

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY SHERIFFS AND PRIVATE POLICE GROUPS IN HAMILTON COUNTY**

**While doing research on law enforcement in Hamilton County, I discovered an article entitled, "Parrott Heads Ridge Patrol." The article is undated and contains no information regarding the origin of the newspaper. John A. Parrott, 4369 Matson Street, Deer Park, resigned his position as a deputy of Sheriff George A. Lutz to manage his new private police organization, the Ridge Patrol.**

**Designed on the lines of the Indian Hill Rangers, the only similar organization in the county, the purpose of the Ridge Patrol is to provide police protection for an unincorporated area outside Pleasant Ridge. It has been in operation since January 1, 1935.**

**The patrol is supported by subscriptions from the owners of estates in the area. The patrolmen, all Special Deputy Sheriffs and using radio-equipped cars have established a night patrol covering Amity Road, from Deer Park to Cincinnati, and Section Road from Silverton to Reading Road.**

**By arrangement with Safety Director Hoehler, the patrol will receive Cincinnati Police Broadcasts.**

**Headquarters has been established on the Justin Rollman estate, where telephone calls are received and radio messages sent to the patrol cars. . .**

**On July 19, 1939, the *Cincinnati Post* reported that a new police group was formed in the eastern section of the county.**

**The article states, "A new police organization to be known as the Solar Hills Rangers has been formed by a group of property owners and residents of Forestville, Mt. Washington, and vicinity. The New organization has received a State Charter."**

**The organization was to operate in the same manner as the Indian Hill Rangers; Headquarters for the Rangers will be at Forestville. The officers were deputized by the sheriff's office. The men were to operate from the Miami River to the county line, and from Clough Pike to the Ohio River (newspaper article dated July 19, 1939 in the Cincinnati Post). There is no mention in any newspapers regarding the disbanding of the Solar Hills Rangers.**

**Another newspaper article was found at the Cincinnati Historical Society. The article was pasted in a scrapbook and did not list the author, date or name of the newspaper. I quote the article, "Third Private Police Unit to Patrol More of County's Hills and Dales; Residents Sponsor Group Headed by Former Boxer." The**

**hills and dales that make up the scenic residential districts of eastern Hamilton County soon will be patrolled by privately sponsored police organizations.**

**With the Indian Hill Rangers and the Anco (Anderson-Columbia Township) Police already having won recognition as exceptionally efficient law enforcement units, next week will see the inauguration of a third similar organization--the Solar Hills Rangers.**

**The new group will serve the section east of Cincinnati that is bounded by the Little Miami and Ohio Rivers, Clough Pike, and the Hamilton-Clermont County line. Included in the territory to be policed will be Watch Hill, where many high-priced homes are located.**

**To the north of the territory to which the Solar Hills Rangers will be assigned the Anco Police and Indian Hill Rangers already operate. All three police units are privately sponsored.**

**CHARTERED BY STATE. The Solar Hills Rangers recently received their charter from the State. They have been organized with Herbert O'Krent, a former professional boxer, as captain in charge of headquarters in Forestville.**

**Under O'Krent will be a force of four men, who will give 24-hour patrol service in two cruisers to a section that contains many large residences and estates. Walter Stinson will be lieutenant, with Al Regg and Joseph Schmidt and a third man yet to be named will serve as the officers.**

**Like the Indian Hill Rangers and the Anco Police, the Solar Hills Rangers will have a working arrangement with the Sheriff of Hamilton County.**

**O'Krent, at present a referee with the City Boxing and Wrestling Commission, has had police experience as a Kentucky State game warden for eight years and a Special Deputy with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for five years. He is leaving a position as salesman with the O'Krent Furniture Company to head the force.**

**Stinson and Schmidt both have also been Special Deputies, and both worked for a number of years with a private police force. Regg is former marshal of North College Hill.**

**The Delhi Hills Police was formed in 1944. When the Civilian Defense Corps of the township was disbanded in 1944, a group of the members under the sponsorship of the civic association formed the volunteer police department. The organization disbanded on September 5, 1963 (information and copy of newspaper article from former Delhi chief, Carl Heimbach).**

**Another undated newspaper article revealed the Newtown Rangers. This group was formed to patrol areas near Newtown, Ohio. Specifically listed were, the Old Fort Country Club, Bass Island and Cottage Park. Officers from the Newtown Police Officers Department resigned to form the group.**

**The Montgomery Police Department supplied the following information. “Prior to 1945, the Village of Montgomery had a Marshal who enforced the laws and repaired the streets. In 1952, the village contracted with the Northeast Rangers to patrol for twelve (12) hours a night at the cost of \$400.00 per month. In 1956, council passed an ordinance establishing the first full-time police department. The contract with the Northeast Rangers was discontinued. Late in 1956, the village hired two auxiliary officers.**

**In 1954, the Anderson Hills Rangers of Anderson Township was formed under the direct supervision of Sheriff Dan Tehan and Captain Otting of the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office (information from Anderson Hills Rangers literature). On April 21, 1966, the Anderson Township Special Deputy Sheriffs, Inc. was incorporated. This group was the successor to the Anderson Hills Rangers. On May 9, 1957, the *Cincinnati Times Star* printed an article that the Anderson Hills Rangers were conducting their annual fund drive. The article stated that the Rangers were formed as a result of limited county police protection. There was a November 7, 1961 Cincinnati Post article that the Rangers were seeking volunteers to help patrol Anderson Township. There was a July 21, 1962 Cincinnati Post article that the Anderson Hills Rangers were seeking new headquarters.**

**Special deputy groups active on December 11, 1986 (information from a memo prepared by Hamilton County Deputy Sheriff Captain B. W. Henke to Chief Deputy Victor Carrelli):**

**Anderson Township renamed as Eastern Hamilton County renamed as special Deputy Sheriffs.**

**Northern Hills renamed to Northern Hamilton County Special Deputy Sheriffs.**

**Colerain Springfield Police renamed to Northwest Hamilton County Special Deputy Sheriffs.**

**Western County renamed to Western Hamilton Special Deputy Sheriffs.**

**In 1987, the Anderson Township Special Deputy Sheriffs Inc. changed their name to the Eastern Hamilton County Special Deputy Sheriffs.**

**In 1998, the Western Hamilton County Special Deputy Sheriffs and the Northern Hamilton County Special Deputy Sheriffs merged into the Northwest Hamilton County Special Deputy Sheriffs Inc. This left two groups officially existing--the Northwest group and the Eastern group.**

**All of the members of the Eastern group had resigned and joined the Northwest group. There was one exception. One member remained in the Eastern group due to a lawsuit.**

**Colerain Springfield Protective Association (this information was supplied by special deputy captain Wells Woodley from the old Minutes of the meetings).**

**On August 25, 1931, a company of about 25 people met at the Pleasant Run School House on Pippin Road for the purpose of organizing against all unlawful trespassing on the property of its members. Captain Black represented Sheriff Asa Butterfield. Captain Black told of the good similar organizations were doing, particularly Indian Hill, and offered to assist in any way he could to help organize this one.**

**June 1947--Sheriff Handman requests Colerain-Springfield Protective members to ride in county cars on days when the county officers had an off day.**

**The following was reported on the front page of the Home Reporter on March 30, 1950. "Sheriff Tehan directed the organization to patrol the area of the county roughly bounded by North Bend Road on the south, westward on West and Blue Rock Pike to East Miami River Road, north to the county line, east to Route #4, south to McKelvey Road, west to Winton Road, and south on Winton to North Bend Road. Municipal corporations were to be excluded. The patrol requested that the Sheriff deputize those officers working this patrol, and to provide them with badges and commissions. Sheriff Tehan agreed to do this."**

**In May of 1961, new uniforms were ordered. The shirts were gray with black flaps, similar to the old uniform. The Colerain-Springfield patch was to be removed and replaced with the special deputy patch. It appeared that the hats worn were still of the old motorcycle cap style.**

**New badges of the star type were ordered in April 1962. Sheriff Tehan agreed to supply gold stars for the officers while the corporation was to purchase chrome stars for the rest of the membership.**

**At the August 31, 1971 meeting, we were informed that the county had approved a change to black shirts, same as the patrol was wearing. Also, the blouse was being phased out and we would all wear the same duty jackets.**

A county directive dated December 13, 1972 directed that all personnel, including special deputies, wear a gold hat and breast badge. Many of the old chrome badges were re-plated to the gold finish.

The 1954 Hamilton County Police Directory (from the Hamilton County Police Association Constitution and Bylaws) lists the following deputy units:

“Anderson Hills Rangers ----- Chief John S. Woods  
Colerain-SPFD. Prot. Assn. ----- Captain Roland Scheidt  
Delhi Twp. ----- Chief Carl Heimbach  
Indian Hill Rangers\* ----- Chief Herbert Wilson”

\*Indian Hill Rangers were deputy sheriffs prior to the incorporation of the village in 1941).  
(Mariemont police were deputy sheriffs prior to its incorporation in 1941).  
No other special deputy unit was listed.

## MARIEMONT

The police in the private community of Mariemont, from its inception until it was incorporated in 1941, derived their law enforcement authority as Hamilton County deputy sheriffs. In 1941, the community hired its first marshal (police chief). Mariemont was not the only community around Cincinnati that had a private police force. The Indian Hill Rangers were also Hamilton County deputy sheriffs. When the Village of Indian Hill incorporated, it had its first municipal police department.

According to a 1967 book entitled, *The Mariemont Story*, published by Creative Writers & Publishers, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, relates the early history of police and fire protection in the community is as follows:

“Police and fire protection were important to the residents of the new town, so The Mariemont Company provided these obligations. The Fire Station was built on Oak Street, a central location for the Dale Park section. Modern fire equipment was purchased and manned by two full-time firemen. These men were aided by volunteers who were employees of the Company. The Police Department and Fire Department shared the headquarters building under the direction of a Chief and two Patrolmen. Captain Strieder was the first Chief and was in charge of the police and fire fighting activities.

On November 1, 1935, Deputy Sheriff Chris Robish, who was familiar with this part of Hamilton County and had been helpful in controlling traffic during school hours, was employed by the Memorial to take over the Police Department of the town. The Fire Department was then organized separately, but the joint headquarters was continued. Chief Robish was elected Marshal at the first village election and was

named Chief of Police for the Village by the newly elected council. He continued in this position until 1948.

The first Patrolmen were all sworn in as Deputy Sheriffs as Mariemont was not incorporated at that time. There was full cooperation between these Departments.

From the Indian Hill Historical Society web site:

<http://www.indianhill.org/History/default.htm>

The Indian Hill Rangers, founded in 1903 as the volunteer "Horse Rangers" has grown into a fully equipped, well-staffed police force...In 1941 Indian Hill was incorporated."

### Special Deputy Commissions

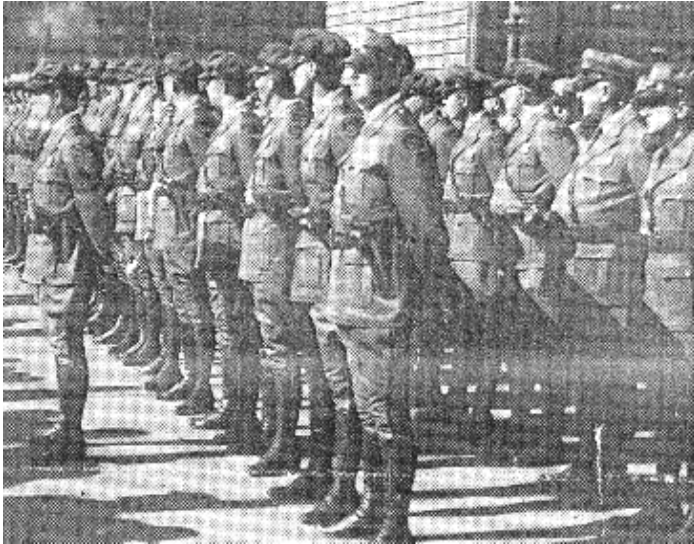
On February 4, 1935, the Cincinnati Enquirer printed an article entitled, "New Sheriff's Deputies in First General Meeting." The article states, "New deputy sheriffs recently joined some of the old at the first general meeting held since Sheriff George A. Lutz took office. Pictured are 29 of the department designed to protect citizens of Hamilton County."

A photo was included in the article and named the following: Raymond E. Scroggins, W. S. Gwynn, Fred J. Rink, Joseph Dorenkemper, Frank Steele, Emil Gau, Fred Herold, Chris Robisch (Chris Robisch would become chief of the Mariemont Police in November), Edgar Stone, Albert Heidecker, Walter Eichler, Walter Francis, Ralph Anderson, Albert Pienlng, Modam Helton, Ray Matre, James Decker, Earl Finney, E. C. Friedrich, Edward Kress, Anthony Minda, Edward Dick, Edgar Weil, Louis Moser, William Kruger (William Kruger would resign to join the Amberley Village Police), Chief Deputy George J. Heitzler, Sheriff Lutz, Charles Coddington, Captain of Patrol and W. J. Wiggerinloh." (Note that the term "captain of patrol" was used; this may explain the beginning of the term "county patrol or police" being used before Sheriff Tehan created the Hamilton County Police in 1949. A picture of the badge to be worn by special deputies was also shown. Each badge was numbered so that a careful check could be kept on the man to whom it was issued. The special deputies must buy uniforms, drill at regular intervals, and post a bond. Special badges issued before Sheriff Lutz took office carry no authority now."



This is the badge shown in the article. The highest number found is 1099.

**THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S INSPECTION,  
APRIL 26, 1935**



**The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office held an inspection of the uniformed deputy's in front of the Hamilton County Court House on April 26, 1935. The Cincinnati Enquirer article that accompanied the picture stated "It was the first inspection of Hamilton County's finest. The sheriff had 32 deputies and 74 special deputies in line, all in uniform. It also showed the Sheriff's new fleet of 28 automobiles used by the deputies in patrolling the county. "**



**This picture appeared in an unknown newspaper. The caption accompanying the article is "Sam Dunker becomes his bosses' boss on Monday nights when he and Sam Becker don the uniform of volunteer county sheriff and go in the courthouse to drill."**

Two sets of badges are shown below, Retired Montgomery Chief Ray Moore used the coat badge number 100 and hat badge number 183 during his early law enforcement years. The person that wore set numbered 573 is unknown.



On February 4, 1949, the Cincinnati Enquirer carried an article entitled, "Badges Changed, Wearers Fewer-New Sheriff Lops Off 1,286 Special Deputies from List." The article states that Sheriff Tehan disclosed Friday that in excess of 1,286 special deputies were lopped off the list when he took office early in January. This number does not include a few hundred more plant guards. Special deputies, new and old, will be required to get new badges. The Tehan badges are of a new design, quite different from the old special deputy badges, and law enforcement officers throughout the county have been notified that the old-design badges should not be recognized.

Sheriff Tehan used two special deputy badge designs. Both badge styles were issued during his term. Commission cards have been located for the badge on the left being issued in 1949 and 1957. One commission card was located for the badge on the right and was issued in 1954.



These badge styles were used until 1960 when Sheriff Tehan issued five-point star badges. Greg G manufactured the badge on the left. Wright & Sons; the badge on the right was manufactured by the Sayre Co. Both of the badge makers were located in downtown Cincinnati.