

50 years public service

Security captain celebrates

By Roman McCloskey
Of the Emerald

Today Capt. Oakley Glenn, director of Campus Security, celebrates a 50 year law enforcement career that has taken him to faraway places such as Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore. But he's protected the public closer to home at Hood River and of course Eugene. Glenn, at 70 years old, is obviously not a typical career man who found a comfortable niche to dig roots in early in life.

Glenn began his career in 1935 on a Marine Corps assignment in Guam. Fourteen years later, Glenn came to work for the Eugene Police Department. At the EPD he established and commanded the scientific crime lab, which attempts to identify criminals by examining evidence left at the scene of a crime. Glenn came to the University in 1970, and since then he has helped many students deal with the psychological trauma of being crime victims.

"Before he hit the scene, they (the University) didn't have a security department per se. Now it's respected throughout the state," said Richard Tanner, associate director of Campus Security since 1972. "A lot of other organizations are patterned after us."

To help stem crime, Glenn has stationed emergency intercoms along the main pedestrian routes on campus. The intercoms are large metallic posts that resemble fire hydrants and have "push to talk" printed on them.

"We're the only school I know of that has a direct intercom system. Other schools have phones (that relay emergency messages through switchboards), but those are subject to vandalism. Our intercoms are vandal proof and weather proof," Glenn said.

'Even though you're meeting people under adverse conditions, you can lend that little extra helping hand that makes a difference in peoples' lives.'

— Capt. Oakley Glenn

Another program implemented under Glenn's tenure is the free escort service for students begun this fall by Campus Security in conjunction with University Housing. Currently, security officers escort between 950 and 1,000 students a month.

Glenn says he tries to take an optimistic approach to what could be a negative environment



CAMPUS SECURITY

Capt. Oakley Glenn

where he daily works with the victims of a variety of crimes. "I like to have a little fun every day," he said.

"Even though you're meeting people under adverse conditions, you can lend that little extra helping hand that makes a difference in peoples' lives," he added. "You can make your outlook a positive one that'll help the situation."

Glenn recalled an incident when an elderly woman recognized him and thanked him for helping her and her husband cope with the burglarizing of their home.

Glenn didn't remember the investigation, but the woman addressed him as "sergeant." Since he hadn't held that rank for 25 years, he figured it had been awhile.

After many years of travel, Glenn came to Eugene and decided to settle down. "I'm going to put down roots. I'm going to stay, and this is going to be my home," he said.

Now content and settled with his family in Eugene, Glenn can reminisce about his overseas adventures, one of which found him following Marco Polo's route along the Grand Canal in China.

With an aerial photograph of Eugene behind him and the University prominently circled, Glenn is convincing when he says, "I enjoy working at the University of Oregon. I enjoy my contacts with students. They're the reason I'm here."

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