

# *A History of the Police Department*

As the hamlet that was Richmond at the turn of the century developed through various stages on its way to becoming the metropolis of today, so did the city's police protection expand.

In 1901, the ranchers and businessmen of San Pablo township elected Frank Moitoza to serve as Constable. The Point Richmond district was the center of population at that time. Moitoza's headquarters were in San Pablo, and his task of serving the entire township must have been a heavy one.

The distinction of being the city's first night watchman, and concurrently the city's first policeman, fell to Harry Stevens. He was hired in 1905 to patrol the streets in search of lawbreakers or persons of doubtful intentions. In 1906 the chore was turned over to A. B. Crump.

The first person to hold a position comparable to that of Chief of Police was H. W. Livingstone. He was Richmond's first Marshal. To make certain he kept occupied, the Board of Trustees also gave him the titles and duties of Superintendent of Streets, Tax Collector and Pound Master. This occurred at the first meeting of the Trustees after the city's incorporation in August, 1905.

Livingstone was succeeded in April, 1906, by J. H. Gregory, who also inherited the other three offices as well. He served until the city charter was adopted in 1909.

J. P. Arnold was the first Chief of Police appointed under the charter. He took office on July 6, 1909, and the Police Department, as such, was born officially.

Upon Arnold's resignation on July 1, 1914, Charles H. Walker took over the reigns of the department. He, in turn, was succeeded on August 15, 1919, by W. H. Wood.

In the spring of 1924, Dan Cox was named to the post, and he supervised the Department until his death on May 6, 1933.

His successor was L. E. Jones, who is the city's Chief of Police today. Jones was appointed Chief of Police on May 15, 1933, after serving through the various ranks since first appointed to the department in 1915. It has been during his term of duty that the city, and correspondingly the Department, have experienced the greatest growth.

Chief Jones, with his pre-war force of officers, formed the nucleus for the well drilled Department of today, which numbers more than 100 members.

Richmond has been fortunate that its Police Department has always been capable of matching its growth stride for stride, and has never failed the city with the protection it requires.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Background for this article was provided by the book, "A History of Richmond, California," written by Joseph C. Whitnah and published through the auspices of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. This assistance is gratefully acknowledged.)