

ARPO Update

On March 20, 2010, ARPO held its fourth reunion dinner at Westbrook Village Lakes Recreation Center and 127 were in attendance. As always, old acquaintances were renewed and tall tales of past adventures flowed freely. The highlights of this particular reunion were the memorabilia and articles that Mike Nikolin and Ed Reynolds brought from the police museum. Each of them drove one of the restored patrol cars; the 1967 Ford that most of us recalled and have seen before, though it is always a sight to behold. The second was a 1947 Ford black and white unit that many of us had never seen. It was hilarious when Mike started it up after the dinner (it uses a 6 volt system), turned on the twin red lights and then sounded the "siren", which took quite a few seconds to grind up to a barely audible level. Many passersby that were not part of the reunion were just as fascinated.

Mike also brought a number of weapons and other items from the museum, including the drum model Browning submachine gun and a number of other examples. Perhaps one of the most fascinating was a 38 caliber revolver that belonged to Gordon Selby. It has white (pearl?) grips with several notches in them and is in pristine condition. Gordon has donated the weapon and its display case to the museum.

Mike also had a mounted, detailed map of the Deuce area, including the names of many businesses and the names of several of the alleys, such as French, Paris and Gold alleys. The museum has requested that anyone with memorabilia, photos or other items of interest please consider donating or loaning them to the museum to help build our history. Any photos or documents will be carefully scanned and returned in the same condition as they were loaned.

Ed Reynolds put together an amazing slide show of over 300 photos, some going back to the earliest days of the Department and it ran on a continuous loop via a computer projector that the museum recently acquired. This sparked a lot of memories and discussion, especially when trying to recall some of the names that go with the faces.

The turnout was not as large as the three prior dinners, but we heard from many people who were obligated to other events, including two retirement parties that were held at the same time, but everyone who did attend expressed their enjoyment of the evening.

ARPO will next hold its regular business meeting, probably in October, and an announcement will be going out as to where and when. It will be an important meeting as elections for a new Board will be held. If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board, contact any current Board member and put your hat in the ring. It does not require a great deal of time, but does require that you would like to see our retiree organization continue and to grow.