



STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

BLUE NOTES

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THANKS!

To everyone who forwarded their E-Mail address to [SPD History @ AOL.com](mailto:SPD_History@AOL.com). This months issue will be coming to you both electronically and by conventional mail. As *Blue Notes* is formatted in Microsoft Word, it is possible not everyone will be able to download and read it. It is planned to change the format to Acrobat, to make this readable by any computer.

In the meantime, if you desire to have this newsletter sent 21st century style, just drop us a note at the address listed above. If you know someone you think would enjoy the *Blue Notes*, please send their address in as well. All addresses are kept confidential.

A History of the S.P.D. Range

The biggest responsibility a Police Officer carries is the authority to apply justifiable deadly force when the situation requires. It seems only logical that a police department should naturally have a training range available for firearms training. In Stockton, for anyone sworn in within the past forty years, the Police Range has always been a fixture of the Department. But what are the origins of the "Training Facility"?

The fact that we have such a developed range speaks well for the way the SPD deals with training and our responsibility to the citizens of Stockton. But less well known is the amount of personal effort and off-duty time Stockton Officers spent making this range the well groomed facility it is today.

One hundred years ago the SPD used the facilities of the Stockton Pistol Club located in Oak Park. Using the railroad berm on the East side of the park as a backstop, the officers fired their revolvers one handed at targets posted at 25 yards distance. This continued until houses began to fill in this area, and discretion deemed pistol shooting in the area inadvisable.

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A History of the S.P.D. Range *(continued)*

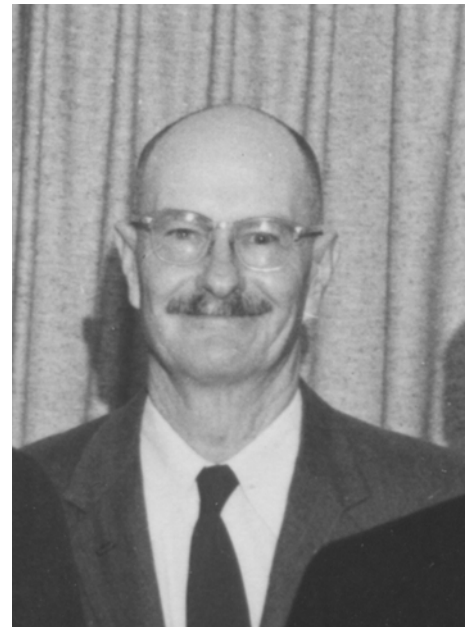
In the 1940's the Naval Communications Station was established on Rough and Ready Island and among the amenities developed by the U.S. Navy was a target range. SPD made arrangements with the Navy to use the Rough and Ready facility and this continued into the 1950's.

Late in the 1950's Captain Flint of the Stockton Port Police got together with SPD Sgt. (later Captain) Cyril Smith and together they began the process of developing a range for the Police Department. In 1958, after it was arranged for the City of Stockton to lease the land necessary from the Port, the planning and development began.

The area chosen for the range was known as "the spoils", and is still located within the bounds of the Port of Stockton. The range site was used by dredges which deposited soil scraped from the bottom of Stockton's Deep Water channel. Even today, dredging is necessary to allow shipping to safely enter and leave the Port.

The first structure placed on the range was a surplus administration building from a POW camp that had been built on Rough & Ready during World War II. The camp, which housed German prisoners, was shut down at the end of the war. In 1959 Captain Flint arranged for the Fisher Brothers Moving Company to pick up the building and set it up where it stands today.

The layout for the range was done in concert with the appointment of the Department's first Range Master, Patrolman Guy "Pappy" Holden. Holden was a shooting enthusiast who enjoyed both conventional target shooting and the sport of "muzzle loading" black powder rifles. "Pappy" faithfully attended the annual National Shooting Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio and the Black Powder Nationals at Friendship, Indiana. He was a very strict and competent Range Master. "Pick up your brass!" was his constant admonition.



Guy M. "Pappy" Holden