

# THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum  
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Wheeler Treasures Antique Mall (503) 354-4454



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**Welcome to the Scanner**, the official newsletter of the International Police Museum at Wheeler, Oregon

May 2021 was the first full month of operation at Wheeler Treasures. I am excited to report that Peggy and her staff recorded 690 visitors to the museum. May was been a busy month for IPM. Not only did our new location welcome a record number of visitors (prior May best was 476 in 2019) but we also opened a Wheeler exhibit, honored the police officers we have lost and our Military Veterans. There had been some concern that we would not benefit from as much from the beach and spring break foot traffic as we have in the past, but we averaged more than 20 people per day through the museum. This is an exciting time for us. The lowest number we had was 11, and the highest was 48 on a Saturday when the train was running. The Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad (OCSR) is doing an experimental run from Wheeler north which began on April 24<sup>th</sup>. We are not sure how long it will last into the season, but we do get visitors through the museum either before or after their train trip. We hope that the OCSR is successful in their Wheeler adventure and that Wheeler Treasures, along with IPM, benefit from their success. Sometimes it is all about stopping the tourists long enough for them to see what else is available.

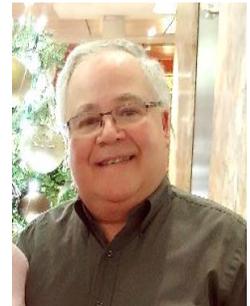
The beverage container recycling program (Oregon BottleDrop) continues to pay dividends. Jane says we have taken in over 22,000 containers, by conservative estimate. We have applied for checks totaling \$1,650.00 and still have funds available "in the bank" as it takes a few days to produce a check. Not all containers we receive are recyclable. Some are rejected because of damage or contamination. Cans or bottles which have been used as spittoons, as an example, are too contaminated to recycle as we have no practical way to clean them. Some cans are crushed, or bottles have the labels and bar code removed making them unreadable by the machines used for the BottleDrop program. IPM does not get credit for those items. We thank our friends and neighbors who have contributed to this fundraising effort, as well as our board members who pickup and transport. Our Treasurer, Craig Zuck, has made many local trips to



pick up recyclables and dropping them at storage until someone is going to Portland. Then the items are sent "over the hill" to Secretary Jane and her granddaughter Mia who sort and re-bag bag the contributions to get maximum value. It does take work, as all fundraisers do, but it is filling the gaps left by the loss of our other fundraising.

As IPM becomes better known, more people donate artifacts to us, and we have received several recent donations from families and other institutions. Since the last newsletter we received the flags and custom-made flag box used by the Tillamook County Sheriff's Posse in 1959 from Dr. Roy Peterson of Tillamook. Dr. Peterson was the Posse Captain in 1959 and his picture and badge are on display in the museum. We received a gate, or window grate, reported to have

## Meet your Board Members



**Herman Doty joined the Board of Directors in March 2021.** Raised in southern Colorado, Herman Doty moved to Rockaway Beach Oregon in 2008 with his wife Angie. They opened Washed Ashore Arts, Crafts & More consignment store, and Ringing Anvil Design blacksmith shop in 2011. During his career Herman worked as an Engineering assistant at the General Motors Proving Grounds, and part time on a professional off road racing team. He is an accomplished artist, metal fabricator and author. Herman was honored to be accepted as the President of the Camp 18 Loggers Memorial and Museum in 2019. Herman and Angie have been supporters of IPM since its inception. IPM is excited to have Herman's talent and energy on the Board of Directors.

been used at the Tillamook County Jail from Michael Crawford of Tillamook. The grate is old, welded iron rod and appears to have been out in the weather before it was placed in storage over 20 years ago. Now we must validate when and where it was used. We were also fortunate to receive a shingle with an almost pristine stamp of Wheeler Lumber Company (1912-1931) from Peggy Schuman after somebody gave it to her from a house being reroofed in Manzanita. Don Best, photograph collector and historian from Rockaway Beach helped us get several pictures of old Wheeler Lumber Company mill and early Wheeler. Don Best has relocated from Rockaway Beach to South Carolina and his historical knowledge will be missed. We appreciate Don's information and his suggestions of reference material that we might use for the new Wheeler display. The Ulf Engen Ski Museum in Utah sent us a large collection of law enforcement and military pins originally donated by Thomas Goldsmith, Deputy US Marshal (deceased) who collected them during his distinguished career in Federal service.

IPM is excited to welcome Mr. Herman Doty as a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Doty, Owner of Ringing Anvil Design, brings with him many years of business and management experience. He provided a significant amount of help with IPM's move to Wheeler and helped create the new jail door display.

IPM is also saddened to announce the passing of Ms. LeeAnn Gibbs, a founding Board member of IPM, who lost her long battle with cancer on May 20, 2021. LeeAnn, a business owner, management consultant and coach, served on the IPM Board from 2015 through 2019. She passed in Eugene, Oregon, and will be interred at Wenatchee, Washington.

### **Coming Events**

**IPM has reopened in Wheeler**, beginning with a soft opening on April 10, 2021. Our sign went up on the outside of the building on June 4 and an official ribbon cutting is planned sometime after the pandemic has abated.

**The children's interactive area**, with hats and uniforms had to be closed due to COVID. We hope to bring it back when it can be done within safe guidelines, probably in 2022. IPM is working on a plan to have a "communications corner" where young visitors can have hands-on experience early communications, such as the telegraph or early telephone.

### **New acquisitions**

**Tillamook County Sheriff's 1959 Posse flags**; Dr. Roy Peterson, DVM, TCSO Posse Captain, retired, Tillamook, OR  
**Tillamook Jail gate or window grate**; Michael Crawford, Tillamook, OR  
**Photos, Old Wheeler City and Mill**; Don Best, formerly of Rockaway Beach, OR  
**Multnomah County uniforms and memorabilia of Richard "Dick" Tracy**; Sandra Tracy Christoffer, Vancouver, WA  
**Patrol Flashlight, Used in 1970s by Museum Volunteer**; Hal McMahan, Nehalem, OR  
**Shingle marked, "Wheeler Lumber Company"**; Peggy Schumann, Shopkeeper, Wheeler, OR  
**Multnomah County Sheriff's gun belt and memorabilia**; Mary Randals, Oregon City

**Significant Cash donations**; Mr. Jim Whittom, Mike and Joann Love

**Photo Credits**: Don Best, Jane McClain, Mia McClain

**Article Sources**: (1) Registration Methods For The Small Museum; Daniel B. Reibel, Roman and Littlefield 2018  
(2) Interview of Board Secretary, McClain

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

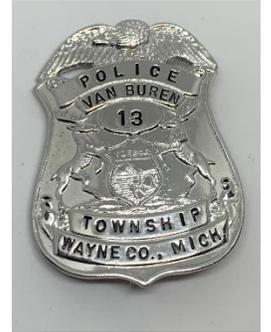
Your donations allow us to bring the Law Enforcement experience to life for visitors, school children, and other tour groups. The International Police Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations may be made directly to the Museum, at any U. S. Bank branch, or online at [www.internationalpolicemuseum.org](http://www.internationalpolicemuseum.org).

Please consider supporting the museum with a Memorial Bequest or remembrance in your estate planning. IPM has no paid staff so we rely on 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.

## Inventory Challenges: What's in your museum? \_Ed Wortman, Chief of Police, retired

A phone call to the museum often starts with "Do you have one of these" or, if we're lucky, "Do you want one of these?" Sometimes answering the questions are a challenge with the size of the collection available to the museum and the lack of early inventory and bookkeeping as many times acquisitions were/are spur of the moment a meeting between officers, traders, or someone who just dropped something by the station or the museum. Many of these items are thrown in a drawer set aside for later examination or simply forgotten in the normal course of police or museum business. Two items in a drawer gets put in a box with other items, the box gets put on the shelf and before long one has dozens of artifacts - some identified as to source - but a large amount with no information. Everyone is busy and we often say we will do it later, but often it just does not get done.

The Merriam Webster dictionary describes inventory as "the act or process of making a list of items." What does that look like? Is it "get the item, assign a number, stick on the number, put it on a list?" To meet national museum guidelines, we need to describe the artifact, make sure it is clean and in good repair, note any flaws or damage, number it, photograph it, and make a record of it. Let's look at the inventory process for a badge from IPM's collection. Clearly the word "badge" will not differentiate our badge from of the other hundreds in IPM's collection. We need to note the type of badge - police, sheriff, volunteer, detective, commemorative? What shape is it? A circle? A star? A star with 4, 5, or 7 points? Is it oval, or perhaps a shield? Does it have a topper, such as an eagle with outstretched, or perhaps folded, wings? Is it solid or filigree? What color is our badge? Is it molded that color or painted? Is it tarnished? If it has an emblem in the middle of the badge, is it recessed or raised? If raised, is it one piece or layered? What is the wording on the front? Is there a badge number? Is there a county or state logo? How big is it? IPM has, e.g., two badges which are virtually identical, but one is 1/8" larger than the other. We measure to the 1/16th inch. Don't forget the back. What type of attachment device does it have? By pin, post, or perhaps a clip? Is there a Makers Mark? Does it have an inscription, or something scratched into the back? Is there any damage anywhere on the badge? The description of the badge will also include the information from any notes that accompanied the badge, which might include its history, period of use, and or information about the donor or original owner.



We need at least three photos of the badge. A photo of the front of the badge may be used for advertising, pamphlets, or a feature on Facebook or IPM's website. The second photo is the front of the badge, with the I.D. number, and the third photo is the back of the badge with the I.D. tag or number attached. Our badge is described, numbered, and had its photos taken. Now we need to get all that information into our database. Our database was created specifically for IPM. It allows us to pull up every photo of every item taken, to sort by categories (such as all of our equipment, or subcategories (such as all of our flashlights), but that is only possible if we get all of our items into the database with the correct label number. And photos can only be loaded one at a time. A huge advantage of our database is that we can also pull photos from it such as for a feature on handcuffs. Or hats. Or maybe just German hats. Or perhaps all the artifacts we have from Germany. Because of this, our database also has sections where we can add information that has been provided by the donor. A resulting benefit is that the database records all available information about our donors in a central location.



Once an item is done, all we need to do is repeat the process for the 300-400 badges and perhaps more than 10,000 other items in IPM's collection. To date many of our large display cases have been fully inventoried, and we are currently focused on inventorying collections that have recently been donated. As more people learn about IPM, our donations are increasing significantly. Donations include both international items and United States artifacts, including many items directly tied to Oregon and Tillamook County. IPM also has artifacts of local historical interest which are not badges or uniforms, such as typewriters, sewing machines and telephones. Items which were used by both citizens and police. There are also many historical photographs depicting pioneer life and early police activity.

IPM has embarked on a major in inventory project. Once each item is identified, photographed, assigned an artifact number, and entered into an electronic database this will enable IPM staff to find and identify the artifact. The data may provide another educational or research resource for students and others visiting the museum either online or in person. The foundation of any museum are the artifacts and the history behind them to stimulate the understanding of our past and challenge us to improve our future.



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

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

Wheeler Lumber Company 1912 - 1931

