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History of Central Falls
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50th Anniversary
Central Falls Annual Policeman's Ball



JOHN J. GORMAN, *Sergeant*
PRESIDENT, CENTRAL FALLS POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Judge J. Malley.

GENERAL OFFICERS

of the

CENTRAL FALLS POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: SERGEANT JOHN J. GORMAN

VICE-PRESIDENT: PATROLMAN LUCIEN J. TESSIER

SECRETARY: PATROLMAN EMILE A. PELLETIER

TREASURER: PATROLMAN VINCENT A. McVEIGH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND FINANCE

GERARD A. ROUTHIER

JOSEPH B. LENIHAN

ARMAND N. AUBIN

JOHN C. BYRNES

THADDEUS F. FABER

ROLAND G. MERCIER, *Clerk*

BOARD OF AUDITORS

CAPTAIN RICHARD A. FAY

SERGEANT LEO W. PERRON

PATROLMAN JOHN P. CRAWLEY

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

(In Charge of Police Ball and Program Publication)

CHAIRMAN: SERGEANT FRANK C. KLICH

SECRETARY: PATROLMAN ARMAND N. AUBIN

CO-SECRETARY: SERGEANT LEO W. PERRON

TREASURER: PATROLMAN JOHN P. CRAWLEY

DEPARTMENT HISTORIANS

LIEUTENANT ROLAND G. MERCIER and SERGEANT JOHN J. GORMAN

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Deputy Chief Peter Melia

Retired Deputy Chief George Andrews

Lieutenant Charles H. Cunningham

Sergeant Leo W. Perron

Patrolman Gerard A. Routhier

Patrolman John Wilkins

Patrolman Adelard Peloquin

Patrolman Emile A. Pelletier

Patrolman Joseph B. Lenihan

Patrolman Vincent A. McVeigh

Patrolman Karl J. Fruzenski

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HISTORY

of

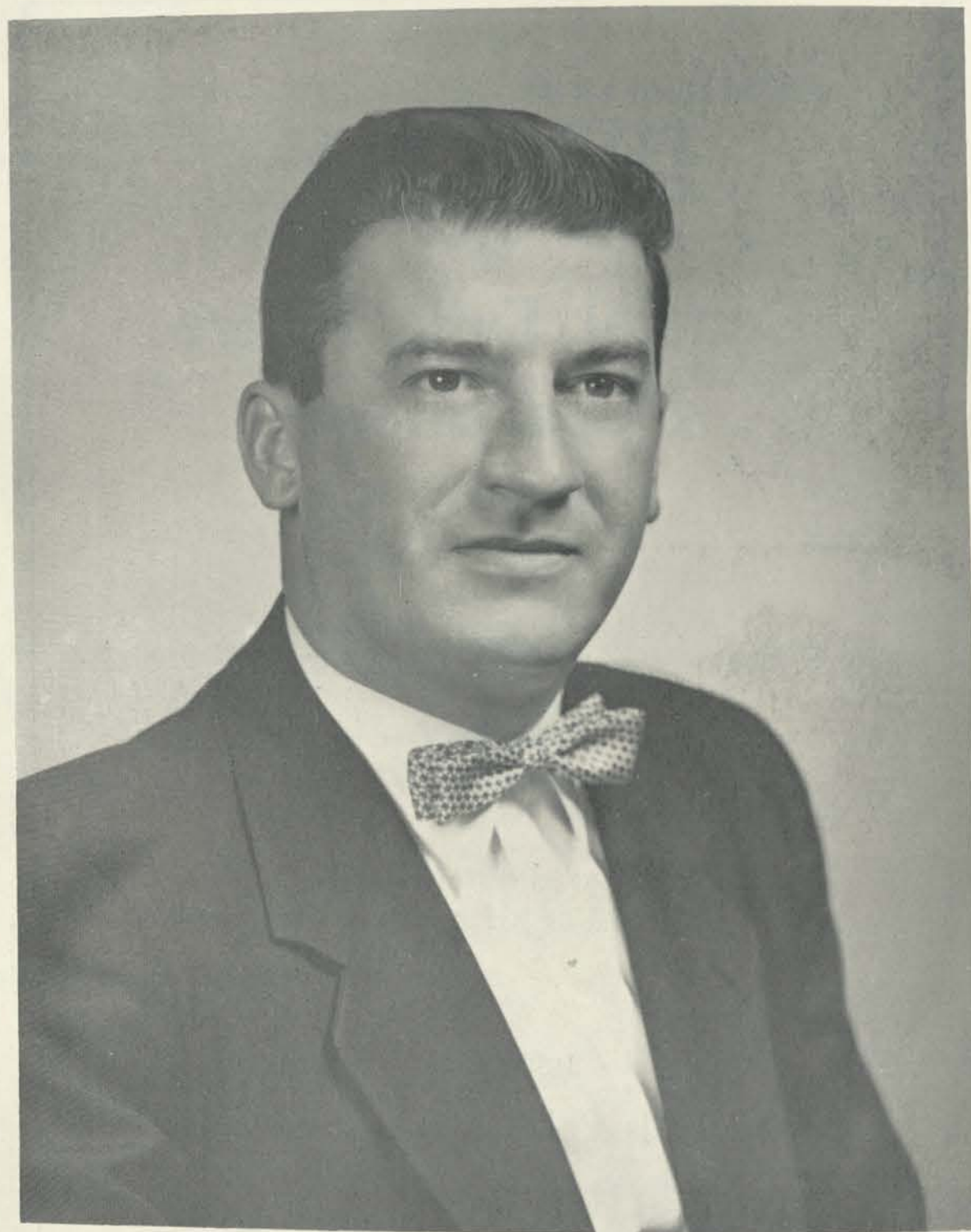
Central Falls Police Department



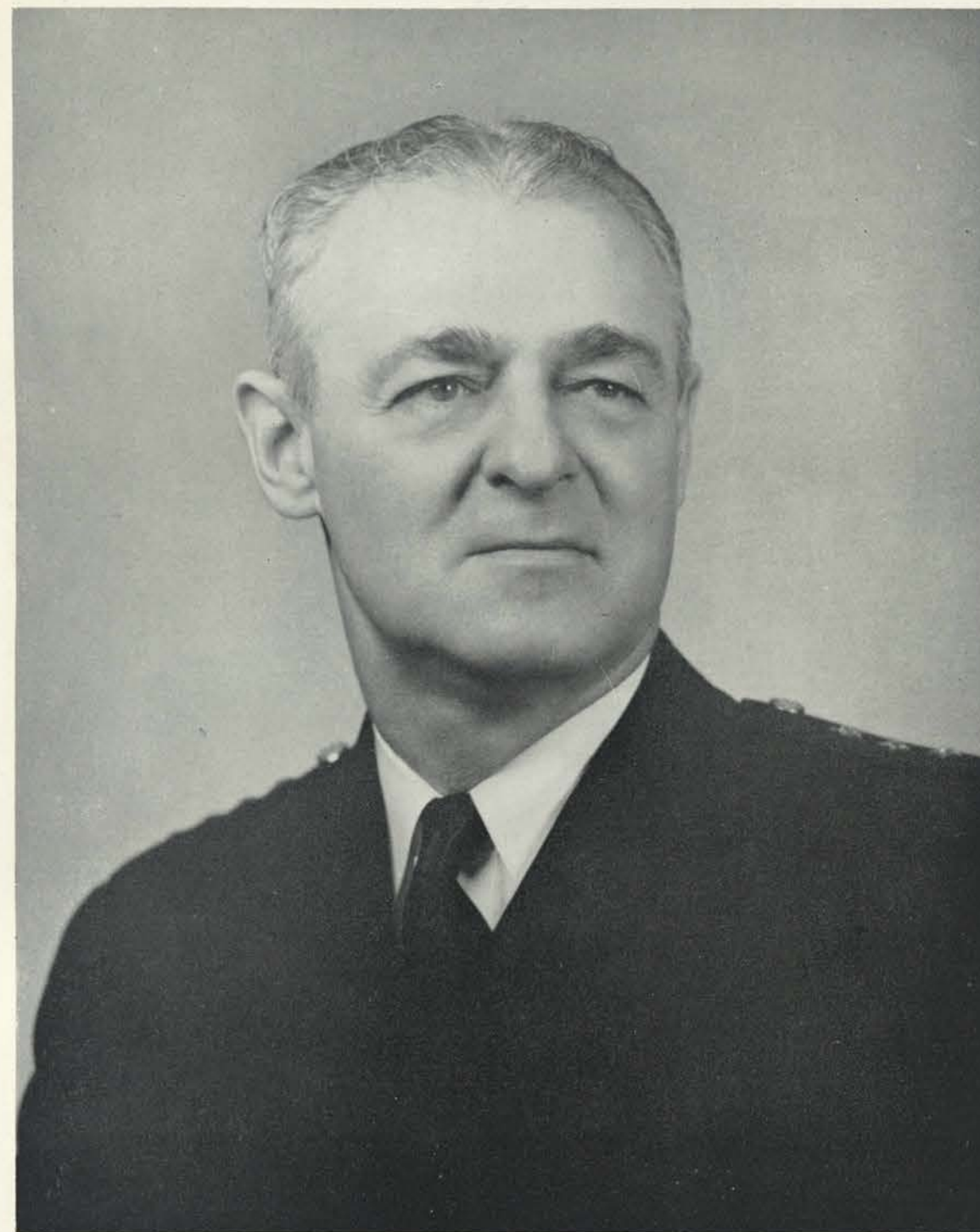
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Central Falls Police Relief Association

1954



RAYMOND J. GARVEY, *Mayor and Public Safety Director*



JOSEPH P. STETKIEWICZ, *Chief*



Sergeant FRANK C. KLICH, Chairman in charge of Police Ball and Program Publication

Central Falls Police Department

1954



Peter Melia
Deputy Chief



Richard A. Fay
Captain



Romeo W. Bessette
Captain



Roland G. Mercier
Lieutenant



Charles H. Cunningham
Lieutenant



G. Harold Hunt
Lieutenant

Central Falls Police Department
1954



Stanley A. Libucha
Sergeant



J. Edmour Boisclair
Sergeant



Leo W. Perron
Sergeant



Simeon Roberts
Retired



Aphonse R. Maynard



George H. Benoit



John C. Byrnes



John P. Crawley



Emile A. Pelletier



Manual Cabral



Joseph B. Lenihan



Vincent A. McVeigh



Frederick Deebo



Paul A. Dube



Armand N. Aubin



Joseph F. Hunt

Central Falls Police Department
1954



Lucien J. Tessier



Thaddeus F. Faber



Adelard Peloquin



Francis R. Melia



Gerard A. Routhier



Karl J. Fruzenski



John Wilkins



Stanley J. Szumila



Normand J. Thibeault



Mrs. Anita Cote
Police Matron



Guillaume Myette
Justice



Michael V. O'Malley
Clerk and Assoc. Justice



Michael Finn
Deputy Sheriff



Joseph T. Gilmore
Probation Counselor



Mary A. Carroll
Probation Counselor

Central Falls Police Department
1933



Chief G. E. Collette



Dep. Chief G. Andrews



Mayor J. Cadorette



Insp. J. P. Stetkiewicz



Capt. D. Healy



Lieut. J. F. Devaney



Lieut. J. A. Chaput



Sgt. P. P. Flynn



Sgt. A. Girouard



Ptl. H. J. Cawley



Ptl. S. Roberts



Ptl. G. Couture



Ptl. E. J. Duval



J. H. Murphy
Patrol Driver



L. Lejeune
Patrol Driver



J. A. Ryan
Patrol Driver

Central Falls Police Department
1933



Ptl. T. A. Burns



Ptl. R. J. Hayden



Ptl. A. A. Morrissette



Ptl. S. Molack



Ptl. C. H. Cunningham



Ptl. E. Conway



Ptl. H. Kay



Ptl. H. F. Gooding



Ptl. G. Piggott



Ptl. A. Viau



Ptl. J. B. Pion



Ptl. F. W. Dennis



Ptl. J. J. Scully



Ptl. Wm. Brear



Ptl. S. Libucha



Ptl. A. R. Maynard

Central Falls Police Department
1933



Ptl. Wm. H. Fletcher



Ptl. A. Hunt



S. Nowak
Police Commissioner



T. A. Waldron
Police Commissioner



Judge C. F. Risk



S. Nathanson
Assistant Judge



Mrs. R. Clark
Asst. Clerk of Court



E. Brophy
Probation Office



Mrs. M. Snee
Matron



Dr. C. S. Doucet
City Physician



Mrs. E. A. Walsh



J. A. Quinn
Secretary to Police Com.



Miss M. Barry
Probation Office

Central Falls Police Department
1920



Chief James McCarthy



J. A. Chaput
Deputy Chief



Capt. Roy G. Huling



Lieut. Crosby Towner



Sergt. Thomas Lithgoe



Sergt. Joseph M. Whipple



Catherine A. Sherman
Matron



John F. Hunt



Charles O. Gooding



Christopher J. Boylan



Christopher Morley



Stanley Molack

Central Falls Police Department 1920



Napoleon Boivin



George E. Collette



Henry L. Lamarine



Frank Dennis



Alfred Auger



John F. Devaney



George Piggott



James H. Murphy



Thomas E. Forrestal



William H. Fletcher



Oliver Sylvester



Albert E. Hunt



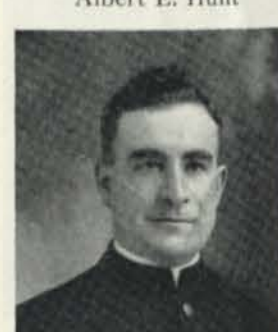
Jean B. Pion, Jr.



Daniel Healy



William Brear



Peter P. Flynn

Front Row Left to Right Louis D. Woodward, David P. Turner, Mrs. Katherine A. Sherman, Napoleon Lambert, Chief, Albert Humes,
Mayor Nelson Coombs, Inspector, Joseph McChra, *Second Row:* David E. Grady, Samuel Davis, Oliver Sylvester, Seraphin Laliberte, Crosby



Central Falls Police Department — 1893

Central Falls Police Relief Association

The Central Falls Police Relief Association was originally conceived and organized for the purpose of rendering aid and assistance to such of its members as may be in need of same, or to those dependent upon said members for support, as well as to encourage and promote brotherly love and good fellowship among its members.

It officially became a duly authorized corporation under the Laws of Rhode Island on July 17, 1905, when a corporation charter was granted to Napoleon Lambert, Ray G. Huling, Louis D. Woodward, Oliver Sylvester and Nelson F. Coombs, all members of the police department.

Its Constitution and By-Laws were first adopted on July 19, 1905 and were revised in 1920, 1935 and 1953, but the aims and purposes of the organization are still the same, today.

History of Central Falls Police Department

Although essentially this book is dedicated as the history of the Central Falls Police Department, it would be worth while to consider the phenomenal growth of the city itself, for both are dependent on each other, and should run chronologically to get the true picture of this amazing city, the most densely populated metropolis in area in the United States.

In 1800 there were but four buildings in what is now Central Falls. The four structures were the property of hardy pioneers who had been lured to the wilderness from the more populated centers of Pawtucket, Smithfield and Providence. With an eye to the future these men perceived the prolific possibilities of Blackstone River water rights, the conservation of the tributaries and the eventual expanding of Pawtucket and Providence which were then growing commercial communities. It is doubtful, however, if these pioneers realized they had built a cornerstone of the Central Falls of today, nearly 25,000 inhabitants.

History is vague pertaining to protection from marauders in those days in Central Falls, then Chocolate Mill. Looking back to the middle of the 18th century when Benjamin Jenks built his Snuff Mill, the first of the four structures, at the junction of the then North Providence and Smithfield boundary lines, it is safe to say that Benjamin and his hired help kept the flint-locks handy for Indians, the natural malefactors of that day. So also did the workmen of Stephen Jenks who, in 1763, built a trip-hammer and blacksmith shop on the banks of the river, not far from the Snuff Mill.

Later, in 1780, Charles Kenne purchased a few acres of land from the Jenks family and built a dam across the river at the southwest corner of Mill and Charles Streets and raised a mill to manufacture scythes and other edged tools. Subsequently this mill was occupied by a man named Wheat in the manufacture of chocolate, thence the term Chocolate Mill to the district, much of which is now known as Pulaski Square.

This same site later became one of the first spinning mills in the Blackstone Valley, the birthplace of American textiles. In the summer of 1807 Elisha Waterman, Benjamin Walcott and Rufus Waterman purchased the building and started the Smithfield Manufacturing Company, a successful enterprise which lasted many years. The name Chocolate Mill, however, was applied to the district until 1824.

A small dwelling house was the only other building in the confines of what is now Central Falls at that time. In 1808 another stone dwelling was erected, at 607 Mill Street, and it is still standing.

As the hamlet of Chocolate Mill and adjacent territory were part of the 76 square-mile town of Smithfield (incorporated 1730) a town sergeant and three constables comprised the law enforcement group. No record can be found, despite the most diligent search, of any breach of peace in Chocolate Mill. It can be assured that if there had been, the culprit would have been hustled to Smithfield for trial and punishment. Sentences for undesirables was immediate banishment from the confines of the township and return meant a fine before sundown or the whipping-post. Stocks were frequently used for lesser offenses. The law in those days was harsh and sudden.

As time passed the attractiveness of Chocolate Mill and the water power for merely purchasing a few acres of land, brought other industries. History reveals Stephen Jenks again building in the

neighborhood in 1811 for the manufacture of rifles for the government. All told 10,000 guns were turned out, presumably for the War of 1812. The contract price was \$11.50 each, a sizable order, the profits from which undoubtedly paid for the construction of the mill.

Small dwelling houses for the workers followed the construction of these mills. In 1823 Chocolate Mill was divided into six water privileges. This act was a distinct boom to the district. Cotton mills immediately sought sites, building dwelling houses for the help and the hamlet began expanding.

The first purchaser of a water privilege under this plan was John Kennedy, who with partners, built a cotton mill. He was a public spirited citizen and through his efforts a subscription was inaugurated for the first highway bridge in the district.

It seems incredible today to realize that prior to 1827, the date the bridge was completed near the site of the present bridge, that there were no roads in what is now Central Falls.

The only access to the hamlet was a path running beside the river bank, presumably today's Roosevelt Avenue and Mill Street, and a rutted, twisting pathway through the woods from Smithfield (now Lonsdale) Avenue, which offered difficulties to ox-carts, say nothing of horse-drawn vehicles.

It was at the dedication of this publicly subscribed bridge that Stephen Jenks announced that no longer would the vicinity be known as Chocolate Mill, but as Central Falls. That same day saw the completion of a mill by David and George Jenks, in which the celebration was held. James C. Starkweather was the orator of the day, all familiar family names to Blackstone Valley.

As Smithfield proper, that is, what is Smithfield now, was agriculturally inclined and the rapid growing Central Falls leaned to manufacturing and textiles, it can readily be seen that differences in opinions were bound to arise. As the hamlet expanded, especially after Rufus J. Stafford built the present dam and water-rights were reapportioned in 1863, these controversies became more violent. The new dam doubled the water power available and Central Falls boomed so rapidly that the large city of Providence looked askance at the Valley for its own throne was imperiled as leader of commercial business in Rhode Island. Cotton Mills and subsidiaries, given impetus by the Civil War, dotted the banks of every available stream in the northern part of the State.

With such violent controversies existing in those days between the parent town and its environs it is perceivable that some capitulation was imperative lest Smithfield lose an important part of its possessions.

Records are hazy, incomplete and in some cases missing entirely when one searches data on law enforcement in Central Falls. There is no doubt but officials of the growing communities bombarded the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Smithfield for better fire and police protection at every meeting. The selectmen must have granted additional constables to these communities but no record can be found of the number or the appointees names.

Deputies from the high sheriff's office in Providence were constantly on duty in Central Falls, not only handling civil, but criminal cases.

The first step towards recognition of Central Falls by the parent town came at the town meeting of 1846 when a petition was drawn up and sent to the General Assembly for the creation of the Central Falls Fire District. The act was passed and fire wardens appointed. They were delegated powers to tax the citizens in the district to pay the upkeep of fire apparatus and the maintenance of fire companies. The wardens were appointed in 1847 and at once purchased fire fighting equipment and organized a company.

That year saw also the invasion of the Providence and Worcester Railroad, following the banks of the Blackstone River. This greatly accelerated the growth of Central Falls, as it did other communities along the waterway. Mills and dwelling houses seemed to spring up from nowhere to meet the needs of industry and comfort of the citizens.

Still feeling the need of more police protection, the citizens of Central Falls fought yearly at town meetings for a permanent force. No records are obtainable of increases of the Smithfield constabulary but there must have been some for Central Falls was no longer an infant, but a hustling, thriving community.

The Civil War period came and passed. Mills along the Valley streams worked night and day. New Mills were built. Old ones enlarged. New streets with new houses sprang up like mushrooms in shaded wooded dells. Central Falls had a large slice of this boom.

Still pounding at the objective for complete independence from Smithfield, the representatives of the hamlet did not make much headway, yet the taxes for new streets and improvements were bitterly contested by the township, every year when Central Falls demanded these innovations.

The community, which was once known as Chocolate Mill, was fast outstepping other communities in industrial and population gains. At one time, between 1850 and 1870 there was little choice between Pawtucket and Central Falls commercially, and in the ensuing years many Pawtucket residents purchased homesites in the twin-town.

The constant agitation for independence bore some fruit, although bitter to some, in 1871 when the General Assembly split up the cumbersome 76 mile square township of Smithfield. It was divided four ways. The rural district to the west retained the old name. Several hamlets along the Branch river became Slater (now North Smithfield). A small yet densely populated section to the north was annexed to the town of Woonsocket. The remainder, comprising mostly villages on the Blackstone river, including Central Falls, became the town of Lincoln.

There was still the incessant cry from Central Falls for a permanent police force. Four years after the split-up of Smithfield that petition was granted. The General Assembly, after receiving a plea from the Board of Selectmen of Lincoln, granted the right for the Central Falls Fire District to maintain and levy tax for a permanent police force and a public library. This was in 1875 and the fire wardens, acting in concurrence with the Selectmen of Lincoln, made Andrew J. Patt the first chief of Police in Central Falls. His title was captain of police. Others appointed as constables at that time cannot be ascertained as records are obscure.

In 1879, however, a report of the annual town meeting of Lincoln in the Pawtucket Times names the following as permanent men under Capt. Patt: Constables Joseph M. Whipple, Nelson F. Coombs, Ray G. Huling, Richard T. Kenne, Mason N. Bagley, D. R. Goldsmith and H. S. Borden.

The author is deeply indebted to Captain Ray C. Huling (deceased) of the Central Falls Police Department for verbal and printed information he so readily proffered to make this history a success. His retentive memory of names, dates and occurrences, as well as his scrapbook containing clippings from 1879 through the 1890's, had much to do with the success of this narrative. Although complete records, both probate and real estate, as well as births, and marriages and deaths, are available at either the town halls of Lincoln and Smithfield, or the City Hall at Central Falls, police records covering the period up to 1895 are unobtainable at any one of the three places.

Capt. Huling, when retired on pension March 13, 1931, was the oldest living law enforcement officer in the State relative to service. At the April town meeting in Lincoln in 1879 he was appointed permanent constable under Capt. Patt and assigned to the Broad Street beat in Valley and Central Falls. After a few years service he accepted the appointment as special officer at the Valley Falls Manufacturing Company. It was the practice in those days for large mills to maintain its own police force.

After a creditable record there for several more years High Sheriff Henry L. Parsons made Capt. Huling a deputy sheriff and assigned him to Central Falls and the Valley.

More than at the present time the high sheriff's office interested itself in criminal as well as civil cases and deputy sheriff's were constantly on the job raiding and arresting malefactors. It is interesting to note from Capt. Huling's scrapbook that liquor raids were more numerous in those days than during the prohibition period in the same district.

The "Pig's Nest" on Cowden Street, appropriately named if the reporter of the Pawtucket Times in 1888 was reliable, and there is every indication that he was, took a great deal of the deputy sheriff's and constables time. Riots seemed so associated with the place during a period of a few months that year, that they are synonymous.

During the first few years of Capt. Patt's permanent force there was no lockup in the district. Prisoners were taken to Pawtucket for safe-keeping. In 1890 a bridewell was established in the first fire station in Central Falls, on Cross Street where the Railroad Bridge is now located. No patrol wagon graced the inventory of the department, and bucking drunks were carried either in a borrowed wheelbarrow or over the officer's shoulder until deposited in the cell. Many an early milkman was commandeered to assist the constables in getting inebriates to the lockup.

Cop-baiting seemed to be the sport of the day in the early nineties. Many an officer was badly beaten by roughs. Once Deputy Sheriff Huling was forced to chase all over New England to capture a 235 pounder named Daniel Sugrue who had beaten Constable Richard T. Keene so badly that he was hospitalized. Sheriff Huling caught Sugrue in Connecticut and he later served time for the offense.

Horse thieving, cloth and thread stealing by both men and women mill workers, illicit liquor selling, drunkenness, assault, and even murders kept the sheriffs and constables busy in the nineties.

Capt. Huling joined the Central Falls force February 4, 1898 and was appointed captain April 6, 1903. He was acting chief from August 16, 1907 to March 10, 1908, and from September 13, 1915 to December 16, 1915. He was pensioned March 19, 1931. The retired officer resided at 55 Clay Street and was born in Cumberland, opposite the Admiral Inn, Mendon Road, October 26, 1850. Capt. Huling died in Central Falls on August 25, 1939.

Still the fight went on for independence. Despite attractive offers to consolidate with Pawtucket, the fast-growing town held aloof. When the separation of Smithfield occurred in 1871 the total population of the new Lincoln was 9,000. Nineteen years later Central Falls housed 15,000 souls while what is Lincoln now gained but little. The situation was more unbalanced at that time than before Smithfield was reapportioned.

The weighty representation of Central Falls irked the Lincoln officers and the dual taxation for fire districts was injurious to both communities. As Central Falls ceased being a part of Lincoln and, figuratively speaking, Lincoln became a part of Central Falls, the split came and the larger portion became the City of Central Falls.

Action taken at the Lincoln town meetings of June 11 and Dec. 21, 1894 led the General Assembly to approve a petition creating the City of Central Falls on Feb. 21, 1895. The remainder of the town retained the name of Lincoln as we now know it.

The prerogative was accepted by the citizens Feb. 27, 1895 by a vote of 1531 in favor to 794 against. Central Falls became a city 20 years after the induction of Capt. Andrew J. Patt's force in 1875.

The first election held under the new charter March 15, 1895 and the government organized March 18. Those elected were: Mayor Charles P. Moies; Alderman Eastwood Eastwood, Hector Schiller, George M. Thornton, William J. Martin and Thomas L. Jollie; Councilmen Joseph E. Fales, Graham Cowerthwaite, George H. Spaulding, Myron Fish, Eugene B. Ponton, J. Curry McCartney, Francis H. Washburn, Charles E. Cummings, Peter Gorman, Allen U. Barber and Henry Butters.

Five wards had been established by the charter and to swing the city in line for state elections another election was held December 2 of the same year. It might be well to state here that an unknown fact was discovered during this research. The likeness on the seal of the City of Central Falls is not that of the first mayor, Charles P. Moies, but of his uncle and benefactor, Charles P. Moies, who for years had been identified in public life of Smithfield, and for more than a decade had been president of the Board of Selectmen of that town.

Those elected in December were: Mayor William Von Gottschalk; Aldermen Eastwood Eastwood, Hermenigilde Fontaine, George M. Thornton, William J. Martin and Thomas L. Jollie; Councilmen Graham Cowerthwaite, Joseph E. Fales, George H. Spaulding, Myron Fish, Eugene B. Ponton, J. Curry McCartney, Francis H. Washburn, David Colquhoun, Peter Gorman, Allen U. Barber and John T. Peacock.

It was Mayor Charles P. Moies who nominated officers and men of the first police department of the City of Central Falls. To a man he took the personnel of the fire district and sent their names to the Board of Aldermen for confirmation. They were confirmed.

The first police force of the city comprised: Chief of Police David R. Goldsmith; Sergeant Merrill S. Louks; Patrolmen Samuel Harkness, James T. Hanrahan, Mason N. Bagley, Oliver Sylvester, Joseph Couture, Nelson B. Coombs, Joseph McCra, Napoleon Hebert, John Walsh, Joseph W. Whipple and William Stafford; Matron Miss Mary Fitz.

It would be well to consider the valuation of Central Falls in 1895 when it became a city. Real and personal property was assessed \$8,531,000 that year. The tax levy was \$127,965. In 1954 assessed real and personal property on the books at City Hall amount to \$41,645,978, nearly five times as great as in 1895 and the tax levy was \$1,026,342.57, nearly nine times as great as the first amount.

The police headquarters were still in the fire station on Cross Street. Chief Goldsmith was actively in charge during daytimes and Sergeant Louks at nights. Both served 12 hours daily, six o'clock to six o'clock.

Two patrolmen comprised the day shift and the remainder of the force served nights. No motor patrol or horse drawn vehicle for the transportation of prisoners was available. The back-breaking method of carrying the drunks the best way possible from the scene of arrest to the bridewell, was the order of the day, or night.

Central Falls was branching out as to nationalities. Importations by mills from foreign shores made a cosmopolitan population in a very congested area. Police work grew extremely difficult coping with many races, each with its own idea of "the pursuit of happiness." Colonies from the Old World segregated themselves in certain sections of the city. Immigration expanded these localities. When old boundaries became obliterated, to use the vernacular, "sparks flew." The police were always between and kept order in a remarkable manner.

As years passed the old familiar faces of the old members of the Central Falls Fire District force disappeared. Merrill S. Louks left the department Aug. 25, 1897, as did Samuel Harkness on Dec. 6, 1897. James T. Hanrahan resigned Dec. 9, 1899. So did John Walsh the same year. Joseph Couture died March 8, 1903 while in service. William Stafford had passed to his reward the year before, Aug. 21, 1902. Joseph McCra resigned June 1, 1908. Nelson B. Coombs died April 9, 1908 while in service. Napoleon Hebert resigned July 6, 1914, and died Jan. 13, 1929. Mason N. Bagley had resigned Jan. 16, 1912, and passed away on Sept. 26, 1924.

Chief Goldsmith had been retired. Others on the force had left. One remained 32 years. He was Joseph W. Whipple, one of two of the original force who lasted through the 'teens and in to the twenties. He was appointed to the force July 13, 1892 when the Fire District operated. At that time he was 41 years of age, being born in Cumberland, March 22, 1851. Mayor Joseph W. Freeman nominated him at a sergeancy Dec. 2, 1907 and Mayor J. E. Lebrosse made him a captain Oct. 4, 1915. He retired on pension Feb. 7, 1927, and died Jan. 2, 1941.

The other, Oliver Sylvester, served for 38 years. He was a native of Canada and was 29 years of age when he came on the force on Oct. 8, 1889. He was pensioned on Sept. 10, 1927 and died Dec. 2, 1931.

Comparing salaries of police officers of the first force of the city and the present personnel gives a startling appearance of increases. In 1895 Chief Goldsmith was allotted \$950 annually. Today Chief of Police, Joseph P. Stetkiewicz receives \$4,784. Sergeant Louks, second in command was paid \$830 annually. Deputy Chief Peter Melia receives \$4,420. Patrolmen in 1895 were paid \$720 a year. Today men on a beat get \$3,432. There were no intermediate ranks such as captain, lieutenant and inspector sergeants in those days so there can be no comparison of these positions.

When the city was created there were 13 men on the permanent force, including the two superior officers. Eight years later, 1903, the city charter was amended to allow the first increase to the force. The mayor was authorized to nominate and the board of aldermen to confirm 16 patrolmen, a chief, a captain and a police detective, 19 men in all. This amendment abolished the position of sergeancy.

In 1912 the General Assembly again amended the charter increasing the force to 24 men and creating the offices of inspector and deputy chief, lieutenant and restoring the sergeancy.

Two patrol drivers were appointed in 1917 after the charter had again been amended. In 1922 another sergeancy was created by the legislature.

In 1931 the memorable police commission was established by the General Assembly creating a state-controlled commission to supervise police and at the same time adding another sergeancy and an additional patrol driver to the roster. The act also increased the force with four new patrolmen.

The police commission system was abolished in 1934 and the power of nomination returned to the mayor and confirmation to the board of aldermen. At that time the three patrol drivers were made permanent patrolmen, and the number of men on the force designated at 34.

Despite the fact Central Falls is but little over one mile square, Chief of Police Joseph P. Stetkiewicz in his last annual report to the mayor, showed the city under-policed. Research proves one policeman is needed for every 500 inhabitants.

The twin city of Pawtucket with 85,000 population has a force of 136 men.

The year 1895 saw the appointment of two new men to force, one later rising to the position of chief of the department within a few years. They were Napoleon Lambert and John Bloomfield. Both were appointed April 13, 1895. It was Napoleon Lambert who rose to chief of police. His first promotion came on June 20, 1898 when he was made a sergeant. November 20, 1899 he was elevated to chief succeeding Chief David R. Goldsmith who had resigned August 3 of that year.

Deaths and resignations made more appointments necessary in 1898 and Feb. 14 the Board of Aldermen approved the nominations of Christopher Boylan and James Regan.

Regan remained on the force little over five years, resigning May 14, 1903. Patrolman Boylan, after holding a sergeancy for several years, was pensioned Feb. 7, 1927, after faithfully serving 29 years on the force. He died Aug. 13, 1934.

Three men were appointed to the force November 20, 1899, two of whom were destined to play an important part in the next three decades of the police department. They were the late Chief James McCarthy, Captain Crosby Towner and Patrick Lowery. The late Chief McCarthy and Capt. Towner were the men who rose to executive power. Lowery remained on the force a little over one year, resigning Aug. 12, 1901. More will be written of Chief McCarthy and his able assistant Capt. Towner in later chapters.

Patrolman John Walsh resigned from the force June 8, 1899, and died on March 10, 1906.

In 1901 Mrs. Katherine A. Sherman was appointed matron, succeeding Miss Mary Fitz, resigned. Mrs. Sherman, after 30 years of exemplary service by which she won the hearts of everyone connected with the police force as well as the citizenry of the city, died October 8, 1931 while in service.

Two other appointments were made in 1901. They were Alphonse Brassard and Louis D. Woodward who were named patrolmen Feb. 4, 1901. Brassard resigned Aug. 10 of the same year and Woodward remained in harness a little over six years, resigning Oct. 18, 1907.

Patrolman William Stafford of the original force died in service Aug. 20, 1902.

Samuel Davis was made a patrolman Dec. 1, 1902 and resigned 16 years later, June 12, 1918. He was the only appointee that year.

In 1903 four men were appointed to the force. One, Lieut. John F. Devaney served more than 31 years when he was retired Nov. 20, 1934 on pension. Lieut. Devaney left behind him an enviable record of efficient police work. He was appointed March 15, 1903. Lieut. Devaney died on Dec. 30, 1942.

The other three patrolmen made that year were Saraphin Laliberty (appointed April 26—resigned June 5, 1905), David E. Grady (appointed May 17—resigned Oct. 16, 1906), and David P. Turner (appointed Aug. 8—resigned May 21, 1907).

There were no appointments in 1904, but John F. Bacon joined the force June 5, 1905 and served until his death, July 13, 1920, more than 15 years later. He was a capable policeman and his worth was soon recognized. June 1, 1908 saw his appointment as inspector lieutenant and he was promoted to inspector with the rank of deputy chief Feb. 3, 1913 and was in that position when he died.

Two years elapsed before there was another appointment. Capt. Daniel Healy came to the force as a patrolman July 1, 1907 and retired with a pension on Nov. 14, 1946. During his tenure of office Capt. Healy has been deputy chief, acting chief, lieutenant and has performed creditable work as a police officer. Capt. Healy died Jan. 18, 1947.

Other appointments that year were the late patrolman Christopher Morley, who joined the force Dec. 7, 1907 and was retired on pension Jan. 1, 1930. He died Dec. 23, 1933. He was an efficient officer and a kind friend.

In the meantime members of the original force were slowly disappearing from the personnel of the department. Patrolman James T. Hanrahan resigned Sept. 9, 1899.

Joseph Couture died in service March 8, 1903. Nelson B. Coombs died April 9, 1908.

The late Charles O. Gooding joined the department Feb. 11, 1907 and was appointed sergeant Feb. 7, 1927 and died while in active service March 12, 1929.

The following year brought Lieut. Joseph A. Chaput an appointment as patrolman, July 6, 1908. On July 20, 1920 he was promoted to deputy chief of police and March 19, 1931 was elevated to chief of the department. May of that year, during a stormy political battle for control of the police department, he was demoted to lieutenant but on Aug. 11 of the same year again made chief of police. He kept his appointment until May 8, 1933 when Chief of Police George E. Collette was elevated. He was again demoted to the rank of lieutenant until his retirement on pension Nov. 6, 1945. Lieut. Chaput died Aug. 14, 1948.

Thomas Lithgoe was made a patrolman that same year, 1908, and he was well known as an efficient officer. He was made sergeant June 5, 1922 and retired on pension May 31, 1931 after 23 years of continuous service. Sergt. Lithgoe died in Mansfield, Mass. on Aug. 28, 1949.

Patrolman Thomas F. Feeney was appointed to the department March 4, 1908 and served until his death, three years later, April 23, 1911.

Three years elapsed before there was another appointment. On May 4, 1911 Peter P. Flynn joined the force. He won a sergeancy twice during his service. Patrolman Flynn remained on the force until his death on March 13, 1945.

Alfred Auger was appointed June 17, 1912 and died July 29, 1927 in service.

That same year saw the retirement of Nelson N. Bagley. He resigned, and died on Sept. 26, 1924.

That year, June 17, saw the appointment of Napoleon Boivin as patrolman, and after 20 years service retired on pension Feb. 16, 1932. He died Oct. 9, 1933.

Thomas E. Forestal was appointed patrolman May 21, 1912 and died in service more than 12 years later, Sept. 27, 1924.

Henry Lamarine was made an officer that same year, May 21, and was promoted sergeant April 1, 1929. A little over a year later he was stricken suddenly with a heart attack and died Nov. 16, 1930. He was a fearless officer, true to the ideals of the department, and well liked by all who knew him.

George Piggott joined the force June 17 of that year. In 1931 he was promoted to captain and held that position two years. He was pensioned Nov. 21, 1934 after 22 years of efficient service. Capt. Piggott died March 28, 1938.

Albert E. Hunt, born in Ashton, R. I., on June 15, 1872, was appointed to the department by Mayor Walter F. Snow on July 6, 1914, and served until 1937 when he was placed on pension. Patrolman Hunt passed away on October 11, 1941.

The year 1914 saw the completion of the new Court House and Police Building on Broad Street. The northern half of the building is used exclusively by the Police Department with the first floor section being set aside for offices, guard room and a waiting corridor. New cells were installed in the basement section while the rear of the building was left open to form a spacious driveway and a garage. The matron's quarters and women's and juvenile offenders' cells being located on the second floor.

Additional quarters for various police activities were needed from time to time until the present. On the first floor, now, there is a room set aside for the Identification Bureau, while on the second floor, the Inspectors have two rooms set aside for them. One room in the basement is now occupied by the Sergeant in charge of the parking meters and another portion of the basement has been partitioned off as a store room. A portion of the third floor has been made over into a gymnasium including a shower stall for the use of all officers and patrolmen.

A shooting gallery was installed in a corridor of the basement during Chief Collette's regime and is still in use under Chief Stetkiewicz.

It is a far cry from the antiquated quarters and equipment of the old Cross Street Police Station to the modern plant in use today.

During the period between 1917 and the passage of the "Kennedy Bill" in the General Assembly which provided for the appointment, by the Governor, of a Police Commission to control the Central Falls Police Department, at least twenty-one (21) police appointments were made and all of them, with but one exception, have been pensioned or resigned.

On April 2, 1917 James H. Murphy and Alfred E. Faubert were appointed as patrol and ambulance drivers. Patrol Driver Murphy was a native of Central Falls, born in 1882, and was subsequently made a patrolman and remained on the force until pensioned on May 6, 1942. Patrol Driver Faubert, however, resigned five years after his appointment.

Alfred W. Tondreau was appointed as a patrol driver by the Board of Aldermen on Dec. 3, 1917, to fill the vacancy caused when another officer was excused from duty. He was a native of Pawtucket, R. I., born in 1894. On April 28, 1918, he left the department to join our armed forces during World War I.

Mayor J. D. Lemay appointed three men to the department on March 4, 1918. They were John F. Hunt, George E. Collette and Stanley Molack.

John F. Hunt, a native of Central Falls, born Aug. 5, 1881, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on Feb. 4, 1931. Sergt. Hunt was shot in line of duty Sept. 20, 1924, when he was arresting a drunken driver on Washington street, near Jenks Park. He was retired on pension May 15, 1931. Two of his sons, Lieutenant G. Harold Hunt and Patrolmen Joseph F. Hunt, are present members of the department.

During the period in which the department was under the control of State dominated police commissions Patrolman Collette was twice promoted to Chief of Police. The first promotion came on May 23, 1931, when he was Chief for a short time only, being returned to patrolman on August 11, 1931, by a subsequent commission. Still another commission promoted him to Chief on May 4,

1933, a rank he held until he was pensioned on Nov. 14, 1946. Chief Collette, who was born in Canada on July 11, 1892, died suddenly at his home on March 13, 1952.

Patrolman, Molack, a native of Poland, was born on June 5, 1886 and remained on the department for twenty-four (24) years. He was pensioned on March 18, 1942.

Napoleon Tondreau was appointed as a patrol driver on May 6, 1918, to replace Alfred Tondreau who had left to serve in the Army during World War I. Patrol Driver Tondreau was born in Cumberland in 1892.

Another appointment made that year, 1918, was that of James A. J. Crawley, who was born in Central Falls on Sept. 8, 1892. Patrolman Crawley was appointed on August 5, 1918 and served a little more than three years, resigning on Nov. 8, 1921.

William Brear, a native of England, was appointed by Mayor Charles H. Lord, on Aug. 2, 1911. He was 39 years of age at the time of his appointment. For a brief period, from May 23, 1911, to August 11 of the same year, he served as a Captain, under the Police Commission rule. Patrolman Brear was pensioned on June 9, 1941, and passed away on Feb. 26, 1951.

Another officer was promoted and demoted by subsequent Police Commissions was Frank Dennis, who was born in Pawtucket, and was appointed by Mayor Lord on Aug. 1, 1921, at the age of 37. He was a Sergeant from May 23, 1931 until May 4, 1933. Patrolman Dennis served on the department for seventeen (17) years until his death on Jan. 29, 1938.

On May 1, 1922, Jean B. Pion was appointed. He was born in Central Falls on May 19, 1891. Patrolman Pion served as a police Inspector from August 11, 1931 to May 4, 1933 and remained on the department for over twenty-one (21) years, being pensioned on Oct. 4, 1943.

The Board of Aldermen appointed William H. Fletcher as a Patrol Driver on June 5, 1923. Patrol Driver Fletcher was born in England on Sept. 12, 1885. He was made a patrolman on Sept. 5, 1923, and was pensioned on June 2, 1941. Patrolman Fletcher died Oct. 21, 1942.

James A. Ryan was appointed a Patrol Driver by the Board of Aldermen on Sept. 5, 1923, and was designated a patrolman on Dec. 31, 1934 and retained that rank until promoted to Sergeant on May 7, 1945. Following his promotion, Sergeant Ryan was pensioned on the same day, May 7, 1945. Sgt. Ryan was born in Cumberland Sept. 14, 1889.

David L. Halliday, a native of Central Falls, born April 18, 1894, was appointed a patrolman on Sept. 5, 1923. He served but a short time, resigning on Jan. 22, 1924.

Antonio Morissette, born in Canada on Sept. 24, 1892, was appointed as a patrolman on April 7, 1924 and served for over nineteen (19) years, being pensioned on Nov. 26, 1943. During the term of the Police Commission over the department Patrolman Morissette served as a Sergeant from Aug. 11, 1931 until May 4, 1933.

George Andrews appointed on Dec. 1, 1924, is a native of Ireland, born on July 22, 1891. During his long period of service, over 26 years, he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief on two occasions, once on March 19, 1931, serving until May 23, 1931, and again on Aug. 11, 1931, following which he retained this rank until pensioned on Jan. 17, 1951.

Mayor Adelard St. George appointed George J. Couture to the department on Feb. 7, 1927, and he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant by the Police Commission on Jan. 2, 1934. Sergeant Couture was born in Central Falls on May 6, 1892. He retained the rank of Sergeant until he was pensioned on Nov. 27, 1942. Sergeant Couture died in Boston, Mass., Nov. 30, 1952.

On the same day, Feb. 7, 1927, Mayor St. George also named Thomas A. Burns to the department. Patrolman Burns was born in Central Falls on Dec. 15, 1892. He was a member of the department for more than twenty-six (26) years prior to his pension on May 12, 1952.

Later that year, on Aug. 1, 1927, Alfred H. Viau was appointed to the department by Mayor St. George. Patrolman Viau was born in Connecticut on Aug. 18, 1900. He was pensioned on Nov. 10, 1945, after eighteen (18) years as a patrolman.

Another appointment made that year by Mayor St. George was that of Robert J. Hayden on Sept. 7, 1927. He was a native of Providence, born on July 12, 1892. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on April 20, 1934. Sergeant Hayden maintained his rank until pensioned on Nov. 27, 1942.

Our present Chief, Joseph P. Stetkiewicz, who was born in Quidnick, R. I., on Dec. 26, 1902, was also appointed by Mayor St. George and is the only one of those appointed prior to the Police Commission days still on the department today. He was appointed on April 1, 1929; was promoted to Police Inspector on two separate occasions by different police commissions, once on May 23, 1931, to serve until Aug. 11, 1931, and again on May 4, 1933. He retained the rank of Inspector until such rank was abolished on April 17, 1934, at which time he was appointed to be a Sergeant. He held the rank of Sergeant until his promotion to Captain on July 17, 1941; and on Nov. 14, 1946, he was named Chief to succeed George E. Collette who was pensioned on the same date.

Simeon Roberts, born in England on Dec. 25, 1896, was appointed by the Board of Aldermen on June 24, 1930, and served until May 27, 1954, when he was placed on our pension rolls.

The last two appointments made to the department prior to the advent of the Police Commission were that of Earl W. Conway and Michael A. McGrath on Jan. 13, 1931, by Mayor William H. Malloy.

Patrolman Conway, born in this city on Sept. 9, 1905, served only until Feb. 1, 1937, when he resigned from the force.

Patrolman McGrath resigned on June 5, 1933. He was a native of Ireland, born on July 4, 1879.

Following the death of Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Bertha Whitehead was appointed matron on Feb. 20, 1931, and she retired May 8, 1933, at which time Mrs. Mary Snee was appointed. Several other women, including Mrs. Mary Gordon, served as matron for varying periods of time after Mrs. Snee. The present incumbent, Mrs. Anita Cote, was recently appointed by Mayor Raymond J. Garvey.

The famous Chief McCarthy ouster fight, the echoes of which resound today, will never be forgotten by the citizens of the city, say nothing of the imprint it left on the force itself. The political controversy came into the open in 1929.

The author will not attempt to conjure reasons behind the bitter political battle. A group of aldermen and councilmen known to newspapers as "The Franco-Polish Bloc" tied up all city business, refused to attend meetings, until Chief McCarthy was removed.

Mayor J. Adelard St. George would suspend Chief McCarthy, but the Supreme Court of the State would reinstate him on application. When his opponents saw that they could not hurdle the Supreme Court a concentrated drive was made on the General Assembly and in January 1931 the "Kennedy Bill" was passed taking control of the police department from the mayor and board of aldermen and vesting it in a state controlled commission.

Rep. Raymond J. Kennedy was the sponsor for the measure and Governor Norman S. Case appointed George M. MacKenzie, chairman; George Jette and Rep. Kennedy as the first police commission. The bill carried with it a provision that any member of the force more than 62 years of age and with 25 years of service behind him, might be pensioned. It was the phrase that ended the controversy for the General Assembly had legislated Chief James McCarthy from office.

The then Deputy Chief of Police Joseph A. Chaput was made chief of police by the commission March 19, 1931. The feeling was so intense that citizens bombarded Governor Case with objections that in August of that year saw the resignations of Commissioners MacKenzie and Kennedy.

The new appointees were Robert Nixon and John J. Shea. In the meantime Chief Chaput had been removed as chief of police in May by the commission and George E. Collette elevated. However, the commission when reorganized in August with Robert Nixon as chairman demoted Chief Collette and reinstated Joseph A. Chaput.

The fight grew more intense but it was not until Governor Theodore Francis Green took office in 1933 that another change was made. A reorganization of the commission took place with some vestige of city control returned for Mayor Joseph Cadorette was placed as chairman, and with him on the commission were Stanley Novak and Thomas A. Waldron. State Senator John Quinn was clerk of the commission.

May 8 of that year saw the demotion of Chief Chaput to a lieutenantcy and the second elevation of Patrolman George E. Collette as chief of police.

George Andrews for the second time was made inspector and deputy chief at the same time.

The incessant demand of the citizens for the return of home rule grew. Made Representative Christopher Corrigan take up the banner and at every opportunity flayed the commission act from the floor of the House of Representatives.

So intense was the pressure on Governor Green that on December 20 of that year he appointed William C. Kindelan superintendent of police to investigate. Supt. Kindelan was a retired Providence police sergeant who had later joined the U. S. Federal Narcotic Squad and then resigned to be chief of police at Norwood, Mass. Supt. Kindelan was born in Providence, June 15, 1879.

He remained in charge until the police commission act was repealed and the power restored to the mayor and governing body of the city.

Former Chief of Police James McCarthy was born Feb. 8, 1864 and was appointed to the police force November 20, 1899 and was nominated chief by former Mayor Timothy J. Riley March 5, 1908, succeeding Chief Napoleon Lambert. The "Franco-Polish Bloc" fight was not the first Chief McCarthy faced. In 1915 Mayor J. E. LeBrosse suspended him for alleged incompetency and he was tried and found guilty and discharged by the Board of Aldermen. The Supreme Court reinstated him three months later.

Three times he was suspended by Mayor St. George and three times the Court reinstated him in 1931. When he retired March 19, 1931 on pension he was 67 years of age. He died Aug. 19, 1934 of pneumonia after a brief illness.

The day that Chief McCarthy came to the force as a patrolman, Nov. 20, 1899 another appointee appeared at the same roll-call. He was Patrolman Crosby Towner and the two rookies became fast friends. He was born in St. John, New Brunswick, July 30, 1872 and four years after James Mc-

Carthy became chief of police Patrolman Crosby Towner was made a lieutenant, June 17, 1912, and was an able assistant to the chief from that moment until McCarthy's retirement. Lieut. Towner was station officer days. He was made a captain March 31, 1931 and retired on pension that year. He died on Aug. 20, 1948.

The force has had many interesting cases but space does not allow perusal. In 1931 the General Fabric strike was so important that it carried the front pages of metropolitan papers as well as those in Rhode Island. Fanned by the firey Ann Burlack the workers were so riotous that all but a few of the State Police personnel was brought in to augment the local force. Machine guns were posted on top the mill and the local men worked night and day keeping order.

Again in 1934 the back-wash of the Saylesville Bleachery Plant strike was capably handled by the Central Falls force.

During the Police Commission regime beginning in March of 1931 and continuing through April of 1934 at least thirteen (13) men were appointed to the department and many of them are still on active duty, today.

The first Commission, which consisted of Commissioners George McKenzie, George Jette and Raymond Kennedy, appointed three men on March 24, 1931. The new appointees were Herbert F. Gooding, Albert Piche and John J. Scully.

Patrolman Gooding, who was born in Central Falls on Aug. 6, 1898, was the son of another police officer, Sergeant Charles O. Gooding who died in 1929 after twenty two (22) years of service. Patrolman Gooding remained on the force for nearly sixteen (16) years, retiring on pension March 3, 1947.

Patrolman Piche's term of service on the department was short lived. He resigned on July 13, 1931. He was a native of Canada, born in the City of Quebec on Jan. 14, 1907.

Patrolman Scully served for more than fifteen (15) years and was pensioned Sept. 4, 1946. He was born in England on Oct. 7, 1903, and died in Pawtucket on May 15, 1950.

The same Board of Police Commissioners appointed three other men to the department on April 30, 1931. They were Alphe Girouard, Herbert Kay and Louis Lejeune, each of whom served for many years and subsequently placed on the pension rolls.

Patrolman Girouard, born in Central Falls on March 6, 1892, was originally appointed as a patrol driver, and named a patrolman on February 2, 1932. He was promoted to Sergeant on May 4, 1933 and held that rank until April 19, 1934. He retired on pension Dec. 7, 1942.

Patrolman Kay, born Dec. 5, 1892 in Central Falls, was also appointed as a patrol driver. On Aug. 11, 1931, he was named police clerk and made a patrolman on May 8, 1933. After patrolling a beat for several years he, again, served as a police clerk until his retirement on pension Aug. 19, 1951.

Patrolman Lejeune was born in Northbridge, Mass., on Oct. 30, 1896, came to the department as a patrol driver, too, and on Dec. 31, 1934 was appointed a patrolman. He had been on the force for more than nineteen (19) years at the time he was pensioned on Oct. 2, 1950.

On May 23, 1931, the Police Commissioners made four new appointments to the department and two of these are still members of the present force. The appointees were Henry J. Cawley, Charles H. Cunningham, Emile J. Duval and Stanley A. Libucha.

A native of Pawtucket, patrolman Cawley was born on Jan. 15, 1897, and was a member of the department for more than fourteen (14) years, retiring on pension May 8, 1945.

Lieutenant Cunningham, still active on the force, today, was born in Central Falls on April 13, 1905, received his first promotion on Nov. 14, 1946, when he was made a Sergeant upon the nomination of Mayor John J. Healey. His promotion to Lieutenant occurred on Jan. 17, 1951 as a result of his nomination by Mayor Robert J. Connelly.

Patrolman Duval, who served for more than nineteen (19) years, was a native of Ipswich, Mass., born on Oct. 7, 1900. He retired on pension Oct. 2, 1950 and died on Sept. 21, 1954, following a prolonged period of illness.

Sergeant Libucha, who received his promotion to that rank on Nov. 26, 1946, upon nomination by Mayor John J. Healey, remains a member of the department at the time of this summary. He was born in Harris, R. I., Oct. 26, 1902.

Alphonse R. Maynard, a patrolman still on active duty, was appointed on July 13, 1931. He was born in Central Falls on Dec. 25, 1907.

Two other members of the present force, Captain Romeo W. Bessette and patrolman Thaddeus F. Faber, were the last two appointments made during the regime of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Captain Bessette, who had been doing relief duty on the force since Feb. 7, 1934, was appointed a permanent member of the department on April 10, 1934. He is a native of Canada, born June 27, 1895. His first promotion came on Nov. 14, 1946, when he was nominated Sergeant by Mayor John J. Healey. His present grade was attained upon the nomination of Mayor Robert J. Connelly on Jan. 17, 1951.

The final appointment made by the Commissioners was that of patrolman Thaddeus F. Faber on April 20, 1934. Patrolman Faber was born in New Bedford, Mass., March 3, 1912. After ten years on the department he obtained a leave of absence on April 25, 1944, to join the U. S. Navy during World War II. He did not return to the department upon his discharge from military service and on Jan. 5, 1947, he resigned from the force. He was appointed to the department for a second time on Sept. 10, 1951, by Mayor Robert J. Connelly.

The advent of the automobile greatly increased the work of the Police Department. Constant diligence, however, has kept fatal accidents at a minimum through the years.

The first piece of motorized equipment used by the department was a patrol wagon which superceded the wheelbarrow of the nineties and this was followed by the purchase, at various times, of other motorized equipment. At the present time such equipment includes an ambulance, a motorcycle, three four-door sedans, a maintenance truck.

In order to keep pace with ever mounting number of vehicles on the highway and the corresponding increase of police work, radio equipment was first installed in one of our cars in 1935 and the car could thus be contacted through the broadcasting facilities of the Pawtucket Police Department on a one-way basis.

Later, the two cars used for patrol duties were equipped with two-way receivers and transmitters and, again through the Pawtucket facilities, it was then possible to maintain two-way communications between the cars and the police station.

Under our present set-up, the three sedans and the motorcycle are equipped with the most modern F-M short wave, two-way, system with a monitoring unit in our police headquarters. We are still broadcasting through the facilities of the Pawtucket police department, however.

As a result of the department's ability to keep abreast of the times it was possible to keep motor vehicle accidents, resulting in death, to such a minimum that the department was awarded its first "Honorable Mention" plaque by the National Safety Council in 1934.

Similar awards were also made to the department in 1940, 1951 and 1953 by the National Safety Council.

Awards for traffic safety were also bestowed upon our department in 1947 by the Blackstone Valley Safety Council and in 1951 by the American Automobile Association.

The last fatal accident in which a motor vehicle was involved occurred nearly three years ago, on February 2, 1952. The last pedestrian to be fatally injured on our city's highways was over five years ago, on August 21, 1949.

Following the abolition of the Police Commission and the return of control of the police department to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen no new appointments were made to the force until May 15, 1937, when Rock P. Martel, Arthur Caouette and Peter Melia were appointed by Mayor John J. Healey.

Another appointment made that year, 1937, that of Richard A. Fay by Mayor Healey, brought the total personnel of the department to thirty-five (35) men. At no other time, before or since that year, has the department had that many men on duty.

In addition to the regular permanent members of the force of that year, the Joint Standing Committee on Police also appointed a civilian police clerk to the department. He was Roland G. Mercier and he assumed the position on May 27, 1937.

The year 1937 also saw the installation of equipment on the street floor of headquarters for a Bureau of Identification, and included finger printing and photographic paraphernalia. The police clerk, appointed earlier that year, was assigned to this bureau in addition to the clerical work.

A Traffic Bureau was also inaugurated during 1937 providing a means for violators to dispose of parking and other minor violations by paying certain specific fines, without costs, at police headquarters instead of being brought before the local District Court.

Three of the five men who were named to the department in 1937 are still members on active duty at the present time. They are Deputy Chief Melia, Captain Fay and Lieutenant Mercier.

Deputy Chief Melia appointed May 15, 1937, received his first promotion Nov. 14, 1946, when Mayor Healey nominated him to a lieutenantcy. On Jan. 17, 1951, he attained his present rank when nominated by Mayor Connolly. Deputy Chief Melia was born Feb. 17, 1902 in Central Falls.

Captain Fay was first appointed on July 7, 1937 by Mayor Healey and was promoted to a sergeancy by Mayor Healey on July 17, 1941. On June 1, 1942 he was granted a leave of absence when he enlisted in the U. S. Navy for World War II service. Upon his discharge from the navy he returned to the department on March 1, 1945 and was promoted to Captain-Inspector by Mayor Healey on Nov. 14, 1946. Captain Fay was born in Central Falls, Nov. 18, 1899.

Lieutenant Mercier, born June 4, 1905 in Central Falls, served as civilian clerk and identification officer for three and a half years prior to his appointment to the department on Jan. 14, 1941 by

Mayor Healey, and promoted to Sergeant on the same date. On July 14, 1942, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy for the duration of World War II upon being granted a leave of absence. He returned to the department on Oct. 16, 1945 and was promoted to Lieutenant on Jan. 17, 1951, by Mayor Connolly.

Patrolman Martel was appointed to the department May 15, 1937 and, after serving for a year and a half years, resigned on Nov. 21, 1943. He was born Nov. 9, 1897 in Central Falls and died Jan. 12, 1951.

Captain Caouette, pensioned on Jan. 17, 1951, was born in Central Falls Jan. 20, 1908, and appointed to the department May 15, 1937. On Oct. 18, 1943, he entered service with the U. S. Navy for World War II and was granted a leave of absence for the duration. Following discharge from the navy he returned to his police duties as a patrolman on Dec. 2, 1945, and was promoted to the rank of Captain Nov. 14, 1946, by nomination of Mayor Healey.

The next two officers to be appointed to the department were Lieutenant G. Harold Hunt and Sergeant Boisclair, both of whom were also appointed by Mayor Healey on July 17, 1941.

Lieutenant Hunt, a native of Central Falls, was born March 17, 1907. He obtained a leave of absence when he enlisted in the U. S. Navy on Oct. 18, 1943, for service in World War II. Upon being discharged he resumed his police duties and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on Jan. 17, 1951, by Mayor Connolly. His next promotion came on April 7, 1953 when Mayor Raymond J. Garvey elevated him to a lieutenantcy, and assigned him officially as School Traffic Safety Officer.

Sergeant Boisclair's promotion occurred on Jan. 17, 1951, following his nomination by Mayor Connolly. Born Dec. 25, 1909, Sergeant Boisclair has been a life-long resident of Central Falls.

In 1941, before this country entered World War II, Lieutenant Mercier and a member of the fire department were assigned to attend a two week's course at the U. S. Army's Chemical Warfare School at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, sponsored by the National Civilian Defense Council. Upon his return organized and began training this city's first Civilian Defense Auxiliary Police Unit. This unit, made up of volunteer unpaid civic-minded citizens, reached a total of over two hundred (200) members under the guidance of Deputy Chief Andrews who carried on the work after the original organizer entered the armed forces in 1942.

During World War II, with five members of the department serving with the armed forces in our country and several others being placed on pension, the total personnel of the department fell to a very low point, but with the cooperation of all remaining officers, beats were lengthened and considerable extra duty performed to provide adequate protection for our citizens. Two patrol cars, equipped with two-way radio communication, were kept on duty throughout the day and night during the emergency.

The clerical work of the department during the war was performed by a civilian employee, Miss Juliette Asselin, and she was subsequently succeeded by Miss Josephine Kozlowski who remained on duty until the return of the regularly appointed clerk.

In addition to those members who had enlisted in the armed forces another member, Patrolman Roberts, was granted a leave of absence beginning July 25, 1942, for the duration of the war to organize and head a group of guards at one of our local manufacturing plants engaged in war production, thus reducing the total personnel of the department still further.

After the officers on leaves of absence returned to duty after the war ended no other appointments were made to the department until Nov. 26, 1945, when Mayor Healey appointed five World War II veterans patrolmen, all of whom are still on the force.

The new appointees included John J. Gorman and Frank C. Klich, both of whom are now sergeants; George H. Benoit, John C. Byrnes and Lucien J. Tessier.

Sergeant Gorman, a navy veteran, was born in Central Falls Aug. 19, 1919. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Jan. 17, 1951 by Mayor Connolly, and was recently assigned to the Inspectors' Bureau by Mayor Raymond J. Garvey who is the Public Safety Director.

Sergeant Klich is an army veteran and was promoted by Mayor Garvey Oct. 26, 1953. He was born in Pawtucket Oct. 17, 1909.

Patrolman Benoit, another army veteran, is a native of Central Falls, born Nov. 9, 1916.

Patrolman Byrnes, who served with the navy during the war, is also a Central Falls native, born Nov. 24, 1918. He is now serving as clerk of the Police Department.

Patrolman Tessier is another veteran of army service. He was born in Central Falls Aug. 27, 1910. He left the department on Oct. 16, 1946, and was reappointed by Mayor Connolly on Dec. 6, 1948. During the period that patrolman Tessier was off the department he served a term as a member of the city's Common Council.

On the morning of July 19, 1946, John J. Gorman, Frank C. Klich, John C. Byrnes and Lucien J. Tessier confiscated and brought to the station two slot machines taken from a shoe shine parlor on Broad Street, little did they realize that this and other events that followed would bring them into national prominence as the "Fearless Four".

On the morning of July 25, 1946 the "Fearless Four" were suspended from duty by the late Chief Collette, but no charges were ever placed against them, due to the tremendous support given by the citizens, veterans organizations and the two local newspapers. They were reinstated with no loss of pay on August 5, 1946.

Due to the many changes affected in the department during these past few years patrolman Benoit and Byrnes hold badges numbered 2 and 3, respectively, in spite of the fact that they have been on the force just about eight years.

Within a period of twelve days in November 1946 more changes were made in the department than during any other similar period of time. A new chief, two new captains, a lieutenant, and three sergeants were sworn in and four new appointees named during that period.

On the 14th of November, Raymond J. Morissette, Leo W. Perron and John P. Crawley were appointed to the department by Mayor Healey.

On the 15th, Chief Collette retired on pension and Captain Stetkiewicz was promoted to succeed him as Chief of Police.

Also on the 15th, Richard A. Fay and Arthur Caouette were promoted to the rank of Captain; Peter Melia was promoted to a lieutenantcy; while Romeo W. Bessette and Charles H. Cunningham were promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The 26th saw the promotion of Patrolman Libucha to Sergeant and the appointment of Emile A. Pelletier and Manuel Cabral as new members of the force.

Patrolman Morissette, a World War II army veteran and a son of retired Patrolman Antonio A. Morissette, was born in Central Falls July 4, 1913. He remained on the force only a short time, resigning on Feb. 17, 1947.

Sergeant Perron, born May 7, 1911, in Central Falls, received his promotion on Jan. 19, 1953, when Mayor Garvey appointed him as "Sergeant-Mechanic" whose duties included the maintenance of all police vehicles. Sergeant Perron is also in charge of maintaining our parking meters and the collections therefrom.

Patrolman Crawley, a navy veteran of World War II, is a native of Central Falls, born Feb. 9, 1915.

Patrolman Pelletier, another Central Falls native, born Oct. 1, 1920, is also a World War II veteran, having served with the Marine Corps.

Patrolman Cabral, born in East Providence, R. I., March 27, 1919, is a veteran of army service in World War II.

Before the end of the year, in 1946, seven more appointments to the department were made by Mayor Healey.

Three of them, Joseph B. Lenihan, Vincent A. McVeigh and Frederick Deebo were appointed on Dec. 3, 1946.

The other four, Walter Kagan, Paul A. Dube, George E. Pinault and Armand N. Aubin, received their appointments on Dec. 27, 1946.

Patrolman Lenihan, a World War II army veteran, was born in Pawtucket on July 6, 1915.

Patrolman McVeigh, another Pawtucket native, was born Aug. 27, 1916, and served with the navy during World War II.

Patrolman Deebo, a live-long resident of this city, was born here on May 3, 1910.

Patrolman Kagan, born in Central Falls Aug. 21, 1921, served with the army during World War II. He was pensioned on July 17, 1952.

Patrolman Dube was born in Fall River, Mass., Nov. 9, 1911. He also served with the army during World War II.

Patrolman Pinault, born in Waterbury, Conn., June 4, 1921, was another army veteran. He resigned from the department Feb. 9, 1954.

Patrolman Aubin, who also served with the army during World War II, is a native of Woonsocket, R. I., born Sept. 9, 1914.

The personal welfare of every member of the department was greatly improved, and the morale of the department, in general, was considerably raised in 1947 with the advent of the first across-the-board salary increase in many years being granted. In addition to the increase in pay, all patrolmen were placed on an annual salary basis instead of the former daily wage scale.

The year 1947 also saw the complete renovation of the gymnasium on the third floor of police headquarters. New equipment for the gymnasium was purchased with funds made available by the Police Relief Association and is still in use, today.

Joseph F. Hunt, a native of Central Falls, born Nov. 21, 1918, was the sole new appointment made to the department in 1947. He is the son of retired Sergeant John F. Hunt, and was named by the Board of Aldermen on May 9, 1947. Patrolman Hunt is an Army veteran of World War II.

Another salary increase was granted to all members of the department in 1948.

New equipment for use during riots or other emergencies, consisting of a rifle for the firing of tear gas projectiles as well as the necessary projectiles and grenades was purchased during 1948 and these have been maintained in good condition and renewed whenever necessary until the present time.

A Portagraph unit was also purchased in 1948 providing the department with a means of copying all types of printed or written matter in exact duplication of the original item. Its usefulness in police work has already been proven on several occasions in our own department and is a very important part of our investigative equipment. It has also been made available to other city departments on many occasions.

One new appointment to the department was made on Dec. 6, 1948, when Patrolman Tessier was re-appointed.

During 1949 the members of the department were granted another pay increase averaging ten per cent, and a clothing allowance of \$25.00 per year on a cumulative basis. Another benefit granted during this year was an increase in the number of days granted each member for an annual vacation from 10 to 14 days.

In his annual report for that year, Chief Stetkiewicz stated "I am firmly convinced that the salary increase, plus the clothing allowance and the additional days of vacation granted to the members of the department has resulted in a marked increase in the morale and efficiency of this department."

The continuing increase in the number of cars on our highways with the resulting additional traffic hazards caused our city government to purchase additional traffic signals, blinker as well as stop-and-go types, and these were installed at the four worst intersections during the course of 1949.

There were no changes in the personnel of the department during 1949 or 1950.

This department, working in conjunction with the Federal and State governments, began preparations in 1950 for the organization and training of a Civilian Defense unit such as was in operation during World War II.

During 1951 an Auxiliary Police Unit of forty-three (43) volunteer, unpaid citizens was organized and trained and was the nucleus around which our present Civilian Defense Auxiliary Police organization was formed.

Another improvement in the traffic situation was made in 1951 when parking meters were installed on Broad, Dexter and Washington streets. A decrease in the number of traffic accidents on all three thoroughfares was noted as a result.

Accidents involving children on their way to and from school were kept at a minimum through a program of regular supervision of the Junior Traffic Patrol by Lieut. Hunt, who was assigned to this duty in 1951, and is still continuing on this assignment as of this date.

Five new appointments to the department were made during 1951 by Mayor Connelly. They were Thaddeus F. Faber, Adelard Peloquin, Francis R. Melia, Gerard A. Routhier and Karl J. Fruzanski.

Patrolman Faber who had resigned from the department on Jan. 5, 1947, was re-appointed on Sept. 10, 1951.

Patrolman Peloquin, a World War II navy veteran, was born in Canada March 19, 1913. His appointment also occurred on Sept. 10, 1951.

Patrolman Melia, another navy veteran of World War II, was born Dec. 10, 1927 in Central Falls, and he, too, was appointed Sept. 10, 1951.

Patrolman Routhier, another Sept. 10, 1951 appointee was born in Central Falls on March 4, 1928. He is now the department's motorcycle officer.

Patrolman Fruzenski, born July 7, 1926 in Central Falls was also appointed on Sept. 10, 1951. He, too, served with the U. S. Navy during World War II.

Three more traffic control signals were installed during 1951, all of them along Lonsdale avenue, in an effort to reduce the number of speeders on that highway. Another signal was installed at Quinn Square.

During the latter part of 1951 and early 1952 the members of the department met together on several occasions to study the advisability of organizing themselves in affiliation with a nation-wide movement known as the Fraternal Order of Police.

East Providence police were the first in this State to join this movement and proved that there was merit in so doing, whereupon the members of this department met with City officials and obtained their approval to so organize.

On June 2, 1952, The Central Falls Lodge, No. 2, Fraternal Order of Police, was officially organized as the second such unit in this State and is still continuing, today, in its effort to cultivate mutual friendship among police officers in all sections of the State as well as to foster and encourage the highest degree of skill, efficiency, discipline and loyalty within our department, which are the purposes for which the organization was founded.

John Wilkins, a native of Lowell, Mass., born July 4, 1917, was the next appointee to the department. Mayor Connelly appointed him on July 16, 1952. Patrolman Wilkins is a World War II navy veteran.

During the year 1953 Lieut. Hunt was assigned to attend a full week of conferences at the University of Rhode Island on the subject of Juvenile Delinquency.

On July 1, 1953, the annual allotment for police officers' clothing was increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 annually.

Capt. Fay and Sergt. Gorman were assigned to attend classes on Criminal Investigations one day a week for about seven months in late 1953 and early 1954. These classes were also held at the University of Rhode Island.

Sergt. Gorman also attended a five-day course at Camp Curtis Guild, Wakefield, Mass., in September, 1954, on the use of the various types of firearms ordinarily used by police officers.

Early in 1954 Sergt. Perron was assigned as assistant training officer for the Civilian Defense Auxiliary Police Unit.

In the Spring of that year every member of the department underwent extensive training in Standard and Advanced First Aid with each officer a current holder of a First Aid Certificate issued by the American Red Cross.

On Feb. 1, 1954, the city's new charter went into effect and, for the first time in its history, Central Falls had a Director of Public Safety in the person of the Mayor, in accordance with the terms of the Charter.

For the first time, also, the city had a Personnel Board with power to set up written examinations for all aspirants to appointments to the Police Department, and set up rules governing the manner in which all future promotions within the department are to be made.

The first group of applicants for the department were screened and given examinations in July of 1954. As a result of these examinations two appointments were made by the Personnel Board on the recommendation of Chief Stetkiewicz on Aug. 21, 1954.

Stanley J. Szumila, a native of Central Falls, born May 12, 1929, was one of the appointees of Aug. 21, 1954. He served with the U. S. Army during the Korean War.

Normand J. Thibeault, who served with the Air Force during World War II, was the other appointee of Aug. 21, 1954. He was born in Cumberland, R. I., June 14, 1924.

In October, 1954 Patrolmen Lucien J. Tessier and Thaddeus F. Faber were assigned to attend the second class on Criminal Investigations at the University of Rhode Island. The course began on Friday, Oct. 22, 1954, and will continue one day each week throughout the winter and spring, for a period of approximately seven months.

The complete roster of the department as it is constituted at the time this history was written is as follows:

<i>Names</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Promoted</i>
STETKIEWICZ, JOSEPH P.	Chief	1 April 1929	15 Nov. 1946
MELIA, PETER	Deputy Chief	3 May 1937	17 Jan. 1951
FAY, RICHARD A.	Captain	7 July 1937	15 Nov. 1946
BESSETTE, ROMEO W.	Captain	11 April 1934	17 Jan. 1951
CUNNINGHAM, CHARLES H.	Lieutenant	23 May 1931	17 Jan. 1951
MERCIER, ROLAND G.	Lieutenant	14 Jan. 1941	17 Jan. 1951
HUNT, G. HAROLD	Lieutenant	17 July 1941	7 April 1953
LIBUCHA, STANLEY A.	Sergeant	23 May 1931	26 Nov. 1924
BOISCLAIR, J. EDMOUR	Sergeant	17 July 1921	17 Jan. 1951
GORMAN, JOHN J.	Sergeant	26 Nov. 1945	17 Jan. 1951
PERRON, LEO W.	Sergeant	14 Nov. 1946	19 Jan. 1953
KLICH, FRANK C.	Sergeant	26 Nov. 1945	26 Oct. 1953
MAYNARD, ALPHONSE R.	Patrolman No. 1	13 July 1931	
BENOIT, GEORGE H.	" " 2	26 Nov. 1945	
BYRNES, JOHN C.	" " 3	26 Nov. 1945	
CRAWLEY, JOHN P.	" " 4	14 Nov. 1946	
PELLETIER, EMILE A.	" " 5	26 Nov. 1946	
CABRAL MANUEL	" " 6	26 Nov. 1946	
LENIHAN, JOSEPH B.	" " 7	3 Dec. 1946	
MCVEIGH, VINCENT A.	" " 8	3 Dec. 1946	
DEEBO, FREDERICK	" " 9	3 Dec. 1946	
DUBE, PAUL A.	" " 10	27 Dec. 1946	
AUBIN, ARMAND N.	" " 11	27 Dec. 1946	
HUNT, JOSEPH F.	" " 12	9 May 1947	
TESSIER, LUCIEN J.	" " 13	6 Dec. 1948	
FABER, THADDEUS F.	" " 14	10 Sept. 1951	
PELOQUIN, ADELARD	" " 15	10 Sept. 1951	
MELIA, FRANCIS R.	" " 16	10 Sept. 1951	
ROUTHIER, GERARD A.	" " 17	10 Sept. 1951	
FRUZENSKI, KARL J.	" " 18	10 Sept. 1951	
WILKINS, JOHN	" " 19	16 July 1952	
SZUMILA, STANLEY J.	" " 20	21 Aug. 1954	
THIBEAULT, NORMAND J.	" " 21	21 Aug. 1954	

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