

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

IPM successfully opened on May 15, and is having an exciting start to our 10th year. The move into our expanded display space allows us to present displays and uniforms from around the world. We have had over 1000 visitors as of July 15, including international visitors from Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Italy, and Canada. We have also had several current and retired officers come through to visit our displays and leave artifacts for future displays. An officer from Italy, who was traveling with his brother, located us on the Internet. We're happy to see our advertising is reaching out where it should. It's exciting to greet so many new visitors. We are currently working with our landlord and the city to obtain an attractive sign to welcome visitors to IPM



while maintaining the same size and pedestal that the building has now. The current sign is considered irreparable and needs to be replaced. Several people have stopped by, talked about earlier visits to IPM in prior locations, and expressing appreciation for law enforcement and our displays.

New displays include evidence collection, victim / suspect identification, and badges and uniforms from the US and around the world. Returning displays include the Ident-a-Kit from the 1960's, a "Breathalyzer" alcohol detector from the 70s, and dental section. Dental records can be very important since flesh and fingerprints decay, but teeth do not. Also on display is our polygraph machine, which was featured on Mysteries at the Museum TV show in 2019.

We maintained our popular Oregon Boot display and our jail cell. The bars, an actual jail cell door, came from Rocky Butte Jail, (Multnomah County, Portland) which was torn down in 1983. The cell has only three sides because we don't keep children or spouses. It remains the most photographed place in the museum.

A new display is the communications corner, which has a switchboard from the 1950's and numerous telephones and radios. Future displays will include a Police dispatch position and a larger explanation of how police communications are done. Perhaps we can find a way to display the call boxes, those secured telephones used by early police officers on their foot beats, as we have one donated by Retired Chief Miranda of Newport, Oregon. We may even find a way to showcase the fire alarm box he donated.

We have also created an interactive area for children to touch and try some of the early telephone models. This is also a hit with many adults who remember what telephones were like in their youth. Radio communications are also featured. They depict some of the advancements that have occurred, mostly since World War II. The developments during World War II allowed two-way communication to be implemented between mobile units. Prior to that time there were radio cars in

SARGE

The Museum Dog arrives



"Sarge" our museum dog, was found by Secretary McClain guarding our earlier artifacts in storage. She reasoned that if we had a horse, we also needed a dog - one which was child friendly and could help greet people arriving at the museum since "Fred" the horse, generally stays in the background. Sarge, the name on his collar, came to the museum as part of a fund-raising effort during our early years. He sat around guarding the storage area until re-discovered by Ms McClain. While a relatively new addition to our mascot family, Sarge has proven to be a huge success. Children love him and he is giving the jail cell some competition for most photographed area of IPM. Sarge also supervises a water dish for passing pets. Stop by and see Sarge on your next visit.

policing, but generally they were one-way communication from station to car. Early communications were limited to large radios, which had a controlled unit or “head” and separate speaker in the driver’s area and the radio transmitter-receiver was in the trunk. These old radios from the 50’s and the 60’s were about the size of a small suitcase. Current radios are much smaller and contain the transmit, receiving capability, and speaker in a small unit. Portable radios, accepted now as necessary equipment, have gotten smaller and more powerful, allowing them to be easily transported and used. This is a significant help to the officers in their daily activity as well as increasing their safety. Currently police use a broad spectrum of radios, digital communications - such as computers in the car - and cell phone communication. This allows for the transmitting of information and even pictures between officers and the station.

rd s are used today for honor guards and other ceremonial occasions. Swords are also sometimes used to depict an anniversary or other special event, such as the Australian 1994 Sword of Honor on display. That sword celebrates 100 years of the New South Wales, Australia, police force. Many of the commemorative swords are personally purchased by officers of the organization or the public, to display at home or other locations to commemorate the event.

We have some antique firearms displayed as they were used in early police work. None of them will fire modern ammunition. The first police department on record to have issued firearms to its personnel was the Baltimore Maryland Police Department, in 1857. They issued the Colt, 32 caliber, pocket revolver of 1849, which was considered a very modern firearm for its time. This was a cap and ball revolver and did not fire self-contained cartridges. This was followed by revolvers firing five or six individual cartridges in the late 1800’s. Currently most police agencies issue semi-automatic handguns which are both efficient and reliable.

IPM is currently seeking more showcases, so we can expand the number of small artifacts that we have on display. Our last group of showcases came from a marijuana shop that was upgrading its cases, so we were able to purchase seven or eight cases at a very reasonable price. Currently, we are seeking 8-10 matching showcases but have not found anything affordable. Showcases provide a corral in which to display additional male and female uniformed mannequins. We have also brought back the uniform “try on” area for visitors. This gives visitors a chance to try on a real ballistic vest, hats, helmets, and see what the equipment really feels like. Some who pick up the vest think it is lighter than they expected, others think it is much heavier and ask, “do police officers wear this all day?” to which the answer is, “Yes, all day.”

Our board secretary, Jane McClain, who has been part of IPM since its inception, currently manages both the gift shop and the museum. Jane has been heard referring to the museum as her little corner of the world, and welcomes guests as though they are valued friends. She says that some of her favorite moments in the museum are watching the interaction of families when trying on hats and vests, and the new information she learns from visitors when they share their memories and knowledge.

“Sarge” the official museum dog, greets people outside in good weather and inside in bad. Our museum horse “Fred” thought it only fitting that we should also have a museum dog. Sarge provides water for passing pets in a bowl outside the entrance. He is currently competing with the jail cell and children’s interactive area for being the most photographed spot at IPM.

We have much more to do. Some things are moving much slower than anticipated, such as the community room and more displays. We are pleased with the community support and the comments that we have received from the visitors who have been in. IPM looks forward to an exciting summer, with our gift shop and pending new displays. Please stop by when you are in town, and enjoy your stay in Rockaway Beach. Indeed, stop by every time you are in town. There will always be something new.

Significant Cash Donations

Mr. Jim Whittom, Kuna, Idaho

Mr. Fred Morgan, Colorado Springs, Colorado. In memory of Ginny Wortman

Chief Ed Engram (Retired), Ocean Park, Washington

Multiple anonymous donors wishing not to be identified.



Photo Credits Ed Wortman, Jane McClain

Three Little Statues, The Challenge Of Police Service: Ed Wortman, Chief of Police, retired



While I originally wrote this in 2019, I believe it still applies today: There were three little statues that have been on my desk, generally two at a time; they represent police officers and their daily tasks. These statues also represent the polar opposites of police work - which makes the job unique, challenging, rewarding, and frustrating. Two statues are police officers offering a helping hand or talking to a child. From casual observation we are unable to determine if the child is lost, needs other assistance, or is just being guided across a street. What we can determine is that there is no apparent danger here to either the officer or the child. Another statue depicts an officer in tactical gear, with a gun drawn and advancing into a perceived dangerous situation. These statues can be close together, or far apart, depending on the other items I have on my desk. This is reflective of a police officer's day: sometimes only one role is required, and sometimes the officer may be required to shift between roles more than once in a shift. The identity of the department or the gender of the officer does

not matter. Each can happen to any officer, in any department, sometimes more than once during the same shift or tour of duty. The frequency is typically beyond the officer's control.



While officers generally will perform normal or "routine" duties which may include helping people, providing directions or guidance, investigating crimes or violations, and in general meeting society's expectations. Danger, however, may be lurking in situations requiring a different, and sometimes tactical response. An officer is expected to respond to, and take control of, situations which are sometimes physical, emotionally charged, and rapidly evolving. Sometimes I moved the statues around, sometimes I change a male statue for a female one, but I only had room for 2; they had no control over where they were placed, just like the officer on the street. There may be a series of what would be considered normal duties but then someone else forces them into a different or dangerous situation. When I put the statues back, they may be in a different area on my desk, also indicative of how society feels an officer should be able to respond. Able to clear a dangerous situation and then return to "normal" police functions in a seamless fashion, wherever assigned.



This highlights one of the greatest challenges of police work: how does an officer respond to yet protect himself from the human response to trauma and tragedy. People do not reflexively call their doctor, lawyer, or police when they are feeling good or having fun. People turn to the police in times of need, but when the perceived need is resolved or when the same law may be applied to them, they wish for the police to go away. History has a way of being written or rewritten to fit the narrative of either a story or the times. An interesting aside perhaps, during the "taming of the west" many of the "lawmen" were not career law enforcers but were ex-soldiers from the civil war, gamblers, saloon bouncers, or brothel operators who were schooled in violence and willing to take a life if necessary. They were hired for a specific task, generally "taming" a violent town. This was often done with the liberal use of force. It should be noted they were often fired and asked to leave the town once peace was restored. Thus exemplifying the last of what are known as Peel's Principals: "The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them."

Attempts are made to mitigate stress through training. A police officer is expected to make an accurate appraisal of any encounter, often with limited or inaccurate information, and respond in an "appropriate" manner. Which may, of course, depend on the viewpoint of the observer. Contemporary police training places the cadet in mock encounters which are designed to simulate those occurrences, based on the real life experiences of law enforcement officers.

There is no perfect officer. We hire men and women to enforce our agreed upon laws or rules. They have feelings, emotions, and backgrounds we can neither erase nor ignore. They enforce the laws or rules on other citizens who also have feelings, emotions, and backgrounds which frame their feelings about society, order and the obedience to laws. Sometimes these two realities are at odds with each other and can be exacerbated by outside forces for political or financial gain. We are not a perfect society. If we were, we would not need police. But we do need them, and departments do their best to train and equip them to handle the daily challenges the job entails.

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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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