

HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

January-1993



The Lansing Police Department Celebrating 100 Years

By Patricia E. Heyden

Author of **Behind the Badge: The History of the
Lansing Police Department.**

The Lansing Police Department celebrates 100 years of service to the citizens of Michigan's capital city in 1993. When Lansing received its first city charter in 1859 the community and the police department evolved together.

Lansing's first law enforcement official, known as a city marshal, was appointed by the political party in power. The marshal and prominent businessmen appointed three watchmen to watch for fires and loiterers.

By 1893 Lansing's population had risen to 12,000, and a city charter amendment of May 1893 provided for the first six-member nonpartisan Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. Three Democrats and three Republicans were appointed by the mayor to the Board for varying terms

Continued on Page 2



Collectors' Showcase

Sunday, April 25, 1993 - Turner-Dodge Mansion

This exciting Society event will showcase local collectors and their collections. We invite collectors of local history to share their collections with us. If you are interested in exhibiting, or know of someone who is, please contact Dave Caterino (726-1157) or Craig Whitford (394-4443).

Mark Your Calendars Today!

The *HSGL Newsletter* is published bimonthly from September through May.
Articles and news of historical interest may be sent to the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901.
Linda Peckham, President. Tel: 517/372-3385.

of up to three years.

After adopting the first set of rules and regulations for the Lansing Police Department, the Board appointed the first chief of police and ten police officers. Each officer was administered the "oath of office" as required by law which granted the officer the power of arrest. The officers duties included preserving public peace, enforcing laws of the State within the City, enforcing all city ordinances and resolutions, and preventing crime and arresting offenders.

Changes in any police department necessarily reflect the growth and development of the community it serves. The communication system for LPD has moved from the first call box in 1905 to the 911 computer aided dispatch in 1992. The department developed one of the first auto patrols in the nation in 1909 forming a separate traffic division. Several separate units, such as detectives, the K-9's, Community Police, START Team, Community Services, and Dive Team, now provide special services.

Many traditions continue as Lansing police officers apply the laws and maintain the peace to earn the respect of the citizens they serve. HSGI

Postal History Notes

The Lansing Weather Forecast Cancellation

WEATHER FORECAST
FOR
TO-MORROW,
RECEIVED
APR 7 1896 5 P.M.
LANSING, MICH.
FAIR WARMER

Fig. 1

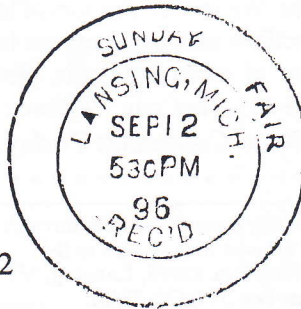


Fig.2

A short-lived experiment, during 1896-97, between the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau produced a unique receiving mark on all mail entering the Lansing post office. Commonly referred to as "Weather Cancels" this marking would be applied to the back of incoming mail that would in turn be delivered to the recipient with the weather forecast for the following day.

The device shown in figure 1 is an unaccepted "pattern" for the Lansing weather cancel. The device shown in figure 2 was the accepted design and appears on the back of most mail received in Lansing during the postal experiment.

The Perfect Gift . . . Local History

Bookshelf Suggestions*

*Books marked with a '★' will be available for purchase at the January meeting of the Society.

1878 Lansing City Directory

★ Under the auspices of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, board member Dave Caterino has reprinted and cross referenced Mudge's 1878 Lansing City Directory. The directory is indexed alphabetically by business and street. The reprint with index is 200+ pages. Available at \$15.00 (Add \$2.00 postage if ordered by mail).

Behind the Badge: The History of the Lansing Police Department

By Pat Heyden

★ This 256 page book features 85 photographs and illustrations, bibliography, glossary, index and a library binding. "Takes us on a historical walk through a century of police organization and development from its primitive beginnings to its current professional and technical excellence" - Noel Bufe, Director of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Available at \$22.98 (Add \$2.50 if ordered by mail).

Postmarked:

Michigan, Mich. 1847-1848

By Craig A. Whitford and David L. Mackey
★ This 27 page history documents the background, founding and brief existence of the town of Michigan, Mich. before being re-named Lansing. Among the illustrations featured in this monograph are several examples of MICHIGAN Mic. postmarked envelopes. Available for \$6.00. (Add \$1.00 for postage if ordered by mail). A portion of the purchase price is donated to the Society.

Michigan Montage

Portraits of a Picturesque Past

By Duane Ernest Miller

This work presents several historical portraits. Included are Stouthearted Men of Orchard Lake, *Noted Alumni of the Michigan Military Academy*; The Enemy Helped With Our Harvest, *POWs on Michigan farms during World War II*; War Bonds Launch a Fighting Ship, *Lansing and Ingham County sponsor a warship* and much more! Additional information and pricing may be obtained by writing Berlin Green Press, P.O. Box 18042, Lansing, MI 48901.

Give a Gift that Gives All Year . . .

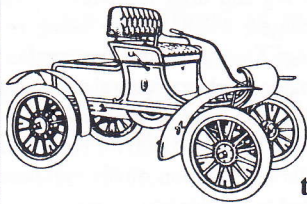
Membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

Membership Application	
<i>Historical Society of Greater Lansing</i>	P.O. Box 12095 Lansing, MI 48901
Annual membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is due by October 1, 1992 for the 1992-1993 program year. Please clip and return this coupon with payment.	
_____ New	_____ Renewal
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Enclosed: _____ \$10.00 Individual _____ \$15.00 Family _____ \$150 Life _____ Gift	
The <i>Historical Society of Greater Lansing</i> is a non-profit corporation, and we appreciate your support.	

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Presents

R.E. Olds Museum Tour



*A Ride Back In Time
at the Transportation Museum*

Come and Join us for a trip back in time and view
the first Horseless Carriage and other historic autos

**7:30 P.M.
Wednesday,
January 20, 1993**

**R.E. Olds Transportation Museum
240 Museum Drive
The Public Is Invited**



If this box is checked . . . **It's Time
To Renew** your membership in the
Society. A membership application
is enclosed.

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*
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Lansing, MI 48901

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