



The Call Box



Official Publication of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association

May 2023 Volume 4, Issue 3

A Look Back at the King County Jail Break

Submitted by John Nordlund, originally appeared in Historylink.org by Daryl McClary

On Sunday evening, October 14, 1979, seven inmates escaped from the high security jail on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse in the county's bloodiest jailbreak. Using a gun, smuggled into the jail, the inmates captured the guards, locked them in a holding tank, and took over the jail's central control room. Within 20 minutes, the escapees were on the street, heading for their getaway cars. In the ensuing melee, one police officer was severely wounded, one prisoner was shot dead, five prisoners and two accomplices were captured, and one escaped.



A Routine Evening at King County Jail

At 8:30 p.m. everything seemed routine on C Deck of the King County Jail, a holding area for some of the more notorious prisoners. Gary Van Pilon, a prisoner, asked permission to use the telephone near the jail unit's control room. Eight other prisoners were locked in a day room tank near the telephone. While being escorted by Correction Officer Terence Duffy, Pilon stopped to get a drink of water from a sink. When Pilon turned around, he was in possession of an automatic pistol, which he pointed at Officer Duffy, taking him hostage. Pilon captured two more guards and locked all three in an empty holding cell. With Officer Duffy's keys, Pilon opened the door to the day room tank. Six of the prisoners emerged and two stayed behind. Three of the escapees were considered to be among the most dangerous men housed in the jail. The mastermind of the jailbreak was Artie Ray Baker, 26, convicted in federal court on September 17, 1979, of the murder of U.S. Customs Inspector Kenneth G Ward in Lynden, Washington, on April 24, 1979. Baker was also an escapee from Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy, California, in 1977, where he had been serving a life sentence for the robbery and murder of an elderly couple in Fresno, California, in 1972. The other six prisoners involved in the jailbreak were David Edward Warriner, 26, with convictions of burglary, shoplifting, drug trafficking and manslaughter. He was recently sentenced to life in prison for being a habitual criminal. Donald J. Martin, 25, charged with two murders and 20 additional felonies including rapes, robberies, and assaults, was in jail awaiting trial. Pierre Adair Parent, 26, convicted on July 30, 1979, of robbery and 1st degree murder, was awaiting transfer to a state correctional facility. Roger Dale Raynor, 29, was serving a six year term for burglary. Randy Joe Williams, 29, a convicted burglar, was being held on a parole violation. Gary Van Pilon, 26, was in jail awaiting further court action on charges of escape, assault, and robbery.

How They Got Out

Immediately after being released, Artie Ray Baker assumed the role as leader of the jailbreak. Baker took the pistol from Pilon, and retrieved Officer Duffy from the holding cell to use as a hostage. Together, they moved down the ramp toward the jail's central control room. Finding the door to the control room standing open, a major security lapse, Baker took another three guards prisoner and seized control of the jail. After locking all six guards in a holding cell, the prisoners took \$2,500 from a locked drawer in the jail's booking area. Baker then opened the main gates, allowing the group access to the 10th floor public elevators and freedom.

The Call Box



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President's Message

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA



President Taylor was rehabbing an injury and unable to submit an article this month. His article will return in July. In his absence, RSPOA Sec-Treasurer Nick Bulpin has submitted this article on RSPOA Finances

RINGING IN

By RSPOA Sec-Treasurer Nick Bulpin

25 years ago, the RSPOA raised the annual dues from \$6.00 per year to \$12.00. Total assets at that time were about \$100,000.00. Business expenses included monthly meetings, the Call Box, Guardian postage and the Annual Retired Officers Banquet. We had representatives in the LEOFF One Coalition and WSCPO. There were occasional legal fees and travel expenses associated with protecting LEOFF benefits. To keep assets at a positive level and membership up to date, by-laws were amended to offer a "lifetime membership" for a one-time cost equal to roughly 5 years dues. This was done without considering inflation and extended longevity. This was not a good plan. Those that participated made a good investment and I salute them. The Retired Officers Banquet was originally provided by the Relief Association. The only cost to RSPOA was for member dinners. The Covid 19 pandemic caused the banquet to be cancelled for two years. The SPAA Range facility needed upgrading, and Susan Magan Catering was no longer available. The Retired Officers Banquet operation was turned over to the RSPOA with the Relief Association providing financial support. This would allow the RSPOA to continue with the banquet. The bi-monthly Call Box costs roughly \$3000. per issue. Thanks to some generous donations bequeathed by members to the RSPOA and membership dues, we have been able to continue services. Annual dues are now \$36.00 and paid either by check or monthly DRS deduction. We can meet expenses if everyone keeps their membership current. A detailed financial report is available upon request. The Nile Shrine Center has provided the RSPOA and RAP a wonderful location for meetings, lunches, the annual banquet, RAP picnic and Christmas gathering. Northwest Signature Events and Catering provided food and beverage service for all events. Unfortunately, their contract has expired. The service was turned over to Naviscateringkitchen.com. This issue of The Call Box will probably go to the printer before agreements are reached. We are waiting for a price quote for the April meeting as I write this article. For many years, the Nile has been extremely supportive of RSPOA, and they continue to express that support. The change of caterers has created a challenge. The new caterer is faced with increased cost for both food and labor and needs some increases to retain profitability. We are in negotiations in hopes of finding pricing and service that will allow us to continue at the Nile. Currently, the \$10 per lunch price point, is below what we are charged. Some kind of increase should be expected. We are working on this issue and will keep you posted.

At about 8:50 pm, Baker and his cohorts rode the elevators to the first floor. They emerged from the 3rd Avenue entrance of the courthouse. Two getaway cars were waiting for the group, but they parked on the wrong side of the building on 4th Ave. It was cold, dark and raining as the group, dressed only in King County Jail overalls, walked north on 3rd Ave., then east on James St., between the courthouse and Public Safety Building, looking for the getaway cars. Unbeknownst to the escapees, the SPD, housed in the PSB, was changing patrol shifts. Officer Glenn Gilbert, making a mail run from the North precinct, saw the group, dressed in prison togs, walking up James St. They were glancing around nervously. As he circled his patrol car to investigate, the police dispatcher broadcasted the first alert of the jailbreak. The escapees, reaching 4th Ave & James, started to split up. Two getaway cars, both stolen Ford Mustangs, converged on the intersection.

Hot Pursuit

David Warriner, Pierre Parent and Roger Raynor got into a red Mustang driven by a white male, later identified as William Dennis Dunne. The getaway car sped up James St with Officer Gilbert in hot pursuit. Pulling alongside, Officer Gilbert signaled the Mustang to stop. When Dunne failed to obey, Officer Gilbert opened fire with his service revolver. Dunne sideswiped the patrol car, slowing it down, and sped east on James. Broadcasting an alert, Officer Gilbert pursued the Mustang, but lost sight of it at the top of the steep hill. By this time, police units, responding to the emergency, located the Mustang at E. Union & Harvard Ave. It had crashed into a cement retaining wall. Officer Gilbert's gunfire had wounded Dunne in the left shoulder and killed Roger Raynor. Warriner and Parent ran from the crash scene, hijacked a Farwest Taxi at gunpoint and sped away. At 19th Ave, near E. Fir St, they skidded on wet pavement and crashed into a utility pole. Parent was captured nearby by Officer Miller after being subdued by police K9, Mitch. Warriner vanished into the night.

Meanwhile, Officer John Mattox, who was just off-duty, was getting into his vehicle at 5th & Cherry. He saw two men running up the street. Artie Ray Baker, carrying a gun, and Donald J. Martin. When Officer Mattox gave chase, the men split up. Officer Mattox pursued Baker and found him hiding in nearby bushes. Baker had thrown his pistol away and gave up without resistance. Martin ran down 5th Ave and disappeared. Officers Frankie Alexander and Randy Benson stopped Randy Joe Williams and Gary Van Pilon on Cherry between 4th & 5th. While Officers Benson and Alexander were arresting and handcuffing Williams and Pilon, the second getaway car, a dark brown Mustang, pulled alongside Officer Alexander. The driver, later ID'd as Lawrence Charles Bailey, stuck a gun out the window and shot Officer Alexander twice. While Bailey's Mustang sat on the hill spinning its wheels on the wet pavement, Officer Benson opened fire. He wounded Bailey in the chest. The car finally gained traction and pulled away, but collided with two patrol cars at 5th & Cherry. Bailey sped north on 5th Ave. the wrong way on a one-way street. Pursuing police vehicles forced the Mustang to the curb at 5th & Pike, where they took Bailey and Pilon into custody. Pilon was still wearing Officer Alexander's handcuffs.

Canine Action

The wounded prisoners and Officer Alexander were taken to the trauma center at Harborview Hospital. A Harborview employee, learning about the jailbreak, told police that he had just gotten off an eastbound Metro bus that carried a suspicious looking man who might be an escapee. A Seattle Police K-9 unit located the bus and stopped it at 14th and East Jefferson Street. Officer Hanson recognized escapee Donald J Martin and arrested him with the assistance of police K-9 "Satan." When the scramble began, Martin and Baker were together. Martin, apparently ran south on 5th to Jefferson and hid until he was able to board a bus leaving the area. Within 45 minutes of the escape, all prisoners, except David Warriner, had been captured. Police learned that the two Ford Mustangs had been stolen. One was stolen from Albany, California on May 5th and the other in Seattle, on October 10th. When police searched the vehicles, they found an arsenal of weapons, including a fully automatic .30 caliber M-2 carbine, plus thousands of rounds of ammunition. They also recovered the \$2,500 stolen from the jail and a bag containing an additional \$4,000, still in bank wrappers.

Capturing the Last Escapee

On Tuesday, October 16, 1979, just before midnight, Washington State Game Department Agent Robert Ford arrested David Warriner, six miles east of Blaine, Washington. He was a quarter mile south of the Ca-

FROM THE PENSION OFFICE

All of us in the Police Pension Office would like to welcome our new team member, Cassie Fitzsimmons, in her new role as Office Administrator. She is working part time, assisting the office staff in their duties. Cassie comes to us with five years' experience in the medical administration & insurance fields. Cassie grew up in Colville, Washington, and started her career in emergency services as an EMT. She served in that role for four years, prior to moving to the Seattle area to be closer to family. Cassie enjoys spending time outdoors, kayaking and hiking. In the winter months she enjoys drawing, reading, and painting. She has started a plant collection, hoping to grow a green thumb. Cassie adores her flame point Siamese cat, Cashew, and looks forward to meeting more of our members. Did we mention that her grandfather, Retired Captain, and Police Pension Office Executive Secretary Mike Germann would be very proud to have her working here. Please welcome Cassie to the team when you see her!

When you call the Pension Office, once the introduction starts, you can immediately select whom to speak with by pressing the appropriate option. If you have a medical, dental, facility, or home care question for Jan, press 1. If you have a question about your city check, reporting a death, or pension letters for re-fi/home purchase talk to Lisa, at option 2. Stephanie is option 3, and Cassie is option 4. Our phone number is 206-386-1286.

One LEOFF1 member elected Pension Board Trustee position will be open for nominations starting May 1, 2023, and ending at close of business on May 22nd, 2023. The nomination form will be mailed to each LEOFF1 member at the end of April. Once nominations are received, a ballot will be mailed to each LEOFF1 member for the June election. Please be sure the Pension Office has your current mailing address. Contact Lisa at 206-386-1286 option 2 or email the information to policepension@seattle.gov.

Now is the time for the bi-annual (December through May) Medical Premium sharing reimbursement for those few (about 5 members) that have an active employer provided healthcare coverage. You must request this reimbursement in writing with proof of sharing costs. If you have questions, call Jan at 206-386-1286, option 1.

Medicare Part B for 2022. Some have not yet requested their 2022 reimbursement request for their Part B Premium. Please submit these as soon as possible.

Annual Reporting forms have been mailed. Please complete and return the notarized forms by June 30, 2023.

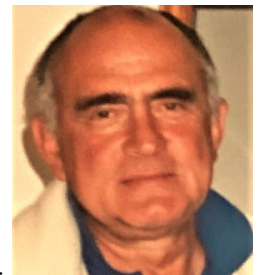
If you receive a letter from Delta Dental of Washington (DDWA) informing you that your dentist is no longer "In-Network" with DDWA, you do not have to stop seeing that dentist or start paying out of pocket for your services. The only thing that changes is how the "Out of Network" payments get paid, (in two checks to the dentist, instead of one) and our Pension fund will no longer receive discounts on your dental claims. It is always preferred that you see a DDWA network provider, but we realize there may be circumstances where that is difficult, especially for those living out of Washington state.



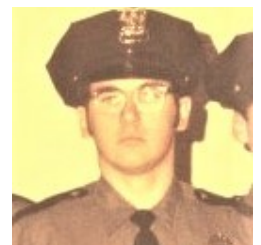
LAST RING



Dick Rovic #1920, retired Seattle Police Detective passed away on January 1, 2023, at 88 years of age. Hired: 3-29-59, Class #40, Assignments: Patrol Downtown, Patrol Wallingford, Traffic Special Enforcement, 3 Wheelers, Accident Investigation, Community Relations, Criminal Investigation Admin Unit, Juvenile Unit, SPOG President. "Father of the Guardian." Retired: 11-15-89 with 30 years of service. Dick is survived by his wife of 49 years, Patsy, their five children, Kelly, Lynn, Ted, Mark, and Joon, and five grandchildren.



Robert "Bob" Kirkbride #3569, retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on November 3, 2022, at 70 years of age. Hired: 10-9-73, Class #73, Assignments: Patrol South. Retired with line of duty disability in 1983 after 10 years of service. Bob is survived by his wife of 49 years, JoAnn, and their children, Brian, Tracy, and Lindsey.





LAST RING



Jon Olson #3485, Retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on November 12, 2022, at 85 years of age. Hired: 9-25-70, Assignments: Patrol South and Wallingford, TAC Squad, Auto Theft. Retired: 9-29-2000 with 30 years of service. Jon is survived by his wife of 16 years, Elizabeth, his daughter Leanne and three grandchildren.



Virgil (Pat) McDonald #5159, retired Seattle Police Officer, passed away on November 11, 2022, at 69 years of age. Hired: 1987, Assignments: Patrol East, South, FTO Coordinator. Retired: 2015 after 28 years of service. Virgil is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Miriam, and their son, James Patrick.



Steve Redmond #5763, Active Seattle Police Officer, passed away on December 30, 2022, at 54 years of age. Hired: 5-4-92, Class #269, Assignments: Patrol East, Foot beats, Bicycle Squad, Traffic DUI & Motors, Critical Incident Stress Management, Safe Call & Code 4 NW, Wellness Unit. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Deanna; his two sons, Lucas, and Aiden; his father, Paul; and many family members and friends.



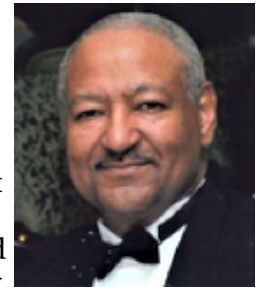
Mike Severance #2866, Retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away on December 14, 2022, at 76 years of age. Hired: 2-26-68, Class #59. Assignments: Dispatcher, Patrol West & North, Certified as Police Sniper, SPOG Sec-Treasurer. Retired: 8-27-14 after 46+ years of service. Mike is survived by his daughters Melissa and Angela, five grandchildren, and his sister Lynn. Sadly, his brother Dave #2381 passed away just four months after Mike, on April 11, 2023.



Henry Vanderlaan #3134, Retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on December 31, 2022, at 79 years of age. Hired: 5-6-69, Assignments: Patrol East, South, Juvenile, Homicide & Robbery. Retired 11-7-97 with 27 years of service. Henry and Lu-Ann were married 57 years when Henry passed away. He is survived by his Son Devin; Daughters Stacy, Jamie, and Kelly; and five grandchildren.



John Mason #2884, Retired Seattle Police Assistant Chief, passed away on January 1, 2023, at 79 years of age. Hired: 4-23-68, Class #56, Assignments: Patrol Central, Traffic Enforcement & Motorcycles, Patrol South, Promoted to Sgt in '77, Promoted to Lieutenant in '80, Community Service Program, promoted to Captain in '92, Gang Unit, Promoted to Assistant Chief in '97, Training Unit. Retired: 4-14-99 with 31 years of service. John is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shirley; his daughter Jennifer; son Kim and many loved ones, both family and friends.



Dennis Hossfeld #4401, Retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on January 10, 2023, at 77 years of age. Hired: 4-16-80, Class #123, Assignments: Patrol South, SPOG Board of Directors, Academy TAC Officer, Auto Theft, Major Crimes. Retired: 1-31-12 with 31 years of service. Dennis is survived by his wife of 54 years, Tath, their son Chris, two granddaughters, and many loved ones.



Erling "Bud" Butte-Dahl #2704, Retired Seattle Patrol Officer, passed away on November 27, 2022, at 78 years of age. Hired: 5-23-67, Assignments: Patrol Downtown. Retired: on disability 10-30-71 with 4 years of service. Erling is survived by his daughters, Jennifer and Lisa, his son Erik and five grandchildren; and his two sisters, Barbara, and Betty.

For complete obituaries please go to www.rspoa.net.

May God Hold You in the Palm of His Hand!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JOE KESSLER #4601

Hired: 8-5-81 Class# 139 Retired: 5-1-19

What were some of your memorable SPD assignments and why?

There were so many memorable assignments it is hard to pick a few. I worked in the old South (Georgetown) Precinct and the old North (Wallingford) Precinct, as well as the East, West and Southwest Precincts. The South Precinct was such a great group of officers, but the best part was Sunday afternoons. I had a number of people in my district, who I would go to their houses for dinner; German, Italian, Samoan, Filipino and Barbecue. The police were truly a part of these communities and graciously welcomed. I had such a great time in patrol working with officers who worked hard, had fun and liked one another. I was fortunate to have a lot of great officers to work around and more importantly, to help keep me out of too much trouble, as well as some great sergeants and lieutenants. Dan Oliver and Frank Ottersbach taught me so much and put up with some less than stellar decision making. I also had a great opportunity to work in Inspections and Planning where I learned how the place worked as well as Advanced Training working with Dan Oliver again. When I left Advanced Training I was told by a Major that Dan and I would never work together again. Funny thing is that we never stopped working together.

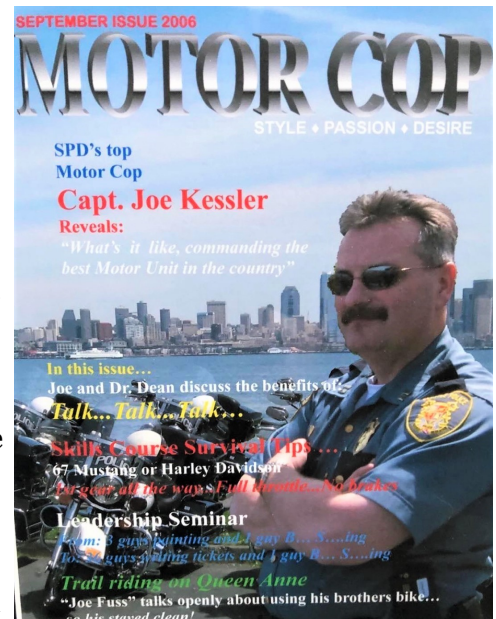
When I was promoted to Sergeant, I was assigned to the State Academy where we put together a fantastic staff and fundamentally changed the way we did training. After stints in the East Precinct and West ACT and CPT, I was promoted to Lieutenant and went back to the East Precinct working for Brent Wingstrand and then to Narcotics. I loved working as a Watch Commander and Operations Lieutenant but I have to admit, five years of having flexible hours, assigned plain cars and fantastic people to work around was pretty hard to beat.

When I was promoted to Captain in 2000, I ran SPOC for a couple of years and then took over Traffic to expand for Sound Transit construction.

The five years in Traffic was one of my favorite assignments. We had fantastic lieutenants and sergeants and some of the finest officers I had the pleasure of working with. It was crazy busy but we had a great time and I got to ride a Harley for free!

After a couple of years of vacation in Metro, I got another great assignment, Southwest Precinct. A great group of sergeants and fantastic officers and detectives along with some of the best lieutenants on the department.

After two years, I was asked to take over the West Precinct. Coming back to the Flagship was an honor. What made it even better was being able to bring back a little of the swagger it had been missing. We had a good two year run before I was sent to work in Mayor McGinn's office, to assist with his initiative to improve community rela-



Joe, a few years apart at the range!

tions. As luck would have it, I got the opportunity to go back to the Southwest Precinct for another couple of years until Chief Bailey asked me to take over Patrol Operations.

Being able to work with fantastic commanders like Steve Paulsen, Mike Nolan, Robin Clark, Eric Sano, Ron Mochizuki, Pierre Davis, Mike Edwards, Ron Smith, Rolf Towne and Norm James and so many others was a highlight. I also had the good fortune to have some of the best sergeants I have ever been around work for me in those assignments. JD Miller, Steve Ameden, Brian Johnson, Don Smith, Tony Bailey and many more. One of the best things about being around so long, is that I had the opportunity to work with so many great officers who I had in FTO or the Academy and then to watch them do great things over the years.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great honor of working on the SPMA Board for much longer than I care to admit. We did have some fun battles over the years.

The one assignment that was the penultimate of my career was the 18 month detail in Area 53. I will be ever thankful to Kathy O'Toole for getting me and my cohorts, Robin Clark, Mike Nolan and Tag Gleason, the best officers available with spectacular views on the 53rd floor of the Tower. As we waited for those projects that were vital to the survival of the City, we planned and trained. The work was taxing, the hours short but we made the best of it and had a lot of laughs during those 18 months.

What do you miss most about SPD?

As with everyone, the people are what I miss the most. I met so many great people in the community and worked with some truly amazing, professional police officers. I do miss being around true professionals like Tom Burns and Dean Shirey, who made me look good even though they did all the work. I feel like I had an opportunity to see some amazing things and be part of many major events which shaped the city and policing.

LIFE AFTER SPD:

What did you do, where do you live?

I made the decision to actually retire from "real" work when I left the Department. My wife, Sylvia (worked at SPD for thirty years mostly in the Chief's Office) and I sold the house we built in Magnolia and built a house on four acres overlooking Saratoga Passage on Camano Island. It was tough leaving the Castle, but not so tough leaving the city. I was born, raised and lived my entire life in the city of Seattle. I loved the city and the Department to my core. But now I often say, "I didn't leave

Seattle, Seattle left me". We have found joy and reward in working on what we hope is our last home. Although, it does seem to be a never-ending process.

Hobbies and Activities?

When I'm not working on the bosses' to do list, I spend time on philanthropic projects with a couple of different organizations I belong to. We also spend a lot of time with family and friends enjoying the gifts we have been given. I do a few whiskey tastings, as Father Murphy once told me "only in moderation", and hope to share of few drams with many of you. Our little girl, Miss Talisker, keeps me pretty busy as she has a great need to chase a ball several times a day. There is just something about Yellow Labs you can't ignore. Hopefully, I will finally be able to play a little golf this summer and do a little more travelling.



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War Stories

By Detective Cloyd Steiger,
SPD Retired, #4313

In the late 90s, I was working Homicide. I'd recently read the book "The I-5 Killer" by Ann Rule about the murders committed by the serial killer Randy Woodfield. In the book, Rule spoke about an unsolved murder of Sylvia Durante in Seattle. She was a waitress at the original Red Robin at Eastlake Avenue East and Furman Street. She failed to show up one day for work, which was unusual for her. Friends called her apartment on Bellevue Court East but got no response. Finally, they called the police. Officers arrived and made entry. They found Sylvia bound and gagged on her bed. She'd been murdered. The case had been initially assigned to Dan Melton and Gary Fowler. When this murder occurred in 1979, I was a recruit in Academy Class #118. Curious about the case, I ordered the case file from the vault. When it arrived, I poured over it, looking to see if anything could be done to solve the case at that time. Sylvia had been raped and murdered. It occurred across a cul-de-sac from another cold case I would look at in a few years; the murder of six-year-old Sally Kelley, which happened at the Ben Lamond Apartments. There had been several latent prints lifted at the scene. I submitted them for submission to AFIS, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, which didn't exist at the time of the murder. The results were negative. I was alone in the Homicide office on a Sunday a couple of years later, when the main phone line rang. "Homicide," I said into the phone.

"Hello," the man on the phone said. "We're in town, and I thought I'd call. Our daughter was murdered several years ago. We wondered if there was someone we could talk to." Is this Mister Durante?" I asked. There was a pause, and then, "Yes." "Come on up," I said. I met him at the front door of the Public Safety Building and let him in. We went to the fifth floor. I put them in a room and retrieved the case file. They were happy that Sylvia was remembered. Years later, when a cold case unit was formed, my old partner, Greg Mixsell, went there. You have to look at Sylvia Durante's case," I told him. He did and submitted the evidence for re-examination. A DNA sample was found and matched to a guy she'd been taking a stained glass class with. He was arrested, charged, and convicted of her murder.

A great resolution to the case.

nadian border. Agent Ford was looking for poachers, when he saw Warriner walking on a road, paralleling the border. He was apparently looking for a trail that would take him into Canada. Warriner, wearing a 10" hunting knife, attempted to flee, but Agent Ford caught him without a struggle. Warriner said he was a Canadian citizen, illegally in the United States. Agent Ford radioed the U.S. Border Patrol for an officer to investigate. Border Patrol Agent Keith Miller, aware of the jailbreak in Seattle, took Warriner to the Border Patrol Station in Blaine for further questioning. In addition to the knife, Warriner had a sleeping bag, ground cover, a backpack containing new clothing, dried foods, a camp stove and other survival gear. He also had a U.S. Army manual titled Survival, Escape and Evasion. Many of the items were new, with store tags still affixed. He also had \$101 in U.S. currency.

The Getaway Cars

The drivers of the getaway cars were positively identified as William Dennis Dunne, 26, a convicted murderer wanted in California for violating parole and Lawrence Charles Bailey, 30, a convicted armed robber. Dunne was charged with possession of an automatic weapon, the M-2 carbine. Bailey was charged with attempted murder of Officer Frankie Alexander. Both men were charged with auto theft and with aiding and abetting the escape. Law enforcement officials concluded that Artie Ray Baker planned the jailbreak. Baker, Dunne and Bailey had served time together in the Deuel Vocational Institute near Tracy, California which was designed for young, violent offenders. They were members of a small, heavily armed group of revolutionaries in Humboldt County, called the Wellspring Communion, an offshoot of the Symbionese Liberation Army. This was an organized attempt to free a member of their militant group, by any means necessary. As one police officer observed, "They had enough ammunition to kill every cop in the city." It was obvious to investigators that Baker had other accomplices in Seattle to help them escape into Canada. This was evidenced by Warriner's capture near the northern border with new clothes and survival gear. Who those accomplices were remains unknown. Information surfaced later that there had been a third getaway vehicle, lurking in the area. Perhaps the biggest mystery, is how prisoners obtained a gun in a high security jail. Some officials speculated the pistol might have come into the jail piece by piece, on a fishing line lowered from a 10th floor window, and then assembled inside. Jail supervisor, Jim Coughlin, told reporters, "There are a number of

ways a gun can be brought into the jail, but I'm not about to tell you what they are. We haven't ruled out any possibilities." On October 19, 1979, under extremely tight security, U.S. Marshals flew Artie Ray Baker to the federal maximum security penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, to begin serving a life sentence for the murder of Customs Inspector Kenneth G. Ward. The federal prison system has a security classification for prisoners, with 36 as the highest rating. Baker was classified as a 34. Officer Frankie Alexander recovered from his bullet wounds and was eventually able to return to duty with the Seattle Police Department.

RSPOA MARCH MEETING

Seattle Police Chief Adrian Diaz was the guest speaker at the March RSPOA meeting.



Chief Diaz with John Nordlund & Jerry Taylor

IMPORTANT

NEW LOCATION FOR RSPOA MONTHLY MEETINGS!

Due to the Nible changing caterers and the renovations to the kitchen, the RSPOA meetings will now be held at the

SHORELINE ELKS LODGE

**14625 15th Ave NE
Shoreline, WA 98155**

**Join us on Wednesday,
May 10th at 11am at the
ELKS IN SHORELINE.**

GUEST SPEAKER: Brian MacMillan

Q13 Meteorologist

(and son of Terri MacMillan)

RAP will also be meeting at the ELKS every Thursday, 11am.



Chief Diaz talks with retired Sergeant Joe Sanford

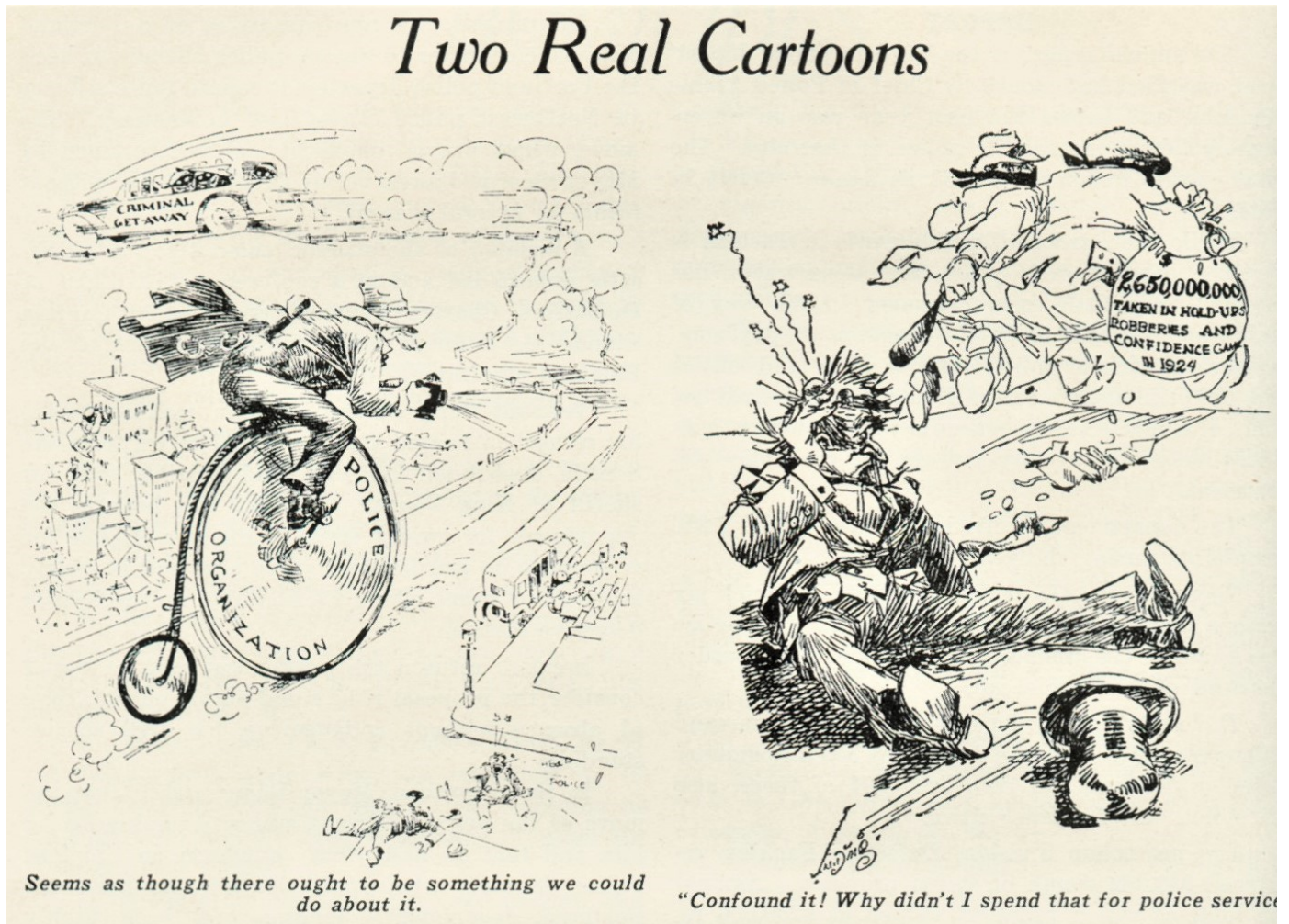


Chief Diaz greets retired Officer Phil Cruse #1287

From the Police Museum

By Officer Jim Ritter, SPD Retired, #4710,
President: Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum

Two Real Cartoons



How Far Have We Really Come?

In our nation's crazy attempt to defund the police in the modern era and the predictable carnage that continues, this cartoon seems entirely apropos. First penned by a cartoonist nearly 100 years ago, it was featured prominently in the January 1925 edition of "Main 7810", the Seattle Police magazine of the era. The left portion of the cartoon depicts a police department forced to contend with public apathy, political posturing, a limited budget, and outdated equipment—all for the benefit of the city's criminals. On the right is a confused citizen, battered and dazed wondering how this possibly could have occurred while watching the crooks run off with a staggering amount of cash, even by today's standards. The caption speaks for itself and asks an obvious question. Considering the decades that have passed since this artist presented his cynical comparison to the absurdity of such public safety decisions, it makes one wonder if the citizens and politicians of Seattle will ever truly understand that if they keep making the same decisions, they get the same results.

If you have any interesting police-related historical publications, artifacts, photographs, equipment, or uniforms you would like to share, seal, or donate to the police museum, please contact me at jamesritter@gmail.com, or at #206-949-9143.



Editor's Corner

By Rich O'Neill
SPD Retired

Fallen SPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the months of April and May.



APRIL

- Thomas L. Roberts** **4-10-1898**
- Dale Eggers** **4-23-1985**

MAY

- Fred Ivey** **5-10-1928**
- Robert D. Ward** **5-15-1969**
- Kenneth L. Davis** **5-11-1995**

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed **May 15** as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week.

National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

In this month of May we pause to remember our Fallen Heroes. The dictionary defines a hero as “a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his or her brave deeds and noble qualities.”

It is fitting that we “never forget” the 61 SPD officers who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in service to the citizens of Seattle. Although their stories are unique and span the generations, they all have one thing in common: They were all heroes!

They answered the call and went towards danger when most people would run away from danger. In each edition of the Call Box, we list the fallen SPD officers for that month and the month preceding. At the Law Enforcement Memorial in Olympia, there are more Seattle Police Officer’s names engraved on the monument wall than any other agency in the state. As SPOG President, as soon as we agreed on a new contract with a sizeable raise, I’d usually field a question from the media questioning the large raise. My response was simple: “We are not paid for what we do. We are paid for what we may HAVE to do!” That usually halted that line of questioning.

So, especially in this time of anti-police rhetoric, I think we should all take time to pause and honor the memories of our fallen heroes. Let us also remember the families who had to live on after their hero made the ultimate sacrifice. Those families carry that burden every day of their lives. As the bible tells us, “No one has greater love than this: To lay down one’s life for his friends.” My they all rest in peace!

EDITOR’S NOTE:

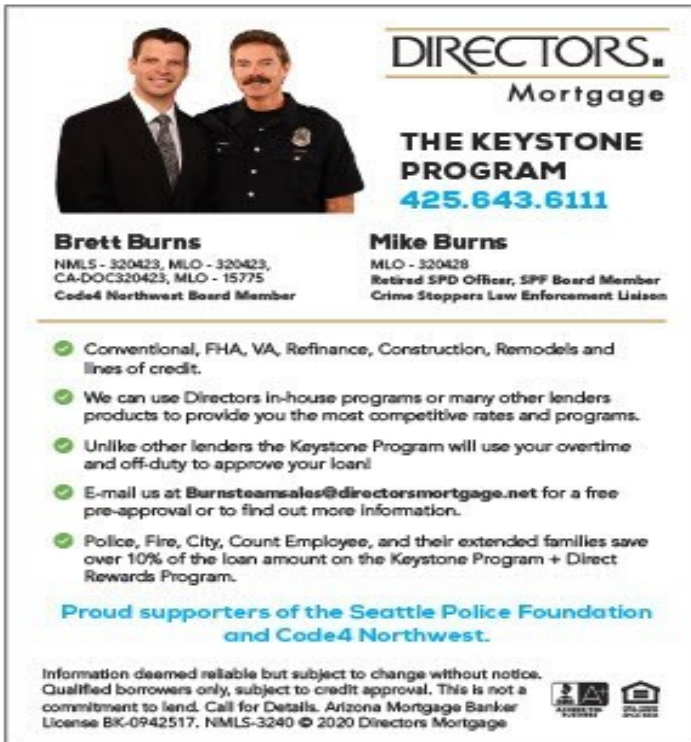
Stephanie Coleman in the pension office does an amazing job gathering information for The Last Ring. Let’s all do her a favor and write down a short biography, including where you were born and grew up. When you were hired, Academy Class #, your assignments, some of your partners, when you retired and what you did after retirement. She will file those away and it will assist her when it is our turn for The Last Ring. Send to pension office or email:

Stephanie.coleman@seattle.gov

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