

## MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

The history of the Merrill Police Department begins with the City of Merrill and its story goes hand in hand with the City. The Police Department was created when the City was incorporated and Mayor T. B. Scott appointed a City Marshal, Constables, and policemen. The Department had a number of teething pains in its first year and City records show seven different men appointed to different law enforcement positions during the first six months.

The times reflected the era the City was in and the members of the Department were appointed by the mayor. Each succeeding mayor then appointed his own Police Department. Tenure was unheard of and the Police Officers served at the pleasure of the Mayor.

The early records of the Merrill Police Department are non-existent and only by following City Council action and newspaper accounts can a rough idea of the force be assembled. It is known that these men were a hardy breed, much as the City they served. They worked seven days a week and were allowed one Sunday off a month. The officers were assigned a section of town (Eastside, Westside or Sixth Ward) and it was their responsibility to see that order was maintained. These officers did not have any equipment that is commonplace in today's world. They did without telephones, radios, patrol cars and computers. They relied on their wit and physical ability to handle any situation that would arise in their district. The rules could be broken down to several easy to follow ones but it basically was that if it happened in your section you were to take care of the matter.

The City was a difficult beat to walk in those early days. The citizens were living in what were still rough times and the influx of lumberjacks or transients added to the Patrolman's problems. An example of the difficulties these men had in performing their duties shows in City records when on February 10, 1890, the City approved a total of \$142.75 to various doctors in Merrill for attending to the Police Officers. The situation was not all take and no give for on August 11, 1890, City records show that the City allowed payment of doctor bills in the amount of \$84.00. The records do not say what these charges represented but the amounts were to be deducted from the officers' monthly salaries.

The Department continued on in this manner for approximately twenty years with each incoming Mayor appointing his Police Force and in doing so usually discharged the previous members. The newspaper stories on these appointments show they were not made on merit and at times the editor completely disagreed with the Mayor and gave a scathing report on the worth of the appointments.

The Chief of Police served his term at an annual salary not to exceed \$400.00 and his duties also included being the Chief of the Fire Department. The salary was slowly increased and the Chief was able to forego the firefighting part of law enforcement. The Patrolmen were making \$40.00 monthly at the time.

Record keeping by the Merrill Police Department did not start in earnest for many years. The earliest records are a ledger book started in the late 1890's that listed action taken by the Department. This was a running total of arrest and/or incarcerations the different officers made and the dispositions of each. This was probably done more as a record of moneys received in fines than as a record of criminal activity.

The early ledgers show a wide assortment of arrests and the penalties were equally varied. There were many instances of disorderly conduct, public drunkenness or fighting. These were usually resolved with a fine of \$1.00 to \$5.00. There seemed to be a difference in the state of drunkenness as the records show many times that people were locked in the City jail for being a "harmless drunk." These people were not fined but the tally sheet for each showed that he was allowed to sober up, given a stern lecture and then released.

It seems that if a person did anything more serious he was dealt with severely. Any crime more than simple larceny was handled by the person being sent to a State institution. Juveniles were not treated any easier. Police records for July 2, 1900 show that three girls, ages 14, 12 and 9, were brought in for larceny and each were fined \$50.00 plus court costs, a staggering amount for anybody at the turn of the century.

Officers still walked their own sections of town and had a small building to do his reports or hold any prisoners. Telephones were added to these buildings in later years and the officer could call for assistance or learn of any complaints he had to act on. A light was installed on the top of City Hall and this could be observed from different vantage points in the City. When an officer saw the light was on, he merely called the station and learned what had to be done.

In 1916, the Department purchased a Model T Ford to aid in their work. A motorcycle was added in the 1930's and 1940's for traffic patrol but it wasn't until 1949 that a second squad car was added. The officers had a squad car but it wasn't until 1948 that the Department had radios to contact the car.

The officers' work schedule slowly changed over the years also. Where the officers could once count on one Sunday off a month, the Department went to an eight day rotation where the officer worked seven days and then received one day off. George Severt was on the force when this change took place and recalled how this work arrangement seemed like a gift from heaven. In 1950, the Department again changed its work schedule. The eight day rotation was kept but the officers worked six days in a

row and received two days off. Many of our retired officers remember this change and how it seemed that being off two days in a row was the ideal arrangement. Two officers were added to the Department in order to implement this schedule.

The old City Hall not only housed the Police Department, but also the City Jail. This consisted of three cells in the basement of the City Hall and was used for both overnight lodging and serving of sentences of 15 to 30 or more days.

The record keeping at the Police Department remained in the hands of the Chief and his ledger book until well into the 1940's. Their records were still a bookkeeping system with each action taken by the Department duly listed. The traffic violations were listed next to the ordinance violations and these were next to any criminal charges. There was no effort to make an individual record for any person. The ledger book gave way to a record system that not only went to individual listings but cross-referenced all incidents for easy access. The Department has now converted many of these records to a computer system.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Herman Rusch

⇒ First record books were kept. All written by hand.

Chief of Police Thomas Calder

⇒ First squad car, a Model T Ford.

Chief of Police Hugo F. Hanig - March 1930 to February 1962.

⇒ No radios for communications, used the red lights on top of the City Hall that could be seen from a number of spots in town.

⇒ 1934 - Issued a Thompson sub machine gun by the Federal Government

⇒ 1948 - First radio at station and squad car.

⇒ 1949 - Second squad car.

⇒ 1950 - Parking meters installed in City.

⇒ 1957 - Three-wheeled motorcycle for meter patrol.

⇒ In the late 1930's and early 1940's, the Department did have a two-wheeled motorcycle for traffic.

Chief of Police Gerald F. Plautz - March 1962 - 1974

⇒ Fourteen officers in 1962 grew to eighteen.

⇒ 1962 - First radar set.

⇒ 1963 - First unmarked squad and breathalyzer.

⇒ 1965 - First Teletype.

⇒ 1971 - Cushman scooter replaced motorcycle for meter patrol.

Chief of Police Charles H. Johnson - May 1974 - May 1996.

⇒ Eighteen officers in 1974.

⇒ 1976 - First lieutenants as shift commanders.

⇒ First full time detective

⇒ 1977 - Moved from old City Hall to new City Hall.

⇒ 1979 - nineteenth officer appointed.

⇒ First full time juvenile officer.

⇒ First meter maids (also used as full time school crossing guards).

⇒ 1980 - Second unmarked squad.

⇒ 1987-twentieth officer appointed

⇒ 1990-twenty-first officer appointed

⇒ 1990- first electric typewriter

⇒ 1993 - First mobile video camera

⇒ 1993 - First computer in Merrill Police Department

⇒ 1995 - Four marked squad cars

⇒ 1995 - Bike Patrol

Chief of Police Neil C. Strobel – June 1996 – June 2007

⇒ 1997 - Changed uniforms to dark navy blue

⇒ 1997 - First moving radar unit

⇒ 1998 - Municipal Court enacted

⇒ 2001 - First laser radar unit

⇒ 2003 - Carbine rifles replaced shotguns in squads

⇒ 2005 - School Resource Officer in the school system

⇒ 2005 - Combined dispatch with Lincoln County Sheriff's Department fully enacted

Chief of Police Ned R. Seubert – December 2007 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

⇒ 2007 - Mobile Data Computers in squads

⇒ 2007 - TraCS software allowing officers to complete crash reports/citations in squads

⇒ 2008 - Purchased first Electronic Control Devices (Taser)

⇒ 2010 - Fifth Marked squad for patrol

⇒ 2011 - First Citizen Academy

⇒ 2011 - Drug Recognition Expert trained

Chief of Police Ken J. Neff – April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012- March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

⇒ 2012- New Patch design

⇒ 2013- AR15 rifles deployed

⇒ 2013- First Merrill High School Student Police Academy

⇒ 2014- Switch over to .45 caliber Smith&Wesson MMP handguns from Beretta 9mm

⇒ 2014- Implementation of a K-9 unit

⇒ 2015- Less Lethal Shotguns

⇒ 2017- Ballistic Helmets

Chief of Police Corey A. Bennett- March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017-

⇒ 2017- First dedicated Drug Investigator position-temporary

⇒ 2017- Switch to two Captain/two Lieutenant Shift Command structure while exploring Drug Investigator position (admin Capt position reallocated temporarily)

⇒ 2019 -Fully combined records system with Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Full records system access via mobile squad computers

⇒ 2022 -Drug Investigator made permanent. Return to former command structure of four patrol Lieutenants and Administrative Captain

⇒ 2023- Initial implementation of body cameras vs. squad mounted cameras. Weapon mounted cameras introduced

⇒ 2023 Polaris UTV deployed for patrol

We have attempted to make a list of all the men that have served on the Merrill Police Force. What follows has been drawn from Police records, old Police reports, and newspaper clippings. We do not claim that it lists all the officers that have served the City but rather the majority of them. If the Police Department can obtain the names of other officers in the Department's past they will be included in the lists.

March 19, 1883: George Gibson and Herman Zipp appointed as Constables.

March 24, 1883: J. M. Adams elected City Marshal.

March 26, 1883: George Gibson appointed as Policeman and given Badge #1.

April 14, 1883: Dan Turk and George Baker appointed Night Watchmen.

June 22, 1883: Appointment of C. E. Will as Special Policeman.

September 10, 1883: J. M. Adams resigns as City Marshal and City Council appointed Henry W. Boyer to replace him.

March 24, 1884: Henry W. Boyer was re-elected City Marshal and George Gibson was re-appointed as Policeman.

January 19, 1885: George Gibson resigned and Joseph Downie was appointed in his place.

April 21, 1885: Godfrey Cotey appointed Special Policeman with no pay.

March 22, 1886: H. W. Boyer appointed Chief of Police and Fire. Joseph Downie re-appointed Policeman.

March 14, 1887: George Gibson elected Chief of Police. Downie was appointed Day Policeman for the Westside. F. X. Hotz was appointed Night Watchman for Eastside and J. W. Mathew was appointed Night Watchman for Westside.

March 13, 1888: P. E. Dewur appointed Chief of Police. Downie as Day Policeman. Hotz and John Kelley as Night Watchmen.

April 14, 1888: Robert Truax appointed as Special Policeman.

June 18, 1888: William Gleason appointed as Special Policeman.

- February 5, 1889: Dewur discharged and C. A. Rusch appointed to fill his term.
- March 18, 1889: Michael Shape appointed Chief of Police. Hotz, Downie and H. A. Krueger as Night Policemen.
- July 29, 1889: Shape resigns as Chief of Police and Joseph Downie appointed to replace him. Hotz and Truax appointed Night Policemen.
- March 17, 1890: Joseph Downie appointed Chief of Police. Hotz appointed Day Policeman. Truax and Louis Wasch as Night Policemen.
- April 25, 1891: Herman Walther appointed as a Policeman for Westside. Hotz, Gleason and Al Hibbard as extra Policemen.
- April 5, 1892: A. D. Lytle appointed Chief of Police. Truax, Hibbard, Henry Bashman and John Wietor appointed Policemen.
- April 12, 1893: Mayor Charles W. Badeau appointed Ed Button Chief of Police with Ole Johnson, Truax, Hibbard, Thoso Rodden and R. Unson Policemen under him.
- April 10, 1894: Mayor H. Foster appointed D. L. Anderson Chief of Police. Henry Boyer Assistant Chief with Henry White, Gus Socum, J. F. Clark, William Genrich, and Truax as Policemen.
- April 23, 1895: Mayor John R. Babcock appointed George Gibson Chief of Police. Policemen appointed under him were W. Rehfield, A. Koblitz, and H. Heckman.
- April 21, 1896: Mayor Herman R. Fehland appointed Herman Rusch Chief of Police. He also appointed Mike Rodden, Adam Salschiener, E. Odegard, H. Kampke, and Mike Maher.
- April 1897: Mayor August H. Stange appointed John Godfrey Chief of Police with George Schroeder, Chas Green, A. Hibbard, Alonzo Leavitt, and Thomas McGeorge.
- April 25, 1899: Mayor Jul. Thielman appointed John Godfrey as Chief of Police. Policemen and night watchmen under him were Chas. F. Green, Albert Hibbard, David McClure, Mike Rodden, and William Falbe. The latter to be without compensation.
- April 22, 1900: Mayor A. H. Stange appointed John Godfrey Chief of Police and

Policemen Chas. F. Green, Albert Hibbard, and William Falbe.

April 23, 1901: Mayor A. H. Stange appointed John Godfrey Chief of Police with Fred Smith, W. G. Smith, and James Hurley.

April 1902: The Chief of Police was Albert Hibbard with Tom Calder, William Falbe, Harris Upton, Robert Truax, and John Wendt.

April 21, 1903: Mayor A. H. Stange appointed Thomas Calder Chief of Police.

April 19, 1904: Mayor Jon O'Day appointed Dan Curtis Chief of Police with D. McClure, John Wendt, Herman Neuman, W. P. Thatcher, and Albert Eagen.

April 25, 1905: Mayor John O'Day appointed Dan Curtis Chief of Police. He also appointed Canon, Kurtz, and Elsen.

April 17, 1906: Mayor George M. Anson appointed Thomas Calder Chief of Police. Also confirmed appointments as Policemen to William Falbe, Herman Newman, John Gilbertson, Ino. M. Teeling, Robert Kurtz, and A. Emerich. Charles Beuperlant and Herman Carlson are also mentioned in records for this year.



Department ledgers list the following men and women and their dates of appointment to the Department: Herman Mannon - 1908, Mike Garihee - 1910, Otto Reibe - 1911, William Litkey - 1914, and John Galen - 1918.

Herman Carlson	Born in Sweden. Appointed October 30, 1906 at age 36. Retired July 14, 1943 after 36 years and 9 months of continued service as Patrolman and Captain.
Charles Beauperlant	Born in Canada. Appointed April, 1906 at age 39. Deceased May 3, 1932.
George G. Severt	Born in Clark County, Wisconsin 1895. Appointed October 2, 1920 at age 24. Retired June 1, 1960 after 40 years of service.
Alvin Toellner	Born in Shawano County. Appointed October 2, 1924 at age 28. Traffic Officer on motorcycle. Passed away in 1933 after 9 years of service.
Jack Rajek	Born in Lincoln County in 1897. Appointed September 6, 1929 at age 32. Resigned December 1, 1934 after being elected Sheriff.
Edward Slewitzke	Born in Lincoln County 1894. Appointed June 1, 1930 at age 36. Retired in June, 1955 after 25 years of service as Traffic Officer.
Hugo F. Hanig	Born 1892 in Lincoln County. Appointed Chief of Police March 11, 1930. Retired January 1, 1963 after 32 years and 9 months of service as Chief of Police.
Albert Hanson	Born in Merrill in 1904. Appointed May 6, 1932 at age 28.
Walter Linder	Appointed as Special Police during illness of Alvin Toellner. Served from June 15, 1933 until April 1, 1935.
Harry Johnson	Born in Lincoln County in 1902. Appointed December 1, 1934 at age 32. Promoted to Supt. of Ident. Bureau on August 1, 1943. Resigned December 9, 1945.
Harold Getchell	Born in Lincoln County in 1901. Appointed April 1, 1935 at age 34. Resigned may 6, 1943 after 8 years of service.

Charles Litkey Born in Merrill in 1914. Appointed May 1, 1938 at age 24. Promoted to rank of Captain on August 1, 1943. Served in the U.S. Army from January 5, 1944 until March 3, 1946. Returned to the Department and acted as Captain until February 9, 1948 when he resigned to accept position as Patrolman with Wisconsin State Traffic Patrol.

Elmer Krueger Born in Merrill in 1912. Appointed May 1, 1938 at age 25. Promoted to Supt. of Ident. Bureau in 1946. Promoted to Captain of Police on May 22, 1949. Shot and wounded in line of duty by Jos. Weber of Chicago on July 12, 1952 at approximately 10:00 pm. Passed away as result of gunshot wounds on July 19, 1952 after 14 years and 2 months of service. A Marker was dedicated near where the shooting took place, on May 14 2010.

LeRoy Schmalfus Born in Sublette, IL in 1911. Appointed January 26, 1943. Promoted to rank of Sgt. on May 22, 1949. Retired October 3, 1971.

Harold Kniess Born in Merrill in 1911. Appointed May 6, 1943. Assumed Traffic Officer duties on July 1, 1955 and served in that capacity until his sudden death as a result of a heart attack on August 17, 1963 after 20 years and 3 months of service.

Andrew Olivotti Born in Standard, IL in 1913. Appointed October 19, 1943. Resigned on August 15, 1945.

George Zimmerman Served as a Special Police during Captain Litkey's tour of duty with the U.S. Army. Appointed in June, 1944 and left in March, 1946.

Elmer Kleinschmidt Born in Merrill in 1914. Appointed October 8, 1945 at age 31. Retired February 16, 1974.

Edward Martinsen Born in Merrill in 1910. Appointed January 14, 1946 at age 35. Assumed Traffic Officer duties on September 1, 1963 after death of Harold Kniess. Retired January 31, 1971 and died May 9, 1977.

Lawrence Riemer Born in Merrill in 1921. Appointed September 21, 1947. Promoted to Supt. of Ident. Bureau on May 22,

1949. Promoted to rank of Captain on September 1, 1952. Resigned on March 15, 1957 to accept position with Wisconsin Conservation Department as Communications Technician.

Gerald Plautz

Born in Merrill in 1918. Appointed September 21, 1947 at age 29. Promoted to Supt. of Ident. Bureau on September 1, 1952. Promoted to Captain on March 16, 1957. Assumed Acting Chief's duties in March, 1962. Appointed Chief of Police January 1, 1963. Retired May 12, 1974 after 26 years and 8 months, 11 years and 2 months as Chief of Police (16th Chief).

Herbert Buschel

Born in Oak Park, IL in 1923. Appointed February 10, 1948. Promoted to Supt. of Ident. Bureau on March 16, 1957. Resigned on April 1, 1962 to accept a position with the Wisconsin State Traffic Patrol as a Communications Technician.

Leslie Kienitz

Born in Merrill in 1920. Appointed January 1, 1950. Promoted to the rank of Captain on January 1, 1963, after serving as Acting Captain from April 1, 1962. Retired December 31, 1975 from active service, final retirement date of February 5, 1976.

Harry Maurisak

Born in Malvern, PA in 1920. Appointed January 1, 1950 at age 29. Promoted to the rank of Ident. Sgt. on January 1, 1963 after having served as Acting Sgt. since April 1, 1962. Promoted to rank of Lieutenant on January 1, 1966. Retired from active service December 31, 1975, final retirement of February 5, 1976.

John Odegard

Born in Merrill in 1923. Appointed August 1, 1952 at age 29. Promoted to the rank of Sgt. on January 1, 1966. Appointed Traffic Officer and School Safety Patrol Director on October 12, 1971. Retired on December 31, 1978.

Allison English

Born in Merrill in 1926. Appointed on July 1, 1955. Assumed duties of Safety Patrol Director on September 1, 1963 at age 28. Promoted to Sergeant on October 12, 1971 as Shift Commander. Promoted to Captain on January 1, 1976 and retired December 31, 1981.

Warren Weckwerth Born in Lincoln County in 1926. Appointed March 16, 1957 at age 31. Resigned January 1, 1967 after being elected Register of Deeds of Lincoln County.

Donald G. Trantow Born in Merrill in 1935. Appointed June 1, 1960 at age 24. Promoted to the rank of Sergeant on October 6, 1971. Appointed to Safety Director on January 1, 1979. Promoted to Lieutenant on January 1, 1986. Retired on March 31, 1990 after 30 years of service.

Charles H. Johnson Jr. Born in Merrill in 1937. Appointed June 1, 1960 at age 23. Resigned on February 11, 1968. Rejoined the Department on January 1, 1969. Appointed 4th relief July, 1973. Appointed Chief of Police on May 13, 1974 (17th Chief). Retired on May 12, 1996 after 35 years of service.

Thomas Schwartzman Born in Merrill in 1928. Appointed April 1, 1962 at age 33. Resigned November 11, 1967.

Richard Sapp Born in Merrill in 1939. Appointed May 16, 1962 at age 23. Resigned on December 16, 1962 to accept a position with AT & T in Madison.

William Kluetz Born in Merrill in 1931. Appointed January 1, 1963 at age 32. Promoted to the rank of Sergeant on January 1, 1976. Resigned May 28, 1976.

Bruce Hass Born in Merrill in 1936. Appointed January 1, 1963 at age 26. Retired July 31, 1989 after 26 years of service.

Larry Annis Born in Merrill in 1937. Appointed August 26, 1963 at age 25. Resigned March 1, 1968.

Arlo Berndt Born in Merrill in 1939. Appointed October 1, 1963 at age 24. Resigned May 5, 1968.

Kirby Stoelting Born in Merrill in 1936. Appointed January 1, 1967 at age 31. Promoted to the rank of Juvenile Officer January 1, 1976 and resigned June 10, 1977.

Dennis R. Hintze Born in Merrill in 1943. Appointed December 1, 1967 at age 24. Promoted to the rank of

Lieutenant January 1, 1976. Promoted to Captain January 1, 1982. Retired July 3, 1998 after 30 years of service.

Charles Batchelder

Born in Milwaukee in 1938. Appointed January 1, 1968 at age 29. Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant January 1, 1976. Retired May 31, 1988 after 20 years.

Thomas E. Schotz

Born in Merrill in 1943. Appointed April 8, 1968 at age 25. Promoted to the rank of Detective January 1, 1976, Detective Sergeant January 1, 1977, Detective Lieutenant January 1, 1980, and Inspector January 1, 1983. Retired on May 31, 1996 after 28 years.

Robert Dorava

Born in Medford in 1939. Appointed April 22, 1968 at age 28. Resigned/terminated on July 29, 1976.

Michael J. Caylor

Born in Merrill in 1945. Appointed January 1, 1971 at age 25. Promoted to Sergeant on June 21, 1976. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on January 1, 1982. Retired April 20, 1998 after 27 years of service.

Darryl D. Richard

Born in Marquette, MI in 1943. Appointed July 12, 1971 at age 28. Resigned July 11, 1972.

Jack L. Kleinschmidt

Born in Merrill in 1949. Appointed January 3, 1972 at age 22. Promoted to Juvenile Officer (part time) on August 1, 1977 and promoted to full time on October 1, 1979. Promoted to Juvenile Sergeant on January 1, 1980. Promoted to Juvenile Lieutenant on January 1, 1983. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on June 20, 1988. Retired April 15, 1999 after 27 years of service.

Jay W. Proft

Born in Merrill in 1949. Appointed July 14, 1972 at age 22. Job disability retired on August 20, 1992 after 20 years.

Daniel M. Caylor

Born in Merrill in 1949. Appointed January 1, 1974 at age 24. Retired on September 27, 2001 after 27 years of service.

Richard A. Dabbert

Born in Merrill in 1952. Appointed May 13, 1974 at age 21. Promoted to Sergeant on January 1, 1982. Promoted to Lieutenant on January 1, 1986. Appointed

Safety Director on April 1, 1990. Promoted to Captain on April 17, 1998. Retired December 31, 2006 after 32 years of service.

Michael L. Kunkel

Born in Merrill in 1951. Appointed January 12, 1976 at age 25. Retired on March 10, 2003 after 28 years of service.

Glenn S. Schaepe

Born in Wausau in 1951. Appointed January 19, 1976 at age 24. Resigned March 20, 1978.

Ned R. Seubert

Born in Wausau in 1954. Appointed May 29, 1976 at age 22. Promoted to Juvenile Officer April 10, 1989. Promoted to Juvenile Lieutenant January 1, 1994. Promoted to Investigative Lieutenant January 1, 1997. Promoted to Chief of Police (19<sup>th</sup> Chief) on December 3, 2007. Retired on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 after 34 years of service.

Brian M. Sladek

Born in Merrill in 1956. Appointed September 7, 1976 at age 20. Resigned on September 20, 1978. Re-appointed to the Department on January 1, 1980. Resigned October 2, 1983.

Jeffrey D. Anderson

Born in Merrill in 1954. Appointed July 11, 1977 at age 22. Promoted to Lieutenant on May 1, 1990. Retired July 20, 2008 after 31 years of service.

Richard G. Hermsen

Born in Appleton in 1947. Appointed March 1, 1978 at age 30. Retired June 1, 1998 after 20 years.

Robert J. Akey Jr.

Born in Merrill in 1955. Appointed November 6, 1978 at age 22. Resigned May 13, 1984.

Harry M. Lauder

Born in Merrill in 1953. Appointed November 26, 1979 at age 25. Resigned on August 27, 1982.

Edward F. Klein

Born in Wausau in 1953. Appointed December 10, 1979 at age 25. Resigned on September 18, 1980.

Kenneth J. Neff

Born in Woodruff in 1959. Appointed March 22, 1982 at age 22. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant June 1, 1998. Promoted to Captain on January 2, 2007. Promoted to Chief

(20<sup>th</sup> Chief) April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Retired on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 after 34 years of service.

- Mark S. Smith Born in Merrill in 1956. Appointed September 7, 1982 at age 26. Passed away due to natural causes on September 13, 2005, after 23 years of service.
- Michael J. Hamann Born in Wausau in 1962. Appointed November 28, 1983 at age 21. Appointed Investigator on January 1, 1996. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on June 7, 1999. Assigned to Investigative Lieutenant on January 1, 2008. Retired on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 after 32 years of service.
- Christopher A. Hartwig Born in Merrill in 1963. Appointed June 4, 1984 at age 21. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on July 1, 1998. Retired December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 after 31 years of service.
- Mark J. Heckendorf Born in Merrill in 1964. Appointed January 5, 1987 at age 22. Assigned as School Resource Officer January 2, 2006. Appointed Investigator/SRO January 1, 2008. Retired April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 after 34 years of service.
- Dale A. Bacher Born in Merrill in 1965. Appointed June 1, 1988 at age 22. Promoted to Investigator on June 7, 1999. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on February 4, 2008. Promoted to Captain on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Jay D. Wicke Born in Merrill in 1966. Appointed September 8, 1986 as Civilian Police Dispatcher at age 20. Appointed Patrol Officer on August 1, 1989. Resigned February 24, 1995.
- Gregory D. Hartwig Born in Merrill in 1965. Appointed March 19, 1990 at age 25. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on July 21, 2008. Promoted to Captain on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Retired June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 after 31 years of service.
- Ronald L. Turner Born in Marshfield in 1965. Appointed March 19, 1990 at age 24. Resigned March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to become the cities first technology specialist.
- Dale E. Knapp Born in Phillips in 1958. Appointed February 8, 1993 at age 34. Retired December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 after

19 years.  
Don P. Seubert II Born in Wausau in 1972. Appointed June 5, 1995 at age 23. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Assigned Investigative Lieutenant January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Jamie A. Jaeger Born in Wausau in 1973. Appointed July 10, 1995 at age 22 and became the first female officer. Appointed SRO March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Brad J. Becker Born in Milwaukee. Appointed June 3, 1996 at age 24.

Neil C. Strobel Born in Neosho in 1954. Appointed Chief of Police on June 24, 1996 at age 41 (18<sup>th</sup> Chief). Resigned June 6, 2007.

Corey A. Bennett Born in Peoria, IL in 1975. Appointed as dispatcher on January 5, 1998 at age 22. Appointed patrol officer on July 6, 1998. Resigned June 2002. Reappointed as patrol officer on March 20, 2006. Promoted to Captain April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Promoted to Chief of Police (21<sup>st</sup> Chief) on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Peter A. Borchardt Born in Wausau in 1974. Appointed as dispatcher January 5, 1998 at age 23. Appointed as patrol officer on May 3, 1999. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Patrick R. Wunsch Born in Wausau in 1967. Appointed July 6, 1998 at age 30. Promoted to Investigator January 1, 2005. Promoted to Investigative Lieutenant January 15, 2016. Retired December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 after 22 years of service.

Kurt J. Perra Born in Green Bay in 1969. Appointed July 6, 1998 at age 28. Retired January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 after 24 yrs of service.

Sandra M. Hunt Born in Wausau in 1969. Appointed July 15, 2002 at age 32. Resigned March 30, 2004.

Jeffrey M. Woyak Born in Wausau in 1970. Appointed January 13, 2003 at age 32. Resigned December 10, 2006.

Lori A. Uttech Born in Germantown in 1977. Appointed September 13, 2004 at age 27. Resigned January 13, 2007.



Robert J. Horenberger Born in Milwaukee in 1965. Appointed November 30, 2004 at age 39. Resigned May 12, 2005.

Nicole M. Cimino Born in Wausau in 1981. Appointed July 11, 2005 at age 24. Promoted to Investigator January 4, 2016.

Matthew P. Hable Born in Wausau in 1980. Appointed April 2, 2007 at age 26. Resigned December 1, 2008.

Tyler J. Tesch Born in Wausau in 1984. Appointed April 2, 2007 at age 23. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Matthew J. Drabek Born in Marshfield in 1977. Appointed June 11, 2007 at age 30. Assigned as K9 Eros handler May, 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Dane L. Mathwich Born in Wausau in 1983. Appointed February 4, 2008 at age 24.

Melissa K.L. Tremaine Born in Oconomowoc WI in 1986. Appointed October 10, 2008 at age 22. Resigned December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Matthew P. Waid Born in Merrill in 1985. Appointed February 9, 2009 at age 23. Promoted to Detective/Drug Investigator September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Resigned May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Joshua W. McCaskill Born in Green Bay WI in 1980. Appointed August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at age 30. Assigned as K9 Dasty handler October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

Robert F. Caylor Born in Merrill WI in 1986. Appointed August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at age 26. Promoted to Shift Lieutenant November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Eric S. Soberg Born in Plymouth WI in 1980, Appointed February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at age 32. Resigned October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Logan G. Lange Born in Merrill, WI in 1992. Appointed January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at age 23. Resigned July 31, 2017.

Theodore M. Helm Born in Merrill WI in 1991. Appointed January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at age 24. Resigned February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Wyatt R. Pufall Born in Ashland, WI in 1996. Appointed April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at age 21.

Kodi M. Pirkel	Born in Watertown, WI in 1992. Appointed March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at age 25. Resigned August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2019.
Riley B. Kurtz	Born in Merrill, WI in 1997. Appointed March 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 at age 23. Passed away due to natural causes January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022 at the age of 24.
Bryan D. Allen	Born in Huntington, WV in 1984. Appointed January 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at age 37.
Christina M. Doering	Born in Wausau WI in 2000. Appointed April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at age 20.
Brandon T. Brost	Born in Wausau, WI in 1994. Appointed June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021 at age 26.
John C. Stubbe	Born in Wausau, WI in 1986. Appointed January 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at age 35.
Jonathon Sass	Born in Hilo, Hawaii in 2001. Appointed January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022 at age 20.
Benjamin S. Hintze	Born in Wausau in 1995. Appointed August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2022 at age 26.
Trevor J. Asmundsen	Born in Wausau in 1998. Appointed August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at age 24.
Brandon N. Lor	Born in Wausau in 1997. Appointed August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at age 25.

Over the years, civilian employees have played a significant role in the development of the Merrill Police Department including dispatch, parking control, transcribing, crossing guards, and too many other duties to list. The following employees have served at the Merrill Police Department in a civilian capacity.

Kathleen M. Lokemoen	Appointed January 2, 1978 as Secretary at age 32. Position terminated on December 31, 1978.
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Marie J. Golde	Appointed March 26, 1979 as Parking Control/School Crossing Guard at age 48. Retired August 16, 1987.
Patricia A. Engel	Appointed March 27, 1979 as Parking Control/School Crossing Guard at age 33. Position terminated on September 23, 1980.
Linda J. Tompach	Appointed May 28, 1985 as Civilian Administrative Assistant at age 33. Resigned July 12, 1985.
Kaye L. Severt	Appointed August 5, 1985 as Civilian Administrative Assistant at age 30. Retired January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015.
Robin L. Barnes	Appointed January 2, 1986 as Civilian Police Dispatcher at age 27. Resigned August 22, 1986.
David J. Borchardt	Appointed January 2, 1986 as Civilian Police Dispatcher at age 53. Passed away due to natural causes on June 30, 1999.
Faye N. Clark	Appointed September 8, 1987 as Parking Control/School Crossing Guard at age 36. Laid off February 6, 2002.
Tracy A. Krueger	Appointed August 15, 1989 as Civilian Police Dispatcher at age 28. Laid off February 2, 2005.
Jennifer A. Thorson	Appointed clerk/transcriber January 5, 1998 at age 26.
Christine R. Brahos	Appointed clerk/transcriber July 20, 1998 at age 31.
Michelle M. Jones	Appointed October 13, 1999 as Civilian Police Dispatcher at age 40. Laid off January 17, 2002.
Donna J. Kampmeyer	Appointed October 13, 1999 as Civilian Police Dispatcher at age 47. Laid off January 16, 2002
Marci L. Rankin	Appointed on April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 as a front desk clerk.

## Merrill Police Department K9 Program

The Merrill Police Department K9 unit was established in 2014 thanks to the generosity of the Bierman Family Foundation. K9 Eros was officially deployed on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with Officer Matt Drabek. Eros was born in Germany in 2012 and was trained in narcotics detection, building searches, officer protection, article/evidence searching and area searches/tracking.



K9 Eros- Deployed May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Retired October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 after 8 years of service



K9 Dasty- Born in Germany in 2021. Deployed October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, assigned to Officer Mccaskill.