The BEAT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

VOLUME LV No. 8
August 2009

DRADGET RETURNS ON A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Have you ever wondered where the term Dragnet came from? "It's actually a fishing term," stated Chief Bratton. As they would say put out the dragnet, gather them all up, round up all the usual suspects. The phrase *"Just the facts ma'am,"* probably was the most famous line in police history. Sgt. Joe Friday, played by Jack Webb, made it the most popular saying from 1951-1970. So it's kind of hard to use one word without the other.

On August 11, 2009 at the Los Angeles Police Academy the United States Post Office and the Los Angeles Police Department came together to honor the first released Dragnet stamp. The legendary stamp was one of 20 collectable stamps that paid tribute to early television shows. Bus loads of stamp collectors along with personnel from the police department and the post office came to participate in this special event.

The famous 714 badge worn by Sgt. Joe Friday was also made into a stamp, however it sold out within minutes. Actors Harry Morgan, Joe Friday's partner, and Kent McCord who starred in "Adam 12" were in attendance. Mr. McCord quoted from the complete directory to prime time television show, "Dragnet was probably the most successful police series in the history of television."

"By providing the prototype of the realistic action series, it marked a major turning point for a medium that had for its first few years been dominated by comedy and vaudeville. Dragnet's hallmark was its appearance of realism, from its documentary style narration by Joe Friday, to the cases drawn from the files of a real police department. Dragnet's legacy still resonates in departments throughout the world. Jack choose to make Joe Friday an ideal who's image set a high standard for those involved in Law Enforcement. "I know he would be very proud to have his image on a stamp commemorating Dragnet."

The stamp was a huge success and was offered for sale again a few days later at Parker Center.

"JUST THE FACTS MA'AM"