

History of Winston-Salem

John Gold *(information taken from city history compilations)*

John Gold was Winston-Salem's second City Manager (City of W-S photo)



John Gold 1951-1972: had served as an FBI agent, Chief of Police in Winston-Salem, and State Prison Director when he was appointed Winston-Salem's second City Manager. During Gold's 2-year tenure, the city's east-west and north-south expressways were completed. The Redevelopment Commission was founded which would change the face of low-income housing. The first women police officers were hired. Gold's trademark was his diplomatic guidance and team approach in solving urban problems. A physically tall and imposing man, it was his ability to command respect that made the city manager form of government successful in Winston-Salem. He served until his death at the age of 63 in October 1972.

Highlights 1944: City takes over New Evergreen Cemetery; One-way streets downtown suggested; bond referendum passes to build a new hospital; Blum Park given to City; John Gold named Chief of Police; City hires first African-American Police Officers. (note from 1972 news: All of the other Chiefs except John Gold had come up through the ranks. Gold was the local FBI agent when he was appointed.)

JOHN GOLD, CHIEF OF POLICE

Sept 12, 1944- Chief Thomas asked that his name be placed back on the retired list (31-215) Alderman Creech gives a warm and honorable series of remarks for the Chief. The Board then appointed John M. Gold as Chief. Gold, age 34, was an FBI agent assigned to Winston-Salem at the time. His name is listed in the appointments of Department Heads and City Officials for the next year (31-217).

BLACK POLICE OFFICERS DISCUSSED

December 12, 1944- The Aldermen discussed employing black police officers. (31-296) The Mayor stated that for some time the city had employed in the plainclothes division "...one or sometimes two Negroes." The Mayor pointed out that if and when these Negro police officers are employed, they will be assigned to the plainclothes division until their period of training has been completed and that at all time they will work exclusively in the Negro sections of the City, and their authority to do police work will be exclusively in the Negro section." He further stated that Negro police officers are employed in Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, and other North Carolina cities and that Winston-Salem needed the services of competent Negro Police Officers. Chief Gold stated that he thought employing Negro police officers now

would solve some of the post-war problems which will face the City and its citizens.

The first two Black officers were John Joyce who had operated the detention center for African-American boys since 1933 and George Dillahunt, a former jitney owner. Joyce had been on the police payroll for some time as a paid informant. Mayor Coan said that Joyce and other black officers that were to be hired would be assigned to the African-American sections of the city and he was quoted in the *Journal* as saying "...and their authority will be restricted to those sections." Black officers were not allowed to arrest white persons except for a capital offense or felony. Even in these instances they were requested to summon a white officer when practical. Black officers were provided separate facilities at City Hall.

CHIEF GOLD'S RESIGNATION

Aug 8, 1950- John Gold resigned to accept the position of Director of Prisons for the State of North Carolina. In summing up Gold's accomplishments as Chief, a newspaper article on August 20th listed increasing the department strength by 61 men; requirements of a 48-hour rookie school and a 12-hour in-service school; mandatory firearms in-service training; reducing the work week from 49 to 44 hours; \$8 pay raise for starting salary -- now \$200 a month; car to-car radios with an FM radio called "virtually static free"; increasing the size of the fleet to 19 cars and six 3-wheel motorcycles.

Highlights 1951: Bird Sanctuary created; City Manager fired; John Gold named new City Manager; ABC Stores approved; Tanglewood Park given to City.

JUNE 29, 1951 SPECIAL MEETING-REMOVAL OF CITY MANAGER (36-285)

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The real reason may have been Kurfees' and other Board members' fondness for former Police Chief John Gold. It's interesting that only 7 days later, Kurfees announced to the Board that Gold, then serving as NC Director of Prisons, had accepted the position of City Manager. (36-309)

Alderman Archie Elledge who had voted in favor of Perkins removal made the motion and recommended that Gold's salary be set at \$13,000.

Aug 3, 1951- New City Manager John Gold was acknowledged at the meeting. (36-414) Gold was Director of the N.C. Prison system when he accepted the City Manager job. He had served as Winston-Salem's Police Chief from 1943-1950. In the long run, it was an excellent decision considering the length of service and quality of leadership Gold brought to the job which he held until his death.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Dec 17, 1954- City Manager Gold presented a memo to the Board detailing the proposed training classes for City employees. (39-588) The list includes several courses for police and fire personnel as well as IBM calculator and "accounting machine" training, and "conference leading."

Jan 18, 1957- City Manager Gold reported that the Finance Committee had recommended that the Board seek legislation authorizing an increase in the General Fund Tax to a maximum of \$1.60 rather than the present maximum of \$1.50.(42-104) Currently the budget included \$1.50 for the General Fund, 10 cents for Debt Service and 35 cents for the school operating fund.

Highlights 1972: Public Safety concept implemented; Death of City Manager Gold; Orville Powell named new City Manager; City takes over Safe Bus Company; new City Garage approved.

GOLD DIED, ORVILLE POWELL NAMED CITY'S THIRD CITY MANAGER

John Gold died of a heart attack on October 29, 1972. Assistant City Manager Orville Powell was appointed City Manager on Nov 6. (80-335)