

Company to John S. Horan 400

'Big Al' Sicking Will Quit Police Department

Mayor Kiel's Double Who Won Many Medals for His Numerous Arrests, Athletic Prowess on Force 16 Years.

"Big Al" Sicking, Mayor Kiel's double, and said to be the most consistent winner of medals on the police force, yesterday gave his resignation to the Police Board after sixteen years of service in various districts throughout the city.

Big Al, who is known outside the department as Albert W. Sicking of 2910A Keokuk street, is one of the tallest patrolmen in the city. He is 6 feet 4 inches in height and weighs about 250 pounds without his medals.

Before being appointed a patrolman he won a medal and the championship of Missouri in heavyweight boxing. He was then 19 years old and weighed 196 pounds. He was appointed in 1899 and assigned to a beat in the "bad lands" on the Levee.

Some of Big Al's medals were awarded for arrests he made. Others were for rowing and athletic events in the department. Four gold medals were given by the Western Rowing Club, Sicking having been a member of the winning team in the annual races. The Lump plate, Faust loving cup and Busch loving cup, which were awarded in these events, also have graced his home at various times.

In 1899 the team of which Sicking was a member established the record time in this country for rowing one and one-half miles upstream. The contest was held on the Mississippi at Cairo, Ill.

Sicking in 1908 captured John Thorton, who killed Patrolman Ceno Fuls of the Laclade Avenue Station. For this arrest he was decorated at the annual grand review of the Police Department held in October of that year.

With the introduction of jiu jitsu in the Police Department, Sicking was made an instructor. In his entire career he has never been injured, although he has been fought by many persons who objected to being arrested.


After the capture in 1902 of five ex-convicts who were robbing a silk store, Sicking was nicknamed "Mitta," because he fought the burglars without resorting to the use of his club or revolver. This name stuck to Sicking until he was transferred to beats in the residence section of the city.

The police record of his arrests fill seven books. He now is walking a beat on Gravois road in the Seventh District. He was stationed in the residential districts after his marriage in 1912.

Big Al, whose stature and features have been the cause of his being mistaken for Mayor Kiel when in citizen's clothes, will walk his beat until February 1. Although he has never appeared before the Police Board or received a demerit mark, he said he would quit the force because he was offered a better opportunity in a business of his own. He will conduct a saloon.

Large Attendance Planned.

Tomorrow will be observed as "Every Member Present" Sunday in Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Sixteenth and Pine streets. At 10:45 o'clock a service will be held, at which old hymns will be sung and inspirational talks given. In the evening the pastor, Rev. Dr. C. W. Tadlock, will preach on "The Perfect Ideal of Service."



ALBERT SICKING

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