

**HISTORY OF THE AUGUSTA, MAINE POLICE
DEPARTMENT 1850-2015**

BY

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Maine became a state in 1820 and Augusta was designated its capital in 1827 when the legislature moved from Portland. In 1840 and 1850, the city ranked among the 100 largest urban populations in the United States (5,000 and 8,000 persons respectively). In 1849, Augusta was incorporated as a city, General Alfred Reddington being the first mayor elected in March, 1850.

EARLY YEARS



Looking down Water Street 1849

Prior to the 1850 elections, there was no organized Police force in Augusta. Either Deputy Sheriff's or contracted Detectives would investigate crimes in the area at that time as in the Augusta Bank Robbery of 1849. There were, however, "night watches" which consisted of concerned citizens being on duty for overnight periods keeping the watch for anything suspicious or for anyone who was out of place. These night watches were the precursor to the organized Police force which became formalized after the City of Augusta was given its charter by the legislature to become a city. (Daily Kennebec

Journal CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR, 1897)

The night watches in Augusta were the direct result of the Malta War which was going on in the area of Windsor but which reached into Augusta. This "war" was over squatters rights versus land-owners who were at war over property ownership. There were 28 citizens who volunteered to do night watch. General Sewall and Doctor Cony did the very first night watch on January 15th, 1808.

"CUSTODIA EST CLYPEUS" was the motto given to the night watch which stood for "The Watch is Our Protection". Even though the Night Watch was in effect, presumably to repel any invaders of the Malta War (thought then to be Indians who were later found out to be citizens wearing Native American garb) the jail on State Street along with the courthouse were burned (March 16th, 1809). (Ulrich, 1990) General Sewall called out the Augusta Light Infantry to take charge and there were no further incidents. The fires were not set by anyone involved in the squatter affray.

1825-Kennebec Journal established on Water Street, Augusta.

1831-Augusta House, on State Street near Western Ave. is built. The Augusta House will remain open for the next 141 years.

1831-The Legislature moves from Portland to Augusta.

The one and only hanging recorded in Augusta was on Friday, January 2nd, 1835. This happened in Winthrop Square, the area of State Street and Winthrop Street intersection. Joseph J. Sager of Gardiner was convicted of poisoning his wife and was sentenced to death. It was estimated that between 8-12,000 people attended the hanging, which took place on a very cold and stormy day. The body of Sager was later removed and he is said to be buried on an island in an undisclosed pond in Winthrop. (Daily Kennebec Journal CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR, 1897)

The first City Marshal, George W. Jones was elected by the City Council on March 27th, 1850 during a meeting at the Winthrop House on Water Street. He would serve in this post from 1850 to 1853 and again from 1866-1867. (North, 1870)

The “Maine Law”, the first prohibition on alcohol manufacture and sale in any State, was passed in 1851. The illegal alcohol trade would encompass much of the Police Force efforts for the next 50 years.

From the 1858 Augusta Town Report Mayor James W. North reported that:

“Crime having been unusually prevalent in all parts of our land, has visited us during the past year with some of its minor offenses, requiring more than usual vigilance on the part of our police. The police have been used occasionally as detectives; but their chief effort has been as a preventive force. Their services as a watch by night, has kept our streets quiet, and undoubtedly prevented criminal offences. The expenditure for this purpose has been within the appropriation (\$692.76 that year)”.

1859-there were 10 regular police officers including the City Marshal, Joshua L. Heath. That same year there were 108 reported arrests. The population was approx. 8000 people. City Marshal Heath reported that “The Maine Law” (referencing the 1851 passage of the Temperance Movement law prohibiting the sale and manufacture of liquor, by Portland Mayor Neal S. Dow) is working well and ...will ultimately put an end to the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage”, and “it is now rare to see a drunken man in the streets”. The Maine Law was repealed in 1856 following the Portland Rum Riot, however, variations of prohibitory laws continued to challenge early law enforcement.

During the years of the American Civil War, William Libby was the City Marshal (1861-1865). In his subsequent reports to the city during those years, he made mention of the large number of soldiers quartered in the City and the amount of incidents taxing his officers and his budget as a result. Augusta was the reporting point for all units mustering into service prior to leaving Maine.

In his 1864 report to the Town, Marshal Libby stated *“We have not sufficient force to supply the demands made on the department for the past three years, on account of the small sum appropriated for that purpose. Of the large number of arrests that have been made the*



APD mid 1800's: City Marshal Libby, F. Gaslin, H. Tibbetts, H.T. Morse and E. Getchell (rear). E. Pinkham, J.E. Ward and Chas. Hayward (front).

present year, not ten per cent of them were citizens-the larger part were soldiers and others, that are always in attendance on the military for dishonest purposes”.

Arrests for the time period show 518 in 1863 vs. 378 in 1862. That number would swell to 701 in 1864 with 45 being arrested as deserters who were turned over to the Army. By the 1866 report for the previous year, the total number of arrested decreased to 498 which Chief Libby credited to “*the war being closed and the soldiers all returned home”.*

POST CIVIL WAR ERA

The city and the police Department continued to change with the times, pushing toward the turn of the century and its first 50 years of existence. The force managed to conduct watches, foot patrol and maintain law and order during years when its inhabitants were coming home from the Civil War. Augusta continued to be a hub of activity for the State.

We are able to see a clear picture of how the Department was being managed during the years leading up to the beginning of the 20th century, with the police Department being established in 1850 after the city had its first full elections.

According to the *1880 Social Statistics of Cities from the U.S. Census Department Page 9-10, AUGUSTA, POLICE (a):*

“The Chief Executive Officer of the police is the City Marshal. He is elected by the board of Aldermen. He appoints his own deputies, subject to the confirmation of the board of Aldermen. The city marshal performs the duties of a sheriff for all parts of Kennebec County and the State at large. His salary is \$500 and fees.



Looking West on Winthrop Street from Market Square 1880

There are four, regular uniformed police officers, whose compensation is \$2.00 per day. Each provides his own uniform which costs \$40.00. No belt or billy is worn openly, but the officers carry a billy, a revolver, handcuffs, twisters and whistles. Patrolmen are on duty twelve hours per day on the average. The beat of each covers from 5 to 15 miles. There are no printed rules or regulations for the government of the force.

The number of arrests for 1880 was 420, including the following: Drunkenness: 175, Vagrancy: 82, Assault and Battery: 53, Liquor selling: 26, Larceny: 33

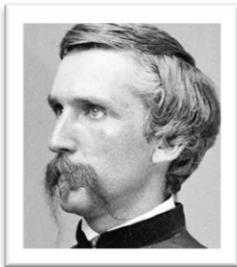
No record was kept of lost and stolen property reported to the police, or of property recovered and returned to the owners or of the number of station house lodgers. Free meals were furnished to station house lodgers, but no account of them was kept. The Police Department has a private fire alarm; rings the fire bells, co-operates with the fire department at fires, and takes charge of property exposed during fires.

Special Policemen are appointed by the City Marshal when required, as on the occasion of conventions, celebrations, public exhibitions, church entertainments, etc. They have for the time being the same authority as regular officers.

The appropriation for the force in 1880 was \$3,300; expenses \$3,098.34.

The municipal court of Augusta exercises authority over nearly all towns in Kennebec County, aside from the cities of Gardiner and Hallowell. The arrests above reported represent, therefore, a very large territory outside the city proper. The near proximity of the National Soldiers Home at Togus, 4 1/2 miles distant, where nearly a thousand old soldiers are kept, must account for a very large part of the arrests for drunkenness, etc. within the jurisdiction of the city police. It is estimated that from one-third to two-thirds of the arrests for drunkenness are of this class. The great number of men employed in cutting and storing ice during the winter months (several thousand) brings extra work upon the force, as these men flock into the city on Saturday to remain over Sunday, causing much disturbance.”

ELECTION AND DIRTY POLITICS



Joshua Chamberlain

In December 1879/January 1880, there was a dispute about who was the newly elected governor of Maine, and the Maine State House was occupied by a band of armed men because next door at the residence of James Blaine, the influential Republican Senator, he set up an armed camp. The outgoing governor, Alonzo Garcelon, summoned Joshua Chamberlain, the commander of the Maine Militia, to take charge and try to avert a State Civil War. Chamberlain sent home the armed men, and arranged for the Augusta Police to keep control. He received permission from Augusta Mayor Charles Nash to use the city police force to maintain law and order--and he managed to persuade Governor Garcelon to replace his hired guns with city police. He stayed in the State House most of the twelve-day period until the Maine Supreme Judicial Court's decision on the election results was known. Chamberlain did not go anywhere without a squad of Augusta Police to protect him as the Mayor had alerted him to a possible death threat. During this time, there were threats of assassination and kidnapping, and on one occasion, he went outside to face down a crowd of 25-30 men intending to kill him, and both sides offered bribes to appoint him a United States senator. Having gratified neither side in the dispute, he did not become a senator, and his career in state politics ended. (Mawhinney)

FIRST LINE OF DUTY DEATH

On November 11, 1884 Police Officer Rufus Lishness, 45, was shot and killed in the line of duty by Harry Burns at a tenement called "Old Fort" on the east side of the Kennebec River (the Fort Western). He was responding to a disturbance call with another officer. They went to arrest Harry Burns, and when they could not gain access at the entrance, Officer Lishness shoved up a window and was about to climb in when Burns fired a shot at him, striking Lishness in the head. Lishness was able to walk to the police station with the help of another officer but soon afterward became unconscious later dying

of his wounds. His last words were "I did my duty, didn't I?" At that time, the Police Office was located in the basement of "4 Bridge Street) which had a rear entrance at Front Street near the corner with Bridge Street. An hour later, Burns was arrested by Officer Bruce and City Marshal Farrington. Burns was 65 years old at the time, was a prior inmate (patient) at the National Soldiers Home at Togus and was addicted to the use of liquor. Lishness left behind a wife and six children. Burns was later interviewed while in jail awaiting trial and sentencing.

Burns told reporters that if he had known Ofc. Lishness was the person who threw up his window; he never would have shot at him. Burns said he thought this person was someone whom he had had an earlier argument in the street with over politics. One month earlier, in Chelsea, Deputy Thomas Malloy, a Sergeant at the Togus Veterans Home, was also shot and killed, by illegal rum-sellers.

According to the news of day, "*Rufus R. Lishness was one of Augusta's respected citizens and stood well among his fellow men. By trade he was a table smoother. Last Spring he was appointed on the night police of Augusta and made a faithful officer*". (Lewiston Evening Journal , 1884)

It was the third murder in the County that year. Burns would be convicted in December for manslaughter. ¹

By the late 1880's, the City Marshal's reports to the city were delineating more about the "temperance" problem, relating to the difficulty they were having in enforcing the liquor laws of the time as well as remaining loyal to the particular political parties which were in power. In these times, the City Marshal and his officers were "elected" or appointed through city council nominations, so they were very loyal to their political parties.



Ofc. Bruce & Ofc. McKenney,
APD c.1884

Also noted was the fact that officers were either "day watch" or "night watch" working 12 hour shifts each. In 1892-93 there were six (6) regular police officers, the City Marshal Henry T. Morse, Deputy Marshal J.S. McKenney; Night Watch, H.M Breen, A.D. Remick, C.L. Davis; Day and Night, Warren Bruce². There were also special police as in past reports, who covered areas like the state house, the hospital, the post office and the court house.

¹ The murder trial of Burns as well as for the shooting of Deputy Molloy were held in the December term of the Kennebec County Superior court as well as a third homicide showing us that justice was very swift in the 19th century.

² Ofc. Bruce helped walk Rufus Lishness back to the Police Department after being shot in the head.

1889-City Marshal H.T. Morse in the yearly town report made a request for an additional police officer. In his words *"I would recommend that there be a regular police officer appointed for the East side of the river. It is getting to be as hard a place as there is in the city, and it is impossible for the two officers who are on the street in the daytime to be in so many places at once"*.



That same year, the City Health Officer, R.J. Martin in the town report declared, *"The overcrowding of tenement houses, especially in the French quarters (Bond and Mill Street area) requires attention. Means should be taken, by police or other regulations, to see that the law governing this subject is enforced. The Edwards Company should employ a man solely to look after sanitary conditions of their numerous blocks. I understand that this is done by most large corporations in the State"*

ALCOHOL CONTINUES TO PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

In June of 1893, the Royal Canadian Commission on the Liquor Traffic deposed government officials from one end of the United States to the other regarding the American "prohibitory law" and its effects on local towns and cities. In this report, the Augusta City Clerk Charles B. Chick along with the Augusta City Marshal, Osgood Crawford, were both deposed.

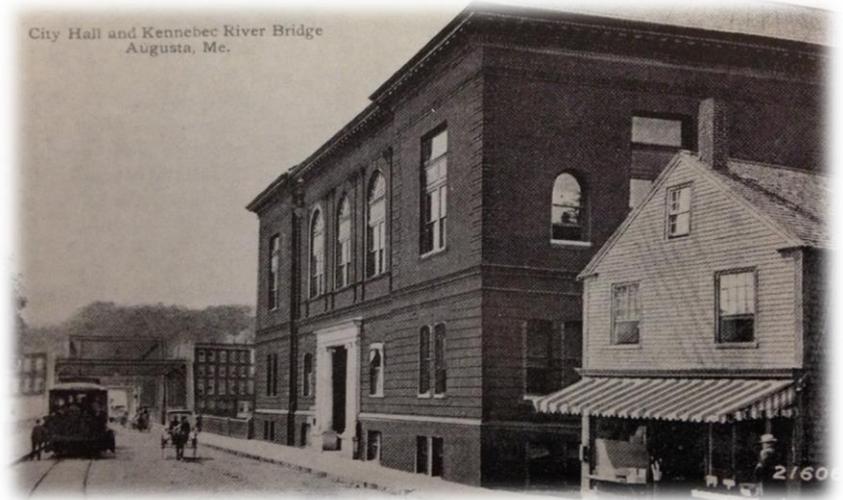
Upon examination from the board, City Marshal Crawford was asked *"what is your practice with regard to arresting drunken men in this city?"-My practice is to take any man that I see intoxicated on the streets in business hours, or if he is making a show of himself. It does not matter whether he is noisy or quarrelsome or not, I arrest him, and take care of him. If he is an old offender, he is liable to a fine or 30 days in jail.* (McLeod, 1895)

Also deposed was the ex-City Marshal Henry F. Morse who had been the City Marshal for 8 consecutive years before Osgood Crawford. Ex-Chief Morse stated before the commission: *"I am 61 years old, and I have always lived here (Augusta). During that time, I have occupied the position of city marshal for eight years in succession...when I was enforcing the (prohibitory) law, a church member said to me, 'you are driving business out of the city, and, if that goes on, I will have to close up my business.' I laughed at the idea of it. I said, 'Is it your idea that in the city of Augusta you cannot do business unless you have rum'? He said, 'Well, it looks like that to me.'" (McLeod, 1895)*

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

City Hall in Augusta located at the foot of Cony Street near the East side of the Kennebec Bridge, was dedicated on July 4th, 1896. The building was constructed for \$55,000.00 and leased to the city with an option to buy after ten years. The police department was then located in the basement where the lockup, the municipal court and the armory for the Capital Guards was kept.

City Hall and Kennebec River Bridge
Augusta, Me.



1897-W.S. Choate, the Mayor of Augusta, had this to say about the Police Department:

“The ample accommodations which we now have enabled the police during the last winter to lodge a very large number of vagrants, probably a larger number than ever before. Great care should be taken in the selection of our police force, and we should insist that those who compose it should be men of character, who will command the respect of our citizens and who will devote their time and energies to the prompt and efficient discharge of their duties, for upon them depends, in a great measure, the safety of persons and property and the good order of our city. I believe that our City Marshal has labored faithfully and conscientiously in his office.”

Henry T. Morse, the City Marshal reported that “945 persons have been given lodging and food” during that past year. Prior to the erection of the new City Hall, the Police Department was located in rented housing at the corner of Bridge Street and Water Street. The amount paid to rent the building was \$100.00 per year. So called “station house lodgers” would continue to be financed through the City for another 40 years.

1899-Section 12 of Chapter IV of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Augusta, was amended to read as follows :

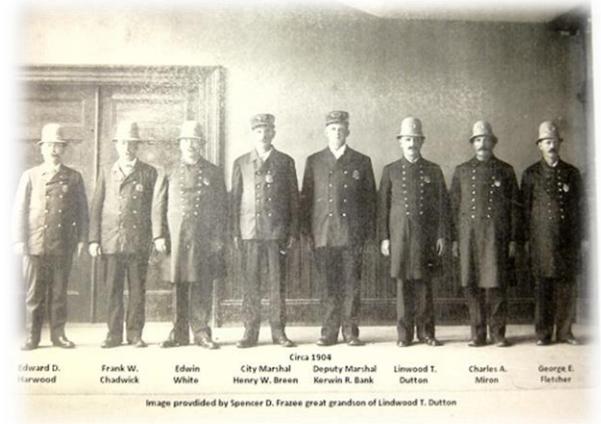
The City Marshal, with the approval of the Mayor and Aldermen, shall annually appoint police officers, not exceeding thirty-five in number, but on extraordinary occasions the number may be increased to two hundred.— (Finally passed, May 14, 1896.) That particular year, there were eight (8) full-time police officers including the City Marshal. There were 25 “special” officers.

It was a recommendation of the City Marshal that year that the old “watch clock system” be replaced “with a new covered wire” system of call boxes. There were 14 call boxes in the city at that time and each were placed in the following locations: 1-Willow Street, 2-Middle Street, 3-Bangor Street near School Street, 4-Water Street near Kennebec Journal Office; 5-water front, back of Fowler & Hamlen’s dry goods store; 6-Commercial Street near Cony House; 7-on railroad, back of A.T. Fuller’s grocery store; 8-Water Street near factory office; 9-corner of Northern Ave. and Jefferson St., Sand Hill; 10-Mt. Vernon Ave. near Bond Brook bridge; 11-corner Winthrop and Pleasant Sts.; 12-corner Bridge and Spring Sts.; 13-State St. near State House; 14-in police station. City Marshal Morse said the replacement and repair to the whole system would cost \$175.00. According to him it was “poorly constructed” when first put in and that Waterville, Belfast, Bath and other cities in Maine have the same system and those Chiefs said the expense of keeping it in repair is very light; “hardly ever gets out of order”. City Marshal Morse also requested the “steel cages in the police station be painted this year and the entire room be white washed. He said “it is something needed very much”.

From the 1903 Augusta Town Report

POLICE FORCE.

Upon our police force depends the orderliness and good name of the city. Such force should be made up of men who in the performance of their duties will be firm, decided, determined fearless and self-controlled. Under no provocation should they be brutal in dealing with offenders. While in making arrests they should bring in their man at all hazards, they should use only so much force as is absolutely necessary. City Marshal Breen (pictured right)



1904 Police Department RECOMMENDATIONS:

The section of the city south of Green Street to the Capitol building is very much in need of a police officer. The junction of electric cars at Grove Street, State Street and Western Avenue make it a very busy and dangerous place and I therefore recommend that a police officer be appointed for that section of the city. City Marshal Breen



Augusta Police Force 1909

Andrew J. McFadden (pictured top left) was City Marshal in 1909 and former Officer now Deputy Marshal was Edward D. Harwood (lower left photo). Deputy Chief Harwood would later go on to become City Marshal in 1915 and later be elected to three terms as Kennebec County Sheriff.³

That same year there were 2 arrests for non-support of wife. There were a total of 735 arrests for the year ending 1909.

By 1915 there were 9 regular police officers including the City Marshal and there were 343 arrests. There were approx. 14,000 people in the City that year.

1921-the Town report shows that Ida W. Freeman was the Police Department “Matron” and maybe the first female Police Officer (she was carried as a “special policemen”). Matrons of the day would attend specifically to female prisoners; deal with matters affecting women and children. Ida would continue to serve as Matron until 1938 when Floy H. Merrill was hired and Ida retired. Floy would

³ The Harwood family remains active in Law Enforcement in Kennebec County to this day.

serve as Police Matron until the late 40's. The first female Police Officer would not be hired until 1980.

1923-City Marshal William J. Skehan requested, for the first time, a "touring car" be added to the police force for patrol of the City. Marshal Skehan, who would serve as City Marshal between 1921-1927 also requested new police boxes be added to the State House, Pettengill's Corner and Sand Hill. By 1924 APD would get the new police box on Sand Hill, but no touring car. However, in that same year, Augusta Police officers were given vacations as part of their benefits, for the first time in history. In the "NEWS OF THE DAY FROM THE CITY OF AUGUSTA" published weekly in the Lewiston Evening Journal, on September 12, 1924 it was reported that "*Bert Marson returned Monday to his duties on the Augusta Police Force after two weeks vacation*". It was also recorded that "*Mrs. Ida Freeman, police matron, is enjoying a two week's vacation. She will visit in Portland and Waterville*".⁴



Ofc. Berton Marson, 1925

1928-the Police Department was "reorganized", motorcycle patrol added – travelled 14,000 miles that summer.

SECOND LINE-OF DUTY DEATH

On May 17th, 1930, Officer Selden Jones, 25, the Department motor officer was killed in a crash involving his motorcycle⁵. Jones was the second Augusta Police Officer to be killed in the line of duty. Born in 1905 he was 25 years old at the time of his death. Ofc. Jones had just passed an automobile



Ofc. Selden Jones 1929

on Bangor Street near the intersection of North Belfast Ave. when his machine hit a hole in the road. Ofc. Jones hit his head on the ground and died 45 minutes later at the Augusta General Hospital. Jones who was a Sergeant in Company F, 193rd Infantry, Maine National Guard, was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery with full military honors. Mayor Robert A. Cony made the following statement about the tragic loss of a fine, young officer: "*I am deeply grieved at the tragic death of Officer Selden L. Jones. He held a position of the police force that required a great deal of tact and judgment, and one subject to more criticism than the average police position. Quiet, modest, clean, efficient, fearless and honest, he was making a record for himself with those conversant with his work. All of this, too, when he was a very young man and in which he conducted himself in a way worthy of one much older. And he laid down his life in the line of duty,*

⁴ The Berton Marson story is interesting to our history inasmuch as his photo and history were brought to us by his daughter who was still living on South Chestnut Street. The Ida Freeman story about vacations was found by happenstance.

⁵ Jones was the first motorcycle officer. Even though he died from a crash on it, officers the very next year would continue patrolling on a police motorcycle.

Augusta, in most faithful servants, and the community, a young man of character and promise. Looking back on his life, let all of us be less ready to criticize and more ready to praise and sustain those, who in official or other positions are trying hard to do their duty". Lewiston Evening Journal-May 19th, 1930

By the late 1920's early 1930's Augusta would employ the use of motor vehicles for patrol, showing it's first "prowl car" in use in 1934 and subsequently 17 OUI arrests were reported during that year. Also in 1931, future Chief V.W. Dudley started his 28 year career on the A.P.D. He would later retire in 1959 and was responsible for many changes in the force during his tenure, including adding more patrol cars, more personnel, parking district inception and many other innovations making the A.P.D. a more modern police force. He would be the first APD officer to rise to the rank of Chief and retire, making police work a full-time career.

1935-The APD Police Booth was constructed and placed at the intersection of Water and Bridge Street. Ballard Fuller, a retired Maine Central Railroad employee was the woodworker who, with Police Captain Harold Dowling constructed the booth



outside Fuller's Green Street wood working shop. The booth would stand for nearly 25 years.

The Police Department was also being organized differently than in past years as it added the positions of Captain (2), and deskmen (2). The first APD desk officers were Bernis Pelletier and Caroll Black. Both officers would go on to long careers, with Bernis Pelletier being later in charge of the identification section started in 1937 (photos and fingerprinting) and retiring as a Captain. Ofc. Carroll Black (seen in the story, left) would obtain a different sort of fame when in 1958 his design for the City of Augusta official seal would be adopted. This City Seal is still in use today.

1936- This was the first year the City Marshal was referred to "Chief of Police" in the Town Report.

In the 1943 Town Report, the Mayor reported that a two-way radio for the Police Department "*is needed at some near date*".

1947- Parking District established. By this year, the majority of all the officers of APD were now WWII veterans. Ofc. Sparrowk, who would go on to become Police Chief, was given a battlefield

KENNEBEC JOURNAL.
Tuesday, June 10, 1997 **5**

Letters




City seal created by Augusta policeman

To the Editor:
The seal of the city of Augusta — who was the artist?

We're celebrating Augusta's 200th anniversary. It's exciting to read the history which includes our family's participation in the development of the community in which we live today. It brings a feeling of pride and joy. It stirred the desire to go to the new City Hall to gather information on the seal of the City of Augusta. There was no mention of the artist though.

At Wal-Mart I found and purchased a replica of the city of Augusta's police cruiser, which displays the seal on the front doors of the vehicle. I took it to work for display on my desk and I told my co-workers that there is evidence of my family's contribution towards the history of Augusta on every vehicle. The artist was my grandfather, a city of Augusta police officer, Carroll W. Black.

Black was a patrol officer, as well as a commercial artist for the Augusta Police Department. He lived on Glenwood Street in Augusta for many years. The house is still there.

I don't remember the man personally because he died in 1963 when I was only 4 years old. I learned many good things about him through my grandmother, mother and father.

He was a member of the Universalist Church located on Winthrop Street in Augusta for over 50 years. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and he held a high standing in the Masons. He was well liked and loved by many.

When it came to his work, he was a perfectionist. My mother has some of the items that he painted, refinished or designed. He had a great admiration for the Indians.

As you can see in the city seal: Within the inner circle is a scene showing in the foreground an Indian in a birch bark canoe in the Kennebec River approaching the east bank at the landing of Fort Western.

Many people may still remember him. I have admired the man all my life. I wish to participate in the celebration of Augusta's 200th anniversary by bringing back the memory of a wonderful citizen, officer of the Augusta Police Force, father, grandfather and artist of the Augusta area.

So if by chance you see a police car or fill out a city ordinance form, you can see the seal and remember an Augusta police officer, artist, Carroll Black. This is a commentary on his contribution to our city of Augusta.

Jane M. Frost

commission to Lieutenant on D-Day.

1949-The Police Board (Gagnon, Conant, and Beane) recommends adding 1 officer and a new filing system. Also the police board reported in the town report that 2 APD officers had attended the State Police training course at Camp Keyes.

1953-The Police had 403 arrests, 185 of which were automobile related. 151 of these arrests were for intoxication, the largest single cause for arrest. There were 28 OUI's, 279 doors were found open and secured, and 317 "lodgers" were reported for the year; almost one per day. These lodgers were "men who appeared before the police for a place to sleep". Of the 403 arrests, only one person was found not guilty by the court. A second patrol (prowl) car was added to the force this year.



Investigator Bechard and Cpt. Arbour-1953



POLICEWOMEN—One of the big advances during the year was the authorization of policewomen to aid the Schoolboy Patrol in safeguarding street crossings at critical hours. Left to right, Mrs. Bertha E. Brooks, Mrs. Helen E. Hilton, Mrs. Sophia K. McManis, and Mrs. Winifred Rolfe. Two more policewomen are authorized.

1954-The Woman's Auxiliary Police are established and were responsible for crossing guard duty primarily but could be used as Matron's when needed.

1958-it was reported that the City Police handled 5, 555 calls for service. The Police Department was described as a "clearing house" for the city's trouble.

1959-the City of Augusta had a population of just over 23,000. Augusta Police Department was made up of 27 patrolmen and the

break down was as follows: 1 Chief (Dudley, seen 6th from the left in the below photo), 1 Deputy Chief, 3 Captains, 2 Lieutenants (1 in parking district), 6 Sergeants (2 in parking district), 14 patrolmen. On the night shift, the breakdown went like this: 3 men on foot patrol of Water Street, 1 man in each of two patrol cars (the PD only had 2 "prowl cars at that time) and a desk officer. The police academy, which was being run at Camp Keyes was a three week school at the time. Col. Robert Marx of the State Police thought that by next year, the Academy might be four weeks, if they could get more money to run a firearms training course.

Kennebec Journal, 09-22-1959



The Police Department was given a second telephone line this year. Police Officer's starting pay was \$62.50 per week. Officers were to get a raise bringing it up to \$67.50. The City Manager, Julian W. Deshaines requested from the City Council 2-3 more police officers, a station wagon to carry extra gear and that one police officer be sent to the FBI 3-month academy and upon completion of this course come back and "instruct others on his lore". Kennebec Journal, 6-17-1959



John Mcauley Jr., in 1960 is hired by the Augusta Police Department and is believed to be the first African-American police officer in Maine. Mcauley would serve for several years before leaving APD and eventually becoming the Postmaster of Augusta where he would later retire.

1960, January: The Police Department stopped selling hunting/fishing licenses. The City Clerk would be responsible after this time. Chief Dudley cited that "our deskmen are overloaded with work" and didn't need the extra added job of issuing these licenses. Kennebec Journal, 12-10-1959



Ofc. Martin wearing standard uniform 1968

1962 the Augusta Police Department has a "new fleet" of patrol cars. APD consists of 32 Officers, a secretary, and 12 patrolwomen (crossing guards and parking). 6,922 complaints were filed with 1122 arrests being made. There is also a three member parking district.

1970-Augusta Police Department begins patrolling with snowmobiles and a four wheel drive vehicle. Areas being targeted are camps, left unattended in the wintertime. Chief Waldo Drake said the camp patrol has reduced the number of camp burglaries around Togus Pond, Three Corner Pond, Dam Pond and Spectacle Pond.



Pictured here is Sgt. Paul Busque

In May of 1971 the separate Police and Fire Department union membership picketed City Hall. At issue were low wages. At the



time Officers worked a 42 hour work-week making \$111.00 per week. The national minimum wage in this year was \$1.80 per hour.

During this time there were more arrests for drug violations, daytime burglaries, outlaw motorcycle gangs and war protests. There were several incidents where when employees left the Navy Center (the current Police Department) and walked through Capitol Park, they were

assaulted, presumably by war protesters. Memorial park in particular was considered a haven for homeless protesters and as a result a measure was pushed through City Council to pass an ordinance allowing the police to arrest anyone "loitering" in Memorial Park. The ordinance was later concluded to be unconstitutional by the Maine Attorney General's office and struck down.

For the first time, this year, street officers were beginning to learn how to investigate and follow up with their own felony cases. Prior to this effort, all felonies were investigated exclusively by the APD BCI or Bureau of Criminal Investigation.



1973- Radio system upgrade. The old 40 watt radio system was scrapped this year for a more powerful, 110 watt base system. For the first time, pagers were issued to key personnel.

1974- APD was operating with 4 marked patrol cars, 2 unmarked + a transport van. The parking district had 2 cars and 1 "utility vehicle". The department consisted of 45 uniformed personnel and 5 non-uniformed support persons.



June 12, 1976- 70 year old Blanche Kimball is stabbed to death in her home on State Street. The murder will remain unsolved for 36 years when, in 2012, DNA evidence links former friend Gary Wilson, aka Gary Raub to the murder. Raub is later extradited from Washington State to stand trial in Augusta.

July 4th, 1976- United of States of America celebrates its 200th Anniversary

In 1976 Joseph Acido was arrested in Massachusetts by the FBI for bombing the Central Maine Power offices on Edison Driver on May 11th. The investigation was handled jointly between the Augusta Police and the FBI. He was followed from Portland, Maine to MA by the FBI where a high-speed chase ensued. He was captured and returned to Maine for trail. The bombing was over a rate increase.



1979-The City of Augusta goes to the “Director of Public Safety” concept with the Fire Chief and Police Chief coming under the umbrella of “Public Safety” for the first time. Chief Griffin, who replaced Chief Drake the prior year, will be named to the Public Safety Director position and hold it for 14 years.

1980- Jeane Boomhower is hired. Boomhower is known as the first, full-time female Augusta Police law enforcement Officer. Prior to this appointment, females in APD served as Matrons and Crossing Guards only. Also this year, parking meters are being removed from the downtown, except Commercial Street and Union Street, by the Parking District in favor of a permit-issue system. The parking district was established in 1947 and always used parking meters until this time. Parking District goes to a permit system and the meters are sold. The parking district also gets its first parking “boot”.

This year, the Augusta Police start using Subaru sedans for patrol. Officers will file a complaint about the cars being too small. Later during the 1980’s, the PD will use Volvo cars for patrol vehicles as well. By the early 1990’s, these small cars, seen as cost saving, will be replaced totally with the standard Ford Crown Victoria, which will remain in active service through the 2010’s when they begin being replaced by Ford SUV’s.



Early in the 1980s, suicide jumpers from the Memorial Bridge become a common occurrence and as a result, the State will erect a larger fence to prevent it.



In 1981 the Police Department, which for many years heavily depended upon its part-time or Reserve force, promoted three officers. Chauncey Lancaster was promoted to Lieutenant and Marcellino Sousa and Lee Adams were promoted to Sergeant. The Maine Criminal Justice Academy ran a 100-hour course for Reserve Officers to complete. Officers were used primarily as riders with full timers, to help out in case

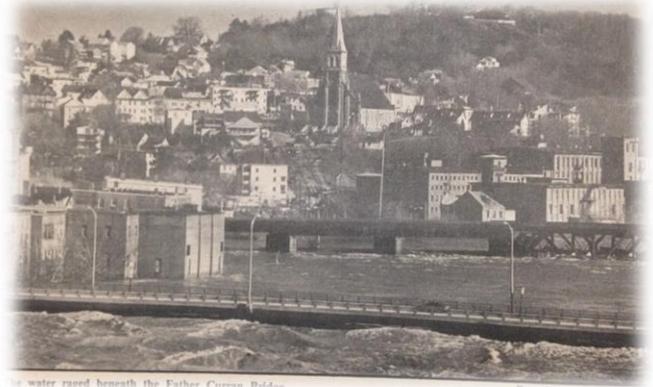
of emergencies and to augment the full-time force during mass gatherings.

By late 1987 the New City Center building was completed construction across the street from the City Hall. The Police Department, located in the basement of the old City Hall, was looking for a new home. It would take almost 11 years before the Police would move, for the first time in 102 years, to

its current location at Capitol Park. During the 2000's, the old City Hall would be renovated into a residential care facility for the elderly. ⁶

2-14-1987 The Parking District is located at 275 Water Street, a new, third floor office above Farrell's clothing store.

Great Flood of 1987: April: The City Hall has to have several offices move out during this time due to basement flooding. The flood causes millions of dollars in damage around the downtown area. The Police have many old records damaged and destroyed which had been stored in the basement.



Water was 4 feet high in the Police Department.



Ofc. Charlie Winslow

1988: Officer Charlie Winslow, the last full time down town beat cop, retires after 20 years of service. This year Police would start wearing a new uniform which replaced the light blue shirt and hat for a solid, Navy blue hat, shirt and pants combination which remains the standard Augusta Police uniform. ⁷



Sgt. Bob Vachon and Sgt. Robert Wagner

1989: Police help wanted ads show Police Officer starting wage to be \$336 per week.

The Mayfair district of Augusta started the first ever Neighborhood Crime Watch program. Other neighborhoods will follow in future and begin partnering with the Police Department to help deter crime.



Police begin to crack down on Domestic Violence. Once seen as a family matter where few arrests were made of male-on-female perpetrators, now because of a new law enabling a warrantless arrest for assault when the parties are

⁶ There were many possible choices for a new APD. There was a question on the ballot which was defeated to spend money; there was a possible consolidation at Hartford Fire Station which was defeated and many, many suggestions on what to do and where to put APD.

⁷ Since the mid 1960s Officers wore a combination of blue trousers, white shirts, straw hats, white hats, light blue shirts with dark pants. Prior to the 1960s between approx.. 1940-1960 Officers wore a gray shirt and gray pants with a black "Augusta Police Maine" shoulder patch which was replaced with a full color patch in the 1960s. Prior to the 1940s, Officers wore black uniforms with large top coats and large, brass buttons.

domestically related, arrests help to minimize the cycle of violence.

In December two men are arrested for firebombing the Kennebec Linen Company at 26 Bridge Street with Molotov Cocktails. A high speed chase between the suspects and Augusta Police ensued which went from Augusta to Rockport where the suspects crashed their car. The two men who were arrested said they threw the gas bombs because they were “unhappy” with their boss.

In 1990, area police including the Augusta Police Department, begin raising funds for a Law Enforcement Officer’s Memorial. The effort is spear-headed by the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. Hallowell Police Chief Rod Myrick designed the memorial. Augusta Police helped with the donation effort by holding a pistol shooting competition and a benefit dance in May of that year as well as a flea market. The memorial on State Street would be erected on 11-01-1990.

Officers in Maine prior to 1990 had different requirements for when they were eligible to work full time as Police. Effective July 1st, 1990 all Maine Law enforcement officers were required to have the full time police academy completed within one year of hiring in order to work in uniform. Prior to this date, there were various rules.

Required of municipal officers as of 9.23.1971, county deputies as of 7.1.1972, and state law enforcement officers as of 7.1.1990. Any officers hired before those dates were grandfathered, although many of them went through the training anyway. And, the State Police were never included in the mandatory training act because they had their own academy. However, the Legislature, in not including State Police, also overlooked other state law enforcement officers and did not include them in the mandatory act until 1990.

1992-Public Safety, with two, separate Police and Fire Bureaus, is dissolved. Chief Griffin would retire shortly thereafter and be replaced by Wayne McCamish who was acting Chief at the time. Chief McCamish would continue the tradition of APD always looking forward especially with technology and equipment improvements which were always in keeping with the times.



During the 1990s, the Augusta Police would start using the Ford Crown Victoria exclusively as the selected patrol vehicle. The Department also made use of an Astro Mini-van and a Jeep Cherokee. Vehicles would also become equipped with laptop computers.⁸

⁸ At first the laptops were not the mobile data terminals of today. These computers would be used to complete reports, doing away for the first time the old, hand written reports. However, in order to get a report from laptop to station, officers had to manually upload the report to a 3x5 floppy disk and walk it into the station where the disk would be inserted into a PC and uploaded to the main system. It wouldn't be until almost 5 years later that

1993- Officers begin integrating range shooting at night. The fact that officers do work in limited lighting situations was seen at the catalyst for beginning this practice. Officers continue to practice a night time course of fire on the range today.

1996-Augusta Police Officers for the first time begin issuing the Glock .40 as the Department standard firearm. Prior to this year, officers had always used some form of revolver with the Smith and Wesson .38 model 10 being the most preferred at that time. The Police also started using video in police cars that year.⁹

1998-Ice Storm of '98 hits Maine and New England and Canada. APD works non-stop for an entire week responding to calls for wires down, welfare checks and storm related issues. Later that same year, APD moved from the old City Hall downtown where it was located for 102 years to its current location at 33 Union Street, the former Naval Reserve Center near Capitol Park. The building was dedicated to fallen Officer Rufus Lishness.

09-11-2001: The day that changed America when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.



Sgt. Desjardin with Phantom and Ofc. Hayden with Koda

2006- APD gets its first ever K-9's with the addition of Phantom and Koda. Sgt. Desjardin and Ofc. Hayden were the dog handlers of each K-9 respectively. Phantom was specifically trained in bomb detection and Koda was a patrol dog specially trained in drug detection.

AUGUSTA COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU



Sgt Jolicouer 1958 desk Sergeant

During the early part of the 21st century Dispatchers of the Augusta Police Department become more specialized in their training with the advent of 911 and emergency medical dispatching. The evolution of the APD dispatcher began with the desk officer of the 1930s. This call taker who was

traditionally a sworn officer, became the civilian dispatcher of the 1970s, with uniform and badge. The APD dispatch

would always serve the Police and Fire Departments. Starting in the early 1990s dispatch began taking its first 911 calls. People would



Mike Rankins senior dispatcher 2015

the in car laptops became fully connected to a cellular system enabling immediate reporting between officers in the field and the police department main frame as well as the use of DMV information and chat capabilities.

⁹ Each officer was issued 31 VHS tapes. Tapes would be re-used or turned in for evidence on a case by case basis.

quickly start using cellular phones to make many of the 911 calls received today. By the end of the 1990's dispatchers would no longer wear a standard uniform which had been in keeping with the uniforms worn by police and fire, opting instead for a more comfortable polo shirt and dress pants. Between 2006-2007 the Police Department will make the change in communications over from analog to total digital service becoming the first police department in Maine to do so APD also began a dispatching partnership with the Hallowell Police and is currently negotiating taking on the dispatch duties of the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department. The APD dispatch center has always been located within the Augusta Police Department.

2007-APD puts together the first ever Special Response Team similar to the State Police tactical team. The APD SRT will become fully State certified in 2012, responding to high risk situations throughout the City.

2011-Field Training changes to become the Police Training Officer program. Augusta Police will begin using the Federally recognized program of training officers either before or after completion of the Academy. This is a 13 week program which replaced the prior FTO program which ranged from 3-10 weeks.

May 2014: Officers of the Augusta Police for the first time ever lay wreaths on the grave stones of fallen officers Lishness and Jones, who are both buried in the cemetery at Mt. Hope in Augusta. ¹⁰

2014-June: Officer Carly Smith is named as the first School Resource Officer. She will begin duties at the start of the new school year serving as the liaison between the Police and School Department. The forerunner to SRO was "Officer Friendly" of the 1980s and the DARE program of the 1990s.

2014-August: Chief Robert Gregoire, Sgt. Christopher Shaw and others are involved in an off-duty motorcycle crash in Jay while returning from a fund raising ride. Chief Gregoire will suffer major injuries including a spinal cord injury. By January 2015 Chief Gregoire will return to work with the use of a wheelchair and become the first APD Chief in history to serve in that capacity.



Chief Robert C. Gregoire

¹⁰ When the name of Selden Jones was first inscribed on the Law Enforcement Memorial Wall in Washington DC in the early 1990's due to confusion his name was spelled "Seldon" instead of "Selden". Due to the efforts of the author and Chief Gregoire, This mistake was corrected in 2015 and the name Selden L. Jones now is inscribed on the National LEO Wall.



Marshal Donovan from 1906 and his returned badge in 2015

2015-March: A badge believed to have been worn by former Augusta City Marshal Donovan around 1906 was returned to the Police Department by badge collector, police trainer and former LAPD Commander Keith Bushey. The badge was part of a collection owned by Bushey who lives in California. Bushey graciously returned the badge to the City of Augusta Police.

By the middle of the 2010s, the APD will transition totally away from the four-door sedan type of patrol car to a more versatile Sport Utility Vehicle made by Ford. Vehicles are fully outfitted with rifle racks, digital communications and full-service mobile data terminals.

In 2015, 165 years later since its inception, there are 41 sworn officers in the Police Department. We handle calls ranging from Mentally Disturbed persons to internet fraud, Murder and rape to harassment and burglary. Officers respond to robberies in progress, homicides, vehicle crashes and domestic violence. The men and women of the Augusta Police carry on a proud tradition started with the "Night Watch" of the early 19th century by leaders such as Cony and Sewall and officers, to this day, still walk a beat on Water Street keeping watch over the people and property of the City of Augusta. "CUSTODIA EST CLYPEUS".



OUR LEGACY-PRESERVING THE PAST, HONORING THE PRESENT,
LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Chief Robert Gregoire is seen here, left, in a 2012 Kennebec Journal article about two, old APD Badges which were donated by the descendants of Elbridge Pedder, a former city special officer and fireman



who served in 1893. Pedder was a Civil War veteran and POW in the South. The badges are two examples of the first earliest style worn by Augusta Police in the 19th Century. Both badges have the name "Pedder" inscribed on the backs. The badge on the right was found in an old coffee can in the basement of the Burns Family and donated to APD in March of 2015. This style was worn during the first half of the 20th Century by full time APD officers.





Line of Duty Deaths

date of death

<i>Rufus Lishness</i>	<i>11-11-1884</i>	<i>gunshot</i>	<i>born 1840</i>
<i>Selden L. Jones</i>	<i>05-17-1930</i>	<i>motorcycle crash</i>	<i>born 1905</i>



Augusta Maine City Marshals

1. George W. Jones	1850-1853
2. Orrin Rowe	1854-1855
3. Gardiner Phillips	1855-1856
4. Al Staples	1856-1857
5. Joshua L. Heath	1857-1860
6. William H. Libby	1861-1865*
7. George W. Jones	1866-1867
8. J.M. Plummer	1867-1868
9. Frank L. Farrington	1869-1876
10. Alfred Shaw	1877-1878
11. Charles H. White	1879-1883
12. Frank L. Farrington	1884-1885
13. Henry T. Morse	1885-1892
14. Osgood Crawford	1893-1894
15. Joshua F. Bean	1895-1896
16. Henry T. Morse	1897-1898*
17. Henry W. Breen	1899-1905*
18. Dennis Donovan	1906-1907*
19. George E. Fletcher	1908-1909*
20. Andrew McFadden	1909-1910*
21. George E. Fletcher	1911-1912*
22. Lawrence J. Colgan	1913-1914
23. E.D. Harwood	1915-1920*
24. James G. McKenney	1920-1921*
25. William J. Skehan	1921-1927*
26. Harry C. Miller	1927-1928
27. Donald C. Metcalf	1929-1931*

Augusta Maine Chiefs of Police

28. John J. O'Connell	1932-1940*
29. V.W. Dudley	1940-1959*
30. Edouard Arbour	1960-1968*
31. E.T. Bernard Sparrowk	1968-1971*
32. Waldo Drake	1972-1977*
33. Richard Griffin	1978-1993*
34. Wayne McCamish	1994-2010*
35. Robert C. Gregoire	2011-present*

*photo available (all known photos of City Marshals and Chiefs of police are currently displayed at the Police Department)

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Thanks to: Kennebec Historical Society staff and Maine State Library staff

David Fletcher, grandson of City Marshal George Fletcher.

Harwood Family

Evelyn Gaboury, daughter of Berton Marson, patrolman in the 1920's.

Patrick Pelletier, son of former CPT Bernis Pelletier. Patrick was a former part time patrolman

Eileen Alley grand-daughter of retired CPT Al Bechard

Mrs. James Dowling– photos and news clippings

Paul Busque, retired Lt. uniforms, hats, photos, clippings

Sandra Arbour, daughter of former Chief Arbour– photos, news clippings, scrap books

Stephen McCausland, Dept of Public Safety, photos of great grandfather Frank Halpin

Burns family (both of them), the Lacasse family (badges and other memorabilia)

The Kennebec Journal and staff writer Craig Crosby, photographers Joe Phelan and Andy Molloy

Former Officer Clyde Martin – photos, uniform accessories

Former Officer Charlie Winslow – photos

Former Sergeant Roland Arbour – stories, guidance, perspective

Family, friends, current and former officers of the Augusta Police Department

About the Author: Christian J. Behr has served with the Augusta Police since 1995. During that time he has worked in various positions including Field Training Officer and Patrol Sergeant. He is a retired First Sergeant from the Maine Army National Guard and served one tour of duty in Iraq.

Currently he is in command of the department Honor Guard; he is the Police Training Evaluator of the police training officer (PTO) program, maintains the Department Facebook and Twitter accounts and is the resident historian.

He has conducted about 2 years' worth of research in completing this project and has spent hours upon hours at the Kennebec Historical Society, the Maine State Library and on-line. He continues to lead from the front by keeping the Department and it's collection of history in the media, on television and on-line in order to preserve and maintain the rich and storied history by of the Augusta Police Department. He continues meeting with families, friends and prior officers every week to obtain the items, photos and stories.



Sgt. Behr in 2015 from a Kennebec Journal article about APD receiving a badge from a family member – photo by Andy Molloy

Your Friend, Our Friend!



A man who's from a very special breed. He's dedicated to the protection of property and personal rights for the general well being of all. A guy who puts his life on the line for others. Someone who is always ready to lend a hand. Someone who does more than his share of good deeds per day. And, that someone is your local Mr. Policeman. That man in the blue uniform is an active member of the community. It's not part of his job. It's part of his civic duty. And, he lives up to it! Charity drives get his sponsorship. Drug addicts get his support for rehabilitation. Local projects and organizations get his assistance. Youth groups get his time and energy. He's not looking for a pat on the back. He's just being a friend.

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW OUR AUGUSTA POLICE ARE ALWAYS NEAR: 12/24

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ARBOUR, ROLAND
Patrolman | DANIEL, ARMAND
Sergeant | LERETTE, WILLIAM
Patrolman | PICARD, JOHN
Patrolman |
| AUSTIN, SUMNER
Patrolman | DEARY, ROSE
Policewoman | MALINOWSKI, FRANCIS
Patrolman | PICHETTE, ROGER
Dispatcher |
| BAKER, P. THOMAS
Patrolman | DINSMORE, ELWYN
Sergeant | MALONE, JAMES
Patrolman | RUSSELL, JOSEPH
Patrolman |
| BARRETT, ROBERT
Patrolman | DOUIN, BENOIT
Sergeant | MARTIN, CLYDE
Patrolman | SEARS, JOHN
Patrolman |
| BUSQUE, PAUL
Patrolman | DRAKE, WALDO
Captain | MASSIE, BARBARA
Dispatcher | SHEA, EMMA
Policewoman |
| BUTTRICK, ARTHUR
Sergeant-Juvenile Officer | DUBE, ROMEO
Patrolman | MESERVE, BRUCE
Patrolman | E. T. BERNARD SPARROWK
Chief |
| CARET, LOUIS
Sergeant | FIANDACA, FRANK
Patrolman | MILLIGAN, WALTER
Deputy Chief | TOBIAS, JOAN
Policewoman |
| CHASE, ROBERT
Patrolman | FRENCH, JOHN
Patrolman | MURRAY, DEAN
Patrolman | TONDREAU, CONRAD
Sergeant |
| CHILDS, MAURICE
Patrolman | HAYDEN, HELEN
Secretary | NELSON, FORREST
Detective | VACHON, ROBERT
Patrolman |
| CLEMENT, KERRYL L.
Patrolman | JUDKINS, ALTON
Captain | NILES, DALE
Patrolman | WELSH, ROBERT
Captain - Detective |
| CROWLEY, DEBORA
Dispatcher | JUDKINS, RICHARD G.
Patrolman | PERRY, MALCOLM
Sergeant - Detective | WILLIAMSON, CHARLES
Dispatcher |
| | | | WINSLOW, CHARLES
Patrolman |

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