

MS-181, Dayton Police Department Historical Records

Collection Number: MS- 181

Title: Dayton Police Department Historical Records

Dates: 1876-2010; (bulk 1910-1970)

Creator: Dayton (Ohio) Police Department

Summary/Abstract:

This collection was created through the efforts of several Dayton Police Department officers and the Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc. Included in the collection are the arrest files of many different criminals, most notably notorious criminals of the early twentieth century like John Dillinger, "Bugs" Moran, Pretty Boy Floyd, Clyde Barrow, and Alfred Brady. The bulk of the information includes Bertillon card photographs from the turn of the century, various personnel photos, many negatives, news-clippings saved by the D.P.D., and two "retired" police training DVDs from the middle of the 20th century. Also included are monthly assignment detail reports from the 1950s to the 1990s.

Quantity/Physical Description: 4.17 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Physical and Technical Requirements: To view the DVDs of Univis Lens Company Strike and Dayton Riots in Series V, request access copies of E-Archives items ms181_e0001 and ms181_e0002 at the reference desk. The DVDs require a computer with a DVD drive to view.

Preferred Citation:

[Box #, Folder #], MS-181, Dayton Police Department Historical Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: Dayton Police Historical Foundation

Revisions: Finding aid updated to EAD format by Jeri Kniess, Fall 2011

Processed by: Melissa J. Rumbarger, 1988.
Additions processed by Jeri Kniess, Fall 2011.

Arrangement:

The Dayton Police Department Historical Records Collection is organized into five series:

- Series I: Photographic/Bertillon System Cards
- Series II: Arrest Information
- Series III: Notorious Criminal File
- Series IV: Audio/Visual
- Series V: Dayton P.D. Administrative Files

Historical Note:

The Dayton Police Department traces its origin to the first constable, Cyrus Osborn, appointed after the settlement of Dayton in 1797. The Charter of 1805 which created the town of Dayton made provision for a marshal, who was required to maintain the peace within the new town. Until 1833, the marshal served as the town's only law enforcement officer. As demands for increased law protection grew, marshals were added until 1867 when the state legislature granted Dayton the privilege of organizing its own police department. This decree was repealed 11 months later, and Dayton returned to law governed by the marshal.

In 1873, Dayton again was able to organize another police department with a chief, two lieutenants, a staff of patrolmen, and several officials responsible for operation of the municipal jail. The department was originally governed by a Board of Police Commissioners, however the board was later disbanded. The department was then governed by a safety director appointed by the mayor. After 1914, the Dayton Police Department became a division of the Department of Public Safety, as it is today.

Scope and Content:

These records are arranged in five series:

Series I, the Bertillon Card file, contains a selection of Bertillon cards from the Dayton Police Department, and also a file relating to Dayton criminals in the Ohio State Reformatory and Penitentiary. The Bertillon System provided the fundamental identification method of criminals and each card includes the criminal's name, mug-shot, crime, and identifying characteristics.

Series II, the Arrest Files, contains a selection of routine arrest files as maintained by the Police Department. Each file varies in content, some containing mug shots, arrest reports, newspaper clippings, and other miscellany relating to the individual's criminal record.

Series III, the Notorious Criminal file, contains the information which was stored at the Police Department regarding notorious criminals. This file contains the "records" of Clyde Barrow, Alfred Brady, Pretty Boy Floyd, Albert Fouts, John "Peanuts" Gourmey, Bugs Moran, and Virgil Summers. As a sub-series is the police file maintained in Dayton relating to the Dayton capture and arrest of John Dillinger. The local police file contains mug shots and arrest reports, as well as informant statements and arresting officers' reports. The official correspondence file contains

letters of inquiry from police departments nationwide, requesting information about Dillinger. Also in this file are the FBI letters relating to J. Edgar Hoover.

Series IV, the Audio/Visual File, contains negatives and photographs taken of and by the Dayton Police Department along with newspaper clippings saved by the D.P.D. between 1904 and 1937. Within this series are photographs of personnel – group shots, portraits, or training/use pictures – and photographs of non-personnel related to the Dayton Police Department. Of note here are the 1876 and 1888 Dayton Police Department group photographs. Also here are three pictures from 1917 featuring the “Policewoman’s Department.” In this file are two DVDs with written descriptions; “Univis Lens Company Strike” from 1948, used for training purposes until the 1960s, and “Dayton Riots: The 1960s” which is actually three shorter films focused on 1960s protest riots and subsequent police training thereof. Lastly in this series is the 2010 Dayton Police Department Yearbook.

Series V, the Dayton Police Department Administrative Files, contains Monthly Assignment Detail Reports, beginning in 1950 and ending in 1998. These files are incomplete, with various months missing throughout and whole years absent between November 1964 and January 1980. There is a file of vacation/time-off requests and schedules from 1961- December 1964. There is also a bound “Manual of Procedure” and “Disciplinary Hearing Procedure” from 1961.

Subject Terms

Persons

Barrow, Clyde, 1909-1934
Floyd, Pretty Boy, 1904-1934
Dillinger, John, 1903-1934
Moran, George Clarence, 1893-1957
Brady, Alfred, 1910-1937

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton (Ohio). Police Department. -- History

Places

Dayton (Ohio) -- History
Dayton (Ohio)--Politics and government

Subjects (General)

Police administration -- United States – History -- 20th century
Crime – Ohio -- Dayton

Material Types

Photographs
Negatives

Occupations

Policewomen--United States--History--20th century
Policemen--United States--History--20th century

Collection Inventory

Series I: Photographic/Bertillon System Cards

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Dayton P.D. Bertillon Cards	Pre-1910
	2	Dayton P.D. Bertillon Cards	1910
	3	Dayton P.D. Bertillon Cards	1910
	4	Dayton P.D. Bertillon Cards	1911
	5	Dayton P.D. Bertillon Cards	1912
	6	Dayton P.D. Bertillon Cards	1917-1919
	7	Ohio State Reformatory and Penitentiary Cards	
	8	Miscellaneous, undated cards	undated

Series II: Arrest Information

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Brown, B.	May 14, 1905
	2	Burkes, Mabel	Jun. 24, 1905
	3	Burkes, James	Jun. 23, 1905
	4	Coppock, Harry	Feb. 8, 1933
	5	Dudley, William	Jun. 13, 1905
	6	Gebhart, Harry	Jun. 10, 1905
	7	Harris, John A.	Aug. 9, 1905
	8	Hisey, Harvey	Jul. 16, 1905
	9	Howard, George (alias: J.F. Howard)	Jul. 8, 1905
	10	Howard, John (alias: Dowling McDonald)	Oct. 5, 1905
	11	King, Napoleon Leon	Apr. 14, 1905
			Jan. 3, 1956
	12	Krug, Albert L.	Jul. 13, 1905
	13	Krug, Clarence	Jul. 13, 1905
	14	Mitchell, Frank	Mar. 8, 1905
	15	Myers, Charles Oscar	Jun. 24, 1905
	16	Parsels, Burt	Jul. 30, 1905
	17	Parsels, Harry	Apr. 3, 1935
	18	Schroeder, John (alias: Harry Powers, Cornelius Pierson, "Bluebird")	May 28, 1933
	19	Spohr, Lewis	Nov. 25, 1893
	20	Tall, John	Jun. 18, 1905
	21	Tiller, Prentice (alias: M.W. Chambers)	Dec. 18, 1905
	22	Vance, Percy (alias: Van Ness, H.R. Gray)	Aug. 17, 1905
	23	Dayton/Cincinnati Newspaper Clippings	1904-1937

Series III: Notorious Criminal File

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Wanted Posters	1902-1917
	2	Clyde Barrow	
	3	Alfred Brady	
	4	Charles A. "Pretty Boy" Floyd	
	5	Albert Fouts	
	6	John E. "Peanuts" Gourmey	
	7	George C. "Bugs" Moran	
	8	Virgil Summers	
		John Dillinger	
	9	Dillinger – Local Police File	
	10	Dillinger – Official Police Correspondence	
	11	Dillinger – Clippings	
	12	Dillinger – Miscellaneous	

Series IV: Audio/Visual

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Negatives – Dayton P.D. Personnel	Pre 1950 - 1960
	2	Negatives – Dayton P.D. Personnel	1961-1969
	3	Negatives – Dayton P.D. Personnel	1970s
	4	Negatives – Dayton P.D. Personnel	undated
	5	Negatives – Prisoners/Crime Scenes/Non-personnel	undated
	6	Photographs – Policewoman’s Department	1917
	7	Photographs – Personnel (see also Box 10)	undated
	8	Photographs – Personnel, Training (see also Box 10)	undated
	9	Photographs – Personnel, yearbook mock ups	undated
	10	Photographs – Non-personnel	undated
	11	DVDs – Univis Lens Company Strike and Dayton Riots – 1960s with information sheets (Available at reference desk by requesting access copy of E-Archives items ms181_e0001 and ms181_e0002)	1948-1971
	12	2010 copy of the Dayton P.D. Yearbook	2010

Series V: Dayton P.D. Administrative Files

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	1	Vacation Schedules/Time Off Requests	1961-Dec. 1964
	2	Monthly Assignment Detail	Feb. 28, 1950- Dec. 1955
	3	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan./Feb. 1956- Dec. 1958

	4	Monthly Assignment Detail	Mar. 1959- Aug. 1961
6	1	Monthly Assignment Detail	Sep. 1961- Dec.1962
	2	Monthly Traffic Section Assignments	Sep. 1952-Apr. 1961
	3	Monthly Assignment Detail (Full-Size, including Traffic)	Jun. 1957-Oct. 1960
	4	Monthly Assignment Detail (Full-Size, including Traffic)	Jan./Feb. 1961-Jul. 1962
	5	Monthly Assignment Detail (Full-Size, including Traffic)	Aug. 1962-Nov. 1964
7	1	Monthly Assignment Detail	Mar. 1980- Dec.1981
	2	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan. 1982-Jan. 1983
	3	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan. 1984- Dec.1985
	4	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec. 1986
	5	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec.1987
8	1	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan./Feb.- Dec.1988
	2	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec. 1989
	3	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec.1990
	4	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec. 1991
	5	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec. 1992
9	1	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan.-Dec. 1993
	2	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan. 1994-Oct. 1995
	3	Monthly Assignment Detail	Jan. 1996- Dec. 1998
	4	Manual of Procedure & Disciplinary Hearing Procedure Pamphlet	1961
		Oversize Material	
10	1	Photographs – Personnel (see Box 4)	undated
	2	Photographs – Personnel, Training (see Box 4)	undated