 1958 with Lieutenant Alvah Simms becoming its first commander. Eventually, personnel merged with training to become the Personnel and Training Unit. As functions of the unit grew, it was divided into the Personnel Unit and the Training Unit.

An editorial published in *The Evansville Courier* on April 22nd was reminiscent of an observation made by *The Evansville Journal* sixty-five years before when the Metropolitan Police Act was confirmed in 1893. The sentiment that being a member of the police force could be considered a “life situation”, a career, was further stated by *The Courier*:

“(This) will give members of the department a sense of security they could not possibly have as long as politics was a dominating factor. They will also be able to set up just, standard rules for hiring new patrolmen and thus make possible a long-run improvement in the quality of the force. This improvement could be accentuated by making police work in Evansville a more attractive career, thus gaining quality applicants in large numbers.”

“The Times They Are A-Changin’”

As if to underscore societal advancements made by minorities and women during the 1960s, in February of 1968 Juanita Gregory became the first woman on the department to achieve rank beyond that of patrolman. This was a second “first” for Sergeant Gregory; sixteen years prior she was the first African-American woman appointed to the department. Gregory’s promotion was earned under the five-year-old merit system.

Evansville would escape the most violent fallout of racial and political turbulence plaguing urban areas during the mid to late 60s. But at the height of that unrest—summer, 1968—tensions flared near downtown after police responded to a complaint of arrows being shot from a moving convertible at random targets.

The aftermath was two nights of civil unrest that resulted in looting, property damage to buildings, cars, a police cruiser, and minor injuries caused by tossed rocks and bricks. One policeman, Leonard Stilwell, was shot in the shoulder as he guarded a lumber yard that had been set on fire at Governor and Canal. A curfew was quickly imposed and a number of arrests made for curfew violation. Along with enforcement of the curfew, the sale of alcohol and guns had been suspended. With help from a powerful thunderstorm that moved through the area; tempers cooled and order was restored.

Assessing the damage, Police Chief Darwin Covert attributed the disturbance to “hooliganism” and promised to get to the root cause. “It was a shame this had to happen, most of the residents in the neighborhood hate this as much as I do and they don’t want trouble”.

When the new Civic Center Complex opened in late 1969, Covert resigned from the department to assume Chief of Security duties at the new building. Reflecting on his thirty-one year career, Covert looked to the future of law enforcement. He remarked that his most difficult period as chief was that of the 1968 riots. Covert predicted the biggest problem facing police departments would be the “social change sweeping the country.”

When James Lane was named chief by Mayor Frank McDonald, Sr., following Covert’s resignation, he continued the EPD’s tradition of keeping pace with new trends in law enforcement.

Lieutenant Charles Johnson, head of the police juvenile division, proposed development of a Police-School Liaison Program. Conceived as an educational program, five Evansville officers would be assigned to local schools working with staff, parents and students while offering information on safety, drug abuse, child molestation, citizenship and other police-related matters.

The program was also designed to help bridge the ever-widening gap between police and young people—part of the “social change” Chief Covert envisioned.

Also in 1970, the department developed the Police Cadet Program. The first purpose of the program was to encourage young adults to assume positions of responsibility and service to the community and to improve personally by advancing their education. Funds for the new venture came jointly from the city and through a federal grant. Three of the ten cadets would continue as members of the department; Rex Dendinger, Bob Diekhoff, and Don Stock. The cadet program ended in 1973 when the federal grant expired.

For the first time in department history, in 1971, EPD issued take-home vehicles to officers in the motor patrol division. The purpose was to increase visibility of a police presence in the community and improve response time to emergency calls. These vehicles went by the radio call number of “900” (i.e., 902, 905) and were called “900” cars. Officers who were assigned these vehicles—allowed for personal use—were required to make a specific number of off-duty runs each month and maintain a log.

In 1971, Chief Lane introduced changes in the department’s organizational structure that would eliminate an excessive number of officers in supervisory and command positions. The department would also begin to emphasize hiring civilians for positions not requiring sworn officers. The Fraternal Order of Police filed suit against implementation of Lane’s reorganization and the complaint was moved to Warrick County. The result of the chief’s proposal was a decline in morale among members of the department. But the problem would resolve itself when Lieutenant David Jackson stepped into the chief’s spot in 1972, appointed by Mayor Russell Lloyd.

In 1973, Jackson followed up on the restructuring of the department—initiated by his predecessor—with reductions in supervisory and command positions.

Contract and pay issues would consume much of Chief Jackson’s administration under Mayor Lloyd. During the late 1970s when federal funds began to disappear, the city cut back on expenditures; pay raises for public employees failed to keep up with double-digit inflation which further exacerbated the discontent.

In November 1977, officers began a work slowdown to protest the pay hike offered by the city for 1978. As part of their protest, those who had been assigned 900 Units as take-home cars parked the vehicles in front of the Civic Center with lights on and doors locked. The keys had their identifying numbers removed and were left with the day-shift motor patrol commander, Lieutenant Jack Danks. A city garage mechanic was called to unlock the cars. This incident marked the end of the 900 Unit Program.

Three days later, the city made a final pay increase offer which the FOP rejected. By the end of the year a “blue-flu” call-in was rumored and a contingency plan was set up to provide emergency coverage by ranking officers. A federal mediator was called in at the last minute and a strike averted. Officers continued to work without a contract and received a 7% wage hike.

But results of the work slowdown were showing; monthly traffic tickets had plummeted from a high of over 900 in June 1977 to less than 100 for February 1978. That September, the local FOP lodge joined the state lodge in a statewide ticket-writing slowdown dubbed the “Selective Traffic Enforcement Program” or “STEP.”

On December 13, 1977, contract talks and wage negotiations were pushed, briefly, into the background. Just before 7:30 p.m. a plane carrying 19 members of the University of Evansville basketball team and 15 others, crashed shortly after takeoff from Dress Regional Airport. All available EPD officers responded immediately. Along with state, county, and area police, fire, and

emergency personnel, officers worked through the night to recover and transport victims. The location of the crash site, along with the weather, made this a challenging assignment for all involved.

Two days after the tragedy, Chief David Jackson taped a letter onto one of the doors at police headquarters. The letter notified ten officers with the least department seniority of their impending layoff. One officer summed up his assessment of conflict with the city like this;

“It’s the same old story. When they need you, they trot you out of the closet, and when they don’t they put you back.”

Though the layoffs did not take place, friction continued into 1979 with off-duty officers doing “informational picketing” at shopping malls and in front of the Civic Center in a move to gain public support. The city did not increase the offer above 8% and the department went through another year without a contract.

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Russell Lloyd, who seemed to enjoy his relationship with the police department in spite of the constant battle over wage issues, did not seek a third term as mayor. Democrat Michael Vandever won the 1979 election and tapped Detective Corporal Ray Hamner to be his Chief of Police. The mayor’s impetus in choosing Hamner was concern over the morale of the department which had deteriorated during the previous eight years. It would not be long before Hamner’s leadership skills would be put to the test

On January 14th, 1980, Patrick Gilligan, his wife and two small children, were found murdered in their Aspen Drive home. Though the crime fell under jurisdiction of the state police and county sheriff, all local and state law enforcement agencies readily made resources available.

Key to identification of the suspect—and swift apprehension of the same—was EPD Patrolman Kent Burnworth. Donald Ray Wallace had moved to the top of the suspect list as evidence at the crime scene was consistent with the burglar’s *modus operandi*. Burnworth, a four-year patrolman, had investigated Wallace the previous month and created a list of Wallace’s friends, his criminal methodology, along with a description of the car he sometimes used. Less than 24 hours after the tragic discovery, Wallace had been located and placed under arrest.

Though the crime was quickly solved, the post-holiday quiet had been shattered. By the end of March 1980, eleven murders had been committed in the city, a twelfth added in June.

Among the victims of that deadly period was former Mayor Russell Lloyd, shot at his home on March 19th by Julie Van Orden, a woman with mental health problems as well as an on-going grievance against a city worker. Piecing together leads gathered at the scene from Lloyd’s wife and neighbors, within an hour after the shooting, police had identified, located, and arrested Van Orden and a murder weapon retrieved.

A few months later, in July, police responded to shots fired by a man with a sawed-off shotgun at Crescent Plastics on Diamond Avenue. This event would be the department’s first experience with the relatively new phenomenon of mass shootings in the workplace. VCSO Deputy Robert Beckham, first to arrive on the scene, was shot but managed to return fire. Almost immediately he was joined by EPD Patrolman David Gullidge and a second Vanderburgh County deputy who, along with Beckham, fired until the gunman was disabled. Daryl McReynolds, a former Crescent employee, would survive. Two men, a vice president of the firm and the plant foreman, were killed.

During Hamner's tenure as Chief of Police, from 1980 until 1990, the department was involved in the investigation of three brutal, high-profile crimes that would end with three death penalty convictions.

Donald Ray Wallace was sentenced to die for the Gilligan family murders in October 1982. Thomas Schiro, a 20-year-old resident of the Vanderburgh County Safe House was convicted in the brutal 1981 rape and murder of Laura Ann Luebbehusen and sentenced to death. On November 26, 1986, Keith Canaan was also sent to Indiana's death row for the December 1985 murder of Lori Bullock in her east side apartment.

In 1981 Officers John Haller and Chuck Wiley brought their vision of starting a K9 unit to Chief Ray Hamner. They were asked to research the idea and design a plan which would work for the Evansville Department. When Hamner finally signed off on the proposal, arrangements were made for the training of four K9 teams.

Approximately two weeks before the classes were set to begin, Officer Wiley was killed in an automobile accident. Though an extremely difficult time for the department and for John Haller personally, he refused to let his friend's tragic passing deter their vision. In 1982, Officers Tim Bishop, Mike Lewis, Ron Pike and Haller completed the four weeks of training and graduated from the course as Patrol Dog Teams.

Also in December of 1985 while officers were investigating the Bullock homicide, John Haller—by then a sergeant—was shot while attempting to apprehend the suspect in a liquor store robbery. Haller was able to radio for help and give information on the suspect.

Despondent over personal and financial problems, Earl Russelburg had failed an earlier suicide attempt in Henderson, Kentucky. He then drove across the bridge to Evansville where he instigated a brief crime spree hoping to commit "suicide by cop". After leaving the scene of his confrontation with Haller, Russelburg was located and his truck boxed in by pursuing officers. He made one last attempt to end his life by pulling a rifle on VCSO Deputy Tom Wedding and EPD Officer Bruce Pullom. Russelburg was shot, but survived.

Technology--The Second Level

It was not resistance to new ideas that prevented EPD from adding computers to the department before 1980; it was money—or lack thereof. In 1981, Inspector Jim Kleeman, head of the Records Division, would finally secure funding for the purchase of computers through a Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Grant.

In an article published by *The Evansville Courier* in June of 1981, Kleeman referenced the overwhelming paperwork required for maintaining reports—the "file cabinets after file cabinets", and time wasted going through papers in search of information. With a computer system, reports would be entered into a data bank that could be quickly retrieved for use in other investigations.

Sergeant Barry Hart, who assisted Kleeman in developing the system, proudly described the benefits of cutting-edge technology;

"By pushing a few keyboard buttons, investigators will obtain names of suspects fitting the description of someone who committed a crime. The process will eliminate unglamorous hours searching reports for suspects."

Fifty years after radio was introduced, the department was moving to another level of technology. The computer revolutionized law enforcement just as radios and call boxes did in an earlier era.

In 1987, the EPD took another major step in solidifying its position as a professional law enforcement agency. That April, Chief Hamner, and Majors Kleeman and Richard Tenbarge (the rank of *Inspector* had been changed to *Major*) would attend the national meeting of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Once again, as the profession evolved and adjusted to its role in an ever-changing society, the CALEA organization was created to assist departments in strengthening their accountability, “both with the agency and the community, through a continuum of standards that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities.”

The stamp of approval—accreditation—from the CALEA organization is considered tangible evidence that a department operates from a set of written guidelines *and* that those standards are uniformly applied within the community. Sergeant Barry Hart was the first officer appointed to oversee the lengthy CALEA accreditation process.

Another achievement was reached in 1989, when the Evansville Police Department’s Hazardous Devices Unit became an FBI accredited Bomb Squad. Ray Hamner was the department’s first certified Bomb Technician when he received his certification in 1972. At the time of accreditation Dennis Buickel, Guy Minnis, and John Zirkelbach were also certified technicians.

Ray Hamner left the department in 1990 upon being elected Vanderburgh County Sheriff. Mayor McDonald—with assistance from a professional assessment service—would choose Lieutenant Art Gann as his chief.

While the department had instituted the Police-Community Services Unit in 1986 and established satellite stations in the Goosetown, Star, Caldwell, and Erie neighborhoods, the implementation of “community policing” would expand under Gann’s watch.

The introduction of technology—automobile, telephone, radio, computer—had facilitated the efficiency of police work. But those same technologies created distance between officers and the neighborhoods they served. On a national scale, the community policing concept was also in response to cries of “police brutality” that—in the public arena—seemed to trump the danger officers faced in the field each day. This, too, was a product of the “social change” predicted by Chief Darwin Covert twenty years before.

Sacrifice and Loss

Just after 9:30 in the morning on February 7, 1992, a Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 cargo plane on maneuvers near the Evansville airport, crashed into the Drury Inn and adjoining Jojo’s Restaurant on Highway 41 at Lynch Road. All five members of the plane’s crew were killed in addition to 11 individuals who perished inside the hotel and restaurant.

First among police, fire department and emergency personnel to arrive at the disaster was Patrolman James “Duke” Gibson. Without benefit of a breathing apparatus, Gibson went inside the burning hotel to assist firefighters, was overcome by smoke and toxic gases and had to be carried out. A few days later during an interview from his hospital room, Gibson said, he wished he “could have done more”.

Gibson died at home at the age of 40, just days after being released from the hospital where he had been treated for smoke inhalation. A recipient of a Bronze Merit Award for service following the U of E plane crash in 1977, Officer James Gibson was honored posthumously by the presentation of the Evansville Police Department Gold Medal Award to his widow, Glee.

During the early morning hours of August 8, 1998, Sergeant Dave Molinet and his K-9 partner, Derrek, were requested to track a subject wanted for kidnapping, attempted murder, robbery and carjacking. Working as a team since 1993, the two were credited with the apprehension of approximately 50 felony suspects and had just returned from the Regional Police Dog Trials in Ohio where Derrek placed first in overall standings.

The individual being sought that morning was 32-year-old Antwain Henley who—in addition to offenses committed that evening—also had an active warrant on a drug dealing charge. A number of officers had established a perimeter in the area where Henley fled after a brief vehicle pursuit by EPD. When the tracking team reached 632 Jackson, Derrek flew into the backyard passing Officer Shawn Smith who was stationed about ten feet behind a large work van. Derrek jumped through the van's open back door and lunged to his right. There were multiple gunshots from inside the truck and Molinet saw the muzzle flash from the suspect's gun—the last round being fired at Molinet.

The single .38 caliber bullet that pierced Derrek's heart was fatal. But there was no doubt that Derrek's vigilance and training had saved the life of his partner and that of Officer Smith.

Antwain Henley was arrested, convicted and sentenced to forty years for Class A felony attempted murder, forty years for each count of Class A felony kidnapping, fifteen years for each count of Class B felony robbery, and fifteen years for Class B felony carjacking. The trial court imposed the maximum term of three years for Class D felony criminal mischief which, at the time, was the only charge that covered Derrek's death.

On August 11th, Derrek's funeral was conducted with full police honors at the Evansville Canine Unit Training Grounds. Derrek was honored, posthumously, with the Gold Merit Award which is the highest decoration presented by the Evansville Police Department.

Dark Days and the “Impossible Dream”

One of the most unsettling cases in department history would also fall during Chief Art Gann's administration. On the morning of August 3, 1992, what would begin with the report of a house fire on the city's east side would end with a charge of murder against Officer Patrick Bradford, a six-year patrolman.

While Bradford was certainly not the first member of the force to be suspected of crime, with the exception of Wilbur Sherwell in 1902, none had been homicides. Bradford, who was married, was accused of killing his girlfriend and setting fire to her house to destroy evidence.

Detective Guy Minnis, who headed the investigation, had been one of Bradford's training officers when he joined the department. For ten months, Minnis would work exclusively and diligently to bring the case to a jury. After a three week trial, Bradford was found guilty of murder and arson. He was sentenced to 60 years for the homicide, 20 years for arson with the sentences to run concurrently. Chief Gann called the verdict a “bittersweet victory”.

In keeping with trends in technology, 1994 the department began installing compact computers called MDT's (mobile data terminals) in police vehicles. These units enabled officers to access records and wanted information on persons and to check stolen property directly from their vehicles.

Also, in 1994, the department would finally achieve its accreditation by CALEA.

Then there came a day unlike any experienced not only by the department, but by the city—particularly those citizens living and working on the west side. Just before 4:00 a.m. on the morning of July 26, 1996, Donna Heseman had just left her car in the Bristol-Myers parking lot off the Ray Becker Parkway when she was confronted by a man wielding a shotgun. The man and

Mrs. Heseman returned to her vehicle and she was forced to drive from the lot. Upon reaching the Ohio Street guard station, it appeared she attempted to swerve into the drive in an effort to escape or to draw attention. Mrs. Heseman was shot in the back of the head. The 16-year-old gunman jumped from her car and into a vehicle that pulled up immediately after the shooting. The driver of that car was the shooter's 17-year-old accomplice.

What followed was a massive manhunt that would pull resources from the city, county and state police across the west side and into the Ohio River bottomlands of Union Township. By the time the two suspects were apprehended, they had stolen at least five vehicles, held a family at gunpoint, confronted another family, and slammed head-on into a Vanderburgh County Sheriff's car injuring two deputies. The crash ended the 12-hour ordeal and two juveniles—J.J. Henson and Jason Wentz of Paris, Illinois—were taken into custody.

The shocking events of the day—compounded by the senseless nature of the crime—were numbing to both the public and law enforcement. Henson and Wentz were tried separately as adults and both found guilty. Henson, who had committed the actual murder, was sentenced to 100 years in prison, Wentz to 79 ½ years.

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Art Gann retired from the department on August 21, 1998. With still over a year remaining in his term, Mayor McDonald had the difficult task of naming a replacement. Nine officers applied for the position, so McDonald reverted back to candidate scores from the previous assessment conducted when Hamner retired. Art Gann had placed first on that list and Deputy Chief Marvin Guest second. This time, Guest would come out on top.

Guest, a 34-year veteran of the department, would also be the Evansville Police Department's first African-American chief. Though he was the only minority in the group to apply, McDonald stated that Guest was chosen for his patience and compassion, and his "willingness to say the police department is right when it is right and wrong when it is wrong".

It had been McDonald's father—Frank, Sr.—who hired Guest along with Detective Charles Patton in an effort to increase the number of minorities on the force. About his appointment to chief, Guest said, "This is my impossible dream".

And there was another "first" to compliment the chief's selection; Captain Patti Dee Wazny moved into the Deputy Chief's spot vacated by Guest. Wazny was the first woman in the department's history to serve in that position.

The Turn of Another Century

On the first day of the 21st Century, Evansville woke to the prospect of an unseasonably warm and cloudless day; a 65 degree high was in the forecast. Adding to the genial aspect of *this* New Year's Day, the ominous predictions of worldwide computer failure which were to have culminated in mayhem and destruction—the Y2K scare—had *not* been realized.

There were over 121,000 citizens inhabiting the city and 285 sworn officers on the Evansville Police Department to serve them.

Along with ushering in a new decade, there was a new mayor—one with a familiar name; Russell Lloyd, Jr., son of the late former mayor. To begin his administration, Lloyd would reappoint Marvin Guest as his Chief. The following year, in January, the position of Assistant Chief of Police was reinstated into the department's table of organization.

In the early years, there were few positions above the rank of "patrolman". From 1874 until 1883, a *lieutenant* was the equivalent of *assistant chief*, in that the lieutenant was second in command of the force.

When the detective bureau was established in 1892, the head of the bureau was “Chief of Detectives”, whose standing was second only to the chief. The assistant chief position was officially instituted on January 1, 1922. Captain Norman Broshears, a 15-year veteran of the department, was first to serve in that capacity.

The rank was eliminated and reinstated several times over the years, but the position had been vacant since the retirement of Assistant Chief Charles Gash in 1981. When Lloyd reinstated the position he chose Sergeant David Gulledge—the son, brother, and nephew of police officers—to serve in the assistant position. Eight months later, Mayor Lloyd replaced Guest and David Gulledge became chief.

Upon assuming his new role, Chief Gulledge advertised for his replacement as assistant chief. Sergeant Kent Burnworth who—twenty years earlier—had provided key information leading to the apprehension of Donald Ray Wallace, was chosen.

On April 1st a motorcycle unit was created as part of the special operations section of the patrol division. It had been 34 years since the department eliminated motorcycles and 94 years since the department first used motorcycles.

The bicycle unit, which had been phased out during the 1920’s, would also be revived. Two officers were sent to New Albany, Indiana to become trainers for other members of the unit and four school liaison officers were also assigned for the summer. Unlike the original bicycle unit established by King Cobbs which operated from fire department hose houses, the 2003 bicycle officers actually patrolled. Officers Jason Cullum and Jack Spencer remained in the unit after liaison officers returned to their regular assignments at the end of summer.

In 2004, Brad Hill became the department’s 41st Chief of Police having been appointed by Jonathan Weinzapfel, elected mayor the previous fall. Hill, who had been the captain assigned to the patrol division, would be joined in the front office a few months later by Sergeant Rob Hahn, appointed Assistant Chief.

EPD officers would soon have another experience to test their training and professionalism. On June 17, 2004, an inmate of the Vanderburgh County Jail—then located on the 2nd and 3rd floors just above police headquarters—started a fire in his cell requiring all inmates to be evacuated. Though a potentially serious situation, with the cooperation of the EPD, VCSO, and EFD, approximately 360 inmates were successfully moved and ready to be relocated in less than seven minutes.

In November of the following year, the department would again be called on to work in crisis and chaos with a multitude of agencies. In the early morning hours of November 6th, an F3 tornado tore its way through the southeast corner of Vanderburgh County killing 18 people in the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park just outside city limits. Many first responders to the scene of this devastation were both on-duty and off-duty Evansville Police Officers. There was a multi-agency response with the rescue phase as well as the aftermath. EPD Officers were instrumental in the rescue operation, as well as the ongoing security of the disaster scene.

Also during 2005, The Southwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy—SWILEA—was inaugurated after passage of a state statute allowed its formation. The Evansville Police Department joined with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff’s Office in an effort to formulate the curriculum under the guidelines established by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. The first academy was conducted in the classroom of the EPD, with instructors predominately from the EPD and VCSO, along with volunteers from the community. Since then SWILEA has continued to grow and evolve. At present, the academy is under the total control of the EPD with a new home at the C.K. Newsome Center.

Mental health took the spotlight on two fronts during Hill's administration. For the community, The Crisis Intervention Team was created to provide a compassionate response to individuals dealing with mental illness. Officers trained with healthcare professionals to more effectively deal with the segment of our community that have mental health issues.

The Peer Support Team was created to support officers involved in critical incidents—especially officer involved shootings. An outgrowth of the Peer Support Team was the Family Support Team, which was composed predominantly of the wives of officers previously involved in critical incident situations.

Mental health and police investigations would find still another venue during this administration. Years before, when Detective Floyd Darke was assigned to Juvenile Investigations, he had pushed for the department to create a unit specifically focused on Sensitive Incident crimes. In 1998, Darke's proposal was realized and the Sex Crimes Unit became part of the department's table of organization. Though there had long been a goal of acquiring a separate space away from police headquarters to interview victims in a more private environment, it would be Detective Brian Turpin who picked up the task after Darke retired and worked tirelessly to bring that dream to reality. Eventually Turpin secured the partnership of Holly Dunn Pendleton (the lone survivor of Angel Maturino Reséndiz, a.k.a, "The Railroad Killer"). By their efforts, the vacant North Park Library was donated for the location of the new Advocacy Center—christened *Holly's House*—which now provides a safe location that encourages victims to disclose their stories and move forward.

With a history of keeping up with trends in law enforcement, when Assistant Chief Hahn returned from an International Chiefs of Police conference, he brought with him the idea of establishing a non-profit police department foundation. As departments across the country began to struggle with budget cuts, foundations were being created to help bridge the funding gap for purchase of needed equipment and to fund training. Hahn solicited assistance from a broad range of business and community leaders. With their guidance and expertise, the foundation—with its Board of Directors and Board of Governors—was established. The EPDF was officially launched in June 2006. In addition to equipment and training, the foundation provides emergency financial assistance for employees of the department and funds college scholarships awarded annually to the children/grandchildren of EPD both sworn and civilian.

The 150th Year

In 2011, Jonathan Weinzapfel decided not to seek a third term as mayor; so in keeping with a recent Republican tradition, another "Lloyd" would appear on the fall election's ballot. However, this time around, Lloyd was not a surname, but a *given*. On January 1, 2012, Lloyd Winnecke was sworn in as Mayor and would appoint Sergeant Billy Bolin as the 42nd Evansville Police Department Chief of Police. Before being elected Mayor, Winnecke was employed as Fifth Third Bank's Senior Vice President and Marketing Director and he wanted a police chief who would be heavily involved in the community. Winnecke had met Bolin years before when Bolin was raising money for Kids Kingdom, a downtown riverfront playground financed through private funds. Bolin—along with Sergeant Paul Kirby and Officer Pat Phernetton—was also a co-founder of *911 Gives Hope*, a charitable organization involving firefighters, police and paramedics, which had evolved from the *Guns & Hoses Charity Boxing Event* pitting law enforcement against firefighters.

Billy Bolin would enlist fellow Sergeant, Chris Pugh, to fill the position of Assistant Chief. Because of previous assignments working undercover in narcotics and serving as

Commander of the SWAT Team, Pugh was highly respected throughout the department and considered to be a “Cop’s Cop”. Believing his and Pugh’s distinct styles were complementary, Bolin would round out his team by recruiting Captain Andy Chandler to fill the newly created Chief of Staff position. The administration also abandoned the strict chain-of-command structure in favor of the more modern business model; one where even the lowest level employee can take their ideas straight to the top.

The seed for another department innovation had been planted with Bolin and Pugh just a month before being sworn in to their new assignments. In December of 2011, responding to a run on Vann Avenue, Officer Matt Hastings was fired upon by a subject with a high powered rifle. Hastings took cover and returned fire before the subject—who had already killed a woman in the house—retreated inside the home; the SWAT Team arrived and a standoff ensued. Bolin responded to the scene as a Motor Patrol Sergeant, Pugh became involved through his role as SWAT Commander. At that time, the SWAT vehicle was a retro-fitted Brink’s Truck which could not be pulled directly in front of the shooter’s residence as it was not equipped to withstand fire from a high powered rifle. Because of that incident, both sergeants decided that their number one priority for the department would be to secure the agency’s first authentic SWAT vehicle—one which could endure practically any level of attack. In 2013, that pledge was realized with the purchase of a Lenco Bearcat, judged to be the top SWAT vehicle on the market.

The former SWAT truck—the retro-fitted Brinks—was reborn as a neighborhood surveillance vehicle dubbed “The Guardian”. The big truck was far from being covert—decked out in a bright blue wrap that read, *Evansville Police Department Neighborhood Surveillance Vehicle* on the sides. The vehicle was armed with four internet protocol cameras that could be accessed via the internet. The Guardian’s goal was not to document crime, but to prevent it. The venture was such a success that a second Guardian debuted in 2013, with the goal of adding a third in the future.

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Nicholas Hermann approached Chief Bolin early in his term to suggest they form a joint Gang Task Force to help fight the rising threat of hybrid street gangs. Officer Crystal Thomas was chosen as the first EPD Officer assigned to this unit.

The department would, again, take advantage of a Federal program that donated surplus military equipment to law enforcement agencies. While surplus guns, ammunition, and tear gas were acquired by EPD after World War I and II, in 2013 the department obtained nine High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as *Humvees*. These vehicles would prove to be useful in both flash floods and heavy snow. The department also acquired some civilian grade vehicles, fork trucks and several smaller items.

One of the key initiatives in Bolin’s administration would involve the attribute Winnecke had been seeking in his Chief of Police. In 2013, the Evansville Police Department launched the *Choose Not To Lose Campaign*, a city wide program for kids. The idea was to incorporate all existing children’s programs under the same umbrella, with everything focused on the concept of teaching kids to make positive choices. With the generous assistance and community involvement of Larry Bennett—owner of an area Chrysler dealership—seven Jeep Wranglers were donated (six to EPD, one to the VCSO), to represent each high school. The Jeeps were wrapped to match school colors and included a representation of the school mascot as well as the 2013 EPD Patch. For years, the department had partnered with FOP Lodge 73 in hosting summer day camps at the PAL Camp on Happe Road just outside of Evansville. Under the *Choose Not To Lose* program, six weeks of three-day camps were organized—five weeks for

middle school aged children, one week for high school students—to encourage respect for law enforcement and the benefit of making good choices. The younger students would attend *CAMP CHEWZA NAH2 LUZA*, while the older campers enrolled in CHOOSE NOT TO LOSE – IT’S THE LAW! Camp. In addition, the summer CNTL Basketball League was developed through the Greater St. James Baptist Church, Calbert Cheaney Center.

As demonstrated throughout our history, the Evansville Police Department has kept in step with trends in law enforcement. With the advent of social media and its accelerated use over the past several years—and with vigilant assistance from Public Information Officer Jason Cullum—the department successfully utilized venues such as *Facebook* and *Twitter* to facilitate communication with the public—to warn, to enlighten, to encourage, and to honor. The result of this attention is increased transparency of department activity, greater community input, and an agency more accessible to the citizens it serves.

As the department moves forward from our 150th year, society continues to transform before our eyes and technology is advancing at levels never seen before. We are reminded of Chief Darwin Covert’s 1968 prediction, “The biggest problem facing police departments (is) the social change sweeping the country”—and those words still ring true.