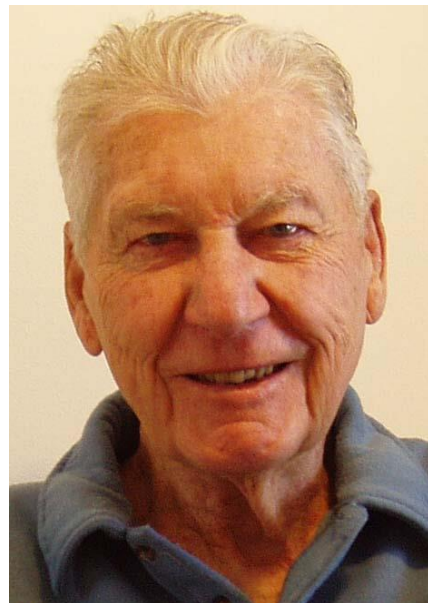


Transcription of Saint Paul Police Oral History Interview with

THEODORE C. FAHEY

The Saint Paul Police Department

Saint Paul Police Officer
October 13, 1947 – April 20, 1981



Interviewed November 29, 2007

By
Kate Cavett of HAND in HAND Productions
at
HAND in HAND's office in Saint Paul, Minnesota

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All photographs are from Ted Fahey's personal photo collection or from the Saint Paul Police Department's personnel files.

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ORAL HISTORY

Oral History is the spoken word in print.

Oral histories are personal memories shared from the perspective of the narrator. By means of recorded interviews oral history documents collect spoken memories and personal commentaries of historical significance. These interviews are transcribed verbatim and minimally edited for accessibility. Greatest appreciation is gained when one can read an oral history aloud.

Oral histories do not follow the standard language usage of the written word. Transcribed interviews are not edited to meet traditional writing standards; they are edited only for clarity and understanding. The hope of oral history is to capture the flavor of the narrator's speech and convey the narrator's feelings through the timbre and tempo of speech patterns.

An oral history is more than a family tree with names of ancestors and their birth and death dates. Its value is that it is a recorded personal memory. What it offers complements other forms of historical text, and does not always require historical collaboration. Oral history recognizes that memories often become polished as they sift through time, taking on new meanings and potentially reshaping the events they relate.

Memories shared in oral histories create a picture of the narrator's life – the culture, food, eccentricities, opinions, thoughts, idiosyncrasies, joys, sorrows, passions – the rich substance that gives color and texture to this individual life.

Kate Cavett

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Theodore C. Fahey

Appointed patrolman Saint Paul Bureau of Police October 13, 1947
Promoted:

Sergeant September 16, 1955
Lieutenant December 18, 1965
Captain December 9, 1972

Retired:

April 20, 1981

KC: Kate Cavett

TF: Ted Fahey

TF: My name is Theodore Fahey¹. I go by the name of Ted. I joined the Police Department in 1947 and there was a group of twenty-five of us that were hired at that time and we were the first group to be hired after World War II. We were all veterans, and Dick Rowan², who became my partner later on, was also one of that group. Actually, because of my age, of the twenty-five that were hired in 1947, only four of that group are still alive today, that includes me.

KC: Can you tell me some stories about Chief Rowan.

TF: Chief Rowan was a good man and he was a good cop.

KC: What made him a good cop?

TF: I believe because he was honest, he was intelligent, he had a good sense of humor and, I think, he had compassion for people. And also he felt that if *I'm working for the City they should be able to get something for their salary.*

¹ Theodore Charles Fahey born 1920, doing this interview at 87 years of age.

² Richard H. Rowan (1922-2005) was appointed patrolman October 13, 1947; promoted detective June 20, 1965; deputy chief April 17, 1964; chief June 30, 1970; and retired December 31, 1979.

The old story goes, you know, if a person starts saying that "I've paid your wages," you should take a penny out of your pocket and say, "Here, this is the part of my wages you paid." But the powers that be in those days discouraged us and say, "Don't – don't do that." [Laughs] That was a no no.

KC: What was it like patrolling with Rowan?

TF: He was a good partner, you never had to worry about your back. Like I say, he was very intelligent. And as I mentioned before about his sense of humor, he pulled a couple things on me that – I was very angry at the time and I – 'cause I was probably angry enough to invite him into the gym, but I'm glad I didn't 'cause I found out he'd been a pretty good boxer in his day, so that would have been a big mistake for me.

KC: What did he pull on you?

TF: Well, this one in particular was in front of Mother Merrill's, there was a lady laying on the sidewalk, intoxicated, she wouldn't move, and a lot of people standing around. So, Rowan says – we had the panel-truck again, the emergency squad, he said, "I'll get inside" he says, "And we'll set her on the back." and he said, "I'll get a hold of her under her arms, you get a hold of her knees." He said, "When I holler push," he said, "You push and I'll pull." So I got my hands on her knees, he hollers "push" and I push, well, he didn't pull, and her legs went apart, I lost my balance and my nose was about six inches from you know what and she had no panties on, and all the guys on the sidewalk, they were laughing and joking, that's why I got so mad at Rowan. Oh, boy. And then another time, well, I won't tell you the other one, 'cause it's kind of a deal where

the guy was having intercourse with a female and told him, "Finish what you're doing or I'll run you in."

Another time, too, to show how that he perhaps never ever looked at another girl besides his wife and, of course, she was a pretty girl. We had a call up on University Avenue, this young girl, she was old enough, she was twenty-one, she was half drunk and the people that had her, a man and a wife that she was staying with them, they just lost [control]. They couldn't control her anymore. The guy got fed up and he called the police. So they insisted that we arrest her and they would be the complainants. Because by that time, we had the law about wife complainant. They signed a statement. So, anyhow, Rowan gets in and I helped the girl get into the back of the squad car and all of a sudden she starts trying to kiss Dick [Rowan]. Dick was a very good looking guy. [My wife] Peg used to say he had beautiful eyelashes. He hollered, "Ted, Ted, get in here." He says, "You're single, you can take care of this." He says, "I'm married, get in here." And I said, "You're doing all right Dick." But then we ended up taking the girl home, but we also brought the woman, we made her sit in the back with her and me, because in case she got violent again, we didn't want to be alone with her, then we just took her home. But that was Dick, he didn't want to get kissed.

Oh, then the other funny one was, Rowan and I get sent up Wheelock Parkway, a mental case, and they almost always sent the emergency squad on mental cases because, oh, at one time, I guess a guy went berserk

in the ambulance, and the ambulance was a Packard and he kicked the windows out of the ambulance and, boy, they didn't want anymore windows kicked out. So they got to sending the emergency car on mental cases. And, actually what we did we'd book'em "M for O" at the hospital, mental, for observation.

So, we got sent up on Wheelock and we come into the house and the lady says, "My daughter just went crazy and she's in her bedroom now, she chased us out and it's just me and my husband, and she's got every sharp knife in the kitchen on the stand next to her." She says, "Could you take her to the [hospital]. We called the doctor, the doctor said take her to the old Anchor Hospital and he said then I'll meet her out there." So, Rowan and I went in the bedroom and she looked perfectly normal now. She's sitting up in bed, she's got pajamas on, but there was knives on, you know, butcher knives and peeling knives and paring knives, on the stand. So, we start talking. Rowan had a good gift of gab, like I say, he was intelligent. He says, "You know, your doctor wants to see you." And she says, "Well, yeah, I would like to see him, too." [Chuckle] And, he said, "Well, if you want, we'll take you. But he's a very busy man and he wants us to take you to a different place, because he's there now and he's going to meet us there and it won't take as long that way." He did that figuring that she would know how to get to the doctor's office if we went someplace else. So then she said, "Okay, I'll go. No trouble." But she said, "I want to sit in the front seat though." The back seat was the bench, but the mother got in the back. I said, "Okay." But I sat behind her. I was

ready to grab her. Dick says, "Boy, I hope you grab her in time." So we went to the hospital.

At the hospital, Dick is in there making out the entrance report and all of a sudden – I'm down kidding with some of the nurses or something. A nurse comes in, "Help your partner, help your partner, he needs help." I ran down there and I come in, this gal was a stocky girl, large breasts, now she's bare naked, the nurses just got her bottom part of her pajamas off, 'cause she went to the hospital in her robe and pajamas. And she went berserk again and she hit the nurse and the nurse ran for help. Now, Rowan's got a hold from behind, he's standing behind, one breast in each hand. Later, I kid him about it – "It was the only thing to grab a hold of." he said. But she was swinging around and actually taking him right off his feet. He hollered, "Grab her legs, grab her legs." And I start laughing, he swore a little bit "Grab her legs." I was getting back at him from that deal at **Mother Merrill's**, but then I grabbed her legs, flipped her up and held her down and he held her down and they strapped her down a gurney then. But I can still see that, Rowan, he got a hold of each one. [Laughter]

Rowan definitely was a good man. He was an asset to the Department. We didn't socialize much, well, didn't socialize at all when [he] was Deputy Chief or Chief, mainly because he was working straight days and I was working shifts. It seemed like we no longer had anything in common.

His buddy then on the Police Department was Bob Highberg. Bob had worked with him in the Sex Division investigating complaints, sexual complaints. Bob is dead now, too.

Rowan could sing, Irish songs, so he was a fun guy. So, like I say, with Dick, we had our good times and our scary times. I never had to worry about my back when I had Dick, but I've never had to worry about my back with any partner I ever had. He was brave. Captain Pond³ had a word for it, "intestinal fortitude" and he said Dick had intestinal fortitude. That's all I can say, really, I can't say anything bad about him.

One of the things that stands out in my mind mostly, was our problems with [Oliver] Crutcher. I'd been off for a couple days, got back to work, Dick Rowan was my partner, was my regular partner, and we worked on the Emergency Squad 326, patrolled University Avenue, or, actually, say one-third of the northwest portion of the City. He was telling me about a young man that was holding up liquor stores. He says, "He should be very easily to pick out because he's short, he wears what they call a be-bob cap, they're kind of a tam, and he's a black kid." And as we were driving by Janssen's Liquor Store⁴, Dick looked out the window, he says, "Ted, a guy like that just come out of the liquor store. Let's check him out." So, I

³ Burton E. Pond was appointed reserve patrolman April 29, 1941; patrolman full-time April 16, 1942; promoted to sergeant September 20, 1948; lieutenant October 1, 1954; captain September 1, 1957; and retired July 16, 1969.

⁴ Janssen's Liquor Store at 365 West University Avenue, Saint Paul

went up to the corner, made a right turn, went around the block, another right turn. As I'm approaching University Avenue, a lady come running out, she said "Stop that man, he just robbed a man." By that time we could see him, he was running south, I think it was Fry. He was running south from University. And as we went after him, golly, I could have probably run over him with the car, if I wanted to. But as I pulled over, he cut across in front of me. So, when he stopped, he was right by the driver's side of the car.



To be able to explain this a little bit further, we carried a gun that was carried on the left side of our body and it was a cross draw holster. Mine was a six inch barrel, with built up grips so it was a better target shooting weapon. As I pulled up, I was trying to get my gun out, I couldn't get it out with my left hand because it was too tight and it kind of slipped down between the door and the seat. I couldn't get it out with my right hand. And about that time, I'm right opposite the guy. And as I'm looking at him, you could see money sticking out of his jacket, he had it looked like an army fatigue jacket, out of his shirt pocket of that jacket.

Rowan, by that time, was leaning across in front of me, had his gun on him and says, "Put up you hands." And the guy put his hands up, he had

a gun, and he's bringing it around, so Rowan fired. Rowan missed and the guy jumped back.

Now, the emergency car was a panel truck. The windows, you have a window for the driver's side and you have a window for the passenger side, but the back, there are only windows on the very rear where the door is to get in through the back of the truck. And in there, we carry a stretcher and there's a bench on one side. Why I'm pointing that out is when Crutcher then jumped back out of our view, we couldn't see him.

And all I could think of was, *why, we're sitting ducks*. So I just jumped right out, and as I jumped out, I expected to see him running north. He wasn't there, I ran to the back of the truck and I had my gun out by that time, by the time I got to the back of the truck some shooting took place on the other side. He made a u-turn and ran right directly past Rowan, who was starting to get out and he shot pointblank at Rowan and Rowan shot pointblank at him and thankfully Rowan missed.

Of course, at the time, we thought it was just as well that Rowan missed, too, but [Allan] Lee⁵ got killed later on, we both kind of felt we were responsible for that. I ran out and I shot at him, but I missed, couldn't believe it. See, I shot in the low 90s then and Rowan shot in the high 90s. Rowan was a much better shot than I was, but we both missed. We called

⁵ Allan G. Lee was appointed patrolman March 1, 1937; fatally injured by gunfire while pursuing a robbery suspect on September 10, 1949.

for help—by our actions, I suppose, we were able to contain him in a certain area and other help came to us.



Allan Lee

So, then when the homicide crew got there, it was McAuliffe⁶, they got there I suppose because of the shooting. We had to run down to headquarters to make our report, but on the way to headquarters, two detectives, Skarolid⁷ and Billy Schmitt⁸, wanted to see us. They said, “We think this guy might be a guy by the name of Crutcher. He lives over on Lewis. If you want to go over there, we can talk to the people and they might show us pictures and you can verify if it is or not.” So, we stopped off there and the pictures that we saw, yes, that was the guy we were looking for. So now we knew who committed this problem for us.

So then while at headquarters, we were writing our report and we got a call, not we, but McAuliffe got a call from somebody, stating that Crutcher was in the basement of a house at 324 St. Anthony, so he told us, “Come on leave your car here, you can ride with us.” We drove up there and by

⁶ Lester E. McAuliffe was appointed patrolman March 24, 1936; promoted to sergeant December 16, 1947; detective March 16, 1948; detective lieutenant December 1, 1949; assistant chief November 15, 1955; and chief May 23, 1961; and retired March 31, 1970.

⁷ William R. Skarolid (born June 17, 1926) was appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police July 6, 1948; promoted detective October 1, 1954; died September 13, 1973.

⁸ William C. Schmitt (born February 7, 1904) was appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police March 5, 1936; and retired July 16, 1976.

the time we got there, Lee was there and his partner Crowell⁹. And then Skarolid was there. I walked up to the back of the house and McAuliffe went in, and by that time, Lee was talking, and then Lee said, "Let's go back and check the back of the house, outside." So, Lee and I went around to the back of the house and there was a woodshed attached to the back of that house, with a door that was kept closed with a hasp for a padlock, but the door was just hanging open. So, we went over there and there was a piece of wood on the ground, Lee picked it up, we closed the door, closed the hatch and put that wood in there, and Lee said, "well, now, if he's in the house and tries to get out this way, he can't."

So we walked back and Lee said, "I'm gonna go up and watch the front of the house because I got the shotgun." And I went in the kitchen. When I got in the kitchen, the guys who went into the basement of that house, and the basement just happened to be a small excavation under the kitchen with a trap door and a ladder going down, the rest of the house was a crawl space, not excavated. They were coming up, they says that "We can't see anything in the crawl space, the best thing for us to do is to shoot some tear gas down there."

I walked into the front of the house, in the front room, the living room. The stairway that came down from upstairs come right down to the front

⁹ William H. Crowell (born February 27, 1908) was appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police November 1, 1937; military leave May 15, 1942 till November 26, 1945; promoted Detective March 16, 1948; and retired February 26, 1973.

door and I thought *gee, I better check that back room, first, where the shed is*, so just as I went back and just as I got in the kitchen, two shots rang out. Crutcher was coming down the stairs, Lee was coming in the front door, coming in to tell us there were no basement windows, apparently, that's what he was gonna to tell us. And he hit Lee twice, once in the forehead, I believe it was, the . . . or chest area, and Crutcher jumped over and ran.

Rowan was outside, the front of the house, and he said, "I saw him jump out and run." he said, "But, there was so many people, I didn't dare shoot. He says, "I chased him, but I lost him, but I didn't dare shoot, because there was so many people, I didn't want to injure somebody." We had the ambulance there, I mean, with the possibility of problems, the ambulance was standing by, near by, and Lee was taken to the hospital and then we went back to Headquarters to make our report. No, I'll take that back, by that time, we were over on Rondo, because we got another call that Crutcher was at that house, so a few of us was going through the back door, meantime, there was police officers out in the front, about three of us, it was Jackson¹⁰, me, and Dugas¹¹, went into the back porch, into the house and in the living room and as we were coming to the front door, Jackson was opening a door real slow, 'cuz he didn't know what was on the other side of it, and the guys on the outside were just ready to come in

¹⁰ Odean Jackson was appointed to patrolman November 21, 1938; and retired May 8, 1968.

¹¹ Wilfred E. Dugas (born December 1, 1923) was appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police July 25, 1949; promoted detective July 8, 1957; lieutenant December 18, 1965; captain November 29, 1971; and retired May 11, 1979.

and they saw the door coming open and all they could see was a gun, so then there was a lot of shooting going on and Jackson got hit in the groin. Dugas and I didn't get hit. But that was the friendly fire.

KC: What was Jackson's first name?

TF: Odean Jackson and Dugas' name was Will Dugas. Then we had to get an ambulance, Jackson went to the hospital. It was a close call for Jackson guess that bullet only missed a main artery in his leg by about that much.

KC: And you're holding up your fingers to show about –

TF: About a quarter of an inch.

If it would have taken that, I don't think there would have been any hope for him. The acting chief then at that time was McMahon¹², because Chief Tierney¹³ had died and McMahon was a detective lieutenant and was made acting chief and he took over all the operation. He told me, he says, "I want you to go to such and such a corner, because you know what this guy looks like, and if you see him trying to get out, you blow your whistles for help and don't try to take him alone, because if we can take him, we don't want to hurt anybody." That was McMahon. I was out

¹² Neal C. McMahon was appointed patrolman June 11, 1917; promoted detective April 16, 1921; provisional detective lieutenant August 1, 1931; detective lieutenant February 6, 1932; license inspector June 2, 1936; assistant chief of detective division February 9, 1945; chief of police August 29, 1952; deceased November 10, 1954.

¹³ Charles J Tierney was appointed police operator March 21, 1921; promoted detective July 1, 1926; detective lieutenant May 6, 1931; permanent detective lieutenant February 6, 1932; provisional assistant inspector of detectives June 16, 1932; provisional inspector of detectives March 1, 1933; inspector of detectives May 12, 1933; voluntary reduction to assistant inspector of detectives July 25, 1935; inspector of detectives June 4, 1936; assistant chief November 7, 1936; chief October 1, 1943; died in office May 30, 1952.

there the longest time and then down a ways from me was another police officer and a little ways from him – we had the area pretty well covered.

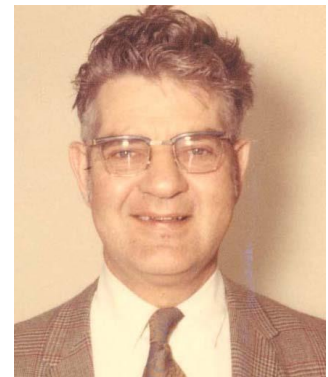
A little later we were told that they got Crutcher at a house over on Rondo, I think the address was 227, maybe, Rondo. Just like, I think, 324 St. Anthony was where Lee was killed. That's where Griffin¹⁴ and Mercado¹⁵ and "Boots" Michel¹⁶ went in and shot Crutcher. Now that part of it, I can't fill it in because that would be strictly hearsay and there's reports on it, and that's as far as that goes.



James Griffin
c. 1950



John Mercado
1972



Vernon "Boots" Michael
1972

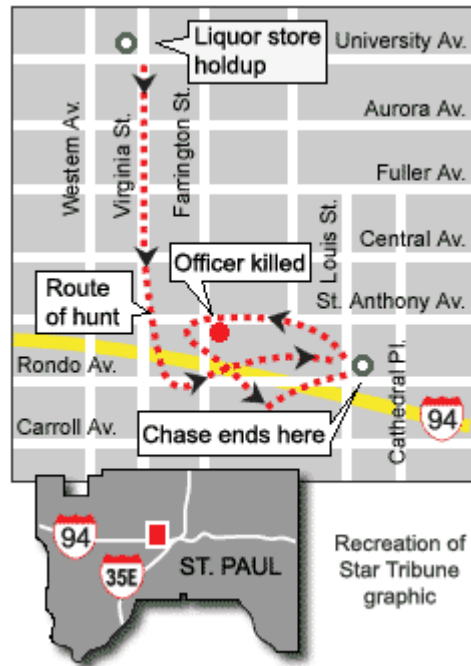
¹⁴ James Stafford Griffin (July 6, 1917 – November 23, 2002) was appointed reserve patrolman August 6, 1941; patrolman full-time August 1942; the first Black male to be promoted to sergeant September 16, 1955; captain March 2, 1970; deputy chief October 6, 1972; and retired August 31, 1983.

¹⁵ Jesus John Mercado was appointed patrolman July 6, 1948; promoted sergeant June 26, 1957; lieutenant July 19, 1971; and retired August 24, 1983.

¹⁶ Vernon P. "Boots" Michel was appointed patrolman March 1, 1937; promoted to detective March 1, 1962; appointed license inspector June 2, 1964; and retired January 19, 1978.

KC: Did you know that Lee was dead during all of this?

TF: Yes, yes, well, we assumed he was, let's put it that way and we were told that it didn't look good at the hospital. And, I think, we got a report that he was dead at the hospital, at that time.



Tracking a cop killer

Fifty years ago, Saint Paul detective Allan Lee was slain during a six-hour hunt for a man who held up a liquor store. This 1949 map shows where the chase took place in the city's Rondo neighborhood, much of which has been replaced by Interstate 94.

Original graphic by the Star Tribune.

From a May 10, 1999 Star Tribune article by Curt Brown

KC: What's it like knowing that one of your fellow officers has been killed and that you could have been the one coming in that door.

TF: I felt really bad about it, because I was a partner of Lee's at one time and he was one of the guys that kind of broke me in. One time on a domestic situation that we were called on, the guy come running out of the house with a rifle and Lee had took out after him and he went to another house, jumped out of his car and he ran in the garage and we're right behind him. Now I'm a rookie, all I can think of, *I'm gonna have to get this guy*

before he can turn that rifle on me, so I ran right in the garage after him when he was trying to hide the rifle in the garage and I got him. I got a good bawling out from Lee. "You were a damn fool," he says "he could have been just waiting in there, waiting for you to come in and killed you." I said, "Well, Al, I guess you're right, I guess I made a mistake." He said, "Just don't forget that."

Lee was the type of man that – we had rules that we couldn't smoke in the squad cars in uniform where people could see us – he still smoked, but we would pull into an alley someplace, roll the window down and smoke the cigarette, like some school kid would, so that the smoke wouldn't stay on his body. He joined the Department in the real hard times of the Depression, he come on in 1937. He joined because he thought, "I want to find out now more about what the poor element has to contend with, and so forth and so on. Then maybe I can do more good for society as a police officer than I can for the studies that I've taken in college." He was, I guess, a college man. That's Lee.

KC: Tell me more stories about Lee.

TF: I think one of the things he told me, if you stop a person, regardless of what you stop them for, he says, "Sometimes in our work, it's sometimes a little better to fib a little bit, to give this guy the reason why you're stopping them." He says, "You gotta remember in America a man's home is his castle and sometimes these people kind of resent authority." He said that's probably what made America strong. He said, "So, give them a reason why you're stopping them, if you even have to make it up." And,

I've always thought that. That's always been a problem, too. A lot of our officers, they stop people and they haven't given them reasons why they're stopping them. They can just say, well, I'm stopping you because we've had some crimes in this area, they've been driving a car like your car, the same color and so forth, and if it was a Black man, you would say he was a Black man, if he was an Anglo, you say he was Anglo, just make the guy feel we're not picking in him, per se. That's one of the best things that I ever learned from Lee. I think at one time Lee stated, "You know," he says, "in this job we can teach a man the rules, we can teach the man the law, but we can't teach him common sense." And, he said, "That's where we get into most of our troubles." So I guess that pretty well covers it. He was dedicated and very honest and a good family. We lost really a good man there in Lee.

KC: What was his funeral like? What was the mood in the Department?

TF: Well, for those of us who knew Lee, in fact, let's put it this way. At the time of the shooting and the time of our gunfight – at the time of our gunfight, I guess, then I was thinking, *boy, I'm glad I'm still alive* and, I think, I was smiling when they took a picture of me. And after Lee got killed, I was very unhappy that the newspaper showed that picture, 'cuz I thought, you know, *there's no lark to this. A man got killed, two men got killed, two human beings.* I'm not against the taking of life, but I also don't believe that we should just totally kill somebody just for the sake of killing. And that's true even in warfare, but we were taught in warfare, you go ahead and kill or if you don't, you're gonna be killed.

At the funeral there was sadness. We felt bad for the family, he had young children. I remember when another police officer just died a natural death. The whole relief turned out to his funeral because he was so well liked. I was a sergeant then, so I kind of handled the military funeral part. We had a double line to the front of the church, when the casket was brought through we come to attention, very military.

KC: Who was this?

TF: Don Bader,¹⁷

KC: About what decade?

TF: Oh, I was a sergeant, so it's got to be in the 50s. What had happened with him, I'll never forget this, Don Bader, Don and I used to hunt together and we were pretty close friends. And he was a real tall guy, in fact, one time he come out to the house when we were working together, I was a sergeant, he was a lieutenant, and Peg said, "Oh, boy, am I glad to see you." she said to Bader 'cuz a light had burned out of the fixture in the ceiling, she said, "I was waiting for Ted to get home 'cuz I didn't want to get up on the stepladder, but you look like you could do it from the floor." He said, "Oh, yeah, I can do that." He was about six three or four, he reached up and put a new bulb in.

Don was by the water fountain - meantime, now, he's become in charge of the Traffic Division - and he's by the water fountain and he said, "By

¹⁷ Donald L. Bader (born November 23, 1913) was appointed reserve patrolman April 29, 1941; appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police April 1, 1942; promoted sergeant October 1, 1949; lieutenant April 1, 1955; and died March 16, 1960.

golly, I'm gonna have to get new glasses. I'm having trouble seeing through these old glasses." We had a doctor on the Department, too, we used to have the ambulance service and a doctor 24 hours a day. Found out his eyes were all right, but they thought he better be checked otherwise. So, they put him in the hospital to run some tests on him and they determined that his gallbladder should come out and when they took his gallbladder out, they also took his appendix out. He didn't survive the operation, and he was a tall, healthy strong guy, but I think there was just too much at that time for his physical condition at that time, so Don died.

KC: Tell me about the funeral, what you created for his funeral.

TF: The funeral was at a church over on the East Side and, like I say, we developed a military type funeral, where we had the men stand at attention on both sides when the casket was brought in and then stand at attention on both sides [when the casket was brought out]. That's the whole relief, all the men on the relief, 'cuz he was being buried when we were working a different shift other than the day shift, so we could do this. And when they carried the casket out I told them "attention" you know and then we saluted and "at ease" and then that was it, I mean, they took him to the graveyard and we did not go to the graveyard. I felt bad about that, because [he was a] hunting partner that died.

And we lost really a good man there in Lee. Didn't drink, if he did it was very little, never drank on the job. A lot of your officers didn't, some of the old timers did.

An example of the old timers, I come to work, had a bad cold, nightshift, and this old timer says, "Well, the best thing for that is to get a good snort of liquor." And, I said, "I don't really much care for hard liquor, and I don't much care for beer." I said, "I got to the point if I'm gonna have some hard liquor at all, I gotta take it with 7-up or something." "Well, it'll



Allan Lee

probably clear your head anyhow" he says "I'm going in and get one" so he says, "When I come out, you go in." So, I went in.

KC: Into a bar?

TF: It was a bar, but it was after hours, you know, it was a swamper. And the swamper had a glass and the glass had about that much liquor in it – I'm giving you my fingers so it was

about, oh, probably four fingers of liquor. I said, "My

gosh, I can't drink all that." He says, "Well, so and so, that's what he told me" and he says "that's what he drinks and he told me to give you what he had." And I said, "Well, I don't want all of that and I need to have something sweet to swallow it with." So, I just took a couple gulps and swallowed it down. But that's the only drink that guy would take, but he did that every night, as I know of, and he never got drunk. So that is one of the stories there.



Call Box
in SPPD museum
2006 photo

Now, if you walked a beat, you had a big key about that long, brass key, and it fit into what they 'callbox', and if that callbox was ringing, you better get down there and find out what they want with you, 'cuz that's the only way they could check with you. But you had to call Headquarters every hour on that callbox, so they keep tabs of you that way. That was the old callbox system.

KC: What area did you walk the beat on?

TF: Selby and Dale. As far as it being fairly rough, it wasn't – it was a pretty good area.

KC: What was it like growing up as the child of a policeman?

TF: In a way it could be a little tough, because I was born out in this neighborhood, across the river from Fort Snelling.

KC: So this is now what we call the Highland neighborhood.

TF: Well, they used to call it Homecroft after the school, Highland was the rich people. [Chuckles] Like one of the things that some of the guys used to say "My dad [James S. Fahey¹⁸] don't work, he, ha ha, he's a policeman, my dad don't work." Police officers had the reputation of being moochers and so forth. I 'spose, probably, some of that was so because when I came on the job there were some of the old timers that didn't pay for their meals.

¹⁸ James S. Fahey was appointed patrolman September 1, 1914 and retired May 16, 1936.

In fact, there was a saloon one time, and I knew they gave free meals because I arrested a woman for drunkenness there one time, she fell down the stairs and he often says, "When you arrested that woman, you saved me a lawsuit." He says, "At Christmastime you sure stop and see me, I want to give you and your partner a bottle of whiskey." But, I never did, because he was feeding the police officers. One day then I did bump into him, he said, "Hey, you never come up to get anything." I said, "No, I work the whole area, not your district." And I says, "And it's fine that you feed the officers in your district." He said, "You know, I finally started having to charge something, 'cause one day I come in there were three squads parked in the alley and three guys eating." He says, "And I know that there's only one squad in my district, so we had to stop that." So, there were guys that would take advantage, that's the common sense thing.

Dad retired, he had to take a medical retirement. They gave him his pension then, but he wasn't fifty yet, but he took a medical that's why he got his pension and he got his full pension, rather than a real medical pension, which sometimes is less.

KC: Why did he have to take a medical retirement?

TF: He had a bad ankle and then there was a streetcar

strike in St. Paul and when the police were called to keep the pickets in line, one of the pickets threw a railroad spike and it hit dad's ankle and he had a silver plate in there and it broke open. From that time on, his ankle

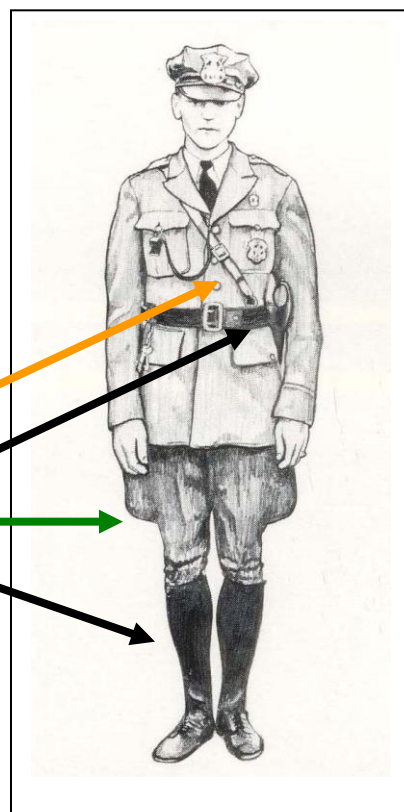


James S. Fahey
1919

was much bigger on that leg than the other. It healed up, of course. And dad was only a plainclothesman, technically, he was still a patrolman. So then they were going to put him back in uniform and he wasn't, perhaps, getting along with the administration at that time, so they figured they would force him into retirement then. He couldn't wear a uniform, because they wore boots with puttees¹⁹, and breeches, and with that big ankle, it looked terrible.

Military style forest green uniform
introduced in 1930 with:

brass buttons
black Sam Brown belt
breeches
black leather puttees



KC: This was the old green uniform.

TF: It was the old green, but it was the britches, like, eventually, the motorcycle cops wore for a long time.

KC: [Motors still wear the puttees and breeches.] The military style green uniform came in, in 1930, with the Sam Brown Belt and the britches and

¹⁹ Puttee: a gaiter or legging of leather worn around the leg from the ankle to the knee.

the black leather puttee. Which are tight leggings, so if your ankle was swollen, you wouldn't be able to wear that.

TF: That's right and because there was a record of the fact that he was injured on the street car strike, he just took a medical. Then he ended up buying a saloon in the neighborhood and the saloon eventually became the Manor Bar.

KC: Now, your father retired in May of 1936 and the Department's record show that he came on in September 1 of 1914.

TF: Actually, he was a police officer before the Department went civil service. And, I think, 1914 is when it went civil service, but I'm not sure about that. But he had to take the exam and pass it, but he said it wasn't too hard an exam, but he was worried about it, because my dad only had a third grade education. His spelling was terrible, but you could at least – he spelt the way words sounded, so you knew what it meant. Dad used to say, "If you can't say any good, don't say anything."

KC: Your brother [James Fahey²⁰] was in the Bureau of Police.

TF: Patrolman for several years then made detective.

KC: According to my information, he was appointed a patrolman in 1937 and also took a military leave and was promoted to detective in '48, and then retired in '62.

TF: He was a marine, he was drafted. See, now there again, I was enlisted.

²⁰ James W. E. Fahey was appointed patrolman April 1, 1937; military leave October 9, 1943 till March 4, 1946; promoted detective September 20, 1948; retired April 30, 1962; and deceased May 16, 1990.

KC: Did his being on the Department inspire you to take the test to join the Department?

TF: Well, it was strange. I had no ideas of wanting to be a police officer. Jim always wanted to be a police officer. He had a going business, but he joined the Police Department, it had Jimmy's French Fried Popcorn. We shipped popcorn all over, went to saloons, everything. Jim worked with McAuliffe for quite awhile in the Homicide Division as a detective. But before he made detective, they made him instructor at the pistol range, 'cuz Jim was an expert pistol shot. I don't say he was the best shot, but he was as good as the best shots in the Department, he was a member of the pistol team. They made him in charge of the pistol range.

KC: Any stories you remember about him being on the Department.

TF: Well, one of the first things he did as a rookie, he volunteered at the scene of a fire up at the Aberdeen Hotel, they got out to look for clues, so, boy, he learned afterwards, never volunteer for anything, because, boy, he said that was a dirty mess going through all that burnt rubbish looking for clues.

KC: The Aberdeen Hotel, was that up on Selby?

TF: That was on Selby, yeah, the Aberdeen Hotel.

The girl was murdered in there and they set fire to the place. Then the other thing was, as a rookie cop, with his partner then, see, they always had partners. When I went on, we didn't. I was a beat man for a long time and then worked alone – but, this used car lot was supposed to be getting broke into a lot and when they pulled in, all of a sudden a guy jumped up

and he's got a gun. Boy, Jim pulled his gun and fired right now, but it turned out he was a watchman, but Jim missed him, thankfully. That scared the hell out of Jim.

Jim then went into Juvenile. While in Juvenile, a man came in to see me and he said, "Oh, you're not the Fahey I'm looking for. There used to be a Fahey in here," he says, "Boy, he straightened me out." And he said, "I went in the military." He said, "But I wanted to come and see him to tell him 'thank you Mr. Fahey for what you did for me.'" I told him how to get a hold of Jim. Jim had retired then and he had the rock shop out on Highway 61 between Hugo and Forest Lake. He made good money in that rock shop. He bought it to teach his kid something and then he got more interested himself. In fact, he never touched his pension from the time he had that until the time he bought the building from the doctor that owned it, then he touched it so he could buy the building.

How do you judge a police officer, whether he's good or bad? You know, you have two ways to do it, objectively, and that's by the amount of arrests he makes and by how many tags he writes. The other is subjectively, do you like him or don't like him, do you like the way he dresses or don't, do you like the way he combs his hair, you know. I was always opposed to that subjective part of it. So it's pretty hard to rate a guy. So, when a man comes and says, "I want to thank a man for what he did for me." I told Jim and, I guess, the kid looked Jim up.

Treating people well and working hard, that can be objectively, because you've got something to grade it by, see. But the subjective, see, the other as object, the subject is what you think and, see, that's your service rating and that service rating was so many points towards your promotion.

I'm not ashamed to admit to anybody that I was a police officer. Although, at one time I used to say when we'd be together with strangers and they'd say, "What was your job?" I'd say, "I was a social justice monitor." Well, that's what a police officer is, so. A lot of times people didn't accept police officers too well. They still had us as moochers and thieves. And, I'll give you an example of even Chicago. When I went down there, I worked with a homicide crew for three nights, one man, without crew. Wilson²¹ had just taken over, oh, maybe six months before that, or a year, and he completely changed that Department around. People used to put a five or a ten dollar bill on their driver's license, they get stopped for speeding or something, they'd hand them their driver's license, when the officer would look at it, he'd give them their driver's license back, but the bill would be gone, and they'd say, "Now, let's be careful next time. Don't get caught again." The people liked that because, see, it didn't go on their driver's record. Now, they get a record, speeding record, their insurance goes up. So, I understand that shortly after Wilson left it almost reverted back to that sort of thing.

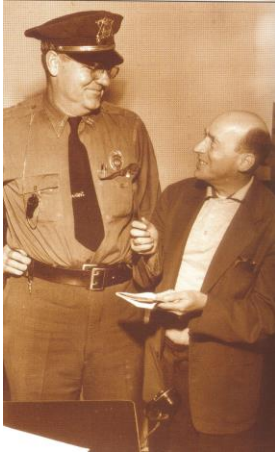
KC: Wilson was the chief in Chicago?

²¹ Orlando Winfield—O. W. Wilson

TF: Wilson, yeah, he was the one that wrote a book on police sciences, one that McAuliffe recommended. I even took a Delehante [correspondence school] course from New York and it helped. With Wilson, Kenny Anderson²² and I'd go walking through some of those rooms in the police station, boy, they'd be looking at you like, "Who the hell are those guys, carrying briefcases, they were wondering who the hell they gonna hang, who are they gonna fire." This detective I worked with, when he brought us back, I said, "Come on up, if you're all done work, come on up and have a little nip." We had a jug, and "No, no, no, I can't." But he said, "I'll tell one thing that Wilson did for this Department." I said, "What's that?" He said, "He furnished us vehicles." I said, "You mean a detective?" I said, "Didn't you have a patrol car to use?" "Oh no, we had to use our own cars." I said, "Well then they paid you for the service of your car, per diem or something." "Oh no, we had to buy our own gas." So, you've got to figure that the take must have been pretty damn good for them to want to be detective to do this and to do that.

[Regarding my reference to being a social justice monitor, I was not ashamed of being a police officer. I would use the title just to avoid the usual questions, like, "Do you know so and so?" Then more questions as "Has he or she ever been arrested?" On and on with that nonsense.]

²² Kenneth M. Anderson (born October 11, 1917) was appointed reserve patrolman March 10, 1941; appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police August 3, 1941; promoted detective November 11, 1947; detective lieutenant April 17, 1964; captain February 1, 1965; and retired May 31, 1972.



Captain Tiny Spatgen
& Nate Bomberg
c. 1960

Nate Bomberg²³ was the news reporter for the Pioneer Press and he had a little office at the Public Safety Building. He was a police officer's friend. Like, for instance, they brought in a picture one time to him, and the picture was a very good picture of the scene of an accident or a crime or something, the officer had a cigarette in his mouth, so, Nate says to the photographer, "Can you get that cigarette out of that picture without [loosing something]" He said, "No, I can't."

Nate says, "Well then don't use the picture. You know the officers are not supposed to smoke in uniform, so don't use the picture." See, now that was Nate. We could let Nate look at our reports, because he was probably one of the best police officers the police department had. Because he would, always kept things secret, what was there, stayed there. He would help us with our report and, sometimes, even the captain, Steiner²⁴, or whoever the captain would be, may have trouble trying to determine

²³Nate Bomberg became a reporter in 1924 at 16 years of age. Bomberg was a legend for having access to the whole police department, knowing the criminal code better than many, helping to write or edit many officers' police reports, and sometimes arrive at the crime scene before officers. He was a "leg man," as it is known in the newspaper business, calling in stories and dictating them off the top of his head—never known to use a typewriter. But he knew three generations of police officers. He filed his last report January 1977, and died of a heart attack three days later.

²⁴ William D. Steiner was appointed patrolman January 3, 1921; promoted to sergeant May 9, 1929; lieutenant September 1, 1931; captain January 1, 1942; acting assistant chief January 3, 1961; and retired February 10, 1964.

what a report should be titled when he's talking to the officers and was going to give us information, and Nate would sometimes say, "Well I think this would be a good title." And it worked out fine.

KC: I've heard that he knew the criminal code and he would help officers, particularly young officers, know what they should be charging.

TF: Oh yes, that's what I mean, what they should call or title the crime. You see, years ago, when we arrested somebody, we arrested for *suspicion of*. Well, then when they rewrote the criminal code in Saint Paul, that was T. Eugene Thompson²⁵, [he was the lawyer that chaired that project]. We had to charge the person. We didn't charge him, we arrested him for a homicide, we arrested him for burglary and then we had 72 hours to charge the man, and that's the rewriting of our criminal code.

Like, for instance, with drunk driver's, we arrest them for suspicion of drunk driving, 'cause technically you're not supposed to arrest a man for drunk driving unless you actually seen him drive. So, here he's sitting in his car at the scene of an accident, the motor engine is running and he appears to be drunk, so we would arrest him then for suspicion of drunk driving. You could hold a drunk for four hours before he was entitled to be bailed out, that was true for drunk drivers, too. So, in four hours they would call one of the men from the emergency squads and we would come in and we would take a statement from this person and by that time the man is usually feeling half sick and sorry, and sorry for himself

²⁵ T. Eugene Thompson was later charged and convicted for masterminding the murder of his wife on March 6, 1963. This was one of Saint Paul's most famous murder investigations.

mainly, and he would probably admit to driving the car. That's all we were trying to do, to get him to admit that at the time of this accident or this incident why he was arrested, he was driving. Then we could put him on the court tab then for DWI. But we had to stop that too.

Another thing that T. Eugene Thompson and his crew changed. We had problems years ago, as of today, with domestic situations. If the woman wanted her husband arrested, we would charge him domestic-wife complainant. That was the charge. The court knew what it was, and the only one that could bail him out was his wife. So, at four hours, and even then, you couldn't bail out unless his wife would bail him out. So, it used to work like a charm, and we just probably saved a lot of woman being abused, but now we couldn't do that any more. They had to stop that 'cause a man has a right to bail himself out. The only thing is, if he's drunk, we have to assume that in four hours is he gonna control himself, but then it finally became under drunkenness, and even DWI, if we can turn him over to a responsible party to get him home, you could release him or bail him out.

KC: Tell me a story about being in Vice.

TF: Well, there again, I would not care to be repeated, but I didn't really care for vice work, but I did like narcotics and that was part of Vice.

KC: Okay, tell me a story about narcotics work.

TF: I think what I liked about it, is that I felt that I'm doing something good. I'm helping people that need help. We weren't necessarily after the addicts, although, we did sometimes use addicts, and sometimes we had

to arrest them because they'd steal doctor's bags for morphine, in those days. But I felt that I was accomplishing something, and I worked almost one night a week with the Feds. I had the reputation from the man in charge, the Minneapolis office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in fact, we exchanged Christmas cards after he retired. I was invited to his house after he retired down in Missouri and he told me after I had left the Department, when I visited him one time in Missouri, he says, "Ted, you were the first guy in Vice that we really totally trusted." He said, "We can't say there's nothing bad with the others, but we just didn't know, but you worked with us so much that we trusted you."

See, I worked with them because I didn't have that kind of money to be backing some of these buys, and then they were good enough that all these raids we would then make, even though I had very little to do with some of them, Saint Paul Police Department got credit for the raids, which then the Chief was happy and the politicians were happy. So that's why I liked the narcotics part. I sent my guys, I sent four guys to narcotic school, to the Federal Bureau in Washington.

KC: Do you know why they trusted you?

TF: Because I'm an honest guy that's why. I think because of my mother.

KC: Let's talk about all the chiefs that you worked under.

TF: I worked under six of them. Tierney was the first.

KC: What kind of chief was he?



Chief
Charles Tierney

TF: Well, I didn't work too long for him, but I can't say anything bad about him. He seemed like a good chief. He was a gutsy guy. Tierney and his brother Johnny²⁶ and another guy, when they were hired to be police officers, they weren't tall enough, you had to be five foot eight. They were hired to be chauffeurs. They drove the wagon and so forth. But then eventually they blanketed them in as officers and Charlie eventually became chief.

KC: How did he die?

TF: We don't know, it was supposed to have been accidental, or it was supposed to have been a normal death or something. But there was a suspect that maybe he committed suicide, because about the same time, a man that he was having personal dealings with, was a guy by the name of Denny Lane. And Denny Lane was into real estate and it was rumored that he committed suicide. I'll give you an example, after World War I, Denny Lang was instrumental in preparing Highland Park to be built for homes, so then the crash came in 1929, so that thing didn't get off the ground. But alleys up there are paved, there was no houses on them, the streets were paved and the alleys were paved, but no houses. Denny Lang was the one that built my parents' home, he committed suicide and some of the guys thought that maybe Tierney did too. But, I never said he did or he didn't, I don't know.

²⁶ John J. Tierney (November 7, 1891) appointed clerk Berillion room April 1, 1916; military leave October 8, 1917 – January 8, 1918; promoted assistant Supt. Bertilion division August 8, 1918; Supt. Bureau of Identification April 11, 1922; shot by Robert Fagan May 30, 1928; reported for duty January 8, 1929; lateral leave of absence to become Supt. of State Crime Bureau; retired April 1, 1955.

KC: Do we know why Tierney would have committed suicide?

TF: Well, if he was involved in anything with Lang, and it was something crooked, who knows, I don't know. I won't say it was anything on police work.

KC: And Tierney was the chief from 1943 to 1952, so he was chief about nine years.

TF: Yeah, so then after Tierney, 'cause he died, then Neal McMahon²⁷ was acting chief.



Chief
Neal McMahon

KC: From 1952 to '54.



Chief
William F. Proetz

TF: Yeah, that's two years. And then Proetz²⁸ came in there. There are a lot of guys that might argue, if I said Proetz was a good chief. He never did anything bad to me, but he did bug a Union meeting to try and find out what was going on with the Union. The Detective Association found that out and they brought a lot of pressure to bear on him and that, and I guess he decided to retire. He didn't retire, he came back on then, as a detective.

²⁷ Neal C. McMahon was appointed patrolman June 11, 1917; promoted detective April 16, 1921; provisional detective lieutenant August 1, 1931; detective lieutenant February 6, 1932; license inspector June 2, 1936; assistant chief of detective division February 9, 1945; chief of police August 29, 1952; deceased November 10, 1954.

²⁸ William F. Proetz was appointed patrolman March 1, 1937; promoted to sergeant March 16, 1948, detective September 20, 1948, lieutenant December 1949, and chief March 11, 1955; returned to detective lieutenant March 13, 1961; and retired June 12, 1963.

KC: And Proetz was chief from 1955 to '61.

Now, according to the Department's formal records, Albert Anderson²⁹ was an acting chief from '54 to '55.

TF: Yeah, he was a nice guy. I forgot about Anderson, so that's seven I worked for. Then after Anderson it was Proetz.

KC: Then Lester McAuliffe³⁰ came in, in 1961 to 1970.
What kind of a chief was he?



Acting Chief
Albert Anderson

TF: He was a good chief, but he was a police officer's chief. Now, Proetz, was more PR. I got a kick out of McAuliffe. He says, "City Hall ain't gonna tell me how to run this Police Department." He found out different. What had happened, they would hold up on his request for things, drag their feet and so forth. Yeah, he found out, but he was a good chief.

²⁹ Albert Anderson was appointed junior clerk May 7, 1923; finance general bookkeeper March 16, 1931; promoted junior accountant March 7, 1933; transferred to public safety May 1, 1941; appointed license inspector February 9, 1945; acting police chief November 15, 1954; back to license inspector March 11, 1955; transferred to Bureau of General Administration June 2, 1958; resigned June 7, 1960.

³⁰ Lester E. McAuliffe was appointed patrolman March 24, 1936; promoted to sergeant December 16, 1947; detective March 16, 1948; detective lieutenant December 1, 1949; assistant chief November 15, 1955; and chief May 23, 1961; and retired March 31, 1970.

But he said though – he put too much faith in McCutcheon³¹ and Tony Tighe³², I think – ‘cause he himself told me later that I should warn Rowan to be careful of McCutcheon. See, what happened, McCutcheon was a very intelligent guy, I’m not saying that McAuliffe wasn’t. But McCutcheon was instrumental in us getting a lot of government grants. He knew the ins and outs, where he knew how to handle it, he knew what buttons to push. But, also, he knew how to maintain it. I guess, Chief McAuliffe, it was strictly out of his league, trying to do that.

It even was tough for me. Because, like, when I got into that Community Police thing, the government uses initials for so damn much stuff and I wouldn’t even know what they were talking about. I don’t say anything bad about any of the chiefs, I think when the Department – what is it 1943, whenever Tierney became chief, I don’t know who he replaced, but I think we had a couple questionable chiefs before him. All those years that the Department was not involved in any scandals, that must mean something, that we had good chiefs. Because if you got a bad chief, that’s gonna filter down, you’re going to have graft among lower people, too. In fact, I remember, we used to call it picking brains, I went to Chicago and Saint Louis and Kansas City, Des Moines, seeing what they’ve done, ‘cause we were going to reconstruct our Department. And while in Kansas City they

³¹ William Wallace McCutcheon served the Saint Paul Park Police 1948 to 1954, appointed patrolman January 4, 1954; promoted to sergeant August 22, 1960; lieutenant December 12, 1965; captain June 20, 1969; deputy chief February 4, 1972; chief April 1, 1980; and retired July 15, 1992.

³² Anthony “Tony” J. Tighe was appointed reserve patrolman March 10, 1941; patrolman full-time August 3, 1941; promoted to detective February 18, 1949; and retired July 30, 1979.

had a brand new chief, his name was Kelly. Kelly eventually became in charge of the FBI. Kelly says, "I have nothing against the Blacks, they're probably awful intelligent men to be able to do what they do." But he said, "I've got a couple Blacks in the Black community, captains. They've got dynasties, everybody's paying them, everybody's paying them, it's corrupt." But everybody accepted it. So, he said, "I straightened that out in a hurry."

KC: Any other thoughts about Chief McAuliffe?

TF: He was his own man, really. Tougher than a bag of nails, but he had a big heart. And, my personal feeling is he was a good chief, and I could argue with him.

KC: Could everybody argue with McAuliffe?



Chief
Lester McAuliffe

TF: Well, I would, once in awhile then when I'd see the saliva drooping out of the corner of his mouth, I knew enough to back off. But I told him, I tried to convince him that his deputy chiefs, you could call them what you want, and this is from my experience now picking brains,

that they should be appointed, not a civil service appointment and they should be appointed from your captains' ranks. And if the captains' ranks aren't good enough to give you these men, then maybe you should figure out there must be something wrong with the captains' civil service exams and perhaps take more of an interest of what type of exam they are given, so you can get people who are better qualified for the jobs. And I said, but

take them strictly from the captains' ranks and if they don't work for you, you can put them back in the captains' rank and try another captain. I said, *you've got to have people that will work for you and not be yes men*. I said, if you make false with *yes men* in there, you're never gonna correct them.

KC: You must have been very wise sir because, basically, that's what it's changed to now.

And then LaBathe³³ was an acting chief in 1970 and then Rowan came in from '70 to '79. LaBathe was again acting chief in 1980 and then McCutcheon was appointed '80 to '92.

TF: Yes, I didn't know LaBathe was acting chief. I do know he was acting chief one time when I had the Vice Unit and had trouble with a guy from New York, he was some wealthy fella, and his son was selling tickets for a burlesque show over in North St. Paul. We got involved somehow in this. And, of course, then I talked to the Dean of Students of St. Thomas College, Father Vashro³⁴. He was a tremendous guy, I liked him, I'll be very frank on this, because now this is what he told me, he said, "I'm glad you come and discussed this with me, because you know, these little shits don't put nothing over on me." But when he said that, it startled me because he's a priest, "Uh uh," he said, "I didn't use God's name in vain." Well, that's true, too, you know. So anyhow, he says, "I'll handle it." But then the guy wasn't happy with, I suppose with Vashro the way he

³³ Robert F. LaBathe was appointed patrolman July 6, 1948; promoted to detective September 16, 1955; deputy chief April 17, 1964; acting chief April 1, 1970; returned to deputy chief June 30, 1970; emergency chief January 1, 1980; deputy chief April 2, 1980; retired July 18, 1986.

³⁴ Father Robert Vashro was Dean of Students 1955 – 1967 at the College of St. Thomas

handled it, so he went to the chief. The chief was LaBathe and I guess LaBathe tried to reason with him and so forth and finally told him, "Look, you and I are wasting our time, I'm too busy to be wasting my time with you, now you have to leave." Almost, like, kicked him out of his office, but still courteous about it. So I thought LaBathe did a good job there.



Acting Chief
Robert LaBathe

But then I was a little bit sore at LaBathe. I had a girl working for me, and they used to call them aids when I was watch commander, and she wanted to be a police officer in the worst way. She was on the Sheriff's list to be a deputy sheriff and they were ready to call, and they called, you know, so many at the top of the list, they called her and another girl, and LaBathe's son. LaBathe's son got the job, and she

said, "I got a better grade than him." And I said, "Well, you're a woman, why don't you take this up, because you're a woman they can't go over your head for this, even when you have a better grade." So, she did. But the reason they hired LaBathe, he was one-quarter Indian, nobody ever knew that before. [Chuckle] So I guess you say, well, that's the law.

KC: Now, what were you thinking about McCutcheon, when McCutcheon became chief – 1980 to '92?

TF: McCutcheon was a politician. But he didn't bring any harm on the Department. In fact, even when he was supposed to be, supposedly,



Chief
William McCutcheon

had sexual intercourse with a prostitute in a motor home in front of the police station, I just couldn't believe that. I says, you know, "If you're gonna be frank, McCutcheon's such a good looking guy, he can get more tail accidentally than most of us guys could ever get on purpose." And I said, "I can't believe that." I said, "That's a false story and I don't know if it's true or not." But I defended him. In fact many ways I defended him, because I thought the City was not suffering from it. Some of us guys on the Department might have.

[McCutcheon, as all previous chiefs of my time, were really an asset to the city. The city was fortunate in having men of such good character. The result of their work, we did have then, and now have a very fine police department.]

But, I felt like he kind of cut my throat. But, you see, maybe I was – he was probably thinking that I was a threat to his position, so he got me buried.

KC: Tell me more.

TF: I just feel that. I got pulled out of planning a research to see to it that the review officer's job, which is brand new now, be run properly. And he convinced the Chief that I was the man for the job, because I'm one of the guys that dreamed up this idea. But, now I go in there, I thought I was going to be in charge of it, but no, they have a lieutenant now, because this chain of command deal, you know. They have a lieutenant and I have to work shifts, work around the clock. I'm back to shift work, working

around the clock, again. So, I wasn't too happy about that. I stayed in there a year and then I told McAuliffe, I bumped into him in the hall one day, I said, "I want to be a police officer, again, if I gotta take a demotion, I'll take it. I'm tired of being a record clerk." You see I could tell him, I could speak my mind. He said, "You know Ted, I was thinking about coming and talking to you." He said, "I'm having problems with one of the shifts up there in the Comm Center. Would you take over up there for awhile and see if you can't get it straightened out." Well, he had a problem up there and I went in and we got it straightened out.

But now, all of a sudden, I'm what they call a Gold Badge Sergeant, under this new system that we got now.

KC: A starred sergeant.

TF: Anyone that is promoted in the future can be used either as a detective or as a supervisor. And, of course, I'm one of the guys that helped organize the Police Rank and Officer's Association, I was there first president. A lot of the guys don't know that today. The guy that really was responsible for it, I was helping



Sgt Ted Fahey
1955

him and then I became, well voted [to become] the first president. When I went into the Vice Unit, I was president of the Rank and Officer's Association. But, I thought it was not right, for me to be working directly for the Chief in the Vice Unit and then still be president, so I stepped out

of being president of the Rank and Officer's then. And the guys thought that was right.

KC: And then, of course, you retired under Chief McCutcheon.

TF: Yeah, under McCutcheon.

KC: In reference to the changes, when the detective division discontinued . . .

A Well, Rowan had a theory that you could promote a man to a position of incompetence. And that's true. Maybe you didn't like this promotion and you didn't apply yourself like you should have, or maybe it was just more than you could handle. Buy anyhow, under this new system, what we had hoped that you could put a man to where he should go. And because we had the sergeants, who were detectives, we could use them either way. Some guys can be a tremendous sergeant, but they won't be a good detective and visa versa, or they could be both. So, this gives us an advantage.

Now, at one time, a detective took one examination when he was a patrolman, and if he made detective, that was four pay grades more than a patrolman. A sergeant took one examination for a sergeant seat and if he made it, that was only two grades pay grade. At the scene of a crime, the detectives were our supervisors at the scene of a crime, they had to tell our men what to do. But we still had the Detective Division and the Patrol Division. A lot of your chiefs came from the Detective Division, Rowan was one of them. The Patrol Division was not the key thing. Now when we formed the Rank and Officer's Association, they still had the Detective Association. The Detective Association got monies from the baseball

games that were played twice a year, Minneapolis-Saint Paul Police, and from the Shrine Circus. But they wouldn't give us any of that money. And, also, when we were forming the Rank and Officer's Association, we couldn't take Silver Star Detectives, because they were not supervisors. We took sergeants.

KC: The detective rank was discontinued in 1964, there were still some detectives with that rank, who didn't retire until 1988. They were no longer appointed and there was no longer the two tiers.

TF: That's right. See, there again, that's when I was in the Comm Center, I'm a supervisor sergeant. We couldn't do things that these new sergeants could do and visa versa, they couldn't things we could do.

The only way I got out of that Comm Center – I made lieutenant and they transferred me out then. Then I was lieutenant on the line. When I was lieutenant on the line, that's the whole city.

You have a relief and then you assign your men to their patrols. I had a mess there, too, because we had two starred lieutenants.

Now, I'm a lieutenant, but in sense

I outrank them. They were lieutenants, when

I was still a sergeant, now I outrank them.



Lt. Ted Fahey

They weren't working like they should. Some nights you'd have so many people on off, you know, their days off, that we'd be short. The next night you got more guys than you got cars for. I reorganized all of that and I made some of the newer guys a little bit sore, because I had to change

their day off numbers. I had to equalize it, so I had enough men to cover these positions. But they were the starred lieutenants.

Now, there again, about that time that they changed the system, every – or maybe it was before. But every detective-lieutenant was blanketed in as a captain. He did not have to take an examination. See, now, McAuliffe took care of his buddies there, although, McAuliffe was the first one that was against making men deputy chiefs, because that's a political. I won't have that on the job as long as I'm calling the shots. But, it turns out, it's for the best, but they should strictly be, though, like I mentioned, from the captains' ranks, because now the captains are commanders. Well, I was a captain, so I got put in this captain's office on a provisional basis. I was in records, straight days, Saturdays and Sundays, holidays off, didn't have to work too hard and I'm getting up in years. I got called into the Chief's office one day, to the Deputy Chief's office, and that day we were supposed to have had an examination for captain. I hadn't even signed up for it. I had no intention of taking it. So, LaBathe and McCutcheon were there, they said, "Ted, we want you to be a watch commander. You get the money, you get a captain's wage and you wear the bars, but of course, when we make captains then you'll go back to your old rank." He said, "But, you're going to make captain anyhow." I said, "Now, wait a minute, do I have any choice in this?" And they said, "Well, no. We're going to appoint you this." I said, "Well, I don't want the



Captain Ted Fahey
1972

job.” And they said, “Well, then I guess you’re going to have to go anyhow, but why don’t you want it?” And I said, “Well, for you information, the exam, they got an injunction against for today, it got cancelled,” I says, “I didn’t even take it.”

But then I went in there on provision and then I got thinking, *It ain’t too bad a job, it’s a nice way to leave the department, as a captain.* I didn’t like the hours, but I thought maybe someplace along the line, maybe they’ll come. But I worked those goofy hours for a long time. And if I was to go ahead of a division, I already told them too, “I don’t want the Homicide. Definitely, I wouldn’t.” I said, “I’d have to take it, I suppose.” I said, “I can’t handle that type of pressure.

When people start calling and demanding something, finally I lose my cool and I might hang up on them.” I said, “I’ve done that once to the dispatch and fifteen minutes later, I was in the Chief’s office, getting my fanny chewed.”



Captain Fahey
1975

I would have liked Robbery, but the reorganization, we no longer had Robbery. We had a captain in charge of Crimes Against Persons and then we had Crimes Against Property. So we had two captains there. And then we had a captain in charge the Accident Division, we had captain in charge of Identification and Records and that’s about it, I guess.

KC: Did you later take the captain's test?

TF: I took it then and I was number two, but then to be damn sure I got the job, I used my Vet's Preference, so I was number one.

Regarding when I made sergeant. Joe Weinzetl³⁵ I thought was one of the smartest guys in the Police Department. He never made a promotion, because he was a non-vet. I always was opposed to our giving total preference]. The State, I think, would only give you ten points and that was plenty, because you go through and look at the grades, there wasn't much difference between, say, the number one guy and the fifteen or twentieth guy on grades. That's why your service rating was so important for you, too. I guess, maybe I got to liking it, so I decided maybe I better study and then likely ended up number one. But, like the sergeant's test with Weinzetl, [as a joke] I said to the guys, you know, "I'll sit next to Weinzetl, so Weinzetl'll be number one and I'll be number two." In other words, meaning that maybe I would cheat, see. Or at least that's the way that I took it and I think that's the way I meant it, too. [Laughter] And it ended up Weinzetl was number one and I'm number two. So, then when they couldn't use him, then I'm number one on that list. I've had some good grades on the detective exams, I took a couple of them, but not good enough to get appointed.

KC: You were on the Department from 1947 to '81, so that would be?

³⁵ Joseph M. Weinzetl (born December 10, 1912) was appointed reserve patrolman April 29, 1941; appointed patrolman to the Saint Paul Bureau of Police April 16, 1942; and retired October 9, 1964.

TF: It's thirty-three and a-half, actually, but yeah.

KC: In thirty-three and a-half years, what were the biggest changes that you saw?

TF: Well, perhaps, the reorganization that was started by McAuliffe and continued by Rowan and then, of course, McCutcheon.

KC: What is your final assessment of being a police officer?

TF: I am proud of the fact that I was a police officer in Saint Paul. I'm not ashamed to admit to anybody that I was a police officer.

