

Email: clevelandpolicemus@roadrunner.com

1300 Ontario Street Cleveland, OH 44113 216-623-5055

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"Christmas Eve"

By Bruce J. Boutall, Former Superintendent,
Criminal Record Department

It was the night before Christmas, 1937. Snow was falling on the hurried throngs that passed us and down Euclid Avenue. Eyes and teeth flashed in smiles, all jolly with infectious joy at the coming of Christmas Day. Out in the street a police car cruised slowly, the men idly watching the crowds.

Suddenly they stiffened to attention. Over the cold, crisp air a radio broadcast was blaring. "All cruisers, attention. A 'Fanny Farmer' store at East 106th Street and Euclid Avenue has just been held up and robbed. No description of the robber, who was seen boarding a Euclid Avenue street car, headed for downtown. That is all."

Sergeant Martin Cooney and Detective Mason Nichols looked at each other blandly. They talked it over as they rode, scanning the cars that passed them with helpless glances.

Cooney was muttering: "Why would he want to get on a street car? Crowded, of course – but too slow for a get-away. Hm-m-m – wonder what was in that guy's mind?"

Nichols sat up very straight. "Hey – wait - ! Marty, that guy isn't so dumb. Listen, I got a hunch – I'm going to turn around. What do you bet he's coming downtown for bigger stakes?"

Cooney opened his eyes wide as his companion went on. "Look, you take the 'Fanny Farmer' store at Euclid and Ninth and I'll take the one at Euclid and Sixth. Betcha five bucks one of us nails him! Those candy stores are doing a big business this time of year!"

The other man nodded his head, considering. "Yessir, brother, I think you've got something." Then deciding, "Burn it up, son! We won't have much time to get set!"

Nichols dropped Cooney off at Ninth and went on down to Sixth, parking around the corner. He hurried back to the tiny store.

Continued on page 2



“Christmas Eve” *(continued from page one)*

The length of this store was approximately 20 feet, and across from the best position he could take was a large plate glass window past which heads were bobbing continually. He shook his head, but somehow the thing must be done, if the showdown was going to be here.

He informed the girl in charge of the five young girls in the place of what had just transpired. Instructing the excited girls took a moment or two before he passed behind a swinging door into the service room.

Waiting in there alone was the hardest part of the entire business. “Wonder what Helen would say if she knew what I’m up to?” he grinned. “Oh, well,” more soberly, “It does worry a woman when she has a couple of kids to think of. Arlene and Dick are probably wrapping and hiding their Christmas packages about now.” He made a wry face. Hope I’ll be there in the morning to open ‘em.”

In about six minutes after the door had closed behind him, a man walked into the store with his hands in his coat pockets. He went briskly across the room to the cashier. Now he was in a direct line between the service room and the plate glass window.

“All right, girlie,” he said in a low voice. “Put the money on the counter.” She stammered, “Do you want all of the money?” and he, thinking that she was stalling time, repeated more loudly, “Yeah, all of the money,” unaware that he was repeating the phrase agreed upon to inform Nichols that a robbery was in progress.

The young plain clothes man stepped out of the service room with his service revolver in one hand and gold badge in the other, and said, “Drop that gun, Buddy, I am a police officer and I’ve got you covered.” But the man did not drop the gun. Instead, he turned the gun upon Nichols and pulled the trigger. There was a click of the trigger upon the percussion cap of the bullet, but the dreaded explosion did not come. The shell had failed to explode.

Nichols shouted that he would shoot unless the man dropped his gun. Desperate with excitement, he still could not kill in cold blood. Dimly he realized too, that should he miss, the plate glass window would shatter and probably injure some person passing by. The robber savagely pulled back the barrel of the automatic in order to eject the unexploded cartridge. As he did this and aimed again toward Nichols, the officer with a motion swifter than thought, fired a shot which pierced the eye of the robber and came out the back of his head.

As the robber plunged forward, still determined, he again pulled the trigger of his automatic – the weight of the dying body falling on the gun, welded the (exploded) bullet into the barrel.

Twice, in less than a minute, the life of the faithful officer had been spared, and so his fourteen-year-old daughter and his nine-year-old son had a Dad for Christmas.

The body of the foolhardy criminal was taken to the morgue. Fingerprints were taken, and one more parasite on society had paid a bitter price for his crimes.

**VISIT THE CLEVELAND POLICE MUSEUM
TO VIEW THE GUN USED IN THIS ROBBERY
IN THE “CONFISCATED WEAPONS” DISPLAY**

Automatic Pistol, .25 Caliber, 1918

Spanish copy used by Thomas Hogan

The bullet is jammed in the end of the barrel.

Reprinted from the CPHS NEWSLETTER,
December 1983, Volume 1, Issue 5; and
originally printed in the 1939-40 Yearbook of
the Police Masonic Fellowcraft Club of
Cuyahoga County.

From President Armelli

News & Views

This has been a good year and a busy year for the Cleveland Police Historical Society and the Cleveland Police Museum.

The membership drive that ended at the beginning of this year brought our membership levels to over 1000 dues paying members. Membership dues are the Society's main source of revenue. The increase in membership and a slight increase in other revenues allowed us to support the drive to build a National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington D.D.

Several members of the department attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new National Law Enforcement Museum (NLEM) on October 14th and presented a check for \$10,000 to help build the museum. Your Cleveland Police Museum has also supported the NLEM by sharing parts of its collection with the new museum.

The Cleveland Police Historical Society is planning to host the first ever conference of American police museums sometime in the first part of 2011. Cozens of police museums from New York to Los Angeles have been invited to attend. The purpose of the conference is to develop partnerships and share ideas that will be of mutual benefit.

The museum is still looking for a solution to its biggest long term problem and that is the lack of space. This problem has plagued us for several years and it is now critical. The lack of proper storage and work space is affecting other areas of the museum's function and, in fact is beginning to stunt our growth and potential for growth. This is the number one problem the museum board needs to address in 2011.

For those of you that have a desire to get involved in the Society and Museum there are several positions available on existing committees and there will also be several opportunities on new, soon to be formed committees. Contact the museum for more information.

There is a lot of work to be done to move our museum to the next level as a tribute and asset of the Cleveland Police Department. Our 1000 members expect and deserve no less.



From Corey R. Kregenow

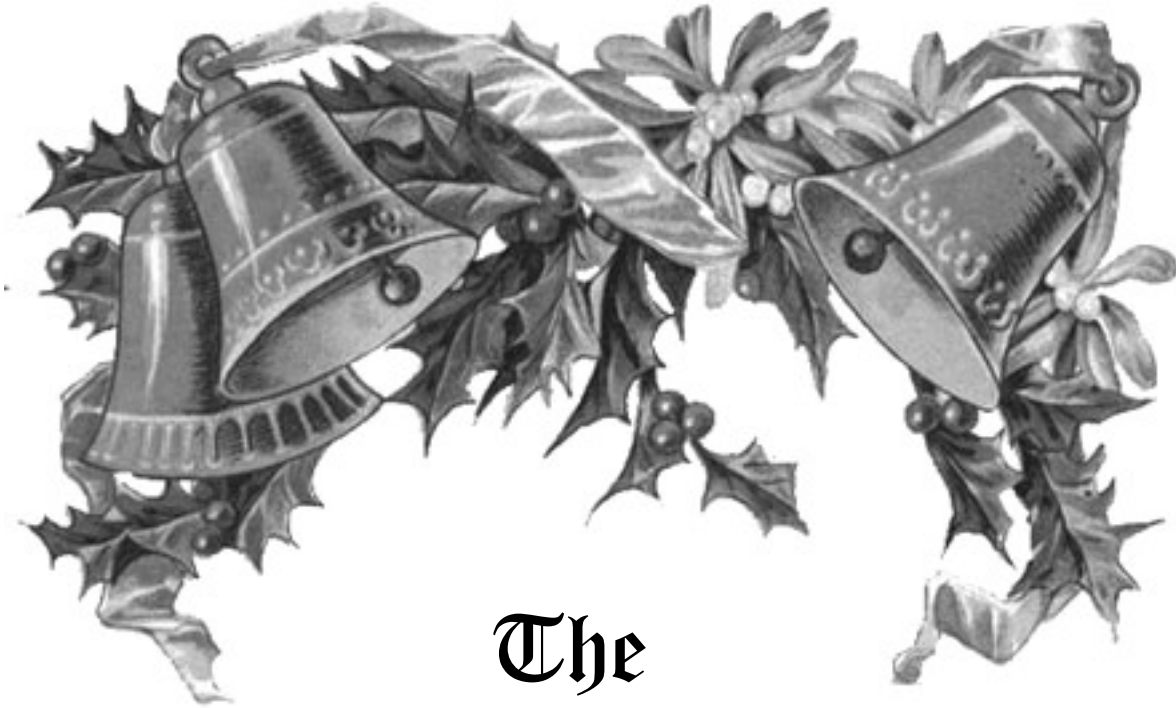
Curator

Greetings to all and Happy Holidays! Things have been pretty busy here at the Police Museum these past few months. A special thanks to all who made it out to see what's new around the museum this summer and fall.

We have been keeping busy at the museum processing request from the public as well as different branches of the media. We are currently doing work for "The Documentary Group" on a program that will be viewed by kids in schools across the country as well as getting images for promotional materials for the movie "To Kill the Irishman" about Danny Greene which is set for a release in 2011. We also have some plans for some new exhibitions that I will be working on and hope to get into the museum as soon as possible.

That's all for now but I want to take a moment to wish all society members a happy holiday season and New Year. It never hurts to make a resolution to visit the museum more often.





The
Cop Shop

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Books Clothing
DVDs Accessories

Cleveland Police Museum

1300 Ontario Street

216-623-5055

Free Admission

Open to the Public

Ceremony for Frank Dolezal

By Rebecca McFarland, Trustee

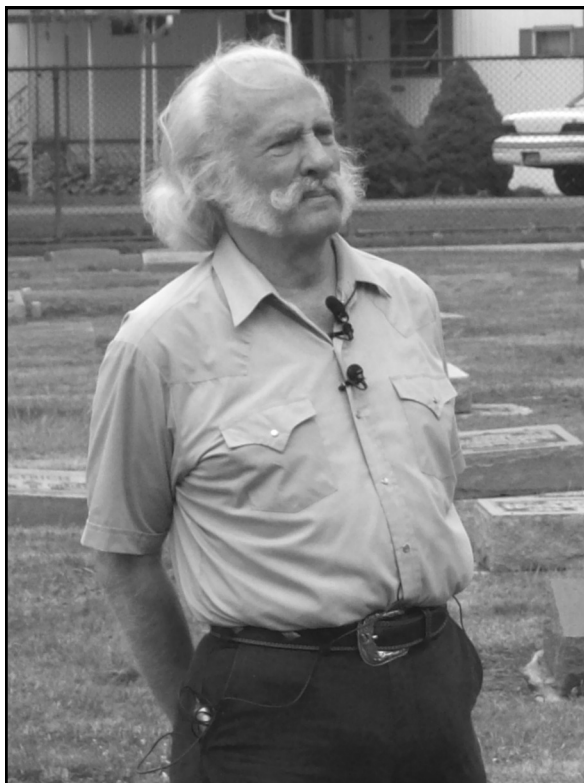
It's said that "dead men do tell tales" and with regard to the victims of the Mad Butcher of the Kingsbury Run, it could be true. A dozen drifters who lived along the railroad tracks of Kingsbury Run met their fate in a gruesome way, being butchered into pieces that were left around Cleveland to be discovered by the general public—including children.

On Sunday, August 22, 2010, a ceremony was held at West Park Cemetery, in Cleveland, to place a grave marker

For the man who was accused of those grizzly murders. Frank Dolezal was an immigrant brick layer whom the county Sheriff tagged as the perpetrator of this horrible serial crime. Recent evidence shows that he could not have committed these murders and that he was most likely murdered in jail as a case was built against him.

On August 24, 1939, Frank Dolezal died a broken man and was laid to rest in an unmarked grave at West Park Cemetery. Finally, that wrong was made right with a ceremony to take a different look at his life and the crime of this yet unsolved serial murder case that still haunts Cleveland.

A reception was held at Lago Restaurant in Tremont where Dr. James Badal, a trustee of our museum, premiered his new book dedicated to this subject, "Though Murder Has No Tongue." The book, published by Kent State University Press, is available at the museum.



Left: Dr. James Badal; Below: Dr. Badal and Mary Dolezal, grandniece of Frank Dolezal



Facebook.com

by Mark Wade Stone, Trustee

With the advent of social media—Facebook, MySpace, Twitter—Web sites will be taking on a role different than they did just a few years ago. The Cleveland Police Museum’s site—<http://clevelandpolicemuseum.org/> - has served us well over the last decade, but nowadays it does not have to be all things to all people. Our just-rolled-out Facebook presence—<http://www.facebook.com/clevelandpolicemuseum>—will serve to keep museum friends informed of up to the minute information and feature hand-picked photos from the museum collection. It’s the “new email” but with lots of extra functionality.

Currently under re-design, our museum’s Web site also will contain the Facebook postings, but will largely serve as something of an on-line museum and as a repository of archived Hot Sheet newsletters, photos, and text essays, and our ever-popular Cop Shop. Pay the site another visit in the coming months to watch for improvements.

And please join Facebook! Take part in this new, flexible and fun way to spread the word about the CPD’s amazing and storied past.



Cleveland Police Historical Society Annual Membership Application

Proceeds support the operation of the *Cleveland Police Museum* and expand the museum’s ability to serve the community

Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ email _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- () Individual \$52 () Sponsor \$250
- () Family \$78 () Sustaining \$500
- () Retired Law Enforcement \$25 () Corporate \$1,000
- () Payroll deduction (CPD & City of Cleveland employees) *We will send you a payroll deduction card.*

() DONATION \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

.. Check (payable to **Cleveland Police Historical Society**, 1300 Ontario, Cleveland, OH 44113)

.. VISA/MC _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____/____/____ Signature _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

All membership fees and/or donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Thank You to Our Many Donors

Contributions of Historical Material: Antoinette Hartman Gokorsch, Sergeant Charles Lane

Contributions of Goods or Services: Jim Briola/ Northcoast Sign & Lighting

Monetary Contributions: Mentor Public Library, St. Columbkille 50 Plus Club

Curator's Note: To our anonymous donors, please take the time to leave a note with your contribution. State & Federal Law requires us to document the provenance (ownership) of all of the items in our collection. Your identity will be held in the strictest confidence. I offer my sincerest thanks to all who contributed to the Cleveland Police Museum.

Please remember to include the
Cleveland Police Historical Society
in your will.

This assures the Cleveland Police Museum
of continued financial strength.

Our Mission Statement

The Cleveland Police Historical Society exists to collect and preserve significant police history and to use its collection and programs to interpret police history and to foster mutual understanding and respect between law enforcement officers and the public.

Meet the Author: James Jessen Badal, Ph. D.

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 Lakewood Public Library 7:00 p.m.

TRUE CRIME CLEVELAND:

In the Wake of the Butcher-Cleveland's Torso Murders

Twilight of Innocence-The Disappearance of Beverly Potts

Though Murder Has No Tongue-The Lost Victim of Cleveland's Mad Butcher

James Jessen Badal has a gift for turning true crimes from Cleveland's past into thoughtful literature. With a commitment to exhaustive research, Badal uncovers new clues, unfollowed leads, and unreported details that others have missed. Then, with a novelists' eye for detail, he brings his players to life with fully-rounded personalities, quirks, fashions and other incriminating traits.

Going to The Cleveland Playhouse?

Be sure to check out the Festival of Trees—and look for our Cleveland Police Museum tree. Thank you to Assistant Curator Corey Kregenow

If you would like to receive your copy of the *Hot Sheet* electronically, email your name, address and home email to:

clevelandpolicemus@roadrunner.com

Cleveland Police Historical Society
1300 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Hours: Weekdays 10AM-4PM
(216) 623-5055 Fax: (216) 623-5145
www.clevelandpolicemuseum.org email: clevelandpolicemus@roadrunner.com

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 Seasons
Greetings

