

First African-American Police Officers



African-American John Joyce was joined by George Dillahunt in 1944. Both were placed in the uniform division, but still had power of arrest only in the black section. Four more African-Americans would join within two years. Dillahunt left after only nine months.



NATHANIEL W. SMITH of 732 West 26th Street was appointed a police officer with the local department on Nov. 16. Officer Smith was graduated from Atkins High School and attended A. and T. College in Greensboro.

SUNDAY, FEB. 4, 1944 WINSTON-SALEM

Police Chief Asks Public To Co-operate With New Men

GEORGE DILLAHUNT
JOHN J. JOYCE

Chief of Police Gold stated recently that he would appreciate the co-operation of the Winston-Salem citizens in assisting the new uniformed Negro policemen, George L. Dillahunt and John J. Joyce, in the performance of their duties. "These men have been placed for service to the community and will assist people with their problems and will work for law enforcement." In discussing the matter further he said, "I have confidence in them and in their ability to do a good job."

Police Officer Joyce, who has been serving the city as special duty officer in plainclothes, since October 1, 1941, served from 1933 to 1941 as superintendent of the Juvenile Detention Home. Prior to that time he was in real estate business and had taught in the Forsyth County school system. He is a graduate of the agriculture department of A. & T. College. As a member of the community he is a member of the St. Andrews Methodist Church, the Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Y. M. C. A. and the Elks Lodge. He and his wife live at 839 Moravia Street.

When asked about his uniform he said "I like it and I think it will be effective in performing my duty."

Officer Dillahunt is a member of the St. Mark Lutheran Church and the Y. M. C. A. He was formerly employed at the P. H. Hanes Knitting Mills. He and his wife and two children live at 1435 Wallace Street. His father, the late G. L. Dillahunt Sr., was cashier at the Safe Bus, Inc. In the course of the interview Dillahunt said, "I'm going to do my very best for the betterment of the community and the city as a whole."