

THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum

320 South Highway 101, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Inside the Washed Ashore Arts, Crafts & More and Ringing Anvil Design Blacksmith



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

Summer is finally here, and the tourists are flocking to the beach. Attendance is up, both in the store and at the museum. The move to Washed Ashore Arts, Crafts and More seems to be a positive one for both the store and IPM. IPM ended June with 1152 visitors which is consistent with what we did in Wheeler for the year 2021. While we have shrunk considerably from our Wheeler location, which was about half the size of our Rockaway original location, we are still getting a lot of great people coming through. If we can educate young people and children, we hopefully have an opportunity to reduce the violence toward police and each other.

We are getting many positive comments on our artifact displays. Recently a young man come through and while looking at the pictures of Women in Policing, he exclaimed "that's my mother" pointing at a picture of Barbara Clanton who was selected as a police recruit in Canby in 1971. Female recruits were considered a new concept in 1971 and the city of Canby had to sue the state of Oregon to get Ms. Clanton into the police academy (Oregonian article). Officer Clanton graduated and went on to a successful career with the Canby Police Department. It is gratifying when we an artifact can bring forward a positive memory or the pride in a family member.

IPM also provided and outreach to the community in June 2022 placing a display of the Tillamook County Sheriff's Mounted Posse at the Tillamook Library on the second floor in the Oregon history section. The Mounted Posse is known to have served from early 1950s through 1960, at which time it disbanded. Possibly because of the age of the participants, politics, or other issues.

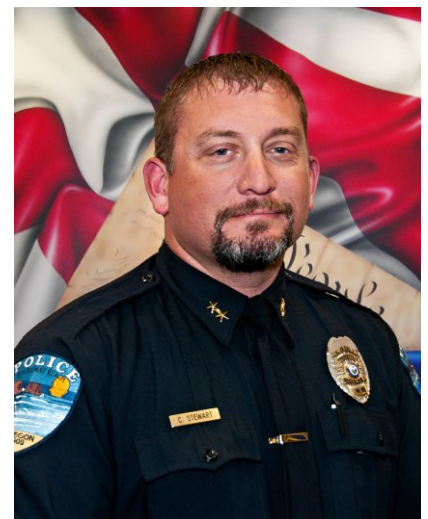
We have had some sadness during the past quarter. We lost Chief Charles Stewart, the last Chief for the Rockaway Beach Police Department. The department had been in existence since 1942, but in 2021 the city chose to close the rockaway Beach Police Department and contract with Tillamook County Sheriff for police service. Chief Stewart was working for Tillamook Hospital after leaving the police department. IPM also lost a volunteer, the wife of director Ed Wortman. Ginny, a volunteer since 2015, passed after a long battle with cancer. We appreciate their service and wish their families well during this difficult time.

This month The Scanner is presenting a great piece on historical research, written by Jane McClain our board secretary since 2015. We appreciate Jane's work on research as well as her love and appreciation for accurately reporting history. Jane also does our postings on Facebook which have a great following with people watching to see what's going to come up next.

New acquisitions:

Arizona DPS artifacts: Lieutenant Colonel Norm Beasley, Retired, Phoenix, AZ

In Memory: Chief Charles Stewart



IPM honors the memory of Chief Charles Stewart and offers our condolences to his family and friends. Members of our board had the pleasure of working with Charlie first as an officer with the Rockaway Beach Police Department, and then after he became its Chief of Police. Charlie's passing is a reminder to all of us to treasure those you know and love every day.

1960's US Military baton (Nightstick); Contributed by B. T. Bollers, Rockaway Beach
1930's Washington Forest Ranger Badge; Contributed by Myra Harmon, Seattle, WA

Significant cash donations, in memory of Ginny Wortman: Michael and Joanne Love, Col. and Mrs. Fred Morgan, Jenet and Norman Harold, Karen Jorgensen, JoAnn Patrick, Marie Giger, Betty Hartman, Jenet Harold

Featured Article

THE PITFALLS OF RESEARCH – RECREATING THE FACTS: By Jane McClain, IPM board secretary

Blame this article on my 4th grade teacher, who said every new fact we put in a research paper must have a source cited or we would be guilty of the deadly sin of plagiarism – claiming something we wrote was ours, when in fact we were just copying from someone else. I did it then because I wanted a good grade, and she was my favorite teacher. I do it now because good citations lend veracity to my writing, and often lead to offshoot research on a related topic. I am, however, increasingly skeptical about anything I read.

While working on ideas for IPM's Facebook page I did a search for "youngest US marshal". That sounded fun, historical, and related to law enforcement. My computer produced multiple links. I clicked on the first and read about Frank Eaton, also known as Pistol Pete. I read that Eaton was commissioned as one of the youngest US Marshals in the Western District of Arkansas when he was 17 years old.¹ I felt I had hit pay dirt, and decided to do a bit more research on the man described as the fastest gun in the Indian Territory.² I clicked on the next link, and I discovered – Jack Abernathy.

That link provided a lengthy discussion about Jack Abernathy, saying "John "Jack" R. Abernathy, also known as the Wolf Catcher and Catch 'Em Alive Jack, was the youngest and last U.S. Deputy Marshal in Oklahoma Territory, serving from 1906 to 1910."³

What? How could Eaton be "one of the youngest" at 17, if Abernathy were THE youngest at 30? (The article gave Abernathy's date of birth as 1876. I did the math.) I had no reason to believe either source was simply wrong. Perhaps the distinction was regional? Eaton was appointed for the Western District of Arkansas; Abernathy was appointed for Oklahoma Territory. I searched on.

An article in "True West" magazine, written by a respected writer for that magazine⁴, states "Frank claims that in 1885 he hired out as a scout for Captain Emmett Crawford during the Geronimo Campaign and by 1887 he was working as a Deputy U.S. Marshal for Judge Isaac Parker's court in Ft. Smith."⁵ Again – What?? All the research I have found agrees Eaton was born in 1860. Based on that timeline, Eaton would have become a marshal when he was about 26-27 years old. Is it possible that a historical typo – 17 instead of 27 – was perpetuated? That error has certainly happened in history before.⁶

So – what other sources might be reliable? The Oklahoma Senate would seem a trustworthy source. Their education section says "At 17, Frank became a Deputy U.S. Marshal under Judge Isaac C. Parker . . ."⁷ However, the U.S. Marshals Service webpage – another assumed reliable source, indicates that while Jack Abernathy was appointed a marshal of Oklahoma Territory on February 3, 1906⁸, Frank Eaton's name is nowhere to be found.

1 <https://www.its.actor/the-real-story-behind-the-legend-of-marshal-pistol-pete-frank-eaton/>

2 Ibid.

3 <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/john-abernathy/>

4 Marshall Trimble has won multiple awards for his knowledge of and writing about Western history.
<http://www.marshalltrimble.com/biography.html>

5 <https://truewestmagazine.com/frank-pistol-pete-eaton/> - referencing an autobiography of Eaton -

6 Platte Bridge Station in Wyoming, was posthumously renamed Ft. Caspar, in honor of Lt. Caspar, Collins. But a typo changed "Caspar" to "Casper". The fort was not named Ft. Collins, because Ft. Collins, CO, had already been named in honor of Caspar's father. Source – another long ago research project – and -
https://trib.com/news/local/casper/who-was-casper-collins-and-why-is-casper-wyoming-named-after-him/article_abb6a1ac-8289-5543-950a-0e2d19d6bc13.html

7 <https://oksenate.gov/education/senate-artwork/frank-eaton-pistol-pete>

8 <https://www.usmarshals.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/list-of-us-marshals-oklahoma.pdf>

Another pitfall of research raises its ugly head. Experience shows that often only a tightly selected portion of a source is used – the portion that supports the goals of the research. Also known as “quoting out of context”, perhaps the researcher was so excited to find exactly what was needed, they quit reading. Or perhaps they assumed no one would check the source. Remember the line above from “True West” wherein Eaton claims by 1887 he was working as a Deputy U.S. Marshal? The very next line in the source indicates there is nothing to corroborate Eaton’s claim. So what was the original source for the “True West” article? It was a book: “Pistol Pete: Veteran of Old West”. Written by? Frank Eaton. The article goes on to say “[t]he truth is there is no record of any of his amazing feats” and attributes discrepancies to a “fertile imagination”.⁹ To be fair, who among us has not embellished the length of the fish we caught, the snow we trudded through, the hours we worked? Who has told only the best version of their adventure, tacitly ignoring details that might blemish the tale? How many of those stories were then retold as remembered, or as the storyteller wanted them to be remembered.

Is the lack of Eaton’s listing in the U.S. Marshal webpage proof he was never a U.S. Marshal at all? Probably not. A marshal could hire his own deputies, and new marshals routinely fired the old deputies and chose their own.¹⁰ While posses were likely not picked from a mob of citizens and deputized as in some of the old Western movies, marshals could recruit citizens to serve as deputies on a temporary basis.¹¹ Badges were often hand made. IPM has in its collection a hand made badge stamped with the words “Deputy US Marshall, Oregon Territory.” We have no proof it was worn by any Oregon Deputy Marshall. Was it made to be issued to a temporary appointment whose name never made it to the official list of the US Marshal Service?



Even well known quotations are often credited to someone other than the original speaker. “History is written by the victors” is widely credited to Winston Churchill, but there is no definitive proof he ever uttered that exact phrase. Hermann Göring is alleged to have said, possibly distorted by translation, “The victor will always be the judge, and the vanquished the accused.” However, very similar phrases are found in French history dating from 1842.¹²

As she who puts most of the posts on IPM’s FB page, I shall continue to cite my sources. Perhaps you will ignore them, or perhaps use them for further research. But if you find a source I missed, one that disputes what I/we have said, or you find information about our displays that you believe to be incorrect, please let us know. Not all historical discrepancies are as easy to discover as those surrounding Frank Eaton.

To end on a high note for Frank, did you know he was the inspiration for the cowboy mascots of OK A&M, the U of WY, and NMSU? Or that he was posthumously inducted in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1997? And, guess what!! The source corroborating these last statements also credit him with being a Deputy US Marshal at age 17.¹³

About the author:

Josephine (Jane) McClain has served as IPM board member and secretary since our inception in 2015. Jane earned her JD from University of Wyoming in 1986. She worked as a civil litigation paralegal in law firms in Alaska and Oregon and now teaches quilting in her home studio. Jane also serves as a secretary for the Custodian Civil Service Board for Portland Public Schools and is a volunteer victim advocate for the Clackamas County DA’s office. Jane is also IPM’s web page coordinator and Facebook editor and poster. We appreciate her service.

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.

9 <https://truwestmagazine.com/frank-pistol-pete-eaton/>

10 <https://work.chron.com/marshals-special-deputation-requirements-23923.html>

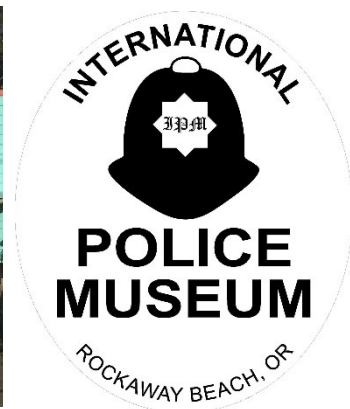
11 Ibid.

12 <https://slate.com/culture/2019/11/history-is-written-by-the-victors-quote-origin.html>

13 <https://fredsportsextra.com/?p=4139>



International Police Museum
Inside the Washed Ashore Crafts mall
320 S. Highway 101, PO Box 165
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136



International Police Museum returned to Rockaway Beach

Visit us inside the Washed Ashore Crafts and More and Ringing Anvil Design
320 South Highway 101 in Rockaway Beach, Oregon 97136 www.internationalpolicemuseum.org.