

HOARD HISTORICAL MUSEUM
407 Merchants Avenue . . . Phone 563-4521 Area 414
FORT ATKINSON, WISCONSIN 53538

FEBRUARY 25, 1980

TO CHIEF WILLIAM R. CISKE
FROM HANNAH SWART

IN ANSWER TO YOUR INQUIRY ABOUT THE LAW-INFORCEMENT AND LOCATION OF EARLIER POLICE DEPARTMENTS, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS ON FILE IN THE RESOURCE MATERIAL OF THE MUSEUM.

IN NOVEMBER 1838, LUTHER A. COLE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY SHERIFF UNDER THE SHERIFF OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY. WHEN JEFFERSON COUNTY WAS SET APART FROM MILWAUKEE COUNTY IN 1838, GOVERNOR HENRY DODGE APPOINTED ALVIN FOSTER THE FIRST SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY WITH CHARLES ROCKWELL APPOINTED AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

FORT ATKINSON BECAME A VILLAGE IN 1860 AND ACCORDING TO THE MINUTE BOOK PROVISION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS INCLUDED. H.A. PORTER SERVED AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND A.E. JAYCOX THE VILLAGE CONSTABLE. LATER PORTER SERVED AS THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND CONSTABLE HEAD-QUARTED IN A FRAME BUILDING ON S. MAIN ST. (PRESENT LOCATION OF THE WIS. GAS & ELECTRIC CO.)

IN 1870 A VILLAGE HALL WAS ERECTED (PRESENT ARCADIA BOWLING ALLEY & TAVERN) ON MILWAUKEE ST. E.PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE GROUND LEVEL. FOR MANY YEARS THERE WAS A SMALL BRICK BUILDING LOCATED ON THE PRESENT CITY PARKING LOT AT THE END OF WATER STREET W. WHICH WAS USED AS A LOCK-UP.

WHEN FORT ATKINSON BECAME A CITY IN 1878 PROVISION WAS MADE FOR AN ELECTED CHIEF, POLICE MARSHALL AND NIGHT CONSTABLE. HENRY WOODIN WAS THE FIRST ELECTED CHIEF. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY CHIEFS STEVEN ROSE AUGUST F. HAUSEN, GEORGE MASON AND HARRY MUELLER. THE FIRST POLICE WAGON WAS PURCHASED IN 1927. IN 1939 THE FIRST TWO-WAY RADIO WAS INSTALLED AND IN 1940 A ROCK RIVER PATROL BOAT WAS ACQUIRED.

TO CHIEF WILLIAM CISKE: - CONTINUED

IN 1930 A CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHED. THE OFFICE OF POLICE CHIEF AND OTHER LAW INFORCEMENT OFFICERS BECAME POSITIONS OF APPOINTMENT RATHER THAN ELECTED. HARRY MUELLER CONTINUED AS POLICE CHIEF. WHEN EDWARD SCHULTZ WAS APPOINTED CHIEF IN 1949 THE DEPARTMENT HAD GROWN TO A STAFF OF EIGHT MEN, AND HAD OFFICES AND JAIL IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

IN 1967 THE DEPARTMENT WAS MOVED TO ITS OWN NEW QUARTERS. THAT SAME YEAR WILLIAM CISKE BECAME POLICE CHIEF TO SUCCEED SCHULTZ. A STAFF OF 12 MEN OPERATED 2 SQUAD CARS, A CUSHMAN PARKING VEHICLE AND AN EMERGENCY RESCUE UNIT.

TODAY (1979) THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS 24 HOUR PROTECTION, 2-WAY RADIO PATROL, 14 OFFICERS, 4 DISPATCHERS & 1 METER MAID.

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PER HANNAH W. SWART

ATTACHED; POLICE JUSTICE BUILDING # 1 PRIOR TO 1870
VILLAGE HALL 1870 # 2
MUNICIPAL BUILDING # 3 DEDICATED IN 1929
PRESENT POLICE STATION # 4 ERECTED IN 1969