

The APB

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Vehicle Restoration: Exciting Progress

By Todd Shulman

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After a brief lull during the holidays, the restoration of the '57 Ford has kicked into high gear in the last month. Ron Pippert and his team at Soscol Auto Body have been busy priming and painting the vehicle. In recognition of their efforts, we presented Ron with a custom-made display that member Bob Nance built from scratch. The display featured a die-cast version of the car, with accurate NPD decals, as well as a plaque and NPD patch.



Todd presenting display to Ron Pippert

"...the restoration of the '57 Ford has kicked into high gear..."

The vehicle should be completed with body and paint work by the end of next week. We were able to negotiate discounted prices from several antique auto parts suppliers. The next step is to replace the glass and prepare the car for upholstery work. We are trying to get the vehicle completed by April, in time for several car shows in the area.

The project still needs about \$3,000 to purchase parts. Please contact us if you can help.

Look for a feature article about the project in the January 26th edition of the Napa valley Register newspaper.

Membership Report

The NPHS grew by only one new member during the last three months. A membership renewal drive is currently underway; if you get a renewal notice please mail it back promptly with your dues payment. The NPHS survives by donations and memberships. 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 the NPHS at (707) 693-9700.

The following are new or renewal members:

Dave Bosson	1 Year
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Archive Report

In keeping with past experience of finding gems from unlikely sources, are two new additions to the NPHS collection.

A friend of the Society contacted us last month and pointed out a NPD “Special Police” badge that someone had listed for sale on Craigslist (an Internet-based garage sale site). We were able to purchase the badge, which had belonged to a Napa Deputy Sheriff who later retired to Sonoma County; the badge had been sold in an estate sale. Special Police badges were given out by the Chief of Police to citizens who helped the NPD, or to political allies. This particular badge dates to the 1930s.

The second item is a gold tie-bar with “Napa” and a revolver displayed on it. This piece was located at the “Porky D. Swine” police collectors show in Southern California. Research indicates these tie-bars were worn by members of the NPD pistol shooting team in the 1950s.



NPD Special Police Badge



NPD Tie-Bar

Oral History Volunteers Needed

The recent deaths of several NPHS members and law enforcement retirees has reminded us that life is fragile, and much of the history of the NPD resides in the memories of its members and their families. The NPHS has done a few oral histories in the past: these basically consisted of a scripted, audio-recorded interview. They are very powerful ways to bring to life the NPD history.

Free training will be provided, as well as all equipment, and a script of questions. All we need from you is a few hours of your time. **If you are interested in helping, by being a volunteer interviewer please contact us.**

In Memoriam

It with great sadness that we report on the passing of several long-time members of the Napa County law enforcement family. Each of these people dedicated years of service to the citizens of Napa County.

John J. O'Donnell

John passed away suddenly on Jan. 14. He was a member of the NPD during the 1970s and 1980s. He was the driving force behind the formation of the NPD Canine Program, and later the Crime Prevention Bureau. John and his first K-9, "Vem", were a great team; Vem was killed in the line of duty while defending John from a knife-wielding suspect. Prior to joining the NPD John served in the military during Vietnam.

John was the first person to join the fledgling Napa Police Historical Society, way back in 2006.



John O'Donnell

Edward West

Ed West died unexpectedly on Jan. 10. He was born in Vallejo on Feb. 3, 1961, to Alton and Janie West. He graduated from Vintage in 1979. He earned an AA degree in Criminal Justice and worked for the Napa County Department of Corrections for 16 years. He was currently serving as a Classifications Supervisor. In addition Ed was a NPD Reserve Officer early in life.

He married the love of his life, Mimie, in 1982 and they raised their family in American Canyon. Ed was very active in promoting his town and served on the City Council and as Vice Mayor. He was a patriot who loved his country and supported the military.

Ed is survived by his wife, Mimie; daughter, Megan; son, Kyle; parents, Bill and Janie West, Weed, Calif.; sister, Tina (Bill) Kramer; nephew, Bryan Kramer and niece, Tiffany Kramer. He is predeceased by his son, LCPL Phillip West and brother, Douglas West.

A service to honor Ed's life was held on Jan. 19, in the Chapel of Tulocay Funeral Home. A memorial fund has been established at Bank of America to assist the family with funeral expenses. Donations for the family can be made out to Kyle West for account number 27168-47486 at any Bank of America location.



Ed West

Ken Narlow

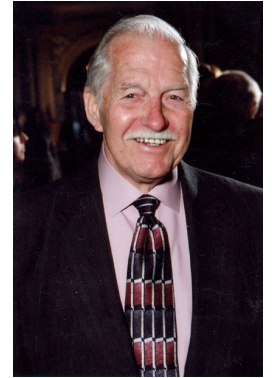
Kenneth Allen Narlow passed away at home, Nov. 29, 2010, after a long illness.

Ken was dedicated to serving and protecting the community. He served as deputy sheriff for 29 years in Napa, retiring as a Captain.

Ken is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marie Narlow; son, Mike, and daughter, Kathy Narlow; his sisters, and sister-in law Angel Brown; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John's Catholic School, 924 Napa St., Napa; or Hospice of Napa Valley, 414 S. Jefferson St., Napa.

A funeral Mass with military honors was held Saturday, Dec. 11 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, in Napa. A reception followed at the Moose Lodge Hall, also in Napa.



Ken Narlow

Don Critchley, Sr.

Longtime NPHS member Donald F. Critchley Sr., 77, passed away on Jan. 13. He was born in Napa on Oct. 14, 1933, to Melvin and Anna Critchley. His father, Melvin, was the longest serving CHP Officer in California history, serving alongside Don's uncle, Ron, in the Napa Office. A Napa High School graduate in 1951, Don served proudly in the US Air Force, and then drove trucks for forty years at Basalt, Kaiser Steel and Syar Industries.

Donald is survived by his daughters, Terri (Don) Ritchie and Tammi (Bill) Collins; sons, Tom (Tammi) Critchley and Don Jr. (Robbie) Critchley, all of Napa; stepson, Phillip (Peggy) Stith, along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren, and best friend, Buck Harmon. He was predeceased by two grandchildren, Darrel Ritchie (1986) and Brianna Ritchie (2000).

A service to honor his life was held on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in the Chapel of Tulocay Funeral Home. Interment followed in Tulocay Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Queen of the Valley Medical Center Foundation, 1000 Trancas St., Napa, CA 94558.

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