

Juneau Police Department History

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1920



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January 2, 1920 – A Thursday evening landslide left whole buildings like piles of kindling wood across Gastineau Ave. near the Pacific Steamship dock.

January 16, 1920 – The Clerk presented bills from the Alaskan Café in the sum of \$4.90 for meals for the special watchman in the employ of the City at the Gastineau Ave. Slide. The Council voted to not pay the bill.

January 20, 1920 – The Police Committee was summoned before the Grand Jury in reference to the illicit sale of liquors in the City and the operation of bootleggers. The Grand Jury was of the opinion that the City should pass an ordinance to control the situation. The Mayor questioned whose duty it was to take the necessary action, the City of Juneau or the Federal Officers.

-City Attorney Folsom was asked his opinion on the matter and he said he was of the opinion that the City had no authority to pass an ordinance where violation of the Alaska Bone Dry Law could be prosecuted before the Municipal Magistrate.

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Juneau City Hall and the U.S. Courthouse

February 25, 1920 – The Mayor and the Police Committee conducted an investigation into alleged abusive language used by the Chief of Police.

March 5, 1920 – The Chief did not deny the charge of using abusive language, but the use was not without provocation.

April 2, 1920 – With the influenza epidemic over there was no apparent need for an extra patrolman and Patrolman T.E.P. Keegan was dropped from the force without prejudice.

April 29, 1920 – Six ballots were held by the Council trying to elect a Chief of Police for the ensuing year and none of the candidates received a majority. The election was put over to the next regular meeting.

May 7, 1920 – Robert E. Clark resigned as Chief of Police effective April 30th and T.E.P. Keegan was appointed as acting Chief. After three ballots and no candidate receiving the majority, the Mayor ordered the election for Chief of Police put over until the next regular meeting.

May 24, 1920 – T.E.P. Keegan was elected Chief of Police for the ensuing year.

June 4, 1920 – Al Forsythe was appointed Police Officer.

July 5, 1920 – The City paid \$1 for bringing prisoners to the City Jail in automobiles.

August 6, 1920 – Marie Mejia sued Chief Keegan and Patrolman Al Forsythe. and the Council unanimously voted to defend them. Legal counsel was hired to prosecute appeal cases and to defend the case against Keegan and Forsythe.

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August 20, 1920 – With insufficient funds in the City Treasury to pay the bills on hand, the Clerk was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$5,000.

-Patrolman Al Forsythe applied for two weeks vacation with pay. There was considerable discussion on the matter of granting municipal employees vacations. Police officers worked a full calendar month including Sundays, so it was agreed that Patrolman Al Forsythe should be granted a ten day vacation with full pay, and any additional time off would be without pay.

1921

March 4, 1921 – Chief Keegan requested that an additional patrolman be employed for a short time, due to the number of petty thefts being committed. The Council approved a patrolman to be employed for one month only, at the same salary as paid the present patrolman.

April 1, 1921 – Al Forsythe, Night Patrolman tendered his resignation effective this date, and V.L. Tibbetts was appointed to replace him.

April 29, 1921 – T.E.P. Keegan was re-elected Chief of Police and V.L. Tibbetts was elected Police Patrolman for the ensuing year.

June 17, 1921 – The sewer from the residence of C.E. Tibbetts was in very bad condition and the Chief of Police notified Capt. C.E. Tibbetts that he was required to extend his sewer to the level of the low tide mark.

August 19, 1921 – The Street Commissioner was instructed to place a safety button, or “silent policemen” bearing the inscription “Turn to Right” at the intersection of Front and Franklin.

December 16, 1921 – The Council received complaints about small boats occupying the space continuously at Float A, interfering with other boats that make calls at certain regular periods to discharge and load merchandise. The Chief of Police was instructed to serve notice to the owners of boats which have been at the float for thirty days, that they must vacate the space within five days.

-An Assistant Wharfinger was directed to keep a daily tally of the names and the days on which the boats occupy space at Float A.

-The Clerk presented a list of the delinquent personal property taxes which amounted to \$1566.99. The Chief of Police was instructed to notify the

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delinquent personal property owners that they had until January 3rd, 1922, to pay their taxes.

1922

January 13, 1922 – Chief of Police Keegan requested a leave of absence from February 1st to March 1st, 1922. He was granted the leave of two weeks with full pay and two weeks without pay.

-The Chief was instructed to take the necessary steps to collect the delinquent property taxes and the delinquent taxes on gas boats, and that he ascertain if that was their home port on May 1st, 1921.

February 3, 1922 – The Chief's report was read for the month of January. During his absence he had designated Patrolman V.L. Tibbetts as Acting Chief of Police but at patrolman's salary

April 21, 1922 – T.E.P. Keegan was re-elected Chief of Police and V.L. Tibbetts was elected Patrolman for the ensuing year.

May 8, 1922 – The Chief of Police was instructed to notify anyone handling garbage that they were restricted from handling garbage between eight in the morning and twelve midnight on those streets within the boundary of Fourth Street South between Franklin and Main and Front Street to the City Dock.

May 26, 1922 – Fire Chief J.L. Gray reported that he and the Chief of Police visited the hotels and rooming houses in the City and read the law requiring ropes for fire escape purposes in each room and requiring other fire escape facilities, and also informed the proprietors that an inspection would again be made to see that the law had been fulfilled.

-Councilman Reck advised the Council that Mrs. Garnick was throwing garbage into the cemetery and the matter was referred to the Health and Police Committee.

June 16, 1922 – The Chief of Police requested the City to allow V.L. Tibbetts, Night Patrolman, a monthly allowance of \$7.50 to cover the cost of operating his motorcycle in the performance of his official duties.

-The attention of the Chief of Police was called to the section of the Traffic Ordinance that required having auto brakes in good condition, and he was instructed to see that this part of the ordinance was complied with.

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July 7, 1922 – The Chief was directed to condemn the stable belonging to the Maloney estate located on the Basin road.

-The Council wanted the Chief to serve notice on the owner of the building located on slide tract which was leaning on the bridge on Gastineau Avenue, to remove it or have it removed.

August 18, 1922 – The Council wanted the Chief of Police to check the mercantile licenses, make some effort to collect the dog licenses and check on the automobiles.

September 1, 1922 – The Chief of Police was instructed to notify Shelley Graves and others to discontinue feeding the pigeons on Front Street.



September 15, 1922 – The Health Officer and the Chief of Police were instructed to see whether Charles Switzer and Albert Peterson, operators of dairies were complying with the Dairy Ordinance.

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1923

January 5, 1923 – The Chief of Police was requested to submit a report containing the list of business houses that had not paid their Federal Licenses, a list of auto owners who have not secured auto licenses, and names of habitual violators of the Traffic Ordinance.

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-The Council wanted to know whether any turkeys were returned to the warehouse after being stolen and located by the Police Department, and to see if there was any possibility of securing a refund from the party or parties having the stolen turkeys in their possession.

February 16, 1923 – The Chief of Police was advised that the matter of compelling gas boats to move from the City Wharf float to the lower float was authorized, and that the Council expects some action.

March 16, 1923 – Letter from T.E.P. Keegan, Chief of Police advising that upon having a man check on the street lights he found that the City Council was being charged for six lights more than he was able to locate.

April 20, 1923 – T.E.P. Keegan, the only applicant for Chief of Police was duly re-elected for the ensuing year.

-V.L. Tibbetts was duly re-elected as Police Patrolman.

October 5, 1923 – Mr. N.H. Castle suggested to the Council that the City introduce an ordinance regulating the sale and loan of firearms and more particularly pocket weapons. The ordinance stipulated that persons selling firearms and particularly pocket weapons must keep a record of such sales which would be open to the inspection of the Chief of Police. Also all loans of pocket weapons must be reported to the Chief of Police. Mr. Castle also suggested that if the City's finances permitted, that the Chief of Police should be given one or two more patrolmen to assist in patrolling the City.

-A claim of \$5 was made by H.F. Morton against the Southeastern Alaska Fair for patrolman duty Saturday night, September 22, 1923.

December 21, 1923 – Ordered that Fire Chief Gray together with Chief of Police Keegan make an inspection of the business houses of Juneau for violations of the "Storing Gasoline Ordinance" and warrants be issued for all violators of the ordinance.

1924

January 4, 1924 – Reliable Transfer Company made a claim for \$13.75 for stable and feed for one horse for 11 days. The horse owned by Tom Davien had been impounded by Chief Keegan.

February 15, 1924 – On January 4th, 1924, the Common Council authorized T.E.P. Keegan two weeks vacation with pay. Inasmuch as this warrant for \$87.50 had not been paid to Keegan or to his estate, the Clerk was instructed to

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pay the warrant to the person presenting the proper credentials authorizing him to handle the estate of T.E.P. Keegan.

-Acting Chief of Police Tibbetts was retained as acting Chief of Police until after the election.

March 7, 1924 – The sons and brother of the late T.E.P. Keegan conveyed their appreciation for the floral offering from the City.

April 10, 1924 – V.L. Tippetts was elected to the office of Chief of Police.

-Mr. A.D. Mack was elected Police Patrolman.

June 6, 1924 – Mr. Mack reported finding an old man in destitute condition and sick in a cabin on Ferry Way. The man wasn't willing to go to the hospital, so Mack was instructed to have the night patrolman make calls during the night to check on his condition.

July 7, 1924 – J.F. Hoag was appointed night patrolman and A.D. Mack, Chief of Police.

-The Chief of Police was instructed to police the City Wharf during the landing and embarking of vessels for the purpose of enforcing the ordinance regulating the parking of taxi cabs and the soliciting of business on City Dock property.

August 1, 1924 – Mr. Mack, Chief of Police made a verbal report to the effect that Mr. Williams of Federal Narcotic Investigators advised him that the City of Juneau was free from narcotics.

September 19, 1924 – Chief of Police A.D. Mack thought it advisable to appoint Roy Nolan as a special police officer to investigate fires. Mr. Nolan would serve without pay and as a member of the Fire Department would be on hand at all fires.

1925

January 2, 1925 – Patrolman J.F. Hoag tendered his resignation as night patrolman effective December 31, 1924.

-It was ordered that the matter of selecting a night patrolman be left to the Chief of Police.

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February 20, 1925 – The Chief of Police, Health Officer and Fire Chief and also Councilman Connors inspected buildings in the City to locate fire traps and unsanitary conditions.

March 20, 1925 – Frank Reeder tendered his resignation as night patrolman effective March 22, 1925.

-Chief of Police Mack was authorized to appoint a new night patrolman.

April 17, 1925 – James McCloskey was elected Chief of Police for the ensuing year.

-A.D. Mack was appointed Night Patrolman for the ensuing year.

May 1, 1925 – Chief McCloskey reported that small boys were starting fires and the Chief was requested to turn the boys over to H.R. Shepard who had taken an interest in the welfare of wayward boys.

June 5, 1925 – The Chief of Police was instructed to keep an account of gasoline used in his car for one month, in order to determine an equitable gas allowance.

August 21, 1925 – The Chief was instructed to place a sign on the dolphin outside of the City Float stating that boats laying outside of the dolphins do so at their own risk.

September 18, 1925 – Agnes R. Fletcher, nurse in charge of the Native Hospital advised that so-called fortune tellers were operating in Juneau and were playing upon the credulity of Indians and others. The matter was turned over to the City Clerk and Chief of Police.

October 2, 1925 – The problem of low awnings was referred to the Chief of Police.

November 6, 1925 – Miles Godkins requested damages for repairs to his car after colliding with the City Truck. The matter was referred to the Chief of Police to gather information to place the blame for the crash.

-A problem with boats tying to the pilings at the foot of 12th St. was referred to the Chief of Police.

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1926

April 16, 1926 – A resolution from the Juneau Chamber of Commerce commended the City for enforcing certain sections of the traffic ordinance; more particularly the part prohibiting minors under sixteen years of age from operating cars. The City Clerk was instructed to mail a copy of the traffic ordinance to each auto owner in the City.

-James McCloskey was re-appointed Chief of Police and empowered by the Council to appoint a night patrolman subject to the approval of the Council.

May 7, 1926 – The problem with parked cars on Calhoun Ave was referred to Police Department with instructions to tag the cars. The Clerk was instructed to place a notice in the papers that dumping garbage on the beach outside of Front Street would not be tolerated.

June 18, 1926 – The Chief of Police reported that several “Out of Town” car owners had refused to pay for or take out City Licenses. The Chief was instructed to station patrolmen at the city limits with instructions to refuse entrance unless these car owners agreed to pay the City license.

September 17, 1926 – Councilman Freeburger questioned the non-appearance of the Chief of Police at Council meetings.

October 10, 1926 – Treadwell and half of the city of Douglas were destroyed by fire.



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October 10, 1926

October 26, 1926 – An unknown person fastened several sticks of dynamite to a steel I beam under the floor of the Peerless Bakery on South Franklin St. and windows were blown out of several adjacent businesses when the dynamite was

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detonated. Chief McCloskey was unable to solve the case even with the help of FBI Agent Hugh Wade who traveled to Juneau to assist with the investigation.

1927

April 29, 1927 – The Chief of Police was authorized to appoint a temporary patrolman until the next Council meeting when the matter would be discussed.

May 6, 1927 – J.F. Hoag was appointed Night Patrolman.

August 19, 1927 – The City hired J.M. Davis as a night watchman for the City Wharf at a salary of fifty dollars a month.

November 4, 1927 – The City Council extended a vote of confidence to the Chief of Police and Night Patrolman for their assistance in the raid made by Federal Prohibition Officers on Bobby Elliott's place.

1928

January 20, 1928 – A committee from the Juneau Woman's Club requested that the City appoint a woman police officer to look after delinquent children, particularly native children. After a full discussion of the matter it was referred to the Police Committee.

February 3, 1928 – The Police Committee submitted a verbal report regarding the matter of employing a woman police officer, recommending that due to a lack of funds at this time of year it would be impracticable to hire a woman policeman. They further recommended that in specific cases of delinquency, the Chief of Police should work with a member of the Woman's Club and that person could communicate the action of the City Council to the Club.

April 9, 1928 – George Getchell was elected Chief of Police.

-Fred Campen was named Night Patrolman.

June 1, 1928 – The Chairman of the Police Committee reported that federal authorities had closed up certain portions of the restricted district and that this sporting element was being scattered over the residential districts.

-The Police Committee further reported that owing to a lack of funds it was not advisable to employ a woman police officer at this time.

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October 5, 1928 – N. Rocovich made a complaint against night patrolman Campen charging him with using profane language. The matter was referred to the Police Committee for investigation.

1929

April 11, 1929 – George A. Getchell was re-elected Chief of Police.

-The selection of Night Patrolman was left to the Chief of Police who later recommended that Fred Campen be continued as Night Patrolman.

July 19, 1929 – On July 1st 1929, the salary of George A. Getchell as Chief of Police was raised to \$190 per month with a gas allowance of \$10 per month. The salary of Fred Campen, Night Patrolman was increased to \$175 per month.



U.S.R.C. Unalga

September 6, 1929 – Communication dated September 5, 1929, from N.S. Haugen, commanding officer "Unalga", was read complaining that Night Patrolman Fred Campen had struck one Robert Howell, a coxswain on shore patrol with a blackjack. Chief Getchell explained the incident and upheld the action of Campen. After discussion of the matter it was turned over to the Police Committee.

October 18, 1929 – The Chief of Police and the City Magistrate requested that the Council establish a fixed penalty to be assessed for violations of the one half hour parking regulation and also for not coming to a stop when entering or coming out of alleyways. After a full discussion of the matter it was decided that \$1 should be charged for failure to observe the half hour parking rule and \$2 should be the sum charged for failure to come to a stop or near stop entering or coming out of alleyways.

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1930

January 3, 1930 – The manager in charge of construction of the Capital Building was instructed by the Chief of Police to suspend blasting during the time school children were going to and from school; to cover the shots or cut down the amount of powder used, and to station flagmen to advise pedestrians and motorists before setting off blasts.

January 16, 1930 – The Chief of Police submitted a semi-monthly report of cars tagged in connection with violation of the Traffic Code and the Department's use of taxi cabs. The City Clerk submitted a report of Traffic Code violation cases reported to him and fines collected.

April 8, 1930 – George A. Getchell was re-elected Chief of Police.

-The appointment of Night Patrolman was laid over until the next meeting.

May 3, 1930 – The Chief recommended the appointment of Fred Campen as Night Patrolman.

June 23, 1930 – The Chief was allowed to hire an extra man at the salary of \$160 per month, until October 1, 1930.

July 10, 1930 – George Grigg was appointed as a patrolman.

July 18, 1930 – A letter of complaint was filed against Night Patrolman Fred Campen and referred to the Police Committee for investigation.



September 19, 1930 – The Chief was authorized to purchase and install three iron phone boxes and phones for the Police Department, and the question of their locations was left to the Chief of Police.

October 3, 1930 – The employment of the additional night watchman was continued.

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1931

April 10, 1931 – George A. Getchell was re-elected as Chief of Police.

April 17, 1931 – Fred Campen and George Grigg were re-elected as night patrolmen.

May 15, 1931 – For the fiscal year 1931, the Mayor, Chief of Police, and acting councilmen were not charged for automobile licenses for their privately owned cars.



Juneau Cold Storage – December 1931

1932

January 23, 1932 – Juneau's first bank robbery took place at the B.M. Behrends Bank. The robber was shot and died trying to escape.

April 29, 1932 – George A. Getchell was re-elected as Chief of Police.

May 2, 1932 – Fred Campen and George Grigg were re-elected to the position of Night Patrolman.

May 9, 1932 – The Taku Harbor cannery of Libby, McNeil, and Libby was destroyed by fire.

June 3, 1932 – Every steamship line stopping at Juneau was advised that in the future no stowaways would be allowed to land and that steamers would be required to return the stowaways to the point of embarkation at their own expense. A copy of the notice was sent to managers of steamship lines as well as local agents.

August 31, 1932 – Night Patrolman George Grigg resigned.

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November 1, 1932 – C.J. Davis was hired to replace George Grigg as Night Patrolman.

November 7, 1932 – Ordinance No. 208, entitled “An Ordinance Licensing and Regulating Pawnbrokers, Second-Hand Dealers and Junk Dealers” and requiring them to keep certain records and prescribing punishment for violations, was passed at first reading.

1933

April 7, 1933 – The position of one night patrolman was discontinued so one night patrolman and the Chief of Police constituted the Police Department.

-The salary of the Chief of Police was reduced from \$200 per month to \$180 per month and the salary of the Night Patrolman was reduced from \$175 per month to \$157.50 per month.

April 14, 1933 – C.J. Davis was elected Chief of Police for the ensuing year.

-Fred Campen was declared re-elected Night Patrolman.

July 21, 1933 – The Council authorized the employment of an additional patrolman at \$135 per month, to be selected by the Chief of Police.

November 3, 1933 – The Chief of Police was instructed to make the necessary arrangements for taking finger prints of persons taken into custody, at the Chief's discretion.

-The Street Committee was directed to look into purchasing an automobile to be used for City purposes.

1934

February 16, 1934 – The Council questioned permitting a third taxicab on any one stand, instead of only two as had been stipulated by the Chief of Police. After discussion, the Chief was given sole jurisdiction over this matter.

April 6, 1934 – The Chief's salary was set at \$200 per month, Assistant Chief's salary at \$160 per month, and Patrolman's salary at \$150 per month.

April 13, 1934 – C.J. Davis- was re-elected Chief of Police.

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-Roy Hoffman was elected Assistant Chief and W.J. Markle elected patrolman.

April 20, 1934 – Kenneth Junge was appointed as patrolman by Chief Davis.

May 1, 1934 – Liquor was again legalized and 10 liquor stores opened in Juneau.

May 4, 1934 – Chief of Police Davis reported that he had refused to allow the operation of slot machines in the City and also reported that he had stopped the selling of hard liquors after 1 AM as per the City Ordinances. After discussion by the Council, the Police Committee and the City Attorney were directed to draft a new ordinance amending or repealing Ordinance No. 184 to fit the current conditions. The Chief of Police was instructed to permit the operation of liquor sales in accordance only with the rules and regulations issued by the Territorial Liquor Board and to allow draft beer to be sold with meals in restaurants and cafes after 1 AM.

June 1, 1934 – Ordinance No. 216, “prohibiting electrical interference with radio reception, and requiring the owners to register all installed radios and providing for punishment for any violations”, was read for the third time.

-The matter of airplanes flying at unsafe low altitudes over the City was brought up. The Chief of Police was directed to enforce the City Ordinance covering this matter and to notify the airplane companies to that effect.



A Lockheed Vega float plane at the Main Street dock

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June 29, 1934 – Ordinance No. 219, Section 7 was amended to read, “It shall be unlawful for any licensee to employ any person under 21 years of age to work in or about any beer parlor or to sell or serve any beer therein or to allow any female person to solicit business therein.

-Section 8 was amended to read, “No person within the City of Juneau whether a licensee or not shall serve, give or furnish to any person under the age of 21 years, any intoxicating liquor without the consent of parent or guardian of such minor”.

July 6, 1934 – Chief of Police C.J. Davis announced that he had had difficulty locating a suitable place for a dog pound and was given permission to use the old red shed at the City Wharf.

July 20, 1934 – The Council voted to allow employees one week vacations with the exception of the Chief of Police, who was granted two weeks on account of illness.

-J.E. Pegues complained about the dog catcher shooting dogs on the City Garbage Dump and leaving them there.

September 7, 1934 – Chief of Police Davis asked for instructions regarding the curtains in front of bawdy houses where beer was sold. He was instructed to see that the curtains were drawn.

October 19, 1934 – The Police Committee held a meeting to discuss the proposed appointment of a police woman whose duty it would be to supervise places of amusement where young people gather and to exercise general jurisdiction over the activities of minors when not under direct supervision of their parents or guardians. A patrol woman was appointed temporarily for 30 days, at a stipend of \$5 per day under the authority and direction of the Chief of Police.

November 2, 1934 – Applications for Police Woman were received from Mrs. Ferguson, President of the Juneau Woman’s Club, Mrs. Lillian Leonard, Mrs. Jessie Baker, Mrs. Edna Haley, and Mrs. Durrin.

-The Police Department reported that 388 arrests had been made and 150 traffic violation tags served during the six months ending November 1st. 1300 meals had been served to prisoners in the City Jail during that period and fines collected by the City Clerk amounted to \$2907.10.

December 7, 1934 – Chief of Police Davis reported that conditions in the City were fairly good, and in response to a question from Councilman Rice stated that there was no more gambling than usual.

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December 21, 1934 – Uniforms for the Department were discussed. It was decided that effective January 1, 1935, salaries would be raised so the officers could purchase their own uniforms; Chief of Police from \$200 to \$220, Assistant Chief from \$160 to \$175, and Patrolman from \$150 to \$165. The uniform style was to be approved by the Chief and the Police Committee.



Photo (l-r) Chief Davis, Assistant Chief Roy Hoffman, Patrolman Kenneth Junge and Patrolman W.J. Markle.

1935

January 4, 1935 – There was a general discussion on the question of increased salaries of the employees of the Police Department and purchase of uniforms, equipment, etc. The Chief was authorized to order guns and other necessary equipment at a cost not to exceed approximately \$200.

-There was sewer gas in the City Jail, and traps installed in the drains remedied the problem.

April 5, 1935 – At the President of the Juneau School Board, R.E. Robertson's request, the Council appointed the Chief of Police as truant officer.

April 12, 1935 – Roy Hoffman was elected Chief of Police; and W.J. Markle, Assistant Chief.

-George L. Gilbertson and Kenneth Junge-patrolmen.

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-The Council approved the following monthly salaries for the coming year: Chief of Police-\$200, Assistant Chief of Police-\$175, Police Patrolmen-\$165.

-Additional taxicab stands on Front St. were discussed. Again it was left to the discretion of the Chief of Police.

April 19, 1935 – The Council discussed purchasing a police patrol car. The subject was referred to the Police Committee for investigation and report.

May 3, 1935 – Chief of Police Hoffman reported that in the month of April, his department had made 42 arrests, had answered 108 calls and served 86 meals to prisoners.



May 17, 1935 – Quotations on the proposed police patrol car were read from Juneau Motor Co. and Connors Motor Co, asking a price of \$879.75 for a Ford and \$930 for a Chevrolet. After considering these two quotations and the quotations from the McCaul Motor Co. for a Dodge car and the Service Motor Co. for an International truck, the Ford was purchased.

-Trap wire was installed on the outside of the new garbage dump dock on Thane Rd, to eliminate the problem of garbage floating around and piling up on the beach.

June 4, 1935 – A special meeting of the Common Council was convened to consider a petition from a number of local business and professional men and taxpayers, requesting that the City supervise an election of the employees of the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company on the question of determining whether or not they wished to have the strike called on May 22, terminated and to return to work.

-After much discussion by the Council and the public, the resolution was deferred until the regular meeting of the Council on June 7.

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June 7, 1935 – The resolution introduced at the June 4th special meeting that the City supervise a special election of mining company employees was passed.

June 21, 1935 – L.H. Metzgar, Superintendent of the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company appeared before the Council and stated that the committee representing former employees of the Company had come to see him to ask how work could be resumed at the mine. He said that the Company was ready to resume operations as soon as enough men had applied for work and that they could do so without being molested or interfered with.

-Ted Danielson said that 290 men had signified their intentions of going to work and he stated that many others would do so if given an opportunity. He said that the men wanted the assurance that the City would give them protection while signing up for employment and after the mine had opened.

-The Council authorized the Chief to put on enough extra officers to give the necessary protection.



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A-J Mine Strike – June 24, 1935

August 1, 1935 – Will Rogers and pilot Wylie Post visited Juneau in a hand-built, hybrid aircraft that crashed a few miles from Point Barrow, killing both men instantly.



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Will Rogers' visit to Juneau – August 1935

September 6, 1935 – M.S. Whittier spoke to the Council on the subject of ambulance service. He felt the City needed a better system for answering calls promptly. It was suggested that a stretcher be kept in the police patrol car, which always answered emergency calls, fire alarms etc.



September 20, 1935 – A letter was received from Northwest Radio Advertising Co., Seattle, asking for more information about the tax assessment on KINY station. It urged the Council to either exempt the property from taxation or place only a nominal valuation, in view of the public service rendered by the station and the unprofitable state of the station's business so far.

October 13, 1935 – The bridge linking the City of Juneau to Douglas Island was officially opened.



Juneau-Douglas Bridge Opening Celebration

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November 8, 1935 – Garbage wagons were being allowed to go without covers. Chief of Police Hoffman promised to notify the garbage collectors to correct the problem. He also said that something should be done about the garbage conditions at restaurants, that collections should be made by 8 AM; that many of the lavatories in public places like card rooms, pool rooms, and beer parlors were in an unsanitary condition; and that beer dispensing places should use more care in rinsing their glasses.

November 15, 1935 – Chief of Police Hoffman suggested that the lot at the corner of 2d and Franklin be reserved for a playground for small boys only.

1936

February 7, 1936 – Cars were being parked on city streets for long periods of time. Chief Hoffman explained that the officers had hauled many cars to garages and that storage space was now at a premium. He promised to look into the matter further and see what could be done about using vacant lots for storage purposes.

February 21, 1936 – Police Chief Hoffman reported that doctors and dentists had told him that there was an epidemic of trench mouth in the City, caused by improper glass washing in the beer parlors and restaurants of the City. He was authorized to take whatever steps were necessary to enforce the sanitation laws immediately.

April 3, 1936 – Chief of Police Hoffman reported that the Police Department had made 487 arrests since April 1, 1935, mostly for drunk and disorderly offenses, and that fines collected had amounted to \$2,564 for the past fiscal year ending March 31, 1936.

April 17, 1936 – Hoffman was re-elected as Chief, William J. Markle was retained as Assistant Chief, and Kenneth Junge and George L. Gilbertson as patrolmen.

-New uniforms were purchased for the Department.

May 1, 1936 – J.R. Baxter applied to transfer his liquor license to Mrs. Lena Pigg. Chief Hoffman stated that the license had been issued originally to Al Forsythe, and then transferred to J.R. Baxter, although the common belief was that a non-citizen, "Big Mike", was the real owner of the business. The transfer was rejected.

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-Chief of Police Hoffman reported that the Police Department made 36 arrests in April. He said that the dog situation in town was getting serious; that it was difficult to control and suggested that the City require all dogs on the streets to be kept under leash.

May 15, 1936 – Assistant Chief of Police William J. Markle and Patrolman George Gilbertson resigned.

June 5, 1936 – John Pastl, owner of the New York Tavern, charged that the police had shown discrimination in closing card rooms at 1 AM, allowing some places to operate after hours. Chief of Police Hoffman denied the charge and said that all card rooms, pool rooms, etc., were not being allowed to operate after 1 AM, in accordance with the City Ordinance.

-Thomas C. Thomsen and C.V. Kay were elected patrolmen.

July 17, 1936 – Chief of Police Hoffman reported that he and Territorial Sanitary Engineer Grimes had conducted inspections of sanitary conditions in restaurants, beer parlors etc, and found conditions gradually improving. He said that the following week he and Mr. Grimes would give attention to garbage cans and sewer problems. He also reported that the City Jail needed some improvements that would make it possible to handle women prisoners to better advantage.

November 20, 1936 – Chief Hoffman said he had gotten in touch with owners and managers of the various beer parlors and warned them against selling beer to minors. He also said that several of the names on the list presented by the Alaska Native Sisterhood were people that had stolen beer from the City Dock and were now in jail.



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

November 22, 1936 – A 100 foot wide landslide demolished the Nickinovich Apartments, a neighboring rooming house, and other Franklin Street buildings, killing sixteen people following a day of heavy rain.

Juneau Police Department History

Photos from the Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

1937

January 15, 1937 – Ordinance No. 235 that would regulate the keeping and licensing of dogs, declaring dogs at large a public nuisance, providing penalties for violation and repealing ordinances in conflict was proposed. Chief of Police Hoffman spoke of the difficulties in hiring and keeping a dog catcher.

-Ralph Jamison asked to have West 7th Street near Dutch's Garage, cleared of automobiles parked there that were preventing residents from having access to their property. Chief of Police Hoffman promised to take care of the matter the next day.

February 8, 1937 – Chief Hoffman checked up on beer parlors to discover possible violations of the law regarding minors and arrested one man, with resultant conviction and fine in the Magistrate's Court. He said that the law was being observed quite well, but it was impossible for the police to see everything that was going on, and that it was difficult to ascertain the true ages of youth found in the places. He said he had issued strict instructions to all proprietors of beer parlors to give the law the benefit of any doubts and to keep all young people of questionable age out of their places.

March 19, 1937 – Chief of Police Hoffman informed the Council that he had secured the services of a dogcatcher to help enforce the new dog-on-leash ordinance.

April 7, 1937 – The Yellow Cab Co. presented a claim against the City for \$191.25, for damages to a cab suffered in a collision with the police patrol car last October.

April 16, 1937 – Dan Ralston was named Chief of Police, Roy Hoffman, Assistant Chief of Police, Kenneth Junge and J.W. Wilson Patrolman.

-Salaries were fixed as follows: Chief of Police-\$200, Assistant Chief of Police-175, Patrolman-\$165.

April 26, 1937 – Chief Ralston presented a list of things he believed necessary for the Police Department including: 9 blankets, 10 mattresses, 10 canvas mattress covers, four new police officer uniforms-total estimate \$450-500. He also asked that the patrol car be given a thorough overhaul including installing a new motor, and that provisions be made for another women's cell in the jail.

-Chief Ralston urged that Workmen's Compensation protection be given to police officers.

Juneau Police Department History

Photos from the Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

December 17, 1937 – A new GMC police patrol car was purchased from the Connors Motor Co. at a purchase price of \$950. Connors Motors allowed the City \$275 on the old police car with the City to pay \$50 per month on the balance due.

1938

January 21, 1938 – Old cars were being dumped on the property across from the Eureka Apartments on Willoughby Ave.

February 4, 1938 – Foster McGovern, the Secretary of the Alaska branch of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, was asked for the aid of the Seattle Chamber in stopping the flow of men to the north who were looking for work and to advise them that there were no relief funds nor work in Alaska at this time.

-City Attorney Foster told the Council that no action could be taken against the Economy Garage or Dutch Rodebaugh for keeping old cars on his lot located on Willoughby Ave. across from the Eureka Apartments.

February 18, 1938 – James Carlson, a representative of the beer parlor operators told the Council that the City of Douglas kept their places open all night and profited by the closing hours of Juneau beer parlors. He said that the beer parlors were the only places available for unemployed men to go to get warm on cold nights. The Chief of Police was instructed to notify all beer parlors and liquor stores that the hours of closing would be the same time as stated in the ordinance-1 AM daily and 2:30 AM on Sundays and holidays.

March 4, 1938 – The Chief of Police required brake testing on all cars by local firms having the Safety Lane Brake & Light testing equipment.

April 15, 1938 – Elected for the ensuing year were: Chief of Police-Dan Ralston, Assistant Chief of Police-Roy Hoffman, Patrolman-Kenneth Junge and T.A. Jones. Monthly salaries were fixed at: Chief of Police-\$205, Assistant Chief of Police-\$180, Patrolman-\$170.

Juneau Police Department History

Photos from the Alaska State Library-Historical Collections



May 3, 1938 – The first delivery of mail via Pan American Airways was made from Juneau to Fairbanks.

May 6, 1938 – The Juneau Chamber of Commerce complained to the Council asking that the dog ordinance be more strictly enforced. The Chief of Police sought to appoint a dogcatcher to take care of the dog situation.

June 3, 1938 – A question arose as to whether the City should continue paying the Royal Blue Cab Company \$10 per month ambulance fee. After considerable discussion it was decided that the payments should continue.

-The Chief of Police was directed to hold Fourth of July activities at the ball park instead of on Main Street this year.

June 17, 1938 – John E. Pegues of the American Legion Fourth of July Committee, asked permission to rope off Front Street between Franklin and Seward, to hold the evening sports events. He promised that the events would start promptly on time and the crowd would be confined strictly to that space, thus in case of a fire two streets would be kept clear to lower Front Street. Chief of Police Ralston and Fire Chief Mulvihill both expressed the opinion that the consequent danger of holding the events on Front Street would be too great.

November 16, 1938 – The Mayor and Council met with a number of citizens and townspeople to figure out some way to take care of the unemployed. Jack Loveless of Union #882 said that about 50-60 men were being fed daily at the union hall through donations from the Union, the merchants and various individuals.

1939

April 11, 1939 – Dan Ralston was elected Chief of Police, Roy Hoffman Assistant Chief of Police, and Kenneth Junge and T.A. Jones patrolmen.

April 14, 1939 – The policemen's salary was raised \$5 per month over the previous year.

Juneau Police Department History

Photos from the Alaska State Library-Historical Collections

June 19, 1939 – No charge was made for automobile dealers' license plates, but each dealer was limited to one set of plates for sales demonstrations only. In cases of emergency where the plates had to be used for other than a demonstration, permission had to be obtained from the Chief of Police.

July 7, 1939 – The General Construction Company was the successful bidder for the Small Boat Harbor project that commenced on August 1st.

September 15, 1939 – Thomas A. Jones resigned as police patrolman.

-Two cars, partially dismantled were parked on Evergreen Avenue for weeks and were a traffic hazard. Chief of Police Ralston was directed to determine who owned the cars and have them removed.

September 29, 1939 – John L. McCormick was hired as a police patrolman.

November 10, 1939 – Nelson Charles was hanged for the Ketchikan murder of his mother-in-law, Cecilia Johnson.

November 17, 1939 – Assistant Chief of Police Roy Hoffman resigned to accept a position in Kodiak.

November 22, 1939 – Kenneth Junge was promoted to Assistant Chief of Police.