

	<h1>BULLETIN</h1>			
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No. 243		September, 2004		

# California Highway Patrol

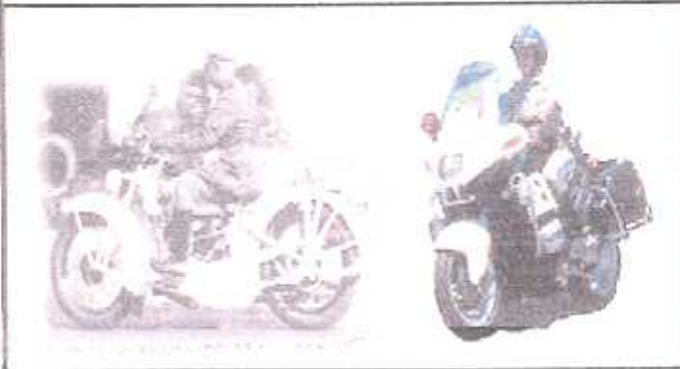
by

Mike Prero

Since 1929, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has been the primary agency to enforce the state's driving laws. As one of the world's premier law enforcement agencies, the CHP has been featured in hundreds of feature movies and television shows including "Highway Patrol" and "CHIPS".

On July 12, 1995, 271 uniformed officers of the State Police became part of the 5,713 sworn officers of the Highway Patrol. The 68 non-uniformed employees of the CSP transferred to existing civil service classifications, with the exception of CSP's Communications Operators who were assimilated into the CHP's Communications Operator II classification. The 269 uniformed personnel changed from California State Police classifications to new CHP classifications established specifically for the consolidation.

In recent years, the CHP's role has expanded into other, non-traffic functions including homeland security, Amber alert child abduction network,





guarding state buildings, dignitary protection, and automobile theft. Currently, there are over 7,000 uniformed CHP officers, thanks to additional officer positions approved over recent years by past Governor Davis. Besides the additional officers, 125 motorcycles were added to the fleet to help in the most crowded areas. Additional training has also been provided to reduce the time it takes to investigate and remove collisions from roadways.

The CHP is also heavily involved in monitoring the international agreement providing easier access to the U.S. for Mexico's trucks. "Just as we maintain outstanding working relationships with other state highway patrols, we look forward to a similar partnership with Mexico's law enforcement community," says CHP Commissioner D.O. "Spike" Helmick.

Senate Bill 2147 sponsored by State Senator Jack O'Connell gives Commissioner Dwight O. "Spike" Helmick the authorization to plan and construct a California Highway Patrol Museum on the Department's Academy grounds in West Sacramento. The bill requires the construction to be funded entirely with private contributions with the exception of eligible federal funds.

California Highway Patrol Academy Founded was 1930 in 1930. The original Academy was located at Mather Field near Sacramento. The first Academy class began on May 26, 1930, consisting of a two-week session for Inspectors and Captains. The first class for Traffic Officers began a few months later on September 16, 1930. The Academy later moved to the State Fairgrounds in Sacramento under the grandstands. This location presented a rugged endurance and survival test for cadets since the concrete grandstand leaked in rainy weather and it was almost impossible to heat the classroom and dormitory areas. A shortage of funds in 1938 caused the Academy to be suspended as a full-time training school and for the next 11 years it operated sporadically for recruit classes only.

The Academy was revived and given permanent status in 1948. The first fixed training facility was established in 1954 at a cost of approximately \$600,000 on Meadowview Road in South Sacramento. This facility encompassed 224 acres and was designed to house 80 resident students. Temporary buildings were added in 1965 to accommodate 360 resident students during the Patrol's expansion in 1966-1968. It readily became apparent that these temporary buildings would need to be replaced by a larger training facility. On September 17, 1974, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a new Academy in Yolo County.

The present California Highway Patrol Academy is one of the most modern and complete law enforcement training academies in the United States. The Academy accommodates 280 students in dormitory rooms. The dining facility is designed to seat 400 persons. The multipurpose room serves as a gymnasium as well as an auditorium for graduation ceremonies. A large water safety tank is used to teach water safety and underwater vehicle extraction rescue training. An underwater viewing room allows students and instructors to observe rescue techniques as they are performed. *[info from <http://www.chp.ca.gov>]*

The front page here shows that there *are* CHP covers available for the collector, although I only have three, and I have no idea whether there are more or not *[perhaps one of our readers might send in additional info on this]*. It would be an interesting category, but probably much too small. Perhaps a larger "Police" category might be more practical.

All said and done, I'm a big supporter of the CHP....but I don't want to see one in my rear view mirror!



## September = *Labor Day!* = *Unions!*

...Because my birthday, September 7th, was on a Labor Day...so I always honor my mother then...*Boy, that was 'labor'!* But, on to more mundane things....

Surprisingly, Congress did not create Labor Day to honor my mother. Instead it has something to do with...ah yes....America's working men and women. Let's see...The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingman's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. [<http://www.dol.gov/opa/aboutdol/laborday.htm>] It was President Grover Cleveland who signed the bill making it a legal holiday. The actual founder of Labor Day was Peter J. Maguire, a carpenter and founder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Thus, we eventually have the Labor Day we have today as a national day of recognition.

But, all of this has a lot to do with Unions, which, in the hobby, is a little-heard of and infrequently collected category, but it's one that I find quite interesting. In my 21 years of collecting, I believe I've only known two or three fellow collectors who actively sought Union covers, and I didn't start collecting in that category, myself, until a couple of years ago. Again, it's the history in the topic that got me interested, and, of course, as a teacher, I belong to both CTA and NEA [*whether I want to or not...but that's another story*].

If you've never paid attention to this category, you might be surprised to see how many 'Union' covers there are. And, we're not talking about all those covers that say "Union made" or anything like that—although you certainly might make a sub-category for such covers...and there are *a lot* of those. No, we talking covers *from* unions, here. In my short Union collecting career, the ones I've come across are basically either 1) local chapters, affiliates, etc. or 2) Nationals (covers issued by the Teamsters, AFL-CIO, etc.).

There is no listing of Union covers, but Art Houser, NY, had the biggest Unions collection that I am aware of. Art had 750 back in 1997. I'm a novice compared to that...and that number is 7 years old. Anyway, you might give this topic some thought. A lot of history here, and there are some fascinating covers relating to various strikes to be seen here, as well.

[*By the way, just as an aside, even though we hear a lot about unions, bargaining, strikes, and the like, the vast majority of American workers do not belong to a union*]



## The Nut Tree....Is Back?

*In the January, 1998, Sierra-Diablo Bulletin, I ran the demise of the famed tourist stop, but recently a flicker of hope appeared on the horizon...*

It's not open anymore, unfortunately, although that may change, but anyone who's lived in Northern California for any length of time is familiar with the Nut Tree. That quirky, once-distant outpost on Interstate 80 between Sacramento and San Francisco, where grandparents took kids for ice cream cones, \$8 designer cookies, and rides on the little train, had long been a fixture in this part of the state.

Started in 1921 under a lone black walnut tree on an old wagon road, the popular roadside landmark embodied the state's pioneer past, its rich agricultural bounty, its love affair with the automobile, and the pressures of rapid development. It also glorified California's ultimate infatuation—mobility.

Over the years, the tiny enterprise grew both in size and fame, eventually employing 350 people and attracting the likes of Will Rogers, Herbert Hoover, and a wealth of other notable names. It even catered a Capitol visit by the Queen of England. It was unique. Where else, for instance, but in the Nut Tree gift shop, could you find, all within a few feet of one another, rare stones and gems, exotic pastries, and "Romantique" bath beads packaged in wrappings that showed bare-chested Romeos romancing busty women? The pricey but popular Nut Tree restaurant, a 50s-vintage architectural relic that reminded patrons of simpler days, had to be the only dining area around that featured a glass-enclosed aviary in the middle with its own cockatoo. And there was the little railroad that delighted parents and children alike with an open air tour of the grounds. *And* the Nut Tree even had its own small airport, with an aviation museum and a flight shop—for the Nut Tree was not just a stop during trips between Sacramento and the Bay Area, it was a destination in and of itself for people drawn to its odd collection of attractions.

I took my own children there several times when they were small, and, when the in-laws visited from England, the Nut Tree was always one of the stops. Every time we would pass by, it was always one of those sites that elicited comments. In light of all this, it was difficult for its fans to understand why the Nut Tree closed down. It was always popular and well-attended. In 1996, for example, it had 1.5 million visitors—not too shabby for that little roadside stop on a small wagon road—but it just wasn't enough. The problem was that it was going to take millions to upgrade the property to make it more competitive now that retail and wholesale shopping had sprung up along the Interstate 80 corridor. The owners decided that they weren't interested in investing those millions necessary, so it was hoped that a buyer would be found. But, it wasn't to be. No buyer appeared; no miracles happened. On January 27th, 1997, the famed Nut Tree closed its doors for the final time. Today, one drives by the empty buildings and the parking lot fighting a losing battle against an army of weeds—just another monument to an earlier age.

But, seven years later, hope emerges! A Vacaville and Bay Area group are pursuing a deal for a major deal that would include saving a bit of the old landmark, but not the actual tourist stop. Except for the historic Harbison House, the remaining Nut Tree buildings would all come down to make room for a retail center, two hotels, office buildings, apartments, and two gold courses...so the Nut Tree really isn't coming back! [*Sacramento Bee, Oct. 6, 2001, p. A3*]

I believe I have three Nut Tree covers, they're part of my Famous Places collection, and, as with any cover you might have where you've actually been there, those covers are extra special to me.



## Readers Write

**Ellen Gutting, NV:** [Ref July's "Looking Ahead to AMCAL 2005"] If this situation is typical of the hobby in general, why are you saying that AMCAL has a problem? Additionally, I know for a fact that AMCAL does not have a problem. The attendance figures you showed for AMCAL 2004, while accurate, are misleading. The attendance at this year's AMCAL would have been at least 83 (more than 2000); however, eight people who had made hotel reservations and were planning to come, found it necessary to cancel at the last moment due to family or personal situations. An additional 10 folks, who have been regular attendees, were prevented from coming this year due to illness or family and community obligations that had to be fulfilled.

Another fact about AMCAL is that for at least the last five years, new people have attended. And, in almost every case, they have come back again and again.

The upcoming 2005 AMCAL will be a celebration of 50 Golden AMCAL's (yes, this will be the 50th!!) and all AMCAL Past Presidents will be hosting. There will be lots of matchcovers and fun during the week of May 22-28, 2005! Don't be concerned about AMCAL. It is definitely alive and well! And attendance in 2005 will be up! Mark my words!

If there is, indeed, a problem that needs to be addressed, it is your own club's drop in attendance and lack of participation as you, yourself, have stated. To quote your words in the July *Sierra-Diablo Bulletin*, page 8, item entitled "The Silent Majority?": "I'm not getting in any articles; I'm not getting in any letters; I'm not even getting in any classified ads! Could you possibly break your vow of silence and...SEND IN SOME INPUT!!!"

Why doesn't Sierra-Diablo Matchcover Club hold any regular meetings? Why was the Sierra-Diablo meeting that had been scheduled at this year's AMCAL cancelled by your President? It appears that if anyone should be sending out a survey asking why

people are not participating, it should be the Sierra-Diablo club.

Mike, please concentrate your worry and efforts on your own club. The AMCAL officers and committees will ensure the continued success of AMCAL.

[Ed. Soooo, I guess that's a 'no' on my survey idea?]

**Anonymous, USA:** I've been meaning to answer your July S-D article asking for thoughts that might help Amcal reverse its recent drops in attendance. I'd like to see a dealer room, something which is now common at the RMS conventions. I've always found nice, very reasonably priced covers at the RMS dealer room. In fact, I'm going to Toronto a day early just because of that. In the past, one or two dealers have sold out of their rooms at Amcal, but this activity could be more fun for everyone if it were in the public convention room. Folks would enjoy seeing the covers displayed, even if they don't buy them. At the Cherry Hill, NJ, RMS, the dealer room was so popular that they extended the hours. Some felt this cut into room hopping. Thus, at the Cincinnati RMS, the dealer room closed promptly at 9 pm each night -- and all was better.

Two other possible ideas might be harder to implement: (1) vary the location, although I'm told some other locations could be prohibitively expensive, and (2) hold Amcal a little later, so some younger folks could be encouraged to come. After all, they're the future generation.

[Ed note: this letter came in before Ellen's, and the collector asked that no name be printed]

### Reading is Basic!

Bob Bowman, OII, happened to send me an article last month from the *Dayton Daily News* about the decline in reading. "89.9 million adults did not read a book in 2002"!!

They don't know what they're missing!

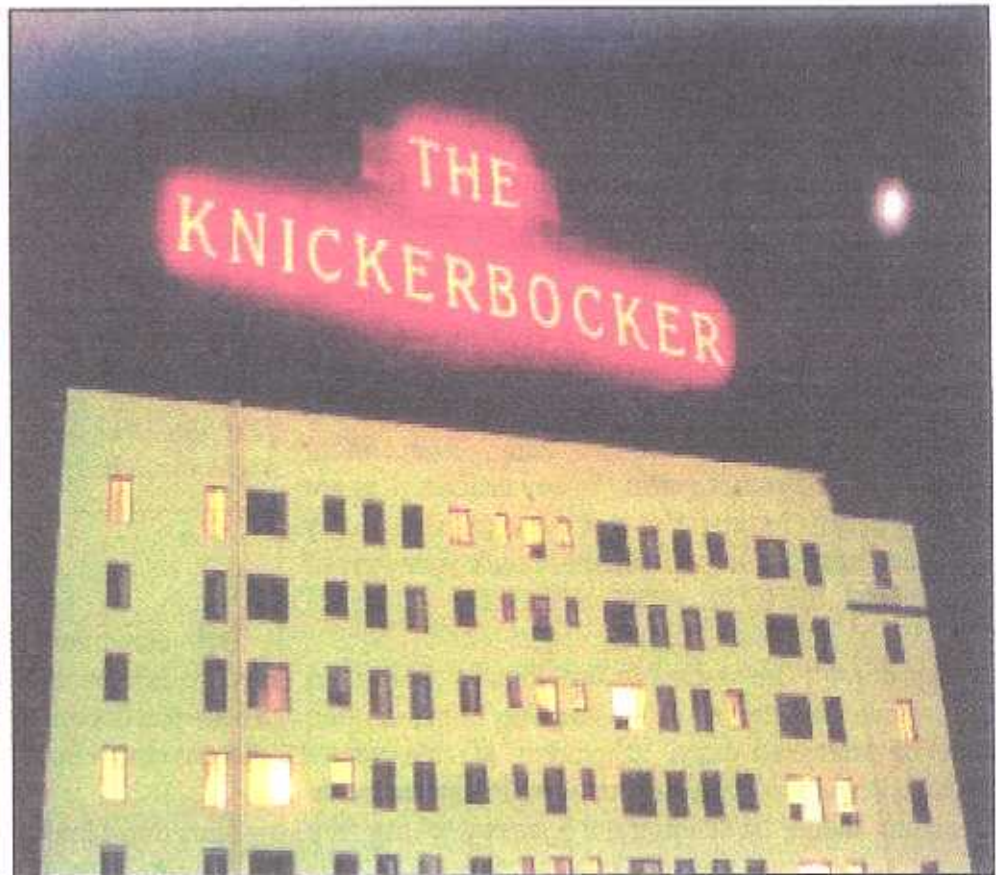


# Historic Hotels!

## XLIV: Hollywood's *Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel*

The Knickerbocker was built in 1925 as a luxury apartment house. Later it was converted to a the once-stylish Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel. Although it was overshadowed for years by its more fabled sibling the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the Knickerbocker has a rich history of tinseltown legend. Early residents included such icons as D.W. Griffith, Bette Davis, Cary Grant, and Red Skeleton. Rudolph Valentino was often seen dancing the tango in its Lido Room, very popular hang out. Joe DiMaggio would wait at the bar for his future wife, Marilyn Monroe, she would sneak through the kitchen to meet him. They also sneaked through the place on their honeymoon.

Rumor has it that Marilyn Monroe's ghost still makes the scene at this coffeehouse. Elvis Presely lived upstairs in what he called "Heartbreak Hotel." The "King" and Jerry Lee Lewis stayed in the late 50's. In 1962, MGM dressmaker and designer "Irene", committed suicide by leaping off the building. Over the years many Hollywood spirits have allegedly haunted the building. So it was only appropriate that the late Harry Houdinis' wife, Bess Houdini, tried to communicate with him by conducting a seance from the Knickerbocker roof. Relatively recently the hotel has become a retirement home for the living and the the undead. There is a spooky cafe open to the public that gives any visitor a sense of the Knickerbocker's checkered past.





**Change of Address**

764. Pitcher, Bob PO Box 1584  
Palm Harbor FL 34682-1584

**Reinstated**

777. Grant, Alan, POB 137,  
Freedom, NH 03836-0137

**Ads**

**WANTED:** not more than 4 covers/boxes from: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Ascension, Austral island, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bonaire, Botswana, Brit. Honduras, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi. Impossible? Will trade. The Ed.

**\$15 REWARD:** for the following covers: (IL) Octopus Club, Nameoki; Snake Pit and Papesh's, Joliet; Buzz Box, Sherman; Au-Kum-On-Inn, South Lincoln-- (MO): Tut's Cafe #2; Waynesville; Gwinn's Cafe, Lebanon; Andy's Modern Cabins, Springfield; Sixty-Six Club, Miller-- (OK): Fred's 66 Bar, Afton; Hinton Junction or Leon Little, Hinton (TX); Magnolia Service, Vega; Sagebrush Inn, Amarillo-- (NM) Hilltop Court, Abq; --(AZ) Koffee Kup, Kingman; Flagstaff Motor Village; 66 Cafe, Ashfork; Morris or Seligman Cafe, Seligman; 66 Motel or White Lunch, Holbrook; Navajo Trading Post, Navajo, Hopi Village Tourist Court, Joseph City--(CA) Village Inn Hotel/Grill, Los Angeles; Cup

Cafe, Barstow; Needles Theatre, Needles (Crown); Pat's Cafe, Claremont; Desert Shores Resort, Needles; Chambless Camp, Chambless (or Cadiz). Kevin Fleming, PO Box 5584, Palm Springs, CA 92263-5584

**Coming Up****RENO COLLECTIBLES**

**SHOW:** Sept. 17 and 18 at the Golden Phoenix in Reno. FMI: Jim Munding  
[Mun3335@aol.com](mailto:Mun3335@aol.com)

**GARDEN STATE MC 50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY!** - Sep. 19, 2004, Madeline's Rest., Garden Brook, NJ. Freebie table, door prizes, raffle, trivia contest, slide show. FMI: Orvie Hoffman, 5 Gold St., Greenbrook, NJ 08812 [wallybob@optonline.net](mailto:wallybob@optonline.net).

**INTERNATIONAL MATCH SAFES ASSOCIATION SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION** - October 8-10, 2004, Marriott, San Jose, CA. Open to anyone with an interest in match safes. Educational sessions, show and tell, auction and selling among attendees. Large number of match safes available to be seen. IMSA membership is required to participate. FMI: George Sparacio, IMSA, PO Box 791, Malaga, NJ 08328-0791, (856-694-4167) [mrvestal@aol.com](mailto:mrvestal@aol.com); Tony Schmidt, [kick\\_save@msn.com](mailto:kick_save@msn.com) (408-942-1573) or <http://www.matchsafe.org>.

**KEYSTONE - LEHIGH SWAPFEST** - Oct. 28-30, 2004, Holiday Inn, Morgantown, PA. Just take PA Turnpike to Exit #298 and it's close by. Members may put 20 lots into our 2 auctions. Cash prizes at the Halloween Party and for display prizes. Lots of freebies and great raffle prizes. FMI: President/Treasurer Jane Ruffner, 105 Gibraltar Rd., Reading PA 19606-3321 (610-779-3161) or [JARU2222@aol.com](mailto:JARU2222@aol.com)

**SIERRA-DIABLO SWAP-FEST 2005!** March 25-27, 2005, Heritage Inn, 201 Harding Blvd., Roseville, CA (800-228-4747 or 916-782-4466). Bigger! Better! Be there! More details coming. Contact Loren Moore, POB 1181, Roseville, CA 95678 ([loren@bgsplanco.com](mailto:loren@bgsplanco.com))

**RMS Convention Report**

I still don't have all the particulars that I should, but here's what's been reported thus far.

**Attendance & Participation:**

**Registered:** 181  
**Banquet:** 157  
**Theme Night:** 148  
**Taste of Toronto:** 45  
**Toronto Tour:** 67  
**Niagara Tour:** 65  
**Displays:** 170  
(from 39 people)  
**Bowlers:** 17  
**States Represented:** 25



## Happy Birthday!

Crill, Cheryl.....	9-5
Shine, John.....	9-6
Prero, Mike.....	9-7
Plunkett, Joan.....	9-8
Woelfle, Bob.....	9-10
Williams, Dorothy.....	9-15
Nicholson, John.....	9-17
Dixon, Bill.....	9-20
Johnk, Duane.....	9-20
Grant, Alan.....	9-22
England, Bob.....	9-24
Proctor, Ed.....	9-26
Donato, Frank.....	9-27
Barksdale, Ron.....	9-28

Attendees from Canada: 36

Attendees from UK: 6

## September's Smile



### Finances:

**Auction Revenue:**(4)\$15,503<sup>CN</sup>

**Club share of auction:** \$3,099  
CN

**Raffle Revenue:** \$1,356 CN

**Silent Auction:** \$158 CN

**Penny Auction:** \$144 CN

**Match Jar:** \$115 CN

**50/50:** \$112 CN

**Trans Canada Revenue:**

(Excluding Program Ads and  
Registration) Before Expenses  
\$4,984 CN

### Award Winners:

**Hall of Fame inductees:**

-Emily Hiller

-Larry Ziegler

**Outstanding Collector:**

-Grant Gehringer

### Notable News:

-Dues are going up as of 2005:  
U.S. Members \$20.00; Canada  
& Mexico \$25.00; All other  
international \$35.00. Family  
membership remains the same at  
\$4.00 and the entry fee remains  
at \$2.00.

-2006 RMS Convention will be  
hosted by Forest City Match-  
cover Club. This will be the fifth  
time Forest City Matchcover  
Club of Ohio will host the RMS  
convention. Hotel will be the  
Holiday Inn, Sandusky, Ohio.  
Room rate \$89.00. Free parking  
- airport transportation - August  
20 - 27, 2006.

-2004-2006 RMS Officers:  
Morris Pasternak - President

Grant Gehringer - 1st V-P  
Brian Mason - 2nd V-P  
Mem. Sec./Treas. - Terry Rowe  
Secretary - Shirley Sayers  
Editor - Mike Prero

RMS's cut from the auction is  
apparently going up from 20% to  
25%.

Joe Burnett received the convention  
RMS Area Award.

## COMING UP



Oct: "Where to get Albums"

Nov: "New National Park"

Dec: "Death Valley"

**SIERRA-DIABLO...we're  
the hottest club in the hobby!**

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<http://www.matchcover.org/sierra>

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with Bulletin/hobby questions,  
concerns or problems.