



North American Motor Officers Association

My Dear Fellow Motor Officers:

June 21, 2011

I am now 65 years old and I must admit that every time I see a Motor Officer, I grin ear to ear, and remember my days as a Motor Officer. In my 40 year career as a Police Officer, I wore many hats; from Patrolman to Detective, to Sergeant, to Captain, to Chief of Police.

The hat I remember most fondly was my "Helmet". My tour as a Motor Sergeant was by far, the most enjoyable. I actually felt guilty getting paid to ride a motorcycle all day. I think I still have some gasoline and gun powder lingering in my blood from those days. I miss those days so much...

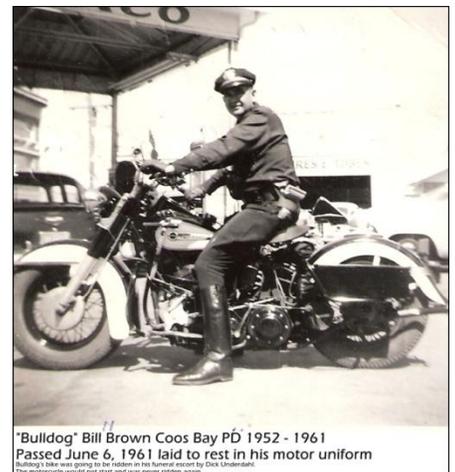
In the mid 1950's, Coos Bay had a Motor Officer, "Bull Dog Bill Brown," who rode a Harley Knucklehead. I never met him, but I knew I was going to be a Motor Officer. I finally talked the Chief into allowing me to lease my Police Motor Cycle (a 750 Honda K model) to the Department. I equipped it with a solo seat, footboards, and a heel/toe shifter. I scrounged used equipment; boots, breeches, and helmet from the Roseburg Police Department. (Thanks, Ron "Sonny" Beach).

I convinced the Chief that I needed training. Actually he was VERY anti-motorcycle, as he felt it was too dangerous, so this was pretty easy. I attended the first training session I could, which was offered by the Gresham Police Department. The trainers were Mark Miller and Jack Mahalick. Two weeks of fantastic training and camaraderie. By the end of our two weeks of training we were sitting sidesaddle and doing 360 footboard drag turns both to the inside AND to the outside! Mark was such a show off.

At the end of a day's training, we would all get together and have a few (quite a few) beers, and talk about how neat it would be if we could get together and assist with local, annual events, and to provide funeral escorts for fellow police officers. We also wanted to get together annually for a conference, so we could drink more beer and tell more wild war stories.



Lee Benson



"Bulldog" Bill Brown Coos Bay PD 1952 - 1961
Passed June 6, 1961 laid to rest in his motor uniform
The motorcycle would not start and was never ridden again.



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We knew that our Chiefs would probably not “buy in” to a beer festival for Motor Cops, so we decided that perhaps if we included some training, it might fly. Luckily, “Gramps” Hassinger from Bellevue, WA was there to guide us through the training aspect of our fledgling organization. Jim “Gramps” Hassinger was the glue that made the organization work.

I have attended several NAMOA Conferences, and I am so very impressed with the caliber of skills and quality of the organization and I am so proud to have been a part of the formation of this group. I have stood outside the barriers and watched you do your drills and practice your skills. I have heard so many positive comments from citizens who are watching you practice and compete.



1st Annual OWMOA Conference 1982

I once was standing next to a biker who had rode up on a Harley with “Ape Hangers” and he was watching with his mouth gaping and he asked me if this was some professional Police Drill Team practicing. I told him, “*No, these are just your local Motor Cops practicing their everyday skills.*” He said, “*Wow! There is no way any of my buddies could do any of those things.*” I grinned broadly as I thought about how I would love to see a bunch of outlaw bikers with Ape Hangers, maneuver through a cone pattern.

I love you all, and will try and attend every Conference I can. You treat me so well, and with such respect, I really appreciate it. A special Thank You to Pete Dalton for the way he has treated me and for inviting me to attend your conferences as a lifetime “Founding Father”.

Lee Bensen BPSST # 141