

## **Gloucester County Historical Police Records**

A historical police binder was found in the Swedesboro Police archives in early 2018 while Woolwich Police Department was performing a record reorganization and review. The first part of the records contains the first Gloucester County Police School Lessons. Per Lesson #1, the Gloucester County Police School was organized Tuesday, February 22, 1938 at the Woodbury Court House with Undersheriff Eckman presiding. Speakers included Senator Robert H. Hendrickson, Assemblyman John G. Shool, Sheriff Arlington Jones, County Detective W. Clayton Apgar, and Captain Russell H. Snook, Chief of the Identification Bureau of the State Police while Prosecutor Lynwood Lord was the first lecturer at the opening class.

The lesson book was referred to as Modern Criminal Investigation and contained over fifty pages of lessons on topics such as investigation of auto accidents, fingerprints, unidentified dead, scientific criminal investigation, sketches of general scenes, photographing scenes of a crime, firearms investigations, handwriting identification, typewriting identification, tool marks, mold casts and reproduction, teeth marks, and tire marks. Additional topics include first aid, child birth, drugs, glass, poison, blood stains and other stains, dust and soil, and wood and metal. All of these lessons are typewritten while detailed, sample drawings of crime scenes correlating to the lessons are hand drawn.

The second lesson book was from the Gloucester County Police School on Traffic which was organized one year later on Wednesday, February 22, 1939 at the Woodbury Court House with Under Sheriff Eckman presiding. Office William Jordan of the Swedesboro Police Department typed the lessons while Sergeant Albert E. Norman of the State Police served as the instructor. Shorter than the previous lesson book, this instructional focused on traffic control and N.J.S.A. Title 39 which pertains to state laws on motor vehicles. Topics of these lessons include traffic control and accident investigation, hit and run accidents, and marks on the victim, car, and clothing.

A third document dated November 20, 1940 is approximately 50 pages of detailed notes on the course of Scientific Criminal Investigation written by the lecturer Sergeant J. J. Orzechowski, Instructor from the New Jersey State Police Training School. The document includes a forward written by Sheriff Harry A. Black and the Director of the Gloucester County Police School, H. Leonard Eckman. These detailed notes include sections on ideal qualities of a good police officer, investigation observation techniques, suggested contacts and sources of information, complaints and requests, types of evidence, interviewing and cross examination, and preparation for trial.

Additional documents contained in the binder included a poem entitled, "You're a Policeman" courtesy of Inspector W. H. Drane Lester, F.B.I. and "An Alphabet for Law Enforcement Officers," which provides one law enforcement tip for each letter of the alphabet. An example would be "Z for zealously guard and protect your evidence. Your case might hinge on a very small fragment. Make it count". It is unclear who wrote this document.

Finally, two other, confidential documents were included in the binder as well. One is a memorandum from the Federal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice regarding national defense investigations dated January 23, 1941 addressed to the New Jersey State Police Training School. This document was written by E. E. Conroy, Special Agent in Charge and focuses on what information should be obtained and reported when interviewing and investigating suspects who pose a threat to the United States government.

The other confidential record documents the Rules and Regulations compiled by the New Jersey State Police for Plant Police or Plant Guards. This document is not dated. Basically, it provides security procedures for manufacturing plants. For example, a section on Labor states, "labor circulars to be studied by the Police. Some industrial plants do not allow the Guards to wear Sam Browne Belts and carry revolvers, as it may antagonize labor." According to the document, there is a need to issue rules similar to the system in state and municipal police departments. "To assist with these requests, we have herewith a compilation, alphabetically arranged, covering all duties, hazards, and suggestions to prevent sabotage or subversive activities." This document is most likely a reflection of both the rise of labor unions in the United States and the onset of the impending war in Europe.