



Alec McDowell Jr -1953



Explosive Caps-Bombing Case-1977

Ms. Jackson Remains . . .

Two Suspects Returned To Baldwin

By Claire Hamner
Times Staff Writer

Two men charged in the robbery, kidnapping and murder of Dan Broughton on July 11 have been returned to Baldwin County, Sheriff Thomas Benton said Wednesday.

Jerry Toston and Andrew Clayton were turned over to Baldwin County officials following an extradition trial held Tuesday. They were returned to the county late Tuesday night.

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Bay Minette P.D. receives award from magazine

The Bay Minette Police Department has been cited by a national magazine for its work in a murder case, it was announced today.

The editors of Official Detective Stories magazine have notified Chief John C. Trough that the publication's meritorious service citation is being presented to his department for its skillful investigation with the Wilmington, Del., Police Department into the July 1975 murder of James D. Broughton, Jr. in Bay Minette.

Broughton, a grocery clerk, was shot dead in a stickup while bringing cash to the store from a bank. The killers' trail led to Wilmington, where they were arrested by police.

A story on the case called "Never Underestimate Small-Town Cops" appears in the magazine's February 1977 issue.

September 23, 1976

28 Pages

Price: 15 Cents

'Never Underestimate Small Town Cops'

The Bay Minette Police Department has been cited by a national magazine for its work in a murder case. The editors of OFFICIAL DETECTIVE STORIES Magazine, nationally distributed by Dell, have notified Chief John C. Trough that the publication's Meritorious Service Citation is being presented to his department for its skillful co-investigation with the Wilmington, Delaware P.D., into the July, 1975 murder in Bay Minette of James D. Broughton Jr.

Broughton, a grocery clerk, was shot dead in a stickup while bringing cash to the store from a bank. The killers' trail led to Wilmington, where they were tracked down and arrested by local police.

When Chief Trough learned of the citation, his reaction was that of surprise. He told a reporter, "I never expected anything like this." The Chief added that the entire Police force worked on the case and they received a great deal of help and cooperation from the Wilmington Police.

He said it made him feel good that a Police Department as large as Wilmington's would put as much effort into an investigation as they did on this one.

A detailed account of the award-winning investigation, titled, "Never Underestimate Small-Town Cops," appears in the February issue of OFFICIAL DETECTIVE STORIES Magazine, which will soon be released to local newsstands.

The magazine cites the Bay Minette Police Department "in national recognition of achievements in the highest traditions of law enforcement."

City Council

Council makes Alec McDowell city's permanent police chief

Acting official said 'worthy' of Bay Minette post

By GUY BUSBY

Press Register Reporter
BAY MINETTE, Ala. —

The Bay Minette City Council voted Tuesday to make acting Police Chief Alec McDowell the city's permanent chief of police.

Councilman A. Leslie Stiers made the motion, saying McDowell had done a good job since taking over the position on a temporary basis and was "certainly worthy of becoming police chief."

McDowell, a 22-year veteran of the Bay Minette Police Department, became acting chief on April 9 following the resignation of Gale Gee.

Other police action by council members included their voting to authorize the department to take whatever action necessary to remove junked cars from property on U.S. 31 North and to authorize the release of two patrol cars from service.

In other action:

♦ The council agreed to study a rough draft of a vicious dog ordinance to vote on the animal control bill after study and public comment. The draft composed by City Attorney Robert Willis would not prevent unleashed dogs from wandering the streets, but would allow Bay Minette to control dangerous or threatening animals by fining or jailing their owners.

Fines mentioned were up to \$100 for the first infraction, \$300 for the second and up to \$500 after that. Jail terms would start off at up to 10 days. The law would only affect owners of animals which had attacked or threatened people.

♦ The council voted to begin action to have a number of houses condemned and removed from their lots around the city. Mayor Rick-ey Rhodes said the council had been fair to the owners and now "the honeymoon's over."

♦ On another cleaning item, the council voted to accept a \$16,205 bid from Ingram Equipment Inc. of Birmingham for a knuckle-boom loader and dump body. The loader will be used to pick up trash around the city. The council is in the process of getting a truck to mount the device.

McDowell honored by VFW post

BAY MINETTE, Ala. — Lt. Alec McDowell Jr., chief investigator for the Bay Minette Police Dept., received the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award Tuesday night.

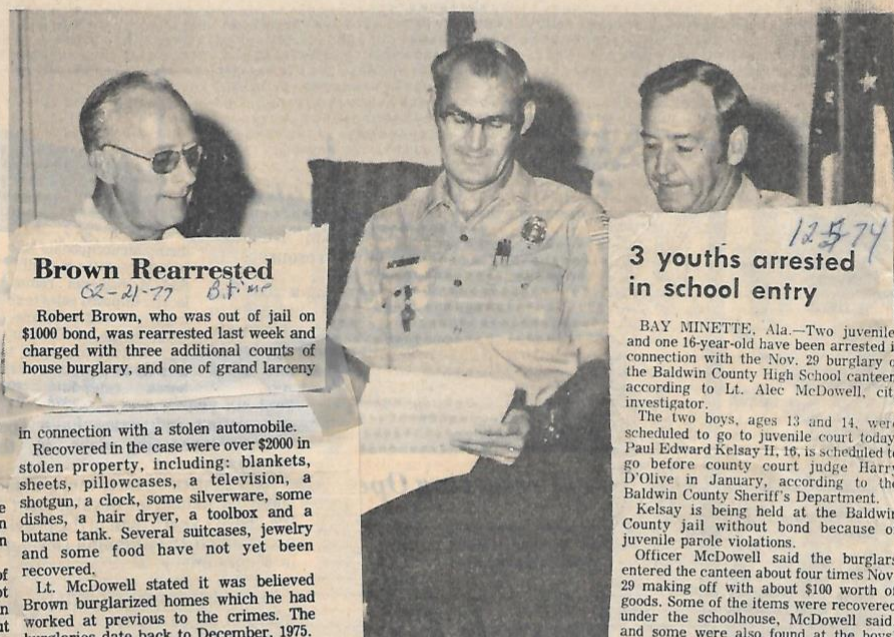
John England, commander of the Bradley-McDowell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3568 of Bay Minette, presented the award on behalf of the group. Bay Minette Chief of Police John Trough was also present.

Journalistic Excellence

19, 1975

24 Pages

Price: 15 Cents



Brown Rearrested

Robert Brown, who was out of jail on \$1000 bond, was rearrested last week and charged with three additional counts of house burglary, and one of grand larceny

in connection with a stolen automobile.

Recovered in the case were over \$2000 in stolen property, including: blankets, sheets, pillowcases, a television, a shotgun, a clock, some silverware, some dishes, a hair dryer, a toolbox and a butane tank. Several suitcases, jewelry and some food have not yet been recovered.

Lt. McDowell stated it was believed Brown burglarized homes which he had worked at previous to the crimes. The burglaries date back to December, 1975.

3 youths arrested in school entry

BAY MINETTE, Ala.—Two juveniles and one 16-year-old have been arrested in connection with the Nov. 29 burglary of the Baldwin County High School canteen, according to Lt. Alec McDowell, city investigator.

The two boys, ages 13 and 14, were scheduled to go to juvenile court today. Paul Edward Kelsay II, 16, is scheduled to go before county court judge Harry D'Olive in January, according to the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department.

Kelsay is being held at the Baldwin County jail without bond because of juvenile parole violations.

Officer McDowell said the burglars entered the canteen about four times Nov. 29 making off with about \$100 worth of goods. Some of the items were recovered under the schoolhouse, McDowell said, and some were also found at the boys' homes.

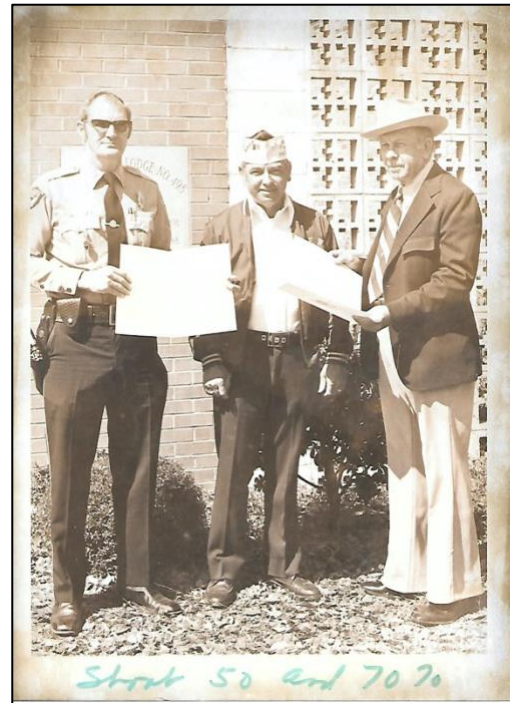
Officer Of The Year Award Presented

John England, Commander of VFW Post 3568 in Bay Minette presents the Officer Of The Year Award to Alex McDowell Jr. of the Bay Minette Police Department as Chief John Trough

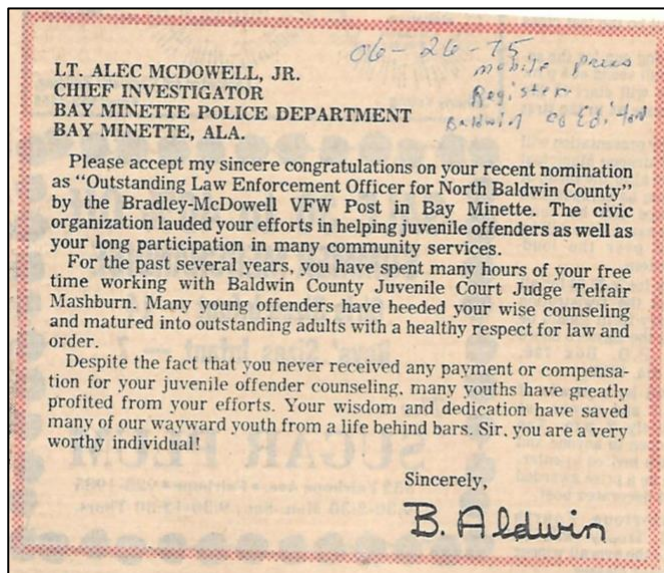
looks on. Officer McDowell was selected for the North Baldwin area as representing the highest ideals of law enforcement.



Policeman of the Year-1975



Policeman of the Year-April 1978



VFW Officer Of Year . . .

Lt. McDowell Praises Peoples' Cooperation

By Claire Hamner
Times Staff Writer

Lt. Alec McDowell, recent winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Officer of the Year Award, says Bay Minette people are "just real good people."

"I really appreciate their cooperation because without the help of the people on the street we couldn't do our job," he says. The people have been helpful in giving information and aid to the police, he says.

Lt. McDowell, a native of Bay Minette and a graduate of Baldwin County High School, has been on the Police Force ten years. He became a lieutenant in December of his second year on the force.

On June 17, John England, Commander of VFW, Post 3568, presented Lt. McDowell with the award. The certificate of Appreciation was given "In grateful recognition of unyielding adherence to the highest ideals of law enforcement in maintaining, preserving and protecting the lawful rights of all citizens."

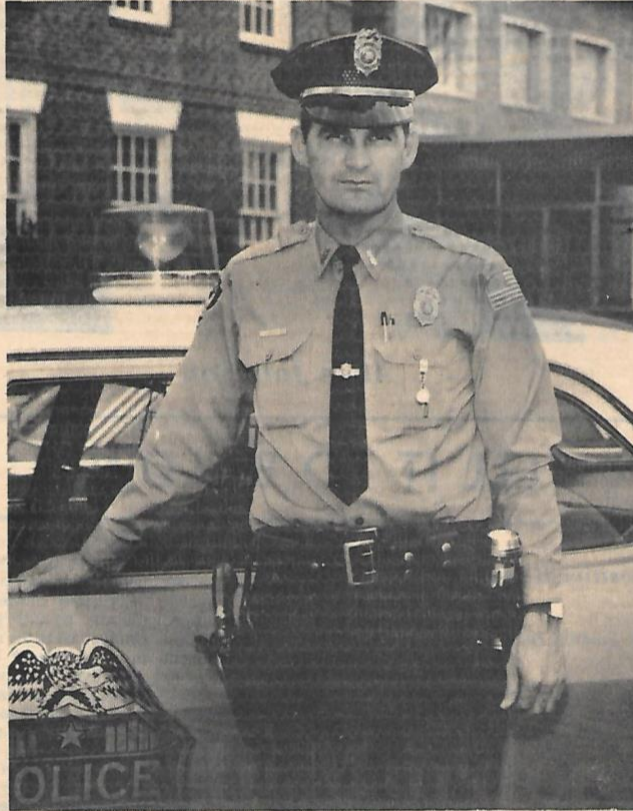
Lt. McDowell, who said he became a police officer to help people, says "I have a job to do and just have to do it the best I know how."

Besides the usual police work and investigating work he does, Lt. McDowell also worked with the juveniles on the side before a juvenile officer came on the force. He says for the large majority, the young people are very good and Bay Minette has no juvenile problem.

Young said the primary reason Lt. McDowell was chosen for the award was his off-duty work with the juveniles. He volunteered to work as a probation officer, Young said.

Before joining the police department, Lt. McDowell worked in the civil service. He joined the Air Force in September, 1951 and was discharged in 1955.

He is married to Betty Joyce Presley and they have two daughters, Deborah Sue Stevens and Donna Lynne, and a son



Police Lt. Alex McDowell



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Post Office Box 2128
Mobile, Alabama 36601
October 29, 1971

Lieutenant Alec McDowell
Bay Minette Police Department
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Lieutenant McDowell:

Special Agent Allison A. Catlin has advised me of the facts concerning the breakin of the Fort Beveridge Armory, Bay Minette, Alabama, on October 17, 1971, and the excellent manner in which you conducted investigation which resulted in the identification of the persons responsible for this breakin.

I appreciate very much the assistance you have given this office in the past and I want to thank you for this assistance.

Mr. William R. Favre, Jr., Assistant U. S. Attorney, Southern District of Alabama, felt that the prosecution of the two persons responsible for this burglary would be better handled by local authorities in view of the age of one of the defendants and in view of this, he felt the case could not be prosecuted in Federal Court.

I again wish to thank you and if I can be of any assistance to you please feel free to call upon me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Russ Franck".

Robert Russ Franck
Special Agent in Charge

Letter of Appreciation From FBI-1971



ROBERT R. SCOTT
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
Birmingham, Alabama

September 20, 1977

Mayor Dollie Bryars
City Hall
Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

Dear Mayor Bryars:

In May 1977, a bombing incident investigation in Bay Minette was successfully closed when James Leo Miller was arrested and charged with the bombing.

I wish to express my appreciation for the assistance and cooperation of the Bay Minette Police Department and, particularly, the individual efforts of Detective Alex McDowell, Jr. The City of Bay Minette is fortunate to have a dedicated employee such as Detective McDowell.

We in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms look forward to the continuation of a fine working relationship with the Bay Minette Police Department.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Robert A. Scott

Robert R. Scott
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Chief of Police, Bay Minette, Alabama
Detective Alex McDowell, Jr.

July 30, 1980

John C. Trough
Chief of Police
Bay Minette Police Department
P.O. Box 770
Bay Minette, AL 36570

Chief Trough:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank your department's efforts and cooperation and especially Lt. Alex McDowell, Jr. for the solving of eighty (80) burglaries and theft of property cases in the southern area of Alabama. Through their help and coordination we have cleared 23 cases in the city of Mobile and have recovered several thousand dollars worth of property.

Through these efforts of cooperation among the Law Enforcement Agencies we can combine our efforts in combating crime. Working together in a spirit of dedication, no problem should be too big for us to overcome.

Thank you again and please feel free to call upon this department at any time we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

DONALD M. RIDDLE
Chief of Police

DMR/RR/nm

CC: Lt. Alex McDowell, Jr.

Thank You Letter for Solving Eighty Burglaries-1980



NORTH BALDWIN HOSPITAL

1815 Hand Avenue P.O. Box 1409 Phone 937-5521
Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

J. C. A. H.
Accredited

October 27, 1989

Mr. Alex McDowell
CHIEF OF POLICE
P. O. Box 1208
Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

Dear Mr. McDowell:

This is just to let you know how much we appreciate your efforts in helping us establish our ambulance service here at North Baldwin Hospital.

We hope to provide the best ambulance service available anywhere and with people like you helping us, we can do just that.

Also, we would like to thank you for the cooperation we receive from your police officers who have helped us many times during the year and the quick response we get when we call your department. Thanks once again.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Farrow
ADMINISTRATOR

GF:dw

Letter of Appreciation for Establishing Ambulance Service-1989

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1990

Dear Chief McDowell:

Congratulations on your retirement as Chief of the Bay Minette Police Department after 28 years in the field of law enforcement.

You can be very proud of your efforts to maintain law and order in your community. You have helped to provide a place in which your fellow citizens are able to live, work, and play, secure in the knowledge that you and your colleagues are ensuring their safety. I know that this has often involved great risk and sacrifice for you personally, and I cannot commend you more highly.

Barbara joins me in thanking you for a job well done and in sending our best wishes for every future happiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Bush", written in a cursive style.

Chief Alec McDowell, Jr.
Bay Minette Police Department
Bay Minette, Alabama