

Founders of the Society

Ernie Hair Profiles Careers of Seven More Who Got Organization Launched 40 Years Ago

By Erwin P. Hair

Chairman of the Historical Committee
Colonel Francis X. Fay (1922-35), another man of great accomplishments, was also one of the Society organizers. In his Bureau career he served as SAC at Pittsburgh and New York, being at the latter office at the time the Lindbergh kidnaping case was solved by police agencies and the special squad of New York FBI Agents. Frank showed skill, ingenuity and leadership in the early 1930s when firearms training and the handling of cases under several new Federal criminal statutes required the development of new skills and investigative techniques.

Frank left the Bureau to become head of security for Macy's in New York, the largest department store in the world. He made a great reputation for success in this work and became a Macy Vice President. He was the first to use police dogs for night security patrols of the Macy store. He retired in 1965 after 30 years with Macy's and in 1973 was honored by the Stores Mutual Protective Association of New York and was named "Father of Retail Security" in America.

Tribute also was paid to Colonel Fay when he retired in 1958 from the U. S. Air Force Reserve with 34 years of service. During World War II he had many important military assignments, such as head of the New York Office of the Counter-intelligence Corps, U. S. Army. In 1953 he was promoted to full Colonel.

Much planning was necessary to get the Society going and Frank Fay was quite active and helpful in this connection. The Society had no office and no employees in the early years, and Frank performed much of the work necessary to get the Grapevine put together and mailed. This highly-respected veteran has been living in

Rowayton, Connecticut for the past 25 years.

Francis J. Kilmartin

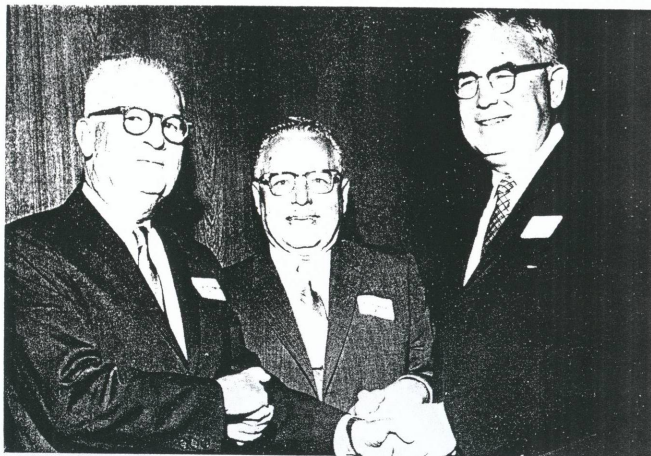
Francis J. Kilmartin (1920-36), was another of the New Yorkers who got the Society started. It has been reported that his main contribution was common sense. Another trait was probably secretiveness. The first Grapevine, in 1938, reported his marriage, and his associates felt that checking the marriage certificate would be the only way to find out how old he was.

Frank's Bureau service began as a stenographer under Charley Scully and Ed Brennan in the Bureau's New York City Office. His native ability, analytical mind and diligent application proved so helpful to Special Agents with whom he worked that he was promoted to Special Agent status. He became so expert in discussing the legal aspects of cases of which he worked that only those who knew his background were aware that he never attended law school.

He was "loaned" by the Bureau to the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Fiorello La Guardia, to supervise the investigation of Harry B. Anderson, U. S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, in 1929-30.

When Kilmartin left the Bureau it was to become the right hand man of Frank Fay at Macy's. Later, on one of the occasions when Fay was being honored, he gave credit to the men working with him. He had particular praise for Kilmartin, and said "I can never thank Frank enough for sticking with me all those years despite the many offers he had to go elsewhere."

Kilmartin has not been active in Society affairs in recent years but in the early days he served as clerk of the Executive Committee, and also



Francis J. Kilmartin (left), and Francis X. Fay (center), are pictured with Macy's Vice President O'Neil on the occasion of Fay's retirement as Director of Security at the Macy stores. Kilmartin and Fay are among the founders of the Society.

as a member of the Membership Committee.

Frank left Macy's shortly before Fay did, but he didn't retire. In recent years he has been working with the real estate and insurance office of Society member William J. Higgins Jr. at Hillsdale, N. J. Perhaps this work will keep the young man out of mischief while at work in New Jersey or during Winter residence in Florida.

John L. Haas

John L. Haas (1917-30), supplied extensive background information to the deliberations of the founders. The first Grapevine, in reporting of his illness at his New York City home, said that his specialty was in fighting battles as a soldier of fortune in the Central and South American republics. The article stated "John is reputed to have more notches in his gun than any Agent past or present." He had been commended for his work as police chief in a city in Puerto Rico, and for 13 years he was Chief Deputy Marshal of Puerto Rico.

John was 47 years old when he

became a Bureau Agent, and much of his work was in Puerto Rico. He also worked in three offices of the Bureau in the East, mainly on investigations of espionage and radical activities. When foreign officials were visiting this country, John was sometimes assigned as a personal bodyguard. Marshal Foch of France was one of these officials, and he was so impressed by John that he made him a member of the French Military Police.

In spite of his severe illness, John attended the Society dinner in New York on September 16, 1938, but died on the 25th of that month, at the age of 69.

Charles J. D. Noble

Charles J. D. Noble (1917-20), was credited with contributing experience to the meetings of the organizers. Prior to his Bureau service he had practiced law, having an office in New York City and another in Staten Island. He resided in Staten Island most of his life.

In the Bureau, Charlie was as-

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John L. Haas



John A. Brann

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signed to the New York Office and worked on some important cases during World War I. He worked on one of the first big cases under the National Prohibition Act. Part of the time he was on special assignment to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer.

After leaving the Bureau, Charlie resumed the practice of law, but found that his health required more outdoor work. He switched to operating a dairy farm much of the time until he died in 1941. Charlie was quiet, unassuming, and friendly, and was described by one of his contemporaries as "everybody's friend."

John A. Brann

John A. Brann (1918-30), contributed "boundless information" on that group of X-Agents who were referred to as "old timers" during the Society's formative years. He had a penchant for "keeping tabs" on X-Agents and provided many an address of prospects for the membership in 1937. No doubt this was the accumulation of his 58 years as of 1937. That he was held in high regard is shown by the fact that he was made Vice President of the Society, not only under our first President, Charlie Scully, but also the second, A. Bruce Bielaski. He also served on various committees.

During his Bureau career of more than 11 years, he appears to have been assigned only at New York City.

Subsequently, he practiced law for many years in New York, and was active in his representation of ASCAP, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. This brought him into frequent contact with Bureau personnel. In the middle 1950s he was listed as retired and residing in Jersey City. He died in 1959.

Robert G. Reed

Robert G. Reed (1931-36), supplied initiative to the founders. He is given credit for originating a plan to provide a bulletin with home and business addresses of X-Agents so that an opportunity for the maintenance of contacts among the group could thus be provided.

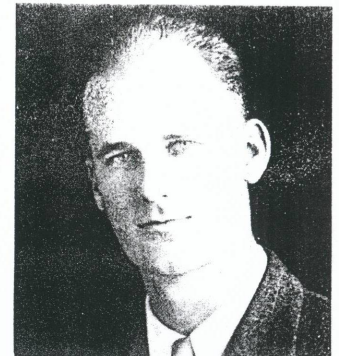
Wayne Merrick, in discussing this plan with Bob Reed and Bruce Nathan, decided that the formation of a Society of X-Agents would be a better plan. Bob assented and Wayne took it from there.

Joining the Bureau in 1931, Bob worked in offices at St. Paul, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Kansas City and Birmingham. He became quite well known and had many friends in the Bureau. He was an expert marksman and was a member of the FBI pistol team which competed in national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Bob left the Bureau in 1936 to become an attorney with the Security & Exchange Commission in New York City. Three years later he joined a firm of attorneys in Kansas City and remained there for a dozen years or



Michael Glynn



Matthew J. Horan

so. Then he was vice president of an investment company in Kansas City, and in similar positions with two firms in Philadelphia. Prior to his death in 1963 he had practiced law in Newtown, Connecticut for about two years.

Michael F. Glynn

Michael F. Glynn (1930-35), is credited with contributing caution to the founding group. He was born in Ireland, and after completing college in Dublin, came to this country and worked for a railroad in Chicago. At the same time he got his legal education at the night Law School classes of Loyola University in Chicago, and then joined the FBI. He worked in Bureau offices at Omaha, New York, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Chicago.

At the New York office Mike supervised, quite successfully, the investigation necessary to effectuate the Government's 1933 recall of gold coins and currency. Later he was a member of the squad that worked on the Midwest criminals, such as John Dillinger, and he was one of the Agents at the Biograph Theater when Dillinger was shot and killed in July 1934.

As did some of his New York friends, Mike left the Bureau to join the team of Thomas A. Dewey who achieved national fame as a prosecu-

tor. When Dewey became District Attorney of New York County, he appointed Mike as the assistant chief investigator. Mike also worked a couple of years in the intelligence unit of the Army Air Force, following which he became chief investigator under District Attorney Frank S. Hogan, following John O'Connell in that job.

In 1947, Mike was made vice president and operating director of the Stores Mutual Protective Association in New York City. This required him to confer frequently with Fay and Kilmartin at Macy's. He held this position for 19 years, then retired because of failing health. He died early in 1970.

In a memorial tribute to Glynn, his good friend, John F. O'Connell told of the excellent work done by Mike on various committees during the early years of the Society. He said Mike served "with such distinction as would have qualified him for national office, had not his aversion to the limelight signified his reluctance to serve in that capacity."

Matthew J. Horan

Matthew J. Horan (1934-35), must have had an important part in the formation of the Society, as his contribution was logic. His name appeared in the first Grapevine as one

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Louisville Chapter Elects New Officers; Annual Outing Held at Butler State Park

Chairman George Hutchison presided at his last monthly luncheon meeting of the Louisville Chapter at Masterson's Restaurant on August 5 when the following new officers were elected:

Charles E. Ricketts Jr., Chairman; William L. Hornback Jr., Vice Chairman; and Thomas F. Kellerman, Secretary-Treasurer.

Ricketts began his duties as Chairman at the Chapter's annual outing which was held on September 16 to 18 at the Butler State Park.

Guests at the luncheon meeting included SAC Benjamin Cooke who recently succeeded SAC Stan Czarnecki in the Louisville FBI Office, ASAC Robert Pence, FBI Inspectors Edwin Enright and Edward Heggerty, Gale Hotopp, son of Harold Hotopp, a project engineer with Phillips Petroleum in London, England; former SA Gene Reis, and John Morton of the Kentucky Department of Justice.

Members present were Junius Beaver, B. C. Brown Lyman Chipman, Robert Domalewski, Marvin Evans,

James Hathaway, Jesse Hornback, Les Hornback, Harold Hotopp, William Hunter, Seamans Jones, Thomas Kellerman, Addison Kincaid, Charles Lutes, Nelson Perry, Robert Peters, Charles Ricketts, Warren Walsh and George Hutchison.

WILLIAM L. HORNBECK JR.
Secretary

Blue Grass Chapter

A luncheon meeting of the Blue Grass Chapter was held July 29 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Lexington, Kentucky. Plans were discussed for a "shoot-out" in October and members were urged to contribute to the Legal Defense Fund. Each member contributed \$1 to the X-FBI Foundation. Election of officers will be conducted at the next regular meeting.

Attendees were Tom O'Shaughnessy, Arthur Rouse, Harmon Bach, Joe Mooney, Grover Thomson, Ed Hays, Charles Sither and Joe Foster.

JOE W. FOSTER, Secretary

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of several former Agents employed under Wayne Merrick in the Claims Bureau of the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives.

During World War II Matty served in Naval Intelligence and while in the service contracted pneumonia from which he died.

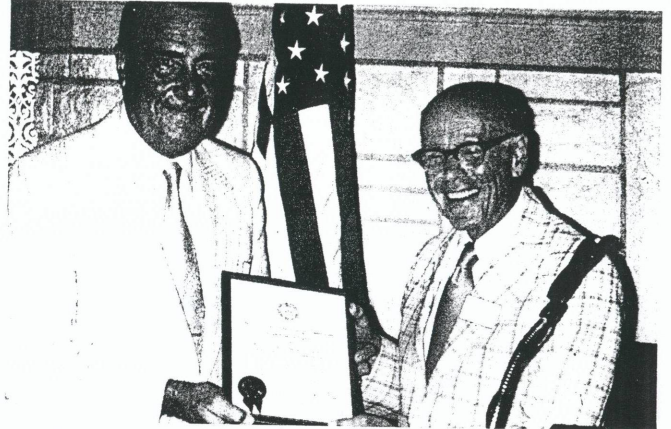
He was small in build but tall in spirit. He had an inquiring and objectively oriented mind; he always demanded the whys and wherefores before he accepted the views of others. He could be persuaded but only by logical exposition.

Matty entered the Bureau in the class of September 24, 1934, and many of our well known Society members were also in that class. His service of one year was in the Philadelphia office.

The founders of the Society were men of distinction, and we owe much to them. Their surviving relatives must be proud of them for many reasons.

Mrs. Madge Merrick has told of a "widows group" which, although scattered, meets occasionally. Others in the group include Angie Glynn, Sue Manning, (now Sue Lind), and Elva Moran. Some of them will be visiting Madge at her Kansas City home at the time of the Heart of America Convention. Let's hope they visit the Crown Center Hotel there so we can say hello and extend our best wishes to them.

Editor's Note: This is the second of two articles by Ernie Hair, with the assistance of John F. O'Connell, on the founders of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. The first appeared in the September Grapevine.



Chairman Harold M. Perry (left) of the Gulf Coast Chapter, receives the official charter from Southeast Vice President Bennett Hirsh. Perry is a past National President of the Society.

Charter Night Ceremonies Held For New Gulf Coast Chapter

The new Gulf Coast Chapter at Sarasota, Florida received its official charter from National President James L. McGovern and Southeast Vice President Bennett Hirsh at a dinner meeting at the beautiful Sarasota Bay Country Club on July 30.

Harold M. Perry, Chairman, received the charter and also presented his fellow officers, Dave Maas, Vice Chairman; Richard Harrison, Secretary, and Max Bayard, Treasurer.

More than 50 persons attended the charter night affair and heard talks by McGovern, Hirsh and SAC Phil McNiff of the Tampa FBI Office.

McGovern reviewed his busy year as Society President and urged continued support of the Hoover Memorial and the Special Agents Legal Defense Funds. SAC McNiff talked on "The FBI Today."

A social hour preceded the dinner and business meeting.

Those in attendance included Hal and Margaret Perry, Jim and Bea McGovern, Dave and Nudi Maas, Joe and Agnes Ziel, Dick Harrison and Laura Worth, Bob and Sandy Dwyer, Caleb and Cathryn Batten, Bennett and Cele Hirsh, RA Vince and Ronnie Saradel, Ray and Virginia Babb, Robert and Amie Smith, Michael and Jeanne Rozamus, John and Eugenia Madigan, Carroll and Lillian Doyle, William and Evelyn Miller, Lamar and Kathryn Hazen, Andrew and Margaret Stertzer, James and Beth Miller, Robert and Suzanne Bevis, Kermit and Ruth Johnson, George and Marilyn Knight, Don and Jean Strobeck, George and Juanita Peet, Max Bayard, Joe and Lorraine Sargis, George and Marge Allen.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held in October.

HAROLD M. PERRY, Chairman