



MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT





THE HISTORY OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Memphis began as a rough and tumble riverboat town, second home to characters like Big Mike Fink and Davy Crockett. The city was incorporated in 1826, only a few years after General Andrew Jackson acquired the land west of the Tennessee River from the Chickasaws by treaty. Tennessee was part of the western frontier of the young nation.

The sheriff of Shelby County was appointed when the county was organized, but soon a law enforcement officer was appointed specifically to serve the town of Memphis. Memphis's first lawman was John J. Balch. He was elected as Town Constable on May 12, 1827. A town constable had the same power as other constables of the county.

The one man Police Department was a tinker by trade. Balch earned his living mainly by mending household pots and pans and other utensils. The job of Town Constable was a part-time position that included both criminal and civil law enforcement. Balch walked an area of less than one half of a square mile in his patrol of the young town, and earned fees from fines and licenses. The town also depended on the county sheriff for law enforcement when serious criminal activity occurred.

During his one-year term as Town Constable, Balch was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Shelby County. He served as the county's only deputy until July 23, 1829, when he was appointed Shelby County Sheriff by the county court. During his seven years as sheriff, he also served as Shelby County Tax Collector, which was common for sheriffs of the day.

Other early town constables included David Banks, who served in 1828; William C. Doss, who served in 1831; and Lemuel P. Hardaway, who served from 1837 until 1839. The corporate limits of Memphis were extended in 1832. The act stated that the purpose for extending the limits related to "conferring of powers for the regulation of the police, or well ordering the good behavior of individuals." This is the first use of the word "police" in the acts of the Tennessee legislature.

The population of the town in 1840 was 1,799. Whiskey was two bits a gallon. The chief sources of crime and vice were the racetrack, "doggeries" or saloons, and camp meetings, where drinking bouts and orgies took place in the shadow of the preacher's pulpit.

The first record of equipment authorized by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen was on



May 4, 1840, "An account to M. M. Wise for three dollars was also allowed, being for rattlers for the use of the night watch."

Rattles used by the police force were wooden noise makers. When the device was rotated by the handle, a flat piece of wood struck against a notched wheel making a clacking sound that could be heard for some distance. Similar mechanisms are still used as party noise makers.

A September 1840 ordinance established the first supervisor of the Memphis police force, the Captain of the Night Guard. The town constable did not supervise the night watch since he worked in the day time. The ordinance also described some of the duties and equipment of the night watch.

"That a Captain of the Night Guard shall be appointed from among the number of Watchmen now in the service of this corporation, whose duty it shall be to attend to the ringing of the ten o'clock bell; he shall take charge of the badges, rattlers and other property in the hands of the Night Watch, belonging to the corporation, when not on duty".





The first official badges of Memphis law enforcement were the property of the town and were worn by patrolmen only while they were on duty. The nature or style of the badge was not noted, and likely varied from time to time and even from officer to officer. They were probably made of metal, but could have been cloth arm or hat bands in the earliest days. Since no uniforms were prescribed in those early days, an early yearbook said, “the star was the only insignia of office.”

The temporary nature of night watchmen is seen in the frequent turnover

within the force. A new night watch was appointed on March 15, 1841, consisting of Gabriel Haughter, David Veneman, and Henry Wisener. Gabriel Haughter was named Captain of the Night Watch, becoming the first individual to serve in that capacity. On March 19, Henry Wisener was dismissed and William R. James was appointed in his place. On April 1, Captain Haughter resigned, Samuel Whitsitt was appointed to the watch, and David Veneman was promoted to captain.

Although some individuals served longer than others, this scenario was consistent throughout the years of the night watch system. Some individuals moved on and off the night watch depending on their availability. Some individuals who served on the night watch moved on to become town constable or members of the day police in later years. The duties of the watchman was described in an early yearbook.

The stalwart patrolman of that day made no reports to headquarters on his nightly rounds, but at each recurring hour tolled on the fire bells, would raise his voice, and sing out the hour, “one o’clock and all’s well.”

The state legislature granted Memphis a charter elevating the town to the City of Memphis in January 1848. Following that action, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the city passed a number of ordinances which restructured and expanded the police force. On March 14, 1848, the city board passed “An Ordinance Creating the Office of City Marshal.” The office of city marshal replaced that of the town constable, and continued to include duties related to sanitation, zoning, street maintenance, and others, in addition to more traditional law enforcement responsibilities. The first police station was a 12’ x 20’ brick calaboose or jail built at the corner of Main and Market at the cost of \$185.

MPD MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE 1800’s

- In 1827, John J. Balch was appointed town constable. This was the birth of the Memphis Police Department. Several years later, a town watch was created with two men paid \$400 a year to work the night watch.
- The first police station was constructed. It was a 12’ by 20’ brick calaboose located at Main and Market, at a cost of \$185. Rattles were purchased for the night watch. Yes, the first Memphis Police Officers carried big rattles that could be used as clubs.
- The Department grew rapidly, totaling twenty-one people. The City of Memphis was divided into districts and patrolmen were sent out in pairs.
- The Town Marshal was given the title of Chief of Police.
- After the end of the Civil War, a new, more efficient police force was organized on the basis of Wards instead of Districts. The Department increased in size by nearly 100 men.
- The “Yellow Fever” epidemic fell on Memphis in 1878 and a 55-man force fought its hardest fight. All but two remained on duty and, while 55 men were stricken, only 10 died.
- The first patrol wagon was purchased and was dubbed the “Black Maria.”

The population jumped from 3,990 in 1849 to 8,841 in 1850 when South Memphis became a part of the city. The consolidated population consisted of 6,355 white citizens and 2,486 black citizens, slave and free. Three men were hired, one for day service and two for night service, J. C. Williams, T. Wolf, and Ben O’Havre.

In March 1850, the city board appointed a police force for the year numbering 26, including the city marshal. This was a significant expansion of the force. Eight men were appointed to the Day Police, and seventeen Night Police were appointed. Before the end of the following month, the force was reduced.

The Day and Night Police were uniformed in 1850, at their own expense. The city provided an allowance of \$60 per year for the uniformed division, and \$50 per year for the detective department.

On October 5, 1852, a resolution was passed that Day and Night police be furnished with badges “to be worn in some conspicuous place.” Soon after, the Memphis Daily Appeal confirmed the style of the badges, “The policemen have finally mounted their stars—the badge of their office. Both the Day and Night Police wear them.”

By 1857, city ordinances clearly spell out that the city marshal is the head of the police department, “The City Marshal shall be considered and held as Chief of the Police, and shall have general care of the peace of the city, and see that his subordinate officers do their duty.” A new title was formalized when the city charter was amended by the state legislature in February 20, 1860. The title “City Marshal” was changed to “Chief of Police,” although the duties of the office did not change. The



charter also provided that the selection of the two captains be returned to the city council.

At the beginning of the Civil War many patrolmen enlisted and their places had to be filled by men not subject to military duty, which meant men over 45 years of age. In this period the Vigilance Committee had oversight of the police department. They required that policemen be uniformed, and be native-born or naturalized citizens.

An 1860 city ordinance gave design guidelines for an official police uniform and specifies “the badge of office shall be four inches long, one and a quarter inch wide, made of silver, and worn on the hat or cap, and fastened with a ribbon.” This hat badge was to contain the number of the patrolman or rank of the supervising officer. White hats were often worn during this time.

A representative of the Memphis firm selected to supply the uniforms was sent to New York to acquire the outfits. Upon his return, he reported the type, availability, and cost of the attire worn by the police in that city. The Memphis city board decided to adopt the metropolitan style police uniform of New York City.

The fact that city police officers wore uniforms likely played a role in the fatal stabbing of Patrolman W. Stith Tucker at the Memphis Jockey Club on Monday evening, April 30, 1860. The racetrack was located where the fairgrounds later stood, and where Libertyland is now located, at East Parkway and Southern. In 1860 the racetrack was outside the city limits, but venues in the county, especially racetracks, often turned to city police officers to provide security because their uniform was a symbol of authority. The practice of hiring city police officers at race tracks was prevalent throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Patrolman Tucker was at the racetrack after the track closed and the grounds were essentially deserted. Tucker spotted a black man whom he believed to be a runaway slave. When he attempted to arrest the man, a white man who had a bad reputation and was thought to have a grudge against Tucker, interfered with the officer. In the altercation, the white man drew a large knife and with both hands stabbed Patrolman Tucker in the forehead over the temple. Tucker pulled the protruding knife from his own skull. He spent the night at the racetrack with a young boy as his only company. Five days later he died of the wound.

The department lost another officer on New Year’s Eve, 1861. Patrolman John W. Causey began service with the Memphis Police Department in 1850. He had a wife and four children, one of whom was three months old. His brother was William C. Causey, a detective with the department.

About 7 o’clock that December evening Patrolman Causey entered Sandy’s Barber Shop on Main. A man who was getting a shave said he wanted to speak with the officer. The two stood at the corner of Main and Gayosa talking, when suddenly the man drew a knife and stabbed Causey. The officer fell to the street, stabbed through the heart, and died in seconds. His assailant had been arrested three weeks earlier by Causey for stabbing another man.

Memphis struggled with war and its aftermath during the decade of the 1860s. On June 6, 1862, a fleet of Federal gunboats captured the city. The initial instruction to Mayor John Park



by the Federal commander was to continue as usual the police protection of the city, and he promised the cooperation of the military garrison. In August 1862, the mayor was authorized “to purchase 100 police stars at a cost of \$75.” The purchase of a new badge for the chief of police was also approved, at a cost of \$2.50.

Memphis police functioned in this manner until July 2, 1864, when General C. C. Washburn issued General Order No. 70, removing all city officials and installed a hand picked city government. The police force was replaced by men loyal to the Union. Sergeant W. C. Stockham, one of the police officers appointed by the military government, was shot and killed on February 22, 1865, while he and other officers were attempting to arrest a drunk and disorderly barber. The drunk fired on two officers in the hallway of his apartment building and missed. When three other officers arrived, the drunk retreated into his room. Officers moved into the room and the gunman fired at Lieutenant Somers Perry. The bullet passed over the head of the lieutenant and struck Sergeant Stockham in the side, exiting out his back.

The account in the Daily Bulletin said, “Stockham fell, and without speaking a word, groaned and in a few seconds died.” Stockham, twenty-four, was from Illinois and had been on the police force about five months. He had served three years as a federal soldier. One of his brothers also served on the Memphis police force.

City government was returned to civilian control on July 3, 1865. Benjamin G. Garrett was elected chief of the force of 95 men. Many men were continued from the force appointed by the federal authorities. The city was divided into 9 areas, each commanded by a sergeant and patrolled in two twelve-hour shifts.

Memphis was a powder keg in early 1866, and the police force was at the center of the pending explosion. The men who entered police service when the city was returned to home-rule were overwhelmingly of Irish descent. Of the 180 officers on the force, two were German, two were Italians, eight were “Americans,” five were of unknown nationality, and 163 were Irishmen.

Black Union soldiers from Fort Pickering were often assigned patrol duty in the city, which frequently put them in proximity and sometimes in conflict with the city police. Many of the same racial and socio-economic factors existed in Memphis that ignited the draft riots in New York City early in the war. After

the black troops were mustered out of the army, relinquishing most of their weapons, and while they were idle and waiting for their final military pay, Memphis exploded. Rioting began on May 1, 1866.

The first black men to serve with the Memphis police were a part of the Metropolitan force. William Cook and John F. Harris were hired on November 18, 1867, and served for about two years as turnkeys at the two district station houses.

The Metropolitan Police was commanded by two captains, one in command of the First District (also called the Northern or Upper District) and one in command of the Second District (also called the Southern or Lower District). The captains alternated working 12-hour day and night shifts, so which ever captain was on duty had responsibility for the entire department. The only other rank above patrolman or detective was sergeant.

Decisions on police leadership reverted to the Memphis city government in January 1870, following the repeal of the Metropolitan Police Act in 1869. Channing Richards was appointed interim chief of police for the month of January, after which Thomas O'Donnell served for two years as chief.

The city leased a building on Adams between Main and Second for use as a police station, courtroom, and offices. The station house was located on the first floor and the courtroom was upstairs. Uniformed patrolmen were divided into two watches or shifts. Each watch was twelve hours long, from 6:00 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. until the same hour in the evening. Patrolmen worked the shift seven days a week. Captain Phil Athy commanded the day shift.

Initially the city placed the force in cadet-gray uniforms to distinguish them from the Metropolitans. Within six months, however, the MPD returned to uniforms of blue navy serge, accented by white Marseilles' vests, white caps, and brass buttons. The city paid one-half the cost of the uniforms, and policemen the other half.

Memphis policemen of the 1870s found that exposure to disease and the weather could prove deadly. Patrolman John Regan died of sun-stroke after walking his beat along the levee. On July 13, 1870, the thermometer reached 94 degrees in the shade. Regan left his beat around 1:00 p.m. for a lunch break. He had a serving of soup and said he wasn't feeling well. He asked for a pitcher of ice water and went to bed with instructions to be roused at 2:00 p.m. Regan was found dead on his bed. An inquest ruled that "the deceased came to his death from congestion of the brain, superinduced by the action of the sun."

The Memphis Police Department was 77 strong in 1872, and included Chief Athy, Captain G. R. Weatherford, Captain C. T. Smith, sergeants C. H. Braun, M. Dea, R. F. Aratta, and P. McElroy, Station House Keeper W. Featherstone, three detectives, 60 patrolmen, and seven in other capacities. A patrolman was paid \$3 per day. The shift for the 25 day policemen began at 5:30 a.m and ended at 6:30 p.m. The 35 man night shift covered the hours between 6:30 p.m and 5:30 a.m. Captains and sergeants rode horses and patrolmen walked their beats.

The city was divided into two districts. The upper district contained the area north of Monroe, and the lower district was south of Monroe. Police headquarters was located on Adams, and a small facility on Causey [Third] Street at Linden served as a second station house.

On March 10, 1872, the force received new breast badges, wreaths for caps, and belts. The wreaths were of white metal in the shape of a half circle, with a number corresponding to that of the badge. Badges were stars of German silver, with the word Police and the number engraved in them, and about one-third larger than the previous badges. The Memphis Daily Avalanche reported that the badges were engraved.

The engraving is the work of Mr. V. B. Thayer, of the Memphis Engraving Works, and reflects great credit upon his taste and skill. He says that a policeman can hang a prisoner on each corner of the star and convey him to the station without fear of breaking it loose from its fastening. Both the men and officers are well pleased with the work, as it could not have been executed better. In a few days the clubs will be ready, and then with their gloves and canes the police force will be in complete uniform.

Photographic evidence showed that at least some earlier badges were five-point stars, but patrolmen of the Memphis Police Department wore mostly six-point stars from the 1870s until shields were adopted in the late 1940s. Supervisory officers wore various styles during this period.

Patrolmen were equipped with canes for their use in controlling disorderly individuals. The canes were finished with black lacquer and had a a slung-shot for a knob. The slung-shot, leather covered lead shot, was an early form of the blackjack. A new style cap, similar in appearance to that worn by naval officers, was also adopted in 1872. Straw Panama hats and white gloves were worn in the summer. In 1875 come-alongs were provided to patrolmen. These devices, designed to clamp to a prisoners wrist with a handle to be held by the officer, were more typically called "nippers." Their use was described by the Memphis Daily Appeal.

The decade of the 1870s was shaped by a deadly battle with a disease called "Yellow Jack." Yellow fever struck Memphis in 1873 and again in 1878 and 1879. The police force was honored by the city council in 1873 for "remaining on duty" during the epidemic when most well bodied individuals fled Memphis. This was one of the noblest and proudest moments of the Memphis Police Department. Of the 55-man force, 50 were stricken with the fever, and 10 died, Frank K. Birmingham, Patrick Cusick, John Campen, Detective William P. Brown, T. C. Cogbill, James Fitzpatrick, Thomas O'Mahoney, Thomas





D. Franklin, Louis Servatus, and Eugene McAuliffe.

The heroic efforts of Patrolman John J. Huber was of particular note. He remained at his post in the Happy Hollow district of the city, one of the areas most effected by the fever. Chief Athy wrote of Huber in his annual report dated January 8, 1874.

“I cannot but mention Patrolman J. J. Huber; he is a hero. All through the epidemic he was the only man on duty in the infected district. Alone, with no partner to keep him company, or cheer him, he walked his beat, when, at every step, the solemn stillness of the air would seem a warning that told him of the fate of his dead comrades.”

The 1878 epidemic was the most devastating, and claimed Huber as one of twelve policemen that died of Yellow Fever that summer, Morrison M. Allison, Michael Cannon, Captain William M. Homan, Timothy G. Hope, John J. Huber, Sergeant Reuben C. Manuel, James McConnell, Frederick Restmeyer, Patrick Ryder, Charles R. Staley, W. H. Sweeney, and William Unverzagt. Two more Memphis officers died of Yellow Fever in 1879, Timothy Keefe and Thomas J. Maguire.

The department lost 40% of its strength. Commanders that survived the 1878 epidemic were Chief Phil R. Athy, Captain William C. Davis, Captain R. F. Arata, Sergeant George T. O’Haver, and Sergeant Charles Kunholz. Fourteen other members of the department survived as well.

Pay during this time was slow for public servants and the Memphis Daily Appeal made a plea as winter approached in 1878 for help to uniform the force.

“The firemen and policemen who stayed here during the fearful yellow fever epidemic and survived this plague need new uniforms. Some good citizen ought to get up some uniform cloth for the boys out of which winter suits could be made”.

The department hired a black officer in February 1878, Rufus H. McCain. The experience with Policeman McCain was so satisfactory that when white officers were lost to the disease, the number of black policemen were increased to a level proportionate with the black population of the city. Fourteen other black officers were added to the force in the August 1878. Most of these men stayed with the department for less than a year, but Townsend D. Jackson, Burrell Randolph, Moses Plummer, Howard Chastaine, and Dallas Lee all served as policemen over ten years.

William C. Davis was appointed chief of police in 1880 and served until 1895, and served again from 1908 to 1912, a total of 21 years. Davis was a capable chief and modernized the department. The 1899 MPD yearbook said that “his administration was one of the cleanest ever known in the



history of the city. He was a man of great courage, an efficient officer, an elegant, high-toned gentlemen and his discipline was exceptionally good.”

Davis introduced uniform collar insignia to commanding officers so that commanders were readily distinguishable from the rest of the force. Sergeants wore sleeve chevrons from the time the rank was created, but captains and the chief wore only their badge. The collar insignia consisted of an “MP” accompanied by a single star for captains and two stars for the chief. The insignia was sewed on each side of the collar in bullion filament.

The budget for the department was \$64,533 in 1879. The pay scale for the officers in 1881 was \$125 per month for the chief, \$90 a month for captains, \$80 per month for sergeants, and \$60 a month for patrolmen. In 1882 the force numbered 43, which meant only 14 officers were on duty at any time to cover the entire city from Chelsea to Fort Pickering and from the river to Estival Park.

Police headquarters moved to a converted tin roofed, two story, cotton warehouse on Second at Washington in 1884. The first patrol wagon was acquired in 1890. The patrol wagon was used to transport prisoners, to convey large numbers of policemen when the situation required, to transport injured parties to the hospital, and for other emergency needs. Wooden cells of the jail were also replaced with iron. An alarm system was installed that placed the department directly in touch with all parts of the city. The department made progress in many areas, but what was needed most was officers to patrol the streets.

No salary was sufficient compensation for death at the hands of a gunman. Patrolman Rufus L. Parkinson was handsome in his uniform and handlebar mustache. He was walking his beat along the southern levee from Front Street on the afternoon of November 1, 1894. A woman stopped him and pointed out a man who robbed her in Osceola, Arkansas. As Officer Parkinson approached, the robber fled, running toward Beale Street, and the policeman gave chase.

At Beale and Clinton a citizen grabbed the bandit, but he broke away as Patrolman Parkinson neared. The felon drew a revolver and shot the officer in the left side. Parkinson drew his sidearm and fired at the robber as he ran east toward Front. The patrolman again gave chase. At Beale and Front a rider stopped and offered his horse to Parkinson. When the policeman tried to mount the horse, he was in such pain that he had to be helped to the ground.

The patrol wagon arrived, filled with lawmen, and Parkinson asked to be taken to his home on North Second Street. The Lincoln County, Tennessee, native had been on the police force only 10 months. He was bleeding internally and doctors were unable to help. Patrolman Parkinson died at around three in the morning, leaving a wife and four children.

Jerome E. Richards became chief of police in January 1898 following the tenure of Chief E. B. Moseley. Richards joined

the department in 1892. He was described as “probably the most rigid character who ever filled the office of Chief of Police in the city of Memphis. He is a natural disciplinarian. His word has the bark on it. He means what he says and he sometimes gives to his language a sulphuric coloring that makes it even more forcible.”

The 1899 yearbook showed the entire department, including the chief, wearing six-point stars. The uniform was changed around the turn of the century to a long coat with brass buttons from the belt to the collar. The buttons featured a five-point star. The belt buckle was of the military style of the period with an “MP” in raised letters. The hat was changed to the tall domed, helmet style. Hat wreaths and breast badges stayed the same.

Due to a large annexation by the city at the end of 1899, the department expanded to include Chief Richards, captains Mason and O’Haver, three sergeants, six detectives, 54 regular patrolmen, and nine mounted policemen. The budget to support the force of 83 men was \$85,074, although the monthly salary of patrolmen remained \$75.

Communication was also improved between patrolling officers and headquarters when the Gamewell Police Telephone System was installed. The system provided 18 phones or “signal boxes” on the streets for the patrol to communicate with headquarters, plus another 37 phones located in public buildings and private businesses available to officers. Officers were required to find a call box or business telephone and contact the station once every hour. They were also required to stay at the box for ten minutes so headquarters could call back with instructions.

Perhaps the change that most impacted individual officers was the reduction of the work day. In 1900 the department moved from two 12-hour shifts to three 8-hour shifts. At the same time walking patrolmen extended into the “mounted districts” of the city. Eight-hour shifts was short lived and city budget demands soon brought back twelve-hour shifts.





For detectives those hours might be spread over the entire day. Detectives were referred to as the “secret service” of the police department because they wore no uniform to identify them as police. The dangers of police work, however, was ever present for detectives the same as for those in uniform.

In the early hours of Sunday, July 15, 1900, Chief Detective Joseph A. Perkins and Detective Walter Lawless went to a house on McLemore Avenue in search of a murderer who killed a boy in Chulahoma, Mississippi. The killer’s wife, who worked at the house, said her husband was not there. In a small, dimly lit bedroom the detectives saw a man’s coat over the back of a chair and a man’s hat hanging on a bed post.

Suddenly a shot echoed in the room as the killer fired from behind the bed. The next sound was the din of three shots, one from each of the detectives and a second from the murderer. Chief Detective Perkins cried, “I’m shot,” staggered back to the door, and fell back, mortally wounded. Detective Lawless emptied his gun, except for one round, at the edge of the bed where the killer was hiding, but no bullet found their target. Detective Lawless fell to the bed and lay still. The room was filled with smoke from the gunfire as the detective waited. Then Lawless caught a glimpse of the killer’s head appearing above the bed rail. Detective Lawless stretched out his pistol and shot the murderer in the head. Chief Detective Joseph A. Perkins died 36 hours later.

Violence on city streets often resulted in death. The last known killing by an American Indian in the city of Memphis took place on the last day of 1902. Creeping Bear was a full blooded Cheyenne Indian from the reservation near El Reno, Oklahoma. He came to town with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show in November and stayed. He was 17 years old, educated at the Carlisle Institute, and sometimes used the English name, Joe Weinbaum. He became a familiar figure around town, wearing a jacket, leggings, moccasins, and wrapped in a striped blanket.

Creeping Bear was near the Fire Station #4 on North Main that New Year’s Eve just before 8:00 p.m. An alarm was sounded



and he came to the engine house to watch the activity. George Millard was alone at the fire station after the firemen left. Millard was a frequent visitor to the fire house. He had served two years as a Memphis policeman, but was currently working for the Choctaw Railroad.

When the two were alone, Millard told Creeping Bear to leave and words were exchanged. Millard tried to hit the young Cheyenne. Creeping Bear pulled a tomahawk from his belt and struck Millard in the head. The weapon was the type with a blade on one end and a peace pipe on the other. Millard collapsed and the young native American fled the scene.

A passerby helped Millard to a seat. It was reported that the two inch gash in his head was bleeding so bad they used a wooden bucket to catch the blood. He was rushed to St. Joseph Hospital in a horse-drawn ambulance. Millard died two weeks later.

Creeping Bear was captured at the Iron Mountain Railroad Depot by Patrolman Werkhoven and did not resist arrest. The young man said, “He called me a name that no man would take. He struck at me, and I at him. There were only two blows passed.”



The young Cheyenne was tried twice for murder and both times the conviction was overturned by the Tennessee Supreme Court for irregularities. The state decided against a third trial and Creeping Bear was released.

The department expanded to 146 policemen by 1907. The force included Chief O'Haver, a chief of detectives, three captains, eight sergeants, 14 detectives, and 102 patrolmen. The budget of \$149,886 included salaries for patrolmen of \$85 per month. The Gamewell Telephone System was enhanced and expanded to 40 units.

A sub-station was opened at Webster and Wellington (Danny Thomas). Thirty-two men worked at the sub-station, a captain, two desk sergeants, four detectives, two patrol drivers, two turnkeys, a hostier, and 20 patrolmen. Ten patrolmen worked days and ten nights.

William C. Davis returned to the department as chief of police in 1908. Davis had last served as head of the department more than twelve years earlier. He was chief during an important period of change in city governance that had a significant impact on the police department.

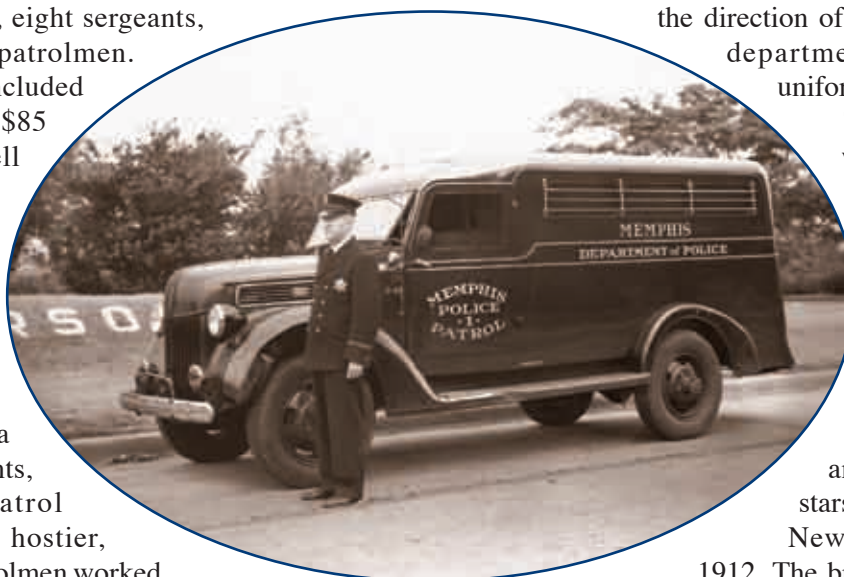
The city changed to a commission style government on January 1, 1910. Civil Service was introduced for the first

time in June 1910 and policemen were selected based on civil service certificates, without regard to political affiliations. The police force was expanded to 185 officers, composed of 143 patrolmen and 42 supervisors. The appearance and bearing of policemen were enhanced with the purchase of new metropolitan style uniforms and helmets. Patrolmen drilled under the direction of Major Deffry. In 1912 the department acquired new winter uniforms.

The rank of Inspector was created at this time to strengthen the command structure. This resulted in an expansion of the collar insignia for commanders. Captains continued to wear a one star designation, the chief began to wear three stars, and the inspector wore two stars.

New badges were adopted in 1912. The breast badge continued to be a six-point star, but the large "pie-plate" stars made famous in Chicago were purchased from Chicago makers. The Tennessee state seal was applied to the center of the star, a banner panel with "Memphis Police" was applied above the seal, and brass numbers were applied below.

For the helmet or hat insignia, the department adopted a distinctive badge featuring the state seal on a shield surrounded by a wreath. The hat badge would later be used by other





Tennessee departments, and the same style continues to be used by Memphis except today. Sergeants and other supervisors wore a six point, ball-tip, star also similar to Chicago.

New insignia included the department's first uniform patch. Early shoulder patches were used to identify special units of the force. Traffic officers were the first to wear an arm patch. The patch was in the form of a wheel and sewn on the left arm of the uniform half way between the shoulder and the elbow.

Two new stations were constructed. In 1911 the Barksdale Mounted Police Station on Barksdale south of Union was opened with 15 mounted patrolmen assigned. Central Station at 128 Adams and Second opened in 1912. Amenities included a telephone system, a Gamewell Police Telegraph System, and a Bertillon System in the Bureau of Identification.

The mounted police force was under the command of Sergeant Walter Lee, and was drilled daily by riding master Patrolman H. Morrison, a former member of the U.S. calvary. Morrison was promoted to sergeant in 1912. The mounted force patrolled the more exclusive residential areas and eliminated a rash of suburban holdups.

Improvements in transportation technology brought changes to the department. Upon his appointment in 1908, Chief Davis implemented a bicycle squad for added mobility. The first use of motorcycles began at this time as well. The department hired Hubert Richmond in 1909 and Daniel W. Ward in 1910 to use their personal motorcycles for traffic enforcement. In 1911 the department purchased its first two motorcycles. As the motorcycle division developed it was stationed at Barksdale.

The first two motorized patrol wagons were acquired in 1912, one was electric and the other gasoline. By 1920 the horse-drawn buggies that supervisors used to oversee foot patrols were replaced, and sergeants were assigned Model-T Fords.

Memphis had a brief experience with the integration of the police department in 1919. Mayor Frank Monteverde had the support of the black community during his election campaign and promised he would appoint six black men to the police force. Upon taking office he kept his promise by first appointing three black detectives, Matthew Thornton Sr., F. M. Mercer, and "Sweetie" Williams.

The three officers were doing well until a shooting incident. Thornton and Williams were tipped off that a wanted criminal was hiding in a black gambling joint on North Front Street. A white underworld boss ran the establishment



and was enraged that the black officers searched his place. The next night the two detectives were attacked by a gang of white men and beaten with clubs and brickbats at the corner of Main and Market streets. Williams shot one of the men in the arm and the two officers managed to escape the mob.

The following morning, the three detectives were fired, ending their seven month tenure. Matthew Thornton Sr. later commented on his brief career with the department.

"I worked in fine cooperation with the white officers, who were my friends. I arrested a lot of Negroes for various offenses, and I never lost a case in court. I only had to use my gun once. That was when a Negro prisoner broke and ran when I was phoning for the patrol wagon. I fired into the air, but he got away. Only one time did I arrest a white man, and that was when I came upon a white man and a Negro who were fighting on South Fourth Street. Of course, I had to arrest both of them. The white man's case was not carried into court".

Twentieth century technology, especially the automobile, represented the new age. The department changed in reaction to new realities in the life of the city. The Traffic Department consisted of a single squad of men working during the day. The "corner man" was the essential function of the traffic unit. These traffic officers were assigned to a specific corner in the downtown district. They provided traffic direction, manually turning a sign in the middle of the intersection that told drivers when to go and when to stop.

In June 1920 Police Commissioner John B. Edgar announced a complete reorganization of the Traffic Department. Late afternoon and evening traffic had increased to the point that traffic duty hours needed to be expanded. The new organization provided that traffic officers would be divided into two squads and provide service from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; one squad working an 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. shift, and the other squad working from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

No additional officers were to be hired, but the traffic unit would be expanded by transferring a number of uniformed patrol officers into the unit. The command structure was expanded also. Sergeant Vincent "Luke" Lucarini was in charge of the traffic force, and was promoted to Lieutenant. New sergeants were named to supervise the two squads. The city also painted





pedestrian lanes at corners to control jay-walking, and posted signs specifying parking time limits.

While patrolmen continued to wear the big stars, the badge styles of supervisory ranks changed a number of times during the next two decades. Ranks above sergeant wore various styles of shields, plated with gold in the rolled-gold technique. These badges had a gold plated Tennessee state seal riveted to the center of the badge with the rank and "Memphis Police" in raised letters. Lieutenants and others wore a shield and captains a pinched shield.

Around 1922 a unique badge was created for the rank of sergeant. The badge was a circle with three protrusions to give it the general shape of a shield. The three-cornered shape led to it being referred to as an "acorn." The acorn style badge changed through the years, but remained unique to Memphis.

The dangers of automobile traffic was becoming a factor of life and death on the streets not only for the citizens of Memphis, but for its police force as well. The first death in the line of duty as a result of a traffic accident occurred in 1920. Actually, three such deaths occurred that year. Two motorcycle officers of the Traffic Department died as a result of motorcycle collisions,



MAJOR MPD EVENTS

FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY TO 1950

- In the early 1900's, the Department began working with 8-hour shifts. The first motor vehicle were purchased- one an ambulance, the other a patrol car. Barksdale Substation became operational.
- The emergency car was introduced, which consisted of 6 officers working 2 per shift responding to emergency calls. Police radios were installed in 12 police vehicles.
- In 1932, Memphis received international notoriety when it was named "The Murder Capital of the World." There were 102 homicides that year.
- George "Machine Gun" Kelly was captured by Memphis Police Officers.
- The Police Academy was opened by Lt. Bill Raney, after his graduation from the FBI National Academy, in 1937.
- The first riot squad was formed, consisting of 30 men who were trained in tear gas, rifles, and submachine guns.
- Police Officers gained civil service status.
- In 1948, the first black officers were hired. The Department has 471 total personnel, 83 automobiles, 22 motorcycles, and 3 patrol wagons. The workweek was reduced from 48 hours to 40 hours. The last horses from the horse patrol were sold and Barksdale station was closed.

Patrolman Vic Zambroni on March 23, 1920, and Patrolman James J. McNeill on December 14, 1920.

The awesome reputation of "the riot car" grew as its exploits multiplied. To the unlawful element the car became known by such terms as "the black hawk" and "the night hawk" because it swooped down with talons to catch criminals. It was called "de cryin' car" because of the plaintif wail of its two tone sirens. Bootleggers called it "the running devil." The name, "the wrecking car," was coined one night when officers responded to a honky-tonk and shot it out with "Two-Gun" Charlie Pierce, leaving the desperado dead.

The automobile was used as an emergency car. A team of two officers responded to emergency calls received at the station. Upon a call for help, the emergency team took a police car designated as an emergency car and sped to the scene with siren sounding. Emergency men were quickly on the scene of the crime, be it murder, robbery, or riot. They gained the reputation of quick response and captured many felons in the act of their criminal enterprise, or caught up with them soon thereafter.

An expansion of the use of shoulder patches for specialized units took place in the mid-1930s. It is not known if the Machine Gun and Tear Gas Squad had specialized insignia, but they were created for other units. Motorcycle officers wore a winged-wheel patch, which added a wing to the wheel patch worn by traffic officers. Mounted officers wore a patch with a horseshoe motif. These patches were worn approximately half way between the shoulder and the elbow. A number of decades passed before shoulder patches were worn department-wide.

The MPD expanded the use of radio communication. Radios were installed on motorcycles in 1934. In 1937 experimental two-way radios were installed in some cars. A 225-foot steel tower replaced the wire-strung-to-a-tree aerial.

The department and the rank structure expanded as the economy improved in the thirties. The 201-man force in 1935 consisted of a chief, two inspectors, two deputy inspectors, three captains, two lieutenants, ten sergeants, 29 detectives, 137 patrolmen, and 15 others. Patrolmen were detailed as follows, 41 to walking patrols, 72 to radio cars, 15 to traffic, and nine to motorcycles.

Walking patrolmen worked downtown in pairs on two shifts. Their patrol area was Waterworks to Calhoun and the river to Lauderdale. Radio car patrolmen also worked in pairs, but on all three shifts and mostly in the suburbs. During nights in 1937, 22 patrolmen walked the downtown in pairs from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Twelve squad cars with two-man teams cruised the suburbs on both the 4:00 p.m. to midnight and the midnight to 8:00 a.m. shifts.

The department added 38 men in the month of December 1938. On December 1, Police Commissioner Cliff Davis announced the hiring of ten new officers. "The new men were interviewed by Chief [Will D.] Lee, Inspector [Clegg] Richards, Captain [M. A.] Hinds, and myself. We have checked their references, observed their general demeanor and attitude. Each has a high school or equivalent education. We know the status of their families. They are all physically strong, under 30 and of good moral character. We feel that with proper police academy training they will make excellent young officers."

Commissioner Davis announced the hiring of 25 more uniformed officers on December 16. Most were former athletes and scored over 90 on the Civil Service exam. "A few of the men have not taken the Civil Service examination and of course are employed only on a temporary basis. We have long been short of personnel, but with the addition of these men, this department will be able to increase its protection in every section of the city," Davis said.

The experiences and career of McCarver is an example of an officer's life with the Memphis Police Department through the middle decades of the twentieth century. Starting pay for an officer was \$100 per month. Top pay for a patrolman was \$165 a month. No hospitalization insurance was provided.

New officers had to provide their own uniform and equipment, including a pistol. Uniforms were ordered from Wolf the Tailor on South Main, and cost around \$100. A revolver ran about \$35. The department provided his badge, the large six-point star. McCarver was given badge number 157.

The uniform was a dress type. Walking wards voted to wear coats even in the summer. Carrying a half pint of whiskey was typical for most walking patrolmen and the coat made it more easily concealed. White shirts were worn in the winter, and light blue in the summer. Most men wore high top shoes. Summer hats had a ventilated frame; the frame on a winter hat was closed. Uniforms included a vest, and the vest was required to be worn in the winter. "Pea coats" were optional winter wear.



It took three weeks for uniforms to arrive, so McCarver was assigned with a team of generalist type detectives when he began work in 1938. He worked with sergeants Turner and Willie King. Detective cruisers and ward cars had one-way radios. Calls were sent out three times to radio cars in case officers were briefly away from the vehicle. Telephones were used to get in service and otherwise communicate with headquarters.

When his uniform arrived, McCarver was assigned to walk the 10th Ward, from Front to Third and Beale to Calhoun. He worked the night shift, 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., seven days a week. During the day he went to school under Bill Raney at the Barksdale Station. There were no days off and no comp-time. McCarver's education was not all in the classroom. He made notes as he walked the ward and his partner pointed out lawbreakers and places of ill repute.

The roll call for walking wards was held in the basement at headquarters. Patrolmen walked from headquarters if the ward was close, or rode the streetcar to wards that were more distant. To get to work, McCarver rode the street car. The cost of the ride was 7 cent unless he was in uniform, then it was free.

Officers were seldom fed for free, but were usually given a cup of coffee. Day walking wards got an hour and a half for lunch, and were allowed to leave their partner and the ward to eat lunch. Night walking wards could eat, but partners had to stay together in their ward for meals.

Patrolmen called into headquarters every hour, but did not wait around the telephone for calls. When they called in, they would frequently get minor calls for response. There were no call boxes in the 10th Ward, but the headquarters number, 8-9081, was a free call from pay phones.



Walking wards wrote traffic tickets, which were delivered by mail. They seldom wrote “short tickets” for parking violations. “Long tickets,” written for moving violations, were turned into headquarters and mailed to violators. Tickets were not often challenged, so officers seldom made court.

After a few days, McCarver was transferred to Barksdale Car 38 and began patrolling suburban wards, with his partner, Van Fletcher. He stayed in Car 38 until 1943. In the early 1940s the city had 13 two-man ward cars, divided into north, south, and east zones, each supervised by a sergeant. Lieutenant H. G. Crum was located at the Barksdale Station and was in command. Besides the 13 wards patrolled by car, there were 12 walking wards.

The department required that squad cars cover 50 miles per shift, day or night. The city gas station was located at Washington and Lauderdale, and was the only source for gasoline. Midnight cars had to gas up between the time the station opened at 6:00 a.m. and the end of the shift at 7:00 a.m.

The department used all Ford cars. They were two door black sedans, with no screen dividing front and back seats. Besides the one-way radio, they were equipped with red lights behind the grill and mechanical sirens, but no spotlight. The cars were marked with a star on the door and the district number inside the star. A sawed-off shotgun was carried on the dash board.

In 1943 McCarver moved to Car 2 and was partnered with Dick Davis. The Nicholson/ Kettlewell affair took place in 1943. All cars went to headquarters in a protest. As a result of the action, patrolmen were given two days off each month. A uniform allowance also began in 1943.

McCarver took military leave from the force in 1944 and joined the Marines. He returned to the Memphis Police Department on January 1, 1946. He and Dick Davis became partners again, this time patrolling Midtown in Car 18, where McCarver remained until 1948.

There was a job action in 1948 which led to the enacting of Civil Service in the department. Commissioner Joe Boyle was angered by the affair. As a result, partners and car assignments were changed every month, or more frequently, until 1950.

In 1950 McCarver was promoted to detective in the General Investigative Bureau (GIB). Three month later he was promoted to lieutenant. During his time in GIB, he served in all squads of the bureau, but primarily he worked auto theft. McCarver retired from the department in 1964. He worked as a private investigator after his time with the MPD, and died on February 1, 1990.

In part, the addition of officers in 1938 was in preparation for the reorganization of the Traffic Division in 1939. Personnel increases were required for the new traffic configuration. The Accident Prevention Bureau had 23 officers and supervisors, most working in Accident Investigation. The Enforcement Unit included 14 officers in the Motorcycle Squad, and 16 men in Congestion Control, most of them detailed as “corner men.” The division also had a one-man Safety Education Section. Speed limits were increased from 25 to 30 mph; 20 to 25 mph for trucks. Honking horns, except in an emergency, carried a fine of \$3.





Squad cars were increased from 13 to 15 in 1941, detective cruisers were equipped with two-way radios, and motorcycles were all furnished with one-way radios. Traffic equipment on the streets of the city was improved in the early forties as well. Traffic lights were changed from single overhead signals at intersections to pole mounted corner light with “walk” and “wait” pedestrian signals. Approximately 1900 parking meters were installed downtown.

Chief of Police Carroll B. Seabrook served during the decade of the 1940s, from September 1940 through January 1949. A number of significant achievements were made during his tenure.

The period following World War II brought innovations to all aspects of society, including law enforcement. The Memphis Police Department changed badge styles in 1947. The star was replaced by a stock pinched-shield with the Tennessee state seal in the center. The uniform of the post-war years was long-sleeve shirts, navy blue trousers, and a jacket in the winter. The hat had a one-piece navy top encircled by a concealed semi-rigid rim giving it a flat circular appearance. The bill was black and the hat came with two frames, a solid fabric covered the frame of winter wear, and an open cane-weave frame for summer.

In the winter the patrolman wore a white shirt and navy wool jacket. The jacket was fingertip length with an open collar and splayed lapels. A matching navy wool vest was available and a popular option. In the summer an officer wore a light blue shirt without a jacket. In the late 1960s the white shirt was discontinued and the light blue shirt was worn year-round. A navy wool tie was worn year-round. Navy wool trousers were available in summer and winter weights. Socks were navy or black, and shoes were black, plain-toed leather oxfords.

Civil Service was reimplemented for Memphis police officers in 1948. Other personnel changes increased salaries, improved the retirement plan, and gave officers one day off each week, instead of two per month.

Beginning in 1948 the training of new officers was revised so that two weeks of training was required before they were put to work in the department. Classrooms on the second floor of the Barksdale Station and the gym at

headquarters were used for training sessions. Those who passed the first Saturday morning exam went on to the second week, which included a day at the Penal Farm range. The results of the second Saturday test, and duty assignment for successful recruits, were posted on Inspector Raney’s office door.

A new FM radio system was installed in 1950. The system, designated KIC306, had three frequencies and two way radio radios were installed in 82 automobiles and 18 motorcycles.

The department totaled 341 men in 1951, including the chief, two assistant chiefs, 13 inspectors, 4 deputy inspectors, 6 captains, 48 lieutenants, 7 sergeants, 122 corporals, and 139 patrolmen. Walking patrols continued in the city center, 13 black officers walked the Beale Street area and 16 white officers walked downtown.

A number of specialized units were formed in the fifties. Additional detectives were hired in 1951 and the Hold Up Squad was created, with four detectives on “cruise duty” at night. The Hotel Squad was created in 1952 so detectives could watch hotels and pool halls for gamblers and vagrants. In 1953 a two-man Racket Squad was formed to rid the city of gamblers and confidence men. Two “Drunkometers” were also acquired that year for use by traffic details.

The department began using radar units for traffic control on March 20, 1953. Inspector Clifford Legg, head of the traffic department, reported that radar was directly responsible for the arrest of an additional 300 speeding drivers each month.

The Memphis Police Department grew to 520 officer in 1956, a significant increase from the 450 of the year before. Top pay for patrol officers was \$331 per month. Door insignia on squad cars was changed from a six-point star outlined in gold and the car number in the center. New decals in the form of a solid silver shield-shaped badge, with number, were applied to the doors of marked units.

Short sleeve shirts were authorized in 1956, but were not well accepted by the command. They were authorized only when both officers in the car wore them, and only if an officer had no tattoo. Officers who received first aid training wore a small patch with a red cross circled by a red circle. The patch was worn on the left shoulder of the jacket.

The Claude A. Armour Fire and Police Training and Communication Center opened in 1958. This facility replaced the Barksdale Station and Barksdale was closed, ending for a time the era of the mounted patrol. The last five horses were sold at auction and the stable on Washington closed.

The first female officers of the department were 10 “Meter Maids” who were hired in 1958 to take over the duty of ticketing parking meter violations. Officer Claudine Penn, employed September 16, 1963 as a metermaid, was commissioned in May 1968 as the first female black officer in the department. Other than the first class of metermaids, the female officers were not commissioned when they were hired. On May 15, 1970, all existing female officers were given 200 hours of re-training and were commissioned.



MPD's FIRST FEMALE OFFICERS

The 10 women pictured began training as “meter maids” for the Memphis Police Department on March 17, 1958. They graduated on March 31, 1958 as commissioned officers but were not armed and were told to avoid making arrests. For some reason the next group of “meter maids” were not commissioned so to correct this confusing situation all women were retrained for 200 hours then re-commissioned on May 15, 1970.

Julia Claire Lester was among the first female officers hired on March 17, 1958 and was re-commissioned during that 1970's class. She was promoted to lieutenant on July 26, 1979 and became the departments first female 30 year Captain when she was promoted to that rank on March 17, 1988. She retired in 1992 after 34 years of dedicated service.



MPD's FEMALE OFFICER "FIRSTS"

3/1/1958

First Female Officers

Betty J. Coats
Katie Fitzhugh
Ossie Fay Fowler
Julia Clair Lester
Frances E. Marzioli
Bernice A. Parrish
Elsie L. Sanders
Rosie Sigler
Rita Thompson
Erma Z. Trent

5/15/1970

Re-commissioned Officers

Betty J. Coats
Kathleen Henry
Eva Gatlin
Frances Weyebacher
Ann Felts
Joanne Moore
Louise Dunnavant
Ina A. "Billy" Bruno
Sue Siko Lester
Irene Huey
Aileen White
Julia Claire Lester
Katie Ernestine Fitzhugh
Mrs. Eichelberger
Elsie Whitten
Claudine Penn
Mary Sample Fowler
Elzeta Warren
Pearlie Douglas

8/1965

First Female Detectives

Louise Dunavant
Mary Sample Fowler

5/31/1968

First Female African American Police Officer

Claudine Penn

First Female Sergeant

Joanne Moore

4/16/1973

First Female in a Squad Car

Freedra Bowers

5/1973

First Female Lieutenants

Louise Dunavant
Mary Sample Fowler

10/1974

First Female Field Commander (Lt.)

Mary Sample Fowler

5/1976

First Female African American Court Officer

Armer Jean Torrance

2/25/1984

First Female African American Lieutenant

Armer Jean Torrance

7/25/1985

First Female Captain (Major)

Joanne Moore

7/25/1985

First Female Field Shift Commander

Joanne Moore

3/17/1988

First Female 30 Year Captain

Julia Claire Lester

5/5/1988

First Female African American Captain

Armer Jean Torrance

7/1/1992

First Female African American Inspector

Armer Jean Torrance

First Female Dog Squad Officer

Jane Martin

First Female TACT Unit Officer

Dawn Anishanslin York

11/5/1994

First Female African American Chief Inspector

Olander Franklin

4/7/1995

First Female African American 30 Year Captain

Claudine Penn

First Female Aviation Unit Officer

Dawn Anishanslin York

1998

First Female African American Deputy Chief

Brenda Jones



Claudine Penn, who was employed September 16, 1963 as a “meter maid” and was Memphis’ first African American female police officer. She was commissioned on May 31, 1968. In 1973, Claudine Penn became the first female African American sergeant and on April 7, 1995 she was promoted to 30 year Captain - the first African American female to achieve that rank. Captain Penn retired on July 8, 1995.

Julia Claire Lester was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1979, and became the first female 30-year captain in 1988. Claudia Penn went on to become the first female black sergeant in 1973, and the first female black 30-year captain in 1995 shortly before her retirement.

SWAT came to the Memphis Police Department on May 15, 1960, with the formation of the Emergency Squad. The Emergency Squad was intended to handle any adverse situation that might weaken the normal complement of the department. Its members were all experienced and specially trained. The four station wagons of the squad were equipped with machine guns, rifles, shotguns, tear gas guns and projectiles, hand held radios, fire extinguishers, megaphones, oxygen, gas masks, and riot helmets.

The department also acquired its first aircraft in 1960. The twin-engine Beachcraft became affectionately known as “933 Charlie” after its registration 4933C. Lieutenant Gene Barksdale served as pilot until it was retired in 1964.

The 1960s brought still more improvements and additions to the department. Recruit training was expanded to five weeks in 1960 and to seven weeks in 1961. A new gym, firing range, print shop, and microfilming center were opened; and an addition to the Central Police Station was completed in 1962. An octagonal, soft-edged hat was introduced to the uniform, replacing the rigid flat-topped hat. The new hat was flexible and more casual. It was in use until 1986.

The Dog Squad was created in 1962 when four teams completed training in Kansas City. The squad was so successful that ten more teams were added by year end. The canine unit was created as a direct result of the line of duty death of Patrolman Frank Bruno Jr. on October 7, 1960.

Patrolman Bruno and his partner, W. E. Pierini, responded to a complaint of breaking glass near South Orleans and East McLemore about 1:00 a.m. While Pierini talked with the complainant, Bruno checked Ace Sundry and found the front

glass broken out. Bruno entered the store and was struck in the chest by one of two shots that rang out from the darkness. The officer staggered outside, his weapon still in its holster, and fell to the sidewalk. Patrolman Pierini fired at the shadowy figure that fled the scene and went to assist his partner. Bruno died in the emergency room 30 minutes later. K-9 teams working such incidents were certain to save the lives of officers, and the department began planning for the Dog Squad.

The city adopted a new seal in December 1962. The form of the seal was a rounded rectangle, with “Memphis,” “Shelby County,” and “Tennessee” on its border. In the mid-1960s the department re-introduced the acorn style badge for use by sergeants. The form of the badge changed slightly and the new seal was made a part of the badge die. Some patrolman and other ranks wore or carried the badge style, but use by other than sergeants was limited.

A number of organizational changes took place in 1963. The Vice Squad, a special undercover unit, was formed to ferret out prostitution, gambling, and the illegal sale of alcohol and narcotics. The Detective Division became the Criminal Investigation Division, and Vice and Narcotics was included as a part of the Division. The Administrative Services Division was reduced from twelve bureaus to five: Planning and Research, Training, Communications, Identification, and Special Services.

The first department-wide shoulder patch was introduced in 1964 and worn on both shoulders. The form was a large pinched-shield with the department seal in red, gold, and brown on a sky blue background. At the bottom of the patch were the words, “Courage,” “Knowledge,” and “Integrity.” The top salary for patrolmen in 1964 was \$440 a month, which was increased to \$535 per month in 1966.

The Memphis Police Department graduated the first integrated class of recruits from the Armour Center in 1964.





MPD MAJOR EVENTS FROM THE 1950'S THROUGH THE 1970'S

- Armour Training Center was opened. The year is 1958.
- In the early 60's, the Emergency Squad was formed which contained 15 experienced and specially trained officers and the present Dog Squad was formed.
- Dr. Martin Luther King was killed in Memphis in 1968, causing riots and curfews.
- The first law enforcement planning agency was created by Detective Carl A. Goolsby.
- In 1973, the department witnessed the formation of two police unions. The Afro-American Police Association was formed and the Memphis Police Association, a bargaining unit representing patrolmen and sergeants, was formed. Memphis Police went on strike for eight days.
- The Hostage Negotiating Team was formed.

Four of the 24 members of the class were black officers. The first black officers, Detective R. J. Turner and Patrolman W. A. Harris, were assigned to Vice and Narcotics.

Squad cars became "shiftless" in 1965 as the department acquired its first units with automatic transmissions. The following year the department purchased fifty new automobiles with air conditioning. Some of the autos were regular black patrol units, some white accident investigation vehicles, and some detective cruisers. The first female officers were promoted to detective in 1965. Detectives Louise Dunavant and Mary Sample Fowler were assigned to Vice/Narcotics and Intelligence.

Frank C. Holloman became the first Director of Fire and Police under the new Mayor and Council form of city government on January 1, 1968. The title was changed to Director because other divisions of the city were managed by a director. Holloman was a former FBI agent and served two years in the position.

Civil rights and other activism in the sixties brought a new level of scrutiny to the police department. The MPD recognized the need for improving communication with and involvement in the community. Captain William Carl Moxley was appointed director of a newly formed Community Relations Program.

An event that shook the entire nation took place in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stepped on the balcony walkway at the Lorraine Motel at 6:01 p.m. and the report of a rifle sounded over the gathered crowd. Dr. King fell dead of an assassin's bullet.

Homicide Detective Glynn King was one of the first officers on the scene of Dr. King's killing. He worked as part of the forensic team across from the motel in the boarding house where the killer stayed. Glynn King joined the Memphis force in 1961 as a traffic officer and five years later became a homicide

detective. He worked violent crimes, including many high profile cases.

Patrolman Louis Edward McKay Jr. was a member of the Police Emergency Squad, and one of the first to arrive on the scene. When the bundle was found containing the rifle that killed Dr. King, McKay was assigned to guard the bundle. McKay later admitted, "I was sort of frustrated because I was told to stand there and guard that weapon and don't let anybody touch it. I would rather have been looking in buildings, behind buildings. . . ."



CAPT. L.E. MCKAY
picture taken 1968 at 424 S. Main
doorway of the building where
Dr. Martin Luther King was shot.
On the ground in the box is the
rifle used in the slaying.

Rioting followed in Memphis and in much of the rest of the nation. The Tennessee Highway Patrol and the National Guard were called in to assist Memphis and Shelby County law enforcement. Other law enforcement agencies responded as well. James Earl Ray was captured in June by officers of London's Scotland Yard. Ray pled guilty to first-degree murder in the killing and was sentenced to 99 years.

A number of changes were made following the King assassination. The thirty-man Emergency Squad was replaced by a sixty-man Special Services Unit. The Crime Scene Squad was created to scientifically gather evidence. An "In-Service" Training Program was begun, and five four-man Sniper Squads were trained.

John F. Molnar was placed in command of the Special Services Unit. Molnar was at virtually every major demonstration or protest in Memphis during the 1960s and early 1970s. He was always at the front with his trademark cigar stuck in the right side of his mouth, and a blank expression on his face. He was usually the one to tell a group to disperse or face arrest. If they chose arrest, it was usually orderly and low-key, with Molnar even telling them how much bond was likely to be once they got to court.

Molnar earned the respect of some protest leaders for his willingness to talk calmly about what police would do in a confrontation. He said, "I'm a simple guy. I do what my superior officers tell me to do and I expect the men under me to do what I tell them."

In 1972 reserve officers served warrants in two-man teams, and patrolled together in ward cars. The reserve had its own Traffic Division, consisting of about 20 officers under commanding officers Lieutenant D. R. Lancaster, and warrant officer E. J. Bowden and Douglas A. Ogilvie. Their cars were unmarked. They issued citations and made arrests for major violations such as DWI and reckless driving. The reserves had become a police department within the police department.

In the period from its inception in 1969 through 1975 the reserve force served 197,789 hours, saving the city \$1,242,286. The rank structure within the reserves faded in the late 1970s.

A number of reserve officers became regular full-time officers. A group of seven joined the regular ranks in May 1979. A waiver allowed the substitution of 200 hours of duty for the requirement of two years of college credit.





A number of new regular officers were added in 1969. Among them was Walter Crews, a future director of the force. Officers rode two to a car, but the department was transitioning to one man cars. Single officer cars mainly took offense reports. More serious calls were taken by the two man cars. Three people were assigned to a car, two working and one off. Officers split up days off, Sunday and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Everyone worked Saturday and Sunday, and Friday was “Kelly Day” when all three officers worked. The junior officer worked wherever needed in the department.

Racial tensions remained very high following Dr. King’s killing, and social changes were affecting the operations of the police department. The MPD was mostly male and white. Two predominately black recruit classes went through the police training academy. When the rookie officers first started they rode together, cars were not racially mixed. The department set up community centers in small store fronts and similar spaces to improve communication in neighborhoods.

The city was divided into the East and North Precincts, and soon the South Precinct was added. The North Precinct was located at Fourth and Adams, and included the area in the present West Precinct. Officers all gathered at the Armour Station for every roll call. Men from the East Precinct stood on one side of the room, men from the North on another, and men from the south on a third. All of the commanding officers stood out in the middle. Roll was called for officers in each precinct, and the men lined up and stood at parade rest in numerical rank order based on the number of their car. Car 1 first, then Car 2, and Car 3, and so forth. Car numbers were limited to two digits.

Officers used the same cars as the previous shift. After the roll call, officers drove their personal cars to the ward they patrolled, parked in a safe place, and transferred to police cars. The vehicles were gassed up at a nearby fire station. Cars were two door, and one officer had to ride in the back seat with the prisoner when an arrest was made. Cars were not air conditioned and commercial radios were not allowed. Officers rode with the window down, even in winter, so they could here gun shots or calls for help. Patrolmen rode the alleys at 3:00 or 4:00 in the mornings with the lights off checking the backs of buildings for burglars.

Patrolmen Walter Crews, James Moss, and Jim Anderson were assigned to one of the early integrated cars. Crews and Anderson were white and Moss was black. Moss was the senior officer of the three and passed on his experience to the younger

men. Crews recalled, “Moss was low key and treated people fair, but didn’t take any guff. Anderson was detail oriented and learned everybody in the patrol area. They were both honest, hardworking policemen.” Patrolman Crews also rode with Officer Joyce Tuggle Pageant, one of the first female officers assigned to patrol car duty.

MPD MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE 1980’s

- The Tact Unit rescued 3 doctors and one nurse held hostage during a 32 hour siege at St. Jude Research Hospital in 1982.
 - That same year the West Precinct, at 1925 Union Avenue, became the fourth precinct.
 - Hostage situation on Shannon Street resulted in eight deaths, including the police officer taken hostage. The year for that bloody assault was 1983.
 - In early 1984 the implementation of the Police Service Technician Program designed for the hiring of future commissioned police officers began.
 - Specialized Patrol, a pilot program, was instituted to attack the problem of criminal activity using innovative techniques and tactics. Twenty officers and 2 lieutenants were divided into two eleven-man teams to target specific crimes in the city.
 - Operation Involvement became fully operational in 1986, successfully implementing a program of developing mutual respect, cooperation, and understanding between the Memphis Police Department and the citizens of Memphis.
 - Specialized Patrol made into a permanent unit.
 - Formal institution of the career development program.
 - The Department started operating four shifts to reduce response time during peak hours. The Delta Shift was implemented with officers working 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.
 - The Neighborhood Watch Program was introduced within the Precincts. The first Police Open House was held.
 - Beale Street Substation Museum was opened.
 - In 1988, the First Black Director was appointed, James E. Ivy.
 - Central Precinct was opened, sharing space in the East Precinct until a permanent facility could be located.
 - The state-of-the-art John D. Holt Training Academy opened.
 - The Police Memorial Committee was formed and the first Police Memorial Service held.
 - The Crisis Intervention Team was formed to respond to calls for assistance involving the mentally ill.
 - Mendez Training Program implemented in Memphis City Schools, grades K-12. Peer Counselor Program started to provide a confidential source of support for fellow officers.
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Patrol cars had two radio channels, North and East. A third was added when the South Precinct was formed. The traffic division had a channel, and another channel was used for checking stolen cars, and miscellaneous communications. Radios operated only when the car was running, so cars were left turned on. Walkie-talkies came along in the 1970s.

Shifts for all officers changed every 28 days. Officers went from the day shift to the midnight shift, and then to the evening shift. The system was effective for policing because officers learned everyone in the ward that worked and who was out on the streets. During the day house burglars were active and some auto thieves and truants; on the evening shift were mostly holdup men and domestic violence calls; and the midnight shift were the burglars, some armed robbers, pimps and prostitutes, and the growing problem of drugs. The frequent shift changes was stressful on the family of policemen, and no matter what shift an officer worked, he went to court each day at 9:00 a.m.

In October 1970 the department was reorganized from five divisions to two. Field Operations took responsibility for uniform patrol, traffic, criminal investigation, and special operations. Staff Operations consisted of the former administrative bureau and services bureau. The Criminal Intelligence Squad was created in April 1971 to investigate organized crime.

A new role was created in the School Safety Unit in 1970. Officers Louis Edward McKay Jr. and Carl Mister were assigned

duty as “Officer Friendly,” working with children to give them a positive image of law enforcement. McKay spent 24 years of his 32-year career on the force as Officer Friendly.

A number of equipment enhancements were made in the late sixties and early seventies. The fifty new squad cars ordered in 1968 were solid blue rather than black or white units. They were four-door with a screen dividing front and back seats, and had hand-held instead of fixed spotlights. The department changed the paint scheme on squad cars in 1978 to phase out the blue units in favor of combination black and white units.

Also purchased in 1968 were six suits of body armor, eight “Pepper Fog” machines for riot control, and television recording equipment for use in training. The Helicopter Squad was formed in 1969 with four pilots and a Bell Helicopter.

A casual and more functional fur-collar jacket replaced the suit-type jacket in 1968. The jacket was a zip-up with an elastic waist band, and was made of a durable navy fabric. The shoulder patch was reduced in size. The new patch was a vertical oval in form and featured a simplified department seal, which had been center portion of the earlier patch. The patch retained the powder blue background, but was much smaller in size. The use of badge numbers to indicate seniority and as the primary identification of the officer was abandoned. The number used to identify officers in the department’s data bank became the more significant number, and was called the “IBM number” or “funny numbers” by officers. The ID Number was required on each report.

When officers switched to winter uniforms in 1972, the light blue shirts of line officers were replaced with midnight blue shirts. Supervisors soon discarded their white shirts for midnight blue as well. Initially the shirt fabric was a blend of cotton and synthetic in a lighter shade of midnight blue. Within a few years this changed to a fully synthetic material. Trousers followed a similar progression. The uniform became a permanent-press, all-synthetic, wash-and-wear fabric. Ties were also changed to pre-tied synthetic wash-and-wear, although by the early eighties ties were no longer required, not even with long-sleeved shirts. Socks and shoes also took advantage of more modern materials.

With the introduction of midnight blue shirts, the department patch was worn on the right shoulder and a patch bearing the likeness of an American flag was worn on the left shoulder. The small “red cross” patch was worn low on the arm near the cuff.

The supervision of the fire and police department had been under a single commissioner, later titled director, since 1910. In 1972 the position was split into a Director of Fire Services and a Director of Police Services.

Jay W. Hubbard was appointed Director of Police Services in December 1972 by Mayor Wyeth Chandler. The career military man fought in three wars and was the first to serve as police director. He was a pilot and retired as a brigadier general with 32 years in the Marine Corps. Hubbard agreed to stay for two years, but stayed until 1975, during which time he labored to stabilize and modernize the MPD.

Two months into the job Hubbard decried the lack of black officers and the high number of brutality complaints. He created an internal security inspection system and worked to decentralize the department. During his tenure a six-man Metro DWI Squad was initiated, the helicopter unit became the Metro Aviation





MPD MAJOR EVENTS OF THE 1990's

- As the 90's began the Family Trouble Center was opened at 620 S. Lauderdale, designed to attack the root causes of domestic violence.
- Cordova is annexed into the city and police services are provided.
- First Recruit Class is trained with the 9 MM pistol.
- The Emergency Vehicle Operation Course began operation at the Training Academy.
- In 1991, the TV show COPS was filmed in Memphis and the World Police and Fire Games were held.
- Eddie B. Adair was named first black Chief of Police (formal title: Deputy Director) in 1992.
- Computerization of the Memphis Police Department begins in the Robbery Squad and the Central Precinct opened August 15, 1992.
- First Police Summer Youth Camp for inner-city boys, ages 8-12, is held.
- 1993 brought the creation of the Downtown Precinct, which became the sixth precinct.
- The Tel-Serve reporting system becomes operational.
- MPD monthly newsletter "Behind the Badge" begins publication.
- The Field Training Officer Program was implemented in all six precincts.
- The Police Advisory Council was created to act as a liaison between the police and the community.
- A Computer Network links precincts to bureaus.
- Midnight Basketball program begins for at-risk males, ages 18-30.
- Burglary Squad created by the restructuring of Investigative Services.
- In 1994, the COACT Unit was created and assigned to the Orange-Mound/Binghampton area to initiate new Community Policing Program. This program was expanded to Mississippi/Walker in the fall.
- The Memphis Police Sports Federation was formed to promote athletics within the Department.
- The Training Academy initiates "Freeze" pepper gas training for all officers.
- Seventy-five recruits graduate from the Training Academy as the largest class in Memphis Police Department history.
- Uniform Patrol divided into two districts (District One and District Two) each containing 3 precincts.
- Citizens Police Academy begins in the South Precinct as a nine-week training course for civilians.
- D.A.R.E. is launched in the Memphis City Schools with eight officers and 800 kids.
- Downtown Precinct Officers attend Bike Patrol School at Training Academy for full certification.
- Olander Franklin promoted to Chief Inspector, the first female to hold that position.
- As 1995 began, the anti-gang program G.R.E.A.T. joined D.A.R.E. in the city school system.
- COACT was expanded to the areas of Jefferson and Cleveland and Cooper-Young.
- A civilian, Kathy Todd, is promoted to Chief Administrative Officer over Administrative Services.
- The long awaited Promotional process for sergeants and above begins and is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1996.
- Weapons Watch, patterned after Crime Stoppers, is introduced within the city school system. Over 400 guns are confiscated in the first year.
- A new restraint device, the Ripp Hobble, is issued to all officers.
- In 1996, Walter J. Winfrey is named Director of Police Services by Mayor W.W. Herenton.
- COACT is expanded in the Westwood, Cooper-Young, and Jefferson-Cleveland areas. Westwood begins its Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) program.
- Family Trouble Center moves to North Precinct and begins work on its Domestic Violence Pilot Project.
- Internal Affairs and Security Squad move to new offices in the 100 N. Main bldg.
- CrimeStoppers establishes a website on the Internet.
- HBO documentary "Memphis PD: War on the Streets" premieres. The America Undercover documentary takes an inside look at the emotional toll police work is exacting upon police officers.
- East and South Precincts hold the first "Back-to-School" supply giveaways to over 1,000 children.





- First Crime Prevention Merit Badge is awarded to the MPD Boy Scout troops by Director Winfrey.
- Promotional process completed in January of 1996 and the first officers in a large pool of sergeants, lieutenants, majors, and inspectors promoted in May.
- In 1997, the Mounted Patrol was invited to participate in President Bill Clinton's Second Inauguration in Washington, DC.
- Wellness Study started and conducted by University of Tennessee Department of Preventative Medicine on bike officers and non-bike officers in the West Precinct. The study will monitor the officer's stress levels over a 6 and 12 month period and is the first study of its type in the U.S.
- MPD begins its own hiring process, separate from City Hall Personnel, and utilizes print media, as well as, billboards as part of the recruiting effort.
- Bethel Labelle COACT opens in the East Precinct.
- 75th Recruit Class graduates 66 new police officers.
- Jackson Avenue COACT opens within the Hispanic area of Jackson and National. Several bilingual officers are assigned to this mini precinct.
- Street Crime Abatement Team (SCAT) formed. Made up of sergeants and TACT Unit officers this unit's primary objective is to target specific street crimes and hot spot locations throughout the city.
- The MPD Accountability Plan - a quarterly report to Mayor Herenton - begins in February of 1997.
- Civilian Terrence Woods is appointed as Deputy Chief over Administrative Services.
- Director Winfrey and his Command Staff begin implementation of Strategic Action Management (SAM).
- Debby Hall is hired as the MPD's new Media Relations spokesperson.
- MPD begins to implement the COMPSTAT program modeled after the NYPD's successful computer crime analysis program. COMPSTAT spreads to each precinct and involves "report cards" that track crime within each precinct.
- In 1998, Brenda Harris Jones becomes the first female to achieve the rank of Deputy Chief within the Memphis Police Department.
- MPD history graduates 113 new police officers on June 18, 1998 at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.
- Director Winfrey begins his monthly "Town Hall Meetings."
- Richard McBryde is appointed as the Executive Commander of Police Administration and will oversee Finance, Personnel, Communications, Administrative Services, and Information Services.
- The Southeast precinct opens on July 1st at the now closed Defense Depot on Airways. It is the MPD's seventh precinct facility.
- Crisis Intervention Team members - Danny Parris, Debra Ham-Kelly, Sheryl Stanback and Roger Nelson - are recognized for ten years of service to the CIT program and for being CIT "pioneers" at the annual CIT Banquet.
- Orange Mound COACT opens in the Central Precinct in the first building built specifically for a COACT Unit.
- Graceland COACT opens in the South Precinct and Todd's Creek COACT opens in the North Precinct.
- Over 900 kids attend 29 Anti-gang/Anti-drug summer camps sponsored by the MPD and the Black United Fund.
- The Sage SL-6 27mm L3AOS (Less Lethal Launched Ammunition Ordnance System) is implemented after CIT and Tact Officers receive training in its use.
- Westwood COACT is recognized by the National League of Cities for Excellence in Community Policing.
- In December of 1998 the largest recruit class in MPD history graduates 117 new officers.
- Binghampton COACT opens in the Lester Community Center.
- Seven Officers from Chisinau Moldova visit the MPD in January of 1999 as part of an international exchange program sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Moldovan officers spend two weeks learning about the MPD. Seven Officers from Memphis travel to Chisinau for their two weeks of Moldovan training in February.
- In April of 1999 Director Walter Winfrey retires after 31 years of service. W.P. "Bill" Oldham is appointed Interim Director by Mayor Herenton. Deputy Chief Dugger is appointed Deputy Director and Inspector Mike Dodd is promoted to Deputy Chief over Uniform Patrol District 1.
- In July, ground was broken for the Northeast Precinct which will be completed by the Spring of 2000. This precinct is lauded as a true "community" precinct



and will have computer kiosks setup to allow citizens the opportunity to look up crime reports, traffic information and other MPD information.

- Hickory Hill COACT opened in the newly annexed area of Memphis. A capacity crowd attended the grand opening.
- The first Citizen's Police Academy is held at the Hickory Hill COACT with a waiting list for the next class.
- Bike Patrols are expanded to the East Precinct and to the Hickory Hill area.
- Laptop computers are installed in the squad cars and officers receive training on their use.
- Mobile data beepers are tested in the field by bike officers, mounted patrol officers, and motorcycle officers. These "beepers" are used to run vehicle tag numbers, driver's license numbers, and warrant checks.

- On December 7, 1999 Interim Director Bill Oldham retires after 27 years of service to the Memphis Police Department. Deputy Chief Walter E. Crews is named Interim Director by Mayor Willie Herenton.



Unit and tripled its number of aircraft, the Special Operations Bureau was reorganized, the Police Cadet Program began, the Park Police Unit was started with eight officers, a twelve man Electronic Surveillance Patrol was initiated using \$100,000 worth of new electronic equipment, and the Community Service Officer Program was begun in three public housing projects.

A number of important personnel actions took place in 1973. The Memphis Police Association was formed and recognized by the city as the official bargaining agent for officers below the rank of lieutenant. Temporary corporate officers of the association during the formation process including President Jack C. Carlisle, Vice President David Gallarno, and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Holder, all of whom were warrant officers in the Bureau of Identification.

Sixty-five black officers formed the Afro-American Police Association later in 1973. The same month that Lieutenant W. L. Robinson became the first black officer promoted to the rank of captain.

The size of the department in 1973 was 1256 commissioned officers. Top monthly pay for the patrolman rank was \$890. Three female officers were assigned to patrol cars to ride with a male partner. It was only three years earlier that the first women recruits began training in the same class with men at the Police Academy. Sergeants Mary A. Fowler and Elsie L. Dunavant became the first female officers to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The next year, 1974, Lieutenant Fowler became the first female assigned to a field command position.

Chief of Police William O. Crumby was appointed in 1974, and would be the last individual to serve in the position. The title "Chief of Police" was abolished in 1977 and replaced by two appointed Deputy Directors, one for operations and one for administration. On the resignation of Director Hubbard, Chief Crumby served as acting director until September 1976

when E. Winslow "Buddy" Chapman was named Director of Police. Chapman was not a law enforcement professional, but had some military training and was administrative assistant to a mayor. The North Precinct moved into a new building in 1976, and the West Precinct was established, becoming the fourth police precinct in the city.

An incident on October 3, 1974, brought national attention and a revision of deadly force policies throughout the United States. At about 10:45 p.m. officers responded to a "proowler inside call." At the scene a woman standing on her porch motioned to the house next door and told the officers she heard glass breaking. The two patrolmen heard a door slam and saw someone run across the backyard. The fleeing suspect's escape was halted by a chain link fence. The officer saw no weapon when then shined a flashlight on him, and called "police, halt" as he crouched at the base of the fence. The burglar tried to escape over the fence and the officers, in accordance with department



policy and Tennessee law, shot him. The bullet hit the thief in the back of the head, and he died.

Suit was brought against the department and the case made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a 1985 decision, *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S.1 (1985), the majority of the court found that the existing code was “unreasonable.” Tennessee Codes, House Bill No. 741, revised state law. An officer was authorized to use all necessary means to effect the arrest, but deadly force was authorized only after a warning was given and all other means of arrest were exhausted; and then based on probable cause of a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm and a belief that the subject posed a threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or to others unless he is immediately apprehended. Deadly force policies across the state and in much of the nation were revised to comply.

A deadly incident on May 21, 1973, led to the development of a new specialized unit within the department. Ten minutes before the end of their tour, patrolmen David Clark and Joe Cottingham rolled on a call of a shooting in the 1700 block of Kansas. They found four bodies at the scene and a wounded federal probation officer.

Patrolman Clark chased the shooter to the rear of a frame house. From about 20 feet, Clark fired his .38 calibre revolver at the felon, striking him in the shoulder. The fleeing killer was armed with a 30/30 rifle, and Clark took cover behind the corner of the house. The felon fired his rifle. The bullet penetrated the frame wall of the house, striking the officer in the side of the head. Officer Clark was dead on arrival at John Gaston Hospital. Clark's killer was shot to death in a subsequent gun battle.

The department determined to reinstitute an emergency unit. Beginning in 1976, emergency response situations such as the incident that resulted in the death of Officer Clark were assigned to a newly formed TACT Squad (Tactical Apprehension and Containment Team). The unit was composed of thirty-eight specially trained officers. A Hostage Negotiation Team was added to the unit in 1981.

In 1978, negotiations between the city and the Memphis Police Association went poorly. So much so that most police officers went out on strike on August 10. The department was left in the hands of supervisors and a few officers. Law enforcement in the city was augmented by regular and reserve deputies of the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, the Tennessee Highway

Patrol, and 600 members of the National Guard. A contract was ratified by officers on August 18, ending the eight day strike.

The Criminal Investigation Division was restructured in March 1979. The criminal and special investigative bureaus were reorganized into Administrative Control, responsible for administrative duties; General Investigation, providing around-the-clock general investigation; and Special Investigation, providing in-depth investigations. Tom Marshall was promoted to chief inspector and named chief of detectives, becoming the first black officer to hold a top command post.

The badges of the Memphis Police Department were changed in 1979. The badge for the patrolman remained a pinched shield. The city seal replaced the state seal at the center of the new custom designed shield. The badge was silver tone with full color enamel seal and designations. The hat badge was changed as well. The form remained the same, but the state seal was replaced with the new city seal on the hat badge as well. The badge style of supervisory ranks, sergeants and above, changed to a new form of the acorn with the new city seal in full color.

The department moved into the new Criminal Justice Center in 1982. A number of shoulder patches were added to the insignia worn by the department. The standard shoulder patch was redesigned. The new shield shaped patch had a navy blue background to better blend with duty shirts. Numerous specialty patches, most using the same shield form with varying motifs, evolved subsequently as insignia of various units of the department.

Also authorized in 1982 were navy fabric baseball style caps. Originally the caps were individually sized. The cap type quickly gave way to an adjustable-size cap, and then to an open-mesh cap for summer wear. Baseball caps had the shoulder patch applied above the bill. Navy fabric jackets in fur-collar or windbreaker versions, and black leather jackets were available to protect the officer from harsh weather.

The command structure was realigned in 1983 to a Director, John D. Holt; a Deputy Director, Alva L. Williams, to function as chief; four Deputy Chiefs, and three Chief Inspectors, who functioned as night chiefs.

The department reinstituted a Mounted Patrol in 1982. Duties of the unit included parades, crowd control, and routine patrol of the downtown area. A garage, located at Fourth and Jefferson, was converted to a barn for horses.





The only horse of the modern unit to die in the line of duty was “Bay,” an 11-year veteran of the Memphis Mounted Police Unit. Bay died while on duty at Madison and Danny Thomas Boulevard at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 1998. The 18-year-old horse apparently died of a heart attack. Officer Richard Millen had been Bay’s rider for ten years. Six horses remained in the unit.

Police Service Technicians began service in 1984. This cadre of civilian employees wore khaki uniforms and worked traffic details and accidents. The group was an entry level opportunity for individuals interested in becoming sworn officers. Only a year later the first PST lost his life in the line of duty. PST Booker T. Shaw Jr. was struck by a truck in November 1985 and died the next month.

Ranks for uniformed patrol officers were redefined in 1985. Police Officer I rank was assigned to new officers in training, Police Officer II became the rank for basic police officers, and Police Officer III defined officers with greater investigative or other work responsibility.

The Memphis Police Department included 1173 commissioned officers in January 1987. The department was composed of a Director, a Deputy Director (Chief), 4 Deputy Chiefs, 3 Chief Inspectors, 8 Inspectors, 57 Captains, 138 Lieutenants, 8 Police Technicians, 240 Sergeants/ Investigators/PIIIs, 692 Police Officer IIs, and 21 recruits.

Dress uniforms for staff level commanding officers, inspectors and above, changed from navy pants, shirts, and jackets to navy two-piece uniform suits with white shirts. A fourth shift of uniform patrol was implemented, and given the radio identification code “Delta.” The code was previously used by the Dog Squad, so canine units adopted the code “Kilo.”

Leadership of the department changed on January 5, 1988, when the City Council appointed James E. Ivy director. Ivy was the first black officer to serve as director of police services, and held the post for four years. Deputy Director Don O. Lewis, who was appointed to the position in February 1986, continued as chief of the force. Director Ivy and Deputy Director Lewis promoted Inspector Eddie Adair to deputy chief of Uniform Patrol, and Chief Inspector W. J. Craven to deputy chief for Special Operations.

A number of firsts for female officers occurred in 1988. Lieutenant Armer Jean Torrance was promoted to captain and assumed command of the Sex Crimes Squad. Captain Torrance was the first female black captain and the first woman to head a major detective unit. Police Officer II Jane T. Martin completed specialized training and went to work in the Dog Squad as its first female officer. Dawn E. Anishanslin completed specialized training and became the first female TACT Squad member.

Development of direct importance to the public also occurred. Director Ivy appointed a 15-member Police Advisory Council to advise him on citizen concerns. The group did not review police actions. Implementation of countywide 911 emergency reporting was completed on February 2, 1988. Operation HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) began in 1989. Participating motorists were provided a bright yellow sticker for their car, and any stickered car on the street between midnight and 6 a.m. was stopped and checked out.

The John D. Holt Training Academy opened in 1988, to provide state-of-the-art training for Memphis recruits and officers from surrounding agencies. The facility included several classrooms, a 150-seat auditorium, gymnasium, weight room, driving range, and indoor-outdoor firing range. Inspector Bill Oldham was named commanding officer of the academy. Oldham joined the MPD in 1972 and was executive captain of the North Precinct.

A number of units were created or reorganized in the late eighties. The Child Abuse Squad became operational in 1987 as the result of a division of duties between it and Adult Sex Crimes Squad. Walter Crews was one of two lieutenants in the Child Abuse Squad and upon his promotion to major, he took commanded the unit. Crews worked patrol for over a decade before promotion to sergeant and assignment as a homicide detective in 1980. He also served in internal affairs and as an instructor at the academy.

The Crisis Intervention Team was formed in 1988 under the leadership of Major Walter Crews to respond to calls involving mentally ill persons. Team members were volunteers and were trained by mental health professionals. The team was equipped with stun guns, Velcro wraps, extraction hooks,

MPD MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE 2000’S

- July 13, 2000 Mayor Herenton names Walter E. Crews as permanent Director after a nationwide search.
- Director Crews appoints James H. Bolden as Deputy Director to replace Deputy Director David Dugger and names Dr. Rita Dorsey head of the Training Bureau. Deputy Chiefs Brenda Jones and Sam Moses retire and are replaced by Chuck Cook and Al Gray. Inspector Mary Wright is promoted to Chief Administrative Officer and replaces the retiring Richard McBryde.
- Northeast Precinct opens in August of 2000 as the MPD’s eighth precinct and the first newly constructed precinct facility in decades.
- Fall of 2000 the Memphis Police squad car takes on a new look as a new design is unveiled - the first new design since 1992. The bold red stripe and bright blue

letters reading “POLICE” are designed to increase police visibility. This look, designed by Sgt. Susan Lowe, is also applied to the Crime Response Unit’s new mobile crime response van, as well as, 2 MPD Youth Program vans.

- The Missing Person/Juvenile Squad is formed in October of 2000 to investigate missing persons and juvenile runaways. The squad is comprised of retired officers, one full-time sergeant and a captain and is located at the Northeast Precinct.
 - Director Crews announces in November that Occupational Nurse Carol Harriss and Finance Manager Chuck Fox will join the Administrative Services Division of the MPD. Nurse Harriss will be in charge of the MPD’s Hypertension Program as well as other OJI duties while Mr. Fox will manage the Finance Division.
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- In January of 2001 the Training Academy was the site of another standing room only crowd who gathered to watch 8 new inspectors and 22 new majors cross the auditorium stage to accept their new promotions.
- Officer Marco Yzguirre is designated as the first Latino Liaison for the Memphis Police Department in February of 2001. Officer Yzguirre hosts his first Latino Town Hall meeting and over 1,400 Latino citizens attend.
- In the spring of 2001, Law Enforcement News names the MPD's Crisis Intervention Team as its 2000 People of the Year.
- The Child Abuse Unit is moved into the newly renovated Child Advocacy Center on Poplar Ave.
- In 2001 the MPD became a liaison with YO Memphis (Youth Opportunity Movement), a nationwide initiative funded by the Department of Labor. During their annual awards ceremony the MPD was recognized as one of YO Memphis' outstanding partners.
- The East Precinct hosts the first Bi-Cultural Citizens Police Academy and graduates 30 new ambassadors in May of 2001.
- The MPD sends a large contingency of police athletes to the World Police & Fire Games in Indianapolis. They return with a slew of gold, silver and bronze medals.
- The East Precinct hosts the first 3-On-3 "Taking it to the Rim" Basketball tournament and draws 2165 kids from 54 teams on August 11th, 2001.
- The Central Precinct hosts the first annual citywide Summer Safety Fair. Over 320 children from various community centers attended the day long Fair.
- The Memphis Police Sports Federation inducts 21 officers in to the Sports Federation Hall of Fame on October 6th. This is the second group of inductees for the Hall of Fame.
- The Brooks Road Substation opens on October 9th of 2001.
- On October 28th, Memphis area law enforcement personnel squared off against Memphis area fire fighters and members of Task Force 1 in a baseball game to benefit the Red Cross and the New York City Police and Firefighters Fund set-up after the September 11th tragedy. The game was played at AutoZone Park in front of 600 people and over \$3,000 was raised for the fund.
- Promotions are held in the Property Room on November 2nd as Alnita Campbell and Jackie Layrock are both promoted to supervisor after 19 years as property room attendants.
- Ground is broken on November 16th for the future home of the new Central Precinct located on Tillman just North of Johnson. It is scheduled for completion in late 2002.
- On December 6, 2001 the Memphis Police Department welcomed 64 new Memphis Police Officers who graduated from the Training Academy as part of the 84th Basic Recruit Class.
- Design work begins on the restoration of the old police headquarters located at 128 Adams. Plans call for the police department to relocate the executive, administrative and investigative offices in the historic building upon completion of the restoration project in 2008.





- In March of 2002 Deputy Director Bolden launched the P.R.E.P. Program designed to act as an introductory program for junior and senior high school students who wish to pursue a career in law enforcement.
- Director Crews and his Command Staff promoted three majors and 56 lieutenants on April 12th of 2002.
- The Memphis Police Department Communications Division celebrated National Telecommunications Week, April 14-20, 2002. Although all employees were recognized for their outstanding job performance, Kieya Taylor, Treccia Burton, Rhonda Budde and Vivian Williams were selected by their co-workers as Telecommunicators of the Year.
- April 23, 2002, the 14th Annual "Guardian Angel" 2001 CIT Officer of the Year Awards Banquet was held at Lindenwood Christian Church. A large crowd of over 250 officers, family members and consumers attended this auspicious occasion.
- On May 23 and 24 Memphis CIT and NAMI/Memphis hosted 17 out-of-town guests to learn about the Memphis CIT Program. The guests represented law enforcement, family members and providers from Palm Beach, Florida; Indianapolis, Indiana; Las Vegas, Nevada and Montreal Canada.
- The MPD welcomed 48 new police officers on June 20th during Basic Recruit graduation exercises held in Whitehaven.
- August 8th and 9th Memphis CIT Partnerships hosted a two-day review session of the CIT Program. Guests from Southwest, Virginia, Durango, Colorado, Springfield, Illinois and Austin, Texas traveled to Memphis to see and experience the services of the Memphis Police Crisis Intervention Team.
- On September 11th, in remembrance of the New York City and Washington, DC tragic events that occurred last year, all uniformed Memphis Police Department officers showed recognition by wearing Class A uniforms, and all precincts lowered their flags to half-mast for the entire day. In addition, the Memphis Police Department participated in a ceremony with the Memphis Fire Department honoring the victims of 9/11. The ceremony was held at the Fire Museum.
- In the fall of 2002 Director Crews announces the formation of the Juvenile Violence Abatement Project and appoints Dr. Rita Dorsey, commander of the Training Academy, as its project coordinator. Major Jimmie Kelly is selected as the new Training Academy commander.
- In January of 2003 246 police officers are promoted to the rank of sergeant - the largest promotional process in MPD history.
- In February of 2003 Director Crews announces his retirement after 33 plus years with the Memphis Police Department. Mayor Herenton taps Deputy Director



James Bolden to be the next Director of Police Services pending confirmation by the City Council.

- In March of 2003 the Memphis City Council confirms James H. Bolden as the next Memphis Police Director.
- In the Spring of 2003 demolition work begins at 128 Adams - the historic police building that was abandoned in the 1980s - as the dream of finally restoring it to its former splendor becomes a reality.

Renovation will begin in the fall of 2004 with a scheduled grand opening in late 2008. This renovated historic facility will house the MPD Command Staff and police personnel.

- Director Bolden presented his new management team on April 11th during a promotional ceremony in the Director's Conference Room. Deputy Chief Ray Schwill was promoted to Deputy Director and will be in charge of the police department's day-to-day operations. Director Bolden also promoted Inspector Janice Pilot of the North Precinct and Inspector Larry Godwin of Special Operations to Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Pilot will be over Uniform Patrol District Two and Deputy Chief Godwin will oversee Special Operations. These two new Chiefs will fill vacancies that were created when Chief Schwill was promoted to Deputy Director and with the retirement of Deputy Chief Mike Dodd. Inspector Mary Wright was also promoted to Deputy Chief and will remain in Administrative Services where her duties will remain the same. Chief Gray has been assigned to Investigative Services and Chief Cook will oversee Uniform Patrol District One.
- The Central Precinct moves to a new state-of-the-art facility at 426 Tillman in July of 2003. The building, located in the heart of Binghampton, not only serves as a police precinct but also features community rooms and a computer lab for citizens and other city employees.
- The Fraud & Document Unit changes its name to Economic Crimes Bureau as their investigative focus has expanded due to an increase in Internet fraud and credit card and identity theft.
- The MPD Accreditation Team was formed to begin the pursuit of obtaining accreditation, which is expected to improve the delivery of law enforcement services to the citizens of Memphis, city employees and the community as a whole, through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Accreditation recognizes professional excellence in law enforcement services by offering bodies of national standards that law enforcement agencies are required to comply with. The process is expected to be completed in 2006.
- Thirty-five (35) new Memphis Police CIT Officers have been added to the Crisis Intervention Team.
- The Project Safe Neighborhood Units received national attention as a model program during the nation Project Safe Neighborhoods conference in Philadelphia. Project Safe Neighborhoods is designed to target convicted felons who are illegally carrying guns and can be prosecuted at the state or federal level.
- In September of 2003, the CITYWATCH/Mid-South Alert Program was launched. CITYWATCH/Mid-South addresses issues not covered under the AMBER ALERT, such as runaways, missing or endangered



children, as well as missing adults, notable traffic situations, crime information, disasters and other major incidents.

- In April of 2004, the Department began to replace the Smith & Wesson duty handgun with the .40 Caliber Sig Arms Model P229 handgun.
- During the summer of 2004, dozens of police officers traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to compete in the World Police & Fire Games. Memphis Police officers dominated in almost every event bringing home numerous medals including the prestigious title of "World's Fastest Cop."
- In August of 2004 Director Bolden and Deputy Director Schwill announced their retirements. Mayor Herenton appoints Larry Godwin to the position of Interim Director and Ernest Dobbins as Interim Deputy Director. On November 9th the City Council approved of the Mayor's appointments of Director Godwin and Deputy Director Dobbins.
- On November 16th, 2004 Director Godwin and Deputy Director Dobbins made history when they promoted 4 new Deputy Chiefs. This was the first time that four Chiefs received their appointments at one time. The new Deputy Chiefs are: Annette Taylor (Special Operations), Mike Lee (Investigative Services), Jim Tusan (Administrative Services) and Bobby Todd (Uniform Patrol). These four new

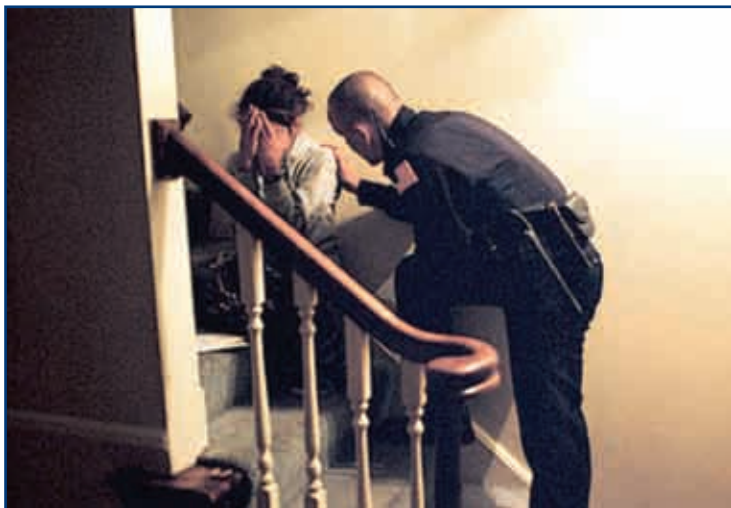


Chiefs join Deputy Chief Janice Pilot (Uniform Patrol) to fill out Director Godwin's Command Staff.

- On December 2, 2004, the Department held a Medal Ceremony in the City Council Chambers at City Hall to honor 37 officers who had gone above and beyond the call of duty. Medals received by these brave officers included Life Saving, Medal of Valor, Medal of Merit and Medal of Honor.
- In a sign of unity, Director Godwin abolished the "white shirt" designation for command staff personnel and returned all commissioned officers to a unified blue shirt to foster a stronger team concept within the police department.
- In January of 2005, positions in Special Operations were deleted to better utilize manpower based on need. Created a Street Crime Task Force within the Organized Crime Unit to address street crime from the ground level.
- In February of 2005 the squad car striping package was re-designed in order to save money on future vehicles and on those damaged by accidents or normal wear and tear. This provided a savings of approximately \$300.00 per vehicle.
- In February 2005, the "Paperless Reporting Project" was completed. Officers in the field were issued a hand-held PDA unit that enables them to complete a TIBRS/NIBRS compliant offense report on a hand-held computer. Using a wireless connection to submit reports from the field this new device provides for a quicker submission of reports.
- During the spring of 2005 the Hispanic Action Response Team (HART) was established in order to address crime and quality of life issues within the Hispanic Community.
- In April, Director Godwin and his Command Staff evaluated rank structure within the department and determined that operationally the rank of 30-year captain was unnecessary thus saving the Memphis Police Department 1.4 million dollars.
- The spring of 2005 saw the delivery for Fiscal Year '05 of one of the best budgets in Memphis Police Department history with a savings of over \$950,000.00 in overtime expenses since August 17, 2004.
- The classification of the police vehicles for licensing was changed in the spring of 2005 which amounted to a savings of \$18,000.00 for the next 5 years.
- In June of 2005 the MPD received final approval for the completion of the renovation of 128 Adams – the Memphis Police Department's Historical Headquarters.



- The new Felony Assault Unit was launched in June of 2005, in order to aggressively investigate aggravated assaults in the same manner in which homicides, rapes and robberies are investigated.
- Sought and received approval from the City Council in June to install red light cameras at various intersections throughout the city.
- Secured, through a partnership with Memphis Light Gas and Water, a new facility for the Entertainment District Unit in the spring of 2005 with occupancy expected in late summer of 2005.
- Partnered with the University of Memphis to establish an on-campus facility for the Reserve Bureau.
- Restructured the Juvenile Violence Abatement Project (JVAP) returning its supervision and direction to law enforcement personnel.
- Returned the management of the COACT Units to the precinct level for better allocation of resources and structured accountability.
- Changed the names of each precinct (East Precinct to Mt. Moriah Station) to better relate and identify with the communities served.
- Created the Memphis Police Department's own Office of Homeland Security.
- Returned the management of the Public Information Office back to commissioned personnel.
- Returned Administrative Services to the command of a commissioned Deputy Chief.
- On June 17th, the first 94 of 165 new lieutenants were promoted at a ceremony held at the Cook Convention Center when these former sergeants received their new lieutenant badges and assignments. The remaining sergeants on the promotional list will be promoted to lieutenant within two years. Promotions for Major and Inspector are slated for the summer of 2005 as well.



shields, and other items necessary to control mental case calls with minimal force. The team became a nationally acknowledged as the “Memphis Model” and received many citations for its success. A year later the Family Trouble Center was opened to assist victims of spousal abuse. When Crews was promoted command was given to Lieutenant Sam Cochran. By 1991 the Crisis Intervention Team grew from 32 members to 88 members and answered about 5,000 calls a year.

The Psychological Services Bureau was reorganized under a new director, Dr. Jerry Sparger, who was chairman of the Memphis State University Criminal Justice Department. He and two of his associates worked on a part-time or as-needed basis.

The Violent Crimes Squad was split into Homicide and Robbery. The Homicide Squad investigated kidnapping for ransom with threat of death, conspiracy to murder, homicide, and major extortion. The Robbery Squad handled all robberies of businesses, residences, and individuals. Working hours for both units was 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., seven days a week. The MPD withdrew from the 17-year old Metro Narcotics Squad, and shifted responsibility and personnel to the Organized Crime Unit.

The Special Services Branch of the Special Operations Division was restructured to include Aviation, Court Officers, Dog Squad, Harbor Patrol, Mounted Patrol, Reserve Bureau, Specialized Patrol, and the TACT Unit.

The 12-team Dog Squad was under the command of Lieutenant Bo Wheeler. Dogs used were German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, and similar canines, often mixed breeds.

They were often selected from dogs found at the pound and showing alertness, persistence, and a keen nose.

Dogs were trained to sniff out drugs and bombs, run toward live gunfire, search darkened buildings, and apprehend armed suspects. It took 14 weeks to train a dog for police work, and 10 weeks for the canine to learn to find hidden drugs and explosives.

The department lost canine officers in the line of duty. Fido, a German Shepherd, was killed in 1982 and his handler, Officer Al Pinnow, wounded when they were shot during an altercation. A number of years earlier, Samson, was killed when he collided with a passing car while chasing a suspected auto thief across a street.

Bandit, a black German Shepherd, and Patrolman Andy Trautman were chasing a pair of suspected auto thieves through an alley in 1988 when one of the fleeing suspects turned and fired at Trautman. Bandit leapt and sank his teeth into the man’s arm, but the suspect pressed a .357 Magnum against the dog’s side and pulled the trigger.

Bandit limped out of the alley and lay on the ground. Both suspects were captured and Trautman rushed Bandit to an emergency veterinary clinic. The bullet had passed through Bandit’s chest without hitting any bones or vital organs. He was back on the job in two weeks. Lieutenant Wheeler reported, “The only thing different about Bandit now is that he absolutely hates gunfire. If you’re out there firing a gun and Bandit hears you, you better get rid of that gun in a hurry.”

Two bloodhounds, Elvis and Red, joined the Dog Squad in February 1998, the first bloodhounds in the squad since 1960. Patrolman Bob Davis was Elvis’ handler and Patrolman Wayne Murdock handled Red.

Rank titles for all officers with the title Patrol Officer III, Investigator I, and Police Technician were changed to the more common title of Sergeant in April 1989. The rank, Commander, was initiated the following year and given to officers holding the rank of Captain, but who were not 30-year captains.

The department went through significant changes in personnel and organization in the nineties. Deputy Director of Operations Don O. Lewis, second in command of the department, retired in 1990 at the age of 50, after 30 years service. Lewis was promoted to deputy chief in 1986 after being in charge of police administration, and prior to that commanding the violent crimes squad and the South Precinct.

Deputy Chief for Administration Ted Beasley was named deputy director in February 1990. Other deputy chiefs were Fred Warner, Al Embrey, and Eddie Adair. Chief Inspector Josh Randle was promoted to deputy chief for administration. Other promotions included Inspector Sam Moses, East Precinct commander, to chief inspector; Commander Larry Goodwin of the Organized Crime Unit to inspector; and Lieutenant Curtis Williams of crime prevention to commander. Lieutenant Vic Thayer, a 27-year veteran of the MPD, was named administrative assistant to Director Ivy, replacing John Bennett.

Another round of reassignments was prompted by the retirement of Deputy Chief Al Embrey in February 1991. Inspector Bill Oldham was promoted to deputy chief, and Inspector Larry Goodwin was named commander of the MPD Training Academy in Oldham’s place. Goodwin, with the department since 1970, was previously head of the Organized Crime and Specialized Patrol units. Commander Joseph Laurenzi was promoted to inspector over special operations.



Equipment changes were intended to aid officers in doing their job more effectively and safer. Following a yearlong study, the department adopted 9mm pistols with 15-shot clips to replace 6-shot revolvers as the sidearms for Memphis officers. The weapon was selected for dependability, reliability, better accuracy, and firepower. The expense for purchase of the new handguns was placed in the 1992 city budget.

Patrol car markings were redesigned in 1992 to make vehicles more contemporary and increase visibility. A blue and gold horizontal stripe stretched the length of white squad cars. "Memphis Police" was imprinted on the vehicle and "911" placed at the top of the rear fenders. Cars were replaced after they had been in service for 60,000 miles or 3 years. New vehicles were prepared for service at the Armour Center on Flicker.

Dave Ashmore, manager of Technical Services for the MPD, prepared new patrol cars by adding decals, roof lights, and prisoner screens. Back seats were replaced with seats that sat nearly on the floor, were easily cleaned, and hard to hide weapons or evidence behind. The budget included \$3.1 million for the purchase of 250 new marked police cars in 1993.

In another important equipment acquisition, the Metro DUI unit got 12 video cameras and recorders for gathering evidence against suspects in traffic stops. The unit already had three cameras.

Police Inspector Melvin Thomas Burgess was chosen by Mayor Willie Herenton to become police director in January 1992. Burgess started as a beat officer on Beale Street 30 years earlier. He served in homicide, robbery, juvenile crimes, and vice and narcotics squads. Burgess proclaimed his creed to be, "work hard and take chances." He assumed command of 1,448 commissioned officers, 868 in uniform patrol.

Reorganization eliminated the Vice Squad, the Specialized Patrol, and reduced the Motorcycle Squad from two shifts to one. The department set a new policy to limit high speed vehicular chases. The new policy authorized officers to initiate a high speed chase only if the suspect was a violent felon. For example, under the new policy, the chase of a stolen vehicle was prohibited, but a high speed chase of bank robbers was allowed.

One bank robber was chased down by members of Memphis' bike patrol. Bicycle patrolmen Mark Winters and David Parks were on patrol downtown on August 31, 1993, when a bank robbery call went out. The two chased the bandit for three blocks and captured him in a downtown fast-food restaurant only 9 minutes after he did the robbery. "He had that surprised look on his face," said Patrolman Winters. Bicycle officers had recently began patrolling downtown on 21-speed mountain bikes paid for by downtown merchants. The MPD was reorganized in January 1994. A new District One was organized to include the North, South, and East precincts; and District Two included Central and West precincts. Deputy Chief William P. Oldham took command of District One, TACT, Aviation, Mounted Patrol, Dog Squad, and Harbor Patrol. Deputy Chief George L. Stacy headed Division Two, Traffic, DUI Squad, Warrants, Reserves, and School Safety Unit. Deputy Chief John M. Johnson headed Administrative Services, and Deputy Chief Walter J. Winfrey commanded Investigative Services.

The Downtown Precinct was created and designated the Sixth Precinct. It operated out of the Beale Street Station along side the Police Museum and began operations on January 3, 1994. Command of the Downtown Precinct was given to Major

Tommy Tabor, who helped lead the push for the new one-on-one policing. He began Operation Saturation, a business version of Neighborhood Watch, and emphasized the bike patrol and walking patrol. He also stressed the importance of the police being the "ambassadors" of the city to tourists.

The department adopted a more community-oriented policing citywide. The first COACT unit was established in the Orange Mound/Binghampton area as a part of the Community Police Program in 1994.

In May 1994, Mayor Herenton named Deputy Chief of Investigations Walter J. Winfrey as interim director of police. Winfrey joined the MPD in 1968 and had formerly headed the uniformed patrol division and internal affairs. Augustus F. Brown was named deputy chief of investigations, S. M. Moses became deputy chief over the West, Central, and Downtown precincts, Traffic Division, and Harbor Patrol.

Director Winfrey appointed Walter Crews to the post of Deputy Chief of Special Operations in 1995. Crews recently served in the Office of Drug Control Policy, as a shift commander at the West Precinct, and as Commander of the Office of Drug Prevention and Awareness. In 1997 Crews made a lateral move to Deputy Chief of Detectives.

New units were created in the mid-nineties. The MPD created a cold case unit early in 1996. Although an "Old Mystery Team" existed for years, Captain Mike Houston, a 54-year-old detective and 31-year veteran, was assigned the specific duty of investigating cold cases. Houston focused on cases over a year old. The one-man unit solved six cases in its first year.



The Metro Domestic Violence Unit, a joint Memphis and Shelby County unit, began operation on Monday, October 27, 1997. The unit was housed on the first floor of the Criminal Justice Center and consisted of six investigators. Lieutenant Brenda Maples was supervisor of the unit.

In June 1998, Deputy Chief Brenda Jones, age 41, became the first female officer to be named deputy chief in the history of the MPD. She was given command of specialized units, Street Crime Abatement Team (SCAT), TACT, the newly formed Special Traffic Enforcement Unit (STEU), Aviation, and Canine. Jones joined the department in 1974 as a civilian and became a commissioned officer in 1978. She was a patrol officer in the South Precinct, served as a detective in sex crimes and general investigations, and headed the Organized Crime Unit as a major.

Two new precincts were opened in the late nineties. The Southeast Precinct was opened in July 1998 at the old Defense Depot on Airways near Ketchum at 2245 Truitt, and became the city's seventh precinct. The new precinct had 58 patrol officers and 18 supervisors under the command of Inspector J. W. Laurenzi. In July 1999 the Northeast Precinct's 15,000-square-foot station was constructed near Whitten Road and I-40 at 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

On Thursday, July 13, 2000, Walter Crews was appointed director of 1,900-member MPD. The mayor said it was Crews' desire for change that won him the post. Crews was 58 years old and a 31-year veteran of the department. He quickly initiated a reorganization that changed most of the top command positions.

James Bolden, 52, was named deputy director and second in command. Bolden rejoined the department from his position in state government. Dr. Rita Dorsey was appointed to command the Training Academy, the first female at the post. An immediate personnel policy change benefited uniformed officers and businesses alike. Police officers were given permission to work second or "moonlighting" jobs in uniform.

Crime was too often a causal and acceptable solution to everyday problems. Director Crews was especially concerned about the growth of crime among the youth of Memphis, and brought in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program. The department also started JVAP (Juvenile Violence Abatement Project) to work with troubled youth, consisting of a 16-hour hotline young people could call to talk about any difficulty they were experiencing. Phones were answered by young people and referred callers to further help.

One of the major operational changes implemented by Director Crews was the expansion of the overnight detective bureau. The evening shift of the Felony Response Unit, which responded to serious crimes, was expanded from ten to thirty, and the late night/early morning shift from seven to twenty. The action was taken so that cases were investigated while they were still fresh, and arrests could be made more quickly. This



was done in part to cut down on the number of probable-cause prisoners following the decision by the county jail not to take probable-cause prisoners due to over crowding. The additional detectives were divided into two groups, property crimes and crimes against individuals, each under the command of a captain or lieutenant.

Patrol cars were given a new look in 2000. The blue and gold horizontal stripes design adopted in 1992 was discontinued. The new design featured a diagonal, tomato-red stripe, and a much larger "Police" written atop it in blue and yellow. The phone number "545 COPS" was substituted for "911." A new slogan was featured, "Helping people is our business." The move was made to increase the visibility of the cars and improve the image of the department. The helicopter squad was also improved.

The department initiated an effort to improve communication with the growing Hispanic community in Memphis. Officer Marco Yzguirre was designated as the department's Latino Liaison in February 2001. He was the first officer to hold the new position.

Director Walter Crews retired effective March 1, 2003. Crews was named executive director of Crime Stoppers in May.

Deputy Director James H. Bolden was named the new director. Bolden was well respected in the department. In 1970, he and his partner Robert Jones were probably the first black and white officers who rode together in a patrol car on a continuous basis. In 1973 Bolden became the founding president of the Afro-American Police Association and authored the group's motto, "Save ourselves from ourselves."

The new deputy director named was 28-year veteran Deputy Chief Ray Schwill. The South Precinct commander was strong on community policing and a decisive leader.

The senior command of patrol was all female for the first time following the assignment of Deputy Chief Mary Wright as commander of the District One uniform patrol in May 2004. She replaced Deputy Chief Charles Cook on his retirement. Deputy Chief Wright joined with Deputy Chief Janice Pilot, commander of District Two, to command the entire 1,400-member patrol force. For the first time in the department's history, female officers were responsible for the patrol function of the force.



The top command of the department changed in November 2004 with the appointment of Larry A. Godwin as director of police services. Director Godwin joined the MPD in 1973 following his service with the Marine Corps in Vietnam. He began his law enforcement career as an officer in Metro Narcotics. Godwin later served as a uniform patrolman, member of the Tactical Unit, Training Academy instructor, Homicide investigator, and Fraud and Document investigator.

Director Godwin was promoted to lieutenant in 1992 and served as shift supervisor in the Crime Response/Bomb Unit. On promotion to major in 1998 he took command of the unit. In 2001 Godwin was promoted to inspector and made Commander of Special Services. In April 2003 he was promoted to Director of Special Operations for the department.

Major Ernest Dobbins, commander of the Tactical Unit, was named Deputy Director. Dobbins established his leadership abilities in supervising major, multiple-agency drug operations. He also organized and trained the Street Crime Abatement Team (SCAT) and the Gang Unit.

The citizens of Memphis can be proud of the dedicated officers of the Memphis Police Department, men and women who wear the badge and put their life on the line every day. Memphians can also be thankful for the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the line of duty through the last two hundred years, and for the rich heritage of protection and service reflected in the history of its police force.

Today the largest police agency in the state of Tennessee is one of the most respected departments in the nation. The MPD has a total personnel of nearly 3,000, including about 2,000 sworn officers. The annual budget is \$170 million. The department responds to approximately 900,000 calls each year, and makes over 80,000 arrests.

The Uniform Patrol is the largest branch of the department, and is divided into two districts. The East, South, North, and Southeast precincts compose District One. The West, Central, Downtown, and Northeast precincts make up District Two.

Investigative Services is divided into the investigation of Personal Felonies and Property Felonies. Personal Felony units include Sex Crimes/Juvenile Abuse, the Homicide Bureau, the Robbery Squad, Felony Response, the Domestic Violence Unit, and the Juvenile Squad. Property Felony units are the Economic Crimes Bureau, the Auto Theft Squad, the General Assignment Bureau, the Burglary Squad, and the Crime Response Unit.

Special Operations is divided into Traffic and Special Units. Traffic includes the Motorcycle Squad, the Metro DUI Unit, the Special Traffic Investigation Squad (STIS), the Special Traffic Enforcement Unit (STEU), and Police Service Technicians (PSTs). Special Units are the Aviation Unit, the Mounted Patrol, the Harbor Patrol, the Tact Unit, the Metro Gang Unit, the Dog Squad, and Officers in the Schools.

Organized Crime Unit is a unit that participates in multi-jurisdictional task forces, and includes the Drug Unit and the Vice Squad. The department uses the latest in technology, administrative, and training support to insure optimal performance on the part of front line law enforcement personnel.

One of the strongest programs of the department is COACT. Sixteen of the Community Action substations are spread across the city. The centers were created in the early eighties as a part

of the Community Police effort. They are located in small store fronts, similar spaces, where COACT links with operational programs to help people solve all sorts of problems including public utilities, street lights, pot holes, overgrown fields, truant kids, or a rash of teenage burglaries.

Town Constable John J. Balch, the tinker and part-time lawman, kept the peace along the riverfront in the frontier town of Memphis in 1827. Since then Memphis has grown to be one of the largest cities in the United States, and law enforcement has evolved into a sophisticated organization of professionals using DNA and other investigative and enforcement technologies.

Constable Balch would undoubtedly be amazed if he could see the modern police officer at work, just as today's officer would be amazed by his or her counterpart two hundred years hence. Yet their place in history links them all, as does their dedication to duty.



Law Enforcement Officers Support Division

The Law Enforcement Officers Support Division is a newly formed unit made up of officers from different work stations and shifts. These officers serve as the Honor Guard, the Color Guard and the Memorial Coalition. This unit is responsible for rendering military style honors in funeral services and internment of line of duty, active and honorably retired sworn officers and Police Service Technicians. The officers of the unit also assist families with funeral arrangements, benefit concerns and offer supportive counseling. LEOSD members are selected to participate in community events such as parades, dedication ceremonies and other community activities on a rotating basis. These officers assist families of officers injured in the line of duty and stand post at the hospital if needed. When an officer is killed in the line of duty, a member of the LEOSD will escort the spouse of the officer to the annual Memorial Service in Washington, DC.

The reorganization of the LEOSD began in April 2004. At that time there were five members of each guard. Amazingly, these ten individuals held it together handling the funeral arrangements for two officers killed in the line of duty within seven months of each other, along with numerous retiree funerals and parades, flag raising ceremonies and graduations. On April 15, 2004, a motley crew of individuals met at the academy for two days of training. Each individual present volunteered knowing only that it was mandatory to have a heart for other law enforcement officers and their families. The first week after training, there were four retired officers funerals to handle as well as a few flag raising ceremonies. Not to mention, preparing for the most heart wrenching event of the year-Law Enforcement Memorial Day. With new uniforms, equipment and officers, the Law Enforcement Officers Support Division was ready to meet the challenges that accompanied organizing an event of this magnitude. We determined that the 2004 Law Enforcement Memorial would be the event that allowed us to express the love, respect and commitment to our fellow officers and their families. It was truly a blessing to announce that the families of seven of the officers killed in the line of duty since 1981 were represented at this service. We had over twenty-one family members to sign in. There were over two hundred people in attendance. With all the tragedies that we face daily, our "Family of Blue" depends on the caring and compassionate officers of the Law Enforcement Officers Support Division.

