



LEAPS OF THOUGHT

Three Boys Missing Author Biography



Mr. James A. Jack was the first detective to speak with one of the father's of the missing boys on the night they disappeared, October 16, 1955. Over the past 50 years, he has been frequently quoted in and interviewed by television and print media regarding the Peterson-Schuessler murder case.

James was born and raised on the west side of Chicago, Illinois. During the depression, his father placed him and his brother into St. Joseph's Orphan Home for two years before his mother found and rescued them. At the age of 15, he dropped out of St. Mel's High School to join the U. S. Merchant Marines and serve in WWII. In 1950, he again joined the armed forces and served as a U. S. Marine during the Korean War. After completing active duty in 1954, he was assigned to the 33rd district as a probationary officer. Upon joining the police force, he became a member of the newly-founded three-wheel motorcycle division. After less than a year with the force, in 1955, he became the youngest promoted district detective in the Chicago Police Department. During Mr. Jack's 14--year tenure as a Chicago Detective, he received many accolades for his achievements and acts of bravery. He resigned from the force in 1968 to become the Director of Security for Bargain Town U.S.A. which was eventually bought out by Toys-R-Us. James retired from Toy-R-US after 25-years of service, as Manager of Security for the Midwest Region.

Mr. Jack was one of the few detectives to earn the highest award from the National Police Officers Association of America for the number of solved homicides. In 1977, he was appointed by the Governor of Illinois to serve on the Illinois Criminal Justice Council and was later appointed to the Illinois Juvenile Commission for seven years. James also served as the President of the Illinois Security Chiefs as well as a member of its board of directors for several years.