

THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum
320 South Highway 101, PO Box 165, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136
Inside the Washed Ashore Arts, Crafts & More



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

October 2024 concludes our 9th year as the International Police Museum (IPM). As Executive Director, I can say it has been an exciting, sometimes turbulent, journey. We had the pandemic closure, limited opening hours, building sales, and rent increases force several moves, but we survived. IPM has been notified that the building in which we now rent space is going to be sold, so we may again be searching for display space. Throughout these challenges IPM has, and will remain, resilient. Our board, which serves as our leadership team, and our volunteers have remained positive and kept us afloat for the last nine years. IPM received over 8,600 visitors in 2023 and remains on track to equal that in 2024, if historical traffic trends continue. This issue also carries the conclusion of Secretary McClain's 4-part article, "Handcuffs: Capturing History". Thank you, Jane, for your research and writing.

While in Tokyo during mid-April, I met with several police personnel and IPA members as reported in the last issue. One person, Mr. Iwo Sasaki made a special, all-day trip, to meet us for dinner at the hotel. Mr. Sasaki and I had only corresponded by email and letter, so it was exciting to meet him. Mr. Sasaki works for the Shiga Prefecture Police Headquarters, about 400 KM South or a 4 hour bullet train ride from the Kyoto area to Tokyo. I was honored to meet him and learn more about him, his profession, and his family. Fingerprints are used throughout the world and in Shiga Prefecture, Mr. Sasaki is one of the best. He has previously provided the IPM with articles and procedures for gathering fingerprints from the sticky (inside) tape surfaces. We plan to make a special display in the museum featuring the process. A very special thank you to Mr. Sasaki for coming that distance to see us.

Many of the display items at IPM come from family members of retired officers or estates. Those donations preserve the legacy of the officers. One recent acquisition was from Mrs. Minda Weick, in Redding, California. Her husband, Richard R. Weick, retired from the San Francisco, California Police Mounted Unit in 1992. After retirement he served for a period with the Shasta County Sheriff's Department, working out of the Redding, CA, office. Mrs. Weick provided over 50 hats and helmets from all over the world, several Riker display boxes of foreign badges, patches, and belt buckles as well as shooting medals from San Francisco Police. One of the unique pieces from the Weick collection is a board displaying obsolete Japanese Police collar rank tabs and



a hat from the 1970's. These will be a great addition to the Japanese Police items already on display. The donated items were collected by Mr. Weick during his long professional career. These items are currently in the inventory process. IPM is always proud to display uniform items from the US and around the world.

The Portland Police history books provided by Mr. and Mrs. Lawitzke will enhance our reference library. IPM often receives requests for information on people or agencies which may no longer be active in the police field. Sometimes we have access to the information in our library or can refer the inquiry to someone else who may have the information.

MR. IWO SASAKI
Forensic Fingerprint Chief,
Shiga Prefectural Police HQ, Japan



Mr. Iwo Sasaki, at the Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo, with Director Wortman (black sweater). Mr. Sasaki works in Shiga Prefecture Police Headquarters, Criminal Investigation Department, Identification Division, General Staff. Laboratory personnel are not police officers, but specialists assigned to General Staff. This is like most of America's State or National Laboratory personnel. Their work, examining evidence, is very important to the resolution of criminal cases. Identifying the potential suspects or eliminating those not involved in the criminal activity. Police officers universally depend on their professional expertise

Consolidations, or contracts to State or County forces, has modified or replaced many individual agencies. Sometimes records are lost or purged during the consolidations or change in commands. This makes historical research difficult as sometimes nothing is left except the memories of older members. Fortunately, there are people like author Steven Robert Heine, who served as Oregon State Police Telecommunications Manager, who care about history. Mr. Heine authored The Oregon State Police (OSP) now in its second printing, and generously donated 16 copies to IPM for our fundraising. A special Thank You to Mr. Heines for his recognition of the International Police Museum in Rockaway Beach on the introductory pages.

New acquisitions:

3 Portland Police Bureau History books: Mrs. Susan Lawitzke, Rockaway Beach, OR

The Oregon State Police books: Mr Steven Robert Heine, Author, Bandon, OR

Collection from estate of Richard Weick: donated by Mrs. Minda Weick, Redding, CA

Arizona Rangers brass belt buckle: Harley Wiggins, Rockaway Beach, OR

Coming events: See sponsor websites for details

Halloween Trunk-R-Treat, October 26, 4-7 PM: Rockaway Beach Fire Department and Merchants Association

Shop With A Cop fundraiser, November 19, 4 PM: Tillamook Police Department and Friends of Tillamook Police

City Rockaway Beach annual Tree Lighting, November 29 at dusk in the Wayside

HANDCUFFS: CAPTURING HISTORY Number 4 in a 4-part series: Jane Fagan McClain, IPM Board Secretary

1879 – Tower Double Lock

On August 19, 1879, Tower received another in his collection of patents when he designed a double locking handcuff. A key could be turned one way to lock the cuff, then turned in the reverse direction in a second key-hole, thereby freezing the catch in the lock so it could neither be opened, or closed tighter (thus preventing over tightening on a suspect's wrist) until such time as the key were used to open it. The design also reduced the possibility of "shimming", a technique used to escape from handcuffs by threading something such as a thin flat piece of wire over the ratchets. According to handcuff.org, the double locking handcuffs (or at least the earliest models) were "marvels of engineering. They were manufactured to very high tolerances. . . .One could reasonably argue that these handcuffs are the finest handcuffs ever made in America."ⁱ

1882 – The Patent Stop "War"

On September 1, 1882, a patent application was submitted by E. D. Bean for his new design with a "button" which prevented premature locking, which helped avoid situations where an officer accidentally locked his handcuffs before getting them on his suspect.ⁱⁱ

Five days later, on September 6, 1882, John Tower, in conjunction with Henry W. Kahlke, filed their own patent request. Stopping just short of specifically naming Bean, their application stated,

"Efforts have been made to apply a stop in the lock or on the radius bar to prevent this; but the same is not reliable, and can be operated by the prisoner so as to be useless for the purpose intended."

Tower would ultimately sell their new cuffs as "Adjustable Double Lock Handcuffs with the Patent Stop." The rarity of these handcuffs today indicate they likely were not well received.ⁱⁱⁱ

1887 – Tower Detective Handcuffs

In 1887, Tower Handcuffs introduced a model which weighed less, and was less expensive to make. Marketed as Tower Detective Handcuffs, the savings in weight and cost came at the expense of security, as they did not have the double lock, and were easily shimmed for escape. It is believed the Pinkerton Detective Agency used this model, and they were sometimes referred to as Pinkerton Handcuffs.^{iv}

1902 – Tower and Lyon - Union Hardware Models

1902-1904 saw the beginning of the end for Tower Handcuffs. John Tower was the president of a new company located in New York, Tower & Lyon Corporation, in 1902. They made not only handcuffs, but several lines of tools and hardware. By 1904 Union Hardware Company of Torrington, Connecticut, stated they were "in charge" of Tower & Lyon^v, and had acquired Tower and Lyon by 1911.^{vi}

1909 – Tower's Double Lock Plunger Handcuffs

As referenced above, in 1879 Tower designed a double locking handcuff which, while not entirely escape proof, was a boon to the industry. The double locking featured required a second use of a key. On August 8, 1909, "Henry E. Wood, of Bloomfield, New Jersey,

Assignor to Tower & Lyon Company, of New York, N.Y.” was granted a patent which, among other things provided “a manually operable latch tumbler which is entirely independent of the key or of the key tumblers and a . . . lock for handcuffs which is simple in construction and use.”^{vii} Oddly, Tower never made cuffs with the new design.

1912 – Swinging Bow Handcuff – George A. Carney

Easily the most significant advancement in the evolution of handcuffs, other than ratchet closures, was the swinging bow handcuff. The design was the brain child of George A. Carney in 1912. He sold his patent to James Milton Gill, who would become the first president of Peerless Handcuff Company. Carney’s name then fades from handcuff history, with the single exception of a letter dated July 5, 1933, when he wrote a letter to Gill stating

“The writer has designed a new type of handcuff that is key-less, every feature is automatic. This device is so different from any other cuff there is no comparison. I firmly believe that this new type can monopolize the cuff market. . . . I really believe you will be interested.”

Mr. Gill responded two days later on July 7, saying that he saw both advantages and disadvantages, but would be “glad to look it over.” There is no further known communication on the issue, but we do know that Peerless never made a key-less handcuff.^{viii}

The swing-through design “had a bow with teeth that swung 360 degrees through a double steel bottom piece. It continued to pivot through until it hit the wrist.”^{ix} This design ensures that a pair of handcuffs is not accidentally locked prior to use, can be put on a detainee with one hand, only stops its rotation when it closes around a wrist, and does not need to be secured with a key. It was also light to carry and easy to conceal. On the down side, the ratchet style cuff did not have the double lock feature and would continue to tighten around a wrist. Peerless used Tower’s idea from three years earlier, and patented a double lock handcuff which could be activated without a key by pressing a “plunger” similar to that of Tower’s.

1914 – Peerless Handcuff Company

It appears that when James Milton Gill purchased George Carney’s patent for the swing through, it was with the intent of starting his own handcuff company. “Peerless® Handcuff Company was established in 1914 in Springfield, Massachusetts. . . . The new Peerless® handcuff quickly became popular, rendering other types of handcuffs obsolete. Over time, and after the patent expired, the design was copied by most other handcuff manufacturers such as.”**Smith and Wesson**

Yes, Smith and Wesson have a role in the history of handcuffs. Peerless did not have their own factory when they obtained the patent for Carney’s swing-through handcuff, so contracted with Smith and Wesson. When Peerless finally had it’s own production capabilities, Smith and Wesson produced handcuffs similar to Peerless, and sold them under the Smith and Wesson name.^x

And Today

Somewhere I saw the words “The evolution of handcuffs can happen no faster than existing technology” and such is the perfect summation here. At some point every advancement in handcuff technology was the hottest, newest, best. Still, handcuffs have taken from 6000 BC to the late 1700’s, 8,000 years, to progress to what handcuff enthusiast consider “modern” handcuffs – from vines and strips of rawhide to rough cast manacles that were held together with rivets. From the late 1700’s to 1912, barely 200 years, we have progressed from Hiatt Handcuffs and their one-size fits all Darby cuffs to the Peerless swinging bow double locked handcuffs, still essentially the same today. There are different keys and different locations for key holes: rigid hinges, bar hinges, flexible hinges, and chain hinges. We are yet to have handcuffs we can remove without a key, but officers don’t need a key to securely – and safely – handcuff their suspect.

What will the next years see? George Carney’s keyless handcuffs?

There are fascinating handcuff styles which are not referenced here. Watch our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IPMRockaway> and learn about some of them – the Snap, the Bean Cobb, the Twister, Tower’s Thumbcuffs, Bango, and more. Also learn of some of the other companies who make or made, different restraints.

i <http://handcuffs.org/tower/index.html>; <https://tihk.co/blogs/news/14756441-a-history-of-handcuffs>

ii <http://www.handcuffs.org/tower/>

iii *Ibid.*

iv *Ibid.*

v *Ibid.*

vi <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/handcuffsforum/towers-handcuffs-and-union-hardware-co-t7399.html>

vii <https://patents.google.com/patent/US930014A/en>

viii <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/handcuffsforum/george-a-carney-returns-t7005.html>

ix <https://gizmodo.com/the-sordid-history-and-evolution-of-handcuff-design-5845167>

x https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smith_%26_Wesson#CITEREFNichols2002, citing *Nichols, Alex R. (July 31, 2002). A guidebook to handcuffs and other restraints of the world (Paperback). Kingscourt Publishing*



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See part 4 of “Handcuffs: Capturing History” in this issue



Help International Police Museum keep history alive

International Police Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which provides a free interactive experience to visitors young and old. IPM has no paid staff and 100% of your donations go directly to supporting our mission. Your donations allow us to bring the Law Enforcement experience to life for visitors, school children, and other tour groups. Donations may be made directly to the Museum, or online at:

www.internationalpolicemuseum.org

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