

Unkle Merle D

Born June 14 1892

Appoint Dec 28 1917 3-nights with older men

Ass,d Dec 31 1917 Beat by Chief Henry J Herbert

Resigned Nov 11 1924 He opened a Private Detective Agency

Reinstated March 16 1925 By Civil Service Commission

Promoted May 4 1931 Det-Sergeant

Leave of Absence Feb 1 1936 He was appointed Chief of Police in

Reinstated Feb 1 1937 (Mansfield Ohio)

Promoted July 1 1937 Det-Lieutenant

Retired Feb 1 1941 Serving 23 yrs, He took 20 yr pension

Unkle, M.D.

COPY.

March 17th.1918.

Sergeant Glenn,

At about 5.15 P.M.Auto.No.2 took R.L. Peart from Licking and Front to StVincent's Hospital and had his leg dressed, He was accidentally shot in leg on Licking St., causing a slight flesh wound, we brought him to East Side Station and he went home on car.

Patrolmen Willeman & Epker,

Mar.17th.1918.

Lieutenant Reilly,

Sir:-

Officers Unkle, Zapf and Chilcote were detailed from 3 to 11 to raid some bootlegging places, Before Chilcote and Zapf came over Officer Unkle had picked up a friend of his who is a candidate for a Patrolman a Mr.R.L.Peart of 914 Woodville St.(who knew these places) to go with him, while getting a place at 277 Licking St., Unkle took a gun from the proprietress when he got out he dropped the gun accidentally when changing pockets, It discharged hitting Mr.Peart in the fleshy part of the leg, I ordered him taken to StVincent's Hospital in #2 Auto the wound was not very bad, He was soon back saying he was ready for another job, I believe this man has the right kind of stuff in him for a good Policeman and hope he will be appointed.

Respt.

Swindeman, Sergeant.

Mar. 17th.1918.

Sergeant Swindeman,

Sir:-

While getting a place at 277 Licking St. I took a gun from the proprietress, when I got out I dropped the gun accidentally when changing pockets, It discharged hitting Mr.Peart in the leg, we sent him to StVincent's Hospital in #2 Auto, The wound was not very bad.

M.D.Unkle Patrolman 166

Copy.

October 25th, 1921.

H. J. Herbert,
Chief of Police.

Sir:

I rode Erie - Ontario and Michigan, each, twice between 2.00 P.M. and 2.25 P.M. and could not see anything of Officer Unkle. I found him in Fay Kellys Tire Store on Erie St., When I called his attention to the matter, he said he did not give a dam and that he was only in there five minutes. I would have seen him on the horse if he had been on the street.

Respectfully,

Sergeant Britton.

October 27th, 1921.

H. J. Herbert,
Chief of Police.

Sir:-

In regard to Sgt. Britton's report of October 21, 1921, of turning me in for being in Kelly Tire Shop on Erie St.

I went in this place to get warm, as I was cold and did not have a coat on. I was only in this place five minutes, and as Mr. Kelly, the Manager of this place will testify.

I told Sgt. Britton to inquire of Mr. Kelly, as to how long I was in his place. He refused to talk to Mr. Kelly.

M. D. Unkle, Patrolman #144.

FRAZIER REAMS
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

JOEL S. RHINEFORT
PAUL W. ALEXANDER
THOMAS J. O'CONNOR
ARNOLD F. BUNGE
THOMAS S. BRETHERTON
HARRY FRIBERG
ASSISTANTS

OFFICE OF
THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
THE COUNTY OF LUCAS
STATE OF OHIO
TOLEDO

July 18, 1933

Mr. Daniel T. Wolfe,
Chief of Police,
Toledo, Ohio.

Re: DONALD BRUHL

Dear Chief:-

Thru the newspapers I have been advised of the fact that Officer Merle Unkle, who was detailed to bring one Donald Bruhl back from St. Louis to face charges here, did not arrive with his prisoner.

I have received no report from the officer or from your department on the matter. I am particularly anxious to receive such a report since the bondsman is particularly interested as he placed a mortgage on his furniture to raise the money to bring this prisoner back and he is not released from his obligation on the bond since the prisoner was not returned.

Your cooperation in all matters has been very much appreciated and I felt that you would be glad to make such an examination of this affair as you thought proper and give me a report thereon.

Yours very truly,

Frazier Reams
FRAZIER REAMS
Prosecuting Attorney

FR:A



Toledo, Ohio, July 18th, 1933.

Mr. Daniel T Wolfe,
Chief of Police.

Dear Sir:-

Donald Bruhl was arrested for Grand Larceny in Toledo on May 11th, 1933, and bound over to Grand Jury on May 15th, 1933, and was indicted on May 25th, 1933. He jumped his bond and on July 10th, 1933, he was arrested in St. Louis, Mo., and we were notified. He waived extradition.

On July 14th, Detective M. Unkle was sent to St. Louis to bring Donald Bruhl back to Toledo, Ohio for trial. Detective M. Unkle advises that he arrived in St. Louis, Mo., and signed for the prisoner at the police station, and placed handcuffs on him and went to the depot and boarded Wabash No. 4, leaving St. Louis at 8.50 A.M. He kept Bruhl handcuffed from that time until about noon that day. In order to let him Bruhl eat in the dining car, he removed the handcuffs, but as soon as the meal was finished he again handcuffed him, and returned to their seats in the train. Detective Unkle further advises that about the time they were 75 miles from Wabash, Ind., Bruhl became sick and he took him to the lavatory where Bruhl vomited, and then they again returned to their seats. Bruhl became ill several times later, and when they arrived at Wabash, Ind., about 4.45 P.M., Bruhl again became sick, and Detective Unkle removed the handcuffs and accompanied him to the lavatory, and Bruhl quickly entered the lavatory, and before Detective Unkle could follow, Bruhl slammed the door and locked it, and Bruhl jumped out of the lavatory window. Detective Unkle called the conductor and the conductor unlocked the door of the lavatory and it was then that Detective Unkle discovered he had escaped. The train was travelling about 25 miles per hour at the time that Bruhl jumped out of the window, and the conductor stopped the train and Detective Unkle searched for Bruhl, and then communicated with the Chief of Police, the railroad police and the sheriff at Wabash, Ind. Detective Unkle then went to Huntington, Ind. and communicated with the police at that point.

Detective Unkle is guilty of violation of Rule 6, Section 3, (Gross Neglect of Duty), and Rule 7, Section 3, (Carelessness in the performance of his duty). It is my opinion that Unkle need not have removed both handcuffs and should have had one on the prisoner and one cuff on himself, and Detective Unkle should not have left him get into the lavatory of this train without Unkle being with him, and Bruhl could not have done this had Detective Unkle removed only one cuff.

I recommend that Detective Unkle be reduced to the position of Patrolman.

Respectfully,

Louis J. Waas
Inspector of Detectives.

July 19th, 1933.

Mr. Frasier Reams,
Prosecuting Attorney,
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to yours of July 18th regarding one Donald Bruhl; below is copy of report made by Detective Unkle in regard to the escape of this fugitive from justice.

"On July 12th, 1933, I went to St. Louis, Mo. to return Donald Bruhl, a fugitive from our city, to Toledo, O. This man gave himself up to the St. Louis, Mo. Police Department and told them that he was wanted in Toledo, O. for grand larceny and bail jumping. He signed extradition waivers to be returned to Toledo, O. On July 14th, 1933, I arrived at the St. Louis Police Station where I signed for and took Mr. Bruhl in custody to be returned to Toledo. I put handcuffs on Bruhl, took him to the depot, got on No. 4 Wabash train going East, at 8.50 A.M., standard time. I kept Bruhl handcuffed from the time we left the police station until about 12 noon when I took him to the Dining car, unhandcuffed him for the purpose of allowing him to eat. I again cuffed Bruhl when we left the dining car and returned to our seats in the train.

About 75 miles before reaching Wabash, Indiana, Bruhl got sick. I took the handcuffs off of him and accompanied him to the lavatory where he vomited, then returned to our seats. He again got sick. This happened three or four times. Just as we arrived at Wabash, Ind., about 4.45 P.M., he again got sick. I uncuffed him and followed him to the door of the lavatory. He quickly entered the lavatory and before I could follow him in, he slammed the door, locked it and then jumped out of the lavatory window. I called the conductor and he unlocked the door and then discovered that he had escaped. The train was traveling about 25 miles per hour at this time.

The conductor stopped the train and I got off immediately, began a search for Bruhl. Immediately communicated with the Chief of Police, Sheriff, Railway Police, and state police at Wabash Indiana, requesting their assistance in locating Bruhl. I then went to Huntington, Ind., communicated with Chief of Police, Carl H. Bippincott. He and his department made every effort possible to locate Bruhl. We searched all train, bus lines going through this district, but were unable to locate him.

Notified Fort Wayne, Ind., to be on the lookout for Bruhl.

It is my opinion that Bruhl will return to Toledo after he visits his wife .

Altoona, Pa. authorities there have been notified to watch for him.

Bruhl stated to me that the reason which prompted him to give himself up was so that his sister, who went his bond, would not be held responsible. I believe that this man will come back to Toledo."

We regret that this report was not made to your office immediately upon the return of Detective Unkle, but we believed that we might be able to apprehend Donald Bruhl before this time and then we would be able to give you a complete report.

Trusting that the above covers your inquiry, we are,

Respectfully,

Chief of Police.

FG

POLICE DEPARTMENT
City of Mansfield, Ohio

MERLE D. UNKLE
CHIEF OF POLICE
MANSFIELD, OHIO

December 22, 1936

Honorable John N. Edy
City Manager
City of Toledo, Ohio

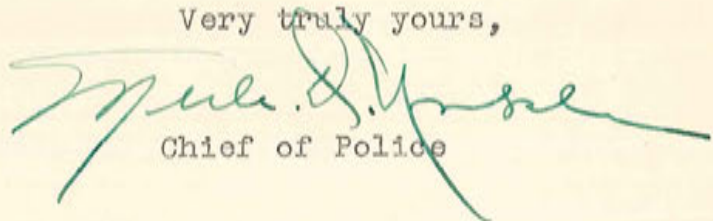
Dear Sir:

This will inform you that my resignation as Chief of Police, City of Mansfield, Ohio has been turned in and to take effect the thirty-first day of December, 1936.

I will report to the Toledo Police Department on or about the second day of January, 1937 for assignment. If there is anything I can do for you I am only more than willing to do so.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain

Very truly yours,


Chief of Police

MDU:Z

Dec. 26, 1936.

Chief R.E. Allen

Return to duty of
Detective Unkle

E.R. Samsay, Secy,
Department of Public Safety.

Sir:

Attached is a request from Detective Merle D. Unkle for permission to return to duty after being granted a leave of absence to take the position of Chief of Police at Mansfield, Ohio.

The leave of absence granted by our Civil Service Commission was for one year, to terminate February 1, 1937, but Detective Unkle asks that he be permitted to return to duty on this Department on January 4, 1937.

I approve his request and recommend that this and the attached letter be referred to the Civil Service Commission for the proper attention.

Sincerely yours,

Chief of Police.

fjb

Unkle Applies For Return To Old Police Job

2 Retired Officers Ask Reinstatement At Their Former Rank

Merle D. Unkle, who retired on pension in 1911 after 25 years with the police department, and said to be recently proprietor of a tavern, has applied for reinstatement at his old rank of Detective Sergeant. Police Chief Ray E. Allen disclosed today.

Mr. Unkle's application was made Monday, two days after Col. Maurice Meyer succeeded Edward A. DeAngin as Safety Director, the chief said.

The same day Leonard Stummus, 324 Hammond Ave., who retired last year, asked for reinstatement as sergeant. Chief Allen reported. Mr. Stummus has been working at a war plant.

Command Withheld

Colonel Meyer said he would have no comment on the applications until he had conferred with the police chief.

However, Chief Allen indicated he was opposed to reinstatement of retired officers at their old rank because it would tend to jeopardize the position of other men on slightly less who had remained with the department in the war, instead of leaving for higher paying jobs.

Mr. Unkle's pension now is \$75 a month. Should he be reinstated, work two years and then retire, the pension would rise to \$100 a month, Chief Allen said.

Cases Action Halted

At the time the two applications were made, Mr. Unkle and Mr. Stummus said they would go to court if necessary to obtain their old ranks, the police chief reported. They would base their fight on the case of Detective Sergeant Harvey Bailey, recently offered his old rank after returning from military service. Chief Allen said Sergeant Bailey declined this offer.

No reconsideration on the cases will be made until a ruling is received from the Civil Service Commission and a statement of policy is made by Colonel Meyer, Chief Allen declared.

Hunted Morda Squad

Mr. Unkle, who headed the morda squad at the time of his retirement, was credited with chasing gamblers from the vice and making things uncomfortable for swindle runners.

Reports within the police department revealed today that the veteran detective would head the morda squad under Colonel Meyer if and when he succeeded in obtaining his reinstatement.

Mr. Unkle was appointed to the department Dec. 28, 1917; resigned Nov. 11, 1924, to go with Frank Thomas; was reinstated March 22, 1925; was given a year's leave of absence in 1926 to take the job of police chief at Mansfield, O., and returned to the Toledo department the following year.

Arrested in Lincoln Case

While serving as morda squad captain, Mr. Unkle aided in gathering evidence and resulting in a fine of \$1,000 on a game operator who had run a "book" at the time of his arrest in 1920 and 1921. From 1922 to 1923 he was assigned to the office of Francis Evans, then county prosecutor, to aid in the putting the Lincoln gang out of business.

Mr. Stummus was appointed to the police department Jan. 4, 1925.

TOLEDO POLICE DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE

CHIEF

July 12, 1966

With deep regret I announce the death of pensioned Detective Lieutenant Merle D. Unkle, who passed away Monday, July 11, 1966.

Detective Lieutenant Merle D. Unkle was born June 29, 1892, at Logan, Ohio; was appointed to the Police Division December 28, 1917, promoted to Detailed Detective on May 4, 1931, and to Detective Lieutenant July 1, 1937; he was pensioned on February 1, 1941.

During his years of service he was held in high esteem by his fellow workers and citizens.

Body lies in state:

Foth Mortuary
3815 Sylvania Avenue

Services:

8:00 P.M., Wednesday
July 13, 1966 - Mortuary
Toledo Lodge, E & A. M.

10:00 A.M., Thursday
July 14, 1966
Foth Mortuary

Burial:

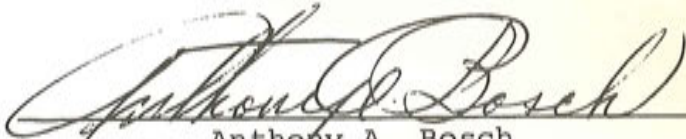
Toledo Memorial Park

Pallbearers:

D. Baron	T. Furry
T. Brandon	R. Lowe
J. Cousino	R. Dudley

Pallbearers cars will leave the Safety Building Garage at 9:30 A.M.

Motorcycle escort will accompany body to the cemetery.


Anthony A. Bosch,
Chief of Police.

Arrangements Approved:

Allen J. Andrews,
Safety Director.

Merle Unkle

Retired Policeman, Led Morals Squad

Merle D. Unkle, 74, retired head of the Toledo police morals squad, and onetime police chief of Mansfield, O., died yesterday in Toledo Hospital. He lived at 5315 Lewis Ave.

Mr. Unkle, born in Logan, O., lived in Toledo 52 years.

He was credited with doing much of the detective work which helped to smash the notorious Licavoli gang and sent several members to the Ohio Penitentiary on charges of conspiring to murder. That was during the 1932-1935 period, when he was assigned to the office of Frazier Reams, then prosecutor of Lucas County.

Chief At Mansfield

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Unkle was given leave of absence from the Toledo police department to serve as chief of police at Mansfield. He joined the Mansfield force Feb. 1, 1935, resigning the following January to return to Toledo.

Mr. Unkle joined the police force Dec. 30, 1917, serving a total of 23 years. During that time he rose to the rank of detective lieutenant, and for four years was commanding officer of the morals squad. He retired Jan. 15, 1941 and had been employed at a number of temporary positions since that time, his family said today.

The veteran investigator also helped the late Common Pleas Judge Thomas O'Connor, who then was prosecutor in gathering evidence to round up a gang of 12 confidence-game operators alleged to have fleeced residents of some \$200,000 during 1935 to 1938.

Harassed Gamblers

He was credited with harassing Toledo gamblers in the downtown area to abandon their dice games and move out. He subsequently harassed numbers game operators, as well.

Mr. Unkle was a member of Toledo Lodge, F&AM; Scottish Rite, Valley of Toledo, and the Zenobia Shrine.

Surviving are his wife, Clara; daughters, Mrs. Kathryn Krost, Mrs. Janet E. Hopkins; brother, Grover; sister, Mrs. Flossie Grojane, all of Toledo; 6 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Foth Mortuary, Sylvania Avenue, with burial in Toledo Memorial Park. Masonic services will be tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the mortuary.