

Acting chief of police began career while UNL student

daily nebraskan

Acting Chief of the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) Dale Adams came to the University of Nebraska as a football player.

The next summer LPD hired some football players as part time officers. Adams has been with the force ever since.

The 46-year-old Randolph, Neb. native was Lincoln's first training officer and spent most of his time in the personnel department. Last month he succeeded Police Chief Joseph Carroll.

He was named to the post of acting chief by Mayor Sam Schwartzkopf at Carroll's suggestion. According to Adams, a permanent chief will be named about the first of June, after municipal elections.

Good chance

"I'm hopeful. I think I have as good a chance as any one to be permanent chief," he said.

Adams indicated that there would be no immediate changes in the police administration. "We'll keep the same operation," he said. "We've been quite successful, but as the need arises, we'll change."

"I've never captured any Dillingers," Adams added smiling. "I've been in on occasions where there were guns and knives. I've never been shot at or shot at anybody."

"I helped solve a rape case, years and years ago. I guess the most interesting times were during the Starkweather case, when he was terrorizing the area."

Department adequate

Adams thinks the Lincoln Police Department

is adequate for a city this size.

"Frankly, the quality is as high as any department in the country. Under Chief Carroll's leadership, there was no cleaner police force in this country."

Adams pointed with pride to the fact that there are almost seventy officers with college degrees, ten times five years ago. Adams said that it is tough for a young man to go to school, raise a family and be a policeman all at the same time. Adams is fifteen hours short of his bachelor's degree. He is married and has one son in law school and a 13-year-old daughter.

The DWI hassle, "has completely been blown out of proportion," Adams said. "The allegations never said we were using police brutality, never said we arrested people who didn't need to be arrested. The ridiculous accusations—we were dropping powder on car roofs."

One of the leaders

Adams said Lincoln has been "one of the leaders in the entire country," in the hiring of women officers.

"We had women police investigators since before my time."

However, he added, "we're not putting them in the cruiser cars and they're not walking beats, patrolling taverns or railroad yards."

"But I definitely feel we couldn't work without women in law enforcement. They lend lots of expertise in some areas. We use exclusively women to interview rape victims."

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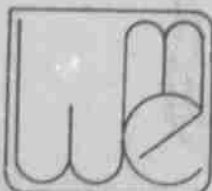
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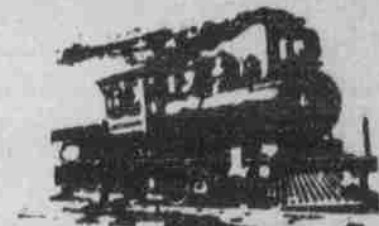
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