

Harold Charles Ewald, Deputy Sheriff

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

1949 to 1970

Harold Ewald would always say, *"If you are good to people they will be good to you no matter what happens."* He embraced this philosophy throughout his life.

Harold Charles Ewald was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 1st 1912. Growing up in Detroit he attended Cass Tech High School. He worked in manufacturing jobs and owned his own gas station. He also worked as a Fee Deputy for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. While successful at whatever he did, Harold received the most satisfaction as a Sheriff's Deputy because he enjoyed interacting with people. He loved his job.

One of his assignments was to staff the Willow Run Village station on Stamford Road in Superior Township. The village was built to house workers at the Willow Run Bomber Plant during World War II and continued to operate after the war. The village had three thousand apartments with a movie theater a barber shop, and government office. When working as a Deputy, Harold would drop his daughters off at the theater to see a movie telling the manager, *"Keep an eye on my girls."*

Harold enjoyed fishing, bowling and family activities. When he owned his gas station he would close early on Saturday to take his family to the lake. Other times he and his family would go to the Michigan Theater to see a movie, and then go to the State Theater to see another movie all on the same night. He and his wife Jean also enjoyed socializing and playing cards with his partner Frank Crampton and Frank's wife Margaret.

Harold was a gentle person who never wanted to see anyone get hurt which resulted in being his children's parent of choice when they required discipline. His daughter Harriett would say, *"Dad was the one you wanted to deal with when you got into trouble. He was easy going and generous with us kids."*

Harold was described as being a good listener who did not have to have his own way. He was never cross and once you had him for a friend he always stood by you. He practiced his philosophy of doing good by giving bus fare money to released inmates, and for some he found jobs.

On January 19th 1970, Harold Ewald was riding with his partner Frank Crampton transporting a convicted murder to Jackson State Prison. The suspect escaped and in the process Frank Crampton was killed and Harold was wounded. He was commended for being heroic as he not only wounded the murderous prisoner, but continued to pursue him even though his weapon was empty due to an exchange of gunfire.

Harold's philosophy of doing good to others was demonstrated while he recuperated in the hospital as former inmates he had helped over the years came to visit him and wish him well.

Harold Ewald returned to work following the January 1970 incident because he loved his job. On December 8th 1970, while working as a Bailiff in the Juvenile Court, Harold Ewald died of a heart attack. His death was attributed to the injuries he sustained during the January 19th 1970 incident. He left behind a loving wife Jean and two daughters, Harriett and Gloria. He was a living example of the bible verse, *"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."* (Ecclesiastes 11:1)