

1956

## August Vollmer--1876-1955

Ordway Hilton

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# POLICE SCIENCE

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AUGUST VOLLMER

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1876-1955

August Vollmer's sudden death on November 4, 1955, comes as a shock to all who knew him and his work. His passing is a distinct loss to the modern science of policing to which he contributed so much. His pioneering methods as a police chief, police administrator, and educator, and his thorough training and indoctrination of subordinates and student officers, as well as his numerous technical articles and books have led to significant progress in the police field. The rare combination of all these contributions from one man marked August Vollmer as an outstanding figure during a critical period of police history.

Those who were privileged to know Chief Vollmer personally saw him not only as a professional man of great stature, but also as a unique personality. They recall his aptitude as a conversationalist, his capacity to make friends, his wide range of interests from music and art to the technical problems of the police laboratory, his insatiable intellectual curiosity, his ability as a public speaker, and his willingness to help the many who came to him with their problems. In the words of one who knew him best, "The Chief" was a "truly complete man."<sup>1</sup>

We would be remiss at this time if we did not acknowledge August Vollmer's contributions to the growth and development of this Journal. From March 1917 until his death he was at first an Associate Editor and more recently a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. In all he published eleven leading articles besides numerous editorials, current notes, and book reviews.

August Vollmer will long be remembered for the great impetus he gave to progressive police administration in this country during the last fifty years. We can be thankful we had such a leader and pioneer during this period of change and development.

ORDWAY HILTON

<sup>1</sup> O. W. Wilson, Dean of the School of Criminology at the University of California in his biographical sketch of Chief Vollmer in volume 44 of this Journal at pp. 91-104 (1953).