

THE COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL JOURNAL

A COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

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FIRST WATCH

THE HISTORY OF THE
SIERRA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT
THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

May 26, 1956 - May 26, 2006

by

David A. Santor
Chief of Police, Retired

THE COCHISE COUNTY Historical Journal

1001 D Ave.
P. O. Box 818
Douglas AZ 85608

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CCHS

Cochise County
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1001 D Ave.
P.O. Box 818
Douglas, AZ
85608
520-364-5226

e-mail:
cchsaz@earthlink.net

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the Past
for
The Future**

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Cover photo

courtesy of David A. Santor

The Sierra Vista Police Department was one of several functions housed in a new Town Hall facility sited at 400 Sherbundy Street in 1958.

Editorial Letter

Much has happened at CCHS since the last Journal. First, we mourn the loss of a deeply revered member — Mary Burnett Magoffin — a treasure (“with gumption”, it’s been reported) who truly earned her official designation as a Guardian of History. It could be said that if not “the backbone” of CCHS, Mary was definitely one of its most important vertebrae.

An active participant in CCHS Board meetings until near her passing, Mary helped accept a manuscript about the history of the Sierra Vista Police Department, compiled and written by retired Chief of Police, David Santor. Herein, we offer the first of two parts, to be concluded with the upcoming Fall/Winter issue. (Perhaps it will inspire other communities to offer such a history of their police and/or fire departments?)

Some new ideas that are being considered by CCHS were introduced while Mary was still with us. One is the free distribution of a newsletter, or ‘Minutes’, for all members with an e-mail address (members will be getting a letter about this very soon). Another is the reactivation of the ‘Young Historians’ in a way that may involve the granting of a scholarship. A third is the availability of a Speakers Bureau (currently one member, this editor, whose motto is “Have Car, Will Travel”).

Additionally, CCHS is working on a biographical Special Edition of the Journal to honor Mary Magoffin. Anyone who knew her may be able to help; anyone with pictures, anecdotes, or information is asked to contact CCHS either by postal mail (see inside cover) or by phone to Ethel Jackson Price at 520-417-9686.

Yes, there is much reason to ‘stay tuned’. Right now, however, you’re invited to simply grab a cup of coffee, a glass of iced tea, or just some clear, cool water...relax and read what David Santor has to say about the Sierra Vista Police Department.

— The Editorial Board

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT HUACHUCA

Any discussion of the history of Sierra Vista Police Department, or of the City itself for that matter, will usually begin with some mention of the history of Fort Huachuca. Actually, Fort Huachuca was called Camp Huachuca when it was established here in 1877.



At that time a detachment of the Army's Sixth Cavalry was assigned here to protect local cattle ranchers and the frontier settlements in the area against Indian and Mexican raiders. The nearest civilian settlements at that time were Tombstone and Charleston. So in realistic terms, early law enforcement in this area was provided by the military.

II. EARLY SIERRA VISTA

As Fort Huachuca became more firmly established, farmers, ranchers, miners, and merchants, began settling nearby, and the community which we now know as Sierra Vista was born. For many years, at least one section of this gateway community was known as "White City," but as early as 1915 the community, as a whole, was known as "Buena." Over the next few years, the town's name was changed several times. For example, Sierra Vista was briefly called "Overton" in honor of one of the area's early settlers who established a carriage and automobile shop here.

When a post office was established here on March 4, 1919, the community was called "Garden Canyon." William Carmichael, who along with his wife, Margaret, had settled here in 1910, became the community's first postmaster. Oliver Fry was another of the community's early permanent settlers and was a significant influence on area growth for many years. Oliver Fry succeeded Carmichael as Postmaster, and on April 1, 1937, the name of the town was changed to "Fry."

There are still unincorporated areas within Sierra Vista which still bear the name Fry. Moreover, the community's principal east-west street (Fry Blvd.) was named for Oliver Fry. Because the community of Fry was, until 1956, an unincorporated area of Cochise County, the principal responsibility for law enforcement fell to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, which in the early 1950's had one resident deputy assigned to the Fry area.

III. BUFFALO SOLDIERS



Perhaps more than any other American military installation, Fort Huachuca was at the center of more than fifty years of black military history, and was in fact, the home of the world famous "Buffalo Soldiers" of the 10th Cavalry. In tribute to these proud men, the "Buffalo Soldier" is prominently featured on the shoulder patch worn by today's Sierra Vista Police Officers.

IV. FORT HUACHUCA CLOSED

Fort Huachuca served as a major training center during World War I and World War II. But, in the inevitable downsizing that followed the second World War, Fort Huachuca was closed

in 1947. The eruption of the Korean conflict resulted in Fort Huachuca's reopening as a training facility from 1951 through mid-1953, when it was again officially closed. Then, in early 1954, Fort Huachuca was reopened as the Army's Electronic Proving Ground, and the area immediately started a growth spurt. Ironically, 1954 is also the year when the last of the U.S. Army's all-black units was abolished. The initial relocation of troops to Fort Huachuca involved the movement of Army Signal units from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, to Arizona in early 1954.

V. SIERRA VISTA INCORPORATED

The Town of Sierra Vista, Arizona, when incorporated in 1956, was a tiny community of 1,671 people located on the doorstep of a then recently reopened Fort Huachuca. At that time the town encompassed approximately two square miles. Legally, Sierra Vista remained a "Town" until May of 1961 when local citizens voted to change the community's official standing from a Town to a "City." The vote was 218 for the change and 112 against.

VI. GROWTH vs. MILITARY EXPANSION

Over the years the population of the community and the growth of its police department were most frequently associated with the relocation of military or civilian support service units to Fort Huachuca. For example, in 1966 the Army moved the 11th Signal Group to Fort Huachuca where it would provide worldwide communications for the Army. The community also benefitted greatly in 1967 when Fort Huachuca became headquarters for the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command (which later became the Information Systems Command, and later still, the Army Signal Command); and again in 1971 when the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School was moved to Fort Huachuca.

Perhaps the most dramatic population increase came in 1971

with the annexation of Fort Huachuca (115 square miles) into the city and the addition of 10,826 city residents. As a result of this and other annexations the city now covers in excess of 150 square miles. Future annexations are likely to expand the community to the east and south, as the west and north boundaries of the city are defined by the Fort Huachuca Military Reservation. There are still some enclaves of county land which are surrounded by the city and have yet to be annexed. Recent Sierra Vista City Council members have stated that the city should continue to pursue an aggressive annexation policy.

VII. FIRST POLICE OFFICER HIRED

While the Town hired its first full-time paid police officer in 1957, the edict (Ordinance #29) that formally created the police department itself was not passed until May 3, 1960. Interestingly enough, in April of 1958 (one year after hiring its first paid officer) SVPD hired its third police officer and announced that the department would now provide 24-hour per day police coverage. The installation of an answering machine at the police office allowed citizens to request police services when the on-duty officer was not in the office. Needless to say, "response time" to calls for service was not one of the department's strong suits.

VIII. POLICE FACILITIES

Between 1956 and 1958 the Police Department, along with most of the rest of the Town's employees, operated out of a World War II era corrugated metal Quonset hut located near the main gate of Fort Huachuca. The Quonset hut, leased by the Town to serve as its "City" building, had been formerly occupied by the Southern Arizona Auto Company. The Town's police officers would stop by from time to time during their patrol duty to check the telephone system for any requests for service.

In 1958 Sierra Vista constructed a new Town Hall at 400 Sherbundy Street (*see front cover*). This facility housed the police and fire departments, the town's court, and other city departments. The total cost for this new facility was around \$15,000.00. While most other "City Hall" functions moved briefly (during remodeling in the mid 1960's) from this location to another "temporary" facility, the Sherbundy Street location remained the home for the police department until 1979 when the current City Hall facility was constructed on Coronado Drive. Promised a new facility of its own within two to three years, the police department was "temporarily" moved into the northernmost portion of City Hall. This "temporary" situation lasted seventeen years and in that time-frame the police department outgrew its allotted 4,800 square feet of operating space many times over.

In Early 1996 the Sierra Vista Police Department moved into Sierra Vista's first-ever standalone police facility at 911 North Coronado Drive. The 22,500 square foot facility was constructed at a cost of \$3.5 million and is considered a state-of-the-art facility.



IX. PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATION

On July 14, 1966, the Police Department was combined with the City's Fire Department and emergency medical services to form the Sierra Vista Department of Public Safety. While the management and administrative support services of the SVDPS were centralized, both police and fire activities remained relatively independent from an operational standpoint. The public safety

concept remained in effect for the next 27 years. Then, in 1993 the City Council voted to dissolve the Department of Public Safety and return to independently managed police and fire departments.



X. THE CHIEFS



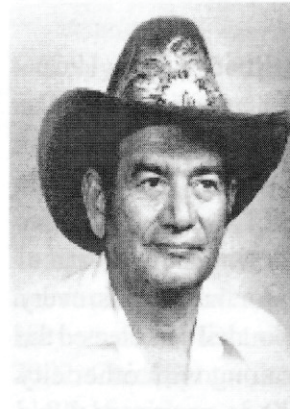
Clarence Sherbundy

When the Town incorporated in 1956 it recognized its political and legal responsibility for police and fire protection. But, interestingly enough, it wasn't until early 1957 that Sierra Vista got its first police officer/Chief. And that first officer was Clarence Sherbundy. Sierra Vista's first Police Chief came as the result of a "Political Appointment". Sherbundy had been a member of the very first Town Council for Sierra Vista. He stepped down to accept

the assignment as Chief of Police. He served only a few months (and without pay) until the Town could afford to hire a "paid" police officer. While Sherbundy was chief, the Town had some tickets printed up and Chief Sherbundy would ticket illegally parked vehicles along what is now Fry Blvd. That's how the Town generated some of its early revenue.

James Wells

The Town's Second Chief was James Wells. He was also the Town's first full-time paid police officer. Wells was hired on April 1, 1957 at a starting salary of \$300.00 per month. But within a month, he was given a \$45.00 per month raise to "defray the cost of his rent". Wells served as Chief from April of 1957 until March of 1959 when he left to accept a position as a police officer in Coolidge, Arizona. He later went to work for the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, after which he went into the trucking business. He died of a heart attack in 1975.



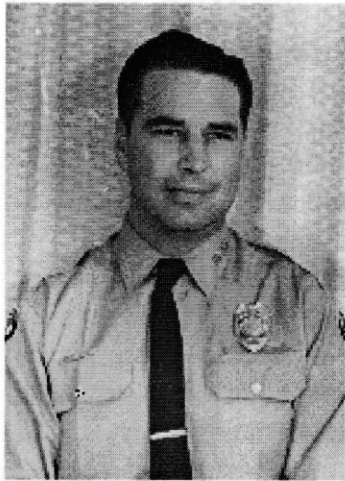
Raymond Thompson

Sierra Vista's third Police Chief, Raymond Thompson was already in the department when Jim Wells left. Thompson was appointed Chief of Police in March of 1959, but submitted his letter of resignation four months later on July 2, 1959. Thompson was the brother of well-known local Justice of the Peace, John Thompson. After leaving Sierra Vista, Ray Thompson moved to California where he died of a heart attack in 1991.

William "Bill" Stone

Fourth Chief - William "Bill" Stone (1959 - 1962). Bill Stone's appointment as Chief of Police was a controversial one. He was from Bisbee, Arizona. And he had prior police experience. He also had the support of Sierra Vista Police Commissioner, Paul Keating. Stone had a stormy relationship with the City Council. There were several threats to fire him, but on each occasion members of the community rallied to his support. At one point (in 1960) he resigned his position, but then later withdrew the resignation. Then on March 15, 1962, his luck ran out and he was fired by the City Council. Two police officers and one clerk also resigned the night Bill Stone was fired. Bill Stone died on January 4, 2001, at the age of 80.





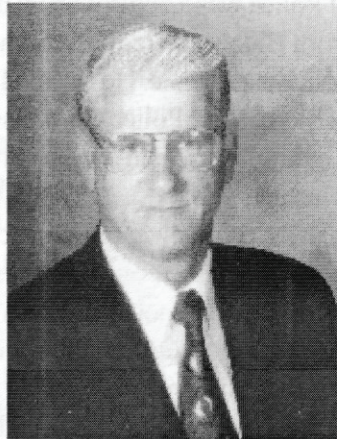
C. Reed Vance

Fifth Chief - C. Reed Vance (1962 - 1989). Reed Vance had been in the department for three years when he was promoted to Chief of Police. Like his predecessor, Chief Vance's tenure as Chief was sometimes in political jeopardy. In fact, for many years, every time a new City Council was elected the Chief of Police along with other city officials had to be re-appointed. On a few occasions the vote was very close.

Chief Vance retired on June 30th 1989 after 30 years on the Sierra Vista Police Department, 27 of them as its Chief. C. Reed Vance died on January 3, 2001, at the age of 72.

Arthur J. Montgomery

Our sixth Police Chief was Arthur J. Montgomery. Arthur J. Montgomery was promoted to Chief of Police on July 1, 1989. Upon assuming command, Chief Montgomery made every effort to maintain and expand on this agency's outstanding state-wide reputation for excellence and professionalism. He initiated a number of new programs and activities, not the least of which is our department's transition from a reactive to a proactive policing strategy. Chief Montgomery retired on September 30, 2002.



David A. Santor

Our Seventh and current Chief of Police is David A. Santor. Chief Santor has been a Sierra Vista resident since 1954. He joined the Sierra Vista Police Department in 1968 as a Patrol Officer. Over the years, he has been promoted through the ranks in Patrol, Detectives, and Administration. He was promoted to Chief of Police in 2002. Chief Santor is a Graduate of the 118th Session of the FBI National Academy. He holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelors Degree in Management.



David A. Santor

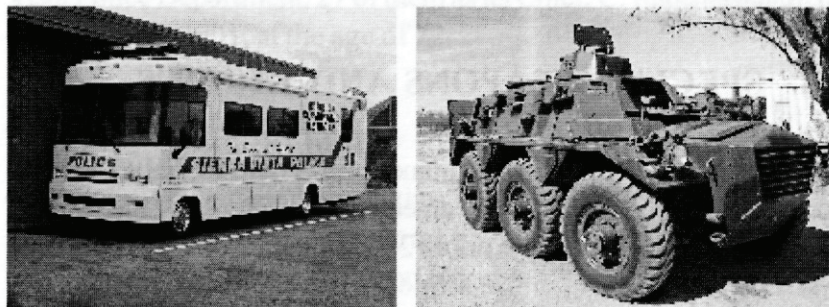
XI. SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

Seeing the need for specially trained officers and special equipment to deal with critical incidents and emergency situations, the Sierra Vista Police Department began work in 2001 on the formation of its first SWAT Team (to be called a Special Response Team) and the acquisition of special purpose vehicles and equipment. In 2001, the department acquired a new 33-foot mobile command post. The command post unit contains three dispatch stations and a number of workstations for personnel involved in critical incident resolution. The unit is also equipped with radios, telephones, and computers. *(In 2005 the department was awarded a \$260,000 Homeland Security grant to upgrade the command post to a fully interoperable dispatch center. Work on this project was completed in early 2006).*

Then in September of 2002, the department announced the formation of the Special Response Unit. The unit was made up of three elements: the Special Response Team, Precision Rifle Team, and a Crisis Negotiation Team. The Special Response Team consisted of Sergeant Gilbert Fuentes and Officers Mertie Stompro, Scott

Montgomery, Lawrence Boutte, Chad Schmidt, Sean Brownson, and Brian Sebastian. The Precision Rifle Team consisted of Sergeant Jim Adams and Officer Thad Benton. The Crisis Negotiation Team consisted of Sergeant Daryl Copp and Officers Randy Kirkman, Oscar Bojorquez, and Terry Baker.

In early 2003 the department was able to acquire a British Army Saracen armored vehicle for use by the Special Response Team during critical incidents. The vehicle can be used to insert or extract SRT personnel as well as be used for rescue purposes. The vehicle was purchased for \$19,000 including shipping from England. Since RICO funds were used to purchase the Saracen, there was no cost to the taxpayer. The vehicle weighs 10-tons, is fully armored, and can easily transport the entire SRT Team.



Mobile Command Post (L) & Saracen Armored Vehicle (R)

XII. UNIFORMS

The Sierra Vista Police Department changed its authorized uniform color from silver-tan to navy blue on August 17, 1998. The change brought to an end the department's long association with the silver-tan uniform and put Sierra Vista's police officers in traditional police blue for the second time in the department's history.

The first uniforms worn by police officers of the City of Sierra Vista were silver-tan in color, with a brown "Tuffy" Jacket and were essentially the same style as those being worn by the Arizona Highway

Patrol at that time. Uniform purchases were made by the department with funds allocated by the City Council specifically for that purpose. Officers received no individual "uniform allowance" until August of 1963, when the City Council voted to give police officers a one-time \$100.00 uniform allowance upon satisfactory completion of their 90-day probationary period. (*Today's probationary period for new employees is one year*). The first S.V.P.D. uniform shoulder patch appeared in 1958. It was a three-inch circle-design primarily depicting the Huachuca Mountains. The same design was also adopted by the City of Sierra Vista as its official seal. In the first few years of the department's history, uniforms and shoulder patches were purchased from a downtown Tucson department store, Meyersons.

In 1961, after three years in the silver-tan uniforms, Police Chief Bill Stone reported to the City Council that the police department's uniforms were "threadbare" and the department was having trouble matching the shades in the tan color between the trousers and the shirts. Chief Stone also proposed the purchase of short-sleeved cotton shirts for the summer months. He told the Council that the cotton shirts would cost a mere \$3.95 each as opposed to the \$18.00 price tag for the silver-tan uniform shirt. (*Ironically, the "color matching" problem cited by Chief Stone in 1961 would also be the impetus for the second change to basic blue in 1998*).

In response to Chief Stone's request, the City Council voted to advance \$600.00 to him to effect the change to blue uniforms. Those funds provided \$100.00 each for Chief Stone and the five officers then on the department for the purchase of the new uniforms. As it turned out, the blue uniforms survived Bill Stone's tenure as Chief of Police, but they nevertheless lasted a mere three years in Sierra Vista. Photographs from the first "blue uniform" period indicate that light-blue short-sleeve shirts and dark-blue trousers were worn in the summer months, while dark-blue long-sleeve shirts and dark blue trousers were worn in the winter.

In early 1964, with C. Reed Vance serving as Chief of Police, the

department again went to the City Council for authorization to change the color of S.V.P.D.'s uniform. The new uniforms were to be silver-tan trousers with a black stripe, a silver-tan long-sleeve shirt for the winter months and a white short-sleeve shirt in the summer. To effect this change with little or no cost to the City, the department held a "Policeman's Ball." This was the first of many such fund-raising events, and one of the stated objectives of the first "Ball" was to raise money for police uniforms. With the proceeds from that social event, Chief Vance took the entire department to Nogales Sonora, Mexico, where they were all fitted for the new uniforms. According to Chief Vance, there was even enough money to replace worn out leather gear, buckles, and holsters. At this same time the department also authorized, for the first time, the wearing of a silver-tan "Ike" jacket and changed to the black "Tuffy" Jacket which was standard for winter wear. The white summer shirt era lasted until about 1980 when the department changed to silver-tan shirts for both summer and winter wear.

Over the ensuing years, the silver-tan uniform with a black stripe on the trousers became the foundation of the "S.V.P.D. look." Certain uniform accessories came and went as the years passed. For example, the uniform of the SVPD officer in the early to mid-1960's was adorned with a gold aiguillette, which hung in a loop from the left shoulder. Some officers chose to wear the aiguillette on the department "Ike" jacket rather than on the uniform shirt. Legend has it that the aiguillette disappeared from Sierra Vista's uniforms immediately after an August 16, 1966 incident wherein Officer Bill Leach was pulled to the ground by a suspect who grabbed Leach's aiguillette. The suspect then shot Officer Leach with his own service weapon. Leach was not seriously injured and the suspect was apprehended. Whether or not the aiguillette actually was a factor in the Leach shooting, Sierra Vista's police, like those across the country, quickly abandoned this ornate accessory for officer safety reasons. Today, the aiguillette is seldom seen in law enforcement on other than ceremonial uniforms.

The whistle chain was similarly discarded from Sierra Vista's uniforms in the 1970's. These chains were attached on one end to the right shoulder epaulet button. The other end anchored a standard police whistle and was attached to the right breast pocket button. Like the aiguillette, this loosely dangling chain made a tempting target for suspects who became involved in scuffles with officers. For the same reason, the only necktie ever authorized for uniform wear has been a black "clip-on" or break-away style.

For many years Sierra Vista's police officers wore gold colored "collar brass" pins with the initials "S.V.P.D." on each collar of both the summer and winter shirts. The name tag worn by Sierra Vista officers was for many years a white plastic rectangle bearing the officer's name and, during some periods, a small metal city seal. The currently worn metal name tags with the "serving since" bar were adopted in the early 1980's. Today, a number of specialty pins and patches are authorized for wear on the Sierra Vista uniform.

The style of the uniform hat worn by Sierra Vista's officers has changed three times over the history of the department. The first authorized hat was a silver-tan 8-point cap with a black bill. (*In the early 1960's when the department briefly changed to blue uniforms, the hat color also changed to blue; likewise, during the "white-shirt" era a white 8-point cap was authorized*). Police officer hats had silver rank bands while those of sergeants and above had gold bands. Around 1980, the police department switched to a round "Air Force" or "LAPD" style hat but the silver-tan color and rank bands remained unchanged. The current Class-B uniform hat (which was adopted in 1995) is a black straw Montana Peak double bill style, sometimes referred to as a "campaign" hat. The hat has a black leather three-piece chin strap and either black and gold acorns or gold-only acorns, depending on the wearer's rank. A new Class-A uniform hat (adopted in 2002) is a blue "LAPD" style with rank bands of gold or black depending on the wearer's rank. The hats worn by the Chief and Deputy Chief of Police also have gold colored leaves across the bill. A black baseball type cap and a black knit watch-cap are also

authorized for uniform wear in certain situations.

Today, newly hired Sierra Vista police officers receive an initial uniform allowance of \$800.00. This allowance is used for the purchase of all required uniforms, duty leather, and related items with the exception of the officer's service weapon. Thereafter, each officer receives an annual uniform maintenance allowance of \$720.00.

Officer Safety Spawns Uniform/Equipment Changes

Police officer safety prompted other significant uniform-related changes with the adoption of the FY 1980/81 budget, coinciding with what could be called the "Miracle Valley" era in Cochise County law enforcement. For the first time in its history, the City included money in its annual budget for the purchase of protective body armor for its police officers. The procurement of body armor and riot helmets was indeed fortuitous as it immediately preceded a period of three years of tense and often violent confrontations between area law enforcement officers and members of the Christ Miracle Healing Church of Miracle Valley, both outside and inside Sierra Vista. The most notable local altercation occurred on April 19, 1982, when officers responded to a "near riot" situation at Buena High School, resulting in injuries to several officers and church members, and a high-speed chase of a stolen car to Miracle Valley. Ultimately five individuals were arrested and charged with a total of 13 felonies (*Information provided here is excerpted from author's book; complete information available upon its publication*).

XIII. BADGES

The badges worn by Sierra Vista's police officers have seen several minor changes over the years. The basic design of the department's badge has always been the same: a gold-colored "shield" style with an eagle at the top, the Arizona state seal in the center, and two title panels above and two below the state seal. The original badges were gold-colored with silver title panels. The lettering was done in black. By the early 1960's SVPD's badges had a badge number stamped in the top title panel. The quality and workmanship of these early badges were rather crude when compared to the department's current badges. Until August of 1983, the practice in the police department was for an officer's badge number to change when he was promoted, or assigned to some speciality detail such as investigations. When the department computerized in 1983 all employees were assigned a permanent badge number.

About the time C. Reed Vance took over as Chief of Police, (1962), the department did away with the numbered badges and started buying higher quality badges from the Entenmann Rovin Company of Pico Rivera, California. The first Entenmann Rovin badges followed the basic design of the original SVPD badges except that the entire badge was now gold-colored including the title panels. These badges had blue lettering in each panel, with the top panel showing the officer's rank. In the case of the police officer rank, the top panel read "Patrolman." Twenty years later, the lettering on the badges was changed from blue to black and the word "Patrolman" was replaced with the words "Police" and "Officer" in the top two panels. The hiring of SVPD's first female officer, Theresa Baker (Russell), in 1982 prompted the wording change. In 2006 the department purchased special 50th Anniversary badges for every officer. The City's 50th Anniversary logo replaced the State seal in the center of the badge. These badges were to be worn during 2006 only, after which each officer would be allowed to keep the anniversary badge as a keepsake.

XIV. SERVICE WEAPONS

From the inception of the department, service weapons were purchased by, and remained the private property of, the individual officer. While all early service weapons were revolvers, no other standardization took place until the mid-1960's when specific guidelines were established. Those guidelines restricted the service weapon to either a Smith & Wesson or a Colt revolver capable of firing .38 special ammunition, and with a barrel length of no less than 3½ inches and no more than 4 inches.

On August 8, 1996, the department, for the first time ever, started issuing service weapons to its officers. This event also marked the department's switch from revolvers to semi-automatic handguns. The currently authorized duty weapon is a .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic pistol in either model 22 or 23.

XV. SHOULDER PATCHES

The first Sierra Vista Police Department shoulder patch (also later adopted as the City's official seal) was designed in 1958 by Samuel Delos Champagne, M.D., who was one of two physicians in Sierra Vista at the time. Doctor Champagne, a general practitioner, routinely worked with members of the Police Department on emergency cases and was also a volunteer for the Cochise County Sheriff's Department. Owing to the small size of the community in 1958, Doctor Champagne would frequently use his natural artistic ability to supplement his income by decoratively painting store windows during various holiday seasons. He was often joined in this endeavor by Sierra Vista Police Officer Al McLaughlin.

Through Officer McLaughlin and other Sierra Vista officers, Doctor Champagne became aware that the Department had no emblem or shoulder patch, and he decided to try his hand at designing one. Doctor Champagne actually drew up several designs, but it was the round

one you see depicted here that was, on March 4, 1958, presented to and accepted by the Sierra Vista City Council. This original patch was worn by the Police Department from 1958 until December of 1985 when the second patch shown below the original was adopted.



The second patch was created to reflect the Department's status as a "Department of Public Safety" and the top "rocker" was different for the various divisions within the Department, e.g., "Police", "Fire", "Animal Control", etc. The second patch was in use from December of 1985 until July 31, 1994. It's rather ironic that while the Sierra Vista Police Department was (through Resolution #178) officially changed to a Department of Public Safety on July 14, 1966, it was not until December of 1985 that the uniform patch reflected that change. Second patch (shown on page 7) was adopted.

Sierra Vista's third (and current) shoulder patch (shown at right) was created after the Department of Public Safety was dissolved in 1993 and the City returned to individual Police and Fire Departments. The current patch maintains the majestic Huachuca Mountains as a background and changed what previously was a Saguaro cactus to a Yucca, which is more indigenous to our area. Finally, in a total departure from previous designs, the Buffalo Soldier was added in honor of the truly important role these dedicated men played in the early history of our area. Both the second and current shoulder patches were designed by Chief of Police, David Santor.



XVI. 1st OFFICER SHOT IN LINE OF DUTY

It was Tuesday, August 16, 1966. Like most midnight shifts, this one was quiet and slow. Officers Joseph E. Plum and William A. Leach were the only officers on duty for the Sierra Vista Police Department

at the time. The routine called for one officer to man the station, answering the telephone and radio, while the second officer responded to calls and patrolled the city. Around 3:30 in the morning, when both officers happened to be in the station, a call was received from the Fort Huachuca Military Police. The call was alerting the local police to the fact that a man was standing in the middle of the intersection of Fry Blvd. and the Main Gate of Fort Huachuca. It seemed, the MP's said, that the man was directing traffic and acting very unusual. The MP's further advised that the man had attempted to enter the Fort but that they had refused him entry because of his strange conduct. Since it was Officer Leach's night for road duty, he responded to the call.

Upon his arrival at the scene, Officer Leach began questioning the man, who was later identified as Haddon Peterson of 100 Garden Canyon Trailer Manor. Peterson and his family had moved to Sierra Vista only three weeks earlier. He was employed as a district circulation manager for the Arizona Republic newspaper which explained his being out and about during the early morning hours. What wasn't known to Officer Leach at the time was the fact that Peterson was alleged to have had a long history of mental problems.

While talking with Peterson, Officer Leach was momentarily distracted by a call to him from one of the two Military Policemen on duty at Fort Huachuca's Main Gate. When Officer Leach turned to respond to the Military Policeman he was struck on the neck by Peterson. At this point Peterson is said to have grabbed the gold braided "Aiguillette" Officer Leach wore on the left shoulder of his uniform, using it to pull Leach to the ground. Then, as Officer Leach was falling, Peterson grabbed Leach's service revolver from its holster and fired at the police officer. Leach was struck by one bullet but suffered only a flesh wound to his abdominal area.

Willie Lindsay and Timothy Britton (both Sp4s) were the two MP's on duty at the gate that morning. Upon witnessing the shooting incident, both Lindsay and Britton drew their service weapons and rushed to Leach's assistance. The two MP's forced Peterson to drop the gun he

had taken from Officer Leach. By one account, Peterson said upon throwing down the gun, "God told me I will kill no more." Peterson was subdued and then driven to the police station by one of the MP's.

At the police station Officer Plum immediately placed Peterson in a jail cell and, after instructing the Military Policeman to "watch the telephone and radio," quickly drove to the scene. Officer Plum transported Leach to the Sierra Vista Hospital. A more colorful, but unsubstantiated version of the events at the station, had Officer Plum removing a prisoner from the jail cell and having the prisoner man the radio and telephone while Plum drove Leach to the hospital. During the trip to the hospital Plum remembers Officer Leach saying "Slow down Joe, or You're going to kill me!"

Haddon Peterson was charged with assault with intent to commit murder. However, at a hearing at which two doctors and two police officers testified, he was remanded to the Arizona State Hospital in Phoenix. Willie Lindsay and Timothy Britton were both awarded the Soldiers Medal, which is the Army's highest award for non-combat heroism. Both Military Policemen were also honored by the City of Sierra Vista.

XVII. COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Initially, the Town's police officer (there was only one officer between January and April of 1957) was not dispatched by anyone. The Police Department and the Town Hall (located in the same one-room Quonset hut) had telephones and the public could call to request police services. If the officer was out on patrol (presumably in his personally owned vehicle) the call would simply wait until he checked in with the Town Hall for messages. The population of Sierra Vista in early 1957 was still under 2,000, so the number of police calls was understandably few.

The first two-way radio equipment was obtained for use by the Police Department when, in April of 1957, the Town hired its first paid

police officer and purchased its first ever police vehicle. That vehicle was a used 1955 Ford pick-up truck. This vehicle was equipped with a two-way radio which was on the same frequency as the Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). The Town Hall building, from shortly after the Town's incorporation until mid-1958, was a one-room Quonset hut located on North Garden Avenue on the property now occupied by Atlas Furniture. A police radio microphone was placed on a desk in this building and it was initially answered by the Town Clerk. Marie Pfister, who was hired as the Town's second Town Clerk in January of 1958 recalls handling the early police dispatching in the daytime and she believes that CCSO handled radio traffic from SVPD officers during the nighttime. There not being a Sierra Vista police telephone in the CCSO office, it can be assumed that the CCSO dispatcher could only respond to requests (10-28's, back-up, etc) from the SVPD officers, and could only "dispatch" Town calls that were called in to a CCSO telephone number.

Available records reflect that on February 11, 1958, the Town Council authorized the purchase of an automatic answering machine for the Police Department. For a number of years (even after the department had obtained a radio equipped vehicle) a patrolling police officer would stop by the department and check the answering machine to see if there were any calls. This was necessary because, more often than not, only one officer was on duty at any particular time, and there was nobody at the station to answer the telephone. SVPD's first radios were on the County's frequency, so the Town did have contact with the CCSO dispatcher in Bisbee.

Interestingly enough, over the next several years, the Town's police officers were sometimes required to use their privately owned vehicles for duty purposes while the Town's police vehicle(s) was being repaired. The Town did reimburse the officers for gas and oil when such conditions arose. The Town Council authorized the purchase of the department's first new police car in April of 1958. It was a Ford station wagon and was purchased for \$2,731.70.

In terms of dispatching, it did fall to the Police Department or (when the police were unavailable) someone at the Town Hall (presumably the Town Clerk) to activate a fire siren (very much like a WWII air-raid alarm) which would sound throughout the Town and alert the volunteer firemen that there was a fire. The volunteers would then respond to the location of their equipment, and then to the fire. Prior to the building of a new Town Hall in mid-1958, the Town's one fire truck was parked at Paul Keating's gasoline station at North Garden Avenue and Fry Blvd. This is the same location that housed Chuck Schrader's Chevron Station for many years thereafter. The fire siren remained in use until sometime in the 1970's. For several years the police dispatcher would activate the siren at 10 p.m. each night to signal the start of the juvenile curfew period. Later this was changed to a daily 12 p.m. activation of the siren. This was done merely as a daily test of the system.

On March 15, 1960, Sierra Vista Councilman Bob Danser suggested that a switch be installed on Sierra Vista's police telephone enabling the Cochise County Sheriff's Office dispatcher in Bisbee to answer night telephone calls to the Sierra Vista Police Department. This suggestion was in response to a request for two additional police officers by then Chief of Police, Bill Stone. The suggestion was never carried out. In fact, it was to be Sierra Vista that continued to provide the 24-hour per day operation and to cover for CCSO when it was closed for several hours during the night.

On February 7, 1961, a letter from Cochise County Sheriff, Phil Olander, was received by the Town Council requesting that the Sierra Vista Police Department answer the Sheriff's Office telephone extension when CCSO's Sierra Vista office was closed for several hours each night. Town Attorney Robert Hazen recommended a written agreement between the County and the Town be completed before the Town agreed to perform this service. Town records also reflect that Hazen recommended that the CCSO telephone "be removed" from the Sierra Vista Police Department until such an agreement is established.

This suggests that the telephone was already there and the Town may have been answering County calls "informally" prior to this date. However, the County telephone was apparently removed from SVPD after this meeting.

By a vote of 218 yes, and 112 no, the citizens of Sierra Vista voted to change the community's status from that of a "Town" to a "City" on May 22, 1961.

After several months of discussion over liability and politics, it was decided in July of 1961, to reinstall the CCSO telephone extension in the Sierra Vista Police Department. At this same time, the Police Department was also authorized a second telephone line for handling City police business. In addition to its own phone lines and the one for the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department also had a telephone line for the Fry Fire Department during this period.

SVPD answered the telephone for CCSO when their Sierra Vista office was closed for several hours during the night. According to information from reliable sources, the CCSO paid approximately \$75.00 to \$100.00 per month to SVPD for many years in return for the City answering this telephone line. This money was used to supplement the salary of various officers at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

As pointed out above, the Sierra Vista Police Department initially was on the same radio frequency as the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. This apparently was done with the blessing of CCSO and perhaps was even accomplished with a base station borrowed from the Sheriff. As early as December of 1962, SVPD was seriously discussing a change in the radio frequency being used by the department. In fact, in that same month it was announced that a radio frequency change would occur in three to six months. It is presumed that CCSO was pressuring SVPD to get its own frequency. At the time both CCSO and SVPD were transmitting on the County's low-band frequency.

On January 24, 1963, a proposal by Motorola Communications

Inc., was read by the City Clerk. The proposal was for new radio equipment for the police department. Specifically, a new 25-watt Hi-band base station, two new 15-watt transistor mobile units, and a reconditioned Motorola Low-band base station. Total cost was \$1,950.34 including tax, plus installation charge of approximately \$130.00. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

By late 1963, the dispatch area in the Sherbundy Street Police Station was supplied with three microphones: The City Police radio (KDG-301), the County Sheriff's radio (KCI-726), and the Sierra Vista Fire Radio (KJH-249). In addition, there were several burglar alarms and a few fire alarms wired into the Police Department dispatch area.

In February of 1971, the City applied for a Justice Planning Project Grant which included, among other things, new communications equipment for the Police Department. This grant application was later approved, and in November of 1971, a new radio system costing a total of \$11,098.00 was installed at SVPD. The City's portion of the total cost was \$2,823.00. This is when the City transitioned from the one microphone per frequency hardware to a multi-channel "console" arrangement.

Sierra Vista's police records, prior to 1984, consisted essentially of hand typed case reports stored in metal file cabinets and an alphabetical card file wherein the names of suspects, victims, witnesses, investigative leads, and so on were maintained on 3X5 cards. In August of 1984, the first serious efforts to automate the police department were undertaken with the purchase of an automated records management and database system. Tony Islam, a private computer consultant, developed this system. Islam also updated and maintained the system for several years thereafter. Total cost for this system was about \$90,000.00.

During 1985, SVPD's communications section experienced several technological advances. In February, a 30-channel reel-to-reel recorder

was installed to monitor all radio frequencies and telephone lines. A video surveillance system, which provided 24-hour exterior security on several city-owned buildings, became operational in March. The system monitors were located in the communications center. In July of 1985, Motorola Keyboard Display Terminal (KDT) communications/computer equipment was first installed. This in-car computer system went on-line in August when a link with the Arizona Department of Public Safety was established. This marked the beginning of direct computer access, from the field, by SVPD's patrol officers. The system enabled officers to communicate with an additional level of security, and provided direct access to several large data bases frequently used by law enforcement personnel. 1986 was the first full year of operation for the KDT system and during that year SVPD's officers conducted a total of 13,667 inquiries through the keyboard data terminals.

Unfortunately, the department's KDT system was plagued with problems from its inception. After two and one half years of unsatisfactory performance it was finally determined that the problems were being caused by the "Altos" personal computer which housed and managed the system and its associated software which was provided by the Hadron Company. The system's shortcomings were ultimately resolved with the replacement of the Altos PC with an IBM Series I mini-computer and new software provided by A.L. Roark and Associates.

1986 brought other changes to the department's communications section. For instance, early that year the City entered into an automatic aid agreement with the Fry Fire District. As part of that agreement, the dispatch function for the fire district was transferred from the Cochise County Sheriff's Department to the Sierra Vista Police Department. Over the course of that year the police department also completed the phase-out of its alarm monitoring services to the private sector. And, as an extension of the video surveillance system acquired three years earlier, a video camera was installed at the intersection of Fry Blvd. and 7th Street to monitor traffic flow through that "high accident" location.

In July of 1986, SVPD Administrative Assistant, Peter Plante, began a 15-month assessment of the department's existing and future automation needs. In a subsequent report (dated October 29, 1987) to City Manager, Mike Goyer, the department identified numerous problems with its existing information systems and recommended that the City contract with an outside consulting firm to conduct a professional systems analysis and make recommendations to meet future automation needs. On February 2, 1988, Mike Goyer accepted SVPD's recommendation to take a systems approach to the design, development, and implementation of a database management information system. However, he denied the department's request for an outside consultant, directing instead, that the project be completed using only in-house staff. Goyer set a two to five year time frame for the development and implementation of the system. Because accomplishment of project objectives required that members of the department staff obtain additional training in automated systems analysis and database management, the Initial Investigation phase of the project did not officially begin until December of 1989.

Following a two-year systems analysis, the police department concluded that New World Systems Inc., had an automated system which most closely met SVPD's needs and requirements. Nevertheless, the system ultimately purchased was one offered by United Systems Technology Inc., (USTI). The purchasing decision was apparently based on USTI's \$40,000 bid for system maintenance over five years, which was \$60,000 under New World's maintenance bid. Purchased with the new system was a computer-aided dispatch package, a law enforcement management information system (LEMIS), a court module, a personnel module, an updated Mobile Data Terminal switch, several new mobile data terminals, and a new base console. Installation and testing of the new hardware and software systems took place in 1992, and the police department went live with the USTI system on January 1, 1993. Some of the system components, including upgraded mobile data terminals, were phased in over the next two years. The police department's CAD/MIS project was brought to its conclusion on

February 7, 1995. In its final configuration, the project cost \$545,000. That was \$78,000 under the projected cost of \$623,000. Moreover, the overall project was concluded five months ahead of schedule. Over the course of the project, the following major objectives were accomplished:

- * Installation of Computer Aided Dispatch for police and fire
- * Installation of new police records package (LEMIS)
- * Installation of new fire records package
- * Interface with US West's enhanced 911 records to the CAD
- * Hazardous call information being provided by CAD
- * Geo-coding of the greater Sierra Vista area (Mile post 300 on SR-90 to the Mexican border) for faster public safety responses.
- * Upgrade of the mobile data terminal switch to new State standards
- * Installation of an administrative local area network (LAN) for cooperative use of personal computer software.

Problems with signal strength in police department's radio system were addressed in 1987 with the installation of a repeater on Mule Mountain, Southeast of Sierra Vista. "Voter" equipment was added to the repeater system in 1990 (Highway 92 at Rebel site) and again in 1999 at Buena High School on Charleston Road. When the new police facility (911 N. Coronado) was constructed in 1995 it included a new 120 foot radio tower; and the communications center was furnished with new consoles and expanded to accommodate three dispatch positions.

In 2002 the department initiated a program to completely overhaul all technology and data communications systems within the police department. This included network topology and standards, security, desktop computer hardware and software, records management systems, computer aided dispatch systems, vehicular systems, state and national interfaces and printing solutions. Driven by the City's weak financial outlook at the time, a phased approach was selected as the most feasible alternative for completing this project.

The technology and data communications systems in effect in 2002 became operational in 1985 and despite periodic upgrades since then, the department steadily slipped behind the technological curve. By 2002, the department was using a mixture of old and "not as old" equipment and in spite of technological advances were not fully able to access key data bases from the field — which in turn placed an additional workload on department dispatchers. Moreover, the proposed new system would provide several additional tools not previously available in our department.

The major components of this project were:

1. A Records Management Package
2. A Computer-aided Dispatch System
3. Mobile Data Computers in the Patrol Vehicles with in-car mapping and vehicle locator component.
4. A field reporting module
5. An automated fingerprint system and the capability for digital mug shots
6. Installation of a bar code system for our evidence function
7. Expansion of our wireless network
8. Improved security

Again, because of budget constraints this project was phased out over five years. Phase I of the project cost about \$1.2 Million and the remainder of the project was expected to cost an additional \$1.4 Million.

XVIII. DISPATCHERS

As mentioned elsewhere in this document, the first "dispatching" duties in the Sierra Vista Police Department were handled by the officers themselves and by Marie Pfister the Town's second Town Clerk. When (in 1958) the Town acquired a Quonset hut for use as a Town Hall, Pfister often handled the radio dispatching and telephone answering

for the police department. Although she was not an employee of the police department, she was one of the few Town employees present at the Town Hall during the daytime, hence it fell to her to handle those duties.

Around 1960, the police department established and filled the position of "Deputy Clerk." Frances J. Howell is believed to be the first employee to hold this position. Essentially, Howell's job was that of secretary, records clerk, and dispatcher.

On January 24, 1962, the City's Police Commissioner presented a new breakdown for positions in the Police Department. He proposed the designations of "Patrolman General" and "Patrolman/Radio Operator." The proposal also set the pay level for the new position of Patrolman/Radio Operator at \$300.00 per month. The matter was briefly tabled but was apparently approved shortly thereafter, because, on February 2, 1962, Patrolman General, Arthur Bowers (upon completion of his probationary period) had his position reclassified to Patrolman/Radio Operator and his salary set at \$300.00 per month. In the months that followed, the records reflect a transition (perhaps unofficial) to the title Patrolman/Dispatcher.

On March 28, 1962, Beatrice "Bea" Grant was hired as a Deputy Clerk to work in the Police Department. Some records (including newspaper accounts) also show her being hired as a "Dispatcher." Like Frances Howell, the function she performed was, among other things, that of a dispatcher. Again, all "dispatchers" prior Bea Grant (and several after) were referred to as "Patrolman/Radio Operator," "Patrolman/Dispatchers," or "Deputy Clerks." While some of the Patrolman/Dispatchers never served as anything other than dispatchers, they presumably were hired to fill both roles if needed.

The development of the "dispatcher" function in the police department, while not very glamorous, certainly had its lighthearted moments. For instance, reliable sources report that early dispatching was often done by prisoners sentenced in the local Justice of the Peace

Court to a stretch in the City jail. Former Police Chief, Bill Stone, has confirmed that it was not unusual for a prisoner sentenced to 60 days in jail to have his sentence reduced to 30 days if he agreed to "man the radio and phone" in the police department while serving his time.

In August of 1963, Sierra Vista Police Commissioner John Means, addressing his fellow City Councilmen said: "As you know, when we prepared the budget we set a salary of \$300.00 per month for police dispatchers on a rotating basis and working a 48-hour week. One of the dispatchers (the department had two dispatchers at the time) cannot work a rotating shift due to personal reasons and has requested to be allowed to work days, at \$225.00 per month." Councilman Means then went on to explain that discontinuing the shift rotation would further complicate matters in the Police Department with respect to employees relieving each other for certain tours of duty. This was especially true, he said, because a dispatcher could not relieve a police officer. Mr. Means reported that he had discussed the matter with Police Chief, C. Reed Vance, and had come up with three suggestions that he then presented to the City Council. Those suggestions were:

1. To reclassify the current Dispatcher job to Patrolman/Dispatcher, and in so doing to give a 30-day notice to the current dispatchers and recruit two new Patrolmen/Dispatchers.
2. To continue doing business as we are currently doing it except that one dispatcher (Mrs. Beatrice "Bea" Grant) would work 8 hours per day (48 hours per week) at \$235.00 per month.
3. To continue with the positions as currently classified, with dispatchers being paid \$300.00 per month and working rotating shifts.

Lengthy discussion was held as to the trouble of having too many specialists in a department and the fact that having Patrolman/

Dispatchers would greatly alleviate the situation and make the police department more efficient. Mr. Means advised the Council that the present dispatchers would be allowed to apply for the Patrolman/Dispatcher jobs if option #1 was selected.

Councilman Louis Broitman stated that he was opposed to the termination of any present Police Department employees. Councilman George Beneze stated that "the situation in the Police Department may become intolerable" and that "the situation as it exists must be faced."

The vote for option #1 (to terminate the dispatchers) was four to one in favor, with Councilman Broitman voting No, and Councilman Means abstaining.

By 1965 the department had grown to include a Police Chief (C. Reed Vance) and six officers. At this point, two officers were assigned to each shift, and when both were on duty one would dispatch while the other patrolled and handled calls. Of course, this system didn't work well when officers were on their day off, (they worked 6-day weeks at this point) sick, in school, or away for whatever reason.

City records show the term(s) Patrolman/Radio Operator and Patrolman/Dispatcher being used until early 1965. The last such reference being made to Patrolman/Dispatcher, Joseph E. Plum being granted a \$25.00 per month pay raise. In the years that followed, police officers would continue to perform dispatch duties whenever required to do so. In 1966 Beulah Domianus and Rosalie Webster were hired as Police Secretaries. However, like Frances Howell and Bea Grant before them, both Domianus and Webster were primarily Dispatchers for many years. In the absence of job descriptions from that era, one can only assume that the positions of Deputy Clerk and Secretary in the Police Department included performing duties as a Dispatcher. Rosalie Webster would later become SVPD's first Records Section Supervisor. In August of 1968 Fay Sampson was hired by SVPD as a Dispatcher.

The title of "Dispatcher" was changed to "Telecommunicator" in

July of 1991. Essentially, the police department simply adopted the nationally recognized title for those working in the public safety communications field as established by the Associated Public Communications Officer's (APCO) Institute. Among its many activities, APCO certifies telecommunicators, trainers, and communications supervisors in a variety of career skills that are relevant to dispatching public safety personnel.

The professionalization of the communications function in SVPD took major steps forward in the 1990's with the development of new policies, procedures, standards, and training programs. In the Fall of 1991, development was begun on the Communications Training & Evaluation (CTEP) Program. Patterned after the "Field Officer Training" programs used for police officers, the CTEP program evolved into an 11-week one-on-one training program, with daily observation reports and written tests. Telecommunicator training was further improved in 1993, when the department instituted its first "APCO Basic Telecommunicator Course." This program is a self-paced extension of the CTEP training program.

XIX. STREET GANG ACTIVITY

Gang problems in the City of Sierra Vista began in 1988 when several local juveniles adopted the names of nationally recognized street gangs (Crips — Bloods) and began a campaign of threats and intimidation in the local high school. These young people also adopted the dress, language, hand signals, and behavior patterns of the recognized gangs.

Initial gang activity was confined primarily to the campus of Buena High School and to locations like the Sierra Vista City Park, or other places where teenagers routinely congregated. The principle gang tactics at this early stage consisted of simple assault, extortion by threats and intimidation, and recruiting. In general, any gang-related fighting did not, at this point, involve weapons.

Within a matter of months gang activity rapidly and predictably

escalated throughout the city. Competing gang factions began the ongoing struggle for "territory." In addition, SVPD began to see the influence of outside individuals on local gang demographics. Former and/or current gang members from Tucson, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and other cities began to surface in Sierra Vista and appeared to "take over" the leadership of the local gangs. The primary gang with which the locals initially identified was the "Crips." One interesting phenomenon noticed by SVPD was that juveniles who had been discipline and/or police problems in Phoenix (or other) school systems were now enrolling in Sierra Vista schools after having been expelled from schools in those other locations. Some of these gang member students significantly influenced the development of local gangs.

As the level of violence and gang-related assaults increased in Sierra Vista, the parties involved began arming themselves. The first weapon of choice was the baseball bat. It was common for SVPD officers to see baseball bats being carried in the automobiles of suspected gang members. Typical of early gang problems were the fight and disturbance calls that resulted when gang members attempted to "crash" or break-up private parties being held in various apartment complexes or residences.

The level of violence and the nature of the weapons involved changed dramatically in the early 1990's. During that time frame the City of Sierra Vista experienced several serious gang-related assaults in which victims received injuries sufficient to require hospitalization. Moreover, gang members and those who claimed to be protecting themselves from gang members had, by this time, progressed to the point where they were commonly armed with firearms.

Drive-by violence began with cases involving vehicles occupied by gang members driving up to an adversary's car and breaking out all the windows with baseball bats. This practice quickly evolved into the drive-by discharge of firearms at empty motor vehicles, then to the firing of weapons at occupied dwellings, and finally to weapons being fired directly at people.

In 1992 gang violence in Sierra Vista reached new levels. In March of that year, a local member of the Maryvale Ganster Crips was wounded in a gun battle with four gang-affiliated soldiers from Fort Huachuca. The incident took place on Berridge Drive. Numerous shots were fired by both sides and damage was done to nearby vehicles and a mobile home over a block away. Approximately a month later, the wounded gang member was killed in a non-gang-related traffic accident.

Gang-related violence and shootings continued in early 1992, and then, on July 19th, Arizona Ranger, John Thomas was shot and killed during the course of an armed robbery outside the First Interstate Bank at 50 E. Fry Blvd. Thomas, who was escorting a man making a deposit at the bank's night drop box, was shot in the head by Patrick R. Slay as Slay attempted to flee the area after having just robbed a customer who had been using an outside automatic teller machine. Slay had also been one of the four gang-affiliated soldiers involved in the gang shooting incident earlier that year on Berridge Drive.

In April of 1992, a county-wide task force was organized in an attempt to improve gang-prevention efforts by involving both public and private sectors of our communities. The concept for the task force approach originated in discussions between the Sierra Vista Police Department and the Cochise County Juvenile Probation Department. The task force quickly adopted the name "Gang Reduction, Awareness, Prevention, and Education (G.R.A.P.E.)." Included in the early successes of this group were:

1. A state-wide conference seeking solutions to violent crime through community involvement. Approximately 125 people attended the conference which was held November 19th and 20th at the Windemere Hotel in Sierra Vista.
2. Development of a very successful graffiti abatement program that is still active in the greater Sierra Vista

area today.

3. Establishment of a monthly law enforcement gang intelligence briefing wherein officers from city, county, state, and federal agencies exchanged information on current gang activities in the Sierra Vista area.

In 1993 the GRAPE task force, working in conjunction with the County Attorney's Office was able to distribute \$40,000 of RICO asset seizure money to various public and private entities in Cochise County for gang prevention activities. 1993 also marked the introduction of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program to Sierra Vista's school system. Created by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, G.R.E.A.T. has a school-based gang prevention curriculum. The program has been taught to all seventh grade students in Sierra Vista since 1993. Officer Bill Burns was SVPD's first G.R.E.A.T. Officer.

Gang related shootings and violence in Sierra Vista experienced a brief lull in the mid-1990's, perhaps as a result of increased law enforcement pressure and the cooperative efforts of the police and other elements of the criminal justice system. In Sierra Vista, a "Targeted Offender" program was initiated and the community's ten most violent offenders became the focus of police attention. An immediate decrease in gang-related violence was noted when any of these "targeted offenders" was convicted of various crimes and subsequently incarcerated. Another anti-gang strategy utilized in the 1990's was called the "Major Offender Program." MOP was a cooperative effort of the Sierra Vista Police Department and the Cochise County Juvenile Probation Department. Uniformed SVPD officers accompanied by Juvenile Intensive Probation Officers patrolled local gang "hot spots" as a team and were therefore better able to deal with habitual or repeat offenders.

Violent gang activity appeared to be on the upswing again in 1998. During that year the Sierra Vista Police Department made 170 gang-

related arrests. In addition, 1998 brought nine gang shootings and one gang-related homicide. These figures nearly matched the "peak year" figures of 1992. Beginning in 1999 the City saw a reduction in gang-related violence even though gang arrests remained relatively unchanged. Much of the progress made toward stemming gang activity could be attributed to the state-funded Gang Intelligence Enforcement Mission (G.I.T.E.M.) task force, a unit of which had been stationed in Sierra Vista. Unfortunately, the state-wide budget constraints beginning in 2001 resulted in the disbandment of this task force in November of 2002. Gang enforcement in the Sierra Vista area then became the exclusive problem of the Sierra Vista Police Department. While gang-related violence declined slightly over the next two years, a sharp increase in graffiti activity beginning in 2001. Much of this activity was attributed to two gangs in particular: the North Side Bloods, and a second gang known by three different names, the East Side Bloods, the East Side Locos, and the 18th Street Locos. By the year 2003, other gangs began to assert themselves in the area of graffiti. These gangs included the Maryvale Ganster Crips and other Crip sets. By June of 2006 graffiti remained the most significant gang-related problem in Sierra Vista. Violent gang activity between 2003 and June of 2006 was virtually non-existent.

[Author's book will include charts depicting gang-related activity in Sierra Vista, compiled by the G. I. T. E. M. task force, for the duration of its presence from 1992 through 2003.]

Below is an abbreviated list of gangs that have operated in the greater Sierra Vista area during the past 15 years:

United Mexican Power	Maryvale Gangster Crips (MVGC)	
Varrio Nuevo Estrada (VNE)	Main Street Mafia (MSM)	
Criminal High Tower Clique	The Hollywood Gang	
True Harbor City	WetBack Power	
WestSide Crips	Crips For Life	
EastSide Locos	EastSide Bloods	Folk
Brown Pride	18 th Street Bloods	Sur - 13

XX. THE CLELLAND & HAINES MURDERS

[Due to the graphic nature of the criminal record of these two murders, CCHS and the author mutually agreed to omit this chapter from the Journal. The author's book will include the entire chapter.]

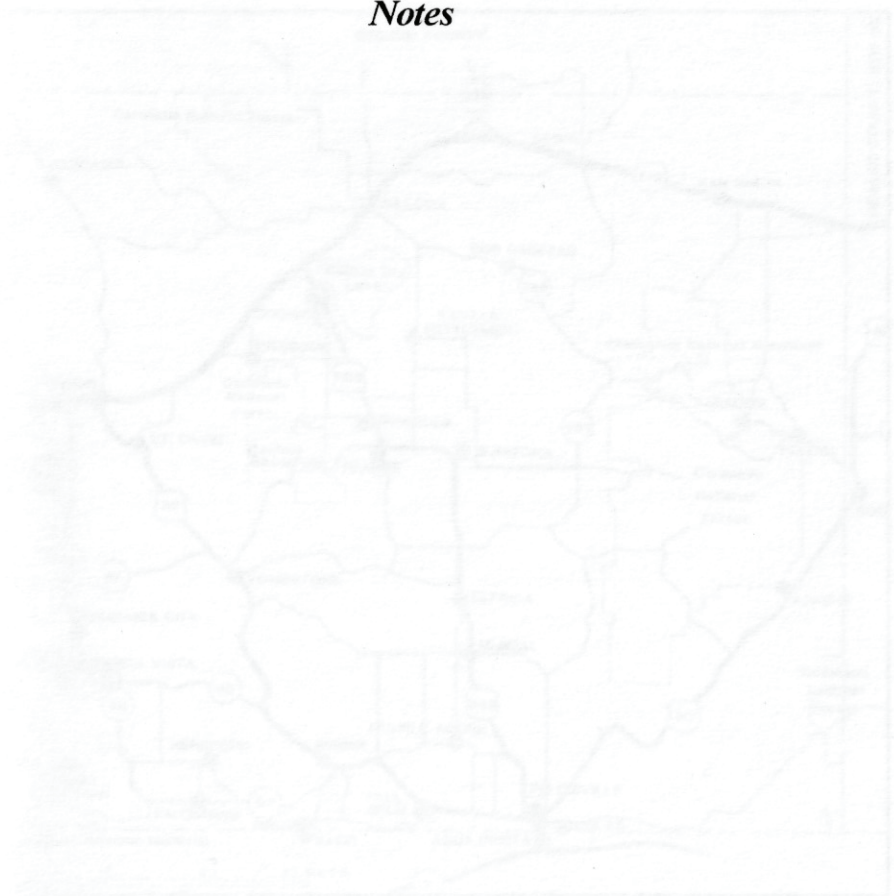
XXI. TOP TEN IMPACT EVENTS

Significant Events In The History Of The Sierra Vista Police Department

- 1956 Incorporation of Town of Sierra Vista
- 1966 Shooting of Officer Bill Leach
- 1966 Creation of Sierra Vista D. P. S.
- 1967 Clelland and Haines Murders
- 1971 Annexation of Ft. Huachuca
- 1981 Miracle Valley
- 1983 Shooting of Richard Pier By SVPD
- 1989 End of C. Reed Vance Era
- 1993 Dissolution of S.V.D.P.S.
- 1996 New Police Facility Completed

[Look for the conclusion of this historical chronology in the Fall/Winter 2007 issue. The author includes a year-by-year event log, which CCHS will summarize. We also shall provide an alphabetized list of all SVPD employees, an incredible genealogical resource, should the need arise. What anticipation!]

Notes



Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society

Membership Information

Individual/Family	\$20
Business	\$25
Lifetime	\$500

Mail to:
P. O. Box 318
Douglas, AZ 85609

Dues are paid effective in
January of each year and
include one copy of each
journal published.

XX THE CLELLAND-HAINES MURDERS

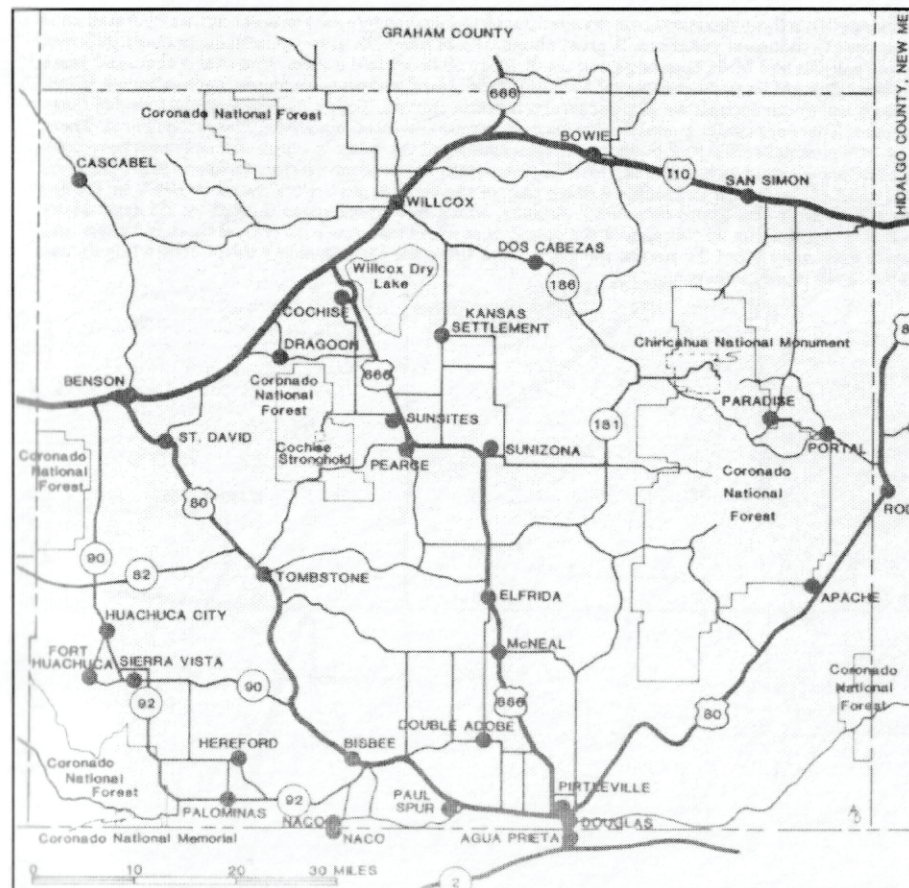
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- 1993 Dissolution of S.V.D.P.S.
- 1996 New Police Facility Completed

[Look for the conclusion of this historical chronology in the Fall/Winter 2007 issue. The author includes a year-by-year event log, which CCHS will summarize. We also shall provide an alphabetized list of all SVPD employees, an incredible genealogical resource, should the need arise. What anticipation!]



Cochise County, Arizona

Cochise County Historical Society Membership Information

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