

LAPD'S FINEST

140 YEARS OF THE WORLD'S MOST-STORIED POLICE FORCE



Preserving Your History: Los Angeles Police Historical Society



Los Angeles was little more than a western outpost when a factionalized nation stopped warring with itself. Replete with wooden sidewalks and gas lamps, horse-drawn wagons stirred the soil as they rumbled through the City's business district, an area dominated by the suds-slugging predecessors of speakeasies. The LA of 1869 was a dusty infant of a place. Worn low across its tiny hips were six guns, publicly displayed as much for access as for deterrence. This child of a city was growing. So, too, was the lawlessness.

The population had swelled to 5,000, and no longer could a city marshal alone police the four square leagues without assistance. Public drunkenness and a soaring murder rate pushed the city fathers to confront a dilemma of criminality. A paid police force was born. Silver, eight-pointed stars were pinned to the dusters and duds of the first six to serve, their spurs and saddles complementing the lever-action Winchesters of the first known LAPD.



A view of Los Angeles in its infancy.

It is from the humblest of beginnings that this, a world-renowned police agency, would evolve. A pioneering spirit has always driven the LAPD, its true strength drawn from its people. Those who have worn the patchless navy blue uniform represent the finest this professional pursuit has ever offered. First in so many regards was this police force: first to hire policewomen, first to form a crime lab, first to form a SWAT capability and the first to form a DARE program. Expected, too, were these professionals to be the first line of defense, protecting Angelinos from enemies, foreign and domestic.

Indeed, those who served this City were the first to engage disasters, whether man-made or natural. Consistently and conspicuously, Los Angeles police officers safeguarded a constantly expanding jurisdiction with little more than their wits and willpower. For it has always been a case of doing more

with less, of the few serving the many and the balance of the police profession looking to the LAPD for the best practices, programs and procedures. It is a documented history of resource-poor cops going above and beyond, all in the name of service, all here in the City of Angels and all in the course of its storied, albeit colorful, 140-year history.

In these pages, a brief history of the LAPD from its 1869 inception will be shared by the Los Angeles Police Historical Society. Some of the most inquired about topics will be discussed, and some great images from times gone by will illustrate the evolution of the institution known as the LAPD. When considering this history, remember it is *your* history, and it is populated with some fundamental elements, faces, places and cases. It is our hope that you will be informed and entertained while each of you recognizes what the LAPHs has learned from this history. There is one constant: it's the cops, and LA's have always been the greatest.

The Uniform

Throughout time, the uniform has endured a number of changes. Some were born of tragedy and necessity, and some for comfort, but one constant distinguishes the LAPD: the classy dark blue uniforms. The color is emblematic of not just a great police department, but of the prevailing force in this nation's Civil War, because the original dark blue uniforms of the LAPD were the surplus of the Union Army. The headgear first worn to accompany this uniform was a black cowboy hat, which gave way to a stovepipe hat, a starched woolen helmet more associated with the British Bobbies. This represented the first conspicuous change to the uniform. While the stovepipe hat was worn by officers, sergeants and above wore flat hats. Reports vary on the use of the stovepipes; some reports assign its implementation to 1893, but photographic evidence of its use predates 1893.



An officer in the traditional summer wool uniform

Another feature unique to the earlier days was the summer uniform. While also heavy wool, this olive drab outfit was donned in mid-May at the order of the Chief of Police. This uniform was also long-sleeved, but the lighter color was presumed to be cooler to wear during the summer months. Once the order to wear the summer uniform was issued, there was no mixing of colors. Officers remained cloaked in the drab outfit until the order to return to their blue suits was given, typically around Labor Day. Motors wore the drab uniforms and brown boots year-round.

Until 1930, the equipment carried by officers was concealed beneath the uniform coat. The drawing of an officer's weapon was complicated by his clothing. A uniform modification adopted by the police commission forever changed the look of the uniform, and an officer's ability to gain ready access to the sidearm. The new uniform of 1930 featured a coat over

Much of the early days of the Los Angeles Police Department are gone. Lost to time are the high-collared coats which covered both pistols and paunches. So, too, are the ample chin whiskers and clamshell holsters. Cops have come and gone, as have the stations. But that which has survived lives on in the longest-surviving police station in the City: Old Number 11, the Highland Park Police Station.

A little more than seven years ago, doors that had been closed for nearly two decades swung open. The Los Angeles Police Historical Society Museum became a reality in September, 2001. Since that time, the museum has evolved greatly and now houses a number of professionally executed exhibits like the Marguerite Justice Gallery of LAPD uniforms, Boeckmann Gallery of Los Angeles Police Commissions and the North Hollywood Shootout exhibit. The museum also houses archives of the LAPD history and a fleet of vehicles representative of various eras of the LAPD.

The museum is a place visited by school groups, tour groups and the general public. The Historical Society operates one of the very few full-time museums dedicated to a municipal police department. We are also involved with preservation efforts relative to photographs, some dating to the late 1800s, and motion-picture film dating to the 1930s. It is a truly fascinating and rewarding undertaking, but it cannot be done without your help. The Historical Society is member supported. All Historical Society projects have been completed through the generosity of our members. For those of you who have stood behind us, we express our heartfelt thanks. With those thanks, we ask another favor: please turn to your partners, and ask them to join the Historical Society.

For those who have yet to join, we are requesting your help. Please fill out the payroll deduction card and return it in the enclosed envelope. A simple contribution of \$2.00 per payday for active officers and \$4.00 for retirees helps us continue to grow and develop the museum. Contributions are tax deductible, and you will receive our bi-monthly newsletter and a special gift for joining. This is a fitting way to commemorate 140 years of LAPD history, and we look forward to having many new partners in our future endeavors.

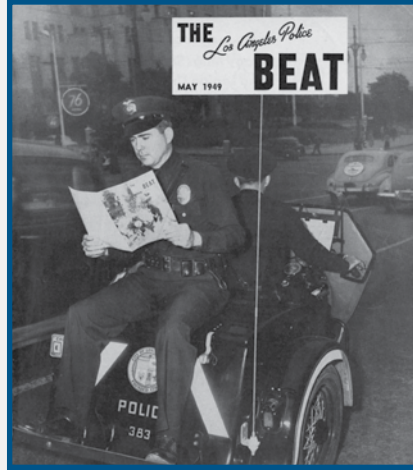
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A Special Retrospective Presented by the Los Angeles Police Historical Society

Resources for Research

During the frequent occasions that the Historical Society is summoned to perform research, we rely on a number of documents that are housed on-site. These include annual reports, yearbooks, *The Beat* magazines and the general files of the Historical Society. Certainly these materials are not all encompassing, but they have proven helpful in the vast majority of situations. Unfortunately, because of the nature, and in some cases age, of the materials, this is not a public archive. Our duties require us to preserve such material, and this unfortunately means access is restricted in order to ensure the material's viability for future generations.

Of the resources held at the Historical Society, one of the most useful is the collection of annual reports. Either photocopies or actual reports are held on-site dating back to 1895. The earliest ones are scarce, but once they date into the 1911 and beyond, the holdings are nearly complete. Many of these early publications contained a full listing of



An officer receives a ride around town while reading an early copy of *The Police Beat* magazine.

Department personnel, including hire dates. This has proven useful on many, many occasions. The growth of the City and the Department is also fairly well chronicled in the reports.

Another less frequent but equally useful set of publications are the yearbooks. Police Relief published the earliest one in our holdings in 1911. The balance of these annuals was published by the

Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club. The 1937 *Guardian* provides a great glimpse into that era of the Department. The same is true with LAPRAAC's other significant efforts with the 1984 and 2000 yearbooks. All are great sources of information.

For about 30 years, starting in 1947, members of the Department collaborated on a publication known as *The Beat*. This monthly magazine contained news from most of the stations and frequently featured areas related to the births of children, retirements and Department athletics. The collection of *Beat* magazines is nearly complete, and later this year, we hope to fill in some of the gaps in our collection.

For research beyond our holdings, the Historical Society relies on the records of the City of Los Angeles. Records from the City Council and the Police Commission have been preserved and are held at the City archives at Piper Tech. The staff of the archives has always proven to be helpful and pleasant for those cases when we have had to examine the City's records well back into the 1800s.

It is important to know that some of the Department's historical mysteries can be solved on the desktop. Some on-line resources that have proven helpful can be found through the websites of the Los Angeles Public Library, the University of Southern California (USC) and the *Los Angeles Times*. The photo collections of USC and the public library have hundreds of police images (visit www.lapl.org or www.digarc.usc.edu to examine these further). News articles dating to 1881 can be found at www.latimes.com.

Collectively, these research tools usually lead us to the answers we seek. A number of inquiries we typically receive, however, cannot be addressed at the Historical Society. We neither have, nor have access to, personnel records. This means that information from an officer's personnel file (package) will never be found at the Historical Society. We have an appreciation for the state law that renders this information confidential. As such, these inquiries are better suited for the staff of LAPD personnel records.



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To My Fellow Los Angeles Police Officers, both Active and Retired:

Later this year, I will celebrate the 60th year of my association with the greatest police department in the world. I served as its Chief for nearly 15 years, and I know the LAPD has always been at the forefront of the law enforcement profession, so I am proud to have seen and participated in the last six decades of its fascinating history. Early in my career, I was fortunate to serve and learn from one of the greatest police chiefs in all of recorded history, William H. Parker. Chief Parker helped me to understand the complexities of a major metropolitan police department. His lessons served me well in my various assignments, and the various chapters of history that were written while I was serving the people of Los Angeles.

Collectively we, the LAPD, worked through the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, shootouts with the **Black Panther Party** and the **Symbionese Liberation Army**. We also suffered the losses of too many talented and dedicated Los Angeles Police Officers. Each was a tragedy that brought grief, and often change. For all of the bad times, there were many, many more good times. The LAPD proudly policed the **1984 Olympic Games** and the **Papal visit of 1987**. During my tenure as Chief, the **Dodgers** won two world championships. The **Lakers** won five and the **Raiders** won the NFL title. The eyes of the world were upon the LAPD for all of this, and the LAPD performed as nobly and successfully as their sporting counterparts.

Just as these World Series' and Super Bowl championships are now a part of history, so are the first 140 years of LAPD operations. The preservation of our collective history is the charge of the Los Angeles Police Historical Society, and they need our help. It's your history, too. I have been a long-time supporter of the Historical Society, and now I hope you will join and help support those who save our history. Please take a moment to complete the payroll deduction card and return it in the enclosed envelope. Your assistance will ensure that your history, indeed our history, will remain on display for all who choose to learn more about the great deeds performed by the LAPD.

Very truly yours,


Daryl F. Gates
Chief of Police (Retired)



a white shirt and black tie. The coat had a pair of metal grommets affixed to the back, which were used to support the cross-strapped equipment belt. These uniforms were dark blue; motor officers, however, were still wearing olive drab coats and khaki breeches.

The uniform most similar to the current version arrived in 1940. The equipment belt was supported by a cross strap, and the hats were of the eight-point variety. The uniform buttons were gold toned, and no nametags were worn. Ties were required, and the shirts only came in long sleeves. Otherwise, the uniform was very similar to today's version. White hats for traffic officers were adopted in 1950, and the cross-strap for the equipment belt was dropped in 1958. Nametags were added at the end of 1965. Rank insignia was expanded with the adoption of the career police plan in 1971, leading to the chevrons of FTOs, SLOs and Sergeants II on uniform sleeves.



A variety of uniforms worn by the Department in 1972.



Patches

Many law enforcement aficionados collect patches and are disappointed to learn that the general population of the LAPD does not wear a uniform patch. For those that do, this history extends to the turn of the 20th century.

Officers assigned to horseback sought to distinguish themselves from the other members of the Department as mounted assignment was reason to be proud. The first patch featured a horse head against a background of a spoked wagon wheel. The Mounted Unit was de-commissioned in 1920.

The first wheel-and-arrow patch was the insignia of the Speed Squad, a unit that was originally formed in 1909. At this time, the Speed Squad had no uniform, so the patch came along later. The first traffic patch was a winged wheel, surrounded by the words "LAPD TRAFFIC." The first version of the current traffic patch came about in 1947 and was white outlined with blue piping. In 1974, the patch was modified to add the green cross.

The roots of the reserve corps date back to January 5, 1942, when the Los Angeles Auxiliary Police Force was formed. At the conclusion of World War II, this enterprise evolved into the Reserves. The earliest reserves wore a shoulder patch featuring white background and word "Reserve" across the center of the patch. "Los Angeles Police Department" was emblazoned around the perimeter of the patch. In more recent times, Air Support Division added shoulder patches. And now, some specialized units such as Metropolitan Division, Narcotics and Special Weapons and Tactics wear shoulder insignias on their utility uniforms.



Policewomen's Uniforms

Although the first policewoman in the nation was hired by the LAPD in 1910, a formal uniform for the ranks of policewomen was not adopted until 1948. Alice Stebbins Wells, Policewoman No. 1, hand-stitched her own uniform from the olive drab wool used in the Department's summer uniform. The first dark blue uniform was based on those worn by the WAVES of the United States Navy. A skirt, jacket and hat were complemented by a white blouse and a black tie. The required black leather purse had a custom holster for a 2-inch revolver sewn inside. Policewomen also carried their handcuffs, a flashlight, keys, notepad and a street guide along with spare ammo inside the purse. A later version featured a dark blue uniform shirt in lieu of the blouse and jacket. With the adoption of the unisex LAPD uniform, the policewoman uniform became optional for the remaining policewomen.

A policewoman, wearing the first formal LAPD uniform for females, queries a young boy.

Transportation



For a good portion of LAPD history, the types and numbers of vehicles are listed in the annual reports. Unfortunately, there is no notation of the first wheeled transportation in these documents. In fact, it is listed nowhere in the annals of the Department. Before any type of truly wheeled vehicle was acquired for transportation, there are reports that indicate a wheelbarrow was used to transport inebriated suspects to the jail. While this may have been the unrecorded practice, it seems the first truly wheeled transportation rolled into LAPD service in 1888. This open patrol wagon facilitated the movement of suspects to jail. The following year, an important technical advancement served to protect officers and citizens alike. A wagon with walls and a roof was acquired. This prevented the occupants from spitting and swearing at citizens while hoosegow-bound.

Two-wheeled transportation entered the picture in 1900, when bicycles were utilized to decrease response time. Five years later, the first motorcycles, Indians, were acquired, and in between, the



Department's first motorized vehicle, a 1904 electric patrol wagon was purchased. This vehicle, which travelled at a swift eight miles per hour, doubled as an ambulance, but had no brakes. It was the responsibility of the passenger officer to bring the wagon to a halt in the event the driver was not able to slow the vehicle to a stop. Ten years later, the Flying Squad was founded. Planes weren't involved, just touring cars utilized for rapid



Vintage 1929 Buicks with the first electric patrol wagon, circa 1904 (far left).

responses to calls for service. With the full integration of motorcycles and vehicles, transportation developments slowed. The first police radios were put in cars in 1931, but two-way communications were still seven years away. This year was an important time for another mode of transportation, the fixed-wing aircraft. An aero squadron was formed to fly planes for the Department. A quarter of a century later, rotary-wing aircraft took to the skies. The traffic nuisances of the 1950s caused Chief William Parker to deploy a Hiller helicopter to inspect traffic conditions with the hopes of pursuing a functional objective: the safe and expeditious flow of traffic. The first helicopter was assigned to



The Hiller Airship, first used in the 1950s.

Transportation, continued

Traffic Bureau. Its value as more than just a traffic cop in the sky was later recognized and more airships were purchased. The first jet-powered helo, a Bell Jet Ranger, is currently on display at the Historical Society. Some other unique forms of Department transportation have also made their way into the Historical Society fleet. The first armored vehicle used by SWAT, a V100, is here; so is the second generation, a Peacekeeper. B-wagons or mass-arrest vehicles like a 1955 jail transport truck and a 1968 B-Wagon are also on display. A couple of retired Kawasaki police bikes have made their way to the museum, and another pair is on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

Policewomen



Nearly a full decade before women gained the right to vote in this nation, a pioneering spirit by the name of Alice Stebbins Wells broke into police work. It wasn't easy. Alice, who was serving the City as a matron, was initially denied her request to become a policewoman. She rallied business people and citizens and ultimately the City Council capitulated. On September 12, 1910, the nation's first policewoman began serving the City of Angels. By 1911 Alice had acquired her very own manual section, entitled "Woman Police Officer." Her work to prevent crime by effectively dealing with wayward youth was notable. More notable, though, was her commitment to expanding the role of women in law enforcement.

To do this, Policewoman Wells would raise money, then take a leave of absence from the Department to visit other cities throughout the nation. Her mission was to have other women enter police service by sharing her experiences and the successes she had registered in Los Angeles. By 1914, 35 other agencies had hired their first policewoman. Alice and the LAPD were leading the charge of change. Back at home, that same year saw the LAPD hire Georgia Robinson, the first African-American policewoman in the country. The first policewoman of Hispanic heritage was hired the following year.

The work of the early policewomen, by the standards of women in today's LAPD, was more associated with social work. Their work assignments were limited to custodial care of women and children, and working with juveniles. This, too, was important work, as juvenile crime posed problems for the City for many, many years.

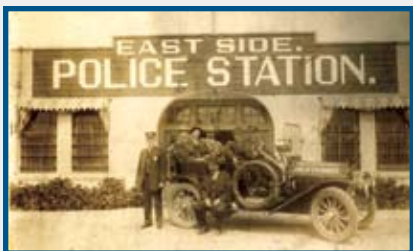
Although there is evidence that formal training for Policewomen started in 1940, the first acknowledged class of Policewomen graduated from the Elysian Park Academy in 1946. Classes were generally small and segregated by gender; policemen trained separately. Graduating policewomen largely carried out their work without a formal dark blue uniform, until, as previously mentioned, the policewomen's uniform arrived in 1948. In 1948, policewomen could accompany policemen on the night-watch footbeats. This type of field work only lasted until the following year. Full equality would not be achieved until the Fanchon Blake consent decree of 1980 opened up promotional opportunities and assignments became fair game for both genders.



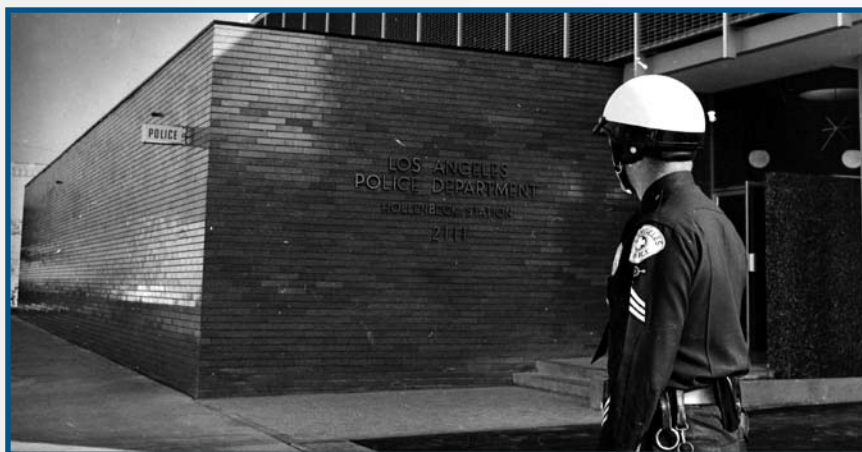
Policewomen practice their skills on the shotgun range in the 1960s.

Stations

As with many municipalities, the formative years of the police department were spent in City Hall. In 1896, the first police headquarters building was established on the south side of First Street, where it stood until 1955. The



East Side Station, opened in 1911.



The Old Hollenbeck Station

location of the soon-to-be-completed new headquarters is two blocks east of its predecessor. Of interest to most is when and where the stations were established. Early development included expansion to the University Station and Hollenbeck Heights, which ultimately became the Eastside Police Station housing not just officers, but the City's population of inmates in the adjoining jail.

Early City expansion meant increased responsibility for the police department. Growth east of the Los Angeles River resulted in the formation of the first substation in Boyle Heights. This was no more than a heated room with a telephone, and in 1889, this served the single officer stationed there suitably. The first fully constructed station outside of the police headquarters was University Division, so named because of its proximity to USC. The division was established in 1905, and its station in 1909. That same year, the City acquired new territory: San Pedro and its police operations, which were run from San Pedro City Hall. East Side Station, which would go on to become Lincoln Heights Division and ultimately the Lincoln Heights jail, opened in 1911.



Badges

Nothing has made LAPD officers more recognizable in the last seven decades than the badge. This emblem distinguishes members of the Department from all other various styles of badges that have been worn since 1869.

The current badge has been in service since 1940. Its design is both distinct and world renowned. The badge was copyrighted in 1940 so that no others could use the design. Prior to the current badge, the eagle-topped gold tone badge served from 1923 to 1940. Its predecessor, a two-tone shield, served from 1913 to 1923, and the pinched shield design served from 1909 to 1913. Our two stars, one of eight-point design and the other with six points, were worn from 1869 to 1890 and 1890 to 1909, respectively. The various styles of LAPD badges are depicted with the period portraits. The question most frequently received by LAPHs concerning the current badge has to do with the switch from "Policeman" and "Policewoman" to "Police Officer." The change in designation occurred in late 1973. From that date until present time, all badges issued have boldly stated "Police Officer."



President Dwight Eisenhower meets and greets with LAPD motor cops (helmets like these were adopted in 1956)



Bob Hope, a frequent performer in police fundraising shows, stands with an LAPD sergeant in the early 1950s.

Stations, continued

Prisoners were held in other stations prior to conviction. Sentenced prisoners were housed at East Side. Motor officers were also dispatched from this station. Hollywood opened in 1913, but its first dedicated home was part of the biggest expansion of police facilities. A 1922 bond brought new stations to Hollywood, Wilshire, West LA (or Sawtelle as it was known), the Valley, Highland Park, 77th, Newton, Venice and Georgia Street. While Georgia Street initially functioned as a patrol station, this pursuit was ultimately discarded and Georgia Street served as the headquarters of the receiving hospital system and the home of all functional divisions. The next major expansion was a response to the growth in the San Fernando Valley. This area, which was once serviced from Hollywood division, was subdivided from its headquarters. West Valley broke off in 1957 and North Hollywood opened its doors the following year. Foothill was opened in 1961. Rampart was the next new kid on the block when its doors opened in 1966, and Devonshire took to temporary digs in 1968. Southeast opened in 1978 and Mission in 2006.

Receiving Hospitals

Located directly behind the original headquarters building was the first police or receiving hospital. The sick and injured were treated by the medical staff of the police department. All types of cases were treated by police surgeons and police nurses. Some arrived at the hospital of their own accord; others were transported by police patrol wagons that doubled as ambulances. In 1910, the receiving hospital became a department charged with treating those brought to the hospital or the jails, and treating fire and policemen. With the opening of Georgia Street, the system had a dedicated headquarters as well as a new receiving hospital. Throughout time, the system grew to nine hospitals, and the last vestige of the system, Central Receiving Hospital at 1401 West 6th Street, gave way to the new Rampart Station. The ambulances that served the hospitals used the radio designation "G." The following number generally designated the station from which it was dispatched, i.e., G-11 would have come from Highland Park. In 1970 the ambulance service was transferred to the fire department, where the field application of emergency medical techniques continues to evolve.



Detectives

Nearly 20 years had passed before the Department appointed its first detective. Charles Moffett was the first to conduct investigations, after receiving this assignment in 1888. The following year, at the start of his long tenure as chief, John Glass expanded this function, appointing others, including future-Chief Walter Auble, to conduct investigations. The 1890 Detective Bureau had six members.

By 1911, a perception of these men was published in the souvenir annual:

Only in story books is the detective a strange, one-sided, mental gymnast, with bad habits, who can tell the name of a murderer by sniffing at the cigarette ash he has left on the scene of the crime. The real detective

is a shrewd, zealous, pains-taking, hard-working policeman in citizen's clothes, who takes great risks at times and who occasionally is a principal in a thrilling man hunt, but who is far more often a very unromantic person simply hanging on to a case until he reaches its conclusion.

The investigative role in the Department has been one that fluctuated between centralization and decentralization. For much of the early years, detectives were housed at, and responded from, police headquarters. As stations were constructed, small numbers of detectives were housed at the various police stations. Specialized investigations were most frequently run from headquarters. At one time, all detectives were summoned back to headquarters. Later on, they were sent back to the stations. Throughout time, the specialties were separate, then combined – the changes are numerous and the names in some cases are humorous.

The Booze Squad, War Squad, Flying Squad, Gun Squad, Red Squad and Hat Squad, all had special roles in the annals of detective work. The War Squad and Red Squad were charged with tracking down subversives. The Gun Squad dealt with gun-toting rum runners of the prohibition era; the Booze Squad also dealt with bootleggers. The Flying Squad had high-powered 1918 automobiles allowing them to respond to late-night violent crime. The Hat Squad came later; they, too, thwarting thugs in their penal code-prohibited pursuits.

Dating back more than 100 years, the ranking detective often served as the second in-command of the Department. This was true in the time of Walter Auble, himself ascending to the chief's job from the rank of captain of detectives. Thad Brown, the long-serving chief of detectives was Chief Parker's number two. Brown's extended tenure in this position is unlikely to ever be surpassed. It was during this era that detective work was promulgated by one of the Department's greatest supporters, Jack Webb. His portrayal of Sergeant Joe Friday, a skinny-tied workaday detective with a monotone approach to life, brought fact-based cases into the living rooms of anyone with a TV tuner. Proceedings were held in and for the County of Los Angeles, and the names were changed to protect the innocent. It is doubtful anything before or since has done as much to publicize the work of LAPD detectives than did *Dagnet*.

Fourteen decades of sun, wind and rain have passed since LAPD officers first strode into an aspiring metropolis. The boots then adorned by spurs have given way to spit shines and speed laces. The appetites of revolvers and rifles no longer require hand feeding, and a cow town once served by six now boasts nearly 10,000 brothers and sisters in blue. They have seen presidents and popes, actors and athletes, madmen and maniacs. These many years have seen a culmination of deeds and misdeeds known the world over. Victories were many, and controversies few, growth spurts only briefly stunted by scandals of greed and avarice. But the history of the City of the Queen of Angels and her guardians is a story known by many, established by a few – the precious few who have worn one of the six badges of the most storied police force in the world, the LAPD.



John Glass, LAPD's first long-serving Chief of Police (1889-1900)

Investigations of Note

Throughout the 140 years of the Department, many, many investigations have been conducted by members of the Detective Bureau. Here are some of the more prominent:

- 1910- Bombing of the Los Angeles Times building
- 1922- William Desmond Taylor murder
- 1925- Hellman bank robbery and murder of Officer Wylie Smith
- 1927- Kidnapping and murder of Marian Parker
- 1947- Elizabeth Short murder (Black Dahlia case)



The *Daily Police Bulletin* of January 21, 1947, seeking information in the infamous Black Dahlia case.

- 1960- Red Light Bandit (serial rapist Caryl Chessman)
- 1963- Murder of Officer Ian Campbell (Onion Field)
- 1968- Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy



1968: Officers stand guard outside Good Samaritan Hospital, where Robert F. Kennedy underwent surgery and subsequently died after being shot by Sirhan Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel.

- 1969- Manson murders
- 1969- Black Panther shootout
- 1974- Alphabet Bomber
- 1974- SLA shootout
- 1977- Hillside Strangler



The SLA Shootout in 1974. The 1974 LAPD/SLA shootout was broadcast live on national television

- 1978- Skid Row Slasher
- 1979- The Freeway Strangler
- 1984- Night Stalker
- 1994- Nicole Brown Simpson murder
- 1997- Ennis Cosby murder
- 1997- North Hollywood shootout
- ...and the murders of many, many Los Angeles Police Officers.