

The Detective Division

In 1910, the police department consisted of a chief and ten patrolmen.

In 1912, the position of Police Inspector was created by city ordinance. The Inspector was in effect the department's second-in-command and his duties included prosecution and detective work.

James G. Miller, a police constable since 1896, and one of the original ten patrolmen of the permanent police department, was the first officer to be promoted to this position. The promotion earned Inspector Miller an extra \$200. a year.

The department operated in this fashion for many years. It wasn't until the late 1940's that a detective division as we know it today began to form. Different priorities of the times dictated how the division was organized. For example, during the 1950's, illegal bookmaking and gambling was considered a big problem. In response to this, the mayor and the chief formed an "Anti-bookmaking Squad" to seek out and raid betting parlors.

In the 1960's, and 70's, when drugs became a major social problem, a Narcotics and Vice unit was formed.

Crimes involving children necessitated a division that specialized in sex crimes.

By 1995, the detective division had grown to 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, and 31 detectives.



James G. Miller in 1898
Cranston's first Police Inspector in 1912.



Cranston Police Detective Division, 1951

Left to Right – front row – Capt. A.J. Moretti, Inspector J.J. Ryan
2ed row –A. Hay, J.H. Gibbs, J.J. Sullivan
3rd row – L. Morenzi, M. Morrow
4th row – G.J. Coffey