



# Sirens, Whistles, and Badges

...

## Oh, My!

**Honoring the  
“Good Guys & Gals”  
of Public Safety  
Past and Present**

A Henry F. Hauser Museum  
Special Exhibit

**September 26, 2015  
through April 22, 2016**

**Ethel H. Berger Center**

2950 E. Tacoma Street  
Sierra Vista, Arizona



# I N T R O D U C T I O N

## Welcome to "Sirens, Whistles, and Badges...Oh My!"

This booklet has been created in conjunction with our exhibit honoring the "Good Guys and Gals" of public safety past and present. Sit back and stroll through time to our community's humble beginnings from the county sheriff as the only law in the area to an answering machine housed in a small building and volunteer "firemen" in cowboy boots and jeans, to what has become a highly skilled high tech and professional public safety work force.

We would like to acknowledge all those who helped in the creation of this project by researching and writing their department's history, offering images and newspaper articles, and those who brought the stories to life with the many wonderful objects on display. See back of booklet for a list of participants.

This booklet and project is dedicated in memory of Tom Shupert, past president Sierra Vista Historical Society, museum volunteer, local historian, friend, mentor, and colleague.

Nancy M. Krieski

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Sierra Vista Historical Society, 2015

Edited by Nancy M. Krieski, Museum Curator

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Booklet design, Photo Correction, setup and formatting by Mark Hanna, Henry F. Hauser Museum volunteer.



Sierra Vista snow, 1978

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## **Cochise County Sheriff's Office Wild West Territorial Days to 21st Century Technology**

**COMPILED BY JAMIE ANSCHUTZ, CCSO DISPATCHER,  
AS A PROJECT OF THE COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN  
CELEBRATION OF ARIZONA'S CENTENNIAL, 1912 ARIZONA  
LEGACY PROJECT. INFORMATION HAS BEEN CONDENSED FOR  
THIS PUBLICATION\***

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office or Department, headquartered in Bisbee, Arizona, is a local law enforcement agency that provides general-service law enforcement to unincorporated areas of Cochise County. It also operates the county jail system.

### **PROTECTING SETTLERS**

The county of Cochise was established in 1881, cut out of then Pima County by the 11th Territorial Assembly to serve the rush of new settlers and was named in honor of the renowned Chiricahua Apache Chief, Cochise.

### **STAFF & SERVICES - THE EARLY YEARS**

During the time of the Arizona Territory, frontier justice was the norm and the county sheriff, elected by his peers, was responsible not only for law enforcement, including patrolling the area and incarcerating criminals, but also for collecting taxes and fees. He also took on the job of county assessor. Paperwork was completed by hand and stored in the affected location. It was his job to choose and appoint deputies as the need arose, which allowed for



Jury for Deportation Trial, Tombstone, AZ, March 1920.  
Photo courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 56259.

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more flexibility and also caused many fluctuations in the number of employees within the sheriff's office during these early years.

### FIRST COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The first courthouse, built in 1882 of adobe block, was a two-story building on Fremont Street, between Third and Fourth Streets in Tombstone which was the first county seat. This building served the area until 1930 when a new courthouse building was dedicated by Arizona



First Cochise County courthouse, built in 1882 on Fremont Street in Tombstone, served the county until 1930.  
Photograph courtesy the Arizona Historical Society,  
Photo Id. No. 9917.



Current county courthouse, built in 1931, in the newly named county seat of Bisbee. Photograph courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 17358.

Governor George W. P. Hunt on August 2, 1931, in the newly named county seat of Bisbee, which continues to present day.

### NEW COUNTY - NEW SHERIFF - ARIZONA TERRITORY JOHN BEHAN (1881-1882)

With the creation of a new county, both Wyatt Earp and Johnny Behan sought the prestigious position of Cochise County Sheriff which included the jobs of county assessor and treasurer.

Johnny Behan, with more political and practical experience as deputy sheriff in charge of county business while part of Pima County, was appointed Cochise County's



Sheriff Johnny Behan, Cochise County's first sheriff.  
Photograph courtesy the Arizona Historical Society,  
Photo Id. No. 27243.

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first Sheriff. He served until the election of November 18, 1882 and chose not to run for another term. He is remembered as the sheriff during the street fight at the OK Corral and for refusing to carry a gun after killing Dick Joby who resisted arrest. Behan left Tombstone to become superintendent of the Arizona Territorial Prison at Yuma. In 1895 he was a Customs agent on the Mexican border until his retirement.

### FIRST ELECTED SHERIFF AND THE BISBEE MASSACRE

**J.L. WARD  
(1883-1884)**

J.L. Ward was the county's first elected Sheriff. On December 8, 1883 five outlaws robbed the Goldwater-Castenada Mercantile in Bisbee. Four people were killed in the process including Deputy Sheriff D. Tom Smith. All five outlaws were later arrested and



Sheriff J.L. Ward was the county's first elected Sheriff. Photograph courtesy the Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 27037.

hung for their crimes. A sixth man, John Heath, was later tried and found guilty of accessory to murder. He was sentenced to life in prison, but, unfortunately, he was pulled from his jail cell by an angry mob and hung on a nearby telegraph pole in Tombstone days later. Sheriff Ward supervised the hanging of the perpetrators of the Bisbee Massacre. These were the first criminals to be legally hanged within the county.

### THE LAST "HERO" LAWMAN OF ARIZONA "TEXAS" JOHN H. SLAUGHTER (1887-1890)

In 1886, John Slaughter was elected sheriff. Originally coming from Texas to Arizona in 1879, he settled in the Hereford Springs area where he grew alfalfa. He is remembered as one of the last "hero" lawmen of Arizona, as he constantly patrolled the county on



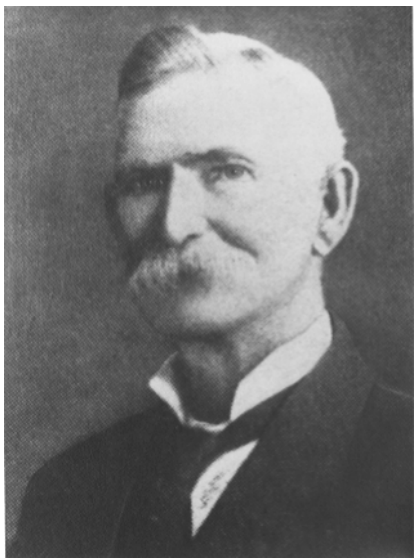
"Texas" John H. Slaughter, Cochise County Sheriff serving 1887-1890. Photograph courtesy the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, Photo Id. No. 1992.24.83.

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horseback, dealing with the Apache, hobos who followed the newly built railroad, horse thieves, and train robbers. During his time as sheriff he built up his 70,000 acre San Bernardino Ranch to graze 50,000 head of cattle. After his passing in 1922, the John H. Slaughter Ranch was founded.

### **C.B. KELTON (1891-1892)**

C. B. Kelton was known to be kind-hearted man who was concerned about the health of his prisoners, allowing them to exercise in the jail yard. Some took advantage of his kindness and escaped. He was older and quieter than the former sheriffs and rode about the county in his buggy, handling trouble in his quiet way, making few arrests. After his term



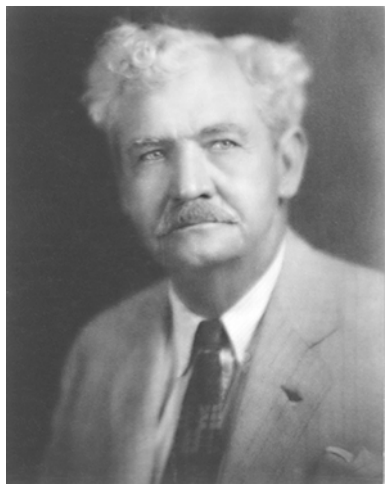
Sheriff C. B. Kelton, rode about the county in his horse and buggy. Photograph courtesy the Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 24743.

as Sheriff he went on to serve as a member of the Arizona Territorial Legislature.

### **THE BICYCLING SHERIFF**

### **SCOTT WHITE (1893-1894, 1897-1900)**

While past sheriffs had ridden horseback or driven teams of horses pulling carriages, Sheriff White pedaled about the county on his shiny "Wheel." He often pedaled down to Fairbank, along the San Pedro River, took the train to Huachuca Siding on the edge of



Sheriff Scott White pedaled about the county on his bicycle known as his shiny "Wheel." Photograph courtesy the Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 9156.

Fort Huachuca, conducted county business, and then pedaled back to Tombstone. He and his family lived well because of income related to mining stocks. He was Sheriff during the time of Colonel William

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

Cornell Greene's Mining and Cattle ventures.

**SHERIFF AND  
FAMOUS  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
C.S. FLY  
(1895-1896)**

While Camillus S. Fly is better known for his photography, he was also an exceptional sheriff who received national recognition during the Apache Wars. He rode with the Army during the campaign against Geronimo with



Sheriff Camillus S. Fly received national recognition during the Apache Wars. Photograph courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 105317.

his photography equipment in tow, photographing Geronimo's 1886 surrender to General Nelson Miles in Skeleton Canyon. As sheriff, he

spent tireless hours in the field on horseback chasing train robbers.

**"NO DRINKS FOR THE  
HOUSE!"**

**STEWART R. HUNT  
(1905-1906)**

In 1904 Stewart Hunt was elected sheriff by a slim seven votes. Hunt was of the highest character, thrifty and careful with money. During the 1906 re-election bid, he maintained his high standards and refused to spend any money politicking, choosing to run strictly on his excellent record. He never bought "drinks for the house" which was the accepted way of winning elections and subsequently lost the election to John White.

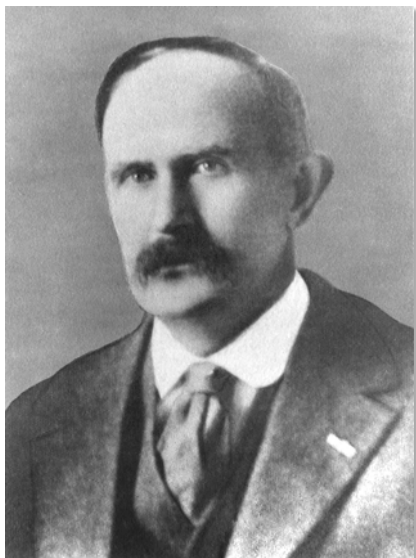


Sheriff Stewart R. Hunt. Photograph courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 26331.

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

### **LAST TERRITORIAL SHERIFF "PLAYIN' POKER WITH HIS CRONIES" JOHN F. WHITE (1907-1912)**

John F. White was known as an ostentatious extrovert who enjoyed playing poker with his cronies. Elections were not held in 1910 as Arizona's statehood was imminent. However, in 1911, White was elected to the office.



Sheriff John F. White was an ostentatious extrovert who enjoyed playing poker with his cronies. Photograph courtesy Arizona State Library and Archives, Photo Id. No. 98-0490.

### **ARIZONA BECOMES A STATE - FEBRUARY 14, 1912**

### **FRONTIER JUSTICE COMES TO AN END**

On February 14, 1912, President William Howard Taft signed the

proclamation making Arizona the 48th state within the Union. With this new status came new responsibilities to include the idea that all current rules and policies related to enforcing the laws of the United States of America had to be recognized and abided by. Frontier justice slowly came to an end as a modern way of doing and thinking became a reality.

### **COLORFUL AND CONTROVERSIAL HARRY WHEELER (1913-1917)**

Harry Wheeler was the county's first elected sheriff after statehood and succeeded once again in 1914 and 1916. He is remembered as one of the county's most colorful and controversial sheriffs. While serving in office during Prohibition with Arizona considered a "dry" state and New Mexico a "wet" state, Wheeler would wait at the border with New Mexico and arrest bootleggers who tried to bring alcohol into Arizona. Once arrested, he ordered them to go onto the county jail in Tombstone. Not one failed to show up. He



Sheriff Harry Wheeler.  
Photograph courtesy Bob Nilson.



insisted that all men arrested receive a good meal and a lawyer, sometimes at his personal cost.

## THE BISBEE DEPORTATION

In 1916, the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter successfully enrolled 1800 miners.



A striker being forced onto New Mexico bound train during the Bisbee Deportation. Photo courtesy Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum.

On June 24, 1917 the union presented the Bisbee mining companies with a list of demands, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the miners. Tensions and rumors rose. While negotiations were underway, county supervisors sent orders to then Sheriff Harry Wheeler to break the miners' strike. On July 12, 1917 any miner who choose to strike against the mines, as well as many who did not, were rounded up and forcefully marched to the Warren Ballpark where they were loaded onto trains and taken to Columbus, New Mexico where they were abandoned with no accommodations. Shortly after this horrendous event, Sheriff Wheeler resigned as sheriff and enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

## SIGHTSEEING TOURISTS & BULLETS AT THE BORDER

GEORGE R. HENSHAW  
(1927-1930)

George Henshaw has the impressive distinction of being the first Arizona born sheriff. Prior to becoming sheriff he had been the bookkeeper for the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company in Mexico where he became acquainted with the Mexican police known as the Cordata. Unfortunately, Henshaw became engulfed with the task of keeping order at the border during the second Mexican Revolution in 1929. Fighting was prevalent in Naco, Sonora, and sightseeing tourists from all over the United States came to the border to watch.



Sheriff George R. Henshaw was tasked with keeping sightseeing tourists safe during the Mexican Revolution. Photograph courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 24752.

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Spectators became caught in the cross-fire. Henshaw was responsible for keeping these sightseeing tourists safe by literally shooing them away!

### **THE ONLY SHERIFF TO DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

#### **FRED A. KENNY (1931-1932)**

Fred Kenny was the last sheriff to serve out of the Tombstone Courthouse before the county seat was moved to Bisbee. Unfortunately, he was killed in an automobile accident in El Paso and I.V. Pruitt was chosen to complete his term. Sheriff Kenny was the only sheriff to die in the line of duty.



Sheriff Fred Kenny was the only sheriff to die in the line of duty. Photo courtesy the Arizona State Library and Archives, Photo Id. No. 98-0484.

### **BIG WHITE HAT AND A BIG BLACK BUICK I.V. PRUITT (1932, 1935-1952)**

I. V. Pruitt finished Kenny's term in office and was elected sheriff a couple of years later. Pruitt, a native of Texas, could always be seen wearing a big white hat and drove around the county in a large black Buick. He served during World War II when hundreds of troops trained at Fort Huachuca and when the mines in Bisbee ran twenty-four hours a day. He is known for not leaving a single case unsolved.

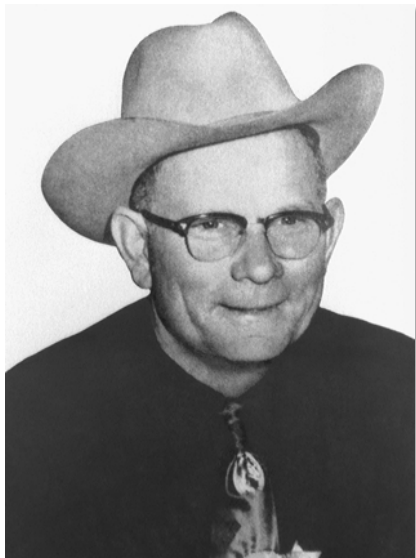


Sheriff I. V. Pruitt was known for his big white hat and his big black Buick. Photograph courtesy Arizona Historical Society, Photo Id. No. 24756.

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

### DIME NOVELS AND TELEVISION WESTERNS J. W. "JACK" HOWARD (1953-1958)

Texas native, Jack Howard was elected Cochise County Sheriff in 1952 and served until 1959. Prior to becoming sheriff, Howard worked as an underground shift boss for the Phelps Dodge mines and was the county jailer for Sheriff Pruitt before becoming under sheriff. He too always wore a hat. This, along with his six foot frame, gave the aura of the stereotypical sheriff of dime novels and popular television westerns.



Sheriff Jack Howard was instrumental in putting Cochise County on the map. Photograph courtesy the Arizona State Library and Archive, Photo Id. No. 98-0502.

After leaving office, Howard was instrumental in putting Cochise County on the map by serving as an advisor for the television show,

*Sheriff of Cochise*, which ran from September 1956 to January 1958. The series was based on the real life experiences of local county sheriffs. *Sheriff of Cochise* was a Western themed crime drama filmed in and around the Bisbee area. Former Sheriff Jack Howard was the main advisor of the series. Actor John Bromfield played fictional Sheriff Frank Morgan.



Actor John Bromfield in front of Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum. He played fictional Sheriff Frank Morgan in the television show, *Sheriff of Cochise*, ca. 1957. Photo courtesy the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum.



John Bromfield as Frank Morgan  
Public domain image

# **SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!**

## **SHERIFF DURING THE MIRACLE VALLEY INCIDENT**

**JIMMY V. JUDD  
(1977-1992)**

Jimmy Judd was elected sheriff in 1976 and served for sixteen years. During his time as sheriff the office was moved from within the Superior Court House in Old Bisbee to its current location on Judd Drive in Bisbee. He was sheriff during the Miracle Valley incident. After leaving office in 1992, he ran for the office of Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 in Benson, Arizona and won.



Sheriff Jimmy Judd served the county for sixteen years.  
Photo courtesy the Douglas Historical Society.

## **MIRACLE VALLEY INCIDENT**

In 1980 an extremist religious group moved into Miracle Valley from Chicago. Over the next couple of years violence and tensions arose between this group and both the residents and law enforcement in the area. Everything peaked on October 22, 1982 when members of the sheriff's office attempted to arrest three church members. The officers, surrounded by approximately twenty armed church members, retreated and chose to attempt arrest again the next day. Violence erupted between the group of thirty-five deputies and an estimated one hundred and fifty church members. At the end of what was only a fifteen minute experience, two people were dead, numerous injured, including Deputy Sheriff Jeffery Carl Brown who died eleven months later from his injuries.

## **NEW ERA AND A CHANGING LANDSCAPE**

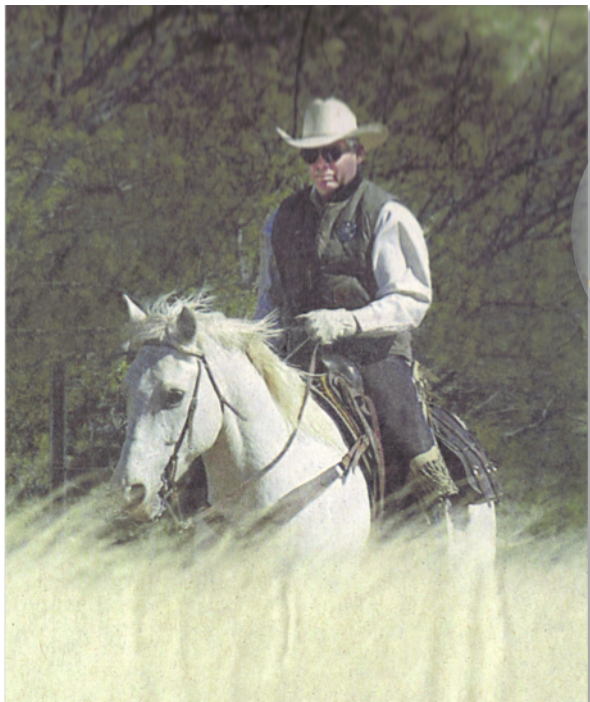
**LARRY A. DEVER  
(1997-2012)**

As a long time law enforcement veteran, Larry Dever, served from 1997 until his untimely death in 2012. He began his law enforcement career as a Cochise County Deputy sheriff in 1976. He was responsible for the creation and/or development of several new programs and activities, including but not limited to, S.W.A.T., Search and Rescue, and a multi-agency

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SHERIFF

counter narcotics unit. He also created a memorial for the Fallen Heroes of the Sheriff's Department.



Sheriff Larry Dever.

Photo courtesy Sierra Vista Herald, September 20, 2012 edition.

## TODAY'S DEPARTMENT

Today, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office boasts many programs, divisions, and services, including but not limited to patrol, evidence, SWAT, and records. It has experienced more than a century's worth of growing pains from roots in Arizona's "Wild West" Territorial days, hardships and memorable situations through the years, all leading to the modern state of the art professional department seen today. The department honorably serves all who reside within the rural areas of Cochise County to include the many county enclaves within the City of Sierra Vista. They have definitely come a very long way!

\*For a complete history go to <https://www.cochise.az.gov/sheriff/home> and click on the Cochise County Sheriff's Office Legacy project - History link.

## **Fry Fire District A Tumultuous Decade in the Making**

**COMPILED BY MARTIN D. JONES, FRY FIRE CAPTAIN,  
RETIRED (1973-2000)**

**PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY MARTIN JONES**

### **LOOSE-KNIT GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS 1954-1956**

Little is known about early fire protection in Fry, Arizona, prior to the establishment of Sierra Vista as a city in 1956. However, it has been said that a loose-knit group of volunteers formed their own association in 1954 and became the Fry Volunteer Fire Company in 1955. Without a fire truck, residents of Fry greatly relied on Fort Huachuca and private citizens to assist with extinguishing fires.

### **A CITY IS BORN 1956-1958**

What was known as Fry, Arizona, was soon to become the City of Sierra Vista, as a large portion of Fry was incorporated into the city in 1956. However, not all of Fry was annexed into the city, creating several unincorporated islands throughout Sierra Vista. This made it especially interesting for fire protection. Along with the creation of a city comes the responsibility of public safety. The



Charles Jones (left) was among the loose-knit group of volunteers who stepped up to serve their community. The truck is a 1941 Ford Howe Triple combination fire engine built for the Navy in World War II. After the war it was sold as surplus to the small town of Fry and was used for many years. Photo courtesy Henry F. Hauser Museum, James Stubb Collection.



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formation of a city fire department was established to protect city residents and surrounding areas, to include Fry.

### AN INTERESTING DILEMMA

#### HEADLINE NEWS

**"City Council Halts Fry Fire  
Protection - Trucks Are Not to be  
Used out of the Town Limits!"**

October 23, 1958 - Gateway Times.

A city resolution was made effective by unanimous vote of the city council, which stated that only taxpayers who supported the department were entitled to its services. It also stated that anyone taking city equipment outside the city limits would be subject to a \$300 fine! In a legal opinion by then city attorney, the city could not legally provide fire service to Fry or any other area outside its limits unless a special legal contract was in effect for these services.

It was also suggested that residents of the Fry area might be able to have fire protection from the Sierra Vista Fire Department in one of several ways:

1. Annexation into the City.
2. Formation of a special fire district which could negotiate a contract with Sierra Vista.
3. Fry area could form a fire district and provide its own fire services.

### ONGOING PROBLEMS

#### HEADLINE NEWS

**"Blaze in Fry Completely Destroys  
Trailer Homes of Army Dependents"**

December 6, 1958 - Gateway Times.

Sierra Vista Fire Department was allegedly unable to attend the fire due to the fact they were not allowed by city ordinance to fight fires out of the city's jurisdiction. The Fort Huachuca Fire Department extinguished this fire.



Fort Huachuca Fire Department responded to this home of military dependents. Sierra Vista Fire was not allowed to respond, fueling the need for a separate department in Fry. December 1958. Photo courtesy the Henry F. Hauser Museum, James Stubbs Collection.

### GOOD NEWS FOR RESIDENTS OF FRY, ARIZONA

#### HEADLINE NEWS

**"The Making of a Fire  
Department"**

December 18, 1958 - Gateway Times

**"Fry now has fire protection;  
citizens purchase used truck."**

A volunteer fire department is in the making thanks to the citizens, landowners, and businessmen of Fry. Potential volunteers were

## **SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!**

sought and would soon begin training from local experienced fire fighters in the area. A 350 gallon fire truck joined with a 1700 gallon American Sanitation unit would provide protection to Fry residents.

To finance the volunteer department, the Fry Fire Association held a meeting at the Fry Playground Association's meeting hall. Members agreed that paying for fire service and a facility would be on a subscription basis from those residing in Fry. Local Fry businessmen agreed to assume most of the costs, and Erwin Fry, who was the principle landowner in Fry donated land to build a future fire station. Fry Fire Association members were elected which resulted in appointing Mr. Herb Johnson as chairman, Mr. Bill Manning as vice chairman, and Mr. Damon Davis as secretary/treasurer. Mr. Walter Dilley was appointed as temporary Fire Chief. The fire truck was parked at Sorgan Motors, located on South 2nd Street near Fry Blvd. and later moved to 4th Street and Fry Blvd. at the Richfield Gas Station near La Casita Restaurant.

### **FRY FIRE DEPARTMENT IN DIRE STRAITS - NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT 1959-1960**

With only eight Fry residents attending a planning meeting of the Fry Fire Association, Fry would possibly lose their fire department due to lack of financial support.

Only ten percent of residents donated to the department's operation and all association funds had been depleted with no signs of assistance in the future. Something needed to change as only the same small percent of residents supported fire department activities.

### **CONTINUING FINANCIAL TROUBLES**

The Fry Fire Department continued to have financial difficulties and again pleaded for more support from its residents. Money was still being provided for fuel and vehicle maintenance from volunteer firemen's own pockets. In May, another desperate plea for money hit the headlines:

### **HEADLINE NEWS "Fry Fire Department Needs Cash!"**

Gateway Times, May 1959

Because of delinquent fire protection subscriptions, only half of the needed amount was collected to operate the department. The possibility of answering a fire call and charging a flat fee of \$50.00 to a resident who was not paid up on their subscription was even considered.

### **MOLDY RAINCOATS NOT ENOUGH -**

After receiving helmets and other equipment from the Lady Elks in 1959, firemen were in need of protective clothing. The only protective gear they had were old moldy raincoats too tattered to wear. With no breathing apparatus, entry into a smoke filled home would be very dangerous to firefighters.

## 1960 - A TUMULTUOUS YEAR!

### FRY FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CLOSE?

According to an article in February of 1960 in the Gateway Times, bills were paid out of personal pocketbooks and equipment was maintained by a small group of residents. Statements were mailed out to property owners and businesses informing them that their share of the operating budget for 1960 was due and payable. If a sufficient amount of money was not received by midnight February 5, 1960, all money donated would be returned to donors and the Fry Fire Department would cease to operate.

The following rates were set for calendar year 1960:

- \$5.00 per year - Residence
- Owner of a business building
- \$10.00 per year
- Operator of a business
- \$10.00 per year.

### FRY FIRE SAVED - FOR NOW

In a move to keep the Fry Fire Department, many residents were urged to take more of an active interest and help with payment of dues. Newly appointed Fire Chief, Dee Shurtz and Fry Fire Association chairman, Herb Johnson, working with city councilman Danzner began formulating a new fire alarm system. Working

hand-in-hand with Sierra Vista volunteers for that past year, fires were kept to a minimum, keeping the Fry Fire Department alive, for now.

### HEADLINE NEWS

**"H&R Blaze as Worst Fire  
Threatens Uptown Area"**

September 1960 - Gateway Times.

Located in Fry, H & R Transfer & Storage Company erupted in flames. Approximately 50 firemen, mostly all volunteer from Fry, Sierra Vista, Huachuca City, and Fort Huachuca battled the extremely large fire, working side-by-side.



H&R Transfer and Storage fire.  
Clouds of black smoke billowed from the structure.  
Gateway Times photograph.

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## HEADLINE NEWS

### **"Firefighters Must Stay in Sierra Vista"**

October 1960 - Gateway Times

Because of the H & R fire which occurred in Fry, the City of Sierra Vista needed to find out who would be responsible if a city fireman was injured while fighting a fire outside of its jurisdiction. The State Industrial Commission was queried by the city, with the result being that volunteer firemen would not be covered by insurance while fighting fires outside the city limits while utilizing city equipment. However, they suggested that if a mutual agreement was made between two legally organized fire departments, they could be covered on a case by case basis.

## HEADLINE NEWS

### **"Fry Fire Association Incorporates as a Non-profit Organization"**

September 1961 - Gateway Times

Officers consisted of Herb Johnson, Dee Shurtz, and Bill Manning. Shurtz was appointed Chief of the company and Johnson acted as Fire Protection Chairman.

## **STRUGGLES CONTINUE EVEN AFTER INCORPORATION**

Once the Fry Fire Association became an incorporated organization, hopes were high that the department would stabilize. However, shortly after incorporation, Fry Fire Chief Dee Shurtz resigned not only as chief, but as a member of the board of the Fry Fire Association. And, to make

matters worse, during 1962, the department still struggled with obtaining operating funds. A new solution was needed.

## HEADLINE NEWS

### **Two Departments Come Together**

July 1962 - Gateway Times

Probably the first recorded mutual assistance event between the Sierra Vista Fire Department and the Fry Fire Department occurred when the two departments went public, suggesting they combine efforts to protect their community. The joint efforts of Sierra Vista's full time Fire Chief, Harold Parks, and Fry's volunteer Fire Chief, Dee Shurtz, were instrumental in bringing the two departments together.

## HEADLINE NEWS

### **Officers Elected to the Board**

August 1962 - Gateway Times



Fry and Sierra Vista firemen attack blaze with piercing nozzles. Gateway Times, 1962.

In a turn of events, Dee Shurtz returned as head of the Fry Fire Association, while Herb Johnson resigned and moved to a ranch in Colorado. A general meeting of the Fry Volunteer Fire Department Inc. was held, naming new members of the Board of Directors;

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

Lawrence Ford and Keith Kimble. The Fry Fire Association elected officers the same night and appointed Dee Shurtz as president and board chairman, Keith Kimble as vice-president, and Eugene Miller secretary/treasurer. New and old applications for volunteer firemen were considered and accepted for the following:

Dee Shurtz      Fire Chief  
Keith Kimble   Assistant Chief  
Jim Stubbs     Assistant Chief

### Firemen:

Joe Burge  
Jim Hilburn  
Kay Mackey  
H.J. Manning  
Eugene Miller  
Monty Montoya  
Ed Sorgen  
Bud Wesley

## 1963-1964

### Tony Bellantoni - Steps-up to Help the Fledgling Departments

The Sierra Vista Fire Department headed by Fire Chief, Harold Parks; and Fry Volunteer Fire Chief, Dee Shurtz; both received cash donations from prominent businessman Tony Bellantoni for unselfish efforts in protection of the community. The checks amounted to over \$100. Both fire companies with a combined number of two dozen volunteers answered calls when three sirens, located throughout the area, sounded the alert.



Tony Bellantoni, left, is seen giving checks amounting to over \$100 to local fire chiefs, Harold Parks, Sierra Vista; and Dee Shurtz, Fry. The money will be used to assist in the operation of the departments.  
Gateway Times article, June 20, 1963

## AUGUST 1963

### Money Woes Once More - Fry Firemen to Sell Truck

The Fry Volunteer Fire Department Inc. voted to sell one of their fire trucks in order to pay outstanding debts. The second truck, not owned by the association, would be returned to its owner unless money was raised to operate the truck for a twelve month period. If Fry did not have its own fire department, Sierra Vista firemen would not be allowed to respond to fires within Fry. It would be up to the residents of Fry to extinguish local fires. If the department raised the necessary funds, they would have fire protection. If not, they would have to sell the equipment to pay all debts and go out of business.

## OCTOBER 1963

### Monty Montoya Steps-up to Help Raise Money

In an effort to raise money for the department, Monty Montoya of Monty's Motors, hosted a dance in his garage with a live band.

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

Admission to the dance was \$8.00 per person.

### NOVEMBER 1964

#### **Volunteer Fire Fighters Can't Afford to Foot the Bill!**

For over a little more than a year, the Fry Fire Department continued to struggle financially. A local headline read,

#### *"Fry Fire Department to End Protection."*

With only enough money to fight fires for six weeks, the volunteer department was on the verge of going broke. The department was continuously losing money because subscribers would not pay their \$5.00 yearly fee. Residents of Fry were lax in supporting their fire department.

### THE ONLY SOLUTION

The only fair solution would be the establishment of a "County Fire District," by petitioning the County Board of Supervisors to hold a special election for property owners in Fry. If passed, the cost of fire protection would be added to property taxes. The Fry Fire Department would then receive this tax money to maintain itself. A statement at that time from volunteer Fire Chief, Dee Shurtz, summed up the situation,

*"Volunteers don't mind fighting fires, it's just that they can't afford to foot the bill."*

### HEADLINE NEWS

#### **Proposed County Fire District in Fry**

November 18, 1964 - Gateway Times

Officials of the Fry Fire Department met with Cochise County Attorney Richard Riley to discuss a proposed Fire District in Fry. The county attorney's advice was concise, requiring the following steps:

- Petitions with ten percent of the qualified voters in the proposed district must be filed with the supervisors before an election could be called.
- In order to sign petitions, qualified voters must have resided in the district for thirty days.
- The election at the earliest could be called in February of 1965.

It was estimated the district could bring in about \$3000 annually. The highest rate charged would be \$1.20 per one hundred assessed valuation. At that time, the Fry Fire Department was operating without funds. If the formation of the Fire District were to pass, residents of the area in this special election, which also included those not necessarily property owners or qualified elector, must meet twenty days after the election, and if declared valid, elect a fire chief, secretary/treasurer and not more than twenty-five volunteer firemen. A budget must then be submitted to the county by the elected officials every July 1st. Furthermore, officials would serve without pay.



# SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

## 1965-1966

### The Fate of Fry Fire District

Residents voted February 16, 1965, on the fate of the Fry Fire District. On April 5, 1965, the Board of Supervisors of Cochise County, Arizona, ordered that the Fry Volunteer Fire Company was duly and regularly organized. Keith Kimble was elected Fire Chief and Marion Kimble elected Secretary/Treasurer. Finally, as stated in the April 5, 1965, Gateway Times,

*"The Fry Volunteer Fire Company is ready to proceed with the ordinary and regular business for which it was organized."*

With the newly organized Fry Volunteer Fire Company being somewhat financially stable, work began on building a fire station on the north-west corner of the Fry Ballpark. The station, located at 207 North 2nd Street, housed two fire trucks. Volunteer firemen were



Note original structure with two bays located at 207 North 2nd Street. This station was built in 1966. Truck on the left was purchased shortly after the district was formed as funds were now available. The truck on the right is a 1941 Ford Howe Fire apparatus built for the Navy in World War II. It was sold as surplus to the Fry Fire District where it served for many years.

sought from the community and the number of volunteers increased

to about twenty. Fires were still being fought and feuding between Fry and Sierra Vista continued.



Fry Volunteer Fire Company Truck in City of Sierra Vista's Christmas parade, ca. late 1967-69. Riding in the truck are members of the Fry Fire Sirens, the women's auxiliary for the Volunteer Fire Company. The Sirens held bake sales, cookbook sales, and other events to raise monies in support of the company. From left to right, Chris Jones (child), Louise Jordan, Shirley Jones, and Gertrude Beasley.

## 1968-1969

The first fire station located on North 2nd Street accommodated two trucks. With the anticipation



Fry Fire District building addition dedication, 1968. Gentleman raising the flag is volunteer fireman, Harold Fleenor; with man holding the flag, association secretary/treasurer, "Buddy" John Jordon. Chief Kale on right facing flag.

of expanding the fire district, the need for additional equipment was necessary. This meant that a station expansion was needed. An additional apparatus room was built and dedicated in 1968. The addition included an apparatus room for a

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

third larger truck, a kitchen and a separate banquet/meeting room.

**1969**

**Fry Townsite**

**to Increase its Territory**

With the formation of the Fire District behind them and with stable funding, the Fry Fire District made its first move to increase their territory. According to an August 4, 1969 Gateway Times article, the Fry Fire District was granted annexation of an area east and south of the townsite from a petition filed in June of that year. This area would become part of the Fry Volunteer Fire District and would be protected by the all-volunteer Fire Department.

**1972**

With the continued physical



Fry Fire Department Trucks, ca. early 1970's. The yellow and red trucks were the first two used by the department. The station addition was built to accommodate the white truck on the far right of the photo. Note Geronimo Drive-In Theater screen in the background. North 2nd Street is unpaved.

expansion of the district, a need for a second station was warranted. A Piece of property located in Cloud 9 was purchased by the fire department and a three bay station was built. Additional trucks were purchased and housed in both



Cloud 9 Ranch Estates, a Mobile Home Community, located down East Hwy 90 at 90 Rainbow Way. Area of Station No. 2 built in June 1972. Buildings on left creating a large rectangular structure are the Motel & Apartments. Buildings on right near highway consist of a grocery store, gas station and mobile home sales office. Back of postcard boasts "250 Spaces, Paved Streets, Pool, Clean Air, 12 Channel TV, Close to Schools, and Fire Protection." Ca. early 1970s. Postcard Image courtesy Henry F. Hauser Museum, Id. #2015.27.3.

stations to protect residents in the newly acquired territory. Local volunteers living in or near Cloud 9 manned the station.

**1973**



Fry Fire Department's New Station. The Fry Fire Dept. has opened up Station No. 2 in Cloud 9 in June 1972. From left front, Gallen Yarbrough, Marty Jones, Ernie Buck, Charlie Bosley, and, back, assistant chief Charlie Jones, Harold Fleenor, Charlie Cox, chief Dick Kale, and John Jordan. Herald Dispatch, June 1972.

Being an all-volunteer fire department, manpower during the day could be an issue, as most of the volunteers either worked on Fort Huachuca or owned or worked in local businesses in Sierra Vista. At times it became difficult to just up and close a business or walk away from job duties to respond to a fire.

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

To alleviate this dilemma, The Fry Fire Department hired two full daytime firemen in June of 1974. Martin "Marty" Jones and David La Plante reported for duty, working Monday through Friday, 7am to 5pm. This would guarantee that at least two firemen were available to respond to a fire call with additional volunteer firemen meeting at the station or at the scene of the fire.

### 1975

In 1975, after the departure of David La Plante, Richard Kale became the first paid full-time Fire Chief of the Fry Fire District. Prior to becoming a paid chief, Richard Kale served numerous years as a volunteer chief. The brave men of the department continued to serve throughout the 1970s and their spirit of service and commitment continues to present day.

FRY FIRE DISTRICT



Fry firemen battle a pesky garbage pit fire near Cloud Nine off Highway 90 which occurred Monday about 6 p.m. Fry firemen were again busy yesterday afternoon when a small grass fire broke out in a field east of Golf Links Road around 4 p.m. Only a few acres were burned in the fire. Gateway Times article, ca. 1974-75.



## **Sierra Vista Fire Department - From Up and Down and All Around to State of the Art Professionals**

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**COMPILED BY JOSHUA D. MEEKER, FIRE CAPTAIN,  
SIERRA VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE SIERRA VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT

### **FLEDGLING DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT**

At the same time the City of Sierra Vista was founded in 1956, so too was a fledgling fire department. Founded on a steady base of volunteers, the incorporation of the city brought with it the need to establish a fully functional and funded fire department. With a budget of only \$1,216 to fund the entire Public Safety Division which included Police, Fire, Animal Control, and Building Inspection, funding for the Fire Department was extremely

minimal, but would serve as the bedrock on which the young department could build.

### **NO OFFICIAL FIRE CHIEF**

The operation of a Public Safety Division instead of separate Police and Fire Departments continued for decades until the late 1980s when the Public Safety Division dissolved and separate Police and Fire Departments were established. Until then, the Fire Department did not have a designated Fire Chief, but a Superintendant. The Police Chief oversaw both Police



Early Fire Fighters, notice the two men who are without shirts

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

and Fire departments. The Fire Superintendent, known officially as such, was referred to by the public as the Fire Chief which was technically incorrect.

### KEATING'S GAS STATION

At the time the Public Safety Division was established, Keating's Gas Station, located at Fry Blvd



Keating's Station, owned and operated by Paul Keating, who later went on to become a member of the newly incorporated City of Sierra Vista's first city council and served one term as mayor.

and North Garden Avenue, served as the home for the only city owned fire engine until the construction of the joint Police and Fire Station, located on Sherbundy Drive, was constructed in 1958.

### FIRST FIRE SUPERINTENDENT - "PSEUDO CHIEF" LEO PARKS

Not long after the incorporation of the city, the first Fire Superintendant of the Sierra Vista Fire Department (SVFD), (Chief) Leo Parks, made a request to the new city management to budget \$1,000 to help establish and outfit a six person fire department. The following fiscal year, 1957-1958,



The newly incorporated City of Sierra Vista's first city building which housed not only the Fire Department, but the Police Department, mayor and city clerk's office, and all other city related services and personnel. The building was built in 1958 by Elledge Construction and was located at 401 Sherbundy St. Photo taken October 1972 prior to Station #1's completion in 1975.

the budget for Public Safety was increased to \$12,894 and it is believed Chief Parks received the funding he needed to lay the building blocks of staffing and critical equipment purchases.

### CONTINUED GROWTH

The department continued to slowly build and grow, purchasing used apparatus or constructing equipment themselves. The department remained 100% volunteer through Chief Gilbert Daniels administration to the time when Jim Maloney became the first paid part time Fire Chief. As the first paid position in the department, Chief Maloney was required to take on other city duties as well, such as Building Inspector, splitting his time equally between the two areas. This marked the beginning to what is known as a combination department, with both volunteer and paid personnel on the staffing roster.

### GROWTH

#### FIRST PAID STAFF

After Chief Maloney transferred to Fort Huachuca Fire Department, Donald Newcomer



## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

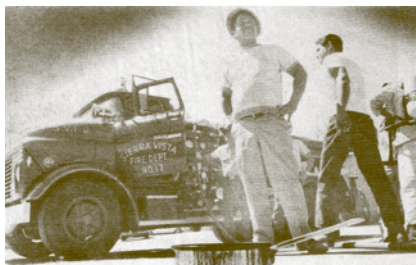


Chief Donald Newcomer was the first paid fulltime Fire Chief.

stepped into those boots and became the first paid fulltime Fire Chief. Chief Newcomer took over the reins in 1968 and was responsible for significant growth within the department. He saw the addition of the second paid member of the department, Fire Inspector Sonny Chandler.



New rank at the Sierra Vista Fire Department includes, from left to right, Lt. Joe Garcia, operations and training officer; Inspector Sonny Chandler; and Lt. Mel Raby, assistant chief. Herald Dispatch, August 4, 1972.



"Good Ol' Days: Firefighters scramble around an old pumper fire truck during an April 26, 1971, fire at the Stanley Apartments in Sierra Vista. As was common, most of the fire-fighters lacked uniforms, helmets and other gear. Fire engines such as this could pump about 1,000 gallons per minute. Modern pumpers [1971] can produce 1,500 gallons per minute." Herald Dispatch, April 26, 1971

### CONTROVERSIAL PURCHASE

Seeing the need to replace the two aging and under powered 1946 Ford fire trucks, the purchase of a used 1960 fire engine capable of pumping 1,000 gallons per minute, would prove to be quite controversial. The purchase of this truck by the new Fire Chief was viewed by many as irresponsible and excessive purchase by the new Fire Chief, no citywide fire hydrant infrastructure existed to support such a powerful fire pump.

### MUCH NEEDED FIRE HYDRANTS

However, seeing the value and need for better fire suppression capabilities in the community, the city partnered with Bella Vista Water Company and purchased 45 fire hydrants from the Douglas Airport and installed them in the west end of town. Although the new fire hydrants were only connected to 4 inch mains at the time, it was a big step in the right



## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

direction and would serve as the beginning of what is now a well established and otherwise taken-for-granted asset and fire service necessity within our city.

### COWBOY BOOTS AND BLUE JEANS

Additional improvements during Chief Newcomer's tenure were outfitting firefighters with industry accepted protective apparel and equipment. The attire of cowboy boots and blue jeans commonly used by the 'firemen' during fires were replaced with proper structural firefighting coats, pants and helmets.



Sierra Vista has three new full time firemen. Gathered around the city's new truck from left to right are Raymond J. Gouth, Smokey (a pedigree Dalmation,) and D. J. Snyder. Unlike his human counterparts, Smokey is on duty 24 hours a day and became a resident when a local resident dropped him off at the pound. Herald Dispatch, October 4, 1972.

### REAL FIREMEN DON'T NEED AIR PACKS

Additional self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), commonly known as "air packs," were purchased. Up to this point, the importance of SCBA use in the fire service was not fully realized, and was often seen as a luxury due to the high cost of each pack. Also,

the mindset and culture at that time was

*"real firemen don't need air packs."*

Therefore, prior to the additional air packs purchased by Chief Newcomer, having only two air packs for the entire department to share among all of its members wasn't as outlandish as it would seem today.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM AIR RAID SIRENS TO...

During this time, communications saw significant growth within the fire department. Radios were available, but not for all members of the department. Volunteers were alerted to fires and emergencies by the distinct sound of air raid sirens located throughout Sierra Vista. These sirens, along with large generators to provide power to city buildings, were purchased by Chief Newcomer, as he also had the job of Civil Defense Director for the city.

### 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM

January of 1970 saw the establishment of the 911 system in the Sierra Vista area. A result of intensive work by the Sierra Vista Woman's Club, this simple emergency notification system, introduced for the first time in the United States less than two years earlier, was brought to our young town. The new 911 system served a growing need for simple yet

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

effective emergency notification. However, it was only available to those with the "458" telephone prefix, which, at the time, did serve the greatest number of citizens.

### FIRST NEW FIRE STATION - 1975



Richard Cox and Joe Garcia, full-time members of the Sierra Vista Fire Department put the magic emergency numbers on a fire truck as Mrs. Thomas Weiland and Fire Chief Donald Newcomer supervise. Herald Dispatch, January 16, 1970.



Fire Station #1 opened in January 1975. This 5,000 sq. ft. building would house three pumpers, one grass fire-fighting truck and a utility van.

The department was finally able to move out of the Sherbundy Drive Police/Fire station into the newly constructed separate fire station building on Fry Blvd in January of 1975. More paid fire-fighters (referred to as 'firemen') were added to the roster and the number of volunteers slowly diminished.

### POLITICS PLAY A PART

Politics and relationships within the small community were



Sierra Vista Fire Station #1 located on Fry Blvd. dedication ceremony, 1975.



Fire Station #1, Fry Blvd., 1985.

abundant despite our small town size. Interactions between the Sierra Vista Fire Department and the Fry Fire District were not always as professional as they are today. There were times when both departments were overtaxed at structure fires and in desperate need of assistance, and because of the poor working relationship between the two agencies, fire-fighters were actually prohibited from calling on each other for assistance.

### MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

There were a few occasions when members of the SVFD,

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

prohibited from helping, simply stood by and watched from their station Fry Firefighters extinguish blazes, and vice versa. Fortunately, as times progressed, so did the relationship between the Sierra Vista and Fry Fire Departments. In 1981, a mutual aid agreement was signed between the two agencies, allowing each department to call on the other when in need of assistance.

### **AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT**

This was replaced by an automatic aid agreement in 1986. This automatic aid agreement permitted the two departments to operate as one organization, despite two different governing bodies.

### **BITTER DISCORD**

What began as a positive milestone towards more efficient fire and emergency medical services, ended with bitter discord between the two departments when the automatic aid was abruptly dissolved amid concerns over the cost of operating the aid agreement. Negotiations to redefine the working relationship between the two were lengthy and heated, and ranged from complete separation of the two agencies to a declined proposal by the Fry Fire District to take over all fire and EMS services for the city.

### **DIFFICULT OBSTACLES**

At the time of the automatic aid agreement, the Fry Fire District employed two thirds of all

firefighters and owned most of the equipment. So, when the agreement was ended, the SVFD faced the difficult obstacle of providing adequate services without the assistance of Fry Fire. In 1991, the automatic aid agreement formally ended. Fry Fire personnel retreated along with their apparatus to only Fry Fire owned stations, and SVFD personnel were left to provide services out of the only city-owned station, located on Fry Blvd.

### **FIRE STATION #2**

During this period, strategic planning for the city identified the urgent need for an additional fire station within city limits, Fire Station #2, located on Paseo San Luis and Avenida Cochise. Funding was secured for construction and the building was completed in 1993. However, the cost of operating and staffing would take longer to procure and would require, once again, an agreement with Fry Fire until such time the city was able to afford all operating costs.



Sierra Vista Fire Station #2 located on Paseo San Luis and Avenida Cochise was dedicated in 1993.

# SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

## FRY FIRE & SIERRA FIRE UNITED ONCE AGAIN!

At the time Station #2 opened, personnel from the Fry Blvd Station #1 were moved to Station #2 and Fry Fire personnel who staffed Fry Fire Station #1 located at 207 North 2nd Street, moved their personnel and equipment into the SVFD Station #1 on Fry Blvd. They provided service to both city and Fry Townsite enclaves out of this station.

## A FIFTEEN YEAR MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

This arrangement continued for five years until 1998 when the city was able to afford the operating and personnel costs of both city-owned fire stations, doubling the personnel list and equipment inventory. At this time, the operating agreement between the two departments returned to a mutual aid agreement, only allowing the departments to help each when they made a special request to do so. Both departments operated on separate radio channels, with separate dispatchers, and provided services



"An Avenue of Fire," as depicted in this July 6, 1987, Herald Dispatch article.

only to their respective jurisdictions, completely autonomous and nearly oblivious to the others existence for 15 more years.

## INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EMERGENCY



" Million-dollar Blaze." A July 6, 1987, Herald Dispatch article stated, "An early afternoon fire yesterday leveled a one-by-four block area consisting of 23 wooden structures constructed in 1942 as a temporary hospital facility for Fort Huachuca during World War II...A total of seven units - four from Fort Huachuca, two from Sierra Vista and one from Fry Fire District fought the blaze." The fire was reported at 1:11pm and was under control at 4pm, however, by that time, "the area resembled something that could have been a Hollywood scene from a World War II movie depicting a bombing raid."

## RESPONSE

With SVFD Chief Randy Redmond and FFD Chief Miller at the table, a fresh and common sense approach to automatic aid was revisited and adopted in 2011 which would serve as the launch pad for an even more integrated approach to emergency response.

## THE FUTURE ONE ORGANIZATION - ONE GOAL

As the benefits of automatic aid were again realized in 2011, it was found that taking this aid

agreement even further could be of more benefit. Leadership within both organizations realized, that although automatic aid was a good thing, there was still duplication of physical resources between both agencies. During this difficult financial time, it was decided that if both organizations began to operationally respond to emergency calls as one organization, better service could be achieved, along with significant financial savings. Elimination of duplicated apparatus and equipment was achieved by analyzing the needs of the entire response system, and only "needed" equipment would be placed in strategic locations.

### **ELIMINATING DUPLICITY -THE "JAWS OF LIFE"**

For example, up until this point, every fire apparatus within both departments carried the "Jaws of Life." However, in review of the data, the equipment was only utilized a few times per year. Therefore, by outfitting this equipment on only two apparatus within the system, and at \$70,000 per set, both departments were able to save money with no compromise in service to the public.

### **ELIMINATING DUPLICITY - SPECIALTY TEAMS**

Other examples included combining duplicated specialty teams, such as the Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials

teams. Both departments had individually operating autonomous teams in these disciplines. By identifying a Technical Rescue station and Hazardous Materials station and assigning qualified members to these specific stations, regardless if they were Fry Fire or Sierra Vista Fire employees, proved to be a positive step in streamlining resource deployment.

### **MORE THAN FIGHTING FIRES**

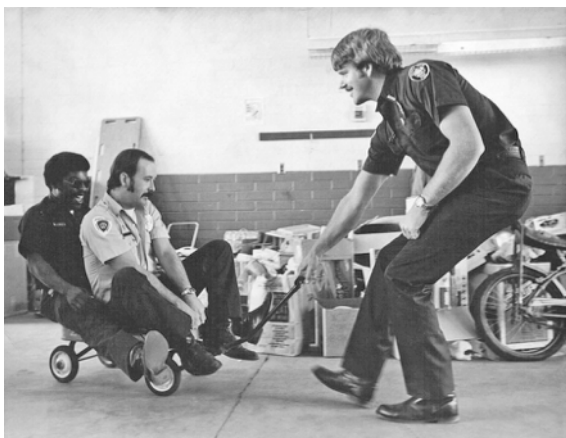
To date, operating as one entity has proven beneficial for both organizations, but more importantly has greatly increased the service provided to the public. From the infancy of the Sierra Vista Fire Department in 1956, responding to only fire calls, and through progress with every Fire Chief henceforth, the Sierra Vista Fire Department responds to nearly 9,000 calls per year, ranging from medical emergencies, hazardous materials spills, fire alarm activations, and non-emergency medical transports to

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

care for chronically ill patients, and yes, fires too.

### FROM COWBOY BOOT PROTECTIVE GEAR TO A LEADING EDGE ALL-HAZARDS DEPARTMENT

From cowboy boot protective gear and hand-me-down fire apparatus, the Sierra Vista Fire Department has grown to become a leading edge all-hazards department with a force of 90 paid personnel, state of the art equipment and apparatus, and a solid and long-lasting working relationship with the Fry Fire District. Through continued hard work and relationship building, will serve the citizens of our community for generations to come.



The Sierra Vista Fire Department's Toy Drive which began in the early 1980s continues to present day, assuring every child in our community has a Happy Holiday. Left to right - Carl Cheatum, Rick Townsend, and William Wright, ca 1982.



## Sierra Vista Police Department From a Single Answering Machine to State of the Art Communications

COMPILED BY DAVID SANTOR,\*  
SIERRA VISTA POLICE CHIEF, RETIRED  
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF DAVID SANTOR AND  
THE HENRY F. HAUSER MUSEUM

### FORT HUACHUCA AND THE "WILD WEST"

The Sierra Vista Police Department began with the incorporation of the city in May of 1956. However, prior to this momentous event, the story can be traced back to the establishment of Fort Huachuca in 1877. A small community began to develop outside the fort on what is now North Garden Avenue with the construction of a saloon/brothel known as "The White City" in 1905 by John and Ellen Reilly. This building later became the area's first post office and general store in 1919 when the Carmichaels' purchased the property. The community was known as "Garden Canyon." During the early years of the 1900s cribs were built and prostitution, bootlegging, stabbings, shootings, and drunkenness were the norm in this small "Wild West" community. At this time it was the responsibility of the Cochise County Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement. Much of the mayhem fell to the office of Sheriff Harry Wheeler. Oliver Fry, another early settler, succeeded Carmichael as postmaster, and on April 1, 1937, the name of the town was changed to "Fry."



"The White City" located on what is now North Garden Avenue was built as a brothel/saloon by John and Ellen Reilly in the early 1900s. Throughout the 19-teens this area outside the main gate of Fort Huachuca saw its fair share of criminal activity and the only "law" in the area was the responsibility of the county sheriff's office.

Photograph courtesy the Henry F. Hauser Museum, Virginia Sherbundy Rogers Collection, Photo Id. No. 2006.48.20.

## **IT ALL DEPENDS ON FORT HUACHUCA**

Fort Huachuca served as a major training center during World War I and World War II and was closed shortly after the war ended in 1947. The eruption of the Korean conflict resulted in Fort Huachuca's reopening as a training facility from 1951 through mid-1953, when it was again officially closed. Then, in early 1954, the fort was reopened as the Army's Electronic Proving Ground and the area immediately experienced a growth spurt.

## **A HALF CENTURY OF FLUCTUATIONS**

With fluctuations in the opening and closing of the fort throughout the first half of the twentieth century, a small group of hearty individuals remained, setting the foundation for a small vibrant community. And, throughout these fluctuations, the Cochise County Sheriff's Department was responsible for law enforcement with one resident deputy assigned to the Fry area in the early 1950s.

## **1956 - THE TOWN OF SIERRA VISTA IS BORN!**

The Town of Sierra Vista, Arizona when incorporated in 1956 was a tiny community of 1,671 people located on the doorstep of the recently reactivated Fort Huachuca. At that time the town encompassed approximately two square miles. In 1961 the town officially became the "City of Sierra Vista."

## **GROWTH OF POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Over the years the population of the community and the growth of its police department were associated with the relocation of military or civilian support service units to Fort Huachuca. In 1966 the Army moved the 11th Signal Group to Fort Huachuca, providing worldwide communications for the Army. The community benefited greatly in 1967 when the fort became headquarters for the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command. And in 1971 the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School was moved to Fort Huachuca. The most dramatic population increase came in 1971 with the annexation of Fort Huachuca (115 square miles) into the city and the addition of 10,826 residents.

## **HUMBLE BEGINNINGS - THE QUONSET HUT**

Between 1956 and 1958 the Police Department, along with most of the Town's employees, operated out of a World War II era corrugated metal Quonset hut located near the main gate of Fort Huachuca.

## **FULL-TIME OFFICERS AND 24-HOUR POLICE COVERAGE!**

The newly incorporated town hired its first full-time paid police officer, James Wells, in 1957; however, the edict that formally created the police department itself was not passed until May 3, 1960.



## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

Interestingly enough, in April of 1958, one year after hiring its first paid officer, SVPD hired its third police officer and announced that the department would now provide 24-hour per day police coverage.



First Sierra Vista Police Department Chief,  
James Wells, 1957.

### 1958 – TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTED!

In 1958 a permanent Town Hall building was constructed at 400 Sherbundy Street. This facility housed the police and fire departments, the town's court, and other city departments.



First City Hall Building located 400 Sherbundy St., 1975,  
built in 1958 by Elledge Construction.

### 1979 – NEW CITY HALL BUILT

The Sherbundy Street building remained the home for the police department until 1979 when the current City Hall facility was constructed on Coronado Drive. This situation was only to last two to three years until a standalone facility could be built. However, they remained in this shared space for seventeen years.

### 1996 – FIRST STANDALONE POLICE FACILITY

In early 1996 the department moved into Sierra Vista's first-ever standalone 22,500 square foot police facility next to City Hall at 911 Coronado Drive.



City Hall building on Coronado Drive constructed in 1979.

### SIERRA VISTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

In 1966 the Police Department was combined with the City's Fire Department and emergency services to form the Sierra Vista Department of Public Safety. However, police and fire activities remained relatively independent

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!



Standalone police facility located south of the city hall building on Coronado Drive was built in 1996.

from an operational standpoint. The public safety concept remained in effect for twenty-seven years. Then, in 1993, the City Council voted to dissolve the Department of Public Safety and return to independently managed police and fire departments.

### FIRST RADIO EQUIPMENT

The first two-way radio equipment was purchased in April 1957 along with its first ever police vehicle. This used 1955 Ford pick-up truck was equipped with a two-way radio which was on the same frequency as the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. A police radio microphone was placed on a desk in the Town's Quonset hut and was initially answered by then town



This 1955 Ford Pick-up Truck was purchased as the young city's first public safety vehicle. It has since been restored and can be seen in car shows and parades throughout Arizona.

clerk, Marie Pfister, who answered day time calls with the Sheriff's office handling all night requests. Even after the town obtained a radio equipped vehicle, a patrolling officer would stop by the department and check the answering machine to see if there were any calls.

### BRAND NEW POLICE VEHICLE

The Town Council authorized the purchase of the department's first new police car in April 1958. It was a brand new Ford station wagon and was purchased for \$2,731.70.

### OFFICERS USE OWN VEHICLES

Over the next several years, police officers were sometimes required to use their privately owned vehicles for duty purposes while the Town's police vehicles were being repaired. The Town did reimburse the officers for gas and oil when such conditions arose.

### UNIFORMS 1956-1960, FIRST UNIFORMS - SILVER TAN

The first uniforms worn by Sierra Vista police officers were silver-tan in color, and were essentially the same style as those being worn by the Arizona Highway Patrol at that time. Uniforms were purchased by funds allocated by the city council. In 1963 the council voted to give police officers a one-time \$100 uniform allowance upon satis-

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

factory completion of their 90-day probationary period.

### 1961-1963, "BLUE UNIFORM" PERIOD

In 1961, after three years in the silver-tan uniforms, Police Chief



Early uniforms boasted the colors of the Arizona Highway Patrol, silver-tan. Photograph taken in front of the Sherbundy Street building. Note rock house in the background, ca. 1960s.

Bill Stone reported to the City Council that police department uniforms were "threadbare" and the department was having trouble matching the shades in the tan color between the trousers and the shirts. In response, the City

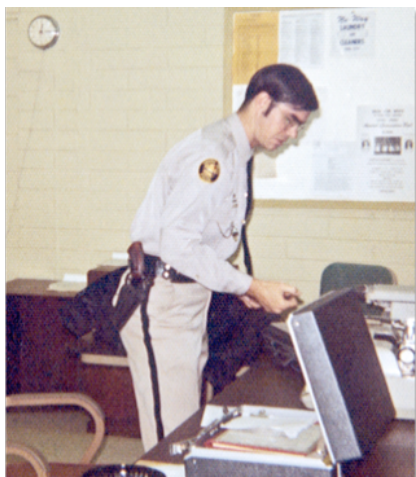


Police Chief Bill Stone, SVPD's fourth Chief (1959-1962) was instrumental in making the first change to blue uniforms in 1961. The period of "police blue" only lasted three years.

Council voted to advance \$600 to make the change to blue uniforms. One hundred dollars was given to Chief Stone and the five officers on the force. These blue uniforms only lasted a mere three short years in Sierra Vista.

### 1964, BACK TO SILVER TAN WITH A TWIST!

In early 1964, with C. Reed Vance serving as Chief of Police, the department again went to the City Council for authorization to change the color of SVPD's uniform. The new uniforms were to be silver-tan trousers with a black stripe, a silver-tan long-sleeve shirt for the winter months and a white short-sleeve shirt in the summer. To effect this change with little or no cost to the City, the department held a "Policeman's Ball" to generate funds. With the proceeds from that social



Photograph taken inside the Sherbundy Street station showing new uniform with black stripe on the trousers implemented by then Chief C. Reed Vance, the department's fifth Chief, serving from 1962-1989.

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event, Chief Vance took the entire department to Nogales Sonora, Mexico, where they were all fitted for the new uniforms. According to Chief Vance, there was even enough money to replace worn out leather gear, buckles, and holsters.



The department's fifth Chief, C. Reed Vance, was promoted to this position after only three years. He went on to serve this community for thirty years, twenty-seven as Chief. The stand-alone police facility built in 1996 was named in his honor.

### **“THE ICONIC SVPD LOOK!”**

Over the ensuing years, the silver-tan uniform with a black stripe on the trouser became the foundation of the “SVPD look!”

### **BACK TO BLUE!**

The Sierra Vista Police Department once again changed its authorized uniform color from silver-tan to navy blue in 1998. This color scheme remains to present day.



Left current Chief Tom Alinen right David Santor  
SVPD officers wearing traditional police blue uniforms,  
ca. 1998.

### **POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ACCESSORY ABANDONED**

Certain uniform accessories came and went as the years passed. For example, the uniform of officers in the early to mid-1960s was adorned with a gold aiguillette which hung in a loop from the left shoulder. Legend has it that the aiguillette disappeared from Sierra Vista's uniforms immediately after an August 16, 1966 incident wherein Officer Bill Leach was pulled to the ground by a suspect who grabbed Leach's aiguillette. The suspect then shot Officer Leach with his own service weapon. Leach was not seriously injured and the suspect was apprehended. Whether

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or not the aiguillette actually was a factor in the Leach shooting, Sierra Vista's police department, like those across the country, quickly abandoned this ornate accessory for officer safety reasons. Today, the aiguillette is seldom seen in law enforcement on other than ceremonial uniforms.

### THE WHISTLE CHAIN - ABANDONED

The whistle chain was similarly discarded from Sierra Vista's uniforms in the 1970s. These chains were attached on one end to the right shoulder epaulet button. The other end anchored a standard police whistle and was attached to the right breast pocket button. Like



Early uniforms were adorned with a gold aiguillette which hung in a loop on the left shoulder. This adornment was removed along with the shoulder epaulet and whistle chain, as they posed a tempting target for suspects who became involved in scuffles with officers.

the aiguillette, this loosely dangling chain made a tempting target for

suspects who became involved in scuffles with officers. For the same reason, the only necktie ever authorized for uniform wear has been a black "clip-on" or break-away style.

### OFFICER SAFETY SPAWNS MORE UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT CHANGES THE "MIRACLE VALLEY" ERA

Police officer safety concerns brought other uniform related changes in 1980. This coincidentally, was the beginning of what was referred to as the "Miracle Valley" era in Cochise County law enforcement. In 1980 the City of Sierra Vista decided to fund the purchase of protective body armor for its police officers.

### A "NEAR RIOT" SITUATION

Whether through visionary thinking or the result of divine providence, the procurement of body armor and riot helmets was indeed fortuitous as it immediately preceded a period of three years of tense and often violent confrontations between area law enforcement officers and members of the Christ Miracle Healing Church of Miracle Valley. While the majority of the problems took place outside the City of Sierra Vista, SVPD officers were involved in a number of confrontations with members of the Miracle Valley group. The most notable local altercation occurred on April 19, 1982, when officers clashed with several members of



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the church at Buena High School in Sierra Vista. Described as a “near riot” situation, this incident resulted in injuries to several officers and church members, a stolen car, and a high speed chase to Miracle Valley. Ultimately five individuals were arrested and charged with a total of thirteen felonies.

### **BADGES – FROM CRUDE TO SOPHISTICATED**

The basic design of the department’s badge has always been the same, a gold-colored “shield” style with an eagle at the top, the Arizona state seal in the center, and two title panels above and two below the state seal. By the early 1960s badges had a badge number stamped in the top title panel. The quality and workmanship of these early badges were rather crude when compared to the department’s current badges.

### **FIRST FEMALE OFFICER PROMPTS WORDING CHANGE**

About the time C. Reed Vance took over as Chief of Police in 1962, the department did away with the numbered badges and began purchasing higher quality badges. The officer’s rank was printed on the top panel which read “Patrolman.” Twenty years later, the lettering was changed from blue to black and the word “Patrolman” was replaced with the words “Police” and “Officer” in the top two panels. The hiring of the department’s first female officer, Theresa

Baker (Russell) in 1982 prompted the wording change.

### **COMMUNICATIONS NO DISPATCHERS**

Initially, the Town’s police officer was not dispatched by anyone. The Police Department and the Town Hall located in the same one room Quonset hut, had telephones and the public could call to request police services. If the officer was out on patrol, usually in his own vehicle, the call would wait until his return. Later some of the prisoners were able to shorten their sentences by taking over the dispatching duties by handling the phone and radios.



Theresa Baker was hired as the department’s first female officer in 1982.

### **AIR-RAID SIREN SOUNDS THE ALARM**

In terms of dispatching, when an officer was unavailable, town clerk, Marie Pfister activated a fire siren (much like a WWII air-raid siren) which would alert the volunteer firemen in the area. The fire siren remained in use until sometime in the 1970s. For several

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years the police dispatcher activated the siren at 10 pm each night to signal the start of the juvenile curfew period.

Around 1960, the position of “Deputy Clerk” was established and Frances J. Howell was the first employee to hold this position. Howell’s job was that of secretary, records clerk, and dispatcher.

### DISPATCH SERVICE EXPANSION

In July 1961, after the status of the community was changed from a “town” to a “city,” a Cochise County Sheriff’s Office telephone extension was installed, along with a line for the Fry Fire Department, and a second Police Department telephone was purchased. Now the department could truly provide 24-hour service. The Sheriff’s Office paid from \$75 to \$100 each month for this service with monies used to supplement the salary of various officers.

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

In 1971 the city transitioned from a one microphone per frequency hardware to a multi-channel “console” arrangement.

Throughout the decade of the seventies and into the mid-eighties, dispatch service remained unchanged. In 1985, the department experienced several technological advances which continued throughout the decade of the nineties. Since that time, the Sierra Vista Police Department has continued its implementation of new state of the art technologies to create the professional and well equipped department which serves our community today.

\*Information courtesy of Cochise County Historical Society Journal, “First Watch” by David Santor.



## **Early Ambulance Service From Funeral Homes to Fire Departments**

**COMPILED BY JEFF HATFIELD  
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JEFF HATFIELD**

### **THE HATFIELD FAMILY COMES TO SIERRA VISTA**

On March 1, 1967, Carl Sr. and Ann Hatfield opened Hatfield's Funeral Home, the first such facility in Sierra Vista. They also operated Hatfield's 24 hour ambulance service, bringing ten plus years of experience to the job. Prior to their arrival, the Sierra Vista Community Hospital operated an ambulance service with an Oldsmobile station wagon. A request would come in for ambulance assistance and the hospital would send whoever was available; from a custodian to a deputy sheriff, to pick up and transport patients. Fort Huachuca's Raymond Bliss Hospital operated their own services and was limited to the boundaries of the fort, occasionally venturing off post for one of their active duty soldiers.



Newly remodeled Hatfield Funeral Home and Ambulance Service located at 600 North Garden Avenue, ca. late 1960s.

### **FUNERAL HOMES PROVIDE SERVICE**

Early ambulance service in the United States was usually provided by local funeral homes as they already had the necessary equipment. All that was needed was a vehicle and a cot. A patient was basically thrown in the back of the vehicle and left to their own devices as they were hurried to the nearest hospital. There was little to no first aid unless someone with

the injured or sick person knew what to do.

### **FIRST AMBULANCE – PONTIAC HEARSE/ AMBULANCE CONVERSION VEHICLE**

The Hatfield's first ambulance was a new 1966 Chevy Carryall panel truck that was home made into an ambulance. They also used a 1965-66 Pontiac Hearse/Ambulance conversion vehicle. This vehicle had the ability to transform



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from one purpose, that of a hearse, to another as an ambulance. One man could easily flip the floor panels to expose the stretcher holds and attendant seats. The equipment was replaced, the lights were put back on and it was ready for service.

### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION – REGULATING AGENCY



Hatfield's first ambulance, a 1966 Chevy Carryall

In these early days, the governing board of emergency vehicle services was the Arizona Corporation Commission. The ACC required vehicles to have both wheeled and folding stretchers for a four man carry, oxygen, first aid supplies, homemade wood splints, and numerous other supplies. As the years passed, the ACC began requiring more equipment and staff training to meet state guidelines.

### A FAMILY AFFAIR

The first few years of operation Carl Sr. provided ambulance service by himself and occasionally with his part time employees. However, most of the time, he relied on law enforcement, family, or by-standers for assistance in moving patients into the ambulance. At the time, the state only required a forty hour

American Red Cross First Aid class which Carl Sr. taught. This became a family affair by 1973, as Carl's wife Ann and sons Carl Jr. and Jeff (fifteen years old at the time) were fully certified by the state and provided the people of Cochise County with immediate response and a clean and fully equipped ambulance service.

### COMMUNICATION GAP CLOSED

Soon after Hatfield's initial startup, Carl Sr. was able to obtain low band radio communication with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office dispatcher's unit. Many gaps in communication were closed, opening the first real time dispatching of ambulance service to Sierra Vista and its surrounding communities. The radio call numbers used by the Sheriff's Office were C-113, C-114, etc. which meant "Cochise" 113, etc. which was originally used, however saying "C" instead shortened air time. Jeff Hatfield, son of Carl and Ann recalls,

*"I remember going for weeks with no request for ambulance service and then the phone would start and the next thing you know, we were nonstop for two days all over the place! Dad would tell us to be available on long weekends because he knew more people would be out on the roads."*

### "BIG RED" SOLD TO HATFIELD'S

Around 1969-70 the Sierra Vista Hospital held a fundraiser to acquire their first portable X-ray machine. Carl Sr. approached them

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and offered to buy their old ambulance and keep it in service under the Hatfield name. The deal was made, allowing the hospital to purchase the much needed machine which could be moved about the hospital as needed.

### HATFIELD'S EXPAND BUSINESS

The early 1970s found the Hatfield's ambulance Service operating in Sierra Vista, Huachuca City, Whetstone, Wilcox, Elgin, Parker Lake, Palominas, Fairbank, Tombstone, and anywhere in between.



Hatfield purchased this 1966 Oldsmobile Vistacruiser, known as "Big Red" from the Sierra Vista Hospital, removing the burden of providing ambulance service from the hospital.

By this time, they had also opened a home health care business supplying oxygen, wheel chairs, hospital beds, crutches and other items to the public.

### MISSING CLASSES AT BUENA HIGH SCHOOL - FOR A GOOD REASON!

Jeff recalls missing several first period Buena High School classes on occasion because he was out on an ambulance call.

*"We made a lot of trips through the fort and out the west gate responding to calls and were a few times too late because of the distance. Dad acquired keys from the MP Commander and we*

*could open and close the gate as needed."*

### WAITING AT THE "THING"

Jeff also remembers when Benson or Wilcox crews were in Tucson with patient transfers, the other remaining crews had to sit and wait at Texas Canyon at the "Thing" until their return. The logic being they were stationed half way from either Wilcox or Benson when a call came in. Many times these waits were in excess of four hours because the crew that was returning from Tucson would get a call out on the interstate between Tucson and Benson. Many patients were transferred to Tucson as the local community hospitals simply didn't have the facilities, room, or doctors needed in treating extreme illness and injuries.

### RED LIGHTS TO BLUE

In these early years, the Arizona Department of Public Safety participated in an experiment which suggested blue lights would be seen faster by humans. Jeff remembers his dad wiping out the red paint with solvents and re-spraying blue in the lens in support of this experiment.

*"Riding down the road at night with all of the lights running was quite the show from inside the cab. I learned right away not to stare at them because they would give you a headache and/or make you dizzy!"*

### ANYTHING GOES COMES TO AN END

In the mid-1970s the Arizona Corporation Commission set new

## SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!

guidelines for vehicles. They needed to be larger and carry more equipment. The age of any vehicle goes was gone and high top custom built ambulances were now in service. The Hatfield's along with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sierra Vista Police Department, and both Sierra Vista Fire and Fry Fire Departments were now working together to provide the best emergency services available to the area.



Sampling of types of equipment now required by the state to include stretchers, splints, long spine boards with accessories, and oxygen tank with masks for both children and adults.



Carlton Hatfield makes a last-minute check of the new ambulance that will serve Benson and surrounding communities following cessation of service by Martin Green. The ambulance is equipped with orthopedic stretchers, emergency and First-Aid equipment. The new ambulance will be operated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bowell of Benson, with back-up service and personnel supplied when necessary from Sierra Vista. Herald Dispatch article, ca. early 1970s.

### HATFIELD TO BURCH

Around 1974, Carl Sr. and Ann Hatfield sold their ambulance service to Gordon and Betty Burch from Tombstone. The Burch's relocated to Sierra Vista and operated their crews from the back acre of land owned by the Hatfield's. As demand for service in the area grew, employees were hired and the fleet for Sierra Vista alone grew to three ambulances. These vehicles were now custom built high top trucks and vans with numerous additions in first aid, oxygen, aspiration equipment, modern folding, air and traction splints, and 120V inverters, all to enhance bed side equipment operations. With these new

technologies came well trained personnel. Some of the high top ambulances were even able to carry multiple patients with the use of folding cots and ceiling mounted hangers.

### OBsolete HIGH TOP VEHICLES RECYCLED

By 1979 the responsibility for ambulance service fell on the shoulders of the Arizona Corporation Commission and local Fire Departments. The older style high tops were obsolete and taken out of service. Jeff recalls that many of these vehicles were sold and donated to communities in Mexico. Several of the newer high tops remained in service for several more years.

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### FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE AMBULANCE BUSINESS

With the changing requirements from the Arizona Corporation Commission, local privately owned ambulance services were forced out of business and could not afford to operate without financial backing from cities or counties. A new trend was beginning and fire departments throughout the state found themselves in the ambulance business overnight. Burch Ambulance was no exception. The county was unable to renew their financial

agreement and Burch was forced to shut down. With the threat of no ambulance service in the area, the Sierra Vista Fire Department assumed the responsibility of providing service to city residents only. The Fry Fire District following suit, purchased three ambulances from Burch Ambulance Service and hired Gordon Burch to manage the operation along with three of his employees. The transition was flawless and ambulance service to Sierra Vista and surrounding areas were never compromised.

### ONE MAN'S VISION

Thanks to a man with a vision and compassion for his community, Carl Sr., Ann Hatfield, and sons Carl Jr., Jeff, and Mark were instrumental in creating and providing the first commercial ambulance service facility in Sierra Vista.



Photo of Carl Sr. Hatfield, 1955, in east Texas where he operated an ambulance service prior to his family's arrival in Sierra Vista.

**We'll be there,  
just in case**

An advertisement for Hatfield's 24 Hour Ambulance Service. It features a black and white photograph of a man wearing sunglasses and a striped shirt, smiling. In the background, a white ambulance is parked. The text "HATFIELD'S" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, in a smaller font, is "24 HOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE" and "600 N. GARDEN AVE. 458-5120".

**HATFIELD'S**  
24 HOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE  
600 N. GARDEN AVE. 458-5120

Herald Dispatch newspaper ad, ca. early 1970s.



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**SIRENS, WHISTLES, AND BADGES... OH MY!**

## Project participants

Jamie Anschutz, Cochise County Sheriff's Office Dispatcher  
Sheriff Mark Dannels and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office

Martin D. Jones, Fry Fire Captain, Retired (1973-2000)

Joshua D. Meeker, Fire Captain, Sierra Vista Fire Department  
Sierra Vista Fire Department

David Santor, Sierra Vista Police Chief, Retired  
Sierra Vista Police Department

Jeff and Terri Hatfield, Sierra Vista

Arizona Historical Society, Tucson

Arizona State Library and Archives

Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum

Douglas Historical Society

Bob Nilson

Nancy Dever

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Troy Barnett of Barnett's Towing LLC

Sean Lawley of Lawley Automotive Group





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