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## Annual report and a history of the Edgerton police department. 1953

Sweeney, George H.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1953

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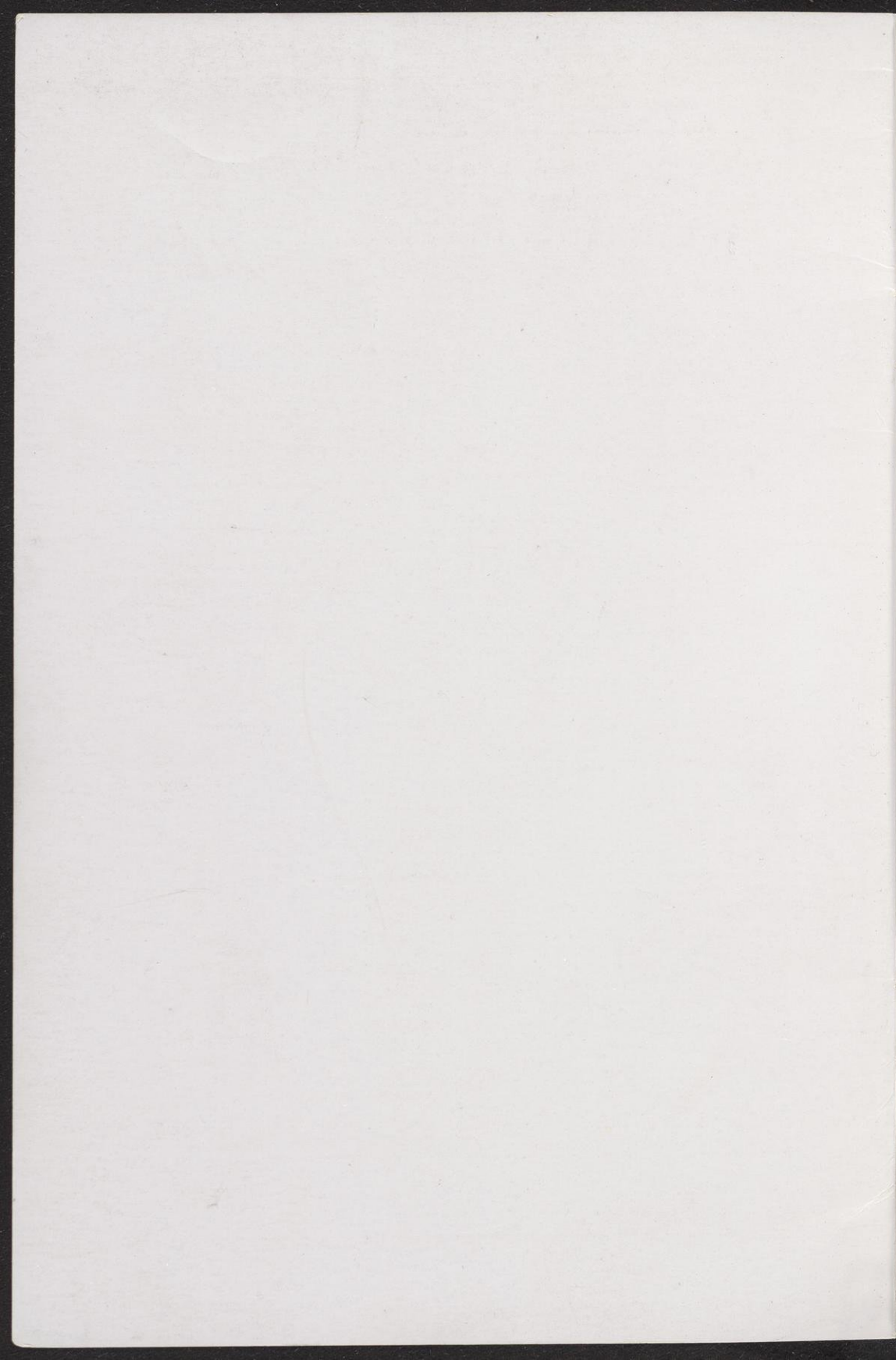
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EDGERTON 30Je'54

**Annual Report**  
**and**  
**A History of the Edgerton**  
**Police Department**

EDGERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
EDGERTON, WIS.

BY CHIEF OF POLICE GEORGE H. SWEENEY



**The Centennial Year of the  
City of Edgerton**

AND THE

**Seventieth Anniversary of the  
Edgerton Police Department**

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY THREE

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# MESSAGE

To The Honorable Mayor, Common Council,  
Board of Personnel, and Citizens  
of the City of Edgerton, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

It is once more my privilege to tender you an annual report of the operation of the police department, for the year ending December 31, 1953.

So far as the police department was concerned, the year generally was uncolored by any startling events or unusual developments.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to His Honor The Mayor, Honorable Council, Board of Personnel, and Citizens for the uniform assistance and kindness extended to all members of this Department, especially to those who assisted during the centennial celebration, also to the Honorable Judge, B. J. Springer, and City Attorney John T. Roethe who have been most active in aiding the Department in its efforts to enforce the ordinances and laws of the City and State, and I hope that the same cordial relationship will continue, I remain,

Yours Respectfully,

George H. Sweeney,

Chief of Police



# During The Year 1953

267 light calls, 2,787 phone calls and 1,569 radio messages were received. 1,049 radio messages were dispatched to other stations, 1,432 station to car and 1,158 car to station. 1,463 phone calls were dispatched from this station and 217 were received from other authorities. There were 515 communications by mail. 2,334 persons called at the police station (incomplete.)

312 complaints were received from citizens in city and 125 from rural area. 65 complaints received from rural area were relayed to proper authorities.

46 complaints received from citizens in city were of a criminal nature, and 266 non-criminal.

2 attempt burglary were reported, one case proved to be unfounded, leaving one actual case, which remains not cleared. Two cases of larceny (over \$50.00) were reported, both were cleared by arrest. Two cases of auto theft were reported, one proved to be unfounded and one case was cleared by arrest. Three cases of operation of auto without consent of owner were reported, one was unfounded leaving two actual cases, which remain not cleared. One case of tampering with auto was cleared by arrest.

28 cases of larceny (under \$50.00) were reported. Investigation revealed that 10 were unfounded, and 18 offenses had been committed. Of the 18 actual cases, 11 were cleared by arrest, and seven cases remain not cleared. Two cases of larceny committed other years, were cleared this year.

Property reported as stolen during 1953 (including currency) was valued at \$512.00; property valued at \$281.25 was recovered and returned to owner.

Forged and Fraudulent Bank Checks—6 cases were reported. Five were cleared by arrest, and one case remains not cleared.

15 cases of damage to property were reported to this department. Juvenile offenders were responsible for nine cases; adults for one; and the automobile was involved in five cases. Damage was estimated at \$430.50; restitution was made in 7 cases, amounting to \$57.00

Eight children under 10 years of age, were reported missing, seven were located and returned to their homes or parent. One child was drown, body recovered from pond. Four "teen agers" and two adults were reported missing. The "teen agers" were located in other cities and the adults returned to their homes.

18 persons were located and notified of death or injuries of friends or relatives.

216 requests were received from citizens and others; 69 were transients; 46 were furnished lodging at the police station; 23 were given food. Six persons we conveyed to hospital and four to their home. The persons receiving food were in poor health or well advanced in years, several were over 75 years old. Many of the requests were of a varied nature, too numerous to mention.

The Centennial Celebration, V.F.W. Jamboree, 14 ball games, 6 parades, one picnic and several other activities were policed.

12 persons made application for peddlers or solicitors license, each applicant was investigated and some were finger printed before the application



was certified and license was issued.

A total of 434 file checks were made and 89 persons were finger printed.

177 persons made application for Driver's Instruction Permit, and 188 for Driver's License were given the required examination and road test. 145 applications for Wisconsin Title and License were inspected and certified.

77 funerals were furnished with police escort.

1,437 tickets were issued for violation of Parking Meter Ordinance and other parking violations.

2,373 inspections of business places and others were made during business hours. (Parks and Swimming Beach included.)

94,214 inspections were made after the closing hour. During these inspections 155 business places were found with unlocked door, and six with open window. 249 street lights were reported out.

37 complaints were received on dogs. (11 persons were bitten by dog) Six dogs were killed by the motor vehicle and seven were disposed of by police. Investigations revealed that five persons were bitten by dog that was tied and on the premises of the owner.

109 accidents in which the motor vehicle was involved were reported. Investigation revealed that 187 motor vehicles, one bicyclist and four pedestrians were involved. There were 24 one car accidents and 85 two car accidents. The accidents were listed as follows: 33 backed into other vehicle, 13 collided, 15 collided with fixed object, 18 side-swiped, four ran off highway and tipped over, 12 ran into rear of moving vehicle and nine collided with parked vehicle. One bicyclist collided with auto, two pedestrians walked against side of moving vehicle and two were hit by auto. Nine motorists received minor injuries and six motorists and one pedestrian were seriously injured, three pedestrians suffered minor injuries. The bicyclist was not injured.

Total property damage was estimated at \$13,820.00. Investigation revealed that a violation of traffic laws was the main factor in 56 accidents. 37 offenders were arrested, appeared in court, paid fine and cost or sentenced to jail. Weather conditions and slippery streets were the chief cause of some of the accidents, but, in several of the cases, it was quite evident that one or both drivers were traveling too fast for conditions.

**There were no fatal accidents in the City during the year of 1953.**

Our records for the year 1953 reveal that 30 criminal offenses were committed in the City, and 43 criminal offenses were committed, during the year 1952.

1953 records showed a marked decrease in both burglary and larceny cases, and arrests for non-criminal offenses, were less in number, in most cases, except, operating vehicle while intoxicated, which increased over 1952.

1953 accident reports show a slight increase in number, over 1952.

253 investigations were made for this department and 98 for other authorities.

159 adults and 16 juvenile offenders were arrested.



## *Comparison With Last Year*

109 accidents were reported during the year 1953, and 102 for 1952, and the number of persons injured (19) remained the same.

Reports revealed a marked increase in the number of burglary and larceny throughout the nation. Therefore, business places are inspected more frequently, during the hours of darkness, and the residential sections are patrolled as often as possible.

During the year 1953, police vehicles traveled a total of 39,150 miles.

## *Disposition of Cases*

105 paid fine and costs; 22 forfeited cash bond; three paid costs; five were committed to jail; one placed on probation; two sentence suspended; four released to other authorities; two committed to State Hospital; one case dismissed and 14 were released by police. No formal charge.

Six Juvenile cases were disposed of by the Juvenile Court; Eight were released to Rock County Juvenile Officer, and two released to other authorities.

Fourteen Juvenile offenders were released to their parents. The nature of the offenses did not require further action.

The Juvenile offenders were charged with the following offenses: Larceny; operating auto without consent of owner; destruction of property, and violation of motor vehicle laws.

Police officers made 165 appearances in court, and filed 2,533 written reports.



Officers March 1950: Left to right: Archie C. Bickle, Sergeant; George H. Sweeney, Chief; Ralph J. Sanger, Lawrence Hanan, and Lester Learn.



# Arrests Were Made For The Following Offenses

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Assault and Battery .....                                     | 1   |
| Burglary .....  | 1   |
| Larceny .....   | 7   |
| Auto Theft .....  | 1   |
| Operating Auto Without Consent of Owner .....                 | 3   |
| Attempt To Commit Felony .....                                | 1   |
| Forged and Fraudulent Bank Check .....                        | 2   |
| Obtaining Merchandise By Fraudulent Means .....               | 2   |
| Violation Of Probation .....                                  | 2   |
| Falsifying Age To Purchase Liquor .....                       | 1   |
| Minor Loitering In Tavern .....                               | 1   |
| Molesting Women .....   | 2   |
| Drunkenness .....   | 21  |
| Disorderly Conduct .....                                      | 7   |
| Disturbing The Peace .....                                    | 14  |
| Vagrancy .....  | 2   |
| Operating Motor Vehicle While Intoxicated .....               | 11  |
| Operating Motor Vehicle While Suspended .....                 | 2   |
| Operating Motor Vehicle Without Driver's License .....        | 11  |
| Permitting Unauthorized Person To Operate Motor Vehicle ..... | 3   |
| Operating Unregistered Vehicle .....                          | 5   |
| Failed to Yield Right Of Way To Pedestrian .....              | 2   |
| Failed to Yield Half of Highway .....                         | 2   |
| Failed to Signal .....  | 2   |
| Leaving Scene of Accident .....                               | 1   |
| Following Too Closely .....                                   | 2   |
| Arterial Violation .....                                      | 4   |
| Careless and Heedless Driving .....                           | 23  |
| Auto Racing On City Street .....                              | 2   |
| Speeding .....  | 16  |
| Unlawful Passing .....  | 2   |
| Violation of Motor Vehicle Laws .....                         | 8   |
| Suspicious Person .....                                       | 14  |
| All Other .....   | 7   |
| Total Offenses .....  | 185 |

# Financial Report

## Disbursements

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Salaries .....   | \$ 9,700.00        |
| Relief Officer .....   | 3,315.00           |
| Special Police — including sick leave, vacations, and etc. ....  | 782.42             |
| Centennial Police .....  | 1,022.99           |
| Clerical .....   | 35.40              |
| Salaries Paid From Meters .....  | 5,000.00           |
| Outlay — New Car — Transfer equipment from old car to<br>new car and replacement of equipment .....                    | 1,071.62           |
| Maintenance — Jail and Office .....  | 116.20             |
| Police Uniforms .....  | 365.35             |
| Car and Cycle Expense — Operating Car and Cycle .....  | 1,427.58           |
| Expense — Operating Jail and Office including electricity,<br>telephone, fuel for jail and office, supplies, etc. .... | 1,166.35           |
| Centennial Expense .....   | 294.94             |
| <b>Total .....</b>   | <b>\$24,297.85</b> |

## Receipts

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Court Fees and Fines .....                         | \$ 3,009.90        |
| Fines — Parking Violations — Meter and Other ..... | 281.11             |
| Drivers License Fee — State .....                  | 317.25             |
| Dog License — County .....                         | 157.53             |
| Highway Patrol .....                               | 465.00             |
| <b>Total .....</b>                                 | <b>\$ 4,230.79</b> |

## Year of 1953

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Total disbursements ..... | \$ 24,297.85       |
| Police Budget .....       | \$ 23,240.00       |
| <b>Deficit .....</b>      | <b>\$ 1,057.85</b> |

On the basis of a population of 3,515 inhabitants, the actual costs to the taxpayers for Police Protection, for the year 1953, was \$5.49 per capita.



# Monthly Arrests By Officers

|       | SWEENEY | GUNNESS | HANAN | WENTLER | HOOK | TIEGS | KRUEGER | KRUCKENBERG | JAEGER | ERICKSON | STRICKER | TOTAL |
|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|--------|----------|----------|-------|
| Jan.  | 9       | 5       | 0     | 3       | 2    | 1     | 0       | 1           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 21    |
| Feb.  | 6       | 1       | 0     | 2       | 2    | 1     | 0       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 12    |
| Mar.  | 15      | 2       | 1     | 2       | 1    | 0     | 0       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 21    |
| Apr.  | 6       | 1       | 0     | 4       | 3    | 0     | 0       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 14    |
| May   | 7       | 1       | 0     | 6       | 4    | 0     | 0       | 2           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 20    |
| J'ne. | 3       | 0       | 1     | 3       | 3    | 0     | 0       | 1           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 11    |
| J'ly  | 7       | 1       | 2     | 5       | 3    | 0     | 0       | 0           | 1      | 0        | 0        | 19    |
| Aug.  | 10      | 4       | 1     | 7       | 2    | 0     | 1       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 1        | 26    |
| Sep.  | 7       | 1       | 0     | 5       | 1    | 0     | 0       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 14    |
| Oct.  | 1       | 1       | 1     | 2       | 0    | 0     | 0       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 5     |
| Nov.  | 3       | 0       | 0     | 0       | 0    | 0     | 0       | 1           | 1      | 1        | 0        | 7     |
| Dec.  | 3       | 1       | 0     | 0       | 0    | 1     | 0       | 0           | 0      | 0        | 0        | 5     |
|       | 77      | 18      | 6     | 40      | 21   | 3     | 1       | 5           | 2      | 1        | 1        | 175   |

The Juvenile Offenders, detained for questioning and released to parents were not included in the above report.

## How To Call The Police

When it is necessary to call a police officer, go to the nearest telephone, call central, give your name and number of phone from which you are calling, house number and street, inform central that a police officer is wanted at a certain location. Be sure to give house number and street.

If you wish to speak with officer, remain at the phone from which you have placed the call.

Whenever you notice any suspicious persons, or autos, call the police.





GEORGE H. SWEENEY - CHIEF OF POLICE



# History of the Edgerton Police Department

BY CHIEF OF POLICE GEORGE H. SWEENEY

Law enforcement in Edgerton began with C. L. Brown, known as "Lee" Brown, who had the title of constable and deputy sheriff. He operated a livery stable and often used box stalls for "cells" to house harmless drunks. The "tough boys" were taken to county jail at Janesville.

During the early days in Edgerton, the officer walked, and this limited his patrolling to the business section. The call lights and telephone did not exist, the radio and squad cars were something unimagined. Most of the town folks traveled on foot around the village and it took considerable time to summon an officer to a residential area.

The officer dealt mostly with drunks and ruffians and it was often difficult to bring a drunk or unruly prisoner to the station. The wheelbarrow delivery cart or dray wagon were used when available. In later years a two wheel cart, property of the Commercial Hotel (present Shearer building) was used as a paddy wagon.

The first jail, built in the eighteen seventies, was constructed of plank laid flat and spiked together. This building was located directly east of the present site of the Badger Tobacco Company warehouse on Fulton street.

Edgerton was incorporated in 1883 and the first city election was held April 3, 1883. 253 votes were cast, electing P. C. Burdick, mayor; T. A. Perry, alderman 1st ward; R. R.

Brown, alderman 2nd ward; and H. C. Son, alderman 3rd ward.

At its regular meeting April 17, 1883 the Common Council appointed A. O. Chamberlain as City Marshall. "Babe" Chamberlain assumed the duties of a full time City Marshall on May 1, 1883, at a salary of \$325.00 per year plus fees. With Chamberlain as its head, the Edgerton Police Department came into existence. He held office until April 1886 when he moved to Beloit, Wisconsin and became a member of the Beloit Department. He was elected sheriff of Rock County for one term, 1915-1916.

## Jail Burns

A fire destroyed the jail on the morning of October 30, 1884. Andrew Berry discovered smoke pouring from the jail windows as he was on his way to open his wagon shop. Berry and others summoned help to try and break the lock on the door. When deputy sheriff C. L. Brown arrived, the lock was so badly mutilated that it couldn't be opened. The door was finally forced open allowing the men to remove the body of a prisoner. No attempt was made to save the building. A cell placed in Andrew Berry's wagon shop was used as the city lock-up until the present jail was constructed.

The new jail, completed in December 1885, consisted of 4 brick and stone cells equipped with a steel door. There was only one window on the south side of the jail and no



windows in the cells. A small kerosene lamp bracketed on the south wall furnished light enough for the officers to find their way around in the corridor. The cells were very dark and difficult to heat so the jail was often referred to as the "cooler".

A vacationing gentleman from the East was enjoying Edgerton's Hospitality in the summer of 1914. He apparently enjoyed himself too much one day and drove his auto over the curb and onto the sidewalk at the bank corner. Chief Springer promptly arrested him and placed him in the "cooler". He made his appearance in court and left the city. A short time later the city officials received a letter stating that the "visitor" did not object to his arrest and felt that he was given every consideration by the arresting officer, but he did feel that "a city as progressive as Edgerton should have a modern and up-to-date jail".

Subsequently, the city council instructed Chief Ben Springer to obtain prices on four steel cages of the latest type. Remodeling of the jail was begun with purchase of the cages from the Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis, Missouri. The old stone cells were removed, a cement floor laid, a steel ceiling added and two windows installed. Sewer and water were added and the building was wired for electricity. (Should any citizen want to see one of the oldtime cells, one remains in its original state at the station and is now used for storage.)

The present station was completed in 1940 when the front portion of the building, formerly used by the Fire Department, was remodeled for use by the Police Department. The expenditure of \$836.76 (thanks to the taxpayers) gave Edgerton the claim to one the best police stations

of any city its size in this section.

#### Escaped Fugitive

Ben J. Springer gives the following report of the arrest and escape of Frank Pulka, a fugitive from Illinois:

Ben received a warrant dated November 15, 1893, from Governor George W. Peck of Wisconsin for the arrest of Frank Pulka and surrender of the fugitive to John Hanley, agent of the state of Illinois. Pulka was wanted in Illinois for burglary.

Pulka had left Edgerton a few days before the warrant was received, but Ben learned that he had relatives in Janesville. He advised the Janesville Sheriff, J. L. Bear, of this, and after a few days Ben decided to go to Janesville to assist in the capture. Ben and Frank Heddles went to Janesville (team and buggy) and made a tour of the city with Sheriff Bear.

After making inquiries, they located the residence of Pulka's relatives. They were waiting near the house, trying to decide on their next move, when Frank Pulka was seen walking towards the house. He was arrested and taken to the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Bear asked Ben to take the prisoner to Edgerton, because, at that time, the county jail was not too secure and the Edgerton jail was considered a safer place to hold the fugitive.

Ben borrowed a pair of hand cuffs from Sheriff Bear and put them on Pulka who became abusive and swore at the Sheriff. The prisoner, Frank Heddles and Marshall Springer got in their buggy and started for Edgerton.

Approaching the Indian Ford bridge (wooden), the prisoner asked about the fishing and whether the water was deep. As they reached the east end of the bridge opposite the gates of the dam, Pulka jumped out of the buggy and over the bridge rail



# Early Edgerton



EDGERTON  
1886



into the river. Ben hurried over to Lachner's store to borrow a lantern to search for the prisoner. William Horton joined in the search. Since it was November, the water deep and cold, and the prisoner handcuffed, they all thought he would drown.

They searched around the gates for awhile and then Ben noticed an object on a stone pier between the gates. It was Pulka. Ben asked Horton to help him lift the prisoner to the top of the pier, but Horton said, "nothing doing. He's got a gun". Ben assured him the "gun" was only the borrowed handcuffs. Pulka, well soaked, but still determined to escape, was retrieved and put in the buggy for the last lap of the journey.

Ben and Frank Heddles put the soaked prisoner in the Edgerton jail cell, placed a fresh supply of fuel in the stove and left Pulka to dry out.

The next morning Pulka said he wasn't hungry. At noon he still said no when asked if he was hungry. But, after a short talk with Marshall Springer, he said he would like some hot coffee and wanted to move near the stove so his clothes could dry out. Ben decided to let the prisoner out of his cell and lock the outside door while he went after coffee.

On the way back to the jail, Ben asked a citizen to accompany him to the jail and to lock the outside door in case the prisoner attempted to escape as Ben entered. Ben found an empty jail.

Pulka had somehow gotten a leaf from a buggy spring and had pried apart the steps of the stairs leading to the Firemen's Hall. Marshall Springer trailed the fugitive to Evansville, where all traces were lost.

Ben later was informed that Pulka was in Mexico and this report was

passed on to the Illinois authorities. It is not known whether any further attempt was made to capture Frank Pulka and return him to Illinois.

Note: (This is but one of the many incidents encountered by Ben Springer during his 27 years as a law officer. Ben was rated one of the best and his total of 27 years of service has not been equalled to date).

#### Wet vs. Dry

A neighboring city went dry in 1907 and this brought problems and headaches to Edgerton. Edgerton had it's own saloon problem and the neighboring city's going dry made bad matters worse. Most east bound trains brought customers for Edgerton's Saloons, making the job of maintaining law and order a difficult one for Marshall Welch and Assistant Marshall Campbell. An officer towing a drunk to the city lock-up became a common sight.

As conditions grew worse, Edgerton citizens decided that the saloon keepers would have to do a better job of operating their places or go out of business.

#### Reform Movement

The "wet or dry" issue was again placed before the voters on April 5, 1910. The "wets" won 307 to 298, but a reform council was elected. Those elected were James M. Conway, Mayor; Walter Vickers, alderman 1st ward; Charles W. Birkenmeyer, alderman 2nd ward; A. E. Skinner, alderman 3rd ward.

The results of this election caused much concern among the saloon keepers, especially those who operated the "better places". They realized the "sloppy" operator would have to reform or quit. They grew alarmed as the time for granting licenses had passed and a new ordinance was passed. Complaints were filed against them to have their licenses





**B. J. SPRINGER**

Chief of Police

1913-1932

Marshall 1893-1896

Patrolman 1898-99

Patrolman 1910-13

One of the Oldest Justices of Peace In Length  
of Service In the State of Wisconsin

Appointed in 1933

Elected 1934



revoked.

The Common Council proceedings for June 14, 1910 contain the following statement:

"We, the undersigned, licensed keepers of saloons and retail liquor dealers in the City of Edgerton, in consideration of temporary withdrawal of the complaints against them for the revocation of their licenses, do hereby severally agree to comply strictly with all the laws of the State of Wisconsin and all ordinances of the City of Edgerton relating to the sale of liquor.

"We especially agree to refrain from selling liquor to minors, and to comply with every detail of the late ordinance asking for the removal of all screens, blinds and shades from our saloon windows and doors, and to comply otherwise in every detail with said ordinance.

"We agree that this promise shall be published in the newspaper of this city as evidence of our good faith in this promise."

#### Issue Licenses

On June 30th ten applicants were issued licenses on the condition that each comply with all the requirements before opening for business on July 1st. The saloon keepers took drastic steps to clean up. Police officers became very active and gained the reputation of being "tough". Within a short time, conditions were much improved.

The same Council meeting saw the establishment of the Police and Fire Commission. The commission consisted of L. C. Whittet, William Bardeen, A. W. Shumway, J. A. Jensen, W. H. Morrissey. The commission felt that a more appropriate title should be adopted for the head of the Police Department and changed the title to Chief of Police.

Charles Dunn was the first officer to bear the title of Chief of Police.

He served from May 1, 1910, to April 1913 when he was succeeded by B. J. Springer.

Ben J. Springer served as Chief of Police from May 1913 to June 3, 1932. George H. Sweeney served out Springer's unexpired term as acting Chief from June 3, 1932 to April 30, 1933 and was appointed Chief of Police on May 1, 1933. He is still serving the City of Edgerton in that capacity.

During the late nineties, telephones were installed in some of the business places and homes, enabling the citizens in the residential areas to summon an officer in less time. The proprietor or employee would go out on the street, contact the officer and tell him where he was wanted.

A police call light (railroad lantern converted to electric), was placed on a utility pole at the southeast corner of Fulton and Henry streets in 1906. Wires were strung to the telephone office, a switch installed and the police department had its first call light system. The operator receiving a call for the police, obtains the necessary information from the caller, switches on the call light, and passes the vital information to the officer when he answers the signal.

This method, greatly improved, is still being used. It is a dual system which can be operated from the central office or the police station. Six lights are located at points of vantage throughout the business section, allowing the officer on duty to be in almost any part of the business section and still be within sight of a call light.

Later improvements are traffic lights at Fulton and Main streets installed in 1935; first police car purchase on August 17, 1936 (put in operation the following day); radio equipment installed in the police car, May 24, 1942; station transmitter



and receiver installed at the police station on October 24, 1948. The car has direct communication with the Rock County Sheriff's office, Janesville City Police, Evansville, Fort Atkinson, Whitewater, Jefferson and Walworth Counties and their patrol cars. The station equipment gives direct contact with all patrol cars and stations within a radius of 50 miles using our frequency. Another receiver has been added so we have direct communication with Dane County Sheriff's Department and Madison, Monroe and Stoughton Police Departments.

The Good Highways and fast moving motor vehicles of today make it possible for a criminal to commit a crime and be miles away from the scene in a short time. Modern communications are important to modern law enforcement in Edgerton.

The patrol car and radio have been a great assistance to the law enforcement department. It is now possible to call other departments for assistance, dispatch officers to the crime or accident scene and have an officer there in a short time. It is important and necessary to have an officer in the squad car and at the police station at all times to receive calls and dispatch the radio car to the scene. Without the necessary personnel, it is difficult for your police department to operate with the desired degree of efficiency.

Your police department has made every effort to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies and has received very good cooperation from all other departments. I believe that this was well demonstrated during our Centennial Celebration when 36 officers representing the State Traffic Department, five police departments and three sheriff's departments came to Edgerton and assisted

your police department with the largest assignment it has ever had or expects to have. These officers and all others did an excellent job.

Note: During the Centennial Celebration, July 5th to July 12th, thousands of persons came to our city, motor vehicle traffic was exceptionally heavy and yet, the score was only one accident, (property damage only), no personal injuries, 2 cases of larceny, 4 arrests (disorderly conduct and one reckless driver). As a whole, the people conducted themselves in a very orderly manner.



**Left: James Reynolds**

**Patrolman 1899-1900**

**Marshall 1900-1902**

**Right: August Ratzlaff, Sr.**

**Patrolman 1896-1898; 1900-1901**

**Assistant Marshall 1903-1906**

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## Present Police Force Members



THORWALD A. GUNNESS

Sergeant



LAWRENCE L. HANAN

Patrolman



IRVIN E. WENTLER

Patrolman



# ROSTER

## Early Edgerton Marshalls

|                   |          |                                |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| A. O. CHAMBERLAIN | MARSHALL | May 1, 1883 to April 1886      |
| GEORGE SPANGLER   | MARSHALL | May 1, 1886 to April 1893      |
| B. J. SPRINGER    | MARSHALL | May 1, 1893 to April 30, 1896  |
| GEORGE OGDEN      | MARSHALL | May 1, 1896 to Dec. 31, 1896   |
| JOHN C. KURTZ     | MARSHALL | Jan. 1, 1897 to April 30, 1897 |
| PHILIP WELCH      | MARSHALL | May 1, 1897 to April 30, 1899  |
| GEORGE M. REA     | MARSHALL | May 1, 1899 to April 30, 1900  |
| JAMES REYNOLDS    | MARSHALL | May 1, 1900 to April 30, 1902  |
| JOHN WILLE        | MARSHALL | May 1, 1902 to April 1903      |
| GEORGE M. REA     | MARSHALL | May 1, 1903 to April 1904      |
| FRED CAMPBELL     | MARSHALL | May 1, 1904 to April 30, 1906  |
| PHILLIP WELCH     | MARSHALL | May 1, 1906 to April 30, 1910  |

## New Title

In April 1910, a Fire and Police Commission was appointed. Members of the Commission agreed that the title of City Marshall was out dated, and a more appropriate title should be adopted for the head of the police department. The title was changed to Chief of Police.

Charles Dunn was the first to be appointed under the title of Chief of Police. He served in that capacity from May 1, 1910 to April 1913.

B. J. Springer was the next department head appointed under the new title of Chief of Police. Ben as he is known to his many friends took over the duties of Chief of Police on May 1, 1913 and served continually to June 3, 1932, and has had the distinction of serving the City of Edgerton as a law enforcement officer for a total of 27 years. (This record has not been equaled to date.)

George H. Sweeney served as Acting Chief from June 3, 1932 to April 30, 1933. He was appointed Chief of Police, May 1, 1933 and still is serving in that capacity.



## Former Members of the Department

The following persons have been duly appointed members of the Edgerton Police Department and have served under the title listed:

|                    | Title                 | Years of Service  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| JERRY CRITTENDEN   | Night Watch           | May 1, 1886 to April 30, 1895                                 |
| WILLIAM STEWART    | Night Watch           | May 1, 1895 to April 30, 1896                                 |
| AUGUST RATZLAFF    | Night Watch           | May 1, 1896 to April 30, 1898                                 |
| B. J. SPRINGER     | Night Patrolman       | May 1, 1898 to April 30, 1899                                 |
| JAMES REYNOLDS     | Night Patrolman       | May 1, 1899 to April 30, 1900                                 |
| AUGUST RATZLAFF    | Assistant Marshall    | May 1, 1900 to April 30, 1902                                 |
| FRED CAMPBELL      | Assistant Marshall    | May 1, 1902 to April 30, 1903                                 |
| AUGUST RATZLAFF    | Assistant Marshall    | May 1, 1903 to April 30, 1906                                 |
| FRED CAMPBELL      | Assistant Marshall    | May 1, 1906 to April 30, 1910                                 |
| B. J. SPRINGER     | Night Patrolman       | May 1, 1910 to April 30, 1913                                 |
| FRED CAMPBELL      | Night Patrolman       | May 1, 1913 to Sept. 1929                                     |
| FRED QUIGLEY       | Night Patrolman       | Sept. 1929 to March 4, 1934                                   |
| WILLIAM MILLER     | Night Patrolman       | Mar. 4, 1934 to Mar. 9, 1943                                  |
| GEORGE L. SPLITTER | Patrolman             | July 1, 1941 to Nov. 1, 1946                                  |
| ARCHIE C. BICKLE   | Patrolman<br>Sergeant | Dec. 1, 1945 to Dec. 31, 1947<br>Jan. 1, 1948 to Nov. 1, 1950 |
| RALPH J. SANGER    | Patrolman             | Dec. 20, 1947 to April 1, 1950                                |
| SANDER C. QUAM     | Patrolman             | June 1, 1948 to July 30, 1949                                 |
| THOMAS A. McINTOSH | Patrolman             | April 1, 1950 to Nov. 5, 1950                                 |

## Present Members

|                     |           |   |
|---------------------|-----------|---|
| GEORGE H. SWEENEY   | Chief     | Acting Chief, June 3, 1932 to April 30, 1933. Appointed Chief of Police, May 1, 1933. |
| THORWALD A. GUNNESS | Sergeant  | April 1, 1950   |
| LAWRENCE L. HANAN   | Patrolman | January 1, 1938   |
| IRVIN E. WENTLER    | Patrolman | February 8, 1951  |





**Jerry  
Crittenden**  
**Night Watchman**  
**1886-1895**



**John  
Kurtz**  
**City Marshall**  
**1896-1897**



**George Rea**  
**City Marshall**  
**Filled Vacancies 1903**  
**Filled Vacancies**  
**1903-1904**



**Charles Dunn**  
**Chief of Police**  
**1910-1913**



**"Babe" Dell**  
**Chamberlain**  
**First City Marshall**  
**1883-1886**



**George  
Ogden**  
**City Marshall**  
**1896**





**John Wille**  
City Marshall  
1902-1903



**William Stewart**  
Night Patrolman  
1895-96



**George Spangler**  
Marshall  
1865-1893  
Special Officer to 1915



**Fred Quigley**  
Night Patrolman  
1929-1934



**Philip Welch**  
City Marshall  
1897-1900  
1906 1910



**Fred Campbell**  
Ass't Marshall 1902-03  
City Marshall 1904-06  
Patrolman 1913-1929



## Special Police

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| FRANK HOOK             | HARRY BITTER        |
| WILLARD MILLER         | SVERRE HANSON       |
| MAX F. TIEGS           | ALLAN BURDICK       |
| WILLIAM LIPKE          | HARRY C. MERWIN     |
| EINAR ERICKSON         | HOWARD E. DROGSVOLD |
| NORMAN A. KRUEGER      | HARRY BUHROW        |
| RALPH J. SANGER        | LaVERNE YESKE       |
| ARCHIE C. BICKLE       | EARL SCHULTZ        |
| LaVERNE L. KRUCKENBERG | FLOYD VICKERS       |
| ROBERT H. STRICKER     | EARL KENSETH        |
| RUPERT MOE             | MARVIN ANDERSON     |
| SANDER C. QUAM         | OLE STAFF           |
| HARRY JAEGER           | PAUL STAFF          |
| THOMAS A. McINTOSH     | GEORGE BOESEL       |
| GEORGE L. SPLITTER     | WARREN RINKER, JR.  |
| HENRY P. SCHIELDT      | CARL BRAATEN        |
| HENRY LEARN            | ROBERTS BALKE       |
|                        | DONALD ELLIOTT      |

The Police Department consists of five officers when fully manned. It has operated with four full time officers during the past two years, making it necessary to employ special officers to serve as relief officers and during special events when more officers are needed. Special officers are paid at the rate of \$1.20 per hour for the actual number of hours served. In most years, the bill for policing the City is less than it would be with five full time officers.

In many instances, special officers come on the scene of an accident before a regular officer is called and take charge until the officer does arrive. Then they assist in moving the injured, direct traffic, and perform other police duties. They assist this Department in many ways and give valuable service to this community — often without cost to the city.





