EARLY HISTORY

The land area presently known as Elizabeth, N.J. was for many centuries prior to European exploration, the home of several native Indian tribes, including Mattona, Mamamowaouc and Cowescomen. They called the area Scheyichbi. These Indians were sod house dwellers, whose principal occupation was hunting and fishing in the marshlands. Little is recorded of these people but all indications reveal that they were originally a peaceful and industrious group that had settled with little nomadic tendencies.

On September 3, 1609, the two masted boat named the "Half Moon," under charter to the Dutch East Indies Company and captained by Henry Hudson, anchored in Sandy Hook Bay. The mixed crew of ten English and ten Dutch sailors were attempting to find passage to China and the Indies by a Northeast route.

Three days later a long boat, under the command of John Coleman and five seaman, sailed from the anchorage up the Arthur Kill, past Elizabeth and Staten Island, into Newark Bay and the Hudson River. This was the first glimpse of Elizabeth by other than a native and was quite costly for Coleman, who was killed by an Indian arrow.

In 1613, Dutch merchants opened a trading post in Manhattan, bartering with the local Indians for animal furs and skins. This general area of New York Bay included Elizabeth and Staten Island. Because of native hostility, there was no serious attempt at cultivating the soil or building settlements until about 1623, when the Dutch attempted colonization of the area between Manhattan and the Passaic River. Relations between the Dutch and the Indians steadily deteriorated until 1655, when the natives slaughtered settlers at Hoboken and Staten Island, bringing to an end most Dutch settlement in the new world.

In 1660, the Duke of York, brother of Charles the II, obtained a charter for lands that ran from Maine to Long Island including the areas settled by the Dutch. On September 6, 1663, he and an English fleet sailed into New York Harbor and forced the Dutch to surrender without a fight. A new era was coming for Elizabeth.

The area we now know as Elizabeth was purchased from the Sagamore Indians on October 28, 1664 by John Bailey, Daniel Denton and Luke Watson. They paid 20 fathoms of trading cloth, 2 made coats, 2 guns, 2 kettles, 10 bars of lead, 20 handfuls of powder and to deliver one year later, 400 fathoms of white wampum. The authority to make the purchase was given by Richard Nicholls, the Governor of New York, appointed by the Duke of York. Nicholls insisted that the area be settled, Denton later sold his interest to John Baker and John Ogden.

At the time it was not known that on June 24, 1664, the Duke of York had conveyed to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, all the land which would later be called New Jersey. In August 1665 George's brother, Philip Carteret and a large group of settlers arrived in "New Jersey," and established control over the disputed land. This signaled the beginning of formal law and order in the area. The settlement was named after Sir George's wife, Elizabeth Carteret.
Law Enforcement 1665 - 1857

In colonial days law enforcement duties were charged to the Sheriff and the magistrate’s constable both appointed by the Governor. They caught runaway slaves and indentured servants, served writs and managed the courts. The first constable of Elizabeth was Luke Watson, appointed February 1666, by virtue of his leadership abilities. Watson’s house is depicted on the city seal, and he is reportedly buried on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church on Broad Street in Elizabeth.

In 1668 the first General Assembly met in Elizabeth, the colonial capital. The Assembly enacted laws, called the “Capital Acts” which set severe punishments for crimes considered serious by the settlers. The common sentence for such crimes as arson, murder, rape, robbery, burglary and for being found to be a witch, was death by hanging. Actions deemed less serious such as perjury, conspiracy, night walking and drinking in a tap room after nine o’clock called for public humiliation. This was accomplished by placing the prisoner in stocks or pillories for a specified period of time. Other methods of punishment were banishment from the community or whipping. Another law was passed as a defense measure against the local Indians, which required all males between 16 & 60 to be provided with firearms. Luke Watson was called upon to lead this military company named the Jersey Rifles. These new responsibilities required Watson to relinquish his job as constable to William Pilles. A subsequent change in the town’s charter in 1739 expanded the size of the force charged with the duty of enforcing the law to a High Constable and six Petit Constables.

In 1746 the College of New Jersey was founded in Elizabethtown, near the site of the present library. It was moved to Princeton in 1756, becoming what is now Princeton University.

During the Revolutionary War, Elizabethtown being located on the direct route between New York and Philadelphia, was the scene of many battles and skirmishes. The constables, appointed by the crown and sworn to uphold Tory laws, were often in sympathy with local citizens, causing considerable conflict. Then as now when unpopular laws must be enforced, the officers did their duty. The first of many crowd control events that would have to be performed was in 1792 when George Washington sailed from Elizabeth to New York for his Inauguration as our first President.

This type organization (appointed constables) remained in effect until September 2, 1811 when Mayor Caleb Halsted, Jr. and council passed an ordinance organizing a “Watch and Guard to police the Borough of Elizabethtown.” These men were essentially town criers, who carried a “rattle” to summon help if needed. $250.00 was appropriated to defray watch expenses.
About 1845 Mayor David Narr, taking the lead from New York City and Newark, established a “police” department. This first police unit was actually a night watch of two or three men from each ward, a number of constables and an elected marshal. The marshal and constable usually worked days, being relieved at night by the city watch. They served warrants and made arrests and were paid on a per diem basis.

Organized Police Force 1858-1875

With the incorporation of the city came a change in the form of government and the organization of a police department was one of the first matters addressed. City Council passed an ordinance on October 5, 1858 creating the police department. It provided for the appointment of a chief and assistant chief, and conferred on Mayor Elias Darby, the “general superintendency” of the police department.

December 9, 1858 the city council appointed Walter S. Miller, Chief of Police at a salary of $150 a year. Jabez B. Cooley, who was also appointed served as assistant Chief of Police until 1860, when he was elected to the Assembly. He was replaced as Assistant Chief by George F. Hoover. The city at this time was divided into three wards. Ten special policemen were appointed from each ward. They were not required to do regular patrol service but were called on Saturday nights, Sundays and holidays. When on duty they received $1.50 per day. They were also required to serve warrants, receiving sixty cents for each warrant served.

Because of a robbery and beating of a cashier at the New Jersey Transportation and Central Railroad Company at Union Station on E. Broad Street, the first night shift was established. At this time in history a crime of this nature caused great public concern. A reward for the capture of the people responsible, was offered by the Governor. Then, like now, police actions are dictated by public sentiment. Assignment to the night shift was on a rotation basis. This shift was enlarged on July 2, 1860, with three men being used, to patrol the area of Broad and Water Streets (now Elizabeth Avenue).

One of the men appointed was Henry Miller, born in Newark in 1831. In 1863 he took a leave of absence from Elizabeth and joined Company D, Thirteenth New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, and served two years in the Civil War. In April 1865 he returned to Elizabeth Police Department and served until 1908, when he retired at age 77!

The city underwent a redistricting on April 4, 1861 changing from three wards to six. Since the department was also setup on the three ward concept, changes were necessary. Six men were selected from each of the six wards, thus increasing the total manpower from 30 men to 36.
On May 15, 1861 John M. Morris was appointed chief by the City Council. Edward Bedell succeeded Mr. Hoover as the assistant chief of the department. Upon his appointment Chief Morris initiated a new system. For the first time records were kept; the names of policemen were entered into log books. The new chief petitioned the city council to fit up the basement of the fire house on Broad Street to serve as a “lock-up”, as well as a “tramps” lodging house. The position of keeper of the station house for the traveling poor was also established at a salary of $150.00. The City Council was further persuaded to construct a new firehouse with station house accommodations in the lower ward of the city to serve as a 2nd precinct. This station, located at the corner of Franklin and First Streets contained two cells which functioned as a lockup. Prior to this lockup being established prisoners had to be transported to the Broad Street firehouse. Since most of the arrests made were drunkenness or breach of peace and prisoners were either unable to walk or rendered that way by the arresting officer, some type of cart or wagon had to be used. Thus came about the term “Carted off to Jail.”

Walter S. Miller was appointed to the position of chief on May 2, 1864 with a salary increase to $400.00. Miller’s second term as chief was short lived. A series of burglaries during the winter of 1865 led to dissatisfaction with the management of the department and in March 1865 Chief Miller was succeeded by John Keron.

There were also two murders in Elizabeth during this time. The first involved William Grady, a 25 year old Irish immigrant and his accomplice George Dixon. The second was committed by J. Glennon, a 30 year old “hard working fellow who had a dissipated wife.”

During April 1865, Grady and Dixon beat and then drowned Fergus Collins in the Elizabeth River. Grady fled the city and joined the Union Army where he later confessed to his lieutenant and was returned to Elizabeth for trial. They were found guilty on January 13, 1866. Dixon, who testified for the State, received twenty years in State Prison, while Grady was executed on April 11, 1866 by Sheriff Bonnell.

On April 26, 1865 James Glennon came home to his “Castle Garden” apartment on Morris Avenue near Westfield Avenue to find his wife drunk and supper prepared for him. At his trial he said he choked her “for about a minute” and then left the scene. When Prosecutor Frelinghuysen (later U. Senator), took out his pocket watch and showed how long a minute was, it didn’t take long for the jury to convict. He was also hanged by Sheriff Bonnell at the Union County Jail April 26, 1866, one year after the murder.

On July 4, 1866 the police department had its first parade and inspection. The officers were outfitted in uniform blouses, caps, and belts. In November of the same year the police committee authorized the purchase of 30 winter overcoats at a price of $1 dollars each.

Among the nine policemen hired in 1869 was John Henry Fatty, later known as Fadde, of Franklin Street, an independent teamster. While making delivery on Marshall Street during the first weeks of the Civil War, he heard of Lincoln’s call for volunteers. Leaving his horse and wagon at the delivery location, he enlisted in the Zouaves of Jersey City. The irate merchant made Faddy’s mother drive their team home! He fought in twelve battles including Bull Run and Drury’s Bluff, where he was wounded and captured by Confederates. After escaping and being recaptured, he was imprisoned at the infamous Libby Prison in Virginia. After his appointment to the force, he spent many years walking the streets known as “Quality Hill.” This 1860 - 1890 fashionable area bordered Pearl Street, the Pennsylvania Railroad, Spring Street and the Elizabeth River.

In 1886 he surprised a group of burglars on South Broad Street. In the violent struggle that followed, his revolver misfired and he was severely beaten and left for dead. After his recovery, the residents of his “beat” purchased a new nickel pearl revolver for his use. He carried the weapon until his retirement in 1912. He died in 1917 at age 77, leaving his wife and 11 children. A statue of Charles, was killed in the explosion of the U.S. Maine in Havana Harbor in 1898; the Maine memorial in Jackson Park was dedicated in his honor.
Prior to 1866 prisoners were arraigned before two police justices, also called squires or justice of the peace. One held court uptown and the other downtown. On September 29, 1866, City Council voted to turn the downtown court, located in the first ward into cell. In 1878 the Police Court was established at city hall. The first presiding judge was Lieutenant Waters Furman. He served in that capacity until his death on September 29, 1890 at the age of eighty-one! During Furman's twenty-two year career he missed only three days from work. It is interesting to note that Furman began his police career at the age of fifty-nine.

1876 - 1899

On April 6, 1876 Schauble's Hotel on Trumbull Street was robbed by Michael Geignan. Patrolman John Dixon was given information that the suspect had entered a storm sewer near that location and went in after him. Dixon searched the sewer intermittently for two days before locating and arresting Geignan!

The first reported death of an off-duty Elizabeth officer occurred on July 30, 1876. While walking to work, Patrolman John P. Bickle (36), was struck and killed on the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks near his 850 Pearl Street home. Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, he left a wife and four children. He was appointed in February 1869.
During 1877 Rules and Regulations were approved and adopted by Mayor Robert W. Townley and chief. According to the 110 page leather bound book, officers could not walk together or talk to each other unless they had “important police business” to discuss. Carrying a walking cane on duty was reason for dismissal. The rules also covered legal powers and duties of policemen, fatherly advice to young officers, and excerpts of City Ordinances and State Laws. An officer could not be appointed if he suffered from rheumatism or “fits of any kind.” They were also forbidden from climbing on or hitching any horse to a lamppost. Drunks that were minding their own business were not to be arrested. The officer was instructed to take an Elizabeth resident home whenever possible.

In June 1877 the City Council gave Chief Keron authority to establish a rogues gallery. Pictures of all criminals were taken by area photographer John G. Hall and indexed in frames and albums. Thus, Elizabeth was one of the first departments in the state to establish an “identification” unit.

On May 15, 1884 Frederick “Fritz” Hess was appointed a patrolman. Born on a prairie in Putnam County, Illinois on November 12, 1855, he served as a fireman and insurance agent before his appointment. Shortly after being hired, Hess was sitting out a rain storm at a fellow officer's North Elizabeth home, when a burglar entered and ransacked the home while Hess sat on the porch. Hearing a glass break, Hess chased the burglar and captured him but could not “take the collar” because he was off post. He waited until the owner/officer came home and gave the arrest to him! During his career, Hess patrolled on foot, horseback, bicycle and motorcycle. An expert marksman, he was assigned to protect presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan when he visited the city.

The New Jersey Legislature approved the State’s first pension act on March 31, 1887. It called for retirement of officers aged 60, with twenty years service. It also called for half pay for service connected disability.

During the first week of March 1888, the famous “Blizzard of '88” occurred. The storm, which killed several residents, caused the city to come to a complete stand-still. No trains or coaches could be used and even horse drawn sleds had considerable difficulty. The drifts reached over six feet and the Singer Company could not get coal from the railroad cars to fire up the foundry. On Second Street, Officers Charles Jones and Robert O'Shea found a little girl named Ford stuck in the snow and nearly dead. She had become disabled while attempting to deliver her father's lunch to the huge Singer's factory on First Street.

The storm had ended and the roads became somewhat passable by March 14, 1888 when Mayor Jose Grier, MD and the City Council appointed Harry C. Austin, Chief of Police and William Brant, Captain. Chief Austin and Captain Brant both Civil War Vets immediately introduced features of the military model policing. Rigid discipline along with an authoritarian and hierarchical organization became the benchmark for the Elizabeth Police Department. This deployment of the military analogy could be considered a reform technique commonly used by first wave reformers of this time period. This assumption is reinforced by the fact that these military men took office after a six year term by a politico.
During the Civil War, Brant received the Congressional Medal of Honor. One day after being temporarily promoted to Captain, Company B, 1st New Jersey Regiment, Brant and his company charged the heavily defended Confederate trenches at Petersburg, Virginia. Captain Brant captured the battle flag of the 46th North Carolina Regiment and the flag of General A.P. Hill. The New Jersey regiment fought in twenty-two battles and witnessed Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Captain Brant died March 5, 1898 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Hillside.

One of Captain Brant's first duties was on March 19, 1888 when Captain McLain of the schooner "Harvester" reported a "Turk by the name of Nick" stabbed the first mate in a mutiny. Captain Brant "revolver in hand" and officers Jones and O'Shea rowed out to the boat and arrested the man. The mate named John Anderson, nearly lost his thumb in the assault. Word of the incident spread quickly and by the time the officers returned to land, a crowd had gathered and followed the group to the station house at First and Franklin.

On December 1, 1888 Luke Matson, who is considered by some to be one of the best detectives in the city's history, was appointed a patrolman; he would serve downtown until his retirement on February 5, 1925. Among his most notable arrests were members of the famous Y.O. Gang. These were pirates who sailed on barges and nightly raided and pillaged coal barges and freighters docked at Front Street. The gang was convicted and sentenced to 150 - 190 years in Prison.

By 1889, there were 37,764 people residing in Elizabeth and the Police Department of Chief Henry C. Austin included 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 3 Sergeants and 35 Patrolmen. Beats were only ten miles in length and an officer could cover that in 3 hours.

On February 5, 1889 the Elizabeth Police Mutual Aid Association was formed with John P. Smith as President. The association had all forty-two members of the Elizabeth Police as members. It's purpose was to provide aid to any officer injured, disabled or killed.
On January 1, 1891 Mayor John Rankin and the City Council appointed George Channing Tenney Chief of Police. This appointment could also be considered a reform technique, it was the first instance where the selection of chief was made from within the force.

Also on January 1, 1891 John P. Long was appointed captain. He was born in Elizabeth on September 25, 1856 and had previously been a machinist with the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Placed in command of the 2nd precinct, he was commended for breaking up and arresting a number of lawless bands who were operating in that area. He died April 30, 1904.

On April 1, 1891 City Council approved resolution stating “the Chief of Police shall appo Sergeants from the police force and he shall redi them to the rank of patrolmen when in his opini such reduction is conducive to the efficiency of force.” The resolution further states “The Chief sh not appoint more than three Sergeants without approval of the Police Committee and by the cons of the City Council.” The resolution did not prov for increased pay for Sergeants; they would rece the same pay as patrolmen, $2.50 a day for ma more years. Prior to this time the department r roundsmen performing supervisory duties.
On June 1, 1893, the annual police parade was held, followed by a "sumptuous affair" at the City Hall market dining room. There were over two hundred guests at the dinner. Prior to the parade the department and city officials gathered for a photograph on the side of the First Precinct at Franklin and First Streets. This photo is the only one known to exist of this first building constructed for police work in Elizabeth.

During September 1896 Elizabeth became one of the first New Jersey police department to affiliate with the Policemen’s Benevolent Association (PBA #4). Patrolman John C. Lucas was the first president. Many years the group met at Quien’s Hall, 247 Elizabeth Avenue.
The 20th CENTURY... 1900 - 1920

During 1900, William J. Martin became the city's first mounted policeman. He would be followed five years later by Thomas Condron, George Rabig, Fred Hess, John Talbot, John Coughlin and Peter Dempsey. When the "bridle and saddle" unit was disbanded years later because of the use of motorcycles, the horses and equipment were sold to the Newark Police.

During June 1901, John Ohrenberger (Detective Captain), Patrick Brogan (Detective Captain), James A. Ward (Detective Sergeant), Joseph Reitemayer and George Ullrich (Rounds Sergeants), George Rabig (License Sergeant), and James Moran were appointed patrolmen by Mayor Mack and the council. The following ranks were in use: chief, captain, sergeant/roundsman, patrolman, and chanceman. The roundsman was actually a walking sergeant assigned to patrol a district supervising his men. The title usually indicated a man who made "rounds," rather than working the desk at headquarters. The chanceman was considered a special officer who would fill in for regular officers who were out sick or otherwise not available for duty. Before Civil Service (1910), when an opening occurred on the force, all appointments were made from the chance squad.

In August 1904, John J. O'Leary was appointed Captain in charge of the Second Precinct succeeding John Long who died in April of that year. He would hold that post until his retirement in 1928. Captain O'Leary born in Macroom, County Cork, Ireland on June 24, 1863 was appointed to the force on August 1, 1895.
The Daily Journal of December 2, 1904 reported the police committee authorized a new pay scale the department. It would be the first raise for patrolmen in over twenty years! Officers with less than years service would receive $2.40 a day, over two years service earned $2.65 a day. Sergeants and detectives would now receive $2.90 a day and the Justice of the Peace went up to $900 per year. No other raises were reported.

In February of 1905 some officers were reassigned, among them James “Archie” Covell. When appointed, Covell weighed 365 lbs. Each day, his daughter Jeanette (Olson) was paid 5 cents to shine shoes and button his mammoth coat. She died in 1995 at age 103!

Shortly after these assignments were made, Sergeant Shipman died. He had served as a watchman (policeman) since before the Civil War, working at the Jenkins oilcloth factory on Williamson Street during the day and as a watchman on Saturday and Sundays. After service as a sergeant with the 2nd Regiment during the war, he returned to Elizabeth and became a full-time policeman. He eventually attained the rank of captain and at the time of his death on February 8, 1905 was a sergeant at headquarters. His great-great grandson, William Egg, retired as a sergeant with the Elizabeth Police in the 1980’s.

The end of 1905 saw the creation of Elizabeth’s bicycle squad. On December 1, 1905 William Leppert, a 37 year old delicatessen owner from Broad Street, was appointed (Truant) Police Officer and assigned to the bicycle unit. He worked the North Elizabeth/Elmora district until his retirement in 1925.

Leppert’s father owned a boarding house at 84 Elizabeth Avenue. During the 1870’s the house was often visited by the Mexican General Antonio Santa Anna, victor at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. Leppert often discussed these visits with people on his beat.
During Christmas 1907, Officer Healy became Elizabeth’s first fixed traffic post cop. After a Cranford citizen was killed at Broad and East/West Grand Streets, merchants requested an officer be permanently stationed. He remained at this post for many years until re-assigned to the bicycle unit and the detective bureau. As a plainclothesman he made several important arrests including two for murder. The detective was on disability in 1925 because of deafness. Healy, born November 1, 1872 was the father of six children.

In 1907 an act by the State created the Police and Firemen’s Pension Fund. It was not until April 6, 1920 that the legislature passed an amendment providing for a widow’s pension. Two widows of officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, were denied their husband’s pension and had to sue the city. Patrolman Robert A. Paton who was killed in a holdup bandits and Captain John T. Hiney who died on October 21, 1918 as a result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident were denied pensions. During this time even pay for loss of time due to injuries on duty was voted on by the police commissioners on a case by case basis.

Records available from 1910 indicate the department’s staff included: 1 chief; 2 captains; 4 detective sergeants; 11 sergeants; 2 detectives; 2 patrol drivers (prisoner wagons); 3 bicycle officers; four mounted men and 46 patrolmen. Total staff was 75 officers. These figures include the twenty-five men hired September 1, 1910 from the first civil service list for Elizabeth Policemen.

On October 15, 1910 the annual police inspection and parade was held. The department assembled at Jackson Park for the inspection and parade up to Broad Street, then back to the Turner’s Hall on Seventh Street. Seventy-three officers participated in the parade, including detective sergeants Luke Matson and Francis McGrail who rode in a borrowed automobile. The mayor was Victor Mravlag. Some members of the force gathered for a group photograph at Saint Patrick’s Church. This photograph eventually became a postcard, pictured left.
The Elizabeth Police Mutual Aid Association's annual train excursion (pictured right) to Highlands was held on July 20, 1911; over 4,000 people boarded trains for the one hour ride to the beach! The crowds were so large that as the first train pulled into the Central Railroad's Broad Street station, a "polish woman [who was pushed toward the track] was snatched from almost certain death by the arm of Plainclothesman Ward."

The first parade and inspection in three years occurred on June 10, 1914 in Scott Park. Led by the mounted unit, "Nonpared Fife and Drum Corps," and Officer Frank "Buddy" Lehman carrying the flag, six platoons of police marched from Scott Park to the Arch and then to City Hall. A reception followed at Gordon's Hall.

Prior to 1915, police affairs were administered by a committee appointed by City Council. This system often brought public criticism of political supervision of the police department. The general election of 1914 saw the passage of a reform referendum that placed the administration of police department in the hands of a bi-partisan board of four members who were appointed by the mayor. This newly created Board of Commissioners would receive a yearly salary of $500.00. The clerk of the board was a civil service position with an annual salary of $1,500.00. On January 1, 1915 the first board of Police Commissioners that took office were William C. Dehart President, Frances J. Blatz, Dr. Norton L. Wilson, and Van Wyck Lott. This Board maintained control over the police department until January 1, 1961, when the City of Elizabeth began functioning under a different form of government.
During 1915 the Traffic Division was created. The first two motor officers were Frank Brennan, appointed October 15, 1913 and Joseph Sattler appointed November 20, 1914, followed in 1917 by Cochran and Winklemann. They were lucky enough to receive a .25¢ a day raise with their appointment; uniforms cost about $135 per man. (See photo inside front cover)

On October 15, 1915 Captain O’Leary of the Second Precinct, underwent surgery to both eyes. He went on sick leave for thirty days returning to work on Monday, November 15, 1915 to the delight of the men in his command. They held a surprise “welcome” reception in his behalf, decorating the station with “flowers, flags, and ferns in honor of his return to active service.” There were thirty six men assigned to the second precinct at the time.
On January 30, 1918 Elizabeth joined Newark in adopting the Henry Fingerprinting system. Prior to that time, identification had been done by the Bertillon System, which measured significant bones in the body.

During July 1918, Detective Sergeant Patrick J. Brogan was chosen captain from the Civil Service eligible list and assigned to the First Precinct. Brogan was a big, well liked officer, who had spent many years in the detective bureau; he died in 1925. His son Joseph and great-grandnephew Brian Butter followed him into the Elizabeth PD. Officers hired during 1919 were: Richard Barry, Thomas Fahey, Louis Froelich, Jim Kennedy, Dennis Lynes, Bob Luft, and Charles Oehme.
The twenty piece Elizabeth Police Band appeared for the first time at the May 12, 1920 annual inspection and parade. Started under the direction of Sergeants Gustave Steffens and band President Patrick Sheridan, the band would lead marchers in most city parades for the next fifteen years.

Patrolman William Burke came upon four “suspicious” men during the early morning hours of November 16, 1919. While questioning the group in front of the Union County Savings Bank on Broad Street, one man started firing at Burke. A foot chase down Broad Street followed in which over twenty shots were fired. Burke wounded and captured one man, a “Persian by birth” and within days the other three were also captured. Burke, born in Ireland in 1880, received a gold medal for bravery from the Police Commissioners and Mayor Mravlag during the department’s annual inspection on May 12, 1920.
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY ON SOUTH BROAD STREET AUGUST 15, 1911 (NOTE POLICE OFFICER ON FAR LEFT WITH SUMMER HAT)

POST CARD VIEW OF BROAD AND E.JERSEY STREETS C. 1915 (NOTE POLICE OFFICER ON LOWER RIGHT WITH STOP & SIGNS)

(TOP PICTURE) ELIZABETH DETECTIVES IN SQUAD ROOM C.1915
(LEFT PICTURE) ELIZABETH DETECTIVES C.1916

2ND PRECINCT 149 ELIZABETH AVE. C.1909

2ND PRECINCT, CELLBLOCK IN REAR OF BUILDING, D.B. ON 2ND FLOOR

OFFICER HANS MOGENSON POSES IN FRONT OF HIS REBECCA PLACE HOME C.1920
On September 8, 1921 Belle V. Rube (Ruby) became Elizabeth's first policewoman. She was born February 7, 1886 in Washington (Warren County). After working as a private detective for the Philadelphia Police Department during the anti-vice crusade of 1919, she became a conductorette on Elizabeth’s trolley cars. These nontraditional jobs led to her appointment as a policewoman. Rube did not wear a uniform, and it is not known if she was armed.

After spending a week at the New York Police Academy and with the Newark Police, she began her duties. Rube worked in court each morning and devoted the rest of the day to investigations involving women. “One of her principal duties will be to prevent men from enticing young girls to take joy rides in automobiles, as this is believed to be the most vicious lure for members of this sex.”

A Republican, she would lose her job December 31, 1925 when the Democratic City Council refused to fund her position for 1926. Also during 1921, the Elizabeth Junior Police Safety Patrol was organized with Patrolman John A. Brennan as its first director. Brennan, born June 22, 1876, was the father of 5 children. He was appointed to the force on October 15, 1913. The organization, which numbered over 500 at one time, would be disbanded in the 1970’s because of a general lack of interest by the city’s youths.

On March 5, 1923 the city’s first African-American policeman, Kirkpatrick Marrow, and ten other officers were hired. Marrow served many years as a detective specializing in gambling, alcohol investigations and, after graduating from the New York Institute of Photographic Art and Identification. Excelling in both basketball and baseball, he later encouraged Don Newcombe, the Dodger pitcher to try out for the major leagues. He retired January 1, 1950 and became an Essex County Court Attendant. His only child, Edmund, was killed in action during WWII. Marrow died on January 25, 1961. (Pictured on right.)

On June 20, 1923 the Police Commissioners authorized a 14k gold medal award for Patrolman Willie J. Kroeschel (pictured below). The patrolman was involved in a gun battle along the streets of Bayway with John Winters of Roselle. Winters killed himself rather than surrender to Kroeschel, who had pursued him after an unsuccessful trolley car robbery and attempted “car jacking.” This beautiful medal has the seal of the city on its face and is inscribed with the date of the Incident on the back.

(left photo) L/R Whitey Anderson, William Kroeschel, SGT. Richard Barry, Matt Nilsen, Jake Christmas (*Shot in Singer Payroll Robbery.)
By the Autumn of 1923 there were ten motor officers (five teams of two each), and four bicycles assigned to the traffic unit with Motorcycles Sergeant Frank Brennan as supervisor. There were also about twenty other officers manning traffic posts around the city.

On April 1, 1924 Michael ("Nightstick") Kelly was appointed a patrolman and assigned to an uptown walking post with Patrolman Froelich. Fifty years later his son and two grandsons would serve the Elizabeth force as deputy chief, detective and police officer. (pictured on right.)
**THE SINGER (MAIL TRUCK) PAYROLL ROBBERY**

The major crime story of 1926 was the mail truck robbery that occurred at 6th Street and Elizabeth Avenue on October 14, 1926. In that daring robbery, John P. Enz, the driver of the Ford Model T mail truck was killed and $151,000 in Singer payroll stolen. Also wounded during the robbery were Motorcycle Patrolman Jacob Christman, who was escorting the payroll and guard Patrick Quinn.

After receiving a tip from a Peterstown informant, seven men and one woman belonging to the famous “Bum Rodgers Gang” from the West Side of New York City, were suspected of the crime. Those named were: Benjamin Haas of Manhattan, identified as the driver of the silver-gray Packard Touring Car that rammed Officer Christman and Frank “The Ghost” Kiekart, both of whom later received ten years for mail theft after turning State’s evidence. Also named were William “Ice Wagon” Crowley, James J. “Killer” Cunniffe and his girlfriend Frances Harris. Both Cunniffe and Harris were killed by Crowley in Detroit while fighting over the money. Crowley was later killed in a shootout after killing one Michigan police officer and wounding another. Canice Neary, the driver of the ram car a blue Packard Sedan, Bill Fanning, and Daniel Grosso were also named by Haas and Kiekart. Neary and Fanning were tried and convicted and given life terms, while Grosso, named as the trigger man, was executed on April 10, 1931.

The robbery caused such concern that it was discussed during President Coolidge’s weekly cabinet meeting. The President, in a very unusual move, ordered 2,500 marines to “protect” the mail at all costs. He also authorized the purchase of 250 Thompson Machine Guns, which were used for this purpose.

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**PICTURED LEFT**

**SGT. MIKE MANNING AND J. OHRENBERGER SHOWING RECOVERED MACHINE GUN USED IN ROBBERY.**
The quiet of Verona and Cleveland Avenues erupted the early morning of December 9, 1927, when two gunmen and two Elizabeth officers were wounded in a "moonlight duel". Anthony Serri and George Sar terrorized the Elmora section of the city for several weeks until confronted by detectives on a stakeout. The two men would wait for residents to return home late at night and rob them as they left their cars. Led by Chief Mulcahy and Captain Ohernberger, Sergeant Reitman along with plainclothesmen Marrow, Kennedy, Mullany and Craig, observed the bandits near a garage. As the officers approached, the two men opened fire and detectives Mullany and Craig were slightly wounded. The two gunmen were also wounded in the brief exchange of fire.

In a major labor victory by the PBA, the Police Commissioners on April 13, 1928 agreed to a six day work week for officers. The new schedule called for seven squads working four different shifts. For the first time since the department was formed, officers only had to work 48 hours a week!

Traffic Patrolman John Engesser, one of the more colorful figures of the EPD retired on April 1, 1928. The German born Engesser, directed traffic at the corner of Magnolia Avenue and North Broad Street for many years. The cheerful Engesser would make violators drive around the Soldiers and Sailors monument in lieu of issuing traffic summonses and have a good laugh in the process.

On December 6, 1929 Philip Cain of Allentown, Pennsylvania bolted from the headquarters booking area after his arrest for "Suspicion" by Plainclothesmen Thomas Condron and William McNair. After a chase Cain was shot by Patrolman Brogan and finally tackled by Captain Coughlin, before being subdued and returned to headquarters. Joining in the chase, Detective Condron tripped on a cobblestone and became infected with "septic poisoning," which caused his death the following March.

On December 19, 1929, Sergeants Harry Johnson and George Ullrich made a spectacular arrest of two gunmen wanted for murder and robbery. The two men, Bernard Toner and Harry George of Brooklyn, had killed their accomplice Frank Warren after realizing he had robbed them of their loot in a crooked dice game! Toner and George were convicted and each received from 55 - 100 years in state prison.

Five men and a woman were arrested on February 12, 1930 and charged with kidnapping the woman's child from the baby's Trenton home. Off-duty Patrolman Joseph Brogan observed the group driving through Elizabeth and became suspicious. Brogan followed them until he could attract the attention of Motorcycle Officer Charles Novitski, who assisted in the stop. Later, Trenton police charged Mollie Pulifici, Louis Costanza, Sigmund Patasso, Vincent Pinto and John Manno with kidnapping and weapons violations.
On September 19, 1930 Federal Prohibition Enforcement Agent John Finello was shot and killed at the Rising Sun Brewery on 7th and Marshall Streets. Finello had been warned not to interfere with the beer business being run from that location and had arrested a bootlegger who tried to bribe him with $10,000. He and six other agents were conducting a raid when gangsters disarmed the group, singled out Finello and killed him. The killing caused considerable friction between the EPD and Federal authorities because Elizabeth Police had not been informed of the raid. Arrests were made, but no one was ever convicted of the crime.

Another major “rubout” occurred in Elizabeth on April 12, 1933 when “Old Heidelberg” beer barons Max Greenberg and Mendel Hassell were killed in an eighth floor suite at the Elizabeth Carteret Hotel on East Jersey Street. Greenberg was found sitting in a chair facing a roll-top desk, one hand clutching a licensed pistol he was unable to draw from his suit pocket. Hassel was found on the floor between the suite and a bedroom turned office. Both had multiple gunshots. Witnesses quickly left the scene and it would be three years before Frankie Carbo, an alleged triggerman for Louis Lepke of “Murder Incorporated” would be indicted for the murders. Because of a lack of witnesses, no trial was held. Police believed the pair were killed because they ordered Newark gangster Longy Zwillman murdered for cutting into their territory. After the murders, Zwillman took over their beer trade, causing the law enforcement community to feel Zwillman found out about the “hit” and got to them first.
OFFICER WILLIAM O'CONNOR AT TRAFFIC POST BROAD STREET AND ELIZABETH AVENUE C.1930

PICTURED IN FRONT OF POLICE HQ ON WINFIELD SCOTT PLAZA L/R — WILLIAM KROESCHEL, WILLIAM PETUSKY, SGT. HARRY JOHNSON JACOB CHRISTMAN, POLICE COMMISSIONER CARDWELL, CHIEF MICHAEL MULCAHY, JACOB STRASSBURGER, JOSEPH DUBISK, RICHARD BARRY.

VIEW OF CITY HALL AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS LOOKING SOUTH TO ELIZABETH AVENUE C.1930

OFFICER WILLIAM O'CONNOR AT TRAFFIC POST BROAD STREET AND ELIZABETH AVENUE C.1930

1933 PISTOL TEAM

PICTURE ON RIGHT L/R — SGT. HARRY JOHNSON, SUSPECT (TONER) APPREHENDED IN GAS STATION HOLD UP AND MURDER. SGT. GEORGE ULLRICH DECEMBER 19, 1929
During 1932 the Elizabeth Police Training School was started under the supervision of Sergeant Gustave Steffens. Attendance at this school was voluntary and only thirty seven officers enrolled twelve from outside departments.

February 15, 1934 saw the appointment of four new patrolmen. Morgan Naught, a licensed pilot and motorcycle daredevil, Ralph Oriscello elected Sheriff in 1959, Daniel Hopkins, and Alexander Rutkowsky. Newspaper articles of the time called all four men excellent athletes.

In July, Lester Sargent Sr., considered by some the strongest man on the police force, was appointed to the department at a salary of $2,155. less the 10% reduction because of the depression. In 1943 when Civil Service used the police gym for the physical performance tests necessary for promotion to sergeant, Officer Sargent broke the “grip” machine that was used to measure a candidates physical strength. As a result, all other candidates were given a passing grade for this event. In future tests, Civil Service would not allow him to be the first candidate tested!
On April 29, 1935, three Peterstown boys, Frank Truggiano, his brother Mario, and Charles Arnor failed to return from the American Legion Parade. Several days later the boys' bodies were found in the Elizabeth River in Bayway. It was the first time an aircraft, piloted by Elizabeth Patrolman Morgan Naug was used by the Elizabeth Police in an investigation.

The Policeman's Benevolent Association Local #4, "Ball" of November 13, 1936 was attended by record 2,000 persons. The affair, held at the Elks Club on Westfield Avenue honored deceased members of the local.
MAYOR BROPHY (3RD FROM LEFT) REAR OF MORRELL STREET HEADQUARTERS WITH NEW POLICE CARS. 1938

OFFICERS POSING WITH NEW 1938 NASH AUTOS ON PRINCE STREET ACROSS FROM FIRE STATION

HANS MOGENSON IN FRONT OF MORRELL STREET H.Q. C. 1930'S

1937 NASH BEING FITTED WITH RADIO, JAMES MCGUIRE LEFT AND SEATED INSIDE CAR WILLIAM LLOYD, JR. REAR OF HEADQUARTERS ON CATHERINE STREET

L/R NICK MIGLIORE & PAUL SCULLY STANDING BY FIRST ELIZABETH RADIO CAR C.1934

MAYOR BROPHY (3RD FROM LEFT) REAR OF MORRELL STREET HEADQUARTERS WITH NEW POLICE CARS. 1938
LEFT PHOTO
OFFICER WILLIAM O'CONNOR IN TRAFFIC BOX, BROAD ST. AND ELIZABETH AVE.

RIGHT PHOTO
OFFICER FRANK GOSS C.1930'S GRANDFATHER TO PRESENT DAY SGT. JOHN GOSS

BOTTOM PHOTO
SEATED L/R BARNEY TEVNAN, DICK CUMMINGS, MIDDLE ROW THIRD FROM LEFT JIM MCGANN, TOP ROW FAR RIGHT JOE BROGAN. C.1930'S

LEFT PHOTO —
OFFICER JAMES COAKLEY, SR. AND JR.

RIGHT PHOTO —
JOE BROGAN C. 1930'S
“Cop, Kid’s Friend,” was the caption announcing the selection of Office Thomas “Uncle Tom” Meehan as the Elizabeth Community Chest’s 1940 poster theme. Meehan was pictured carrying a child in his arms while escorting a group of youngsters across the street from the Egenolf Day Nursery on Elizabeth Avenue. (Pictured on left.)

The Elizabeth “Emergency Police Reserve” was started in 1940 with 156 civilian officers. During the war, they had a total strength of 218 men. Preference was given to men with previous military experience. They received class instruction in all aspects of police work. They were expected to assume patrol functions so the regular officers could be used for any emergency might occur.

On April 16, 1941 Captain Joseph T. Coughlin was reinstated as deputy chief, a post he had been demoted from in February, 1933. Along with Coughlin seven lieutenants and one sergeant were advanced. The lieutenant’s rank had been abolished in 1901 and the duties performed by sergeants. Promoted to this new rank were: Bernard Lavin, Gustave Steffens, Hugh Martin, Joseph Angen, Joseph Donovan, Harry Johnson, and Edward Flaherty (photo next page). The Police Commissioners also decided to give official recognition to the position of detective. Prior to that date officers were assigned to the detective bureau in plainclothes capacity.
The newly designated detectives were: George Craig, Michael Mottley, Louis Frolich, John Turley, James Ward, Frank Korn, Fred Hoffman, Michael Kennedy, Charles Krowicki, James Yoos, Charles Dowd, Francis McKeon, Paul Miller, Stephen Regit, Kirk Marrow, Harry Von Bischoffahausen, George Marczyk and James Kennedy.

Rank and file members of the department presented a petition to the Police Commissioners on August 5, 1941 requesting a pay referendum be placed on the November ballot. The last time raises were placed before voters was in 1924 when the question easily passed. In 1932 municipal workers voluntarily agreed to a ten percent salary reduction because of the depression. This reduction negated the need for planned layoffs and was rescinded in 1937. The PBA received the necessary signatures and the question was placed on the ballot in November. It passed and cops and firemen received an increase of $223.00 for 1941.

On March 15, 1942 Captain Michael “Iron Mike” Manning and Sergeant George Ullrich retired. Ullrich was a rounds sergeant in the First Precinct for many years. Captain Manning, commander of the First Precinct and radio room, was first appointed in 1910 after serving on the Central Railroad Police for six years. Newspaper accounts of his retirement said “As a superior officer he still didn’t mind wading into a scrap if necessary to take criminals into custody.”

On May 1, 1943 sixteen promotions and twenty-four transfers were ordered by the Police Commissioners. These were the first promotions in some time and it would be several years before any more would be made. Richard Barry, Jacob Shanker, William O’Connor, James McGuire, Nicholas Migliore, Joseph Brogan and Robert Yoos were advanced to lieutenant at $2,925. Lester Sargent, Ralph Oriscello, John Walm, James White, James McGann, Paul Scully, Oscar Kuell, Michael Golden and Fred Hoffman became sergeants.

The “Great Lion Hunt” occurred the afternoon of June 12, 1943 when eight Nubian lions being transferred from cage wagons to a ring at the Gilbert Brothers Circus, escaped and terrorized North Elizabeth for nearly two hours. Seven of the animals were quickly rounded up by roustabouts while “Caesar” visited the neighborhood around Sheridan Avenue and Alina Street. Shortly, several officers arrived carrying Thompson Machine Guns and shotguns. When Motorcycle Officer Hans Mogensen a former circus employee, bent down to look at Caesar, the big cat jumped up and knocked the officer over as he ran to the rear porch of 1050 Sheridan Avenue. Caesar refused to move until Mogensen ripped up a floor board and prodded the lion until he calmly walked into his mobile cage and was returned to the show.
On February 12, 1945 nineteen men with over twenty-five years service were presented “quart century” badges by Mayor James Kirk and the Police Commissioners. A copy of this badge was made into memento for the 100th Anniversary Dinner Dance of the P.B.A. Local #4, held on September, 1996.

November 7, 1945 was “Halsey Day” in Elizabeth. Admiral William F. “Bull” Halsey, a hero of the Pacific war, visited the city and received an overwhelming welcome which included a parade, reception and visit to his former West Jersey Street home. The Admiral was also presented with gold life membership in PBA Local #4, the only military man to ever receive this award.

During August 1947 thirteen new officers were appointed, including John F. Brennan (later Chief and Director), and Patrick Maloney (later Deputy Chief and Director). On December 1, 1947 the Board of Police Commissioners made several promotions. Sergeants Lester Sargent and Ralph Oriscello were advanced to Lieutenant: Gustave Brugger, William Mulkeen and David Zior were named Sergeants. A promotion party followed at the Union Pleasure Circle.
On June 1, 1948 Thomas Brennan, Jr. joined his father Thomas, and brother John on the department. The Marine Corps WWII veteran and former Port Authority officer, was an excellent pistol shot and would eventually become captain. He was a local historian who was very active on the Bicentennial Committee in 1976: Brennan would have a room in the Elizabeth Library named for him after his death.

On June 6, 1949, Motorcycle Officer John Tordik stopped a man for speeding on Route 1 and Fanny Street. As Tordik approached the Model A Roadster, the man reached for a loaded .38 in the door and had to be physically subdued by the officer. When questioned by Captain Winkelmann and Detective Naught, the psychologically troubled veteran indicated he was going to Washington to see President Truman “to try to save the world.” Tordik would retire years later as head of the police electrical bureau.
L/R DEPUTY CHIEF COUGHLIN, COMMISSIONERS ROBINSON, ROKOSZ, DONAHUE, CUSHING, CHIEF BRENNAN, CAPTAIN WINKELMANN C. 1948

ELIZABETH POLICE OFFICERS DURING 1948 INSPECTION, ON MORRELL STREET

MOTORCYCLES LINED UP IN FRONT OF MORRELL ST. H.Q. LATE 1940'S

OFFICERS IN FRONT OF RADIO CARS ON MORRELL STREET H.Q. LATE 1940'S

LEFT PHOTO: FIRST ROW L/R — FRANK BRENNAN, COMMISSIONER DONAHUE, CUSHING, ROBINSON, UNKNOWN SECOND ROW L/R — BOB YOOS, RICHARD BARRY, JAKE SHANKER, BILL O'CONNOR, NICK MIGLIORE, JOE BROGAN, JAMES MCGUIRE THIRD ROW L/R — JIM MCGANN, UNKNOWN FOURTH ROW L/R — JOHN WALN, JIM WHITE, MIKE GOLDEN, LESTER SARGENT FIFTH ROW L/R — RALPH ORISCELLO, UNKNOWN TOP ROW FRED HOFFMAN — LATE 1940'S
NJ GOVERNOR ALFRED E. DRISCOLL SIGNING INTO LAW
5 DAY WORK WEEK C.1948.
ON FAR LEFT ELIZABETH P.B.A. DELEGATE BILL CONNELLY
LATER BECOMING STATE PRESIDENT

P.A.L. CHARTER SIGNING C.1950
SEATED L/R RALPH ORISCELLO, RALPH MANCINI, JOHN LONG
STANDING L/R WALTER TRUZACK, EDDIE GRAY,
CHESTER PATEREK, LOUIS KAUFMAN.

P.A.L. EXECUTIVE BOARD
AND TRUSTEES SEPTEMBER 7, 1950
SEATED L/R STEVE URBAN,
LOU KAUFMAN, EDDIE GRAY,
BUCKEY HURDEN, TOM BRENNAN SR.
STANDING L/R BOB DERING,
MIKE SINNOTT SR., BILL TURNER, WALTER
TRUZACK, FRED HOFFMANN,
FRED SCHLAUGH.

LT. LESTER SARGENT INSPECTING
WEAPONS CONFISCATED FROM STUDENTS IN 1948

L/R — LT. MIKE ROY AND LT. JOE BROGAN MORRELL STREET
ID BUREAU C.1950
PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN SPEAKS FROM CITY HALL STEPS
OFFICER PATRICK MALONEY TO HIS RIGHT C. 1948
1950’s

The Elizabeth Exchange Club’s Crime Prevention Week program for February 1950, included providing white carnations for each officer. The carnations were handed out at each roll call on February 24th by exchange club members. (Pictured right Officer Tom McGinty, wearing carnation.)

Patrolman Thomas M. Brennan, Sr. was selected as the Exchange Club’s 1951 “Policeman of the Year.” Officer Brennan was the Director of the Elizabeth Junior Police Safety Patrol and a charter member and organizer of the Police Athletic League. He was among the most respected and well liked officers on the force. Assigned to desk duty when the dirigible Hindenburg crashed and burned at the Lakewood Naval Air Station, he received several commendations for organizing and assigning escorts for the many ambulances sent to the shore community during the air ship emergency.
The Annual Holy Name Parade was held on October 14, 1951. Leading the police contingent carrying the flag as he did for over twenty years, was Patrolman Michael Sinnott. Sinnott’s son, Michael, was appointed to the force two days later. The parade, with over 15,000 participants, was viewed by 10,000 spectators each year.

L/R HOLY NAME SOCIETY PARADE WEST JERSEY STREET
MIKE SINNOTT CARRYING FLAG, RALPH ORISCHELLO ON RIGHT
AND MSGR HEIMBUCH CENTER C. 1950

HOLY NAME SOCIETY PARADE L/R FIRST ROW SGT. TOM
MARONEY, TOM BYRNES, DAVE ZIOR, FRED HOFFMANN, SR.

THE PLANE CRASHES

The city experienced three tragic plane crashes during the winter of 1951 - 1952. The first occurred on Westfield Avenue at the Elizabeth River on December 16, 1951. Fifty six passengers died when a C46 from Newark experienced engine trouble and crashed before it could make it back to the airport.

1ST PLANE CRASH — WESTFIELD AVE. DECEMBER 16, 1951

DECEMBER 16, 1951 — CAPTAIN NICK MIGLIORE (FAR RIGHT)
R/L — JAMES MCGUIRE, MAYOR KIRK & CAPTAIN YOOS
On January 22, 1952 the second plane, a Convair 240, hit Battin High School before coming to rest on Williamson and South Streets. Twenty three passengers and seven Elizabeth residents perished in this tragic crash. Secretary of War Robert Patterson was among those killed. (Pictured left, note Battin H.S. on left and St. Mary’s H.S. in background.)

The city was still in shock when the third plane crash occurred on February 11, 1952 at 610 Salem Avenue, only yards from the Janet Memorial Orphan Building. Thirty three persons died in this incident. A surviving stewardess reported that the plane began losing altitude after reaching about 1,500 feet. She said “the two engines gave out” as the pilot unsuccessfully attempted to return to Newark Airport when the plane lost power and crashed. The first officers at the scene were Radio Patrolmen George Guempel and Patrick Maloney. They responded after receiving a call from dispatcher Michael Golden, stating “Another plane crash. Rush to Denman and Union.” When they arrived they immediately started removing people from the wreckage. Most had to be cut from their seats in the still burning aircraft, which exploded twice while the two WWII veterans performed this dangerous task. (Two photos below)

These crashes called attention to the need for specialized police and fire emergency training of personnel. It was also one of the first uses of (police) mutual aid in the county. Newark Airport was closed for several months while the crashes were investigated by federal, state and local agencies.
On January 1, 1953, Lieutenant Joseph Brogan, retired after a colorful 25 year career. Appointed on September 10, 1927 he assisted in the rescue of eight persons from a burning building a few days after his appointment. He also captured three bandits after a running gun battle in 1928.

Detective Lieutenant O’Connor born in Roscommon, Ireland served since 1920 and also retired in 1953. He joined the EPD after returning from France where he had been seriously wounded during WWI. His son John and grandson Thomas O’Connor also served on the force. Another son, Dr. William O’Connor was the police physician for over thirty years.

Detective Frank Bartone, President of the State Identification Officers Association, was selected as the Exchange Club’s 1953 “Policeman of the Year.” Detective Bartone, appointed to the force on September 16, 1944, was selected for his unhesitating support for the Police Athletic League, of which he was a charter member and organizer. He was an outstanding identification officer and participated in the investigation of every major crime in Elizabeth until his retirement on December 16, 1969. (Pictured right)

On July 31, 1953 fourteen school crossing guards were hired by the city. The ladies were trained in traffic and basic first aid procedures before being sworn in and receiving their new badges on September 10th. Children of the Elizabeth Police Safety Patrol and traffic officers had previously crossed the school children. The innovative idea freed officers from this time consuming assignment, yet provided protection to youngsters during peak traffic times.

Eighteen new officers were sworn in on December 10, 1953 by Mayor Nicholas S. LaCorte. Included in the group was Luis Martinez, the first Hispanic officer on the Elizabeth Police.

During July 1954, thirteen patrolmen completed the police training school. Some had been recently hired while others had been on the force over three years. Included in the group was Leon Niedzwiecki, who topped the class in the ten week police school with a 97.70 average, one of the highest scores ever attained at the “academy”. Captain Nicholas Migliore died of Leukemia on March 10, 1955, one week after being named Elizabeth’s “Good Neighbor of the Year.”
President Eisenhower's Committee for Traffic Safety awarded Captain Sargent's traffic unit the "Certificate of Service Award" in 1955 for their excellence in traffic management. Among the innovative ideas was the New Year's Eve "Make Your One For The Road Coffee" plan. Volunteers staffed the pistol range on Route 1, serving coffee and providing rides to drinkers who stopped in while traveling the busy highway. Deaths and serious injuries were dramatically reduced over that weekend.

February 10, 1956 saw the elevation of Edward E. Flaherty to chief, James J. McGuire to acting deputy chief, and William J. Mulkeen to captain. Also, Edward Curren made lieutenant and Motorcycle Patrolman John Hattrich moved up to sergeant. Advanced to detective were James Bonner, Felix Cabarle, Frederick Chlaugh and Thomas Brennan, Jr. Sixteen patrolmen were awarded diplomas after graduating from the 105 hour Elizabeth Police Training School on May 25, 1956.

The first inspection of the police force in two years occurred on June 8, 1956. Led by Mayor Nicholas Acorte, Police Commissioner Robert Walsh, Harry Diamond, Councilmen Ford and Cunningham and Chief Edward Flaherty reviewed the department. It was the first time school crossing guards were included in the inspection. The mail of December 18, 1956 brought a surprise for Radio Patrolmen John P. Brennan and John McGuire. They received a Christmas card from Estelle Mulligan of Vine Street with a new $5.00 bill enclosed. The lady left her pocketbook on a bus and the officers followed the bus's route until they reached the Livingston Street garage where her purse with $150.00 was found.
On December 19, 1956 James McGuire and Ralph Oriscello were advanced to deputy chief at a salary of $7,750. Advanced to captain was Gustave Brugger, later a police director. Captain Thomas P. Marone, Commander of the Elizabeth Police Training Academy, presented seven “rookies” to the Commissioners.

L/R COMMISSIONER ROBINSON PROMOTES RALPH ORISCELLO, GUSTAVE BRUGGER, ED CURREN, C.1950'S

L/R JOHN MANNION, COMMISSIONER CRINCOLI, TOM KIERNAN, JOHN LONG, C.1950'S

L/R ANDREW GARRY, JUDGE MCGUIRE, 1954

L/R CAPTAIN MCGUIRE, POLICE PHYSICIAN HIGGINS, RUSS MAYER, CHIEF FLAHERTY. (NOTE PHOTOS OF CHIEFS TENNEY AND MULCAHY)

Walter Truzack and John Brennan were promoted to lieutenant on October 1, 1957. Also during October 1957, twenty-five new officers attended indoctrination at the Elizabeth Police Academy, held at the Naval Reserve Training Center on Palmer Street. The rookies were required to attend classes during the day and walk beats at night during the 7:00 PM - 3:00 AM shift. The course, taught by superior officers of the department and “special” instructors, included police rules and regulations, conduct and attitude, police duties and the laws of arrest and evidence.

Luis Martinez (30), Elizabeth’s first Hispanic officer died suddenly on November 12, 1957, after suffering a heart attack at his Galloping Hill Road home. Born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M., Martinez had lived in Elizabeth six years. He was survived by his wife, Rosalia LaBrutto Martinez and their son Pat.
New mayor Steven Bercik and the Police Commissioners assembled the force at City Hall for an “official briefing” on January 16, 1957. Mayor Bercik “advised the policemen not to look for political or personal favors,” from his administration. This was a radical change from past practices in the department and was well received.

The department’s annual inspection was held on May 22, 1957. Led by Mayor Steven Bercik, Police Commissioner Joseph Barbieri, Chief Flaherty, and Deputy Chiefs McGuire and Oriscello reviewed the men and new equipment assembled on both sides of Morrell Street.

PHOTO LEFT: MAYOR BERCIK ADDRESSING INSPECTION PERSONNEL L/R HDQS REPORTERS LOUIS MOGELEVER - NEWARK STAR LEDGER, JULES POL-LACK - ELIZABETH DAILY JOURNAL, COMMISSIONERS KACZOROWSKI AND DURKIN, CHIEF FLAHERTY, DEPUTY CHIEFS ORISCELLO AND MCGUIRE, AND ELECTRICIAN JOHN KENNAN.
Old Inspections

1940-50's
Police Headquarters Personnel
1940-50’s

SGT. STEVE URBAN

LT. JOE BROGAN

KIRKPATRICK MORROW, LT. JOE BROGAN

LT. JOHN BRENNAN, RUSS MAYER, JOHN GILLESPIE

LEFT PHOTO:
LT.'S JOHNSON, ZIOR AND OFFICER PAT KENNEDY AT THE FRONT DESK.

RIGHT PHOTO:
FRONT DESK

RECORD ROOM

LEFT PHOTO:
L/R — JACK MORRIS, "SOCKS" MCLACHLAN, LT. BROGAN & DINNY LYNES

RIGHT PHOTO:
L/R — SGT. SCULLY, DINNY LYNES & GEORGE MARR.
Vehicles of the 1950's

L/R — CHIEF FRANK BRENnan, COMMISSIONER ISADORE ROBINSON, JUNE 1950

L/R — OTIS ZEHL, FRED GRIMM, ANTHONY SPANO ELMORA AVENUE, JUNE 1954

L/R — SGT. STEVE URBAN, JERRY WHITE & RAY "BUDDY" CARROLL IN FRONT OF GREEN AND WHITE POLICE STATION WAGON C. 1957

L/R — TOM CONROY & FRED ROBINSON AT E. JERSEY & SPRING STREETS ALONGSIDE HIGHWAY CAR. C. 1956

PICTURED LEFT L/R — FRED GRIMM, STANLEY FALKOWSKI, SILVIO "BUZZY" BUCARO, JOHN TORDIK. C.1950'S
On June 1, 1958 Sergeant Raymond Apgar retired after thirty-eight years. Appointed a patrolman on January 26, 1920 he was assigned to traffic as a motorcycle officer for many years. The Sergeant was one of the few men on the force to ever collect a reward. In 1932 he received $750 for the capture of William Lynch, a prison escapee from the State of Pennsylvania; Apgar donated half of the money to the Police Pension Fund. A year later (January 13, 1933), while a sergeant assigned to motorcycle duty, he captured Harry Porry wanted by the New York City police for murder.

Thirteen rookies began their police careers after graduating from the Elizabeth Police Training School on June 24, 1958. Included in the group were: Ralph Froehlich (Sheriff 1978 - Present), Michael Iannaccio (long time PBA President), and Joseph Brennan (Police Director 1973 - 1993). The appointment of Brennan created a first in the department’s history. It was the only time a father and three sons served at the same time on the Elizabeth Police. Two retirements occurred on September 1, 1958. Detective Captain Robert Yoos and Patrolman (Court Attendant) Andrew Garry both went on the retired list. Yoos had been appointed on May 16, 1931 and Garry on February 13, 1928. Other retirements during the year were: Detective Paul Miller, and Patrolmen Cornelis Heffernan, Charles Reilly, Blaze Buza and Martin Finn.

During the Autumn of 1958, Mayor Steven Bercik ordered the glass domes at the entrance to Police Headquarters painted green, to replace the white domes then in use. It is believed the idea of green lights originated in New York, where most policemen were of Irish stock and it was their idea to have green lights. This is an interesting idea, but can not be substantiated after extensive research.

Patrolman Joseph Kornicki was selected as "Policeman of the Year" for 1959 by the Exchange Club. An officer since July 1, 1950, Kornicki was the star pitcher for the police softball team. During his long career he never missed a day of work due to sickness.
ROUTE 1 AND LAFAYETTE STREET
L/R WALTER TRUZACK, BUZZY BUCARI. C.1955

FIRST ROW L/R — COMMISSIONERS PODLESNI, DUFFY, MAYOR LACORTE, CHIEF BRENNAN, NAT GERSHEN, FELIX CRINCOLI.
SECOND ROW L/R — CAPTAINS YOOS, ORISCHELLO, SARGENT, WINKELMANN, DEP. CHIEF FLAHERTY, CAPTAINS MIGLIORE, MCGUIRE. C.1954

POLICE RECRUITS 1951

L/R — MAYOR STEVEN BERCIK, CAPTAIN WILLIAM MULKEEN, CHIEF FLAHERTY C. LATE 1950'S

FIRST ROW L/R — COMMISSIONERS CRINCOLI, DUFFY, CAPTAIN MCGUIRE, COMMISSIONERS PODLESNI, GERSHEN.
SECOND ROW L/R — ED SOKOL, DON BUCKLEY, JEROME WHIT, THOMAS O'HARE, ED DUDEK.
THIRD ROW L/R — LEON NIEDZWIcki, WALTER PIETROWSKI, ARTHUR FLAHERTY, LABAN LITTLE. JULY 1954

FIRST ROW L/R — CAPTAIN MCGUIRE, COMMISSIONERS PODLESNI, GERSHEN, CHIEF BRENNAN, COMMISSIONERS DUFFY, CRINCOLI. CAPTAIN ORISCHELLO. SECOND ROW L/R — OFFICERS FALKOWSKI, BRENNAN, COLLETTI, KENNEDY, WARD, WILCHEK, VOLKER.
THIRD ROW L/R — OFFICERS MCGUIRE, DANCHISKO, BUTLER, JOHNSON, ENGLE, SISCIONNE, PAVLOVSKI, SABIA.
JANUARY 28, 1955
ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT WAGON DELIVERING PRISONERS AT UNION COUNTY JAIL. C.1950'S

OFFICER JERRY WHITE IN RADIO CAR C.1950'S

POLICE VEHICLE'S LINED UP FOR MORRELL STREET INSPECTION. C.1954

THE FIRST CONFIDENTIAL SQUAD
L/R GEORGE GUEMPEL, JAMES MCGUIRE, ED FLAHERTY, JIM O'CONNELL. IN FRONT OF CITY HALL. MAY 1959

L/R AL GALINIS, TOM BRENNAN, JOE HENNINGS. REAR OF MORRELL STREET HEADQUARTERS. C. 1958

L/R: ED PAVLOVSKI, GEORGE GUEMPEL, WALTER TRUZACK, MOE JENKINS. C. 1950'S

L/R FRANK FOWLER, WALTER PIETROWSKI. BROAD STREET AND ELIZABETH AVENUE. C. 1950'S