RECORDS OF THE GARY, INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF POLICE (1931-1951)
Finding Aid

Ellen Belcher,
Special Collections Librarian
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Purchased April 2016,

Dates: 1931 – 1951 (bulk of the documents date to 1941-47)

Preferred Citation:
Records of the Gary, Indiana Police, Special Collections, Lloyd Sealy Library, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

Size: 1 box (1/2 linear foot)

Description:
One box of records created by the Gary, Indiana Department of Police, these records include typewritten reports, correspondence and memoranda as well as many handwritten notes. Also in the papers are ‘mug shots’, arrest records, crime scene photos.

The bulk of the collection cover the early 1940s, under Police Chief Linn, but some document the later 1940s under Police Chief Matovina.

One folder contains documents relating to the Fraternal Order of Police, Gary Lodge 61. Dating to the 1930s, these are the earliest documents in the collection when L.L. Studness was Police Chief.

Access: This collection is fully available to researchers by appointment with the Special Collections Staff. Please contact Special Collections at libspcoll@jjay.cuny.edu or (212)484-1164.

Suggested additional resources:
Gary Indiana Police Department Annual Report, Special Collections - HV 7595 .G38 A3
“Murder Charges Spark Hunt for Woman’s friend” Chicago Tribune February 1, 1947
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division Gary Police, Group Portrait, 1908.
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c03289
Folder listing

1. Memoranda and Officer Reports 1941: Typewritten, investigations, administration and personnel issues
2. Memoranda and Officer Reports 1942, 1945, including
   a. Dorothy Lamour Itinerary (re: police escort for parade and party) 4/30/1942
3. Handwritten Notes 1941 – 1947: investigations, department bulletins, personnel and administrative issues, mainly on small sized ‘chits’ including
   a. 1941, Handwritten small-sized sheets containing notes on various cases
   b. 1941, requests for days off, officer assignments
   c. 1944 Typewritten and handwritten sheets listing persons wanted and cars to be confiscated
   d. 1947 notes on Shawsky, Irene murder
4. External Correspondence
   a. From Chicago Police Department Letter and photograph requesting identification of unidentified deceased man, 8/6/1946
   b. From the Gary Indiana Board of Health regarding gonorrhea cases 3/31/1942
   c. From American Pistol Association, Chicago 7/8/1942 regarding annual ‘commanding Officers Match’
   d. To Detroit Police Department re: warrants against Florence McCoy and Violita Jackson for Murder, 6/1/1945
5. Medical Examination Form [Blank] for Gary Police Department
6. Prisoner Identification Photographs ‘Mug Shots’
   a. [unnamed], 7/26/31
   b. George Allen, 8/24/1937
   c. Ham Payera, 1/16/1939
   d. Harold James Key, 10/16/1941
   e. Pete Oliver, 12-11-1943
   f. [unnamed] 2/3/1947
   g. Joseph Muscarello, 7/29/1948 (Charged in the murder of Irene Shawsky)
7. Arrest records (‘rap sheets’, ‘mug shots’ and fingerprint records)
   a. James Henry Halfacre 7/7/1949
   b. James Henry Clemens 7/7/1949
8. Crime Scene Photos and Evidence
   a. Unidentified and undated image of a female body
   b. Photos in an envelope marked 948 Adams street
   c. Photos in an envelope marked “Gambling: 1501 Adams St, Ollie Sparks, etc.”
   d. Photos in an envelope marked “House of Prostitution: 1433 Adams st., Florence Owens, etc.”
   e. Photos in an envelope marked “House of Prostitution: 1225 Wash. St., 1241 Wash St.”
f. Photos in an envelope marked “GAMBLING – Policy 1601 Mass St. – basement, Fred Mackay”
g. Unidentified photos of crime scenes and ballistic evidence
h. Two envelopes containing pieces of window and door.

9. Departmental Photos
   a. Sharpshooting retreat
   b. Group photo, 3/1/1948

10. Fraternal Order of the Police, Gary Lodge 61, correspondence, memoranda and meeting minutes 1936 – 1937 including:

11. Ephemera
    a. *Learning to hit with a handgun* circa 1960s “reprinted from outdoor life courtesy of Remington Peters”
    b. Election Leaflet, Peter Billick (Republican) for Mayor of Gary Indiana 1951