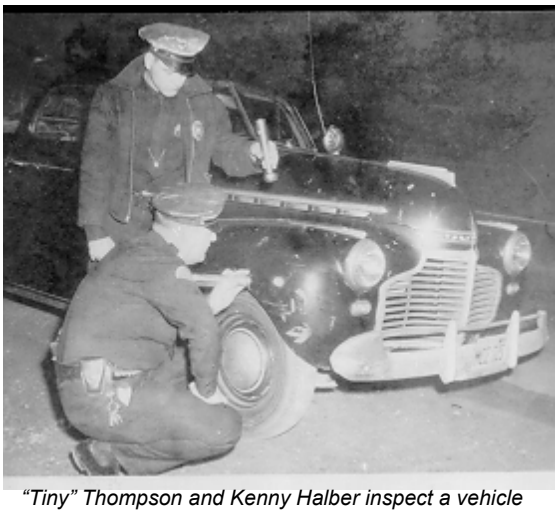
TPD History in 1930's – 1940's

Officer W. Malin and motorcycle

1946

Officer W. Barnett poses beside a new patrol car



"Tiny" Thompson and Kenny Halber inspect a vehicle

"Our Gang" stars, filming in Torrance, pose on TPD motorcycle

In 1938, upon Jerry Calder's retirement, a Torrance officer named **John H. Stroh** was promoted to Chief of Police. Shortly after his appointment, Chief Stroh was also given administrative responsibility for the Fire Department and re-titled Director of Public Safety. This experiment lasted nearly a year, at which time Stroh reverted to Chief of Police. Chief Stroh was the first to recognize the need for formal police training in Torrance. In 1947, he received approval from the City Council to send newly hired officers to a two week FBI "Rookie School." Chief Stroh is also credited with instituting the rank of Policewoman in 1950. The City continued to grow during John Stroh's sixteen years as Chief and the Department expanded to keep pace.