Kansas City Police Historical Society Collection (SC122)

Introduction

The Kansas City Police Historical Society Collection consists of scrapbooks, reports, correspondence, ephemera, and photographs relating to the Kansas City Police Department.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Kansas City Police Department Tile: Kansas City Police Historical Society Collection Dates: 1881-2012 Size: 36.12 linear feet, 58 boxes Collection Number: SC122

Donor Information

Gift, 2010, Kansas City Police Historical Society.

Citation Note

Kansas City Police Historical Society Collection (SC122), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Historical Sketch

Kansas City grew from a small town to a sprawling city, and its police department suffered similar growth pains. Established in 1874, the Kansas Police Department (KCPD) flourished and matured, evolving from a marshal system reminiscent of the Wild West to one of modern crime prevention and sophisticated public relations. Throughout its exciting, proud, and sometimes checkered history, the KCPD has boasted a metropolitan police force of professionally-trained and dedicated officers.

The changes experienced by the KCPD during its long history have been remarkable, with communication and transportation innovations dramatic examples. Police department communication systems changed from a Gamewell call box system to one-way dispatch radios and later to a two-way radio system. Today officers use FM-equipped mobile computer stations and radios. Good transportation systems, essential to any police department, evolved from the cop walking a beat to mounted officers to twentieth-century vehicles – automobiles, motorcycles, and helicopters. A new century marks the appearance of alternative fuel vehicles.

Along with employing the latest in technology to serve and protect Kansas Citians,

the KCPD has tried new, innovative methods to improve and expand their community relations and public outreach activities. From such past public activities as the Police Circus to ongoing programs, such as Neighborhood Watch, to modern social media initiatives – Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest – the KCPD has reached out and encouraged citizens to play an active role in the department. The mission has remained the same through the decades – to help make the community a better place to live.

The Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) was established under the Missouri State Metropolitan Police Law, which allowed Governor Charles Hardin to appoint its first Board of Police Commissioners. The board, which included the famed artist George Caleb Bingham, appointed Thomas M. Speers as the city's first chief of police. Speers, who served Kansas City for twenty-one years, was followed by forty-three other individuals.

Thomas M. Speers (1874-1895) Lamblin E. Irwin (1895-1896) Henry S. Julian (1896-1897) Thomas N. Vallins (1897) John Hayes (1897-1907) Daniel Ahern (1907-1909) Frank F. Snow (1909-1910) Wentworth E. Griffin (1910-1913) Hiram W. Hammil (1913-1917) Thomas P. Flahive (1917-1918) Larry A. Ghent (1918) Scott Godley (1918-1921) Charles Edwards (1921-1922) Frank A. Anderson (1922-1923) Chester A. Vassar (1923) Paul V. Woolley (1924) William A. Shreeve (1924-1928) Lincoln R. Toyne (1928-1929) John L. Miles (1929-1930) Louis M. Siegfried (1930-1932) Robert E. Phelan (1932-1933) E. C. Reppert (1933-1934) Robert J. Coffey (1934-1939) Lear B. Reed (1939-1941) Harold Anderson (1941-1943) Richard Foster (1943-1945) Harold Anderson (1945-1947) Henry W. Johnson (1947-1952) Frank B. Collins (1952) Bernard C. Brannon (1952-1961) E. I. Hockaday (1961) Clarence M. Kelley (1961-1973) James R. Newman (1973) Joseph D. McNamara (1973-1976) Marvin L. Van Kirk (1976-1978)

Norman A. Caron (1978-1984) Larry J. Joiner (1990) Steven Bishop (1990-1995) Floyd D. Bartch (1996-1999) Richard D. Easley (1999-2004) Rachel H. Whipple (2004) James D. Corwin (2004-2011) Cheryl N. Rose (2011) Darryl L. Forte (2011-present)

Scope and Content Note

Materials in this collection are arranged by type, subject, and chronologically by date if possible. Some documents and photographs are arranged by size for preservation reasons.

Series 1: Scrapbooks

This series includes 21 scrapbooks kept by officers, civilian personnel, and relatives of KCPD officers. The scrapbooks detail the careers of the following individuals: Hugh M. Dougherty, Clara Cunningham, Margaret Richardson, Bobby Brashier, Dan Breece, William M. Hutcherson, and Ronald Bates. Also included are three scrapbooks kept by the Police Wives Organization, two clippings scrapbooks, and one scrapbook detailing the 1968 Race Riots in Kansas City.

Series 2: Reports

The majority of this series is comprised of annual report for the department along with annual reports for the Police Retirement System, the KCPD Police Credit Union annual report, and a Response Time Analysis Executive Summary.

Series 3: Publications

This series includes publications produced by the KCPD, individuals, and other police departments in the greater Kansas City area. The bulk of the series consists of the *Daily Informant*, the daily internal newsletter for the department and also includes issues of *The Baton*, *The Informant*, *Kansas City Police News*, and *Law Enforcement*, along with other publications.

Series 4: Police Benefit Association

This series consists of four subseries all relating to the Police Benefit Association.

4-1: Administrative and General

Materials in this series relate to the general operating procedures of the Police Benefit Association. Included are annual reports, minutes, by-laws, and financial documents.

4-2: Police Memorials

This series contains documents directly relating to various police memorials in Kansas City and to the annual Memorial Day ceremonies held by the KCPD.

4-3: Benefits Paid to Officers

This series contains correspondence, financial documents, insurance information, and death certificates for officers that the Police Benefit Association paid benefits. The main function of the Police Benefit Association was to provide benefits to officers hurt in the line of duty or to family members of officers killed in the line of duty. Each folder contains information on a different officer.

4-4: Police Circus

Included in this series are programs, financial documents, minutes, and photographs relating the Police Circus which was the main fundraiser for the Police Benefit Association.

Series 5: General Correspondence

Correspondence in this series consists of letters to the KCPD, from the KCPD and internal correspondence.

Series 6: Investigations

Included in this series are case files of eight investigations. Also included are investigation orders and talk permits.

Series 7: Job Applications and Related Correspondence

This series contains formal job applications, letters asking for jobs, notes on potential applicants, and reference letters for those applying to the KCPD.

Series 8: Kansas City Police School of Instruction

Included are test scores from 1930 for the Kansas City Police School of Instruction which would later turn into a formal Police Academy.

Series 9: Traffic Bureau

The bulk of this series consists of correspondence from citizens asking that their parking tickets be purged and the response from the Traffic Bureau. Also included is internal Traffic bureau correspondence and, reports, and voided ticket reports.

Series 10: Reports

This series consists of miscellaneous reports about various police stations, investigations, and officers.

Series 11: Suspect Identification

The majority of this collection consists of mug shots, arrest records, and a crime information mug book.

Series 12: Ledgers and Log Books

This series includes payroll ledgers, two special account books, traffic ticket sign out books, and marketing account ledgers.

Series 13: Rosters and Assignment Listings

Included in this series are monthly assignment records and alphabetical rosters.

Series 14: Retirements and Obituaries

Materials in this series include retirement announcements, retiree directories and obituaries of officers and civilian personnel. This series is indexed.

Series 15: Handbooks and Manuals

This series includes handbooks and manuals used by KCPD officers. Included are rules and regulations manuals, a Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, and a detective's notebook kept by Detective J. J. Enright.

Series 16: Harry Boyle

This series contains materials relating to Harry Boyle and includes training photographs, a memorial book, and his business card.

Series 17: Joseph Adelman

This series encompasses materials relating to Joseph Adelman and Happy the Safety Clown. The Safety Clown documents include booklets, photographs, correspondence, and Officer Friendly materials. The personal Adelman documents include family photographs, wrestling and weightlifting photographs, retirement party photographs, and an autograph collection. Also included is a scrapbook kept by Adelman detailing his career and his time as Happy the Safety Clown.

Series 18: Hyatt Regency Skywalk Collapse

This series includes After Action reports issued by the KCPD during the investigation of the 1981 Hyatt Regency Skywalk Collapse.

Series 19: Newspaper Clippings

This series contains newspaper clippings kept by the KCPD from 1991-2000.

Series 20: Photographs

Photographs in this series are arranged by subjects when possible. Included are formal and informal photographs, individual portraits, police memorials, the accident investigation unit, training activities, entrant officer classes, and ceremonies and awards. The majority of the photographs are unidentified.

Collection Inventory

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f. 53	Hugh M. Dougherty Scrapbook #2, 1930-1940, Photocopies
f. 54-67	Hugh M. Dougherty Scrapbook #3, 1931-1940 (Use photocopies)
f. 68-70	Hugh M. Dougherty Scrapbook #3, 1931-1940, Photocopies
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f. 84-87	Margaret Richardson Scrapbook #1, 1956-1976
f. 88	Margaret Richardson Scrapbook #2, 1970-1974
f. 89-99	Bobby Brashier Scrapbook, 1947-1980 & n.d.
f. 100-110	Dan Breece Scrapbook #1, 1946-1974 & n.d.
f. 111-114	Dan Breece Scrapbook #2, 1948-1949 & n.d.
f. 115	Dan Breece Scrapbook #2, 1948-1949 & n.d., Photocopies
f. 116	Clippings Scrapbook, 1932, Photocopies
f. 117-123	Clippings Scrapbook, 1932
f. 123-150	Clippings Scrapbook, 1939-1947
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f. 161-162	Race Riot Scrapbook, 1968, photocopies
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- f. 214-217 Police Wives Organization Scrapbook #1, 1969-1971
- f. 218-221 Police Wives Organization Scrapbook #2, 1971-1973
- f. 222-226 Police Wives Organization Scrapbook #3, 1973-1976

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- f. 228 Annual Reports, 1946-1949
- f. 229 Annual Reports, 1949-1952
- f. 230 Annual Reports, 1953-1954
- f. 231 Annual Reports, 1955-1957
- f. 232 Annual Reports, 1958-1959, 1961
- f. 233 Annual Reports, 1962-1964
- f. 234 Annual Reports, 1965-1966, 1968

- f. 235 Annual Reports, 1969-1971
- f. 236 Annual Reports, 1972-1974
- f. 237 Annual Reports, 1975-1977
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- f. 239 Annual Reports, 1983-1986
- f. 240 Annual Reports, 1989-1990, 1991, 1994
- f. 241 Annual Reports, 2000-2001, 2004
- f. 242 Annual Reports, 2005-2006
- f. 243 Annual Reports, 2007-2008
- f. 244 Annual Reports, 2009
- f. 245 K. C. Police Credit Union Annual Membership Meeting, 1992
- f. 246 Annual Report of the Police Retirement System, 1973, 1977-1978
- f. 247 Annual Report of the Police Retirement System, 1978-1979
- f. 248 Annual Report of the Police Retirement System, 1979-1981
- f. 249 Annual Report of the Police Retirement System, 1981-1984
- f. 250 Annual Report of the Police Retirement System, 1999, 2003
- f. 251 Response Time Analysis Executive Summary, 1977

Series 3: Publications

f. 252 K	now Your I	Money, 1946
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- f. 253 To Act Against Crime: President lyndon B. Johnson's Address to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, 1967
- f. 254 Missouri Revised Statutes, 1949, 1959
- f. 255 Town: Pictoral Kansas City, 1948
- f. 256 ALERT (Automated Law Enforcement Response Team), 1969
- f. 257 Kansas City Patrol Projects, 1972-1973
- f. 258 Revolver Retention, 1976
- f. 259 I Ride With Kansas City's Finest, 1987
- f. 260 Y2K Operational Plan, 1999-2000
- f. 261 Alert II: A Criminal Justice Information System, n.d.
- f. 262 Brochures, n.d.
- f. 263 Burglary Prevention through Home Security, n.d.
- f. 264 Evaluation Guide, n.d.
- f. 265 Union Station Massacre by Hugh Chase, n.d.
- f. 266 Law Enforcement, 1949, 1977-1978
- f. 267 Law Enforcement, 1978-1979
- f. 268 Law Enforcement, 1979-1981
- f. 269 Law Enforcement, 1981-1982
- f. 270 Law Enforcement, 1983-1984
- f. 271 Law Enforcement, 1984-1985
- f. 272 Missouri Police Law News, 1973-1974
- f. 273 The Court Reporter, 1982
- f. 274 The Countyline, 1978
- f. 275 Law Officer, 1962-1973
- f. 276 The Baton, April 1958- May 1961
- f. 277 The Informant, November 1961-February 1969
- f. 278 The Informant, February 1969-July 1969
- f. 279 The Informant, August 1969-November 1969

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- f. 290 The Informant, February 1973-May 1973
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- f. 292 The Informant, October 1973-May1974
- f. 293 The Informant, June 1974-August 1974
- f. 294 The Informant, September 1974-December 1974
- f. 295 Kansas City Police News, January 5, 1975-November 21, 1975
- f. 296 Kansas City Police News, December 26, 1975-September 24, 1976
- f. 297 Kansas City Police News, October 8, 1976-March 11, 1977
- f. 298 Kansas City Police News, March 25, 1977-May 19, 1978
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- f. 301 Kansas City Police News, April 6, 1979-March 7, 1980
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- f. 303 Kansas City Police News, December 19, 1980-August 21, 1981
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- f. 308 Kansas City Police News, March 1985-September 1986
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- f. 310 Kansas City Police News, February 1988-July 1989
- f. 311 The Informant, September 1989-March 1990
- f. 312 The Informant, May 1990-April1991
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- f. 317 The Informant, December 2007-November 2008
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- f. 483 Membership Cards, Harriet Young, 1957-1958

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- f. 498 Edmunds, Robert D., 1924-1949
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