



# The APB

October 2006  
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## Welcome

*By Todd Shulman*

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You have in your hands the first issue of the Napa Police Historical Society's quarterly newsletter, "The APB". As many of you know the term "APB" stands for "All Points Bulletin", and is a common police term for used when an Officer wants to get an important message out to a wide audience. I feel this definition fits well with the purpose of this newsletter, and with the broader mission statement of the NPHS. I hope the information contained here will enlighten, inform, and perk your interest in all things related to the NPD and its history. It is my goal to include interesting photos, little known facts and stories, and to highlight the accomplishments of the many men and women who have served at the NPD over the last 130+ years. Please contact me if you have a particular area of interest or story you'd like to see featured in an upcoming issue. I am also looking for guest columnist who would like to contribute something by putting pen to paper. Thank you for your support thus far and enjoy this inaugural issue.

## Membership Report

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*"It all started with one person, working out of his house on weekends."*

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The NPHS has grown rapidly since its inception in March of this year. It all started with one person, working out of his house on weekends. Currently there are 16 members, 7 of which are lifetime members. Our goal is to get more current members of the NPD interested in joining our efforts. We hope that the exposure in the media and the active series of presentations will lead to more people joining us in our efforts to preserve, honor, and educate. If you know of anyone who you think might be interested in joining please direct them to our website, [www.napapolicehistory.com](http://www.napapolicehistory.com), or have them contact Todd Shulman at (707) 693-9700.

Please see *Membership* on page 4

## Ongoing Education Efforts

*By Todd Shulman*

In keeping with the education aspect of the NPHS' mission statement I have been active in getting the word out about the NPHS and the unique history of the NPD. The NPHS was featured in two front page articles which ran in the Napa Register newspaper in August (a link to the on-line version of these articles is available on the NPHS website).

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In addition, I presented a multi-media presentation entitled "The Napa Police Department: A Brief History" twice during the last month, once to the Napa County Peace Officers Association and once to the Napa County Historical Society.

In July the Napa Police Officers Association donated a display case to the NPHS. It is now located in the public lobby of the NPD and houses a snapshot of NPD history, including photographs and artifacts such as badges, batons, handcuffs, and patches. Due to the limited available space it is anticipated that the items in the case will be rotated periodically to allow the public a better idea of just how much history there is associated with the NPD and its personnel.

## The Robert E. McKenzie Collection

In June an important addition was made to the NPHS photographic archive with the inclusion of over 50 images from the collection of Robert E. McKenzie, a longtime photographer for the Napa Register newspaper. Bob's widow, Gwenn, was kind enough to allow us access to file cabinets full of old style 3x5 negatives, from which the NPHS was able to glean some very interesting images.



*Robert E. McKenzie, Bob to his friends.*

Many of you knew Bob personally as he worked the police and fire photo beat off and on during his years with the Register, from 1954-1990. Prior to the NPD training photographers some of Bob's photos of crime scenes and traffic accidents were used as evidence. Bob was born in Monticello (now under Lake Berryessa) and collected a detailed history of that area. He also taught photography at the Napa Valley College for 25 years.

The addition of the Robert E. McKenzie collection brings the total number images in the NPHS archive to over 600.

## 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 Dispatch Center. The earliest dispatch system employed by the NPD utilized several red signal lights strung across the center of key intersections downtown. If the Officer on-duty at the station got a phone call about a crime in progress he would flip a switch which would in turn activate the lights; this was the signal for the Officers walking the beat to call or return to the station.

Until 1961 the job of dispatcher was handled during normal business hours by female Police Clerk-Dispatchers, and during off hours by Police Officers or Sergeants. In 1961 the NPD appointed its first two male Clerk-Dispatchers who worked during the off hours to free up Police Officers. The Police Clerk-Dispatcher job description was later separated into Police Records Clerk and Police Dispatcher.

In 2003 the NPD dispatch center underwent a major remodel, upgrading the workstations with state of the art computers and ergonomics. In early 2006 the dispatch center again was upgraded, this time with new computer-aided dispatching software, integrating the use of the new in-vehicle mobile data computers and vehicle tracking (GPS).



*Dispatching through the years (top to bottom):  
1939, 1959, 1976, 2006*

*Membership* from page 1

The NPHS would like to welcome the following new members:

Steve Potter	Lifetime
Dorothy Solderholm	Lifetime
Chief Richard Melton	Lifetime
Chief Ken Jennings	Lifetime
Chief Dan Monez	Lifetime
Thomas Ublodi	Lifetime
Patt Botts	Lifetime
Margie Patten	Lifetime

John O'Donnell	Yearly
Andy Lewis	Yearly
Jeff Troendly	Yearly
Ria Donald	Yearly
Don Winegar	Yearly
Carolynn Jolliffe	Yearly

## NPHS Archive Report

The archives of the NPHS have grown rapidly over the last seven months. A large portion of the photo archive consists of high quality computer-scanned photographic prints; however we have received a number of key historic original photos.

The archive has also received a number of interesting artifacts, too much in fact to list here. In keeping with the Society's mission to preserve history we have meticulously cataloged and stored the items donated or loaned to us using archival materials which will help preserve the integrity of the items. An example is using PH balanced paper and plastic sheet protectors to store photos and newspapers; this will slow the degradation of the items.

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](mailto:tshulman@napapolicehistory.com).



*The NPHS display case, in the public lobby of the NPD.*

## Upcoming Events

1<sup>st</sup> General Membership Meeting  
 When: November 28 (Thursday), 6:00 pm  
 Where: Napa Police Department  
 (1539 First Street-Napa)  
 Training Room

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