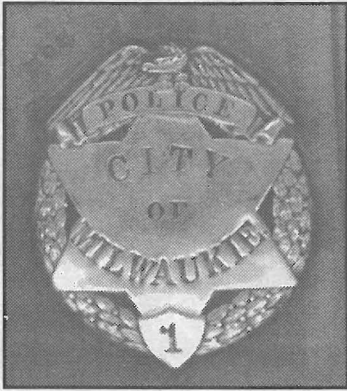


Milwaukie Police Department



A Short History with a Tradition of Service, Honor and Dedication

Written by MPD Officer C.J. (Butch) Bondiatti
1997

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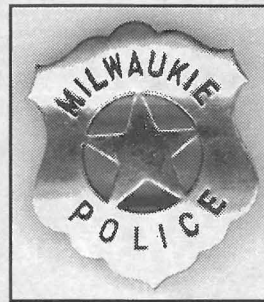
Milwaukie Marshal Jess A. Keck (1907)

In the mid-late 1840's, hopeful pioneers wanting a new life in the west, traveled the Oregon Trail which ended near the present town of Oregon City, Oregon.

In 1850, some pioneers settled on the east bank of the Willamette River between Oregon City and Portland. This place provided a natural water highway that flowed into the mighty Columbia River. Milwaukie — named after Milwaukee, Wisconsin — was a perfect spot to distribute the great riches of the Pacific Northwest.

In 1903, the citizenry decided to incorporate Milwaukie and provide those public services a growing town needed.

A city council was elected and appointed Jess Keck as Milwaukie's first town marshal. Keck was responsible for enforcing town ordinances enacted by the city council. He patrolled the dirt streets of early Milwaukie alone, dealing with every crime the small growing town was experiencing. Some law breakers were arrested and placed into private jails to await their appearance before the Justice of the Peace.



In 1917, a formal police department was formed naming Sam Riley as the first Police Chief. Ten other men have served as Milwaukie police chief since Riley.

Through the 1920's and 1930's, the police department consisted of the chief and two marshals. At times, the Clackamas County Sheriff was called to assist in serving civil papers, making arrests and conducting investigations.

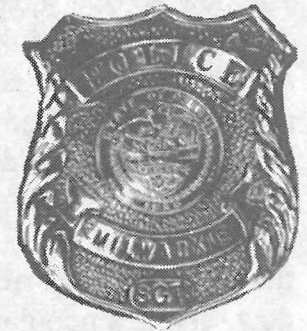
In 1938, the city outgrew the rented city hall downtown and asked the voters to build a new city hall at Main and Harrison. The new building would include a police station, along with a jail or library. On election day, the voters chose adding a library instead of a jail.

In 1947, the city bought its first new police car, a black 1947 Chevrolet Sedan. A simple radio system was later installed to speed up response times to citizens' calls. Prior to radio, calls were dispatched by two red lights positioned atop poles in the downtown area. These lights alerted the night watch officer that a call was holding and he should contact dispatch.

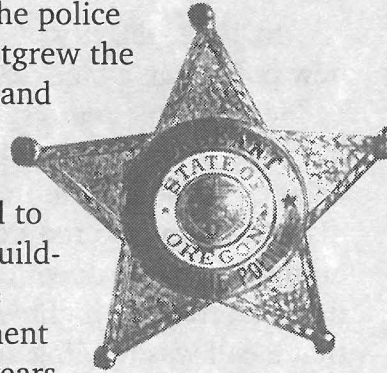
In 1950, Milwaukie celebrated its 100th year. The population had grown to 5,000 people. The department was increased to 4 officers, including the police chief.

On December 31, 1953, tragedy struck the police department with the first on-duty officer death. Sergeant Jim Worrell was overcome by carbon monoxide fumes while seated inside a patrol car parked downtown.

In the 1960's, Milwaukie's continued growth with surrounding annexations required more officers. Fourteen officers served the growing community.



In 1971, the police department outgrew the city hall office and moved into an old house that a citizen willed to the city. This building housed the police department for nearly 20 years.



In 1990, voters approved a \$5.5 million dollar levy for a new Public Safety Building.

In 1993, the department moved to its new location at 3200 SE Harrison Street. The new 26,000 square foot building is designed for Milwaukie's future growth and easy access for citizens. Police, fire-rescue and enhanced 911 services are handled 24 hours a day from this building.

The police department has come a long way from a one-man department to the current 34 sworn police officers who now service a population of 22,000.

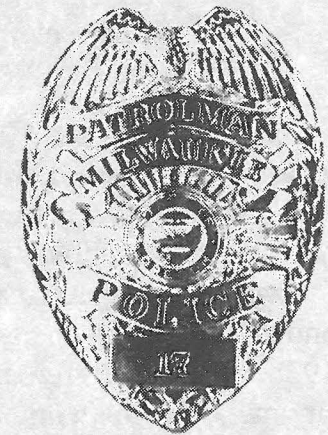
In 1994, Chief Collier brought Community Policing to the department as the basic operating philosophy. This philosophy promotes interaction between the police and citizens in finding various means of problem solving techniques through a cooperative effort.

Officers are encouraged to expand beyond the normal police functions and develop relationships and programs which benefit the community.

In the year 2000, Milwaukie celebrates its 150th year. Planning for growth and utilizing technology are at the forefront to provide more efficient response to calls for service.

Tri-Met Light Rail Transit Center, Milwaukie River Front Complex and surrounding annexations, are just a few of the proposed enhancements that will make Milwaukie a major hub in the Portland metro area. As the city grows, so does the police department. We are committed to our present and future mission:

“To provide the public with effective law enforcement and community-based, related services 24 hours a day.”



If you wish further information about our agency, or you have any contributions to its history, contact Officer Butch Bondiatti, voice mail: (503) 786-7476.