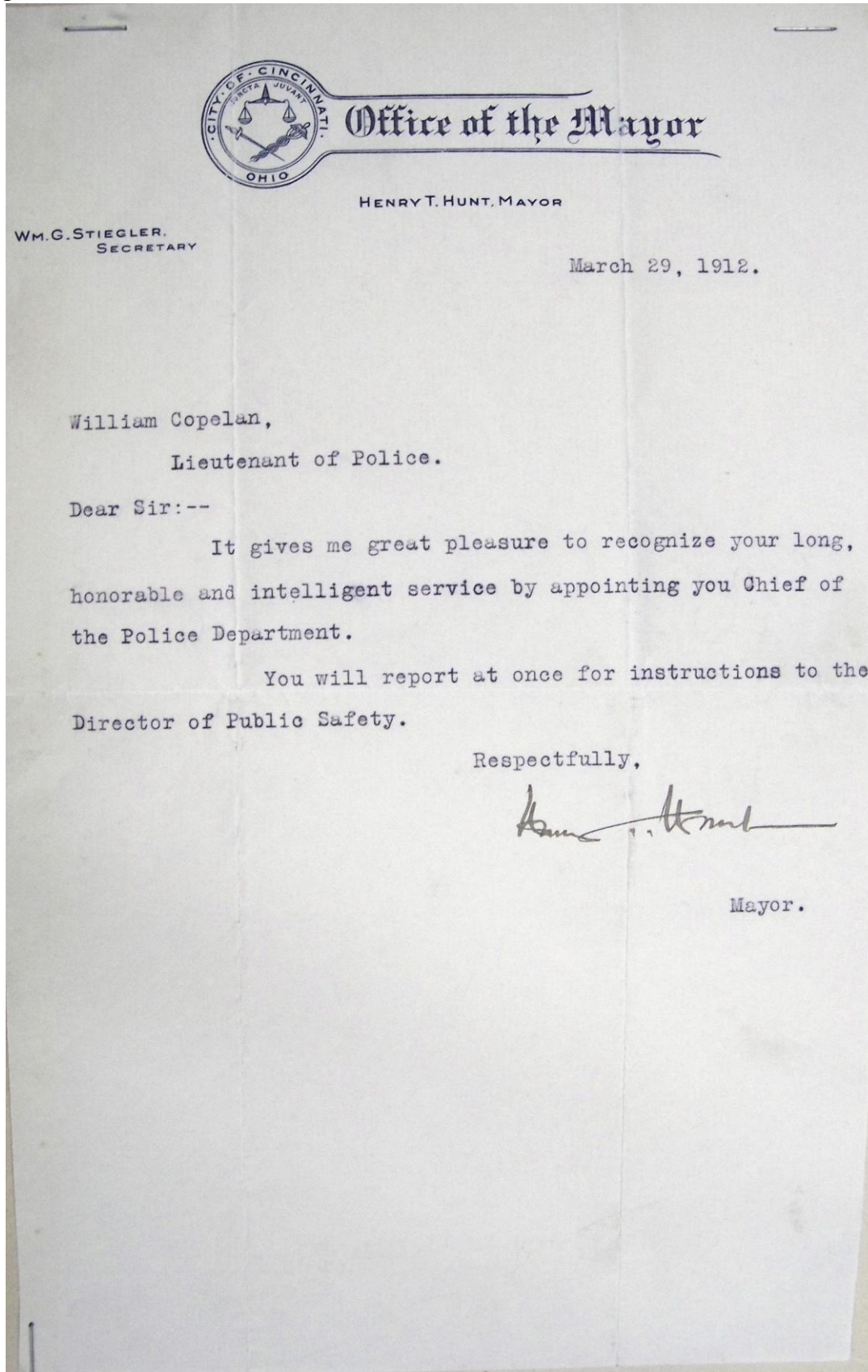


Chief Copelan's scrap book was donated to The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society on July 24, 2010. The following items were in the book.





The City of Cincinnati, Ohio.



all to Whom these Presents shall come,
Greeting:

Know Ye that I,

Henry T. Hunt,
Mayor

of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, by virtue of
the authority vested in me by the provisions of

The General Code of Ohio

Do hereby appoint

William Copelan

as

Chief of the Police Department

of the City of Cincinnati, and he is hereby authorized and
empowered, during his good behavior, to execute and discharge
all and singular the duties appertaining to said office,
and to enjoy all the privileges and immunities thereof.

In Testimony Whereof, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
seal of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, to be
affixed this 29th, day of March 1912.

Henry T. Hunt



COPELAN TAKES OATH

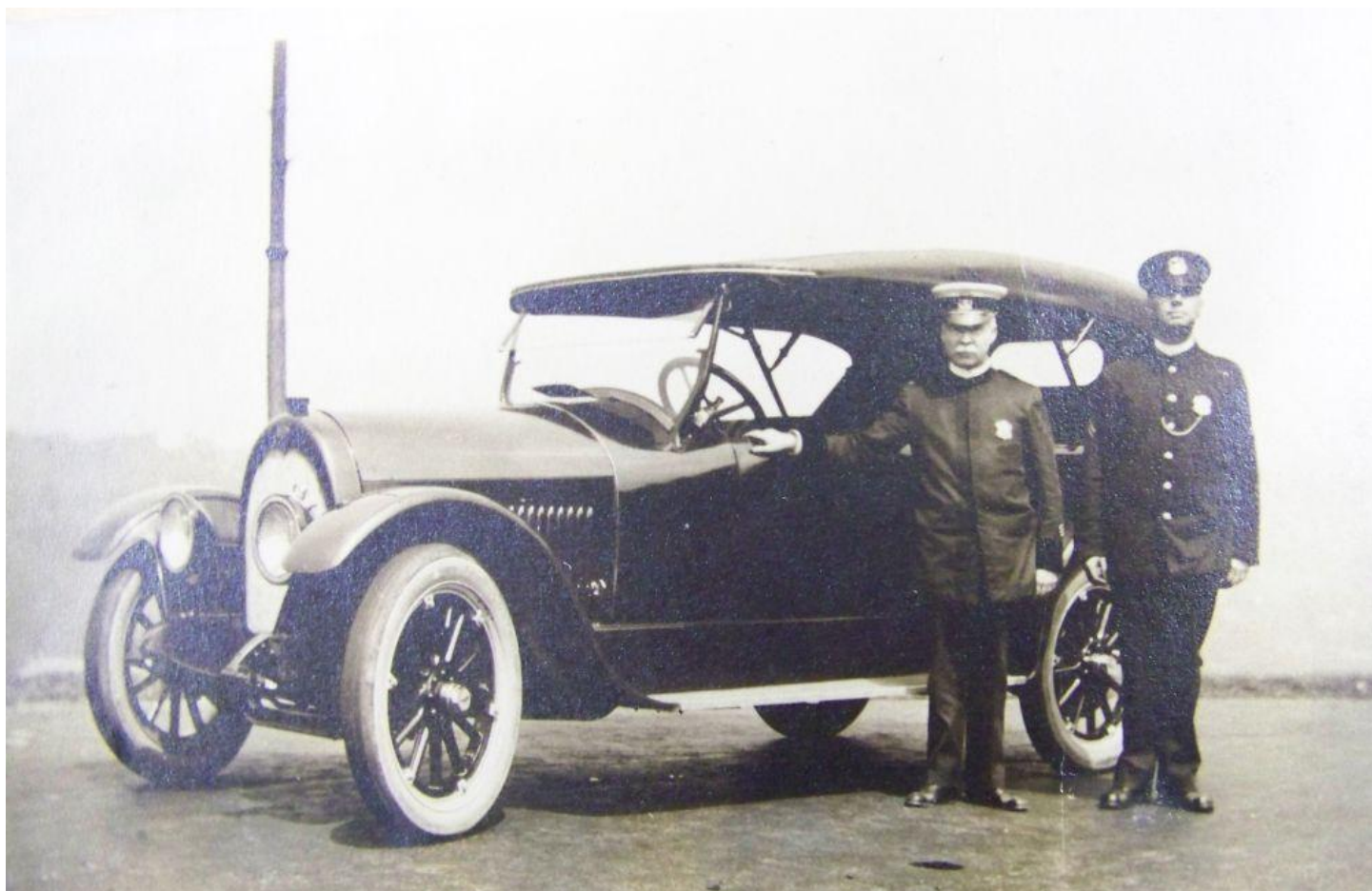


CHIEF OF POLICE WM. COPELAN (IN UNIFORM) BEING SWORN IN BY MAYOR HUNT AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE SATURDAY.

WIFE OF NEW POLICE CHIEF AND THEIR SON



Mrs. Wm. Copelan, wife of Cincinnati's new Chief of Police, and the youngest of their three children, Donald, 7. Donald is undecided as to whether he will devote his future to police business or become a cowboy. Since the elevation of his father to the position of Chief the police career is slightly favored in his mind. Robert, 16, a high-school student, and Helen, 18, a stenographer, are the other children of the Chief, who, Mrs. Copelan says, does not believe in spoiling children.



Chief Copelan with driver. Date of photo unknown.

3/18/27

Chief Copelan Knows How to Say 'No'



Copelan
still is
able to
ride a
balky
horse—



Col. Wm. Copelan



Made an
old
Department
new after
Police strike

POLICE
DEPT.



Farming
is his
hobby



Copelan has
served as
Police Chief under
6 Administrations.

Roseberg

CARTOONIST BUSHNELL LIMNS THE NEW CHIEF AND ESTIMATES HIS LEADING CHARACTERISTICS



CHIEF WILLIAM COPELAN



In October, 1890, Lieutenant Copelan attracted attention by winning the Morgan medal for having the best record for the year and the best examination for knowledge of police business.

On November 30 he was detailed to act as Sergeant in the old Fourth District. That was before there was any such rank as Sergeant. Two years later, when that rank was created, Copelan was made a regular Sergeant, in which capacity he served for 12 years. Then he took the civil service examination for Lieutenant and came out head of the list. When he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant he was pro-

Chief Copelan is known as a strict disciplinarian, and when asked about this said: "Yes, I am a disciplinarian. I believe in proper discipline, but I have due regard for the rights of others and I make allowances for the failings and shortcomings of others. If I found an officer was guilty of conduct that was improper I always at first tried to put him back on the right path by giving him kindly advice. If that failed, I handled him rough-shod. If that did not have the desired effect I would prefer charges against him. I never did this, however, without first giving due and long warning. When the time for action came I acted. I was clear to the men under."

Traces It
To Days of
Modern
Efficiency

Police Chief Tells of Days When Politicians Ran Force

Efficiency
Describes
Present
Make Up of
Organization

By COL. WILLIAM COPELAN

THE history of the Cincinnati police force goes back almost to the time when Cincinnati was incorporated as a village in 1802.

In 1803 a night watch, consisting of citizens who served without pay, was established. Each watchman car-

ried a watchman's rattle and a large perforated tin lantern, and it was the rule to give hourly calls something like this: "Eleven o'clock and all is well." They then would ring their rattles. At this date we would think this system was not conducive to sleep and rest, but there must have been some reason for it at that time.

In 1817 the police service for night duty consisted only of a captain and six assistants, and not until 1834 were provisions made for the fulltime payment of persons engaged in police duty. No provisions were made for day service until 1842, when two men were selected for the day watch at the munificent salary of \$1.25 per day.

It was not until 1853 that a real fulltime police organization with a chief at its head, was established for the city. An ordinance of Council that year provided for a chief, six lieutenants and patrolmen and other officers to a quota of 101, all told. The first chief of police was Jacob Keifer, and we find a few weeks later he was succeeded by Thomas Looken. Shortly after came David Hoke. In 1855 Edwards Hopkins was appointed, and from the records appears to have served until 1857, when James Ruffin was appointed chief.

During this time, and for a long time after, the prime requisite of an applicant for appointment to the police force was that he was a member of the political party in power. In other words, a change of administration invariably meant a change in the force. Administrations changing every two years, the members of the force naturally depended on the party in power for their positions, and as a result the police force was steeped very deeply in partisan politics. It was a common thing during the election times, and the days preceding, to find members of the police force frequently in uniform around electioneering for their party candidates.

RUN BY POLITICIANS

This situation, with regard to the police, continued for some years, the party in power using the force as a political asset, and it of course followed that the police took their instructions from the alderman or councilman to whom they owed their positions rather than from the head of the department. The result was that Cincinnati was known all over the country as a wide open town for gambling and kindred evils, and at times, during certain administrations, the leading gambler of the political party of the administration dictated most of the appointments to the police force, and not infrequently an outstanding courtesan was the one to see for an appointment.

The situation as to law, order and protection of property became so bad that it was unsafe in some of the wards and districts to go to the polls on election day, the police being the ones more feared by the voter than any others if there was any suspicion that such voter was about to vote against the policeman's candidate.

This finally culminated in the robbing and stuffing of ballot boxes, in some instances under police protection, or at least through their negligence, when in 1884 the Fourth Ward election scandal came up and a large number of voters were arrested and locked up and prevented from casting their ballots without any apparent charge or cause.

The citizens became aroused at this state of affairs and a Vigilance Committee was formed, at the head of which was I. J. Miller, and was designated as the "Committee of One Hundred." This committee held daily sessions and proceeded vigorously to clean up the city. Numbers of prosecutions were instigated and convictions had of crooks, policemen and police protectors. The committee finally concluding their labor by going before the Legislature, when in the early part of 1886 a bill was passed, creating a nonpartisan police force for the city of Cincinnati.

The bill also provided for the appointment of four police commissioners, two of each political party, in other words, two Republicans and two Democrats. The first board appointed was Robert J. Morgan and George Topp, Republicans, and Milo G. Dodds and Dr. Thomas C. Minor, Democrats. The board became busy, holding daily sessions, devising a plan of reorganization, and the first chief of police appointed was Col. Arthur G. Moore.

IN OFFICE MONTH

Col. Moore held office but about a month and, finding that the situation was "over his head," as he expressed it, he resigned. Philip Deitsch, then a clerk in the Probate Court, was appointed June 23, 1886, by Amor Smith, then mayor, to succeed Col. Moore, which appointment was confirmed by the Board of Police Commissioners.

The appointment of Deitsch as chief was no mistake, as his record shows that he was a real executive with organizing ability, and he met the trying situation in a masterful way, bringing order out of chaos, and in the space of a few short years organized and whipped into shape a police force that stood for years as second to none in the United States.

It was between the space of time that Philip Deitsch was appointed chief and the end of the year 1887 that the entire force was reorganized, only about twelve members of the old force holding over. It was easy to weed out the members of the old force by reason of the fact that a physical examination was provided for, which easily disposed of the oldtimers, and the law and rules provided that no one who had ever been convicted of a felony was eligible to appointment, likewise, no one having been convicted of a misdemeanor within three years preceding that date was eligible.

We find April, 1886, as the original date of the creation of the nonpartisan police force of the city of Cincinnati. This bill also provided that no man would be appointed or dismissed from the force on account of his religious or political affiliations, he holding his position during good behavior. That this provision was lived up to strictly by the Board of Police Commissioners is plain, as the records show that there have been no dismissals whatever from the police force from that date to the present time, except after charges being heard and the member given full opportunity to present his defense.

ON MILITARY BASIS

The police force is organized on a semi-military basis, the department being taken as a regiment of infantry and officered accordingly, the chief being titled colonel; two assistants, lieutenant-colonels; superintendents of detectives, traffic and districts, majors, officers in charge of reliefs, lieutenants and sergeants, and the patrolmen as privates, the force being drilled at intervals in the United States army infantry tactics.

The city of Cincinnati has an area of seventy-three square miles, with a population of about 425,000.

The police service was divided into

ten police districts, but recently has been changed to seven, in addition to which we have the following divisions: Detective, motor patrol and transportation, and traffic.

POLICE DISTRICTS

Each police district has a headquarters which is called a stationhouse. At this stationhouse all members of the force assigned to duty in that district report. In turn each district is again divided into beats which are covered by patrolmen twenty-four hours a day. The beats are so arranged that every part of the district is covered both day and night by a policeman on duty.

The police force is divided into three reliefs of eight-hour duty each, the first relief reporting for duty at 7 a. m. and being relieved at 3 p. m.; the second relief reporting at 3 p. m. and relieved at 11 p. m.; the third relief reporting at 11 p. m. and relieved at 7 a. m.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The detective headquarters is in the City Hall. The duties of the detective force are principally ferreting out crime and arresting criminals after crimes have been committed, locating and recovering stolen property, locating missing persons and the like.

An adjunct to the detective department is the Bureau of Criminal Identification. Here all criminals arrested are fingerprinted, measurements taken and a record kept of them which are furnished to the various police departments of the country, we in return receiving similar service from those departments. The Identification Bureau ranks with the best in the country.

MOTOR PATROL

In this division there are eight automobile patrols. The vehicles, with their crews, are used for the purpose of hauling prisoners arrested in the various districts to and from the stationhouses and court, caring for and removing sick and injured persons from the streets to the hospitals, and lending aid in all cases of serious accidents and injuries to persons and property.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The traffic headquarters is also located in the City Hall. It is the especial duty of the traffic force, as its name implies, to take care of all traffic matters in the congested district.

An adjunct of the traffic police is the motorcycle division, which at the present time consists of thirty motorcycle patrolmen. Their duties are to patrol the main arteries of travel and beats in the outlying suburbs.

The police force at present has a quota of 659 members, including all ranks and the clerical force.



3-14-33

Col. William Copelan, chief of police, began his forty-seventh year as a member of the Cincinnati Police Department, Monday. On March 29, he will have completed twenty-one years as chief.

Col. Copelan is the oldest city employe in length of service. There is no one now a member of his department who was there when he was appointed a patrolman on March 12, 1887.

The distinction of having served Cincinnati as police chief longer than any other individual also belongs to Col. Copelan. His nearest competitor was Col. Philip Deitsch, who served seventeen years and several months.

Copelan
Has Been
On Force
Since 1887

Chief Begins His 45th Year

Ready To
Start on
20th Term
As Chief

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAM COPELAN completed his forty-fourth year as a member of the Cincinnati Police Department Thursday morning in his usual anniversary manner. That is to say, he walked into his office on time to the minute, seated himself at his desk and plunged into the district reports of the night. He is that kind of chief.

March 29 Col. Copelan will have arrived at his twentieth anniversary as chief of the department. And he will observe that anniversary in the Copelan manner. He will walk into his office on time to the minute, seat himself at his desk and plunge into the district reports of the night.

There are few men who have a record in Cincinnati of forty-four years' service in the Police Department. And, of all the long line of chiefs who have commanded the police of Cincinnati since its earliest day as an organized community, only Col. Copelan has attained a score of years as chief.

His nearest rival in that point of service was the late Col. Philip Deitsch. Col. Deitsch served seventeen years as chief. He was succeeded by Col. Paul M. Millikin, who, in turn, was succeeded by Col. William H. Jackson, and Col. Jackson was succeeded by Col. Copelan, who was, at the time, superintendent of the patrol vehicle service.

WAS RED-HEADED

Back in the "eighties" the Cincinnati Police Department was not in the best of shape. There arose a public clamor for reorganization and reform. Young Bill Copelan was one of the citizens who saw an oppor-



COL. WILLIAM COPELAN

tunity for a career under the new order of affairs in the department. He applied for a place as sub-patrolman. He was a well-built young fellow, red-headed and with a blue pair of eyes under shaggy brows. He had no difficulty getting an appointment.

Copelan Greets His 47th Anniversary on Police Force as "Just Another Day"

Hard-Bitten Chief Passes

"Milestone" Without

Changing Stride

3/12/34

BY LOUIS F. BARY

Police Chief William Copelan gave but passing notice Monday to an event which well-wishers called a milestone in his career. It was his 47th anniversary as a member of the police department, but there was nothing in that to make a hard-bitten police officer go into raptures.

March 29 will be his 22d anniversary as chief, but that date, also, will be no occasion for posies.

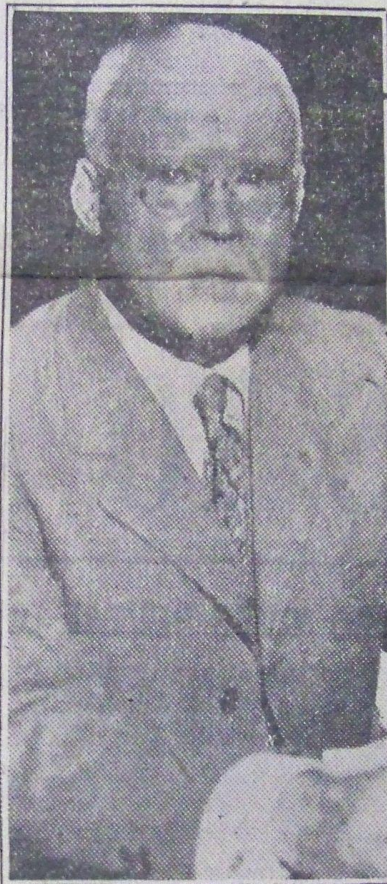
He takes anniversaries in his stride, greeting them typically with stony silence.

He will be 70 next November and the red hair of his youth has become platinum-white, but the years have taken nothing from his vim and vigor. The International Police Chiefs Association recognized his vitality by making him its president. He is past president of the Ohio State Police Chiefs Association.

Retirement Scorned

Though he is the oldest active head of a metropolitan police force, any suggestion that he might be contemplating retirement meets with an eloquent grunt and a flitting smile which, in Copelan English, means "no."

If he should quit, the chief says he would retire to his farm on Muddy Creek-pk. On his days off, in the evenings and during vacations, he finds recreation tilling the soil but says it would become a bur-



Police Chief Copelan

densome occupation if he were not chief.

Chief Copelan's words are few, guarded and always pointed.

Always Noncommittal

An interview with the chief goes something like this:

"Has there been much change in police methods since the days of helmets and horse-drawn patrols?"

With 70th Birthday Approach-

ing He Still Retains

Health and Vigor

"Oh my, yes," he answers conclusively.

Chief Copelan maintains a conservative attitude toward new procedures in police work, but when he does grow enthusiastic about anything, the chances are that thing is a natural. It is recalled he became quite excited over the proposal to use radio in pursuing criminals. That was some years ago and he has not had such a spell since.

Bans Machine Guns

He would not even allow police cruisers to be equipped with machine guns until his men were thoroughly trained in their use. The thought that his police might sometime go scouting about in airplanes leaves him utterly cold.

His skepticism of the success of new methods is based on a contention that as police operations are modernized, so do the criminals' methods become modern.

"But," he hastens to add, "the law always wins in the end."

Rose From Ranks

Always a high-ranking contestant in police examinations, Chief Copelan rose through the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant and superintendent of patrol to his present position. He never was a detective. He once was awarded the Police Commissioner Morgan Medal for efficiency.

He lives on Riddle-rd and, out of uniform, becomes a devoted family man. His family includes his wife, a married daughter and two sons, Robert, a newspaperman, and Donald.

CINCINNATI'S POLICE CHIEF, ON JOB SCORE OF YEARS, CONGRATULATED

Col. Copelan Finds Office Filled With Flowers.

FORTY-FIVE years ago, on March 12, 1887, a bright and ambitious youth of 22 reported for his first day's duty as patrolman at the old Bremen Street Police Station.

He was assigned to duty on Vine street, and his beat centered in the far-famed Over-the-Rhine concert hall and beer garden district that was then in its prime.

Tuesday this officer, who has remained a public servant throughout the years, observed his twentieth anniversary as Cincinnati's chief of police.

As Chief William Copelan walked into the office of Safety Director John B. Blandford, the latter greeted him with: "Congratulations on your twentieth anniversary as chief!" and other officials in the City Hall joined in similar expressions.

In his office the chief found flowers marked "For Grandpa" that came from his two grandchildren, Bobbie and Orene Louise Copelan.

"You have been continuously in the city's service for forty-five years, and this is probably longer than any other employe of the city," one of the chief's callers commented.

"I know of no other who has been continuously in the service for a longer period," the chief said.

"And do you still remember your first beat Over the Rhine?"

"Oh, I will never forget that—Kissel's Garden, Wielert's, Weber's, Young's, Guhman's, Schumann's, that later became Peters's, and many others. What a change the years have brought to Vine street!"

Chief Copelan began his service under Chief Deitsch. In 1900 Copelan won the Morgan medal for general proficiency and this made him a sergeant. In 1904 he became lieutenant, in 1910 superintendent of the patrol and mounted service and in 1912, chief.



COL. WILLIAM COPELAN

Copelan is president of the Ohio Police Chiefs' Association. Recently he attended the International Police Conference convention in Paris and was elected vice president.

Years ago, his mounted troop of 101 men was regarded as one of the best trained in the country. As chief he was a pioneer in the field of motorizing the police department. Appointed chief by Mayor Henry Hunt, he also served under the administrations of Mayors Spiegel, Fuchta, Galvin, Carroll and Wilson. The chief has a farm of thirty-five acres, and some day may retire there—but he is not thinking of that now.

"Not until I round out fifty years of service," he said with a smile, Tuesday—"unless I feel myself slipping, and, as soon as that happens, I will slip out before anyone else notices it. But I'm still feeling fine—about like I did when I joined the force!"

Col. Copelan has three children, Robert, Donald and Mrs. Helen Stone of Washington, D. C. The chief's wife, who is widely known for her activities in the Eastern Star and Knights Templar Auxiliary, underwent an operation in the Deaconess Hospital, Tuesday. She is reported to be doing nicely.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF CINCINNATI

NOTICE OF RETIREMENT ON REGULAR ALLOWANCE

No. 1658

January 4, 1935

Mr. William Copelan,

677 Riddle Road,

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Copelan:

Your application for retirement from active service in the position of Chief of Police in the Safety Department was approved and the following annual retirement allowance to be paid in monthly installments dating from Dec. 1, 1934, was authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Retirement System on Jan. 3, 1935.

FUND FROM WHICH PAYABLE	ANNUAL AMOUNT
Annuity Reserve Fund	\$
Pension Accumulation Fund	\$ 3000.00
Pension Reserve Fund	\$
Total Retirement Allowance	\$ 3000.00

Check will be mailed on the ninth day of each month for preceeding month's retirement allowance.

Very truly yours

Henry L. ...
Secretary

LATE CHIEF EMERITUS



Colonel William Copelan

Colonel Copelan, Chief Emeritus of the Police Department after a lifetime of service in that department, succumbs eight days after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage.



This is Chief Copelan's retirement badge. The badge is in the possession of the Copelan family. Compiled by GCPHS Historian Patrick Olvey, 2010, for the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society.