

Maul, Victor E.
**Maul Had Sight
On Police Career
Back As Teenager**

by STEVE J. SARICH

When Victor E. Maul was in his late teens in the rough and tough South Chicago steel district, he had one ambition—to be a cop.

"I wanted to be a policeman," he recalled.

He reached his goal when he successfully passed the civil service examination in Elmhurst and was appointed to the police department on Aug. 1, 1948 under the late Police Chief George Kummeron.

THERE HAVE been many changes in the police department since Police Chief Maul's rookie days. A number of them he instituted when he was appointed to the city's number one law enforcing job by Mayor Charles Weigel Jr. and City Manager Robert T. Palmer with ratification by the city council.

In looking back more than 16 years ago, Chief Maul spoke of his first emergency calls that hot summer August afternoon.

"It was a resuscitator call," he reminisced. "I had no experience but thanks to my partner, Patrolman Lyle Jurs, who is now a desk sergeant, I got through the day."

Things have changed in the last 16 years and more in recent years.

Elmhurst's neophyte policeman undergoes six weeks of intensive class and field programs to fit him for his job.

The sound training program of new policemen was one of the reforms introduced by Police Chief Maul since 1962. The new appointees attend a college to get their police administration and field training.

After leaving the campus, the new policeman's training doesn't end. It resumes on joining the department in learning the operation of weapons, a camera, a resuscitator, and the city code of laws.

Police Chief Maul urges his men to continue their classroom and field training wherever it is offered as a means of advancement on the ladder of law enforcement.

"I want all of my men to be potential chiefs of police," he said. "By availing themselves of the training I believe any one of them could become chief in Elmhurst or any other suburban community."

WHEN CHIEF Maul joined the police department, the city owned two squad cars to patrol the downtown and neighborhood areas during the 24-hour period.

Currently, there are 10 squad cars in operations in six districts into which the city's protective zones have been divided.

This arrangement enables police protection during the 24-hour period. It was introduced by Chief Maul.

"It entails police coverage even during the eating periods," Maul said. "Policeman on duty in the districts either carry their lunch or visit a restaurant found in the neighborhood."

Since the arrangement went into effect, it brought this comment from a neighborhood restaurant owner: "This is the first time in many years that I have policemen visiting my restaurant."

Police Chief Maul wants more squad cars to meet the challenge of increasing accidents on national highways which criss-cross the city, and other incidents accompanying a growing community.

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Chief Victor Maul

One of his plans is to have a mobile crime lab vehicle. This car can be dispatched to scenes of crimes to obtain fingerprints or footprints which can be used in the solution of burglaries or holdups.

"If money is available, I hope to have one of these units in Elmhurst," the chief reported.

A TRAFFIC bureau has been established by Chief Maul. He has appointed Sgt. Harold Heier to head of the bureau which will be responsible for preparation of traffic reports. The bureau will conduct safety programs, and work incessantly on ways to reduce traffic accidents, which have shown an increase to date this year.

Discussing his early days on the department, Chief Maul remembers when the city's population 16 years ago was at about 17,000. Complaints numbered around two or three during the shift compared with the large

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(cont.)

number now filed daily with the department.

"There were only a half dozen burglaries a year 15 years ago," the chief said. "This number has grown in recent years."

Juvenile delinquency was not as prominent as exists in the roaring 1960's Chief Maul said.

"Today, we have a full-time detective to check into juvenile complaints." "It is possible in the next decade that a juvenile bureau could be established to cope with youthful misdemeanors of speeding and other mischievous acts."

A former steelworker before embarking on a law enforcement career, Chief Maul has made these innovations since his appointment as police chief:

—Purging of old records and establishing a new records bureau.

—Establishing a table of organization showing the strength of the department.

—A sound police training program.

—Discontinuing non-police functions.

—Recommending purchase of squadrols which serve as combination police ambulance-squad cars. The city owns two which are located in the north and south neighborhood districts.

—All police candidates must be high school graduates.

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PUBLIC SPEAKING is a requisite of all Elmhurst policemen in order to improve communication between the department and the public.

"It helps to gather more information in our police duties," Chief Maul said.

The public speaking course required by Chief Maul has been commended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents. "I know very few departments whose men take public speaking," an agent recently told Maul.

The records bureau, which maintains accounts of police activity in the 24-hour period, is modern and also has been accoladed by FBI and state law enforcement officials.

"It is the most complete bureau in the state," a Springfield policeman said. "Anything that occurs during the 24-hour day can be found under the system in operation in Elmhurst."

Police Chief Maul commented that more men with college training are turning to law enforcement as careers. He said there are nine of the 49 Elmhurst policemen who have college backgrounds.

"We have no room for the high school dropout," he said.

In years to come, Chief Maul took a guess and predicted that many more men with college degrees will be applying for positions on the police department. "It will be just as competitive as other occupations," he said.

The chief believes that another Elmhurst policeman will be attending soon the FBI academy of which he is the department's only graduate.

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IN WORLD WAR II, Police Chief Maul served with the 95th Infantry Division which was part of the late Gen. Patton's famed Third Army that carved an impressive

war record through France and Germany.

Chief Maul served as a platoon sergeant in a heavy weapon's Infantry company.

Police Chief and Mrs. Maul are the parents of two children, a son, 19, and a daughter, 14.