



Myno Van Dyke

Newcastle

*Retired police detective
turned local history detective*

The first time I walked into the Newcastle Historical Society, there were two guys sitting there: Royal Lee and Ken Stephenson. I said “Hi, I’m Myno and I want to do some research on policing in Newcastle... Can I look up some information?” Ken looks at me and says “Yeah, what do you need to know?” I said “Well, are there any files I can look at?” and Ken taps his head. That was the only file. Ha ha.

Then he said, “If you want to find out more information, the first thing you do is go sign that book over there.” So I did. And I hand him \$5 and he gives me a membership card. Within a year, I was president. That’s how it started for me... I became that old guy sitting at the table.

What I realized from my years there was that you didn’t learn from books. You didn’t learn from the files. You learned from the people that walked in the door.

There are all these stories, you absorb these things over a period of years. I made a point of being there. I sat in that room for 25 years, on Tuesdays and Saturdays because I didn’t want to miss out on anything.

