Pima County
Sheriff’s Department
Keeping the Peace Since 1865
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The Pima County Sheriff’s Department recognizes the following people and agencies, whose generous contributions made this book possible.

The Sheaffer Sisters
For allowing the use of award-winning photographs by their brother, Arizona Daily Star photographer Jack Sheaffer.

The Arizona Historical Society/Tucson
For allowing use of the following photos from their collection: B34666, B34654, B34655, B28161-28167, BN29274, AN28163, BN204473, B9311, BN204462, BN206684, BN206662, BN206668, 95204, MS87F57, 28913, 24721, 46519, 28485, 16524, 60193, 28733, 78140, 78139, 55037, 30458G, 20458A, 78405, 31968, 76636.

Mr. Mike Anderson
For his historical research of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department.

Mr. Tony Cox & Mr. Skip Skinner
For sharing their historical Sheriff’s badge and patch collections.

University of Arizona Department of Special Collections
For use of AZ83 V1-5311, Sheriff’s Miscellaneous Papers.

The Pima County Sheriff’s Department Identification Unit
For their time and assistance in gathering and organizing photographs and materials for this publication.

Sergeant James G. Ogden
A special thanks to Sergeant James G. Ogden, Project Coordinator, for his many hours of research and organization of this history book.

Future SWAT deputy poses with Deputy Nicole Feldt.
Welcome to the fascinating history of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department – a colorful chronicle that has been developed with enterprise and dedication by a committee of our colleagues. They deserve much praise for a challenging job well done.

As you leaf through the following pages, you will discover accounts of memorable events, photos of interesting people, and facts of historical significance covering almost 150 years and linking three centuries. You will find the bitter with the sweet: the occasional dark clouds as well as the frequent silver linings.

I have been involved in law enforcement for more than 45 years, including the last 25 with the Pima County Sheriff’s Department, and I am proud of the positive growth of our profession, especially within our organization.

You will see for yourself in this book that we have come a long way from Territorial days and the exploits of Deputy Wyatt Earp. We have evolved into a progressive, professional organization whose people make it what it is today.

So, I invite you to sit back and take the journey with me through the years ...

– Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff of Pima County
Chief Martha L. Cramer

Chief George J. Heaney

Chief Bradley J. Gagnepain
Sheriffs Then and Now

(Berry) Hill deArmitt
July 1864 – Oct. 1865

(Berry) Hill deArmitt was appointed Sheriff, First Judicial District, Arizona Territory, on April 11, 1864, and was appointed Sheriff, Pima County, Arizona Territory on January 1, 1865. Conditions in 1864 Tucson were crude at best. The population of Pima County was 2,377 persons. Since there were no jails in the county, a guardhouse located on the southwest corner of what is now the 1928 Courthouse was used to house prisoners. Court cases were administered quickly and the guilty were punished quickly.

From records of the period, whipping, fine, or imprisonment at Fort Yuma were the only punishments available to the first sheriff. Only felons charged with a violation of United States Laws were sent to Fort Yuma. On September 6, 1865, deArmitt ran in a preparatory election but lost and left office on March 10, 1866.

Francis Marion Hodges
1865

Francis Marion Hodges was elected Sheriff of Pima County, September 6, 1865. He arrived in Tucson in 1863 and became owner of the town’s only hotel, known as the Hodges’ House. While proprietor of the Hodges’ House he was elected Sheriff. He left office in 1866 and in 1867 was elected to the

Fourth Territorial Legislature and was instrumental in moving the capital from Prescott to Tucson.

Hodges was appointed Undersheriff for Sheriff William S. Oury on January 4, 1873. A few days later he was elected Tucson Town Marshall and served only two months before resigning to leave town. He moved his family to Yuma and was appointed Yuma County Sheriff on July 17, 1880.

Peter Rainsford Brady
1867 – 1869

Peter Rainsford Brady was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 6, 1866. In 1867 Sheriff Brady, as authorized by the Territorial Assembly, began using county prisoners to improve roads in Tucson and throughout the county. He is credited with causing vast improvements in the county’s road system.

Brady was also responsible for buying a lot for the Pima County Courthouse. He purchased some property at the northeast corner of Ott and Court Streets for $200.00.

In 1868, the courthouse was opened at a cost of $6000.00. The jail yard was on the east side of the building. In order to prevent escapes, Brady turned stray dogs, which he had picked up as part of his duties, loose in the jail and aisles of the jail.

After leaving the Office of the Sheriff, Brady served as Delegate to four Territorial Assembly Sessions. He was elected Sheriff of Pinal County after it was created in 1875 and also served as Pinal County Treasurer in 1880.

(Charles) Hylor Ott
Nov. 1870 – 1872

(Charles) Hylor Ott was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 8, 1870. He had moved to Tucson in 1867 when Phoenix became the state capital. He was appointed Deputy Pima County Treasurer in 1869 and in the election of 1870 ran a successful campaign for Sheriff.

He was the man who arrested four prominent Tucson citizens in May 1871 in connection with the “Camp Grant Massacre.”
Among those arrested was William Sanders Oury who succeeded Sheriff Ott in office after Oury’s acquittal on the charges. Sheriff Ott’s duties included ensuring peace and security for the members of the Territorial Assembly and Governor A.P.K. Safford. He discharged his duties as required and in 1872 was appointed a seat in the House of the Territorial Assembly. He was appointed Assessor for the City of Tucson in 1881, but died shortly afterward of pneumonia.

William Sanders Oury
1873-1876

William Sanders Oury was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 5, 1872. He had arrived in Tucson October 1, 1858 and begun ranching just south of Sentinel Peak (“A” Mountain) on the west bank of the Santa Cruz River.

On May 11, 1864 he was named the first Mayor of the Village of Tucson and was appointed to the first School Board in the Territory, Tucson School District No. 1 in 1867.

On April 30, 1871, eight men and 110 women and children were brutally murdered in the brief span of 30 minutes. The victims were all Arivaipa Apaches. This atrocity was called the “Camp Grant Massacre.” Despite the accusations against Oury that he had organized the raid on Camp Grant, he was appointed Alderman when the Town of Tucson was incorporated. He later served as the first President of the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society (now the Arizona Historical Society).

With Pima County’s population at about 3,200 persons, Sheriff Oury exercised his powers and appointed deputies in Tucson and Gila River. John H. Behan was appointed deputy at Tombstone.

The Jail caused many problems in Sheriff Oury’s administration. He lost 25 prisoners in four years, 17 in one mass escape. On two separate occasions, the “Law and Order Society,” so-called vigilantes, broke into the Jail and lynched four murderers on each occasion. After leaving office Oury was appointed Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Charles Alexander Shibell
1877 – 1880

Charles Alexander Shibell was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 7, 1876. In 1875 he had become Undersheriff for Sheriff Oury and then succeeded Oury as Sheriff.

Conditions in Tucson were constantly improving. The Town of Tucson became the City of Tucson on February 7, 1877. The first bank of the county, named the Pima County Bank, opened its doors in January 1879. But, along with progress came a rise in crime.

In 1878 Sheriff Shibell and Deputy Babcock headed the posse that killed the outlaw Bob Brazelton and on March 3 arrested the infamous Johnny Ringo. Deputy John H. Behan was also kept busy in Tombstone.

After leaving office, Shibell returned to the mercantile business. In 1888, he bought the Palace Hotel and was its proprietor while serving as Undersheriff for Sheriffs E.O. Shaw and M.F. Shay.

In the election of 1888 he was elected Pima County Recorder and held that office for 20 years until his death.

Robert H. Paul
1881 – 1886

Robert H. Paul was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 2, 1880. He had come to Arizona in 1874 and had worked for Wells Fargo and Company.

Allegedly he survived an attempt on his life made by John H. “Doc” Holliday during the Fairbanks Stage Robbery. Paul was credited with saving $80,000 during this robbery. His reputation was instrumental in his successful campaign for Sheriff since the criminal element in Tombstone was creating problems in the county.

Hanging was the legal means of capital punishment. On July 8, 1881 Thomas Harper was hanged for the murder of John Tolliday in the county’s first legal hanging.

On October 23, 1882, seven criminals escaped from the Pima County Jail. In the process of their escape they killed Deputy Andrew Holbrook, the Jail Guard, in the first death of a Pima County Deputy Sheriff in the line of duty.

In the election of 1884 Sheriff Paul ran against Eugene O. Shaw and was accused of using his influence over two Wells Fargo guards to change the election results while the ballots were being transported to Prescott. The case was battled in court until March 1886 when Paul resigned and Eugene O. Shaw took office. As part of the deal, Paul received his Sheriff’s salary for six months.

Eugene O. Shaw
1885 – 1887

Eugene O. Shaw was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 4, 1884. Shaw had arrived in Arizona in 1873. He founded the “Old Boot” Mine at Silverbell and later sold it for a profit of $40,000.

In the election of 1884 Shaw was elected Sheriff in what was Pima County’s biggest election fraud. He appointed Charles A. Shibell as his Undersheriff and Sheriff Shaw’s brother Matthew was appointed Deputy at Tucson.

On January 28, 1887 Arizona experienced its first train robbery near the Sonora Highway east of Tucson. The robbery, organized by Cochise County Constable Burt Alvord, netted $20,000 in loot, which was never recovered, although Alvord and his accomplices were finally arrested. These men used Colossal Cave as a hideaway.

On April 9, 1887, Sheriff Shaw took an indefinite leave of absence for health reasons. On August 13, 1887 he requested his brother Matthew be appointed to replace him in case of his death. On September 6, 1887 Sheriff E.O. Shaw resigned by telegram from Faison, North Carolina.
Matthew F. Shaw, Sr.
Sept. 1887 – 1890
Matthew F. Shaw, Sr. was appointed Sheriff of Pima County September 7, 1887. He had arrived in Arizona in 1881 and was employed as a miner and cattle contractor. After his brother Eugene became Sheriff, Matthew was appointed his Deputy and upon Eugene’s resignation, Matthew was appointed to replace him by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors. He was elected in his own right 14 months later on November 6, 1888.

On May 11, 1889, a band of robbers ambushed U.S. Army Paymaster Major Joseph Washington Wham and his military escort along the Fort Grant-Fort Thomas Road about fifteen miles west of Pima in the Gila River Valley. Following a hard fought gun battle, the bandits made off with more than $28,000 in gold and silver coins. Sheriff Shaw and his Deputies rounded up various suspects who were later charged with the sensational robbery. Major Wham and his men were unable to identify any of the dozen defendants in court and they were all acquitted.

After leaving office Shaw returned to the cattle business. He was arrested on March 1, 1892 by Sheriff Brown for cattle smuggling but was later acquitted. Shaw served as Assistant Chief of Police in Tucson in 1913 and 1914 and resigned to be appointed a Deputy by Sheriff A.W. Forbes in 1915.

James K. Brown
1891 – 1892
James K. Brown was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 4, 1890. He had arrived in Tucson in 1877, bought 4,000 acres south of the city and engaged in farming, cattle ranching, and mining on what he called the Sahuarita Ranch. When he was elected Sheriff, he bought a house at 422 S. Fifth Avenue and moved in.

During Sheriff Brown’s tenure, the Mexican bandit Geronimo was hunted down for his robberies and killed in the Rincon Mountains on June 11, 1891.

The University of Arizona opened its doors on October 1, 1891 and Pima County Recorder Charles A. Shible reported that over 33,000 mining claims had been filed since the county was founded 27 years earlier.

After leaving office, Brown returned to ranching. With the help of his sons, he built the first schoolhouse at Sahuarita from orange crates, and his wife taught school.

Joseph B. Scott
1893 – 1894
Joseph B. Scott was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 8, 1892. Little is known of Scott. While a resident of Total Wreck Mining Camp, he defeated Frank A. Stevens for the Office of Sheriff by a vote of 694 to 631.

During his term as Sheriff, Tucson was bombarded with transients moving through town. Sheriff Scott’s Deputies and Tucson Police Officers patrolled the Southern Pacific right of way, giving the transients a loaf of bread and orders to move on.

Robert Nelson Leatherwood
1895 – 1898
Robert Nelson Leatherwood was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 6, 1894. He had arrived in Tucson in May of 1869.

Leatherwood was a fair, honest, hardworking businessman whose good reputation earned him the position of Mayor of Tucson in 1880 and Territorial Councilman in 1885. After successful terms in the Territorial House of Representatives in 1886 and 1892, he ran for and was elected Sheriff of Pima County.

The Sheriff spent much of his time on horseback. Tucson had grown to the point where the Chief of Police requested a horse and saddle or buggy to help patrol the town. His request was denied because the City Council felt that $12 per month room and board for the horse was too much.

At the end of his term, Sheriff Leatherwood retired to private life.

Lyman Willis Wakefield
1899 – 1900
Lyman Willis Wakefield was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 8, 1898.

Details of Wakefield’s activities before and after his service as Sheriff and Chief of Police are virtually nonexistent. During his relatively quiet term in office, Santa Cruz County was carved out of Pima County and Nogales made the County Seat.

After leaving office, Wakefield was appointed to four terms as City Marshall and Chief of Police of Tucson. Great advances in law enforcement in the realm of crime prevention and vice were made during his term.

Frank E. Murphy
1901 – 1904
Frank E. Murphy was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 6, 1900. Murphy’s life is a great mystery. He was briefly reported to have ridden with posses hunting wanted persons in the Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountains.

At one point in his career as Sheriff, Murphy refused to hang a murderer because the man was insane.

On January 22, 1903, the first major train wreck in Ara-
Arizona occurred near Vail, Arizona. Twenty-two persons died and 45 were injured.

Due to the economic situation, tramps and transients were creating a sharp increase inburglaries and robberies in the area.

The famed Arizona Rangers were formed in July 21, 1901 consisting of 12 men.

In 1904, the U.S. Congress began to prepare Arizona for statehood. This move was opposed in the Territory because it called for combining Arizona and New Mexico into one state.

Nabor Pacheco
1905 – 1908

Nabor Pacheco was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 8, 1904. He was the only native-born Tuscanan to have held the Office of Sheriff of Pima County.

Pacheco was appointed a police officer for the Town of Tucson in 1885 and served until 1901 when he was elected constable for the Tucson Justice Precinct. He held this position for two years, then was elected Sheriff for two terms.

His tenure as Sheriff was seldom dull, and the engraved Colt .45 pistol presented to him is now on display at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson.

A crackdown was begun on gambling, all night saloons, and prostitution. The new prison at Florence went into operation March 22, 1907, but the Sheriff continued to carry out capital crime sentences and on August 14, 1908 performed the second hanging in a single month.

After leaving office, Sheriff Pacheco was appointed Chief of Police in Tucson, serving eight years.

John Nelson
1909 – 1914

John Nelson was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 3, 1908. As a rancher in the Canade del Oro and Oracle Junction areas, he became popular in the community of Tucson and was elected to Sheriff. He was Territorial Sheriff for two terms and was re-elected to be the first Pima County Sheriff when Arizona was granted statehood in 1912.

On January 18, 1909, the Arizona Rangers were disbanded, and the job of Sheriff again became the primary law enforcement effort in the Territory.

Sheriff Nelson assisted the U.S. Marshall in efforts to stem gun running from Tucson to Mexico. The Sheriff and his four Deputies worked hard to bring law and order to Pima County. The Sheriff and the Commandant of Cadets at the University formed a group of vigilantes on April 24, 1914.

This was the first volunteer force used by the Sheriff other than for posse duties. After leaving office, Nelson returned to ranching.

Albert W. Forbes
1915 – 1916

Albert W. Forbes was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 3, 1914. He had come to Arizona in 1899 as Superintendent for the San Xavier Mining Company. After being elected to Sheriff, his problems started almost immediately.

Two of his Deputies caught and hanged three Mexicans at Greaterville on April 23, 1915. The Deputies were jailed for murder.

Toward the end of his term, Sheriff Forbes spent a great deal of time in Ajo where he was joined by Federal troops to assist in the attempted capture of Pancho Villa and to quell strikes by the International Workers of the World on December 20, 1916.

After leaving office, he held the position of Desk Sergeant for the Tucson Police Department until he retired on January 2, 1936. He came out of retirement to run for Constable of the Tucson Precinct in 1943 and held that position until his death.

J.T. “Rye” Miles
1917 – 1920

J.T. “Rye” Miles was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 7, 1916.

He had come to Arizona as a cowboy and joined the Arizona Rangers in 1907. He held the position of Sergeant until the Arizona Rangers were disbanded in 1909. He then drifted from job to job until he was elected Sheriff.

On August 9, 1917, he became so angry about the bootleg whiskey situation in Pima County that he dumped $20,000 worth of bootleg whiskey on the Courthouse lawn.

Finally on November 9, the Police and Sheriff’s Department raided the bootleggers, and on December 14 a decision was made by the Arizona Judges to turn the contraband whiskey over to the Red Cross for use as antiseptic in the War. After leaving office, Miles went to Pinal County where he served as Casa Grande Constable and Town Marshall.

Benjamin Franklin Daniels
1921 – 1922

Benjamin Franklin Daniels was elected Sheriff of Pima County, November 2, 1920. He had become U.S. Marshall for Arizona in 1907 and held that post for two years.

After leaving the Marshall’s office, he briefly entered politics and was a member of the Progressive Party. He finally became a member of the Democratic Party and was elected to Sheriff.

Mad dogs were a problem in Tucson to the point that stray dogs were ordered shot on sight.

Tucson judges were becoming critical of drunk drivers and began accessing maximum penalties of $200 and 20 days in jail. Gambling and bootlegging raids continued, and on December 29, 1921 the Sheriff denounced the Tucson Police Department for over zealously raiding stills in the County.

After leaving office, Daniels retired to private life.

Sheriffs Then and Now
Walter W. Bailey
1923 – 1926 and 1931 – 1932

Walter W. Bailey was elected Sheriff of Pima County on November 7, 1922 and November 4, 1930. Bailey served as Sheriff for three terms: two consecutive and one term four years later.

Mad dogs continued to roam the streets, and the City instituted a curfew law to keep people off the streets. Transients were still causing problems.

On July 23, 1925, a Tucson Police Officer was paid $62 by the citizens of Tucson for killing a burglar. Two weeks later, the 40-man Border Patrol Office in Tucson announced that in 18 months they had captured 1,310 aliens in the District.

In 1932, Pima County was experiencing budget problems and had to obtain a loan to pay its debts. On June 30, 1932, the county cut its employees’ salaries three to ten percent.

After leaving office, Sheriff Bailey was appointed as the first head of the Mount Lemmon Federal Prison Camp. He held that position until July 1, 1942 when he retired.

James William McDonald
1927 – 1930

James William McDonald was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 2, 1926. He had come to Pima County in 1917 and engaged in ranching and mining. After being elected, McDonald appointed George Henshaw his Undersheriff, and together they set out to clean up the County.

By April 1, 1927, fifty-five rum-runners found themselves behind bars. A grand jury was called to look into the bootleg problem.

On April 8, 1928, Pima County began requiring licenses on automobiles, and by October 22, 1928, the Tucson-Sasabe Road was completed. The Sheriff was searching for the City Treasurer who disappeared with $105,000 from the Southern Arizona Bank on October 13, 1928.

The economy of Pima County grew steadily worse. On June 15, 1929, the Sheriff reported that he was unable to collect $190,000 in taxes due, and the county was broke. By June 22, 1929, conditions were so bad that the Southern Arizona Bank sued the county for $125,000 in debts.

Sheriff McDonald investigated the case of Tucson rancher Andrew J. Mathis who disappeared in 1927. McDonald suspected foul play and began looking for the rancher’s housekeeper, Eva Dugan. She was located in New York and extradited back to Arizona on March 4, 1927.

After a brief trial, she was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to hang. She became the first woman in Arizona to be sentenced to execution for murder. On February 21, 1930, having exhausted all avenues of appeal, she was hanged.

On May 15, 1930, the first tear gas was used to flush robbers from a cabin in southeast Arizona.

By mid-1930, a census revealed that Tucson had a population of 32,198.

After leaving office, McDonald returned to private life.

John F. Belton
1933 – 1936

John F. Belton was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 8, 1932. He had worked as a motorcycle officer for Tucson Police Department prior to being elected to Sheriff.

On October 13, 1933, Arizona changed from hanging to lethal gas as the legal means of execution.

On January 25, 1934, members of the Tucson Police Department, aided by Sheriff’s Deputies, captured John Dillinger and his six companions. The seven were booked into the Pima County Jail.

By January 17, 1936, all Tucson and Pima County jails were inundated with hoboes. A subsequent investigation revealed that California authorities were “deporting” hoboes to Arizona and stopping them from entering California at the state line. The situation was finally resolved.

Sheriff Belton left office in 1936 and died a year later.

Edward F. Echols
1937 – 1946

Edward F. Echols was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 3, 1936. He named Herb Wood as his Undersheriff and assumed the office with six deputies. He immediately improved the filing system in the office and improved the County Jail to the point that it was placed on the U.S. Government’s list of approved jails (it had been removed May 1, 1936).

In 1939, the Sheriff reported that his men had recovered $30,408 worth of stolen property and transported 54 prisoners to the State Prison in Florence, 34 prisoners to the State Hospital, and 10 juveniles to Fort Grant. They also served 915 subpoenas, 187 jury summonses, 791 warrants, 11 search warrants, and 15 bench warrants.

By 1940, Sheriff Echols began to suffer turnover problems. Deputies were paid $170 per month for a seven-day work week plus $60 per month for services to cars that each deputy furnished himself. There was no official Sheriff’s Office uniform, and the badge was a one piece, five-pointed star.

On March 15, 1941, Sheriff Echols was involved in an auto wreck at Kelso and Stone. He sustained severe injuries and was in the hospital for over five months. Upon his return, he appointed 18 ranchers, cattlemen, and businessmen as Deputies because of the wartime manpower shortage. By 1944, the staff had increased to 24 persons including twelve Deputies in Tucson, four in Ajo, one in Marana, and one in Arivaca. There were three jailers, one matron, and two cooks.

In 1946 Echols launched an unsuccessful sixth campaign against Jerome P. Martin. Echols ran on his record in office and boasted of never having to kill a man or having his Deputies kill anyone in ten years, nor having lost a prisoner through escape.

After leaving office, Echols was elected Constable for the Tucson precinct in 1950 and stayed for five terms.
Jerome P. Martin
1947 – 1950

Jerome P. Martin was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 5, 1946. He had arrived in Tucson in 1924 and ran a gas station at East Ninth Street and North Third Avenue until 1932.

Martin served under Sheriffs Bailey, Belton, and Echols before being named first Town Marshall of the Town of South Tucson.

Marshall Martin was elected to the House of Representatives in 1944. In 1946, he won the election against Sheriff Echols and immediately, upon taking office, purchased five new patrol cars for his staff. The vehicles were 1946 Dodges equipped with sirens and spotlights.

The Sheriff’s Department sponsored Cub Scout Pack No. 86 in one of the first concerted public relations efforts. In 1947, the Department had grown to 34 Deputies and by 1948 to 42 Deputies.

On March 4, 1948, the first black Deputy in the history of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department, Frank C. Johnson, was appointed. The same day the Department received 10 electric flares that were to be used at accident scenes.

Sheriff Martin reorganized the Department into three Divisions: Jail, Criminal, and Civil. Search and Rescue equipment consisted of a four-wheel drive Army truck, a walkie-talkie, and an iron lung.

On June 26, 1950, the Aero Squadron was started. It consisted of 28 members and ten planes. The introductory flight was marred only by the fact that the stencil on the planes read “Aero Squadron” instead of “Aero Squadron.”

Sheriff Martin conducted training for his Deputies on a limited basis. The F.B.I. was running schools around the State for local law enforcement officers, and the Sheriff saw that many of his men attended these schools.

After leaving office, Martin was charged with conspiracy and bribery and sentenced to the Arizona State Prison in Florence. Bowing to public pressure for his release, Martin was paroled on July 10, 1953 and returned to private life.

Frank A. Eyman
1951 – Jan. 1955

Frank A. Eyman was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 7, 1950. He had first seen Arizona as a soldier in 1917. In 1930 he joined the Tucson Police Department. He took a leave of absence from the Tucson Police Department to join the U.S. Navy during World War II.

After being elected Sheriff, he began improving the Aero Squadron and Search and Rescue. He adopted the five-point star as the Department symbol and standardized the uniforms, training, and cars of the Department. The uniform Sheriff Eyman adopted was light blue with black epaulets, pocket flaps and cuffs on the shirt, and a black stripe down the trouser leg. The shoulder patch was a black five-pointed star. The vehicles were black with pale blue trim on the top and doors.

The cars were equipped with radio, red light, siren, spotlight, and first aid kit.

Eyman improved the Department by starting a Training Academy, Firearms Qualifications, and First Aid Training.

On December 18, 1953, Motor Deputy Jack Brierly was killed in a collision on his way to a call. Sheriff Eyman reported 17 crashes of motorcycles in six months and decided to eliminate the motorcycle squad after its being in operation for one year and ten months.

Upon his resignation, Eyman was appointed Warden of the Arizona State Prison in Florence.

Benjamin Julius McKinney
Jan. 1955 – 1956

Benjamin Julius McKinney was appointed Sheriff of Pima County January 23, 1955. He had come to Arizona in October 1892. After 1916 he moved to Vail Ranch in Pima County for two years before moving to the Ventana Ranch.

On July 1, 1935 he was appointed U.S. Marshall for Arizona and held that post until appointed Sheriff of Pima County. Sheriff McKinney appointed former Arizona Highway Patrol Captain Waldon Vivian Burr his Undersheriff and continued upgrading the Department and furthering improvements started by Sheriff Eyman.

Sheriff McKinney ran for re-election, but lost to his successor, James W. Clark, by less than 300 votes.

James W. Clark
1957 – 1958

James W. Clark was elected Sheriff of Pima County November 6, 1956. He had come to Tucson and bought the Town and Country Motel in 1946. He ran for Sheriff on the platform of good administration and economic operation, but by the end of his single term the budget had ballooned to nearly $550,000, nearly $100,000 over Sheriff Eyman’s “extravagant” budget.

During his term, Sheriff Clark changed the uniform to a light gray with dark trim and a western Stetson. Due to the lack of markings on the black cars, Sheriff Clark received numerous citizen complaints that his deputies looked like gangsters.

The substation on Mt. Lemmon was made permanent. On September 30, 1958, twelve Deputies were assigned to work out of the substation at 8500 E. Broadway since the population was moving that way.

Manpower problems began to arise due to the relatively low pay of $340 per month. In 20 months, the Department had a 73 percent turnover of personnel, but had climbed to a total of 132 persons.

Sheriff Clark lost his bid for re-election to former Undersheriff Waldon V. Burr and retired to private life.

Waldon Vivian Burr
1959 – Sept. 1971

Waldon Vivian Burr was elected Sheriff of Pima County in 1959. He had come to Arizona in 1918 and worked on his father’s ranch. In 1937 he joined the Arizona Highway Patrol and was appointed Captain and Director of the Southern District at Tucson in 1940.
After his election to Sheriff, one of his first acts was to change the uniform to tan with dark navy trim and a military eight-point cap. The shoulder patch became the outline of Pima County. To save money, the number of personnel was reduced ten percent and the remaining Deputies took a ten percent pay cut. Sheriff Burr was a popular and very colorful Sheriff. In fact, one of Burr’s trademarks was a diamond studded badge.

In 1971, Burr and several of his deputies faced indictments on felony charges. Burr was accused of taking bribes from prostitutes, selling sheriff’s appointments, and encouraging his staff to commit perjury. Burr quickly resigned as Sheriff after claiming the charges were politically motivated to oust him.

**William Coy Cox**

**1971 – 1976**

William Coy Cox was appointed Sheriff in 1971 and elected into office in 1972. Sheriff Cox brought reform to the very controversial Pima County Sheriff’s Office.

One of Sheriff Cox first orders of business was to dismiss several of Burr’s deputies. Sheriff Cox instituted a prisoner rehabilitation program, obtained better medical care for prisoners, and re-opened the old prison farm to help cure jail overcrowding.

Sheriff Cox received many complaints of prison brutality and, in several instances, inmates did not receive freedom until long after they were released by the courts.

**Richard J. Boykin**

**1977 – 1980**

Richard J. Boykin became Sheriff in 1977. Sheriff Boykin was responsible for implementing plans for the new Pima County Jail. He created additional Sheriff’s substations throughout Pima County and vastly improved the County’s Search and Rescue Program.

Sheriff Boykin was also widely known for creating new media policies. He received great praise for his ingenious and genuine determination to make his department open and cooperative to all media. Sheriff Boykin resigned in 1980 to enter private business.

**Clarence W. Dupnik**

**1980 – Present**


Sheriff Dupnik has served in law enforcement since February 1958 when he joined the Tucson Police Department, quickly rising through the ranks from patrolman to Major in charge of field operations. In July of 1977, he accepted the job of Chief Deputy in the Pima County Sheriff’s Department, a position which he held until being appointed Sheriff.

During a 20-year period that has seen the population in the unincorporated areas of the 9,200 square-mile county increase to well over 330,000, Sheriff Dupnik has instituted a county-wide community-based policing system and led the way in bringing Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) to county elementary schools. His long list of successful programs includes a national and international award-winning crime prevention program using Arizona’s first trained law enforcement volunteers, maximizing the use of drug seizure funds to help underwrite projects and equipment, and a key role in developing the quick-identification Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

The over 1200-member department has made giant strides in the Dupnik years. Under his direction, new state-of-the-art maximum and medium security corrections centers have been opened in Tucson. Three new district (patrol) offices in metropolitan Tucson area as well as new stations in the outlying communities of Ajo, Green Valley, Catalina City, Corona De Tucson, Avra Valley and Robles Junction have been opened.

Ajo also received a new medium security corrections facility. The Department’s three-story administration building in Tucson has become a centralized focal point for such important functions as criminal investigations, data processing systems, a state-of-the-art communications center, and records.
The Many Badges of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department

There is an interesting history behind the badges of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department. There were numerous shapes, sizes, and styles created throughout the years, and so many badges created and handed out that it became quite difficult to match the badges with the proper year. During a certain period of time, one could purchase or be issued a “Special Deputy” badge for being a friend of the Sheriff. Over the years, professional standards and codes of conduct were adopted, and the Sheriff’s badge became the seven-point star that is proudly worn today by the men and women of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department.
Badges Over the Years

1940s – 1950s
1945 – 1950
1940s – 1950s
1946 – 1950
1947 – 1955
1948 – 1957
1950s
1950s
1950 – 1967
1951 – 1955
Badges Over the Years

1955 – 1957

1960s

1960s

Late 1960s

1970s

The current badge, since the early 1970s
The fifth patch was created in the late 1970s. The patch had a brownish background with a gold seven-point star. The patch had a black border.

The sixth patch, with only slight changes, was created in the 1990s. This patch had more of a gold-colored background. The Department added a western style rope outline.

The seventh and current patch worn today kept the same shape, lettering, and seven-point star. The addition to the patch was the founding date of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department: “1865.” The color also changed from a gold to a deep green to match the new uniform green pants with black stripe.

The first patch was created sometime in the early 1950s. This patch was a five-point star with a black background, blue border, and the blue lettering, “Pima County.” This was created under the leadership of Sheriff Eyman.

The fourth patch, created under Sheriff Cox, was similar to an upside down pie shape. Across the top read “Sheriff’s Dept.” In the center was a six-point star with the San Xavier Mission in it. Below the star was the lettering, “Pima County.” The colors were deep blue with a gold border.

The third patch was the shape of Pima County with a navy blue background, silver border, and the silver lettering, “Pima County Sheriff Deputy.”

The second patch was created by Sheriff James Clark. This patch consisted of a four-point star with a tan background, dark brown border, and letters topped with a green cactus. Sheriff Waldon Burr in the late 1950s changed the patch again.
The whipping post was used extensively by Americans when they took over the Old Pueblo in 1855 following the withdrawal of Mexican troops. Those who committed minor crimes were flogged.

However, law enforcement became such a problem in the wild and wooly early Tucson that the whipping post and jail seemed almost useless in stopping the crime wave. One of the town’s more colorful citizens, Judge Charles Meyer, tried something new, with the chain-gang, and enjoyed considerable success with it.

Even so, Tucson’s rough days were far from over, the frontier atmosphere continuing for many years. Gambling halls, saloons and red-light districts flourished. It took quite a time for a strong jail and police force to replace the whipping post and the chain gang and make the Old Pueblo a peaceful community.

Incidentally, Tucson’s first mayor, Mark A. Aldrich, made use of an old effective variation on the whipping post sentence. He ruled that only half of the lashes were to be laid on immediately, the prisoner to return at a later date for the second half.

“Strange to say, the prisoner never returned, nor did he remain to commit more crimes,” he said.
During the summer of 1878, Sheriff Shibell and his deputies felt powerless in preventing robberies along the desert roads near Tucson. There was one bandit in particular who struck terror while perversely lending a touch of humor to his escapades. On July 31, 1878, a Florence-bound stagecoach piloted by Arthur Hill traveled along a sandy stretch of road eighteen miles north of Tucson, near Point Mountain. Stepping from concealment, a lone masked gunman halted the stage and forced the driver and passengers to give up their valuables. A whopping $37.00 was taken by the bandit.

The masked man turned out to be as obliging as he was daring. The following Thursday the Florence-bound stagecoach again neared Point Mountain. Driver Hill, now accompanied by Undersheriff John Miller, pointed out the scene of last week’s robbery and described the events to the interested passengers, explaining, “There, the robber was behind that bush … and there he is again!” Confronting the astonished driver was the same masked man of a week before, who replied, “Yeah and here I am again, now throw up your hands!” The bandit made a considerable amount more this haul than he did last week. He escaped after a rainstorm washed away the fresh hoof-prints of his getaway horse.

After a lengthy investigation into the stagecoach robberies, County Treasurer and future Sheriff “Bob” Leatherwood found out the identity of the bandit, a William J. Brazelton. Leatherwood used an informant to find the whereabouts of bandit Brazelton. A meeting was set and Brazelton was lured in. As the shadowy figure approached, he gave the posse the pre-arranged signal. In reply, a series of muzzle flashes from shotguns and rifles lit up the desert night sky. Brazelton fell to the ground, muttered a few defiant words, and then became still. Approaching cautiously, the sheriff’s men struck matches to identify the mortal remains of William Brazelton. They carried the body back to town and propped it up for public display. He was photographed and buried a short time later.

Brazelton’s death marked the only instance in which Peace Officer Charlie Shibell was forced to take a human life. Curiously, the manner in which the outlaw was killed, by ambush — without giving him a chance to surrender — was never criticized by the Sheriff’s political opponents. A populace supportive of Lynch Law could also applaud a Sheriff who shot outlaws without warning.
(Left) This Western Union Telegraph was sent by Sheriff Eugene O. Shaw on September 6, 1887, well after he moved out of Pima County, announcing his resignation.

(Right) This 1887 petition was submitted to the Board of Supervisors requesting that Matthew Shaw become sheriff after the resignation of his brother, Eugene.

Eugene O. Shaw

Matthew F. Shaw, Sr.
In late 1879, legendary lawman Wyatt Earp came to the Arizona territory with members of his family. Dodge City had become too quiet for Wyatt and he decided to take advantage of the booming opportunity that was available in the silver rich town of Tombstone. On July 27, 1880, Sheriff Shibell appointed Wyatt Earp as Deputy Sheriff of Pima County.

A few months after Wyatt’s appointment, there appeared to be real trouble between the cowboy faction of Tombstone and the Earp brothers. On the eve of October 28, 1880, William Brocious, aka Curly Bill, shot City Marshal Fred White. Brocious and several of his friends were shooting up the town and getting rowdy when Marshal White tried to disarm Brocious.

Pima County Deputy Wyatt Earp came running at the sound of gunfire, running in just after White was shot and smacked Curly Bill Brocious on the top of the head with a pistol. Marshal White died two days later. Brocious’s friends scattered into the night but were later arrested by City Marshal Virgil Earp with the assistance of Deputy Wyatt Earp and taken to court the next morning.

Ironically, White’s last comments before slipping into unconsciousness Curly Bill free. White stated to bystanders that he set the pistol off himself while trying to grab it from Curly Bill Brocious. Curly Bill subsequently was released because of this statement. Later, Brocious would tell friend Deputy Sheriff Bill Breakenridge that he had pulled the “border roll” as White tried to grab his pistol, and then he shot him.

Problems appeared to follow Wyatt. Word came out that Pima County would soon be partitioned off, and Tombstone would be in the new Cochise County. Pima County Deputy Wyatt Earp quit his job on November 9, 1880, presumably to run for the position of Sheriff of Cochise County. Although many speculated that he had a falling out with Pima County Sheriff Shibell.
The 1800s

Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp at Dodge City in 1876.

Wyatt Earp’s military Colt .45

Wyatt Earp’s badge and watch.

(Left) An expense report of Deputy Sheriff Wyatt Earp, fall of 1880.
The 1800s

(l. to r.) Standing: Deputy Sheriff Bob Paul, Sylvester Purcell, Noah H. Bernard, S.M. Samaniego, Chas. A. Shibell, Harry Drachman, Vasquez, W.P.B. Fields (Billie), unknown, Alfred James Wakefield, unknown, unknown. Seated: W.I. Reed, Clinton Hoover (Clerk of the Court), Sheriff Lyman W. Wakefield, Judge Wm. F. Cooper and Francis M. Hartman. (Original card printed from Edith Wakefield Berger, November 9, 1966; courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society)

(Left) The Pima County Sheriff’s Office was once located inside the courthouse. (l. to r.) Sheriff Lyman Wakefield, Deputy Bob Paul, and Deputy Alfred Wakefield, circa 1897 – 1898. (Courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society)
On July 7, 1908, Pima County Sheriff Nabor Pacheco, Father Zimmerman, and Pima County Undersheriff Henry Meyer accompanied inmate Horace J. Groce to the scaffold. Horace had been convicted of murdering his wife Ida Groce. After the noose was put around his neck, Horace personally thanked Undersheriff Meyer for the kind treatment he had received while he was in the jail. After 1:00 p.m., when the factory whistles blew, Sheriff Pacheco cut the cord and, after eight minutes, Horace Groce was pronounced dead.
The Early 1900s

(Above) The Sheriff’s Office in 1914 – note the large safe where courthouse monies and important documents were kept.

(Above) Sheriff McDonald appoints a deputy in 1927.

A billing statement from Sheriff Forbes, 1915.
The Early 1900s

(Left and below) Pima County Sheriff’s Department budget proposal, 1928.
On February 21, 1930, Eva Dugan was hanged for the murder of Pima County rancher Andrew J. Mathis. She was the only woman ever executed in Arizona, and her hanging brought the State and Pima County national notoriety.

Eva had gone to work as a housekeeper for Mathis in January 1927 and apparently was fired after a couple of weeks. Shortly thereafter, Mathis disappeared along with his Dodge coupe and some personal possessions. Pima County Sheriff Jim McDonald, investigating the disappearance, found Mathis’s cashbox missing, but his house otherwise in order. Neighbors reported having been offered some of Mathis’s belongings for sale by Eva, but she had also disappeared. A search of the ranch turned up a charred ear trumpet (Mathis was hard of hearing) but nothing else. Foul play was suspected.

Sheriff McDonald began the work of tracing Eva, sending missing persons notices describing her and Mathis to police agencies all over the country. He found out that she had sold the Dodge for six hundred dollars in Kansas City, Missouri (some accounts say Texas), passing herself off as Mrs. Andrew Mathis. She had told the salesman she needed the money for her husband’s surgery. A background check revealed that Eva had been married five times and that all of her husbands had disappeared mysteriously. She had a
daughter living in White Plains, New York and a father living in California, but neither had seen her for several years. When Sheriff McDonald finally discovered her, she was, in fact, living in White Plains working at a hospital. She was traced there when alert postal authorities intercepted a card she mailed to her father. McDonald arranged for her extradition, and on March 4, 1927 she was returned to Arizona.

Upon her return, she was tried on charges of car theft, found guilty and sentenced to prison. Nine months later, a tourist camping overnight at the Mathis ranch uncovered a shallow grave while trying to set a tent post. The decomposing body, encrusted in lime and with a gag still in his teeth, was identified as that of Andrew J. Mathis. Eva Dugan was charged with murder. The evidence against Eva was all circumstantial. There were no fingerprints, no witnesses, and the only thing Eva would only admit to was that she and Mathis quarreled. Nevertheless, after a brief trial, she was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to hang.

For two years, she cheated the execution. Her supporters worked to have her sentence commuted by the governor, while Eva gave interviews to the press, charging a dollar per visit. On February 21, 1930, she had exhausted all avenues of appeal, and her hanging time had come. During the day and night before the execution, she visited with friends and newsman. She made small jokes – some of them a bit macabre – and from time to time she glanced at the clock. She told a reporter from the Arizona Republic, “I am going to my Maker with a clear conscience. I am innocent of any murder and God knows I am.” Until she left the woman’s cellblock for the death house, Mrs. Dugan was sure she would be spared, saying, “The attorney general is probably on his way here now.”

Shortly after midnight the prison grapevine spread the news that Eva intended to commit suicide and cheat the gallows. A search revealed a bottle of raw ammonia in her bunk and another search turned up three razor blades sewn in the collar of her dress.

Veteran guard, “Daddy” Allen, led the small procession to the death house. Two other guards flanked Mrs. Dugan and the prison chaplain, Rev. Walter Hoffman, followed them. She seemed composed as she mounted the scaffold and told the guards “Do not hold my arms so hard; people will think I am afraid.” She swayed slightly as she stood on the trap door. Eva closed her eyes and nodded her head. As the trap door opened, Mrs. Dugan plunged through the trap door and hit the end of the rope with a bouncing jolt; then her head snapped off and rolled at the feet of the spectators.

Needless to say, this was the end of the scaffold in Arizona. Mrs. Dugan was buried in the Florence cemetery in a beaded, jazz-age silk dress she had made while awaiting execution. She paid for her own coffin by selling handkerchiefs she embroidered in her cell. Please note the portrait taken of the dress worn when she posed with Pima County Sheriff McDonald.

The 1930s

The Notorious Outlaw John Dillinger – Captured!

Tucson has always had many visitors. Many have found the “Old Pueblo” to be a nice place to “take it easy” and take in the sunshine. Such was the case for vacationing Public Enemy #1, the notorious bank robber John Dillinger and his gang. On January 22, 1934, a fire broke out in the downtown Congress Hotel. Firemen rushed into the building, making sure that the blaze was under control and that the hotel guests were safe. Two of these guests were quite insistent that their belongings be rescued from the blaze and offered to reward the fireman if they retrieved their things. When the fireman rescued these guests’ belongings, they couldn’t help but notice that these suitcases were very heavy. The guests then offered the firemen a large tip but they refused. The firemen did, however, get a good look at these hotel guests and for some reason thought they looked familiar but could not place them. Then in amazement, one of the fireman realized that he had just rescued the personal items of Charles “Fat Charley” Mackley and Russell Clark, members of the Dillinger gang. Tucson Police and the Pima County Sheriff were notified and the “Man Hunt” was immediately started. On Thursday, January 25, 1934, Tucson Law Enforcement did what no other agency was able to do – and that was capture the entire Dillinger Gang without incident. Charley Mackey was arrested in a radio store in downtown Tucson; Russell Clark and his girlfriend Opal Long were captured at the house the gang rented in North Second Avenue; Harry Pierpont and his girlfriend Mary Kinder were captured (by future Pima County Sheriff Frank Eyman) on South Sixth Avenue.
Pierpont, as he was questioned, became profane and violent. Jerking a gun from his waistband holster, he prepared to shoot it out. But Frank Eyman, equally quick on the draw, had his gun immediately against the bandit’s back. Pierpont surrendered his weapon, but moments later, he pulled another from a shoulder holster. Again, Eyman quick on the draw disarmed Pierpont. The leader of the Gang, John Dillinger and his girlfriend, Evelyn “Billie” Frechette, unaware that his gang was being captured one by one, was also captured at the same house on Second Avenue. Dillinger himself was said to exclaim: “I’ll be the laughing stock of the country. How could a hick town police force ever suspect us?” Confiscated during the arrest were around 40 suitcases, bags, sacks, boxes, and trunks. Hidden within the luggage was $36,000 in bills ranging from $50 to $1,000, along with $12,000 worth of set and unset diamonds. Also, law enforcement officers were amazed to have found gang’s arsenal of 80-odd weapons, including four bullet proof vests, submachine guns, high-powered rifles, sawed off shotguns, and at least one of every variety of revolver and automatic then made.

The gang was taken to the Pima County Jail located on the north side of the Pima County Courthouse downtown. Pima County Sheriff John Belton decided to have an open house for the public since so many people wanted to catch a glimpse of the infamous criminals. Several hundred people had the opportunity to see them as they filed though the jail corridors. At one point, gangster Pierpont borrowed $2.00 from Sheriff John Belton to purchase a marriage license to make his girlfriend Mary Kinder an honest woman. The license was never used. The gang remained in Pima County for a few more days before they were extradited by Midwest Law Enforcement agencies. Two months later, John Dillinger made a spectacular escape from the “escape proof” Lake County Jail in Crown Point, Indiana. But by the end of July 1934, John Dillinger was dead. The rest of his gang was also dead or in jail.
Chronological History of the Robles Kidnapping Mystery

(From a 1930s newspaper article)

The June Robles kidnapping was one of the most bizarre unsolved crimes ever committed in the history of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department. The following is a chronological summary of the famed case, from the time the child was abducted April 25, 1934, to the latest developments.

April 25, 1934: Six-year-old June Robles is kidnapped as she returns home from Roskruege School, and a note demanding $15,000 ransom for her safe return is delivered to her father, Fernando Robles.

April 26, 1934: Three hundred armed American Legionnaires join scores of federal, state and local police in searching for the missing child and her captors as the biggest manhunt in Arizona history gets underway.

April 27, 1934: Deputy County Attorney Carlos Robles, speaking for the child’s family, asks that the kidnap hunt be called off to allow contacts with the captors and to “insure the safe return of the little girl.”

April 28, 1934: Fernando Robles takes $15,000 in $5, $10 and $20 bills, furnished by the child’s grandfather, Bernabe Robles, and travels the lonely desert road described in the kidnap note. This attempted contact fails.

April 29, 1934: A second ransom note, threatening death for June if the $15,000 is not paid immediately, is received by Fernando and Bernabe Robles through the mail.

April 30, 1934: The search for the child moves to Mexico, as Sonora officials report that persons carrying a small girl had been sighted across the border. Mexican Secret Service agents offer, “all possible assistance.”

April 31, 1934: The Robles family addresses a plea to the kidnappers for the “safe return of our child” in a public letter to the newspapers.

May 7, 1934: Federal and local officers end “truce” and start anew on the search for the missing child and her kidnappers.

May 10, 1934: A third ransom note, describing a new route to be traveled in delivering the $15,000, is received by members of the Robles family.

May 11, 1934: At the request of the Robles family, officers withdraw from the search a second time.

May 14, 1934: June Robles is found shackled in a small cage in the desert nine miles from Tucson, a spot described in a letter from Chicago addressed to Gov. B.B. Moeur, who...
dispatched it to Tucson. The child, burned, but unharmed, is discovered by her uncle Carlos and County Attorney Clarence Houston.

**May 15, 1934:** The search for the kidnappers is turned over to federal officers, who redouble efforts to apprehend the child’s captors. June, after resting at her home, poses for photographers and tells of being held in the desert cage for 19 days by two men known to her only as “Will” and “Bill.”

**June 10, 1934:** The Robles family turns down contract offers for June’s appearance on theatrical programs. Her father denies any intention of commercializing his daughter’s fame.

**December 7, 1934:** A grand jury meets to start considering government evidence in the case.

**December 8, 1936:** Jurors listen to the testimony of eight federal agents and two former government investigators who follow Andersen into the inquiry room.

**December 14, 1936:** After hearing the testimony of 30 officers and principals in the case, grand jurors visit the desert spot where June had been found shackled in a narrow cage.

**December 15, 1936:** Bernabe Robles testifies for two hours before the grand jury.

**December 16, 1936:** The child’s parents are summoned to relate the story of abduction.

**December 17, 1936:** June Robles gives her own version of the kidnapping. Jurors confer for two hours with U.S. District Attorney Frank E. Flynn, his assistant, John P. Dougherty, and Andersen and then announce that the investigation is ended and start deliberating on a report to the court.

**December 18, 1936:** Grand jurors report to Federal Judge Albert M. Sames that “authorities” have done everything possible to solve the case but we do not feel that the facts disclosed by the evidence are sufficient to warrant the indictment of any person or persons.” The report adds that “[the] vast amount” of evidence submitted shows that the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, had made a “thorough investigation of the case.” Flynn expresses satisfaction with the report, and says he will recommend that the Justice Department “discontinue investigation” and “close the case.”

The June Robles kidnapping remains the only modern major unsolved abduction in the nation.

**January 11, 1935:** A federal grand jury fails to indict Robson and passes the case “for further consideration.” The suspect is released on $5,000 bond.

**April 4, 1935:** A new federal grand jury, meeting in Tucson, indicts Robson “for attempting to extort money through the mails.” The suspect remains at liberty under $5,000 bond.

**May 1, 1935:** Robson enters a plea of not guilty to charges when arraigned before Federal Judge Albert M. Sames. The trial is set for June 18.

**June 18, 1935:** On a motion of government attorneys, the Robson case is continued on calendar.

**September 15, 1935:** New federal agents, headed by Harold Andersen, are sent to Tucson to seek solution of the Robles mystery, by this time the only unsolved major kidnapping in the country.

**November 20, 1936:** Federal authorities announce that “the Robles investigation is ended”; plans are made to place the results of the 32-month probe before a grand jury here on December 7.

**November 24, 1936:** On a motion of government attorneys, extortion charges against Robson are dismissed and his bond exonerated.

**December 7, 1936:** A grand jury meets to start considering government evidence in the case.

**December 8, 1936:** Andersen, Chief of the G-men in Arizona and director of investigation, spends five hours testifying before grand jurors while June Robles, her parents, grandparents, and other members of the family wait in the witness room to take the stand.

**December 10, 1936:** Jurors listen to the testimony of eight federal agents and two former government investigators who follow Andersen into the inquiry room.

**December 14, 1936:** After hearing the testimony of 30 officers and principals in the case, grand jurors visit the desert spot where June had been found shackled in a narrow cage.

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The June Robles kidnapping remains the only modern major unsolved abduction in the nation.
The 1930s

(Left) Sheriff Echols and his staff, 1937. (L to r.) Back row: Tom Chambers, deputy; Ora Shinn, deputy; Chas. Moon, deputy; Al Franco, deputy; Silver Prichard, Ajo deputy; R.O. McAdo, cattle inspector; Frank Branson, chief at Ajo. Front row: Andy Dobbeck, constable; John Devine, undersheriff; Ed Echols, Sheriff; and Jack Dyer, deputy.

(Below) Sheriff Echols poses with his detectives, 1937.
Frank C. Johnson, a World War II veteran, became the first full-time African American Deputy in the Pima County Sheriff’s Department in 1948. Mr. Johnson was born in Leon, Texas, on May 13, 1907. He and his wife Bernice moved to Tucson from Stamford, Texas, in 1936.

Before joining the Sheriff’s Department, he worked at the Southern Pacific Hospital and as a club manager for American Legion Post 38.

Mr. Johnson used to say that his hobby was helping people. He did this as a deputy sheriff and also through his membership in the American Legion, Fraternal Order of Police, the Elks Lodge, Masonic Lodge and the Prince Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Frank’s church work included service as a steward and also as president of the usher board and laymen’s league.

While serving as exalted ruler of the Elks Pilgrim Rest Lodge 601 in 1971, he was honored for his service on the local, state, and national levels by regional Elk officials at a banquet held in Tucson.

In an interview in 1953, Mr. Johnson told a reporter that he found that “in many instances people can be helped more by ad-

vice than by pressure. I even get calls when I am off duty, so my hobby takes a lot of time. But, I enjoy doing things for people, and I like to think I am doing some good.”

He remembered when his ability to talk to people helped him out of a potentially dangerous situation. “I was investigating a call from a lady who said her husband was drunk and had threatened to kill her. I found him across the road in front of another house with a shotgun in his hands. After a little conversation he gave me the gun. He actually seemed amazed that he couldn’t shoot it and gave up so easily.”

Frank C. Johnson moved up through the ranks to the position of Lieutenant in charge of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department Criminal Investigation Division. Lt. Johnson retired from the Department in 1969. Lt. Johnson passed away at the age of 82 at his home after he lost his battle with cancer.
The 1950s


(Left) An unidentified Pima County Sheriff’s Department Sergeant poses in the new 1950s style uniform. Notice the six-point star and the mandatory western bolo tie.

The 1950s – Ready to roll!
(Left) Ajo deputies stand proud. (l. to r.) Pappy Dollar, Bruce Tyron, Hoge, Ed Hammonds. (Right) Sheriff McKinney hands Dick Goldstein a business card as Sergeant Garcia looks on.
The 1950s

(Left) Sheriff's deputies and a passerby had to push this sports car over onto its wheels before the bodies of two University of Arizona students could be removed. The accident occurred just east of Gates Pass on West Speedway.

(Right) A broken hose hampered efforts to put out a fire in the junkyard at the base of “A” Mountain in April of 1959. Deputies Jack Dawson, Frank Barrios, and John U. Lyons worked on the hose, along with an unidentified passerby. (Below) A military officer and a Pima County Sheriff’s Commander view the damage left behind from an airplane collision.
By Bob Thomas  
(From a September 8, 1958 article)

If you think the Wild West has changed, that the days of cattle rustling, open range, and eagle-eyed trackers are gone forever, partner, Pima County range deputies have got news for you.

Three men, officially called range detectives, patrol an area equal in size to that of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Delaware—all of non-urban Pima County.

Their “beat” encompasses 9,241 square miles of some of the roughest mountains and desert west of the Pecos.

The three, Charles Wright, Frank Wootan, and Herman Tuck, patrol this area by car, horseback, and, at times, by airplane. They have to be familiar with range problems, such as ranch brands, crops, cattle, and mining as well as be able to fill out a traffic accident report and track down some kid’s lost bicycle.

Wright, a tall, barrel-chested sergeant, spokesman for the group, says the huge size of the area makes it impossible for three deputies to cover it on a systematic schedule.

“It’s gotta be done by hit or miss,” he said. “We have swings or loops we try to follow pretty often. For instance, we drive over the hill to Redington, take a sweep into Pinal County and then come back to Tucson by the old Mt. Lemmon Road. Or we go down the Nogales Highway, hit Sahuarita and Madera Canyon and then go over to Arivaca and Sasabe and back home again by way of Three Points.

“But these trips are all-day affairs any way you look at it and if you have to stop and do some investigating you’re stuck,” he continued.

The deputies try to see each rancher in the county, no matter how isolated, at least once a month. All three have range backgrounds that help them understand the problems of ranchers.

Wright, 29, who is married and the father of three children, was a U.S. border patrolman before he entered the sheriff’s department.

Wootan, also 29, is the father of five children. He was born and reared on his father’s ranch in Cochise County and broke horses and punched cattle for the Lane Cattle Company before joining the Coolidge Police Department for four years.

The newest member of the trio is Herman Tuck, 44. Tuck worked for the Chiricahua Cattle Company for seven years and during the war he operated a pack train for the U.S. government, salvaging parts from mountain airplanes crashes. He is married and has two sons.

Their work consists of everything from rescues to rustling.

“We’ve got a heck of a cattle rustling case working right now,” Wright said. “This rancher over in the Rincon Mountains has lost over 160 head during the past year and a half. We don’t know how they were taken; maybe by truck or maybe they were butchered on the spot.”

Finding how many cattle were missing was not just a matter of counting the remaining animals. Wootan headed a special roundup team of six cowboys who corralled and counted the rancher’s entire heard, branding and doctoring as they went, to obtain an accurate count.

“One plain old cowboy work,” Wootan said. “One of their most baffling cases this year occurred in the Avra Valley, west of Tucson.

A ring of three or more rustlers has been operating in a way that leaves little evidence behind. The rustlers kill a beef at night, butcher it, taking only the most desirable cuts and, leave the rest. The meat is then cut into thin strips, laid out in the sun, and cured. The dried meat, better known as jerky, has been sold to Indians and Mexicans around the Ajo area. More than 40 head of cattle have disappeared this way according to deputies who are still working on the case.
The 1950s

The Pima County Sheriff’s Department

By Sgt. Chas. P. Smith
(From The Sheriff Magazine, February 1958)

Sheriff James W. Clark was elected by the voters of Pima County on a promise of non-partisan, non-political law enforcement. His first move upon taking office on January 1, 1957, was to appoint veteran law officer and experienced Deputy Sheriff Arthur A. Grande as Undersheriff. Grande had worked up through the ranks of the Pima County Sheriff’s Office from deputy to sergeant, to lieutenant, and to captain; and although he was a democrat, Clark still felt that he was the most capable man for the job. Their administration has seen many changes and improvements in the law enforcement picture in Pima County.

The Criminal Division was completely re-organized under the direction of Capt. Edmund Haverty and Lt. K.P. Cleary; and working in connection with that Division, is a newly formed Juvenile Division under Sgt. Chas. P. Smith. There has been an exceptional record of cases closed within the Criminal Division, with more felonies solved during 1957 than during any previous year, either in number, or by percentage figures. The Juvenile Division, for example, has handled some 1224 cases this year, with only 60 remaining in the pending file. The Juvenile Division consists of four men, and the criminal division of ten, including a narcotics squad.

The Patrol and Traffic Division, under the direction of Captain Frank J. Murray, is outfitted in western uniforms at the beginning of Clark’s administration. These striking uniforms have gained many compliments from visitors and residents alike.

The Sheriff has many letters on file concerning the courtesy and efficiency shown by members of the Uniformed Division. Constant training schools are being held for all of the personnel in First Aid, Firearms, and all facets of law enforcement. A new policy of the office is the daily reading of the various parts of the Arizona Statutes during the briefing of the three shifts of men. The office maintains a substation in Marana, employing four people, and a substation in Ajo employing five. There is also a permanent deputy stationed on Mt. Lemmon in the Catalina Mountains, ready to handle accidents and lost hikers, as well as prevent large scale burglary of summer cabins in the area. Also added is a system whereby deputies can call their reports in from the field for recording and later typing by clerical personnel, thus saving valuable time for the patrol duty.

Other facets of the Sheriff’s Office are the Civil Division, under Capt. Chas W. Stevenson, and the Animal Shelter under Sgt. Ray Hanson. The Civil Division has been completely re-organized and is now running more smoothly than ever before. The Animal Shelter is responsible for licensing all dogs, as well as administering many other necessary services to all animals in Pima County. It has been doing a commendable job.

Also notable since Clark took office is the complete reorganization of the records kept by the Department, as well as the physical rearrangement of the office for more efficient operation. Clark has also seen to it that the entire office has cooperated in keeping the yearly budget down, and followed to the letter, with no over-expeditures.

Clark and Grande both sit in the same office, with desks facing each other; they share in the problems of administration and law enforcement that come up each day. Many activities outside of strict law enforcement are also participated in by the Sheriff and his men. The Sheriff was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Arizona County Attorneys and Sheriff’s Association; and the Undersheriff was elected vice president of the Arizona Conference on Crime and Delinquency – Prevention and Control. Plus, the Department personnel participated in the Little League baseball program, distribution of Christmas baskets to the needy, and other community activities.

Another notable improvement since January 1, 1957 is the cleaning up of the notoriously filthy Pima County Jail, under the supervision of Sgt. Nide Trafianti. Vermin were exterminated, mattresses and blankets cleaned, and the area completely repainted. The jail, though still over-crowded, is close to meeting its requirements of keeping all prisoners for Pima County, South Tucson, the U.S. Marshall, Border Patrol, Highway Patrol, and all women prisoners for every agency in the Tucson area.

There are now 114 deputies employed by the Pima County Sheriff’s Department. They are responsible for maintaining law and order in a county of 9,241 square miles, with a population of some 240,000 people. It is a big job with great responsibilities, and though there have undoubtedly been instances where criticism could be justified, it is the growing opinion of those who come in contact with the Pima County Sheriff’s Office that Sheriff James W. Clark and Undersheriff Arthur A. Grande are trying in all ways possible to keep the pledge of efficient, non-partisan, non-political law enforcement for the people of Pima County.
The 1960s

(Top image) Senator Lyndon B. Johnson waves a University of Arizona pennant at the crowd as his car passed the Pioneer Hotel in September of 1960. Sheriff Waldon V. Burr drove for the vice president candidate and his host, Arizona Senator Carl Hayden.

(Bottom image) Stetson hats were popular during the Sheriff Burr days. Senator John F. Kennedy was presented the Stetson during his visit to Tucson. The welcoming party included State Representative Arnold Elias, County Attorney Harry Ackerman and County Democratic Chairman Frank Minarik. (Photographs provided by Jack Sheaffer)
The 1960s

(Left) The interior of the Sheriff’s Department main office in February 1964. Pictured is complaint taker Charles McNichols.

(Below) Deputy Roy Estes stands in front of the assignment board at the main office of the Sheriff’s Department in February 1964.

(Below) Sergeant (later promoted to Captain) Harley A. Cook is seated at a desk in the main office of the Sheriff’s Department in February 1964.
The 1960s

(Above) Sheriff Burr with Lt. Frank Johnson (in suit) and undercover Detective Ralph Marmion look at evidence after a major drug raid. Suspects are afraid to look at the camera.

(Above) A desk officer prepares to count money contained within a money belt as Detective Marmion and an unidentified deputy look on.

(Left) Detective Marmion talks with deputies about the drug paraphernalia.
The 1970s

(Above) Sgt. J. Wollard receives an appreciation award for the Pima County Record Section on April 24, 1972. Pictured left is CMS/Sgt. Donald A. Janak.

(Right) Dennis Weaver pins the badge on William Coy Cox, the new Sheriff of Pima County in Tucson, Arizona November 19, 1971.

(Right) Sheriff Cox, Mrs. Ponder and Mr. Ponder, in front of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department February 27, 1974.
The 1970s

Display of riot equipment at the gun show on October 15, 1972.

(Left) Maj. R. Oberholtzer, PCSD; Mr. J. Castillo, Board Supervisor; Hon. Gary Nelson, Attorney General; Mr. D. Paxton, UA Campus Police; Sheriff William Cox; Mr. Bob Cook, Channel 4 News; Deputy Mark Pettit, PIO PCSD.

The 1970s

“Police-Person,” if you will – The Deputy Is a Lady

By Audrey Leech
(From the Territorial September 26, 1974)

“Well, I always wanted a son.”

That was what Deputy Sheriff Carol Shinburg’s father said four years ago when Dee (“nobody calls me Carol”) told her parents she was entering the Police Academy.

Instead of becoming a son upon her Academy graduation, Dee emerged as Pima County’s first female Deputy Sheriff.

Without losing one iota of her femininity.

Dee’s law enforcement career was the result of “being in the right place at the right time.” Hired as a secretary for the Criminal Investigations Department of the Sheriff’s Office in August 1970, becoming a policewoman was then “the furthest thing” from her mind.

But after taking – and passing – the next tests for Police Academy openings, she discovered she had an aptitude for the work, despite her sex.

Now, three years later, she has come to believe that being a woman is not only not a hindrance to being a police officer, but often a “real advantage.”

Police work, said the golden-blonde, blue-eyed deputy, “largely social work. I feel a lot of it is one person helping another. And sometimes a woman can be of more help than a man.

“A while ago, a case I was on involved telling a woman her husband had died. I could say to her, ‘Go ahead, cry,’ and give comfort by holding her. A man would tend to hold back more.”

She feels that being a woman is especially helpful on those cases involving children, such as child molestation or abuse. When victimized by such crimes, or unhappy family situations, children respond more readily to Dee because “I’m a mother image.”

But Deputy Shinberg’s work isn’t all confined to mothering and comforting. She is expected to face the same risks and hazards as any male on the force. And she has served in such dangerous areas as larceny and assault details.

The most hazardous assignments for her and every other deputy, she said, are “family fights and routine traffic stops.”

Family fights? “Yes,” Dee said, her freckled face relaxing into a smile.

“Say a wife calls us because her husband is threatening her. When we arrive, she sees us as the real threat because we can take her breadwinner to jail. So both parties suddenly regard us, the police, as their enemy and turn on us.”

Routine traffic stops are very dangerous, she explained, because “we have no way of knowing if the person we’re stopping is potentially dangerous. ‘Say he’s just committed a burglary and is armed. Even though we’re just stopping him for a faulty tail light, he’ll still panic and shoot.”

The most potentially dangerous men, she continued, are “drunks and those who are mentally unstable.”

Dee has no problems with sex discrimination from her fellow deputies. “They tease me a lot,” she laughed. “but they’re very protective, just like big brothers.” She enjoys a warm rapport with all of them.

A married lady, Dee did admit her husband “doesn’t like the idea of me going out on patrol.” But otherwise, he’s “not at all opposed” to her job. The couple’s favorite spare time hobbies are “waterskiing in Mexico, working around the house,” and just enjoying the outdoors.

Her job satisfies most of her greatest personal needs – “to be with people, to be able to help them.”

One of her biggest fears: that she’ll cause a traffic accident one of these days,” she said with a merry grin. (Dee is given to merry grins.)

“When people see a woman in a police car, they just stare and stare, like they can’t believe it.”

However, Pima County residents will soon get accustomed to the sight of female deputies. Two more women will soon be graduating from the Academy. “They’re really cute girls,” Dee added.

Is she a women’s libber? “No,” she said firmly. In fact, she doubts that a masculine-type militant liberationist would be successful on the force. “You can’t try to compete with men on this job and be able to get along with them.”

Deputy Shinberg has apparently proved to herself, her co-deputies, and her superiors that it is possible to do well in policework.

All she has to do is just what Dee has obviously done – be her happy feminine self and genuinely love her job.
By Betty Beard
Star Staff Writer
(From the Star June 19, 1975)
Deputy Sheriff Gary Hammond said yesterday that, when he saw a man’s slowly moving hand rise from a pile of cans, bottles and rubbish near a Tucson Mountain shack Tuesday, “I kind of lost my senses for a moment.”
“I thought I heard a noise on the ground and then I saw this arm sticking out of the ground. I thought it was someone joking.”
The hand belonged to a man identified as Richard Boss, 22, who had been stabbed, beaten, and buried alive in a shallow grave. He was to die two hours later at St. Mary’s Hospital without regaining consciousness.
Hammond said he called to his partner, Sgt. Jim Huser, who was with him at the shack near Gates Pass to check on some transients who had been ordered to vacate.
Hammond said he brushed away trash, grabbed the arm and pulled the battered and bleeding Boss from the shallow grave of refuse and dirt. “It didn’t scare us,” he said. “We didn’t have time to think about that.”
The deputies had arrived at the scene only a few minutes before and found Robert Schreiber, 35, one of the transients who had been told on Monday to leave the area. Schreiber told the deputies he was getting ready to leave and walked away. Huser said yesterday he believes Boss was attacked and then buried about 10 minutes before they arrived.
The deputies called for an ambulance and while Hammond waited with Boss, Huser followed Schreiber down Gates Pass Road and then arrested him 5 minutes later.
Schreiber was charged with two guns believed to have belonged to Boss and had the keys to a van registered to Boss that was parked near the shack.
Schreiber, of Jersey City, New Jersey, was booked into Pima County Jail on charges of murder and armed robbery.
Deputies believe that Schreiber and a 17-year-old youth had been staying in the shack, which is on private property just a short distance north of Gates Pass Road and about a mile west of Camino del Oeste. The grave was about 30 feet from the shack.
The youth, who had been seen with Schreiber on Monday, was questioned yesterday. Sheriff’s Detective Tom Roberts said the youth would not be charged but might be a witness in the case.

Dr. Louis Hirsch, county pathologist, said an autopsy yesterday showed Boss had been stabbed four times in the chest, perhaps with an ice pick. He had been beaten on the face and his skull had been fractured by a blow on the back of the head. Deputies have been unable to locate relatives of Boss or to further identify him.
Sheriff Officers Don’t Like Plan for Small Cars

By Betty Beard
Star Staff Writer
(From the Star July 4, 1975)

The Board of Supervisors has decided to auction off 79 of the Sheriff’s Department’s full-sized sedans and replace them with compact cars – to the surprise and anger of two sheriff’s administrators who said small cars would hurt operations.

The Board in a budget session Wednesday decided to replace almost all of the full-sized sedans used by administrators and detectives with less expensive and more economical compact cars, said Jim Murphy, deputy county manager.

In addition, he said, 37 of the Sheriff’s 69 patrol sedans will be replaced with full-sized 1976 sedans, bringing to 116 the number of new cars the Department will get in October.

Both Maj. Ron Oberholtzer, head of the support operations division, and Maj. John Lyon, head of the field operations division, indicated their surprise.

“Some of the cars are more heavily damaged, so they’ll have to be replaced,” said Oberholtzer. “This is terrific news,” said Oberholtzer. “The last thing the Board of Supervisors told us is that we were getting no new cars. But it would have been nice if they had told us rather than have us find out through the press.”

And, both also indicated, as Lyons said, that the use of compact cars would “destroy our flexibility.”

When a patrol car breaks down or is destroyed in a wreck, the Department can now convert an administrative car to a patrol car by simply adding lights and a control box, a process that takes about two hours, Lyon explained.

All of the Sheriff’s sedans were built to the same specifications and include radios, Oberholtzer said. Compact cars could not be converted to patrol cars because they don’t have the high performance speed, he said.

Sheriff W. Coy Cox was not available for comment yesterday.

Murphy said the supervisors also decided to purchase 10 subcompacts for the assessor’s office.

The county has $275,000 budgeted for new cars this year, he said, and will now be able to buy 126 new cars, instead of 51 as originally anticipated, because of the board’s decision to buy compacts and subcompacts and to auction off the 116 sheriff’s cars.

County Transportation Director Rod Schultz said he suggested the purchase of compacts because of the money and gas savings and because he felt high speeds are no longer necessary in sheriff’s cars.

“The speed limit is only 55. The days of high speed chases are gone,” he said.

Oberholtzer said in reply, “It’s unfortunate that Rod Schultz thinks that because we haven’t been able to convince the people we have to chase.”

Schultz estimates that by going to smaller cars, the county will save about $45,000 in gas bills during the first year. The cost is now $95,000 for gasoline for the Sheriff’s administrative cars.
The 1980s

Fencing Suspects Arrested

(From the Tucson Citizen May 6, 1981)

Sheriff’s deputies said they discovered about $75,000 in stolen goods at a Tucson business yesterday, then arrested the store’s owner and an employee. A man and woman suspected of 30 burglaries in six days also were arrested.

The merchandise, discovered at Aztec Precious Metals, 2551 S. Sixth Ave., included pieces of gold and silver jewelry, three melted-down blocks of gold and silver, and $1,500 in cash. The items were found in the walls, in the stuffing of chairs, in the air conditioning unit, in an overnight case, and under the floor, officers said.

Sgt. Craig Newburn estimated that 90 percent of the property found at the shop was stolen. Investigators believe the shop was one of the leading fencing operations in Tucson.

The store’s owner, William R. Stump, 46, of Vail, and employee Sydnie Marco, 47, of Sparks, Nevada were arrested at the shop after a search warrant was served at about 3:45 p.m., investigators said.

They were booked into Pima County Jail on suspicion of three counts each of trafficking in stolen property and one count each of conspiracy to commit felony theft.
Despite Some Opposition, Hats Back as Part of County Deputies’ Uniform

By Jay Gonzales
(From the Arizona Daily Star July 3, 1981)

Beginning today, hats are a mandatory part of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department uniforms – and a number of deputies and other officials are blowing their tops about it.

Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik said yesterday that the decision to require hats was made by administrators at the beginning of the year to give department personnel a more professional appearance.

“We are the only department that I know of anywhere that doesn’t have a hat as part of the uniform,” Dupnik said. “If we are to be looked upon as professionals, we have to act and look like professionals, and headgear is an important part of the uniform.”

Hats were part of the uniform until 1977, when former Sheriff Richard Boykin took office, said Sgt. Mark Pettit, public information officer. Boykin’s term also brought more lenient haircut regulations, which recently were made stricter.

One deputy who asked not to be identified said that about 90 percent of the deputies would like to tell administration to put the hats at another certain part of their anatomy.

“The hats are not well liked by the officers,” said Pettit. “They feel that the quality of service is just as high without the hats as it will be with them.”

“People will wear their hats, or they’re not going to work here,” he said. “If anyone makes the decision that he will not wear the hat, it will be considered insubordination.”

Pettit said violations could result in disciplinary action ranging from verbal reprimand to firing.

The brown hats with black glossy brims are shaped much like those worn by Tucson Police Department officers. The Department paid $5,000 for hat badges that were issued to each deputy, but each officer must use money from his $260 yearly uniform allowance to purchase the $38 hat.

In the hotter months, the top of the hat will be of a stiff mesh material, and when temperatures cool off, they will be changed to a solid material.

One deputy complained about the gold-colored badge that goes in the middle front of the hat, saying it goes against most of the safety training deputies are given.

He said deputies are instructed on how to shine their flashlights in the dark to keep from giving away their positions, and they are taught how to sneak up on the scene of a crime.

“They put this big shiny badge in the middle of your forehead.”

Despite the opposition, Dupnik, who also must wear a hat when in uniform, said he expects the headgear will be accepted in time.

“I’m well aware of the considerable amount of opposition,” he said. “I don’t have any problems with it (the hat), and I think it looks nice. I feel the deputies will reap the benefits.”

Pima Deputies’ Snazzy Styles May be Best in ‘Cop Couture’

By David L. Teibel
(From the Tucson Citizen May 14, 1982)

When those flashing gumballs and wailing sirens have roared into your life or your rearview mirror, you probably have not paused to admire the law officers’ uniforms.

But … our Pima County Sheriff’s deputies and the Sheriff’s corrections officers may be the best-dressed law enforcers in the nation.

Sheriff’s deputies here frequently have complained that their copper-and-brown uniforms don’t look much like the traditional image of police blue. They also complained bitterly last summer when Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik ordered them to cover their stylish bouffants with police-style caps.

Now, Sheriff’s Maj. Dennis Douglas says the Department has been named as a finalist for the honor of best-dressed law enforcement department in the United States by the National Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors in New York City.

The deputies’ uniforms, adopted in 1976, come in three color schemes, and each represents a different assignment or position, Douglas said. Corrections officers are outfitted in brown pants and tan shirts, members of the Sheriff’s command staff wear white shirts and brown pants, and deputies wear copper and brown.

Snappy Dressers – Members of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department model the uniforms that have made their Department a finalist for the best dressed law enforcement agency in the country. (l. to r.) Deputy Ron Ochs, Maj. Dennis Douglas, Deputy Jolene Ross, and Detention Officer Karl Maurer. (Citizen photo by Peter Weinberger)
The 1980s

**Dad Holds 2 Children in Standoff**

**Sheriff was Hostage of Gunman Earlier**

Associated Press

*(From the Republic May 20, 1982)*

Avra Valley – A man who had held Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik and two others at gunpoint for 1 1/2 hours earlier in the day barricaded himself and two of his children inside his mobile home Wednesday night and threatened to come out shooting.

Royce Sands, 32, gave authorities until midnight to pay $500,000 in cash and free his other two children or he said he would put his children in a knapsack on his back and come out shooting.

He reportedly was holding his 4 and 5-year-old daughters in the mobile home at Mile Wide Road and Sandario Road.

Pima County deputies were attempting Wednesday evening to defuse the situation by negotiating with Sands. Dupnik described the situation as “very, very volatile.”

It was the second hostage situation in five days involving Sands, authorities said. On Friday, deputies investigated the beating of Sands’ pregnant wife, Pat, surrounded the home, 15 miles northwest of Tucson, but withdrew after a 10-hour standoff as Sands held his children inside and refused to surrender.

Mrs. Sands was in Kino Community Hospital last week with injuries that included a broken arm and broken rib.

On Wednesday, Dupnik; his chief deputy, Stan Cheskey, and Sands’ attorney arrived to serve Sands with an arrest warrant charging aggravated assault against his wife.

Dupnik told reporters that Sands held a “2-year-old child in one arm and a cocked gun in the other” as he and the other men entered the home.

He said, “We had a lot of discussion about a lot of things. We were trying to defuse the situation.”

There was “no question at all” that Sands would shoot while he was detained inside the home, Dupnik said.

Sands let the three men go after about an hour, as three of his children played outside. Deputies then swooped in to try to take them into protective custody.

Deputies grabbed two of the youngsters, a 2-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl, but said they had to fatally shoot Sands’ German Shepherd. That led to Sands’ demand for $500,000 for the animal’s death as well as the release of his children, who were placed in a child-care center in Tucson.

Sands initially had given authorities until 5 p.m. to comply with his demands but later extended the deadline to midnight.

They said Sands fired several rounds from his trailer at the rate of one a minute during the day. No injuries were reported.

A shot reportedly was fired from inside the Sands’ home after his initial 5 p.m. deadline passed. Again, no one was hit.

Authorities took two or three area residents into custody after they had attempted to break through police barricades, despite warnings, to go to their own homes.

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**Lawman’s Stroll Through Mob Eases Tempers at Mine in Ajo**

*By Ward Harkavy*

*(From the August 12, 1984 Arizona Republic)*

Ajo – Copper strikers and Phelps Dodge Corp. miners reached the boiling point Saturday afternoon – the last day of mining in this bitterly divided town.

But a Pima County Sheriff’s Sergeant, G.W. Gordon, defused much of the anger by calmly strolling through a crowd of 50 pickets a minute after his men averted a fight between them and workers who had crossed the picket line.

The damage was limited to vehicles and egos.

To soothe the pickets, Gordon used a bemused expression and couple of pats on the stomachs of those he knew. Rather than standing between the pickets and the workers’ vehicles, he went into the crowd.

“You always work a crowd better from the inside – you’ve been to parties, haven’t you?” he said a few minutes later, still smiling. “These people have a lot of frustration. I know them. I’ve worked with them.”

The strikers had gathered at the main entrance of the New Cornelia Mine to jeer Phelps Dodge workers, about 500 of whom will be laid off as of this morning.

As the workers, finishing their day shift at the mine, drove past the picket line, about 50 strikers and their supporters taunted them.

“Bye-bye, scabs!” they shouted.

That’s what some of their T-shirts read, too.

“We all knew that it was going to shut down,” Art Galvez, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 4776, said of the mine.

“We were just waiting for the day when they closed it so we could come down and laugh at the scabs.”
The 1980s

By Sam Negri
(From the August 5, 1984 Republic)

TUCSON – The Pima County Sheriff’s Department has launched a program with home developers to make life tough for burglars.

The Program, called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, aims to reduce crime by planning neighborhoods and new homes in ways that make them less vulnerable to criminals, according to Rick Kastigar of the Sheriff’s Department.

Kastigar and Brad Gagnepain of the crime prevention staff underwent training to learn the basics of blueprint reading and the uniform building code.

The also studied the psychology of crime and defensible space.

“When a space is not defined as being part of your territory, you tend not to protect it,” Kastigar said. “Alleys are a good example. We urge developers to eliminate alleys from their neighborhood designs because alleys are a no-man’s land; they become burglar freeways.”

Streets, on the other hand, are semipublic areas, and people tend to keep an eye on what is happening along their streets, he said.

Law Agency, Developers Work to Thwart Burglars

The program is voluntary. Home builders agree to have their plans reviewed by the Sheriff’s Department, which then makes recommendations for changes. The program has been endorsed by the Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association.

One of the first major developments certified by the new program is La Cholla Hills, a retirement community now under construction in northwest Tucson. The sheriff’s deputies recommended that Fairfield Green Valley, Inc., builders of La Cholla, make three changes in their design.

They suggested that a window set in a panel alongside the front door be moved to the side of the door where the hinges were to prevent a burglar from reaching the locks and doorknob. They also suggested that an outside light be moved to a spot where it would be illuminate mailbox numbers, and that a deadbolt lock be installed on doors leading from the garage to the house.

Letta Allison, construction manager, said the cost to comply with the program’s standards was less than $20 per unit.

“Lighting, low landscape, readable house numbers, solid core doors with viewers, reinforced door frames and sliding glass doors, secured skylights and deadbolt locks that extend at least one inch, are just a few of our recommendations,” Gagnepain said.

“The program only exists in Pima County,” Kastigar added. “California has a similar program but it is not mandatory.”
Monday night – the night before he came up with a lead that would end the biggest manhunt in Tucson history – the detective prayed to God for help.

“I was at the end of my limit. I got down on my knees and I just prayed,” Sheriff’s Department Sgt. Robert Mayer, 38, said yesterday outside the modest brick home where Brian Frederick Larriva shot himself in the head rather than give up.

Tuesday night, Mayer, an undercover narcotics detective, and partner Bruce Clarke, also a sheriff’s investigator, received information from a cooperative cocaine dealer, who had been traced through an 88-CRIME call.

The information led them to a woman police refused to identify. She knew of Larriva’s cocaine habits, including his use of “crack” and heavy freebasing.

The detectives showed her a composite drawing of the “prime-time” rapist based on the description of a witness to a July incident. Mayer said he had begun working with the drawing two weeks ago, and it had not been made public to give investigators the edge that comes with inside knowledge.

The drawing showed a thin man with sunken eyes and a mustache wearing a cap. The woman said it looked like Larriva.

“She told us the guy carried guns, used cocaine, wore bandannas, that he did air-conditioning work – it was all tying into the evidence,” Mayer said.
The 1980s

(Left) Deputy Ron Benson and Deputy Tipling take measurements during a traffic investigation in the 1980s.

(Below) Slow down, folks. Deputy Tipling running radar, 1980s.

(Above) Deputy Gina Cripe checks on an abandoned vehicle, 1980s.
Pima County Sheriff’s Department
Youngest Deputy is Commissioned
Special Deputy Justin Mongold
(December 14, 1981 – March 13, 1991)

Special Deputy Justin Mongold, son of Deputy Ralph Mongold and Linda Mongold was commissioned by Sheriff Clarence Dupnik and McGruff “The Crime Dog.” Special Deputy Justin became Pima County’s youngest commissioned deputy and served proudly. Justin later lost his battle with leukemia and was survived by his parents Ralph and Linda.

We only hope that we may always be as strong and brave as Justin.

(Above) Deputy Justin poses with McGruff and his dad, Deputy Ralph Mongold.

(Right) Sheriff Dupnik presents Deputy Justin with the Oath of Office.

(Right) Sheriff’s Auxiliary Volunteer Marie Neal fingerprints kids, circa 1980s.
The 1990s – Present

(Right) The dedication of Corona de Tucson Sub Station.


(Above) Sheriff Dupnik presents a special plaque to Eddie Basha, owner of Basha’s grocery chain.

(Left) Christmas with the Commercial Auto Theft Unit, early ’90s.
The 1990s – Present

(Below) Sheriff’s Department Commanders Heaney, Gagnepain, U of A Basketball Coach Lute Olsen, Legal Advisor Gerard Guerin, and Commander Kastigar at the opening of the DARE Basketball Courts.

(Above) Frank Gonzalez’s retirement, February 14, 1999.

(Right) Commanders’ Day Away.

(Below) Seargents’ Day Away, 1990s.
The 1990s – Present

Doctor-cop up to terror fight

Emergency skills seen as key qualifiers for surgeon general

By C.T. Revere and Blake Morlock
(From the Tucson Citizen March 27, 2002)

With the nation facing the continual threat of terrorism, Dr. Richard Carmona appears to be the perfect fit for surgeon general to ensure that the medical field, hospitals, and communities are prepared for a catastrophic emergency, say supporters of the trauma surgeon and SWAT officer.

“Dr. Carmona is an experienced voice to help educate Americans about precautions and response to the threat of bioterrorism,” President Bush said yesterday, in announcing his nomination of Carmona.

U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Arizona, agreed. “At this point in our history, talking about health means talking about bioterrorism and other threats. There is no person in this country that I can think of who is more qualified to do that than Richard Carmona,” Kolbe said.

After the September 11th terrorist attacks, Carmona, as chairman of the Southern Arizona Regional Emergency Medical System, worked out bioterrorism and emergency preparedness plans for the Tucson region.

“Right now we are very focused on the biological health threat that could occur in this country as a result of terrorism,” Kolbe said yesterday. “Richard Carmona, with his background in emergency medicine as well as law enforcement, is uniquely qualified for this particular position.”

Kolbe said he expects the Senate confirmation hearings to focus on that issue.

“That’s not a particularly controversial issue,” he said. “If you were talking about one of those more social issues that are more controversial in society, then it would be a different matter. We need somebody who can stand up and speak strongly about it and tell us what steps need to be taken and are being taken to deal with this problem.”

Carmona, 52, is the first trauma surgeon nominated to the post. As a deputy sheriff who has worked on SWAT teams for 17 years, he also would be the first surgeon general with law enforcement experience.

Carmona worked for Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik, an enthusiastic Carmona supporter, who said the terrorism threats facing the nation demand a surgeon general with Carmona’s skills.

“That’s one of the reasons why he was selected,” Dupnik said. “He is just a unique and rare individual. He brings some unique experiences to that position that they’ve never had before and once they realize the gold mine they have, they’ll take advantage of him.”

Those views were echoed by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson who applauded Bush’s choice of Carmona as a successor to former Surgeon General David Satcher whose four-year term is coming to an end.

“At a time when our country faces a new public health threat from bioterrorism, we need a surgeon general who understands this threat and can provide strong leadership to the nation. Dr. Carmona will provide such leadership,” Thompson said in a statement.

“As a medical school professor at the University of Arizona, (Carmona) was responsible for developing and implementing the weapons of mass destruction anti-terrorism preparedness and consequences management plans for the university and community at large. He knows the challenges that not only our nation faces in preparing for bioterrorism but that our communities face.”

IN HIS OWN WORDS

(From the March 27, 2002 Tucson Citizen)

Over the years, Dr. Richard H. Carmona has been a newsmaker and has had much to say in the pages of the Tucson Citizen. Here are some of his words:

– 1989 after surgery on a 9-year-old boy who was disfigured by two mixed-breed pit bulls:

“We were aghast at what we saw. It was one of the worst disfigurements that I have seen of a person who is alive. We wanted to pick him up and hug him. I haven’t seen a wound like that since Vietnam.”

– 1985 interview about the campaign for seat belt:

“I’m a trauma surgeon. I venture to say my business would drop in half if people wore them ... I’d be very happy.”

– 1987, discussing the preponderance of young, male trauma victims involved in violence:

“The ‘knife and gun club’ in Tucson is still relatively small compared to other cities, but we are rapidly urbanizing and it will grow steadily. It is (growing) now.”

– 1988, as he tried to persuade doctors to release him early from his hospital recovery from a leg wound sustained in a SWAT team shootout:

“They said, ‘Sorry, Doc, no way.’ And if I had been my patient, I would have said the same thing. But I thought maybe I could talk ‘em into it.’”

– 1993, responding to plans to combine TMC and UMC trauma centers, thus eliminating his job:

“I’m an expert in my field. Don’t tell me I’m not qualified for the job. They recruited me eight years ago when there was nothing here. I started the trauma program and now they say I’m not qualified for the job.”

– 1999, discussing his feelings after fatally shooting a gunman who was threatening a woman and fired a shot at Carmona after a minor auto accident:

“It’s a very difficult situation to go through. It’s probably the most significant event in an officer’s life.”
It seems most fitting to devote a page in this history book to a man who contributed so much to the Pima County Sheriff’s Department – former Chief Deputy Stanley L. Cheske, who retired August 31, 2002, after chalk ing up more than 38 years of consecutive service with the agency. Chief Cheske, who had served under four different Sheriffs, joined the PCSD in 1964. According to Sheriff Dupnik, “Chief Cheske has been a dynamic leader for the entire 25 years that I have been a member of this department. He has been extremely influential in transforming the Sheriff’s Department into a modern, nationally recognized public safety organization.” According to Sheriff Dupnik, Chief Cheske has not only been a trusted confidant and loyal friend, but has also built the foundation for the agency’s continued growth well into the 21st century.

Because Chief Cheske has served in virtually every department of the organization, his commitment to the support of line employees through state-of-the-art technology and superior officer safety equipment will be his legacy. He is well known and highly respected by local, state, and federal agencies as well as many community service organizations.

As an example, he has served for the past two decades on the Casa De Los Ninos Board of Directors. He holds a Master’s Degree from the University of Arizona and was one of the first members of the Sheriff’s Department to obtain an advanced college degree. He is also a graduate of the 112th F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and is an active member of the F.B.I. National Academy regional alumni association. He is a lieutenant Colonel from the Air National Guard, having served with the 162nd Tactical Fighter Group, with his last assignment as the United States Air Force Academy Liaison for Southern Arizona. He is the longest serving member in the history of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department. According to Sheriff Dupnik, “He will remain a trusted friend of the department in perpetuity.”

(Above) The early days – Identification Technician Stan Cheske.
(Right) Stan Cheske searches for fingerprints at a homicide scene.
The Jail – Past to Present

The First Pima County Jail

From the leader of the Pima County, Territory of Arizona Board of Commissioners, February 1, 1865:

Present: The Honorable C. Trumbull Hayden, Judge of the Probate Court and the Honorable Hill D’Armitt, Sheriff.

“Resolution unanimously carried that John G. Capran is authorized to purchase for the County of Pima, in the City of San Francisco, California and ship by way of Guayamas, Sonora, Mexico, to this place, one iron jail 12 feet long by 7 feet high, containing three cells to be built of No. 2 plates riveted on angle iron, thickness of 3/16 of an inch, all made after the most approved pattern, having all bolts, locks, hinges and other articles necessary for its erection on its arrival at this place.”

Apparently the iron jail was some time in coming as, at the meeting of April 10, the Board had to approve a bill of $135 for the boarding and keep of E. Wilson, the county’s only prisoner.

(Above) This drawing of the Pima County Jail was confiscated from an inmate, circa 1883.

(Above) Jailer’s report of prisoners, October 1887.
The Jail – Past to Present

(Above) The interior of the Pima County Jail in the early years. Sheriff John Nelson is pictured second from right with a Pima County Sheriff’s Deputy.

(Below) Quarterly jailer’s report of prisoners, 1888.

(Below) Jail keys used over the years.
JAIL IS BROKEN BY THREE PRISONERS

Steel Bars Sawed Through in Second-Story Cell; Rope Ladder Made

By Chris Cole
(From the Arizona Daily Star December 24, 1949)

Three federal prisoners sawed their way out of the Pima County jail last night.

The trio, held on Dyer Act and smuggling charges, made their escape during a ten-minute exercise period, while being permitted to walk around in the cell block. They were still at large early this morning.

Steel bars across one of the west windows were sawed through, the prisoners lowering themselves from the second story window by means of a ladder fashioned from strips torn from their mattresses.

The escapees included:

Harry B. Robertson, 42, height 5 feet 10 inches, weight 172, brown hair partially bald, blue eyes. He was wearing thick lensed glasses. He was recently arrested in Tucson and charged with transporting a stolen car across state lines. Wanted also in Virginia on similar charges, Robertson faces a possible lifetime penalty as a habitual criminal if returned there.

John Wade Williams, 17, five feet, eight inches, brown hair, brown eyes. Williams was also awaiting trial on Dyer Act charges. F.B.I. officials said last night that Williams despite his youth was the most dangerous criminal of the three. Regarded as incorrigible, he is also wanted in California.

Thomas Howard Ryan, 40, five feet, five inches, weight 131, black hair partially gray on the sides, brown eyes. Ryan was being held on narcotics smuggling charges. A habitual criminal, he faced a ten-year sentence in a California prison for breaking parole upon his release from this state.

The escape was discovered at 7:48 p.m., only a few minutes after the prisoners had been turned into the cell block for exercise.

The possibility of an accomplice helping their escape was emphasized when deputies discovered a blue prison uniform discarded in the room of a business office a half block from the jail.

Ryan recently asked a well-known writer in Tucson to write a novel, using his life as a criminal for its base. He frequently boasted of his long association with underworld characters in California, claiming to be friendly with the notorious Mickey Cohen and others.

All three men are regarded as dangerous, possibly armed. Sheriff’s deputies, city police, and highway patrolmen coopted last night in an all-out effort to apprehend the criminals before they were able to leave town. Officers in every surrounding town were notified of the escape.

None of the other 34 prisoners in the cell block gave any warning to Jailer William O’Brien, who was just outside the cell block at the time of the escape. It is believed the trio might have intimidated the men into keeping silent while they were sawing through the bars and opening the large screen which covers the window from which they escaped.

A check on all recent visitors to the jail was also made. The instrument used to saw through the bars was not found but deputies believe that a hacksaw blade was used, and that a visitor might have brought it into the jail for them.

Several attempts have been made to escape from the county jail, but heretofore none have been successful since it was remodeled several years ago.

During the recent incarceration here of Jack Tatum, an escape artist, strict secrecy was maintained, for deputies feared that accomplices might help him in an escape attempt.

Oldtimers recall the capture of John Dillinger and three members of his gang here in Tucson in January 1934. Fearing an escape attempt, a cordon of special armed deputies was maintained around the county jail, but Dillinger evidently thought the jail too tough to crack. He waited until he was sent from Tucson to Crown Point, Indiana, then promptly made his escape.
Pima County’s New Jail Ready for Occupancy

Moving Chores to Begin Today

By Dick Casey
(From the Arizona Daily Star April 22, 1965)

Boasting 33,000 square feet of space and some of the most modern equipment available, Pima County’s new $800,000 jail is finally completed and ready for occupancy.

The first of Sheriff Waldon V. Burr’s employees will begin moving into their new headquarters on W. 29th Street today and tomorrow. Next Tuesday, prisoners will be transferred from the old jail at the county courthouse to the new quarters.

Although a jail is a jail, chances are the inmates will like the changes awaiting them.

Moving from the cramped, dingy, and poorly ventilated quarters of the old jail – built in 1928 – prisoners will find themselves in a spacious, freshly painted enclosure.

As for any thoughts they may have about getting out of jail illegally, Burr says, “I’ve been through more than 30 jails and prisons, and in my opinion this jail is the most secure of any in the country.”

Controlling pedestrian traffic throughout the maze-like walkways of the new jail will be a centrally located dispatcher. With a flick of the switch, he can open and close every steel gate entrance to the jail area. This is called the “hot room.”

He will sit in the glass-enclosed room completely with closed circuit television so he can see what is going on inside. On two sides of this room are bullet-proof, one-way mirrors.

Each cell is also “bugged.” No one can get into the jail unless the dispatcher so desires.

The jail is designed to hold more than 400 prisoners. Housing them will be five large cell blocks with 16 bunks in each. In addition, there are 24 individual cells.

In the jail’s maximum security section, the doors will be controlled electronically by the jailer. At his fingertips will be switches that can open or close whatever cell doors he wishes. If there are any electronic malfunctions, the jailer can control them manually.

At the rear of the jail is a kitchen. The Sheriff pointed out that with the new modern equipment – which includes large ovens and garbage disposal facilities – “we will be able to feed the prisoners better and cheaper because we will now be able to buy food in larger quantities.”

Each cell block has a four-inch slit in the ceiling called a skylight to allow outside light to shine through. But this is the only “window” prisoners will have to see through.

For the first time a Tucson jail will have a “lineup” room where suspects can be viewed by victims for identification purposes.

Construction started more than a year ago and the target date for completion was December 1964. But revisions and one delay after another held up the job.

Burr says an open house for the public will be held Saturday and Sunday and city and county officials will get a tour of the facility beginning at 10 a.m. Monday.

After that, it will be business as usual. But things are bound to be different at the county’s first new jail in 37 years.
The Jail – Past to Present

(Right) 1970s booking entrance and vehicle sallyport. (Below) 1970s jail visitation area.

(Right) 1970s jail booking/I.D. Unit

(Left) Central control room in the main jail, 1970s.
Charging that the county has failed in 13 areas to heed a federal judge’s orders and improve the Pima County Jail, attorneys for inmates say they want the county and Sheriff held in civil contempt.

Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc. sought the contempt motion, which could result in fines, against the county today in a motion filed in U.S. District Court. County officials said they were unaware of the move early today.

Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said the contempt move is a legal matter that he cannot comment on. He referred questions to James Howard of the County Attorney’s Office, who was in court and unavailable for comment.

Legal Aid attorney John G. Balentine said, “I feel we’ve waited approximately five months since the first order was entered, and that’s long enough.”

U.S. District Judge Gordon Thompson of San Diego ordered last year that the jail inmate population be limited to 300 and signed various other orders designed to improve jail conditions. Dupnik said the population order is still being met and it is not mentioned in the contempt motion.

Legal Aid asked for the contempt citation based on what it said was the county’s failure to do the following:

- Remove mentally ill inmates believed by a judge to be inappropriately held in the main jail. (At the time of the ruling last year, county officials said it would be difficult to determine what inmates fit the specifications of the order and said an appeal of the order would be aggressively pursued.)
- Provide inmates with access to four 10-minute telephone calls a week as required by orders.
- Give inmates clean clothing twice a week.
- Provide mattress covers weekly and blankets when “necessary.”
- Construct “privacy walls” around toilets in inmate areas.
- Start an inmate grievance policy to handle complaints.
- Allow all inmates with new medical complaints to been seen by a licensed nurse or doctor within 24 hours.
- Remove sentenced prisoners to the State Corrections Department within three days of their sentencing.
- Move inmates being held in “catwalk” areas.
- Give inmates an hour a day of outdoor recreation time.
- Hire enough staff members to make frequent rounds as violence prevention measure.
- Start inmate programs as required.
- Hire staff members in all positions named in agreements.
The Jail – Past to Present

(Left) The current Pima County Jail, built and opened in 1984.

(Above) The rendition of the new jail addition to open in 2005. It is currently under construction.
Sheriff’s Buildings

The Sheriff’s Office/Jail in the 1960s.

New Sheriff’s Office

(From the Tucson Citizen June 16, 1975)
The Pima County Sheriff’s Department moved its administrative offices into this new $750,000 building today. The structure at 1801 S. Mission Road will house the offices of Sheriff William Coy Cox and 330 employees. Administrative offices were formerly located in the nearby county jail building.

Robles Substation

The Sheriff’s Administration building in the year 2000.
The 1923 Studebaker

A “Big Six” touring car was originally purchased by Pima County for the Sheriff’s Department. The price of the new car, fully equipped, was $1,575.00. It was used by Walter Bailey, Sheriff from 1922 to 1926 and again in 1930 to 1933. Of the fourteen Arizona counties, Pima was one of 12 that furnished Studebakers to their Sheriffs.

The automobile company was so impressed by this statistic that they sent a representative to the state to interview the twelve Sheriffs. In 1925, the company published a pamphlet, “The Arizona Sheriff… in honor of the Arizona sheriffs who have made the Studebaker a vibrant symbol of law and order from the Grand Canyon to Old Mexico.” In addition, they named their Big Six Sport Phaeton Model, “The Sheriff.” The Studebaker was powerful, rugged, well-built, and able to withstand hard usage.

Sheriff Bailey evidently liked the car so well that when it was retired, he purchased it from Pima County. Later he used it while serving as head of the Federal Prison Camp on Mt. Lemmon, a post he held from 1933 to 1942.
(Right) A Pima County Deputy poses with his patrol car in front of Pima County shops, 1946.

(Above) Deputy Putney survived this head-on collision in the 1950s.

(Right) Deputy Putney with his new 1957 Ford patrol car.
NEW RESCUE TRUCK
(From the Tucson Citizen June 9, 1961)
This military surplus ambulance has been converted into a rescue truck for the Southern Arizona Rescue Assn., an auxiliary of the Pima County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Unit. The truck carries food, water, a walkie talkie, first aid equipment, stretchers, and other rescue equipment in specially constructed bins. Twenty-one local firms donated parts and labor to equip the truck for volunteer search and rescue activities. Pictured is Dave Enz, a reserve driver.

(Right) The new 1970s AMC (American Motors) Ambassador. (Photo from January 1972 Civil Defense training films, Ajo Road)

A deputy escapes injury after he lost control of his Plymouth Belvedere patrol car during a high speed chase in the 1970s.
(Above) This moss green and gold early ’70s Plymouth was the first colored patrol car.

(Right) Sgt. Paul Pedersen stands next to his 1977 Chevy Nova patrol car.

Sheriff’s Sgt. John Kilpatrick was making an emergency run to an accident at 5:50 p.m. yesterday when he had an accident of his own. Southbound on North Oracle Road attempting to turn right on West Orange Grove Road, he swerved to avoid a motorist who failed to yield the right of way, and struck a pedestrian-crossing pole. He was wearing a seat belt.

(Below) 1989 emergency van. (Right) “Bridge under troubled waters.” Sgt. Jim Berry drives his Dodge Ram through floods.
Automobiles

(Left) Sheriff Clarence Dupnik and the 1996 one-of-a-kind Grand Prix Indy Car.


Automobiles

(Above) 1990s patrol car with the new reflective safety stripe. (Left) S.W.A.T. Peacekeeper.
Automobiles

2002 Ford Crown Victoria with new green stripe scheme.

2001 Ford Crown Victoria with blue stripe scheme.
The Motor Unit

In 1953, The Pima County Sheriff’s Department Motor Unit had been in operation for about one year and ten months. During this time, Motor Deputy Jack Brierly was killed on his motorcycle in a collision on his way to a call. Sheriff Eyman reported that 17 motorcycle crashes and one death were too much. Sheriff Eyman eliminated the unit.

(Right) Motorcycle Officer Ralph Marmion on patrol.

(Below) The first motorcycle to patrol Pima County streets.
Motorcycles

(Left) Pima County Sheriff’s Department Motor Unit, ready to ride.

2000 Kawasaki.
Whizzing through washes on an all-terrain vehicle made Sandy Rosenthal nervous at first, but the Pima County Sheriff’s deputy is finally warming to the idea.

Rosenthal is one of four deputies who will operate two all-terrain vehicles that the Sheriff’s Department has purchased to enforce county laws regulating off-road traffic.

The officers, who recently completed a six-day training course with the vehicles, will begin patrolling washes and arroyos in the county at the end of the month. The patrols are an attempt to reduce the noise and dust pollution that county residents complain is caused by all-terrain vehicles.

“I had never even ridden a motorcycle, so I was pretty apprehensive at first,” said Rosenthal about learning to ride the vehicle. “But once you understand the operation of the unit, it’s not so difficult. It’s actually a lot of fun.”

Still, there are drawbacks to riding around in a vehicle without doors.

“When you get off, you’re so dirty,” Rosenthal said. “Even if you try to bleach everything white, your clothes still don’t come clean.”

The purchase of the vehicles, which carry a $4,000 price tag, was authorized early this year by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

While the Tucson Police Department also has two all-terrain vehicles, its patrols cover only the city.

Sheriff’s Department deputies will target their patrols in county areas – particularly on the Northwest Side – where residents have become increasingly disgruntled about noise and dust pollution from all-terrain vehicles.

The officers will mainly be enforcing two county ordinances, Rosenthal said. Not only is it illegal to drive off-road vehicles in the county’s washes or on public land, stirring up dust that travels across property lines is also against the law.

Violations can carry fines ranging from $50 to $750, Rosenthal said. After several weeks of steady patrols, the officers will then make patrols only on an “as-needed” basis whenever new complaints are made.

Besides patrolling washes, officers will use the all-terrain vehicles in certain search and rescue operations, Rosenthal said.

Officers, clad in helmets, pads, and special pants and boots, will spend about seven hours a day patrolling desert areas.

If the deputies have to chase anyone, they will have to do it without the aid of sirens.

“You couldn’t hear sirens on those things, anyway,” Rosenthal said.
On June 26, 1950 the Aero Squadron was started. It consisted of 28 members and ten planes. The introductory flight was marred only by the fact that the stencil on the airplane read “Arco Squadron” instead of “Aero Squadron.”
Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department provides a variety of services to the community. The primary focus is to educate the public about current law enforcement issues and prevention methods.

Members of the Sheriff’s Auxiliary Volunteers are trained to assist the Pima County Sheriff’s Department by providing information and speakers. Topics include neighborhood watch, home security, and loss prevention.

The Crime Prevention Unit publishes a monthly newsletter entitled *Community Connection* which is sent to approximately 15,000 homes. The publication contains information on various crime prevention topics and public safety events.
Pima County No. 1 in Crime Prevention
Community Resources Division Wins First Prize Nationally

(From the Tucson Citizen June 28, 1984)

Pima County is No. 1 in crime prevention.
And Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik and two other local offici- cials boarded an airplane for Washington, D.C. yesterday morn- ing to accept proof in writing.

The Sheriff’s Department entered a contest for a national Crime Prevention Award a few months ago, and its four-man community resources division won first prize, said Sheriff’s Sgt. Terry Parish, who oversees the department’s community relations division.

The awards ceremony, sponsored by the Crime Prevention Coalition, offers one merit award for eight separate categories, said Asa Bushnell, department community services manager. The department won in the community category for its crime prevention achievements in Pima County, he said.

“The mood in this office – the guys worked a year on this – is that they were elated,” Parish said.

The “guys” Parish was speaking of are officers Brad Gagnepain, Richard Kastigar, Sandy Rosenthal, and Ned Longoria.

“I feel we have achieved a long-term goal: We have developed a sense of partnership between the Sheriff’s Department and the community,” Parish said.

Their efforts have created a sense of awareness in the community of the types of crimes to which people are vulnerable, he said.

“We have our volunteers doing jobs usually reserved for deputies and commissioned officers,” Parish said. “That freed our deputies to try out new programs.”

Volunteers conduct the Neighborhood Watch Program, control traffic around major crashes, fingerprint children, and assist in the finding of lost children and elderly people, he said.

The deputies, relieved of those duties, were able to develop commercial crime-prevention and home-security programs and a program that fosters crime prevention through the environmental design and layout of neighborhoods, Parish said.

Dupnik, accompanied by county Board of Supervisors Chairman Sam Lena and by County Manager Craig McDowell, will accept the award tomorrow afternoon at the Justice Department.

SAV Dean Sellen at mall with crime prevention display, circa 1982.
Communications

(Above) Old radio code and “10” code.

(Below) 911 call taker Sandy Bowron, 1981.

(Left) Ajo Way Communications Center, 1988. (Note the tranquil lake scene for the staff to enjoy.)

(Below) Ken Whitecotton answering the call in 1981.

(Above) Call taker Katherine Poulsen answers a 911 call in 1980.
(Right) Communications day shift takes a much needed break, 1994.
Search & Rescue

(Left) Deputies set up a radio command center and prepare for a search and rescue operation for three boy scouts.

(Below) Searchers for the three boy scouts map out a search plan.

(Above) Nationally known experts were flown in to help in the search for the boy scouts. (Left) Tom Cox, (Right) Russ Cone.
Volunteer Work is Recognized
(From a June 13, 1961 newspaper article)

Two members of Pima County Search and Rescue are shown with Sheriff’s Capt. Kenneth Sturgeon looking at their membership certificates presented last night by Sheriff Walden V. Burr. From left, Phil Lieberman, board member, of the motorcycle unit; George McCullough, communications chief of Civil Defense, and Sturgeon, liaison officer in charge of the volunteer organization. (Jack Sheaffer photo)
Sheriff’s Sports Stars ...
From football to baseball to volleyball, how they loved to play the game.


(Left) Pima County All-stars, circa 1983.

(Below) “Pig Bowl,” circa 1981.
Sports & Activities

(Above) Pima County Sheriff’s baseball team, circa 1984.

(Left) S.W.A.T. Team at the 1991 torch run.

Stan Cheske hits a home run at a SAV picnic.
Sports & Activities

(Below) Jeff Erskine (clown) with Ron Benson.

(Above) U of A Basketcats Number 1 fans, 1990s.

Friends of the Pima County Sheriff’s Department

(Above) “Whole lotta shakin’ goin’ on!” Elvis Presley “The King,” visits with Pima County deputies before going on stage at the Pima County Rodeo grounds.

(Above) Sheriff’s deputies escorted Elvis Presley to his car after a press conference at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds in June 1956. Later he performed in the style that would make him the king of Rock and Roll.

(Above) Great Britain’s Princess Margaret stopped to talk with the Rev. George Ferguson after she attended services at St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church during her visit to Tucson in November of 1965. Sheriff’s deputies provided the security.

Celebrities

(Above) Chief Deputy Stan Cheske gets an autograph from TV star Michael Landon, circa 1983.

(Above) Actress Suzanne Sommers.

(Above) TV star Michael Landon, spokesperson for the Sheriff’s Auxiliary Volunteers, accepts an award from Marie Neal, circa 1983.

(Right) Senator John McCain stops by to visit with Dr. Carmona.

(Right) President Clinton meets with Sheriff Dupnik during his Tucson trip.
Captains

San Xavier Secretary and PSSS

San Xavier District Commander with Sergeants

San Xavier District Day Shift
People

Sgt. Ed Spinney’s San Xavier Squad

Sgt. Gary Anderson’s San Xavier Squad

Sgt. Louie Salica’s San Xavier Squad
People

K-9 Unit

Search and Rescue Unit

Air Unit

Special Operations Section
People

Avra Valley and Catalina

Burglary Unit

Community Problems Unit

School Resource Unit
People

Criminal Investigation Division

Adult Sex Crimes Unit

Child Sex Crimes Unit
Office of Special Investigation Section

Community Resources Manager
Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator and Risk Manager

Community Resources Team
People

Tucson Sheriff’s Auxiliary Volunteers

Finance Section

Personnel Unit
People

HIDTA Range

Training Center

Records Unit

Court Enforcement Section
People

Transcription Unit

Data Services Unit

Communications Supervisors

Terminal Operations Unit
People

Communications Section

Identification Unit

Property and Evidence Unit

Judicial Security Section
People

Corrections Bureau Force II

Corrections Captains

Corrections Support Staff

Corrections Force III
People

Inmate Work Crew

Records Unit

Booking Unit

Corrections Education Unit

Public Safety Support Specialists
People

Green Valley Sheriff’s Auxiliary Volunteers

Green Valley Sgts. and Lt.

Rincon District Sgts. and Lt.
People

Rincon District Patrol Unit

Rincon District Support Staff

Rincon District Directed Patrol

Rincon Swing Shift
People

Foothills District Midnights

Foothills District Swing Shift

Foothills District Staff

Foothills District Lt. and Sergeants
Andrew W. Holbrook  
May 4, 1883

In 1883, the Pima County Jail was located in the basement of the newly erected courts building. One commissioned head jailer along with three uncommissioned assistants were employed by Pima County Sheriff Robert Paul. While performing his duties the Sunday of May 4, 1883, Andrew W. Holbrook, Head Jailier, received complaints from several prisoners that breakfast had been distributed on dirty dishes. As Holbrook stepped into the jail yard to speak with an inmate dishwasher, he heard the door close behind him. Holbrook turned back toward the jail corridor to investigate. As Holbrook walked into his office, he was confronted by two prisoners, Joseph Casey and Henry Sinclair. Both prisoners were armed with pistols. Holbrook grabbed Casey’s hand and the gun discharged into the office door. As Holbrook attempted to return to the jail yard, Casey shot once more, wounding Holbrook in the back. The wounded jailer managed to retreat to the yard and hold the door closed while yelling for help. His action kept the prisoners from escaping until help arrived to assist him. Holbrook died later that same day from the gunshot wound inflicted by Casey.

On April 15, 1884, Joseph Casey was hanged by the neck until dead in the same jail yard where he had fatally wounded Holbrook. Henry Sinclair received a life sentence, which he served at the Yuma Territorial Prison.

Andrew Holbrook was reported by accounts of the time to be a bachelor who was survived by only one sister residing in the state of Massachusetts.

Joe W. Meeks  
January 21, 1913

Calistro Villareal was of a breed of desperados that would be found any day of the week frequenting the many bars in Ajo during the years surrounding 1913. In the early morning hours of January 21, 1913, Villareal, reportedly drinking heavily, gambling, and generally acting rowdy with a group of cronies in the tent of Lorenzo Villa, began to create a disturbance. At 2:00 in the morning, Deputy Meeks was awakened from sleep and called from his bed to quell the disturbance created by this group. After being told that Villareal was one of the group involved in the disturbance, Meeks began searching the town for him. While questioning another person in the area of the incident, Meeks was fired upon by Villareal, who had been hiding in the bushes nearby. Two shots rang out. One of those shots struck Meeks in the face, passing through his head, and he died a short time later. Villareal fled from the scene on foot, headed south in the direction of Mexico. Sheriff John Nelson led a posse into Mexico, returning empty handed when the Mexican authorities refused assistance in the search.

No record exists to show if Villareal was ever brought to justice.

James A. Mercer  
December 2, 1914

Cattle rustling was, and is, a very profitable crime. To help combat this problem the county employed rangers. On December 2, 1914, County Ranger James A. Mercer, accompanied by Robert Fenton, a rancher, went to the small ranch of J. Padilla in an area north of Pantano, Arizona. Ranger Mercer was investigating a report that Padilla was in possession of a stolen calf. As they approached the ranch, Padilla began walking toward the two men. About 70 yards away from Ranger Mercer, Padilla raised his rifle and fired once. The bullet struck Mercer in the left leg just above the knee. He fell to the ground bleeding profusely from the wound, which had also broken the leg bone. Padilla fled to a nearby canyon. Mr. Fenton arranged passage for the wounded Mercer on a train bound for Tucson, where he was taken to Rogers Hospital. Mercer survived for nine days after the attack, dying on December 11, 1914, at the age of 42 from the loss of blood.

No record has been found as to whether or not Padilla was ever arrested.

Mercer was survived by his wife Harriet, two brothers, and three sisters.

Clifford Nelson  
October 23, 1928

On October 21, 1928, eighteen-year-old William Hyatt, set off on a hunting trip in the Oracle area. When he failed to return the next day, his mother called the Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff James McDonald sent a posse of deputies and volunteers to search the area. They found nothing that day. The next day, George Peck and Charles Mayse offered to search the area from their planes. Deputy Clifford Nelson, Harold Whitman, a Veteran’s Bureau employee, and Bruce McIntyre, a University of Arizona student, flew with Peck. As the plane circled the area, observers on the ground said it the plane seemed to just suddenly plunge to the earth. When Deputies Mungia and Heigel reached the crash scene, they found the charred shell of the aircraft, and four bodies, burned beyond recognition.

William Hyatt’s body was found later that day, a victim of an accidental, self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Clifford Nelson was survived by a wife, a three-month-old baby, and a thirteen year old stepson.

John D. Anderson  
August 9, 1948

On Sunday, August 8, 1948, Guy Rockefeller and six friends were hiking in Sabino Canyon. Guy became stranded on a narrow ledge about five hundred feet above Sabino Creek. One of his friends hiked five miles to the ranger station for help. The Sheriff’s Department was notified and Deputy John Anderson, Chief Criminal Investigator, went to the scene with ropes and other equipment. By that time, it was dark and the rescue had to be postponed until morning. At daybreak, Anderson, along with several deputies and forest rangers, hiked to a point at the top of the cliff above Rockefeller. Anderson tied a rope around his waist and was lowered 450 feet to Rockefeller. Once on the ledge, he tied the rope around the waist of the boy and signaled to start the hoist upward. About ten feet from his own climb to the top of the cliff, Deputy Anderson lost his grip and fell nine hundred feet into a pool of water in the creek bed. Anderson’s body lay wedged between two boulders for eight hours before being recovered.

Young Rockefeller was found to be tired, but otherwise in good health.

Deputy John Anderson, thirty-three, was survived by his wife, Suzanne, his parents, and two brothers.

Jack R. Brierly  
November 16, 1953

At 6:00 p.m. on November 15, 1953, the Sheriff’s Department responded to a call that a pedestrian had been struck by a car. Deputy Jack Brierly headed his motorcycle west on Speedway toward the scene. With lights flash-
ing and siren blaring, he sped toward the accident. As he neared Swan Road, a car turned north across his path. Brierly’s motorcycle struck the car in the side. Brierly was taken to Tucson Medical Center where he remained unconscious until his death thirty-three hours later.

The driver of the car was fined $50.00 for failure to yield the right of way.

Deputy Jack Brierly was survived by his wife, Yvonne who was pregnant, and a five and a half year old son, Scott.

**Ernest Calvillo**

*July 21, 1983*

Deputy Calvillo and Sergeant Craig Newburn were working off duty guarding movie equipment outside the Wagon Wheel Post Bar in Avra Valley. At approximately 7:30 p.m., they were approached by a patron of the bar who told them there had been a fight in the bar, and one of the participants was now in the parking lot with a gun, waiting for his adversary to come out.

Calvillo and Newburn found John Rhierson standing next to his vehicle holding a rifle. They were able to convince him to leave. A few minutes later, Rhierson returned and went inside the bar before Newburn and Calvillo could get to him. In searching Rhierson’s vehicle, they located his rifle. Newburn took the rifle and Calvillo sequestered it in his vehicle. John Rhierson came out of the bar and a confrontation occurred. As Newburn and Calvillo tried to calm Rhierson down, a jeep pulled up next to Calvillo with Curtis Rhierson, John’s brother, and his wife in it. Curtis was very calm and tried reasoning with John. Rhierson, who had calmed down by now, became highly agitated when he saw Curtis. As Newburn and Calvillo’s attention was on John, Curtis, still seated in his vehicle, drew a 44 magnum pistol and fired one shot, striking Calvillo. Hearing the shot and seeing Calvillo fall, Newburn drew his weapon and fired four shots, hitting Curtis Rhierson. John then tried to attack Newburn, but was subdued and arrested.

Ernie Calvillo was flown to University Emergency Center in Tucson, but he died shortly after midnight.

Curtis Rhierson was taken to Northwest Emergency Center in Tucson and was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Deputy Ernest Calvillo was survived by his wife Pat, and two daughters ages two and eight, as well as, numerous family members including a sister who was married to a fellow officer.

**Randall Graves**

*January 23, 1986*

Deputy Graves was working a sensitive and dangerous undercover assignment on the night of January 21, 1986. He and a passenger were traveling east on Speedway Boulevard on his motorcycle. As they approached the intersection of Speedway and Alvernon, a car turned into his path. Graves’ motorcycle struck the car in the rear passenger door, and he was thrown to the pavement. Graves, his passenger, and a passenger in the car, were taken to the Tucson Medical Center and hospitalized. Deputy Graves died of his injuries two days after the accident.

The driver of the car was cited for failure to yield the right of way.

Deputy Graves, age thirty-five, a twelve-year veteran officer, was survived by his wife, Sandy, son Shannon, age 10, and daughter Holly, age 5.

**Shannon Russell**

*December 5, 2002*

Corrections Officer Shannon Russell passed away while on duty. He had just completed the new obstacle course at the Arizona H.I.D.T.A. Regional Training Center, as part of a physical conditioning program for the Corrections Bureau Tactical Assistance Group (TAG), when he collapsed. Shannon Russell, age 43, was very well liked and respected throughout the Corrections Bureau as he was a true leader.

(from the Tucson Citizen July 21, 1986)

**DEPUTIES REMEMBERED** – Sandy Graves (left) and Pat Calvillo somberly look at the names of their husbands and those of other Pima County sheriff’s deputies etched on a new memorial to fallen officers. It was dedicated today at its site between the Pima County Administration and Superior Courts building. Deputy Randall Graves died Jan. 23 after being injured in a traffic accident. Deputy Ernest Calvillo was working an off-duty security job on the northwest side when a man shot him once. He died July 21, 1983.
Headlines from the Past

Sheriff calls car blast an assassination
Deputies raid massage parlor
Lawman’s stroll through mob eases tempers at mine in Ajo

Dupnik’s captor surrenders
Fast deputy captures escapee; cache of burglary loot revealed
Police, deputies joining forces to get serial rapist

Green Valley assist team lends a hand to law’s long arm

A Mounted Guard for Royalty
Sheriff’s Posse Rides for Fun and History, Not Outlaws

Sheriff’s Dept. cuts horsepower

Deputy finds the wild West still can have its wild moments

Atwood threatened to take gun from deputy, judge is told

Police capture Eastlack at El Paso store

6-day hunt yields little about Vicki

“Emotionally involved” Dupnik is angry with judicial system

Bribery, Job Payoff Charges
Burr, Six Aides Arrested
Sheriff to Remain in Office for Now

La Paloma bomb kills developer Triano

Officials seize cars, homes, $4.9 million
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