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Beckley Stabs: Leaders and Locales of the State Police in Beckley, 1920-1950

By
Merle T. Cole

Criminals. . . were not long in learning that they had a relentless foe in the state trooper, or "state stab" [short for constable] as he was frequently termed.—William R. Diehl, 1935¹

The approaching centenary of the creation of the West Virginia State Police affords an occasion to examine several aspects of its subsequent development. The agency, officially designated Department of Public Safety (DPS) until 1995, has maintained a presence in Beckley since shortly after its formation. This paper discusses some interesting aspects of the first thirty years of that experience.

Following a tumultuous struggle in the legislature, the act creating the agency was signed into law by Governor John J. Cornwell on 31 March 1919, and became effective on 29 June of that year. The new agency was authorized a small headquarters contingent in Charleston, and two field companies. Initial field headquarters were at Elkins for Company A under Captain Grover C. Rippetoe, to service the northern counties, and at Kenova for Company B under Captain John Esque, covering the southern counties.² The DPS' attention was virtually monopolized by violence arising from strikes and unionization activity in Mingo County for several months after its creation, and at one point practically the entire force was stationed there.³

The State Police presence was established in Beckley in the first week of February 1920. Designated "Beckley Sub-station, Provisional Company, Depart-

ment of Public Safety," it was temporarily headquartered in the Willis Hotel at 221 Heber Street. This location is currently the parking lot across McCrerry Street from the Beckley Water Company. The detachment consisted of five men: Sergeant C. M. Jones commanded, with Privates Grade Cook, William Harrison, Clarence Milbee and Sam Taylor assigned. Taylor was destined to become a legendary State Police figure. He was the first man to enlist in the DPS and saw service in some of its hottest actions—notably in the Mingo County disturbances, and in the pursuit and capture of the murderer of Private Ulric L. Crawford. That action in Berkeley County in June 1924 brought him into contact with several officers who later served in Beckley. Taylor rose to command a detachment, only to have his career cut short by loss of a leg in a motorcycle accident in August 1926. A local newspaper characterized "all of the members of the patrol" as "well-seasoned men, having experienced hard service in the late war [World War I]" who "no doubt will be equal to any occasion requiring their services." The article also noted that the men would "be provided with horses as soon as quarters for them can be secured." The substation

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Sam Taylor as sergeant in Mingo County, 1921; note the early pattern triangular breast badge. Courtesy Eastern Regional Coal Archives

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received broad instructions “‘to perform routine duties such as transportation facilities will permit,’ except when conditions make other orders necessary.”⁴

Just a few weeks later, on the night of 28 February 1920, the new force made itself felt for the first time. At 1100, ten state constables and the Beckley police chief raided and “cleaned out” the “notorious” Dixie Hotel in Raleigh. They arrested a total of 100 people, including “J. T. White, the negro who runs the place.” Following a brief exchange of shots, the troopers occupied the “veritable hell-hole” and confiscated numerous pistols, knives and other weapons. The action greatly pleased “the better element of the people in this section” because “the place had long been known as a den of crime and depravity,” and local officers had made no effort to “stamp it out.” State policemen participating in the raid were identified as Oscar Spencer, Sam Taylor, William H. Harrison, Doc Rose, W. R. Noffsinger, Clarence Walker, Roy Calhoun, C. H. Myers, W. A. Jones and C. F. Milbee. In a separate note, the *Raleigh Register* opined, “The state police seem to be pretty effective, and it begins to look as if they would justify the fight made by Governor Cornwell for the creation of the Department of Public Safety.” Judging by injunctions filed by White as late as December 1921, Beckley troopers continued to closely monitor activities at the Dixie Hotel.⁵

On 1 May 1920, a constabulary force of unspecified strength joined the Sophia police chief in raiding three houses. The strike was part of an “effort to purify the moral atmosphere of the town.” Six persons were arrested and one killed, the latter a man who pulled a pistol on the officers. The police chief later proclaimed his intention that the town would “no longer be known as a vice center for the surrounding coal mining towns.”⁶

During a 24-hour period in

October 1920 “the four state policemen now stationed here, C. E. Milbee, W. H. Harrison, Ernest Godfrey,

and Merle Chafin,” maintained the substation’s reputation for zeal. On the morning of 17 October the quartet investigated a “pay-day night carousal among the negroes at Raleigh” which had ended “with a lot of vicious gun play in which two men lost their lives.” The officers arrested seven men, one of whom was charged in the murder. A second suspected murderer escaped before the constables arrived. While in Raleigh, they for good measure also arrested two residents for moonshining. “After cleaning up Raleigh” the four went to Shady Spring and made two additional moon-

shining arrests. “By these and other arrests during Saturday night and Sunday the state police have again demonstrated their effectiveness. From Saturday noon until Sunday noon they made a total of 22 arrests, and they are continually making it hot for law-breakers throughout the county.”⁷

Unionization-related troubles occurred in the area around the same time. Violence at Willis Branch and other points in the state prompted Governor Cornwell to withdraw the DPS from Mingo County and rely on Federal troops to maintain order there. Following a “virtual reign of terror” at Willis Branch, Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency guards were discharged and “a squad

of state police stationed in the town” in September 1920. Predictions that this change would not defuse striker hostility proved accurate. In March 1921, rumors of “preparations to kill the state police” were “substantiated when on several occasions the officers were fired upon from distant hills as they were seen walking through the streets of the town.” This led to the establishment of a detachment station and the DPS strength increasing to 15 officers. The station remained at Willis Branch until 1924.⁸



The Oakwood Hotel on South Oakwood Avenue; later renamed Sunrise Hotel it was the initial location of Company C headquarters; the C&O Railway passenger and freight stations were immediately behind the hotel. Scanned from Mary Legg Stevenson, *Coal Towns of West Virginia, Volume 2*, courtesy Quarrier Press



Raleigh No. 3 mine, scene of first DPS action in the Beckley area, February 1920; tippel ramp is at left, the black elementary school is just in front of the ramp, and the Dixie Hotel to the right of the school. Courtesy Jack Mays



Newly formed Company C poses on Christmas Day 1921 in Charleston; Lt. Mack B. Lilly is seated on projection at right. Courtesy WV State Archives

On 4 August 1921, the *Raleigh Register* briefly noted that “Captain [Thomas W.] Norton and Private Lehman of the State Constabulary were in the city last week looking over available locations with the view of establishing a station in Raleigh county for a detachment of state police to work in conjunction with the Sheriff’s office in the preservation of law and order.” While the location had not been definitely determined, “it was intimated by the members of [sic] State Police that in all probability Beckley would be selected for a station.”⁹

Captain Norton’s visit reflected a strong vote of confidence in the DPS. On 15 April 1921 the legislature had amended the DPS creative act by authorizing two additional field companies. This doubled the agency’s maximum authorized strength to 289.



Fayette Street circa 1928, looking north toward Main Street. Company C headquarters moved between 14 Fayette Street and the Raleigh County Bank Building at various times from the mid-1920s until 1933, then relocated to Harper Road. The buildings are distinguishable at the upper left end of Fayette Street. The bank building features a dome. Courtesy of Jeff Miller

Companies C (Beckley) and D (Clothier) were activated on 14 July, the effective date of the amendment. The older Companies A and B were headquartered at Shinnston and Williamson, respectively.¹⁰ Location of company headquarters changed frequently, in response to demands of the police service.

Company C headquarters were initially situated “in the building that now houses the Sunrise hotel [37-39 South Oakwood Avenue],” later moved to the second floor of a building at 14 Fayette Street, transferred briefly to “the Raleigh County Bank building” (corner of Main and Fayette), then moved back to the Fayette Street site. In July 1933 headquarters were established in a house at 1936 Harper Road “about two miles west of the city.” The house had nine rooms, a garage, a repair shop in the rear and a revolver range.¹¹ None of the Harper Road structures are now standing.



Capt. Thomas W. Norton, Company C commander, 1921-1931. Scanned from *State Police Magazine*, June 1927

Capt. James R. Brockus (left) “swapped commands” with Capt. Norton in 1924-1925; Capt.-Insp. Harvey N. Rexroad (right) shared with Capt.



Arnold Moore—later Company D commander—the distinction of being the only 1919 (original) DPS recruits still on active duty at the time of the agency’s 22nd anniversary observance in 1941. Courtesy WVSP

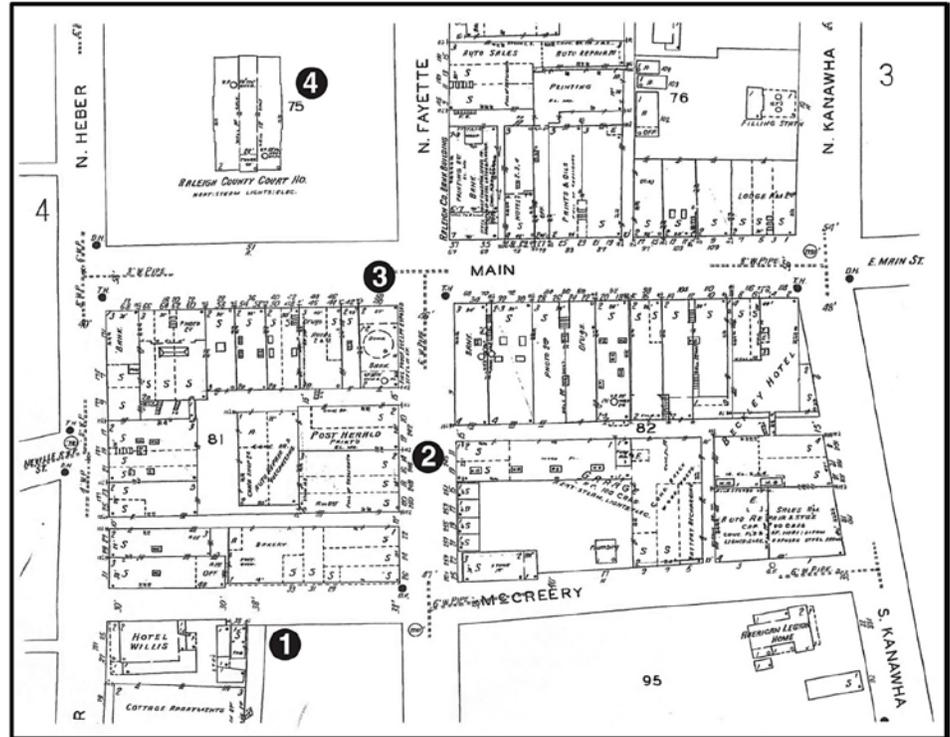
Lieutenant Mack B. Lilly was Company C’s first commanding officer. Born in Flat Top and reared in Mercer County, Lilly was another of the force’s colorful members. He served in several counties, and led the manhunt for Private Crawford’s killer in June 1924. He resigned from the DPS in October of that year, and subsequently served as a Federal prohibition agent in Huntington. He was considered for appointment as first DPS deputy superintendent, became chief

deputy sheriff of Logan County, and was later convicted of violating prohibition laws and sentenced to two years in Atlanta Federal prison.¹²

Captain Norton, who had commanded Company A during 1920-1921, was reassigned to command Company C later in 1921. Lieutenant Lilly served as executive officer. Enforcing prohibition was a major DPS mission, and Raleigh County's highways provided "the chief gateway into West Virginia for the bootlegging fraternity." Both Norton and Lilly engaged in high-speed pursuits and gun battles while capturing whiskey runners. On 1 February 1924, Norton switched commands with one of the DPS' most famous leaders, Captain James R. Brockus of Company B at Williamson. The two officers again exchanged commands in August 1925.¹³

Lieutenant Lloyd Layman served as Company C executive officer under both Norton and Brockus during 1923-1925, then was promoted to command of Company D in Parkersburg in 1926. He retained command until 1929 when he resigned in a dispute with the superintendent about his proposed reassignment to command Company B in Williamson. He took a very different career track thereafter, accepting appointment as Parkersburg's fire chief in 1931. He was appointed head of the U.S. Coast Guard fire-fighting school in World War II, and returning to Parkersburg after the war pioneered several innovative fire suppression methods and techniques still used today.¹⁴

Norton remained Company C commander until his death from heart disease on 10 October 1931, following a brief illness. Lieutenant Frank H. ("Red") Gibson, company executive officer for the past eight years and "ranking lieutenant of the department," was promoted captain to replace Norton on 2 March 1932. He retained command until the company was abolished just over a year later. Gibson himself was famous for commanding the DPS detail that provided the "muscle" for the state's prosecution of the murderer of Roy C. Knotts, former state trooper and police chief of Logan city, and the subsequent "clean up" of slot machine



Map 1

operations in the county during 1931.¹⁵

Their solid records of performance and achievement could save neither Company C nor the DPS from the economic chaos of the Great Depression. Declining government appropriations following the stock market crash of 1929 progressively reduced DPS strength during the early 1930s. On 30 June 1930, there were 159 men on the rolls, distributed among the four companies and 58 substations. This was against an authorized manpower complement in the 188-288 range. An appropriation cut forced the layoff of 35 men during the next biennium, and actual strength stood at 125 at the end of June 1932. There were still four companies, but two were operating without executive officers (lieutenants), average company strength had dropped to only 22-32 men, and eight substations had been closed. No recruit school was necessary in 1932 because all vacancies could be filled by rehiring experienced officers.

The DPS superintendent summarized the impact of additional budget cuts in his 1934 report to the governor. The reductions "necessitated a complete reorganization without reducing the personnel of the department." On 1 July 1933, "two (2) of the four (4) companies which have been maintained since 1921, were mustered out in name only, and the personnel and equipment transferred into the two remaining companies." In the process, two captains (including "Red")



(above: rarely seen early pattern triangular DPS breast badge)

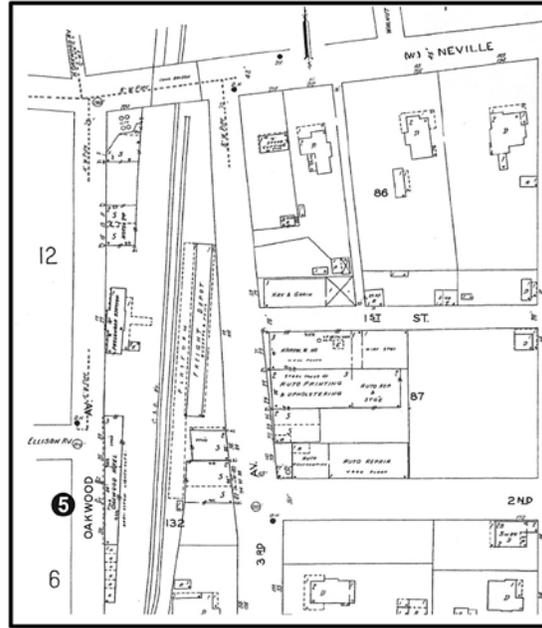
Figure 23: Locations of DPS Headquarters in Downtown Beckley, 1920-1940

Map 1 (below)

- ❶ Willis Hotel, 221 Heber Street
- ❷ 14 South Fayette Street (second floor)
- ❸ Raleigh County Bank Building, corner Main and Fayette
- ❹ Beckley Detachment, basement of Raleigh County Court House

Map 2 (right)

- ❺ Sunrise (formerly Oakwood) Hotel, 37-39 South Oakwood Avenue



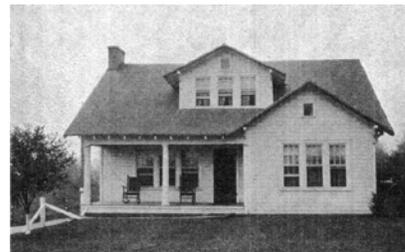
Map 2

Map source: Sanborn Map Co., “Beckley, Including Mabscott and Beckley Junction, Raleigh County, West Virginia, May 1929” (New York, 1929), Sheets 5 and 7

Gibson) were reduced to the grade of lieutenant, two first sergeants to sergeant, five sergeants to corporal, and nine corporals to the rank of trooper. Additional savings were realized by closing 17 substations to reduce barrack rentals, leaving 31 active. The DPS field force post-reorganization consisted of Company A (consolidated from former Companies A and D) headquartered at Fairmont, and Company B (consolidation of former Companies B and C), in Charleston. Company A operated 15 substations covering 31 northern counties, and Company B operated 16 substations in the state’s 24 southern counties. Each company had two lieutenants—one serving as executive officer and the other in charge of highway safety.¹⁶

Beckley became headquarters for Company B’s District 3, covering Raleigh, Summers, Fayette, Monroe and Nicholas counties. First Sergeant Walter C. Huff assumed command of the district in 1934, serving until he resigned to become conservator of the peace at Winding Gulf in the spring of 1935. He was replaced by Corporal Evan Hall, previously in charge at the Point Pleasant outpost. In an interview, Hall reported the district’s duties as “Road Patrol and General Police Work,” noting that the troopers got calls “for everything from killing mad dogs to locating strayed

children of busy housewives.” One trooper stationed in Beckley since 1925 commented on the reduced crime rate by observing “that a criminal court docket containing as many as eight or nine murder indictments was nothing unusual only a few years ago.” Road accidents had also been decreased “by at least 25 per cent.” “Three regular patrolmen are stationed on U. S. highways 19-21 and state highways 3 and 12 every



This house formerly located at 1936 Harper Road served as Company C and D headquarters from July 1933 until June 1940;

later the home of the John D. Donovan family. Scanned from *DPS Ninth Biennial Report, 1934-1936*

day. . . . Four troopers patrol during the night. In addition to this number two troopers, stationed at Fayetteville, are also engaged in patrol work.”¹⁷

The 1935 legislature was able to restore significant funding to the agency, enabling gradual reconstitution of the structure authorized by the 1921 amendment to the creative law. Recruitment of 75 new members was



Left: Capt. Frank H. "Red" Gibson, Company C commander, 1932-1933. Scanned from *State Police Magazine*, June 1927



Sgt. Evan Hall (right) commanded the Beckley District during part of the period when there was no company headquarters located there. Courtesy WVSP



Right: Capt. Harry C. Myers, company commander, 1937-1941. Scanned from *DPS Report*, 1944



Capt. George H. Skeen (left), first commander of the re-activated Beckley unit, now designated Company D, 1936-1937. Scanned from *Beckley Post-Herald*, 29 Dec. 1936

also authorized. As summarized in the superintendent's 1936 biennial report:

[On] August 1, 1935, a third company was created, increasing the number of detachment headquarters to 61. This made it possible to locate a post in each of the state's 55 counties for the first time in history. . . . On March 1, 1936, the department was reorganized, creating another additional company without changing the number of men or the number and location of stations.

Thus was the DPS resurrected. By June 1936, actual strength had reached 200 men. In the new field force, Company A remained at Fairmont with 16 detachments; Company B, Charleston, controlled 12; Company C, Elkins, 14; and Company D at Beckley, 15. The number of companies has never decreased since 1936. It is noteworthy that the four companies did not reassume the same geographical area coverage or headquarters locations as their pre-1933 counterparts. Old Company A had been headquartered at Shinnston; B at Williamson; C at Beckley; and D at Parkersburg. Notably, each company was again authorized only one lieutenant (executive officer).¹⁸

Company D's first commanding officer was Captain George H. Skeen. He had had an unusual career. From 1925 until 1932, he served as supply sergeant in DPS headquarters. In the 1933 downsizing and reorganization, Skeen was appointed as one of Captain Brockus' lieutenants in Company A. He remained in that job until 1935, when he was selected

to command newly reactivated Company C in Elkins, followed by reassignment to the new Company D in 1936.¹⁹

A significant portion of Company D's workload involved road patrol and highway safety activities. In early 1940, Raleigh County was second only to Kanawha County in number of highway fatalities. Increased traffic volume was reflected in a corresponding demand for driver license testing, which was performed by DPS sworn personnel until 1977. Driver's license tests were administered every Tuesday at the Harper Road headquarters, and required diversion of ten troopers. A record was set on 21 May 1940, when officers tested 156 license candidates. The record number was due to scheduled testing on the previous Tuesday being canceled due to a primary election. Of candidates tested that day, 26 (17%) failed the examination. This contrasts with an average of 85 applications a week with about 5% failing. Reportedly, "about as many fail[ed] on driving as on oral questions." Successful candidates received a form which, when sent to Charleston along with "75 cents," would purchase a valid driver's license.²⁰

On 1 January 1937, Skeen traded commands with Captain Harry C. Myers from Company B in Charleston. Myers was credited with fostering inter-agency cooperation and camaraderie by sponsoring a pistol match between DPS, deputy sheriffs, conservation officers, constables and municipal police from eleven counties. The match was well received and led to others being planned. In a three-way switch on 26

May 1941, Skeen was transferred to Company A replacing Captain Arnold Moore, who was assigned command of Company D after a brief tour of duty at DPS headquarters. Captain Myers was simultaneously reassigned to headquarters to coordinate DPS special defense activities, notably securing the state's vital defense plants against sabotage.²¹

Superintendents' biennial reports repeatedly recommended that short-wave radio broadcast stations be established at each company headquarters to facilitate communications, and that permanent state-owned barracks be acquired to save high rental expenses. In 1937 the legislature approved the request and construction began using Works Progress Administration grants. "Building work at Beckley. . . was rushed"



Raleigh County Court House, constructed during 1936-1937; the Beckley Detachment was located in the basement from 1937 until June 1940. Wikipedia Commons

and on 7 October 1939, Company D's radio station (W BSP) went on the air from a newly constructed building on the U.S. 19-21 Bypass near the Pinecrest Sanitarium (currently 201 South Eisenhower Drive).

The station quickly proved its worth in apprehending criminals, but also drew complaints from



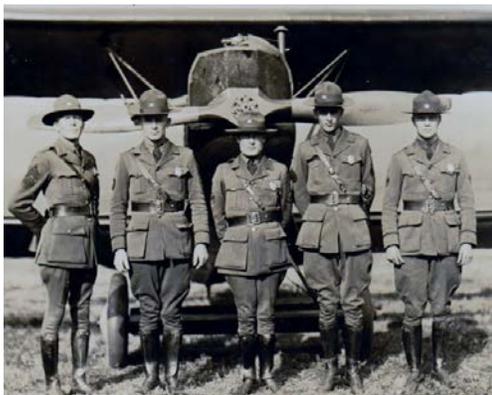
Capt. Arnold Moore, company commander, 1941-1946. Scanned from *DPS Report*, 1944

citizens angry about interference with college football game radio broadcasts.²²

The rest of the new company barracks was not completed for nearly ten months. Estimated cost of the new headquarters was \$69,000—roughly \$1,130,000 in 2012 dollars. Aside from the radio station it contained "offices, sleeping quarters, garages and other facilities," and was described as "constructed of concrete of modern design." Company D headquarters moved there from Harper Road on 28 June 1940, followed by the Beckley Detachment on the 29th.²³

Captain Moore was one of the longest serving DPS members. In September 1941, the *Charleston Gazette* announced a special statewide radio program commemorating the agency's 22nd anniversary. Featured prominently were Captain-Inspector Harvey N. Rexroad and Captain Moore—"the only two present members. . . who were present at the first roll call on November 1, 1919." Earlier that year, the *Gazette* had incorrectly identified Moore as "the first man to enlist in the state police when the department was organized in 1919."²⁴ As noted earlier, that distinction belonged to Sam Taylor. Moore had commanded Company D just short of five years when he retired on 1 April 1946.²⁵

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Pvt. Ulric L. Crawford and his pal Pvt. Eldon S. Duckworth (4th and 5th from left) form part of a detail guarding an airplane which landed at Moundsville in 1922; Crawford's murder in June 1924 sparked the biggest DPS manhunt up to that date. Courtesy WVSP



Duckworth's retirement; handwritten inscription across top reads "Receiving my Last Salary Check"; inscriptions on cakes read "Retiring Capt. E. S. Duckworth" (left) and "W. Va. State Police 30 Years." Courtesy WVSP

Captain Eldon S. Duckworth replaced Moore and served as Company D commander until early 1949. Duckworth had been with Private Crawford when the latter was shot down by farmer Speight, and participated in the famous manhunt and gun battle alongside Lilly and Taylor. He was a former professional boxer. His expertise in martial arts was so widely known that he was detailed as instructor to the FBI in August 1935, and in May 1947 was selected as judo instructor for the first DPS new recruit school since before World War II. Perhaps adopting Captain Myers' earlier experiment, Duckworth organized a municipal-county-state rifle and pistol marksmanship match in October of that year. It became the predecessor to monthly matches beginning the following spring.²⁶

Another colorful Company D officer was officially recognized as "a man of many wounds." Between October 1932 and January 1934, while serving in Companies B and C, Trooper Harley E. Locke was involved in no less than three altercations with criminals in which he was shot at (one round resulting in numerous intestinal punctures), clubbed, and suffered numerous broken and crushed bones, lacerations and bruises. Locke was first sergeant of Company D when he retired from the DPS in 1948. He was elected sheriff of Greenbrier County the same year, only to die of leukemia in November 1950.²⁷



Left: Tpr. Harley E. Locke (right), "man of many wounds" and first sergeant of Company D before retiring in 1948; he was elected sheriff of Greenbrier County that year and died of leukemia two years later. Courtesy WVSP

Captain Duckworth was transferred to DPS headquarters as supply officer on 23 January 1949. Captain Luther A. Taylor—"youngster [*sic*] captain in point of service on the State Police force"—was moved from Company C (Elkins) as new Beckley commander.



Above: Capt. Luther A. Taylor (left) commanded Company D from January 1949 to May 1950; shown with Sgt. Anthony Scalise. Courtesy WVSP

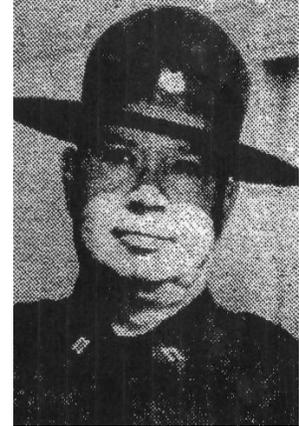


Home of Company D, Troop 6 and the Beckley Detachment on the Raleigh-Skelton Cut Off (201 South Eisenhower Drive) from June 1940 until October 2000; the tower of radio station WBSP, activated in October 1939 is at left; facility is now occupied by Raleigh County Sheriff's Office. Courtesy WVSP



Target practice on the old Company D firing range, with Armory-Civic Center in background; the Beckley-Raleigh County Code Enforcement Department now occupies this space. Courtesy WVSP

Below: Capt. Claude L. Walker was the longest-tenured CO, commanding Company D from May 1950 to October 1958. Scanned from *Beckley Post-Herald*, 21 Oct. 1958



Taylor had been assigned to Beckley earlier, as lieutenant, from April 1946 to August 1947, and still owned a house in the city. He retired from the DPS in May 1950 to become chief of police in Princeton. By contrast to Taylor's brief tenure, new commander Captain Claude L. Walker led Company D from 1950 through late October 1958, closing out the decades covered by this article.²⁸

Company D and the Beckley Detachment were to remain in the Eisenhower Drive facility for sixty years. On 1 July 1998, the company was redesignated Troop



Troop 6 headquarters and the Beckley Detachment opened their current facility at 105 Pinecrest Drive in October 2000. Photo by author

6 in conjunction with an overall reorganization of the State Police field structure. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on 28 October 2000 opened the new Troop 6 headquarters at 105 Pinecrest Drive, behind the Convention Center. The Beckley Detachment is co-located in the new facility.²⁹

Merle T. Cole (B.A., Political Science, 1969, Marshall U.) is a retired Federal civil servant. He has authored seventy publications dealing with military, naval and police history in numerous state, national and international refereed journals. His 60-year anniversary history of the WVSP is posted on the agency web site. He was also selected to write the West Virginia State Police entry for *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* in 2006, and to present a lecture on the topic at West Virginia Archives and History in Charleston in 2011. Cole recently announced a project to produce additional State Police history publications. First in the series is a monograph titled *Evolution of the West Virginia State Police Uniform Since 1919*, co-authored by Donald R. Davis. Cole is a member of the West Virginia Historical Society and the Company of Military Historians, and a Research Associate (Military History) with the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland. He served as a commissioned officer in the Maryland State Guard, 1985-1994.

1. William R. Diehl, "State Cops are Necessary for Public Safety," *Raleigh Register* (hereafter *RR*), 22 September 1935: Smokeless Coal and Progress Edition, Section 4:2.
2. C. H. Quenzel, "A Fight to Establish the State Police," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* (May-Jun 1943):61-67; "Appointments Are Made in Public Safety Department," *Charleston Gazette* (hereafter *CG*), 28 August 1919:12; Kyle McCormick, "The Historic Battle for Our State Police," *CG*, 28 July 1957: Magazine Section, 4m; W. Va., Dept. of Public Safety, *Report to the Governor, December 1, 1920* (Charleston, 1920):6 (hereafter *DPS Report* by year); *West Virginia*

Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register, 1919 (xxiv-xxv, 852) and *1920* (xxiv) show Company A at Elkins and Company B (then commanded by Captain James R. Brockus) at Kenova. The 1920 edition (629) also shows a "temporary" Company B headquarters in Oak Hill. The *West Virginia Legislative Hand Book and Manual and Official Register* was retitled *West Virginia Blue Book* in 1933; the more familiar and less cumbersome title *Blue Book* is used hereafter. See also Merle T. Cole, "Birth of the West Virginia State Police, 1919-1921," *West Virginia History* 43 (Fall 1981):3-15.

3. *DPS Report, 1920* (3-4) and *1922* (4, 7); Merle T. Cole, "Martial Law in West Virginia and Major Davis as 'Emperor of Tug River'," *West Virginia History* 43 (Winter 1982):127; "State Constabulary," *Charleston Daily Mail* (hereafter *CDM*), 23 July 1920:2.
4. "Police Sub-station Established Here," *RR*, 5 February 1920:1. Address of the Willis Hotel is given as 221 Heber Street in "Beckley's First City Directory, 1921-22" (22), and as 35-37 South Heber Street in *Polk's Beckley (Raleigh County, W. Va.) City Directory, Including Mabscott, Vol. III, 1934* (R. L. Polk and Co., Pittsburgh, 1934):170, 222 (hereafter *Polk's* by year). On the manhunt, see "Hunt Speight for Slaying of State Trooper," *CG*, 22 June 1924:1, 8; "Speight Is Shot to Death After Resisting Posse," *CG*, 23 June 1924:1, 7.
5. "State Police Very Effective in Raid," *RR*, 4 March 1920:1. The editorial opinion is in an untitled entry on page 4. It is interesting that, not having space to print the names in the article the *Register* obligingly placed the list of persons arrested on view in its offices for "anyone who wishes to look it over." Unfortunately, only one conviction resulted from the raid—the prosecuting attorney dismissed other charges due to lack of evidence. "One Conviction in Dixie Hotel Case," *RR*, 11 March 1920:7. Dixie Hotel/John White injunction orders are in Raleigh Co. Circuit Court Clerk's Ofc., Chancery Order Book No. 10:283, 306. Officers of a virtual predecessor to the DPS, the Department of Special Deputy Police, maintained order in Raleigh during a September 1917-January 1918 labor strike. At maximum strength there were 23 officers there, all from Cabell and Mason counties. The force was gradually reduced to three men by November 1917, and the last man was withdrawn on 21 January 1918. See Merle T. Cole, "The Department of Special Deputy Police, 1917-1919," *West Virginia History* 44 (Summer 1983):331. Although the Raleigh County sheriff had appointed four special police deputies (Marshall Clay and Robert Aliff, Eccles; M. G. Quesenberry, Sylvia; and C. V. Dalton, Mabscott), none of them served at Raleigh. See "Special Police Deputies," *Raleigh Herald*, 27 July 1917:[not paginated].
6. "Man is Killed in Raid on Sophia," *RR*, 6 May 1920:1.

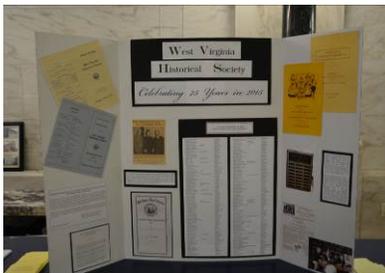
7. "Raleigh is Scene of Double Killing," *RR*, 21 October 1920:1. Note the inconsistency in Milbee's middle initial as reported in "State Police Very Effective in Raid," *RR*, 4 March 1920:1
8. "Federal Troops in Control of Mingo," *RR*, 2 September 1920:1; "State Police at Willis Branch are Reinforced," *RR*, 24 March 1921:4; *DPS Report, 1920* (6); *Blue Book, 1924* (xxvi).
9. "State Police May Open Station in Beckley Soon," *RR*, 4 August 1921:1.
10. Cole, "Birth," 20; Clyde H. East, "The Interesting Story of the West Virginia State Police," *State Police Magazine* (June 1927):41-47, 50-52, 54, 56-58, 60, 62; "Company D Sent Into Coal River District," *CDM*, 30 October 1921:1; "Larger Force Gives Police Needed Power" and "Larger Force is Required to Guard Law," *RR*, 14 July 1921:5, 7; "Replacing Federal Troops," *RR*, 4 November 1921:5; "State Police Hold Logan County Line," *RR*, 11 November 1921:2.
11. Diehl; Jim Wood, *Raleigh County, West Virginia* (Beckley, 1994):147. *Polk's 1934* (153, 195, 222) gives location of Sunrise Hotel and Apartments. It had previously been named the Oakwood Hotel (*Polk's 1932*, 177), and was later renamed Hotel West Virginia (*Polk's 1940, 361-1944*, 347) and Lafayette Hotel (*Polk's 1946, 376-1950*, 428). In *Polk's 1952* (491), 117 S. Oakwood Avenue is shown as vacant. *Polk's 1932* (151) shows Company C headquarters at 14 South Fayette Street. The Harper Road location and 1932 occupancy are from "Co. D Celebrates 25th Anniversary," *RR*, 28 February 1961:1, 2; *DPS Report, 1936* (53-54); and *Polk's 1965* (Directory of Householders..., 39). The 1961 *RR* story identified the headquarters building as "a house now occupied by the J. D. Donovans." Emile J. Hodel, "Toy Fund Tops Goal; Tip for Shoppers," *BPH*, 21 December 1960:4, gives the Donovan's street address as 1936 Harper Road. Diehl states occupancy date as July 1933.
12. "Hunt Speight for Slaying of State Trooper," *CG*, 22 June 1924:1, 8; "Speight Is Shot to Death After Resisting Posse," *CG*, 23 June 1924:1, 7; "Budget is Passed, Legislature Quits," *CDM*, 17 March 1929:1; "Mack Lilly Draws Two Year Term on Prohibition Charge," *CG*, 19 October 1932:14.
13. Merle T. Cole, "'The Meanest Old Son-of-a-Bitch'—J. R. Brockus of the West Virginia State Police," *West Virginia Historical Society Quarterly* 23 (July 2009):3-4; "Company C Makes Another Bull's Eye," *CDM*, 15 April 1923:28; "Lawless Element Takes Vacation," *CDM*, 16 September 1924:2. The "gateway" quote is from "Some of State's Best Homes Infected, Says Head of State Police," *CDM*, 3 December 1922:4. Local production continued to be a problem as well. Later in 1921 a raid on "the Taylor farm near Beckley Junction" netted 40 gallons of mash, a stove and barrels. "Police Get Mash," *RR*, 11 November 1921:14.
14. *Blue Book, 1923* (xxvi), *1924*, (xxvi), *1925* (xxvii), *1926* (xxviii), *1927* (xxix), and *1928* (xxxix); *DPS Report, 1926* (6) and *1928* (14); "Troopers' Headquarters to Go to Parkersburg," *CMD*, 18 January 1926:13; "West Virginia Briefs," *BPH*, 15 May 1930:4; "Barton Raised to Captaincy," *CG*, 18 May 1930:3; J. C. Robertson, "Father of Fog: Lloyd Layman," *Fire Chief* (1 May 2000) http://firechief.com/mag/firefighting_father_fog_lloyd
15. "Heart Attack Takes Captain," *CG*, 11 October 1931:1; "Lieut. Gibson to Head State Police Company," *CG*, 2 March 1932:2; Howard B. Lee, *Bloodletting in Appalachia: The Story of West Virginia's Four Major Mine Wars and Other Thrilling Incidents of Its Coal Fields* (Morgantown, 1969):123-138.
16. *DPS Report, 1930* (17), *1932* (5-6) and *1934* (5-7); "State Police Ranks Cut in Economy Move," *CG*, 28 June 1933:1, 7; "State Police are Assigned to All Posts," *CG*, 15 July 1933:5.
17. Diehl; *DPS Report, 1934* (14).
18. *DPS Report, 1936* (7-8); "Shingleton Opens Company 'C' Office in Elkins Courthouse," *CG*, 24 July 1935:7.
19. "State Police Report Big 1936 Auto Damage," *BPH*, 29 December 1936:21; *Blue Book, 1925* (xxvii), *1931* (xxxi), *1933* (12), *1935* (21), *1936* (25); *DPS Report, 1924* (10), *1926* (15), *1930* (17), *1932* (20), *1934* (13), *1938* (24).
20. "Raleigh Is Second Most Unsafe County," *RR*, 23 January 1940:7; "Motorists Dangerous as well as Forgetful About Licenses," *RR*, 25 April 1940:1; "156 Are Tested by State Police," *RR*, 22 May 1940:5.
21. "Myers, Skeen Exchange Trooper Commands; Others Transferred," *CG*, 1 January 1937:15; "Skeen Transferred," *CDM*, 25 May 1941:3; "Bosworth Shifts Trooper Officers," *CG*, 24 May 1941:27; "Troopers Assigned to Guard State's Vital Defense Plants," *CDM*, 31 May 1941:1; "Police Cooperation," *CG*, 18 July 1938:6; "Honest Law Enforcement Vital, Myers," *RR*, 13 October 1939:1.
22. *DPS Report, 1936* (121), *1938* (87) and *1940* (8, 79); "Radio Station Still Incomplete," *BPH*, 22 August 1939:9; "Beckley State Police Radio Station Goes into Service," *RR*, 8 October 1939:8; "Troopers' Broadcast Is Success in First Chase," *RR*, 11 October 1939:10. An editorial "Hint to the Cops," *RR*, 22 October 1939:4, reported complaints about police broadcasts interfering with radio transmission of college football games. Curiously, the *RR* stated that W BSP went active on 7 October, while official reports give the date as 14 October. *DPS Report, 1940* (79) and *1942* (89).
23. "State Policemen Move from City," *Sunday Register*, 30 June 1940:8. At that time, the Bypass marked the city's eastern boundary. Sanborn Map Co., "Beckley, Including Mabscott and Beckley Junction, Raleigh County, West Virginia, May 1929" (New York, 1929), Sheet 30. Cost comparison is based on consumer price index data as calculated by the "Measuring Worth" web

site at <http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/relativevalue.php>.

24. "West. Va. State Police Will Hail 22 Years," *CG*, 7 September 1941:22; "Commander of Elkins Post Transferred Here," *CG*, 17 May 1941:9.
25. "Capt. Moore to Leave State Police Force," *RR*, 14 March 1946:1, and "Captain Arnold Moore to Retire from Police Force," *BPH*, 15 March 1946:6. Both articles state that Moore assumed command of Company D 20 May 1941.
26. "Former Co. D. Head Honored," *RR*, 18 April 1946:1; "Capt. Duckworth to be Instructor," *RR*, 2 May 1947:14; "Raleigh County's Local, County, State Police Pistol Team Scores Match Bull's Eye," *RR*, 16 October 1947:5; "G-Men Go in for Jiu Jitsu," *Danville (VA) Bee*, 19 August 1935:1. For his role in the Speight fight, see "In Narrow Escape," *CDM*, 6 August 1925:14.
27. *DPS Report, 1934* (17-18); "Sheriff H. E. Locke Dies of Leukemia," *CG*, 19 November 1950:10; "Deaths and Funerals, H. E. Locke Services," *CDM*, 20 November 1950:12.
28. "Capt. Duckworth Moved; Taylor to Head Company D," *RR*, 23 January 1949:1; "Police Officers Shifted," *RR*, 24 January 1949:14; Thomas F. Stafford, "Bug Dust," *RR*, 27 January 1949:4; "Crotty is Temporary Chief in Princeton," *BPH*, 13 April 1950:7; "Ballard Heads Company D; Walker Goes to Shinnston," *BPH*, 21 October 1958:1.
29. West Virginia State Police News Releases, "Reorganization Taking Shape," 31 May 1998; Jeri S. Bowles, "State Police, DMV Celebrate Completion of New Facility," *RR*, 29 October 2000:12A. The old State Police headquarters on Eisenhower Drive was taken over by the Raleigh County Sheriff's Office (RCSO). Annette Z. Fox, "Sheriff's Crew Moving to New Facility," *RR*, 5 June 2001:2A; Joseph Shaun Hale, Dir. Of Info. Tech., RCSO, e-mail to author, 3 June 2013, subj: Move to current location.

Historical Society Turns 75

The West Virginia Historical Society is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2015. At History Day on



February 19, 2015, the society had a display in the state capitol showing some its activities over the past 75 years.

News of Upcoming Events

A Joint Fall Conference, "West Virginia: History, Records & Research Strategies," will be presented at the Culture Center in Charleston by the Virginia Genealogical Society and the Mining Your History Foundation on October 2-3, 2015. For more information, visit the VGS Web site at <http://www.vgs.org/>.

West Virginia History Day will be held at the Capitol Complex in Charleston on Thursday, February 18, 2016. West Virginia historical, museum, preservation, and similar organizations can nominate individuals to receive History Hero recognition. They also can register to have displays in the capitol. Forms will be available on West Virginia Archives and History's Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx> by November 1. The West Virginia Historical Society is one of the sponsors of this event.

Submissions

The West Virginia Historical Society magazine welcomes manuscript submissions for publication consideration that deal with state or local history-related topics. Submissions, which should be of a length suitable for publication in the magazine and include footnote/endnote citations of referenced materials, should be sent to the editor, West Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

Membership is available at the cost of \$10 per year for individuals and \$15 for institutions. Members receive the society magazine, which is published two times a year. Dues should be sent to West Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 5220, Charleston, WV 25361.

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