

Waco Police History

140 years of policing

Before creation of Waco PD

- For a short period shortly after 1849, Waco was known as “Six shooter junction” because of the numerous gun battles fought by its early founders.

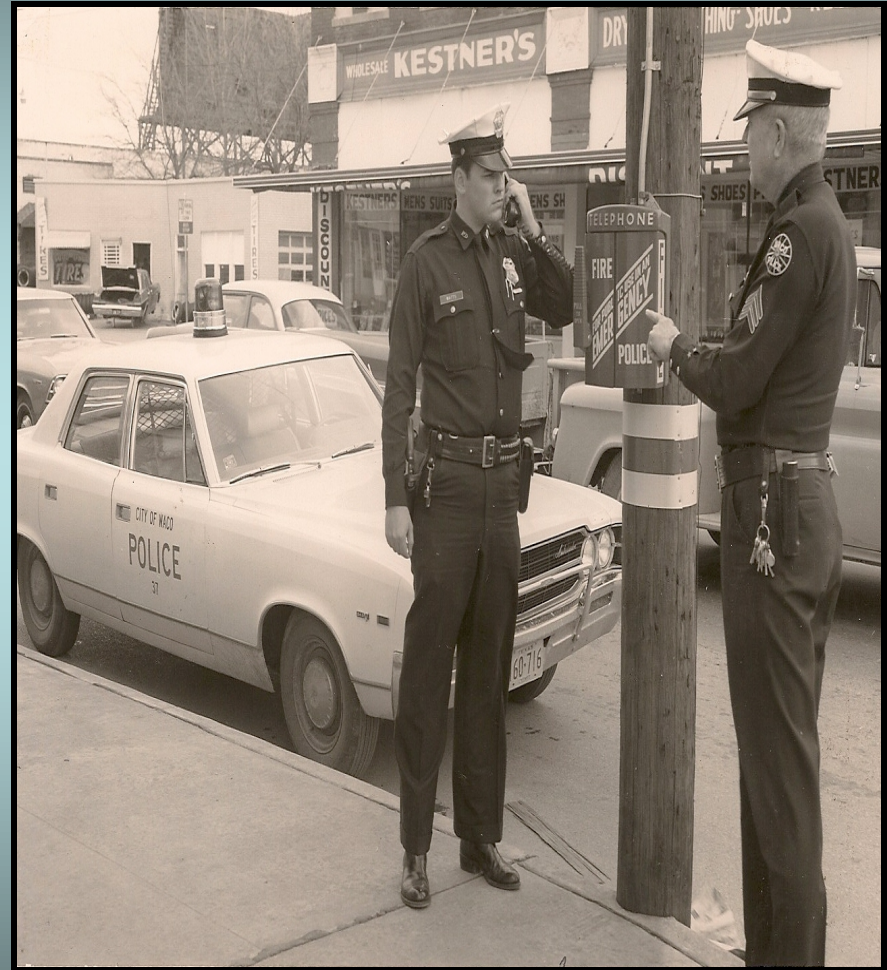
Year Police Dept. Created

- 1871 – election of 1st town marshal as provided by 1st city charter
- Alf Neill –One of first Waco officers killed in the line of duty in 1877.
- Annual elections, mayor could appoint four officers. (lasted until 1930's)

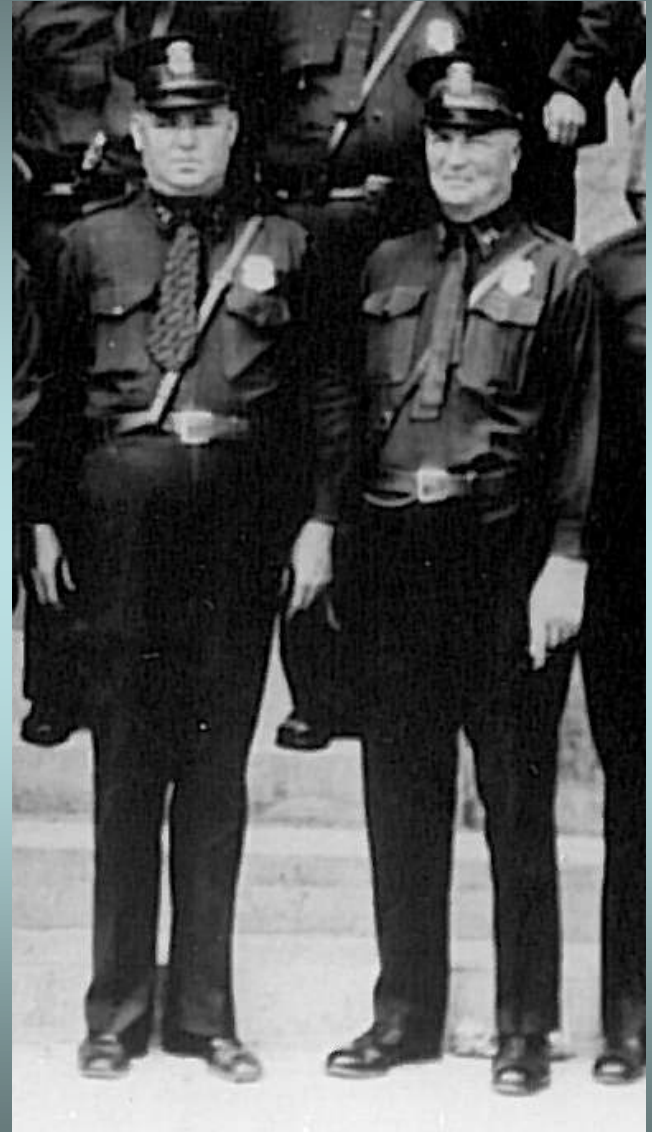


Alf Neill

- By 1879, Waco had four officers and an annual budget of \$600. Officers duties were collecting taxes, repairing streets, and ring the fire bell.
- 1900's – began use of call boxes. Officers called in every thirty minutes.



- During the Great Depression, the mayor approved emergency hiring of 30 extra officers to keep order. Officers used their own cars, city paid for gas.
- 1936 Civil service was established as a minimum requirement for hiring.
- 1936 pay was just over \$100 a month.
- Uniform was a 3 piece blue serge suit with shell buttons.



Waco Police Department Feb. 2nd, 1939



- WW II- manpower shortage brought on the hiring of 1st black officer and 1st female officer



Adding Special Units

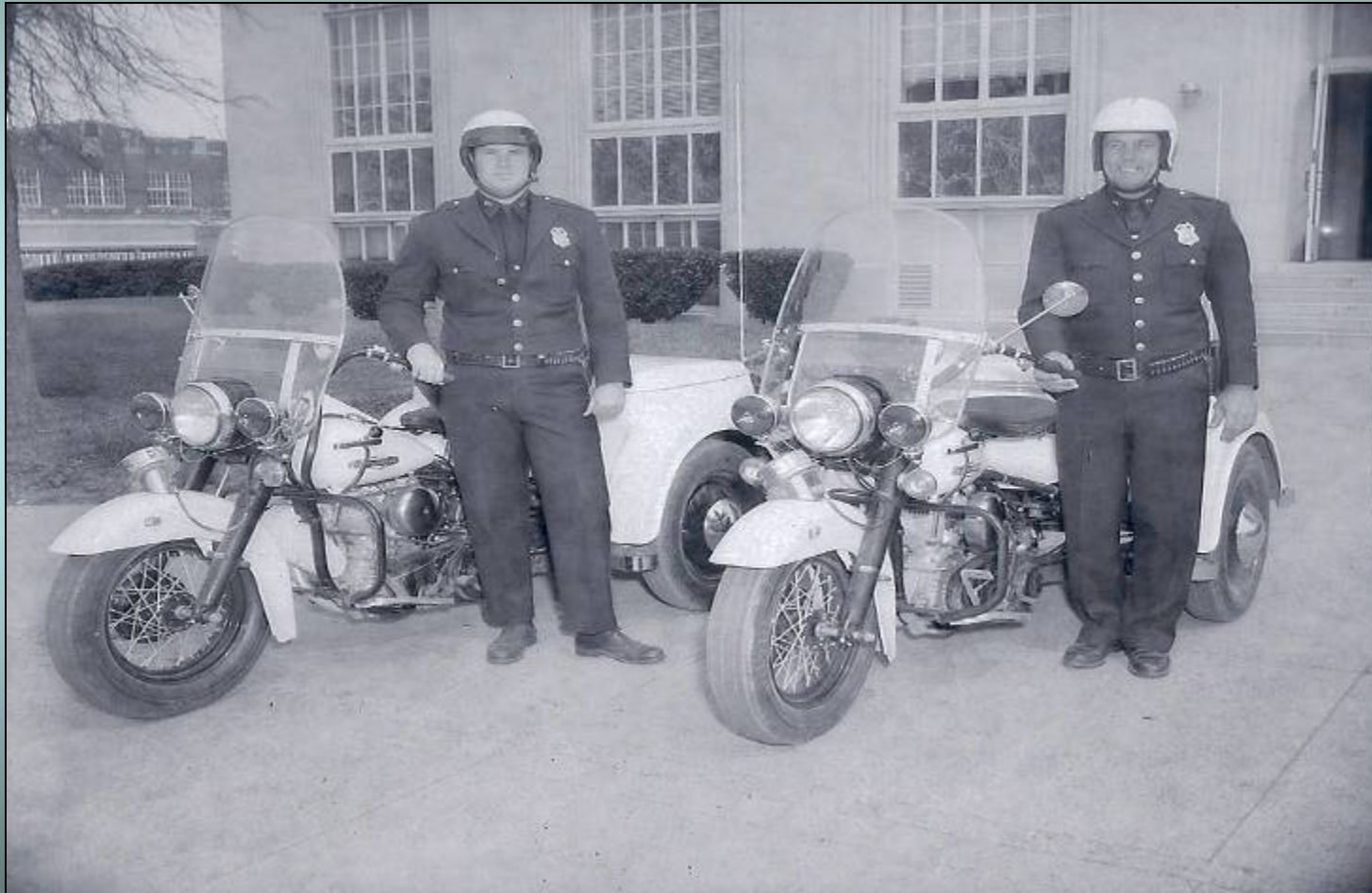
- Boat patrol – officers would patrol Lake Waco for any criminal activity.



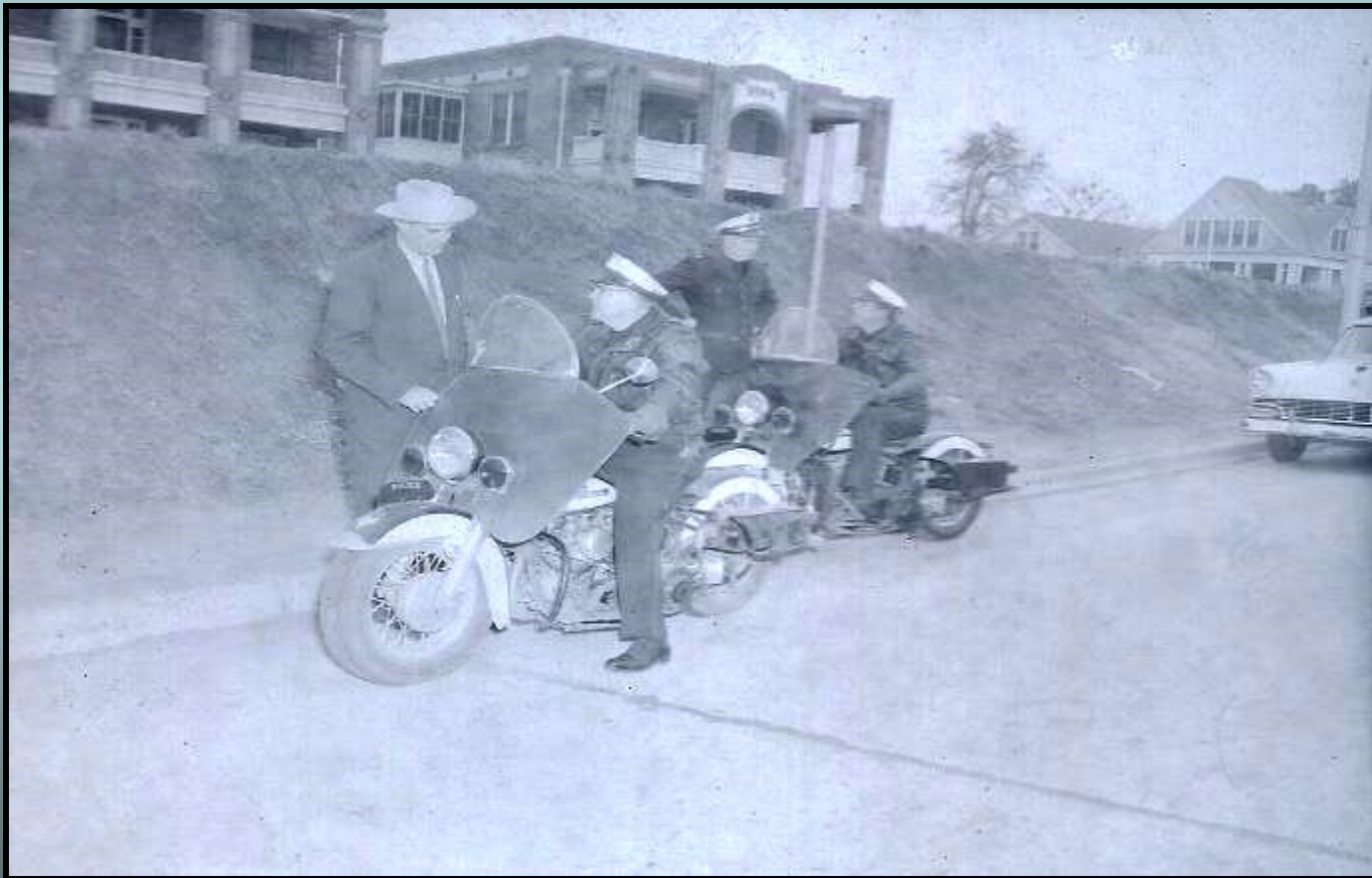
Motorcycle Traffic Unit – City bought motorcycles for officers to enforce traffic laws



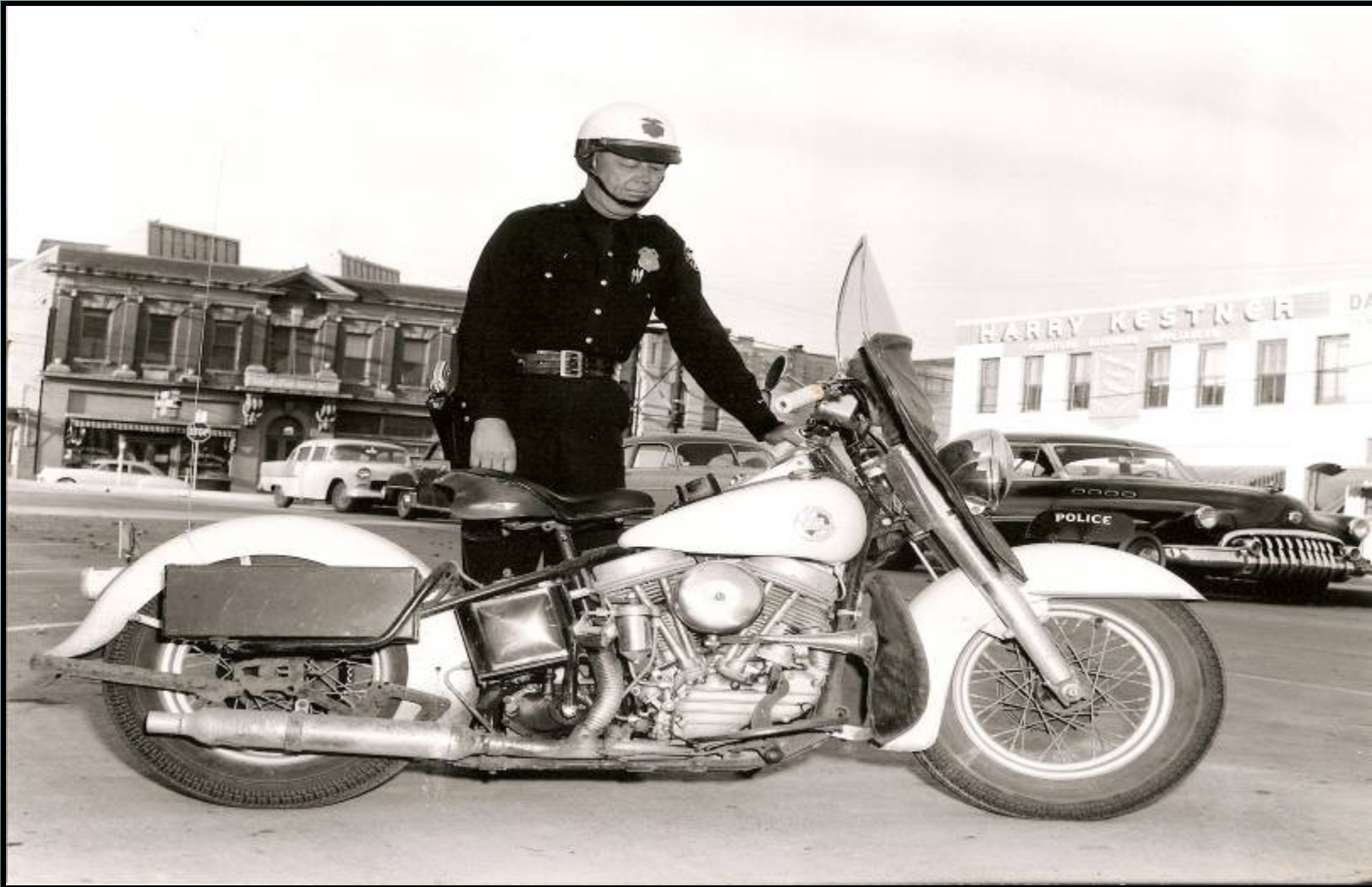
1948 – city bought 1st 3 wheel motorcycle for traffic downtown.



- 1958 – The 2 wheel motorcycle unit came to an end but the city kept the 3 wheel motorcycles for downtown traffic patrol.



Officers were able to purchase the 2 wheel motorcycles for their own use which lead to funeral escorts.

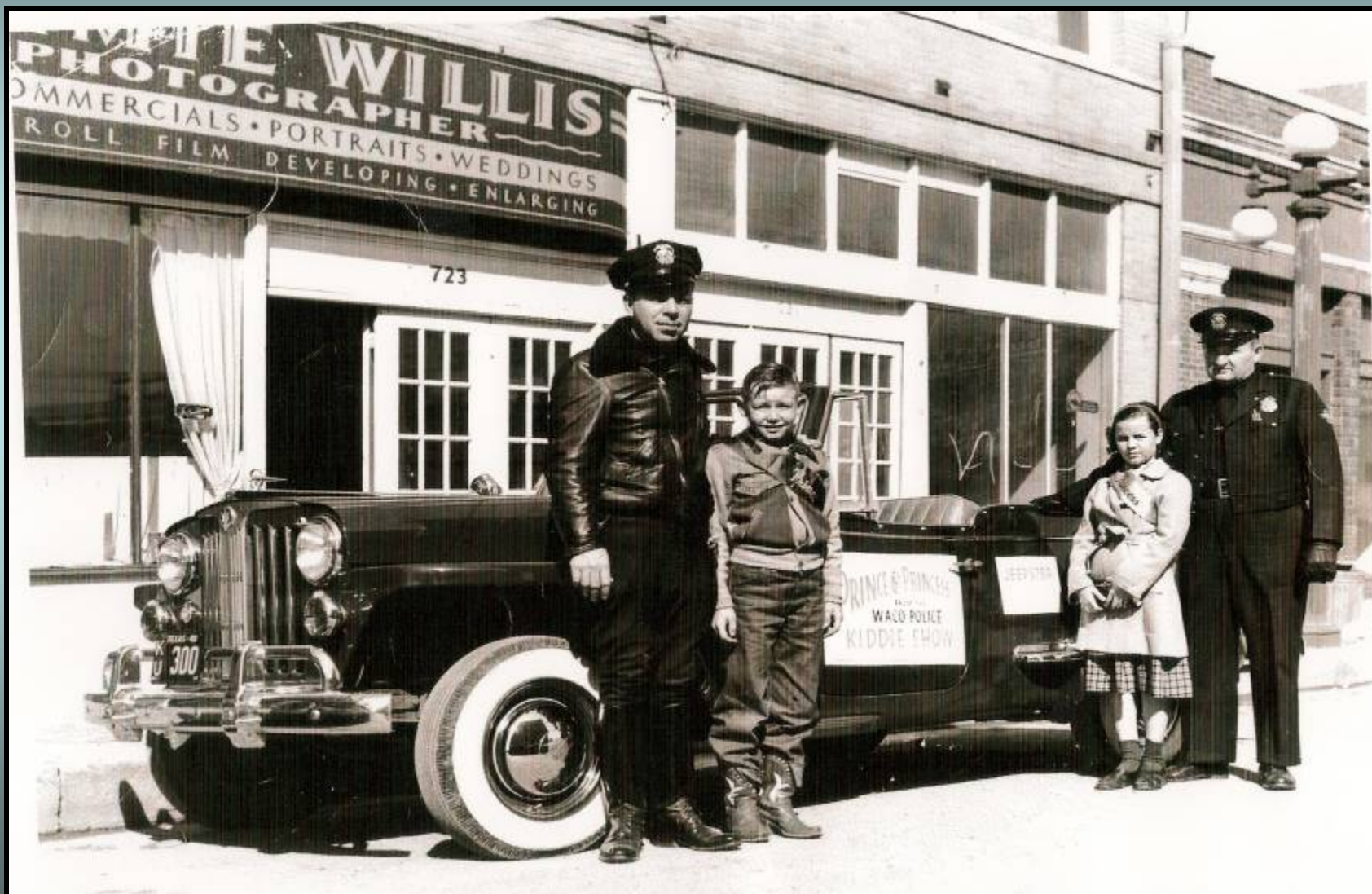


Weekly Police Kiddie Show

- The weekly Prince and Princess from the Waco Police Kiddie Show was a collaboration between Radio Station WACO and the Waco Theater at 8th and Austin where the Hippodrome is today.
- School children were invited to the Kid's Matinee each week and where entertained briefly by the local radio superstar of the era, Mary Holliday and then treated to a movie.
- They were treated to rides around town in the flashy convertible plus a family dinner at Youngbloods at 2600 Franklin.

Officers participate in
Waco Police Kiddie Show 1949

Left to right is Officer Eakin, boy Ronnie Wenzel, girl Kay Miller, Officer Payne



1970's to 2010

- The department has grown to over 240 officers with over 115 civilian employees.



Your Up-to-date Police Dept.

- Patrol shifts are now four 10 hr. days, working 24/7 365 days a year.
- Many specialized units have emerged such as K-9, Personnel Unit, Training Unit, Professional Standards and Conduct Unit, Traffic Unit, SWAT
- Drug Enforcement Unit, Neighborhood Detectives, Street Crimes, Special Crimes, Criminal Investigation, Crime Scene Unit, Communications Section, Criminal Intelligence, Animal Control, Crime Stoppers, Victim Services

Waco Police Department needs your help

- Our Historical Committee is currently seeking for any historical artifacts or pictures that shows the history of the department for our future museum.
- This would include but not limited to uniforms prior to 1970 (including hats and gun belts)
- Any special awards the department or officers may have been awarded.

- Pictures of officers with their car or motorcycle.
- Pictures of officers receiving an award for example.
- Group pictures of officers.
- Any piece of equipment they may have used to help them with their job.
- Any old Waco PD patches.



Contact a Committee Member

- If you have an artifact, picture, or any memorabilia that has a history with the Waco Police Department and you wish to donate or lend to the museum, please contact a committee member.
- Officer Jay Sunday (254) 315-3942
- Randy Lanier (254)749-9267
- Officer Sofie Martinez (254)750-1760
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