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# John Bornhorn, ex-Covington police chief

John J. Bornhorn, who served more years as chief of Covington police than anyone else, died Saturday at Ridgeview Nursing Home following a long illness.

Bornhorn, of 800 Highland Ave., Covington, was 76.

He served more than 31 years on the department, 17 as chief.

After joining the department on June 24, 1937, Bornhorn served seven years on the motorcycle patrol. He was promoted to lieutenant on Dec. 18, 1945, and became chief on Jan. 7, 1952.

One of the highlights of Bornhorn's administration came during its early months when he supervised the confiscation and destruction of 666 slot machines.

During Bornhorn's tenure as chief, the department increased from 70 men to 91. He created the traffic department as a separate unit of the department. The Bureau of Identification was enlarged and modernized and the manpower in the detective division was increased from six to 12.

Also during those years, parking meters were installed throughout the city and the K-9 corps, with two police dogs, was created. He also was credited with introducing radar as a means to combat speeding.

But Bornhorn was especially proud of his record on sponsoring special training for department members. Several department members gained special traffic supervision training and three attended the academy.

"We had only two two-wheel motorcycles to control speeding and traffic when I joined the force," Bornhorn said in a 1969 interview with *The Kentucky Post*.

Bornhorn retired in March 1969, due in part to recurrent back and neck ailments.

He was succeeded by Chief Ralph A. Bosse. Two other chiefs have followed: Lyle Schwartz and present Chief Art Heeger.

Survivors: two brothers, Robert (Ben) Gwynne and Paul Newburgh, Ind., sister, Mrs. Ruth Due, Edgewood.

Burial was this morning at Mother of God Cemetery, Latonia.