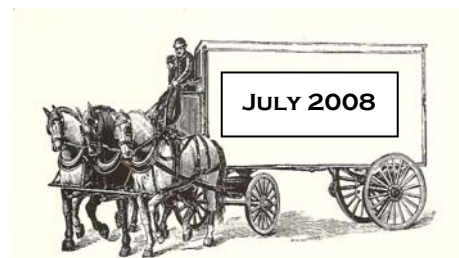




STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE "NEW" BLUE NOTES

Thomas T. Morris, Chief of Police
Bradley Steele, Editor, Department Historian



FROM THE CHIEF:

I remember standing in the second floor lobby of the Police Facility in 1972 when a grey haired lieutenant was kind enough to strike up a conversation with me. He asked me how I liked the Police Cadet Program. I told him it was great and that I felt honored to wear my little badge. He smiled and said to me to enjoy myself while I was young because before I knew it, I would be a regular and my career would fly by. Over the next thirty plus years many of the old timers would tell me the same thing, that the years would go by quickly. Now, as I pass young cadets and new officers in that very spot on the second floor, I know what my elders meant. I think about where time has gone and the history of our great department. Young officers do become old timers quickly.

In another attempt to preserve some of our history, I am pleased to introduce to the Department and to our Retirees The New Blue Notes *edited* by Bradley Steele, our Departmental Historian. As you will read below, Mr. Steele, by virtue of his volunteer work over the past twenty years, has excellent credentials for the position of Departmental Historian. Now working as an official member of our Department, and in conjunction with the S.P.O.A. and its Museum staff, the Stockton Police Department is poised to make great strides in preserving the knowledge of the important role our organization has played in the development of our community.

Our intention is for The New Blue Notes to be published monthly. Each issue will contain an article of interest -- a profile of one of our Retirees, a piece of equipment, or even interesting anecdotes from the S.P.D.'s past. It is my hope that in addition to being interesting, The New Blue Notes will also serve to inspire a sense of pride and historical continuity in the members of this department.

Our Police Department's history is rich and it is important that we try to preserve as much of it as possible. From the photographs that hang in the Police Facility's halls, to the SPOA Museum, we honor those who have given a great deal of their life's work to our Department.

Chief of Police





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GREETINGS!

The Original Blue Notes was created and edited by Doug Brodie, who worked for the S.P.D. back in the 1980’s and 90’s. Doug kept a typewriter at his desk dedicated to the Blue Notes - a monthly bulletin with departmental news and amusing anecdotes.

For this first issue of The New Blue Notes, Chief Morris asked that I introduce myself. As the letterhead states my name is Bradley Steele. I was privileged to work as a Police Officer for the Stockton Police Department in the late 1970’s.

Over the years I retained many friends in the Stockton Police Department. Most significantly, in 1983 I became reacquainted with an old family friend, Elmer Briscoe - who retired as Chief of the Reno, Nevada Police Department. Elmer was the second son of John L. Briscoe - the first Stockton Police Officer murdered in the line of duty in 1917. Elmer’s devotion to the memory of his father inspired me to seek a way to commemorate that service and sacrifice. I attempted to convince the City to rename the street where he was murdered in Briscoe’s honor - that effort did not succeed, but a bronze plaque was placed at the site of his death in 1987.

In 1988 I completed the first history book on the Stockton Police, titled “Faithful Unto Death”. It profiled not only Officer Briscoe, but all the S.P.D. Officers who died in the line of duty. I then began putting together a proposal for a public monument to the Officers who died in the line of duty.

In 1990, after a lot more work and perseverance, with support from the S.P.O.A. and the Department, a monument to Stockton’s Officers became a reality, and now proudly stands at the entrance to the Police Facility.

With the support of Chief Morris, the S.P.O.A. and it’s Museum staff, we have already begun to develop some exciting projects that will serve to celebrate and preserve the history of the S.P.D. - your history!

Stockton Police Department
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