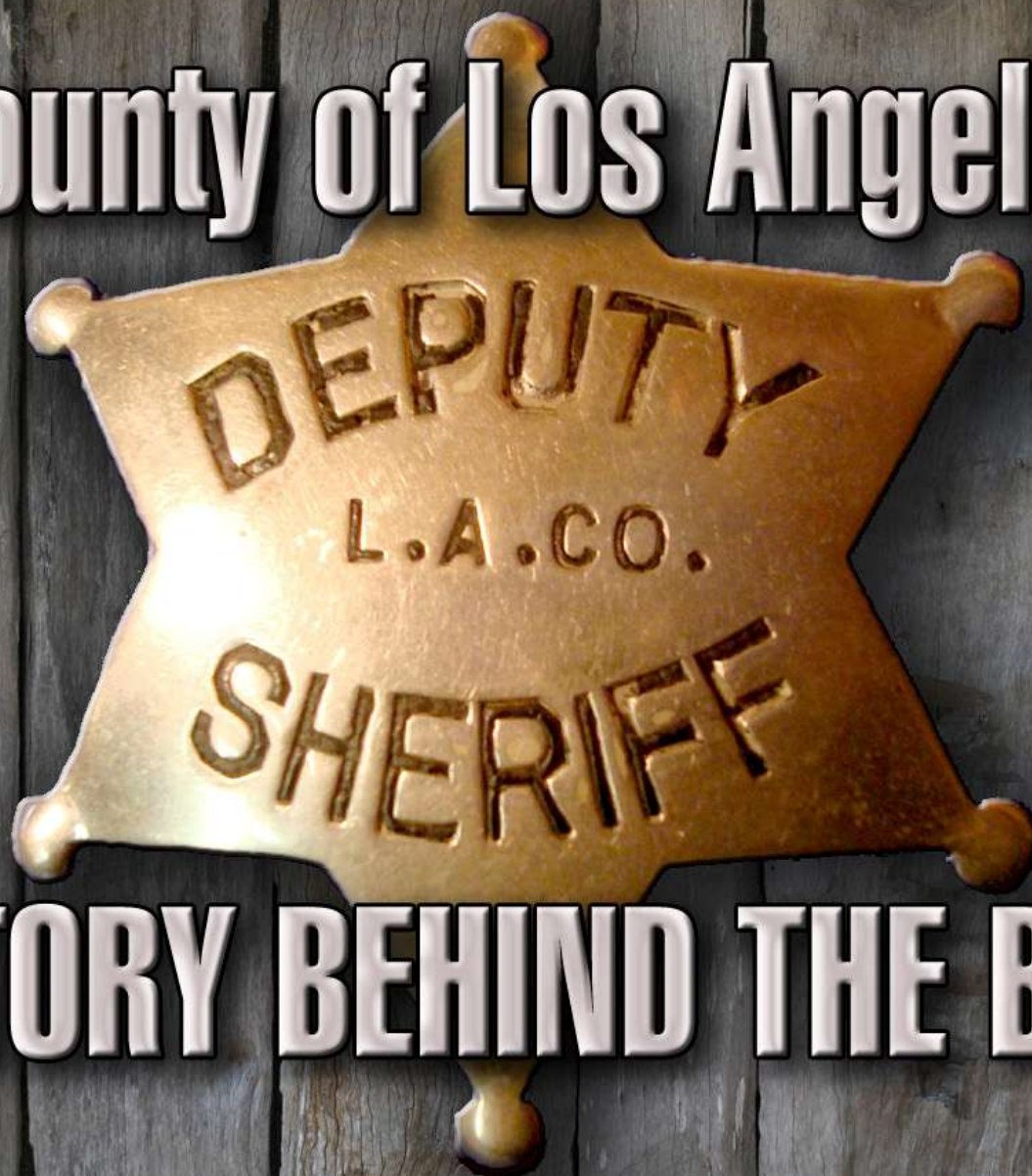


LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles



HISTORY BEHIND THE BADGE

BY DEPUTY JOHN WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



The motto of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is "A Tradition of Service." The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the largest Sheriff's Department in the world with a fascinating history going back to 1850. This presentation will look back at some of our history and how Los Angeles County badges and other insignia have evolved over time.

Our Mission

Lead the fight to prevent crime and injustice. Enforce the law fairly and defend the rights of all. Partner with the people we serve to secure and promote safety in our communities.

Our Core Values

As a leader in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, I commit myself to honorably perform my duties with respect for the dignity of all people, integrity to do right and fight wrongs, wisdom to apply common sense and fairness in all I do and courage to stand against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and bigotry in all its forms.

Los Angeles County was created in 1850 when California became a state. In the early 1850's, there were just under 7,400 people living in the new county. Although the population was sparse, the geographic size of the County was much larger than it is today. Its boundaries included what is now Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, and parts of Ventura and Kern Counties.

Early badges were commissioned and purchased by the deputies themselves. Badges were typically cut from sheet silver and hand engraved. The Sheriff himself was very well paid in this era and may have had his badge made from or plated in gold.

Few early examples of LASD badges of this era are known to exist. Their style and appearance would vary based on the individual's taste and pocketbook. This practice continued into the early 1900's.

Please note throughout this presentation that insignia may not be to scale.



First Los Angeles Sheriff

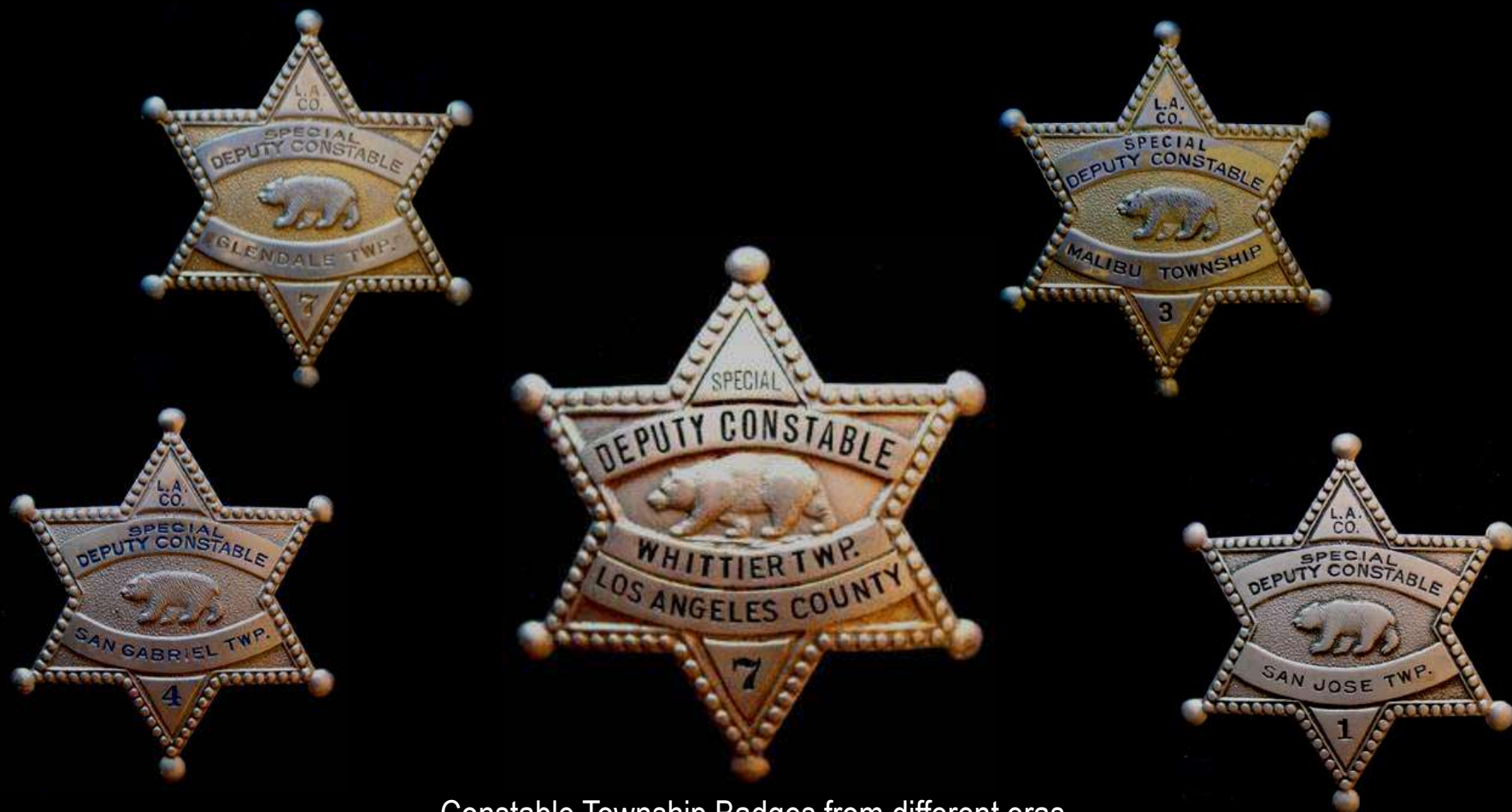
George Thompson Burrill - 1850



**Artistic Rendition of
Sheriff Burrill**



In 1851, Los Angeles County began forming townships in outlying areas as the county began to grow. The original six townships were Los Angeles, San Gabriel, San Jose, San Bernardino, Santa Ana, and San Juan Capistrano, with the breakup of the Mexican ranchos due to the lands being divided among heirs and subsequent subdividing. In later years, more townships were formed, often retaining the names of the rancho. The office of township constable was an elected office. Each constable was subject to the orders and directions of the Sheriff.



Constable Township Badges from different eras.

The City of Los Angeles was established in 1781, and incorporated in 1850. The town continued to grow at a moderate pace until its connection with the Central Pacific Railroad and San Francisco in 1876, and more directly with the East by the Santa Fe Railroad in 1885.

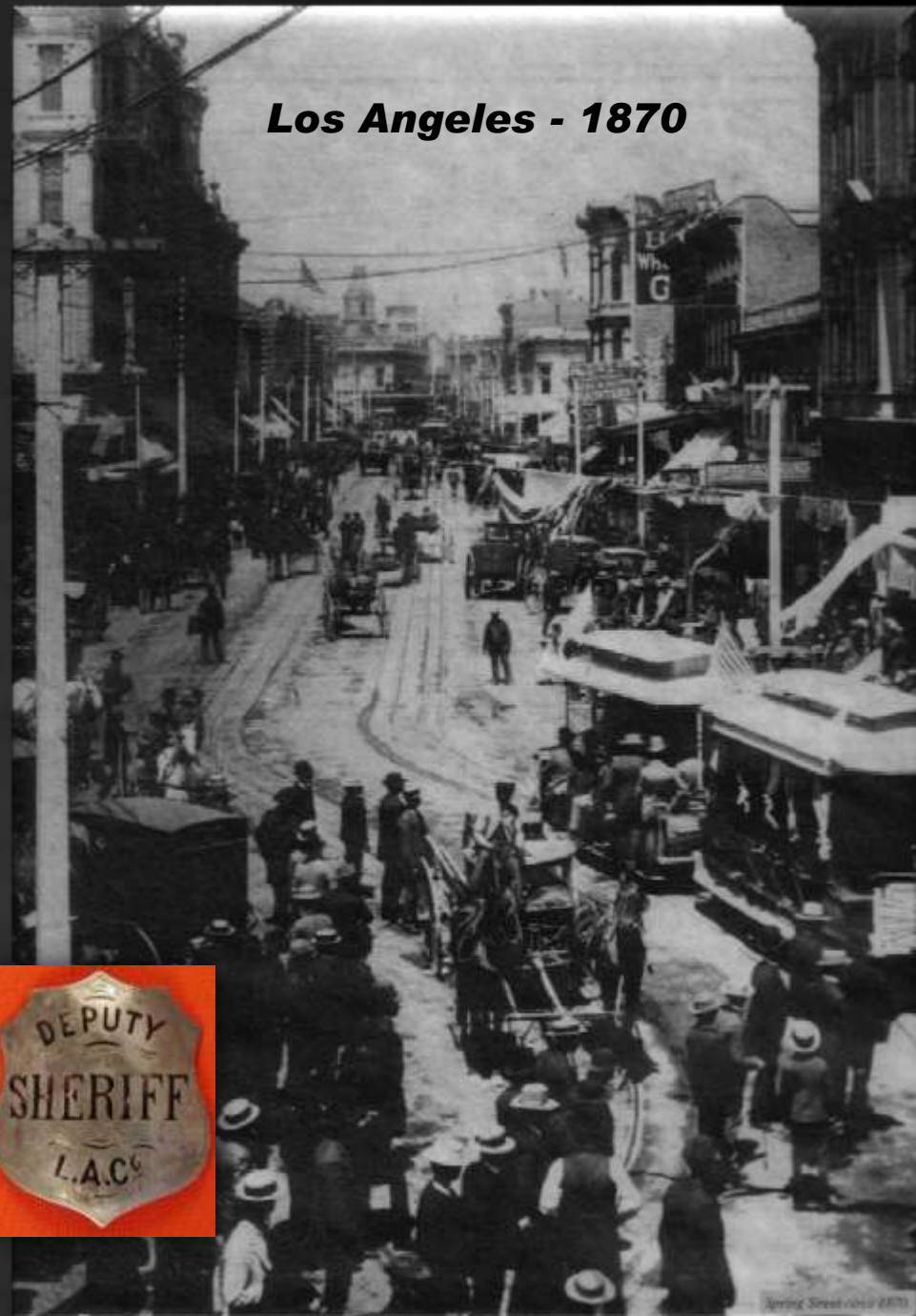
In 1880, the population of Los Angeles was approximately 34,000 and the Sheriff's Office was made up of one Sheriff and 12 deputies.

By 1890, the county had over 101,000 residents.

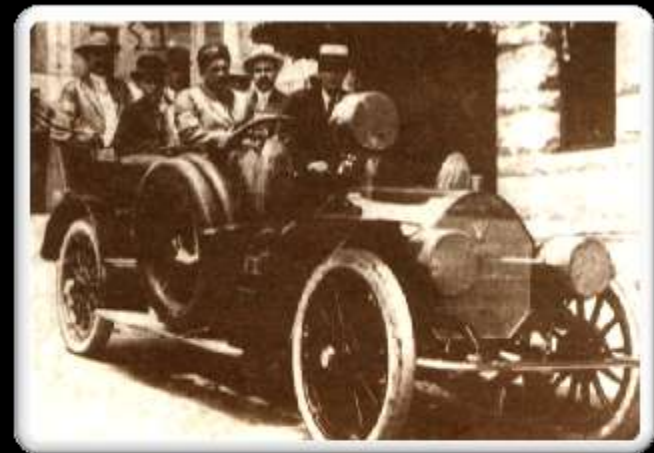
The Sheriff appointed his deputies who were friends or people who strengthened his political position. The Sheriff would routinely dismiss deputies from the previous administration.

Since the deputies felt their job was only temporary, there was little incentive to train toward a "career" in law enforcement.

Both Star and Shield designs were used in the 1800's.



One of the oldest and rarest LASD Badges known to exist (circa 1907) from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office. This sterling hand engraved badge is for the rank of Criminal Deputy and is unique with the words County Police. A term seldom seen or used in California.

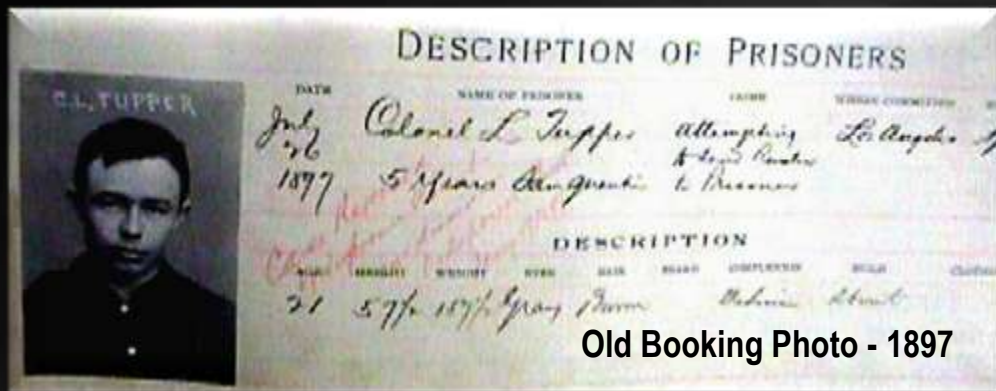


Prior to 1913, there was little uniformity in badge design. Beginning in late 1906, most LASD badges featured a shield with an eagle on the top.

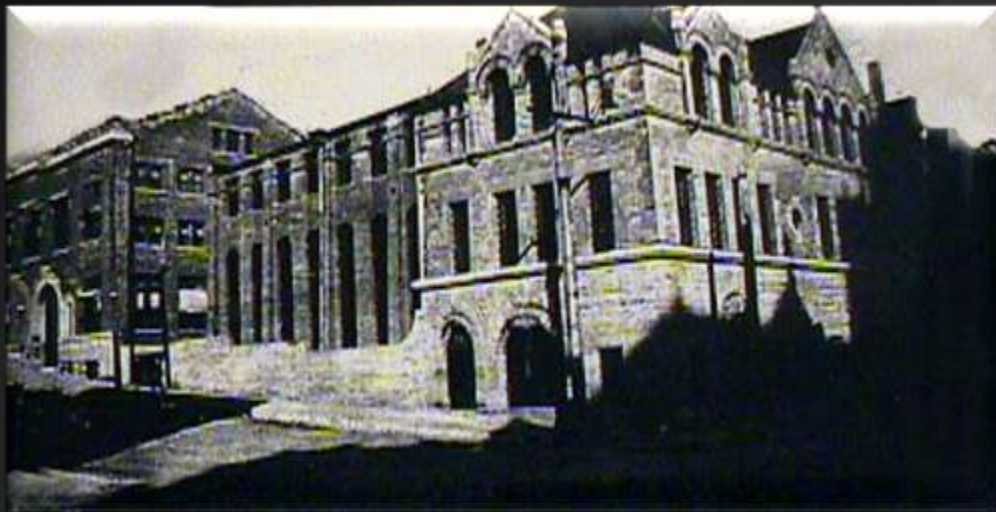
*First Sheriff Patrol Car
"Locomobile 1907"*

“Be courteous, if you are insulted by a bully in the office, don’t lick him there, it is bad for the reputation of the office, there are plenty of dark alleys”

LA Sheriff Billy Hammel - 1907



Old Booking Photo - 1897



County Jail – Circa 1903

Rated Capacity – 228 Prisoners



County Courthouse - Circa 1891

In 1913, Los Angeles County passed a county charter that established civil service and gave it more autonomy which included fixed deputy positions and salaries. This resulted in the end of political appointments and nepotism and paved the way for career minded peace officers. Township Constables were no longer elected positions and would now report directly to the Sheriff. The Sheriff's Office now officially becomes the Sheriff's Department.



"Eagle"



Also about this time, the Sheriff's Office began issuing numerous special deputy badges and appointed thousands of honorary "special deputies" with a whole host of "unique" titles.

Walking Bear Badges

“Walking Bear”



During the tenure of Sheriff John Cline (1915-1921) the County Board of Supervisors introduced a plan to change the design of the badge worn by deputy sheriffs. The new design replaced the eagle with a walking bear and mandated that badges be numbered for the first time.

In the late-teens, the shield type design was gradually phased out to the six pointed star designs.



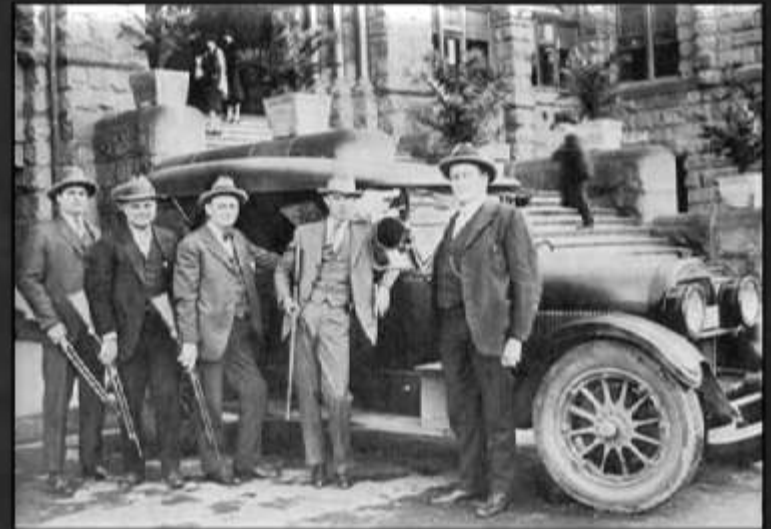
By the early 20's, Los Angeles County was growing by leaps and bounds with water piped into the region via the California Aqueduct along with the development of the Port of Los Angeles, and the aircraft and movie industries. In 1920, there were 82 deputies serving a population of 936,000. By 1932, the population was almost 2 million and the Sheriff's Department had 850 deputies.



New Inmates – Hall of Justice Jail - 1926



Sheriff Traeger – circa 1920's



The Night Detail (5pm – 3am) - 1925



In the 1920's, the standard weapon was a Smith & Wesson .32 six shot revolver.

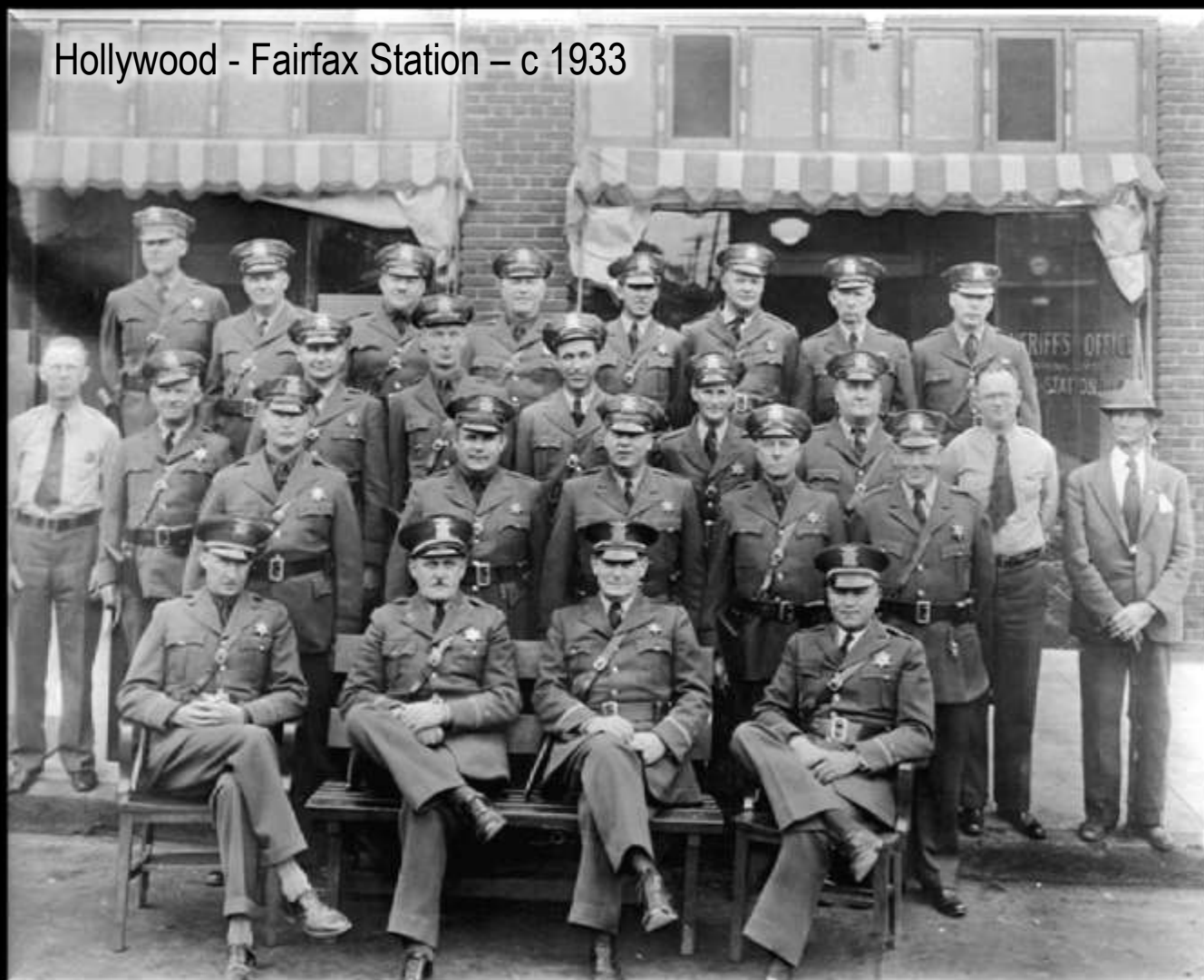
The California Highway Patrol (CHP) was formed in 1929 and originally included 280 uniformed men, 80 cars and 225 motorcycles. Prior to that, local police and county sheriff's routinely enforced traffic laws. The first superintendent of the CHP was Eugene Biscailuz who was then the Undersheriff of Los Angeles County and would later return as Sheriff of Los Angeles County in 1932.



Eugene Biscailuz



In 1933, Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz created one of the first uniformed Sheriff's Departments in the nation. Deputies were ordered to provide their own regulation uniforms. The color chosen was forest green. A hat with shield, black Sam Browne Belt with shoulder cross-strap, and holster was also to be worn.



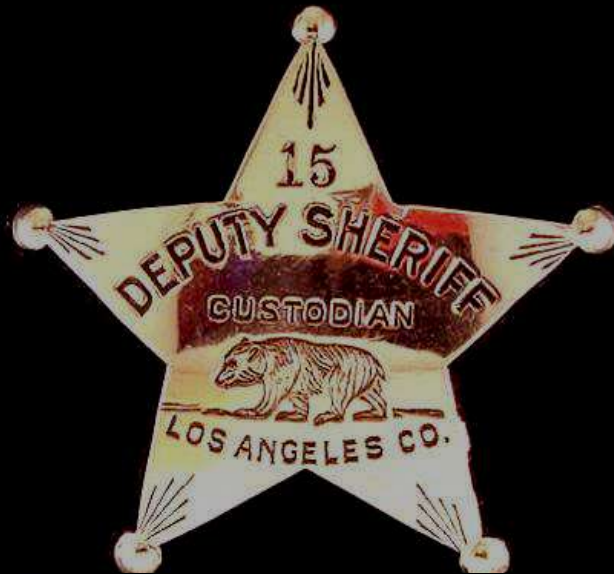
Early Cap Shield

Examples of early badge designs (Pre-1933). The present design would not be implemented until 1948.



"Guard" badge issued to civilian personnel supervising inmate work groups.

Examples of early “special” badge designs



EARLY BADGE ODDITIES



Grand Jury Badge



Press Badge



Badge issued to County Judge



Grand Jury Badge (1938)



Deputy Coroner Badge



Flat badge, custom made for Sheriff Biscailuz back in the 1950's

When Sheriff Biscailuz came into office in 1932, he began standardizing department insignia. Uniformed badges began incorporating the words “Deputy Sheriff – Los Angeles County” in a circular design, however specialized badges still continued to be issued.



LA County Jail Physician
Custom Purchased Badge with
Diamonds



SHERIFF'S AERO SQUADRON

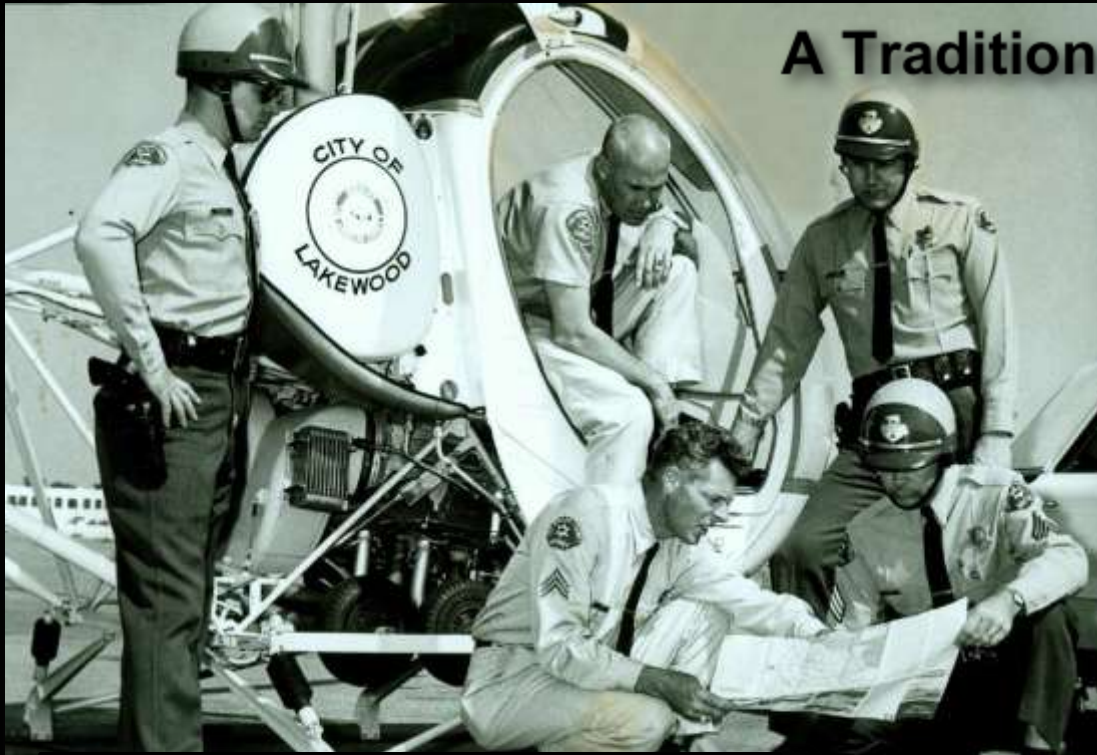
The "Sheriff's Aero Squadron," was initially formed on September 27, 1926 when the first five "volunteer" pilots were sworn in as "Deputy Air Sheriff's" by Sheriff William Traeger at Aero Corporation Airport in Los Angeles. It was one of the first of it's kind for law enforcement in the country. Originally intended for service in investigating thefts and others crimes connected with the Air Industry, it soon took on a much wider scope of activity.



In 1933, the Sheriff's Aero Squadron was officially authorized by the Board of Supervisors. It had grown to twenty-five planes and one blimp.



A Tradition of Airborne Service



JUNIOR DEPUTY SHERIFFS

Another innovative first by Sheriff Biscailuz was the creation of the “Junior Deputy” program in the 30’s. The program has since morphed into today’s Law Enforcement Explorer program.



Old Junior Deputy Patch



Current LASD Explorer Patch

SHERIFF'S BOY BAND

Around 1939, Sheriff Biscailuz developed the Sheriff's Boys Band. This group of juvenile musicians was organized and trained by Colonel Vesey Walker, an experienced and veteran conductor. Under the sponsorship of the Sheriff's Department they appeared in various cities, proudly representing the finest Sheriff's Department in the entire country.



Sheriff Biscailuz



AUXILIARY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S

During World War II the Sheriff's Department enrolled and trained a large number of persons in an organization know as "Auxiliary Deputy Sheriffs." They were part of the Civilian Defense program, and these non-deputized volunteers served well and faithfully throughout the war. Auxiliary Deputies wore only a cap piece and no badge. These individuals were the forbearers of today's Civilian Volunteers.



East Los Angeles Company Two Auxiliary Deputy Sheriffs (circ. 1942).

Deputies wore a patch on each sleeve that said, "Deputy Sheriff's Auxiliary" and on the left sleeve below the regular patch was a patch with the same design as the armband below.



COASTAL PATROL

In 1939, the Second World War came to Europe and situations globally began to deteriorate. Under the leadership of Sheriff Biscailuz the Department developed a civil defense posture.

The Department deputized private boat owners who were to patrol the harbors and coastline. The Coast Patrol became dormant after the war.



LIFEGUARD SERVICE

In the early 1930's, several Los Angeles County Beach cities asked the County to provide Lifeguard Services for their local beaches. This function was briefly assigned to the County Sheriff until a County Department of Parks and Recreation was set up and took over the administration of the county lifeguard program. The service eventually became part of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



Hermosa Beach - 1933



EMERGENCY RESERVES

The Emergency Reserves were created during WWII to assist regular Sheriff's Deputies combat local disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, and rescue work.

Their duties were restricted to rescue operations as compared to regular reserve deputies. They were the pioneers of today's Search and Rescue Reserves.



Lennox Station Emergency Reserves (1950)



SHERIFF RESERVES

In 1933, the Sheriff Reserve Program was started with the introduction of a Mounted Posse Unit. Over the years, the Sheriff Reserves have grown to over 800 deputies. Reserve deputies supplement the regular operations of the Sheriff's Department by working in their choice of Uniform Reserve (Patrol), Mounted Posse, Search and Rescue or as a Specialist.



Sheriff Biscailuz & Mounted Posse (1933)



In 1961, Sheriff Peter Pitchess merged the Emergency Reserve (tan) into the "green" reserves and instituted reserve academy class #1.

SHERIFF RESERVES

MOUNTED POSSE



The Current Mounted Posse is made up of Sheriff Reserves and volunteers and serves a variety of functions including patrol during large events and search and rescue assistance.



Pre 1948 Mounted Posse Badge



Sheriff Leroy Baca at the Sheriff's Equestrian Center in Castaic, Ca

FIRST FEMALE DEPUTY

Margaret Queen Adams became a deputy sheriff through her brother-in-law Sheriff William Hammel in 1912 at the age of 38. She served in the Civil Division for 35 years and retired when she was 72. Although her work was primarily clerical, she is known to have also gone on calls on occasion, especially when the case involved women and children. Margaret passed on from a stroke at age 99 in 1974. In her later years of service she was issued a six pointed star which she was wearing when she was buried.



Margaret Adams' Badge (1912)



Margaret Adams at her retirement party at age 72, in 1947, shown here with Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz and retired Deputy William Osterholt.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Corrections Officers were the brainchild of Sheriff Peter Pitchess. They performed many of the same duties in Custody Division that the Deputies were doing. They started with the same uniform as Deputies, but with their own unique patch.

The Correctional Officers eventually asked for and received permission to wear the regular Deputy shoulder patch so the inmates in the L.A. County Jail could not tell the difference. In the Late -1960's, the position was phased out.

Today, the department's Custody Assistant position performs many of the same duties of the Correctional Officer's of the past.





CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Recruitment Brochure for Corrections Officer



Current Custody Assistant Patches



Requirements

AGE:

19 but not yet 51 years of age at the time of appointment.

HEIGHT:

At least 5'7" and 140 lbs.

VISION:

At least 20/40 in each eye without correction.

HEARING:

Normal, not over 15% loss in either ear.

In addition to the above, the applicant must be a person of integrity and initiative, a citizen of the United States with a satisfactory record as a law abiding citizen.

Position and Benefits

There is no special background or training required for the position of Corrections Officer. Men with high school, junior college and college backgrounds have all done well. Also, there is no experience required. The Department seeks men between the ages of 19 and 51 who are in good health and possess the ability and willingness to learn.

All candidates selected for the Corrections Officer position receive full pay from the day of employment. They are fully trained in matters pertinent to criminal law and custody procedures during an extensive five week course at the Sheriff's Academy before assignment to regular duties.

The salary for Corrections Officer is consistently among the highest in the nation, and includes regular salary increases.

In addition to interesting work assignments and career opportunities, the Department offers the security of a Civil Service appointed position, plus paid vacations, and sick leave benefits as well as a fine retirement system.

Circ 1960

CURRENT BADGE 1948 to PRESENT

Deputy Bob Brown designed the badge currently worn by sworn personnel. It was approved by county ordinance in 1948.



Sheriff Sherman Block making a presentation to Bob Brown, designer of the current LASD badge.



Current Badge manufactured by Entemann Badge Company



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

CURRENT INSIGNIA



**Current LA County Sheriff Badge
& Shoulder Patch***

* Size not to scale

UNIFORM & INSIGNIA (1948 - PRESENT)



Patrol Car - 1958



Sheriff's Academy (Biscailuz Center – 1968)



"A" uniform (1973)

The Tan & Green uniform was first introduced in 1955. Deputies then carried a revolver and "speedy loaders". For a time Deputies were required to wear the hat while on duty.

UNIFORM & INSIGNIA (1942 - PRESENT)

Female Deputy Uniforms



Female Deputy
Uniform (1948)



Female Deputy (1950's)



– Women of Academy Class 100 –



Female Drill Instructor (2010)



Female Hat (1960's)

This hat and cap piece was part of the official female deputy uniform in the 1960's. With the changing hair styles, which were not compatible with the uniform hat, it and the cap piece were no longer issued or required wearing as part of the uniform.

In 1972, women were assigned to regular, full time patrol duties for the first time. Their uniform for this assignment was a white blouse and skirt. The success of these pioneering women led to a uniform change and they received permission to wear green pants and a tan shirt, just like their male counterparts, two years later.



Female Cap Piece
(1960's)

CURRENT FLAT BADGE DESIGNS BY RANK



CURRENT BADGE 1948 to PRESENT



Sergeant Uniform & Flat Badge



Detective is not an LASD rank, it is a job title. Deputies have to pay out of their own pocket for the "Detective" bar.



Sheriff Lee Baca Flat Badge



Flat badges began use after 1948, shown here is a original flat badge. Note thick font used for lettering.

CURRENT BADGE 1948 to PRESENT



LASD Deputies (circa 1910)



Example of a retired
Deputy Sheriff Flat Badge



Retired Deputy Sheriff Uniform
Badge. Available for purchase by
retired deputy



Mayors, Council persons, etc.. of contract cities are often presented with badges upon taking office. Usually a flat badge and rarely a breast badge. They are numbered with a stamped number on back.

BADGE ODDITIES



The position of "Custodian" was a person put in charge of a receivership on a business taken over by the court. The Custodian would be placed at the business and handle the books. The position no longer exist on the department and is now handled directly by the courts.



The rank of "Inspector" which was replaced by "Commander"



Badge issued to Trainees at the Sheriff's Academy for the purpose of taking their official department photo



Selected members of the press were once issue badges



Aero Squadron, started in 1933, became the Aero Bureau in the 1960's. Aero Bureau members, now, do not have a special badge

BADGE ODDITIES



Controversial "Honorary" Deputy Sheriff Badge. Not adopted by Los Angeles County.



The voluntary position of "Chaplain", specialty badge discontinued



Prototype Badge for Civilian Criminalists. Never adopted



Sun Badge Company

The Sheriff's Department has commissioned several badge manufacturers over the years. Here is a comparison of an Entemann badge and a Sun Badge Company badge. The Sun Badge design was cancelled after about a year.



Entemann Badge Company

CAP PIECES

The first regularly issued cap piece for sworn personnel was issued in 1933. Arising out of the 1933 earthquake disaster and the St. Francis Dam disaster five years earlier, Sheriff Biscailuz decided officers in uniform were much more effective in controlling crowds, handling traffic, and performing similar duties. He ordered all personnel to provide themselves with regulation uniforms thus most likely becoming one of the first uniformed Sheriff's Departments in the nation.



1933 Cap Piece



1948 Cap Piece



1957 Cap Piece

CAP PIECES

In the early 1990's, the Sheriff's Department redesigned the cap piece with a new "colorized" county seal. The cap piece was again redesigned in 2004 with a revised county seal design.



Discontinued Cap Piece



LASD FLAG



County of Los Angeles FLAG



New Cap Piece



New County Seal



CROSS

Old County Seal

Redesigned Los Angeles County Seal

The Native American woman represents the early inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin, including the area we now call Los Angeles County. She stands on the shore of the Pacific Ocean with the San Gabriel Mountains in the background.

The engineering instruments, i.e...triangle & caliper relate to the industrial construction complex of the County and Los Angeles vital contribution to the conquest of space.

The Spanish galleon is the San Salvador, which Cabrillo sailed into San Pedro Harbor October 8, 1542.

The tuna represents the fishing industry of Los Angeles County, and the championship cow, Pearlette, represents the dairy industry.

The Hollywood Bowl indicates the cultural activities, while the two stars represent the motion picture and television industries.

Mission San Gabriel, the first in Los Angeles County, represents the historic role of the missions in the settlement of the Los Angeles region.



HEAD GEAR



Old style uniform hat for special occasions such as funerals.



New style hat with decorated bill and heavier gold band for Captains and above



Old Style Captain Cap Piece



Old style hat with gold band and lieutenant's badge



Uniform hat & cap piece for female deputies.
Discontinued in the 1960's.

HEAD GEAR



Official "D.I." or "Trooper" hat. Worn at various functions or details. Must be purchased by deputy.



"Trooper" hat with Officer's lanyard worn by Lieutenants and above



Pre -1948 Aero Squadron hat with cap piece



Older style "riot" helmet with the face shield attached (circ 1960's).

Millennium Badge

In the late 90's, the department designed a new sterling silver "Millennium Badge" to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Sheriff's department.

The badge was made optional and sold to department members who wished to wear it.

At the end of 2001, deputies were required to return the badge for encasement in acrylic. The badge then would be returned to the deputy as a keepsake. The original cost to deputies was approximately \$200.



Back side view