

From LoDo to the Dam

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Former Valley Cop Writes Book About 1960s Police Scandal And His Life Before, During And After Prison

by Laura Lieff

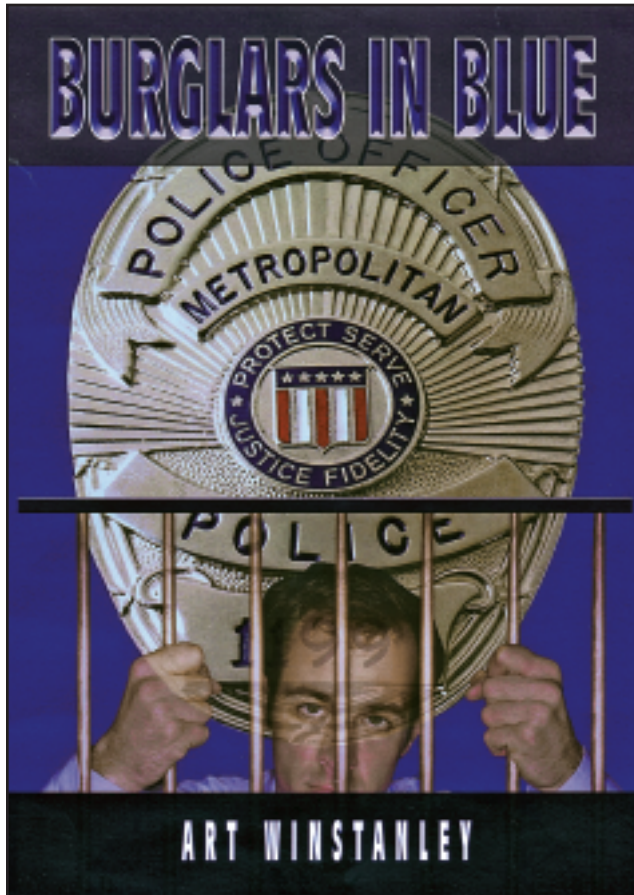
The Cherry Creek Valley's most notorious former police officer and safecracker, Art Winstanley, tells all in his new book *Burglars In Blue*. Winstanley's book gives a blow-by-blow account of his early life, his time in the Denver Police Academy and on the Denver Police Force, his time in prison (both times), his bout with alcoholism, his attempt to get his life back together and everything in between.

As part of the largest case of police corruption of any law enforcement agency in United States history, Winstanley was one of 53 arrested and one of the 45 police officers to go to prison for taking part in years of burglaries as a Denver police officer. Winstanley was the first Denver police officer arrested and the first to be sentenced to the State Penitentiary in Cañon City where he served time for a total of seven years; from 1962 to 1964 the first time and then from 1965 to 1970 the second time.

In the beginning of the book, Winstanley makes it clear that "no names were changed to protect the innocent or guilty" and that "no attempt was made to deceive the reader or embellish the facts." Winstanley explained that when he brought the manuscript to the publisher, *AuthorHouse*, they initially thought the story wasn't real.

Unbelievable Tale

Although Winstanley's book is riveting to the point of almost unbelievable, he says that it took a long time for him to get the nerve to write about his past. "Dredging up memories and regrets from the past has sometimes been difficult," he said. "However, writing it all down on these pages has been therapeutic for me."



Burglars In Blues begins with Winstanley's acceptance into the Denver Police Academy in December 1957. He was in his early 20s, already married (the first of several marriages) and was a father of a three-year-old girl, but admits early on that he was "far too immature to be married or to have children and certainly too immature to be a police officer."

Winstanley then goes back to his childhood and remembers his father as an alcoholic postal worker whom he was ashamed of and his mother as a kind woman he felt sorry for. He remembers himself as a kid who wanted to be in command and carry a gun. Nothing else was more important.

Crooked Capers

After going through the Police Academy and becoming a full-fledged cop, Winstanley's first experience with dishonesty in the police force was when he noticed police officers taking money out of a drunk's wallet. He explained that the practice of "rolling drunks" or picking up items at a burglary scene was common among many of the policemen and he wanted to be part of it.

"I don't think I ever decided to be a crooked cop, it was just a natural progression," noted Winstanley. "I was caught up in the camaraderie and the excitement. I never stopped to consider any of the moral repercussions. We were, after all, policemen; who is going to catch us?"

During his nearly three years with the Denver Police Department Winstanley was involved in almost 30 burglaries and participated either directly or indirectly with approximately a dozen other officers in burglaries or safe jobs. He pointed out that drinking played a huge role in

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Seminary Commons Portion Of Infinity Park To Include Lined Artificial Turf Rugby/Soccer Field

by Laura Lieff

Over the past five years, the City of Glendale has acquired most of the city block between South Cherry Street and South Birch that adjoins City Hall and *Infinity Park* Stadium Complex.

As originally envisioned, the area sometimes called Seminary Commons would be a park for the residents of Glendale and surrounding neighborhoods that is both grassed and flowered. Glendale has only three single family homes and thus Glendale residents, as well as nearby Denver residents who live in apartment houses and condominiums, greatly value parks and open space.

Glendale had applied to Arapahoe County Open Space funds for a grass field for rugby/soccer in 2005 which was intended as an integral part of the park when

games were not being played and indistinguishable from the rest of the park. However, a construction team headed by Councilman Mike Dunafon elected to change the original plan and make the field a permanently lined artificial rugby/soccer field with lights that could be used "24/7."

Public Opposes Artificial Lined Field

Chuck Bonniwell, publisher of the *Chronicle*, stood up as a private citizen during public comments at the February 3, 2009, Glendale City Council meeting and objected that not a single public meeting had been held to obtain any citizen input, that the Planning Commission had been bypassed and that the entire process was devoid of allowing the public to have any input and urged the Council to at least

have some minimum public process.

Mr. Dunafon in Council comments indicated that he had weekly construction meetings that should be deemed sufficient for Council or public comment. However, Councilmembers Steven St. James, LuVerne Davenport and Pat Opper requested that the Council be given information on what in fact was going to be done with Seminary Commons.

On February 17, a Council meeting was held which included a presentation by Don Brandes of Design Studios West. The presentation failed to mention that the field which would dominate the new park would be permanently lined artificial turf and would have light poles to illuminate the field at night.

Speaking as a member of the public, Mr. Bonniwell stated that many people in Glendale had worked for 15 years to bring this park to fruition with the intent that it would be a grass park for everyone. He said that a true park would create enormous synergies resulting in dramatically increased property values that would in turn generate funds to pay for future parks. Mr. Bonniwell went on to state that a permanently lined field with lights did not provide open space and was not the vision many had for Glendale. He also pointed out that neither the Planning Commission nor the City Council nor Glendale citizens had been given the opportunity to have input on any aspect of the park. He noted

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Scooters Rule! Scooter Power Hits The Road Across The Cherry Creek Valley

by Rebecca Allen

Scootin' its way into the mainstream, there is no stopping the scooter craze that has taken over the Cherry Creek Valley. With their sleek, candy-colored build resembling an alternative motorcycle, scooters have become increasingly popular for getting around the city in a quick and trendy way. Scooters come in all shapes and sizes and people of all ages can be found riding them.

From high school kids (who must be 16 years old with a driver's license) to 20-something kids trying to save money on gas to adults in their 60s who enjoy a leisurely ride through the city, everyone seems to be picking up on the trend. Even Colorado's local politicians are scooter friendly.

Colin Shattuck of *Sportique Scooters* pointed out the local political support scooters have earned as both Denver Mayor Hickenlooper and Englewood Mayor Jim Woodward have purchased scooters from Sportique stores. The company has four locations throughout Colorado including 4346 S. Broadway, 3211 Pecos Street and stores in Boulder and Colorado Springs.

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Vintage To Sporty: Scooters are taking the Cherry Creek Valley by storm and can be found in styles ranging from vintage to new sporty styles and everything in between.

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