

C. W. Bill Porter

Was Sheriff in 1963 to 1984

Date of Birth: February 22, 1921

Place of Birth: Durham, North Carolina

After attending schools in North Carolina, Mr. Porter enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and served for twenty years, retiring as an Aviation Electrician Chief.

Upon retiring from the U.S. Navy, Mr. Porter became a Special Agent, working narcotics and vice for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Porter worked directly for the Director of the OSBI during his tenure with the OSBI.

Mr. Porter was elected to the office of Cleveland County Sheriff in 1962 and took office in January 1963. He has been re-elected seven times since 1963. Two times Mr. Porter was re-elected without opposition, which was a record for Cleveland County, Oklahoma.

Awaiting to assume the duties of Sheriff, Mr. Porter was an investigator for the District Attorney's Office in Norman, Okla.

News article about Mr. Porter below.

Porter receives service award

By JANE CANNON
Of The Transcript Staff

The Oklahoma Crime Commission presented Sheriff C.W. Bill Porter a Meritorious Service Award Tuesday for his "dedication and service to the criminal justice system."

Tuesday's award was only the third such award ever presented by the state crime commission.

On receiving the honor, awarded jointly by the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, Porter said: "I'm awed, honored and humbled, but not speechless. I guess I'm never speechless."

The sheriff said today he did not know he had been nominated for such an award but learned Tuesday that Ada professor and former program representative for the Criminal Justice Services, David Wilson, had submitted a letter of nomination on his behalf earlier this year.

Wilson, who teaches at East Central State University, met Porter last year when he conducted a special study on the Cleveland County Jail.

In his letter of nomination, Wilson said, "perhaps Porter's greatest contribution to Oklahoma is the example he sets for our other law enforcement administrators and officers."

Wilson cited Porter, who is entering his 20th year of continuous service as sheriff, for "the vigor and complete dedication that he has."

"It is truly remarkable," Wilson continued. "In the past few years I have met a lot of good people who are striving to serve the people of Oklahoma through their careers in law enforcement. Nowhere have I seen anyone who gives more. . ."

Porter, he said, "has the ability to work with all

groups and knows no difference in race, color or socio-economic standing. I am lucky to know him, and the people of Cleveland County and the state are lucky to have him serving them."

Porter retired from the U.S. Navy in 1960 after serving a little more than 20 years. During the last few years of his military career, he served as chief of shore patrol and criminal investigation at Oklahoma City.

Following his retirement he entered civilian law enforcement as an undercover vice officer and agent for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

In 1962, he served as the first criminal investigator in Cleveland County and was elected as sheriff in 1963.

A member of St. John's Episcopal Church, he is a lifetime member of the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Police Officers Association and has served as president and vice president of it. Currently, he is secretary and treasurer of the state organization.

Porter has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and on many occasions before both houses of the Oklahoma Legislature on matters concerning law enforcement. He also currently serves as the principal instructor at the new Sheriff's School at the Law Enforcement Training Center.

Only two other persons have ever received the crime commission's Meritorious Service Award. They are Robert Lester, an aide to Gov. George Nigh and former commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, and K.O. Rayburn, director of law enforcement training for the state.