

**The History
of the
Coeur d'Alene
Police Department**

1887 *to* 2012



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History of the Coeur d'Alene
Police Department
1887 to 2012**

**The Coeur d'Alene Police Department
122 years of Law Enforcement Tradition**

by;

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The town of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Territory, was incorporated on August 3, 1887. The town's founding fathers, formally known as the Board of Trustees, soon realized law enforcement was essential to the growth and development of the community.

On August 29, 1887, they appointed Warren Baldwin as the first Marshal. Charles D. Warner, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, administered the oath of office to Marshal Baldwin on September 1, 1887.

The town then purchased him a star engraved with the words, "Marshal, Town of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Territory." This first "badge of office" cost three dollars.

On September 5, 1887, the Board of Trustees met and defined the “Rules and Regulations of the Office of Marshal.” Numerous duties were assigned and included:

- **making arrests for breach of the peace,**
- **commission of a crime within the limits of the town,**
- **keeper of the calaboose,**
- **lockup, suppression of disturbances, execution of processes issued or directed to him by any magistrate,**
- **preventing the fast and furious driving or riding of any horse or other animal,**
- **fire warden.**

The Marshal was directed to “at all times” have with him a small book in which to enter the names of persons taken in charge by him, such particulars as may be important at trial, and statement of such other matters and persons coming to his knowledge and observation that may in any way be of assistance in the detection of crime.

In addition to his duties as a peace officer, the Marshal was directed to perform the duties of Road Toll Tax Collector and Street Commissioner.

He was instructed that all town prisoners would work upon the public square and be responsible for cleaning all crossings of streets.

A prisoner refusing labor was compelled to go upon the streets and have attached to his leg a ball and chain. Females were not required to perform labor, nor were male prisoners required to labor on Sunday.

On February 3, 1888, Marshal Baldwin resigned because there was not sufficient funds to pay his salary. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees reported on February 16, 1888, that garbage was being dumped into the lake. Without a Marshal, the Board directed the Town Physician to take steps to remedy the nuisance.

The need for a Marshal was evident and a general election was set for April 2, 1888, to fill the vacancy. Warren Baldwin won, receiving 18 votes to B.S. Wishart's 1 vote. It was rumored B.S. Wishart may have voted for himself.

Coeur d'Alene again had a Marshal but it didn't have a jail, making it necessary for all prisoners to be held at Fort Sherman. Through the use of "town warrants," the first jail was completed on June 26, 1888, at the cost of \$150.00.



Located at 2nd and Wallace

John N. Sebring took over the office of Marshal on December 4, 1888, at a salary of \$75.00 a month. One of his first acts was to request three dollars to purchase a padlock for the jail.

During his term of office, Marshal Sebring also had to deal with a small pox quarantine and “worthless characters and tramps who had been turned out of Spokane.”

From October 18, 1889 to July 6, 1904, Coeur d’Alene had a number of Marshals and Night Watchmen including: Warren Baldwin, George W. Bechthel, W.T. Haskinson, James Elliot, John Schneider, F.M. Crandall and Patrick Flood.

Coeur d'Alene officially became a city on June 1, 1904, and on July 6, 1904, Patrick McGovern was appointed the City's first Chief of Police. He was described as "big, over six feet tall, married with seven children, a quiet man, never saying much."



Chief McGovern on left.

The Police Department expanded to four officers on May 6, 1907. P.F. McGovern was Chief, Carl Kronblatt was night patrolman, and George Ott and E.G. Jackson were day patrolmen.

The City Council also voted to purchase a uniform for the police force. It was to be of blue cloth with brass buttons, caps for warm weather and helmets for cold.

A big victory was declared in 1908; it was the overwhelming decision by the voters of Kootenai County to move the County seat from Rathdrum to Coeur d'Alene.

Bids for a City Hall were received on April 7, 1908. The building was to house the Fire Department, Police Department, City government offices and a jail with four individual cells in the basement. It was completed on December 12, 1908, at a cost of \$35,420 and described as “a three-story, white pressed brick structure, one of the most handsome and most substantial buildings in the state.”



Located at 5th and Sherman

The Police Department would remain in this building until March of 1979.

On May 22, 1909, President Taft signed a proclamation opening to entry and settlement a million acres of farm and timber lands on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Idaho, the Spokane Reservation in Washington, and the Flathead Reservation in Montana. Coeur d'Alene was selected as the site to hold the drawings for this land and the City Council wisely authorized the Mayor and the Police Chief to hire Special Police Officers to help control the town.

On July 14, 1909, registration began and when it was over several weeks later, 264,883 entries had been received of which 105,000 were applications for land on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. The crowd that thronged the streets of Coeur d'Alene was described as "of motley character", representing every part of the American continent and all classes of people.

Mingling with the land seekers were the bunko men with lottery games of their own, the sneak thieves seeking to filch some article of value, and the light-fingered gentry searching for the opportunity to pick the pockets of individuals in the crowd.

During this time, every train that came into Coeur d'Alene was "fully packed" and the Police Department had its hands full.



Train station in Rathdrum. (ca 1910)

On May 8, 1911, Patrick McGovern retired and G.K. Evans was appointed as Chief. Although the "G.K." actually stood for Greenberry Kelly after his two grandmother's maiden names, many people assumed the "G" stood for George.



Chief Evans

Evans liked George better than Greenberry, so he kept the name. His daughter Florence, described him as "6'1" tall, 200 pounds in weight, and normally wearing black high top walking shoes, a black Stetson hat, and a loose coat with numerous pockets.

Finding no use for handcuffs or a holster, Chief Evans carried a Smith and Wesson 4-inch 38 Special revolver in his back pocket. He had the first official police dog in Coeur d'Alene, a spaniel named Cougar, who accompanied him when he patrolled the alleys at night.

The Police Department continued to deal with behavior problems as evidenced by its statistics for 1912. Of the 149 arrests made in Coeur d'Alene that year, 120 were for "drunk and disorderly conduct."

On August 21, 1913, the city's purchasing agent was authorized to buy a pair of handcuffs and a ball and chain for the Police Department.

The matter of employing a "speed cop" was brought before the City Council on February 23, 1920. They empowered the Chief to hire such an assistant at a monthly salary of \$135.00 and Julius Johnson became the City's first traffic officer.



Officer Julius Johnson

On May 23, 1921, the City Council received a letter from F.M. Brashers, Chief of the Idaho State Constabulary, asking that Chief Evans be allowed to attend a meeting in Boise on June 22nd to discuss police matters. This is the first record of a Coeur d'Alene police officer receiving approval for any type of training. The City Council also approved the purchase of a fingerprint kit for the Police Department.

In September of 1927, the Fire Department purchased a 1925 Buick for \$745. Ten months later, the Police Department was given authorization to use the Buick on night calls requiring an automobile. The Police Department was moving into the age of the automobile, even if they had to borrow one.



1925 Buick

Michael Joseph Roche was a policeman in Ireland before coming to the United States in 1902. He started with the Coeur d'Alene Police Department in April of 1909 and was 52 years old when he was appointed Chief on March 12, 1928.



Officer Michael Roche (ca 1910)



Chief Michael Roche

“Mike” was a well-known figure in the City, a big man, almost 6’8” tall and weighing 225 pounds, with a mild temperament. But those who knew him said, “No one messed with Mike Roche.” In August of 1928, Chief Roche was granted one week vacation and necessary expenses to attend the “Peace Officers Convention” in Boise.

While under the direction of Chief Roche, the Police Department looked into the purchase of bullet-proof vests (December, 1929) and bought the first official police car (February 1932).

A special traffic program was implemented in July of 1936 when two special policemen were hired for two weeks for the sole purpose of making arrests for stop sign failure.

In May of 1939, the City Council approved installation of a two-way, short wave radio in the police car, and in July of 1942, 300 parking meters were installed in the downtown area.

Chief Roche passed away on July 27, 1945, at 70 years of age. His successor was Arnold Engen.



Chief Arnold Engen

Engen, who at age 29, with less than two years on the Police Department, had attained the rank of Assistant Chief. Engen was the first officer with the Coeur d'Alene Police Department to attend the prestigious F.B.I. Academy in Washington D.C., graduating on October 23, 1943.

During Chief Engen's administration, the famous "Diamond Cup" hydroplane races started on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Chief Engen improved the working hours of his officers and was instrumental in obtaining a second police car.

On July 15, 1960, Chief Engen retired and Reine Schmidt was appointed Chief. A good-natured man, Chief Schmidt enjoyed mathematics and worked to improve the Police Department's budget.



Chief Reine Schmidt

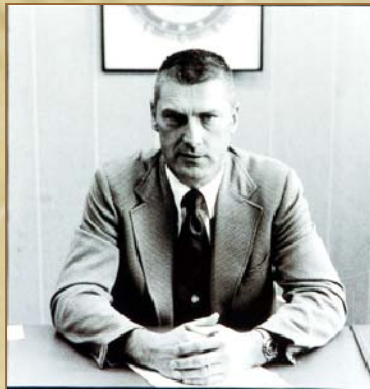


Chief George Lenz

George Lenz followed Reine Schmidt as Chief of Police, taking office on July 27, 1964. He believed in interdepartmental relations and was a member of the Law Enforcement Planning Commission.

While serving as President of the Idaho Chief's Association, Chief Lenz helped develop the police academy in Pocatello. Officer ethics were also important to Chief Lenz and he instituted a college incentive program for Coeur d'Alene Police Officers.

Robert Nuttelman was appointed Chief of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department on July 1, 1972.



Chief Robert Nuttelman

During his administration, communication equipment was improved; uniforms, body armor and sidearms were furnished to officers by the Department; a School Resource Officer Program was implemented; the task force concept was used to address specific crime problems; plans were developed for a new building; and the Coeur d'Alene Police Officers Association was formed.

Following Chief Nuttelman's medical retirement, Frank W. Premo was selected to head the Coeur d'Alene Police Department.



Chief Frank W. Premo

He assumed command in March of 1979 as the Police Department was moving to a new City Hall. Chief Premo served Coeur d'Alene for more than ten years and is remembered for the professionalism he developed within the Department.

Under Chief Premo, modern management techniques were adopted, records were computerized, a specific training budget was created and interagency cooperation was stressed, as was personal development.

Following the term of Chief Premo the Coeur d'Alene Police Department continued to grow under the guidance of Chief David Scates, who was a proponent of proactive law enforcement and community policing.



Chief David Scates

Chief Scates had been with the department for seventeen years before being appointed as Chief. He assumed command in 1989 and retired eleven years later in 2001.

In the early 1990's Scates was at the helm when Coeur d'Alene Police Department was tasked with providing security to the Aryan Nation demonstrations. They held annual parades, and marched down Sherman Avenue promoting "White Supremacy" much to the dislike of the local community. This brought negative notoriety by way of the national media to the City of Coeur d'Alene and caused significant security issues for the department to address for the parade participants and the counter-protestors.

Also during Scates tenure, growth of the department caused significant space issues that meant outsourcing of personnel in 1992 to rented facilities.

Detectives left City Hall and worked out of the upper floor of Harbor Center located in the old Osprey building on the Coeur d'Alene River (that currently houses the University of Idaho).

Detectives remained split from the main building at City Hall until a new building was constructed in 1999 at 3818 Schreiber Way. The cost of the land and construction of the buildings totaled \$2,141,701.



Due to changing society norms that brought about an escalation in violence toward law enforcement, as well as the tragic 1998 murder of Office Linda Huff of the Idaho State Police, the building was designed with safety of our police officers in mind.

At 20,000 sq. ft. it was designed to last into the next ten years with room for some expansion.

Security gates and doors with codes keep the public from gaining entrance to the inner perimeter of the department unless they are escorted by an employee. The front desk area that is utilized daily by citizens contacting police protects employees with the use of bullet proof glass.

The building boasts high, brick, outside walls containing Kevlar normally used in bullet proof vests in the wall insulation. It is designed to withstand gunfire or other explosives. Windows were placed near the top of the walls that allow for some natural light but there is no ability to see inside the offices from outside the building.

Following Chief Scates announced retirement plans in 2001 the City held a nationwide search to fill his position. Thomas J. Cronin was chosen from a field of applicants as the new Chief of Police.



Chief Tom Cronin

Cronin had retired from a 30 year career in law enforcement at Chicago Police Department as a Commander. He had never lived in the west or worked in a small town department, but did bring with him many new ideas for progressive police work.

Under Cronin's leadership the department expanded to include a Drug Dog, a Police Honor Guard, a Public Information Officer, and additional manpower in patrol and detectives.

Cronin was also responsible for implementing the new shift schedule of 10 hours and 40 minutes per day for patrol and 10 hour days, four days a week for detectives.

Cronin like his predecessor was also tasked with the security measures needed for Aryan Parades as well as a large security force for the famous Aryan civil trial in the year 2000. The lawsuit was brought forth for violations of human rights that ended in a large jury award to the plaintiff's (Keenan's) resulting in bankruptcy of the Aryan Nations.

The trial and the award of the Aryan Compound to the Keenan's effectively ended the period of North Idaho being a nationally recognized haven for white supremacist.

Chief Cronin retired in 2003 and the Police Department entered a new era in history with the Mayor and Councils appointment of Wendy Carpenter as the new Chief of Police.



Chief Wendy Carpenter

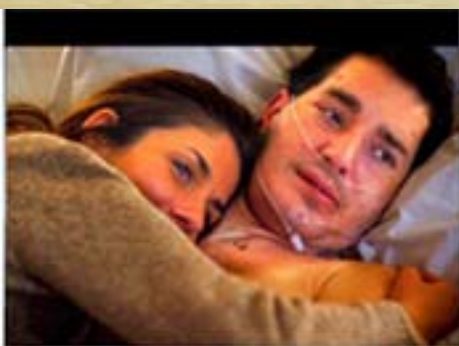
Carpenter not only had the distinction of being the first female police officer, but she was also the first female sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. Carpenter started her tenure with the police department as a meter maid. She also worked as a dispatcher and eventually tested for a patrol position that led to her long, prestigious career in law enforcement.

Carpenter was known for her no-nonsense and low key style as well as her strong work ethic, loyalty to the Police Department and the community she served.

During her tenure the Police Department weathered a tragedy in dealing with the first officer ever shot in the line of duty in the City of Coeur d'Alene.

Officer Michael Kralicek was shot in the neck on December 27th 2004 while assisting the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department on the investigation of a hit and run accident. The suspect Michael Madonna was subsequently killed during an exchange of gunfire.

Officer Kralicek clung to life for many weeks at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle Washington. Chief Carpenter spent many days and nights in Seattle comforting his wife Carrie Kralicek, and their family while waiting by his bedside.



**Officer Kralicek
and wife Carrie**



Officer Kralicek survived his life threatening wounds that should have deemed him to a lifetime of no physical mobility. Instead his determination and hard work paid off, and he gained use of his legs in order to walk again.



Officer Mike Kralicek continues to work hard to gain full use of his body, and after retiring from the police department he and his wife travel the country as motivational speakers promoting personal strength while facing adversity.



Chief Carpenter retired in 2008 at the young age of fifty after a full career and thirty years with the City Of Coeur d'Alene. The Mayor and Council searched nationwide for a suitable replacement, and found a high quality candidate in their own back yard.

Wayne Longo enjoyed a long and illustrious career of thirty-one years with the Idaho State Police, and had achieved the rank of Captain before expressing interest in the leadership position at Coeur d'Alene Police Department.



Chief Wayne Longo

Longo was well known for his dedication to “service before self” by regional law enforcement officers, and the community at large when he was selected over a field of other candidates to be the new Chief of Police.

Chief Longo has brought many new programs to the Police Department that enhances public safety.

In 2009 he developed the Prescription Medication turn in program that other area departments have since initiated. He added a Gang Intelligence Officer, a part time Evidence Technician, additional Patrol positions and a Crime Analyst.

Community Policing programs have grown under Chief Longo's guidance. The Police Volunteer program was enhanced to include a COPS Program (Citizens on Patrol). Chief Longo started a Multi-Agency Citizens Academy in 2008 and the COPS Academy in 2009. Additionally, he started quarterly Town Hall meetings for Block Watch Captains hosted by him at the Police Department.

Chief Longo worked with City leaders and the Lake City Development Corporation to acquire funding for a Police and Fire safety building located near Independence Point in the City Park. At a cost of \$50,000 (\$25,000 out of the Police Department budget) the building provides visibility for the Police Department in a highly congested area during the summer months.

The building is utilized as a command post by full time officers for many public events, and is staffed from early summer to the beginning of fall with Reserve Officers and Goodwill Ambassadors.



Chief Longo and Captain Childers

In 2010 Chief Longo started the Free Outdoor Movie Night in the City Park. It is a fun, family event that has been very enjoyable for citizens. Chief Longo is deeply committed to public safety for all citizens and visitors to our great city. He continues to focus on pro-active police work and efficiency based programs.

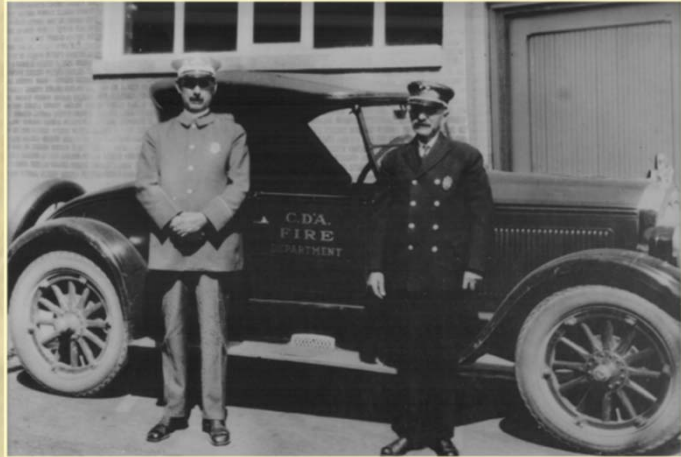
As of 2012 with 99 employees, the Police Department is the largest department in the City, operating on an annual budget in excess of nine million dollars and handling over 39,000 calls for service a year.

The Police Department is proud of its 122 year history and we look forward to meeting the law enforcement needs of the City of Coeur d'Alene as we plan for the future.

Vintage Uniform; ca 1920



First Police Car 1927



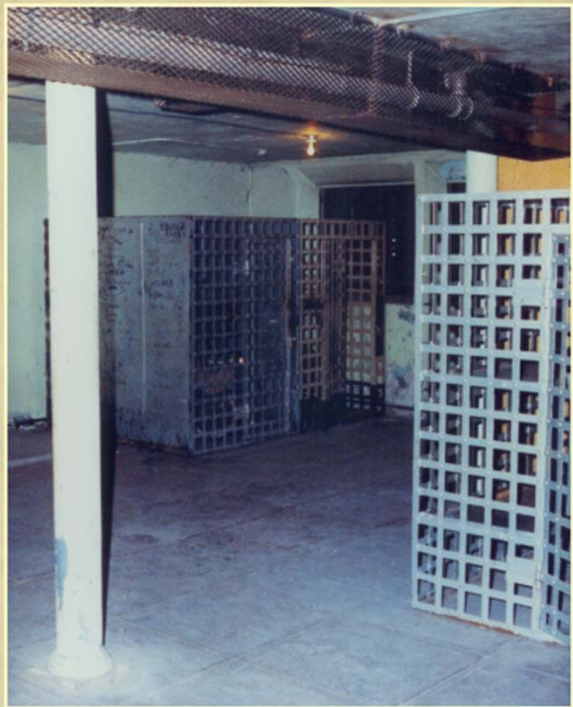
1946 Ford Police Car





Patrol Car & Motorcycle 1952

Jail 1975





1934



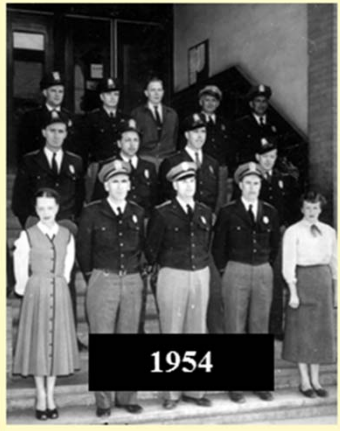
1939



1945



1946



1954



1955



1957



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