

“PARKER ON POLICE”

In 1963, as young idealistic rookie cops, my partners and I really believed we were Chief Parker’s “Thin Blue Line.” At police academy graduation, he looked us in the eye, shook our hand, and told us that was so. Life for me back then was literally and philosophically, “black and white.”

Today, decades later, I realize that neither life nor people were ever that simple. Most of us are a combination of the two—black and white—which makes for lots of gray.

Today, with a much fuller historical perspective and understanding, I realize that my early hero, Chief Parker, was both a white and a black knight.

In May 1949, LAPD Vice Sergeant Charles Stoker was called to his second secret meeting with then Inspector William H. Parker, commander of the newly formed LAPD Internal Affairs Division.

For me, the most riveting section of Sgt. Stoker’s 1951 *Thicker’ N Thieves* expose on police corruption was the Parker-Stoker conversations as documented by him at the time they actually occurred.

For those who remain skeptical that Chief Parker would or could ever have been party to any kind of “cover-up,” especially one that allowed a known, identified murder suspect to remain free, I answer—listen to Chief Parker’s own words.

These Parker/Stoker conversations occurred in May 1949, less than one year before the George Hodel bugging tapes, which I allege became a separate—Dahliagate.

Sgt. Charles Stoker wrote this account just a few months after it occurred, and then published the full expose in 1951.

***Thicker’N Thieves*, Chapter 14, Grand Jury Preview page 161-162:**

I appeared before the Criminal Complaints Committee on May 5, 1949, and answered each of its questions, truthfully and to the best of my ability. I told of the Brenda Allen investigations and explained in great detail exactly how they had occurred.

I was warned to say nothing regarding the fact that I had been before the grand jury.

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About a week after my appearance before the committee, I received a telephone call from Inspector William Parker. He asked me to meet him at the same place where we had met on the occasion when he had wanted me to put Officer Jimmy Parslow of Hollywood vice in the middle. I kept the date, and Parker gave me a

preliminary build-up to the effect that he and I were of the same faith, and that it was directly due to his hard work that the Catholic boys on the Los Angeles police department were getting an even break. He reminded me that we were both veterans of World War II.

After these pleasantries, Parker asked what I knew about the Brenda Allen investigation in Hollywood. When I related the story as I had told it to the grand jury, he indicated that it was as he had suspected, since he knew positively that there were two sources of corruption in the police administration.

According to Parker, one source was controlled by Chief of Police Clemence B. Horrall. Aligned with him as a lieutenant was Sergeant Guy Rudolph, his confidential aide. He then related this story concerning Rudolph, which I have never verified.

For years, while Bowron was in office, Rudolph had controlled the vice pay-offs in Los Angeles, and when Horrall held the chief's job, Rudolph was under his wing. At one time, Rudolph had kicked a colored prostitute to death on Central Avenue; and during the investigation of that incident, he and his partner had gone to a local downtown hotel where they engaged in a drunken brawl with two women. Then, while Rudolph was out of the room buying a bottle of whiskey, one of the prostitutes had been killed.

He asked me if I had heard the story. When I replied that I hadn't, Parker told me that he could prove what he had related to me. He added that Rudolph also controlled the lottery and numbers rackets operated by Chinese and Negroes, and that he had a Chinese as a partner, and maintained a business office on San Pedro Street.

According to Parker, Horrall's other lieutenant was a Captain Tucker, who was commander of the metropolitan squad, which numbers over one hundred men. He said that the metropolitan squad furnished Los Angeles police officers to act as strike-breakers in studios for so much a head. The taxpayers paid the policemen's salaries, while Horrall and Tucker collected the revenue, Parker declared.

Parker explained that this money was split with members of the city council, and that Tucker maintained a metropolitan vice division, whose only duty was to see that Chinese, gamblers and prostitutes were kept in line.

...

Parker went on to say that the other sources of corruption within the police department directly were controlled by Assistant Chief of Police Joe Reed. He explained that Joe Reed's chief aide was Lieutenant Rudy Wellpott, head of the powerful administrative vice squad, who in turn had as his assistant, Sergeant Elmer V. Jackson. Parker related that Jackson had been exempted from military duty with the police department's help and had stayed out of the war. The department's main source of revenue during this period was the "shaking down" of bar owners on Main and East Fifth Streets to allow B-Girls, a polite name for prostitutes, who are proscribed by law, to operate.

This activity constituted a million dollar source of revenue, according to Parker; and although the average cost of a liquor license was in the vicinity of five hundred dollars, a license in those areas sold for not less than ten thousand dollars during the war.

Parker said that Nate Bass, a bar owner, was middle man between the police and bar owners.

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What ever became of this information, including the LAPD IAD investigative files that in Parker's words, "he could prove that the officers murdered the two downtown prostitutes"?

Obviously, nothing. None of the allegations of police graft, abuse of power, and even police murders, ever came to light. No officers were charged with the murders. They were simply covered up. The murder investigation on the two victims was simply, "filed and forgotten"—two more "unsolved" to add to the stack.

Any arrest of corrupt LAPD officers in 1950, especially officers who could name names and identify their partners in crime, would have resulted in too much scandal at a critical time of transition and reformation.

The involved officers retired and the department "moved forward" to deal with new problems and new challenges. Sound familiar?

CHIEF PARKER ON POLICE INVESTIGATIONS AND “*THE LAW OF DOUBLE EFFECT*”

Earlier in this chapter, I indicated that it was my belief that Chiefs Parker and Brown reasoned that their actions relating to not pursuing and arresting George Hodel, “... were done for ‘a higher good’; for the good of the department, for the good of the city, and naturally, for the good of themselves.”

In short, their decision was not a legal one, but rather a moral call based on what they believed was best for the future of the department and the city.

I originally included those thoughts in BDA in 2003. I was expressing my opinion based on what I knew about the investigation and my limited knowledge of Thad Brown and Bill Parker, both of whom, as I have indicated, were my personal LAPD heroes from my 1963 academy days forward.

Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to find confirmation and corroboration coming from the man himself. But I did, and here it is in his own words.

On September 5, 2011, I found and ordered a rare book. It was one I knew existed, but had never read. *Parker on Police* was written by William H. Parker and published in 1957. (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois)

I knew it contained his thinking on police administration, which has never particularly interested me. But I felt I should have it in my library, at least for historical reference.

I began scanning the book and came to a chapter that especially interested me, *Surveillance by Wiretap or Dictograph: Threat or Protection?*

I’ll set the scene and cut directly to the chase.

It is February 1954. Bill Parker has been LAPD’s police chief for three and a half years. He is testifying before the Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives in Washington, DC.

Chief Parker is arguing in support of the need for law enforcement to be able to wiretap (to listen in on telephone and telegraph lines) and eavesdrop by dictograph (to use a hidden microphone and recording device, as was done in the Franklin house.)

Parker, a licensed attorney, made various legal arguments on why it was absolutely essential to allow law enforcement to continue their crime-fighting with wiretaps and dictograph recordings, then gave the committee his closing arguments. Here is his verbatim testimony to the committee.

Parker on Police, pages 111-112:

...

In a consideration of the morality of wiretap and dictograph, we may apply the principle of ethics entitled, "The Law of Double Effect." This law posits that when an action produces two effects, one good, and one bad, as long as the good effect is intended, and as long as the means are either morally good or morally neutral, *the act may be morally justified*. Thus, when this nation was faced with the ethics of warfare in the use of the atom bomb, it was obviously morally justified according to this principle. ... In the case of the wiretap or dictograph the identical rationale *may* be applicable.

We would not attempt to justify a wiretap or dictograph if the ends sought were extortion, blackmail, or like evil. If these techniques are used they must, of necessity, be rigidly controlled. But if the end is the protection of the commonwealth, then the evil effect (eavesdropping upon the conversations of the innocent) is not intended, and the action may be morally justified.

...

We are not arguing that the end justifies the means; on the contrary, we argue that the means are neutral—as is any mechanical technique, and that the use of these means is justified by moral as well as by statute law. Behind all statute law stands moral law. If an action is morally defensible, then, too, it is legally defensible. It is my opinion that the use of the wiretap and dictograph do not violate a moral precept, and that, therefore, the statute law should echo this viewpoint.

Far from being a *threat* to our freedoms, the use of modern technological devices by the police service may well be its most powerful weapon in combating our internal enemies, and a vital necessity in the protection of our nation's security, harmony and internal well-being.

Parker left no doubt about where he stood. This was a man of religion and passion who would follow his moral compass whichever direction it pointed. Be that to the heights of Heaven or to the depths of Hell.

A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

It is now, November, 2011. This week's headlines are just beginning to uncover what has overnight become one this year's biggest news stories—*The Jerry Sandusky-Joe Paterno, Penn State Sex Scandal*.

Former Penn State defensive coordinator, Jerry Sandusky, has just been arrested and charged with *sexually molesting eight young boys over the past fifteen year period*.

This week, PSU's president, Graham Spanier, and his legendary head coach, Joe Paterno, have both been fired from the university as a result of failing to report and take necessary action after being notified of Sandusky's criminality *more than nine years ago*.

A reading of the 2011 "Finding of Fact" transcript as summarized by the Pennsylvania Grand Jury reveals that Coach Sandusky allegedly committed serial child molestations including oral copulation and sodomy on minor boys. The offenses have apparently been ongoing for more than a decade.

The transcripts further describe a 1998 child molestation incident that was investigated by Penn State University Police, which included detectives, eavesdropping on a conversation held between one victim's mother and Sandusky. In May 1998, detectives with the mother's permission, listened in on two separate conversations and overheard Sandusky admit to the crimes committed against her then eight-year-old son wherein he stated to the mother, "I understand I was wrong. I wish I could get forgiveness. I know I won't get it from you. I wish I were dead."

The case was submitted to the then Centre County District Attorney's Office who advised there would be no charges filed and the investigating detective was ordered to "close the case" by the director of the campus police.

While this story is just beginning to unfold, early indications are that had the information been aggressively acted upon when first reported in 1998 or in the subsequent offenses in 2002, both of which should have resulted in Sandusky's arrest; *it would have prevented six or more young boys from becoming his later victims of sexual assault*.

As more information is forthcoming we will very likely discover that the motivations, the WHY of the Penn State Sex Scandal cover-up, will turn out to be for the same reasons they always are—a conspiracy of silence to protect the powerful and their institutions.

Sound familiar?

In the case of Los Angeles' 1947 Dahliagate, another conspiracy-of-silence, let's take a moment to assess the consequences that resulted from police and politicians deliberately shutting down of the

Black Dahlia investigation.

What was the result of their backroom decision to not pursue and arrest Dr. George Hill Hodel, once authorities had eavesdropped and recorded his confession and positively identified him as a serial killer, in the spring of 1950?

Serial killers do not simply stop committing crimes, so if police allowed George Hodel—a known, identified serial killer—to remain free, the results were devastating.

THE CONSEQUENCES?

Just as in the case against coach Sandusky, George Hodel did not stop his predatory serial crimes after fleeing the country in 1950. The likely results:

Manila, Philippines, 1967, “Black Dahlia copycat murder” of victim Lucila Lalu, who was abducted, bound with rope; slain and according to the Manila coroner, “her body was then bisected by a skilled surgeon.” After the dissection, her killer posed the body parts on a vacant lot, just three miles distant from Dr. Hodel’s then residence/office on Manila Bay. The case, a copycat Black Dahlia murder was dubbed by police and press as, “The Jigsaw Murder,” and forty-four years later, it remains one of Manila’s most horrific unsolved crimes.

How many other Manila and Asia related crimes occurred throughout the decades will never be known. However with George Hodel home-based in the Philippines with offices in Tokyo, Hong Kong and travelling throughout Asia, Europe and the United States for forty years, the final body count could easily be several dozen more.

If I am correct that my father replaced his “Black Dahlia Avenger” sobriquet of the 1940s with “Zodiac” in the 1960s, and resumed his letter writing, city-terrorizing campaign, promising, “There will be more,” then we must add, at minimum, another eight known victims to the count. They would include:

- 1966, Riverside victim, Cheri Jo Bates:
- 1968, San Francisco Bay Area victims, Betty Jensen and David Faraday

- 1969, San Francisco Bay Area victims, Darlene Ferrin and Michael Mageau (Mageau survived the attack)
- 1969, San Francisco Bay Area victims, Cecelia Shepard and Bryan Hartnell (Hartnell survived the attack)
- 1969, San Francisco victim Paul Stine

