
TOLE
POLI
LIEUTENANT


TOLEDO

Police youth bureau squeezed for personnel

BY JENNIFER FEEHAN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Around the youth services office at the Toledo police division, the empty desks outnumber those in use.

The office, which handles child abuse and missing persons cases as well as juvenile offenses, has had its investigative force cut from 26 detectives in January, 1990, to 12 as of Jan. 1.

Also beginning Jan. 1, the office, which previously was staffed around-the-clock, closes at 4 p.m. everyday. Complaints involving juveniles and juvenile suspects brought in between 4 p.m. and 7 a.m. now are handled by detectives in adult investigations.

Police division officials say the cuts are a direct result of the shortage of police officers. Officials in youth services say the cuts mean the

was originally created to do.

"Originally this was the crime prevention unit and we did crime prevention," said Capt. William Burnside, who heads the section. "We no longer do that. We react.

"We're getting like the field operations bureau. Instead of going to the scene before the crimes happen, we're just sitting around waiting for someone to send us a report so we can act on it."

Captain Burnside said the youth services section was established in the 1950s as a way of reaching juveniles and minor juvenile offenders before they became adult criminals. Officers from the unit spoke regularly at city schools and worked with school officials on truancy cases and other problems that are now considered too minor to handle.

Juvenile Court Judge James A. Ray said he fears the reduction will mean more juvenile suspects will be charged and sent through the juvenile court system when that may not be the best remedy.

"The detectives in the juvenile section do an amazing job of screening kids and filing charges against the ones they believe the court can help and adjusting cases where they do not believe the court is needed," Judge Ray said. "I think what we

fewer of those adjustments and more cases where kids are just cited into court whether they are needful of the court or not."

Juvenile detectives frequently work with the juvenile offender to determine if restitution can be made for property damage or theft or to ascertain that the juvenile's parents or family plan to discipline the child. In those cases, filing charges through juvenile court is not always necessary.

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>
> **Ronald Jackson**
> *deputy police chief*

Judge Ray said detectives accustomed to dealing with adult crimes also may be unfamiliar with juvenile court procedures and with the mentality and sociological development of juveniles, which differs from adult offenders.

Deputy Chief Ronald Jackson, who heads investigative services, said detectives working afternoon and midnight shifts who have not

nile procedures by a command officer from youth services.

He said he does not believe there will be a change in how juvenile crimes are handled because detectives in the adult division will be handling some incidents.

"We are not de-emphasizing the importance of juvenile crimes," he said. "Juveniles commit the same kinds of crime that adults do so you do not always need a juvenile specialist."

Deputy Chief Jackson said detectives throughout the police division are becoming more generalized than specialized because the division simply "cannot afford specialists."

Robbery and homicide detectives were combined in January, 1990. Last month, auto theft detectives became general theft investigators. The child abuse squad also was abolished as of Dec. 1, although detectives in youth services continue to work on abuse cases. Previously, two detectives were assigned full-time to child abuse cases.

In the investigative services bureau, a bulletin board listing the personnel levels in each unit says at the bottom, "A good manager makes do with less." And while they may be making do, police division officials do not deny they are doing less.

"We're so short of personnel, we're simply going to have to utilize every person and prioritize cases as they come in," Deputy Chief Jackson said.

He defined high priority cases as crimes of violence, missing persons, child abuse, and significant losses of property.

"The detectives are going to have to be very creative in conducting these investigations and be very thorough with the ones they are given," he said.

Of all of the units within the investigative services bureau, though, youth services was hardest hit in 1990. And, while the youth services' staff has shrunk by more than 50 per cent, the number of complaints involving juveniles and abuse cases continues to grow.

The youth services section received 12,370 complaints in 1988 and 15,276 in 1989, according to statistics compiled by the police division. Through November, 1990, nearly 10,000 complaints had been made.

Lt. Shirley Green said youth services no longer handles reports of status offenses, such as unruly behavior. In the past, officers had time to talk to such juveniles and potentially make enough impact to deter future run-ins with police, Capt. Burnside said.

He said the crime prevention bureau, as youth services was originally known, was once a model for other police departments that wanted to start similar units.

"It was a shining example and it no longer is that," he said.

THE BLADE
One of America's Great Newspapers

Blazing a trail

2/17/2003
BY RHONDA B. SEWELL
BLADE STAFF WRITER

The 5-foot, 5-inch, gun-toting police lieutenant is about to conduct roll call for the noon shift of about a dozen Toledo patrol officers.

Standing behind a podium, her silky jet-black hair, curled at the ends just so, shines under the fluorescent lights in a second-floor room in the Safety Building downtown.

She adjusts her glasses and begins reporting on drug deals going down in a neighborhood, citizens complaining of heavy traffic on one street, recent house break-ins in another part of town. Without breaking the flow of her sentence, she says to a patrolman who is coughing, “You alright? You're never getting over that cold,” concern in her voice. That's just Shirley Green's way.

The 27-year veteran and first woman to reach the rank of lieutenant with the Toledo Police Department recently retired; she worked her last day on Feb. 12. That day, officers she supervised had her brought to work in a limousine. Patrol cars with lights flashing lined the street in front of the Safety Building when she arrived, and dozens of officers greeted her with applause when she walked in the door.

“She's a great role model to women and to men also,” said Officer Maureen Wade, 31, after Lieutenant Green's roll call. Officer Wade joined the force in 1993.

“November of '76 is when I hit the street,” recalled Ms. Green, who turned 49 today.

At that time, when the retired lieutenant was sworn in at the age of 22, there were few role models on the force for women, especially African-American. But there were some notable African-American women who broke new ground decades ago in the Toledo Police Department.

In 1922, the year the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which provided for women's suffrage, was declared constitutional by the Supreme Court, and the first female U.S. senator, W.H. Felton, was appointed to a vacant seat, one Toledo black woman was making her own national history.

Toledoan Esther B. Ferguson, born on May 10, 1896, is recognized as one of the top 10 earliest hires of an African-American policewoman in the country.

Toledo Police Department personnel records and a book by W. Marvin Dulaney, *Black Police In America* (Indiana University Press, 1996), are sources for information about the local history-

maker. Dulaney's book is the first complete history of blacks in policing from the Civil War to modern times.

According to local police records, Ms. Ferguson was hired on March 6, 1922. The move made the 26-year-old about the eighth earliest hire of an African-American policewoman in the United States. According to Dulaney's book, the first was in 1916 in Los Angeles; Pittsburgh's department hired a black policewoman in 1919.

Before joining the force, Ms. Ferguson's previous job was a manager of elevators. She later married, but was listed as a widow at the time of her resignation from the local department in January, 1931, making her tenure on the force just over nine years. Her badge number was 122.

Ms. Ferguson set the path for other early hires of black policewomen, including the late Dorothy Brown and the late Nina Hunt. Both were hired by Toledo in 1946 — a period still considered early for the hiring of blacks, either male or female, to city police departments.

Another Toledo woman, Ida M. Fox, is listed as the first black probation officer, hired locally in the 1930s. The first black Toledo policeman was Albert King, hired in 1900 — the same year that the city's first black firefighter, James Miller, was hired, according to retired educator Edrene Cole's 1972 thesis, “Blacks in Toledo,” for her master's degree in education from the University of Toledo. Mrs. Cole's thesis is frequently cited by historians, librarians, and the press for black history research.

Mrs. Brown and Ms. Hunt, who both said their police careers began by accident, worked in the crime prevention bureau for about 18 years before their retirement in 1974. Trained to be a schoolteacher, Mrs. Brown had just been discharged from the U.S. Army, and a friend suggested she apply to the division.

Ms. Hunt told The Blade in 1974 at her retirement that she applied to become a policewoman because a former husband and another friend thought she would be good at the job.

Like most female police officers assigned in the early years, their duties mainly involved juvenile delinquency and child abuse cases.

By the time Mrs. Brown and Ms. Hunt joined the force in the 1940s, they were members of the former women's bureau, which later was absorbed by crime prevention. They walked beats and worked on vice and rape cases, as well as juvenile and child abuse cases.

It was a friend who first encouraged Ms. Green to apply to be a police officer, but it was the retired lieutenant's father, Marshall Swan, whose footsteps she was actually following. Her father, who worked as a detective, primarily in the crimes against persons section, joined the academy in 1959 and retired in 1985 — just two years before Ms. Green was named Toledo's first woman police lieutenant.

About a week before her last day, Ms. Green, a divorced mother of one son, Michael Green, Jr., 29, sat at her desk with boxes filled with personal belongings. “They were actively recruiting women at the time. . . my son's godmother encouraged me to take the test, I felt I should go ahead and try because I was separated (Ms. Green married a month after high school graduation) and working as a bank teller.

“At the time the department was paying about $14,000 a year, which doesn't sound like a lot today, but it was more than I was making at the time,” recalled Ms. Green, who attended Spring Elementary School and graduated from Notre Dame Academy.

Ms. Green's father initially was “shocked” at the news that his eldest child of six wanted to join the force.

“Out of the clear blue sky I was buying her a doll one minute, and that went to a gun. I was constantly worried about her,” said Mr. Swan, who describes his daughter as an ideal eldest child and police lieutenant. The two get together regularly for breakfast chats.

Ms. Green and her father come from a long line of police officers. Mr. Swan's brother, Irving Swan, was a captain in Internal Affairs, and an uncle, the late Joe Carnes, also served with the department. Ms. Green now has two cousins, Robert Malone and Kathy Swan, and a cousin by marriage, Mary Swan, on the Toledo force.

Ms. Green said although she is proud of her place in local history as the first woman lieutenant, and of being a high-ranking woman of color on the force, she wants to be remembered more for her competence and fairness.

“I couldn't get caught up in the fact that I was a woman, you just had to do the job. When supervising I tried to never forget that I was once one of them [a patrol officer],” said Ms. Green.

Debbie Woodard, who retired last year from the department and now works as a case manager at the Zepf Center, recalls Ms. Green as a shy, unassuming young woman when the two entered the academy. Ms. Woodard and Ms. Green were the only two African-American women in their class of about 36, which had fewer than 10 women — and that was considered a high number at the time, said Ms. Green.

Ms. Woodard added that she and Ms. Green and other female officers benefited from a generation of women before them who fought for equality on the force, including the late Rose Reder, a white female officer who in 1969 was promoted to sergeant, becoming the first female command officer on the Toledo Police Department.

Sgt. Gloria Burks, who considers Ms. Green a mentor, said she connected with Lieutenant Green when she went through the academy in 1983.

“She was kind of an automatic role model. I had never seen a female officer before.

“Actually, I didn't consider the force as a career until after I met Lieutenant Green. I started watching her and seeing how she excelled and the respect she received from guys much older than her. When I met her she really made an impact on me,” said Sergeant Burks, whose husband, Gary, is also on the force. Like Ms. Green, Sergeant Burks, 42, will be eligible to retire at age 48.

Although leaving the force was an emotional move, she is excited about the next chapter in her life, Ms. Green says.

She is to graduate this summer from the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in history, and plans to also pursue a master's degree.

A genealogy and history buff, Ms. Green also is researching her family.

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO ■ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2003

Blazing a trail

Shirley Green, right, is the Toledo Police Department's first female lieutenant.

THE BLADE/LISA DUTTON

African-American women make history with the Toledo police

By RHONDA B. SEWELL
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BLADE PHOTO

African-American policewoman Nina Hunt, center, and Olive Casida, the first policewomen to be uniformed in Toledo, with Capt. William Gray in 1953.

THE BLADE/LISA DUTTON

Lieutenant Green issues equipment one afternoon at the Safety Building.

Trail

Continued from Page 1

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Police lieutenant studies the past

Toledo Police Lt. Shirley Green is top UT history student

6/15/2002

It might seem odd that a police officer would have such an intense interest in history.

More likely, one might suppose that a police officer in the halls of academe is there to study subjects along the lines of law or criminal justice, maybe.

But history? Why not?

Toledo Police Lt. Shirley Green is a stellar history student at the University of Toledo. She holds the 2002 Randolph C. Downes Award, given to the most outstanding student, based on grade point average and recommendations from professors.

This is unusual because she's a nontraditional student: Next month, she will have been on the Toledo police force for 26 years. Even the UT history department chairman was amazed.

“I've been here for 35 years and I can't remember the last time a nontraditional student had won it,” Dr. William Longton said.

Lieutenant Green, the police department's equal employment officer, was the first black woman to become watch commander in 1995. Yet she didn't acquire an appetite for history solely on her own. Anyone familiar with the police department years ago will recognize the name of retired police detective Marshall Swan, Lieutenant Green's father.

Like most parents with a bent in a particular area, Captain Swan made history discussions a routine part of family life.

“He talked about historical tidbits and would ask us questions that were geared to our ages,” she recalled.

Captain Swan didn't get to finish work on a history degree at Wilberforce University, but his daughter plans to obtain her bachelor's in history next spring, after she retires. Then, she'll seek a master's in history.

“I'll continue at UT because it has a good history department,” Lieutenant Green said. She has considered teaching history, but will stay open to other options.

Meanwhile, she'll keep making history come alive for her colleagues, who are quick to toot her horn and insist that she deserves a fellowship. The lieutenant notes the prerequisites, then

modestly says that a fellowship would be nice. Det. Liz Kantura was among those who surprised her by showing up at the awards dinner.

“She's amazing,” Detective Kantura said. “I've never been good at history, but listening to Shirley makes me want to take a history class. She knows so much detail.”

Some scoff at those who watch the History Channel, but not Lieutenant Green. Sgt. Gloria Burks didn't watch it until Lieutenant Green raised her awareness.

“She makes you want to know more about history,” she said.

When Lieutenant Green retires from the force, the department will lose a cordial, professional officer.

“Her shift is the one that most officers fight to get on. People want to work for her and want to do the job,” Sergeant Burks said.

Detective Kantura added, “She has a knack for communicating with people. When she leaves, a lot of tears will be shed.”

Yet her pursuit of history fulltime will be good for the discipline. When she retires, she'll leave more Toledo police officers curious about the past, and that's a good thing.

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Police roll to fall from start of '10

55 new officers won't fully offset 60 expected retirements

3/28/2011
BY IGNAZIO MESSINA
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Toledo Safety Director Shirley Green, with Police Chief Mike Navarre, said 30 police recruits expected to graduate next month and 25 more to be hired later this year will help the department deal with the 60 retirements expected by year's end.

By this time next year, Toledo will have 55 rookie police officers on its streets, but the force still will be smaller than it was at the start of last year.

The city currently has 541 police officers plus 30 recruits in the police academy who are to graduate next month.

Additionally, more than 1,000 people took the city's police exam last year and of those, 587 learned they had passed and could be eligible to be selected for the next class of 25 recruits who are to start 22 weeks of training on Oct. 1, said Shirley Green, deputy mayor for public safety and personnel.

"The [new] class keeps us from completely falling behind," Ms. Green said. "It allows us to maintain the services that we already have."

City police staffing levels have declined over the past decade, but Toledo is required to maintain at least 564 sworn officers or risk forfeiting a $7.1 million grant from the Justice Department's COPS Hiring Recovery Program that allowed the city to rehire officers laid off in 2009.

Ms. Green said the recruits in training now and the new hires later this year will be necessary to help deal with the loss of about 60 officers expected to retire by the end of 2011.

A younger force also will mean lower overtime costs for the city because the new hires won't have as much vacation time, will be paid less, and will contribute more toward their pension plans than current veteran officers do, she said.

The city budgeted $2.09 million for police overtime last year and spent $1.9 million.

This year, the proposed police overtime budget is about $3 million. That figure includes paying officers deferred unpaid overtime from 2010, which inflates the number by about $2.3 million. That deferment was used to help balance the 2010 general fund budget.

Ms. Green said the police academy at Owens Community College has a decades-long history of training.

"We want to prepare them to work in the city of Toledo and I don't think our residents would expect anything less," she said. "Most major metropolitan areas hire and train their own police officers for a variety of reasons, including to be sure they are familiar with local laws and regulations."

Toledo has, at least once in the past, hired an officer from another nearby police department and put that person through an "accelerated police academy," Ms. Green said.

Civil service rules require anyone, including experienced officers, to take the city's entrance test. They must also pass physical, medical, and psychological tests plus a standard background check.

The cost to develop an officer includes the beginning salary for the duration of academy training, plus about $8,000 per officer for uniforms and equipment. The city pays Owens $25,000 a year for use of its facility, which is used year round for other training.

Councilman D. Michael Collins, chairman of council's public safety, law, and criminal justice committee, said a reduction in police would mean trouble for the city.

"There will be a net loss, since I anticipate at least 50, and as many as 60, retirements in 2011," Mr. Collins said.

"In the summer of 2011, with at least 30 fewer than we had in 2010, that will have a dramatic effect on response time. We will probably have to assess our calls for service, as to what requires an emergency response and what does not."

Mr. Collins, a retired police officer and former president of the patrolmen's union, said the Bell and Finkbeiner administrations should have done more to keep police manning levels higher.

"This eventuality has been known for the past three years, and the previous and current administrations have basically failed to address it," he said.

Contact Ignazio Messina at: imessina@theblade.com or 419-724-6171.

THE BLADE
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Irving Swan; 1925-2013: Police captain led fight for job equity

8/3/2013
BY MARK ZABORNEY
BLADE STAFF WRITER


Swan.

Irving Swan, a retired Toledo police captain who was a leader as black officers sought equity in hiring and promotion, died July 26 in his South Toledo home of kidney failure. He was 88.

He had diabetes and underwent dialysis the last decade, his daughter Stephanie said.

Mr. Swan retired in 1980 as a Toledo police captain. He was president of the Afro-American Patrolmen's League in April, 1969, when the Ohio Civil Rights Commission found probable cause of discrimination by the city in denying him a promotion. He said he'd taken promotion tests over 15 years, only to be bypassed in favor of white officers, some of whom had lower scores. It was the third favorable ruling for black Toledo officers in two months. He was promoted to sergeant in May, 1969.

"He was a quiet leader. He did what he thought was right," said his niece Shirley Green, Toledo director of public safety and personnel and a retired Toledo police lieutenant.

Her late father, Marshall Swan, who became a detective, joined his brother as a founding member of the patrolmen's league.

"They basically opened the doors for myself to become a police officer, for me to get promoted to the rank of lieutenant," Ms. Green said.

U.S. District Judge Don J. Young later ruled that Toledo's promotion requirements were discriminatory. The court retained control over hiring and promotion practices for years afterward.

Mr. Swan joined the police force in 1949. An uncle, Joe Carnes, was his partner early in his career. In 1957, the gun of another partner discharged accidentally and struck Mr. Swan. As a result, his lower left leg was amputated. He returned to duty with a prosthesis.

For much of his career, he worked in the records section, although he returned to street duty as a command officer, his daughter said. As a captain, he oversaw the internal affairs and inspections sections.

“People looked up to him,” Ms. Green said. “He was a very stable influence, whatever section he commanded.”

He was born Feb. 28, 1925, to Helen and Ivan Swan. He was a graduate of Woodward High School and a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a longtime member of Spring Street Baptist Church.

He and the former Carolyn McCown married Oct. 13, 1949. She died Jan. 25, 2013.

Surviving are his daughters, Stephanie DeJournett, Kathie Swan, and Yolanda Grace; sons, Jeffery, Mark, and Roger Swan; sister, Shirley Williams; 20 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at noon today in the Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, where a family hour is to begin at 11 a.m.

The family suggests tributes to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Contact Mark Zaborney at: mzaborney@theblade.com or 419-724-6182.

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2 mayor's office officials submit resignations

11/15/2013
BY IGNAZIO MESSINA
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Green

THE BLADE
Buy This Image

Two top Bell administration officials said Thursday they submitted their resignations effective the moment Mike Bell's term expires the evening of Jan. 2.

Green

Herwat

Deputy Mayor of Operations Steve Herwat and Deputy Mayor/Safety Director Shirley Green made their resignations official.

Neither Mr. Herwat nor Ms. Green said they were asked by Mayor-elect D. Michael Collins to stay with his administration.

Mr. Collins, a district councilman from South Toledo who defeated Mayor Bell at the polls last week, said he would notify city directors when they could reapply for their own jobs.

Fire Chief Luis Santiago would likely be part of his administration, Mr. Collins said. He has not named other top officials, including a chief of staff.

Mr. Collins said he would not hire two officials who worked under former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner: Bob Reinbolt, the former chief of staff, and John Bibish, who was once finance director. Both supported Mr. Collins over Mayor Bell.

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'OLD SPARKY' AT POLICE MUSEUM

Toledo Police Museum exhibit looks at electric-chair use

Local cases shown in new display

11/1/2016
BY RYAN DUNN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Jodi Francis of Holland, with her niece Bailey, 3, and nephews Camden, 9, and Ayden, 10, look at the electric chair replica at the Toledo Police Museum's exhibit.

THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER
Buy This Image

A minor South Toledo car crash in 1957 so angered Bennie Collins that he shot the driver in a fatal case of road rage.

One year later, the state executed Collins in the electric chair. He was the 17th and final northwest Ohio convict put to death in the device nicknamed “Old Sparky.”

The Toledo Police Museum’s newest exhibit, “Tales from Old Sparky: Convictions that led to the electric chair,” showcases 14 such criminal cases from Toledo and Lucas County. It includes a loaned replica of the state’s original electric chair.

The electric chair was used to execute people in Ohio until 1963. The last local person killed this way died in December, 1958. Although the replica has no electrical setup, the real chair reached nearly 2,000 volts within 10 seconds and caused instant death.

Also on display is a history of capital punishment in Ohio and newspaper clippings from each of the local crimes. They illustrate how the public and news media reacted to the offenses at the time.

This exhibit helps educate the public about the history of crime and punishment, said Director Shirley Green.

“This is a period of time where the state of Ohio was going from hanging as capital punishment to the electric chair, which they thought was more humane,” Ms. Green said.

Ms. Green said organizers did not want to glamorize the crimes, but hoped to educate the public about the evolution of law enforcement investigations.

Museum volunteer Diane Miscannon said hosting the replica chair reminds visitors that life is valuable, and it’s wrong to commit murder. Her father, Officer William Miscannon was killed in the line of duty in 1970.

“If you knowingly and willingly take a life, you’re putting your own life on the line,” she said.

Among the museum visitors on a recent morning was Jodi Francis with her niece and nephews.

Ms. Francis, 45, of Holland said she supports the death penalty for serious offenses. She said the exhibit teaches youth the history of serious crimes in the city and the possible effects of criminal behavior.

“I think it’s a good exhibit to have here for the kids, to let them really see where we’ve been, where we’re going, and what we could go to next,” Ms. Francis said.

This exhibit is on display at the Toledo Police Museum, 2201 Kenwood Blvd. in Ottawa Park. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The chair is on loan for at least a year from the Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society.

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'An opportunity to compete': History of black police officers in Toledo

2/8/2019
BY KATE SNYDER AND GEOFF BURNS / THE BLADE

Shirley Green looks at the new exhibit about the history of African-American police officers at the Toledo Police Museum in Toledo.

THE BLADE/REBECCA BENSON
Buy This Image

Albert King made history 132 years ago when he became Toledo's first black police officer on Feb. 1, 1887.

Jacob Chandler was one of the only African-Americans on the force when he served Toledo police prior to World War II. His time with the city was cut short when he was killed in combat in Italy on Feb. 9, 1945, nearly 58 years to the day after Mr. King first broke the TPD color barrier.

Mr. Chandler received the Silver Star and Purple Heart posthumously and is the only known active Toledo Police officer to be killed in military action.

Their stories serve as bright spots in TPD's long history of integration. But running parallel to the legacy of officers like Mr. King and Mr. Chandler are stories of black police facing discrimination from their peers and fighting their own colleagues and department leaders for equality as they strived to protect, serve, and shape the city they called home.

Edward Harris was appointed as a substitute officer in 1907 and was the first black police officer to be promoted to command rank. In the years that followed, he would also be appointed to detective sergeant in 1912 and to detective lieutenant in 1914.

But he served during a time when racial and religious bigotry were the norm, and in 1913 he was demoted to patrolman and ordered to report to Lagrange Street Station as a departmental painter and handyman. His obituary, printed in 1949, highlighted one particularly demeaning job assignment: painting a police official's porch swing.

Today out of 621 officers currently on the TPD force, 73 are black, 44 are Latino, and six are Asian. That means that — in a city with a population that's more than a quarter black and roughly 37 percent non-white, only 12 percent of the police department is African-American and only 20 percent of officers are people of color.

It's a number city officials want to see improved, with police Chief George Kral saying he'd like to see black officers make up 20 percent of the force in order for TPD to truly represent the city.

"It starts with getting people of color in the door," Chief Kral said.

Recruiting minority officers to TPD has been a longstanding goal of organizations like the African American Police League, black officers themselves, and recent chiefs and city administrations.

But both the history of black police in Toledo and the current climate of policing in America make the matter a difficult task.

THE FIRST SEVERAL DECADES

Inside the Toledo Police Museum at 2201 Kenwood Blvd., a small but informative exhibit tells the story of early black officers' struggles to forge a place in a department — and a nation — often at odds with their hopes and dreams.

Black police officers were restricted to patrol beats in black communities and were forbidden from arresting whites during the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was normal for black police officers to be denied any rank above sergeant. It wasn't until the 1920s that the department increased the number of African-American officers in its ranks and hired the first female African-American officer.

Such practices remained commonplace for decades.

A Blade' article from August, 1955, told the story of how patrolmen Joseph Ben and Charles Hunt were demoted from detectives back to uniformed officers.

Even so, the officers professed relief to The Blade upon their demotion from the detective ranks — not because they looked forward to returning to their old beat, patrolling along Indiana Avenue from the 3-to-11 shift, but because of the hostility they had experienced within department ranks as detectives.

During their five months as plainclothesmen, 212 of their 387 fellow officers signed a petition protesting their promotion, which, according to The Blade's 1955 article, occurred "even though neither [man] had qualified in a competitive examination."

The official reason given for their demotion back to the patrol ranks: an "unauthorized procedure" that involved them escorting an "intoxicated woman from an Indiana Avenue tavern to her Pinewood Avenue home." The story does not specify if the woman in question was white or black.

"Both men spoke last night with bitterness of the experiences they had had as detectives, and charged that they were the victims of discrimination," the article states. "But, they added, they were glad to be back in uniform where 'we will not be continually watched and shadowed and under continuous pressure.'"

"For the most part, if you came on before [the late '60s] they worked in segregated units," said Shirley Green, director at the Toledo Police Museum. "We had black officers who worked with black officers and they worked in a black community. Of course, now you look and there are officers [of color] all over the place."

FORMING THE POLICE LEAGUE

A pivotal moment in Toledo Police Department history came in 1968 with the formation of the African American Police League. The group formed to address discrimination in promotions, assignments, and discipline.

Much of the league's early work culminated when members filed a federal lawsuit in 1972 that outlined the issues in the hiring and promoting process of black police officers. An ensuing federal decree mandated that doors be open to blacks and Latinos in the hiring and promotion process. Attorneys for the city law department and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality entered into a court-enforced agreement in 1974 with goals to increase the number of minorities in the police division and to change the city's hiring process.

Anita Madison, today's president of the African American Police League, said it took about 10 years after the consent decree was approved before more black police officers were hired and promoted in the department.

"There was active racism early on in policing, and that's not a surprise to anybody just like any other industry where black officers were faced with white officers not wanting to work with black officers," she said. "Even what's going on today with

symbolism and all kinds of [racism] that blacks are being faced with, whether that's with swastikas or KKK signs."

In 2002, the African American Police League filmed interviews with six former Toledo Police Officers about their time serving and why the League was needed.

Cornell Grant served from Oct. 1, 1965, to June 26, 1995. He said during his interview with the league that he became a police officer because there were very few black police on the department and thought he could make a difference in the community.

He said his first assignment was a walking beat for two years on the east side. Every hour he had to make contact with the sergeant and communications section by calling from the phone boxes on each corner of his beat.

"You don't walk beats anymore," Ms. Green said. "They had walking beats downtown and in different areas of the city."

Mr. Grant recalled that despite Roy Shelton, who was the first African American to be promoted to detective captain in 1963, there weren't any black role models to look up to.

"We didn't have any black commands on the street. After a while, you got to thinking there was a need for black commands," he said.

The League, he said, "gave us an opportunity to compete."

"That's all the officers wanted was to compete on an even field. If you study, pass the examination [you're] expected to be promoted. Before that there were officers who did pass the examination and were not promoted. The league gave us a voice."

The decree was lifted in 1996 by U.S. District Judge David Katz, who at the time said the police division consisted of more than 18 percent African-Americans and more than 6 percent Hispanics. Former Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner at the time said "court order or no court order, the city of Toledo will continue to select and maintain a very well integrated police force, pursuing a selection process that is quick and efficient and appropriately integrated to reflect the population of our city."

The African American Police League has more than 30 members today and continues to improve community and police relations as well as the relationship between the Toledo community and the police department, said Ms. Madison. The League also has a mentoring program to assist and prepare minorities interested in becoming a Toledo Police officer.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In December, 2014, a federal task force on 21st century policing was formed to identify "the best means to provide an effective partnership between law enforcement and local communities that reduces crime and increases trust."

The task force identified increasing diversity of the nation's law enforcement as a way to develop that trust.

"When people of color see people that look like them in the front seats of police cars, it adds legitimacy, it adds a level of confidence that may not be present if everyone is a white male," Chief Kral previously told The Blade.

Ray Wood, president of Toledo's NAACP chapter, said in September that communities of color — especially young people in those communities — need to see people who look like them in the police force.

"When police officers engage in the community, the community needs to know that there's somebody that looks like them, thinks like them, maybe has the same set of values, experiences, and realities that they've had," he said.

Recruiting people of color to be police officers is one step toward such goals, Chief Kral said. The other is encouraging minority officers to go after promotions within the department.

"We have one African-American lieutenant," the chief said.

In his opinion, the command staff needs more minority officers. But if officers like where they are, the chief can't force them to test for another position.

Thirty percent of the 65th academy class, which is scheduled to graduate in March, consists of people of color, Chief Kral said. That's a percentage he would like to keep in all academy classes going forward, though he pointed out that demographics shift. Nobody can be forced to become a police officer, and everybody has to be qualified to join the force.

But it's still important, he said.

Knowing and sharing the history of the department, and its officers, is fundamental to show the community — and potential future recruits — where the organization has come from and where people can help lead it, Chief Kral said.

To that end the department has recently featured the stories of Toledo first black officer — Mr. King — and Mr. Chandler's heroic death during World War II on its social media.

"We want to make sure we have a well-rounded police department," Chief Kral said.

Reached Friday by the Blade, Mr. Wood said he stood by what he said in September and added that, especially during Black History Month, young people of color need to hear and know that they can become leaders in their community.

“They can be police chiefs. They can be fire chiefs,” Mr. Wood said. “They can come up through the ranks of a profession that has respect and opportunity.”

Diversity is going to happen whether people want it to or not, he said. Most people in his community and in the country, in his opinion, have embraced it. What he would like to see is equality and inclusion become a natural way of life, and while he doesn’t think the community is there yet, it’s making progress.

“We may not be taking the leaps and bounds that we expected,” he said. “Baby steps count, too.”

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African-American genealogy help offered at UT

3/12/2019
THE BLADE

The University of Toledo is offering a free, public event to help members of the African-American community research their family histories through documents such as marriage certificates, military records, census data, and obituaries.

Leading the program will be Shirley Green, an instructor in the UT Department of History, retired Toledo police officer, and director of the Toledo Police Museum. The event begins at 5 p.m. March 20 in University Hall, Room 5260.

Members of the local African-American genealogy group Journey will also be present to answer questions.

LIVING

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO ■ SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023

ARTS: Director counts decades behind the scenes at St. John's **7**

SECTION F

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WOMEN of TOLEDO

3 women who left a mark on history in northwest Ohio and beyond

By **SHAYLEIGH FRANK**
BLADE STAFF WRITER

March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize and honor women who have made a lasting impact on society.

Toledo lays claim to plenty.

Consider Gloria Steinem, who shaped modern feminism beginning in the late 1960s. Or Mary Shaw, the first woman to be named a policewoman of the Toledo Police Department in the 1920s. And Toledo Public Schools continue to honor the legacy of Ella P. Stewart, whose impact goes beyond her role as the nation's first African-American female pharmacist.

Feminism and activism

Social-political activist, journalist, and feminist Gloria Steinem was born and raised in Toledo.

She attended Waite High School before moving to Washington, D.C., where she completed her senior year at Western High School. Then she went on to attend Smith College, a school she remains involved in today.

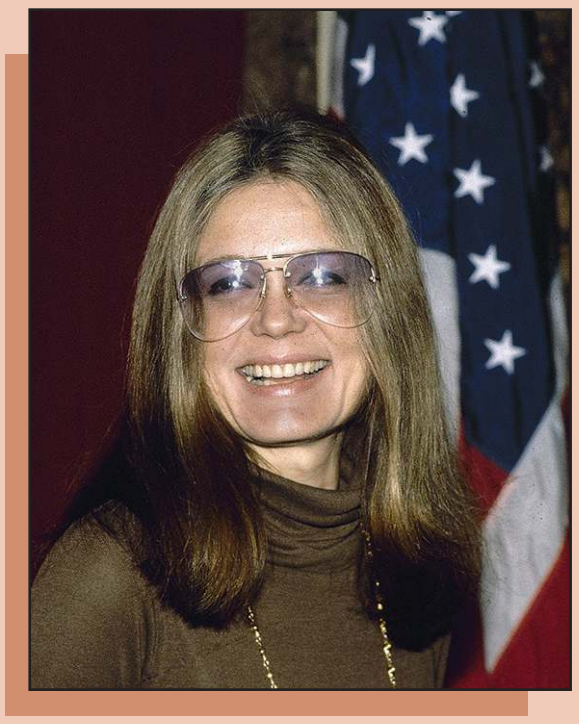
Ms. Steinem began to make a name for herself as a feminist leader in the late 1960s.

"One of the things that's so key about her approach I think is her journalistic perspective and that her writing was accessible," said Wendy Korwin, manuscripts curator for the Ohio History Connection. "It's not necessarily academic or obscure, but in writing for regular publications and then co-founding New York Magazine and Ms., she's really been a public figure who is so immediately recognizable."

Ms. Steinem's paternal grandmother, Paula Steinem, was also an icon in the feminist movement, Ms. Korwin pointed out.

"Paula Steinem was going around the state of Ohio and nationally. She was going to D.C. too, but giving talks, making her space known, writing articles and editorials on behalf of her causes," she said.

See **WOMEN**, Page F5



Gloria Steinem

Shirley Green

Ella P. Stewart

FOOD & NUTRITION

Borsch without a 't': Kyiv chef uses food to reclaim culture

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukrainian chef Ievgen Klopotenko carries a tray of pampushky bread in his kitchen in Kyiv, Ukraine.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Don't tell Ievgen Klopotenko that borsch is just food.

For him, that bowl of beet-and-meat soup is the embodiment of everything Ukraine is fighting for.

"Food is a powerful social instrument by which you can unite or divide a nation," said Mr. Klopotenko, Ukraine's most recognizable celebrity chef and the man who in the midst of a bloody war spearheaded what would become an unlikely cultural victory over Russia.

"It's our symbol," Mr. Klopotenko said. "Borsch is our leader."

If that seems hyperbolic, you underestimate how intrinsic borsch (the preferred Ukrainian spelling) is to this country's soul. More than a meal, it represents history, family, and centuries of tradition. It is eaten always and everywhere, and its preparation is described almost reverentially.

And now, at the one-year mark of the war with Russia, Mr. Klopotenko uses the dish as a rallying call for preserving Ukrainian identity. It's an act of culinary defiance against one of Moscow's widely discredited justifications of the war — that Ukraine is culturally indistinct from Russia.

Thanks to a lobbying effort that Mr. Klopotenko helped lead, UNESCO issued a fast-track decision last July declaring Ukrainian borsch an asset of "intangible cultural heritage" in need of preservation. Although the declaration noted borsch is consumed elsewhere in the region, and that no exclusivity was implied, the move infuriated Russia.

A Russian foreign ministry spokesperson accused Ukraine of appropriating the dish and called the move an act of xenophobia and Nazism.

But in Ukraine, where until a year ago Russian was as widely spoken as Ukrainian, the declaration legitimized a notion that many had struggled to express.

"People started to understand that they are Ukrainians," Mr. Klopotenko said recently while preparing borsch at his Kyiv apartment. From his living room window, the husk of a high-rise gutted by Russian missiles dominated the view.

"A lot of people started to eat Ukrainian food. A lot of people began to discover Ukrainian traditions," he said.

Mr. Klopotenko, 36, is an unlikely figure to grab headlines during a war that has left hundreds of thousands from all sides dead or wounded. But the television chef and restaurateur — recognizable by an unruly head of curls, rapid-fire dialogue, and

See **BORSCH**, Page F6

Women

Continued from Page F1

Influenced by her family and a personal experience with abortion as a young adult, Gloria Steinem took to speaking on reproductive rights.

"She stood up and was talking about abortion and reproductive freedom and being against the notion that those were things that someone should be ashamed of or regret as opposed to a generative choice for a woman in her life," Ms. Korwin said.

Before Ms. Steinem entered the journalism scene in the 1960s, she was already involved in nonviolent protests against government policies. As a journalist she covered topics related to women's rights and activism. She co-founded the feminist themed magazine Ms. in 1972.

"It became very popular," Ms. Korwin said. "The title really called attention to the fact that there was no honorary prefix for an unmarried versus married man."

Ms. Steinem's entire life's work circulates around feminism and politics, bringing her to the forefront in activism for women's rights as she continues to be featured in documentaries and give public speeches at colleges and universities.

Ms. Steinem's national reputation continues to influence generations of women and her work in fighting oppression across the board has left a lasting impact, Ms. Korwin said.

"The interrelated oppressions of the working class, of people of color, she worked on anti-apartheid movements, so even internationally. They all have something to say about feminism and they intersect in ways that I think were working throughout her life," she said.

Women in law enforcement

Law enforcement is a historically male-dominated field.

While it is more common to see women in positions of power in law enforcement today than it once was, Toledo saw a number of trailblazing women entering the field as early as the 1920s when Mary Shaw was appointed as the first policewoman in Toledo.

"City Council eventually passed an ordinance creating the position of 'policewoman,'" said Shirley Green, president of the Toledo Police Museum. "It was part of a movement that was going on nationally. They were starting to hire women to work in police departments to help deal with crimes involving children and women."

Many women would follow Ms. Shaw to the Toledo Police Department. Ms. Green herself made history as the first female lieutenant in 1989.

Ms. Green has since retired from the force. She received her doctorate at Bowling Green State University and now teaches as an adjunct professor of history at the University of Toledo and BGSU, where she is presenting a lecture about women in law enforcement across the United States on March 28.

It runs 4 to 5:15 p.m. in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union at 1001 E. Wooster St., Bowling Green, and is open to the public. "Basically my presentation will be just a general overview, a general history [of law enforcement] with a focus on the history of women policing on the Toledo Police Department since I have personal experience with that," Ms. Green said.

She reflected on her own experiences being a woman on the force.

"My father was a police officer and I have two uncles and two cousins that were also officers," Ms. Green said. "When you're in it and when you're actually doing the job, I don't think you really realize that you're first and that it is some sort of landmark or milestone. You just want to go out and do the job to the best of your ability."

Ms. Green said a number of women set the stage for her and her former female coworkers. Some of these women were Mary Young Gilley, Rose Reder, Nina Hunt, and Dorothy Brown.

"Dorothy Brown and Nina Hunt, even though I didn't know them, were pivotal to me and my classmate, another African-American female by the name of Deborah Woodard," Ms. Green said. "We would say, 'Hey, there were two before us and now here we are.' So it's always good to know there's someone that kind of blazed the trail before you."

Ms. Green said she sees her achievements as a signifier of her hard work and dedication to the field as well as a testament to the work of women who came before her.

"I don't think of it as making history. I think of it as just paving a path for others in that someone had to be among the first," Ms. Green said. "It's exciting. It's nice to be able to help if people reach out to you to give guidance like Sgt. Reder did for many of us."

Ella P. Stewart at the pharmacy she ran in Toledo until 1945.

The first in pharmacy

While Ella P. Stewart was not born in Toledo, she quickly became an important figure in the city's history.

As the first and only African-American female pharmacy owner in the United States in the 1920s, Ms. Stewart remained in business until 1945 when she sold Stewart's Pharmacy which was located on the corner of Indiana and City Park avenues.

"The pharmacy was downstairs and they lived above," said Shannon Carter, who's familiar with the late trailblazer's story as school counselor at her namesake Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls in Toledo. "Considering that time, people couldn't just come to Toledo and stay anywhere if they were African-American. They had to be put up in someone's home. Her house was the home that allowed people to come. From Marian Anderson, who was a famous opera singer, to Mary McLeod Bethune, W.E.B. DuBois, those people all came and visited her in her home."

Ms. Stewart graduated at the top of her class in grade school and won many scholarships to what was formerly known as Storer Normal School, now Storer College, in Harpers Ferry, W.V. She entered Storer at just 12 years old.

She began working as a bookkeeper for a pharmacy in Pittsburgh, where she discovered a passion for pharmaceutical work. Ms. Stewart went on to become the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

"She was denied several times from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, but she eventually did complete her degree and she started working in a pharmacy program locally," Ms. Carter said.

Ms. Stewart moved around from Youngstown to Detroit, until she found Toledo where she and her husband settled into their pharmacy business. Aside from her life working in the pharmacy, she also was a member of a number of local organizations.

"[She was in] things like the Ohio Association of Colored Women, the National Association of Colored Women's Club. She was a part of helping with charity for the YWCA, and she was a charter member of a sorority for the University of Toledo, Beta Lambda, and the Toledo alumni chapter for Delta Sigma Theta," Ms. Carter said.

Honoring her legacy of philanthropy, activism in civil rights, determination to succeed, and push for education, the Ella P. Stewart Academy for Girls opened in 1961.

"One of the phrases that she would often say is, 'Enter to learn and go forth to serve.' And that's something she would always say to the children at the school when it was first made in her honor," Ms. Carter said.

Ms. Green is set to host a screening and discussion of the documentary *Ella P. Stewart: Larger than Life* on March 15 at 6 p.m. in the University of Toledo Memorial Field House, 3000 W. Centennial Dr., Toledo.

"She never took no for an answer," Ms. Carter said. "She was a person who was diligent in making sure that her goals were met and achieved and she didn't let a no stop her."

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