



Waco Police History

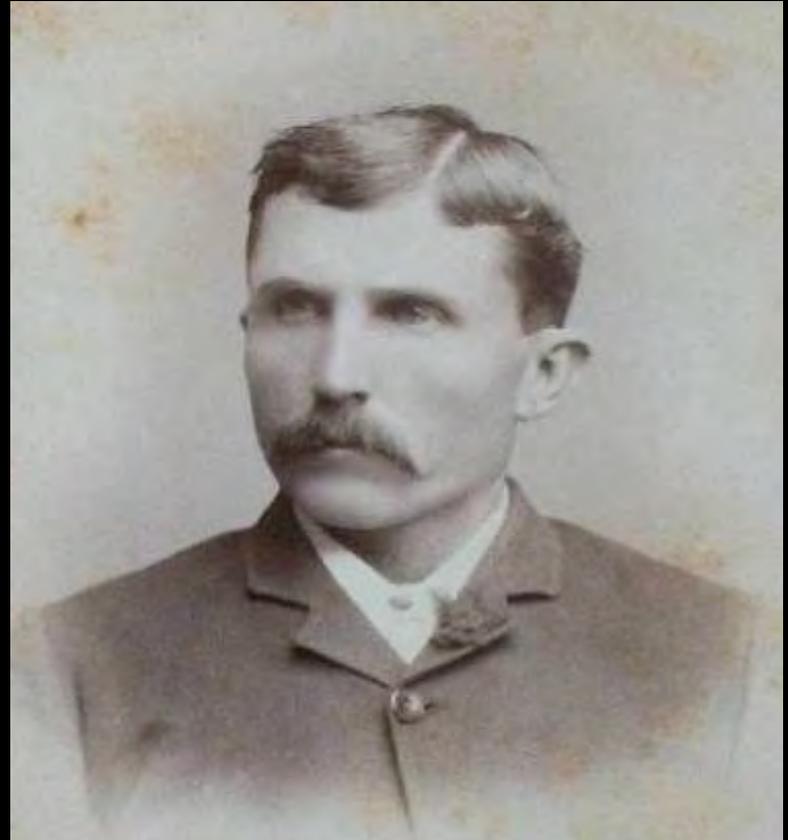
140 years of policing

Before creation of Waco PD

- For a short period shortly after 1849, Waco was known as “Six shooter junction” because of the numerous gun battles fought by its early founders.

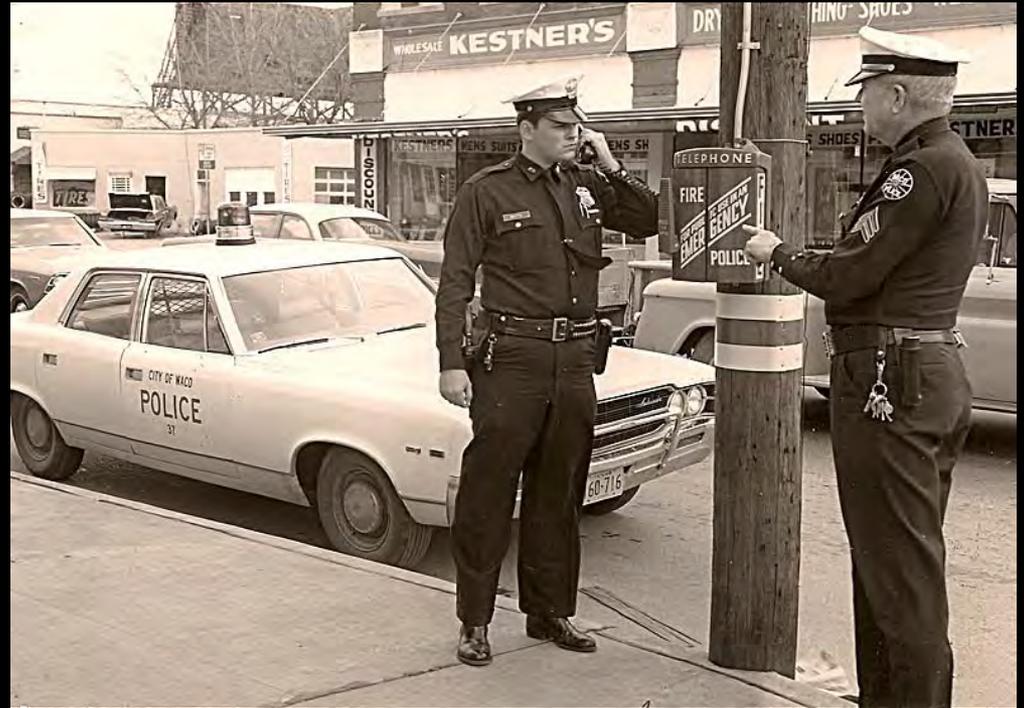
Year Police Dept. Created

- 1871 – election of 1st town marshal as provided by 1st city charter
- Alf Neill –One of first Waco officers killed in the line of duty in 1877.
- Annual elections, mayor could appoint four officers. (lasted until 1930's)



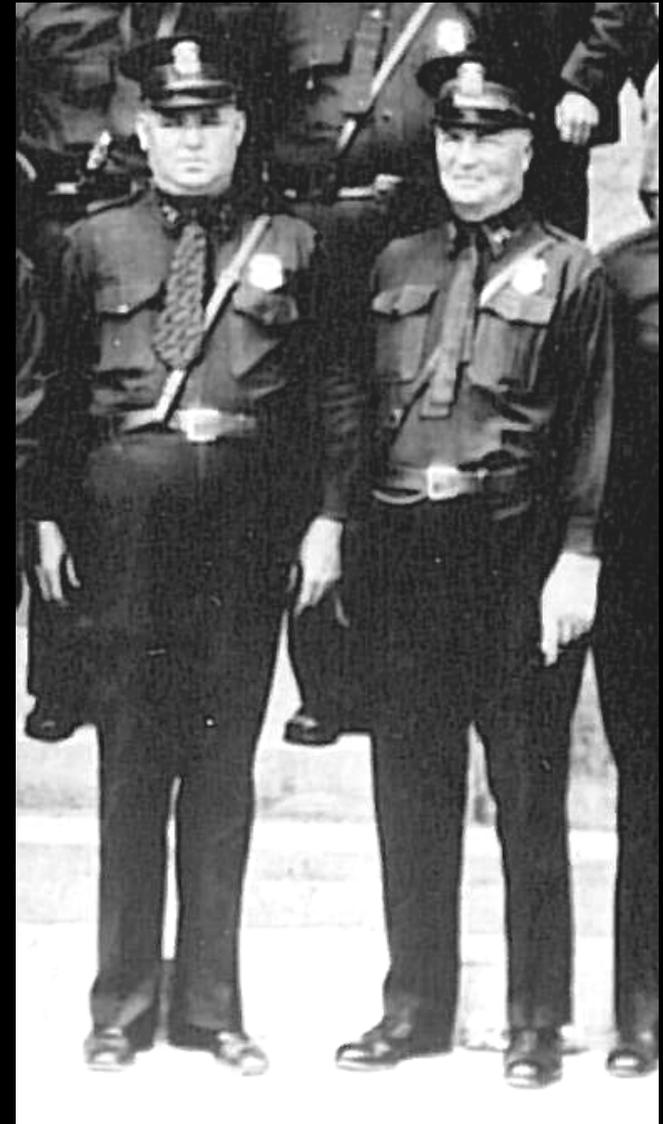
Alf Neill

- By 1879, Waco had four officers and an annual budget of \$600. Officers duties were collecting taxes, repairing streets, and ring the fire bell.



- 1900's – began use of call boxes. Officers called in every thirty minutes.

- During the Great Depression, the mayor approved emergency hiring of 30 extra officers to keep order. Officers used their own cars, city paid for gas.
- 1936 Civil service was established as a minimum requirement for hiring.
- 1936 pay was just over \$100 a month.
- Uniform was a 3 piece blue serge suit with shell buttons.



Waco Police Department Feb. 2nd, 1939



- WW II- manpower shortage brought on the hiring of 1st black officer and 1st female officer



- Began 24 hr. coverage, still less than 100 officers.

Officer Sam Fuller Sr. (center) was responsible for bringing fingerprinting to Waco Police.



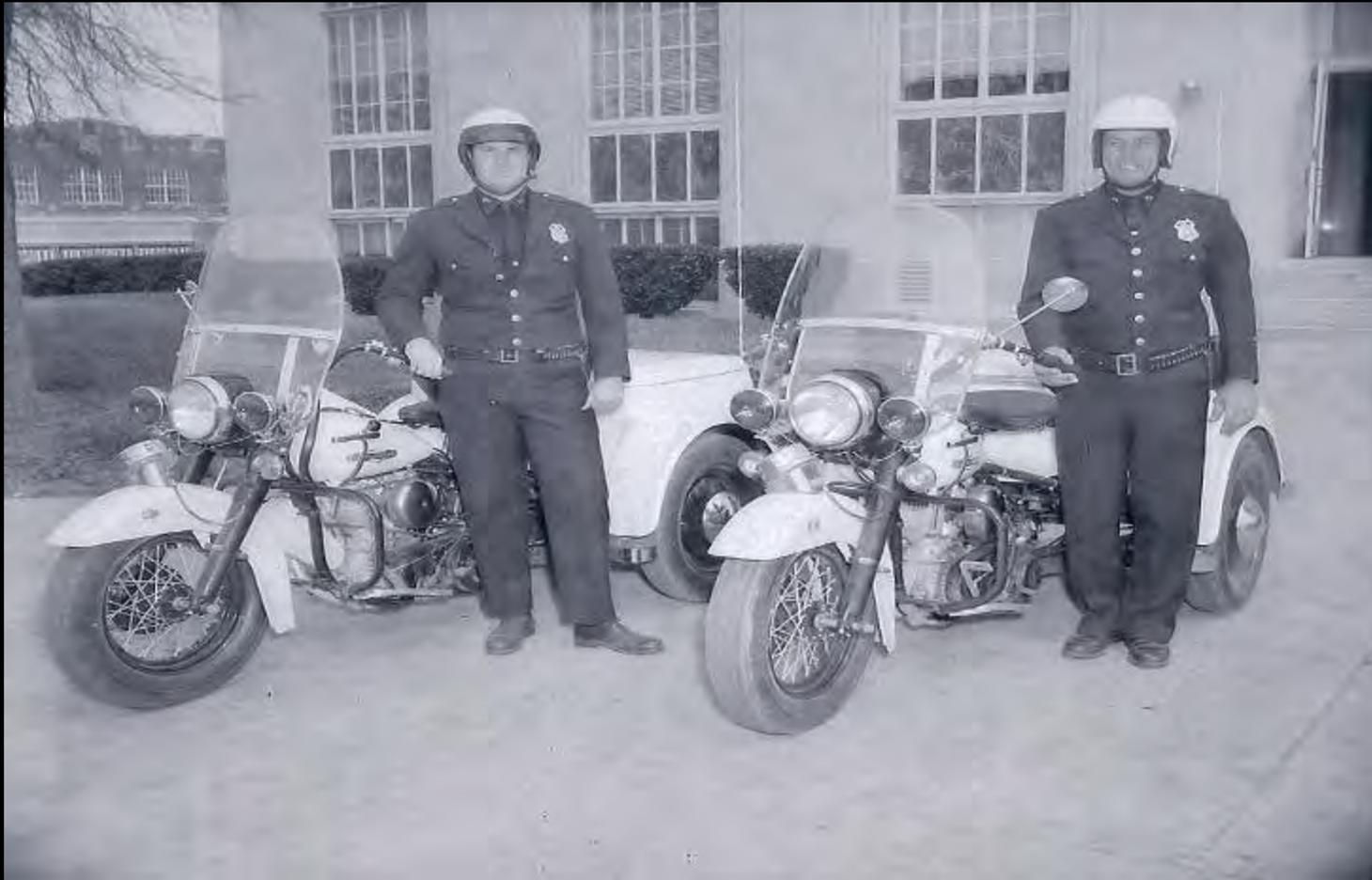
Adding Special Units



Motorcycle Traffic Unit – City bought motorcycles for officers to enforce traffic laws



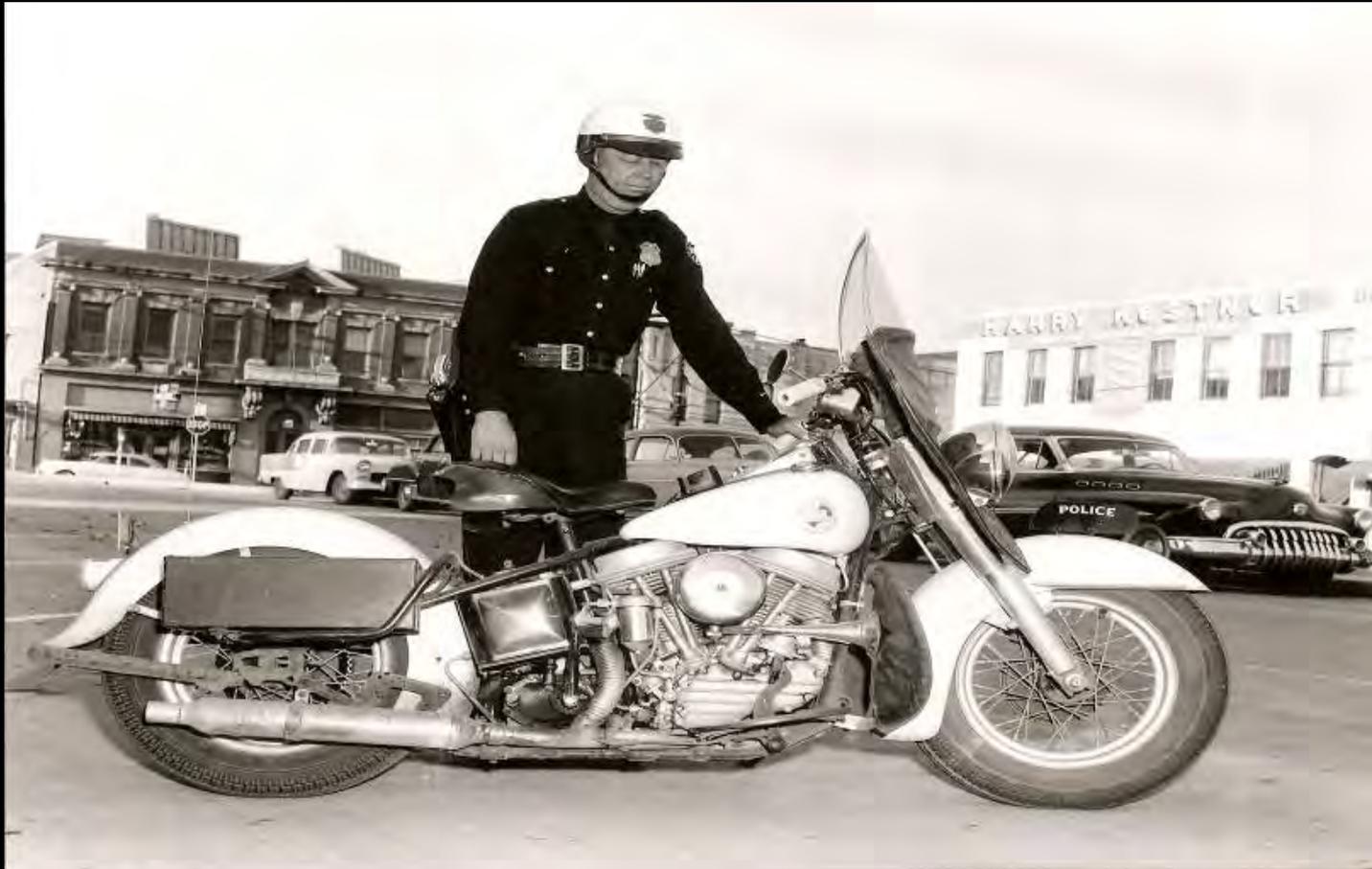
1948 - city bought 1st 3 wheel motorcycle for traffic downtown.



- 1958 – The 2 wheel motorcycle unit came to an end but the city kept the 3 wheel motorcycles for downtown traffic patrol.



Officers were able to purchase the 2 wheel motorcycles for their own use which lead to funeral escorts.



Weekly Police Kiddie Show

- The weekly Prince and Princess from the Waco Police Kiddie Show was a collaboration between Radio Station WACO and the Waco Theater at 8th and Austin where the Hippodrome is today.
- School children were invited to the Kid's Matinee each week and where entertained briefly by the local radio superstar of the era, Mary Holliday and then treated to a movie.
- They were treated to rides around town in the flashy convertible plus a family dinner at Youngbloods at 2600 Franklin.

**Officers participate in
Waco Police Kiddie Show 1949
Left to right is Officer Eakin, boy Ronnie Wenzel,
girl Kay Miller, Officer Payne**



1970's to 2010

- The department has grown to over 240 officers with over 115 civilian employees.



Your Up-to-date Police Dept.

- Patrol shifts are now four 10 hr. days, working 24/7 365 days a year.
- Many specialized units have emerged such as K-9, Personnel Unit, Training Unit, Professional Standards and Conduct Unit, Traffic Unit, SWAT
- Drug Enforcement Unit, Neighborhood Detectives, Street Crimes, Special Crimes, Criminal Investigation, Crime Scene Unit, Communications Section, Criminal Intelligence, Animal Control, Crime Stoppers, Victim Services

Waco Police Department needs your help

- Our Historical Committee is currently searching for any historical artifacts or pictures that shows the history of the department for our future museum.
- This would include but not limited to uniforms prior to 1970 (including hats and gun belts)
- Any special awards the department or officers may have been awarded.

- Pictures of officers with their car or motorcycle.
- Pictures of officers receiving an award for example.
- Group pictures of officers.
- Any piece of equipment they may have used to help them with their job.
- Any old Waco PD patches.



Contact a Committee Member

- If you have an artifact, picture, or any memorabilia that has a history with the Waco Police Department, contact any of the following committee members so we can meet with you.
- Cmdr. Almaguer at (254) 717-5867
- Cmdr. Randy Aleman at (254) 750-7520
- Sgt. Randy Lanier at (254) 749-9267
- Lisa Lynch at (254) 855-3070

Committee Members cont.

- Joyce Marek at (254) 744-3701
- Jill Pickett at (254) 750-8608
- Or you can email the Chairman of the Historical Committee at randyl@ci.waco.tx.us.