Arizona State Fraternal Order of Police Lodge History

75th Anniversary: **February** **24**, **1936** to **February** **24**, **2011**

The 75th anniversary of Tucson F.O.P. Lodge #1 and the Arizona State F.O.P. Lodge is a great milestone.

**Some Background:**

Frank Eyman, a Tucson police officer, sheriff of Pima County, and warden of the Arizona State Prison in Florence from 1955 to 1972, brought the F.O.P. to Arizona. You can say that Frank Eyman is the father of the Arizona F.O.P.



On January 22, 1934, Dillinger and his gang were forced out of the Congress Hotel in downtown Tucson by a fire. One of the gang paid two firefighters to go back into the burning hotel to retrieve the gang’s luggage. The firemen later recognized two of the gang while thumbing through a copy of [True Detective](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/True_Detective) and informed the police. Three days later, Eyman was one of several officers that captured John Dillinger at a Tucson house on Second Ave. Eyman transported Dillinger to Crown Point Jail in Indiana, near Chicago. While in Chicago, he had the opportunity to visit a Fraternal Order of Police Lodge. He returned to Tucson with paperwork to establish the first F.O.P. Lodge in Arizona.

Dillinger referred to the "hick town" police who captured him. Top row from left, Dan Young, Jesus Camacho and John Hale Chandler. Bottom row from left, Jay Smith, Dallas Ford and Frank Eyman.

(TPD Photo)

Members of Tucson PD contacted the Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge President Joseph H. Pence traveled by train from Ohio to install the Tucson F.O.P. Lodge. Pence was the first Grand Lodge President to be elected who was not from Pennsylvania; he served one year from 1935-1936. During his term he swore in thirty new F.O.P. lodges.

At the February 24, 1936 meeting in Tucson, President Pence conducted the initiation of the new members by ritual. An election was held and he swore in the first F.O.P. lodge officers west of the Mississippi River, Tucson Lodge # 1. A motion was moved and passed that all the officers of Tucson Lodge # 1 be elected as the first Arizona State Lodge Officers. Grand President Pence swore in the new Arizona State Lodge Board Officers.

The Charters of Tucson Lodge #1 and the Arizona F.O.P. State Lodge are displayed in the trophy case at Metro Lodge, located at 3445 N. Dodge Blvd. They are signed by the members of the lodge and Grand Lodge President Pence, making it official; the Arizona State Lodge became the first state lodge west of the Mississippi, another milestone for Arizona.

Standing from left, Det. Dallas Ford, Chief C. A. "Gus" Wollard, Harry Foley, Frank Eyman, Captain Jay Smith and "Chet" Sherman. Kneeling from left, Milo Walker, Kenneth Mullaney and Earl Nolan.

(TPD Photo)

Phoenix Lodge # 2 was installed later in 1936. In the first part of 1937 Cochise Lodge # 3 was installed. Arizona F.O.P. lodges began to mushroom. Some lodges have come and gone and several have merged. Grand Lodge President Jack Dudek installed Mesa F.O.P. Lodge #9 in February 1948. Currently there are thirty seven F.O.P. lodges state wide.

927 North Second Avenue, the Tucson house where the Dillinger gang was captured. Dillinger was sitting on the porch next to the front door. (TPD Photo)