



*We walk in the Footsteps of Generations Past*

### "Then and Now": A Look Back to Aberdeen

The first jail, known as "The Dungeon", was a two-cell stone building built before the incorporation of the town (incorporated, 1892). It was located in the rear of the old Town Hall building on Howard Street. The structure that once housed the first jail still stands and is now a tax-collecting office! In 1948, a new jail and court facilities were made available in what was once the firehouse on the corner of West Bel Air Avenue and Park Street.

Then

Now



Taken in 1955





# Ask Mr. History

**Q** Someone told me that for years, Aberdeen only had one police officer. Is this true?

**&**  
**A**

For many years, one man performed the police function for the town of Aberdeen. In the early days he was known as the Town Bailiff, a title which preceded the present designation, Chief of Police. Ben Ray, who held the job from 1919 to 1965, witnessed the growth of the force from one man to an effective, modern, full-service Police Department with 44 sworn officers.

In June of 1919, Ray was 33 years old, and had a steady job as a trouble shooter at \$25 per week. He also worked 10 hours part-time duty with the Havre de Grace Police Department.

At that time Ray came to the attention of Aberdeen's Police Commissioner. As Ray put it, "Aberdeen's police force then consisted of a couple old men who couldn't do much, and the town was badly in need of new blood in its law enforcement agency." Ray was offered the job as Aberdeen's police chief at \$35 per week, and since that was a lot of money in those days, he accepted.

In his early days as chief, he was not only in charge of the Police, but the Fire Department, as well. In his "spare time" he did all the electrical work on the power system the town then owned and operated. As Ray recalls, he seemed to work "day and night".

When Ray retired in 1965 at the age of 78, he was the oldest police chief on active duty in the United States, and received a telegram of congratulations from President Lyndon B. Johnson.



# ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

When the Aberdeen Police Department moved to the firehouse building, they chose not to replace the entire building sign, which originally said "Aberdeen Fire Department." Instead, they replaced just the word "Fire" with the word "Police". The challenge was how to fit the six-letter word "Police" in the space originally occupied by the short word "Fire". The creative solution was to curve the word "Police" around the emblem.



When the Police Station moved to its present location, the letters were donated to the Aberdeen Historical Museum. In the pictures above, you can see the screws where the letters were fastened to the building.

May Newsletter Update!

# Aberdeen Elementary 1964 3rd Grade Class Photo



Back Row: Michael Singer, Van Silver, Alain Horner, Marty Brown, Kean Boyer, Doug Linton, John T., Steve Mabe, Mrs. Wilson

2nd Row: Buddy Neuman, Linda Weaver, Michele Petrogallo, Andrea Kasper, Darlene Bravard, Mary Cullum, Mildred Frink, Gaynell Collier, Lorrie Lollar, Doug Iverson

3rd Row: Etta LaFon, Kitty Kragl, Connie Wingo, Sharon Hall, Angela Kennedy, Ruth Lichi, Peggy Schantz

4th Row: Wayne Culler, Rusty Boucher, Gary Monroe, Robert Dare, Paul Knight

Special thanks to **Gaynell Collier**, who was part of the Aberdeen Elementary class of 1964, for providing the names above!

# TRIPLE PICKLE

## Ingredients

- 2 slices of bread
- 3 strips of bacon
- 1 slice of brick cheese
- quarter of an onion
- 1 dill pickle
- Mayo



## Instructions

1. Generously spread a smooth layer of mayo onto each slice of bread
2. Place cheese on mayo-covered bread, then toast to desired amount
3. Place bacon and finely chopped onion onto bread
4. Slice dill pickle crosswise and arrange 3 slices on top of cheese

Enjoy!

This recipe was taken from *The Cheese Cookbook, 1953*.

You can find this recipe and many other delicious ones in the Aberdeen Museum Library.



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Saturday, 11 AM - 2 PM

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