

GUN CONTROL- BALONEY

No amount of Legislation will ever control the use of Firearms in criminal activities. In all of my experience, I never found a criminal in possession of a firearm used in the commission of an offence, that was registered to him or her.

There are creepy bars and hotels in Toronto where shady individuals will take your order for the firearm of your choice and model and return within a short time with it, for a price.

The laws are in place to deal with armed offenders but the courts are pampering the criminal element, then and today (2003)
Case in point:

In the late fourties, I was working in plainclothes out of the Belmont Stn. # 3 Div. My partner and I answered a call regarding two prowlers in the lane off Ossington Ave. Upon arrival, we pulled up the dark laneway in time to see a man walking in the lane. I got out and confronted the suspect and my partner continued on in search of a second man. I asked the suspect, who was in his early 30's what he was doing up the lane and he replied " I came up for a leak" I then asked him to show me where he had the supposed leak and he could'nt do so. At this point I told the suspect that I was taking him in for further investigations and with that he rammed his right hand into his overcoat pocket. I followed suite with my hand into the same pocket of his coat and I'll never forget that cold stark feeling when I touched the cold metal which later turned out to be a fully-loaded 38 calibre revolver. We struggled and fortunately I came up with the gun just as my partner returned in the unmarked car. The suspect was handcuffed and placed in the rear seat of the car as we headed for the station. Enroute, the suspect stated " Lucky you got my piece (gun) or I would have shot you both in the back of the head" Just think of the relief when we learned that the same guy was just released after having served several years in the pen for what???? Shooting a Police Officer during a Robbery Attempt. The victim-officer I knew as "Tittering Shields" a Det. who was shot in the mouth damaging his front teeth and lips, leaving him with a slight impediment.

Our relief and gratitude was later substantiated by the Psychiatrist at the Don Jail who interviewed the suspect. He assured us that this clown would have in fact shot both of us if we had'nt found the gun when we did.

(CONTINUED)

Pretty serious stuff.? Like I said, this idiot should have gone back to the Pen but he got off with a mere 30 days in Jail. It didn't even make the daily news.

NOV. 3/51 ASSIGNED TO NO. 5 DIV. DETECTIVE OFFICE AT 135
DAVENPORT RD.

AS A ROOKIE DETECTIVE. ENCOMPASSED YORKVILLE
VILLAGE.

This is what I had been looking for, a chance to prove myself in the Criminal Investigation Branch (Detective Office)
Det. Sgt. Alvin Morrison was my immediate supervisor, a dapper dresser and a very thorough investigator.

This division encompassed the old Rosedale district, a posh area at that time which was the target of housebreakers etc. It was on Avenue Rd. just north of Davenport Rd. where the first Folk Coffee Shop opened operated by a gal by the name of Shelly Abrahams and guess who some of the first , little known entertainers were? None other than Gordon Lightfoot, Ian & Sylvia Tyson and many others. Often, I would go over there after shift and the crowd had gone and jam it up with them on the guitar and harmonica. I recall Ian & Sylvia coming out with " Four Strong Winds" which put them on the charts. Gord Lightfoot was teamed up with another guy and they were known as " The Two-Tones" Gord later broke off on his own and went Western, including the boots, Western hat etc. I believe I still have some of the tapes.

As a result of my interest in music, I made some good contacts among the owners of the subsequent Coffee Houses like, the Purple Onion, the Gaslight, the Riverboat and others and was known in Yorkville Village as the " Singing Fuzz"
As long as the Folk music was popular, we had little trouble with the long-haired, hippie style inhabitants who enjoyed the music in dim candle-lit clubs. But when the Rock & Roll music entered the scene, it was a different story. Drugs were prevalent and the early morning scene on week-ends often ended up with mini riots. We had to increase our presence with uniformed officers, the

mounted

unit and a paddy wagon at either end of Yorkville Ave. Bay St. and Avenue Rd.

Believe it or note, At one point I could have purchased two of the tenement-style three-storey homes there for \$1800 a piece. Most were converted three ways, Coffee Houses in the basement, boutique shops on the main floor, and living quarters on the top floor. 20 yrs. later, the land alone in this area went for millions.

Then again, we all can no doubt recall missed opportunities but like most, I was having

trouble just keeping things together pay check to pay check.

Also I was there when the new Canadian Tire (first) opened on Yonge St. and got

to know the Pres. A.J. Billis very well through investigations etc. and he tried to

encourage me to invest in the C.T.C. as he felt they were really going places. The

same goes for the first Swiss Chalet on Bloor and Bedford Rd. a young man named

Rick came from Montreal and opened this first restaurant, myself and other police

personell were encouraged to invest in this new adventure and the only one who

took them up on it in part was Kevin Boyd, an aspirinig young plainclothesman who

at that time was teamed up with none other that Bill McCormack who later became

chief. Unfortunately Kevin Boyd did in a car accident. He was employed by the

Swiss Chalet at the time.

So much for that, other than to say that I spent 14 ys. at that station and ended up as

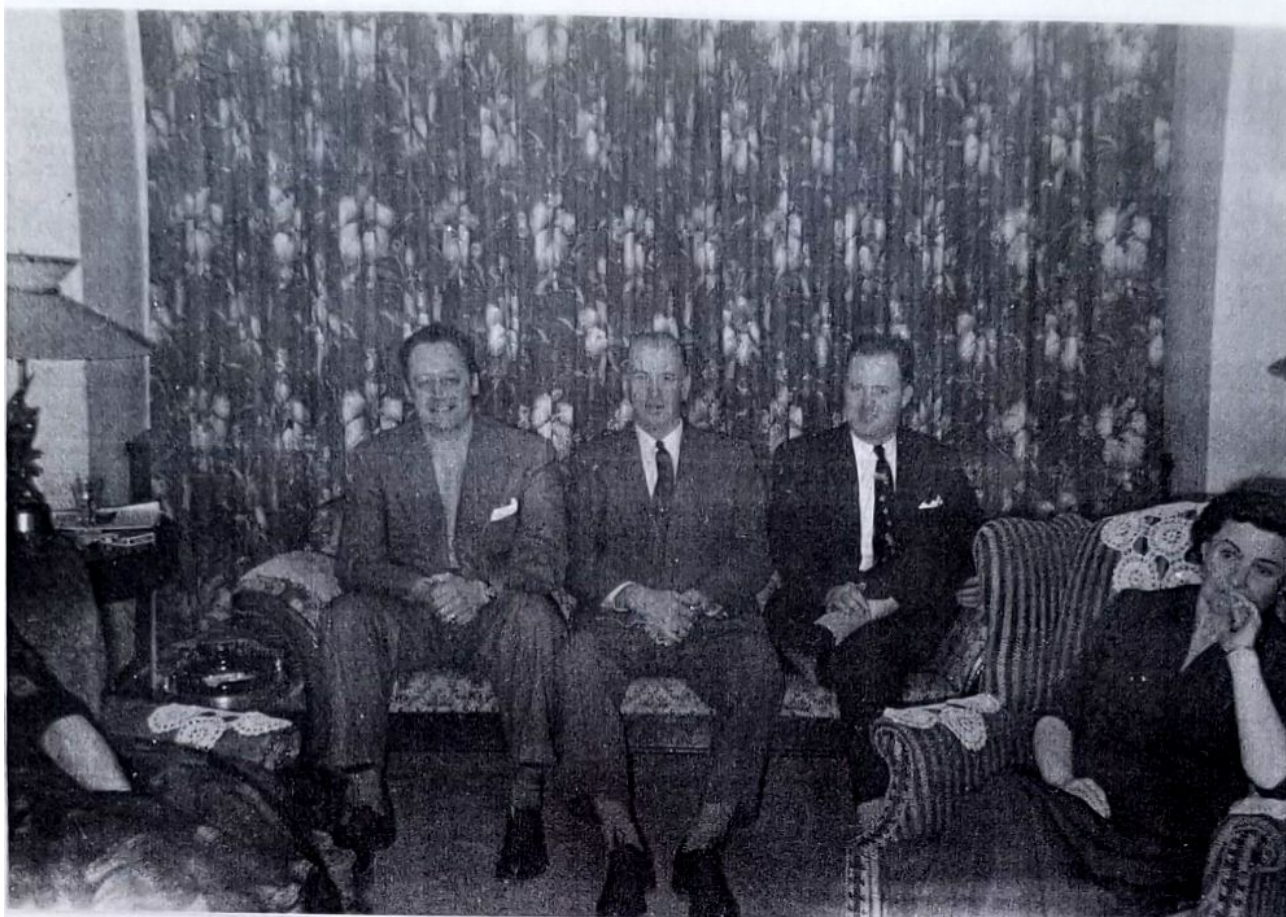
a Staff Sgt. (July 26, 1960) in charge of the Detective Branch there. (See Photographs)

Jim Noble and I were teamed up for about 8 yrs. We had a good working relationship

and were invloved in many interesting cases together. In 1965 they changed the

Div. boundries, Jim went to Headquarters and I went to 52 Div. as a Staff. Sgt. on the

desk which was the main link to the public after hours. Obviously, Jim's



PROMOTED TO S/SGT. FAREWELL FOR S/SGT. MORRISON



JOHN BASSETT ALVIN R. MORRISON JIM NOBLE JACK FOSTER



JULY 26/60
PROMOTED TO DET.
SGT. 1/C #5 DETX





POSITIVELY NOT TRANSFERABLE

Canadian National Exhibition

AUG. 24 TORONTO SEPT. 8

ESSENTIAL SERVICES PASS

Adm. Det. Robert J. Foster
ACCOUNT POLICE DEPT.

056185

HE McCallum

1955



CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

ASSOCIATION

Adm. Det. Robert J. Foster, A/Asst.

AUG. 26 TORONTO SEPT. 10

1955

POLICE PASS

ADMITS TO ANY SHOW OR BUILDING ON THE EXHIBITION GROUNDS WHILE ON POLICE DUTY

HE McCallum
GENERAL MANAGER



XXXXXX

5

May 23, 1960.

Det. Jack Foster.
48 Flora Drive.
Scarboro, Ont.
Canada.

Mr. Gene Autry,
6920 Sunset Blvd.
Hollywood, California,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Autry:

You may or may not remember me, so I will try and refresh your memory.

Do you recall playing the Canadian National Exhibition in August and September 1956? I was the Detective on duty, back stage of the Grandstand.

You may remember the incident when I spotted a known pick-pocket thief coming out of your dressing room after interviewing you and Gail Davis, posing as a reporter. He was known to us as "Slapper Brown". I recall the fun we had teasing Miss Davis about this guy. Also the time you found me playing Merle Travis's Guitar in the boys dressing room, along with my harmonica in holder and singing. I really enjoyed the music and remember, Carl Cotner, Johnny Western, Earl Lindsey, Herb Green and last but not least, Col. Eddie Hogan. Later, the following Spring, you may recall, I visited you in your dressing room at the Hamilton Forum and met your lovely wife.

You mentioned in leaving, that if I should ever manage to get to California, to look you up. Well we have saved our sheekles and are planning a trip in late June & Early July this year. My wife Audrey, Son Bobby, age 13 & daughter Jill, age 8 (you met them at the C.N.E.) are really looking forward to this trip. We plan to drive as far as Vancouver B.C. and visit friends there and at Victoria and all going well, to fly to Los Angeles on Monday or Tuesday, July 11th. or 12th.

We would appreciate it very much if you could find time to reply to this letter, and let us know if there is any possibility of re-newing our acquaintance, and perhaps being afforded the opportunity to see through the Flying "A" Studio. We also hope that during our visit, we may find time to visit Disney Land and possibly the Seaquarium.

In closing, please remember me to Miss Davis and the boys I mentioned. Trusting I will hear from you shortly. Yours Truly,

Annie Oakley

1952-1956 Syndicated 30 minutes

Black and White - 83 episodes

Produced by Gene Autry's Flying A Productions

Annie Oakley Cast

Gail Davis as Annie

Jimmy Hawkins as brother, Tagg

Brad Johnson as Deputy Sheriff Lofty Craig

Fess Parker as Tom Conrad

Shelley Fabares as Trudy

Horses: Target - Annie's horse



Gail Davis

Post your free ad now! **Yahoo! Canada Personals**



6/19/2005

Gene Autry
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

MAY 31, 1960

DET. JACK FOSTER
48 FLORA DRIVE
SCARBORO, ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR JACK:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MAY 23RD.

I NOTE THAT YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME TO CALIFORNIA THIS SUMMER. IF I AM IN THE CITY AT THAT TIME WILL BE GLAD TO SAY HELLO; HOWEVER, SINCE I AM AWAY SO MUCH MY SCHEDULE IS VERY UNCERTAIN. IF I AM NOT HERE, PLEASE CALL MY SECRETARY, MISS MACPHAIL AND SHE WILL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO VISIT THE RANCH. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS HOLLYWOOD 2-7373.

KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

MOST SINCERELY,

Gene Autry
GENE AUTRY

10000 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

1956 BACKSTATE BEHIND C.N.E. GRANDSTAND WITH
"ANNIE OAKLEY" (GAIL DAVIS) STAGE &
SCREEN WESTERN STAR, FASTEST GUN IN THE WEST.

From: "Robert J Foster" <robert590@sympatico.ca>
 Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 10:08 PM
 Subject: Here is the info DAD

Annie Oakley

1952-1956 Syndicated 30 minutes
 Black and White - 83 episodes

Produced by Gene Autry's Flying A Productions

Annie Oakley Cast

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 Fred Johnson as Deputy Sheriff Lofty Craig
 Les Parker as Tom Conrad
 Melley Fabares as Trudy

Trudy - Annie's horse



Gail Davis



GENE AUTRY & ANNIE OAKLEY

Readers- Please read to enclosed bio on the above, especially you younger people. You may not recognize these folks but our older friends and kin sure remember them as the favourite Western Stars of our era. Then read on to the hilarious true story of my encounters with them while on duty back stage of the C.N.E. grandstand in I believe was 1956.

My consignment was mainly to check on the security on the entertainers and in doing so, I spoke to "Big Tex" Autry's manager and he advised me there was a reporter from the Telegram Weekly interviewing Gene and Annie in the dressing room. I was curious so I sneak a peak through the crack in the door only to discover that the would-be reported was a well-known pick-pocket thief named known as "Slapper Brown". I busted in the room like "gang-busters" and hustled the suspect into an adjoining room and searched him thoroughly. Slapper started to laugh and said " you were too fast Foster, I was just about to make my move." He then confided in me " the old man has a bundle of money with a horse-shoe money clip in his right-rear pocket" I checked with Gene and he confirmed that was true.

I cautioned Slapper and escorted him out of the C.N.E. grounds after warning him that we would keep this incident on record. Needless to say, Gene Autry and Annie Oakley were impressed.

The following day, Autry approached me and told me that Annie Oakley (Gail Davis) was the most nieve woman in hollywood and to prove it he invited me into her dressing room and threw a pair of nylon stockings down on the night table and asked Annie " do you recognize these stockings?" She replied " yes I do, they are made especially for me in Hollywood, they have my initials embroidered at the top"

Prior to this Gene didn't tell me what he was up to but simply asked me to go along with the gag.

He turned to me and said " how good a thief was that guy is he that slick he could remove Annie stockings while interviewing us? I replied " he's known to be pretty good" To that Annie, with an atonished look on her face, replied " boy, I never felt a thing"

Annie was only nieve, she was a beautiful, gracious lady. One time after their performance on stage, she came

O V E R

back to the dressing room in the pouring rain. There was a group of her young admirers standing by the rear security fence calling her name. Believe it not, she waded through the mud and rain and went to meet them and give them her autograph. She was soaking wet when he returned to her dressing room and her white cowboy boots soiled by the mud. One Classy gal.

Also accompanying Gene and Annie were the popular "Son's of the Pioneers" singers and instrumentalist who played in the movies with Gene Autry, Roy Rodgers and others. One night I was jamming it up with the boys in their dressing room, playing the guitar, harmonica and singing when Gene Autry came in the room and said "you guys are all fired, I'm taking Jack, the one-man band on the road with me" He's was joking of course.

Typically american, at the end of the show, Gene Autry went around shaking hands with all the stage help and others and when he shook my hand, I felt a wad of money and I immediately thank him for his thoughtfulness but advised him, it was against regulation for me to accept any gifts. He then invited me and my family to visit him in Los Angeles and tour the movie studios he owned; where all the westerns were made. His manager Tex, then told me "the boss does'nt extend that invitation to many"

The next year, we as a family, went to California but unfortunately Gene was at a political rally in San Diego.
(See letter from Gene Autry)

We had a great trip. Visiting the studio with the little Church at the end, Mat Dillions office, Kitty's Salon, the street where Zorro movies were made. These are permanent sets. Very interesting and very hot, 90 degrees in the shade.

Before leaving the C.N.E. Gene asked me were Hamilton was. When I told him it was only about 40 miles, he invited me down to a western show they were putting on in a couple of week at the Hamilton Forum. A good friend, Jack Coghill and I attended and sat in the royal box with Autry's wife who was his biggest fan.

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