

THE COCHISE COUNTY  
**Historical Journal**

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# THE COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL JOURNAL

A COCHISE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

VOLUME 37 No.2 FALL/WINTER 2007



## FIRST WATCH

THE HISTORY OF THE  
SIERRA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS (PT. 2)

May 26, 1956 - May 26, 2006

by  
David A. Santor  
Chief of Police, Retired



CCHS

Cochise County  
Historical Society

Founded in 1966

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**To Preserve  
the Past  
for  
The Future**

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SEPTEMBER 13, 1968. TAX  
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DECEMBER 17, 1971.

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## Cover photo

courtesy of David A. Santor

The Sierra Vista Police Department moved into its current facility in 1996, located at 911 North Coronado Drive. The 22,500 square foot structure is state-of-the-art, modern inside & out.

## Editorial Letter

The old adage that "nothing changes, but nothing stays the same" certainly applies to the Cochise County Historical Society (CCHS).

The "nothing changes" part is that the regular Journal--currently the only publication of its kind on Cochise County--is still going strong after thirty-plus years. Issues are already planned through 2008 and into 2009. So what's in CCHS's immediate future? The very next Journal is a biographical Special Edition honoring Mary Magoffin; it's planned for distribution at the General Membership Luncheon set for the first Sunday in November. Promised to be quite 'reader friendly', it will offer not only pictures and information, but also some vignettes, anecdotes and tidbits submitted by family and friends. [Contact Ethel Price at (520) 417-9686 to submit material or inquire into the process.]

Then the Spring/Summer 2008 edition shall be devoted to the historically significant Douglas International Airport, an action approved unanimously and which prompted a schedule change, pushing the "Arizona Rangers in Cochise County" into the Fall/Winter 2008 and "Bldg 66050 & The Buffalo Soldiers" into early 2009. Yes, the Journals are strong and healthy.

But then, "nothing stays the same." The CCHS Board began 2007 with twelve active members plus one honorary member. First, we lost Mary Magoffin and, without her, John found it necessary to resign. Dave Santor, author of the 2007 Journals, is unable to continue active service. Next, Mary Burnett resigned as President, citing personal reasons. John and Norma Lavanchy announced their move to Indiana. Due to health issues, Ron Price resigned from the Board, and of course, his wife, Ethel, joined him, although she still serves as the organization's one-member Speakers' Bureau and writes for the Journals.

CCHS is currently planning augmentation to the Douglas-Williams House docent program, facilitating its continued



recognition as a nationally acclaimed museum. Additionally, CCHS has authorized a 'Letter of Intent', directed to the Center for Southwest Studies at Cochise College, addressing interest in forming a partnership for the purpose of producing the periodic Journals, beginning in 2008. Yes, there are exciting things ahead!

Which brings us to that annual General Membership Luncheon that you won't want to miss--it's a great chance to schmooze with friends and visit with the author of the Special Edition, who will be on hand to sign copies.

That said, CCHS is honored to confirm that the Guest Speaker at the General Membership Luncheon will be Marsha Bonham--a name well recognized in southeastern Arizona; she will be relating about how railroads affected Cochise County. An excellent and most entertaining speaker, Ms. Bonham provides materials including a video and assorted brochures, and will welcome questions during an open Q & A period. Bring your own camera if you want pictures.

A more complete announcement and appropriate information will be sent soon to all members, but--so you can mark your calendars--here's a "scoop": the luncheon will take place at the Gadsden Hotel at 12:00 noon on November 4th. Will we see you there? We hope so.

— **The Editorial Board**

## The History of the Sierra Vista Police Department (Part 2)

As promised, CCHS has included a hefty bit of information in this final half. The author includes a year-by-year event log, which we have summarized here, but which is still chock full of historical data. There is also an alphabetized list of all SVPD employees--an incredible genealogical resource. Let's recap the last chapter of Part 1, and move directly into Part 2.

### 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



## XXII. S.V. P. D. "Year-by-Year"

### 1956

1. **May 26** - City Incorporated -- Area population was 1,671.
2. **October** - Fry Post Office changes name to Sierra Vista Post Office.

### 1957

1. **March 5** - Clarence Sherbundy first Chief of Police. Served for a few months without pay.
2. **March 5** - Police Commissioner Paul Keating authorized to purchase a used pick-up truck for the Police Department. It was a 1955 Ford pick-up truck and was S.V.P.D.'s first vehicle.
3. **April 1** - James Wells hired as first paid police officer. Wells was made the second (first paid) Chief of Police in a matter of a few months.
4. **June 17** - Special census shows Sierra Vista population at 1,671.

### 1958

1. **January 17** - Town acquires new building "Quonset Hut" to house city offices, and fire trucks.
2. **March 4** - City Council accepts design for first S.V.P.D. shoulder patch. Design was submitted by Doctor Samuel Delos Champaign.
3. **May 2** - S.V.P.D. now on a 24-hour basis.
4. **June 24** - \$14,840.60 contract awarded for construction of new Town Hall on Sherbundy Street. (Elledge Construction Company)
5. **July 1** - Wages of Police Chief to be stabilized at \$400.00 per month and \$375.00 per month for police officers.
6. **November 23** - New Town Hall dedicated.
7. **December 12** - Mule Pass Tunnel to Bisbee to be opened.

### 1959

1. **February 10** - Policemen reimbursed .08 cents per mile and \$1.50 per meal, for reporting to out-of-town school calls.
2. **March 21** - Jim Wells resigns and Ray Thompson becomes Sierra Vista's third Chief of Police.
3. **April 19** - Hire date for C. Reed Vance. (becomes 5<sup>th</sup> Police Chief)
4. **July 2** - Ray Thompson resigns as Chief of Police.
5. **August 5** - William "Bill" Stone is appointed Sierra Vista's fourth Chief of Police.
6. **November 9** - Census data indicates Sierra Vista population at 2,854.

### 1960

1. **April 5** - Police Chief Bill Stone submits letter of resignation as a result of conflicts with Mayor Robert Danser and Councilman Edward Ryan. Resignation was not accepted by the City Council. The Chief was asking for more men and better working conditions for the Police Department.
2. **May 20** - S.V.P.D. at this point consisted of Chief Bill Stone and five officers.
3. **December 20** - First mention of William N. Armstrong as "Manager Designee."

### 1961

1. **January 10** - Resolution #52 adopted - paid Town Manager William Armstrong \$9,000 per year.
2. **January 17** - Census Bureau data showed Sierra Vista population as 3,121.
3. **April 18** - City Council passed a motion establishing a policy that able-bodied prisoners sentenced to hard labor within the Town Jail shall be placed at hard labor wherever the Police Commissioner determines that such useful work for the Town can be accomplished.
4. **May 22** - Vote is 218 yes and 112 no, to change Sierra Vista from Town to City.



## 1962

1. **January 19** - Rank of Sergeant established in the department. Officer Don Parks appointed as first Sergeant.
2. **March 15** - Termination date for Chief of Police Bill Stone. Two police officers and one clerk also resigned the night Bill Stone was fired. (Shuller, Bowers, & Howell).
3. **May 25** - Captain, C. Reed Vance appointed Chief of Police effective July 1, 1962, with a salary of \$550.00 per month. (Vance is S.V.P.D.'s 5<sup>th</sup> Chief of Police)

## 1963

1. **January 8** - Sierra Vista's City Clerk advised the City's Merit Board that one of Sierra Vista's Police Officers was living outside the city limits. This, the Clerk pointed out, was a violation of City policy and the officer involved had agreed to reside in the city as one of the terms of his employment. According to the City Clerk, this matter had come up at this time only because a second Sierra Vista Police Officer had requested permission to move his trailer outside the city limits. Two weeks later, at its January 22, 1963 meeting, the Merit Board read and accepted the resignation of Police Officer Earl R. Brown. His resignation, which was effective on February 11, 1963, stated that he did not wish to abide by the Merit Board's decision that he must move inside the city limits. Officer Brown's residence at the time was the Thunderbird Mobile Home Park (3300 E. Fry Blvd.) which was then outside the city limits, albeit by less than a mile.
2. **August 22** - 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:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.'

## 1964

1. **January 20 thru 24** - Officers Clarence "Sonny" Chandler, Peter Womack, and Jack Allen are first S.V.P.D. officers to attend a formal "police academy." The academy was held in Douglas,



Arizona. It was sponsored primarily by the FBI with instructors from various police departments and Cochise County Sheriff's Department included. The academy consisted of 40 hours of training on various law enforcement subjects.

2. **April** - Police Department has first "Policeman's Ball" to raise money for change in police uniforms.
3. **April 28** - First discussion of purchasing a motorcycle for the police department. However, S.V.P.D. would not purchase its first motorcycles until 13 years later, in early 1977.

## 1965

1. **January 26** - Police Department acquires Identi-Kit on lease agreement.
2. **April 10** - S.V.P.D. held its second Policeman's Ball at El Rancho Roller Rink. 800 tickets were sold.
3. **April 13** - City Attorney, Fred Talmadge, stated that since the police department had started "taking movies of drunks," funds would be needed to adequately support this measure.
4. **July 13** - Sierra Vista signs agreement with Huachuca City to house H.C.P.D. prisoners in Sierra Vista City Jail.
5. **November 9** - City Council abolished the rank of Captain in the police department and replaced it with Lieutenant. Sergeant Billy J. Evans was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

## 1966

1. **May 14** - Third Annual Policeman's Ball.
2. **July 1** - Lloyd Veldman appointed as Sierra Vista's second City Manager with a salary of \$750.00 per month.
3. **July 14** - Resolution #178 establishing a Department of Public Safety was adopted.
4. **July 28** - C. Reed Vance appointed Director of Public Safety.
5. **August 16** - S.V.P.D. Officer Bill Leach shot and wounded with his own service weapon. The incident occurred at the Main Gate to Fort Huachuca at about 3:30 a.m. when Leach answered a call regarding a man acting strangely in the middle

of the intersection. When Leach was momentarily distracted, the suspect seized Leach's gun and shot him in the side. Two Fort Huachuca MP's came to Leach's rescue and apprehended the suspect.

## 1967

1. **January 8** - Police Chief C. Reed Vance files libel suit against Rex Thornton.
2. **March 7** - Mayor Fred Wuenschel is removed from office in a recall election.
3. **April 29** - Fourth Annual Policeman's Ball held at El Rancho Roller Rink.
4. **April 30** - Seven-year-old Cindy Clelland disappears from her home on Peterson Street in Sierra Vista.
5. **May 3** - Body of Cindy Clelland located in field at North Seventh and East Range.
6. **June 22** - Six-year-old Janelle Haines is murdered near Officer's Club pond on Fort Huachuca.
7. **June 29** - William L. Huff arrested by the FBI for the murder of Janelle Haines.
8. **October 2** - William Huff pleads guilty to second degree murder in death of Janelle Haines. Sentencing was set for October 16, 1967.
9. **October 16** - William Huff sentenced to life in prison for murder of Janelle Haines. Huff now charged with murder of Cindy Clelland.
10. **October 18** - William Huff pleads guilty to murder of Cindy Clelland.
11. **October 25** - William Huff sentenced to 40 years to life for the murder of Cindy Clelland. This sentence to run concurrently with the life sentence he received for the murder of Janelle Haines.

## 1968

1. **April 25** - City Councilman Geoffrey Levinson asked that



the Police Department be told to cease and desist from the "rifle raffle" at the Fifth Annual Policeman's Ball. The Council advised Levinson that the matter was being handled on a donation basis and not as a lottery.

2. **July 31** - In newspaper article Councilman Geoffrey Levinson charges that local law enforcement officials are aiding gambling in Sierra Vista. Stories in both local newspapers and the Arizona Republic carried claims by Levinson that local law officials were aiding gambling. The Republic article stated that slot machines were prevalent in Sierra Vista. Geoffrey Levinson had also sent a telegram to Arizona Governor Jack Williams making the same claims. Levinson's claims again brought up the issue of the police department "raffling" of a rifle.

## 1969

1. **April 14** - John O. Halvorsen is appointed as Sierra Vista's third City Manager at a salary of \$1,104.00 per month.
2. **May 28** - Police Department consists of 15 employees as follows: Chief, C. Reed Vance; Captain, Bill Evans; Sergeant, Joseph E. Plum in charge of investigations; Marty Sanders, Bobby Reaves, and Charlie Jones were uniformed Sergeants; Patrolmen were Bob Howard, Ed Thibedeau, Art Montgomery, Bruce Beaty, George Kirn, and David Santor. The department also employed three civilian dispatchers, Rosie Webster, Beulah Domianus, and Betty Keeling.
3. **June 7** - Police Department hires three additional personnel, patrolmen Mitchell "Buddy" Hale and David Fontes along with police dispatcher Velma Saunders.
4. **December 23** - Police Department at this point consists of 18 full-time and 1 part-time positions.

## 1970

1. **February 26** - Police Department was authorized to purchase one VASCAR (Visual Average Speed Computer and Recorder) for installation in one of the two newly ordered 1970 Plymouth police cars. Councilman (and former police chief) Bill Stone

voted against this item.

2. **February 26** - City Council votes to authorize the full-time position of Humane Officer (effective March 1, 1970) at a starting salary of \$450.00 per month. Prior to this, the position of Humane Officer was part-time, and before that animal related calls were handled by police officers.
3. **September 24** - Motion approved to place a police officer at the Junior High School crossing (Current site of Apache Middle School) in the mornings and evenings to help students crossing. Councilman Marshall stated that this has been a serious problem for some time and it will get even worse when Fry Blvd. becomes a four-lane highway.
4. **October 21** - Police officer Bruce L. Beaty was issued a traffic citation for driving too fast for conditions after his 1970 Plymouth patrol car collided with rear of a privately owned vehicle. The accident occurred on Fry Blvd. as the privately owned vehicle was stopped in traffic waiting to make a left turn into the Junior High School parking lot.
5. **December 22** - Police Department's FY 1970-71 operating budget included \$7,500.00 for the purchase of three (3) new police cars. It later became apparent that this was only enough money to purchase two (2) new cars.

## 1971

1. **March 11** - Chief of Police C. Reed Vance is narrowly reappointed as Chief by a 4 to 3 vote of the City Council. Councilmen Fuller, Maroney and Stone voted against Vance's reappointment.
2. **March 25** - Councilman Fuller opposed a motion to reappoint John O. Halvorsen to the position of City Manager. Among the charges Fuller leveled at Halvorsen were his willful interference in the proper performance of the Police Department.



4. **July 8** - Resolution # 305 passed by City Council. The resolution commended the Police Department and several other agencies for the combined efforts in the successful prosecution of an "adult bookstore" in Sierra Vista. The establishment in question was known in the Police Department as the "Yellow Front Bookstore" and was located at the present site of Sun & Spokes Bicycle Shop.
5. **July 22** - Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants Association endorse proposed "North side By-Pass" around Sierra Vista and suggest off-ramps at Taylor Drive, Seventh Street, and Moorman Ave. (This section of Moorman Avenue was later changed to Coronado Drive). The Taylor Drive intersection was never built.
6. **October 21** - Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #28 named its first-ever "Policeman of the Year" with the selection of policeman David A. Santor of the Sierra Vista Police Department. Lodge #28 has named an Officer of the Year every year since.
7. **Fort Huachuca** - was annexed into the City of Sierra Vista.

## 1972

1. **February 24** - Letter from J. Edgar Hoover is read at City Council meeting. The letter extended an invitation for C. Reed Vance to attend the 89<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. The Council vote unanimously allowed the Chief's attendance.
2. **March 8** - Three 1972 Chevrolet Biscayne police cruisers are received by the Police Department. The vehicles were purchased for the total price of \$10,635.
3. **June 7** - C. Reed Vance graduates from the 89<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy.
4. **September 14** - City Councilman Maroney requested an ad-hoc committee consisting of interested citizens be formed to interview current police officers and those who have recently left the force. He stated that his intent was to determine what

the problem was causing the rapid turnover in the Police Department. Council instead decided to hold a study session with the Chief of Police and his command staff.

5. **September 28** - Resolution #355 was read expressing confidence in the Police Department, its Police Chief and the overall operation of the department.
6. **September 29** - Robert Howard, former Sierra Vista police officer and current Cochise County Sheriff's Deputy is named Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #28's Policeman of the Year for 1972.
7. **October 18** - Marty Sanders is promoted to rank of Lieutenant and Joseph E. Plum to the rank of Captain.

## 1973

1. **March 8** - Councilman Bill Stone requested that a police officer be posted at the intersection of Seventh Street and Fry Blvd. for morning rush hour traffic.
2. **October 25** - Mayor is authorized to sign a proposed agreement between the City and Cochise County pertaining to the joint use of jail facilities in the County complex in Sierra Vista.
3. **December 13** - Councilman Goldberg requested that the City Engineer and the Police Chief conduct a study to determine the feasibility of eliminating as many street lights as possible on Fry Blvd. From the Main Gate of Ft. Huachuca to Seventh Street. Councilman Goldberg further stated that Fry Blvd. was very well lit, and although lighting was only on one side of the street from Seventh Street to the High School, he felt that this was not a safety hazard as indicated.

## 1974

1. **January 23** - City Engineer and Police Chief recommend against removal of any street lights on Fry Blvd. This was done in response to a request from Councilman Goldberg.
2. **February 21** - Mr. John Sarris (City Manager) stated at the City Council meeting that plans called for the present City Hall (400 Sherbundy St.) to be converted into a police complex.



3. **August 22** - Various City of Sierra Vista departments were ordered to cease their operations of competing against private enterprises within the City and surrounding areas. Examples given were: (1) the Police Department receives calls for Modern Pharmacy after hours. This is done free of charge and in direct competition with various answering services in town; (2) the police department is providing free armed guard escort service to merchants making night deposits to banks. Again, this is in direct competition with two licensed and bonded security companies in the City.

## 1975

1. **March 19** - Sierra Vista Police Department basketball team takes on a team from the Sierra Vista Jaycees. Proceeds from this event were to go the Big Brothers and the American Field Service.
2. **June 4** - Pay raises for city employees and fringe benefits for supervisors were among the first items to be cut from the proposed 1975-76 budget according to Mayor Ron Goldberg. Also planned was the reorganization of departments that would also effect some savings. City police and firemen would be combined under a Department of Public Safety.
3. **July 7** - Patrolman Arthur J. Montgomery, planning and research officer for the Police Department, departed today for Washington, D.C. where he will attend the 102<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy.
4. **August 28** - Councilman Owens presented a petition from residents of Vista Village requesting that the Police Department patrol the "wilderness area" between Vista Village and the Bella Vista Elementary School.

## 1976

1. **May 13** - During the City Council meeting a discussion of placing the merit system for the police department in abeyance took place. It was brought out that this action had resulted in the loss of four or five police officers. To replace a police

officer costs the City approximately \$60,000.

## 1977

1. **January 13** - \$2,433.60 bid awarded to General Electric for two motorcycle radios for the Police Department.
2. **July 28** - Sierra Vista Police Chief, C. Reed Vance, is named to Arizona Law Enforcement Officer Advisory Council. (ALEOAC) later would become Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.).

## 1978

1. **February 16** - Melanie Devine is hired as Police Department's first female Police Assistant.
2. **April 13** - City Manager authorized to enter into an agreement with the City of Phoenix to provide basic training to the officers of the Sierra Vista Police Department.

## 1979

1. **July - September** - Sergeant David Santor attends 118<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. Santor is the department's third FBINA graduate.
2. **September 4** - Hire date for John Clabourne as Police Assistant. John was S.V.P.D.'s first black Police Assistant and would later go on to become S.V.P.D.'s first Black Police Officer.
3. **September 27** - Councilman Gordon Ray suggested that the Director of Public Safety be instructed to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a personal-issue vehicle system within the City of Sierra Vista. This is the beginning of S.V.P.D.'s "Take Home" car program.

## 1980

1. **January 10** - Councilman Chuck Balzarini requested that the Arizona Rangers (who patrolled the parking lot area when meetings were held at the Community Center), be asked to perform that same function at the City Hall parking lot when



City Council meetings are held.

2. **September 25** - Councilman Carl Frieders requested that the Police Department be commended for their work during the past few weeks in handling the teachers' strike situation.

## 1981

1. **June 11** - An estimated \$100,000 of jewelry and other items — what police called a person's "lifetime collection" — was stolen sometime last week from a residence in the Bella Vista area.

## 1982

1. **March 1** - Police Dispatcher Theresa M. Russell (Baker) is promoted from Police Dispatcher to the rank of Police Officer. Thus, she became the first female to hold the rank of sworn police officer with the Sierra Vista Police Department.
2. **April 19** - Officers of the Sierra Vista Police Department clashed with several teenaged members of the Christ Miracle Healing Center and Church from Miracle Valley. This "near riot" situation took place on and near the Buena High School campus at Fry Blvd. and Highway 92. Several officers received minor injuries. Five young men were arrested and charged with a total of 13 felonies.
3. **April 22** - Councilman Norm House commented on the recent Miracle Valley incidents, and stated he would like to emphasize that the City Council is totally behind the police force.
4. **May 1** - Police officer Kenneth Kimmel is named as Sierra Vista Police Department's first "Police Officer of the Year." Prior to this date only the local Fraternal Order of Police named an officer of the year and it was county-wide. Ken went on to be named "Officer of the Year" again the following year.
5. **July - September** - Sergeant Thomas J. Hilb attends 130<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. Hilb is the department's fourth FBINA graduate.

## 1983

1. **March 15** - Captain Joseph E. Plum of the Sierra Vista Police

Department testified today that he tried several times to calm down teenage members of a Miracle Valley Church prior to an April 19, 1982, clash near Buena High School.

2. **March 16** - Sierra Vista Police Officer Bob Randall testified today that he "was kicked and hit continually" before being knocked unconscious during an April 19, 1982 clash with members of a Miracle valley Church. Police Assistant John Clabourne said he heard racial slurs at the scene being hurled by members of the Miracle Valley Church. "The word nigger was used several times, which at the time was confusing to me, because it was used by blacks and directed at police officers."
3. **May 25** - A multi-agency bust this morning netted 13 suspects, mostly on narcotics violations, with more arrests expected in the next 24 hours. "Operation Slam" as the bust was called included about 40 uniformed and undercover lawmen who raided residences in Sierra Vista and Huachuca City in teams of six officers.
4. **August 22** - Richard Herman Pier, 23, was shot to death by Sierra Vista Police Officer David Wheeler as Pier stabbed a woman to death in a field just east of the Cloud Nine Circle K store on Highway 90.
5. **October 20** - A Sierra Vista police officer (David Wheeler) was "legally justified" when he shot a man who had just stabbed a woman hostage, County Attorney Beverly Jenny said today.

## 1984

1. **October 25** - Councilman Mike Hicks commented on the Police Department's new "Officer Friendly" program and suggested (tongue in cheek) that the City Council should start a "Friendly Councilman" program.

## 1985

1. **January 1** - Captain Joseph E. Plum retires from the Police Department.
2. **January - March** - Detective Robert Pearce attends



140<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. Pearce is the department's fifth FBINA graduate.

## 1986

1. **September 28** - Sierra Vista residents will be asked to evaluate the Sierra Vista Department of Public Safety this week in a questionnaire designed to assist the police in understanding how they are regarded by the public. Arizona State University is conducting the study at the request of the police department.
2. **November** - Sierra Vista police officials are considering a return to patrolling the city by assigning police officers to beats as a result of annexations that have extended the city limits. "We did away with the beats in the past because of manpower problems" said Lt. Tom Hilb. "In the near future, we are going to evaluate our manpower to look at possibilities of going back to a beat system."

## 1987

1. **January - March** - Sergeant Kenneth E. Kimmel attends 148<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. Kimmel is the department's sixth FBINA graduate.
2. **January 22** - Councilwoman Ethel Berger asked of Chief of Police Reed Vance if young people must cross Fry Blvd. when going to Buena High School, in the crosswalks and at the street lights. Chief Vance stated that the Police Department has written citations for jay-walking, but it is a hard thing to control.

## 1988

1. **September - December** - Gang problems first noted in Sierra Vista. At this point gang activity was limited to graffiti, colors, threatening and intimidating conduct in Buena High School and the Sierra Vista Middle School. Gang fights would soon spread to the Sierra Vista City Park.

## 1989

1. **June 30** - Retirement date for C. Reed Vance as Sierra Vista's fifth Chief of Police.
2. **July 1** - Major Arthur J. Montgomery is promoted to the rank of Chief of Police. He thus became Sierra Vista's sixth Chief of Police.

## 1990

1. **September** - D.A.R.E. On The Air is introduced by KZMK Radio locally. The program featured S.V.P.D. DARE Officer Randy Kirkman and Cochise County Sheriff's Department DARE Officer Al Tomlinson. This is recognized as the first such DARE radio program anywhere.

## 1991

1. **January - April** - Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, Sierra Vista Police issued 526 warnings and citations to speeders in the city limits. Sixty percent of those were warnings. On highways in Cochise County, Arizona Department of Public Safety patrolmen have issued 1,360 speeding tickets since January to people who break the 55 mile-per-hour speed limit, and another 3,878 tickets to people exceeding the 65-mile-per-hour speed limit on the interstate highway.
2. **May 9** - City Council authorizes the Police Department to hire two new Police Dispatchers and one Police Officer.

## 1992

1. **March 13** - An 18-year-old Sierra Vista man and two 17-year-old Buena High School students were arrested and 39 weapons were recovered following an early morning burglary of a local firearms store.
2. **March 17** - A former Sierra Vista physician and her sister were sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for their role in a marijuana and cocaine smuggling ring.
3. **April 5** - Mark Christian survived a shotgun blast to his right shoulder and the right side of his face during a drive-by



shooting last Saturday night, only to be run over by a car less than a week later. Christian, also known as Mark Hardy, was walking across North Seventh Street about 1 a.m. Saturday morning when a car driven by a teen-aged female struck and killed him.

4. **May 25** - A 24-year-old man was shot early yesterday in Sierra Vista when two men showered an apartment complex with gunfire. The soldier was shot in the upper right arm while sitting in his car in the parking lot of the Sinaloa Apartments, 800 N. Lenzner Ave.
5. **June 12** - Police are blaming gang-related violence on the second shooting incident in as many nights in Sierra Vista. Police said a car occupied by two 16-year-old girls was hit in the passenger side door as they quarreled with reputed gang members at a Sierra Vista mobile home park.
6. **July 20** - Arizona Ranger, John W. Thomas, is shot and critically wounded during armed hold-up at bank ATM machine. Patrick R. Slay, 22, a known gang member, was arrested and charged with armed robbery of a Sierra Vista couple. As Slay was fleeing the scene of the robbery he confronted Ranger Thomas and shot him in the head. Thomas died the following day and Slay was subsequently charged with and convicted of murder.
7. **July 28** - Sierra Vista Police Department was instrumental in the founding of G.R.A.P.E. Gang Reduction Awareness Prevention and Education, a task force to combat gangs and related problems in Cochise County.
8. **November 22** - Gang Reduction Awareness Prevention and Education (GRAPE) conference is held over two days at the Sierra Vista Ramada Inn. More than 100 people gathered to discuss gangs and related violence and to discuss strategies.

## 1993

1. **January 19** - Two Sierra Vista homes were the targets of drive-by shootings over the weekend. In the first incident Friday, a resident at 32 Terra Drive reported six shots being fired at the residence. Five of the six shots hit the home's

block wall, the sixth passed through a window into the home. In the second incident a residence in the 800 block of Mimosa Circle reported two shots being fired at the home at about 6:30 p.m. Monday.

2. **March 12** - 16 Juveniles and adults arrested: A 14-year-old Sierra Vista Middle School student was among 11 juveniles and five adults arrested Thursday in connection with two gang-related shootings earlier this week.
3. **July 4** - A Cochise County Superior Court Judge sentenced 22-year-old Patrick R. Slay Friday to 43 years in prison before he is eligible for parole. Slay had pleaded guilty to gunning down Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class (and Arizona Ranger) John Thomas, July 19, 1992, in the parking lot of the First Interstate Bank, after robbing another man of \$200.00 at gunpoint.
4. **July 8** - Police Department estimates that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks at the old Buena High School football field drew 10,000 people.
5. **September 22** - Less than 24 hours after being featured on a nationally televised program (America's Most Wanted) authorities have captured Kenneth T. Drayton II, one of four men who escaped September 12, from the Cochise County Jail.
6. **September 23** - Resolution # 3085 was adopted dissolving the Sierra Vista Department of Public Safety and re-creating separate Police and Fire Departments.

## 1994

1. **January 5** - City selects architect: The City of Sierra Vista has selected Scott Rummel Architects from Tucson to design a new police station for the City. The firm recently designed the City's Fixed Base Operator hanger at the municipal airport.
2. **February 16** - The number of burglaries in Sierra Vista jumped by about 60% in 1993. Sierra Vista Police reported 250 burglaries in 1993 compared to 154 reports in 1992.
3. **April 6** - Police Lieutenant Kenneth Kimmel was promoted Tuesday afternoon to the rank of Captain as part of the first



major personnel change since the Police Department separated from the Department of Public Safety.

4. **July 27** - DARE takes its show on the road to South Pacific: DARE Officers, Sergeant Al Tomlinson and S.V.P.D. Officer Randy Kirkman will soon be off to two different islands in the South Pacific. The pair will be training DARE officers on the Mariana and Caroline Islands.
5. **July - September** - Sergeant Thomas Alinen attends 178<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy. Alinen is the department's seventh FBINA graduate.
6. **September 21** - Sierra Vista Police are investigating an apparently gang-related Monday morning shooting incident at the Union 76 Gas Station, 297 E. Fry Blvd.
7. **October 5** - A Sierra Vista man is being held in a Sonora, Texas, jail on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and is the main suspect in the shooting death of 28-year-old Carl Davidson, also of Sierra Vista. Earl F. Crago, 23, was arrested by Sonora, Texas, police officers Thursday without incident.
8. **October 16** - Two Sierra Vista teenagers were arrested late Thursday night after a seven-hour standoff with police east of the City. Police say two people were kidnaped but escaped without injury. They say the incident was gang-related.
9. **November 21** - A 34-year-old man remains hospitalized after he was shot in the stomach early Friday morning in the parking lot of a Sierra Vista night club. Sierra Vista police say this is the second violent, gang-related incident in recent months at P.B. Jams, 211 E. Bartow Drive.

## 1995

1. **March 7** - Dignitaries gathered today for the groundbreaking for the new Sierra Vista Police Building to be built at 911 North Coronado Drive. The \$3.6 million dollar building will be approximately 22,500 square feet and is expected to be completed in about nine months.
2. **March 28** - A 29-year-old man barricaded himself in a Sierra

Vista motel room for nearly seven hours today before he was subdued by a state Swat Team. Police identified the man as Paul Carlson, who they say was despondent and threatening suicide because of alleged family problems. Carlson was armed with a 9mm rifle.

3. **May 11** - A former jockey who earned \$180,000 racing horses as a 16-year-old has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for the armed robbery of a Sierra Vista restaurant. Jerry Lee Avery, 30, was sentenced for the armed robbery of JB's Restaurant in Sierra Vista. Avery said he robbed the restaurant because he was penniless and needed money for his drug addiction.
4. **May 26** - The Sierra Vista City Council approved a special assessment for cleanup costs against the owners of a home in Sierra Vista, the site of an explosion last October. Dale Dohring who was living at the house at 2262 Santa Rita was arrested after the incident and charged with manufacturing dangerous drugs and explosives.
5. **July 28** - Joseph Vavro, 33, was pronounced dead at Sierra Vista Community Hospital shortly after he was found hanging by his neck in the Sierra Vista Police Department holding cell. Vavro was in the cell being processed on charges of possessing stolen property, residential burglary, unspecified drug charges and on an outstanding warrant.
6. **August 10** - "Yes, We Have No Gangs" Sierra Vista Herald editorial chastised Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander, Col. Alfred Elliot III, for his statement regarding the existence of a criminal gang of soldiers on Post called the Dog Pound.
7. **October 27** - By a four-to-one vote the Sierra Vista City Council voted down a proposed "lightning bolt" sculpture that would have framed the entrance to the new police building. The Council would later award the same artist a \$19,000 contract for a sculpture of two lighted torches for the police department entrance.

## 1996

1. **March 12** - A Show Low teen will spend the next 10½ years in prison for his part in the armed robbery of a Sierra Vista



shoe store. David J. Christensen, 19, was sentenced Monday in Superior Court for the robbery which took place at Payless Shoes, 801 E. Fry Blvd., on September 30, 1994.

2. **April 27** - After more than a year of construction and several aborted move-in dates, the Sierra Vista Police Department officially occupied its new home at 911 North Coronado Drive on Saturday, April 27, 1996.
3. **June 2** - A 17-year-old Sierra Vista gang member has been sentenced to nearly nine years in a state penitentiary for firing shots into a house full of women and children in a November 1995, drive-by shooting.
4. **June 10** - A night watchman at a Sierra Vista car dealership was kidnaped and beaten Sunday night by three suspects who were stealing a vehicle. The 59-year-old Huachuca City man was on duty at O'Rielly Auto Plaza when the incident occurred. The watchman was later released near the Mexican border. Five suspects were later arrested.
5. **July 12** - The Sierra Vista Police Department today officially dedicated its new police building to former Police Chief, C. Reed Vance. The Department also held an open house. Approximately 500 people visited and toured the new facility.
6. **August 8** - S.V.P.D. issues duty weapons for the first time in its history. The first such issued service weapons were Model 22 and 23, .40 cal. Glock.
7. **October 21** - Four teenagers were arrested Saturday night following a gang fight in the parking lot of a Sierra Vista fast food restaurant. The fight, involving 15 juveniles, took place in the parking lot of the Jack in the Box Restaurant at 750 E. Fry Blvd.

## 1997

1. **January 21** - Three young men escaped injury and a 21-year-old man is in custody charged in a late Monday afternoon drive-by shooting on Sierra Vista's westside. Jame Olivas

of the 4800 block of East Bevers Street in Sierra Vista has been charged with aggravated assault, drive-by shooting, and criminal damage.

2. **February 11** - A 13-year-old boy was taken into custody Monday by Sierra Vista Police in connection with a fire that did thousands of dollars in damage destroying three buildings last Wednesday on Sierra Vista's westside.
3. **February 16** - Police are asking for the public's assistance in the search for the killer who stabbed a Sierra Vista man early Friday morning. William E. Leslein, 25, was found lying on his living room floor in a pool of blood from an apparent wound to the left side of his neck, at about 12:40 a.m. Officers were called to Leslein's residence at the 1900 block of Santa Rosa Drive to a report of an apparent robbery in progress.
4. **March 5** - Several explosions ripped through an eastside Sierra Vista neighborhood today damaging at least 24 homes, igniting fires that gutted one residence and miraculously leaving only two people with minor injuries. The explosions came from an oxygen delivery truck which was making deliveries in the Pueblo Del Sol subdivision just north of Foothills Drive.
5. **April 15** - Sierra Vista Police Officer Jim Adams was the target of a gunman early this morning as he patrolled Meyer Drive and the Carmichael Avenue area. Officer Adams was on routine patrol at about 1:30 a.m. when he heard two shots, one of which struck his vehicle. A Raymond Griffey, 19, was subsequently arrested and charged with three felony counts in connection with this incident. In a plea agreement, Griffey pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years in prison.
6. **August 7** - With the adoption of the 1997-98 city budget, the Police Department grows to 50 sworn officers.

## 1998

1. **February 13** - Drug crackdown sweeps Sierra Vista area. A total of 44 arrests and more than half a million dollars in drugs were netted during a week long sweep. The arrests followed a nearly year-long undercover drug operation involving several



- local, state and federal agencies. Involved were: S.V.P.D., D.E.A., DPS Swat, G.I.T.E.M., Customs, ATF, IRS, and the Border Alliance Group. Five arrest teams totaling 60 officers made the arrests at homes and businesses around Sierra Vista. This was the biggest operation of its kind in the history of Sierra Vista. One suspect, Danny Mason, 42, was shot and wounded by a DEA agent when he assaulted officers trying to arrest him. Mason was using a motor vehicle in an attempt to run down a sheriff's deputy when he was shot by the DEA officer.
2. **March 4** - The first 12-week Citizen Police Academy began at S.V.P.D. This was the first such academy to be conducted in Cochise County. Class 98-1 began with 28 students.
  3. **March 5** - William E. Lopez, 44, walked into the K-Mart store at 2011 E. Fry Blvd., and confronted Shawn Keller, 24, about an alleged affair Keller had been having with Lopez's estranged wife. Lopez then drew a .38 caliber revolver and shot Keller once in the head and twice in the chest, killing him. Lopez then slowly walked out of the store. Lopez was found dead several hours later of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.
  4. **March 27** - The first class (98-1) of S.V.P.D.'s Citizen Police Academy graduated in ceremonies held at the police department. Twenty-six students graduated in the first class.
  5. **April 2** - Daniel Antry, 15, was arrested and charged with the shooting death of his stepfather, Calvin Ashworth, 46. The incident occurred at the family's home on Sun Crest Drive in Sierra Vista at about 7 p.m. Daniel Antry was later acquitted on charges related to this shooting.
  6. **July 11** - Nathaniel James Hutton, 18, was shot once in the head and killed shortly before midnight. The shooting occurred during an argument on the street outside of Garden Canyon Mobile Home Park on South Garden Avenue. The suspect, Gustavo Cisneros Jr., 25, fled the scene and remained a fugitive until he turned himself in to authorities on May 4, 1999. Cisneros has not yet been tried on charges related to

this shooting.

7. **August 17** - The Police Department changed from silver-tan to blue uniforms.
8. **September 2** - Twelve Buena High School seniors were charged with vandalism this morning in a spree that left nearly 3,000 city school children without a bus ride to school. The vandalism consisted of the disabling of 43 district school buses by flattening their tires. The youths claimed their sole purpose was to conduct a "senior prank," and not to cause any damage.
9. **September 25** - Rob Mote and other SVPD officers responded to the home of Kevin L. Echternach, 38, in the 300 block of Sycamore Drive to answer a call of a man on a roof firing a handgun. Officers found Echternach on the roof of his home with a revolver in his hand. At one point Echternach pointed his weapon at Officer Mote, whereupon Mote fired one shot which struck Echternach in the hand with which he was holding the weapon. Echternach was arrested.
10. **October 5** - No one was injured Monday night during a drive-by shooting which left a northwest-side residence and several vehicles parked in front of it riddled with bullets. The residence is located on Kayetan Drive near its intersection with Taylor Drive.
11. **October 25** - Several Busby Drive area residents were evacuated from their homes when an armed man apparently distraught over the recent death of his mother barricaded himself in his home. A nine-hour standoff between the man and police ensued. It ended when police deployed tear gas into the home and then stormed the residence to remove William Hurley, 44.

## 1999

1. **January 10 Through March 26** - Lieutenant Mike Cline attends the 196<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI National Academy and



becomes the department's eighth FBINA graduate.

2. **February 2** - Espiridion Manuel Marin Jr., 24, of Tucson, was arrested this morning in Sierra Vista when he was pulled over on a routine traffic stop and subsequently found to be in possession of \$250,000 worth of marijuana. Officer Steve Bitticks made the traffic stop and discovered approximately 488 pounds of marijuana in Marin's truck.
3. **April 24** - Nobody was hurt this afternoon when an eighth-grade Apache Middle School student was found with a concealed handgun at the school.
4. **April 29** - Numerous rumors of violence have been the undercurrent at Buena High School this week, but school officials and the Sierra Vista police have not determined any of them to be true. The rumors came in the wake of the high school shooting in Littleton, Colorado, where 15 individuals were killed. Similar rumor problems were noted in cities across the country.
5. **May 14** - Members of the community were invited to SVPD "Open House" from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Several display tables and facility tours highlighted the event which was held in connection with National Police Week, and Police Memorial Day.
6. **June 30** - Police Officers Bill Burns and David Wheeler, along with Detective Robert Pearce retired from SVPD on this date, having taken advantage of a City offer to buy back military time toward retirement. With the retirement of these officers SVPD began the practice of presenting officers retiring with 20 or more years with their badge and service weapon.
7. **August 11** - With the final adoption of the City's operating budget for FY 1999/2000, the Police Department grows to 58 sworn officers and 30 full-time and 5 part-time civilian employees for a total of 93 authorized slots.

## 2000

1. **April 5** - Police arrested a man and are continuing their investigation into a fight that apparently erupted into gunfire

early Saturday morning. Police were called to the 4800 block of Paseo Arruza shortly after 2 a.m. to several reports of shots fired in the area and people running through residents' yards. A vehicle being operated by 18-year-old Christian Rangel was stopped a short time later. Rangel was arrested after a sawed-off shotgun was found in this car.

2. **April 11** - Two arrests have been made in the death of a local woman whom police believe was murdered Saturday. Quintin R. Alston, 38, was arrested without incident. He is being held on charges of first-degree murder, sexual assault, and kidnaping. Susan A. Bradford, 44, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder. Sharon Jones, 56, was found dead in her apartment around 4 p.m. on Saturday.
3. **April 18** - An 18-hour manhunt ended this morning when 30-year-old David Andrew Mitchell was taken into custody and charged with fatally striking his 74-year-old grandmother on the head with a hammer. Mitchell is facing first-degree murder charges.
4. **May 10** - A distraught man brought a gun to the Head Start program on the grounds of Carmichael School. He was looking for his estranged wife, a Head Start worker. Glenn Quatacker, 39, killed his 36-year-old wife Tammy and then took his own life. Police evacuated the school and all the students and teachers were taken by busses to Tompkins Park, where the children were reunited with their parents.
5. **May 15** - "Voice of Citizens Together," a California based anti-immigration group sponsored a rally at the Windemere Hotel in Sierra Vista on Saturday. About 200 people attended the rally at which local rancher, Roger Barnett, was described as a "Minuteman of 2000" for his efforts to halt illegal aliens from crossing his property.
6. **June 28** - Joseph E. Plum, a longtime citizen resident and retired police Captain of the Sierra Vista Police Department passed away today in Tucson, Arizona. Plum was 72-years-old.



7. **July 31** - A Fort Huachuca soldier is being held on charges of aggravated assault and drive-by shooting in an early Sunday morning incident. Staff Sergeant Cory Jackson was arrested after he reportedly fired a weapon wounding a 20-year-old man. The incident took place in the parking lot of the Sterling Pointe Apartments.
8. **November 28** - Tom Alinen, a 23-year veteran of the Sierra Vista Police Department was promoted to Captain on Monday.

## 2001

1. **January 3** - Sierra Vista lost a local legend Wednesday when former Police Chief C. Reed Vance passed away in a Tucson hospital. Vance was with the Police Department for 30-years and served as Chief of Police for 27 of those years. He was 72 years old.
2. **January 4** - One day after the death of former Police Chief, C. Reed Vance, the Sierra Vista Police Department has lost another former Chief. William "Bill" Stone who served as Sierra Vista's Police Chief from 1959 to 1962, died Thursday at the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center. He was 80 years old.
3. **April 8** - A 43-year-old Sierra vista woman was shot in the lower back Sunday morning as she was riding a bicycle in her neighborhood. The shots were fired from a moving vehicle occupied by two young men.
4. **May 24** - Sierra Vista police have arrested two men on charges related to the drive-by shooting that seriously injured a woman who was riding her bicycle on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Frances X. Santillan, 18, and Patrick R. Lingo, 18, were charged with attempted murder, aggravated assault, and the drive-by shooting statute.
5. **August 10** - "Orion" a two-year-old Labrador Retriever joined the Sierra Vista Police Department as its second narcotics "sniffer" dog. Orion was given to the Police Department by the Page, Arizona Police Department. Orion's handler is Officer

Thad Gulczynski.

6. **August 24** - Off-duty Sierra Vista Police Officer, Michael Brent Hanke, 30, was killed in a one-vehicle motorcycle accident on Martin Luther King Parkway in Sierra Vista this evening. Mike had been with the department for four years. He was married and had three children.
7. **September 1** - Police Department creates "Property Crimes Unit" which will devote most of its attention to vehicle and residential burglaries in Sierra Vista.
8. **September 11** - Sierra Vista officials announced this morning that extra security measures were being imposed on all municipal buildings in the wake of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C.
9. **December 2** - Frances X. Santillan, 18, and Patrick R. Lingo, 18, were sentenced last week in the drive-by shooting case that left Trina Smolen paralyzed. Santillan, the shooter, was sentenced to two 14-year prison terms while Lingo received a jail sentence of three years for his role in the crime.

## 2002

1. **January 3** - Three Buena High School students were arrested and charged with multiple counts of criminal damage for allegedly breaking windows and damaging vehicles during a vandalism spree that involved damage to more than 20 vehicles in Sierra Vista.
2. **February 18** - The Sierra Vista Police Department arrested 24-year-old Malik C. Prior on charged relating to three sexual assaults that occurred between June and November of 2001. Prior is being held in the Cochise County Jail on \$1 Million bond.
3. **March 9** - The Sierra Vista Police Department along with other local, county, state, and federal agencies conducted a mass-casualty exercise today to test local preparedness for a large-scale terrorist attack or natural disaster.
4. **March 20** - At the request of the Sierra Vista Police Department, the Arizona Regional Community Policing Institute conducted



a "Town Hall" today to assess local needs and concerns as they relate to public safety in Sierra Vista.

5. **July 4** - A 30-year-old man was killed today after another man shot him in front of the Cloud Nine Circle K Store at about 1:30 p.m. Robert S. Torres, 41, was later taken into custody and charged with murder. M. J. Morales, 20, was also arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit murder.
6. **August 1** - The Sierra Vista Police Department announced the formation of its first SWAT Team (to be called a Special Response Team). The unit is 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.
7. **September 30** - Sierra Vista's sixth Chief of Police, Arthur J. Montgomery retired from the department with 32 years of service.
8. **October 1** - Deputy Chief of Police David A. Santor was appointed Acting Chief of Police by City Manager Chuck Potucek.
9. **December 4** - David A. Santor was selected as Sierra Vista's seventh Chief of Police effective this date. This was 34 years to the day from when Santor joined S.V.P.D. as a police officer on December 4, 1968.

## 2003

1. **January 15** - Kenneth Kimmel was promoted from Captain to Major on this date and will now serve as Deputy Chief of Police. Ken started on the Police Department on March 1, 1979 as a Police Assistant and has been promoted through the ranks to his present position.
2. **February 9** - It was announced today that Captain Tom Alinen

of S.V.P.D. has earned his Masters Degree in Information Systems from Western International University.

3. **February 11** - Police Chief David Santor and Fire Chief Bruce Thompson appeared before the City's Citizens Advisory Commission to discuss the impact severe budgets would have on the operations of their departments. Santor said if he was forced to make more cuts he would have to seriously consider putting School Resource, DARE, and GREAT officers back on the street. The Police Department's budget at this point was \$5.7 Million, of which about 85% was spent on personnel. The department is authorized a staffing level of 64 officers. Budget constraints have led to seven position being frozen so the department currently has 57 sworn officers.
4. **March 24** - The Sierra Vista Police Department and the Cochise County Sheriff's Department are investigating a series of bomb threats that resulted in the closure of several city buildings and the Sierra Vista and Douglas campuses of Cochise Community College.
5. **May 13** - A Sierra Vista woman, her teen-age daughter and another high school student were arrested by the Sierra Vista Police Department in connection with a June 2002 murder in Maryland. The Sierra Vista officers were executing valid arrest warrants issued by Maryland authorities. According to Maryland authorities they were investigating the murder of a Largo, Maryland woman. They further had ATM video tape indicating that the Sierra Vista woman and the two teen-aged girls had used the murdered woman's credit card at a Maryland ATM. Maryland officials put the ATM pictures on the television show "America's Most Wanted" after which a sierra Vista resident recognized the woman as Virginia Shelton 46; her 16-year old daughter Shirley Shelton, and family friend Jennifer Starkey, 18, all of Sierra Vista. The three admitted that they had been In Maryland but denied any involvement in the murder or use of the murdered woman's credit card.
6. **July 8** - An estimated \$100,000 worth of stolen property involving about 200 cases in Sierra Vista and Cochise County



was recovered in the past few days. Paul Fontenot, 39, and Christina Rubin, 21 were arrested.

7. **August 1** - The Sierra Vista Police department has begun putting civilian volunteers in marked police cars to assist the department and citizens in a number of specific kinds of calls for service. Volunteers (called "Victor" units) are now assisting the police with house checks, motorist assists, handicapped parking enforcement, traffic control and more.
8. **August 19** - The Sierra Vista Police Department held its first class to initiate a new Crime Free Multi-Housing program designed to make local apartment complexes safer. Officer Scott Borgstadt, who manages the project, taught the first class. Managers, leasing agents, and maintenance workers from several local apartment complexes attended.

## 2004

1. **January 27** - A woman found dead in her home today has been identified as Sierra Vista's first murder victim of the new year. Jane Romero, 44, was discovered by Sierra Vista police at her home in the 300 block of Third Street at about 8:30 a.m. today, dead of an apparent gunshot wound.
2. **February 14** - An unidentified man walked into a Wells Fargo Bank (50 E. Fry Blvd.) Saturday morning with a threatening letter and walked out minutes later with about \$5,000 in cash. After robbing the bank at about 9 a.m., the man described as a white or Hispanic male, about 5'7" tall with an average build fled on foot to the east on Fry Blvd. This is the first ever bank robbery to have occurred in Sierra Vista's history.
3. **February 25** - A Huachuca City man convicted in the sexual assaults of two Sierra Vista women and indicted for sexually assaulting a 5-year-old girl in 2001 has been sentenced to 69 years in prison for the crimes. Malik Cornell Prior was arrested in February 2002 on 14 felony sexual assault, kidnaping and burglary-related charges, and for committing or attempting four rapes during a five-month period in 2001.
4. **April 6** - About 50% of the Buena High School student body

was absent today in an apparent response to a threat to kill three administrators and the school's Resource Officer (Jerry Wolf). The school's administration became aware of the threats when a custodian found a hand-written message on a wall of a boys restroom. Two male students were later charged in relation to this incident.

5. **April 9** - After a 20-year absence, motorcycles may again be returning to the Sierra Vista Police Department. The department announced that it is applying for a \$45,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for the purchase of two fully equipped police motorcycles. The motorcycles would be used in an enhanced traffic enforcement program in the City. The department hopes to hear by this Fall if their request has been granted.
6. **April 29** - A two-vehicle crash that took the life of Buena High School's prom king has claimed a second life. Rosalyn Spencer, 42, died Tuesday night at St. Joseph Hospital in Phoenix. Spencer was critically injured Saturday in an accident on North Seventh Street. Her son, Frederick, 18, who was thrown from the vehicle died on Sunday.
7. **May 6** - A Buena High School varsity volleyball player was arrested at the school Wednesday after he allegedly led an assault on another player while in the back of a school bus returning from a game outside Tucson last week. The 17-year old boy, whose name is being withheld by the Herald/Review, has been charged with felony assault, misdemeanor indecent exposure, disorderly conduct and felony public sexual indecency with a minor after he allegedly attacked a 16-year old junior varsity player, striking him in the head with his penis as they returned from a game against Mountain View High School in Marana.
8. **May 30** - A more than five-hour standoff in a home near Pueblo Del Sol Elementary School ended peaceably Friday after police negotiators were able to convince two suspects to surrender. Mario O. Colon, 26, was taken into custody on an Arizona



Department of Corrections warrant for parole violation, and Julio Colon, 23, was wanted for failing to appear in Bisbee to answer a misdemeanor drug charge.

9. **July 24** - Vehicle pursuit ends in injuries, arrest. 15 illegals hurt after truck hits fence on Fort Huachuca. A pick-up truck with stolen license plates began a pursuit that eventually led to the driver of the vehicle crashing through a fence on the East Range, injuring most of the illegal immigrants inside.
10. **October 14** - Police seek help in Robbery. A woman robbed the "Twice As Nice Family Fashion Exchange" at gunpoint Saturday just before 6 p.m. A reward of up to \$2,500 has been offered for information leading to a felony indictment of the suspect.
11. **October 17** - "BIG AND BAD" Six dead, 22 injured after a pick-up truck carrying illegal immigrants slams into a turn lane at the East Gate intersection (SR-90 & Buffalo Soldier Trail). The Cochise County Sheriff's Office began pursuit of the vehicle on SR-92 south of Sierra Vista and city units joined the pursuit as it reached the city. The accident occurred when the suspect vehicle, traveling at more than 90 mph swerved to avoid attempts to stop it and collided with several other vehicles.
12. **October 21** - Third man charged in fatal crash. The U.S. Attorney's Office for Arizona filed a criminal complaint Wednesday against a third man allegedly involved in Saturday's fatal accident. Wilbert Garcia, 20, a Honduran, was identified in a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Tucson as a co-conspirator, joining two others who had complaints filed against them on Monday.
13. **November 5** - Six injured in wreck that closes highway. Six people were injured, two of them seriously, Thursday after two vehicles collided on SR-92 in south Sierra Vista. The wreck closed the highway for more than two hours during rush-hour traffic. Traffic was diverted through nearby neighborhoods.
14. **December 11** - Sierra Vista police looking to fill five vacant patrol officer jobs.

15. **December 24** - Man who tried to start fire arrested. Duane R. Hegeman, 29, was arrested by Sierra Vista police officers on December 2, after he attempted to start a fire at Wal-Mart in Sierra Vista. Court records show that Hegeman spilled a volatile fluid on the floor near the automotive department and on himself. Then he allegedly attempted to light the fire. A defense motion to release Hegeman from the Cochise County jail was denied yesterday.

## 2005

1. **January 1** - What appeared to be a routine traffic stop turned into a shooting incident that left Sierra Vista Police Officer Joshua Nicola wounded and suspect Michael L. Harrell in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the chest. The incident occurred when Officers Chris Hiser and Nicola stopped Harrell's car behind Enterprise Rent-A-Car at Seventh Street and Fry Blvd. When the officers attempted to arrest Harrell for driving on a suspended driver's license, Harrell pulled out a handgun and in the ensuing struggle Harrell and Officer Nicola were shot. Officer's Hiser and Nicola were both awarded SVPD's Medal of Valor for their actions in this case — The first such medals ever awarded by SVPD. Officer Nicola also received the Police Cross.
2. **January 31** - For the second time in less than a week a band of armed men broke into a Sierra Vista residence, assaulted a resident and made off with undetermined property. Shortly after 3 p.m. Saturday, approximately six black men wearing dark clothing, with their faces covered forced their way into a home on Devonshire Drive. The home owner was struck on the head with a handgun. These "home invasion" robberies were a new type of crime for Sierra Vista.
3. **February 10** - Three local residents face first-degree murder charges in the death of a local man. Stephen Michael Befeld, 43,(real name Carl Schlobohm); Noel Alejandro Alcaez-Guerrero, 26; and Antoinette Jenne Newcomb, 44, all face charges in the death of Samuel Jensen, 26, of Sierra Vista. Jensen was apparently killed (beaten to death) at Newcomb's



residence on Wolfe Street and then his body was disposed of by Befeld who wrapped the body in a blanket and dumped it in a vacant storage unit at the Garden Canyon U-Store-It, 300 South Carmichael Ave.

4. **February 17** - Local radio personality dies. John Coles, a well-known news broadcaster for KTAN Radio and a great friend of the Sierra Vista Police Department died yesterday at his home. He was 65. John was a frequent participant in various SVPD activities such as Open House, Halloween, and fund raising events. Rest in Peace John, we'll miss you!
5. **March 9** - Police are looking for Dequaun McLean, 24, who is wanted for attempted homicide in connection with the stabbing of a 27-year-old Sierra Vista man at a home on Wolfe Street.
6. **March 29** - An off-duty U.S. Border Patrol agent was struck and killed by a vehicle on East Highway 90 at Rainbow Way at approximately 5:35 a.m. Monday morning. Sean W. Magsamen, 35, was hit as he was attempting to cross the highway on foot.
7. **April 23** - 38 Sierra Vista Police Department volunteers were honored at a luncheon in the Police Department training room Friday, with local dignitaries and many department members present to thank them. The department estimated that the volunteers saved the city about \$120,000 in 2004 through a total of 10,886 hours of volunteer service.
8. **May 5** - A man and a woman are dead after what SVPD detectives believe was a murder-suicide shooting at the Casa De La Sierra Apartments on South Coronado Drive. Police were called to the scene at 707 a.m. on Wednesday when the bodies were discovered. The man was identified as 34-year-old Santiago L Mitchell, who investigators believe first killed the woman (Misako Mitchell) and then took his own life.
9. **July 25** - One bullet kills man, hurts wife. Mr. Frank Pence was killed, and his wife Kathy injured by the same bullet during a confrontation in the front yard of a home on Quail Run Drive late Saturday afternoon. The shooting occurred after Pence became involved in an argument with two juveniles who lived

at the Quail Run address. One of the juveniles apparently had a handgun and shot Pence.

10. **September 2** - Jeffrey D. "Moosey" Deloach, 22, of Mississippi, was arrested on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and kidnapping after a brief non-violent standoff with police at Bel Aire Mobile Home Park on Thursday. DeLoach is suspected of kidnapping and beating a woman.
11. **September 16** - When Ft. Huachuca Military Police recognized a local man in a suspect photo of a man who robbed a Sierra Vista bank on Wednesday, they contacted SVPD. They recognized James A. Vigg, 22, as a man who delivers pizzas on Fort Huachuca. Vigg was shortly thereafter arrested for the robbery of the Compass Bank, 211 South Carmichael Ave.
12. **October 15** - One man was shot and killed and another was wounded during an early morning Friday incident on the City's south side. Victims Letoine J. Bryant, 20, and Pfc. Ishmael King, 20, were found shot shortly after 6 p.m. in a car at the intersection of Cardinal and Martingale. Bryant died but King survived.
13. **October 20** - For about two weeks Sierra Vistans have noticed that the police department is again using motorcycles for traffic enforcement. Officer Bob Randall is the first SVPD officer assigned to motorcycle duty since the 1970s. The new Harley Davidson Electra Glide Police Special motorcycle was purchased with a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. A second motorcycle is expected to be added to the fleet shortly.
14. **October 23** - Sierra Vista Police Officers Pat O'Donnell, Jon Kosmider, Tony Venditto, and Lawrence "Butch" Boutte were the first officers in the history of SVPD to be promoted to the rank of "Corporal" in a ceremony on October 13.
15. **November 4** - James B. Ottney, 45, was shot and killed by SVPD officer Marco Madrid in an incident Wednesday night. Madrid and several other officers responded to the 800 block of Four Winds Circle at about 8:42 p.m. and were subsequently



confronted by Ottney who was brandishing a loaded shotgun. When Ottney aimed the weapon and Officer Carlos Diaz, Officer Madrid fired one shot striking Ottney in the head and killing him. Ottney is only the second person killed by a Sierra Vista Police officer in the line of duty. The last was in 1983.

16. **November 10** - County Attorney waits on lab results in July 20 fatal shooting of Frank Pence by a Sierra Vista juvenile. County Attorney Ed Rheinheimer said there are two reasons why the investigation isn't being rushed. Haste makes waste, he said. Furthermore, the DPS labs are backed up with a huge statewide workload.
17. **November 20** - Three suspects are now in custody and have been charged with the killing of Letoine Bryant and the attempted killing of Ishmael King in October of this year. The suspects are Steven James Thomas, 22, Clarence Edward Rhodes, 29, and Rhateische Richard Radford, 26, who was attached to the 11<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade on Fort Huachuca.
18. **December 18** - A Sierra Vista man was robbed and kidnapped early Saturday morning but was able to jump from his own car as it was being driven into Mexico by the suspect. Peter Bobke, owner of the Bread Basket German Bakery in Sierra Vista was robbed at gunpoint, had his car stolen and then driven toward Mexico by the suspect, who managed to flee into Mexico as Bobke leaped from the vehicle at the border crossing gate.
19. **December 22** - Authorities in Cananea, Mexico have located the Mercedes Benz stolen during a Saturday morning kidnapping and robbery incident involving Peter Bobke, owner of the Bread Basket German Bakery. The vehicle and handgun used in the incident were subsequently returned to SVPD by Mexican police.

## 2006

1. **January 15** - Damien A. Collins, 19, the suspect in the kidnapping and robbery of Peter Bobke, owner of the Bread Basket German Bakery, in Sierra Vista was turned over to Sierra Vista Police Investigators by Mexican authorities at

the Douglas Port of Entry Saturday. Collins had been hiding in Cananea, Mexico.

2. **January 20** - Two men were arrested Wednesday in connection with at least 13 burglaries, most of which occurred at west-side Sierra Vista businesses. Steven Dray, 34, and Edward Guerrero, 22, were charged with multiple of theft and burglary.
3. **February 4** - In a federal trial, two illegal immigrants were found guilty of all charges involving an October 16, 2004 fatal crash that left six people dead and numerous others injured. Both now face the possibility of life in prison.
4. **February 18** - Noel Alcarez-Guerrero was the second suspect to be found guilty in the February 2005 murder of Samuel Jensen in Sierra Vista. Earlier this month, Carl Schlobohm, AKA Stephen Michael Befeld, was convicted of first degree murder in the case. The third suspect, Antoinette Newcomb has yet to stand trial.
5. **March 5** - "The Cochise County Attorney's Office, fed up with inefficient procedures for bringing charges for felony crimes, last week sent a proposal to the Chiefs of Police in the county involving more detailed paperwork to be required of peace officers filing with prosecutors." County police chiefs have been meeting for over a year and have expressed frustration and disappointment with the County Attorney's Office, it's procedures, and the lack of felony prosecutions. The Chiefs viewed this latest attempt at change to shift County Attorney workload to the police.
6. **March 12** - Sierra Vista sees rash of vehicle thefts. From November 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006, 71 vehicles were reported stolen in Sierra Vista. 43 of them have been recovered by the police.
7. **March 17** - Sierra Vista resident Anthony C. Sanders, 42, was in custody Thursday in the Cochise County Jail with his bond set at \$250,000. Sanders allegedly sprayed bullets throughout a trailer house Wednesday night and was arrested shortly thereafter by SVPD's SWAT team. Sanders is charged with attempted first-degree murder and various other charges.



8. **March 26** - Chiefs Dislike Change — At odds with County Attorney. Today's article was the latest in the on-going disagreements between the police departments in Cochise County and the County Attorney's Office. Meetings have been planned wherein all concerned parties can express their views.
9. **April 8** - As a result of a shooting incident in November of 2005 Officers Marco Madrid and Carlos Madrid were on this date awarded the department's first "Critical Incident Medals" and the department's annual awards banquet.
10. **May 26** - City of Sierra Vista celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The City's entertainment and ceremonies itinerary for this day was as follows:

### ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony & Time Capsule***

<i>Prelude</i>	<i>Music Medley</i>	<i>36<sup>th</sup> Army Band Aaron Graff, CW3 USA, Commanding</i>
<i>Ceremony, starting at 9:30 a.m.</i>		
<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Dr. David Walker</i>	
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>Pastor Pat Lazavich</i>	
<i>City Songs</i>	<i>Cochise Children's Choir</i>	
<i>"Sierra Vista, Nature's Lair" words by Carol Bird &amp; music by Dorothy Smith, Adopted 1981</i>		
<i>"Sierra Vista, My Home Town" words &amp; music by Sol Politi, adopted 1989</i>		
<i>Cavalry Post March</i>	<i>36<sup>th</sup> Army Band Composed by CW3 Aaron Graff Dedicated in Honor of the City's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</i>	
<i>Proclamations</i>	<i>Mr. David Walker</i>	
<i>Governor's Proclamation</i>	<i>Ms. Elly Anderson</i>	
<i>Arrival</i>	<i>B Troop, 4<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry (Memorial)</i>	
<i>Mayor's Remarks</i>	<i>Honorable. Tom Hessler Mayor, City of Sierra Vista</i>	
<i>Time Capsule Emplacement</i>	<i>Mayor Hessler Councilperson Doctor Councilman Mueller</i>	
<i>"More than a City...A Way of Life" words &amp; music by Dave and Gene Perry; performed by the Cochise Children's Choir</i>		
<i>Conclusion</i>	<i>Dr. David Walker</i>	
<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Mona Bishop Room Sierra Vista Public Library</i>	
<i>Hosted by the Sierra Vista Women's Club — Cake provided by Food City</i>		
<i>Music and dancing to follow at the Veteran's Memorial Park</i>		
<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Joe Anton &amp; The Desert Swing Band</i>	
<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>DJ Tech FX — Music from '50s to Present</i>	

## **XXIII. EXCERPTED "FACTS" & "FIRSTS"**

### **1. FIRST POLICE CHIEF**

Clarence Sherbundy appointed March 5, 1957 - Served without pay for a few months. James Wells was hired as first full-time paid police officer on April 1, 1957. In a matter of months, Wells assumed the duties of first full-time paid Police Chief.

### **2. FIRST FULL-TIME PAID POLICE OFFICER**

James Wells was hired as Sierra Vista's first full-time paid police officer on April 1, 1957. In a matter of months, Wells assumed the duties of Police Chief.

### **4. FIRST POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE**

S.V.P.D.'s first vehicle was a 1955 Ford Pick-up truck which was purchased in May of 1957. This truck is still in existence and was presented to Police Chief C. Reed Vance on the occasion of his retirement in 1989.

### **6. FIRST POLICE DEPARTMENT UNIFORM**

Photographic evidence indicates that S.V.P.D.'s first uniform consisted of silver-tan trousers and shirt. The department has always required black basket weave leather. Uniforms did change to blue during the early 1960's but went back to silver-tan within a few years.

### **8. FIRST FEMALE POLICE OFFICER:**

Theresa M. Baker (Russell) became the Sierra Vista Police Department's first female police officer when she graduated from the ALETA Police Academy in Tucson, Arizona, in March of 1982.

### **9. FIRST BLACK POLICE OFFICER**

John W. Clabourne became Sierra Vista Police Department's first black police officer when he was promoted from the position of Police Assistant to Police Officer in December of 1985.



#### 10. FIRST ASIAN POLICE OFFICER

The Sierra Vista Police Department's first Asian-American police officer was Nicholas M. Legaspi who was hired on April 11, 1994. Officer Legaspi left SVPD on May 7, 1996, to join the California Highway Patrol.

#### 11. FIRST MOTORCYCLE UNIT

In December of 1976, the Sierra Vista Police Department sent three officers to train as motorcycle officers with the Arizona Department of Public Safety in Phoenix. The Police Department had received a grant for \$19,800 which was to cover the cost of two motorcycles, two radar units, and associated expenses. The department bought Moto Guzzi motorcycles over bids from Harley Davidson and Kawasaki. This program was plagued with problems from its inception and the program lasted less than three years.

The first officers sent to training were John Jones, James D. Harper, and H. Lee Brown. Officer Jones failed in his first attempt to complete the course but passed on the second try. When Officer Brown left SVPD Officer Jones assumed his position as motor officer. Officers Frank Capas and Bruce Turner were later trained as motor officers for SVPD.

#### 12. FIRST MOTORCYCLE OFFICER

Officers James D. Harper and H. Lee Brown are credited with being the first Sierra Vista Police Officers to graduate from motorcycle training and assume duties as motor officers for the City of Sierra Vista.

#### 13. FIRST POLICE DOG

SVPD's first police dog was a purebred German Shepherd female named "Bayleaf." She was purchased by the department from a private dog training firm in Cerritos, California. Bayleaf was a sniffer dog and was not trained as a police patrol K-9. Bayleaf was involved in many SVPD drug cases while she was a member of the department. She was also called upon by several

other area departments for use in their drug related cases. Bayleaf was acquired during the summer of 1974 when she was about 1½ years old. Her first handler was Officer Robert Pearce, who was sent to Cerritos, California, to train with Bayleaf for six weeks. Officer Charles "Chuck" Jameson was Bayleaf's second handler and he and Bayleaf trained on a regular basis with the Tucson Police Department dog unit. Bayleaf's third and final handler was Sergeant Tom Hilb. Tom and Bayleaf also trained regularly with the Tucson Police Department. Bayleaf was retired in 1980 and lived with Sergeant Hilb's family until she died in September of 1982.

#### 14. FIRST SVPD OFFICER SHOT WHILE ON DUTY

On August 16, 1966, Officer William Leach became the first SVPD officer to be shot in the line of duty. Leach was investigating a report of a suspicious person near the Main Gate of Fort Huachuca. A struggle with this suspicious person resulted in Officer Leach being shot with his own service revolver. The wound was relatively minor and the suspect was taken into custody by two military policemen who came to Officer Leach's aid.

#### 16. FIRST BROTHERS IN SVPD SIMULTANEOUSLY

The first set of brothers to be employed as police officers by the Sierra Vista Police Department at the same time were Mitchell "Buddy" Hale, and his brother Wallace "Wally" Hale. While their initial employment dates are not the same, both were employed by the department as police officers between 1971 and 1975.

#### 22. FIRST CRIME PREVENTION MINI-CAR

The Sierra Vista Police Department's first crime prevention mini-car was purchased in 1985. After a city-wide contest in the school system the mini-car was named "Buddy."

#### 29. FIRST NRA CERTIFIED FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

Sergeant Charles Jones was the Sierra Vista Police Department's first NRA Certified Firearms Instructor. Jones served with SVPD



from January of 1967, through May of 1972.

### 30. FIRST CERTIFIED BOMB TECHNICIAN

David A. Santor was the first SVPD officer to graduate from the U.S. Army Hazardous Devices School. The school was held at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1974.

### 32. FIRST DEPARTMENT-ISSUED SERVICE WEAPON

The first duty weapons ever issued by the Sierra Vista Police Department were .40 Glock semi-automatic pistols. They were issued to all officers on August 8, 1996. Prior to this, the department restricted service weapons to certain makes, models and calibers, but the weapons were the property of the individual officers.

### 35. FIRST HISPANIC OFFICER

David Fontes was the first Hispanic officer to serve on the Sierra Vista Police Department. He was with the department from June 7, 1969 until February 11, 1971.

### 37. FIRST "MEDAL OF VALOR" WINNER(S)

On January 1, 2005, what appeared to be a routine traffic stop turned into a shooting incident that left Sierra Vista Police Officer Joshua Nicola wounded and suspect Michael L. Harrell in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the chest. The incident occurred when Officers Chris Hiser and Nicola stopped Harrell's car behind Enterprise Rent-A-Car at Seventh Street and Fry Blvd. When the officers attempted to arrest Harrell for driving on a suspended driver's license, Harrell pulled out a handgun and in the ensuing struggle Harrell and Officer Nicola were shot. Officer's Hiser and Nicola were both awarded SVPD's Medal of Valor for their actions in this case — The first such medals ever awarded by SVPD. Officer Nicola also received the Police Cross.

## XXIV. CURRENT STATUS

The Sierra Vista Police Department's FY 2005/2006 authorized strength consisted of a total of 99 employees: 63 sworn officers, 31 full- and 5 part-time civilian employees. They are assigned as follows:

### SWORN PERSONNEL

Chief .....	1
Major .....	1
Captain.....	2
Lieutenant .....	3
Sergeant .....	5
Corporal .....	4
Officer .....	47
Sub-Total .....	63

### CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Records Supervisor .....	1
Animal Control Supervisor .....	1
Communications Supervisor .....	1
Administrative Assistant.....	2
Clerk II .....	1
Police Records Specialist.....	1
Clerk I .....	5
Part Time Clerk I .....	2
Animal Control Officer .....	4
Evidence Custodian .....	2
Management Analyst .....	1
Telecommunicator .....	10
Part Time Police Cadet .....	2
Part Time Polygraph Examiner .....	1
Part Time Student Co-Op .....	1
Part Time G.R.E.A.T. ....	1
Sub-Total .....	36



## HISTORICAL DATA - EMPLOYEE ROSTER

May 26, 1956 thru May 26, 2006

*We have included here an alphabetized listing of all S.V.P.D. employees for the "First Fifty Years"; the author has a more comprehensive table, which includes employment dates, position or Badge #., and comments.*

Abugel, Debra Ann	Bitcon, Scott	Carr, Mary Lee
Adams, James M.	Bitticks, Steven R.	Chabra, Andrew W.
Agin, Brian S.	Bivens, Megan L.	Chandler, C. D.
Alinen, Mary E.	Bladel, Marsha A.	Chapman-Mims, J.
Alinen, Thomas P.	Bojorquez, Oscar A.	Chappell, Marguerite
Alinen, Thomas M.	Bolander, Steve	Chatham, Mary
Allen, Jack J. Sr.	Bollin, Jonathan	Clabourne, John W.
Almquist, Kathleen B.	Bonhorst, Rose Mary	Clark, Allan Paul
Anderson, Harry W.	Bonner, Rachel V.	Cleary, Thomas V.
Anderson, Marcus	Bonnie, James L.	Cleere, Cindy L.
Anspacker, Judith L.	Borgstadt, Scott	Cline, Michael K.
Arnett, Frank	Borker, Ronald	Colmain, Lisa R.
Arnold, Ted	Boutte, Lawrence	Colvin, Terry W.
Ashley, Richard	Bowers, Arthur	Combs, Duane
Ashline, Chad G.	Bracken, Kimberly	Connor, Shwu Yon
August, Scott	Brenmark, Jaimee N.	Cooke, Jack
Baker, Theresa M.	Brown, H. L.	Copp, Daryl Lee
Barnett, Kathi L.	Brown, Earl R.	Cork, Tracy
Barron, Damian	Brown, William	Cotner, Toby
Bates, Chester	Brownson, Kathryn	Craine, Christine
Bauman, Richard A.	Brownson, Sean	Cresswell, Julie
Bayleaf (K9-1)	Buchanan, John	Curry, Toby
Beaty, Bruce	Burdick, Christopher	Cusack, Richard
Bennett, Kathleen	Burns, Marjorie L.	Davis, Bobby R.
Benton, Alfred J.	Burns, William E.	Davis, Ronald B.
Benton, Thaddeus	Cabrera, Gabriel P.	Davis, Veronica
Bernheim, David R.	Caflish, Jana	Decormis, Joseph
Berry, Dale James	Camacho, Lillian	Deible, Pearl
Berzes, Harry G.	Campbell, Harold	Dempsey, Alice Ann
Best, Rashelle	Capas, Francisco Jr.	Devine, Melanie C.
Bickel, Lisa	Carlile, Michael B.	Diaz, Carlos A.
Binkard, Lillian		Dimeo, Catherine

Domianus, Beulah	Griffin, Paul D.	Jones, Charles L.
Drummond, Jon C.	Griner, Richard E.	Jones, Jonnie J.
Dukes, Martha Marie	Gulczynski, Thad J.	Jones-Sullivan, Gerri
Dunbar, Patricia	Gurlea, Tammy S.	Kahlert, Kimberly K.
Dunn, John V.	Hale, Mitchell C.	Kaiser, Wayne A.
Dunn, Sandra K.	Hale, Wallace S.	Keeling, Betty G.
Elzy, Monique	Hampton, Eugenia	Keiller, Linda J.
Essary, Bobby Tyrel	Hancock, Danny G.	Keller, Sharon L.
Evans, Billy J.	Hanke, Michael	Kelly, John P.
Evans, Luanne	Harper, James D.	Kern, Mitch
Evans, Michael	Hartman, Andrew B.	Killiam, B.
Farrar, Tanya R.	Heflin, Edmund L.	Kimmel, Kenneth E.
Fenn, Denise A.	Hemmerle, Ken	Kimmel, Rebekah
Festa, Colin	Herman, Kevin A.	Kirkman, Randy L.
Fifer, Patricia	Hilb, Thomas J.	Kirn, George
Fish, Wilborn Ray	Hildebrand, Sonja	Klein, Julie A.
Fontes, David	L.	Knott, Gordon
Foote, H. Alan	Hillig, Angela	Kohler, Michael J.
Forch, Nita	Hillig, Glenn	Kosmider, Jon E.
Fox, Margaret J.	Hillig, Kathy S.	Kreger, Melissa
Frankenfield, Robert	Hilton, Donna J.	Kyte, Donald
Fuentes, Gilbert E.	Hiser, Christopher	Lamay, Nicholas
Jr.	Holguin, Martha	Lamb, Kenneth L.
Gable, Mary	Holmes, Elizabeth	Larson, Deborah R.
Garcia, Allegra	Howard, Robert N.	Lasky, Karl L.
Gates, RuthAnn	Howell, Frances	Latham, Linda C.
Gates, Wendy E.	Hubbard, Suzanne	Lazovich, Patrick
Gauthier, Francis J.	Hughes, Roger	Leach, Andrew D.
Gawron, Steven	Hughes, Tammy	Leach, William A.
Genske, Joyce	Hummel, Tia Lisa	Ledinski, Mary F.
Geraci, Eric	Hunt, Jacqueline A.	Legaspi, Nicholas M.
Gerhardt, Stephen A.	Jacobsen, Erling J.	Leslie, Oren Brent
Goliath (K9-3)	Jaeger, John J.	Lewis, Armin A.
Goodner, Jessica	Jameson, Marvin C.	Lewis, Stewart
Goodwin, Brian	Jarvis, Karen J.	Lindenau, George C.
Gonzales, Noel	Johnson, Karen D.	Lindo, William J.
Grady, Tracy	Johnson, Robert W.	Lindsay, David F.
Grant, Beatrice	Johnson, Shirley M.	Lovelace, Ricky
Green, Tara D.	Johnson, Vern R.	Lovell, Deborah
Greenwood, Roy D.	Johnstun, Anita K.	Mabery, Alice K.



Madrid, Marco	Nuckles, William C.	Ramage, Theodore
Maly, Katherine D.	O'Donnell, Patrick	Ramirez, Zorina
Manios, Timothy W.	Olshaskie, Roxanna	Ramos, Gilbert Jr.
March, Donna	Orion (K9-2)	Randall, Robert T.
March, Judith	Ortiz, Fred R.	Rathmann, Michael
Marshall, O.	Otten, Sandi	Rautio, Beth Ann
Martell, Roxanne	Oxner, Helen	Raymond, Brenda H.
Martins, John	Pack, Billy D.	Reardon, Barbara E.
McCall, Troy	Packer, Jason	Reaves, Bobby Dee
McGurie, Mary K.	Paptrefron, John	Reclosado, Gracie
McKee, Amanda	Paptrefron, Susan	Reeder, Laura A.
McKenzie, Walt	Parks, Donald	Reynolds, Brian J.
McLaughlin, Harry A.	Parks, Harriet Ann	Reynolds, Brian Allen
Melendez, Victor M	Parks, Judy	Rhinehart, Lourdes
Melick, Diane E.	Parrish, Donald F.	Ridenour, Alice E.
Mercier, Susan S.	Pasinato, Linda H.	Riggs, Donald
Messerly, Maureen	Patzek, Marc H.	Rigney, William F.
J.	Payne, Gregory D.	Ritchie, Steve
Middleton, Richard	Payne, Jeffrey	Robinson, Carolyn
Miller, Cynthia Ann	Pearce, Dorothy	Robinson, Edward
Mintier, Robert P.	Pearce, Robert M.	Robinson-Scott, J.
Miser, Milt	Peck, Ralph B.	Rocco, Michael
Mitchell, Brett	Pehrson, Tamrah	Roland, Bradley E.
Mitchell, Mike	Perrill, Lori L.	Roland, Lisa
Mitchell, Robert	Perry, Mark	Russell, Evelyn
Molden, Rita D.	Peters, Christine	Russell, Jock J.
Molina, D. Susan	Petty, Juanita L.	Rust, John R.
Montgomery, Arthur	Pfenning, Terry	Ruterman, Mary K.
Montgomery, Scott	Pfund, Shaun	Sampson, Fay K.
Mordarski, Thomas	Phillips, James B.	Sanders, Martin H.
Moreno, Virginia	Pineda, Tammie	Santana, Carmen
Morgan, Bonnie M.	Pino, Richard T.	Santiago, Desiree
Mote, William	Pira, Joseph	Santor, David A.
Moutz, Richard L	Pitcher, (No Info)	Saunders, Velma
Mullin, Judi	Plante, Peter	Scarborough, Russ
Neal, Felecia B.	Plum, Joseph E.	Schmidt, LeAnn M.
Neto, Robert A.	Priest, Tim	Schmitt, Chad L.
Nickell, Dennis	Proctor, Martha G.	Schmitt, Molly F.
Nicola, Joshua	Propst, Carl Lewis	Schnee, Jonathan H.
Noga, Viwat B.	Purcell, Ben W. A.	Schneider, William H.

Schuldies, Bill	Stone, Michael A.	Urias, Jose
Schuller, Greg	Stone, William	Vance, C. Reed
Scott, Daryl T.	Sullivan, Tracey	Vannoy, SueAnn
Sebastian, Brian	Sutter, Jean	Varela, Rosa D.
Sewell, Terry P.	Sutter, Maria L.	Venditto, Anthony V.
Seymour, James D.	Sweetser, Michael	Villado, Julia
Shirley, Richard T.	G.	Virgo, Chris
Sherbundy, Clarence	Sword, Raymond	Wachtel, Timothy
Showers, Randy A.	Taylor, Melissa D.	Walker, Richard G.
Silver, Frank	Taylor, Wilbur Lee	Walker, Ronald
Slagle, Carrie	Tenhaeff, James R.	Walters, Lawson G.
Sloan, Barbara	Terry, Y. M.	Wardlaw, Angela
Smith, Debbie	Thibault, Victor	Webster, Rosalie J.
Smith, Gary L.	Thibodeau, Edward	Weeks, Robert A.
Smith, Karen	Thompson, Louis C.	Wehr, Brenda S.
Souza, Michael R.	Thompson, Ray	Wells, James
Stanley, Raymond E.	Thrasher, Adam	Wheeler, David W.
Steelhammer, Mary A.	Tilley, Ira Wayne	Will, Jeffrey H.
Stephens, John R.	Tobolski, Leo R. Sr.	Williams, Barbara
Stevens, Jhayne P.	Tomlinson, Matthew	Williams, Mozell
Stevenson, Debra	Townsend, Elizabeth	Wilson, Diane C.
Stolmayer, Rudolf	Turner, Bruce L.	Wilson, Jo Ann
Stompro, Mertie Jr.	Tutor, Richard O.	Wolf, Jerold B.
		Wolf, Keri
		Wolfe, Jeremy
		Womack, Pete



### ***A note from EJP***

*A question has been asked recently about Cochise County history and whether it should be recorded in the Journals **only** if it happened more than fifty years ago. It's a legitimate question open for discussion, and each of us is welcome to voice our own opinion.*

*As for me, I write about history. My publisher, who pays me for writing, once asked if I really wanted a manuscript to include certain things, because they customarily used only material up through the early 1940s. I thought about it and realized their practice evolved because they're in a city where some buildings are more than 300 years old. On the other hand, I live in a city that didn't even exist until the late 1950s. (To answer your question before it's asked--yes, my book manuscript was accepted and published.)*

*My personal opinion is best explained by quoting from my article, published in The Scottish Rite Journal, dated August 1993.\* In it, I said:*

*"The times we're living in are exactly what future generations will study in their textbooks, just as we studied history in school. What we studied was second-hand, third-hand, or more. How much better...it will be if our grandchildren, great-grandchildren (add as many 'greats' as you like) can study the "Real Stuff"..."*

*Therefore, Dave Santor, thank you. Your manuscript will become a valuable reference piece and we at CCHS--and all who will read it--are so very grateful. I am.*

*Yours truly,  
Ethel Jackson Price*

*\* For free copy of entire article, write me in care of CCHS.*

# **ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**

**THIS IS AN EARLY REMINDER:**

**Mark your calendar for**

**November 4, 2007**

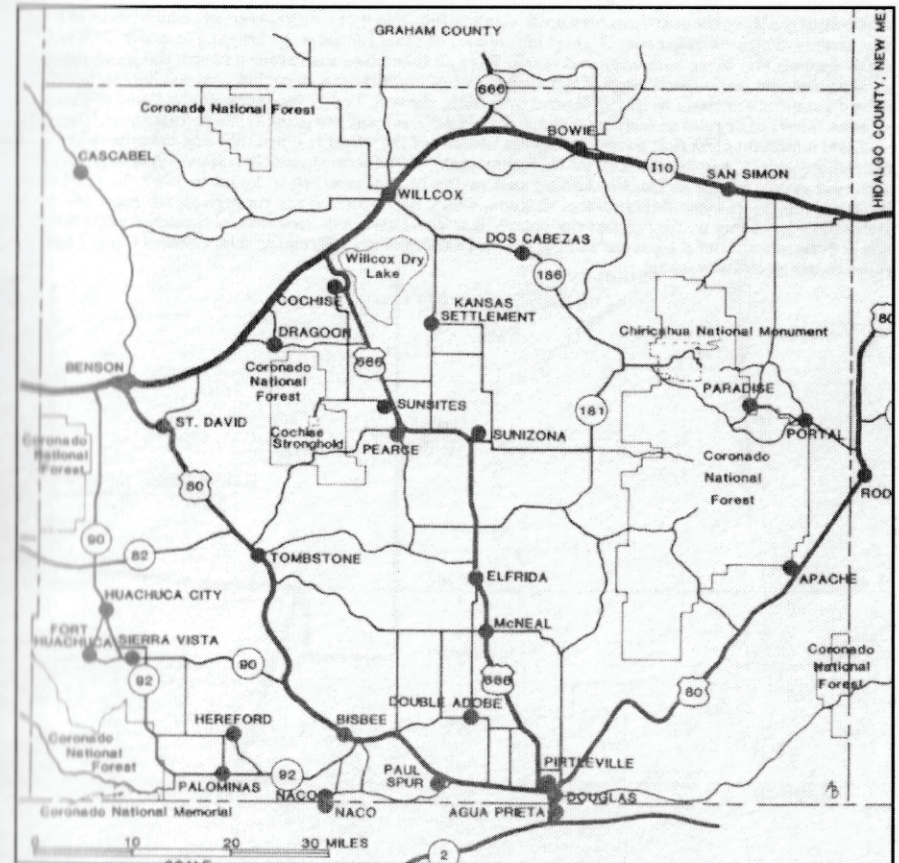
**CCHS's Annual Dinner Meeting  
will be held at the**

**Gadsden Hotel**

**in Douglas at 12 Noon.**

**Call or email  
for more information**





## Cochise County, Arizona

### Cochise County Historical Society Membership Information

Individual/family . . . . .	\$20
Business . . . . .	\$25
Lifetime . . . . .	\$500

Mail to:  
P. O. Box 818  
Douglas, AZ 85608

Dues are paid effective in  
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include one copy of each  
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