



C-MEN **Fact and Fiction**

by SA Stephen P. Markardt
Office of Public Affairs

(Below) Director Clarence M. Kelley (Original Bureau application photo).

The FBI Badge Part I

Last year, Director Sessions approved a new policy which will affect every Special Agent who remains in service until retirement. As of June 30, 1989 all retirement plaques will have both credentials and badge mounted on them. Previously, badges were reissued to new Agents going through Quantico. Now, when Agents retire, a bit of FBI history will leave with them. Our current badges, the fourth design since 1908, date back to June 1935 when the first thousand were purchased. The second thousand were purchased in early 1940. Since then our inventory has grown and today we have over 10,500.

Since 1935 FBI badges have been made by several different companies but to the same basic specifications. The badges are 14 karat gold-filled (front only) in 14-gauge stock, meaning there is very little of that precious metal in them. Underneath a thin layer of gold plating is, for most of them, a base metal of copper alloy. During World War II, copper, like Lucky Strike Green (Cigarettes), went to war. The use of copper was restricted to essential war materials and FBI badges were not in that category. The supply problem was compounded by an increase in Agent complement from 898 in 1940 to 4,370 in 1945. It was decided that a sterling silver base would be used and a large number of these were purchased. Most all

are still in service. Once during the war we tried to get an exemption from the Copper Section of the War Production Board but were turned down. After years of wear many of these wartime badges are showing their silver lining. Quite a few have been replated but can still be identified by the word "sterling" stamped on back. In 1935 the badges cost about \$3 apiece, the file isn't clear on this. Today the price varies. If we supply the manufacturer with the gold, under the Department of Defense precious metals recovery program, the price is \$57. If not, the price is \$77.

The policy on badge presentations has changed throughout the years. In July 1937, a memo was sent to Director Hoover recommending that badges be presented upon an Agent's retirement, or to his widow if he were killed in the line of duty. Mr. Hoover wanted to maintain strict accountability over badges and advised that a slain Agent could be buried with his badge, otherwise none would leave the Bureau. He softened his policy as time went on, allowing widows, retiring Agents with 35 years' service, and retiring Assistant Directors or higher, to keep them. In January 1959, he rescinded presentation to Agents with 35 years of service. Badges have also been presented to a number of "Honorary Special Agents" over the years including several U.S. Presidents.

In the early days the badge was not intended for everyday use. One Director's airtel to all SACs in late 1934

cautioned "employees engaged in investigative work against the promiscuous use of the badge" and that "the Commission Card supplied a Special Agent should be used in ordinary interviews and the badge used and displayed only in cases of emergency or of the utmost necessity." This was in sharp contrast to a 1971 suggestion by an Agent that badges be eliminated because the public usually demands more positive proof of our identity.

So what about this little piece of metal that many Agents will walk away with after 20-plus years? Most of the badges through number 8,000 have been carried previously by one or more Agents. They, for the most part, spent their years in anonymous, loyal service to

their country. Others have personal histories that would be of interest to Agents with those badges now. But first:

The Directors

J. Edgar Hoover was issued badge number 1. It is now locked in a safe at FBIHQ. His Associate Director, Clyde Tolson, had number 4, which was presented to him upon retirement. L. Patrick Gray, III and Clarence M. Kelley both carried number 2 and it was presented to Mr. Kelley when he left. William D. Ruckelshaus only served briefly and there is no record that he received a badge. William H. Webster had number 3 and it was presented to him when he left to head the C.I.A. Director Sessions has a newly made badge with number 1 and his name on the back.

The Story of Clarence Kelley's Badge

Prior to serving as Director from 1973 to 1978, Clarence M. Kelley had completed a 21-year career as a Special Agent and retired. He first entered on duty October 7, 1940 and had several assignments in the field, as well as a stint at Quantico as a firearms instructor. During those years he carried badge number 1160, now assigned to SA Georgia Lynch, Los Angeles Office. In July 1944 Mr. Kelley took military leave to join the U.S. Navy. Upon his return to the Bureau in April 1946 he was issued badge number 2536. Mr. Kelley went on to numerous assignments and retired on October 24, 1961 while SAC in Memphis. At that time he turned in



number 2536, now carried by SA Bennett F. Cale, Charlotte Office. From his retirement until being appointed Director by President Nixon, Mr. Kelley was Chief of Police in Kansas City, Missouri. Upon becoming Director he carried badge Number 2.

Next month we continue our history of Agents and their badges.



G-MEN **Fact and Fiction**

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Office of Public Affairs

The FBI Badge Part II

The badges shown here were prototypes provided by various manufacturers in the mid-1920's when J. Edgar Hoover was looking for a new design.

Last month we traced the history of the current FBI badge. We continue in this issue with the background of several former Agents and those who have their badges now:

- Charles A. Appel, Jr., was born in 1895, in Washington, D.C. Toward the end of World War I, he went through nine months of aviation training, graduating as a second lieutenant bombardier in February, 1919. Without benefit of a college education, he graduated from the George Washington University Law School and on October 4, 1924, was appointed a Special Agent. He became a personal friend of J. Edgar Hoover, and in subsequent years, his interest in crime detection methods led him to become the founder of the FBI Laboratory. His specialty was document examinations. Through the 1930's and 40's, he personally worked on some of the most sensational Bureau cases. He did the handwriting comparisons in the Lindbergh kidnaping case and testified before the grand

jury that Bruno Hauptman wrote the ransom note. When Appel retired on December 31, 1948, he was one of the few left who could address Mr. Hoover as "Speed," a nickname acquired delivering groceries as a youth. Appel received badge #41 in July 1935 and carried it until retirement.

It's now carried by SA Kevin J. Mimm, Philadelphia Office.

- Jay C. Newman was born in 1899 in Salt Lake City. After a year at Utah Agricultural College, he did two years of religious missionary work. In October, 1925, he became a Special Employee (Investigative Assistant) and on April 1, 1926, was appointed a Special Agent. He was with Chicago SAC Melvin Purvis, on April 22, 1934, when a detail of Agents raided the Dillinger Gang hideout at Little Bohemia Lodge, north of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Barking dogs alerted the gang and most, including Baby Face

Nelson, escaped under cover of machine gun fire. While regrouping, Purvis ordered Newman and SA W. Carter Baum to check out a reported disturbance two miles away. The two Agents and a constable reached the area and approached a parked car and driver, not knowing it was Nelson. Nelson suddenly pulled a gun and ordered them

out of their car. As Newman stepped out first he was shot in the head and fell unconscious. Nelson continued firing, killing Baum and wounding the constable, then made his escape. Newman survived his wound and went on to serve as SAC in five offices, retiring from the last, Salt Lake City, in February 1952. From July 1935 until his retirement Newman carried badge #781, now carried by SA Roger A. Humphrey, Houston Office.

- Frederick Ayer, Jr., graduated from Harvard Law School, and was appointed a Special Agent on August 25, 1941. He was selected for the Bureau's Special Intelligence Service, and toward the end of the war, was SAC of our Paris, France, Office. One of its tasks was to evaluate intelligence information that the U.S. Army seized as it rolled eastward across Europe. Liaison with the Army, or at least the Third Army, must have been excellent because Ayer's uncle was General George S. Patton Jr., old "Blood and Guts" himself. Ayer resigned in December, 1945, when it was determined that the FBI would not handle U.S. intelligence operations abroad. He went on to work for the Department of State, and in 1957, wrote

about his career in a book titled *Yankee G-Man*. Ayer carried badge #2302, now carried by SSA Edgar Michael Lee, Criminal Investigative Division, FBIHQ.

- Three current members of the U.S. Congress are former Special Agents. Terry Sanford, the only Agent to become a U.S. Senator, hails from North Carolina. He served for almost one year in 1942. Unfortunately, his old badge was reported lost in 1979. Representative Don Edwards of California served for a year before Pearl Harbor. Edwards carried badge #1573, now carried by SSA Aurelio Flores, Los Angeles Office. Representative Michael G. Oxley of Ohio served from 1969 to 1971. He had badge #6189, now carried by SSA Paul D. Cundiff, Identification Division, FBIHQ.

Many Agents pass their badge down to a son or daughter who follow in their footsteps. One family has had sole possession of #945, since it was issued in September, 1940, to Henry L. Tuck, Jr.. He carried it until retirement in 1967. His son, Henry L. Tuck, III, Little Rock Office, has carried it since entering on duty in 1968.

- Raymond J. Abbaticchio Jr. graduated from Georgetown Law School and became an Agent on October 16, 1933. He had a sterling



career, receiving numerous letters of commendation and rising to the rank of SAC. He retired on September 30, 1958, while SAC in New Orleans. At that time, he requested his badge, #19, which he had carried since 1935, be given to his nephew, SA George Liddy who had entered on duty the year before. The switch was made, and Liddy turned in badge #6811. Liddy served in the Indianapolis and Denver Offices before taking a supervisory position at FBIHQ. He resigned in September, 1962, and went on to become more widely known as G. Gordon Liddy, convicted in the Watergate scandal. He recalled his Bureau days in a book, *Will: The Autobiography of G. Gordon Liddy*. Badge #19 is now carried by SA James A. Acree Jr., Miami Office.



• Numerous other former Agents have written books. One of the most famous, or infamous, is *No Left Turns*, a highly irreverent look at Bureau life by retired Agent Joseph L. Schott. This 1975 book caused quite a stir, and its authenticity was much disputed. Schott carried badge #6173, and it's ironic that the FBI's chief publisher now has it. SSA Stephen D. Gladis is Publications Unit Chief, Office of Public Affairs, FBIHQ, and an accomplished author himself.

• The final word comes from William E. Miller, Sr., a member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI and the oldest living ex-Agent. Miller was born on February 2, 1897, in Smithton, Missouri. He graduated from the University of Missouri Law



School, and among other activities, was a first lieutenant in the Missouri National Guard, a Freemason and a Scoutmaster. Miller entered on duty November 12, 1924, and served in eight field offices. When the Phoenix Office was closed temporarily in 1938 and made a Resident Agency of Los Angeles, he remained there as the sole Agent. His territory was approximately 400 miles long and 300 miles wide, half of which was Indian reservations or other Government lands. Recently in a interview, he said his forte was fugitive cases. Now 93 years old and restricted in movement, he said, "I still get fidgety when I think about fugitives....I loved to catch 'em. It gave me a chance to pit my mind against another person's."



Miller carried all four styles of Bureau badges in his long career, one which spanned the same time period as the movie "The FBI Story." Just before he retired on January 31, 1959, he requested permission to keep badge #499, which he had since 1935. Bureau policy then required 35 years of service but he only had 34 years, 2 months and 19 days. His request was denied, and the policy made even stricter the same month. Badge #499 is now carried by SA Stephen A. Grimaldi, New York Office.

When told of Director Sessions' new policy, Miller was pleased as he believes "any man who goes the distance with the organization would be thrilled to keep his badge." □

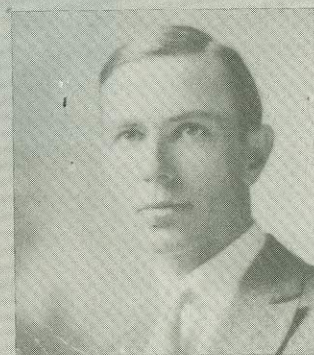
SSA Charles A. Appel, Jr. (Original Bureau Application photo).



SAC Jay C. Newman (Photo taken within one year of the shooting incident).



SA William E. Miller (Original Bureau application photo).



(For more on William Miller see next month's issue.)