

# THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum  
395 Nehalem Blvd. (Hwy 101) Wheeler, OR 97147  
(In Wheeler Treasures Antique Mall) 503 354-4454



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**Welcome to the Scanner**, the official newsletter of the International Police Museum at Rockaway Beach.

**International Police Museum has relocated:** IPM is now located inside the Wheeler Treasures Antique Mall at 395 Nehalem Ave. (Highway 101) in Wheeler, OR 97147. IPM is excited about the move and working hard to create an environment which will be both educational and entertaining. IPM will also have a new mail address: PO Box 67, Wheeler, OR 97147. The new location has many advantages. It will now be open seven days a week. The Wheeler staff will handle the gift shop and help with cleaning and sanitizing. Shopkeeper Peggy Schuman has many great ideas to promote the merchandising of our gift shop. IPM is looking forward to an exciting 2021 in our new location.

While we were impacted by the shutdowns and restrictions following the COVID outbreak, we continued to serve the public within CDC and State guidelines. Our visitor numbers were significantly down, only 1,134 visitors, 19% of the numbers we experienced in 2019. We were only open weekends from mid-July, with limited entry. Our volunteers worked with visitors, providing masks to those who did not have them and ensuring they followed COVID rules while enjoying the museum during our limited hours. We had no reported cases of COVID associated with the museum as we were very proactive in our guidance, cleaning, and sanitizing.

**2021 is the beginning of a new era for IPM.** IPM has modified our iconic emblem to reflect our new location, and switched our advertising and our official mailing address to Wheeler. We are launching, with the guidance of our Board Secretary Jane McClain and technical assistance and expertise from Mr. Paul Tichy of Appaloosa Business Services, a redesigned web site. Jane created our web site in 2016 and it has gone through continual improvement over the years. Now Jane and Paul have done a great job of reimagining the site, making it more user friendly and added new features such as our Photo Gallery and Kids' pages. Jane has also worked with artist Helene Knott to design some new children's games and puzzles which can be downloaded from the Kids' section and played at home. Interacting with young people in a positive manner is something IPM has endeavored to do since our inception.

As has been demonstrated many times through our history, it is better to get willing compliance, through a thorough understanding of the reason and need for a rule or law, than to mandate compliance through force or threat of force. To facilitate this understanding the new displays in Wheeler will expand on our mission of understanding and mutual respect between citizens and law enforcement. While the lingering effects of COVID will preclude our popular interactive area where visitors may try on uniform parts such as ballistic vests and hats, it is projected that we will continue to provide child fingerprint kits for families and our educational displays, demonstrating that common items such as a hatchet in the hands of a tradesman is a tool or, in the hands of a criminal, it may be a weapon. We will

## Meet your Board Members



Ed Wortman (Chief, retired) was the founding member of the IPM Board (2015) and serves as Executive Director and Vice President. Using his extensive collection of police memorabilia gathered during over 40 years of police service, he hoped that a museum could be both educational and entertaining - a place where people could see the development of various police tools and in some cases experience them first hand. They could take their fingerprint and compare it to another family member, try on a ballistic vest or a hat/helmet which was actually used by a police agency. Starting the museum was anticipated to be a way of building respect and understanding between citizens and officers. Ed and his wife, Ginny, have traveled extensively in the US, Europe and Asia developing many contacts and police friends helping the museum.

continue to try to combine education and entertainment to improve the relationship between police and the citizens they serve.

Our new display area will feature many of our popular displays, such as the polygraph and dental identification along with new wall displays. It is anticipated that some weapons of law enforcement will be displayed such as batons and possibly some swords. We do not yet have secure enough displays at this time to display modern weapons. Wall displays will include the foundations of police work and maps showing the westward migration and the routes into Tillamook County. The history of a people is inexplicably linked to their system of laws and law enforcement. IPM strives to improve the understanding between police and the citizens they serve, through the demystification of law enforcement equipment, activities, and techniques. We gratefully acknowledge the community support which allows law enforcement and the International Police Museum to continue serve our community.

**Fundraising has changed** dramatically during this turbulent time. Garage sales, bazaars, and auctions remain uncertain in the foreseeable future. IMP continues to get funding from our consignment sales and donations, as well as Amazon and Fred Meyer programs. We have been fiscally responsible and have managed incredibly fortunate to receive a grant from the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County and a small CARES Act loan. One of our most successful new donation programs is the OR BottleDrop beverage container recycling program. IPM is fortunate to have many supporters and as of this writing we have recycled nearly 13,000 containers, picking them up from donors as far North as Nehalem and as far South as Tillamook, as well as supporters in other areas. IPM has received one check for \$650.00 in November and have an additional \$500.00 in credit that we have not yet cashed out. This program is profitable for us, in part because our Board Secretary lives near Gresham and could take the recyclables back with her after meetings. We are also fortunate that Jane's granddaughter assists in sorting and bagging. While successful, this effort will only replace our expected garage sale revenue. We must continue to search for other sources even as we move to a new facility and reduce expenses.

### **Coming Events**

**IPM will reopen in Wheeler**, anticipated opening in late March or early April, 2021 with an official ribbon cutting sometime after the pandemic has abated.

### **New acquisitions**

**Police Reference Books, State and City Police;** Mr. R. M. Fischer, Jacksonville, OR

**Vintage Oregon Law books;** Jan Alderman, Eagle Creek, OR

**Yamhill County Sheriff's Posse Information, Deputy Bonnie Cabe;** Steve Weissenfluh, Rockaway Beach, OR

**French Police Uniform;** Mike Cate, Woodinville, WA

**Boy's book of Communication (1942);** Dick Sherman, McMinnville, OR

**Significant Cash donations;** Mrs. Sandra Tucker, Mary Ellen Knipe, Steve Wright

**Photo Credits:** Ed Wortman; Motorola, Inc.; Gamewell Mfg.

**Article Sources:** (1) DIRECTORY OF MOTOROLA POLICE RADIO EQUIPMENT 1942- (wb6nvh.com)

(2) <https://www.cityofirvine.org/ipd-divisions-bureaus-units/history-police-communications>

### **Help us keep history alive**

Your donations allow us to bring the Law Enforcement experience to life for visitors, school children, and other tour groups. The International Police Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations may be made directly to the Museum, at any U. S. Bank branch, or online at [www.internationalpolitemuseum.org](http://www.internationalpolitemuseum.org).

Please consider supporting the museum with a Memorial Bequest or remembrance in your estate planning. IPM has no paid staff so we rely on grants, volunteers and Board members for staffing and support. We are appreciative of the public support from both area citizens and businesses that has helped us grow and will help us keep history alive for future generations.

## Foundations of Law Enforcement Communication: Ed Wortman, Chief of Police, retired

Did you ever wonder why the town marshal or sheriff was always in the saloon in the old western movies? Perhaps it had a lot to do with communication. Consider that it was often the only place open at night and therefore it was a location for gathering community information or sounding the alarm in case of emergency. Towns or villages were smaller and law enforcement did not do continual preventative patrol then as they do now. Communication was slow. Information arrived by mail or telegraph, or for local events, personal communication. Also some of the activity requiring law-enforcement intervention tended to originate or ferment around drinking establishments. Sometimes then, as now, the mere presence of law-enforcement reduced the incidence of crime and disorder

Today's law enforcement is dispatched by radio, a mobile data terminal (MDT) computer in the vehicle, or even cell phone. Officers in the field use a variety of communication sources including portable radios, their MDT or cell phones. This was not always the case. The first radio equipped police car is credited to Detroit police in 1928, but it was one way communication, from the station to one car only. The first two-way radio was used in Bayonne, New Jersey in 1933. This connected the Police Department radio room to 9 of their patrol vehicles. These radios were large, taking up the majority of the vehicle's trunk.<sup>1</sup> They were constructed of radio vacuum tube components, some of which were fragile and easily broken. The city streets were cobble stone, rough and jarring, as there were no paved highways as we know them today. These radios were also expensive, costing more than the cost of a car in 1933, and as such were not affordable for many cities other than the largest most prosperous ones.<sup>2</sup>



1940: 2 way radio in car trunk

In small towns, i.e., the majority of America, the station was not staffed 24 hours a day and if you wished to summon the police in the evening, you called the local tavern. They turned on a specific light outside; that light might be colored, or it might be just a particular white light as a signal to the police officer driving around in the 30s, 40s, 50s, perhaps even in some cases the 60s. The officer knew that the light was an indication somebody had called in a complaint or a request for service. They would stop, get the information, and act upon it. Many of the larger cities established a similar system through the street light system or installed "call boxes" often located in walking beat areas, sometimes with a signal light on top. These were police specific locations where an officer could go to an iron box on a pedestal or wall, use his key to open the box, and communicate directly by telephone with dispatch, or he could summon the supervisor, a paddy wagon or other assistance. The "call box" was the fastest means of communication available in that era.<sup>1</sup> The call box system was expensive to install and maintain, and only connected to the station. Small town departments and police officers had to cultivate a relationship with a local business or any family who had a telephone and who could / would receive calls for service and notify officers.



Police Call Box

Many cities such as the City of Seattle used call boxes into the 1960s for the walking beats in some areas of downtown, such as Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, and the tavern district of First and Second Avenues. Thanks to the contribution from retired SPD Capt. Mike Slessman, IPM is proud to display a call box which was retired from the Seattle Police Department in 1960. Many jurisdictions still use walking beats for highly populated or tourist areas as well as festivals and events, but the call boxes have been replaced by modern technology. Today's police officers have a myriad of communication tools at their fingertips. They can communicate from the car with radio or the MDT, from small portable radios<sup>2</sup>, or call anywhere in the world with a cell phone. An officer can probably send pictures, request data, or research some files and can interact with people quickly. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of crime, and improve police response and communication with the public



2018 portable

Communication is the lifeblood of police work, commerce, and the well-being of people throughout the world. Improved communication has allowed law-enforcement to provide a better service and a proper service to the public they serve.



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## **International Police Museum moves to Wheeler, Oregon**

Now shop Wheeler Treasures for gifts, antiques, and collectables AND see the Museum.



Please join us at the end of March, 2021, as IPM reopens in the Wheeler Treasures building, 395 Wheeler Avenue (Hwy 101). See new displays of both Police and local history. Gift shop open through the Wheeler Treasures desk. Please enter through the Wheeler Treasures front doors.