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Centenarian Saul Bashin, left, gets a birthday ride from BAHCC's Don Azevedo in his 1914 brass-era Model T Ford.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Model T Ride Drives Centenarian's Surprise

By Cathy Dausman

When Saul Bashin turned 100 Feb. 20, his life had come full circle, and what a ride it has been. The newly minted centenarian was back in the seat of a Ford Model T, much like the one he first learned to drive at age 12 in 1928. But the story gets better, because before Bashin drove his original Model T, he assembled it from spare auto parts lying in a bundle he spied at the side of a barn.

Bashin's son, Bryan, says his father paid \$12 for the parts near his Los Angeles home. He loaded them into a little red wagon, hauled them home and built a Model T. The elder Bashin was one of five children, and "a self-taught, scrappy young kid," said his son. He was born in New York; the family moved to LA in the early 1920s. At 19, Bashin moved to Detroit to soak up automotive knowledge. He worked in a

defense plant during World War II where he learned about drafting, aviation, and electromagnetic devices. Eventually he designed solar powered systems for satellites. Every step of the way the man was hands-on and self-taught. Even today, although hard of hearing, Saul Bashin remains "bright and connected," said his son.

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*per Public Records

Smile. Police Body and Car Cameras Are Rolling

By Cathy Tyson



Officer Michael Marshall points to his body camera. Photo C. Tyson

Pulled over by one of Lafayette's finest? Smile, because the police will now be recording the audio and high definition video of the incident.

All 22 of the Lafayette police officers are now outfitted with small body-worn video cameras to record interactions with the public. In addition, video cameras are installed in all police cars and will soon be coming to police motorcycles.

Although there are very few complaints, and those that are received are mostly from "outsiders," according to Chief Eric Christensen, the cameras protect the public, officers, and the city by recording what actually happened. "It changes the dynamic," says the Chief. "It's our insurance policy."

Cameras were approved last summer by the city council at a cost of \$75,000 and have been run through a series of tests since the fall. After thorough training, the police have been rolling the cameras since January. Each body-worn camera costs \$775 per unit, and roughly \$6,000 per police cruiser, in addition to a small amount for on-going data storage.

Technology makes the system very user-friendly. At the end of their shifts, officers download the day's interactions from their deck of cards-sized body camera onto a secure server in the office, where the information is kept for two years, tagged and sorted by date. Officers can look at the encounter, but cannot delete or change anything.

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