

History of Security  
in the  
Town of Fairfield  
1639 - 1965

The Fairfield Police Department

by Elizabeth Banks MacRury

A plan for security in Fairfield goes back to the Town's very beginning. While the Town was founded in 1639, the first available Town Meeting Minutes are dated 1661 - 22 years after the Town's beginning, and yet in those very first available 1661 Minutes, one can read where Nathan Seeley "is chosen Marshall." The Marshall was the Officer of the law - he represented the law. He was selected right along with the seven Townsmen (The board of Selectmen). The following year - 1662 - "Sergeant" Seeley continued as Marshall, and William Ward was chosen as Constable. In 1668 two Constables were selected rather than one, and in addition to the previous duties of this office, they were asked to have charge of seeing that the children of a sick person were cared for. The interest of an Officer of the law in children was in evidence even in those early days -- for Robert Rumsey was "to oversee the boys on the Sabbath in the gallery that they carry it orderly" ---

The Town Meeting Minutes show in 1675 that:

"--Any householder who gives entertaynment for future to any person that the Towne or Townsmen shall warn to not inhabit any longer in the Towne but to depart the Towne; he shall forfeit a fine to the Towne Treasury of 19 shillings for such entertaynment and five shillings for every hour he shall continue to entertayne. The Marshall is to take inspection who are delinquent in this case and present it to effect and he is to have half the fines for the trouble therein.---"

In 1686 the Town Meeting Minutes show:

"the Towne this day ordereth ye Constables of ye Towne upon Sabbath days in time of exercises take notes who they are lying or sleeping or playing and inform those within whom they are concerned that they may reform from such evil practice."

The Constables were called upon for assorted duties and especially during the Revolutionary War period re:

"To the Sheriff or his Deputy or either of the Constables of Fairfield County Greetings: In the name of the Governor & Company of Said Colony of Connecticut you are hereby commanded forewith to warn and notify eight sufficient men from and within the limits of Capt. Jonathan Dimons Militia Company or such other able bodied men not in the Militia rolls living in Greenfield parish in said county to appear at Capt. Eliphilet Thorp's in said Fairfield at eleven o'clock in the evening of said day armed with

eachman a good gun and bayonet a quarter of a pound of good powder and one pound of bullets fit for their guns and three good flints and to serve as a watch or guard and to patrol on ye Sea Shore from Kinsey's Point to Sasco Creek from that time until the rising of the sun tomorrow and in like manner in every succeeding night til you shall be ordered to cease which watch are to take up and secure all suspicious persons and them hold until they shall be brought before Attorney to be examined and carefully inspected and take special care of all water crafts belonging to any person or persons and you are to signify to such watch or guard that they may not fail at their peril. Dated at Fairfield 4th day of November 1776.

Ebenezer Banks )	
Jos. Strong )	Justices of the Peace
Sam Wakeman )	
John Allen )	
Daniel Andrews)	
Joseph Strong )	Selectmen
Joseph Wakeman)	
Ebenezer Banks)	"

By 1800 Fairfield had 3,735 people and 6 Constables. The Office of Marshall was still very important with much responsibility. Six Constables continued as the number elected until 1890 when each Party nominated four candidates and the seven receiving the greatest number of votes were sworn into Office. This practice continues today. It was necessary for them to appear before the Town Clerk to be sworn in and as each one came in for this purpose it was so noted in the Town Meeting record book for all to see today. Many of these people carried additional responsibilities in the Town. For example, in 1887, Daniel Maloney who received the largest number of votes of the six Constables elected also served as Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Notary Public, and Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. John Kelly who received the third highest number of votes was also a Grand Juror. Many of the same names appear year after year and others appear just once. If, for some reason, the person elected was not qualified according to the Statutes, it was up to the Selectmen to appoint a replacement. On several occasions the entire elected group of 6, or 7, as the case may have been, were never all sworn in. Probably individuals just didn't bother to do it. Actually they were not always needed. In 1900 there were 4,489 people in Town.

For even as late as 1914-15-16 the total amount paid for their services in 1914 was \$92.00 for the year. Depending upon their assignment, some received \$3.00 each for a work assignment while others received \$5.00 each. The day after Thanksgiving and the day after the Fourth of July seemed to be when they most often worked. On July 1, 1911, four men were appointed special constables for July 3 and 4. For these two days they received \$5.00 - \$2.50 each day. When there were very special events in Town, special constables could be appointed by the Selectmen under authority of Section #68 of the General Statutes. It made me curious of course as to what was happening on those special days all of those years ago that so much protection seemed necessary. For example, on July 29, 1904, twenty constables were appointed and sworn in for August 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, and a little later the same year at a Town Meeting, the Selectmen appointed twelve special constables to serve September 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

On October 2, 1905, Fairfield voted on a Constitutional Amendment concerning the Election of Selectmen (every 2 years) and local police. Fairfield's vote was: 79 Yes; 28 No.

In the Selectmen's minutes on November 15, 1907:--

"Motion made by S. C. Bradley that two men be stationed on Main St. (Post Road) November 16 to warn automobilists against the speed law." Passed.

In 1910 speeding of the automobile was still a worry for the townfolks, and on October 3 it was resolved that:--

"Resolved that the Town Officers be and hereby are requested diligently to prevent unlawful speeding of automobiles on the highways of the Town, and particularly to endeavor to prevent speeding of automobiles in races and in so called hill climbing contests." Passed.

In the Selectman's minutes for July 10, 1911 it was voted:--

"that a motorcycle special Constable be employed by the Town of Fairfield to arrest violators of the Town speed laws."

Also:--

"Voted: that Fred Volderaurer be appointed motorcycle constable from the 16th to the 23rd of July."

On July 1, 1911 in the Selectman's minutes one finds:--

"Voted: that the Constables shall not be paid fees for arrests by the Town Court." Passed.

In 1913 the call of the Town Meeting showed this item:--

"To consider a suitable lockup for persons under arrest."

And it was voted that:--

"the Selectmen be instructed to provide proper facilities for caring for prisoners when arrested."

This was carried out the following year. One can read where W. B. Ferris received \$5.00 for carting the cells from the depot and James Brown received \$6.00, Fred Hawkins \$4.00, W. P. Bulkley \$4.00, A. Bulkley \$4.00, and Clayton Elwood \$6.00 for setting up the cells. J. P. Berry was paid \$75.00 for the rent of the "lockup" so called. Schwerdtle Stamp Company received \$2.00 for special constable badges; James H. Bonney \$6.25 for blankets for the lockup; William Nelson \$4.00 for cleaning the jail; and C. A. Wyrzten \$4.54 for supplies for the "lockup."

At the annual Town Meeting on October 5, 1914 the following took place:--

"Moved that the Selectmen be instructed to employ such constable service as in their judgment the needs of the Town require, provided arrangements can be made for the expense thereof by the Selectmen which seem to them satisfactory." Passed.

This too much <sup>at</sup> have been carried out, for in the 1914 Sundries Account you read of a new step in police protection. Fred Volderaurer was paid a total of \$196.00 during the year for special motorcycle police duty. In 1915 he received \$94.50. In 1916 Louis Lespinasse received \$190.00 for motorcycle police duty and Mr. Volderaurer \$210.00 for the same period. He was also an elected constable in 1916. Thomas Carey was paid \$15.00 for traffic duty - probably on the Post Road.

There was still dissatisfaction with the lockup in 1916, for at the annual Town Meeting on October 2, it was:--

"Moved that the Board of Selectmen are hereby requested to report to the Town Meeting as to the advisability of improving the facilities for caring for prisoners under arrest." Passed.

The concern for security continued, for on March 18, 1918 at the Town Meeting, the following resolution was passed:--

"Resolved that the Selectmen be and they are hereby authorized in their discretion to request the Sheriff of the County (Simon Pease from Fairfield was Sheriff of the County) to appoint under provisions of Chapter 369 of the Public Acts of 1917 not to exceed two deputies to act as traffic officers and for further police protection in the Town, for the term of 8 months from April 1st, next under their direction and control, for such compensation as they and the Sheriff may agree upon; and each of said deputies shall give bonds to the Town in the sum of (\$1,000) one thousand dollars for the faithful performance of duties of said appointment."

In May, 1920 another Traffic Officer was requested of the Town Meeting.

Mention must be made of the years of service of Hezekiah Ripley Elwood. His service as a law enforcement Officer of the Town dates back to 1885 when he was elected a Constable. For years he was Fairfield's only continuously active Officer of the law. There perhaps was no more familiar figure in Town than Mr. Elwood - Sheriff Elwood as he was called by many with his well known sombrero and genial smile. He served as deputy sheriff, constable, and as you'll later read, Chief of Police during all those many years. He made a regular nightly patrol about Town in his Model T Ford. In 1926 he was felled by bullets twice while in the performance of duty. In the fifty-year period he was credited with 7,000 arrests.

In 1927 the Town Meeting Minutes show the following vote:--

"the Board of Selectmen shall have the power to regulate traffic on the Post Road at Fairfield Center by means of constables or other police officers assigned by them for that purpose or by means of traffic signals."

The following year it was decided to employ one or more persons to control automobile traffic in and through Town and for such other services in main-

taining law and order in Town. The people didn't like the serious events which were taking place.

The Constables were the only Security Force of the Town and were thusly appreciated by the Townspeople.

The following is a copy of the resolutions passed at a testimonial meeting held on Tuesday evening, July 31, 1928 at the Roger Ludlowe High School, in honor of Hezekiah R. Elwood and Arthur J. Bennett, two Constables of the Town of Fairfield, wounded in the performance of their duty:--

We, the citizens of the town of Fairfield, assembled in a public meeting in the Roger Ludlowe High School on this thirty-first day of July, 1928, do declare ourselves as follows:

WHEREAS, the people of Fairfield each year, in accordance with the custom and practice of years' standing and under the authority conveyed by the General Statues, have chosen from their midst a prescribed number of Citizens to serve as constables, and

WHEREAS, these duly elected constables have taken the oath of office and have qualified under the law, accepting the responsibilities represented by the office, and through the circumstances of their occupation and the pursuit of their daily living, have not been in any position to be continuously available as policemen and as officers of the law, and

WHEREAS, the duties of the preservation of order, the enforcement of the law, and the protection of life and property have fallen more particularly upon the shoulders of two of the elected constables, Hezekiah R. Elwood and Arthur J. Bennett, and

WHEREAS, these two officers have been faithful, diligent, loyal and intelligent in the performance of their duties, and have been unsparing of time and effort in responding to the calls upon them for assistance in connection with their duties as officers, and

WHEREAS, these two officers, times without number bravely have faced danger and have coped unflinchingly with situations which have been pregnant with peril to their personal bodies, and

WHEREAS, these officers, by a consistent record of vigilance and integrity in carrying out their duties as constables, have established groups of law-breakers who bear them no good will, and

WHEREAS, these two officers have been unswerving in their fidelity to duty, ignoring the possible disturbance to their peace of mind resulting from the condition above described, and

WHEREAS, on the twenty-fourth day of July, 1928, in responding to a call

to 18 Brentwood Avenue, Fairfield, to quell a family disturbance, the like of which he has responded to hundreds of time before, reckless of the possible danger to himself, Constable Elwood was shot and seriously wounded by a man who, it later developed, was a maniac, and constituted a menace to the public at large, and

WHEREAS, on the twenty-fifth of July, 1928, unceasing in his pursuit of the man who had wounded his brother officer, Constable Bennett encountered the maniac, in hiding in a garage on Meadows Road; and

WHEREAS, Constable Bennett, attempting to apprehend the maniac, was fired upon and wounded, and in self defense shot and killed the man, and

WHEREAS, both officers since that time have been confined to their homes as a result of their injuries, from which both happily now are recovering;

Therefore, Be It Resolved: That we, the citizens of Fairfield, convey to the two officers concerned, the sincere gratitude of the people of this community for their bravery and their fidelity to duty, extending over a long period of years, and

That we support and endorse their conduct as officers, particularly in the case which led to the wounding of both, and

That we extend to the officers this token of rejoicing upon their escape from death at the hands of a maniac, and extend to them the sympathy of the community regarding their wounds, with an expression of the hope that they speedily will recover and return to duty, and

That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the officers concerned, and to the town clerk of the Town of Fairfield, and that the town clerk be requested to take whatever steps may be necessary that these minutes may be spread upon the records of the Town.

Dated at Fairfield, this 31st day of July, 1928.

Dr. William H. Donaldson, Chairman  
Sidney Marcuse, Clerk

A true copy of the original

Attest

Clara M. Fluit<sup>12</sup>  
Town Clerk

Concern continued, and on October 2, 1928 at the Town Meeting resolution which follows was presented, but as you can read, it was laid on the table -- supposedly until the next meeting. It was never taken from the table how-



ever and a new resolution was presented, as you will read, in 1930. The 1928 resolution follows:--

MOVED: That the Town, Acting under the authority granted it by Chapter 284 of the Public Acts of 1923 to provide police protection for the Town, herewith adopts the following ordinance creating a Police Department in the Town as follows:-

Section 1. There is hereby created a Police Commission for the Town of Fairfield. Said Commission shall consist of three voters of said Town.

Ernest R. Cathcart of said Fairfield shall be a member of said Commission to hold office from the effective date of this ordinance until the first Monday after the annual town meeting in October 1929;

William Van Kirk of said Fairfield shall be a member of said Commission to hold office from the effective date of this ordinance until the first Monday after the annual town meeting in October 1930; and

William P. Hutchinson of said Fairfield shall be a member of said Commission to hold office from the effective date of this ordinance until the first Monday after the annual town meeting in October 1931.

Section 2. One of said Commission shall be appointed by the Selectmen immediately after the annual town meeting in October 1929 and shall take office on the first Monday succeeding said meeting and shall hold office for three years. Immediately after each succeeding annual town meeting to be held in October there shall be appointed by the Selectmen one member of said commission to hold office for the term of three years from the Monday next succeeding. Any vacancies occurring in said commission shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Selectmen. Each member of said commission shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duty. The members of said commission shall serve without compensation but its necessary expenses shall be paid by the town. Said commission shall make an annual report to the Selectmen which shall be included in and published with the annual report of said town.

Section 3. Said commission shall appoint such number of policemen in said town as it may deem necessary, which policemen shall have the power of constables to preserve order, serve criminal process and arrest for crime. Said policemen shall be under the exclusive control and management of said Police Commission and said Commission shall make all necessary rules and regulations as to their duties, compensation, discipline and term of office.

Section 4. Said commission shall have power to appoint a Superintendent or Chief of Police and fix his duties, powers, compensation and term of office. Such Superintendent or Chief shall, subject to the control and direction of the Commission, supervise and direct the policemen, and shall himself have all the powers and perform all the duties of a policeman.

Section 5. No person shall be appointed a policeman in the town of

Fairfield unless such person shall have had at least three years of actual active experience as a police officer or until such person shall have passed such examination as to his education, physical, mental and general qualifications as such commission shall prescribe, which examination will be conducted by a disinterested person or persons appointed for said purpose by said commission and no person shall be appointed who fails to attain a rating of seventy-five per centum in such examination. All appointments as policemen of said town shall be made by said commission from the candidates or applicants for appointment who have attained a rating of seventy-five per centum or more in such examination. Any person appointed a policeman under the provisions of this act shall remain in office until removed for cause, which shall be only such cause as effects his efficiency as a police officer. If charges are filed against any police officer the same shall be in writing and such policeman may file any proper answer to the same in writing and be heard thereon.

Section 6. Said commissioners shall have power to appoint and swear in policemen or special officers without requiring examination, for temporary or special duty. No officer so appointed shall serve for a period of more than thirty days from the date of his appointment.

Section 7. Said commissioners are hereby authorized to regulate and license peddling and auctions in the streets and upon the sidewalks of the Town of Fairfield and to regulate and license sports, exhibitions, and public amusements and performances within said town.

Section 8.

(a) No person shall peddle or hold an auction in the streets nor upon the sidewalks in the Town of Fairfield in violation of any regulation made by said Board of Police Commissioners, nor until such person is duly licensed therefor as provided in Section 7 of this act and shall pay for such license five dollars (\$5.00). No person shall promote or cause to be carried on any sports, exhibitions, or public amusements or performances within said town in violation of any regulations made by said police commissioners as provided in Section 7.

(b) For the purpose of this ordinance a peddler is hereby defined to be any person who goes from house to house, in the Town of Fairfield, selling, or taking orders for, or offering to sell goods, wares, merchandise of any kind or taking orders for the making, manufacturing or repairing of any article or thing whatsoever.

Section 9. Every person violating any provision of Section 8, of any regulation, made under the provisions of this act, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars.

Section 10. Before passing any regulation in reference to peddling, auctions, sports, exhibitions, or public amusements or performances within said town, said board shall give to the citizens of said town a reasonable opportunity to be heard with reference thereto at a meeting of said board, notice of which meeting shall be given by publishing such proposed regulations, with a notice of the time and place of hearing thereon, in some newspaper published or having a circulation in said town,

at least five days before the time fixed for such meeting. Any such meeting may be adjourned from time to time.

VOTED: That the proposed ordinance be laid on the table until the next Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Clara M. Fl<sup>10</sup>at  
Town Clerk

On January 10, 1930 it was voted to purchase two automobiles for the Police. At this point in time there were four town-owned police cars which were assigned to individuals. There was one man assigned to an area on a twenty-four hour basis and each worked from his home. Mr. Elwood still patrolled nightly in his own Model T. Ford. Charles Galdorf was assigned a car and his area was the Stratfield Section. Eugene R. Burns, a former State policeman, had a car - Arthur J. Bennett had a car - as did William T. Burr. These men were all constables, were paid by the Town, and were under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen. The men set their own fees for the various tasks they found necessary to perform.

The desire of the Townspeople for an organized department continued to grow and at a Town Meeting held on June 3, 1930 the following resolution prepared by a committee consisting of Judge Clarence Hall, Judge Bacon Wakeman, and Jonathan Grout was presented:--

Be it enacted by the Town of Fairfield in legal meeting convened:

- (1) The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Fairfield is herewith constituted a Police Commission.
- (2) Said Board of Selectmen shall appoint such number of policemen in said Town, not exceeding nine, as it may deem necessary, which policemen shall have the power of constables to preserve order, serve criminal process and arrest for crime. Said policemen shall be under exclusive control and management of said Board of Selectmen and said Board shall make all necessary rules and regulations as to their duties, compensation, term of office, and suspension or other discipline.
- (3) Said Board shall have power to appoint a Chief of Police and to fix his duties, powers, compensation and term of office. Said Chief of Police shall subject to the control and direction of the Board, supervise

and direct the policemen and shall himself have all powers and perform all the duties of a policeman.

(4) No person, unless he shall have had at least five years of actual, active experience as a police officer be appointed a policeman in the Town of Fairfield until he shall have passed such examination as to his educational, physical, mental and general qualifications as such Board shall prescribe with a rating of at least 75% in such examination. Any person appointed a policeman under the provisions of this act, including the Chief shall remain in office until removed by the Board for cause, which shall be only such cause as affects his efficiency as a police officer, but the Chief of Police or the Board may suspend any officer pending action upon his removal. If charges are filed against any officer the same shall be in writing and such policeman may file any proper answer to the same in writing and be heard thereon.

(5) Said Board shall have power to appoint and swear in policeman or special officers for temporary or special duty without requiring examination. No officer so appointed shall serve for a period of more than 30 days from the date of his appointment.

(6) The salaries of the Chief of all policemen other than special officers shall be according to a gradation system to be adopted by said Board based upon length of service and merit and with a maximum of \$2,400 per year for policemen and \$3,300 a year for the Chief. No policeman shall be permitted to accept any fees for service other than his salary and gifts and gratuities may only be accepted with the approval of said Board.

(7) Said Board is hereby authorized to license and regulate peddling and auctions in and upon the streets and sidewalks of the Town of Fairfield and to license and regulate sports, exhibitions and public amusements and performances within said Town.

(8) Before passing any regulations in reference to peddling, auctions, sports, exhibitions or public amusements or performances within said Town, said Board shall give to the citizens of said Town reasonable opportunity to be heard with reference thereto at a meeting of said Board, notice of which shall be given by publishing such proposed regulation with notice of the time and place of hearing thereon in some newspaper published or having a circulation in said Town at least five days before the time fixed for such meeting. Any such meeting may be adjourned from time to time.

A motion that the resolution be laid on the table, and that the question be presented to the voters of the Town at the next Town Meeting for their approval or disapproval was lost.

The original motion was withdrawn with the consent of the person who seconded the motion.

A <sup>m</sup>otion to adopt the resolution presented at the beginning of the meeting was passed with 195 in favor and 32 opposed.

On June 7, 1930 the Board of Selectmen voted an additional appropriation not to exceed \$750.00 for the maintenance of the Town's ambulance - as recommended by the Board of Finance.

The Selectmen subsequently appointed Arthur J. Bennett as Chief of Police and at the first meeting after the annual Town Election in October reappointed him for the term of one year. After appropriate examinations, as provided in the ordinance, the Selectmen appointed Thomas R. Shaughnessy, Thomas M. Murphy, Christian Schick, and John Neary as policemen -- Eugene Burns, William T. Burr, and Charles Gandorf previously having been appointed as policemen of the Town. Headquarters were leased in the Miller Brothers' block of stores at 633 Post Road (where Blinn's and Cindy's are today). This was about the center of the block, and there were two small rooms which made up the police offices. Chief Bennett's salary was noted as \$2,700 and the regular policemen were each to receive \$1,800 per year. On September 1, 1930 the Police Department began to function. For the most part hereafter the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes and the Police Commissioner's Meeting Minutes were kept separately. There were 17,184 people in Fairfield in 1930.

Further at a Town Meeting on a very hot evening - August 13, 1930 - an appropriation not to exceed \$2,500 had been voted for police protection and especially to get the department started. At first communications were limited to scheduled calls from the firehouses to headquarters.

On September 5, 1930 the Police Commissioners voted to transfer Mrs. Gretchen Donaldson from her <sup>then</sup> present position as police clerk to switchboard operator with the understanding that she will "take care of

the Court work on Mondays and Thursdays or any other days court will be held.

On January 8, 1931 the matter of discontinuing the services two days a month of Constable Stephen K. Moramek as relief man for Sergeant Charles R. Gandorf in the Stratfield section was discussed. It was felt that such services were no longer necessary in view of the fact that such arrangements were not made to replace any of the other officers on their days off. It was decided to postpone definite action pending further investigation.

It was not unusual for various groups in Town to recommend individuals for appointment as special constables or policemen. You can read where an appointment of a particular person was requested by a specific group - the Unquowa Tribe of Red Men, the Second District Republican Club, or one of the Fire Companies.

Officer Neary was commended by the Commissioners for his bravery, alertness and good police work in capturing single-handed a burglar whom he pursued in the night patrol car on State Street Extension at the March 6, 1931 meeting.

During that first year the report of the Chief showed: 125 arrests; 1,375 warnings; 17,840 miles traveled in cars; 4,474 miles traveled on cycles. The Chief was the only ranking man.

On September 18, 1931 the Police Commissioners' Meeting Minutes show: "Motion made and seconded that H. R. Elwood will be and is hereby approved as temporary officer in charge of the Police Department." It was further voted "to appoint Joseph Lasky, Samuel T. Metcalfe, and Warren Porter as temporary Police Officers and they shall be paid at the rate of \$125.00 a month."

At the following meeting on October 6 it was decided by the Commissioners "to leave the entire Police matter exactly as it now exists until the next meeting." It was further suggested that in the meantime they take a look at the condition of the police automobiles and motorcycles.

On October 19, 1931 it was voted:- "that Hezekiah R. Elwood, Chief of Police, be paid at the same rate as that paid the former Chief of Police." He was appointed for one year.

While Mr. Elwood was Chief additional space was needed for Headquarters. A partition was changed to help the situation but still more room was needed. At length the Police Office was moved to the Fairfield News building - further east on the Post Road. This area was more than six times the previous space.

November 30, 1931 it was voted: "that the contract for driving the Town ambulance be placed with Fred Wood as per his low bid of \$500.00 per year provided it passed the inspection of the Selectmen."

Mr. Wood housed the ambulance at his home address on Beaumont Street and his wife did the laundry necessary for the ambulance. Mr. Sellman at the gas station in the Community block was the next driver and custodian of the ambulance.

Chief Elwood reported the Department had covered 60,155 miles by car and 17,007 by cycle. There were 586 arrests and 4,770 warnings. Mr. Elwood had always driven his own black open Model T Touring car. As Chief, the Commissioners provided him with a blue Model A Touring car but it had a stick shift. The blue Model A sat in Mr. Elwood's garage as long as he was Chief and he continued to use his Model T regularly.

On January 14, 1932 the resignation of Mr. Elwood as a Constable

was accepted. Harold Watson was appointed Constable to fill Mr. Elwood's term.

It was at this time that Mr. James Kranyik who later became Chief was appointed a special Police Officer as had been requested by the Tunxis Hill Fire Department.

On April 14, 1932:- "A suggestion was made that the matter of using school janitors for traffic work be looked into to see if this item of expense can now be eliminated and at the same time having the work done either by the Police Department or by special arrangements with the School Board."

At the Police Commissioners' Meeting on June 1, 1932 it was voted to eliminate the School Traffic Officer at Sherman School corner after the close of the present school year. Two weeks later the Commissioners voted to appoint Claude Johnson and Frank Millington as beach guards at \$18.00 a week and also that "no complaints be issued against a Policeman or no hearing be held on complaints until first considered by the Police Commissioners." The Commission was not unanimous on the vote. W. O. Burr and W. F. London voted for this and E. L. Barlow voted against. Differences of opinion were beginning to show on several different votes of the Commissioners.

On July 30, 1932 Dr. Markle (St. Paul's Rector) and Dr. Calvin (an M.D.) appeared before the Board to express appreciation regarding the Police Department's investigation of the Sadler case.

A traffic ordinance was also voted at this meeting.

From the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on July 30, 1932:

VOTED: To turn traffic lights on at 7 A. M. in the morning.

The Rev. Delmar S. Markle and Dr. Calvin appeared before the Board to express their opinions regarding the Police Department's



investigation of the Sadler case.

The following is a copy of the Traffic Ordinance ADOPTED at the meeting of the Board held July 14:

VOTED: That a reasonable Speed under normal driving conditions on the Post Road shall be as follows:

From Ash Creek to #570 Post Rd.	30 M.P.H.	In both directions
From #570 Post Rd. to Unquowa Place	25 M.P.H.	In both directions
From Unquowa Place to Miller Ave.	20 M.P.H.	In both directions
From Miller Ave. to Pine Creek Rd.	25 M.P.H.	In both directions
From Pine Creek Rd. to Woodrow St.	35 M.P.H.	In both directions
From Woodrow St. to the Westport Line	40 M.P.H.	In both directions

VOTED: That reasonable Speed under normal driving conditions on other roads shall be as follows:

On Kings Highway from Tunxis Hill Rd. to Villa Ave.	25 M.P.H.	In both directions
On Kings Highway from Villa Ave. to the Post Rd.	30 M.P.H.	In both directions
On Tunxis Hill Rd. from Kings Highway to Knapps Highway	25 M.P.H.	In both directions
On Brooklawn Ave. from Villa Ave. to Stratfield Rd.	30 M.P.H.	
On Stratfield Rd. from Brooklawn Ave. to Fairfield Wds. Rd.	25 M.P.H.	In both directions
On Stratfield Rd. from Fairfield Woods Rd. to Wells' Gas Station	35 M.P.H.	In both directions

The Penalty for violation of this Ordinance shall be a fine not to exceed \$10.

VOTED: That parking on both sides of the Post Road from Unquowa Rd. to Miller Ave. between the hours of 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. shall be limited to 60 minutes. The penalty for Violation of this Ordinance shall be a fine not to exceed \$5.

VOTED: That the Post Road from the Westport line to Ash Creek be a through street system and that all vehicles entering or crossing through street must come to a complete stop. The penalty for Violation of this Ordinance shall be a fine not to exceed \$5.

August 13, 1932 - Walter Jennings and Iverson Jennings were appointed special Constables for a period of six months - both of them being school bus drivers. This was interesting for apparently it was felt that there was need for additional authority for their position. Warning signs against

speeding were placed along the Post Road that summer.

On September 29, 1932 it was moved that Walter C. Elwood be appointed Chief of Police of the Town of Fairfield beginning October 1, 1932 for a term of five years at a salary of \$2,700 per year. It was voted that William Cowgill be appointed Chief of Police of the Town of Fairfield beginning October 1, 1932 to serve without pay. A vote being taken, the vote was:

Walter C. Elwood	2
W. W. Cowgill	1

Walter C. Elwood was therefore declared appointed.

It was voted that the Police Chief assign William T. Burr to take care of police cars.

It was voted that Officers Schick and Neary be appointed Sergeants.

On September 30, 1932 it was voted that the motion of the special meeting of the Police Commissioners held September 29, 1932 appointing Walter C. Elwood as Chief of Police of the Town of Fairfield be rescinded.

It was voted that Edward J. Flanagan be appointed Chief of Police for the Town of Fairfield beginning October 1, 1932 for a term of five years at a salary of \$2,700 per year (October 1, 1932 - October 1, 1937). Mr. W. W. Cowgill was nominated for the same office to serve without salary. The vote:

Flanagan	2
Cowgill	1

Mr. Flanagan was therefore declared elected to the Office as indicated by the above motion.

From the Police Commissioners Minutes of October 14, 1932: "Chief of Police Flanagan appeared and roughly outlined a few needs of his department which were informally taken care of."

At the Police Commissioners Meeting on November 30, 1932 the following

salaries were voted:

Chief of Police	\$2,500	
Burr	2,300	
Bennett	2,300	
Gandorf	2,300	
Burns	2,300	
Shaughnessy	1,750	) reduced from \$1,800
Murphy	1,750	) (apparently rank had nothing
Neary (Sgt.)	1,750	) to do with salary)
Schick (Sgt.)	1,750	)

It was voted that the lettering of the Police Headquarters be placed with Charles H. White, he being the low bidder.

At the Police Commissioners Meeting on December 30, 1932 it was voted to appoint Fred C. Woods, (the ambulance driver), a special police officer.

At the Police Commissioners Meeting on December 30, 1932 the Chief of Police was present and outlined several matters pertaining to his department, among them <sup>the need for</sup> a new typewriter and the matter of a special ordinance about shooting game when law is not in force. The Board of Selectmen authorized the Chief of Police to purchase a new typewriter, the same from the Board of Education contract - the cost about \$70.00.

February 15, 1933 - Police Commissioners Meeting - Mr. John. R. Sellman was given the contract for police <sup>car</sup> gas.

March 1, 1933 - the Second District Republican Club petitioned to have a traffic officer look after Nathan Hale children at dismissal.

March 31, 1933 - The Chief of Police Flanagan appeared and he was instructed to repair and paint Officer Shaughnessy's motorcycle at an approximate cost of \$50.00. The Chief of Police instructed to purchase paint for traffic roadway lanes from the <sup>Brush</sup> Company at a cost of \$1.50 a gallon.

April 15, 1933 - A report was received from the Chief of Police

Flanagan regarding the accident of Officer William T. Burr.

It was voted to notify the Police Department that in the future if there are any accidents to police cars or motorcycles which are found to be the result of carelessness, the Board of Selectmen as Police Commissioners will determine the responsibility for paying for such damages or expenses as may have resulted.

April 29, 1933 - A report of the motorcycle accident involving Officer Shaughnessy was presented.

May 13, 1933 - Chief of Police Edward J. Flanagan appeared and spoke about necessary traffic signs which would be needed for the coming summer and he was authorized to purchase ten metal STOP signs and such NO PARKING wooden signs as might be necessary. The wooden signs were to be purchased locally from Robert Forbes.

May 26, 1933 - It was voted to purchase two fire extinguishers for the police cars.

May 31, 1933 - Bids for police car to replace Sgt. Gandorf's car were received from the Chevrolet and the Plymouth agencies.

June 14, 1933 - It was voted to purchase for the Police Department a Chevrolet 2-door coach at a price of \$460.00.

June 30, 1933 - Voted: "that the penalty for the failure to observe the traffic ordinance passed at the meeting of the Board of Selectmen June 14, 1933 covering the matter of STOP signs at street intersections be fined not to exceed \$5.00 and this penalty be part of the ordinance."

Obviously the Town's Police Department's personnel and responsibilities were growing. On January 1, 1934 an agreement was reached with the Board of Education to use a part of the building on Reef Road for the Police

Headquarters. This was to be the northwest corner of the building - both upstairs and down - and the present conference room of the Board of Education building was used as a courtroom. Ten days later at a Town Meeting an appropriation not to exceed \$1,000 was voted for the purpose of erecting a garage for "the use of the Police Department on Town land known as the Sherman Hall property." This was to stand upon the same site as today's garage. This garage was built to house six police cars, the ambulance, and the motorcycles.

Traffic lights were installed on the Post Road the same year at the corner of Kings Highway, Benson Road and at Center Street. These were to be synchronized as well and of the vehicle activated type. A new motorcycle was purchased for \$150 and a new car for \$705 that year. Car mileage for 1933 was 77,154 miles and cycle mileage 14,951 miles. There were 525 arrests.

On May 13, 1934 it was voted to add another man to the Police force to be in charge of all the cars and the ambulance (the ambulance was now to be in the new garage), keep the courtroom and headquarters in order, and do any jobs necessary. Since these jobs "will not take the whole time, he will be a regular policeman on duty at the discretion of the Chief." His starting salary would be as per police schedule. Uniforms<sup>for all</sup> were provided this same year.

On August 14, 1934 it was voted to buy a "new siren for the ambulance as the present one is obsolete." James Kranyik also was allowed a uniform "as in the past when a new man joins the police force."

Mr. Kranyik told me that he was assigned to the center of town for his twelve hours on the day shift. It was also his job to drive the ambulance. There was a little call light on the corner and when that

went on he had to hurry down to the new garage and get out the ambulance.

At this point there were two platoons which worked twelve-hour shifts. These long hours continued until 1942. If the men were assigned to a particular activity - a Town Meeting or whatever - and the end of their twelve hours came, but the meeting was still in progress, they stayed right there until the meeting was over. At the end of 1934 it was voted to give the "five low salaried officers in the Police Department \$100 yearly increase."

The car mileage was reported as 85,708 and the cycle mileage as 13,444 for that period. The Police Commissioners were still the Selectmen and they were: John Ferguson, 1st Selectman; Joseph Youhouse, 2nd Selectman; S. E. Jennings, 3rd Selectman. Former Chief H. R. Elwood was recommended as a Special Deputy to the County Sheriff as he had served in that capacity before, and George W. Anderson was also appointed a Deputy Sheriff for the County.

On June 6, 1935 it had been voted that the Chief was to inspect revolvers weekly and he be responsible for proper care of the same, and that target practice be held monthly. It was also voted at this meeting to have "Town of Fairfield-Police Department" printed on all police cars - in small letters.

It was further voted: "to have arrangements made to insure that every member of the Police Department be efficient in First Aid and in the use of the inhalator and in resuscitation methods - a Red Cross or Medical Examiner's diploma being required from each officer."

Superintendent Wheeler of the Bridgeport Police Department was invited to meet with the Fairfield group to give information and advice on police work.

On June 27, 1935 it was voted to raise James Kranyik's salary to \$1,800 yearly beginning July 1. He told me he had started at \$1,500.

On July 11, 1935 it was voted:

Board of Police Commissioners meetings shall be held at least once a month.

Each member of the board shall have a designated duty to perform, as follows:

The Chairman shall read all reports from the Police Chief. Check expenditures monthly, to see that budget allowances are not exceeded.

He shall prepare a report on the mileage of cars each month, gas, and oil consumption, and repairs. A written report of the above shall be prepared each month and submitted to the meeting of the Board with recommendations.

The Commissioner shall inspect firearms, cars, motorcycles, and equipment every three months and report as to their condition at the Board Meeting.

The Commissioner shall inspect uniforms every three months and report as to their condition and appearance of the officers at the Board meeting.

The entire Commission shall inspect Police Headquarters and all equipment and uniforms every six months.

In September, 1935 the Commissioners carried out an inspection. Their report follows:--

Inspected the Police Headquarters and found equipment to be in excellent shape, and the condition of the Headquarters, also appearance of the men above reproach. Copy of this finding to be sent to the Chief of Police, complimenting him and the men on this satisfactory condition.

Signed: John Ferguson  
Joseph Youhouse  
S. E. Jennings  
Police Commissioners

At this time there were two voting districts in Town and on October 4, 1935 District #1 (west of the Black Rock Turnpike) voted at Police Headquarters in the new garage.

On December 2, 1935 it was voted to get prices on radio installations in three police cars including oversize batteries, generators and receiving set for Headquarters.

December 9, 1935 - Voted: "A joint switchboard with the Fire Department be planned."

January 20, 1936 - Voted: "To install Bosch receiver and equipment in one car for trial only."

January 31, 1936 - Voted: "To appoint William Bogg a Special Officer as requested by Board of Education to be Truant Officer."

February 5, 1936 - Voted: "To make age limit for prospective police clerks between the ages of 22 and 29 - height 5'8" to 6'2" - weight normal in proportion to height. The switchboard attendants to qualify as outlined above, as they may be called on to regular police work at any time. Salary to start at \$1,500 per year with salary advances to be determined by Police Commissioners. Men to be given a two months trial previous to regular appointment and must fill all physical and mental requirements necessary for Police duty."

Voted: "To mark radio cars 'Town of Fairfield Police Department' - Radio Cars #1, 2, 3."

On March 3, 1936 the names of six men chosen as most likely applicants for switchboard positions were discussed. Frank Grywalski, Stephen Lasko, and Theodore Hedberg were notified to present themselves to Dr. Kemp for a physical examination. Later Frank Grywalski and Stephen Lasko were appointed on the basis of Dr. Kemp's report. The men were to be hired with the understanding that they were on a two month trial.

From the Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners - April 13, 1936:

Present: John Ferguson, Joseph Youhouse, S. Edward Jennings

Voted: To make Arthur J. Bennett a sergeant, so that the senior officers, will have charge of the day and night reliefs, Officer Burns and Sergeant Bennett to be responsible to the Chief as they take the place of the desk officer, who was previously, as next in command to the Chief.

Rules for operation of Radio Cars are: Officer shall not leave car



except in line of duty or physical necessity. When possible, a person should be requested to listen to radio when officer leaves car. With 2 men assigned to car, one of the officers should always be in car, except in case of emergency, in which case a report and explanation of the emergency should be given by officer in charge of car when going off duty.

A Sergeant is to be in charge of night patrol.

An officer is to be in charge of car in a 2 man patrol.

Patrols are to make 3 complete trips each night except in case of an emergency.

Organization Chart is to be drawn up by Chief as suggested by the Commission, and copy of chart to be entered in Minutes.

Voted: To ask for permit for pedestrian light at Woodrow Ave. and at Mill Plain Road, also traffic stanchion at Tunxis Hill Rd. & Kings Highway, from the State Traffic Commission.

May 14, 1936 - Voted: "No more than one man be allowed off duty daily. No change to be allowed at any time in the number of men on nights. One Sergeant and 3 officers and desk clerk to be on duty at all times at night. Daily reports to give names of officers on day and night patrols."

June 19, 1936 - Officers Neary and Schick appeared before the Police Commission to discuss their application for Sergeant's rating.

June 23, 1936 - Request of Officers Schick and Neary were denied because there was no necessity for increasing the number of active Sergeants. The recognized Sergeants in the Department were Sgt. Gandorf for Stratfield and Sergeants Burns and Bennett who alternate and are in charge of Headquarters in the absence of Chief Flanagan

The Annual Report - 1935-1936 - showed:

Police car mileage	101,649	
Police cycle "	7,459	
Ambulance "	3,427	

July 31, 1936 - It was voted: "To donate \$50 to the Bridgeport Police Benevolent Association."

October 29, 1936 - \$75 was voted for sirens for police cars - recommended \$50 increase for low salaried men (Schick, Neary, Murphy,

Shaughnessy) and \$100 increase for Kranyik.

November 30, 1936 - Voted: "To have Police Clerks made Special Officers and notify Chief to have them sworn in.

March 15, 1937 - Voted: "To raise Frank Grywalski and Stephen Lasko's salaries \$100 on account of satisfactory manner in which they have performed their duties as Clerks."

These were depression years and it was voted on June 15, 1937 "that Constables and unemployed men are to be considered first for Special Officers jobs at Beach for summer."

Chief Flanagan's term of Office expired on October 1, 1937 and Sergeants Bennett, Gandorf and Burns were felt to be the most eligible. When the vote was taken at the Commission Meeting on October 4, 1937 Sgt. Bennett received two votes and Chief Flanagan one vote. Arthur J. Bennett was chosen Chief for the second time and was appointed to serve until October 1, 1940.

On November 12, 1937 it was voted: "To install checking system in Police Department and that the two days allowed monthly must be taken in that month as no allowance will be made for taking any more than two days in any one month with the exception of the annual vacation." It was also voted: "Notice is to be posted asking that Officers state when they wish to take vacations, no 2 men are to be on vacation at one time, and vacation schedule is to be approved by the Police Commissioners before going into effect."

And on December 30, 1937 it was voted: "To install <sup>an</sup> teletype system." It was also voted: "To look into idea of motorbicycles with radio equipment.

The following report is given for December 1, 1936 to November 30, 1937:

Mileage traveled by Police Cars	110,298
" " " Cycles	6,890
" " " Ambulance	4,104

There were 637 arrests made.

There were 12 members of the Police Force including <sup>the</sup> Chief. They are:

- Arthur Bennett (Chief)
- Eugene Burns (Sgt.)
- Charles Gandorf (Sgt.)
- Edward Flanagan
- William Burr
- Frank Grywalski
- Stephen Lasko
- James Kranyik (Off duty 7 days due to an accident while on duty)
- Thomas Murphy
- John Neary
- Christian Schick
- Thomas Shaughnessy (off duty 53½ days due to lacerated leg)

The following February the Commission voted to buy 2 Harley Davis cycles at \$990.90 each and on March 14, 1938 Thomas Murphy became a Sergeant with a \$100 raise beginning April 1. Sgt. Burns and Sgt. Murphy were to work on alternate shifts.

On October 24, 1938 it was voted to send a man to school in New York to learn fingerprinting and photography and to ask for an appropriation of \$350 for a camera, cabinets and fees for training. It was also planned to raise Sgt. Murphy's and Officers Shaughnessy's, Neary's and Schick's salaries \$50 for the fiscal year and Officers Kranyik's and Burr's salaries \$100 each. Victor Grassi was appointed Clerk.

The December 1, 1937 to November 30, 1938 report gave the following statistics: There were 12 Policemen including Chief Bennett. Officer Schick was injured while on duty August 8 and was off duty 34 days.

Police Car Mileage	98,715
Police Cycle Mileage	32,205
Police Ambulance Mileage	3,151

Arrests - 912

Fatal Accidents - 6

Equipment - 1 Ambulance  
6 Cars - 1 1930 Chevrolet  
1 1936 Chevrolet  
1 1928 Ford  
1 1934 Plymouth  
1 1937 Chevrolet  
1 1932 Plymouth  
4 Cycles - 2 Indians  
2 Harley Davidsons

On January 3, 1939 Officers Neary and Schick expressed their willingness to take up fingerprinting and two weeks later a new ambulance was purchased for \$1,745 as bid. It was also voted to reinstate the salary of the Chief to \$2,700 - an increase of \$100 a year.

In February, Fords at \$1,109.70 each with radio equipment were purchased. Tests were given for the Police Clerk's job and Philip Gausser was the ranking contestant for the post. Officer Grywalski and Police Clerks Lasko and Grassi were each given \$100 raises. Fifty dollars was sent to the Bridgeport Police Benefit Association in tribute to services rendered during the year. It was further voted to approve the application of Harry Silos, proprietor of the Idle Hour Bathing Pavilion <sup>"</sup>provided the Chief of Police considers this necessary and who will be responsible for regulating the powers which wearing this badge entails<sup>"</sup>. The Chief did not approve the application for a Special Officer's badge. Two new motorcycles were also purchased.

From the Police Commission Minutes:

July 7, 1939 - Chief Bennett did not approve application by Harry Silos for Special Officer's Badge. Police Commissioners voted to uphold Chief Bennett's decision and deny application. Victor Grassi resigned to become a paid fireman in #2 Fire Company.

Voted: "to receive applications for Police Clerk position up to and including July 14 applicants to be not less than 5'8" and not over 6'2" and must have reached their 21st birthday but not over 29 years of age.

Applicants are to appear on July 14th prepared to take intelligence test at 8:00 p.m."

Twenty applicants appeared.

July 17, 1939 - Voted that: "the ranking contestant is Philip Gasser and in the event that he fails to pass the medical and physical examination, the next in line will be appointed provided he also passes medical and physical examinations." (The list of applicants was to be kept active for a year).

Voted: "that the man chosen do the regular police duty for two weeks which includes riding a motorcycle and driving a car, and after this period is over and he takes up duty of Police Clerk with the understanding that a three months probationary term is required --- etc. He must report to Chief Bennett -- and no later than July 29, 1939."

October 13, 1939 - Voted: "to send letter to Chief Bennett and members of Police Force complimenting them on their fine work in the Clark and Tuzzio cases - and also for the general excellence of their behavior and work of the past year."

December 1, 1939 - "A letter of commendation was received on the fine use the Department has made of their training in the fingerprinting system, and Officer Schick was to be complimented on the manner in which he has carried out this work which was responsible for the arrest of a man who had committed 40 acts of burglary."

December 8, 1939 - Voted to buy 2 Halley Davidson motorcycles - 1940 models - total cost \$1,000 with 2 turnins (\$290 allowed).

December 29, 1939 - Salary increased voted:

Sgt. Murphy.....	from \$2,350 to \$2,400
Officer Schick.....	from \$2,250 to \$2,300
Officer Neary.....	from \$2,250 to \$2,300
Officer Shaughnessy...	from \$2,250 to \$2,300
Officer Kranyik.....	from \$2,200 to \$2,250
Officer Burr.....	from \$2,100 to \$2,200

March 14, 1940 - State Traffic Commission certificate setting speed limits on streets in Fairfield was received and approved.

March 29, 1940 - It was voted to purchase a white car with radio and radio equipment for the Police Department and get bids for same. The Chief was requested to check the generators of new cars.

April 15, 1940 - It was voted to approve the Police Budget for 1940-1941. It was also voted to request a Bausch generator on the new car to be purchased and to ask Mr. Be<sup>n</sup>ton and Mr. Skinner to submit new bids for heavy duty.

May 6, 1940 - J. W. Skinner got <sup>the</sup> bid - \$594 - for a new Chevrolet.

September 30, 1940 - It was voted to appoint Arthur Bennett a Chief of Police for a term of six years - October 1, 1940 to September 30, 1946 - in consideration of the faithful and efficient manner in which he has conducted his office in the past three years and with the same understanding that the same standard of efficiency will be maintained in the future - unanimously voted.

The annual report at the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 1940 showed:

Car Mileage	99,139	(5 cars)
Cycle Mileage	20,082	(4 cycles - all Harley Davidson)
Ambulance Mileage	3,498	

Police Department: Arthur Bennett, Chief  
Sergeants Murphy, Burns, Gandorf,  
Officers Neary, Schick, Kranyik, Lasko  
Shaughnessy, Grywalski, Burr, Grassi,  
and Ganser.  
Constables Chester Brown, George A. Hansen,  
E. Stanislaus Leahy, Michael Farkas, Oscar  
Swanhall, Frederick F. Flanagan, and  
Robert Henry

On October 1, 1940 Chief Bennett's assignment was extended by the Police Commission to October 1, 1946. The Town's population was 20,163 in 1940.

The following year on December 13, 1940 it was voted to increase the salary of Officer Kranyik from \$2,250 to \$2,300 and Officer Burr from \$2,200 to \$2,250; and on December 30, Chief Bennett's salary was raised from \$2,700 to \$3,000 yearly beginning January 1, 1941. At the January 15 meeting the Commission asked the Chief to get an itemized list together showing the cost of uniforms, guns and other equipment as well as the salaries for presentation to the Board of Finance in sufficient amount to carry on the work of the police force from March 1 until June 30, 1941 (the end of the fiscal year). There wasn't too much leeway for expansion since the Board agreed that a sum not to exceed \$3,500 should be sufficient to cover this period.

Two weeks later, on January 25, the Board of Selectmen voted "that a Town Meeting be called for Monday, February 3, 1941 to consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Police Commissioners that 6 Policemen be added to the present force of 9 men, making a total of 15 policemen, 2 clerks, and 1 maintenance man."

On February 14, 1941, the Commission voted "that 3 years residence in Fairfield is necessary in order to be eligible for appointment as a policeman."

It was also voted "to ask for Civil Service Examination Questionnaire from the Bridgeport Civil Service Commissioner and make 75 copies of same. Papers are to be corrected immediately after examination and that manner of allowing credits in addition to written examination be also requested."

On February 22, 1941 it was voted:

- (1) That no exemptions will be claimed for men in service of the United States through the Selective Service Act.
- (2) Successful candidates who are in the Selective Service groups and likely to be called into the service of the United States must be appointed to the Police Department previous to being called into the service. A man who passed the test and is called into the service before being appointed will be placed on a

preferred list and receive consideration in accordance with his rating in the examination taking place on February 23, 1941 in Roger Ludlowe High School if and when a vacancy occurs in the Police Department during the period of two years that this list remains active.

- (3) Should an appointee be called into service of the United States after beginning active duty as a policeman, a temporary appointment may be made with the distinct understanding that the temporary appointment will be filled only until the original appointee returns. All temporary appointments will be filled by the men who took and passed the test on February 23, 1941 in Roger Ludlowe High School, Fairfield, on the basis of the rating they obtain in said test.

The above resolution was adopted after a discussion of regulations governing the appointment of the six men who obtained the highest rating in the examinations held Sunday, February 23, and Monday, February 24, 1941.

Sixty-three took the examination and County Detective William Kearns acted in an advisory capacity to the Board of Police Commissioners as did Chief of Police Arthur J. Bennett. The twenty men having the highest ratings were notified to appear in the hearing room at the Town Hall on Monday, February 24, at 8:00 p.m. for final examination. The six men with the highest ratings after that screening were requested to report to Dr. E. P. Kemp on Monday and Tuesday, March 3 and 4, at 2:00 p.m. Harry A. Day, Joseph D. Reed, George John Butkus, Donal Michael Collimore, Robert Patrick Henry, and Harold Douglas Cole passed.

March 14, 1941 it was voted that the above six men be appointed to the Police Department and sworn in for three months probationary period beginning March 15, 1941.

April 1, 1941 it was voted to call for prices on two cars (coaches) for the Police Department and the 1937 Chevrolet be turned in at that time, cars to be equipped for radio.

As the year closed, the Board voted to send a letter to the Chief of Police complimenting the force on their appearance and the manner in which



the equipment was kept.

The year-end mileage listed was:

Ambulance	3,308
Cars	118,600
Cycles	17,921

There were 5 cars and 5 cycles. There was also a service car in use. Officer Kranyik was unable to work for 84½ days because of injuries received in a motorcycle accident while on duty. There were 12 men in the Department including the Chief.

By the end of the first month of the new fiscal year, July 31, 1941, it was voted "to appoint the 6 additional men as regular members of the Police Department and further to increase the salaries of the six new men from \$1,500 to \$1,600."

On August 14, the Commission decided to look over the salary schedule to find out when raises had been given to the patrolmen. The next month a commendation resolution was passed and sent to the entire Department. It follows:

MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS - September 4, 1941

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Police Commissioners commend the Police Department in general for the efficient and meritorious service they are rendering the citizens of Fairfield. The past 10 days have been conspicuous for the number of arrests for major crimes committed by habitual offenders: 1 man was arrested for carrying a loaded revolver and recommitted to Wethersfield to serve the remainder of a ten-year sentence; 1 man held for Superior Court for burglary who had been paroled from Cheshire; 1 man sentenced to the County Jail for burglary in the night season; and Officers Henry and Reed are especially commended, as these two fine young officers have proven themselves to be able, courageous and efficient in the performance of their duties on the night patrol. Officers Collimore, Butkus, and Ganser are also cited for their intelligent handling of their respective cases. Officers Neary and Schick are deserving of special mention for their fine work in obtaining and identifying the fingerprints of persons under suspicion.

The Board of Police Commissioners express their unqualified approval of the actions and results of the Police methods and are of the opinion that the citizens of Fairfield join with them in this expression of appreciation.

On December 15, 1941, eight days after Pearl Harbor, the six new men were given an increase of \$100, making their salaries \$1,700 yearly. This same month the Board advertised for a mechanic who was to be called for as a regular policeman, if the Chief desired it to be that way. He was to be less than 40 years of age and over 25 and have a salary of \$2,000 with \$100 increase yearly. He was to work from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., have 2 hours off daily, 2 days off monthly, with 7 days vacation a year. Of those who applied, four men seemed best qualified and were asked to come in. John Grywalski was selected and he reported for work on February 25, 1942.

In May, the appointment of a Sergeant to take the place of the late Sgt. Gandorf who had died March 31, 1942 was discussed and Chief Bennett suggested Officer Shaughnessy as he had been acting Sergeant for 9 months, and, in the Chief's thoughts, seemed the best suited. He was appointed Sergeant with a 2 to 1 vote on June 15.

At the same meeting a petition was presented to the Board signed by ex-servicemen asking that the Board give due consideration to ex-servicemen when making promotions in the Police Department in recognition of their service to their Country.

This year's summary showed 20 men on the Force, including the Chief. There were 6 cars now - two new ones having been purchased in May, 1942, as well as 6 cycles with two of them having been purchased the same month. There were also a service car and the ambulance.

The mileage listed was:	Cars	137,588
	Cycles	29,117
	Ambulance	3,164

The ambulance responded to 245 calls, and there were 6 fatal accidents.

The year 1942 saw the end of the 2-12 hour shifts and 3-8 hour shifts being put into operation.

The Town Guard was an active part of the Civil Defense program of the Town and it was suggested that the Chief be in charge of regulating their duties. The Town Guard had regular police training and would come in when needed. Samuel Glover headed the Town Guard. The Special Police too were set up at this time, again in conjunction with the War Program. There were 100 or more men in this group who were volunteers serving without pay.

At the Police Commissioners Meeting on September 17, 1942 it was voted to enter record of the organization and duties of the Special Police of the Town of Fairfield as recommended by Arthur J. Bennett on the minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners. They follow:

For the purpose of organization, the Special Police will be divided into two units, Unit A and Unit B.

Unit A under the command of Capt. Samuel Glover whose general headquarters will be located at the Town Hall and will have in addition the following posts located throughout the Town of Fairfield.

Post	1	located at	472 Stratfield Rd.
"	2	" "	247 Sterling St.
"	3	" "	211 High St.
"	4	" "	407 Meadowbrook Rd.
"	5	" "	Town Hall (General Headquarters)
"	6	" "	47 Parkway
"	7	" "	Report Center (Evans Home on Barlow Rd.)
"	8	" "	1993 Post Rd.
"	9	" "	170 Pequot Rd., Southport
"	10	" "	2860 Bronson Rd.
"	11	" "	Sub Station at Unquowa Rd.

This unit is especially trained and equipped for guard and police duty for any emergency that may arise in any district in the Town of Fairfield and may be called upon by the State Police to assist them anywhere in the State of Connecticut.

The specific duties assigned to Unit A shall be to throw a guard around factories, report center, bridges, Town Hall, and any other place the Commanding Officer deems necessary after the sounding of alarm or notification from the Chief of Police.

#### Unit B

Unit B under the command of Capt. Eugene Hope whose general headquarters will be located at the Police Station and will have in addition the following district precincts located throughout the Town of Fairfield.

Dist. 1 Center	located at Police Station	100 Reef Rd.
" 2 Center	" " Sherman School	Post & Reef Rd.
" 2 Tunxis Hill	" " Helland Hill School	B.R.T. & Kings H.
" 3 Stratfield	" " Lincoln School	Jackman Ave. & Fair. T.
" 4 Southport	" " Pequot School	Main St. South.
" 5 Greenfield Hill	" " G. Hill Fire House	G.H. Rd. & Verna R.

Unit B Special Police are trained and equipped to assist the regular police in any emergency that may arise in the Town of Fairfield.

The specific duties assigned to Unit B shall be to police the following: Tel. Co. Building, United Ill. Co. Transformer Building, R.R. Stations, C.O. Jellif Co., Heim Co., and any other place the Commanding Officer deems necessary after the sounding of alarm, or notification from the Chief of Police.

#### Units A & B

It shall be the duty of the Commanding Officers to mobilize their units as soon as possible on notification from the Chief of Police or those deputized by him whenever he shall deem it advisable.

The Special Police general duties are to enforce the laws of Federal Government, the Statutes of the State of Connecticut, and Ordinances of the Town of Fairfield, effective during the period of this emergency.

In addition to law enforcement generally, all Police Officers, both regular and special, will cooperate with other defense units where police authority may be required.

1. To regulate traffic
2. To prevent looting
3. To enforce blackout regulations
4. To assist in preserving civilian morale
5. Motorcycle squad for dispatch duties.
6. Preservation of all evidence pertaining to the commission of a crime.

Men in uniform will refrain from smoking or lighting matches during any civil or actual blackout.

A pension plan for the Police Department was also being studied and on October 30, 1942 it was voted "to inform the Police Department that the Police Commission voted on February 22, 1941 that any going into the Service will retain his position and rating in the Police Department on his return." Robert Henry went into Service in October -- George Butkus in November.

The Board also voted to increase the starting salary (\$1,500) to

\$1,650 yearly, this to be increased to \$1,800 after the three months probationary period, this increase having been made necessary due to the cost of living and the ten percent blanket increase in all salaries.

It was further voted "to give each member of the Police Department two weeks extra pay when they leave for induction to any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States" and also "to grant two weeks leave of absence to Chief Bennett and to appoint Sgt. Thomas Shaughnessy as acting Chief as recommended by Chief Bennett."

William Poklemba went into the Armed Services on March 1, 1942.

In addition, it was voted "to request the Board of Finance to transfer the amount paid in salaries to the two men who are called into the armed services to buying equipment for the Special Police who are taking their places. All purchases are to be made through the Town Purchasing Department and not to exceed their salaries unless others are called into Service."

In February, 1943 the Pension Committees of Police and Firemen were to meet with the Selectmen and the Town Council.

It was reported also that a request was received from the Bridgeport Police Department asking that they be given the opportunity to purchase receiving radio sets after two-way frequency modulation radio is installed in Fairfield.

It was voted "the radio receiving sets to be given to Bridgeport as a token of appreciation after new system is installed."

It was voted that Sgt. Burns would get his salary during his six months illness.

On May 14, 1942 it was voted "that the Board does not see any reason for changing the vote taken on February 22, 1941 which was to the effect

that no exemptions would be claimed for anyone called in to the Armed Services through the Selective Service Act."

The Board also voted to buy 2 new Ford cars at \$1,467.96 - this being the low bid.

On June 14, 1943 it was voted "to hire 4 men to take the places of 3 men who have joined the Armed Services and 1 man on sick list until regular appointed officers return. The men hired must pass a physical examination. The men hired were to receive \$2,100 yearly - lowest salary of paid policemen."

At the June 29, 1943 meeting it was:

Voted: To get information from Chief Bennett on the men of the Police Department who are working on other jobs besides their regular work as Policemen.

The Board of Police Commissioners are of the opinion that Policemen should not be allowed to work in excess of 4 hours in any one day at work which is being done for private individuals outside of their regular occupation.

Police work demands alert men at all times, and if any of the men are working over 4 hours daily after or before their police work is finished, or previous to reporting for duty, they must discontinue this practice at once.

All occupations outside of regular police duty must be within the Town boundaries, and the Chief of Police must have knowledge of the whereabouts of policemen at all times during the period of this emergency.

The question of the men having regular target practice was raised by J. Youhouse, and the Chief of Police was to furnish this information by the next meeting on July 14.

The annual report of the Police Commissioners that year (previously the Chief had presented the report) showed that there were 9 cars - 2 Fords were received and 2 Plymouths turned in - 1 service car, 4 cycles (2 having radios), and the ambulance. The ambulance had covered 3,662 miles, the cars 107,142 miles, and the cycles 15,769 miles. Teletype messages were being received and sent. Sgt. Burns who had been ill since

August, 1942 left the Department in March, 1943. Four new Officers joined the Department during the year. On June 13, 1943, at 5:10 p.m., the new two-way radio station WKGF went into service.

The Board continued to organize the growing Department, and the July 14, 1943 minutes show:

The Police Commissioners checked back on the reports from the Police Department, which are signed by Chief Bennett, and show the number of men on the various shifts as well as the number of arrests made.

It was found that on the shifts between 4 P.M. and 12 P.M. and 12 A.M. until 8 A.M. during which time the greatest amount of protection is required that there were fewer men on duty than in the day time. In several instances there were from 6 to 8 men on the morning shift from 8 A.M. until 4 P.M. and 2 or 3 men on the other shifts.

Chief Bennett was called into the meeting and questioned on the manner of allocating men to the various shifts and also the procedure followed in allowing men their days off.

The Commissioners found that no regular procedure was in effect, with the result that the men took time off as they saw fit, and the Chief was requested to set up a system whereby the men will know in advance when they will be eligible for time off. In the event that the days allocated do not suit the individual, he must have the consent of the Chief before he can change with any of the other men.

The Chief was also requested to bring in a vacation schedule showing the different dates when the men will be on their vacations, so that all business pertaining to the department regulations, and especially absence from duty, will be known to the Police Commissioners.

The question of increased protection and responsibility in the absence of the Chief was also raised, and the lack of responsibility in the absence of the Chief was quite evident.

The names of the various members of the department, their qualifications, and records of efficiency were discussed, and Sergeant Shaughnessy and Officer Kranyik were in the opinion of the Police Commissioners outstanding and best qualified for promotion.

Chief Bennett said that he had recommended Sergeant Shaughnessy for promotion some time ago, and he agreed with the Commissioners that the promotion of the two men, Sergeant Shaughnessy and Officer Kranyik would increase the efficiency of the department.

Recommended that at no time on any shift there are to be fewer than 4 Policemen. This is the minimum, and if thru unforeseen circumstances, regular policemen cannot fill the 3 shifts, preference shall be given to the shifts starting from 4 P.M. to 12 P.M. and 12 A.M. to 8 A.M.

Voted: That Sergeant Shaughnessy be promoted to Lieutenant to take effect immediately and that Officer Kranyik be promoted to Sergeant to take effect immediately.

Sergeant Kranyik is to be in charge of the department in the absence of Chief Bennett or Lieutenant Shaughnessy, but at no time should there be more than one of the three men in charge of the department absent from Fairfield at one time. In the absence of the Chief, Lieutenant Shaughnessy will be in charge and Sergeant Kranyik second in command.

In the event that the Chief has to leave Fairfield for any length of time, he must notify the Chairman of the Police Commission how long he will be absent from town and when he will return.

Their authority to appoint a Lieutenant was supported by the Town Counsel Arthur M. Comley:

To Board of Selectmen  
Town of Fairfield, Conn.

Gentlemen:

Re: Promotions in Police Department

You have requested an opinion on the following matter: "Has the Board of Selectmen, acting as a Police Commission, the right to confer the rank and duties of 'Lieutenant' on a member of the police force?"

In my opinion it has. Section 2 of the police ordinance provides, "Said policemen shall be under the exclusive control and management of said Board of Selectmen and said Board shall make all necessary rules and regulations as to their duties, compensation, term of office, suspension or other discipline." The rank of Sergeant, Lieutenant, or Captain is not of itself an office. It is a convenient means whereby grades of duty and authority are defined. The power to promote to a higher rank also includes the power to demote to a lower rank. In regulating the duties and discipline of police officers, the Police Commission may adopt the method commonly in use of conferring superior authority on certain members of the police force. As a means of making that authority known in general terms to other members of the force and to the public, the Commission undoubtedly has the right to adopt the convenient means of conferring the rank and insignia which usually accompanies such superior duties and authority.

Very truly yours,

Arthur M. Comley (Signed)

In addition, in August it was voted "to inform members of the Special Police that the Commissioners will give full consideration to applicants for positions in the regular Police Department who are or have been members of



the Special or Auxiliary Police Units.

In September, Harry Day and Officer Lasko went into the armed forces and charges were also brought by Chief Bennett against Lt. Shaughnessy -- both were suspended. Chief Bennett was discharged on January 12, 1944. I have purposely left out details of all problems that took place within the Department or with those connected with the Department. Many of the reports are part of public record at the Town Hall and can be read there or in the newspapers of the period that tell of the then current problems should anyone care to pursue these. I feel that it is not my purpose at this time to review all of these.

A "Committee of Four" consisting of Maynard J. Bird, George N. Serre, Frank W. Carroll, and Johnson Stoddard, Chairman, was appointed by the Town Meeting on September 20, 1943. The complete report of the Committee as presented at the Town is on file in the Town Meeting Minutes. I have included only parts of the report here.

From Page #6 of the "Committee of Four" Report:

On February 3, 1941, the following amendment to the 1930 ordinance was passed:

RESOLVED: That the Police Ordinance of the Town of Fairfield which was adopted June 3, 1930 be amended to read as follows:

That part of Section 2 beginning with the first line which now reads as follows: "Said Board of Selectmen shall appoint such number of policemen in said Town, not exceeding nine, as it may deem necessary, which policemen shall have the power of constables to preserve order, serve criminal process and arrest for crime," shall be amended to read as follows: "Said Board of Selectmen shall appoint such number of Policemen in said Town, not exceeding fifteen, as it may deem necessary, and said Board of Selectmen shall also appoint two Police and Fire Department Switchboard operators, and one maintenance man, who shall have authority as policemen and engage in police work at the discretion of the Chief of Police, which policemen shall have the power of constables to preserve order, serve criminal process and arrest for crime."

On August 30, 1943, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED: That Section 6 of the Police Ordinance be amended to read as follows:

The salaries of the Chief and of all policemen other than Special Officers, shall be according to a graduation system to be adopted by said Board based upon length of service and merit, and with a maximum of \$2,650.00 per year for policemen and \$3,800.00 per year for the Chief.

No member of the Police Department shall be permitted to accept any fees for services other than his salary. Gifts and gratuities may only be accepted with the knowledge and approval of said Board.

From Pages #16, 17, 18, and 19 of the "Committee of Four" Report:

#### FINDINGS

##### Finding as to Police Commissioners

(1) Your Committee finds that the Police Commissioners are to be commended upon the instances in which the selection of policemen was by written competitive examination, carefully prepared by the Bridgeport Civil Service authorities. We find, however, that the Commission selected some policemen without such examination and that no written competitive examination was given to applicants for the positions of sergeant or the position of lieutenant. We further find that in the selections of sergeants and in the selection of the lieutenant, insufficient opportunity was given other men in the Department to present their records and themselves for consideration for appointment. Specifically in the appointments of Lieutenant Shaughnessy and Sergeant Kranyik, we find that they were appointed on July 15, 1943, without investigation of their records at that time, without notice to any member of the Police Department, including Chief Bennett, in advance of the meeting, and without discussing the appointments in detail with Chief Bennett at the time of the appointments. We find, also, that even if the situation required the appointment of someone to act in the absence of Chief Bennett, it could have been remedied by the appointment of an acting lieutenant and without a permanent appointment.

(2) We find that with respect to the 1930 resolution setting up the Police Commission, the Police Commissioners followed its provisions in some respects and not in other instances in spite of the fact that amendments were made to the resolution as recently as August 1943. While the Commissioners had the approval of the Town Counsel in appointing sergeants and in raising salaries beyond the limits of the ordinances, we find that in the eyes of the department and public the practical effect was a lowering of respect for the regulations and an increasing of the dissension in the department.

(3) The Committee understands that due to the employment situation it

was difficult to fill vacancies, especially on a temporary basis, but the men inducted in recent months received the same amount of salary as two men who were taken in on competitive examination and who have been on the force two and a half years. We find that the failure to raise the pay of the latter men contributed to dissension in the Department.

(4) We find that most of the cities in Connecticut have a police pension system and that the pension idea is increasing. We find that Fairfield is the only large town in Fairfield County without such a system and that a pension bill covering at least the police and firemen should have been adopted by the Commissioners and presented and urged at the 1943 Legislature. We find, however, that the Commissioners knew in October 1942 that the police and firemen were contemplating a bill for a pension for themselves; that upon the advice of the Town Counsel the Commissioners opposed the bill and suggested a bill for all town employees; that the police bill was not presented before the time had elapsed for presenting the bills; that the bill for all town employees was presented in time in skeleton form and then withdrawn; that the police and firemen's bill was raised in committee, that it was modeled after the Westport bill, among others, and to become law only after approval of a town meeting. The bill was opposed in Hartford by Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Comley and was supported by very many in person and by letter. It failed to pass and the citizens were deprived of a chance to vote on the bill. We also find that the Westport bill is satisfactory to the Westport Selectmen, the Chief and Town Counsel.

(5) The police officers on September 3rd gave a written statement to the Commissioners that they would work under Lieutenant Shaughnessy only under protest, and Lieutenant Shaughnessy was thereafter suspended. On the 13th of September the Republican party held its caucus in the High School. At that time there had been no indication that the officers would not carry out their duties so long as they were not under Lieutenant Shaughnessy and at that time there were available about 255 special police and town guard sworn to maintain order, but we find that Mr. Ferguson, as Chairman of the Police Commissioners, requested the State Police to attend the caucus to maintain order. The presence of the State Police had been requested in the past for certain occasions but only with the knowledge and consent of the Chief. This request was made without the knowledge or advice of the Chief and constituted, in the opinion of this Committee, a needless affront to the local Department.

From Page #25 of the "Committee of Four" Report:

Findings with respect to the Police Department

The Police Department consists of fourteen men, including the Chief. With the exception of the four new men taken on this summer, the majority were inducted either after years of experience as constables or upon examinations varying in thoroughness. The majority seem very much interested in police work and conscientious and able in carrying out their duties. The Chief and individual members of the force have been complimented by the Police Commissioners and the Prosecutor of the Court of Common Pleas for detective work and the preparation of cases

on appeal. The Prosecutor of the Town Court, the men themselves, and Chief Bennett, commend the men as a group. -----

The "Committee of Four" felt that the Department was undermanned due to the loss of men in the armed services and it was also difficult to get qualified men because of the high wages paid in the industrial plants in the area. The then present force of fourteen men was compared to other towns.

Comparison of present force of Fairfield with other towns:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Number of citizens per Officer</u>	<u>Number of acres per Officer</u>	<u>Per Capita Cost</u>
Westport	818	1,240	\$4.19
Darien	588	560	5.50
Stratford	1,250	565	2.90
Milford	833	600	3.90
Fairfield	1,465	1,468	2.40

They felt also that the police headquarters was inadequate for present personnel. There was very limited space for the public. More room for interviewing those accused and the witnesses was needed the report recorded. The toilet facilities were those used by the public and were at some distance from the Officers quarters. There was no detention room and the locker rooms were inadequate. All facilities should be increased they believed -- the undermanned department should be increased by Civil Service exams, and the pay should be increased. The fire calls were believed inappropriate for the police switchboard.

The recommendations of the Committee were:

1. Dismiss Lieutenant Shaughnessy permanently.
2. Mr. Ferguson disqualify himself from acting at the hearing by Police Commissioners of charges against Lieutenant Shaughnessy - ask Judge Webb to sit with other two Selectmen.
3. A bill setting up an independent Police Commission be presented to the 1945 Legislature, and that in the interim one man shall be appointed by the Republican Town Committee and one man appointed by the Democratic Town Committee whose duty it shall be to sit

and advise with the Police Commissioners at each meeting during this period.

In November, James Kranyik became acting Chief of Police and he was appointed Chief on February 1, 1944.

On January 5, 1944 Acting Chief Kranyik reported that they had received a letter of thanks from Carlton Palmer regarding the prompt action about a complaint at his home. The Commissioners voted: "that the Chief and the man place the money in a fund they may have for such donations."

Officers Philip Ganser and Frank Grywalski went into the armed services this month.

On January 12, 1944 the Board passed the following resolution:

Be It Resolved: "that Acting Chief Kranyik and Acting Lieutenant Neary be given authority to allow such men in the department as care to work overtime the opportunity to do so at their regular rate of pay. This permission is given with the understanding that this overtime will be allowed until further orders as outlined in their letter of January 12, 1944.

Resolved: "that James Kranyik and John Neary be continued in their present positions as Acting Chief and Acting Lieutenant."

Moved: "that Officer Schick be promoted to Acting Sergeant."

Moved: "that salary of Acting Chief be \$2,900 retroactive, Acting Lieutenant Neary \$2,800 retroactive, Officer Schick, now Acting Sergeant \$2,770 beginning the 12th of January."

On January 31, 1944 the question of filling vacancies in the Police Department was discussed and it was:

Voted: "that if possible a sufficient number of men be hired to bring the department up to full strength - 18 men. All applications must be in the applicant's own handwriting and must be in the hands of the Board of Police Commissioners not later than February 14, 1944, giving age, military or police training, if any, education, age not to exceed 39, length of residence not less than two years in Fairfield, physical examination required, the cost of which will be borne by the Town of Fairfield after the Board has interviewed the applicants and passed upon their qualifications. Salary to begin \$2,100 with increases of \$100 yearly at the discretion of the Board. Men will be appointed with the understanding that they can remain as members of the Police Department until such time as the regular officers return from duty with the Armed Forces of the United States provided their services are satisfactory in accordance

with a vote of the Police Commission on June 14, 1943 when it was decided to hire four men on the same terms. The Police Department heads to be notified of the Board's action."

Moved: "that Acting Chief Kranyik be appointed Chief of Police; Acting Lieutenant John J. Neary be appointed Lieutenant; Acting Sergeant Schick be appointed Sergeant."

Unanimously voted.

Beginning February 1, Chief Kranyik's salary to be \$3,200, Lieutenant Neary's salary to be \$3,000 and Sergeant Schick's salary to be \$2,770.

Voted: "that the Chief of Police of the Town of Fairfield be given tenure of office. He shall have no specified term of appointment but shall continue in office as long as he performs his duties satisfactorily and in accordance with the provisions of the Police Ordinance, and he may only be removed for cause which shall be only such cause as effects his efficiency as a Police Officer."

Voted unanimously.

Chief Kranyik was the first permanent Chief. He could not be removed from office unless there was due cause shown.

Later in February it was moved that all police cars be marked "Fairfield Police Department" using 1" letters, and 9 applicants were called in for durational appointments. In March, six men who qualified for vacancies in the Police Department were sworn in by Chief Kranyik and Lieutenant Neary and instructed in their duties.

The question of applying for deferment for police officers was again discussed as there was a possibility that pre-Pearl Harbor fathers would be inducted. The Board decided that there would not be any change in its policy of refraining from taking any action in the matter.

On February 18, 1944 at the Town Meeting Mr. Ralph Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Pierce J. Gerety, moved:

"WHEREAS the report of the Police Committee to the town meeting of October 20, 1943, pointed out certain defects and dissension in the administration of the Fairfield Police, and

WHEREAS the maintenance of unity and efficiency which will insure

adequate police protection for the Town of Fairfield requires the revision of the Police Ordinance of June 3, 1930, as amended, and

WHEREAS such revision will necessitate the consideration of approved standards of organization and administration of police matters and of merit system requirements, now therefore, be it RESOLVED:

1. That the police ordinance of June 3, 1930, as amended, be further amended to accomplish the purposes set forth in the second paragraph of the second item of the call for this town meeting, with exception of the section relating to the creating of an independent police commission, to wit: establishing a police department; defining the powers and duties of the police commission and providing for the adoption of a merit system in the police department; except that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the dismissal of anyone presently employed as a police officer or the demotion to a position of lower classification of anyone presently employed as a police officer.
2. That Miss Margaret Connors and Messrs. Bradford Boardman, Philo Calhoun, Ralph Hurd, Orson Kilborn and Richard Shea are hereby constituted a committee of this town meeting to be known as the Ordinance Revision Committee, to confer and advise with the members of the Police Committee and to draft an amendment to the Police Ordinance of June 3, 1930, as amended to accomplish the purposes set forth in this resolution, and such committee is instructed to present its draft to an adjourned session of this town meeting to be held on the 1st day of May, 1944, at 8 p.m.
3. That the Ordinance Revision Committee is authorized and empowered to obtain information from whatever sources it deems advisable and the Board of Selectmen, the Town Counsel and such other boards, commissions and officers as the Ordinance Revision Committee deems necessary are directed to cooperate with it."

Mr. Gerety explained the history of the Police Commission and explained why it was not advisable to attempt at this time to establish an independent Commission. He stated that a revision of the Ordinance would accomplish the setting up of definite rules for the governing of the Department as well as a Merit System.

Mr. Johnson Stoddard spoke in favor of the motion as well as Mr. Hurd and Miss Nichols.

On vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

The Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners on June 21, 1944  
record the following:

Present: John Ferguson, Joseph Youhouse, Nicholas J. Phelan

Voted: To contribute \$60.00 to the Bridgeport Policemens Benevolent Fund.

Voted: To approve that the sum of \$6.00 which was paid to John Fortuna for damages to his buildings by the parents of the boys who did the damage, be given to the Police Department for disposal as they see fit in the Police Fund.

Opinion received from Town Counsel Comley relative to the mandatory provisions, if any, contained in the Police Ordinance was read and discussed, and it was agreed, that copies of the opinion be made, so that proper study of the ordinance, in conjunction with Mr. Comley's opinion could be made by the Police Commissioners. The opinion to be made part of the minutes of this meeting, and it is as follows:

"I have your letter in which you state that the Board requests my opinion as Town Counsel with respect to the following matters in the revised Police Ordinance adopted at the May 1st, 1944 Town Meeting, to wit:

Page 8 Section 3, Page 9 Section 2, Page 11 Section 1, Page 15 Section 1, Page 19 Section 3, Page 21 Section 2, Page 24 Section 2, Page 25, Section 1.

The opinion you seek is important not only with respect to the power of the Town Meeting to direct the manner in which the Board of Selectmen shall administer the affairs of the Police Department; it is also important from the standpoint of providing a precedent in connection with any further attempts on the part of the Town Meeting to direct other town officers in the performance of their respective duties.

I have carefully examined the so-called 'Home Rule Act' sections 300-391 of the General Statutes, Revision of 1930, to discover authority for directions such as are contained in the Police Ordinance. I find no such authority. On the contrary, a study of the history of the 'Home Rule Act' discloses that in 1913 the Legislature did grant to towns the authority to appoint commissions and define their administrative duties. Had that Act continued in force, there could be no doubt of the validity of most, if not all, of the provisions of the Police Ordinance. It appears, however, that by 1927 the towns had so much abused their power to appoint officers and commissions and define their duties, that the Legislature amended the 'Home Rule Act' and took such powers away.

I have discussed the present 'Home Rule Act' with some of the committee who drew up the present Police Ordinance. They argue that the Town still has authority to direct the Board of Selectmen in the performance of their duties. The argument, however, is so tortured and legalistic



that I am unable to give it any serious consideration.

On the other hand, section 303 of the General Statutes provides that the Board of Selectmen 'shall superintend the concerns of the town.' The statute clearly makes the Selectmen the agents of the law. They are not the agents of the Town in the performance of administrative duties.

In the case of State Ex Rel McDermott vs Wilkinson, 88 Conn. Page 300, in which similar circumstances arose, the Supreme Court said:

'The claim made by the relator, that the Selectmen were bound to obey the directions of the town meeting as the command of their principal, is not well made. They were acting in the premises - as agents of the law and not of the town. The town meeting was without power to dictate their action save as legislation may have conferred that power.'

It is my opinion that the Town Meeting has the power to "provide for police protection" by authorizing the employment of police officers and by appropriating funds therefore. The power to superintend, administer and regulate the affairs of the Police Department are vested solely and entirely in the Board of Selectmen."

Voted: to call next meeting on July 14, 1944.

The year end report on June 30, 1944 showed the following: James Kran-yik as Chief, 1 Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants (with one inactive due to illness), and 13 Officers. Seven men were now in the Armed Services. The mileage covered by all vehicles was 175,773.

In July \$75 was voted to send the Chief to the International Police Chiefs Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Men were still very scarce and in December once again the Board went looking for recruits. It was voted to publicize the six places available for the duration of the War. It was planned to waive certain usual physical and age requirements in making these temporary appointments after a medical exam. Seven of the applicants were thought to be suitable for the durational appointments.

The Commissioners were attempting to set up rules and regulations for the Department, and the minutes on July 31, 1944 show:

Present: John Ferguson, Joseph Youhouse, Nicholas J. Phelan

Voted: To buy a Dodge 2 Door Sedan for the sum of \$1,204 which includes a \$300 allowance for a used Chevrolet car which is to be turned in.

Voted: That the Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners check the rules and regulations of the Bridgeport Police Department and copy such rules and regulations as may apply to the Fairfield Police Department, and shall also take into consideration such suggestions contained in the comments of the Police Ordinance Revision Committee on page 8 of the report relative to section #3.

The Commissioners will discuss the Job Specifications from the above rules and regulations at the next meeting on August 14, 1944.

Voted: That the department use the Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook and forms published by the F.B.I. and that 10 copies be available in the Police Department

Moved by Joseph Youhouse: That the rules and regulations of the Police Department contain the following clauses: (1) vacations of 2 weeks in each year, one day off in 8 days; (2) a Police Department of the Town of Fairfield is hereby established which shall consist of a Police Chief, a maximum of 2 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants, 24 patrolmen; (3) Salaries, Chief from \$3,400 to \$3,900 max., Lieutenants \$3,000 to \$3,300, Sergeants \$2,700 to \$2,900 max., patrolmen in service over 3 years \$2,300 to \$2,650 max., patrolmen in service over 6 months but less than 3 years \$2,100 to \$2,200 max., patrolmen in service 6 months or less including probationary period \$2,000.

Any person of any rank within the Police Department, and any person of good moral character who shall have at least 5 years of police experience and is a resident of the Town of Fairfield shall be eligible for appointment to the office of Chief of Police. Appointments to the office of Lieutenant shall be made only from Sergeants or Patrolmen in the department, and appointments to the office of Sergeant shall be made only from Patrolmen in the department.

At such time and place the Board of examiners shall conduct oral and written examinations of all qualified candidates presenting themselves for that purpose, in manner and method consistent with the practice approved by the International Chiefs of Police or by the Connecticut State Police Commissioner. Applicants serving more than one year in the Armed Forces of the United States to be given a credit allowance of 5 points. Applicants serving more than 1 year in the Armed Forces of the United States in foreign service to be given a credit allowance of 10 points; and within two weeks after the conclusion of the examinations, the Board of Examiners shall report to the Police Commission the grade attained by each candidate. Such report to be open to public inspection.

The Board of Police Commissioners VOTED: "That previous to adopting any of the suggestions contained in Mr. Youhouse's motion that Commissioner Ferguson contact Mr. Wolfspenger, Civil Service Commission, Bridgeport, to ascertain what credits, if any, are allowed to applicants

for positions as Patrolmen who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

On January 22, 1945 the Police Commission Bill came before the Town Meeting and after a few minor changes was passed by those assembled in preparation to sending it on to the General Assembly in Hartford for final approval. It follows:

Section 1. Creation of Board of Police Commissioners: There shall be a Board of Police Commissioners in the Town of Fairfield consisting of five members. The Board of Selectmen, at its first meeting in the month of November, 1945 shall appoint five Police Commissioners; one to serve for one year, one to serve for two years, one to serve for three years, one to serve for four years, and one to serve for five years. At the first meeting of the Board of Selectmen in the month of November and each year thereafter, a member shall be appointed to the Police Commission to take the place of the member whose term expires at that time. In choosing members for the Board of Police Commissioners, not more than three of the Board as constituted shall be of the same political party. No person shall be appointed to the Police Commission who holds an elective office or other appointive office in the Town of Fairfield. Each member shall continue to hold office until his successor in office has been appointed. The Commissioners shall serve without pay.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of the Board of Police Commissioners:  
(a) The Board of Police Commissioners shall elect one of its members to be Chairman and one to be Secretary, fix the time and place of holding regular meetings, and adopt rules for its own procedure. Special meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or a majority of the members of the Board. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen for the unexpired balance of the term. A regular record shall be kept of all proceedings at each meeting of the Board and such record shall be available to the public at all reasonable times. Such records shall be kept by the Board of Police Commissioners in a safe place which meets the statutory requirements concerning the keeping of public records.

(b) The Board of Police Commissioners, except as provided in this Act, shall have all the powers and duties conferred or imposed by law on boards of police commissioners. It shall have general management and supervision of the Police Department of the Town of Fairfield and of all property and equipment used in connection therewith.

(c) The Board shall make all needful rules and regulations consistent with the general laws and this Act for the government of the Police Department and may prescribe suitable penalties for the violation thereof, including fines not to exceed ten days' pay, suspension for not more than thirty (30) days, demotion or removal from Office of any member of the Police Department violating the same. No member of the department shall be dismissed, demoted, or suspended for the per-

period of more than seventy-two hours until written charges have been preferred to which such member shall have a reasonable opportunity to reply. At the hearing on said charges he may be represented by counsel, and said hearing may be public unless the Commissioners shall unanimously determine otherwise, but if said hearing shall not be public, a stenographic record of the hearing shall be kept and a copy of the same upon request shall be furnished without charge to the member against whom charges have been preferred. Any person so demoted or removed shall have the right to appeal within fifteen (15) days from the order of demotion or removal to the Superior Court of Fairfield County.

(d) The Board shall have sole power to appoint and promote to all positions in the Police Department, subject to the provisions of Section A hereof. It shall fix the qualifications for and compensation attached to each rank and grade in the Department, and shall provide in the case of patrolmen not less than three grades of pay to be based on length of service and merit ratings as hereinafter provided. It shall, within the limits of the Town appropriation duly made, determine the number of officers and other employees of the Department of the several ranks and grades.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Chief of Police: The Chief of Police shall be the executive officer of the Police Department. He shall have authority to direct and control the conduct of all members of the Department, and disobedience to his lawful orders shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the Board of Police Commissioners. The Chief shall have power on his own motion to impose fines of not more than two (2) days' pay or suspension for not more than one week, for disobedience to his lawful orders or violations of the rules and regulations of the Department. He may recommend members of the Department to the Board for more severe disciplinary action. He shall keep such records as may be required by law or by resolution of the Board, and shall comply with the requests of the United States Department of Justice for information necessary in compiling uniform statistics of crime. He shall be responsible for the care of all property and equipment used in the Department.

During the absence or disability of the Chief of Police, the Board of Police Commissioners may designate a member of the Department as Acting Chief of Police to perform the duties of the Chief of Police.

Section 4. Merit System: All appointments and promotions shall be made on the basis of merit. Vacancies in any rank above the lowest shall be filled by promotion, provided a qualified member of the force applies for the position. If only one such person applies, his qualifications shall be determined by consideration of his merit ratings and by examination, each to weigh fifty per cent in determining the result. If the candidate passes the test, he shall be appointed. If two or more such persons apply, their qualification shall be similarly tested and the person passing the test who receives the highest grade shall be appointed. All vacancies in the lowest rank and all vacancies in higher ranks for which no member of the Department

possesses the qualifications shall be filled by open competitive examination.

Unless a list, nor more than one year old, of at least three persons eligible for appointment as the result of previous examination, is on file with the Board of Police Commissioners, notice of the existence of any such vacancy shall be posted at Police Headquarters and published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town. Such notice shall contain a description of the position or positions then vacant, and of the time and place at which the examination shall be held which shall be not earlier than seven (7) days after the last publication. Appointment to each vacancy shall be made from the three candidates who, having passed the current or any previous examination held within one year of the vacancy, rank highest on the list of eligibles. If, after notice as aforesaid, less than three candidates remain on the list of those passing such examination or examinations, appointment shall nevertheless be made from such candidates.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Police Commissioners forthwith to employ a person qualified by training and experience to install a merit rating system. It shall further be the duty of the Board to provide for the setting and grading of examinations and the consideration of merit ratings by the state division of personnel or by some impartial person or persons experienced in police work who shall not be a member or past member of the Police Department of the Town of Fairfield or a resident of said Town.

Section 5. Qualifications for Members of Police Department: No person shall be appointed a patrolman unless he shall be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the Town of Fairfield for at least two years next preceding the date of his application. Such person shall be of good moral character and reputation, and shall satisfy such requirements of age, physical fitness, education and experience as the Commission has established. He shall furnish such proof of his qualifications as the Commission shall require. The Commission may require that upon and after his appointment, a member of the Police Force shall reside in the Town of Fairfield for as long as he shall be a member of the Department.

Section 6. Appointment of Special Officers: Special Officers for the protection of specified private property and special traffic duty or for the preservation of peace, may be appointed by the Police Commission under such rules and regulations as the Commission shall from time to time establish. Such officers shall serve during the pleasure of the Board, and in any event for terms not to exceed one year unless re-appointed.

Section 7. Peddling, Auctions, Etc.: The Police Commission is hereby authorized to authorize peddling, auctions, sports, exhibitions and public amusements within said Town, and to establish reasonable license fees and regulations therefor not inconsistent with law provided that no such regulations shall be established or amended except after public hearing upon five days notice to be published in one or more newspapers having a circulation within the Town of Fairfield.

Section 8. Present Members of the Department: Nothing in this Act shall operate or be interpreted to effect the tenure of any officer or member of the Police Department heretofore legally appointed.

This Act shall become effective provided that a majority of the electors voting at the Town election to be held on the first Monday Of October 1945 shall give their approval.

This resolution came next at the same Town Meeting:

Resolved that: "the Police Commission Bill as prepared by Arthur M. Comley, Town Counsel, be and the same is hereby approved and that the Town Counsel be and is hereby authorized and directed to present a copy of the Bill as approved by this meeting to the State Legislature for adoption."

Salaries of the Chief, Lieutenant, and 2 Sergeants were discussed, and the Chief's salary was raised to \$3,500, the Lieutenant's to \$3,200, the 2 Sergeants to \$2,900, and the Mechanics to \$2,650. After the physical exams, only six of the seven were accepted. The Police Budget for the next year - 1945-46 - was set at \$69,755.

The ambulance mileage was set at 4,018 (having answered 257 calls) that year (1944-45); the service car went 1,756 miles, the 4 remaining cycles (all Harley Davidson) covered 22,612 miles, and the seven cars 127,892 miles.

Junior School Patrols were organized this year by Sgt. Murphy and safety talks were given in the schools by him. Seven hundred bicycles were inspected.

The schools and their number of patrol members were:

Sherman School	22	members
Grasmere "	14	"
Holland Hill "	12	"
Nathan Hale "	10	"
Washington "	14	"
McKinley "	5	"
Stratfield "	8	"
Lincoln "	24	"
Dwight "	6	"

There were 14 Officers, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and Chief Kranyik. Four of the fourteen were temporary Officers appointed for the duration of

the War because of the regular men being in the service of the United States Armed Forces. The population of the Town was 20,135 people at this time.

On July 13, 1945 the Police Commission minutes show that it was voted: "to defer any action on the request of Chief Kranyik to retain the Town Guard as special Policemen until the Executive Commission of the War Council has made its recommendations relative to the disposal of all property brought by the Town of Fairfield for defense purposes."

On September 4, 1945 the Police Commission asked the Chief of Police how vacancies in the Department were being filled and the Chief replied that the "trained men were working overtime and making up any lack of personnel in the Department."

The staff was still shorthanded because of the War and the men were working overtime to make up any lack of personnel in the Department.

On October 4, 1945, at the regular Town Election, the Police Commission Bill became effective and the following people made up the first Board:

Matthew R. Blish	to serve until the first Bd. of Sel. Mtg. in Nov. 1946
Charles Heine	" " " " " " " " " " " Nov. 1947
Earl R. Mortemore	" " " " " " " " " " " Nov. 1948
Frank W. Carroll	" " " " " " " " " " " Nov. 1949
Dimill L. Kinnie	" " " " " " " " " " " Nov. 1950

They held their first meeting on November 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Matthew R. Blish was chosen Chairman.

In January, 1946 \$2,962.50 was voted at the Town Meeting for uniforms and salaries of the police personnel.

I should mention the Special Police Goodwill Fund started by Chief Kranyik and his men. His credo was courtesy to all and often when people went away for a vacation and the police were asked to check the house upon their return they would send five or ten dollars to the department as a "thank you" - or perhaps after an ambulance call a similar letter would arrive. The Fund grew

to about \$1,000 when the department sponsored the Bernie Reynolds (a local lad) fight and cleared around \$20,000. This made a sizeable "Good Will Fund" which is still active today and is carefully managed by the regular members of the department for things outside the department -- perhaps a basket of fruit for an ill member or at time of need of another sort - or a retirement gift for another. It is now known as the Fairfield Police Benefit Association, Inc.

At the year's end - June 30, 1946, there were 16 Officers, plus Chief Kranyik, Lt. John Neary, Lt. Christian Schick and Sgt. Thomas Murphy. The department made 787 arrests that year. There were four fatal accidents, 323 ambulance calls, and Safety talks were given in all of the schools by Sgt. Murphy. The Chief, the Lieutenants, and the Sergeant had attended several State, County and Area Police meetings which had not been done previously.

In August there were several promotions: Lt. Neary became the first Captain in the history of the department. Officer Frank Grywalski was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Donal Collimore was also promoted to Sergeant.

I haven't said enough about the special police who are active also and meet once a month to be sworn in and are under the jurisdiction of the regular police. They wear the silver badge and have a certain amount of police training.

In December, 1946 Mr. Blish was re-appointed to the Police Commission for a term of five years.

One thousand seven hundred dollars were appropriated for a new ambulance the next month, and February, 1947 brought the Pension Plan for both the Police and Firemen in Town.

By June 30, 1947 there were 23 men - 17 Officers, 3 Sergeants, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, and the Chief. There were 267 ambulance calls during the fiscal year.



It is interesting to note that there are fewer items related to the Police Department mentioned in the Town Meeting minutes from here on - no doubt because the active Police Commission was doing their duty and handling details. The Representative Town Meeting was organized on November 19, 1947, having been brought about by the adoption of the Town Charter.

The June 30, 1948 report showed 1,109 arrests for the year, 311 ambulance calls, and a staff of 26 men -- Chief Kranyik, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants, and 20 Officers. The population of the Town was estimated at 29,000. Again the men attended several conferences and training sessions throughout the year. Constables were still being elected, four from each party being presented and the seven highest vote getters being officially elected.

June, 1949 showed 983 arrests, 304 calls for the ambulance covering 4,864 miles. The motorized equipment included 8 cars, a Chevrolet truck and the ambulance. The personnel remained the same as the preceding year at the top but had dropped to 19 Patrolmen.

On March 28, 1949 the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association met in Fairfield.

In January, 1950 Anthony Mastronardi was appointed to the Department. Parallel parking was initiated along the Post Road this year, and 3 new cars replaced 3 old Chevrolets. There were still 8 cars and they traveled 233,541 miles that year; the Chevrolet truck covered 3,810 miles; and the ambulance covered 5,334 miles. The Special Police were mentioned in particular for their service in 1949-50.

A state of emergency was declared by Chief Kranyik during the storm of November 1950 - Thanksgiving weekend. All police personnel worked many extra hours to see that citizens of the Town and their properties were protected. So much damage resulted from the extreme wind and rain.

In June, 1951 the annual report mentioned 25 Auxiliary Policemen as augmenting the 65 uniformed and trained Special Police Officers and the appointment of the first Policewoman Mrs. Irene M. Feher in October 1950. The mileage report continued to grow along with the population now set at 30,370. The ambulance covered 5,903 miles - the Chevrolet truck 4,699 - and the 8 cars 243,753 miles. There were 410 ambulance calls and 1,878 arrests made.

Many road signs were installed during the year. There were 4 Sergeants, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Captain and the Chief, along with 23 Officers.

In December, 1951 Mr. Blish was elected to the Police Commission for another five year term.

The following February the following resolution was passed at the Town Meeting:

"Whereas it is clearly demonstrated to the Town Meeting that the present building occupied by the Police Department and the Department of Education is grossly inadequate as quarters for both of these departments; and

Whereas the Town Meeting has considered various proposals for the location of and provision for quarters of these two vital departments of the Town;

It is Hereby Resolved that the Town Meeting would favor a request for approval of a frame building to be erected by the Town with all possible speed to house the Department of Education at a cost of not more than \$50,000 and a request that the present administration building be turned over completely to the Police Department for itself and the Town Court and that that building be altered to serve the needs of the Police Department and the Court with all possible speed." Carried.

The Board of Education had requested that the Police Department be moved.

The Forty Hour work week had become effective on July 1, 1951.

In June, 1952 the annual report showed that Officer George Lasko was assigned to the Detective Bureau this year and the total mileage covered by all vehicles was 268,753. There were 1,535 arrests and the personnel roster included 25 Officers, 6 Sergeants, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Captain and Chief Kranyik.

On August 18, 1952 it was moved and seconded: "Resolved, that the Board of Police Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for and supervise the construction of a new Police Headquarters and Town Court building at the so-called Legion Field on Reef Road substantially in accordance with plans prepared by Herbert C. Elton and Fred C. Anderson, Architects, dated July 30, 1952 and presented to this meeting; and said Commission is authorized and directed in the name and on behalf of the Town to enter into contracts necessary or desirable for the carrying out of the foregoing purpose and to expend not more than \$85,000 which was appropriated for the construction of such a building in the budget for the 1952-53 fiscal year."

Mr. Horton, Chairman of the Police<sup>Commission</sup>, explained the proposal stating that there was already a garage at the location and that the expense of moving wires would be considerable and that the present driveway could be used.

Mr. R. P. Henry suggested a site on the Post Road.

Mr. W. Steig suggested a site near Town Hall.

Mr. Cudmore suggested a larger building and further study and seconded by Mr. J. R. Finch moved "that the matter be referred to the Standing Committees on Parks and Recreation, Finance, Public Works and Highways, and Public Health and Safety for consideration, reports to be made to the next Town Meeting."

Mr. Johannsen and Mr. Bruel spoke in favor of the building in behalf of the Town Court.

There were further questions and suggestions. Mr. Gerety stated that there were no restrictions on the property.

Mr. Stoddard of the Standing Committee on Public Works stated that his committee approved.

Mr. Christie of the Police Commission explained the history of the project and stated that the Commission was satisfied that the building would

be satisfactory.

The vote was: 7 For  
27 Against

After further discussion Mr. D. B. Smith moved the previous question, and on vote this was carried.

The construction of the new building began in December, 1952. Records show that there were 36,000 people in Town at the time. The year-end report of the Police Department showed that there were 1,713 arrests, 383 ambulance calls, 9 patrol cars, with a roster of 39 men - the Chief, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, and 31 Officers. Mileage for the year amounted to 301,442.

In September, 1953, with much rejoicing, the Department moved into the new headquarters on Nichols Street. Officer Patrick Carroll was assigned to the Detective Bureau; Sgt. Philip Ganser was transferred to the Youth Bureau; Sgt. Thomas Murphy passed away in May. He had become a real friend of the children of Fairfield and had done much to help boys and girls in the Fairfield Schools appreciate the importance of safety for their own well-being. As a tribute to Sgt. Murphy, the children of Sherman School gave and had planted a Dogwood tree in his memory in front of the new Police Headquarters. A suitable plaque was placed at the base of the tree.

The annual Junior Patrol Picnic was held June 19, 1953 and was supervised by Sgt. Philip Ganser. The nine automobiles covered 334,639 miles and the ambulance answered only 367 calls that year. There were fewer arrests too that year -- only 1,686 but there were 706 warnings.

The Detective Bureau was formally recognized as a special area of the Department and three of the men were listed as serving in that capacity - Joseph Reed, George Lasko and Patrick Carroll. In addition to the Chief, there was 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, and 28 Officers.

In 1954-55 the Department conducted an F.B.I. pistol practice course for all members of the Department under instructions of Agents James Tenant and Lloyd Goodrow for the first time. Detective Joseph Reed and Officer Anthony Mastronardi were promoted to the rank of Sergeant in September, 1954. The annual Junior Police Picnic was held in June, 1955 and supervised by Sergeant Philip Ganser and Officer Thomas Lennon. There were 2,070 arrests that year and 430 ambulance calls answered. The 9 patrol cars covered 325,692 miles, and the Department held an in-service training course for all members. Several of the men attended conferences and clinics on police work during the year.

1955-56 brought some promotions. On July 1, Lieutenant Schiok was elevated to Captain of the Detective Division; Sergeant Philip Ganser was made Lieutenant of the Uniform Division and Officer Thomas Lennon was promoted to Sergeant in charge of the Youth Division; and Officer Zadravitz was assigned to the Detective Bureau. The population of the Town was about 43,000 people. There were 2,325 arrests made that year, and the ambulance calls numbered 460. The F.B.I. pistol practice and an in-service course on all types of firearms took up two days in September of this year, and all members were involved at some time during the two days. The drug situation was beginning to raise its head and Detective Patrick Carroll and Detective George Lasko attended a course held in Bridgeport during the month of April, 1956. More and more the Department was stretching out - attending seminars, clinics and conferences on the many phases of police work.

1956-57 saw the number of arrests drop to 1,978 - quite a decrease, and the ambulance calls decreased to 446. There were 11 patrol cars now, which may have helped decrease the number of arrests. A 1952 Station Wagon was purchased this year to replace the old 1939 maintenance service truck. The total vehicle mileage was 342,641. The new Headquarters was still of great interest, and Sergeant Thomas Lennon conducted numerous tours thru the

Headquarters for both adults and children. He also gave Safety talks at all schools, stressing especially the importance of bicycle safety and the registration of bicycles.

This year also brought the construction of the Connecticut Thruway which presented many traffic problems to the Town. It required assigning special patrols to control the hundreds of trucks that were continuously hauling fill, to prevent overloading, spilling and violation of motor vehicle laws for the protection of the safety of the residents.

In April, 1957 the Department purchased a Radar Speed Meter device. It was immediately put into operation. It was a portable unit manned by two Officers and set up at various points throughout Town. The device was purchased to cut down on speeding, to "protect life and limb" in the Town. During this period - April thru June - no arrests were made with the radar - warnings were given to violators. The Department felt it only fair to give the people an opportunity to know that the Radar Speed Meter was in use. This could also account for the noticeable decrease in arrests for the year.

The Department Staff continued to grow with: 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, 1 Policewoman, and 35 Officers in the Uniform Division, and 1 Captain, 1 Sergeant, and 3 Officers in the Detective Division, and of course the Chief in charge over all.

The year end June 30, 1958 report showed still a further drop in the number of arrests - down now to 1,866 -- the Radar machine was helping. The ambulance calls numbered 451. One new car was purchased and it was a combination style - station wagon and ambulance. The vehicle mileage was 391,016. Many members of the Department attended conferences and courses on such topics as Finger Printing, Traffic Control, Radiological Work, Stolen Autos, Safe Driving, Narcotics, Investigation, Law Enforcement, and

**Light Rescue.**

The personnel in the Uniform Division showed: 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, and 35 Officers. Captain John Neary of this division passed away in April of this year after serving the Town since 1930. Chief Kranyik was still in charge. Lieutenant Philip Ganser was promoted to Captain of the Uniform Division in May to fill the place of Captain Neary. The Investigation Division with Captain Schick as the Commander was made up of: 1 Detective, Sergeant and 3 Detectives, Philip Fracassini having been assigned there in December, 1957.

Sergeant Lennon of the Youth Bureau reported an increase in the number of juveniles referred to Juvenile Court and there was also an increase in the number of complaints involving juveniles. Additional work was initiated with the school children and new activities planned. Sergeant Pressley of Charlotte, North Carolina Police Department was brought to Fairfield and conducted his Traffic Safety Circus featuring his highly trained dogs. The Junior Police Band presented a concert at Roger Ludlowe High School in May and marched in the Memorial Day Parade. There were 300 Junior Police Safety Patrol members. There were again tours of the Police Headquarters by the school children, and 500 bicycles were registered. He also reported that 18 crossing guards were employed to do traffic duty at various dangerous intersections in the Town.

The personnel in 1959 again increased, as did the population of the Town. The Uniform Division listed: 1 Captain, 4 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, 1 Policewoman, and 37 Patrolmen. The Investigation Division was made up of Captain Schick, Detective Lieutenant Joseph Reed, Detective Steve Zadravitz, and Detective Philip Fracassini. There were 1,896 arrests, and the ambulance was sent out 404 times, while the station wagon ambulance was used for 55

additional calls. The Youth Bureau was even more active in 1958-59. There were two assemblies in each school that year, and during the Fall of 1958 the Police Athletic League was formed, the Sergeant in charge of the Youth Bureau serving as the Director. A Drum and Bugle Corps of 35 members was organized and Patrolman Andrew Tuba was in charge of this activity. P.A.L. also took over the Junior Rifle Club, consisting of 50 members. The P.A.L. Band Concert was held in the Spring. Every effort was being made to keep juvenile delinquency down in Fairfield.

The Town of Fairfield had grown to 45,290 in 1960, and the June 30 report of the Police Department showed 2,072 arrests, 388 ambulance calls using the ambulance and 89 using the station wagon ambulance combination. The annual Police Shoot was held in August. Sergeant Carroll was recommended by the Department to attend the F.B.I. Police Academy in Washington, D.C. for a three month course and he was accepted. On June 8 he graduated and was then assigned as the Police Department Personnel Training Officer. The Investigation Division was supervised by Captain Schick and was made up of: 1 Lieutenant Detective, 1 Sergeant Detective, and 2 Detectives.

On July 1, 1951 Sergeant George Lasko was assigned to head up the Youth Bureau, replacing Sergeant Carroll. On October 1, 1959 Officer Tuba was also assigned to the Youth Bureau. Again activities in the Youth Bureau were increased. All playgrounds were visited in July, and bicycles were inspected. There were three safety assemblies held in each school, and the Symphony Orchestra was added to the musical groups sponsored by P.A.L. The P.A.L. Rifle Club had use of the indoor range at the Army Reserve Building on High Street. P.A.L. entered a team in the Babe Ruth Baseball League and captured first place in the League. The Department was doing everything possible to keep the juvenile delinquency rate low. There were 19 adult crossing guards



supervised by the Youth Bureau.

Arrests for 1960-61 totaled 1,747, and there were 390 ambulance calls; and in addition, 99 using the station wagon-ambulance vehicle. Total ambulance mileage was 3,905. The patrol car mileage amounted to 413,159. In-service training for all personnel was conducted by Sergeant Carroll. The Youth Bureau was especially active and added a Bowling program and Archery Team to its P.A.L. activities. It also added two new crossing guards to the list because of the need for one near the construction site of the new Holy Family Parochial School and the increased traffic at Reef Road and Oldfield Road. There were 21 now.

Civil Defense was becoming more and more active in working with the Police Department. They reported 18 sirens in place making the warning system effective. The feeling was that the system was adequate. They had also established an emergency communications system should there be a nuclear attack. In addition, information on private shelters for protection from radioactive fallout was available and being distributed. The staff of the entire Department consisted of Chief Kranyik, 4 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants, 1 Policewoman, and 34 Patrolmen, commanded by Captain Ganser in the Uniform Division, and 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, and 2 Detectives commanded by Captain Ganser in the Investigation Division; and in the Youth Bureau - 1 Patrolman with Sergeant George Lasko in charge.

The Town's population in 1960 was 45,290.

James Kranyik retired in December, 1961 after 18 years as Chief of Police in the Town of Fairfield.

Philip J. Ganser was appointed Chief on December 13, 1961. This year on Memorial Day, 1962, the Department started a Boat Patrol on Long Island Sound. The Patrol was scheduled for 5 days a week throughout the summer. There were 14 cars now in service as well. A Service Bureau was

also set in operation this year headed by Lieutenant Lennon.

By Ordinance, permits were necessary for various and sundry affairs - Fairs, Auctions, Bingos, etc. The Detective Division issued 182 permits in 1961-62. In December, 1961 the Dog Warden was placed under the Police Commission and 3,162 complaints were investigated and 20,400 miles were covered by the Dog Warden. In February two more cars were added - one being a fully equipped station wagon used for an ambulance.

There were several promotions during the year in addition to the appointment of Captain Ganser becoming Chief. Lieutenant Reed was promoted to Captain of the Detective Division on April 26, 1962. Lieutenant Mastronardi was promoted to Captain of the Uniform Division. Sergeant Chervansky became Lieutenant in the Uniform Division. Sergeant Carroll became Lieutenant in the Detective Division. Patrolman Mastroni was promoted to Sergeant in the Detective Division, and Patrolman Kessler became Sergeant in the Uniform Division.

In the Youth Bureau section of the report we find that there were 25 members on the Executive Board of P.A.L. - there were 35 Junior Safety Patrol members and 21 crossing guards were helping at busy intersections. P.A.L. units boasted the following memberships:

Drum and Bugle Corps.....	110
Junior Symphony Orchestra.....	70
Senior Symphony Orchestrs.....	75
Baton Twirlers.....	130
Bowling Teams.....	60
Rifle and Archery Teams.....	55
Babe Ruth League Baseball Teams	15

The Annual Junior Safety Patrol picnic was held in June.

Civil Defense was gaining in strength and concern. Their purpose was clearly stated with "the Civil Defense operation is one which in time of disaster coordinates all town facilities into one unit for the most effective use of all personnel and equipment so as to provide prompt

protection, rescue and cleanup returning the Town to normal status in the shortest time possible." The group met regularly the first Monday of each month in the Civil Defense Center and obtained equipment of various sorts from time to time. At this point the organization consisted of: 1 Director, 1 Deputy Director, and 4 Assistant Directors.

There were 1,147 arrests during the year for the entire Department - 453 ambulance calls which covered 2,833 miles. The station wagon ambulance vehicles were beginning to show their worth for the ambulance mileage was down. The patrol cars covered 428,676 miles.

The Police Department was granted funds under Federal Project APW Connecticut 17G for alterations and additional rooms to the Police Building in 1962-63. It was recorded in the report that the new addition would take care of the police needs anticipated in growth for the next ten years. This year the Boat Patrol completed its first year of operation and now was setting out to provide a police patrol on the waters seven days a week instead of the initial time.

There were numerous in-service courses offered to the personnel of the force and speed limits on all Town roads were certified by the State Traffic Commission. The Department also had secured a fully transistorized radio communication system. The patrol cars traveled 462,527 miles, and the ambulance answered 524 calls. Total arrests made were 1,590.

The Dog Warden investigated 2,785 complaints and impounded 455 dogs. The Detective Bureau investigated 862 cases during the year 1962-63.

Lieutenant Carroll instructed recruits at the Connecticut Chiefs of Police School at the State Police Academy in Bethany on three occasions.

Sergeant Kessler, as Commander of the Youth Bureau, reported that his division had followed up 727 complaints. There were 375 Junior Police in

Town, and the P.A.L. had added a Dance Band and a Bell Lyre Corps to its activities for youngsters.

Civil Defense had set up 17 individual service organizations under one Deputy Director and four Assistant Directors. They had stocked two locations in Town with survival equipment, some of this being United States Government surplus.

Chief Ganser reported on June 30, 1964 that there was continuous patrol coverage of the 32.1 square miles of the Town, the men being organized on a three shift around the clock schedule which changed every two weeks. Each tour of duty was supervised by a Lieutenant (Shift Commander) assisted by the Sergeant on duty at the complaint desk. The Town was now divided in six radio car patrol areas and one foot patrol area. The three station wagon ambulances were on patrol at all times. New decals bearing the Town Seal in gold and black were placed on all police cars at this time; and the new police building addition was dedicated on August 10, 1963. A preventive maintenance program was also adopted with the establishment of a stock room of tires and car parts in the police garage.

The Marine Division was patrolling all navigable waters of Long Island Sound between Bridgeport and Westport Town lines, and their coverage of inland waters included: Southport Harbor, Pine Creek Channel, Ash Creek, and Ash Creek Boat Basin. A new 26-foot Luhrs Sea Skill had been purchased.

The Special Police Auxiliary Division of the Police Department was used extensively during the year to cover church traffic posts, maintain order at Town beaches, boat yards, etc., Captain Lennon being in charge of this responsibility.

A Civil Defense Shelter had been set up in the Town Hall and meetings were being held there.

A new truck for maintenance containing a three-way radio built to specifications, a new ambulance replacing the ten-year old one, and nine new police cars were all acquired this year - 1963-64. There were 1,697 arrests during the year.

Civil Defense set up an Emergency Center at the former Nike site and a 40-foot tower was placed on top of the Greenfield Hill firehouse to help the warning system. Twelve locations had been established as fall-out shelters. Big wheel antennas were installed at the Town Hall Control Center.

The total Police personnel totaled 60 strong now. Nicholas Stassola was assigned to the Detective Bureau on January 1, 1964. Captain Mastronardi headed the Uniform Division. Detective Captain Reed headed the Detective Division and the Youth Bureau. Captain Lennon was in charge of the Special Service Division.

During the year 1964-65 an award was presented to the Town because there had been no pedestrian fatalities in four years, a record to be proud of. The total mileage for the year was 529,242 for the police vehicles. There were 637 ambulance calls answered. Four station wagon type ambulances were on patrol all the time with the regular ambulance on standby as needed. A civilian clerk was hired for the first time. There were 1,843 arrests, the Detective Bureau making 120. The Marine Division had completed its third year, and Officer Louis Malasics was in charge.

There were 10 new vehicles purchased. One of the new ones - a station wagon complete with a stretcher and emergency equipment - was placed in the Stratfield Section.

The Youth Bureau added a Talent Unit to its already lengthy list of opportunities for the children of the Town. The Dog Warden answered

2,969 complaints and Civil Defense continued to be very active. The Town's population stood at 53,500.

I have only taken this rich history of an extremely important Department of our Town Government through June of 1965. There is more - much more - that could have been written but time has run out for me. I hope this may be helpful in some way some time to somebody. I'm sure it will prove interesting reading both now and in the future to the staff. It is a small way for me to say thank you to a great group of gentlemen who have often stood ready to help both me and our children in my years of service in the Fairfield Public Schools.

*Elizabeth Banks MacRury*

Elizabeth Banks MacRury  
February 2, 1974

*Prepared at the request of  
Chief Anthony Marchionni*

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*Reid 3/1/74*  
*AJW*