



MEMOIRS
1876

1976

MEMOIRS

of

LAW ENFORCEMENT

in the town

of

MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS

1876 - 1976

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To my wife, MARY, whose sacrificing,
sympathetic and understanding heart
made her a star in her role as a
policeman's wife.



Chief Alexander M. Sullivan (Ret.)

PREFACE

Herein is a story of nearly one hundred years of Law Enforcement in a small township within the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I have chosen to bring the history from the Town's incorporation in Eighteen hundred and seventy-six to its one hundredth Anniversary in Nineteen hundred and seventy-six, or as near that date as is possible to allow time for printing.

I was born in Merrimac in 1901, the year of the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Town's Incorporation, and have spent my lifetime in Merrimac, forty years as a Police Officer, eleven years of which I served as Chief, 1926 - 1966.

Ten of the first Chiefs served before I became of reasonable age to be interested in police work. I have had the pleasure of knowing and conversing with all but four of these Chiefs. The late Alvin F. Heath, however, gave me the necessary information on these four men, from notes and reports he had collected for a history of Merrimac, he had intended to write.

Having written these pages for your enjoyment I tried not to overburden them with citations. From my own personal knowledge, I have tried to give a brief character sketch of each Chief of Police, showing his standing in the community, a few of his problems, and achievements, and a mention of his present day status or a mention of surviving relatives to arouse the reader's interest. It is well to note here that there have been only three full titled Chiefs since the uniformed branch was established in 1916 -- the present Chief being number four: Donahue - Carey - Sullivan - Montigny.

Occasionally a story will mention a person connected with an event, other than a police officer, to bring

the story closer to the present date for reference only.

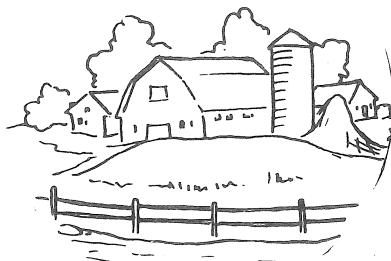
I have taken data from nearly one hundred town reports and many police reports in order to refresh my memory in making as accurate a report as possible. There might be slight errors or omissions, for which I apologize, but every effort was made to put enough truth in it so that you, the reader, can trust it.

Since my retirement from the Police Department in May 1966, besides this research work, I have served three years on the Committee of Municipal Finance, two years on an appointed committee to determine the need for Low-Cost Housing in Merrimac and five years on an elected Committee to serve on the Merrimac Housing Authority, as Vice-treasurer. During this time a forty-eight Unit and Community building for the Elderly was built on the former Merrimac High School site on Middle Street and was opened May 15, 1974.

When my wife Mary G. Sullivan, R. N., Assistant Administrator of the Amesbury Hospital retired, we spent the cold winter months with our daughter, Margaret A. DeBoyes and family in Florida, where we compiled the most of this History from hundreds of notes and reports taken over a period of years.

We also spent time with my son, Daniel F. Sullivan and his family in Laurel, Maryland. He is special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, assigned to Washington, D. C. In the summer months we relax in our summer camp at East Kingston, N.H., and with our youngest daughter, Ellenmarie Widman, reading Consultant for the Merrimac Elementary Schools.

--Chief Alexander M. Sullivan
Retired



THE MERRIMAC MASSACHUSETTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1876

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

1976

CHAPTER I

CONSTABLE AND NIGHTWATCHMAN

1876

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1891

Shortly after the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts was incorporated in April 1876, the voters were assembled to consider an article in the warrant, to employ a suitable citizen to serve as Night Watchman and to appropriate money for his salary.

This motion carried as it received the support of the many Carriage Manufacturers and Merchants who welcomed the extra protection against fire and theft.

This watchman was to be appointed for a term of one year from March to March or such time as the appointing authority, "The Board of Selectmen", saw fit to keep same in office by reappointments.

This Watchman was to work from six o'clock in the evening until six o'clock in the morning, seven days a week, at a salary established by the Board of Selectmen.

He was to go from Shop to Shop and communicate with the Watchman there, to see that all was well. Most of the larger factories had a watchman to keep the fires going and to sweep the floors as well as to watch out for fires or property damage.

At that time, there were many shops on Main and East Main Streets, Liberty Street, Mechanic Street, Grove Street, Green Street, Locust Street, Lancaster Court and Mill Street, in the area of Merrimac Square.



The Board of Selectmen appointed John Charles Emerson as constable and night watchman and he served one year, 1876 to 1877. The population at this time, 1876 to 1877, was 2,225. He was the father of the late Edward C. Emerson, Superintendent of streets, and lived at 7 Nichols Street.

James H. Lawson was appointed and served from 1877 to 1879--two years.

John B. Heath was appointed and served from 1879 to 1885 for six years. He lived with his wife and one daughter and four sons on 2 Railroad Avenue. They were active members of the Pilgrim Congregational Church. He was an undertaker, with funeral service rooms on Grove Street, and later in a building in the rear of the present vacant filling station on the square. He was a carpenter by trade. His son, Warren H. Heath continued in the Business for many years after his father's death, with Clarence O. Libby as an assistant funeral director. His grandson, Warren F. Heath lives at 107 East Main Street.

Henry P. Davis, who resided on the easterly corner of Maple and Church Street, was appointed and served from 1885 to 1886. He lived on the easterly corner of Maple and Church Street with his wife and two sons; and for many years he was a mechanic at the Walker Auto Body where Engel Lewis Counter Company is now located. The Davises were active members of the Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Charles P. Rhodes served one year, 1886 to 1887.

J. Fred Ives, a resident of Walnut Street served from 1887 to 1888.

Fred H. Beckford, a resident of Water Street, Merrimacport at the Merrimac-Amesbury Line served

three years from 1888 to 1891. He was a blacksmith by trade and operated a horseshoeing and blacksmith shop on his small farm residence. The Beckfords had one daughter, Sarah, and they were active members of the First Baptist Church.

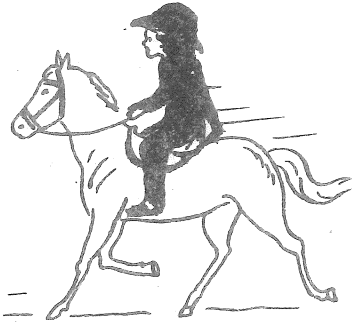
CHAPTER II

CHIEF OF POLICE, CONSTABLE AND NIGHTWATCHMAN 1891 -- 1916

In March of 1892, the Board of Selectmen changed the title to include "Chief of Police, Constable and Night Watchman." The population then was 2,630. He was to work from six P. M. to six A. M. and was required to answer all police calls at his home during the daytime hours, thus, placing the Chief of Police on 24-hour duty. He was permitted

to hire transportation from the Gilbert Davis Livery Stables, then located where the parking area, that now serves the Journey Insurance Agency and the Economy Cooperative Bank, in an emergency only.

James Fred Ives was reappointed and served six years 1892 to 1898. A highlight of Chief Ives' administration was Merrimac's first murder. On August 18, 1894, robbers entered the farmhouse residence of Jacob Crosby, on West Main Street, and demanded money which they believed Mr. Crosby had drawn from the bank that day to pay the farm help and his taxes. They were ransacking the house when 13-year old Henry T. Crosby ran up the street to his uncle Henry Edward Crosby's house which was across the street from the present Edgemont Garage and Gasoline Filling Station, to ask his uncle to come over to assist his father. Uncle Henry ran down through the apple orchard, where he had an old loaded shotgun hidden in a tree to shoot crows in



the cornfield. It so happened that one of the robbers had worked at the farm previously and knew about the hidden gun. He reached the gun first and fired point blank at Henry Edward Crosby and killed him instantly. Jacob had failed to go to the bank that day for some particular reason and the robbers only received seven cents from his pants pocket for all their trouble.

Henry Edward Crosby was forty-one years old at the time of his death. He was a great uncle to Velma C. Gibbs, a retired Public School teacher now residing at Greenleaf Drive, Whittier Apartments, off West Main Street.

Ives purchased a small farm in Amesbury and was appointed a patrolman in the Amesbury Police Department, where he retired as Captain in the early 1930's. He had a large family, some of whom still reside in Amesbury.

Angus McInnis was appointed and served one year, 1898-1899. McInnis lived with his wife and one son and three daughters at 6 Prospect Street. He was engaged in a freight moving business and for many years moved auto bodies from the Walker Auto Body Company, Liberty Street to the Boston & Maine depot for shipping.

Atwood Scott Nixon, who lived with his wife, Esther and daughter Florence at 5 Winter Street, corner of Lincoln Street, served from 1900 to July 1904. He was less fortunate than his nine predecessors as his job nearly cost him his life. On Tuesday, November 10, 1903 at 2:30 a.m., Chief Nixon was standing near the corner of School and Main Streets. He had just finished conversing with Dr. Frederick E. Sweetsir, M.D. when he heard glass breaking. He immediately thought of the quantity of hard liquor he had stored in the lockup, and he started in that direction. He was confronted by

two men in front of Sargent Hall, one called him by name, so he was off guard when they both grabbed him. He managed to throw off one of these men when two others approached with drawn guns. They took his handcuffs and revolver, and then took him to the cell-block where they left him while one man stood guard, and the three other men left. They then went to the Post Office located in the Little & Larkin Block, forced an entry, and used three charges of Dynamite or nitro-glycerine to blow open the safe. They could not break open a steel inner vault that contained all the money and stamps and received nothing for their trouble.

When Philip E. Quimby and Thomas H. Chaff Sr. heard the blasts they ran to the square to investigate, they were met by one of the gunmen and told to go back and mind their own business. This they promptly did when they observed the barrel of a gun pointing directly at their faces. Quimby who was a night watchman at the Haverhill Merrimac and Amesbury stables, where the Highway Department and Fire Department are now located, ran across the street where the Broad Street Extension now enters East Main Street, and tied down the wire to the fire alarm, thus causing one long blast of the alarm, until all the steam was used up. It is believed that this frightened the robbers away, but not before they fired shots at the first persons to arrive in answer to the alarm. Many gave chase in buggies, carriages and some firemen in Sargent Coal Wagon. They searched as far as West Newbury Square. Luckily they did not find the robbers.

A horse and buggy was found tied up near G.A. Titcomb's residence on School Street. The horse had been stolen from the People's Ice Company of Haverhill, and the buggy from Mr. Luce's Greenhouse next door.

A search was started for Chief Nixon; the lockup was the last place they searched. He was released, and had some bruises on him. His watch, chain and wallet containing \$26 were missing. A \$70-collection was given Nixon as a token of appreciation as an able and conscientious officer.

It was reported some months later that a bank robber was shot and killed by police when he tried to escape in a bank robbery in Lynn, Massachusetts. A revolver on his person was reported to have Nixon's inscription on the handgrip; others say it was the one taken from the Post Office.

On May 28, 1974, the author interviewed Chief Nixon's daughter, Mrs. Florence E. Tuttle of Haverhill, Massachusetts. She relates that her father died July 28, 1904 of appendicitis, and nothing connected with any beating received from the robbers in the cell block some eight months before, as had been rumored.

John J. Minahan was appointed to succeed Nixon and served for ten years--1904 to 1914. He lived with his wife, Mary, four daughters, Helen, Mary, Julia and Annie and three sons, John Jr., William and Alfred at 8 Prospect Street, next to Town Treasurer Roy C. Journeay's present residence. Only one daughter, Sister Mary Alfredine of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and one son, Alfred, a pharmacist, survive.

Chief Minahan was a member of the Church of the Nativity, the Nativity Men's Club and the Holy Name Society of the parish. He was a blacksmith by trade and was a strong, stern, but friendly man.

For years the Chief supplemented his income by caring for a large vegetable garden on the William Battis property in the rear of Summer and Grove Streets. He and Mrs. Minahan raised flowers for Memorial sales in their home garden and small greenhouse.

During the season for radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes and melons to ripen, the Chief found his presence was necessary in his garden, when the boys were going and coming from the Prospect Street School. They had a short-cut path leading from Grove Street directly through the center of his garden to Summer and Lincoln Streets. Those days, all children went home to lunch at noon. That meant four trips a day.

Minahan loved all children and would gladly treat them to a cucumber, tomato or whatever he had, but found they would destroy more than they ate, by pulling up vines or trampling over vegetables and if he

wanted any for his own use, he had to be at the proper place and at the proper time to save them. The kids gave him plenty of exercise.

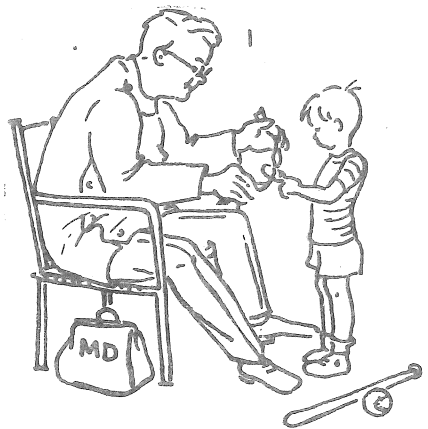
Chief Minahan had a constant companion from midnight to daylight each night in his large St. Bernard dog named "JIM". Jim was very keen in sight and hearing and would leave his master's side to investigate any foreign sounds he would hear.

The late Father John P. Sullivan experienced an encounter with Big Jim when he was a teenager. He left home at 20 Locust Street to summon Dr. Frederick E. Sweetsir to his home; as he approached the corner of Green and Locust Street, Jim appeared and started to encircle him barking continually. John said he was scared stiff and was glad when Chief Minahan appeared out of the total darkness and told Jim it was O. K.

Chief Minahan took John by the hand and went to Dr. Sweetsir's office and home where he summoned the doctor, helped him harness his horse and put John on the seat of the buggy for a ride home.

Incidentally the Dr. Frederick mentioned above was the father of our present Dr. Sweetsir and lived in the large house at 19 Main Street, next to the present doctor's office.

The population during Minahan's term of office stayed from 2100 to 2200 persons. Automobiles were just coming in and horse-drawn vehicles were going out. Chief Minahan secured transportation from the livery stables when needed. He returned to private industry in the spring of 1914.



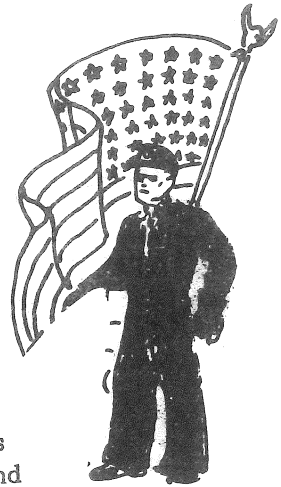
Warren T. Woodburn, who lived with his wife and one daughter and one son on Central Street served during 1914-1916. He was a large framed and kindly man. He decided to return to private industry for financial advancement, however.

CHAPTER III FIRST UNIFORMED POLICE DEPARTMENT - 1916

James P. Donahue, a special police officer and a plumber by trade was appointed to the Chief's position in 1916. He was twenty-one years old, believed to be the youngest Chief of Police in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the time, and was single. He was a huge man, at least a head taller than most of our citizens. He was a very powerful man and within his huge body he had a heart of gold for those who needed his assistance.

Chief Donahue, "Big Jim", as he was called, lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Donahue and his brother John, who later became a Massachusetts State Trooper, on Prospect Hill. He was a member of the Church of the Nativity, the former Nativity Men's Club, and the Holy Name Society of the parish. He was also very popular as interlocutor in Minstrel shows and entertainments and fund raising events. He was born in Amesbury and educated in the Merrimac Public Schools. On June 24, 1925 he married Marjorie M. Woods also a native of Amesbury. They had one daughter, Ruth.

Chief Donahue purchased a full uniform and equipment, which was the start of the first uniformed branch of the Police Department. He made a good impression and was highly respected, especially by the youth of the time, who took kindly to his advice. The uniform assisted greatly in the control of the ever-increasing traffic, as well as a distinct mark of authority over the former civilian attire worn by other Chiefs.



Bicycle riding on the sidewalks was forbidden and the Selectmen were strict on its enforcement; although all side streets off Main Street were gravel roads and the least amount of rain would make it impossible to ride a bicycle on them through the mud.

A platform with steps extended the entire length of Zenas Lovell's Grocery Store and protruded out where the sidewalk in front of the vacant Gas Station now appears, was another problem for police as all persons were forbidden to sit or loiter on them or in any doorways around the Square. The Chief got plenty of exercise enforcing this law, nights especially.

Selectmen appointed a few special police officers to assist the Chief on Sunday or holiday traffice and to work at the Crystal Dance Hall which was located opposite the entrance to Lake Attitash Avenue, where Bill's Liquor and Grocery Store now stands. This hall burned to the ground after a Harvest Ball a few years after being built. All the police had to purchase their own uniforms and equipment. The town furnished the badges for the uniform blouse only.

Donahue used his own Chevrolet touring car and later his Pontiac sedan for need transportation. He realized little out of this as his expense appropriation was scarcely enough to pay for the gasoline used on his calls. Chief Donahue enlisted in the United States Navy during World War I in 1917 after receiving a leave of absence from the Board of Selectmen.

Lowell G. Harrington, father of Russell C. Harrington now employed by the Municipal Light and Water Departments as a meter reader, was appointed Acting Chief Military Substitute for James P. Donahue and served from 1917 to 1918. He resided on Maple Street with his wife, Bessie, and son Russell.

Frank H. Hargraves, father of Helen R. Donaghue, retired principal of the Merrimac Elementary Schools and for whom the Helen R. Donaghue School was renamed on her retirement, served as acting Chief in 1919. Hargraves and his wife owned and operated a lodging and rooming house called "Just Like Home", on the corner of East Main and Liberty Streets, where Eastman's Dry Cleaning

and Laundry establishment now stands. He also conducted an Antique and Knick-Knack House on Liberty Street which he called "The Red Onion."

When Jim Donahue was discharged from the Navy in 1919, he was hired as a patrolman in the Amesbury Police Department. In March the Board of Selectmen managed to get Jim to accept a reappointment to the Merrimac Police Department as Chief of Police.

In 1926, the Selectmen appointed a few special police to serve during the semicentennial celebration of the town which was to be held July 1-4 of that year. The author of this history was one of those appointed.

In 1928, Oliver Parenteau, a long-time resident of the Bear Hill Shores of Lake Attitash built a dance hall there, Attitash Ball Room. Two police officers were required at each dance held, May 29 through October 12 each year on Friday and Saturday nights. After this date dances would be conducted in Sargent Hall or Grange Hall for the winter months. John P. Lane, a caterer from Haverhill and Methuen, a great friend of the Merrimac Police Department purchased the dance hall and renamed it Lane's Ten Acres. He held many outings there in addition to the three or more weekly dances which were supervised by one or more police officers, all privately paid. It is only fair to note here that this gave the only incentive for some to become police officers, as the special police appropriation then was very small and the hourly rate also too small to interest many.

In 1927, at the annual town meeting, it was voted to hire and to appropriate funds for the salary of an additional permanent police officer to work as night patrolman during the summer months, to allow the Chief more time for traffic control and court prosecution of cases as well as investigations. Leon L. Dow Sr., father of Leon L. Dow Jr., owner and operator of the Merrimac Metal Finishing Company on Littles Court, was appointed to serve as night patrolman from six p.m. to six a.m. seven days a week. Chief Donahue was assigned

to day duty from eight a.m. to six p.m., seven days per week. Donahue managed to save enough money out of his annual 1927 appropriation to pay Officer Dow's salary until the end of the year. The selectmen, realizing the benefits of the two-man department, agreed to ask the Finance Committee and the voters at the annual Town Meeting to raise and appropriate sufficient funds to keep the additional police officer on duty the year round. It was so voted, and thus was the start of the two permanent men-police Department; a very necessary and welcomed assist to the ever-increasing traffic control and increased crime investigation. It, also, was only fair to Officer Dow who had resigned from his employment with the Barry & Linehan Meat, Fish & Produce Market, where the Merrimac Savings Bank now have their director's room, to serve as a night patrolman for the summer months.

Officer Dow Sr. and his wife, Elizabeth, one son, Leon, Jr., and daughters, Marion, Eva, Bessie and Margaret lived at 2 Mechanic Street and were active members of the Pilgrim Congregational Church. He served as custodian there at one time. His duties consisted of checking all doors of stores and factories in the immediate vicinity of the Square at 6 p.m. and after the curfew at 9 p.m., and before going off duty in the morning, unless he was pre-engaged with other police matters at these times. Many doors and windows would be found unlocked or opened. He would check throughout the building and leave a report.

The Merrimac Electric Light Department installed lock-boxes with two-way knife switches on seven poles in locations through the immediate vicinity of the Square. These switches would connect the electric current to the commercial power lines in the night time and the street lighting power lines in the daytime. The night patrolman was responsible for throwing these switches to the commercial power before midnight and return them to the street lighting power lines before or at daybreak. The street lights all over town were shut off at midnight by an automatic switch at the power station, and these seven lights remained on

until daybreak. Thus before midnight the night patrolman had to start his rounds usually to East Main Street and Mill Street, then to Church Street at the Square, up Grove Street to the junction of Summer Street, then to West Main Street at Woodland, then to Green at School, then to School at the Square, to the pole at the entrance of the Merrimac Savings Bank. He would repeat this routine before or at daybreak and all street lights would be out, but in a proper position to go on together at dusk of night. He, also, had to cause the curfew to sound for all under sixteen years of age not accompanied by a parent or guardian at 9 p.m. He had to go to the Fire Station on School Street, where he pushed a button which would cause one blast of the fire alarm to blow and also turn on some electric lights inside and outside of the station. He, then, had to reset the switch and indicator and automatic control so that fire calls could be immediately received, recorded and the alarm sounded. This equipment was obtained and assembled by Fire Alarm Superintendent, who later became Fire Chief Louis B. Davis.

One of Merrimac's most popular citizens, as a child, would be waiting at the fire station at 9 p.m. each night and the night patrolman would allow him to push the button and ring the curfew. He would then run for home happy as a lark and felt it a part of his civic duty. It is well to note here that the Night patrolman had to handle all other night police matters in addition to the above-mentioned routine.

The Police Station was housed in a small ten foot by fourteen foot room, which is now the Assessor's office and included the office of the Board of Selectmen, Welfare Department, Board of Health, Town Accountant, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Town Treasurer, the School Committee, The Finance Committee, and the Registrars of Voters as well as the Police Department. Many times when other town officials were present at a meeting the Chief had to take complaints or interrogations in a small narrow hallway leading to the basement or in a storage vault attached to this small

room, known as the "Town Offices". This was an almost impossible situation and most complaints were received out of door, because of the nature of the complaint and the need of secrecy during the entire investigation, to protect the rights of all those concerned. When the Public Library was moved from the Sargent Hall Building to the Thomas Hoyt Memorial Building in 1930, Chief Donahue made a strong plea with the Board of Selectmen for office space for the Police Department. It was finally agreed that he could have the small former reading room of the Library for the Police Department provided it would not call for a great public expenditure. This was a very welcomed advancement for the Chief and all the officers. Police Officer Clarence O. Libby, then Town Moderator and Police Officer Alexander M. Sullivan, both carpenters by trade, volunteered to complete the carpenter work involved in the remodeling; and Mortimer E. Sullivan, a home decorator and later a member of the Board of Selectmen, volunteered to paint and decorate the interior of the station. This kept the cost to a minimum. A window was installed in the side wall and this room was divided into two small offices. The wall clock, that still hangs on the station wall, keeps perfect time, was donated by a former special police officer, and an auto body manufacturer in Amesbury, Carlton C. Witham. This project, small and compact as it was, was a great relief from the old crowded Town Office as it was for police only.

CHAPTER IV

CHIEF OF POLICE UNDER CIVIL SERVICE - 1940

By a special act of the Legislature in 1940, the office of the Police Chief in the town of Merrimac was placed under Civil Service and the present incumbent, James P. Donahue was assured of steady employment until he age of 65. This ended the fear the Chief had to undergo at election time each year. If any selectman grieved by his actions, right or wrong, who could win the vote of the second member of the Board could replace the Chief at anytime without giving any reason,

or fail to reappoint him when his annual appointment expired in March each year. Jim encountered many situations, through no fault of his own, that needed this Civil Service Job protection. A few of them are listed below.

National Prohibition of the sale and possession of all Alcoholic Beverages was in full force. Fred Parker's Drug Store was the only one licensed to sell hard liquor in town, and on prescription only. It was said that members of the Big Business Men's Club known as the Home Club, with rooms on the floor over the drug store, were the only persons, except the ill who could easily get these prescriptions. Merrimac's only hotel, "The Monomack Inn" on the site of the present Northeast National Bank, where Carriage Manufacturers would entertain their guests, came under court complaints of angry wives, for selling to husbands who should use their money for family support. Speak Easies would spring up in outlying districts and a complaint would eventually be signed for selling hooch or moonshine whiskey to a monor. This would call for continual night surveillance until sufficient evidence to obtain a search warrant was obtained. If liquor was found on the premises, the owner and all liquor and equipment used in its manufacture would be brought before the court. If found guilty he would usually move out of town only to have another start in another location. It may be surprising to note that anywhere from forty to two thousand quarts of home brew, and from two quarts to two gallons of whiskey and sometimes complete stills in operation were found in these raids. Chief Donahue personally conducted all the raids. The repeal of Prohibition was a welcomed event for all police officers. No one liked the details which lowered one's popularity, when friends and influential citizens were found in attendance at these raids. Another special headache for Jim was when a group from a southern state organized a branch of the Klu Klux Klan in Merrimac. They held six out-of-door meetings in fields on East Main Street and West Main Street

and burned one fiery cross on Standpipe Hill, during a Democratic rally in Sargent Hall. This was a touchy situation for the Chief as he was responsible for their protection during these meetings from intruders. It was a known fact that the head of the Merrimac division was a former member of the Board of Selectmen. Jim underwent a severe daily going over from a local dentist. Someone had stolen his sign, engraved on brass, reading William A. Cleary D.D.S. from the entrance to his office in the Powen Block. It was a present given him when he received his degree in dentistry, and he demanded its return. After many hours of local search, the sign was to have been seen in the College Dormitory room of the son of an influential citizen. Jim had it replaced without Dr. Cleary ever knowing from whence it came, because he knew Dr. Cleary was angry enough to sign a complaint and bring the vandal into court or at least pull out all his upper teeth if he could learn his identity. Jim, also, knew if he prosecuted this youth it could mean his job. "Discretion here was the greater part of Valor."

Chief Donahue, as all other chiefs, had his share of false alarms, fires of suspicious origin and grass-fires. Unwanted buildings, overheated insurance policies, children playing with matches, grudge fires by a person whose mind was ill at ease and improper disposal of smoking material were given as the chief reasons for fires. Rarely was it possible to obtain sufficient evidence to obtain a complaint of arson from the court. During his term of office Merrimac witnessed a big hurricane and river flood. He had to eject two citizens from their homes near the river bank and bring them to relatives or friends. They refused to leave even when their homes were floating with water up into the second story. They just insisted on going down the river with their cabins. The Board of Health condemned the buildings and these men were never allowed to return; of course, Jim was blamed for this. Jim also served during the early depression years in the early 1930's when money was really scarce.

In 1943 Jim Donahue served as a member of the local Draft Board, until he was granted a leave of absence to re-inlist into the United States Navy. During World War II, night patrolman Leon L. Dow, Sr. was appointed Acting Chief of Police, as his military substitute. Special Officer Edward J. O'Keefe, a former motorman on the Massachusetts Northeastern Street Railway, was appointed night patrolman. Chief Dow died in office May 8, 1943 at the age of 63, and O'Keefe was appointed as Acting Chief. Philip Gilmore and Francis Mathews served as Night Patrolman.

Mathews resigned to accept night employment with the Mass. Northeastern Transportation Company at the East Main Street Terminal. Alden Morse, a great friend of Chief O'Keefe volunteered to serve as Night Patrolman until he could find someone. This posed a great problem for Chief O'Keefe as no one wanted to work nights and many of his special police officers were in the service, the navy yard or on war contract work which required them to resign from police duty. Fred Smith, a former guard at the Portsmouth Navy Yard was later appointed to night patrolman. Smith, a civil engineer by profession, was single and lived with his mother Mrs. Lee Cleversy, on Lancaster Court.

Chief O'Keefe moved from Boston with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Keefe, and three brothers, Francis, John, Joseph and three sisters, Catherine, Mary and Honora and lived at 8 Bartlett Street. His father was a well-known coachman for the Gilbert G. Davis Livery Stables on Locust Street. He married Elsie Goldsmith, a native of Merrimac and they lived with their two sons, William and George and one daughter, Elsie at Little Court at the time of his appointment. A grandson, Kenneth O'Keefe, is a local letter carrier and lives at 50 Emery Street.

The population rose from 2300 to 2800 during O'Keefe's administration and traffic conditions were a serious problem on Route 110. Perley Brown, a lineman for the Electric Light Co. made a traffic count one Sunday evening, between the hours of seven

and eight o'clock and tallied 2,250 automobiles passing a given point through the Square, bumper to bumper traffic. It is well to note here that chief Edward J. O'Keefe made a remarkable showing in his brief time in law enforcement, as he had had no previous police administrative experience. He was a large man and made a good appearance in uniform. He studied hard and was not afraid to seek any information he needed from any of the many friends and associates he had made in his fourteen years as a special officer. He was well respected in the courts and police circles for his efforts. He died in office on August 15, 1949 very suddenly of cerebral thrombosis at the age of 52. After Chief O'Keefe's death the Board of Selectmen appointed special officer Ronald C. Sarasin as Acting Chief. He was a counter worker at the Engel Lewis Counter Company from which he resigned to accept the appointment. He and his wife, the former Lenora G. Child, and their two daughters Harriette and Vicky, lived at 65 Church Street.

CHAPTER V

CHIEF DONAHUE RESIGNS - TO DEPUTY SHERIFF - 1950

When Chief Donahue was discharged from the United States Navy, he had a great deal of time allotted him from such service before he was obliged to return to the chief's position in Merrimac. Sheriff Frank E. Raymond influenced Jim to try out a Deputy Sheriff's appointment in this allotted time, which he did and when this time ran out Jim resigned from the Chief's position and remained a Deputy Sheriff, for Essex County. The Board of Selectmen then notified the Civil Service Commission that there was a vacancy, and asked them to set a date for an examination to fill the position. This examination was held in 1951 and Chief Sarasin and a newly appointed special officer, Maurice Carey were the only persons to take this examination.

Chief Sarasin resigned November 4, 1951 to accept a job as meter reader for the light and water departments. This proved to be a very wise move for him as

he still is in the same employ only he has reached the top position, as manager of the Departments, instead of a possible one-year appointment as Chief had he remained.

Special Officer Alexander M. Sullivan was given a provisional appointment from Civil Service and served until January 27, 1952. During these few months many serious accidents occurred on West Main Street, at the former Hale's Curve, now Olson's Curve, since Dot Hale married Officer Carl G. Olson.

In 1952 Chief Sullivan was successful in having engineers from the State Department of Public Works view the Curve, the north-bound lane of which had settled, and caused the road-bed to tip towards the right and cause a truck or speeding car to swerve to the right. The Massachusetts Public Works Commissioner, Mr. Callahan, agreed to have this situation corrected when the road was being hot-topped later that year. It was done. These accidents happened over a period of years and nothing was done to correct same until that time. Special police officer, Carl G. Olson, could tell by the roar of the motors coming down Tucker's Hill, some two hundred yards away, whether or not they were going to make the curve. He would jump out of bed and reach his front door almost in time to see them strike the trees. He would then handle the traffic until all was cleared away. His wife, Dorothy, would call Chief Sullivan and make hot coffee for all involved. Henry D. Lay, who lived next door would also be shaken out of bed and would start clearing the debris, from the highway to allow traffic to continue on safely. Dougie Lay, as he was called, often helped Chief Sullivan put patients back in bed, after a fall, carry them downstairs to be transported to the hospital for X-ray or cast removal, and many other strong arm jobs. Sullivan never missed an opportunity to thank these three civic-minded persons, who would never submit a bill for their services.

CHAPTER VI

MAURICE CAREY APPOINTED CHIEF OF POLICE - 1952

Maurice Carey was given confirmation of his eligibility early in January, and the selectmen gave him his appointment as Chief of Police to be effective January 27, 1952. Chief Carey resided at 16 High Street, Merrimacport with his wife, the former J. Lillian Sande, and three children, Wayne, Norma J. and Robin L. He and his family were active members of the Merrimacport United Methodist Church. He served as Lay Leader. He had been employed by the Boston & Maine Railroad for twelve years in Boston from which he resigned to accept the Chief's position. Chief Carey was successful in a fund-raising campaign to equip the Police Department with two-way radio communication system. This was a big asset to the department for in any emergency the officer on duty could call for assistance from his cruiser, or the station. Ambulances and Fire department, as well as many Police departments in the area, were on the same frequency. The voters at the annual meeting in March 1955 voted to purchase Merrimac's first police cruiser, a Plymouth Sedan Package Cruiser. Voters, also, approved granting a six-day week instead of seven to regular police officers, the Chief and the night patrolman. The night hours were later changed to six in the evening till four in the morning; all calls after that were to be received at the Chief's home over an extension phone.

Chief Carey served three years and nine months to September 16, 1955. He resigned to return to his former employment with the Boston & Maine Railroad in Boston. The Board of Selectmen secured a Civil Service provisional appointment for former Acting Chief Alexander M. Sullivan, September 16, 1955, and then appointed him Acting Chief of the Merrimac Police Department.

CHAPTER VII

CHIEF ALEXANDER M. SULLIVAN

TENURE OF OFFICE 1955

By a special act of the Massachusetts Legislature, and signed by the Governor, Christian Herter, January 24, 1956, Chief Sullivan was granted Tenure of Office as Chief of Police of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts. At the next annual town meeting held on March 4, 1956, the voters voted to accept this act with ayes vote of Six hundred and fifty-five (655) to a no vote of one hundred and sixty-nine (169). This placed the Act in full force and effect---thus granting Chief Sullivan Job Security.

Chief Sullivan was born at 20 Locust Street, in the home built by his father in 1891. He was graduated from the former Merrimac High School in 1919 and attended Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts; and, also, took a law course at La Salle Extension University. Sullivan is the son of the late Daniel F. Sullivan and Mary R. Sullivan who operated a carriage painting business in Haverhill in the late 1800's. He and his wife, the former Mary G. O'Dea R.N., an Amesbury native and Assistant Superintendent of the Amesbury Hospital still live at 20 Locust Street. They have three children, a son, Daniel and two daughters, Margaret and Ellenmarie. Chief Sullivan is an active member of the Church of the Nativity and was a past president of both the former Nativity Men's Club and the Holy Name Society of the parish. He was a carpenter and builder by trade.

After the resignation of Mrs. Beula H. Mitchell, a crossing guard at Locust and Main Street in 1960 Chief Sullivan was successful in obtaining the services of Mrs. Joseph L. Gamelin, of Green Street, for the position. She was given a special police appointment,

which afforded her authority to properly control traffic at the busy crossing. At the time all eight grades in the elementary schools were housed in Merrimac at the new Elementary School on Union Street and all children from the west of Main Street crossed at Locust Street or Union Street, on West Main Street twice a day, except those who rode in school busses. Mrs. Gamelin presented a very neat appearance in uniform and became a very sincere but stern officer. She loved children and respected their rights as well as the rights of the motorist; but always insisted that her orders be respected and adhered to by both. She lived with her husband, Joseph L., and two sons, Lionel and Daniel, and one daughter, Cora at their home on the corner of Green and Locust Streets, the former site of the J. A. Lancaster Carriage Manufacturing Company. Chief Sullivan obtained an appropriation of \$1,000 for a part-time clerk to make out reports, answer phone calls and contact an officer on the two-way radio when he would be out on a call. Officer Gamelin was assigned to this position, which she now holds, on a full-time basis. She has been promoted to Sergeant in the Police Department and at present has five Crossing Guards under her supervision, some serve as police matrons and also assistant clerks.

Sergeant Gamelin is the former M. Lucille Godin, daughter of Mrs. M. Georgina Godin and the late Anthony Godin, former residents for over fifty years.

In 1956, through the courtesy of Commissioner Robert C. Young of the Merrimac Light Department and the volunteer labor of Superintendent of Fire alarms, Irving G. Burbeck, an electrician by trade, a red light was installed high above the top of the tower on Sargent Hall. By pressing a button in the entrance of the Police Station the light would go on and remain on until a button near the desk was pushed to put it out. Thus, if no officer was at the station, either trying doors or out on a call, some other person seeing the light could summon him to return to the station. This was a big assist especially with only

one man on duty at any given time. This light was visible from Lower East Main Street, Broad and High Streets, Merrimacport, Summer Street and many other points in town. A small sign near the button read: "Push button to summon Police Officer". Many times a special police officer off duty or a friend of the police, seeing the red light on, would notify the officer on duty by radio. The quick cooperation received on this was much appreciated and contributed greatly to its success. A red network Fire phone was installed, also. A burglar alarm was installed, in the form of a red light, which was connected with the Merrimac Valley National Bank. This gave Chief Sullivan plenty of exercise, at first, as some new employee and many times one of the regulars would forget the locations on the alarm buttons and push same. Of course when the chief would enter the bank in answer to the alarm, all employees would be surprised to hear that an alarm had been sounded. "A false alarm is better than a fatality", the Chief would say and forgive them.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works refused to continue their annual practice of painting cross walks on Route 110 Main Street but through a contribution for paint and the courtesy of Superintendent A. Lord of the Highway Department, they were painted just the same. Many Elderly Citizens and children crossed the Square many times per day. Transportation by auto was scarce at that period and a police officer on the island to guide them safely across was a must by Chief Sullivan, who always accepted and welcomed the responsibility of saving a child or a senior citizen from death or injury in an auto accident. The traffic was increasing steadily year after year and with the razing of Lovell's Grocery Store and open area of the new Gasoline Station, it made a long distance journey across the Square and many senior citizens had a great fear of the same.

The two cells in the basement of the police station had been repeatedly condemned by the State Authorities;

insufficient light and air, inadequate toilet facilities and improper supervision were given as their reasons. The Amesbury Police Department allowed Merrimac Police to use one of their four cells free of charge. This was a big help as the baliff, the court room and constant supervision of the desk officer there, was ever present in the same building.

In 1963 at a joint meeting of the Merrimac and Amesbury Board of Selectmen and Chief Sullivan and Amesbury Chief Edmund J. McLaughlin it was agreed that the Town of Merrimac should pay the Town of Amesbury an annual fee of \$500 for the use of the jail. This was so voted at the annual Town Meeting. There was only sufficient money appropriated for the salary of one school-crossing officer at Locust Street and Main Street.

Chief Sullivan served at the Union and Main Street crossing each morning and afternoon. On days when the



Chief attended Court sessions this was really inconvenient, as he left the crossing at 8:45 a.m. and had to be ready to prosecute his cases sharp at 9 a.m. in Second District Court at Amesbury, 4½ miles away. It can be noted here that Chief Sullivan prosecuted all his own cases without the aid of any counsel and at no additional expense to the taxpayer of the town of Merrimac. He and a few officers received Law School credits from the F.B.I. classes sponsored by the Haverhill Police Department. The Police Relief Association conducted Whist Parties and Dances and sold Christmas trees on the lot at Fairfield Avenue and Main Street, owned by the late Police Officer C. Edward Bridges, to raise funds for the purchase of uniforms and equipment for the regular duty officers. There were no funds appropriated for the same to date.

Many problems confronted Chief Sullivan at the start and all during the construction of Route 495 and the building of bridges at Locust, Broad and Emery Streets across the new highway. Many property owners were reluctant to allow any work done on their

property until they received money for the same from the State or Federal Government.

It was not unusual to find the property owner's wife, rifle or shotgun in hand, sitting on her property, vowing to shoot anyone who dared to cut even a branch from a tree. Chief Sullivan had to go, usually at night to explain to both husband and wife the whole process of landtaking and advise them to cooperate with the contractor for better finish results after the highway was built. There was the problem of obtaining sufficient manpower for traffic duty which varied from day to day, from two to seven police officers, and all the weekly payrolls to fill out and submit to the field office. This was all extra work free of charge. The police who worked on traffic only were allowed on the payroll according to the Engineers. Chief Sullivan did receive a letter of Commendation, for the method he used in handling both traffic and landtaking problems from the Board of Selectmen.

A policeman, on duty, fell on the ice and was subjected to X-ray and medical attention. It was uncovered at this time that the Employee's Accident Insurance Policy for the town did not include police officers. Chief Sullivan informed the Selectmen and the Finance Committee of the situation. Wilfred G. Journeay of the Journeay Insurance Agency, Inc. submitted a policy that covered policemen on duty, which was acceptable to all officers concerned, and the voters appropriated the necessary funds for same at the annual Town Meeting.

Chief Sullivan encountered a few professional safe crackers during his term of office. One at the Kenoza Vending Company, West Main Street where a medium-size safe was completely destroyed. A reported \$6,000, the week's receipts awaiting the arrival of Brink's Armored Truck to take it to the bank was stolen a short time before the truck arrived. All participants in the robbery wore gloves even when they were eating food and ice-cream bars. Police theorized this as "Professional", as they went directly to the

hidden safe, took the contents and did not disturb the office area, and on the day of deposit known only to a few. Sufficient evidence for a complaint could not be obtained. The next time the place was broken into, it was discovered by Officer Wallace P. Spencer, while checking the doors on night patrol. One person ran out the damaged door and Spencer fired two shots from his service revolver over his head in an effort to stop him, but he ran faster. A complete search of the area was conducted when Chief Sullivan arrived but no one was found. Nothing was taken and the new safe was not located.

Professionals destroyed a safe at the New Elementary School, on Union Street and escaped with a reported \$400 in cash from collection boxes and wallets. Every teacher's desk was ransacked. A large platter of sliced turkey was eaten and many bottles of milk and tonic were consumed. Two Coin Collections belonging to teachers, valued at approximately \$450 were taken from the safe. Three men were apprehended after an extensive investigation and signed statements implicating them in the school break. In Superior Court they were sentenced to ten to twelve years at hard labor in State Prison for the leader, six to eight years at hard labor in State Prison for the second man and four months in jail for the third man, who had no previous record.

Most of the coin collection was recovered in a Coin Shop in Lynn where the second burglar sold it for \$46. After the arrest, Chief Sullivan had a social talk with the leader and received the following astonishing information.

Question: Why did you do this thing?

Answer: I am twenty-nine years old and have been involved in about 200 breaks. Eighty of them in schools.

Question: Why schools?

Answer: Any school of any size is good for at least \$100 in cash on a weekend. Some teachers are so anxious to get away for the weekend, they leave their wallets or money collected by the students

in their unlocked desks for easy picking.

Question: Where is the cash you took on my job?

Answer:

We used it to pay overdue installments on the car we bought for this business. I have no money left to pay you back.

Question: Who drank all the milk at school?

Answer: I did.

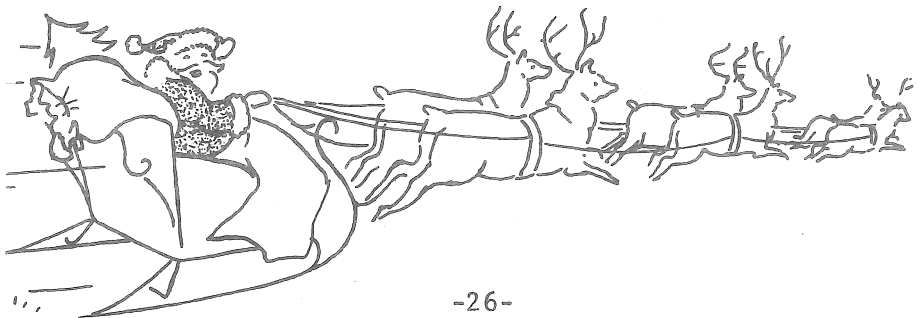
Question: Have you stomach ulcers?

Answer: I have now.

After a complete search of the living quarters of these defendants with a Lynn Police Detective, Chief Sullivan was not surprised at the course of life these defendants chose. "At least they get out into the country's fresh air occasionally and eat roast turkey," he said.

Irving G. Burbeck was given a special appointment and gold badge as Radio Operator, Police Department, Merrimac Massachusetts at a police dinner at the Carriage House. This was a tribute for the many hours of labor at both the Police and Fire Station in answering calls both on Two-Way Radio and Telephone. In any emergency of significance he would report to the station and take over. His biggest thrill was calling elderly persons in the outlying district on Christmas Eve to inform them that the Santa Claus float was nearing their residence. He had a list of them before him and was in contact with the cruiser by radio, that preceded the float.

When Donald and Rita Kimball, owners and operators of a successful Dining Room at their home at 90 East

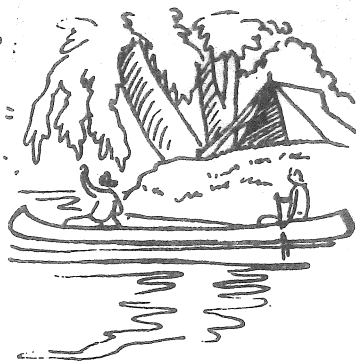


Main Street, but who always found time for the children, started a small Santa Claus parade from Bear Hill Road to the Square in 1948. They did not realize that it would be an ever-increasing annual event and now in the 1960's was attracting an estimated ten to twelve thousand spectators.

Chief Sullivan solicited and received the aid of as many as sixty-four police officers and auxiliary police officers from all surrounding police departments, to handle traffic and guard the low-boy floats each year to keep children from accidental injury. These Officers were given a one-day appointment to the Merrimac Police Department and were sworn in at the Police Station by Town Clerk, C. Howard Phillips. In all the seventeen parades to date not a single accident had occurred, not even a bumped fender reported. Thanks to the Chiefs and Officers of the various departments for their great assistance.

It is well to mention here that during and after World War I and II, the Civil Defense Directors maintained a unit of Auxiliary Police. The unit at this time was all uniformed and equipped, and remained in service until the late 1960's.

Chief Thorald (Steve) Trenholm, Captain D. Everett Hargraves, Lieutenant Stanley Hardy, Lieutenant Frank E. Danforth, Sergeant Donald A. Dwyer and sixteen regular men. Chief Sullivan was ever grateful for the many hours on traffic at churches and busy intersections on Sundays and holidays as well as in all emergencies



that these men afforded the town, free of any compensation. They all realized that the Police Budget could not afford these various but necessary services. The auxiliary police who had camps and boats at Lake Attitash would patrol the lake when boating was heavy there to protect the bathers, and all free of charge. They were ever willing and ready to go to the assistance of any out-of-town department for parades, etc. to

reciprocate for past favors.

Among the highlights of this time was the gang-land slaying of a Boston business man whose body was found stuffed into the rear trunk of his own car with five bullet holes in the left side of his head and left parked on River Road, at the residence of Mrs. Harriett F. Bigelow, Welfare Agent for the Town of Merrimac, who reported the car parked there. A quantity of blood streaming down the rear of the front passenger seat and on the rear floor indicated that he had been shot at close range by a hand gun and by some person seated in the operator's seat. The bullets entered the head on the left side through the hat he was wearing at the time. When and by whom he was actually murdered was never established. It was theorized he might have been the victim of some loan-shark deal as several others who were known by him were similarly murdered. A father and son, Mr. Norman Allison Sr., and Jr., April 19, 1963, drowned at Lake Attitash in the early Spring, just after the ice had melted, was a real tragedy. They had built a sail boat during the winter and were over-anxious to try it out. They lived at Pond Hill section but the boat capsized off the Bear Hill Shore.

September 10, 1965, a priest, age 33, and a woman, age 66 were killed and four other persons were injured when a large ten-wheel trailer truck collided with four automobiles, traveling in the opposite direction on East Main Street, Route 110 at Prospect Hill, at 11 p.m after a heavy rainstorm.

The happiest event in Chief Sullivan's term of office was a surprise party given Mrs. Sullivan and him on the occasion of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, October 26, 1963, at the Summer Home of Chairman of Selectman and Mrs. Ralph L. Buzzell, Lake Attitash by nearly three hundred friends and relatives. They had been taken out to dinner at "Kings Grant" by their children, and when they returned to the lake, they were met by a huge crowd. Needless to say, the house was decorated with all kinds of presents, two money trees and eats. The summer home of Former

Selectman and Mrs. George Lay next door was used for the overflow crowd.

Through the courtesy of Chairman and Mrs. Ralph L. Buzzell, the Sullivans were residing at their summer home while repairs were being made in their own home after a small fire, smoke and water damage.

Night Patrolman Fred Smith retired on his sixty-fifth birthday in 1959, and Francis J. Mathews was reappointed night patrolman. Mathews lived with his wife, Edna and one son, Frederick, three daughters, Lynett, Joan and Ellen on Emery Street. He had previously served for one and a half years under the late Acting Chief Edward J. O'Keefe. He resigned from his employment at the Massachusetts Northeastern Transportation Company to accept this appointment. His title changed to one of five regular officers in 1970. Officer Fred Smith was given a testimonial at the new Elementary School by many friends and associates.

On September 29, 1957, Deputy Sheriff, and the former Police Chief James P. Donahue died, thus ending a career of nearly forty-three years in law enforcement, Chief of Police, Military Police and Deputy Sheriff, 1915-1957. He was honored by one of the largest attended funerals ever held in Merrimac. Town, State, and County Officials, Representatives of all surrounding police departments as well as all branches of Law Enforcement, led by Chiefs in full uniform marched in front of the hearse from his home at 2 Lincoln Street to the Church of the Nativity, where a Solemn High Mass was celebrated. The procession led by Police Cruisers from surrounding towns and cities proceeded to St. Joseph Cemetery in Amesbury, where he was laid at rest.

Chief Sullivan retired at the age of 65, on May 1, 1966, after serving forty years on the department eleven years as Chief. He had served in many other elective and appointive offices, including Election Clerk, Fire Department, Constable, School Attendance Officer, Chairman of the Original Playground Commis-

sion for three years and later one year to fill a vacancy. He joined the Merrimac Lions Club in January, 1952 and was King Lion in 1956. He also was active in the eye research program and served full Christmas dinners and toys for the needy for many



years, and hopes to continue this sincere work of charity for many years to come. Many times when he was investigating a police complaint he would find dire need and by contact with the Welfare Department and the Lion's Club he could serve them well.

Chief Sullivan was tendered a testimonial dinner on May 19, 1966 at DiBurro's in Bradford and it was attended by nearly 300 friends and associates, town officials and employees and representatives of nearly all branches of Law Enforcement with whom he had become associated. He was presented with a plaque, with one of his gold badges and an inscription plate for the many years of faithful service he had rendered to the town of Merrimac, by the Chairman of Selectmen, George J. P. Stevens. He was also presented many gifts and money. He received a Citation from the House of Representatives and signed by the Governor of Massachusetts, John A. Volpe; a Resolution of Commendation from the Massachusetts State Senate, offered by Senator James A. Rurak. He had previously received a commendable citation by Second District Court at Amesbury, Massachusetts signed by his Honor Salvatore Faraci, Judge of said Court and one of his cherished possessions is a commendation by Special Justice F. Leslie Vaccaio for excellent argument on dispositions of his cases in Second District Court. Associate Justice F. Leslie Viccaro was the principal speaker and Probation Officer John J. O'Neil was Master of Ceremonies. The two living members of the Chief's family, Sister Mary John of the Community of St. Joseph, Boston, and

James G. Sullivan of Lowell were present. His daughter Margaret DeBoyes, a former Boston Hairdresser now living in Florida, a son, Daniel F., in his senior year of Pharmacy at Northeastern University, Boston and his daughter, Ellenmarie, a junior at Keene State College and his wife Mary, Assistant Administrator of the Amesbury Hospital were present and enjoyed a full course Roast Beef Dinner. The march to the head table was led by the Rev. James Dalton, Pastor of the Church of the Nativity.

CHAPTER VIII

Maurice Carey reinstated Chief of Police

The Board of Selectmen requested and received from the Commissioner of Civil Service a reinstatement for former Chief of Police, Maurice Carey. He was appointed, effective May 1, 1966. He resigned from the Boston & Maine Railroad to accept this appointment. Carey was successful in obtaining an additional permanent officer. Special Officer Wallace P. Spencer was appointed, and after serving six months he was appointed Sergeant. He resigned the following year to accept a position as Security Guard with the Western Electric Company in North Andover, Massachusetts.

Bernard H. Connor, a native of Merrimac and a former police officer with the Washington, D.C. Police Department and also the Baltimore Maryland Police Department was appointed Sergeant. He resigned in 1969 to serve as an elected member of the Board of Selectmen. Arthur D. Evans was then appointed sergeant, July 15, 1969.

Mrs. Rachael Adams was appointed a School Crossing Guard at the new Red Oak School. Special Officer Donald A. Dwyer was appointed a regular officer. The Town voted a uniform allowance to all regular officers for the first time in the departments' history.



Mr. Joseph F. Dugas, a local developer and builder and Mr. Frank Sowick, owner of the Edgemont Oil Company paid membership dues of two hundred and fifty dollars each to sponsor the Merrimac Police Department in the 100-Club of Massachusetts, thus enabling the family of any police officer killed in line of duty to receive up to fifteen thousand dollars in benefits. Dugas also donated an emergency oxygen equipment for the police cruiser.

The new expressway, Route 495, opened in 1966 and relieved all the congested traffic on Route 110. Local and State Police, as well as officers from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, patrolled the same.

In 1970 the Amesbury Police Department could no longer allow one of their cells for Merrimac prisoners. The Salisbury police accepted them.

The Amesbury Fire Department Ambulance was to stop service to Merrimac until voters agreed to pay for services received by Merrimac patients who could not or would not pay for same. This was agreed. Later a private ambulance service was considered.

On September 16, 1969, Chief Carey was stricken ill at his home and was hospitalized with a heart condition. He resigned, effective May 1, 1970, because of ill health. Sergeant Arthur D. Evans was given a Civil Service provisional appointment as Acting Chief of Police.

Highlights of Carey's administration were the armed robbery of a local raw-lumber dealer, Richard E. Sargent, at his home on Bear Hill Road by two youths. They demanded his wallet at gun point and fled. One of the youths formerly was in Sargent's employ, and he knew his name and address. He was arrested before he reached his home in New Hampshire, and had the wallet and the money on his person when apprehended.

A local youth threatened a local banker, Millard Hills, at his home with a knife and demanded the keys to Hill's automobile parked out front of his home. Mrs. Hill overheard the conversation between the youth and her husband, and she called the police. The youth was arrested before he received the keys.

Chief Carey retired in June of 1970 on a Heart Clause Disability pension. He was tendered a testimonial at the 110 House by friends and associates. Carey had served as a Trustee of Kimball Park, library trustee, playground commissioner, and director of Civil Defense. In 1971, a state-wide Civil Service Examination was conducted. Evans was the only local person to take the examination. He resigned in November 1972. Evans lived with his wife, Joanne, one daughter, Betty and four sons, Arthur Jr., Richard, Stephen and David at 14 Nichols Street.

During Evans' term of office, Merrimac witnessed its first armed bank robbery. On January 9, 1970, at 1:45 p.m., a lone bank robber entered the Merrimac Savings Bank with gun in hand. He ordered the clerk, Mrs. J. Lillian Carey, to fill a paper bag with money. Lillian put some



bills in the bag and passed it out the slide to him. He then ordered Mrs. May B. Calnan, bank treasurer, to do the same. May was more generous than Lillian and filled the bag so full that it could not go out the slide. May told the robber that he would have to catch the bag when she passed it over the high grill. The bank president, John F. McGarron, who was leaning on the counter nearby, seized the opportunity and fired one shot from his small caliber revolver directly into the robber's gun hand. This broke his gun and a piece fell to the floor as the robber grabbed the first bag and fled to Grove Street. Police were notified and Officer Donald A. Dwyer, on cruiser duty, observed the man on West Main Street. The robber ran through the back yards with Dwyer in pursuit. Dwyer arrested the robber at gun point as he was about to enter the wooded area near the residence of Tax Collector, Wilfred G. Journeay. He had the bag containing nearly six thousand dollars on his person, also the broken gun. He had flesh wounds and powder burns on his right hand. McGarron, a former special police officer, also gave

chase and gladly retrieved the bag of money for his bank, when Dwyer placed the prisoner in the cruiser. This man had a long record, and he was wanted by many police departments in the area for questioning. It is believed that he had a partner waiting for him in a get-away car and that he took off when he heard the gun fire and left the robber to the mercy of the Merrimac police.

NOTE--The high grill has since been taken down to make it easier for both teller and robber.

Police officer Alfred Nichols was named Officer in Charge until January 8, 1973.

CHAPTER IX

DONALD J. MONTIGNY APPOINTED CHIEF OF POLICE

On December 12, 1972, Donald J. Montigny of Millbury, Massachusetts was selected from a Civil Service List, and was given the appointment as Chief of Police. He was sworn into office by Town Clerk Mrs. Dorothy Cloyd to go on active duty January 3, 1973 after establishing a residence in Merrimac.

He was high scorer on the examination taken in May 1971. He had been a patrolman on the Millbury Police Department for seven years, was a special officer prior to that time. He is a graduate of the law enforcement school at Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester, Massachusetts, and has credits towards an A. B. degree in Law Enforcement. He also has credits in drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and criminal investigation. Chief Montigny, his wife, Barbara and daughters, Susan and Cynthia, and son, Donald Jr. live on Birchmeadow Road. He is a member of the Nativity Parish and the Merrimac Lions Club.

The Chief has been successful in obtaining the front office, formerly used by the Board of Selectmen for his personal office and investigation room. The Board of Selectmen allowed Police the use of the rear room when they relocated, but when Montigny was

questioning a suspect there, six different persons, entering there to go to the Record Vault interrupted him. He immediately protested such a set up, and moved to the front office, after reopening the doorway to the station in the rear wall originally blocked off.

He has hopes and plans for a new station incorporated in the newly purchased building on East Main Street, which will house the Fire Department and Highway Department known as the Brox Building. He has now two station wagon cruisers and a desire to have two men in a Cruiser at night on patrol. He now has six regular men and Sergeant Gamelin who still serves as clerk, matron and supervisor of crossing guards. Police conducted a campaign, by distribution of letters from many public places, explaining their desire and need to have the regular policemen placed under civil service, as the chief had been, since 1940, the principal arguments being job protection, and to retain the officer in the department after he had been proven beneficial to the town of Merrimac.

An article was placed on the ballot for the Annual election on May 13, 1974. The article was defeated by a large vote (347 to - 124), and the department will remain as before. For the fourth time, in the department's history, an article to have the town accept the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 97A of the general laws of Massachusetts, which would give the Chief of Police full control of the men in his department, was also defeated by a hand vote at the Town Meeting. May 6, 1974. Representatives of the police department, Officers Raymond Kelly and Alfred Nichols met with the Board of Selectmen in pay scale arbitration and other benefit proposals. This was the chief's duty since 1876 and if he was not exhausted, trying to get a small pay raise for himself, he would go all out to receive more hourly pay for his special police. The Chief's pay is now regulated by a new state law.

Twenty-four hour answering service for the Police telephone is provided by extension telephones in two private homes; radio equipment is also provided at

the homes, so that if a call comes in on the New England Telephone, while the station officer is out, one of the residents in one of these homes will answer and relay the message to the Police Cruiser on the Two-Way Radio. For ninety years, previous to 1966, these calls came to the chief's home, and were answered free of extra pay.

Highlights of Montigny's first year were: On December 15, 1973 it was reported four men, wearing gloves and masks, entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sowick, while they were attending the Merrimac Police Ball at Green's Function Hall on Broad Street, Merrimac, Massachusetts. They bound and gagged a son age 22, and a daughter age 17, and while two men held them captive in a bedroom upstairs, the other two ransacked the downstairs. They escaped with a large amount of cash, diamond rings and other valuables contained in the safe, reported to be valued at about twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). A State Police search for fingerprints was negative, the description given was negative because of masks worn, and police have no eye witnesses to the approach or departure of any get-away car. A continued investigation was difficult.

A trailer truck had stopped near the Broad Street bridge on Route 495 and the operator was walking towards the rear of the truck, assumedly to check his load, when he was struck and killed instantly by a car being operated in the same direction.

Voters at the 1974 Annual Town Meeting voted to cut the requested Police appropriation by more than \$9,200.00. Police Officer Redican resigned and there were insufficient funds in the budget to allow a replacement for him.

The AUTHOR, having experienced the effect of the economy axe during the 1930-1940 depression, believes this is a good time to close this history, before the economy axe strikes again.

CONCLUSION

The Laws, the Men, the Equipment, the Uniform and the Budget has changed throughout the last one hundred years. The purpose of securing law and order, and the protection of the citizens of Merrimac remain the same since 1876.

You have come a long way, Officer. Stand proudly behind that Badge.

THE END



1876 - 1976

REGULAR POLICE APPOINTMENTS

made by Selectman
100 Years

	Night Watchman	Constable	Chief
1876 John Charles Emerson	x	x	
1877 James H. Lawson	x	x	
1879 John B. Heath	x	x	
1886 Henry P. Davis	x	x	
1887 Charles F. Rhodes	x	x	
1888 Fred H. Beckford	x	x	
1887 James Fred Ives	x	x	
1889 Fred H. Beckford	x	x	
1892 James Fred Ives	x	x	x
1898 Angus McInnis	x	x	x
1900 Atwood S. Nixon	x	x	x
1904 John J. Minihan	x	x	x
1914 Warren T. Woodburn	x	x	x
1916 James P. Donahue	x	x	x
1917 Lowell G. Harrington	x	x Act.	x
1918 Frank H. Hargraves	x	x Act.	x
1927 Leon L. Dow Sr.	x	x	
1943 Leon L. Dow Sr.		x Act.	x
1943 Edward J. O'Keefe	x	x	
1943 Edward J. O'Keefe		x Act.	x
1943 Francis J. Mathews	x	x	
1943 M. Philip Gilmore	x	x	
1943 Clyde Thompson	x	x	
1943 Alden B. Morse	x	x	
1945 Fred A. Smith	x	x	
1949 Ronald C. Sarasin		x Act.	x
1951 Alexander M. Sullivan		x Act.	x
1952 Maurice Carey		x	Chief
1955 Alexander M. Sullivan		x	Chief
1959 Francis J. Mathews	x	x	
1966 Maurice Carey		x	Chief

	Night Watchman	Constable	Chief
1967 Wallace P. Spencer		x	Sergeant
1967 Bernard G. Connor		x	Sergeant
1969 Arthur D. Evans		X	Sergeant
1969 M. Lucille Gamelin			Sergeant- Clerk
1969 Donald A. Dwyer	Patrolman	x	
1969 Charles Syvinski	Patrolman	x	
1970 Alfred Nichols	Patrolman	x	
1971 Richard Hoyt	Patrolman	x	
1971 James A. Smith	Patrolman	x	
1971 Roland B. Spinney	Patrolman	x	
1971 Arthur D. Evans		x	Act. Chief
1972 Edward S. Cardone Jr.	Patrolman	x	
1972 Michael J. Cashman	Patrolman	x	
1972 Alfred Nichols		x	Officer in Charge
1972 Wayne Upson	Patrolman	x	
1972 Richard D. Smith	x	x	
1972 Donald J. Montigny		x	Chief
1973 David E. Chambers	x	x	
1973 Raymond R. Redican	x	x	
1973 Raymond D. Kelly	x	x	
1974 Raymond D. Kelly		x	Sergeant

SPECIAL POLICE AND CONSTABLES
 BY SELECTMEN IN

1876

100 YEARS

1976

Abbott, Daniel	Cuurier, Herman F.
Adams, Racheal L.	Connor, Robert S.
Adams, Robert H.	
Andrews, William L.	David, Raymond P.
Armstrong, Joyce	Davis, Fred O.
	Davis, Henry P.
Bailey, Charles S.	Davis, Louis B.
Bailey, R. S.	Deminie, Carl
Bailey, Fred O.	Danforth, Frank E.
Bailey, Richard	Donahue, James P.
Bean, John E. Jr.	Donahue, John J.
Boxby, Clifton B.	Dow, Leon L., Sr.
Blanchett, Rena	Dow, Leon L., Jr.
Bray, Joseph W.	Dwyer, Donald G.
Bridges, C.A.	Earl, George M.
Bridges, Charles E. Jr.	Evans, Arthur D.
Burns, William J.	Emery, Hazen M.
Bunker, Daniel	
Bishop, C. W.	Fitzgerald, Rodney
Brooks, Wayne	Franklin, George E.
Bone, James R.	Frazier, Frances N.
Bellanski, Glenn E.	
Boothroyd, W. N.	Gamelin, M. Lucille
Buzzell, George R. Sr.	Gilmore, John P.
Blotner, Harry, M. D.	Gilmore, M. Joseph
	Gilmore, M. Philip
Carey, Maurice	Gilchrist, John S.
Cardone, Edward R., Jr.	Golden, Hector
Chambers, Gail E.	Grant, Elmer T.
Chaff, Thomas H.	Goldsmith, George E.
Corthell, Ronald E.	Grant, Pauline E.
Child, Roscoe	Grant, G. A.
Christy, James J.	Greeley, William E.
Coster, Frederick	Gould, D. W.
Crofut, George B.	Grocut, John W. J.
	Gynan, Margaret W.

Hall, C.S.
Hall, George J
Hargraves, Frank H.
Hanna Alexander
Heath, John B.
Haskell, Kenneth E.
Haight, Harlen A.
Healey, John
Howe, James L.
Howe, Nathaniel
Hull, James
Hutchins, John E.
Hughes, John W.
Hosford, Joseph W.
Houle, William M.

Jerry, Fred
Joralmon, Harold K.
Jackman, S. P.
Jones, Robert B.

Keller, George D., Sr.
Kennedy, Richard A.
Kopanski, Gertrude C.
Kimball, Robert P.

Lafrance, John J.
Lavalley, Wilfred
Lay, George E.
Lewis, Winfield S.
Libby, Clarence O.
Little, John H.
Lord, Albert W.

Matanis, Betty A.
Mathews, Francis J.
McCarron, John F.
Mitchell, Beula H.
MacDonald, Peter M.
McCarron, William
McGuire, Charles R.

Morse, Alden B.
Mooney, Harold E.
Manning, Henry C.

Neal, P. J.
Nealand, J. D.
Noone, Richard G.
Nevins, Joyce E.
O'Keefe, Edward J.
Olson, Carl G.

Pearson, Richard W.
Packard, Ernest S.
Packard, Hazel
Peavey, Brian
Pease, James F. Sr.
Pattee, Norman
Perry, J. A.
Patterson, James
Parkin, Thomas
Pendergas, D. H.
Pickard, Almon E.

Quimby, Philip
Roberts, Gordon, G.
Robinson, John
Rourke, J. J.
Ressell, W. C.
Roberts, Nancy V.
Savin, C. E.
Sarasin, Ronald C.
Sawyer, A. W.
Sargent, E. H.
Semour, Fred A.
Sharkey, David N.
Skillings, Obed
Smith, Robert A.
Smith, Richard D.
Smith, Albert B.
Smith, Merrill B., Sr.

Smithson, Alberto, Sr.	Tilton, Paul J.
Spencer, Wallace P.	Twist, Rita D.
Spinney, Roland L.	Turner, Clayton K., Sr.
Stevens, George J. P.	Tozier, Duncan N.
Streeter, William R.	
Steward, Milton F.	Wallace, Charles E.
Storey, Daniel G.	Waterhouse, Harold M., Sr.
Sullivan, Alexander	Welch, Charles W.
Sullivan, Daniel F., III	Williams, Eleanor M.
Silvia, Robert K.	Widgren, Stanley
Syvinski, Edward	Willneff, Judith A.
Sowick, Frank T.	Witham, Carlton C.
Taggart, J. P.	Woodman, J. J.
Tarbox, Charles W.	Winter, Mary Jane
Taylor, Norman P.	Walker, Leslie J.
Thompson, Clyde	Young, Robert C.
Tibbetts, Dana	Zinck, Ronald
Tilton, Peter W.	

This Special Police list includes all Constables appointed by the Board of Selectmen or elected by ballot. Up until 1900, all Officers appear to have the title of Constable and there appears no mention of special Police until that time.

The Law provided for the election of at least three Constables by ballot but the Board of Selectmen could appoint as many as they saw necessary, each having certain powers to serve criminal processes that the special police office did not have. The Board of Selectmen always gave a constable's appointment with a regular Police Appointment. Laws are ever changing so that now some criminal processes are made out so that any police officer can serve them without the constable's authority.

The Chief of Police, in all small communities, always served all warrants and summonses, and there was little or no work left for other elected or appointed Constables.

All elected constables are recorded in town reports, but all appointed constables are not recorded. Hence

it was impossible to make a separate constable list, thus it was omitted.

Of the total of 170 special Police Officers listed, only (66) Sixty-Six Men and (15) Fifteen Women (crossing Guards) ever wore the Uniform. The remaining (80) Eighty were one-day emergency appointments, Fires, etc: Custodians, Cattle crossing, Department issues, and a few political appointments.

Sept. 1954, Mrs. Frances Frazier was appointed School Crossing Officer, the first in the area, followed by Mrs. Gertrude Kopanski, Mrs. Beula Mitchell and Mrs. Lucille Gamelin. New School Crossings were later assigned and were covered by officers listed in the Special Police listings.

Chief Sullivan was ever thankful for the cooperation he received from local Clergy, who assisted him in his efforts to combat delinquency, domestic problems and drug abuse. The Pharmacists at CALNAN'S PHARMACY, Robert C. Calnan and Leo A. Joubert were very cooperative in the drug abuse problem, especially concerning the sale of habit-forming cough medicine and narcotics.

The late Clarence O. Libby served as a special police officer, fifty-five years.

Fire Chief, George R. Buzzell Sr. (retired) and Highway Superintendent, Albert W. Lord (retired), each served more than thirty-five years. Many other officers served from ten to twenty years.

The substantial amount of pay received by police officers doing traffic duty, during visiting hours, from seven to nine P.M., at the Pillsbury-Gale & Rogers Funeral Home at 36 West Main Street, since 1958 was surely appreciated.

The 100% cooperation received from the F.B.I., the Mass. State Police, The Amesbury Fire department ambulance service, and the police departments of all neighboring cities and towns was greatly appreciated.

1876

ANNUAL POLICE EXPENSES
FOR THE
HUNDRED YEARS

1976

DATE	NIGHT WATCHMEN	CHIEF	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
1877	\$ 93.00		\$ 136.25
1878	70.00		338.00
1879	150.00		162.50
1880	55.00		150.00
1881	50.00		132.00
1882	60.00		130.00
1883	60.00		130.00
1884	50.00		176.00
1885	80.00		244.35
1886	53.33		357.00
1887	175.00		223.16
1888	105.73		223.00
1889	150.00		362.00
1890	150.00		405.00
1891	200.00		230.00
1892		150.00	230.00
1893		175.00	197.95
1894		150.00	350.00
1895		161.00	198.80
1896		101.30	152.45
1897		238.00	290.75
1898		168.00	243.00
1899		168.00	244.00
1900		208.45	265.95
1901		155.59	201.34
1902		204.20	239.45
1903		412.17	492.17
1904		586.20	665.70
1905		877.00	956.50
1906		905.00	980.00
1907		935.00	970.00
1908		935.00	980.00
1909		805.00	971.75

1910		912.71	978.34
1911		980.00	1,020.00
1912		882.00	937.50
1913		880.00	952.00
1914		963.30	1,069.00
1915		980.00	1,130.00
1916		1,164.96	1,193.00
1917		1,061.61	1,216.61
1918		1,063.61	1,216.61
1919		1,006.74	1,090.49
1920		1,212.50	1,362.50
1921		2,000.00	2,150.00
1922		2,168.25	2,465.00
1923		2,076.00	2,265.15
1924		2,000.00	2,900.00
1925		2,000.00	2,601.00
1926		2,000.00	3,174.53
1927	1,225.70	2,000.00	4,099.99
1928	1,835.00	2,000.00	4,999.00
1929	1,825.00	2,000.00	4,318.80
1930	1,825.00	2,000.00	4,700.00
1931	1,825.00	2,000.00	4,700.00
1932	1,615.50	1,830.00	4,200.00
1933	1,271.96	1,479.15	3,450.00
1934	1,238.00	1,446.00	3,450.00
1935	1,252.00	1,460.00	3,550.00
1936	1,256.00	1,464.00	3,450.00
1937	1,256.00	1,464.00	3,450.00
1938	1,254.00	1,464.00	3,450.00
1939	1,256.00	1,464.00	3,550.00
1940	1,256.00	1,464.00	3,450.00
1941	1,260.00	1,470.00	3,450.00
1942	1,434.50	1,670.50	3,900.00
1943	1,455.50	1,598.00	4,300.00
1944	1,674.90	1,916.00	4,300.00
1945	1,776.00	1,976.00	4,500.00
1946	1,715.98	1,986.86	4,800.00
1947	1,792.14	2,143.14	5,000.00
1948	1,836.00	2,196.00	5,000.00

1949	1,825.00	2,115.25	5,000.00
1950	1,825.25	2,528.00	5,499.83
1951	1,984.75	2,748.90	6,300.00
1952	2,389.36	2,936.00	6,349.00
1953	2,401.69	3,084.00	8,658.00
1954	2,677.00	3,073.00	9,073.00
1955	2,723.50	3,356.26	9,298.00
1956	2,860.00	3,391.24	9,724.33
1957	2,912.00	3,536.00	10,599.78
1958	3,045.00	3,780.00	10,599.78
1959	3,177.00	4,132.00	12,250.00
1960	3,530.00	4,590.00	13,300.00
1961	3,700.00	4,800.00	13,999.87
1962	4,098.00	5,116.00	15,195.00
1963	4,212.00	5,200.00	16,197.00
1964	4,250.00	5,552.00	15,918.75
1965	4,400.00	6,032.00	18,918.75
1966	4,485.00	6,500.00	19,357.00
1967	-----	6,691.24	31,967.44
1968	End of the	6,980.00	33,586.00
1969	<u>Watchman</u>	7,420.00	39,310.00
1970	<u>Patrolman</u>	8,420.00	52,707.77
1971	7,800.00	9,735.72	58,627.63
1972	8,216.00	10,250.92	65,836.01
1973	8,815.00	13,100.00	82,298.06
1974	8,926.00	13,950.00	103,000.00
1975	9,479.00	14,218.36	96,631.12