



The APB

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History Book Moves Forward

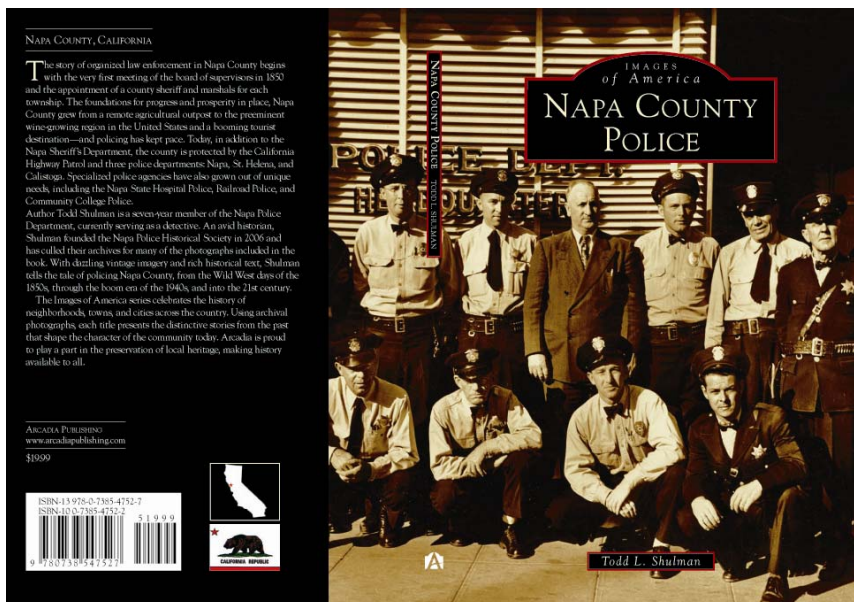
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NPHS founder Todd Shulman is currently working on an exciting project, a photographic history book covering all Napa County law enforcement, 1850-present. The idea for the book began as Shulman started receiving large numbers of photographs from retired NPD officers and their surviving family members (including some of you reading this).

Shulman presented his idea to “Arcadia Publishing” in San Francisco, a nationwide publishing house known for publishing photographic history books with regional interest; they had previously published a book about the San Diego and San Francisco PDs among others. The publisher suggested broadening the book to cover all of Napa County.

Shulman is currently compiling photos related to the various agencies. He hopes the book will be in print by the summer. If you have any additional photographs, or know of possible sources, please contact Todd at (707) 257-9575.



Membership Report

"The NPHS has continued to grow as 2006 drew to a close."

The NPHS has continued to grow as 2006 drew to a close. Currently there are 21 members, 8 of which are lifetime members. If you know of anyone who you think might be interested in joining please direct them to our website, www.napapolicehistory.com, or have them contact Todd Shulman at (707) 693-9700.

John Batto	Lifetime
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Richard Munk	Yearly
Ruth Munk	Yearly
Ron Greenslate	Yearly

The Case of the Missing Chiefs

By Todd Shulman

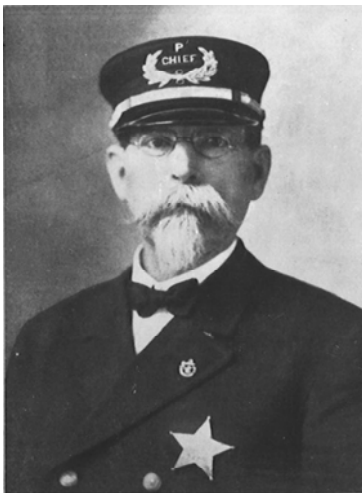
"Based on our new understanding we now know there were ten men who served in the dual capacity of Marshal/Chief of Police..."

Until recently it was believed that the NPD had ten Chiefs (including its current Chief, Richard Melton) during its history; however this belief has proven false based on recent research.

The previous written history showed that the first Chief of Police, Jerome B. Walden, served from the department's inception in 1875 until 1909. After speaking with Chief Walden's great-grandson it was learned that he only served as Chief for one year, then went on to become a Napa County Sheriff's Deputy, and later a cattle rancher.

Extensive research of period newspapers cataloged on microfilm at the Napa City-County Library revealed that after 1876 the city Board of Trustees decided to appoint whom ever was elected as Town Marshal as the Chief of Police. The Marshal was elected every two years; his duties were mainly civil in nature, including collecting taxes, enforcing building codes, and serving as dog catcher.

Based on our new understanding of history we now know there were ten men who served in the dual capacity of Marshal/Chief of Police from 1876 until 1909. At that time the position of Marshal was abolished and N.E. Boyd began serving as the NPD's first full-time Chief of Police.



Chief N.E. Boyd
1909-1919

Chief N.E. Boyd

Then & Now

By Todd Shulman

This re-occurring article will feature photos and information about interesting aspects how the employees of the NPD do their jobs, both in the past and today.

This month we are focusing on the Traffic Unit. The traffic unit at the NPD has had a bumpy history; from its infancy with one officer to its current contingent of four officers and a sergeant.

The first know traffic officer was Ed Glos. He served from 1929 until 1941. Officer Glos was know to patrol the area of Napa High School (then at the north edge of town) and wait for the high schoolers to sped by; not much has changed in that regard. The photo at right shows Officer Glos astride his motorcyle of choice, the 1933 Harley-Davidson.

The 1940's saw the addition of a three-wheel motorcyle to the traffic unit. Officer Andy Blythe rode the three-wheeler and served as the City's first parking enforcement officer. This 1949 photo shows the traffic unit at Fuller Park.

In the 1980's the traffic unit was under the direction of Sergeant Chuck Holden. This 1981 photo shows the unit at the time rode a variety of motorcyles. The unit was disbanded in the mid-1990's for several years due lack of staffing.

In 2004 the traffic unit made the switch from the traditional Harley-Davidsons to the BMW. The CHP had previously adopted the BWM and tested them extensively. Traffic unit officers report the BMWs use of ABS braking makes the cycles safer than previous models.



*The traffic unit through the years (top to bottom):
1933, 1949, 1981, 2007*

NPBS Archive Report

The archives of the NPBS continue to grow almost weekly.

The archive has received a number of interesting artifacts, both in the form of donations and items received on loan to be displayed and preserved. Former Chief Ken Jennings provided an interesting collection of several hundred color slides dating from the mid-1970s. These slides show the day-to-day operations of many aspects of the department.

In keeping with the Society's stated mission to educate the public about the unique history of the NPD the Society has partnered with the Napa Firefighter's Museum to install two display cases at their museum. These displays should be in place by February. The Society is continually looking for more photos, newspaper articles, scrapbooks, as well as artifacts such as uniforms, hats, insignia, badges, weaponry, and duty gear. If you have anything you wish to donate and/or loan to the Society, or know of someone who might, please contact Todd Shulman at (707) 693-9700, or via E-mail at tshulman@napapolicehistory.com.



The NPBS display case, in the public lobby of the NPD.

Upcoming Events

1st General Membership Meeting
When: February 15 (Thursday), 5:30 pm
Where: Napa Police Department
(1539 First Street-Napa)
Training Room

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