Sergeant Henry V. McCafferty Collection
1950-1972

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revised: May 5, 2010
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Size: 2.2 linear feet (3 boxes)
Gift of: Keith Buinauskas (Nephew) to the Lloyd Sealy Library in 2009 and 2010

Scope and Content Note
This collection demonstrates the day to day life of a policeman of the NYPD during the 1950’s to the early 1970’s. By browsing through the memo books one can see how a patrolman worked closely in the community in such ways as intervening in family disputes, preventing burglaries, suicide, assisting injured people, and carrying out arrests. This collection also offers the opportunity to observe the nature of the different activities of a policeman of a mounted unit as well as that of a sergeant.

Biographical Note
Henry V. McCafferty was born in New York City on July 25, 1925 to Henry and Johanna Jacobson McCafferty. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force and was assigned as a tail gunner on a B-24 heavy bomber. He completed forty-six combat missions in the Pacific and received the Air Medal and other citations for his service.

In January 1950 he joined the NYPD as a patrolman and was assigned to the 24th Precinct on Manhattan’s upper West side. During these early years he received Departmental Recognition citations, including one for rescuing a woman from a burning building. In 1964 he was reassigned to the NYPD’s mounted patrol unit and worked in both Manhattan and the Bronx. He had had no previous experience with horse riding but he took easily to it and came to savor this part of his career. Part of his responsibilities lay in crowd control and dispersing the “hippie protests” and the notable Columbia University student protests of the 1960’s.

By October 1969 McCafferty was reassigned to the Taxi-Truck-Surveillance Unit (TTSU), an undercover operation which was formed to prevent the hijacking of trucks from the airports. A year later he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was then reassigned to NYPD 44th Precinct in the Bronx. The 44th Precinct includes Yankee Stadium, the Grand Concourse, the Criminal and Supreme Courts of the Bronx, a house of detention and the Bronx Terminal
Marketplace. During this period McCafferty was stationed at many of the Yankee baseball games and was a colleague of famed policeman Frank Serpico.

He was elected to be the Bronx representative for the Sergeants Benevolent Association (SBA) and also acted as a representative for any Bronx sergeant under investigation for misconduct. His career was further distinguished by his election to the Board of Directors of the SBA (1972). Other highlights include a Special Distinction Award (1977), for his contributions to labor-management relations and a Distinguished Service Award (1979) from the SBA for his service to the association.

In 1971 McCafferty married Elizabeth “Betty” Testa McCafferty, a registered nurse who worked in supervisory and administrative positions at a hospital in New York. McCafferty retired from the NYPD in 1978 after sustaining an injury and moved with his wife to Waterbury, CT. He worked in the area of security as a supervisor and consultant for a number of years but started to turn his attention to local politics.

He was appointed as Police Commissioner of Waterbury, CT by the mayor of this city in 1995, and received a Special Citation Award for Exceptional Duty from the Police Commissioners Association of CT (PCAC) four years later. During his lifetime, McCafferty was a member of several police organizations and was on the Elks Board of Trustees.


Series Descriptions

Series 1: Memo Books 1950-1972 (box 1-2)
Arranged chronologically, this series is comprised of daily memo books that Sergeant Henry V. McCafferty of the New York Police Department kept while on his beat from 1950 to 1972.


The memo books typically include: McCafferty’s Patrolman (8003) or Sergeant (2093) number, the date, specified tour, location of his post, the hour and location of events that took place while on his patrol, the hour meals were taken and when his patrol was resumed. License plate numbers and abbreviated car makes are notated on the reverse side of some of the pages of the journals.


Series 3: Photographs 1951-ca.1966 (box 3) Chiefly black and white photographs, of various sizes.

Series 4: Artifacts 1964-1978 (box 4)
**Container List**

**Box 1**
Memo Books, 1/11/50-9/21/61

**Box 2**
Memo Books, 9/22/61-6/14/72
Miscellaneous File, 1967-1971
1. (11/11/50-11/9/67) - index to the memo books
2. (12/16/68), judicial subpoena
3. (3/7/71), Public Morals Observation Report

**Box 3**
Biography of Henry V. McCafferty by nephew Keith Buinauskas (2 pages)

Photographs, 1951-ca.1966
1. 1951, Head and Shoulders Portrait, McCafferty (2½x3½inch B/W photo)
2. 1951, McCafferty in coat, standing (5x7inch modern copy of B/W photo)
3. [1964?] Group photo of officers on horseback (5x7inch B/W photo, torn in half and repaired with tape) - On back: “Graduation day – Mounted Police Unit”
4. 1965, McCafferty on horseback - woman petting his horse, Central Park (7x5inch color photo)
5. 14/7/1966, McCafferty on horseback talking to group on sidewalk –Times Square? (8x10 inch B/W photo) - photo by Richard Schellings
6. 1966 McCafferty on horseback amongst demonstrators in the Village (7x11inch B/W photo)
7. 3/20/1966 newscutting in which this photo appears “Reinforced Police Renew War on Village Beatniks” New York Journal American
8. [no date] McCafferty and Hank Aaron signing baseball at Yankee Stadium (8x10 inches B/W photo)
9. [no date] McCafferty holding leash of chained monkey (7½ x5inches B/W photo) on back “this was in newspaper –NY Post - 24 precinct”
10. [no date] unidentified magazine clipping – large group photograph (dinner dance in horse stables?)

Artifacts, 1964-1978
1. Mounted Association Horsemanship School (N.Y.C.P.D.) 1964 ribbon
2. Policeman badge, #8003 Precinct NYPD