



THE SUMMIT COUNTY  
**SHIELD**

A community bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

NOVEMBER 2020



**PASSING  
THE TORCH**

## ***FINALLY - A FITTING TRIBUTE FOR ONE OF OUR OWN***



**Deputy  
Rex Faux**

It was a mystery 87 years in the making, and for want of a chance discovery by Sheriff Steve Barry, the fate of Rex Faux might have never come to light. Yet, there it was – a brief mention on the Officer Down Memorial website (that honors law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty) that caught the Sheriff's eye. The caption told of Deputy Rex E. Faux of the Summit County Sheriff's Office, who's End of Watch (last day of duty) was Sunday, July 16, 1933.

The Sheriff was shocked, because in his 40-plus years with the agency, no employee – past or present - had ever spoken a word of us losing a deputy while on duty. For lack of mention, everyone assumed and took for granted we had never suffered a line-of-duty death. But before we went public with the news, Sheriff Barry wanted to make sure it was true, so he reached out to Summit County Medical Examiner Lisa Kohler and asked her to check her department's records for 1933.

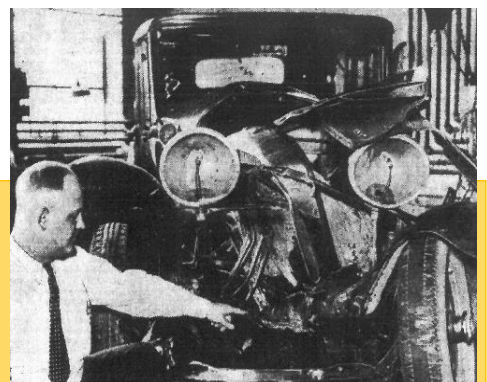
Kohler confirmed a Deputy Rex Faux had died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident, but the circumstances behind the crash were not part of the original coroner's report. Hearing this, the Sheriff's Director of Strategic Media Paul Matulavich called Mary Plazo, Director of Special Collections at the Akron-Summit County Public Library – who did some research and found newspaper articles and photos of Rex Faux. Said Matulavich, "I was stunned and elated, because now we had the whole story and even a photo of our deputy. I immediately showed the Sheriff and said, 'You're going to love this!' – which he did, because now there was no question as to the authenticity of the event."

After we shared this revelation with the public on our social media sites, Akron Beacon Journal writer Mark Price reached out to Matulavich for more details, "Mark is an accomplished Akron historian, and he was surprised that something this significant had somehow escaped his many years of research." Soon afterward, Mark wrote his own article for the Beacon based on our findings.

Here is the original July 17, 1933 account of the Rex Faux tragedy: Two Summit County Sheriff deputies were returning to Akron from Loyal Oak early Sunday morning when a terrible crash occurred on Akron-Wadsworth road. Deputy Francis Kidder and Deputy Rex Faux had been sent to the area by Sheriff Ray Potts to search for two gas station bandits last seen near Loyal Oak. Failing to find the suspects, Kidder and Faux were returning to the office with Faux at the wheel of the car.

According to Deputy Kidder, 'Something went wrong with the steering device. The front wheels began to shimmy as we approached Wolf Creek culvert, then the car left the road and we smashed into the concrete.' Kidder was knocked unconscious and received a broken arm and cuts to his head and feet. Deputy Faux sustained fatal injuries and later died at St. Thomas hospital. The decrepit state of the automobile was later blamed for the loss of control and crash.

Regretfully, nothing can erase the nearly 90 years that Rex E. Faux has gone unrecognized for his service and sacrifice, but Sheriff Barry promised this oversight will be corrected, saying "A proper tribute to this man is in the works, and we hope to get his name added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial located in Washington, D.C.. It's the right thing to do."



**Remains of the wrecked vehicle**

## ***PASSING THE TORCH – A WORD FROM SHERIFF BARRY***

*Ladies and gentlemen of Summit County...*

*As my retirement date (January 3, 2021) is fast approaching, let me begin by saying it was truly an honor to be your sheriff these last 8 years, and am very proud to have served as a law enforcement officer (all with the sheriff's office) for the past forty years. Wow, how time has flown! I want to thank all of you who have supported law enforcement in your communities and all who supported my efforts as well.*



*Please know 99.9% of the people who enter law enforcement do so with the full intentions of helping people. There are millions of contacts between law enforcement and the public each year. The vast majority of these contacts have a very positive outcome. I honestly have never met any law enforcement officer who came to their shift looking to hurt someone.*

*You, the public, are a key component of how successful we are to keep your community as safe as possible. We in law enforcement understand this importance and we sincerely do not want to lose this partnership with all of you. We cannot be everywhere and you are our "eyes and ears" for what is happening in your neighborhood. This is so crucial for the prevention and solving of crimes that I ask you to keep open communication with your local law enforcement officers. Please do not let a few officers' actions lead you to believe we all are that way. The majority are very good dedicated individuals who do whatever they can to help the people of their communities and keep everyone as safe as possible.*

*Once again, as I prepare to leave this office, I remember and thank those who have helped and supported me during my entire career. I also want to thank all employees of the SCSO. They do a fantastic job under very dangerous, demanding, and sometimes very demeaning circumstances. God bless, stay healthy and safe, and thanks for everything. Again, it has been my honor to serve you.*

Steve Barry  
Sheriff, County of Summit County



### ***A WORD FROM YOUR PUBLISHER***

In addition to Sheriff Barry, there are a number of other employees who are retiring from the agency at the conclusion of this year. Among them is Paul Matulavich, Sheriff's Director of Strategic Media, who wanted to say, "It has been my pleasure and privilege to chronicle the greatest group of law enforcement men and women in the nation. From day one, my goal was to open our doors and invite the community into our agency – to show you who we are and what we do, through in-depth articles, images, and interviews.

Hopefully, through my work in the Shield and our social media, you've come to know our people, understand their sacrifice, and appreciate their commitment to serving the citizens of Summit County. I will always be grateful for every one of our readers and followers who made my job such a joy. Thank you!



# C.I.T. TRAINING – THE TOOLS THAT CAN SAVE SOMEONE’S LIFE



The goal of Crisis Intervention Team training is to prepare law enforcement officers and other first responders on how to properly respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis or drug-related episode. Training consists of a week-long 40-hour class conducted by the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board, and this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that the program has been administered. The most recent class was attended by members of the Akron Police Department, Tallmadge Police, Northfield Village Police, Stow Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and two deputies from the Summit County Sheriff’s Office – Deputy Terrell Kemp and Deputy Clayton Johnston – who join a long list of other deputies who’ve already received this training.

Both Kemp and Johnston are assigned to the male mental health pod at the Summit County Jail, where they have daily interaction with people who suffer from various kinds of mental and drug-related issues. As Deputy Kemp tells us, “One of the reasons I wanted to take the CIT training was to learn more about the challenges these inmates face, so I can better understand, relate, and respond to someone in a mental health emergency.”

Rest assured, the Summit County Jail has a fine team of mental health professionals in house and on call, but it is a deputy who will respond first to an emergency because they are already on the pod supervising the inmates. In those critical seconds, timing and training can save someone’s life.



Deputy Terrell Kemp

No one knows that better than Deputy Kemp, who recently responded to a cell where an inmate had shattered the toilet and repeatedly slashed his body with sharp pieces of porcelain. The man was holding a jagged shard against his throat and ready to end his life when Deputy Kemp and others responded. Expressing genuine concern and compassion, Kemp was able to calm the man down and convince him to allow medical staff to administer immediate emergency care. A life was saved that day thanks to the professional training and discipline of Summit County Jail staff.

Deputy Kemp praises the practical aspects of CIT training, saying “It directly relates to my daily duties on the mental health pod. We need more patience and understanding in our role as law enforcement officers, and the public wants to see that. Possessing these skills and knowing how to apply them are essential ingredients in our profession. I’m drawn to helping people in need, so eventually, I’d like to work as one of the deputies at the Summit DD Board.” (See the September Shield for more on this.)



Deputy Clayton Johnston at right

In his supervisory role at the Summit County Jail, Lieutenant Matamba Kaalima had this to say about the CIT program, “The knowledge and skills of crisis intervention are being used by many of our deputies on a daily basis. It gives the officer tools to better understand mental health, and how that intersects with those impacted on the street or in our jails and prisons.”

Lieutenant Kaalima added, “Because CIT is such an important and effective tool, I would like to see all our law enforcement officers CIT trained and certified right out of the academy.”

Clearly, CIT training is an essential part of today’s police work.

## **THE UNSUNG PUBLIC SERVANTS OF OUR CIVIL BUREAU**

Perhaps you've never heard of the Summit County Sheriff's Civil Bureau, but the work being done there plays a pivotal role in countless people's lives – and the team of civilian employees responsible for those services are some of the most disciplined and dedicated employees anywhere in our agency.

The Civil Bureau is supervised by Captain Kandy Fatheree, who with the assistance of Lieutenant Aaron Piekarski, oversee four civil process deputies - Mike Hawsman, Jess Danner, Jason Beam, and Dan Horba, along with nine civil clerks: Judy Houston Sexton, Karen Weiss, Libby Boswell, Liz Brundege, Tammy Wagner, Anton Green, Kristy Zakrajsek, Jeannine Jones, and Danielle Cramer.



This busy bureau is actually comprised of four distinct sections: Court Services Convey, Civil Process Service & Returns, Warrants, and Foreclosures. In each of these areas, our civilian staff act as liaison between the courts, court personnel, attorneys, deputies, other county offices, and the public. This is very demanding and detail-oriented work, requiring extreme focus to ensure compliance with legal dead-lines and requirements. Staff must maintain current knowledge of House Bills 390 and 463 (pertaining to foreclosures), and know the Ohio Revised Code and Local Court Rule. Fortunately, all of our Civil Clerks are highly-trained professionals with many years of experience performing their duties.

Court Services Convey Unit schedules Courthouse security (metal detectors, video surveillance, interior-exterior patrols) as well as security for each courtroom. This unit is also responsible for scheduling and transport of inmates to and from the Summit County Jail or other facilities for court, as well as scheduling inmate's video arraignments and hearings. Dutifully handling these responsibilities is Civil Clerk Kristy Zakrajsek, with backup provided by Civil Clerks Karen Weiss or Danielle Cramer.

The Warrants Unit handles all Summit County warrants, including those issued by Common Pleas Court, Municipal Court, and Juvenile Court. All extraditions, including federal extraditions are processed here. Staff processes all indictments for Common Pleas Court; orders of detention, and body attachments for Probate Court. Civil Clerk Libby Boswell processes these papers, with help from Civil Clerk Karen Weiss.

The Service & Return Unit services all documents that pertain to Summit County citizens, including issuance of Legal Notices, Orders, Summons, and Subpoenas. Civil Protection Orders issued by the Domestic Court are processed here, as well as Stalking Orders, Notices to Commence Suits, and Mechanic's Liens. Receipting funds for services are part of the accounting aspects of this Unit. Civil Clerks Liz Brundege and Tammy Wagner provide these services, with assistance from Anton Green.

The Foreclosure Unit handles the Sheriff Sales in Summit County, including mortgage foreclosures, land bank and real estate delinquent tax foreclosures, as well as prosecutor sales. Civil Clerks Judy Houston Sexton, Jeannine Jones, Danielle Cramer, and Anton Green are tasked with scheduling appraisals, advertising sale dates, completing sales, receiving and accounting for all funds, transferring deeds, and processing evictions. Writs of Execution, Restitution, Replevin, and Possession are also processed here.

As you can see, this team of dedicated professionals have committed themselves to providing services that are quite literally essential to every citizen. The bond they have formed and the chemistry they share enable them to act as a family – providing mutual support and encouragement for one another.

We are proud of these employees, and have placed a special photo section of them at work on our official Facebook page. Look for the 'Unsung Public Servants of our Civil Bureau' caption on the post.

# MORE STRAIGHT TALK FROM OUR DETECTIVES



In last month's Shield, we asked several members of the Summit County Sheriff's Detective Bureau to describe their work, and their responses were well-received by our readers. We thought you'd like to hear more, so we asked Detective Mike Coughenour to answer a few questions about his role and his work with our agency.

Detective Coughenour has 27 years with the Sheriff's Office, and 16 years as a detective. He typifies the prototypical peace officer in that his desire to help others was instilled in him at an early age. His devotion to his work and dedication to serving the citizens of Summit County has earned him the reputation as one of our finest investigators. In addition to his general assignments, Detective Coughenour specializes in fraud and financial crimes. These include counterfeiting, credit card scams, and identity theft.

### We asked him - **What was the most interesting case you've ever worked?**

"Let me say that all cases have a measure of interest, because I enjoy the challenge of solving puzzles and figuring out riddles. That said, I worked on a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) case which had a number of suspects and many twists and turns. The complexity of the crime was very intriguing, and the amount of evidence that had to be recovered was challenging."

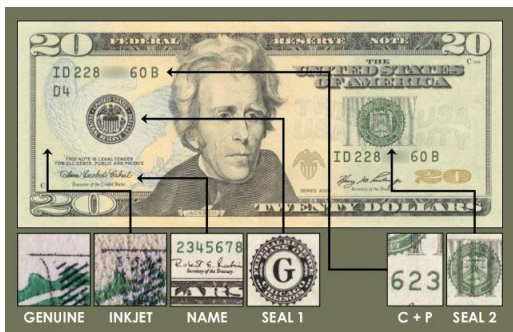
Mike adds, "Since bank fraud is a federal offense, part of my job involves working closely with the FBI and the Secret Service. Before these agencies divert resources to a given investigation, there's usually a minimum threshold of \$100,000 dollars at stake. We're working three cases right now where the combined assets gained from counterfeit currency exceed \$300,000."



**What surprised you the most while working a particular case?** "It continues to amaze me how much fraud is written off by banks and credit card companies. I've had cases where a bank will write off \$80,000 without batting an eye – provided the victim was found innocent of complicity in the crime. That doesn't mean the investigation stops there – I will continue to build my case until the perpetrator is found and arrested."

### **What advice would you give the average person that might help prevent them from becoming a victim of theft?**

"Be vigilant with your bank statements and credit card receipts. Develop a habit of checking your accounts every week or two – rather than once a month. A lot can happen in 30 days, and the sooner you catch an unauthorized purchase, payment, or withdrawal, the quicker you can contact the bank and put a freeze on your account."



Detective Coughenour also warns, "Beware of credit card skimmers (devices that can read credit card numbers and PINs) at gas stations. Use pumps that are closest to the front of the business, as thieves usually place skimmers on pumps further away where they are less likely to be discovered."



Detective Mike Coughenour shows you 8 ways to spot counterfeit money on page eight of this issue. Don't miss it.



## ***DETECTIVES SHARE THEIR ADVICE, EXPERIENCES***

Detective Bob DiSabato has been a deputy with the Summit County Sheriff's Office for 29 years. He spent 20 years in our Patrol Bureau before coming to the Detective Bureau two years ago. He was a Field Training Officer for 17 years and is still a member of the Summit Metro Crash Response Team where he is a Fatal Crash Reconstructionist. He is currently the primary detective assigned to investigate Adult Protective Services cases as part of our contract with the Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services.



APS has seven investigators who are assigned cases concerning the welfare of individuals age 60 and above, that originate from referrals based on phone calls placed to the Adult Protective Services Hotline. Detective DiSabato is assigned to investigate cases that are found to have a criminal element to them.

DiSabato credits his career on the influence of his cousin, Stephen Locurto, who was a Cleveland Police officer. According to Bob, "He was a man of great character and integrity, who earned the Police Medal of Valor for defending his partner in action. Although we didn't see each other that often, his presence left an indelible influence on me when I was a youngster. My cousin helped shape the man I am today, and certainly steered me in a direction to proudly serve the community just like he did."

In regard to his present work - investigating senior abuse, neglect, and exploitation, we asked Detective DiSabato, **What was the most interesting case you've ever worked?**

"Once you start digging into these cases, you discover that financial gain is not the only crime involving the elderly. Neglect, abuse, and direct intimidation are all crimes being committed in our community. I've also investigated cases where he or she was a victim of self-neglect. They were self-medicating, abusing drugs and alcohol, to the point we had to remove them from their home for their own welfare. These sorts of situations are far more common than one might think."



**What surprised you the most while working in Adult Protective Services?** "People are living longer, so the demographic is growing, with more and more people being victimized. 80 percent of the time, it is family members stealing from an impaired parent or grandparent. Sadly, these cases are often hard to prosecute because family does not want to send family to jail. However, if it can be determined through a cognitive exam that the victim is sufficiently impaired and cannot make sound decisions on their own behalf, then I can step in and start criminal prosecution."

**What advice would you give the average person that might help prevent them from being a victim of neglect or exploitation?** "Every day brings uncertainty. There are things besides age that can permanently impact our mental state, such as permanent brain injury from a fall or car crash. It's very important to set up a Power of Attorney now – while you are still able make decisions for yourself. Carefully pick a person whom you trust, who will carry out your financial and medical wishes if you become mentally compromised. Be very specific, and spell out your precise intentions so there is no confusion over what that person can and cannot do on your behalf. Again, do this now, while you are still of sound mind and body."

***If you suspect someone of being a victim of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation – don't ignore it.***

***Call the Adult Protective Services Hotline:  
330-643-7217***

## ***8 WAYS TO SPOT COUNTERFEIT MONEY***

Summit County Sheriff's Detective Mike Coughenour frequently investigates crimes involving counterfeit currency. As he explains, built into the physical characteristics of the banknote – its ink, watermark, and text, are security measures that can help us tell the difference between funny money and real bills.

**COLOR SHIFTING INK** - One of the first things to check is whether the bill denomination on the bottom right-hand corner has color-shifting ink. Going back to 1996, all bills of \$5 or more have this security feature. If you hold a new series bill (except for the new \$5 bill) and tilt it back and forth, you can see that numeral in the lower right-hand corner shifts from green to black or from gold to green.

**THE WATERMARK** - Many of the new bills use a watermark that is actually a replica of the face on the bill. On other banknotes, it's just an oval spot. In either case, it should only be visible when you hold the bill up to the light. The watermark should be on the right side of the bill. If the watermark is a face, it should exactly match the face on the bill. Sometimes counterfeiters bleach lower bills and reprint them with higher values, in which case the face wouldn't match the watermark. If there is no watermark, or if the watermark is visible without being held up to the light, the bill is likely counterfeit.

**BLURRY BORDERS, PRINTING, OR TEXT** - An immediate red flag for counterfeit bills is noticeably blurry borders, printing, or text on the bill. Authentic bills are made using die-cut printing plates that create impressively fine lines, so they look extremely detailed. Counterfeit printers are usually not capable of the same level of detail. Take a close look, especially at the borders, to see if there are any blurred parts in the bill. Authentic banknotes also have micro-printing, or finely printed text located in various places on the bill. If the micro-printing is unreadable, it is probably counterfeit.

**RAISED PRINTING** - All authentic banknotes have raised printing, which is difficult for counterfeiters to reproduce. To detect raised printing, run your fingernail carefully down the note. You should feel some vibration on your nail from the ridges of the raised printing. If you don't feel this texture, then you should check the bill further.

**SECURITY THREAD WITH MICROPRINTING** - The security thread is a thin imbedded strip running from top to bottom on the face of a banknote. In the \$10 and \$50 bills the security strip is located to the right of the portrait, and in the \$5, \$20, and \$100 bills it is located just to the left.

**ULTRAVIOLET GLOW** - Counterfeit detection tools and technology use ultraviolet light because this is a clear-cut way of telling if a bill is counterfeit. The security thread on authentic bills glow under ultraviolet light in the following colors: \$5 - blue, \$10 - orange, \$20 - green, \$50 - yellow, \$100 - red.

**RED AND BLUE THREADS** - If you take a close look at an authentic banknote, you can see that there are very small red and blue threads woven into the fabric of the bill. Although counterfeit printers try to replicate this effect by printing a pattern of red and blue threads onto counterfeit bills, if you can see that this printing is merely surface level, then it is likely the bill is counterfeit.

**SERIAL NUMBERS** - The last thing to check on a bill is the serial number. The letter that precedes the serial number corresponds to a specific year, so if the letter doesn't match the year printed on the bill, it is counterfeit. Here is the proper letter to year: E/2004, G/2004A, I/2006, J/2009, L/2009A.