

THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum

320 South Highway 101, PO Box 165, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136



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

The International Police Museum is having an exciting 2025, marking our 10th year anniversary on September 15, 2025. Following our soft opening on May 15 through September 30 we have had 2432 visitors. 2025 has brought us visitors from Italy, Canada, Russia, Spain, Japan, Moldova, Sweden, France, New Zealand, and Mexico along with many visitors residing in the United States. Some of these visitors came specifically to see the police museum. It is gratifying to see that our advertising is paying off. Between our opening 10 years ago and the end of September 30, 2025, over 59,000 visitors have viewed our displays in person and



countless more have viewed the online website or Facebook posts. The IPM website alone recorded 476,770 hits between January 1 and September 30, 2025. Now that IPM has its own space, we expect to expand our displays and outreach in 2026. We currently have 16 showcases and 24 mannequins representing 19 countries. Five of the mannequins are dressed in United States uniforms. Showcase displays include badges, hats, patches, and other artifacts such as communications, weapons, evidence collection, and suspect identification.

Our interactive areas of vintage telephones and the uniform try-on area are very popular. Many young people have never seen a rotary dial telephone or a switchboard which is staffed by a person to direct calls. We will be adding a wider variety of telephones, including an actual Police Call Box, an old pay phone, and an original 1940 "party line" wall phone in wood cabinet. The uniform try-on is popular with kids of all ages. Families dress up in uniforms, hats, and helmets from around the world - and even a riot shield.

We cannot say that 2025 has been without challenges.

Our community room is behind schedule. The area is currently full of uniforms, artifacts and supplies. Several things have taken longer than anticipated and some ideas or designs have simply been overtaken by events and postponed. We were fortunate to receive a grant for furniture for the community room, for example, but have been advised by the vendor that they are unable to meet the price originally quoted. They remind us that their quote was only good for 30 days and was pre-tariff pricing. The 30-day period was overtaken by the normal timeframe from grant opening to award. We are developing an alternative plan and are confident we can stay within budget. First, however, we must find alternative storage for the items currently housed there, refinish the floor, paint, repair one outside door, and in general upgrade the appearance of the area which was a blacksmith shop for 13 years. The lighting will be improved, hopefully with a grant that may open in late December. These improvements will help to make the area more usable for both IPM and others. We will post updates on the website as we progress.

Our new sign, which replaced the old cabinet on the existing pedestal, was funded through a grant from the City of Rockaway Beach and Visit Tillamook Coast. It was installed October 21. We were disappointed to miss the summer season without our new sign, but manufacture and timing precluded getting it earlier. Security Sign out of Portland did a



SALLY

The Switchboard Operator



Meet Sally this switchboard operator who often works late into the night. No, we don't name all the mannequins in the museum, but some are special. Like Sarge, the dog, Fred, the horse, and now Sally, our switchboard operator. Sally is operating a vintage switchboard last used in Salem, Oregon. Probably retired in the early 1960s. At that time, many areas did not have the automatic switching or extensions for multiple telephones within a building or multiple buildings. There was no "enter the extension you wish to reach" as used today. So, many large businesses and governmental agencies had their own switchboard to connect with areas both inside and outside their buildings. We hope Sally will be joined soon by her friend, Debbi the radio dispatcher. The two of them will show the full circle of police communication from the telephone call received, to the officer being dispatched.

good job of manufacturing and installation. The replacement was timely as the old cabinet was found to be badly deteriorated on the inside. Our new sign, lit at night, will make it easier for visitors to find us in the future.

IPM continues its outreach to the community, advertising in local media and making presentations when asked. Director Wortman and Secretary McClain presented to the Tillamook County Pioneers meeting at the Rockaway Lions Club on October 12. We are actively trying to engage schools and other community groups. It is always rewarding when someone comes into the museum and indicates that they saw something on the website or other media that sparked their interest. Several adults have come through and returned later with their children or grandchildren. By keeping the museum free, we do not have to compete with buying the children ice cream cones or coming to an educational opportunity.

As we welcome visitors to the museum, much of the work continues behind the scenes. There is a lot of painting, cleaning, and just general upkeep that must be done in the old building to maintain a pleasant atmosphere for visitors. The new roof is keeping us dry and some damaged ceiling tiles have been replaced. Many of our board members have contributed their time to cleaning, painting, taking down old fixtures, putting up new displays and in general, just making sure that the building is safe at hospitable. Also behind the scenes is our inventory project, stewarded by Mia Fagan-McClain, our inventory specialist. She has catalog over 5,400 items, perhaps 15-20% of the collection. With the help of our board secretary, Jane McClain, and the savvy of our Webmaster Paul Tichy, all inventoried patches, badges, handcuffs, and hats automatically upload to the "Explore" tab for viewing on our website. Jane manages daily operations, interacts with visitors, and maintains the gift shop. She has instituted a digital guest book which allows people to sign in, make comments and request copies of the newsletter. This is a great help in that we no longer have to retype Email addresses for people requesting the newsletter.



IPM is appreciative of the support we have received from the community and other museums. We have received numerous artifact donations from both US and foreign law enforcement officers and retired officers. Several items have been received from the Spokane Regional Law Enforcement Museum in Spokane, Washington. It has been fun to receive patches and challenge coins from both in-state and out-of-state officers who have visited IPM. We are proud to be recognized as a worthy repository of such items.

IPM will close for winter, December 21, 2025, and reopen March 1, 2026. This will provide time for museum staff to reset displays, potentially move the jail cell area to a better location and provide other valuable maintenance time. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year in 2026!

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving: IPM will be closed on Thursday November 27th (Thanksgiving)

City Christmas Tree Lighting, November 28 at dusk in the Wayside, Rockaway Beach

Holiday Bazaar: Rockaway Beach City Hall November 28-29-30. (Museum will be open)

Annual Winter Closure, December 21, 2025, to March 1, 2026

Artifact Donations

Benton County Sheriff Uniforms: Sheriff Tom Croskery, retired, Kennewick, WA

Ports Canada Uniform and artifacts: Superintendent Mike Toddington, retired, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Alaska State Troopers Coin: Chief Pat Kasnick, AST and POSPD retired, now living in New York,

Ports Canada and BC Police artifacts: Inspector Ian Whittington, retired, Victoria, BC, Canada

Books; "Oregon State Police", "Journey Across America", and "Water Into Wine," for gift Shop: Steven Robert Heine; Author

Books; "Trapped in the System" for gift shop; Rosemary Reynolds; Author

Artifacts of Detective Sullivan, San Francisco Police: Stephanie Sullivan, San Jose, CA

Wanted Poster, Patty Hearst, published in Spanish; Ms. Catherine Hutchinson, Phoenix, AZ

Patches and Challenge Coins from visiting officer.

Significant Cash Donations

Cheryl Boudreau

Multiple anonymous donors wishing not to be identified.

Article Sources: (1) <https://www.gmpmuseum.co.uk/collection-item/rattle>

(2) <https://www.popularmechanics.com/culture/a32316416/acme-whistles-made-here>

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

(4) <https://www.motorolasolutions.com>

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

Communication is the most important part of any operation, organization, or society. Without communication nobody knows what's going on, no information is exchanged, and no feedback can be given. The police officer on the beat must be able to communicate with headquarters and other police officers. Management must also be able to communicate with field officers and citizens. Everyone must know what is happening around them or let others know what is happening in the district or if help is needed.

The original communication of night watchman in the early days was pounding their staff on the cobblestones. This could be heard quite a distance, to wake up the neighborhood which was their primary responsibility. The pounding of the staff and their "hue and cry" would arouse the citizens to the threat or emergency. The watchman's primary duty was fire watch, theft, or invasion. Cities became more populous, adding more traffic on the roads at night, where horses' hooves and other things clapping on the cobblestones made the pounding of the staff ineffective. Watchmen turned to other means, some turned to an item we now look upon as a child's toy, a wooden rattle.

While the origin of the rattle as a noise maker is somewhat uncertain, one theory is it came from the British Navy, because naval forces found that it was its "electric arc" like sound could be heard above the noise of battle. The rattle was reasonably compact, did not require special skill and therefore was effective in communicating an alarm. The sound is quite electric and does wake people up because it is different than the clapping of horses or the pounding of the staff. The rattle became known as the "Victorian police rattle" when the first Metropolitan Police were issued a rattle, a whistle of sorts (if available), a club and in some cases a sword. The rattle's simple design allowed it to continue well into the late 1800's, according to the Greater Manchester Police Museum. (1)



Another effective tool that was developed in the 1800s was the metropolitan police whistle. Whistles have been recorded since the early Egyptian times, when two reeds were put together in the hand and blown through to make a piercing sound. Whistles were smaller than rattles and were preferred because of size, but each sound was different, some a high-pitched warble and some a shrill screech. Believing there was a need for a specific, standardized whistle which could be heard over long distances, the London Metropolitan Police in London put out a request in 1870 for a "police whistle." Desired to be durable, distinctive in tone, and which could be heard up to a mile away. Joseph Hudson of Birmingham, who had been making and selling whistles with moderate success, submitted a whistle of his design. "He wanted a distinctive sound so that anybody could hear and think, "That's the



police." According to Simon Topman, managing director of ACME Whistle Company, the current evolution of the J. Hudson Company. (2) Hudson's whistle known as the "Metropolitan," is a simple tubular design whistle, distinctive in tone, has no moving parts, and is still in use today in many commonwealth countries, 152 years after its introduction. ACME whistle currently manufactures over 5 million whistles annually, primarily for use in sports competition. In the US a wide variety of whistles are used, many patterned after the successful ACME "Thunderer" originally developed by Hudson/ACME for referees at sports competition. (2)



The staff, rattle and whistle all had drawbacks, they only communicated one direction, they could only sound the alarm and arouse the populace. Yes, you could vary the whistle blasts, or you could vary the rattle spins, but to get somebody to understand exactly what was needed, other than simply raising an alarm, you need two-way communication. Police attempted to remedy this by using telephones, located in strategically placed call boxes, but that meant you had to go to a specific place to make the call, summon aid or get an assignment.

Police radios, as we know them today, did not come into common usage until after the second world war (WWII). The first police radio car in the US is believed to be in Bayonne, NJ, in 1933. (3) Early radios were very limited in capacity, fragile and difficult to maintain. WWII developed radios which were more durable, reliable, and ensured communication back-and-forth between both moving vehicles and the station. Initial police radios were only installed in the car. Once the officer left the car, they were out of touch with the station and others. As late as 1970, in some areas of the US, vehicle tethered radios were the only communication available to the officer. Available portables were heavy, expensive and like other early radios, not always reliable. Today's portable radios are reliable, robust and compact. (4)



Communication is one key to police success; it allows both officers and citizens to know what is happening. Today's police use a large variety of communication tools, including radio, Wi-Fi data, cell phones, and live video. A significant amount of variety, not available to the early police officer.



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WE HAVE OUR NEW SIGN



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

Back issues of the IPM SCANNER are available on the web site