

Fort Worth Police Department Collection 1873-1912

History

This collection was donated to Tarrant County Junior College (Tarrant County College) in 1969 by Joe D. Galloway. Mr. Galloway was a former Deputy Chief of Police with the Fort Worth Police Department. After retiring from the Police department he served TCJC as Law Enforcement Coordinator.

Provenance

The Fort Worth Police Department Wanted Posters Collection is the property of the Tarrant County College District.

Scope and Content

The Fort Worth Police Department Collection consist of four ledger books and a bound volume of *The Detective*, a periodical:

- Two volumes containing wanted posters, hand bills, post cards, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.
- Court Docket Book 1873-1877
- Register of Prisoners in the City Jail 1886-1890
- *The Detective* (1901-1912), a periodical for police officers

Wanted Posters

The ledger books are essentially scrapbooks. The material is glued to the pages, front and back. There is an average of five items per page. Each volume has 350 pages; there are approximately 3,000 to 3,500 items in the volumes. The posters were sent to the police department by law enforcement officials from across the country.

Box 1

Volume 1 Wanted Posters and Correspondence 1892-1898. This volume contains Posters and handbills without images. There is a considerable volume of correspondence, most of which consists of request for information or warnings about various criminal who may be headed to Fort Worth. Many telegrams and messages request Fort Worth officers search trains passing through Fort Worth for fleeing criminals. There are approximately 50 pages of newspaper clippings relating to criminal activity locally. Many other clippings are from other Texas cities and cities throughout the country. Many of these pages are from the old Fort Worth Gazette.

Box 2

Volume 2 Wanted Posters and Notices 1898 to 1908. Many of these posters are from Pinkerton's and other detective agencies. Most were printed by local sheriff and police departments. Many of these are the traditional wanted poster with photographs of the criminals. There are many handmade posters with photographs attached. Other wanted notices are simply handbills and postcards with brief descriptions. While most of the notices and posters relate to criminals and military deserters, many are inquiries regarding missing persons. These also often have photographs attached. Other notices related to lost or stolen property. Among the more interesting items in this collection are several Pinkerton's posters featuring Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and other members of the Hole in the Wall Gang.

Box 3

Court Docket Book (April 17 1873-January 30 1877)

This volume is a record of arrests, charges, fines of individuals arrested for various offences, primarily misdemeanors such as public drunkenness, discharge of a firearm, brawling, and "residing in or frequenting a bawdy house." Also recorded are amounts of fines, and how the money was divided among various city departments and officials. The Chief of Police, the City Secretary, the City Attorney and the Mayor's Office each got a cut.

Box 4

Register of Prisoners in the City Jail (1886-1890) This volume is similar to the Docket Book, in that it records the names of prisoners, offences, time spent in jail, release date, cost of meals, etc.

Box 5

The Detective Official Journal of Police Authorities and Sheriffs of the United States (March 1901-November 1912) A monthly journal with articles relating to police work, advertisements for equipment, and photographs and descriptions of wanted criminals from across the country.