

# CUPD Legacy Project:

Laying a Foundation

By Kara Syvanen

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# Capstone Author

My name is Kara Syvanen.

My undergraduate degree is in History from CU Boulder.

I've been working for the University of Colorado Boulder Police Department for five years as a Residential Service Officer.

I'm proud of my involvement in campus life here at CU, both as a graduate and an employee. I believe that, by telling and listening to stories, we learn and grow in understanding.





# University of Colorado Boulder Police Department

The University of Colorado Boulder Police Department (CUPD) began safety and security services on campus in October of 1949.

In 1970, after a threatened strike and negotiations with the university administration, CUPD became an independently operational police department.

Still active in 2024, CUPD celebrates 75 years of service to the campus community.

Throughout its history, the members of CUPD have:

- upheld safety on campus
- responded to dangerous incidents both large and small
- contributed to research into law enforcement best practices
- participated in the daily life of our community



Left: Armory Building at CU Boulder. Former location for CU Police  
Below: Photo of new Police and Parking Services building, taken in 1997





# MLIS Capstone Sponsor

- Deputy Chief of Police Mark Heyart, CUPD (left in photo)
- D.C. Heyart has worked for CUPD for over twenty-five years and participated in a wide variety of police activities on campus. He has led and supported initiatives to research and train methods of violence prevention and assessment and integrate co-responders into the Patrol division.
- D.C. Heyart is passionate about keeping a healthy and progressive department culture through preserving the memory and honoring the accomplishments of CUPD members.
- Additional thanks to CUPD Police Chief Doreen Jokerst (right in photo) for her support and interest, without which this project and CUPD would not be what they are today.

Photo from CUPD Facebook page, 25 March 2024





# Capstone Deliverables

- Original Legacy Collection inventoried, organized, described, recorded, and housed
- Accessioning packet and handbook approved
- Three memory displays approved
- Ten of twenty-one photo groups digitized, recorded, and housed in the Digital Collection
- Oral History Process created, three interviews conducted and added to Record with transcripts
- Information made available for continuation of project research and maintenance



CUPD officers following ROTC riot, April 30, 1970



# Building the Processes

The documents for collection maintenance began as a list of necessary tasks or required information informed by the principles of cataloging, archive studies, and knowledge management.

Alongside the processes, I also developed a list of descriptions and definitions so the work could be continued by a non-library professional.

The documents produced were compiled into a handbook, containing:

- Collection Overview
- Organizing Principles
- Accessioning Guide
- Definitions
- Legacy Stories Introduction and Process
- Donor Information Form
- Recording Release Form for Oral Histories
- A Record of all items in CUPD's Legacy Collection



# Collecting the Collection

- Scattered and Lost
  - In the initial stages of this project, the items which became the Original Legacy Collection were identified and set aside.
  - However, persistent rumors and information about a larger group of documents, photos, reports and newspaper clippings saved in a filing cabinet were constantly being brought up. Despite best efforts, this filing cabinet with a larger collection was never found.
- Recaptured and Identified
  - Although the filing cabinet was never located, smaller groups of photos, documents, training manuals and memorabilia were saved and set aside for CUPD's collection by employees across the department.
  - Additionally, retired employees responded to emails and messages and agreed to contribute their recollections and help fill in lost information.



There were many empty filing cabinets and boxes, but the rumored collection is still missing.







# Cataloging the Original Legacy Collection

Each box was accessioned separately, and the items described and recorded in individual Record sheets. The Record for Box 1 contains 70 item descriptions and Box 2 contains 76 item descriptions.

While describing and recording these boxes of items, improvements in the description process, in the digitization process and organization were identified and used to improve the documents for collection management.

Digitization, particularly for important documents and photos, was started for this collection alongside the description and recording process. The Capstone goal of digitizing ten photo groups was completed, but digitization of the entire collection will be an ongoing process for some time.



These photos show my cataloging area and Box #2



# The Legacy Stories: Memory- Without Memorabilia

Prior to the beginning of my Capstone and the development of a plan for the CUPD Legacy Project, former department members reached out to Police Chief Doreen Jokerst to share memories and experiences from their time at CUPD. The interest of these individuals prompted the addition of oral histories to the CUPD Legacy Project.

To announce and facilitate the oral history collection, CUPD hosted a luncheon for retirees and former department members, introducing the CUPD Legacy Project to attendees and inviting them to participate in creating an oral history collection.

At the luncheon, a flood of recollections and experiences were shared around the tables and several individuals reached out, willing to share their stories.

At the time of this presentation, oral history interviews have been completed with five CUPD members. Three of the transcripts have been completed. The audio recordings and interview transcripts have been added to the CUPD Collection Record and represent the beginning of CUPD's Legacy Stories.

Photo of attendees at CUPD's Retiree Luncheon  
from CUPD Facebook 28 March 2024



From left to right: Joe Armstrong, Steve Carter, Maggie Armstrong, Paul Davis, Joe Roy, Tim McGraw, William Woodward, Gary Arai, Bob Amick

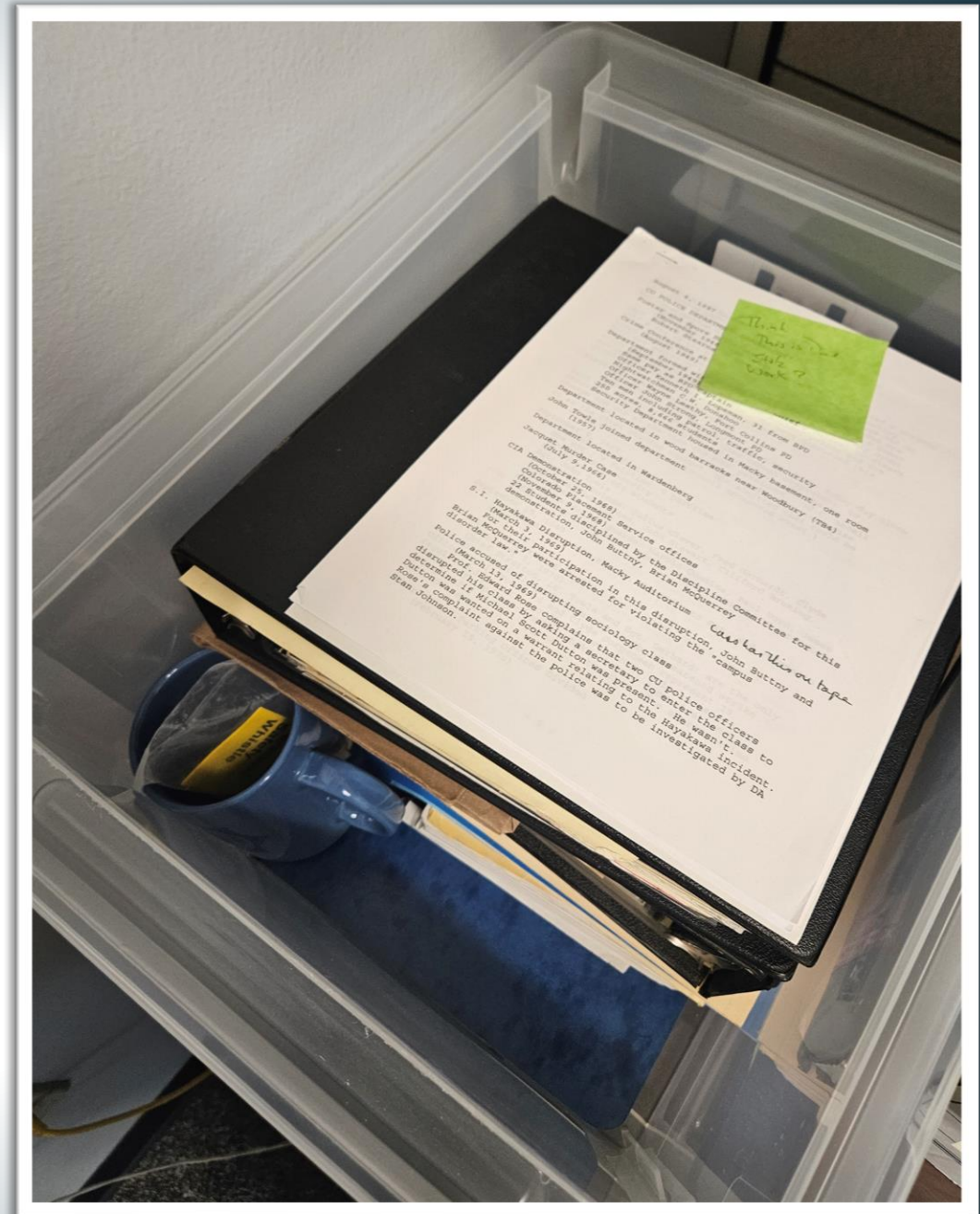


# The Legacy of the Legacy Stories project

Through word of mouth and independent investigative efforts, news of the creation of the Legacy Stories collection spread through CUPD and amongst former CUPD members. Following the retiree luncheon, multiple current and former department members reached out to me and said they would be willing to share their stories.

By email and in person, I received photos, articles, commendations, and memorabilia from their time with CUPD and I heard snippets of stories from behind the scenes of events that made the news (King Soopers shooting, Hill riots '71, Rushdie visit to CU). These oral history interviews have not yet been scheduled but give indication that there is scope and interest in growing the Legacy Stories collection.

Right: Box of photos, documents and items from Sgt. Gary Arai (ret.)





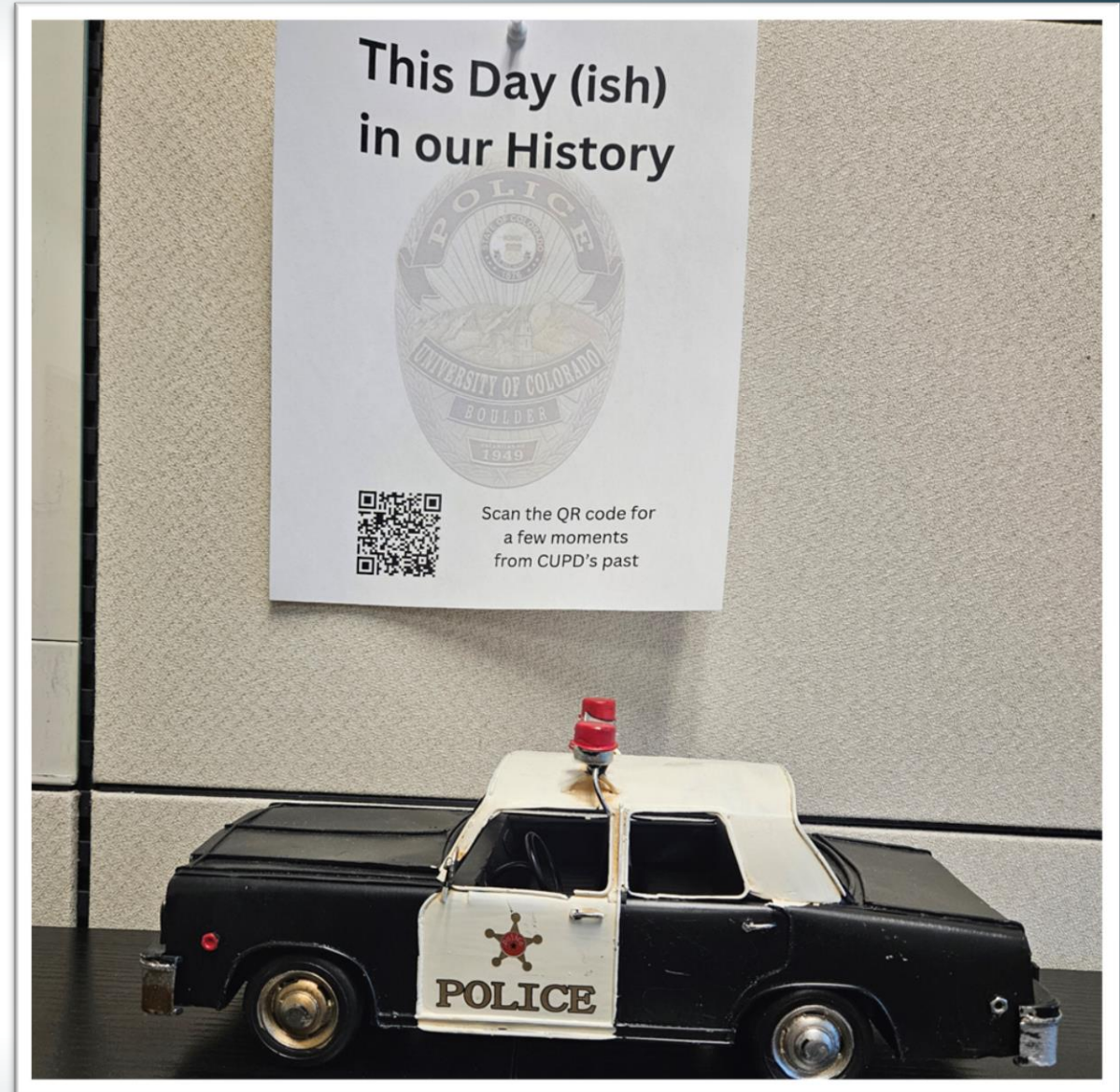
## Teach, Train, and Share

The items and information from CUPD's collection, memories of current and former department members, and research drawn from CU's Norlin Library archives were combined to create several new ways to learn about the history of CUPD.

In a survey distributed to CUPD employees, I learned that the top preference for learning about CUPD history was through short videos. The next preference was for learning at in-person trainings. In response to these preferences, a video series teaching about the history of CUPD was started and I am developing lesson plans for in-person trainings.

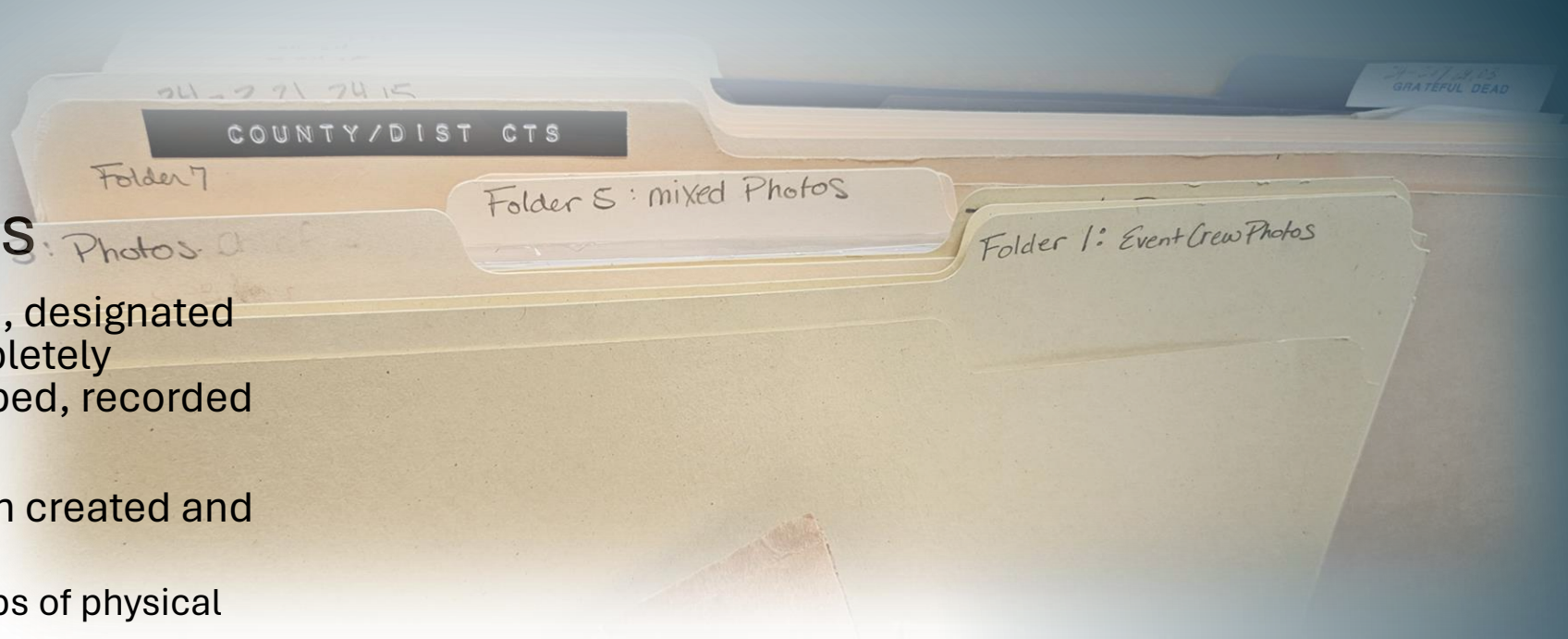
Additionally, a series of short information bites, titled "This Day(ish) in our History," was established and made accessible through QR codes posted in the police department.

Memory displays, which can be periodically updated to reflect areas of focus or anniversary dates, are in progress and will be located throughout the administrative, Patrol, and training areas of the department.





# Capstone Accomplishments



- The Original Legacy Collection, designated on 31 January 2024, was completely inventoried, organized, described, recorded and housed.
- The Digital Collection has been created and contains:
  - Digital copies of eleven groups of physical photos
  - Audio recordings of oral history interviews
  - Transcripts of oral history interviews
- The Legacy Stories Collection has been created and contains:
  - Sgt. M. Delaria's recount of 2013 flood activities
  - Lt. W. Woodward (ret.) recollections of the early department
  - Lt. D. Stolz (ret.) recollections of CUPD investigations
  - Ofc. Joe Armstrong and Dispatcher Maggie Armstrong (both ret.) memories of CUPD

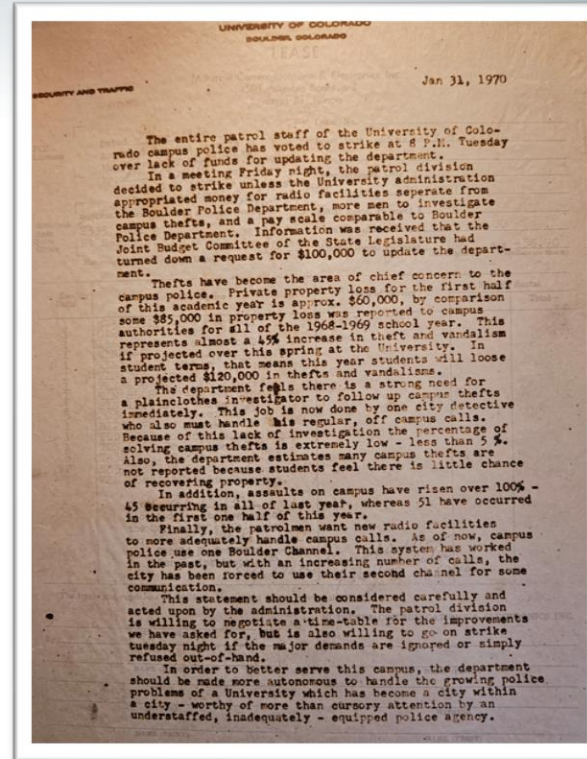
| 1  | Location:       | Identifier:   | Description of Item:  | Date(s) Associated:        | Event(s) Associated: | Name(s) Associated:   | Donor/Source:      | Date Added:    | Part of Group(?):          | Tags      |
|----|-----------------|---------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|
|    |                 |               | Box 502   |                            |                      |   | collection         |                | collection                 | proc      |
| 13 | Box 2; Folder 2 | 24-3.21.24.01 | Memo: 1977-78 Residence Halls and Family Housing Police Coverage  | February 16, 1977; 1977-78 | unk.                 | To John Towle; From Dan Daniels; cc'd: B. Woodward, J. Fadenrecht, J. Ferguson, T. Naylor                           | from Lisa 12/21/23 | 3/21/24 by KAS | original legacy collection | fami stud |
| 14 | Box 2; Folder 2 | 24-3.21.24.02 | Memo: FY 76 Residence Halls Budget Request w/ attached budget sheet and report from Loretta Atkins re: police patrols in family housing areas | 17-Apr-75                  | unk.                 | To Dan Daniels, director of Student Housing; From John Towle, chief; Officer Loretta Atkins, family housing officer | from Lisa 12/21/23 | 3/21/24 by KAS | original legacy collection | fami bud  |
| 15 | Box 2; Folder 2 | 24-3.21.24.03 | "Recharges Residence Halls Dormitory Policing"  | 16-Apr-75                  | unk.                 | unk.  | from Lisa 12/21/23 | 3/21/24 by KAS | original legacy collection | bud       |
| 16 | Box 2; Folder 2 | 24-3.21.24.04 | "Recharges Residence Halls Dormitory Policing," "Recharges Residence Halls Family Housing Policing" Memo: Proposed                            | 17-May-74                  | unk.                 | Memo To: V. A. Shurm, director physical plant; From: [unclear]  | from Lisa 12/21/23 | 3/21/24 by KAS | original legacy collection | hur       |

Sample of Collection Record and part of housed photo collection



# Capstone Accomplishments

- Necessary documents for collection management were created and compiled into a handbook, including the processes for accessioning and collecting oral histories.
- Three ways of sharing CUPD history were started and include:
  - Video series
  - “This Day(ish) in History”
  - Lesson plans for briefing trainings
- Five wall-mounted memory displays are in progress and will enable rotating displays to reflect anniversaries or highlight individuals or special topics.
- Information and research avenues collected and discovered through the course of project activities were noted and kept for ongoing project activities.



Above: demand letter published before negotiations, 31 January 1970

Right: Sgt. John Towle speaking to a student who rushed the stage during S. I. Hayakawa's speech at Macky Auditorium, March 1969







# The Legacy Project Continuing

The next steps for the CUPD Legacy Project include:

- Completing the wall-mounted memory displays
- Continuing to add items to the CUPD collection, notably a box of mixed documents found in the police department building and a box of items donated by Sgt. Gary Arai, ret.
- Recording more oral histories and adding to the CUPD Legacy Stories
- Continuing to produce history videos and lesson plans to share CUPD history

