

1998 Recipient of the Dr. Lois-Higgins Grote Heritage Award
MAURINE BARKDOLL (BABE)



Maurine Barkdoll

Sun City (AZ) Sheriff's Posse



MAURINE BARKDOLL, born and raised in Illinois, went to Wheaton College for three years, then opted for a "Mrs." degree.

Babe, as she is known, became a police matron-desk clerk and dispatcher in 1958, long before the title "policewomen" became current. She retired from the Broadview (IL) P.D. in 1977 and moved to Sun City, Arizona.

Babe's first IAWP Conference was in Wisconsin in 1969, where she met Mary Rita Ostrander. Since then she has missed only two IAWP Training Conferences, Birmingham, England in 1996 and Dallas, Texas in 1997.

In Arizona, Babe and Nate, her husband of 60 years, joined the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City in September 1977.

Babe still works for the Posse. Her duties include solo patrol and duty officer on the night shift. According to Babe, the Posse isn't "kiddie kop" stuff. To back up her statement she sent along an impressive booklet she put out as Commander of the Posse in 1983.

Although Babe opted not to go "up the chairs" of the IAWP, she is definitely active. She was the Executive Director for President Rosie Mason, served as Sergeant-at-Arms and Ways and



Babe and Nate, married for 60 years. You can reach them by e-mail at nob322@juno.com

Means Chair, and did all the IAWP mailings for President Lois Higgins in 1972. She was also the Recording Secretary under President Felicia Shpritzer in the early '70s. Now she serves the IAWP as a Board of Trustees member.

Besides serving on the Posse, Babe stays busy recording books for the blind and keeping in touch with her two sons, seven grandchildren and, at this writing, four (and a half) great-grandchildren.

Arletta Stickley, IAWP newsletter editor for many years, wrote of Babe: "She was always there to encourage and lead; an inspiration to the younger officers and a guiding light for the more experienced ones.

Babe showed us all that being a woman and a wife did not preclude being a good police officer."

To Babe Barkdoll, from all of us, thank you for being a leader and mentor. ★

