

THEN & NOW



BY MIDGE NEFF-LECLAIR, PhD, HISTORY

PRIVATE EYE

Recently the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties held their 45th annual Conference. (Campo's Roger Challberg received an Award). There were many interesting speakers, and one in particular caused me to seek more information. During lunch in the Old Town State Park with Barbara Connel (a friend from Rochester, New York), we discussed

the Conference and crime diction, and the history of Law Enforcement in this country. Perhaps one of the most interesting and memorable was Allan Pinkerton, who was born in Scotland in 1819, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1842. He had worked as a "cooper" (barrel maker) before coming to America and settling in Dundee, Illinois about 40 miles from Chicago. While working at Lill's Brewery he decided to go into business for himself and by producing superior barrels soon gained control of the market. Almost everything was shipped in barrels, as few cartons or boxes were available strong enough for ships cargo or railroads. Looking for the right trees for his barrels led him to notice and report suspicious activity to the sheriff. He participated in the arrest of the counterfeiters. He was appointed a deputy sheriff for Kane County

and in 1850 became the first Police Detective in Chicago. That same year, with Edward Rucker, the North Western Police Agency was founded.

In 1843 his brother Robert established "Pinkerton & Company." Originally Robert had worked as a railroad contractor but soon became a railroad detective. He secured contracts to guard Wells Fargo Stage Coaches. As his business grew quickly he hired men as guards and detectives for the railroads and stage coach lines. The partnership with Rucker ended after a year, and Allan joined his brother, renaming the company "Pinkerton National Detective Agency." They provided services to some private military contractors and security guards, but specialized in capturing counterfeiters and train robbers. Their company set uniform fees for their

services and earned respect for their ethical behavior. While investigating a railroad case in 1861, the agency discovered an assassination plot against Abraham Lincoln and warned him not to stop in Baltimore, Md. on his way to his inauguration. Lincoln changed his itinerary, and later hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to organize a "Secret Service." They were to gain information about the Confederates and to serve as his bodyguards on occasion. Allan Pinkerton traveled under the name of "Major E.J. Allen". One of the first big contracts for the Pinkerton Agency was in 1855 with the Illinois Central Railroad, whose legal counsel at that time was Abraham Lincoln. In 1861 Lincoln, remembering their outstanding work, retained the Agency.

After the war the Government hired the

Detective Agency to assume the duties that are now assigned to the Secret Service, the F.B.I., and the C.I.A. as well as Homeland Security. This also included work for the railroads and overland stage companies. They tracked many outlaws, including Jesse James, the Reno Brothers and Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch. In 1875, one of their agents, James McParland, became an undercover member of the infamous secret organization, "Molly Maguires" and collected enough evidence about their crimes to convict and execute 20 members of the gang members.

Allan Pinkerton headed the Detective Agency until his death on July 1st, 1884. His sons, William in Chicago and Robert in New York, expanded the family business, concentrating on criminal activities that earned the Agency worldwide recognition

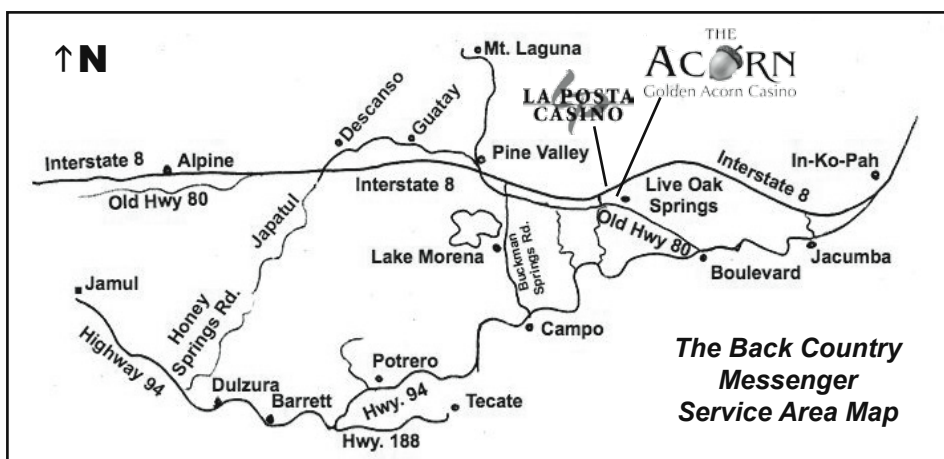
for integrity and success in solving the crimes. By 1907 the Agency employed 2000 people and were active in providing security protection and guarding many diverse businesses, including the railroads, banks and jewelry stores. Robert's son, Allan, managed the New York office after his father's death in 1907, continuing the Agency partnership with his uncle William, who remained in Chicago. William served honorably in World War 1, and kept files detailing the agency's involvement in Homeland Security. When William died in 1923, his nephew Allan became sole family director. Allan's son Robert succeeded him in 1930, and was the last of the family to direct the Agency.

Books, newspapers and magazine articles were written about the Agency,

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A Back Country Guide

To help you find your way around the back country



ALPINE: Motels, fast foods, restaurants, shops, health care, gas&lodging, historical significance, Viejas Casino and Factory Outlet Center, Post Office, churches, library, sheriff, fire protection, and community center.

DESCANSO: The Descanso Junction Restaurant, the Trading Post, Perkins Store & center, Camp Oliver, Historical sites, Post Office, churches, CDF, schools, and library along with a community center.

PINE VALLEY: Gas, restaurants, grocery, dental, lodging, County Park, camping & hiking, horseback riding, Historical sites, ORV area and U.S. Border Patrol facility, churches, library, Post Office and community center.

CAMPO: The Railroad Museum, Motor Transport Museum, Stone Store Museum, fishing and camping at Lake Morena, gas, groceries, Lake Morena RV park, the Malt Shop and El Rancho Bar and Grill.

In Campo the Campo Diner, Circle K, Trading Post, Mountain Health Center, Pacific Crest Hiking Trail, U.S. Border Patrol, ORV sites in Corral Canyon and along the U.S./ Mexican border, churches and a library, CDF and Campo Fire, Post Office and community center. In addition, the Golden Acorn Casino.

POTRERO: The Potrero Store, Café 94, Post Office, CDF, County Park, library, schools, a Christmas tree farm, hiking, camping and a community center.

TECATE: The gateway to old Mexico; a passport is required to enter the United States through the International border.

BARRETT: Home of camping, fishing, and the best all you can eat fish fry at Barrett Junction Café.

BOULEVARD: The La Posta Casino and Marie's Restaurant, La Posta Diner, Live Oak Springs Resort, camping, cabins, gas, liquor & deli,

markets, library, community center, hotels, Coins and Collectables, U.S. Border Patrol, fire and sheriff depts. The "Sacred Rocks Reserve" is a live-in park that offers overnight camping and motor home traveler's spaces with full hook ups. Restrooms, showers, swimming pool, and many large oak trees and hiking trails are located within the reserve.

JACUMBA: The Hot Springs Resort and Spa, laundromat, market, Mountain Health Center, library, community center, park, glider port, and churches in town. Off the interstate is the De Anza Resort, a Subway and two gas stations.

IN-KO-PAH: Home to an equipment sales center and the Desert View Tower. The tower is a roadside attraction with gifts, shade, drinks, restrooms and a view for many miles.

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