

# LOS ANGELES POLICE MUSEUM

6045 York Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90042-3503

OPERATED BY  
LOS ANGELES POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LOS ANGELES POLICE MUSEUM

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## MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday 10:00am-4:00pm  
3rd Saturday of the month 9:00am- 3:00pm

Admission Fees:

### MEMBERS FREE

General (ages 13 thru 61) ..... \$8.00

Seniors (age 62+) ..... \$7.00

(Includes Audio Tour)

Youth (Age 12 and under) ..... FREE\*

\* Must be accompanied by an adult

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# PAB, RIP!

by *Glynn Martin, Executive Director*

Some manufacturers refer to them as waist chains, and others, like Smith and Wesson, call them belly chains. Whatever the name, this type of hardware is usually found in jail systems, used to restrain prisoners during transportation. It is what the length of chain and handcuffs was designed for. Doubtful that the inventor ever believed these would be used to lock the front doors of one of the most historic buildings to ever serve Los Angeles and its police department.

On January 15, waist chains were used to lock the front doors of Parker Center, applied as the official decommissioning of the former Police Administration Building progressed. The news media and a number of active and retired officers gathered to bid farewell to a building that gained considerable fame since its 1955 opening. Many know the building was featured in scores of films and television productions. Countless press conferences were held inside and outside its doors. And on any given day,

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# What's Happening at Old Number 11

by Glynn Martin

At the start of any year, we take a look at what is in front of us. This year, as with just about all of them, will be a busy one at the museum. Anniversary dates tell us that things will be busy elsewhere as well. Some events that reach a certain age this year:

- ★ LAPD enters its 144<sup>th</sup> year of paid police service
- ★ The first detective was appointed 125 years ago
- ★ Water reached the City of Los Angeles 100 years ago
- ★ Repeal of prohibition 80 years ago
- ★ The Onion Field 50 years ago

A number of these will impact the museum in one form or another, and we will have to squeeze these into an otherwise busy year. In fact, it is already upon us. January saw us host two special events, the unveiling of the Gangster Squad exhibition and the *film noir* double feature hosted by James Ellroy. Both sold out quickly.

The Gangster Squad exhibition includes photos and artifacts from the Gangster Squad, including a mug book marked "Gangster Squad" that was compiled by the com-

mander of the original gangster squad which operated from 1929 until 1932, Ralph Sears. This book contains the likes of Al Capone and other mobsters who were involved in prohibition era criminal enterprises. This is complemented by a number of other artifacts and photos from the Gangster Squad formed by Willie Burns in 1946 and fictionalized in the recent movie. To ensure the exhibition was unique and interesting, we reached out for a number of items currently displayed. LAPD retiree Kathy Irvine provided us with a number of items from her Con Keeler, both an original member of the squad and her father. Beverly Hills Police Chief Dave Snowden and head of the Beverly Hills crime lab Clark Fogg provided all of the Bugsy Siegel related materials. Fred Iversen, an LA Sheriff retiree, provided some fascinating letters written by Mickey Cohen. The photo archives at the LA Times and the LA Public library also lent their assistance. Christina Rice deserves our thanks, as do all of the above thoughtful folks that made this exhibition possible. We expect the exhibit will run until May 20, 2013.

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## PAB, RIP! *Continued from Page 1*

both cops and criminals walked their respective corridors.

During its run the building endured many changes, the most notable, its renaming. Following the untimely death of Chief William H. Parker in 1966, a movement began to name the building from which he led the LAPD in his honor. At a March, 1969 ceremony, the famous Parker Center monument, adjacent to its front walkway, was unveiled. From that day, and undoubtedly forevermore, 150 North LA will be known as Parker Center, home of the finest police force in the nation. Even though the cops have physically moved on, and the doors have been chained, this building's history will never be denied. Some was captured in the building's end of watch broadcast. For as much as

the words were meant to sign off a city-owned structure, they also signaled the end of an era, and the words that helped PAB rise to fame were simple...



"This is the city, Los Angeles, California, I work here, I carry a badge." □



# Unveiling of the Gangster Squad Exhibition



*James Ellroy (at podium) and Gangster Squad author Paul Lieberman helped unveil the museum's exhibit about the subject.*



**A sell out crowd enjoyed the opening of the Gangster Squad exhibition.**



# A Gallery of Vintage Parker Center Photos



The 8th floor cafeteria



The lobby mosaic



The first floor auditorium



The Glass House



The 8th floor studio



Communications



# What's Happening at Old Number 11

*Continued from Page 2*

It is no coincidence that the exhibit will wrap up that day, we want it to be available for our busy day on May 19, Museums of the Arroyo day. Typically this is our busiest day of the year. Again this year, we will be partnering with the Gamble House, Heritage Square, the Lummis home, and the Pasadena Museum of History to offer free admission to our visitors. We expect the hordes that usually attend will enjoy the mob era exhibition.

By then we expect this crowd will also be able to enjoy our newly constructed vehicle shelter. Completion of this major construction project will allow us to better display and care for our fleet of historic vehicles. Its completion should coincide with the museum's newest permanent exhibition, the Onion Field.

Construction to house this important addition on the museum's second floor is currently underway. We expect to deliver a first class exhibition that will simultaneously educate our visitors about this tragedy from a half-century ago. So, too will this help to explain the birth of the bagpiping tradition that is a memorable part of any LAPD line-of-duty funeral. Finally, we think this will

stand as fitting tribute to Ian Campbell and Karl Hettinger. Public access to the exhibition should begin on March 11, 2013.

At the end of April, the museum will host another large group of visitors. Other police museum staff and volunteers will report here for the third annual National Conference of Police Museums. We will be bringing in preservation and museum experts to provide guidance and training for those who are engaged in like pursuits. As a leader in this segment of the museum community we know we have a lot to offer those who have, or want, police museums.

While balancing all of these exciting undertakings, we are trying to bring some other projects to market, including a new challenge coin, and possibly a benefit book. The latter is contingent upon gaining an agreement with a major publishing house, which James Ellroy is championing on our behalf. James has given greatly of his time lately, and his efforts continue to aid the museum with its growth and development efforts. Our thanks go to him for all he has done, and continues to do. And that is neither *on the QT*, nor *hush-hush*. □



*The museum's newest acquisition, the earliest known portrait of Robert W. Stewart, LAPD's first African-American Officer. Museum volunteer Mark Galosutian assisted with this important acquisition.*