

~~W. W. W. W. W.~~ Bud Barnes

Q. What makes the museum special?

A. It gives people who have never had the opportunity to understand the tradition original concept of the sheriffs in the state will give you some history from the time we were a territory up to the time now when we're a modern sheriff. We used to ride horses. Now we drive

automobiles.

Q. How did you decide what to include in the museum?

A. We had articles from all the different counties in the state but when we go to a certain part of the state we try to take and see to it that the property that is put into the museum is something that relates to that from that part of the state.

In other words the things that are in the museum from this county are ~~things that~~ are different from the things that are in the museum from down in Medford.

Q. ~~Where~~ Where did you find some of your unique items?

A. Mainly from relatives of sheriffs and also out of sheriffs' offices that new sheriffs have gone into and they've dug in the closet and found old jail books and things like that.

Q. Looking at 1930 and 1940, what do you think were some of the most important concerns of the police?

A. 1930 probably the most important things to the police were exactly the same things we have now. The most important things to the sheriffs in those days were the apprehension and holding prisoners who committed major crimes and transporting them to the Oregon State Penitentiary and seeing to it that the taxes were collected. See sheriffs used to collect all the taxes, and the assessor in those days could not do that. In fact in Wash. County until 1961 the sheriff collected the taxes. That's why the sheriff is called a tax collector in a lot of places.

Q. What was the major crime problem?

A. Let me go a little further on my answer on that other question because you mentioned the 40's. In the 1940's, early 40's, we became involved in World War II. The sheriff was partly responsible for security police in case of air raids and things like that. Those things a lot of people forget but the sheriff was involved in civil defense and assigning people in areas to watch. ~~in~~ In case some bombers came over the United States to drop bombs they would call in and notify the federal government. I'll show you a badge used during that time. All it says is "Defense Please." And that's what it was for. Those were given to citizens around who were not ~~deputy~~ really paid deputy sheriffs--they were given to citizens who contributed their time to go out during that time and watch at night.....

Q. What was the major crime problem? In the 40's? In that area.

An. It was probably thefts of property. There were a few murders. There weren't too many. There wasn't too much in the way of violent crimes. IXX A lot of it was theft, but the crime rate ~~wasn't~~ during that time was a lot lower than it is right now because everybody was involved in the war. A lot of people weren't here, they were in the service. Except for the depression, it was the lowest time of statistics that crime was down.

Q. How did the County cope fix the problem of communications

A. If you're talking about history in the case of radios. We had no radios up until 1946. I didn't work here then. Then in 1948 Portland police department had a radio transmitter receiver. That was one of the nearest, nicest things that ever happened to the police force. At that time we were allowed here in Wash. County to put a receiver in our car. So when ~~we~~ someone called in for a policeman at night when the office wasn't open, the radio operator there would 3 times every two minutes would call and say Wash. Co. Sheriff call your home. So we would stop and listen in the 50's we were still doing this. We would go to a house, wake the people up, borrow their telephone, ~~and~~ call our house and ask our wives who needed us. And they would tell us where to go. In many cases we just called the phone operator cause in those days you couldn't make a phone call without talking to a phone operator. You couldn't dial a number like you do now, so you would call a phone operator and if she knew where you were supposed to go, she's tell you where to go. Now the way the city did it. The phone operator would get the call and there would be a red light on the telephone pole in the middle of town. She would push a button, the red light would go on, the policeman would run down to the phone company wherever the office was, and there was one in each one of the cities, and contact the phone operator to find out where the policeman was supposed to go. Now we're doing the same thing today only we're doing it different. We dial 911 and we have a person answers the phone and tells you where to go. It's about the same principle except we have radios to get hold of the officer also.

Q. Was it hard to get deputies?

A. Not really, There's always been people who wanted to be policemen. I've got a list upstairs now of 100 people waiting to get into this office. So there's always been somebody wanting to be a deputy sherrif.

Q. How many deputies did you have in the 30's approximately and how many do you have now?

A. In the 30's, late 30's, I believe there was one sheriff and a part-time deputy. In the 40's, about 44, Johnson was one of the first part-time deputies. Then the county finally paid for a full-time deputy and a sheriff. When I came to work here there were 7 of us working in this department. I was the seventh person counting the sheriff. Now we have about 108, things have grown a little bit.

J.J. Nagel - Ladd Actes

Q. How old were you when you ~~was~~ began the force?

A. When I went to work I was 44 years old.

Q. What was the major problem in crime?

A. The major problem was liquor. Too much intoxicating beverages. That's what caused most of the crime.

Q. When you were a street officer what was more of a problem, drinking or drugs?

A. Well it was about a 50-50 proposition. But I never patrolled the streets. I patrolled the county in a car.

Q. You were in a crusier.

A. Yes, I was in a crusier.

Q. Did you enjoy your work?

A. You bet I did, I thought it was all right.

Q. How many partners did you have in your career of police work?

A. Well when you're in the crusier there were 2 of us. The two of us worked together.

Q. How many close friends of yours that were on the force are still alive and in this area?

A. Maybe 6 or 7.

Q. How did your equipment change over the years?

A. It changed an awful lot. They've got great big red lights on them, they've got faster better cars, they've got better communication service, radios, etc. It's a great big improvement. When I was on partol we had a little flashlight with a red flasher in front. A piece of red plastic. That was how we stopped cars.

Q. How did the methods of crime solving change?

A. The method is apparently the same-- there's a lot more crime than there used to be, because there's a lot more population. When I went to work ~~XXXX~~ there ~~was a lot more crime~~ were about 30,000-35,000 here in Wash. County now it's about 225,000. So there's an awful big difference. There's a lot more crime but of course there's a lot more officers to take care of it. Try to take care of it, let's put it that way.

Q. What in your opinion was the worst crime that you ever witnessed?

A. There was a murder trial over here towards Tigard. ~~The~~ A young man shot and killed a music teacher who was sitting in his car. That was the worst one I ever--I don't know-- we have a lot of them but then that one's outstanding.

Q. ~~Was~~ Was there more teenage crime when you were in the force than there is now?

A. No. It's about the same percentage accoring to population.

Q. Do you think the courts are too easy on criminals?

A. I sure do. I think they're too easy.

Q. What kind of training did you have?

A. I didn't have any training. When I went to work. I learned it all after I went to work in the sheriff's office.

Q. Were there ever any freak accidents that helped you solve crimes?

A. Not that I can recall.

Q. How have jails changed?

A. Jail now is a great big jail. We just had a small jail then.

Q. Like you would see on ~~TV~~ some of those sheriff movies where they just have the little cells going down a aisle?

A. Yes. They had a good jail at that time but it wasn't very big. They stayed locked up.

Q. I don't think I should ask you this question.

A. Go ahead.

Q. Is real police work a lot different from TV police.

A. Yes, quite a bit different. TV policemen--he gets into his car with his sirens wide open, lets everybody know it. The real policeman, he just goes up in his car and that's it. He dosen't let everybody know he's there.

Q. Was there ever a crime you didn't solve?

A. Oh, lots of them. A lot of them that weren't solved.

Q. What do you think of reading rights to criminals?

A. Well that's the law. You have to read the rights to them before you arrest them.

They have their rights. I forgot what the exact words are but you have to tell them that they have a right to remain silent, if you give up that right to remain silent anything you say can and will be used against you in the court of law. And the right to get an attorney.

Q. How many hours did you work?

A. When I first went to work, I went to work at 5 o'clock in the evening and I worked till 1 a.m. I worked 2 weeks straight, and I'd get off every other Sunday. Sometimes I would have to work until 6 o'clock the next morning, a lot of times I would be looking for a suspect or something. I never got any extra pay for it either.

Q. Just worked at it because you thought ~~xxxxx~~ you should?

A. That's right. Cause I thought I should work at it. Now they get time and a half or double time for it--working 2 or 3 hours overtime. They're making a fabulous salary compared to what I used to get when I first went to work.

Q. Do you think the streets are safer today than when you were ~~xxxxxx~~ on patrol?

A. I think they're about the same.

Q. Do you have any of your old equipment? A. Yes

Q. Could I see it? I'll see it after I talk to you a little while, OK?

Q. Do you think police work has changed to a more interesting career? Why or why not?

A. Well I think it is because it's more scientific now than it used to be.

Q. You can get them kind of easier?

A. Well no--all these downright criminals, they have systems to break the law. They know how to keep from getting caught. (Q. like the underworld?) A. That's right. In those days they did the same thing, but they weren't quite as sophisticated.

Q. As the automobiles changed and stuff like that it got easier for them and stuff?

A. Yes, that's right.

Well thanks--