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# A Celebration of Excellence

The Lakewood Police Department  
1970 - 2010

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Lakewood, Colorado





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Al Padilla directing traffic

# To The Men and Women of the Lakewood Police Department



It is truly an honor and a privilege to introduce the Lakewood Police Department's 40th anniversary book. As the seventh police chief and a 30-year employee, I can say with pride that the high standards that were initiated by the founders of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety live on today in the work of our sworn and civilian employees.

Though the uniforms and car styles have changed over time, some things have remained constant. The early visionaries of the department emphasized a commitment to excellence in everything they did. They were pioneers in policing, with their high standards, college degrees, blue blazers, and community-oriented approach. Those innovations helped produce the finest public servants in the business. As of this writing, 66 Lakewood agents have gone on to become chiefs and sheriffs in this and other agencies. That is a remarkable number for a police department of Lakewood's size and one that will surely increase over time.

Maintaining a high degree of professionalism became the responsibility of all employees from the day they started at Lakewood. The department's motto of *Integrity, Intelligence, Initiative* became more than just words; it became a way of doing business. That business model continues today.

Excellence in service has always been a hallmark of the Lakewood Police Department. It is, and has been since its inception, our employees who give this department its outstanding and well-deserved reputation. If we could be remembered for just one thing, it should be the commitment of our men and women who serve the citizens of Lakewood. It is our collective responsibility to pass that legacy on to future generations of Lakewood employees.

It is difficult to predict what technologies Lakewood Police employees of the future will have available to them, or what type of vehicles they may be driving. However, one thing is certain: They will remain dedicated to the principles that have established this department as one of the best in the nation — excellence, professionalism, and service. With that in mind, we dedicate this book to all the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department, past and present, who have dedicated their lives in the service of others, and to those employees of the future who will carry on the fine tradition of serving with excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Paletta".

**Kevin Paletta**  
Chief of Police

## Mayor James J. Richey (1969-1977)

# A Bold Beginning



“If someone had asked me to run for mayor in an established city with an existing police department, I would not have been interested,” said the city’s first mayor, Jim Richey. “It was a huge challenge and an incredible opportunity to shape something new. That’s what intrigued me, the challenge. I am very proud of the

Lakewood Police Department. I feel a parent’s pride from fathering a successful child after years of formative struggle and growth.”

In the winter of 1969, several issues were of critical concern to citizens of unincorporated Jefferson County: a growing movement to annex parts of eastern Jefferson County to Denver, the school district’s discussion of possible mandatory busing of students, an escalating crime spree by a “garage rapist,” and the need for a well-trained professional police department to serve and protect citizens and property. Concerns were compounded by the inability of the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office to more broadly expand police service to unincorporated areas.

Before the city was officially incorporated in the summer of 1969, Jim Richey, an executive with The Procter and Gamble Company, chairman of Citizens for Incorporation, and a school district board member; Betty Miller, a former state legislator and candidate for City Council’s Ward 5; and Dave Fletcher, a professor at the University of Denver, met frequently to discuss what a new police agency in a new city might look like.

They were excited, said Richey, about the possibility of creating a police department from the ground up. They shared a vision of a different look — a softer, less

military image. This led them to consider a new police uniform of a blue blazer and gray slacks. In addition, they would require that each officer have a college degree, thinking that the result would be a more thoughtful, thorough police performance. Also discussed was a change of rank titles for officers, who would be ranked in varying levels of “agents.”

After the incorporation of the city on June 17, 1969, leadership was established by the election of Jim Richey as mayor and of council representatives from the newly defined five wards. “I remember looking at a map of the city laid out on my ping pong table and drawing in boundary lines to establish five city wards. Now it was time to move forward. We had in place the official responsibility and the concept for a new police department,” said Richey.

He participated in the oral board examinations for police candidates, along with a Denver Police Department captain and an official from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office. Applications were received from New York to California, and after interviews, 30 agents were hired. Ronald G. Lynch, a former attorney and law enforcement officer from Florida, was hired as director of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety. The city had decided not to hire a city manager but to look for someone who could fill both roles as city manager and police director.

“It was time to identify a facility,” said Richey, “and the school administration building at 1580 Yarrow Street was available. Terms and a price were negotiated and accepted.” At the east end of the property was a separate building that the city decided could house the police department. It required some modification, including a holding cell that was created out of an old janitors’ supply closet. The department needed a radio system. A Jefferson County Sheriff’s captain from Edgewater knew some people at Motorola, and

**For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.**

*Aristotle,  
384-322 BC*



The first City Hall  
1580 Yarrow Street

**Look with  
favor upon a  
bold beginning.**

*Virgil, 70-19 BC*

arrangements were made to purchase Motorola radios. The city wanted Jim Richey to carry a radio (his call sign would be “Lakewood 1”), but he resisted this request, not wanting the radio to be disruptive during city planning sessions.

During the city's early days, Jim Richey held a press conference and a *Denver Post* reporter asked to be recognized. His question was, “Mayor Richey, what is the city’s reaction to a funeral procession being held up at this moment by agents of your police department and of the resulting motorcycle pursuit?” Mayor Richey was unaware of this situation. The city had written an ordinance prohibiting funeral processions. Shortly after this incident, the ordinance was rescinded.

It wasn’t long before Richey noticed that “something wasn’t right” within the department. He decided to listen to police agents while riding along with them during their shifts. “I think I rode with most of the 30 agents,” he explained. “It was not pleasant to learn of the negativity that had developed within the department and also to receive negative comments from neighboring police agencies. We had growing pains. Growing pains were expected, but it was time to make a change.”

That change came in the form of a new director, Pierce R. Brooks from the Springfield, Oregon Police Department. “We were looking for an experienced, strong figure, a cop’s cop,” said Richey. “It was then I knew that we were in good hands. The Police Department continued to make progress as resources became available and divisions were established. It has been my great pleasure to be a part of and a witness to the genesis and growth of this fine agency.”



Gary Goldsberry, in blue blazer next to a 1971 patrol car

## Forward

# Tumultuous Times Set the Stage

Convulsive social changes took place in the United States at the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s. Richard Nixon replaced Lyndon Johnson as the 37th president of the United States. Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower died. Crime dominated the headlines after the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King. Charles Manson's cult members, the killing of two police officers in the Linwood bank robbery, and the actions of the Black Panther Party stunned California.

Sharing the headlines were the anti-Vietnam war protests, the Day of Rage riots in Chicago, the seizure of Alcatraz Island by a group of protesting American Indians, and the successful Apollo moon landings. As the tumultuous 1960s closed, little noted was the incorporation of Wal-Mart stores; the first established link to ARPANET, the progenitor of the global Internet; and the birth of the city of Lakewood, Colorado.

In May 1970, Lakewood began to build its new Department of Public Safety under a new law enforcement model. Our professed tenets of law enforcement responsiveness, citizen involvement, emphasis on educated police, and commitment to do the right thing, eventually found their way into the department motto of *Integrity, Intelligence, Initiative*. But the new concepts of kinder, gentler, and smarter policing met with skepticism on the streets.

The quest to provide instantaneous effective law enforcement for the fourth largest Colorado city was a struggle from the beginning. Insufficient personnel on the streets, nontraditional uniforms, and odd rank nomenclature contributed to doubt and suspicion among some citizens and neighboring law enforcement officers.

Dedicated department managers and line personnel

worked to establish department credibility during difficult times. Theoretical concepts of law enforcement were tested in the real world, and adjustments to practice and procedures were made as necessary. Despite undergoing rapid initial change, the department's founding principles remained inviolate.

As in any decade, the tide of history rolled on. Female agents took to the streets in Lakewood's Department of Public Safety, the FBI hired its first female agents, the United States military got its first female generals, and women competed in the Boston Marathon — the decade opened a new world of opportunity.



Blue blazer –  
Agent Kyle Sowell



The First Badge

# Overview

## The 70s Decade

1975  
1976  
1977  
1978  
1979

L-R

Director Ron Lynch;

John Vermilye;

Mike Coon,

Joe Moffitt, Al Bowman,

Don Grubb,

Bob Christofferson,

Ron Meade,

Randy Gonyer,

Gray Buckley,

Paul Katsampes

Photograph published in the

April 2, 1970

edition of the Lakewood Sentinel

In the mid-1960s, residents of eastern Jefferson County voiced their concerns about the possibility of annexation by the city of Denver. They feared a recent court order that mandated forced busing of children from their neighborhood schools to other areas to achieve racial balance. Also of concern was the perceived inadequacy of law enforcement currently provided by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. These worries were not soothed by the sheriff's announcement that he was unable to provide additional law enforcement services beyond current levels.

In 1969, the citizens of this area gathered enough support to bring a vote of incorporation to the people. The initial proposal was to incorporate the areas generally known as Wheat Ridge and Jefferson City into one city that would be known as "Jefferson City." However, residents of Wheat Ridge felt they had more of their own identity as a community than their neighbors to the south. As a result, they held their own successful vote to incorporate as the city of Wheat Ridge on June 10, 1969.

On June 17, 1969, the remaining identified area voted for the incorporation of "Jefferson City," and the measure passed. This vote resulted in the formation of the third largest city in Colorado, encompassing 40 square miles with a population of 92,743.

The new city received a newly elected slate of officials as part of the incorporation vote. It was suggested that the name of Jefferson City be changed to something more applicable to the area. "Lakewood" was the most popular among the multitude of suggestions, and on November 5, 1969, Resolution 12 passed, officially changing the name to Lakewood.

The first City Hall address was 1580 Yarrow Street, formerly the school administration building. It housed city offices and the soon-to-be-formed Lakewood Department of Public Safety.

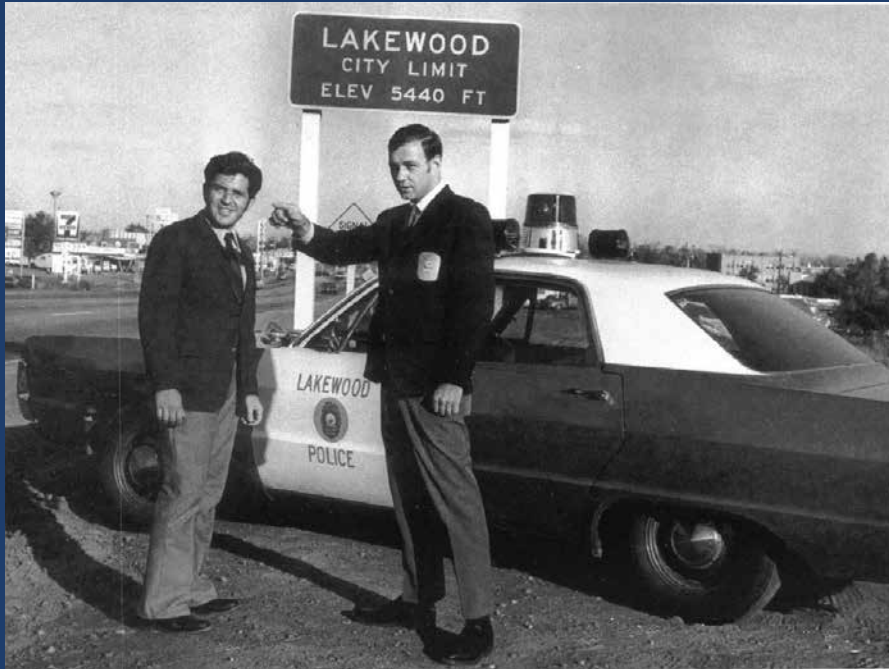


### The Ronald G. Lynch Era (January 1970 - January 1971)

Mayor James Richey and the City Council worked quickly to hire police personnel. After a nationwide search, the responsibility for molding a completely new Police Department fell to Ronald Lynch, 36, a management consultant for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Director Lynch had an extensive background in police work and the law. He had been a practicing attorney for two years before taking the IACP job, had served with the Miami Police Department, and had been a lieutenant for the Dade County Sheriff's Department in Florida.

Director Lynch implemented many of the policies that became hallmarks of the new department. These included the requirement for college degrees, the titles of "director" instead of "chief" and "agent" instead of "officer," and the ill-fated experiment of blazers and dress slacks instead of standard police uniforms. Under his leadership, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety began as it would continue — with a commitment to using modern methods of policing, to using the principles of community policing and partnerships with the community, and insisting on the strictest standards of integrity in its officers.





A.



B.



C.

**A.** Agent Alan Marks (in civilian clothes) and Agent Ted Sprute on West Colfax Avenue, just west of Simms Street

**B.** Agent Dallas Riedesel Case follow-up in Patrol work area on Yarrow Street

**C. First Recruit Class**

**Back:** Jim O'Dell; Pete Palmer; Joe Fanciulli; John Dunaway; Al Youngs; John Boley; Steve Farmer; Ken Sortland

**Middle:** Jerry Murray; Mark Plehn; Jeff Nielsen; Paul Natale; Joe Purma; Marvin Groote; Tom Ward; Ken Stratton; Dale Forde

**Front:** Alan Marks; Gary Kasson; Bob Ellis; Clay Briggs; Jerry Cole; Rick Adams; Dave Hobson; Jackie Moreland



Ronald G. Lynch  
(January 1970 - January 1971)

In May 1970, the department hired four people as community service officers. Their duties involved handling abandoned vehicles, found property, traffic direction at accident scenes, and assisting with other noncriminal tasks.

## Command Staff

The Command Staff (at this writing in 2010) is composed of heads of the Investigation Division, Patrol Division, and Support Services Division. These division titles varied over the course of the four decades. In the 1970s, the heads of divisions had various rank designations; in the 1980s and 1990s, they were captains; in the 2000s, they are the division chiefs. Lists of command staff personnel tend to be lengthy, reflecting names of officers who served on the command staff and then retired or moved on to become law enforcement executives, chiefs or sheriffs of other agencies.

### Command Staff under Director Lynch

D. C. Britt  
Gray Buckley  
Craig Camp  
J. Michael Coon  
Howard Cornell  
Larry Hesser  
Charles Johnston  
G. Joe Moffitt  
John Vermilye  
Jim Wanek

## Department Structure

Director Lynch implemented numerous innovations. In forming the structure of the department, a number of his ideas came from a national report titled "The President's Commission on Law Enforcement, Task Force Report: The Police," published in 1967.

Director Lynch employed the "generalist" concept for the department, in which agents were to take initial reports, conduct follow-up investigations, collect evidence at crime scenes, and file their own cases with the appropriate prosecutors. In addition, agents' duties involved crime prevention and administrative duties. The agents worked a geographic area of the city with an agent in charge commanding the day-to-day operations.

In January 1970, John Vermilye, hired from Dade County, Florida, assumed charge of the Field Operations Bureau. As the year progressed, agents with prior police experience joined the department. On May 3, 1970, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety became operational. Initially, agents' schedules were in 12-hour shifts, four days on and three days off. However, until staffing levels improved, agents worked five days on and two days off.

Among the innovations proposed for the department was "business-like" attire for officers: blue blazers and gray slacks in place of a traditional police uniform. Forty years later, we at the Lakewood Police Department find it difficult to pinpoint who first came up with the idea of the blazer. But we do know that Mayor Jim Richey and the city's early leadership shared the same vision for their department of a softer, more approachable and contemporary image.

Instead of the title, "police officer," sworn employees were called "agents," and supervisors were called "agents in charge," a rank structure based loosely on that of the FBI. All agents needed at least two years of college education, and each signed an agreement to complete a bachelor's degree within five years. Director Lynch, far ahead of his time, proposed that all police cars be equipped with computers and printers to enable agents to access the most recent crime data and trends. Decades later this part of his vision became reality.



1970s Plymouth Fury at Belmar Park  
Restored by Keith Sorci

## Growing Pains

The citizens of Lakewood complained about the lack of response to their calls for service, and when call loads were heavy, Lakewood dispatchers referred callers to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office for assistance.

Additionally, one of the most time-consuming tasks facing the department was the investigation of traffic accidents. The Colorado State Patrol agreed to handle traffic, specifically on US-6, and as available for the rest of the city.

Throughout the summer of 1970, there were rampant reports of decreasing morale accompanied by a heavy turnover of personnel. Between May and September, the department received 11,757 calls for service; only 35 agents responded to those calls. Those calls included two homicides, both of which were cleared by arrest.

## Recruit Class

In December 1970, the department's first recruit academy graduated. The 30 recruits completed a rigorous six-month training course. This training included graduation from the Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy at Camp George West in Golden, a two-week course in criminal and constitutional law at the University of Denver's College of Law, accident investigation taught by the Colorado State Patrol, advanced first aid, and other appropriate classes.

## Professional Standards - Internal Affairs

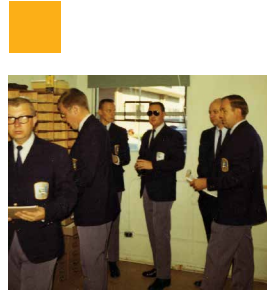
In 1970, the policy of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety was to investigate every allegation of employee misconduct received from any source, whether it was from outside or from within the department. Forty years later, only the wording has changed. It is still the objective of the department to accept all complaints and allegations against its members and to fully investigate them.

From 1970 until late 1972, internal investigation was an *ad hoc* staff function. There was no one person responsible for investigating or coordinating complaints against department personnel. In late 1972, a new position of Personnel Investigations Coordinator (PIC) was created. The 1973 Annual Report described the position and justification for it as follows:

*In light of the steady growth of the community and the department over the past three and one-half years and the projected growth in the future, the position of Personnel Investigations Coordinator (PIC) was established in December 1972 to meet the increasing demands of fulfilling department policy and objectives.*

In 1977, this effort to investigate allegations of misconduct was staffed by a lieutenant and an agent. Both were assigned to the Inspectional Services Division. It remained unchanged until 1981, when the PIC position was changed from a lieutenant's position to a sergeant's. The PIC and agent were then assigned to the Administrative Services Division.

In July 2002, Administrative Services became Professional Standards. Personnel Investigations was changed to the more traditional title of "Internal Affairs," currently staffed by one sergeant, one agent, and one civilian technician.



L - R  
Jim Wanek,  
Randy Gonyer,  
Don Grubb,  
Jack Storne,  
William "Les" Korb,  
Dallas Riedesel

## Ronald Lynch Resigns - G. Joe Moffitt Appointed Acting Director

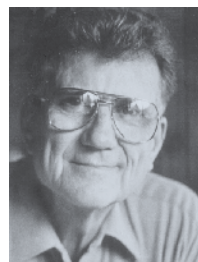
On January 21, 1971, Ronald Lynch announced his resignation as director of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety and G. Joe Moffitt became acting director. As a result of internal turmoil, there were additional resignations by police personnel at this time.

### Bad Press

In February 1971, Agent Eric Quinichet observed a funeral procession traveling south on Wadsworth Boulevard. At the time, a city ordinance prohibited funeral processions in Lakewood. Quinichet attempted to stop the motorcycle escort and a pursuit ensued. The escort crashed his motorcycle into a curb, ending the pursuit. Quinichet held the procession for at least 45 minutes while he wrote citations. A hue and cry went up in the community, and numerous stories about the incident appeared in the local newspapers. After some debate the Lakewood City Council revoked the ordinance prohibiting funeral processions in April 1971.

### Denver Bears Mascot

On April 13, 1971, citizens reported a black bear wandering around the area north of Morrison Road along Kipling Street. Criminalist Doug Monsoor and Agent Dallas Riedesel first responded. A rope was found and Riedesel lassoed the bear. Don Wente of Animal Control was called to the scene and attempted to administer a tranquilizer. The tranquilizer dosage was not appropriate for bears. Sadly, the bear died due to an unintended tranquilizer overdose. The bear, a former mascot of the Denver Bears baseball team, belonged to a nearby Lakewood resident. (See "Bear" articles by Monsoor and Riedesel in "Memories.")

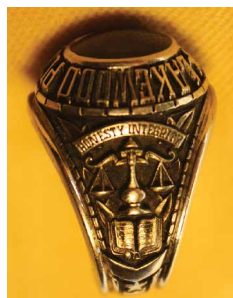


## The Pierce R. Brooks Era

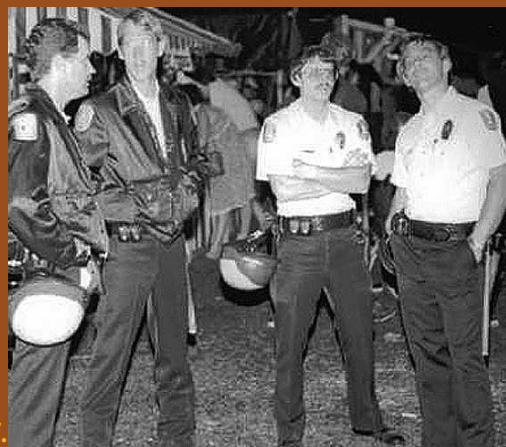
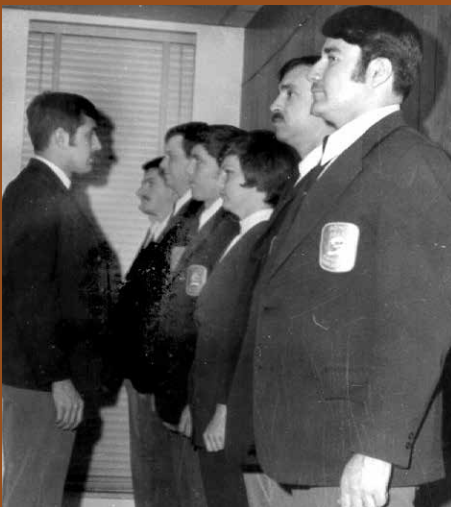
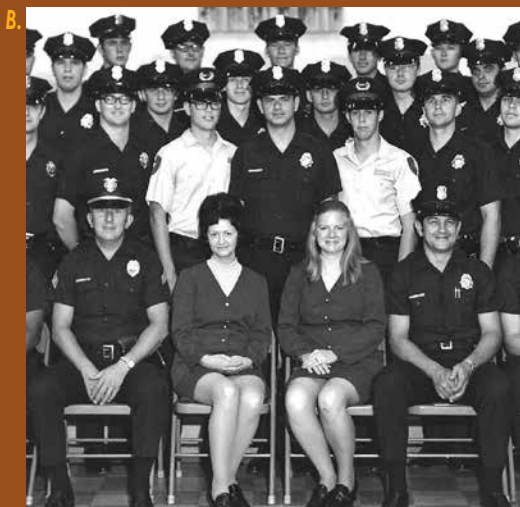
(April 1971 - May 1976)

After the resignation of Ronald Lynch, the city conducted another nationwide search for a new director of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety. Pierce R. Brooks became director from a field of 67 applications for the position. When Pierce Brooks was named director, he was a 48-year-old chief of the Springfield Police Department in Oregon. He was also a tough, former GI with a military bearing and a perfectionist's standard of behavior. In Springfield, he had cleaned house by firing numerous employees and requiring the rest to go to college. When he came to Lakewood on April 12, 1971, he was highly acclaimed in the national law enforcement community and had his own ideas for how the department should be managed.

Brooks drew on a wide and interesting background in shaping the young department. He had been a Navy Reserve commander, a blimp and balloon pilot, and a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. For many years he was a technical advisor for the "Drag-net" and "Adam 12" television series. During his 21-year tenure at the Los Angeles Police Department, he was a lead investigator in the 1963 murder of a police officer, which was later the subject of the Joseph Wambaugh book and movie, *The Onion Field*. He also wrote the highly acclaimed training police survival book, *Officer Down, Code Three*. He received the J. Edgar Hoover medal of excellence for placing best in his class at the National FBI Academy, and retired from the LAPD as a captain. He then became chief in Springfield.



1970 LDPS ring  
courtesy of  
Dallas Riedesel



**A. Back Row L-R:** Jim O'Dell, Dan Montgomery, Merrill Headrick, Clint Blackhurst, Pat Ahlstrom, D. C. Britt, John Dunaway, Andy Wilkinson, Grant Randall, Doug Matthews.  
**Front Row L-R:** Charlie Johnston, Earl Hering, Pierce Brooks, John Vermilye, Ron Beckham, Sid Klein, Howard Cornell, Bruce Glasscock

**1972-1976** – Early Managers of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety – of the 18 pictured here, 15 went on to become law enforcement executives of other organizations nationally.

**B.** Pictured center front of the Denver Police Department 1972 Academy Class are Lakewood Recruit Agents Sharon Hall and Clarene Shelley

**C.** Mike Grover (Inspecting) Ron Lombardi, Greg Cline, Sue Hines, Bob Meyer, Larry Pile, Ron Highstreet

**D.** Youth Services Division Juvenile Detective Clarene Shelley, unknown child and Agent Billy Barrow

**E.** L-R: Dick Swanson, Joe Wray, Dennis Goodwin, Unknown at Lakewood On Parade

**F.** Jim O'Dell exiting patrol car

Back Row L-R: Al Youngs,  
Roger Willard, Chief Brooks,  
Jack Stone, Dale Hopper  
Front Row L-R: Joe Schallmoser,  
Doug Monsoor, Dan Montgomery.  
In parking lot of 7860  
West 16th Avenue



Director Brooks recognized the value of many of Lynch's contributions, but did not hesitate to make changes to improve efficiency and effectiveness. He became legendary in the history of the department, and decades after his tenure, agents who had worked for him still spoke of him with deep respect and more than a little bit of fear, particularly when they received an ominous note written in Brooks' dreaded green ink. He resigned in July 1976 and went on to teach at Sam Houston State University in Texas, and then to a new chief position in Eugene, Oregon.

#### Command Staff under Director Brooks

Pat Ahlstrom  
D. C. Britt  
J. Michael Coon  
Howard Cornell  
Earl Hering  
Bob Holmes  
Charles Johnston  
Sid Klein  
Doug Matthews  
G. Joe Moffitt  
Dan Montgomery  
John Vermilye

#### Legal Advisors

Douglas Wamsley  
Jack Byron

L-R: Agents Steve Stroud,  
Jeff Nielsen, Greg Cline,  
Ken Hughey, and  
Ron Coulter  
(in front of car)

## Additions and Proposals

In May, Director Brooks formed the Investigation and Review Unit (I&R) to better facilitate the follow-up of criminal reports. In this unit, agents rotated in and out on six- to nine-month assignments.

In August 1971, Director Brooks proposed eliminating the "10 code" method of radio communication, and instituting "clear speech" for all radio traffic. A study of routine radio transmissions revealed an average error rate of 50 percent on the 10 code, while the clear speech method resulted in only a seven percent error rate.

The 10 code system was an attempt to shorten radio communications into a standardized numbering system, thereby avoiding alarming the public by translating police calls and actions. Every call or action had a corresponding number that began with 10. The most common of these was 10-4, to mean, "I copy." Others included: 10-36, time of day; 10-86, officer on duty; and 10-96, a mentally unstable person. Errors were common with the 10 code system because the sender or the receiver frequently confused the numbers with the action.

Additionally, Brooks proposed placing police agents in schools to handle school-related calls for service. Implementation of these two changes impacted the department for years to come.





### Swearing In

L-R: Assistant Director G. Joe Moffitt, Mayor Jim Richey, Agents Sharon Hall, and Clarene Shelley

## Pistol Team

In the 1970s and 1980s, the department sponsored a pistol team that competed against other law enforcement agencies through the Colorado Police Revolver League and the National Police Revolver League. (See "Pistol Team" in the "1980s Decade.")

## First Women Agents

In January 1972, the department hired its first two women police agents. Clarene Shelley and Sharon Hall attended the four-month Denver Police Academy and returned to Lakewood for a four-week period of training. (See "Lakewood Women Were Police Pioneers" at the end of this "1970s Decade" discussion.)

## Accomplishments and New Programs

In January 1973, Director Brooks recapped some of the accomplishments of the department and proposed new programs.

He reported that the department received 1,704 applications for employment and interviewed 295 people, including 73 women. The effort resulted in a second recruit class, graduating in December 1972. The class included five women. Assignments of the now seven women agents included one assigned to the Patrol Division, one as a school liaison, and five to Investigation and Review. The agents came from 33 states, including Hawaii. Ten held a master's degree and 50 percent held a bachelor's degree.

Director Brooks reported that there were only 40 sustained allegations of misconduct from a total of 125 complaints. "Clear speech" for all radio traffic showed

great response improvement, and police personnel began carrying Smith & Wesson Model 19 revolvers as a result of two problematic incidents involving semi-automatic pistols.

Brooks proposed changing the rank structure from the FBI model to a more traditional one: field adviser to sergeant, senior field adviser to lieutenant, and agent in charge to captain. He also proposed the development of a school liaison program, the Neighborhood Agent Interaction Team (NAIT), and a cadet program.

In 1973, the Youth Services Division was formed, funded from a federal grant. The division would be headed by a captain, with a lieutenant and eight agents (four of them women), three civilians, and a part-time psychologist. The task of this division was to handle cases involving family crimes, such as domestic violence and crimes against children, as well as crimes committed by juveniles.

## Police Helicopter

In September 1973, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety, along with the Denver and Aurora departments, began a police helicopter program called Special Crime Aerial Reconnaissance (SCAR). The three agencies split the program cost. Citizens instantly complained about the noise of the helicopter and its searchlight, which had to remain on at all times for proper operation. Agents Gary Harper and Mike Russell were assigned to the detail as observers. They participated once or twice a week for a year and were disappointed when the program was cancelled.

## Relocation

The department needed a larger facility and relocated from City Hall on Yarrow Street to a larger facility at 7860 West 16th Avenue, with a lease through January 1, 1975.

In March 1973, the authorized strength of the department was 153, but its current strength was 128.

There was also a significant drop in the number of applicants.

In July 1973, five police cadets started with the department. College students who were aspiring to become police agents filled these positions. Their assignments involved various administrative tasks. The five were: Gregg Bowles, Craig Coleman, Arlyne Kirschke, Robert Maher, and Arlene McIntosh.

In March 1973, Municipal Court Judge Fritz Fairchild acquitted a defendant charged with eluding police on the basis that the defendant did not know who was stopping him because Lakewood Department of Public Safety cars were not identified by the word "police." The patrol vehicles were labeled "Public Safety" and did not convey to the defendant that it was a police agent in the vehicle.

#### **First Legal Advisor**

In October 1973, under a Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grant, the department hired its first legal advisor to assist agents and the department with legal issues. The first appointee was Douglas Wamsley, a former prosecutor in the office of Lakewood's city attorney.



*"Public Safety" logo on a Lakewood Department of Public Safety patrol car prior to the 1973 ruling by Judge Fairchild.*

### **More Growing Pains**

In 1973, two citizens, Gordon Ralph and Clarence Lovell, formed the "Lakewood Citizens Committee for Crime Control" and began a petition drive to dissolve the Department of Public Safety and return law enforcement responsibility to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The petition did not go forward. It was twice rejected: the first time by the City Clerk's Office for not being in the proper format, and the second by the Jefferson County Court.

### **Neighborhood Agent Interaction Team (NAIT)**

In April 1974, the department began the Neighborhood Agent Interaction Team (NAIT) with five agents and a sergeant. Proposed by Director Brooks a year earlier, this team's duties were handling primarily noncriminal disputes between neighbors, problems in neighborhoods, and crime prevention activities. The first members of this team were: Sergeant Robert Moore and Agents Al Walls, Tom Monteath, Russ Cook, Keith Muir, and Joe Busch.

### **Budget Shortfalls**

The city experienced budget shortfalls in the fall of 1974. As a result, the department announced cutbacks in services. The department curtailed responses to non-emergency calls like cold thefts and private property accidents.

### **Burglary Reporting and Neutralization Detail (BRAND)**

In June 1974, the department announced that its effort to obtain a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration had succeeded in funding a burglary unit targeting a specific area of the city. Russ Cook and Dave Yuhause were the two original BRAND investigative agents before the unit became operational in the fall of 1975.

This unit, Burglary Reporting and Neutralization Detail (BRAND), operated with 12 investigators, two civilian employees (a crime analyst and a secretary), commanded by a lieutenant. The area covered by this unit was 5.5 square miles of the northeast portion of the city, where 27 percent of the reported burglaries occurred. The grant totaled \$246,803.

Investigators' duties included taking initial reports, processing crime scenes, canvassing the areas for possible witnesses, conducting follow-up investigations, and filing cases. When an investigator responded to the scene and took the initial report, follow-up was the responsibility of that investigator. Later in 1978, the unit also began investigating robberies in the same geographical area.





BRAND was the first unit scheduled to work four ten-hour days (4/10s). Lieutenant Ron Beckham led the unit of all detectives: Ken Stratton, Bob Ellis, Bob Meyer, Sharon Hall, Leon Kutzke, Ben Wilburn, Russ Cook, Dave Yuhause, Al Waters, Paul Harrold, Ken Fischer, and Dick Lurz. Ray Duman was the crime analyst and Nancy Stone was the unit's secretary.

In May 1977, Max Snyder, owner of Lakewood Gun Brokers in the 1400 block of Carr Street, was bound over for trial for theft by receiving as a result of an undercover operation by BRAND detectives Al Waters and Robert Armstrong.

### Badge Troubles

In an effort to have agents appear as more traditional law enforcement officers, the department ordered that badges be worn on the uniform shirts. This change necessitated the design and purchase of new badges. Rhino Products produced the new badges, but when they arrived in September 1975, the badges did not meet the department's standards. The department rejected the entire order of 200 badges, which Rhino Products later sold to the general public. The badges were priced as follows: chief - \$60; deputy chief - \$50; captain - \$40; lieutenant - \$35; sergeant - \$30; agent - \$25. All badges sold quickly, and a few showed up in subsequent investigations.

### Burglary Reporting and Neutralization Detail

Back Row L-R: Dave Yuhause, Ray Duman, Al Waters, Paul Harrold, Ken Fischer, Russ Cook, Ron Beckham, Bob Ellis  
Front Row L-R: Sharon Hall, Ben Wilburn, Dick Lurz, Leon Kutzke, Ken Stratton, Bob Meyer, Nancy Stone

### Organized Crime Strike Force

In the mid-1970s, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety participated in Colorado Attorney General JD McFarland's Organized Crime Strike Force. The objective was to identify and target organized crime, a statewide concern. Investigators were assigned from the Colorado State Patrol, and the Arvada, Aurora, Colorado Springs, Denver, Lakewood, and Pueblo police agencies. They were tasked with the investigation of racketeering in narcotics, gambling, prostitution, auto-theft rings, white-collar crimes, and political corruption. The strike force collected a significant body of intelligence on organized crime figures throughout the United States and shared the data with law enforcement agencies. Cases were presented to Colorado and federal grand juries for indictments.

Over the years, Lakewood participants included Bob Armstrong, Bill Barnes, Ed Janssen, Nate Miller, and other temporarily-assigned investigators. In December 1978, budget constraints forced Lakewood to withdraw from the strike force.

### Pierce Brooks Resigns - July 1976

In July 1976, Pierce Brooks announced his resignation to teach at Sam Houston State University in Texas. He later became chief of police in Eugene, Oregon.

### Villa Italia Shopping Mall

Due to increased calls for service at the Villa Italia Shopping Mall at Wadsworth Boulevard and West Alameda Avenue, the department assigned an agent there and approved the purchase of a Cushman three-wheel scooter for easier transportation.

### The 911 System

In June 1974, the department proposed a countywide 911 system in which all calls would be received at a central dispatch center and forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction. Consultants conducted a feasibility study and after a few years determined that the multi-jurisdictional approach was impractical, and the involved agencies formed their own 911 systems. The agencies involved were Lakewood, Arvada, Wheat Ridge, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.



## The John Vermilye Era (August 1976 - May 1981)

Again, there was a nationwide search for a new director, and in August 1976, John Vermilye was promoted from within the department. Before coming to Lakewood in 1969, Director Vermilye had worked for the Dade County Sheriff's Department for 10 years. Coincidentally, he grew up in a Cleveland, Ohio, suburb named Lakewood. He had met Ron Lynch when both were officers assigned to a special enforcement group targeting underworld figures in Miami, Florida.

In Lakewood, Vermilye was in charge of the Field Operations Bureau before becoming Lakewood's first "chief" to come up through the ranks. He shepherded the department through a rough period and weathered a citizen attempt to dissolve the department and the city itself. His mark on the department can still be seen in the strict internal affairs procedures he implemented.

### **Pictured at the Stone House**

L-R: Chief John Vermilye,  
Dan Montgomery,  
Howard Cornell,  
Charlie Johnston,  
Pat Ahlstrom,  
D. C. Britt, Sid Klein,  
Randy Rinqwest



Vermilye described himself as "a street kid" who was one of nine children from a broken home. He was raised by a great-aunt, dropped out of high school, and spent four years in the Navy. Before beginning his law enforcement career in the Miami area at age 26, he worked at jobs as varied as railroad yardman and crewman on a private fishing yacht in the Bahamas. He became a respected and highly regarded leader in Lakewood during his tenure as director.

### **Command Staff under Director Vermilye**

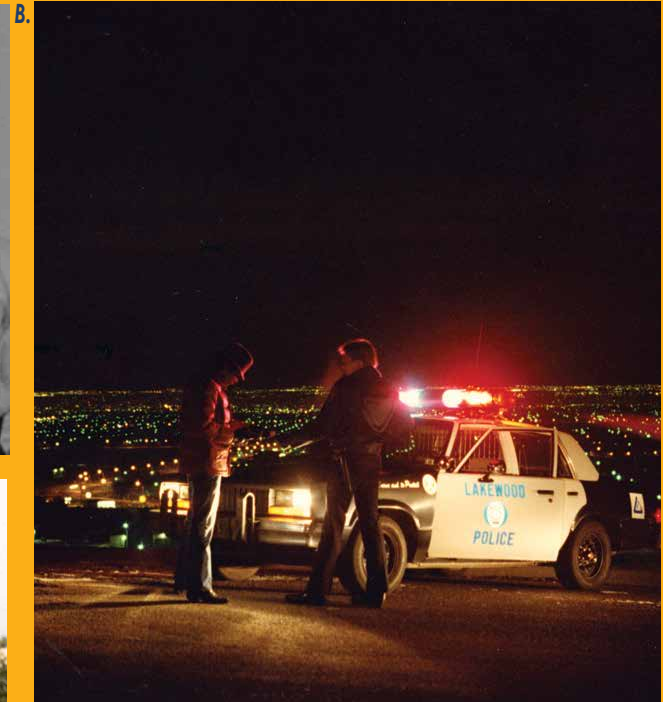
Pat Ahlstrom  
D. C. Britt  
Howard Cornell  
Charles Johnston  
Sid Klein  
Doug Matthews  
Dan Montgomery

### **Legal Advisor**

Randy Rinqwest

### **Growth - Relocation**

In May 1975, the city leased a building at 44 Union Boulevard for a new City Hall. In August 1976, the move to the new facility began. The Lakewood Department of Public Safety occupied the first floor, part of the second floor, and the fifth floor of the building. The remainder of the building housed other city offices with part of the top (sixth floor) leased to outside businesses.



A. L-R: Rick Ponczek, Steve Evans, Mary Wamsley, Steve White, Chuck Terkelson

B. Night patrol on Green Mountain

C. News conference at the conclusion of auto-theft undercover operation L-R: Mary Ann Edens, Nate Miller, blocked from view unknown, Bill Wilsey, Dennis Garvin, Dallas Riedesel, unknown

D. West side of building from police parking area of 44 Union Boulevard

E. Agent Mike Soda at accident scene



**Standing Back Row L-R:**

Ralph Larsen, Mike Grover,  
Al Youngs, Fred Johnson,  
Tony Lane, John Stone,  
Doug Matthews,  
Clint Blackhurst, Don  
Mayfield, John  
Huneycutt, Paul Harrold,  
Al Waters, Vince  
DeBenedette,  
Ken Fischer, Bill McNary,  
Ken Hutchins, Tom Ritchie,  
Al Shaw, John Vermilye,  
Gordon Zapp

**Kneeling Middle Row L-R:**

Bob Hooker, Toby Maez,  
Chris DeLorenzo, Mike  
Russell, Ron Lombardi,  
John Miller, John Betz,  
Phil Anderson, Jeff Snider,  
Ray McDowell, Keith Muir,  
Jeff Gates,  
George Johnson,  
Pierce Brooks, Jim Miller

**Seated First Row L-R:**

Joe Neiner, Ken Stratton,  
Kelly Eliassen, Dale Forde,  
Rich Holmes, Chuck  
Terkelson, Tom Monteath,  
Al Keller, Rick Brown,  
Jim Cunningham,  
Maurice Wade

**The Centurion Bowl**

In August 1976, the first Centurion Bowl began. This was a full-pad tackle regulation football game between the Ogden Police Department of Utah and the LDPS "Blue Blazers." The proceeds of this game established funds to begin the Lakewood Police Athletic League (PAL). In 1977, the game was against the Colorado Springs Police Department. This tradition continued with a game almost every year until 1980, when Lakewood played the Arvada Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The Lakewood football team was undefeated.

(See "PAL" in "Community Outreach.")

**Budget Shortfalls**

With the economic recession in 1976, the city experienced budget problems. As a result, all city departments cut back on spending. The department began reducing police agent response to certain types of calls. There would be no more response on "cold" calls of thefts of automobiles and bicycles, thefts from automobiles or buildings (except for burglaries), vandalism, harassment, trespass, suspicious incidents, lost property, and both adult and juvenile missing persons. Changes in the pay plan and rank structure occurred, with deputy chief positions being eliminated.

**Lakewood on Parade**

The first Lakewood city parade was on July 4, 1976, to celebrate the nation's bicentennial. The festivities included a parade on West Alameda Avenue from Union Boulevard to Kipling Street, and various booths and family-oriented venues. Due to threats of criminal activity and ransom demands in nearby jurisdictions, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety prepared in earnest for the parade and day-long activities. The STAR team (Special Tactics and Response) received crowd and riot control training; the FBI provided training on executive protection to enhance security for the mayor, city manager, and others. All leave for department personnel was cancelled. Other standby personnel were assigned to a location in the Federal Center, watching TV and playing cards, waiting for something to happen — it didn't. Agents on motorcycles, bicycles, and in cars looked for problems — there weren't any. The city and department had anticipated trouble because of the bicentennial celebration, but the event resulted in a day of family, hot dogs, and fireworks.

The city decided to continue the event annually in August. Initially it was a two-day event, requiring substantial police personnel time. Currently, Lakewood on Parade is a one-day celebration in July.

## Lakewood Public Safety Employees Association (LPSEA)

In January 1977, it was revealed that the Police Pension Fund was under-funded by \$1.2 million. As a result, a committee comprised of various city officials and members of the Department of Public Safety was formed to study the problem. The committee recommended going from a "defined benefit" plan that would pay retirees a percentage of their salaries based on years of service to a "defined contribution" plan.

This "defined contribution" plan depended upon the employees contributing 8 percent of their salaries and the city contributing 10 percent into an account in which funds would be invested. Upon retirement or leaving employment, the vested employee would receive the full value of the account. In March 1978, the membership voted and the new pension plan was approved by a vote of 161 for and 17 against.

## Stings (1978, 1979, 1980)

In 1978, 1979, and 1980, the Special Operations Section of the Intelligence Division conducted phased "sting" operations during which agents posed as "fences" for the purpose of purchasing stolen property from criminals. Operating from covert warehouse-type facilities under fictitious business names, the agents engaged criminal suspects in transactions using Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grant money. Each transaction was videotaped, and it was not unusual for the suspect to describe how the stolen property was obtained. The operations were under the command of Captain Sid Klein, and supervisors were Sergeants Dallas Riedesel, Don Girson, and Gary Harper.

Culminating in May 1978, a combined Lakewood-



Denver-FBI sting resulted in the recovery of over \$1 million worth of stolen property, including 111 stolen vehicles. Storage of the cars was a problem during the sting, and there were short periods when cars were temporarily stored in private garages of Lakewood police personnel until a secure storage location was found. Sixty-four suspects were arrested and charged with multiple counts of felony crimes. Denver television news anchor Ward Lucas produced a documentary on this operation he called "The Biggest Sting," for which he received a broadcasting award.

In July 1979, another sting operation was planned, combining the resources of the Lakewood and Arvada departments with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Stolen property was recovered in the amount of \$660,170. Sixty-three suspects were arrested in this operation on charges ranging from theft of Boy Scout memorabilia to first-degree murder. (See "July 16, 1979, Death Investigation: Victims - Steven Tackett and Susan Williams" in "Cases-Decades.")

In April 1980, a reverse sting operation was conducted. In this operation, police agents sold property to buyers who were told that the property they were buying was stolen. Several local businessmen, who were also criminal fences, were arrested.

In December 1980, an anti-fencing operation

## New Police Vehicles

In the spring of 1977, bids were sought for "compact" police cars. The Chevrolet Nova was the vehicle of choice with a cost of \$4,833.44 per car. Agents soon discovered that there was insufficient room for themselves and their gear, much less a handcuffed prisoner.

resulted in the arrest of 30 defendants who were charged with 103 criminal acts. Eight of those arrested were known criminal fences. One of the recovered items purchased by this undercover operation was an automobile stolen from Lakewood's mayor. Over a three-month period, 170 criminals were "stung." Stolen property was recovered having an estimated value of over \$2 million, and 168 automobiles were recovered. Twenty-one known Denver area fences were arrested and charged.

Chief John Vermilye conducted live press conferences at the culmination of these operations. The agents' efforts earned them official recognition from the Lakewood City Council in the form of a resolution commending the operations. (See *"Stings"* by Dick Lurz and Jerry Cole in *"Memories."*)

### **Citizens Attempt to Secede from the City**

In January 1979, Ronald Lindquist began a movement to remove a portion of southeast Lakewood from the city. He was a disgruntled citizen who had been arrested for brandishing a firearm at the scene of a disturbance in a park near his house. The area he wanted removed was from Sheridan Boulevard west to Wadsworth Boulevard, and from West Mississippi Avenue south to West Jewell Avenue. Lindquist contended that the city failed to provide required services such as snow removal, street sweeping, and police services in this area.

The movement picked up momentum, and the signature drive was expanded to disband the entire city of Lakewood. Two citizens' groups, "Dissolve It" and "Save Our City," joined forces on this task. The groups made claims about police brutality, harassment of teenagers, excessive reaction to situations, and discourtesy. The petition was dropped.

As a result of the allegations of police brutality, a family appeared before City Council and claimed that Lakewood police had broken their son's nose during his arrest. This prompted City Councilman Jim Eitzen to call for a grand jury probe. Instead he agreed to public hearings allowing any citizen to come and voice concerns about the department.

The hearings were held for three days. The final report revealed that there had been 28 complaints filed. Of those, 10 had already been investigated, 6 were in the process of investigation, and the remainder were new allegations. Of the original 28 complaints, 21 were determined to be unfounded and 5 resulted in the imposition of disciplinary action. Two of those were reviewed by the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, and no criminal charges were filed. As a result of the hearings, the City Council recommended that no changes be made in the policies and procedures of the department.

### **John Vermilye Retires - May 1981**

A chronic pulmonary disease forced John Vermilye to retire. He was 48 years old when he succeeded Pierce Brooks in August 1976. Told by doctors to return to sea level in 1981, he and his family returned to Florida, where he died September 15, 1990. His police career lasted 21 years.



Agent Terry Walker  
on building check

## Lakewood Women Were Police Pioneers

In early 1972, two years after the founding of the department, Director Pierce Brooks hired Lakewood's first female agents. Clarene Shelley and Sharon Hall came aboard on January 17, 1972, followed later in the year by Laurel Lichtenberg, Susan Hines, Olga "Yogi" Mancuso, Mary Joe Deutsch, and Deborah Muller. Lakewood wasn't the first department to hire female officers but was certainly in the vanguard of that development. Many departments claiming to hire women officers were actually counting women with no arrest powers who were doing jobs like jail matron. In contrast, Lakewood's women were soon joining men on the street.

Doug Wamsley, who was Director Brooks' legal advisor, recalled the general attitude toward women officers at the time. "There were a lot of chiefs around who were basically forced to hire women. But they didn't have to like it and they didn't." Lakewood, under the leadership of Pierce Brooks, wasn't like that. "He was an old-line traditionalist in a lot of ways, but he was incredibly forward-looking and thinking. I think he realized, as he did about so many things, that the time had come. As a society, we'd moved forward."

Hired in 1974, Mary (Greziow) Wamsley, who later married Doug Wamsley, agreed. "Truly, Lakewood established history in that we had the first women in Jefferson County out on patrol; we were second only to Denver. We were also the only department in the area to let our women go out at night."

Lakewood's women didn't make the leap into police work in one giant step, though. Initially, the first female agents were told that they would be working in Investigation, not Patrol. In order to be certified by the state, however, they had to be trained in patrol duties, so they were doubled up with male agents for field training. At the end of that training, Hines was sur-

prised to learn that instead of being assigned to Investigation, as were Shelley and the other early women, she would be working nights on patrol. She was soon joined by Lichtenberg.

Initially, women working in Patrol were teamed with male officers. At the time, there were few role models for the concept of women working alone on patrol, and as Doug Wamsley recalled, "He (Pierce Brooks) was concerned about their ability to handle themselves. Most male officers were." The women soon proved that they could hold their own, though, and they were widely accepted by the men.

As Shelley explained, "I think that's part of why the culture developed the way it did, because the men started to trust that the women knew what they were doing. They didn't always do it the same way, but it got done safely — nobody got hurt."

Doug Wamsley remembered that Brooks was also acknowledged to have another concern about the women. "He told me one time, 'You know, I never wanted to be the first police chief to have a woman killed on patrol.' That really bothered him." Then, on September 20, 1974, Gail Cobb was shot to death while attempting to arrest a robbery suspect in Washington, DC. Within a week, Brooks had agreed to let women patrol solo.

At the time, there were 10 sworn women in the department, five of whom were in Patrol. They were all given a two-week refresher course in arrest control and officer safety and then, in late 1974, Hines became the first woman to report to work for solo patrol. Before long, she was joined by Wamsley and three other women.



Agent Yogi Mancuso  
in women's uniform and  
with handheld radio



Agent Sue Hines  
with patrol car

The first women agents had to break ground in another way as well. No one sold police uniforms that Chief Brooks thought were appropriate for women and would also fit in with the unconventional look of the male Lakewood uniforms. Shelley recalls that after she and Hall were sworn in, they were told, "Now you need to go find a uniform that looks similar to the blazers." The resulting outfit was something called, "Koret's Coordinates," which they found at the May Company at Westland.

Lichtenberg described the look as reminiscent of a flight attendant's uniform, with a choice of polyester pants with an elastic waistband or a polyester skirt, a short-sleeved shirt (summer or winter), a polyester jacket, and black patent leather shoes with heels at least one-and-one-half inches high. There were no useable pockets, and no belt loops. The women's guns were initially little 5-shot Chief's Specials, which were carried in a big, cumbersome leather purse with a shoulder strap.

"If you made a traffic stop," Lichtenberg recalled, "you had to make sure that your purse was on your shoulder. You'd have your hand on the purse, open the door, get out, and then you'd have to open up the flap, and then there was a flap for the holster that the gun was in, so you'd have to pull all those up and walk up and have your hand in the purse on the butt of your gun in case you needed it. Climbing a fence was even worse. You'd put the strap over your head to climb the fence with your stupid purse. A couple of times, I told my partner, 'OK, you've got to hold this, and I'll get over the fence and you can give it back to me.' Thank goodness I had some nice FTAs (Field Training Agents), because that's what we did."

When Hines went out on patrol, she insisted on a couple of changes. As Lichtenberg remembers, "They told her she was going to work the street, and she said,

'OK fine, but I want a gun belt, and I want a regular holster. I don't want to carry my gun in my purse anymore. And I'm not wearing these shoes anymore, either.'" Hines solved the shoe problem by buying some patent leather horseback riding shoes. Lichtenberg found some blue suede women's boots.

There was still the problem of the lack of belt loops on the women's pants, so there was no way to make a gun belt stay in place, Lichtenberg explained. "When Sue [Hines] would come out to the range to shoot, I remember she'd grab her gun to pull it out, and she'd have to hold onto her belt, too, or the whole gun belt would come up." When Lichtenberg became the second woman to go out on patrol, she solved that problem by going to a fabric store, buying some blue fabric, and sewing belt loops on her pants. Wamsley remembers working the street in a skirt, and coming in at the end of the shift with her pantyhose covered with runs.

All the early women agreed that to a remarkable degree they faced little to no animosity from their male counterparts. "If you had to break into a department as a woman," Hines said, "Lakewood was the best. First of all, there were no old-timers. The oldest person there

President Ronald Reagan shaking hands with Mary Wamsley in her capacity as President of the International Association of Women Police during a White House luncheon held in honor of working women (1983).





may have been 40, maybe 50. Everybody was young, so you weren't breaking into this old school, and they gave you a chance." In addition, she said, Lakewood was a department that prided itself on experimenting with new ideas and new ways of doing things, which also made her co-workers more open to the new idea of women police officers. Shelley agreed. "If they had an attitude about women, they kept it to themselves." And as Hines pointed out, "Brooks wouldn't have stood for it."

The women also had another common theme in their reminiscences. Lichtenberg put it this way: "When I got hired here, I thought, 'Fine, I'll do this job for a year and then I'll go look for something else.' That was my whole attitude." Then she discovered what good people her co-workers were. "That's why I stayed here," she said, "because people were so nice. They were just really, really nice people."

Wamsley agreed, "I'm amazed to this day, how many dreams I have about the department. But you know something, I loved it. And I loved the people I worked for. The best people I've ever known in my life were in that department. If in my old age I am doomed to Alzheimer's or something like that, and all I remember is the past, I could just relive roll calls."

- Clarene Shelley worked for the department for 35 years, rising to the rank of Division Chief.
- Sharon Hall was injured on the job and took a disability retirement in 1981.
- Laurel Lichtenberg is currently a detective in the Crimes Against Property Section.
- Susan Hines worked for Lakewood in numerous assignments for 28 years, retiring in 2000.
- Olga Mancuso was injured on the job and resigned in 1976.

- Mary Joe Deutsch (later Schneider) resigned in 1973. She went on to get a law degree and is an attorney in Minneapolis.
- Deborah Muller resigned in 1976.
- Mary Wamsley retired from Lakewood as a sergeant in 1995 and went on to become an Acting Chief at the Commerce City Police Department.



Agents  
Laurel Lichtenberg  
and Alison Andrews  
at front desk



Criminalist Jimmy Ramsey  
working with  
Agent Laurel Lichtenberg

# Overview

# The 80s Decade

1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1986  
1987  
1988  
1989

The decade of the 1980s doesn't seem like long ago if you were working for Lakewood and lived through that time. If you weren't born yet or were still in school, it may seem like an eternity.

The US Olympic Hockey Team defeated the Soviet Union in the semifinals of the Winter Olympics. Former California Governor Ronald Reagan succeeded President Jimmy Carter, who defeated Senator Ted Kennedy to win renomination. The Mariel boat lift from Cuba began. The Cable News Network (CNN) was launched. Headlines reported the shooting and killing of former Beatle John Lennon in New York City. Film director Alfred Hitchcock died.

Those headlines entered us into the decade. Many more followed in the next 10 years. Globally and here in Lakewood, Colorado, each occurrence and item of information profoundly affected our lives, became a potential bit of nostalgic trivia, or simply passed by unnoticed.

## Mid-80s Command Staff

L-R:  
Gary Barbour,  
Doug Matthews,  
Ron Beckham,  
Chief Charles  
Johnston,  
Gary Mecham,  
Dave Dial



## The Charles Johnston Era (May 1981-January 2001)



In fall 1980, at the retirement of John Vermilye, Charles Johnston assumed the position of acting director. He was officially appointed head of the Department of Public Safety in May 1981 by City Administrator Bill Kirchoff. Shortly after Director Johnston's appointment, Captain James O'Dell assumed the new position of assistant director.

Charles Johnston was a Vietnam veteran whose honors included four Bronze Stars for heroism, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal for 50 helicopter missions. He began his career in Lakewood in 1970, just two months after the birth of the city, after briefly serving in Salinas, California. Eleven years later, he rose through the ranks to the director's job at the age of 38.

In a 30-year career with Lakewood, 20 of them as chief, he headed every division and even served a two-year stint as acting city manager. He was a dedicated booster of the Colorado Special Olympics program and was elected to that organization's Hall of Fame for helping to raise \$200,000 to fund the program.

In July 1987, he changed the agency's name from the Lakewood Department of Public Safety to the Lakewood Police Department. He took the title of chief rather than director, and replaced the blue blazers with standard uniforms. (Assistant Director James O'Dell assumed the title of Assistant Chief at that time.) Johnston ensured that Lakewood police agents would continually be recognized and compensated for their education and professionalism by having the City Council adopt a permanent resolution that police agent pay and benefits would always remain at least one percent above any other police department in Colorado.



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.

**A. Roll Call at 44 Union**  
Sergeants: Jerry Cole, Dallas Riedesel L - R:  
Dick Swanson, Andy Hahn, Karen (Vincent) Wesley, Dan Brennan, John Hunt, John Nalty, George Mumma, Michele Jamiel, Pat McHugh, Mary Kubeck, Karen Bradley, Chuck Henthorne

**B. Detectives Carl Shaw and Greg Morrison investigating a crime scene**

**D. Crime Scene Investigation**

**C. Dark Blue Uniform Shirt**  
Carol Rosenoff and Al Padilla

**E. Atrium Stairwell**  
Back L-R: Laurel VanderMeulen, Dallas Riedesel  
Front L-R: Joe Wray, John Eckel

**F. K9 Training Day with Neighboring Jurisdictions**  
Lakewood agents pictured in light blue shirts L-R: Karen (Vincent) Wesley, Phil Spence, Jack Lennig

**G. Agent Alison Andrews meeting with a Lakewood citizen**



F.



G.



Chief Johnston continued the department's traditional emphasis on community relations by establishing a Speakers Bureau, the Neighborhood Watch program, and the Citizens Police Academy. He worked hard to establish open communication among the department, Lakewood schools, and the R-1 District school leadership.

### Command Staff under Chief Johnston (1980 Decade)

#### Early 80s Command Staff

Back Row L-R:  
John Dunaway,  
Doug Matthews,  
Dave Dial

Front Row L-R:  
Jim O'Dell,  
Chief Charles Johnston

Gary Barbour  
Ron Beckham  
Dave Dial  
John Dunaway  
Bruce Glasscock  
Doug Matthews  
Dan Montgomery  
James O'Dell

### Legal Advisors

Wiley Daniels  
Paul Kennebeck  
E. Hil Margolin  
Randy Rinquest  
Janet Young

In 1980, Lakewood had a population of 113,808. The city grew to only 126,481 by 1990. In 1980, authorized sworn strength of the department was 202 and remained at the same level into the next decade; civilian employees numbered 97. There were 1.7 agents per 1,000 population compared with the national average for suburban cities of 1.9 officers per 1,000 population.



### Department Structure

The department reorganized into five divisions. The Intelligence Division reported to the chief while the Patrol, Investigation, Support Services, and Inspectional Services Divisions reported to Assistant Chief James O'Dell.

In addition to the three watches in the Patrol Division, the Patrol Division captain assumed oversight of Communications. The Investigation Division maintained the traditional Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Property Sections, with the Persons Section composed of the Robbery, Homicide, Sex Crimes and Juvenile teams. The Crimes Against Property Section included the Theft, Burglary, Fraud, and General Assignment teams. The Support Services Division included the Records and Logistics Sections. Logistics included Property Control, Criminalistics, Word Processing, and the Logistics Unit. Personnel Investigation and Personnel Training made up the Inspectional Services Division.

In 1981, the department's Crime Prevention Program, Neighborhood Watch Program, and Operation Identification Program were revitalized, and a new Speakers Bureau was formed.

In 1981, the dreaded words "cutback management" became commonplace in budget and resource discussions. As a cost-cutting measure, the Inspectional Services Division and Support Services Division merged into the Administrative Services Division.

John Camper teaching pedestrian safety at the Westland Kids Town

Publicity Photo - Flint Buettell with  
Dan Brennan's son, Danny

In 1982, the Administrative Services Division included three sections. Restructuring created the following changes: the first section, Records, remained as it was; the second, Technical Services, now included Property Control, Criminalistics, and Logistics; and the third, Personnel Services, now had the Training Unit, the Personnel Investigations Unit, the School Crossing Guard volunteer program, Court Liaison and Extra Duty, and Explorer Scouts.

In 1982, the department's *Policy and Procedure Manual* was almost entirely rewritten and distributed in a single volume, unlike the previous two-volume publication.

In 1983, the Special Operations Unit began in the Patrol Division. The unit combined the Canine (K9) Unit with a team of special enforcement personnel.

### Lakewood Police Pistol Team

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Lakewood Police Department sponsored a pistol team that competed every year against other law enforcement agencies through the Colorado Police Revolver League and National Police Revolver League. The Lakewood shooters were very successful, winning many state championships and placing highly in both Rocky Mountain regional and national competitions.

Some of the shooters on these teams over the years were Rick Adams, Mark Betcher, Bob Clark, John Eckel, Jim Heironimus, Bob Hooker, Dale Hopper, Jon Martin, Tom Pfan, Andy Pierce, Joe Schallmoser, and Aleck Shilaos. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the department sponsored a pistol team of Tom Tar-chalski, Chuck Terkelson, Al Walls, Jim Wanek, Quinn Wilhelm, Roger Willard, and Al Youngs.

Each year the top 20 police marksmen in each state were honored with an award known as the "Governor's



20." Lakewood's shooters consistently placed in Colorado's group, with as many as four shooters being honored with this prestigious award in a single year.

Annually, the top 20 marksmen from each state gathered in either Camp Dodge, Iowa, or in Jackson, Mississippi, for the National Police Revolver Championships. One thousand police officers from across the country competed in five days of shooting for individual as well as team awards. Lakewood's team of four shooters consistently placed well in the national rankings, finishing eighth twice and 12th once, with their highest standing in 1984, when they ranked fifth in the nation (Al Youngs, Chuck Terkelson, Bob Clark, and Quinn Wilhelm). High-ranking individual awards were frequently won by Lakewood team members. For Lakewood, the last year of the competition was 1984 due to budgetary constraints.



### Changes

In 1981, improvements in departmental equipment included retirement of the uniform blazer. The initial desire of department founders was for a softer law enforcement image. After a few years, it became apparent that the business-like appearance of Lakewood police personnel was impractical and generally not recognizable as a police uniform. It was the opinion of many that agents looked more like door-to-door salesmen. In 1984, the agent uniform was changed from the light blue shirt to the more traditional dark blue police shirt.

### Governor's 20 Winners

L-R: Sid Klein, Al Walls,  
Governor Dick Lamm,  
Jim Heironimus,  
Aleck Shilaos



### Colfax Cruising

Clarene Shelley interviewing Colfax cruisers

1984, cruising enforcement continued with over 2,100 agent hours dedicated to the problem. By 1986, it had expanded to 12 agents and one sergeant, resulting in over 2,300 summonses and 881 misdemeanor and felony arrests.

Former dispatch personnel relate that due to the high volume of radio traffic, the cruising problem required a complete reconfiguration of how the Communications Center handled calls.

The cruising problem resulted in fights, vehicle accidents, drug and alcohol violations, criminal mischief to buildings and vehicles, endless cleanup of litter, and other violations of all kinds. Business owners, their properties trashed, spent hours every Sunday and Monday cleaning up after thousands of cruisers — a major expense. For those businesses trying to maintain open evening hours, cruising was a revenue buster.

At the same time SET was formed, the department sought advice from a cruising expert from the San Jose Police Department, Glenn Kaminsky, who suggested closing off West Colfax Avenue at several points to disrupt the flow of traffic when it reached critical peaks. This proposed response was debated endlessly, becoming a political "hot potato." A few business owners were actually benefiting financially from the cruisers, and they objected for reasons of their own. In addition, the Department of Transportation (DOT) challenged the right of the Lakewood Police Department to close a public highway without DOT's endorsement. City officials were concerned that diverting traffic through neighborhoods would result in unhappy residents.

Finally, on September 18, 1986, after the cruising problem had become so expensive and resource-consuming, it was agreed that the "modified diversion" plan formulated by the San Jose Police Department could be implemented. For several weekend nights, police personnel simultaneously closed selected intersections on West Colfax Avenue, diverting cruisers onto secondary streets. It solved the problem and was an immediate success.

### Cruising on West Colfax Avenue (1981-1986)

In the summer of 1981, the phenomenon of "Colfax Cruising" began. It continued through September 1986. What began as local teens driving their cars up and down West Colfax Avenue on Friday and Saturday nights escalated into a community problem of horrific proportion, costing thousands of dollars and hours in department resources.

The cruisers began to show up in Lakewood after they were forced out of Denver by the construction of the new 16th Street Mall and after they were banned in Englewood by its City Council. Initially, the department tried to handle the cruising situation with overtime agents on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as some other minor changes along West Colfax Avenue.

The activity attracted teens from metro Denver, including a number of metro area street gang members. As word spread, teens came from outside the state as well. Car magazines of that era wrote articles about cruising and included descriptions of the Lakewood opportunity in their "Best Cruises in the USA" sections. Producing popular "Cruisin' the Fax" T-shirts became a major revenue source for some enterprising individuals.

For the Police Department, Communications Center (dispatch) staff, Municipal Court, and business owners along the West Colfax Avenue corridor between Simms Street and Sheridan Boulevard, it became a nightmare. On July 1, 1983, Chief Johnston called for the formation of a Special Enforcement Team to develop an organized, coordinated response to the escalating problem.

In 1983, the expanded enforcement directed at cruising involved four agents and one sergeant. In



**Colfax Cruising**  
Scott Richardson  
directing traffic

## Incident Related to "Cruising"

On a Friday night, two suspects in a white Mercedes robbed the Kentucky Fried Chicken on the west end of West Colfax Avenue at gunpoint and fled eastbound on West Colfax Avenue toward Denver. The suspects were observed by two SET agents, stopped in the center lane of West Colfax Avenue and Carr Street, and totally blocked in by "Colfax cruisers." Additional SET agents were nearby and blocked the intersection, sending the center traffic lane north onto Carr Street. As the suspect vehicle turned north, multiple SET agents initiated a felony stop. The money, guns, and masks were recovered without incident. The two suspects admitted to the robbery and were amazed at the traffic problems in the city of Lakewood.

## Relocation to the new Public Safety Building

In June 1984, Lakewood city offices were finally able to move into a new city-owned facility at 445 South Allison Parkway. Construction had begun in September 1982. Moving from 44 Union Boulevard was accomplished in about a week after all boxes and items of equipment were marked with multi-colored stickers and mapped destination-area numbers. File cabinets, metal desks, and other metal equipment were transported to the new lunch room and painted. City officials wanted their new City Hall to be a showplace of uniformity and efficiency.

The entire Police Department was housed in the garden level of the City Hall. Over the years since 1984, the facility became the Public Safety Center and housed the Police Department, the Municipal Court, the Prosecution Section of the City Attorney's Office, and Information Technology. The Communications Center and the Emergency Operations Center completed their final move and joined all other police personnel at the

"445" building in 2008, after being housed in the West Metro Fire Protection District building on West Jewell Avenue for several years. (See "*Communications Center*" and "*Emergency Operations Center*" in "*Civilian Units*.")

In 1982, when construction began on the new facility, there was no South Allison Parkway south of West Alameda Avenue. A dirt construction road with chain link gates at West Alameda Avenue led to the site. Following completion of the building and the parking structure (by 1984), South Allison Parkway was paved but remained a dead-end street, stopping at vacant land until development of the Lakewood Civic Center in 2000.



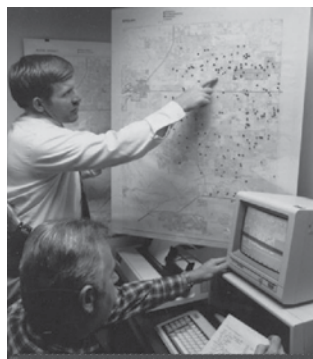
Lakewood Municipal Building  
445 South Allison Parkway

## Telephone Reporting Unit

In August 1987, the department initiated the Telephone Reporting Unit (TRU), which employed civilian employees to handle phone calls and write police reports. This reporting unit saved agents countless hours, time better spent intervening in and responding to events in the community.

## Early Technology

Fred Johnson & Bruce Clark



## New Security Measures

Security at the Lakewood Public Safety Center evolved over the years to assure safety for the Police Department and Municipal Court. Electronic locks with coded entries, a main door magnetometer, a front desk "bunker," and parking structure cameras added security. Originally, the desk agent was tasked with walking the perimeter of the building at least once per shift, noting anomalies on a Daily Field Activity Report (DFAR). A requirement of wearing a photo ID badge was instituted. Alarms were placed in the booking area and more recently (2009) in the offender registration area of the lounge.

## Technology

The 1980s saw the initial forays into the world of computers. Rapid technological advancements in the mid-1980s and 1990s generated growing interest among employees amid incredible price tags for both hardware and software. Technology seemed outdated almost immediately.

In 1986, the city purchased the ROLM automated telephone answering system, and scheduled classes to instruct employees about phone usage. In 1987, the Police Department purchased the first Local Area Network (LAN) equipment with federal block grant funds. It was years before the city enjoyed the support of a computer network.

A limited number of employees used individual computers utilizing the DOS system. As budgets allowed, computers gradually replaced WANG word processing terminals and IBM Selectric typewriters. Lakewood Information Technology (IT) developed in-house software programs to support the Police Department as computers became available.

Usage of the Sequoia system was preferred for most programs developed for the Lakewood Automated Report System (LARS). The Packet Cluster software was used when terminal capability was extended to police vehicles.

Various advances in technology did have significant impacts on the police building. The new innovations included: microwave radio dishes on the roof, radio antenna boosters, satellite emergency phone equipment, communications center power improvements, data lines, 911 equipment, interview rooms with surveillance video recording, and miles of cabling above ceiling tiles and in walls.



## Early Technology Changes

Wendy Liggitt in Communications Center

## Bulletin Board

In the mid-1980s, Agent Larry Scheideman in the Intelligence Division devised and implemented a computer bulletin board, the second such bulletin board in the United States. Agent Kirk McIntosh assisted in the board's maintenance. It was a notable early overture into the realm of the Web.



## Early Technology Changes

Lori (Montgomery)  
Hoover at front desk





**Police Officer Program**  
*Jeff Rogers and Anne Bolt*

### **Addition of "Officers"**

In 1986, nine "police officers" joined the department. The position did not require a bachelor's degree, and was established to bolster community service capabilities while allowing agents to concentrate on more complex criminal cases. The officers were integrated rapidly into the mainstream and in a short time, the line between agent and officer was blurred. Many of the officers would subsequently be hired as agents upon completion of their degrees or as agent positions became available.

### **Accreditation**

On June 15, 1986, the Lakewood Police Department, after two years of preparation, became the 24th police agency in the nation accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department was required to meet more than 800 nationally recognized law enforcement standards. New uniform name tags were issued designating the accredited status. Since then, CALEA has awarded reaccreditation regularly.

### **E-911**

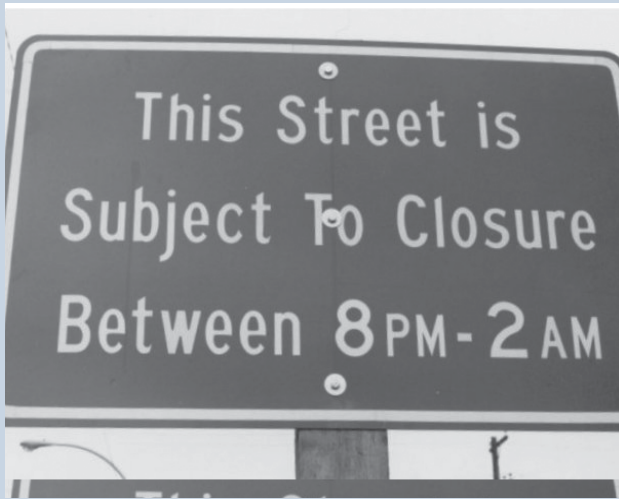
In 1986, the Jefferson County E-911 Authority Board was established. In 1987, the Lakewood Police Department became the Public Safety Answering Point for all 911 calls originating within the city. The Communications Center obtained new computerized dispatching equipment in preparation for computer-aided dispatching and E-911 systems.



*Commission on Accreditation  
for Law Enforcement Agencies  
Accreditation Logo*

### **DUI Grant Award**

In 1987, the Special Enforcement Team (SET) was awarded a DUI grant, which resulted in the arrest of over 500 individuals charged with driving under the influence.



A. Flint Buettell in early uniform

D. Colfax Cruising  
Traffic accident  
investigation

B. Colfax Cruising  
Sergeant Jerry Cole checking reports

C. Jim Miller writing reports



A. Agent Donn Kraemer with K9 Derek

B. Traffic Detective Tom Monteath

C. Sergeant Al Padilla at a community event

**D. Pistol Team**

L-R: Jon Martin, Aleck Shilaos, Chuck Terkelson, Chief John Vermilye, Tom Pfanz, Bob Hooker, Jim Heironimus, Tom Tarchalski

**E. Pistol Team**

Back Row – L-R: Quinn Wilhelm, Al Youngs  
Front Row – L-R: Chuck Terkelson, Bob Clark

**F. 1970s Pistol Team** L-R: Chief Brooks, Agents Dale Hopper, Roger Willard, Rick Adams, Jim Wanek

# Overview

## The 90s Decade

1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999

The decade of the 1990s was marked by change on a worldwide scale. The economies of the United States and the world experienced astounding growth. Dow Jones activity gained from below 4,000 to crest at 12,000 in 1999.

The world watched the break-up of the Soviet Union. New nations appeared, testing capitalism and new-found freedom. Germany experienced reunification after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and Northern Ireland and the IRA settled into unaccustomed peace.

In 1990, the world watched media coverage of the Gulf War, as President George H. W. Bush responded to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with the full force of US troops.

In 1991, the world of law enforcement changed forever. One traffic stop, one driver, numerous cops, and one guy with a camera brought police excessive force to

light. Rodney King was hit multiple times with a baton, each blow on film. Trials of the involved officers concluded in acquittal, and the city of Los Angeles rioted. Retrials later in federal court resulted in the conviction of two officers and two acquittals.

In 1993, the American people endured the first attack on the World Trade Center, and following the conviction of the mastermind, resumed daily life feeling secure. Homegrown terrorist Timothy McVeigh shattered that view when he bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring 680.

In 1994, metro Denver and the nation's cities experienced what the national media called the "Summer of Violence" from an escalation of gang violence. This was accompanied by the annoying, destructive presence of graffiti.

Technological growth dominated the decade, with widespread Internet use and the development of the Intel processor, pagers, and cell phones. CDs and DVDs became vehicles for media storage and viewing. DNA analysis became a boon to law enforcement.

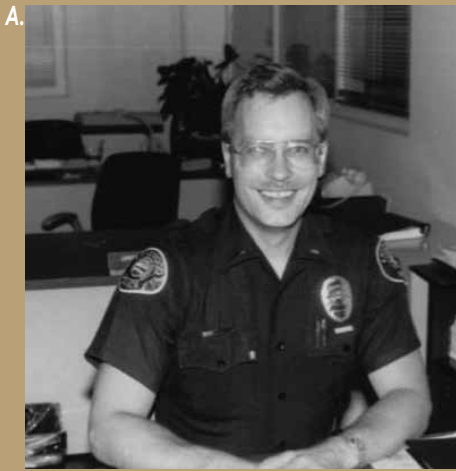
On April 20, 1999, the decade ended in tragedy at Columbine High School when two students armed with shotguns, handguns, and bombs entered the school. The date will not be forgotten by Lakewood personnel who responded to the school and others who watched the news in horror, as we learned of the murders of 12 students and one teacher, and of serious injuries to many other students.

On December 31, 1999, the city of Lakewood prepared for a predicted total computer meltdown known as Y2K. However, the new century began without major incident — no computers shut down, no power grid failed; it was business as usual. It was a quiet New Year's Eve.

### Command Staff

L-R: Gary Harper,  
Jerry Garner,  
Chief Charles Johnston,  
Gary Barbour, Al Youngs





**A. Patrol Watch  
Commander's Office**

John Patterson

**B. Annual Awards Ceremony  
with Raymond Burr and  
Tony Bogacz**

**C. Agent Janet Jackson  
behind a point of cover**

**D. D.A.R.E. Team –  
Late 1980s-1990**

L-R: Joe Wray, Rollie Inskip,  
Al Padilla, John Pickard,  
John Hunt, Tom Ritchie



**E. Legal Update Training  
Legal Advisor Janet Young**

**F. Bike/Patrol Team –  
1999 - 2001**

L-R: Nancy Gaertner,  
Tracey Lee, Bob Swainson,  
Jerry Bartlett, Karen Turnbull,  
Kris DeRoehn, Ed Loar



**G. Range Day –  
Shotgun Training**

Bobby Forrest, Tony Bogacz,  
Vince DeBenedette

# The Charles Johnston Era Continues

(May 1981- January 2001)

The 1990s continued under the leadership of Chief Charles Johnston.

## Uniform Change

In 1990, the background color of the uniform shoulder patch changed from royal blue to navy blue. The patch was also reduced in size.

## Command Staff

Gary Barbour  
Jerry Garner  
Gary Harper  
Gary Mecham  
Al Youngs

## Legal Advisor

Janet Young

The Lakewood Police Department saw rapid change throughout the city during its third decade. Residential development increased, creating the need for additional schools and fire stations. Scheduled improvement began along the West Alameda Avenue corridor. Retail development created sales tax revenue to help meet the increasing need for city services. The longstanding Villa Italia Mall became history as the new Belmar district's construction took its place.

The evaluation process for department personnel changed in 1995 from a numerical rating system to a narrative form with four rating categories. That number was later reduced to three: Work Effectiveness, Teamwork and Cooperation, and Service and Professionalism.

*Villa Italia Substation  
Agent Janet Jackson and  
Volunteer Natalia (Nat) Greer*

## Lateral Hires

In 1990-1991, the department hired a number of officers from other agencies, continuing a practice that dated back to the department's beginning. Hiring laterals saved the cost of training officers in a basic recruit academy. Officers could apply from any outside agency and needed a minimum of two years' experience. Laterals then spent several weeks with a field training agent, and worked solo once they met Lakewood's standards of performance. In this way, the department was able to temporarily suspend its police academy and still fill its agent positions.

## Satellite Location

In the 1990s, the Villa Italia Mall offered one of its storefronts to the department. The Special Enforcement Team (SET) soon moved to this location, centrally located in the mall, which provided office space for SET and a large meeting room used by the department for training. A separate lobby area with a front desk was managed by police volunteers when agents were not available. The location provided easy citizen access for police assistance and information.



**Bike Patrol on Lakewood Bike Path**  
Karen Turnbull and Bob Swainson

## Lakewood Police Bike Unit

In 1993, the first members of the Lakewood Police Department Bike Unit rolled onto the streets. The timing was providential since that year World Youth Day and Pope John Paul II came to Denver. The Lakewood bike patrol was part of a multijurisdictional security detail for the Holy Father's visit. It proved effective in its first deployment, since pedestrian traffic, estimated at 100,000 participants, rendered policing from vehicles nearly impossible.

The unit became an integral part of the Patrol Division, training numerous agents to police the city from a bicycle. Bike agents could maneuver in places that patrol cars could not. They could quietly deploy into high crime areas and virtually ride up on crimes in progress, often taking the criminal by surprise. Additionally, the patrol incorporated agents into neighborhoods and naturally lent itself to the department's emphasis on community policing and one-on-one contact with citizens.

The Bike Unit assignment offered summer adventure and superb physical conditioning. Before the Bike Unit had a vehicle to transport agents and bikes to various locations, the unit used the prisoner van and the old maroon Property van. Before bike agents had access to even those vehicles, they rode everywhere in the city, usually late nights, from the Police Department and back. This ultra-physical effort resulted in some rubbery legs for a time. Agent Gene Gray relates that one very late weekend night, he and an unnamed agent were staking out Chester Portsmouth Park at West 26th Avenue and Youngfield Street. They rode up and surprised a group of teens who could be heard in the park. The teens scattered, and as the unnamed agent jumped off his bike his weakened legs gave out from under him. As he fell, he landed on top of one of the kids, who protested loudly. Agent Gray remembers that his laughter was not well received.



On another late night, Agents Pickard, Parker, Heffner, and Gray were riding in Holbrook Park and heard suspicious noise on the other side of a retaining wall. They swooped in and arrested taggers. One of the young men was a leader in the DARE program at his school, and was known by one of the agents as an exceptional student. Other bike adventures encountered romantically inclined couples in darkened settings.

The Bike Unit was developed through a combination grant and COPS project (Community-Oriented Policing) led by Agent Chuck Parker. Early participants in 1993-1994 were Agents Pat Heffner, Gene Gray, Tracy Lee, Rich Gutentag, John Pickard, Bob Swainson, Michelle DeLeon, Wendy Browman, and Kathleen Wyckoff.

## Firearms Change

During the early 1990s, the department first authorized the carrying of semi-automatic handguns. Each member of the department who wished to transition from the department-issued revolver had to complete a firearms course specific to semi-automatic handguns. After the transition, all but three police agents made the switch. After the well-publicized Hollywood bank robbery and shootout with the Los Angeles Police Department, the department also authorized the AR-15 Urban Assault Rifle. Agents were allowed to purchase their own AR-15 but first had to attend a several-day training course. Shotgun racks were modified to allow the safe carrying of either the shotgun or an AR-15.

## Public Information Officer

In 1994, the department shifted from having a sworn officer as the Public Information Officer (PIO), to staffing this position with a civilian. Lynn Kimbrough was the first civilian PIO for the department.

In 1990, according to the Census Bureau, Lakewood's population was 126,095. The population stood at 144,126 by decade's end.

1996 Chevrolet Caprice patrol unit  
Rick Brown

## The Mayor's Youth Forum Program

In the fall of 1994, the first student forum met after police leadership determined that a juvenile loitering ordinance should be enacted in the interest of public safety. The proposed loitering ordinance was not as restrictive as a typical curfew. Before enactment, Lakewood high schools were invited to send student teams to meet with city and Police Department officials and provide their input regarding this proposal. Student response was surprisingly constructive and positive. Every year thereafter, through 1999, students were invited to a working lunch and a wide-ranging discussion of issues.

After the April 20, 1999, Columbine High School shootings, Mayor Linda Morton called for an urgent reconvening of student teams from the March 1999 high school Youth Forum. It reconvened on May 13, 1999. The forum was well attended with a lengthy exchange of information and concerns. The city and department were commended by R-1 School District leadership and school administrators for arranging the forum.

The Youth Forum program provided an annual setting in which Mayor Morton, Chief Johnston, city and police personnel, R-1 administrators, and school staff could listen to students and gain insight into life on their school campuses and in neighborhoods.

## Department Changes

In 1995, the Juvenile Team split into the Crimes Against Children Team and the Crimes by Children Team. A sergeant and four detectives carried the investigative load for all crimes committed by minors.

### Department Personnel (1990 - 1999)

In the 1990s, the department's budget totals and personnel count were as follows:

#### 1990:

\$13,523,758

Sworn: 196

Civilian: 102

#### 1999:

\$21,903,208

Sworn: 216

Civilian: 117



## Patrol Cars

In 1996, block-style lettering replaced the decade-old standard badge decal. The patrol cars were the Chevrolet Caprice Classic until Chevrolet stopped producing the police package. In 1997, Lakewood purchased Ford Crown Victoria patrol cars, painted dark blue and white with the lettering in a banded background.

## Award from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)

In 1996, the department was awarded an opportunity to participate in a National Comprehensive Gang Initiative, which involved a seven-city coalition across the country. This program was designed by PERF and the Bureau of Justice Assistance in Washington, DC. The objective was to employ the law enforcement problem-solving model SARA (Scan, Analyze, Respond, and Assess) regarding gang-related problems in a community. The program's duration was two years. The Special Enforcement Team and citizen coalition members shared information and collaborated with the other six-city members to develop responses and share solutions to common problems.



## The Suspension Intervention Services Program (SIS)

One of the innovative programs developed during Chief Johnston's second decade was the Suspension Intervention Services Program (SIS), which began in 1996. Over many months, Chief Johnston met with police personnel, R-1 school administrators, middle- and high-school administrators, crime prevention officers, the city's Youth and Family Services, the Municipal Court's Juvenile Probation Team, and citizen volunteer tutors to coordinate a comprehensive response to school truancy.

In the school year of 1996-97, Lakewood's four traditional high schools, in addition to Warren Technical School and Creighton Middle School, suspended more than 1,100 students. There was a good possibility that these students were unsupervised from one to 10 days. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and local business owners agreed that unsupervised suspension caused a myriad of problems.

A primary goal of SIS was to determine the reasons for each student's lack of progress in school, with the objective of helping them to experience success and complete their education. The program made a positive difference in the lives of many students, but after the third year funding was no longer available. The program served 189 students in 1998, but was unable to continue in 1999 due to budget shortfalls.

## The DARE and School Resource Officer Programs

In 1989, the department began a pilot DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program in a few elementary schools. The pilot program was a great success, and more public and private schools requested a DARE agent.

On August 12, 1991, the department officially formed the DARE unit. The unit consisted of five agents, one supervising sergeant and one secretary. The unit's goal was

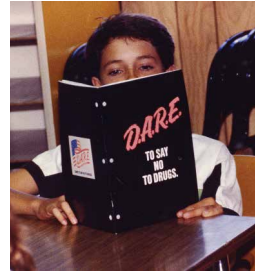
to offer the DARE program to all public and private elementary schools in the city, with plans to expand into the junior and senior high schools.

By the 1996-1997 school year, DARE agents taught 20,000 students in 32 public and private elementary schools and in six public and private middle schools. The first graduates of Lakewood's DARE program entered high school in the fall of 1994. In addition to time in class, the five agents spent time interacting with students in after-school sports and other informal activities.

The city provided the salaries of the DARE team, but until 1995, all other costs to run the program came from community donations and fundraising events. DARE team members organized events such as skate nights to raise money for the purchase of workbooks, incentive items, and to cover the costs of graduation. In 1995, the unit's expenses were covered by the city's budget, and the program was expanded to teach the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) classes, funded by US government grants.

In July 1998, the DARE program evolved into the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, a school-based policing program. It was designed by Captain Gary Barbour and Agent John Hunt, the first SRO who conducted a pilot program at Bear Creek High School. The program was a success, and the department assigned five SROs to all high schools, middle, and alternative schools.

The SROs applied a blend of problem-solving techniques to stop criminal activity before it developed, and the enforcement capability to effectively deal with criminal behavior when it occurred. In addition to enforcement activities, SROs provided counseling resources for students, parents, and faculty; provided law-related educational classes; and worked with school staff to anticipate and plan for emergencies. At the end of the 2003-2004 school year, the SRO program was eliminated due to a revenue shortfall. The SROs were reassigned to the Patrol Division.



In November 1996, the Lakewood Police Department was recognized by *Good Housekeeping* magazine as one of "America's Best Suburban Police Forces, 'Setting the Standard.'"

### Physical Fitness Testing

In 1990, the Lakewood Police Department adopted the Cooper Test, a standardized method of testing physical fitness of all sworn members. The test produced an annual percentage score of overall physical health, including strength and cardiovascular fitness.

## Summary of Technology

In the early 1990s, the department purchased a select few cell phones for the divisions. Their size and weight led them to be called “bricks.” They had a battery life of less than 20 minutes. In 1993, improvements in technology allowed further distribution of cell phones to patrol cars. Eventually, each agent received a cell phone (enabling easier tracking of cell phone bills).

In 1991, the in-house system (Sequoia) tracked Property/Evidence and pawn transactions. The newly created Investigation Master Log allowed Investigation sergeants to track cases for detectives and reduce numbers of overdue cases. In 1991, there were two pawnshops in the city; that number increased to 11 pawnshops, with 18,000 transactions occurring every month. The Pawnshop Program allowed direct communication between the pawnshops and the department, giving detectives quick access to pawn slips and a better chance of tracking stolen property. In 1997, the Property Control Unit handled 41,000 items of evidence and property. Optical scanners and a bar code system inventoried 27,000 items within a six-month period.

In October 1994, the department implemented the Police Resource Optimization System (PROS). This system facilitated efficient and effective resource allocation of agents. Based on the call-for-service load, the system indicated the number of agents needed on certain hours and days. PROS was the first computer-scheduling system used in Lakewood. All department scheduling is now accomplished via computer.

The department gradually added computers throughout the divisions. Ingrid Dorgan, an IT manager, developed an internal report-writing program based on the current computer system. Her report-writing program tied into Records management, making the search for cases much easier for both Records

and sworn personnel. Agents eventually gave up the pen, bottles of “white out” correction fluid, and handwritten offense reports – and, with reluctance, faced the computer.

Detectives, who relied on typewriters and dictations, obtained computers and printers and began using WordPerfect, dot matrix printers, and triplicate forms. Over time, the department was equipped with enough computers for each detective and each sergeant. Animal Control personnel and patrol lieutenants shared computers.

The department later was able to upgrade the portable radios from Motorola to Erickson, and employees received their own radios.

## Columbine High School

On April 20, 1999, Lakewood Police agents responded to one of the most horrifying and memorable tragedies most would see in their entire careers. It began at 12:10 PM, with reports of shots fired at Columbine High School, not far south of Lakewood’s jurisdiction in Jefferson County. Other reports began to come in of explosions on nearby streets and then inside the school. Before long, the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office was requesting the assistance of patrol units and SWAT teams from the surrounding jurisdictions.

Most of Lakewood’s day shift, much of the oncoming swing shift, a few agents who heard about the crisis and responded directly from their nearby homes, various detectives, members of the command staff, and the department’s SWAT team responded to the school. They were joined by teams from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, the Denver Police Department, Littleton Police Department, the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office, and later by personnel from many of the other metro area agencies. Civilian employees from the Communications Center and the Victim Assistance Team also responded to help.

Lakewood employees helped secure the perimeter, evacuated students, counseled victims, worked the command posts, and in the case of the SWAT team, helped search and secure the interior of the school. In one of the most riveting moments of the day, captured in a live video feed by a television helicopter and watched by thousands nationwide, Lakewood SWAT agents climbed to the roof of an armored car. Fully exposed to possible gunfire, the officers caught a badly wounded student who was trying to escape by falling from a second-floor window.

SWAT agents who searched the school that day described a macabre, chaotic scene of terrified fleeing students, a deafening fire alarm, water-soaked floors from overhead sprinklers, exploded and unexploded pipe bombs, and hours of high-tension searching for suspects and victims.

Twelve students, one teacher and the two suspects died that day, and many other students suffered serious injuries. The investigations, recriminations, and analysis of the police response would continue for years. It was clear, however, that Lakewood agents conducted themselves with bravery and distinction.

Columbine marked a watershed in police training for response to what came to be known as “active shooters.” Before the tragic events at Columbine, SWAT teams tended to emphasize “time, talk, and tactics.” After Columbine, law enforcement agencies throughout the nation trained to enter rapidly and immediately confront the shooter in situations where the threat is immediate and ongoing. (See Commander Burdell Burch’s personal account of Columbine in “Memories.”)



Lakewood SWAT received a unit commendation from the department for its Columbine response:

Lieutenant Burdell Burch, SWAT Commander  
 Lieutenant Dan Brennan  
 Sergeant Jerry Cole (Negotiator)  
 Sergeant George Hinkle  
 Sergeant Ed Loar  
 Sergeant John Romaniec  
 Sergeant Jeff Streeter  
 Agent Jerry Bartlett  
 Agent John Beattie  
 Agent Roy Capp  
 Agent Bob Clark  
 Agent Mark Dewhurst  
 Agent Marc DiRezza  
 Agent Eric Ebeling (Negotiator)  
 Agent John Hitchens  
 Agent Kevin Kimmey  
 Agent Donn Kraemer  
 Agent Chris Phillips  
 Agent Brent Sawyer  
 Agent Gregg Slater  
 Agent Bob Swainson  
 Agent Pat Wilson  
 Agent Joe Wray  
 SWAT Scribe Lenna Evans  
 SWAT Scribe Andrea Joo

**Columbine Responders  
 Medal of Distinguished  
 Service Recipients**

**Kneeling** L-R: Ed Loar,  
 Roy Capp, Chris Phillips,  
 Kevin Kimmey,  
 Gregg Slater  
**Standing** L-R: Pat Wilson,  
 Eric Ebeling, Jerry Cole,  
 John Romaniec,  
 Bob Swainson,  
 Marc DiRezza,  
 John Beattie,  
 Jerry Bartlett,  
 Andrea Joo,  
 unknown, George Hinkle,  
 Patrick Ireland, Burdell  
 Burch, Lenna Evans,  
 Joe Wray, Donn Kraemer,  
 John Hitchens,  
 Dan Brennan,  
 Mark Dewhurst,  
 Jeff Streeter

# Overview

# The 2000s Decade

2000  
2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010

Police work in this decade was shaped by the events of September 11, 2001. The reality of that terrorist attack changed police training and security methods throughout the nation. Despite the horrific events of 9/11; the March 20, 2003, invasion of Iraq; and the devastation of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, there was a renewed spirit of national community. It particularly affected our country's first responders.

Not all the news of the decade was so grim. In 2001, the Colorado Avalanche won their second Stanley Cup. John Elway was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2007, the Colorado Rockies won their first ever National League Pennant and played in the World Series.

In March 2003 and December 2006, two blizzards immobilized the entire region, dumping several feet of snow. Denver hosted the 2008 Democratic National Convention, 100 years after it hosted its first political convention. On July 20, 2009, a major hailstorm hit the western suburbs of Denver causing over \$350 million in damage.

Lakewood itself was home to positive changes. FasTracks light rail construction began along West 13th Avenue. Community redevelopment occurred along the West Colfax Avenue corridor. New shopping districts were built at the Belmar development and the Colorado Mills Mall, both generating increased city sales tax revenue. In 2005, the community voted to pass Lakewood Ballot Initiative 2A, raising sales tax for the first time in the city's history.

From 2000 to 2007, Lakewood's population grew from 144,126 to 147,023. In 2010, the city's population is predicted to be 148,300.

L-R: Flint Buettell,  
Beck Leider,  
John Beattie,  
Ken King,  
Kelli Jelen



## The Gary Barbour Era, Interim Chief (January 2001 - December 2001)



At the retirement of Chief Charles Johnston, Captain Gary Barbour assumed the position of interim chief. Gary Barbour was a United States Army veteran who had served in the military police in Europe and in Vietnam. After his discharge from the Army, he continued his police career in New Mexico with the Farmington Police Department.

He came to Lakewood as an agent in August 1972, and quickly advanced through the ranks, serving as commander in the Patrol Division, the Crimes Against Persons Section, the General Investigation Section, and the Communications Section. He also served as the assistant commander, and later as commander of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. During this period, he planned for and managed the transition to a new radio system in the Communications Center.

He was a 28-year veteran of the department with the rank of captain when City Manager Mike Rock appointed him interim chief. In 2003, he received the Police Service Award and the Mayor's Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Barbour's relatively short tenure as chief left some lasting changes, including the strengthening of personal relationships within the department, as well as other city departments. He was remembered for being a very visible chief who practiced management "by walking around." He particularly liked meeting with employees where and when they worked, in the evenings, nights, and on weekends. This gave them the opportunity in informal settings to let him know what was on their



**A. Division Chief John Camper and Chief Kevin Paletta**  
During the Democratic National Convention.  
August 22 – 29, 2008

**B. Agent Rob Dethlefs and Agent Marisa Cordova**  
in mock-up of Air Force One at the Democratic  
National Convention.

**C. Steve Boatwright and Tom Pfanz** at  
Colfax Marathon

**D. Agents Serving at the Mills Substation**  
L-R: Justin Mains, Todd Clifford, Chris Larson,  
Jennifer Dougherty

**E. High Risk Vehicle Stop Training –**  
Agents Beck Leider and Kevin Kimmey

**F. Monitoring Crowds –** Agent Chuck Konrad  
and Agent Paul Barben pictured



Agent Ryan O'Hayre  
Performing pretrip  
inspection

minds. Employees appreciated being able to speak with the boss in a low-stress situation, and he listened to what they had to say.

Chief Barbour renewed an organizational commitment to community policing. He was successful in getting the lieutenant and captain positions reclassified to commander and division chief. His year of steady rebuilding successfully carried the department forward into a new decade.

After Chief Ron Burns was selected as Johnston's replacement, Barbour stayed with the department for a short while to help ease the transition to the new administration. He then retired in 2004 to a job in private industry. He was unable to resist the call of law enforcement, however, and currently is chief of police in Frederick, Colorado. He will be remembered as a scholar and a gentleman.

#### **Command Staff under Chief Barbour**

Jerry Garner  
Gary Harper  
Clarene Shelley  
Al Youngs

#### **Legal Advisor**

Janet Young

#### **Remodeling of the Public Safety Building**

In 2000, after most city offices moved into the new Lakewood Civic Center, a major remodel began of the police, court, and office space that was leased to West Metro Fire Protection District. Changing from the original "open office" environment, the Public Safety Center remodeled areas as the budget allowed. Construction of new walls disrupted ventilation and heating corridors. Years passed before installation of new equipment corrected most of the problems.

## **The Ron Burns Era** (December 2001 - January 2008)



Ron Burns came to Lakewood at a time when the city felt the need for a chief from outside the department who would provide a fresh perspective. He was the first chief hired from outside the department since Pierce Brooks. Throughout his career he promoted a philosophy of community policing and collaborative problem-solving, a concept long valued and implemented by the Lakewood Police Department.

He came to Lakewood from Tempe, Arizona, where he began his police career in 1972. He rose to assistant chief there, then went on to become chief in Kirkland, Washington (1993-1995). He returned to Tempe from 1995 to June 2000, where he continued to develop the department's community-oriented policing philosophy. From June 2000 to December 2001, Chief Burns served as the executive director for the "100 Club," a nonprofit that provides financial support to severely injured police officers and firefighters. In the event of death, the organization provides support to their family members. He accepted the chief's position in Lakewood on December 3, 2001, where he continued his emphasis on community policing by instituting a system in which the city was divided into three sectors.

In 2008, Chief Burns decided to return to his extended family in Tempe and took a job as the faculty chair for the Law Enforcement Technology program at Rio Salado College. He maintains a second home in Lakewood and continues his attachment to the community, returning often during Arizona's hot summer months.



### 2002 Command Staff

L-R Ron Burns, Clarene Shelley,  
Jerry Garner, Al Youngs,  
Gary Barbour, Kevin Paletta

### Command Staff under Chief Burns

Gary Barbour  
John Camper  
Jerry Garner  
Gary Harper  
Kevin Paletta  
Clarene Shelley  
Michelle Tovrea  
Al Youngs

### Legal Advisor

Janet Young

## Department Changes

By 2001, the lobby/front desk had completed its evolution from an open structure to a more secure, enclosed desk agent and telephone-reporting area. Between 2001 and 2002, the Property Unit moved from the lower level to the first floor, and other off-site storage areas were developed. The former Property Unit was then remodeled to become the sergeants' area.

In 2002, the department changed to a sector-based policing model. In 2003, because of the transition to sector policing, the Neighborhood Action Team evolved into the Sector Liaison Unit. Two agents in each sector currently focus on specific problems within their areas, such as neighbor disputes and educating multiple-family housing complexes and hotel/motel management about crime prevention. *(See "Crime Analysis Unit" later in this decade's discussion.)*



### Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) - Training 2001

Violent and often deadly encounters between law enforcement and mentally ill people in crisis created an increasing need for police accountability, regulation, and training. In 1988, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program was developed in Memphis, Tennessee, in response to public outrage over the police shooting of a knife-wielding, mentally ill 26-year-old man.

In 2001, Jefferson County hosted the first CIT training in Colorado. Training focused on improving officers' verbal communication skills, minimizing the use of force, and reducing injuries to officers and citizens who are in crisis or mentally ill. The first year's initial goal was to certify 25 percent of "front line" officers in participating agencies. The Lakewood Police Department sent officers through that first class and has participated in the program ever since.

Lakewood is now one of the leaders in the Jefferson County region, as its agents successfully employ the techniques in the community. Agents and command staff also help develop, coordinate, and implement training for agencies in the county. CIT training is a requirement to test for SWAT team negotiator. As of October 2008, there were more than 2,800 Colorado law enforcement officers trained in CIT.

■  
**Front Desk –  
After Renovation**  
CSO Dick Luz



### **Mills Mall Patrol**

*Agents Jennifer Dougherty and Todd Clifford*

### **New Police Academy Location**

In 2003, the Lakewood Police Academy moved from its former location at the Public Safety Building to the current academy building at 1955 South Kipling Street. The current stand-alone building contains a classroom, workout equipment, locker rooms, an arrest control training area, a computer room, and the Multiple Interaction Learning Optics (MILO) decisional-shooting program. The academy is used for both new recruit training and in-service training for agents.

### **Budget Shortfalls**

During 2003 and 2004, budget concerns forced the department to cut special programs, such as the Special Enforcement Team, School Resource Officers, and investigative positions. To reduce some calls for service, the department implemented a new intrusion alarm response protocol that would not require agents to respond to most types of unverified alarm calls at residences or businesses (although they could if time allowed).

To further reduce the need for street agents to respond to minor cold calls, the department developed the Internet reporting process. It afforded citizens the opportunity to report minor crimes from their computers, thus freeing agents to respond to other more serious calls.

### **Successful Sales Tax Increase - November 1, 2005**

Employees of the Lakewood Police Department were instrumental in the adoption and eventual passing of Lakewood Ballot Initiative 2A, which successfully increased tax revenues. Before passage was finally accomplished on November 1, 2005, the initiative failed to pass three times since 1971. The sales tax increase was discussed by Lakewood Police Union Local 303 board members. Union President Dave Hoover and volunteer

### **Satellite Locations**

In 2006, there were 236 sworn, or 1.88 agents per 1,000 people. In 2009, there were 276 sworn, 167 civilian employees and 112 volunteers. Using the projected population in 2010 with the current numbers of agents, Lakewood will have 1.86 agents per 1,000 citizens. Of the 276 sworn agents, 52 or 18 percent were female.

In November 2002, the Lakewood Police Department Mills Substation opened, concurrent with the grand opening of the Colorado Mills Mall. Greg Steverson and the Mills Corporation generously donated the Mills Substation to the city. The substation became the base of operations for eight agents, two detectives, and a sergeant. They serve northwest Lakewood, west from Simms Street to I-70; and north from West 6th Avenue to West 32nd Avenue.

The substation creates a closer relationship between the department and the community, employing the department's community-oriented policing philosophy. The substation is a smaller version of a fully operational police station. It has a booking area for arrestees, an interview room, offices for detectives and agents, and a conference room for public meetings.

In addition to the Mills Substation, the department has several satellite locations across the city. These consist of computer workstations to help patrol agents complete their work in a safer, comfortable environment. These satellites include Alameda Gateway, Lakewood Link Recreation Center, the PAL gym, Charles Whitlock Recreation Center, and Devinney Cottages. The patrol agents also have the option of working from their patrol vehicles using the I-Mobile System, implemented in 2003.



and community activist Don Ferega championed the drive for passage of the initiative, which was endorsed by union board members Paul Harrold, Kelly Karinen, Kim (Achziger) Ciesluk, Jason Ezell, Toby Maez, Danielle Weichert, and supporters Laurel Lichtenberg and Pat McHugh.

From this effort, the ballot initiative that was drafted increased revenues for public safety services, as well as other city services, while increasing the reserve funds. Many Police Department employees and volunteers went door-to-door on their own time to ensure passage of the tax initiative. It was successful and helped the city's financial stability through some unforeseen economic downturns.

In 2006, because voters approved the sales tax initiative, some programs that were cut due to budget constraints were reinstated, such as the School Resource Officers. In 2007, the Special Enforcement Team was reactivated.

### Local Channel 8 Informational Program - Sexually Violent Predators

In the fall of 2007, Major Crimes Detective Pat Wilson initiated a better way of accomplishing the required community notifications of Sexually Violent Predators (SVP). Collaborating with the city's KLTV Channel 8 studio, he created and starred in a video presentation containing educational and safety information related to SVP offenders. The presentation was repeated on the access channel on consecutive days. The television program, coupled with the presentation through the city's website day or night, undoubtedly reached a broader audience. The innovation caught the attention of the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB), as it was the first of its kind statewide. Several other Colorado police agencies have adopted Wilson's concept and are planning to use it as a blueprint for their own notification procedure.



### Lakewood Police Explorer Post

The department sponsors the Police Explorer Post 226, one of the oldest posts in Colorado. In 2007, the Lakewood Post partnered with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 99 to compete in the annual Chandler (Arizona) Tactical Competition. The team represented Lakewood well in competition with cities as large as Las Vegas and Los Angeles. They brought home seven trophies from competitions such as hostage negotiation, high-risk warrant service, and the shoot-don't-shoot competition. They also won the Spirit Award, the top honor of the competition, by scoring higher than other departments, in teamwork, integrity, cooperation, perseverance, and professionalism. (See "Lakewood Explorers" in "Special Units.")

### Equipment and Technology

There were numerous changes in equipment and technology in the 2000s. Some changes were subtle, such as allowing agents to wear cargo-style pants as part of the regular uniform, fitting agents with safer gas masks, and introducing "weapons of mass destruction" equipment to help protect agents during a hazardous materials incident or a possible terrorist attack. In 2004, the patrol vehicles transitioned to a more "retro" styled black and white cruiser.

Other changes were more complex and altered how police work was conducted on the street. In the early 2000s, CCIC and NCIC, which are state and national crime databases, were modified to a Web-based system

### Explorers with Trophies from 2007 Competition Held in Chandler, Arizona

**Back Row L-R:**  
 Timothy Kuenning,  
 Phillip Witte,  
 Stephen Del Negro,  
 Deputy Kim Jensen,  
 Spencer Rougier,  
 Deputy James Balutowski  
**Middle Row L-R:**  
 Agent Nathan Jorod,  
 Deputy Logan Huling,  
 William Hummel,  
 Gregory Youngs,  
 Robert Sobek,  
 Chief Sherry Kiyler,  
 Agent Kelly Karinen  
**Front Row L-R:**  
 Eddy Bonilla, Kyle Youngs,  
 Cassandra Maya

### Personnel

The department changed its pay structure, allowing sworn agents to reach the top level of performance pay in five years rather than 10.5 years.

at CBI, allowing for faster transmission of information to law enforcement agencies.

In 2003, the entire police computer systems were changed. This process was likened to the changing of drivers while a car was still moving. After years of research and employee input, the department selected Intergraph as the vendor to assist with the transition from its homegrown technologies to a more robust system. Although it took the better part of the year to iron out the wrinkles, the new technologies ushered in mobile computers with greater functionality, GPS/AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) equipment in the patrol cars, a modern records management system, and a state-of-the-art computer-aided dispatch system that provided versatility, faster access to more data sources, and higher levels of intuitive functionality.

The Property Unit and Crime Lab were updated as well. LiveScan was introduced, automating the fingerprint process and allowing for faster confirmation of a suspect's identification by sending the information to CBI electronically. This eliminated the need to scan new fingerprints into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), used to compare unknown prints from crime scenes to known prints in the system. Lakewood also implemented the AFIX system for palm prints for use in the same way.

CopLink was adopted as the statewide records-sharing database for law enforcement. This tool, originally introduced by three Jefferson County agencies (Lakewood Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and Arvada Police Department), allows officers to query records data from departments throughout the state. It was instrumental in identifying a homicide suspect from a shooting on West Mexico Drive in 2008.

In the 2000s, additional, less lethal use-of-force options were available to agents. Sergeants were first trained on Tasers in early 2003, and agents were trained later that year. The introduction of the Taser gave agents another means of controlling suspects and safely taking them into custody. Another choice was

using the pepperball gun. An agent who was trained on the gun would be able to deliver an OC (pepper spray) dose from a distance, mark subjects with paintball-like rounds, or break glass.

## Crime Analysis Unit

Chief Burns ushered in an appreciation for the role crime analysis could play in policing. In 2005, Lakewood hired a crime analyst from Tempe, Arizona. Eric Nelson was highly experienced and understood the value that timely and relevant information could play in responding to crimes. Simultaneous to this, the department was moving forward with its version of community policing, titled sector policing. Nelson left the department in 2007. The unit then was composed of Danelle DiGiosio and Stacy Belledin.

Sector policing gave street agents the ability to patrol one of the three sectors for one year at a time. In this model, the city was divided into three sectors: the North Sector, everything north of West 6th Avenue; the South Sector, everything south of West 6th Avenue and east of Garrison Street; and the West Sector, everything south of West 6th Avenue and west of Garrison Street. In 2008, the Investigation Division Crimes Against Property Section completed its transition to sector policing, with detectives permanently assigned to one of the three sectors.

Each sector had its own policing needs. With the aid of the crime analysts' research and reports on current criminal activity in each sector, agents were able to better understand what was occurring in their assigned sectors. The analyst input assisted the agents with their daily activities, and allowed the commanders to formulate plans and dedicate resources to addressing any spikes in activity.

New technologies were added to improve the collection and dissemination of crime information. Today the department's responses to crime and quality-of-life problems are more data driven than ever before.

### Accreditation

In 2003 and 2008, the department was again awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department received meritorious recognition in 2008 during the process.



## The Kevin Paletta Era (January 2008 - Present)

In 2008, Lakewood turned inside the organization to replace Ron Burns as chief. Kevin Paletta had been a stalwart of the department since beginning as an agent in 1981. In the 30 years since, he held line-level, supervisory, and leadership positions in all of the department's three divisions. He has continued the department's emphasis on sector policing and community-oriented problem-solving. He led the transition to sector-based policing and was the project manager for the department's entire computer system upgrade, earning him the Police Service Award.

Early in his tenure, Chief Paletta established three core expectations: excellence in service, pride and professionalism, and accountability. These were to serve as the standard of performance for all department employees. He also began exploration of regionalization opportunities with other agencies to include recruit training, crime lab services, and SWAT operations.

Chief Paletta came to law enforcement directly from college. He was raised in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he attended college at Arizona State University. He graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. He has since earned a Master of Arts degree in management from Regis University, and is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute in Policing.

### Command Staff under Chief Paletta

John Camper  
Jim Coleman  
Dan McCasky  
Michelle Tovrea

**Legal Advisor**  
Janet Young



### Department Changes

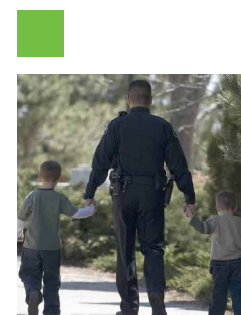
In 2008, several new units were added. Community Resource Officers were added to the street. A Cold Case Unit was formed in the Investigation Division, comprised of Sergeant Creighton Bates; Detective Michelle Stone-Principato; and retired Detective Alex Jameson, who works part time. In 2009, the city moved Code Enforcement (Zoning/Code Enforcement) under the umbrella of the Police Department.

The department installed an Automated Plate Reader (APR) on two of the patrol cars. The Property Unit's FileOnQ electronic evidence booking system came into department-wide use in 2008, eliminating duplication of work when booking evidence. The department installed a new telephone SHORTEL system in 2009.

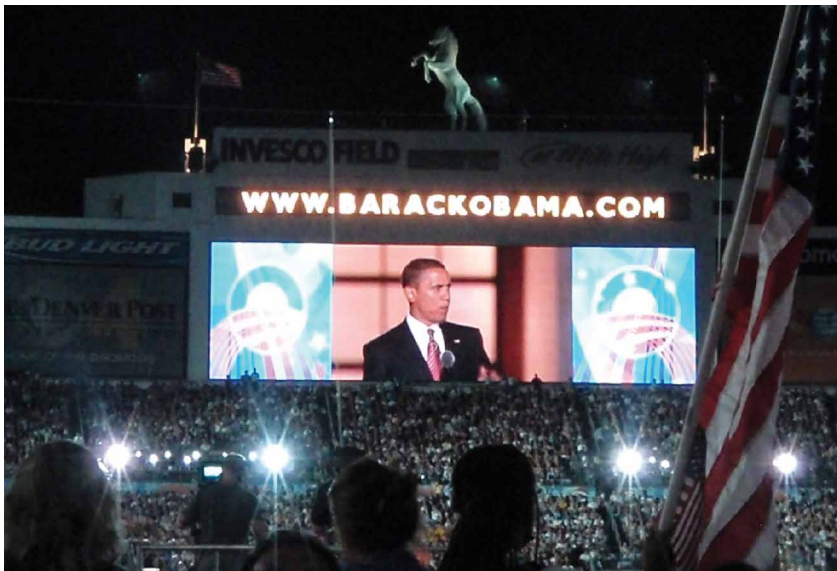
### Mental Fitness Symposium

On September 15-17, 2008, the department hosted a Mental Fitness for Law Enforcement Symposium. Seven nationally renowned speakers on violent crime and law enforcement mental health issues led the sessions at this no-charge seminar for police officers and

L-R Dan McCasky,  
Michelle Tovrea,  
Kevin Paletta,  
Jim Coleman



**Mental Fitness  
Symposium Brochure**  
Agent Kyle Okamura  
with sons



■ Audience at Invesco Field during Barack Obama's nomination acceptance speech

other professionals. Two of the evening sessions were designed for attendees and spouses with a focus on emotional survival for officers and their families.

Over three days, the seven preeminent speakers shared their expertise with an audience of approximately 600 attendees from the Rocky Mountain Region. Presenting were: Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman, who discussed the roots of violence and violent crime; John Nicoletti, PhD, spoke on violence and violence prevention; Officer Jason Schecterle of Phoenix, Arizona, chronicled his fight for life in the face of overwhelming adversity; Deb and Rob Smith (a retired police officer) spoke on the importance of self-empowerment and victim advocacy; Bobby Smith, PhD and retired Louisiana State Trooper, discussed critical incident issues and how trauma affects individuals mentally, physically, emotionally, and behaviorally; and Kevin Gilmartin, PhD, discussed emotional survival for officers and their families.

Attendees gained the ability to recognize the causes of emotional distress, learned strategies to proactively prepare for traumatic incidents and normal pressures of life, gained understanding of how traumatic incidents can impact lives, and acquired the skills and tools necessary to make effective personal assessments and interventions.

## Democratic National Convention (DNC) - August 22-29, 2008

For seven days in August 2008, the nation's eyes turned to Denver as the Democratic Party nominated Barack Obama as its candidate for president of the United States. The Lakewood Police Department played a key role in providing security for the Democratic National Convention.

Law enforcement support for the DNC was a cooperative effort of the Denver Police Department, the United States Secret Service, the FBI, and 60 other agencies. The Lakewood Police Department had the honor of being chosen from all those agencies for the high-profile task of providing primary security for the central core of the activities at The Pepsi Center and Invesco Field.

The entire Police Department came together to accomplish this mission. Approximately 140 agents, supervisors, dispatchers, and other support personnel worked the convention detail, each putting in an average of 80 hours of work during the week. Meanwhile, the rest of the department stepped up to fill the gaps left by the reassigned employees, many working as many extra hours as those assigned to the convention.

It would be difficult to overstate the complexity of the planning involved in this undertaking. Well in advance of the convention, Lakewood employees were ordering riot gear and other specialized equipment, training in crowd control techniques, and planning for dozens of contingencies.

A glance at some of the numerous interagency planning groups involved gives a sense of the scope of the endeavor: venue security, hazardous materials and decontamination response, intelligence, communications and dispatch, transportation, multi-agency command and control, scheduling, tactical support, crowd control, diagrams and mapping, counter-surveillance, medical, VIP security, and use of canines.



**"Extricator" SWAT Vehicle**  
Pictured with Lakewood  
SWAT members

In addition to the uniformed agents who provided security at the venues, the Lakewood Police Department provided SWAT teams, undercover intelligence agents, staffers for the Emergency Operations Center and the Multi-Agency Communications Center, and supervisors to help staff the Multi-Agency Command/Communication Center. In Lakewood an Immediate Reaction Team was formed in Patrol in case of a major incident.

In the end, the event ran so smoothly that some of the biggest difficulties proved to involve getting adequate food and water to the agents guarding the primary venues. The department's contribution to the smooth operation of this huge event drew praise from the Secret Service, the FBI, and the Denver Police Department. Lakewood agents were described as "professional, friendly, disciplined, and helpful."

### **New Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

In 2008, the cities of Lakewood and Wheat Ridge, along with the West Metro Fire Department, completed the design and construction of a new joint Emergency Operations Center (EOC). (See *"Communications Center" and the "EOC" in Civilian Units.*)

### **The Metropolitan Auto Task Force (MATT)**

On July 1, 2009, a grant-funded auto theft task force was formed. Originally it was named the Jefferson County Regional Auto Theft Task Force (J-RATT), later changed to the Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (MATT). Commander Mike Becker leads the task force. Sergeant Dave Hoover, Agent Sean Templeton, Investigative Technician Nicky Faubion, and Crime Analyst Renata Antikadjieva are all from Lakewood. Charles Hemming at Wheat Ridge Police Department, Bill Johnson at Arvada Police Department, and Art Peterson of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office are also team members. Currently assigned, in addition to the above personnel, are Sergeant Dave Sconce, Detective Bernard Montoya, Detective John Leitz, and Detective Greg Buschy, all from the Denver Police Department; and Joseph Obechina of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

The objective of the task force is to involve all law enforcement agencies in the Denver metro counties in a coordinated regional effort to reduce auto theft-related crimes.

## Animal Adventures of the 2000s

### ALL-STAR LLAMA WRESTLING

Former Agent Mark Hart got more fame than he bargained for one day in 2003 when he responded to a report of a llama wandering in traffic in the 1700 block of Kipling Street. Agent Hart recognized the need to capture the animal before it caused an accident. He had played some football and ridden in some rodeos in his youth, so he did what came naturally — tackling it and "bulldogging" it to the ground.

As it happened, there was a local television crew there with its camera rolling, and the action just kept getting better. Animal Control Officer Bonnie Martin arrived, and with the assistance of other agents and some helpful citizens, they got a halter on the llama and wrestled it to the side of the road. A bystander identified the errant llama as a female named Cupcake that belonged in a pasture a few blocks to the north.

With the camera still rolling, Hart looked into Cupcake's big, brown eyes and remarked about her breath, observing, "Cupcake could use a Tic-Tac." Cupcake responded to this insult by spitting what Hart later described as "a huge gob of green goo" that ran down the side of his face and all over his shirt.

By the next day, the television footage had made it around the world. The initial tackle was one of ESPN's "Top 10 Plays of the Day," and footage of the incident was featured on the BBC News in London's "News of the Americas" segment. Hart left Lakewood for the Denver Police Department in 2004, and he reports that a video clip of *The Capture of Cupcake* is a regular feature at department roll calls. To this day, he also gets a yearly Christmas card from Cupcake signed (presumably by her snickering owners), "Best wishes, love, Cupcake."

### "BABY BISON" SHOOTING - March 17, 2007

Another escaped animal incident resulted in much less favorable press for the department and the unfortunate agents involved, through no fault of their own. A young bison that was being raised for its meat escaped from its pen near Rooney Road and proceeded to run amok for miles through suburban neighborhoods. Its owner and a number of Lakewood agents tried in vain to contain it as crowds of bystanders grew. Although the television commentators later referred to the animal without fail as a "baby bison," it was a formidable adolescent of 400 to 500 pounds and not in a mood to be trifled with.

The scene threatened to descend into real danger, with two agents optimistically chasing the bison on foot and television helicopters arriving and further spooking the animal. Various patrol cars also were following it and trying to keep it in sight as a parade of media SUVs followed the patrol cars. A local veterinarian arrived and told the agents that even if the bison were shot with a tranquilizer gun, it would take quite a while for it to go down. Meanwhile, the bison was becoming increasingly agitated.

After two hours, the animal's owner was becoming very worried about his liability if it caused a traffic accident or other injury, and possible further property damage. Furthermore, it was not a pet but an animal being raised for slaughter. He recommended shooting it, and when the opportunity presented itself, Sergeant Creighton Bates felled it with a single shotgun shot to the head.

Video of the "baby bison" shooting was broadcast on Fox News' newscasts and website, leading outraged citizens from Lakewood and all over the country to call and e-mail the department to complain. However, Sergeant Bates' action likely prevented a very serious situation from becoming one of injury or death to bystanders. One e-mailer suggested that if onlookers were spooking the animal and refusing to leave, agents should have shot them instead.



Agent Mark Hart  
with Cupcake

# Special Units

## Animal Control

Before 1982, the Animal Control Unit was part of the Public Works Department and operated out of the building at 850 Parfet Street. Unit Manager Don Wentz recognized that this arrangement caused a number of problems. The enforcement aspect of Animal Control made the unit a better fit for the Police Department, as did the need for monitored dispatching of Animal Control officers. There was also the small matter of Public Works needing the space Animal Control was occupying. Accordingly, in 1982 the unit became a section in the Patrol Division.

The team initially consisted of five animal control officers, a civilian manager, a road supervisor, and a secretary. In the early 2000s, an additional officer position was added to cover the increasing call load. During the budget constraints in the mid-2000s, the number of officers decreased to four through attrition and the civilian manager position was eliminated. The two frozen positions were filled in 2006, bringing the team to its current roster of Michael Brogan, Leesha Crookston, Kelli Jelen, Jaime Johnston, Bonnie Martin, Amy Lee Riley, business support specialist Lisa Clark, and supervisor Holly Gilbertson.

Over the years, the unit and its individual members have been recognized for professionalism and commitment to the citizens of Lakewood and their pets. In 1993, the team was awarded the Outstanding Animal Control Agency award from the National Animal Control Association. Other awards have included the Animal Control Officer of the Year and the Animal Control Excellence Award, both from the Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers. Officers have also been recognized with the Chief's Commendation and the city's Employee of the Year award.



Animal Control Officer AmyLee Riley



Table Mountain Animal Center (TMAC), called the Jefferson Animal Shelter until its name change in 1994, has been the animal sheltering facility for Lakewood since the city's incorporation. It has a nonprofit foundation, supported through assessments of member agencies and impoundment fees from reclaimed pets. Due to an aging, poorly equipped, and overcrowded facility, a new shelter was built in the summer of 2010 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. With the grand opening, the name was changed to the Foothills Animal Shelter.

Animal Control Officer Mike Brogan with rescued fox



**Honor Guard at the First Bronco Game Immediately Following the 9/11 Terrorist Strike.**

L-R: Rob Dethlefs, West Metro Firefighter, Donn Kraemer, two West Metro Firefighters, Mitch Harper, West Metro Firefighter, Dave Adams

## Citizen Police Academy

One long-standing mission of the Lakewood Police Department has been to implement community problem-solving, with police and citizens working together to find solutions to difficult problems and to develop crime prevention measures. Education is an effective means of achieving this partnership. Since its inception in 1989, the Citizen Police Academy's curriculum has offered participants a greater understanding of the role of law enforcement agents.

The fall class of 2009 was the 40th Citizen Police Academy and the largest class since the academy began in Chief Charles Johnston's administration. Alumni total over 700, and many graduates are active in the department's volunteer program. As volunteers, they are entrusted with duties once only accomplished by sworn agents, such as motorist assists, picking up abandoned property and booking it, surveillance, and radar patrol in neighborhoods.

## Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)

In 1996, Chief Charles Johnston accepted the request from Jefferson County District Attorney David Thomas to participate in and use the Jefferson County Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT). The district attorney formed the team to investigate officer-involved shootings and other events that would likely result in serious bodily injury or death as a result of force being applied by law enforcement officers.

The Critical Incident Response Team was designed to be an independent investigative authority, responsible to the district attorney, that would ensure a thorough investigation of these critical incidents. Chief Johnston's approval of the use of CIRT in Lakewood

cases included the identification and training of Lakewood police personnel who would become members of the team. As members, they would participate in these investigations when other county agencies were involved in use-of-force cases. The CIRT team is also known as the county "Shoot Team."

## Honor Guard

The Lakewood Police Honor Guard was organized in the early 1980s. The Honor Guard lends ceremony and dignity to an event through its precise march and presentation of the colors. It is a voluntary unit comprised of agents who want to represent the Lakewood Police Department at police and community functions and other formal events. Shortly after the guard was organized, it could be seen training in the parking lot at 44 Union Boulevard. The initial team worked hard to become proficient and disciplined to perform as one.

Since its inception, many agents have represented the department as Honor Guard members at a variety of functions. These occasions have included the annual Law Enforcement Memorial at Camp George West in Golden, Kops and Kids Run, police funerals, opening ceremonies for Bronco games and at other sports venues, recruit graduations, Police Department annual awards ceremonies, opening ceremonies for regional races and charitable events, and other events requiring a dignified presentation.

Participants in the honor guard have included Mary Gabler, Mike Becker, Rollie Inskip, Pat Wilson, Chuck Terkelson, Jerry Cole, Jeff Rogers, John Romaniac, Donn Kraemer, Mitch Harper, Dave Adams, John Gilbert, Rob Dethlefs, Troy Lutman, Jeromy Rohling, DJ Braley, Brian Paisley, Ike Beers, Robert Clark, Mark Dietel, Greg Bramblett, Gregg Slater, Jimmy Torzak, and Alan Ma.



## Lakewood's Canines (K9s)

In 1978, four-legged police agents with tails were incorporated into the Lakewood Police Department's structure, with Agent Jack Lennig spearheading the K9 program. Prospective police dogs were originally found and trained locally. In later years, dogs were purchased from importers of European canines bred to specialize in police functions. Agents and dogs work and live together, becoming partners for the life of the dog.

The K9 Unit's goal is to provide trained dogs to search and find people or items of interest. Searches range from criminals who flee on foot from crime scenes to lost children or adults with special needs. Upon finding the person, each dog is trained to bite and hold; therefore, handlers must remain diligent with proper application of the dogs. Additionally, the dogs provide superior senses to search and locate evidence, with some dogs certified to find illegal narcotics.

Early training equipment was homemade and crude by today's standards. Agents acting as decoys were protected only by wrapping their arms in newspapers and burlap when they were on the receiving end of K9 bites during training sessions. Today, handlers and their K9s perform a variety of exercises including obedience, tactical movements, and tracking. Bite equipment evolved into expensive, high quality, specially woven fabric covering dense padding. Sophisticated, long-range digital remote transmitters for electronic collars are frequently used in training. Currently, training is scheduled every 10-hour shift on Wednesdays.

Thirty-six dogs have cycled through the K9 Unit. German shepherds are the predominate breed. Dutch shepherd and Belgian malinois round out other breeds used, except for a lone Doberman pinscher who failed during the initial K9 academy years ago. A series of tests screen the dogs, determining if they have innate behaviors required of successful police K9s. Upon passing, the dog and handler enter the 14-week K9 academy.



The academy's graduation diploma certifies that the team has demonstrated and passed basic standard tests. The team then patrols the streets together. A dog's career ranges from a few months to 12 years. Suspects have attempted to run over, shoot, beat, club, drag, kick, and choke Lakewood's dogs. Their tenacity keeps them performing when most dogs would turn tail and disappear.

K9 Rex, a Belgian malinois, had a stellar career spanning almost 12 years. He is viewed as the "top dog" within the K9 Unit's history for years of service and productivity. He developed an uncanny ability to locate suspects. Repeatedly, when all odds were against him, Rex worked through the problem until the complex equation was solved by finding the hidden suspect(s). During his career, Rex was grazed by a bullet fired from a suicidal man involved in a standoff with police and, in a different incident, was attacked by a suspect armed with a claw hammer. In a noteworthy case, nearly unheard of in the K9 world, Rex found a suspect literally hiding underwater. Rex located the suspect, dove into the water and bit the hidden man.

Years later, K9 Rocky, a Dutch shepherd, also located and apprehended a wanted man who was hiding underwater in an irrigation canal. Rocky floundered

*K-9 Rocky recovering after being shot by a fleeing suspect*



K9 handlers L-R:  
Agents Chris Worsham,  
Dan Garcia,  
Jerry Bartlett,  
George Mumma

K9 training on attack  
with Agent Beck Leider



Agent Jack Lennig  
with K9 Lugar

around in the water and could smell, but not find, the submerged man. Unknowingly, Rocky was literally walking on top of him and when the male was forced to come up for air, he had a face-to-face encounter with Rocky.

During a separate incident, Rocky was searching for a suspect who then shot the dog at nearly point-blank range with a handgun. Despite the bullet shattering a bone in Rocky's lower front left leg, he pursued and apprehended the shooter. The Associated Press sent Rocky's story across America. His photo appeared in newspapers as far away as Petaluma, California, and in the *Coffee News* in Henderson County, Ohio. Rocky was recognized by the American Police Hall of Fame in Miami, Florida. He healed well. Three years later he was crowned Champion in a statewide police K9 competition.

In August 2007, the Colorado Police Canine Association conducted the fourth annual Canine Challenge at the Denver Pepsi Center. The three-day challenge hosted canine teams from across the state who demonstrated their ability to perform all functions expected of such a team. K9 Ringo and his handler were awarded First Place in the Area Search competition and the title of Overall Challenge Winner.

Because of the department's dogs, hundreds of suspects are held accountable and volumes of evidence and illegal narcotics are located. "But for the dog" is a



phrase often heard to underscore the value of the K9 teams. Without them, evidence and suspects would be missed. Every dog has a special story, but police dogs have gained great respect and legendary status while working on the streets.

*Note: When questioned, most handlers of the K9s expressed their appreciation that the article focused on the dogs and not on them. The following is a list, past and present, of Lakewood's outstanding hard-working dogs.*

#### Patrol K9 Roster (1978–2010):

Lugar	KC (Bear)	Arno
Khaki	Rex	Fox
Ceto	Sky	Castro
Rusty	Cochise	Sammy
Max	Robby	Ringo
Aires	Reno	Blesk
Derek	Rocky	Decenna
Bear	Hub	Lobo
Charlie	Buddy	Rio
Rengo	Jerry	Chico
Kastor	Cerry	Casper

#### K9s of the West Metro Drug Task Force:

Abbie  
Ted  
Boo – Current K9 (2010)



**A. Lakewood Honor Guard** L-R: Jerry Cole, Chuck Terkelson, Rollie Inskeep, Gary Barbour, Jim O'Dell, Dave Adams, Brian Birdnow, Donn Kraemer, Joe Wray  
**Back Row** L-R: Unknown, Mary Gabler, Mike Becker, Unknown

**B. First Special Tactics and Response Team (STAR)**  
**Front:** L-R: Dave Dial, Tom Pfan, Charlie Johnston, Bill Barrow  
**Back Row** L-R: Chuck German, Vince DeBenedette, Terry Walker

**C. L-R:** Traffic Motorcycle Agents Tim Hindman, Dave Hoover

**D. SWAT Command – Drug Raid**  
**L-R:** Mike Becker, Les Williams, Burdell Burch

**E. Running Radar** Tim Hindman

**F. Explosive Entry Practice** (Early 2000s)  
**G. SWAT Helicopter Rappelling Practice** (late-1970s)



### Lakewood Police Explorers

*Ed Loar interviewing witness at graffiti site*

The Lakewood Police Explorer Post 226 was founded in 1971 with the belief that interactive positive exposure of young adults to a law enforcement environment would build a healthy and productive relationship with police. Police scouts receive both instruction and hands-on training. Scouts range in age from 14 to 21 and serve the department and the community in a variety of volunteer activities. Sworn agents and civilian employees serve the scout post as advisors in a volunteer capacity.

Scouts assist by handling traffic control and crowd management at events such as Lakewood on Parade, Special Olympics competitions, the Colfax Marathon, and Cider Days. They also have assisted by fingerprinting children at safety programs; guiding prospective recruits during department selection processes; guiding tours of the Police Department; and helping during department-sponsored pistol matches, K9 competitions, and SWAT training sessions. The post is available when needed as part of emergency response for the city.

The post regularly fields teams that travel to organized competitions around the region. In 1981, the post sent a team to the National Enforcement Explorer Conference in Ohio. The team placed 6th and 15th out of 100 teams competing in crime scene investigation and crime prevention events. In 1982, three post members placed in the top 10 during a statewide pistol meet. In



*Explorer Scout placing signs in neighborhoods alerting citizens of fraudulent activity*

1987, explorers exceeded all other contestants at the Colorado Law Enforcement Explorer Conference in Boulder, Colorado, by taking 12 trophies.

The post funds and administers a scholarship in honor of Bernie Bernstein, a longtime Police Department volunteer. This fund provides an annual scholarship grant to a deserving member. The Helen Bernstein Family Trust continues to fund the explorer program through annual gifts.

### Special Enforcement Team (SET) 1990s

A cruising phenomenon hit the city of Lakewood in the early 1980s. (See "Cruising" in the "1980s Decade.") "Colfax Cruising" stopped traffic along West Colfax Avenue from Sheridan Boulevard to Simms Street on Friday and Saturday nights. Chief Charles Johnston called for the formation of a Special Enforcement Team (SET) to respond to the problem. After successfully curtailing cruising, SET remained intact. The team focused on prostitution stings, fugitive arrests, bar checks, and the developing graffiti and gang problems.

In the 1990s, the Police Department confronted the graffiti problem and what it represented. This common and often unrecognized representation of gang presence appeared in Lakewood and throughout other Denver metropolitan communities on every vertical surface imaginable. The graffiti included that of white supremacy groups, street gangs (many affiliated with Crips and Bloods), purely Hispanic gangs, and Asian gangs. Other graffiti represented the "artistic tagger/urban art" type.

The graffiti was unsightly and implied attitudes of neglect and indifference — not the impression the city and the department wanted to present. The city passed an ordinance requiring citizens and businesses to remove all graffiti. The city and the Police Department quickly recognized that the new ordinance placed a heavy burden on people. For example, claims for paint,

cleanup, and replacement of glass from etched windows often jeopardized insurance coverage. This resulted in higher premiums, a burden hard for businesses (often local families) to bear. That expensive result of the ordinance was the driving force to form a collaborative response.

The department enlisted the help of a local post office. Along their delivery routes, postal employees recorded the location of graffiti on cards designed by SET. Those postal employees received national recognition for their community involvement. In addition, citizen volunteers added their efforts to locate, report, and remove graffiti, culminating in "Operation Tag." Paint and graffiti removal equipment were often donated by businesses. Cleanup was an arduous but necessary task, as it is to this day.

In March 1992, the Special Enforcement Team was assigned the responsibility of identifying, partly through study of the graffiti, gang movement in areas of the city. In addition, SET spent countless hours presenting information regarding gangs and graffiti to all levels of the community: youth and church groups, homeowner associations, civic clubs, emergency/hospital personnel, social service agencies, school personnel and school district leadership, and chamber of commerce groups.

In the 1990s, police volunteer Connie Hieb wrote and published three editions of a booklet to inform organizations about gangs and other juvenile issues. Thousands of these publications were distributed free-of-cost to organizations of all kinds and to police agencies worldwide. The 1990s decade was particularly notable across the nation for violent and drug-related crimes involving gang-affiliated individuals. Those problems continued into the 2000s, and SET continues to focus on gang and graffiti issues.



### ***Gang Roundtable Intervention Program (GRIP):***

In the early 1990s, the Gang Roundtable Intervention Program (GRIP) was developed. The program evolved from SET agents playing basketball with gang members in city parks. It became an easy way to connect with them on an informal level. SET decided, with members of a community gang task force, to create a bimonthly event, called "The Roundtable," where SET agents, agents from other divisions in the Police Department, and juveniles would meet at a recreation center for an hour of basketball, followed by roundtable discussions. These roundtables continued for several months until the numbers of participants outgrew the facility and the supervisory police personnel.

A short time after the program ended, community task force member Billie Wilkening applied for and received a \$10,000 HUD grant. Municipal Court Judge Tom Elliott and Juvenile Probation Supervisor David Risher agreed to work with the department to develop an alternative diversion sentencing program also called GRIP, using the HUD grant.

Involved in the program were the municipal court administrator, probation supervisor and counselors, the city's licensed youth/family counselors, a childcare provider to care for younger siblings of a juvenile's family (while parents met with counselors), the boot camp drill sergeant from Lookout Mountain Detention Center, staff from West Pines hospital, and seven Lakewood churches who generously provided a meal each night of the program. Financial constraints made it necessary to end the program a few years later.

Artistic graffiti  
in Lakewood



### ***SET - Operation Posse:***

In 1993, the Police Department was recognized for a project called "Operation POSSE" (Protecting our Schools and Students Education). Chief Johnston was contacted by a local high school principal who stated that a group of students had met with school officials and requested intervention with drug activity, alcohol abuse, loitering, and vandalism in an area just beyond the school's property line. At the request of Chief Johnston, SET spent weeks of surveillance and evidence-gathering in the identified area bordering the high school.

Probation Supervisor David Risher reported that of the 21 youths arrested, 18 made it through either the many-level diversion program or probation successfully. A six-month follow-up indicated a success rate of 81 percent, a figure he considered positive and encouraging because of the variety of juveniles who displayed "negative attitudes, hostility, denial, and indifference" when arrested and assigned to the program.

The program was supported by a steering committee: the school district's superintendent, the high school's principal and vice principal, Chief Johnston, Mayor Linda Morton, former Mayor Linda Shaw, Lakewood's Cenikor drug rehabilitation program, representatives of the Municipal Court, the city's youth and family counseling staff, police personnel, and community members. Operation POSSE received honorable mention at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Conference in San Diego and the Mayor's Award for Innovation.

### **Special Enforcement Team (SET) 2000s**

In 2007, SET was reactivated to be a flexible, immediately adaptable impact team that can respond to the most pressing issues in the city, such as gang activity, prostitution, liquor enforcement, and sexual predator and fugitive apprehension. SET also conducts surveillance in support of both the Patrol and Investigation divisions. Initially, the team had one sergeant, six agents, and one technician. Soon thereafter, the team was expanded to eight agents to consolidate the gang resources.

SET serves as the primary unit for the investigation of gangs in the city and also is tasked with investigating and reducing graffiti by identifying it. To this end, SET works directly with the community, the Metro Area Graffiti Task Force, the Denver Police Department graffiti squad, and the City Councils in Lakewood and Denver.

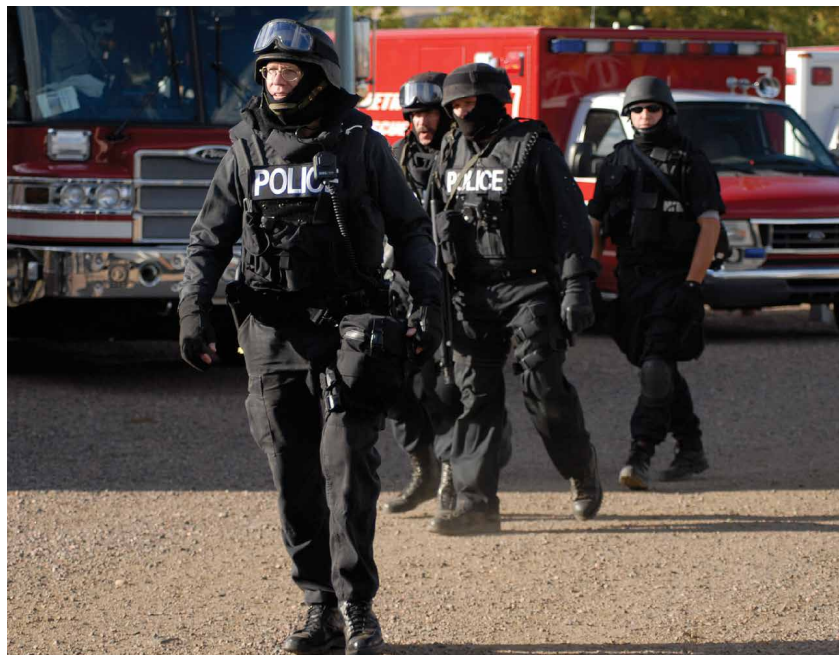
A nine-month investigation into the approximately 200-member EMS gang (Evil Minded Soldiers, or Envy My Style) resulted in the arrest of 12 members of that gang for the sale of drugs and guns. This was a joint operation between Lakewood SET, the Denver Police Gang Unit, and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). Paul Barben was the principal SET agent involved in the operation. (See "Cases-Decades," October 2008, February 2009, and June 2009 for SET case studies.)

## SWAT (STAR)

In 1974, the Lakewood Police Department formed its first tactical team. Modeled after similar teams in California and Florida, STAR (Special Tactics and Response) was designed to supplement police responses to extraordinary events requiring additional skills, armaments, training, and tactics. The new team augmented patrol agents' capabilities by providing specially trained agents carrying specialty weapons. The name "Special Tactics and Response" (STAR) was chosen since many administrations nationwide felt that SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) was too militaristic, too confrontational, or was not generally accepted by the law enforcement or civilian communities.

The first team members received intensive training from Los Angeles Police Department officers, and despite meager finances the department was able to equip a small cadre of agents with AR15 rifles, sniper rifles, gas guns, gas masks, tear gas, and other specialized equipment. Many of these agents then continued their Lakewood careers as supervisors, K9 handlers, and range officers. (See "Cases-Decades" for 1978 STAR case study, "Old West Arms Store.")

Over the years, the concepts learned and employed by these tactical officers carried over to Patrol. The "specialized tactics" learned in STAR training sessions became incorporated into patrol agents' routine duties, in many cases eliminating the need for the assistance of a dedicated team. This translated to fewer full-team call-outs. At the same time, however, drug dealers began switching to methamphetamine production and distribution, again requiring the need for the tactical team.



Gradually, the term SWAT became more accepted both nationally and locally. The team assumed a variety of assignments, from an immediate call-out/deployment (in the case of a barricaded subject) to a pre-planned event (such as a no-knock warrant service).

The department switched from its 1970s vintage blue bread truck to a large white vehicle that held the majority of team equipment and supplies. In 2007, the negotiators acquired their own van for SWAT deployments.

There are some cases in which tear gas is used to force the exit of a suspect. However, the team endeavors to safely secure the target area and resolve all incidents with as little gunfire from the team as possible.

The team's two largest and most notable events were the April 20, 1999, response to Columbine High School and the August 2008 full deployment to the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Denver, in support of the Denver Police Department, the United States Secret Service, and the FBI. (See "Columbine" in the 1990s Decade, Commander Burdell Burch's account of Columbine in "Memories," and "DNC" in the 2000s Decade.)

### SWAT Call-out

Forefront - Sergeant Mark Dewhurst,  
Background L-R:  
Donn Kraemer,  
Gregg Slater,  
Adam Starr



**Traffic Team Motorcycles  
at Colfax Marathon**  
L-R: Tim Hindman,  
Ty Countryman

Motorcycle Agent  
Cliff Dawson

## Traffic Team

In 1986, the Police Department applied for and received a federal grant for speed enforcement on state highways with a speed limit of 55 mph or higher. The two that qualified were West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and US Highway 285. The grant provided funds to purchase three Kawasaki motorcycles and four radar-equipped patrol cars. After the graduation of the 1986 recruit class, a team of six senior agents, two detectives, and one sergeant was formed.

In 1990, because of both increased traffic and accidents, the city and Police Department agreed there was a need to cover the entire city. The traffic team did not have “beats” to patrol; they were assigned to “wards,” just as were City Council members. This gave a council member a specific agent to contact with any traffic concerns or requests for service. The team’s focus became traffic enforcement and accident investigation.

Team members also assisted patrol on calls and were assigned various duties such as funeral escorts for fallen officers, traffic control for major incidents, and involvement in the annual Lakewood on Parade event. At that time, the team consisted of one agent using

a car, four motorcycle agents, a sergeant, and two detectives. Also, the motorcycle agents changed motorcycle brands from Kawasaki to Harley Davidson motorcycles. The detectives were responsible for filing traffic cases involving felonies, fatal accidents, and follow-up of hit-and-run accidents.

In 1997, the Police Department traded in the four Harley Davidson motorcycles and became the first department in North America to have BMW 1100RTP motorcycles. The department also purchased new radar and laser equipment for the team. In 2002, the motorcycle fleet was increased to five.

Also in 2002, an evening traffic team consisting of five agents and one sergeant was formed. This team would address traffic problems after normal business hours, using five patrol cars and one motorcycle. In 2006, the department changed to sector policing, including the two traffic teams. A third detective was added to the day shift in 2007.

Since 1990, the goals of the traffic team have remained the same – to reduce accidents, educate drivers, and provide support for the patrol division.



# MEDALS OF VALOR

The Medal of Valor is the department's highest honor. It is awarded for an act above and beyond the call of duty that involves extreme risk to the employee's life.

## **Agent Morris Spiess, March 18, 1975**

While on routine patrol, Agent Spiess saw two armed men robbing a restaurant. They fled on foot into the darkness, pursued by Spiess. One suspect shot at Spiess, who returned fire, causing the suspect to surrender. Spiess temporarily turned the suspect over to an off-duty agent who lived in the neighborhood, then began a search for the second suspect. He successfully located this suspect, as well, and arrested him without further difficulties.

## **Agents Greg Morrison and Mary Gabler, February 2, 1981**

Agents Morrison and Gabler noticed a house engulfed in fire, entered the residence and rescued three occupants. Morrison was overcome by smoke and was safely evacuated by Gabler.

## **Agent Donn Kraemer, July 16, 1984**

Agent Kraemer was off-duty, shopping with his wife, when he saw two suspects run from the scene of a theft. Kraemer and a security guard pursued the suspects on foot. One suspect pulled a gun and aimed it at the security guard's head. When Kraemer identified himself as a police officer, the suspect turned and fired at him. Kraemer returned fire, then again chased the suspect on foot, capturing him when he tried to hide under a parked car.

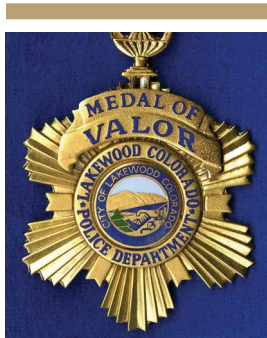


## **Agents Catherine Barnes, Jeff Foster, Scott Richardson, and Dan Garcia, August 7, 1989**

These agents responded to an armed robbery. The suspect fled in a car until Agents Foster and Richardson rammed the suspect's car and disabled it. The suspect then continued running on foot. He drew a loaded revolver from his waistband, but the arrival of Agents Barnes and Garcia startled him into dropping the gun. Police K9 Buddy (handler Dan Garcia) safely captured the suspect.

## **Agent Keith Sorci, December 1, 1989**

Agent Sorci was dispatched to a townhouse fire and found an elderly man standing outside. The man told Sorci that his wife was still inside the building, so Sorci immediately went in alone to rescue her. He found her standing inside, so disoriented that she initially tried to resist his efforts to evacuate her. Despite her lack of cooperation, he was able to get her out of the burning house safely.



**Sergeants Mike Rose and Don Girson,  
Agent Brian Costanza; May 8, 1991**

These three officers helped rescue approximately 20 people who were trapped on second- and third-floor balconies of a burning apartment building. Sergeant Rose obtained a ladder and helped several people climb down it; Sergeant Girson entered the building, crawling on hands and knees until forced back by heat and smoke; and Agent Costanza picked up a semi-conscious, critically burned woman and moved her to safety. He then helped evacuate other trapped residents.

**Sergeant Charles Terkelson, Agents Gary  
Wildebrandt, Charles Henthorne, and Tracey  
Lee, January 11, 1993**

These officers responded to a house containing a suicidal subject. A natural gas source had been turned on, windows and doors were barricaded, and a candle was burning in the living room. Despite the risk of imminent explosion, they entered the house and rescued the suicidal subject.

**Sergeant John Romaniec, Agents Kevin  
Kimmey, and Monique (Moore) Gilstrap,  
March 5, 1995**

These officers became involved in a fierce struggle when a suspect wanted for a restraining order violation began to fight to avoid being arrested. During this struggle, the suspect was able to gain control of an agent's gun and fired a round. Sergeant Romaniec ended the confrontation by shooting the suspect, thus preventing any additional loss of life.

**Sergeant Ken Perry, Agents Lee Thomas and  
Greg Strandberg, October 30, 1995**

These officers responded with two Denver Police Department officers to an apartment in Denver where a shooting suspect was located. During their attempt to arrest the suspect, he pulled a gun out of his shirt, aimed at Sergeant Perry, and pulled the trigger. The weapon malfunctioned. All three officers then became

involved in a physical struggle to control the gun and the suspect. They were able to take the suspect into custody without injuries to anyone. It was later discovered that he had been sitting on a second loaded gun.

**Agent William Csikos, September 28, 1997**

Agent Csikos made a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle. As he got out of his patrol car, the driver of the suspect vehicle opened fire. Csikos was able to dive for cover in his car, advise dispatch of his location, and report the situation. He then pursued the fleeing suspect vehicle, despite the suspect continuing to shoot at him and at assisting Wheat Ridge officers. The pursuit ended when the suspect crashed his car into a bystander's truck.

**Agent Kris DeRoehn, October 31, 1999**

Agent DeRoehn contacted two suspicious pedestrians and ordered them to his patrol car. One refused, pulled out a gun and shot Agent DeRoehn in the leg. The other suspect drove away in Agent DeRoehn's patrol car. Although he was seriously injured, Agent DeRoehn returned fire and updated other agents about the dangerous situation. The shooter was later killed in a shootout with another agency.

**Agent Keith Marks, November 2, 1999**

Agent Marks and his field training agent confronted a person they believed to be a suspect in the recent shooting of Agent Kris DeRoehn. Agent Marks tried to pat the suspect down, but the suspect ran away. Agent Marks pursued and caught up to the suspect. During the ensuing struggle, the suspect pulled out a pistol and shot Agent Marks. The bullet went through his right calf and thigh, then lodged in the pelvic bone, breaking it. Despite these injuries, Agent Marks returned fire and continued his foot pursuit. The suspect, who was not involved in the shooting of Agent DeRoehn, was captured and is serving a lengthy jail term.

# PURPLE HEARTS

The Purple Heart is awarded when an employee is wounded or seriously injured by a deadly weapon as the result of an assault while the employee is performing his or her official duties and responsibilities.

## **Agent Mary Wamsley, February 10, 1983**

Agents Wamsley, Laurel Lichtenberg, and John Stone were asked to help a Jefferson County Social Services caseworker evaluate a mother and her mentally unstable 13-year-old daughter. When the caseworker told the daughter that she was going to be taken into protective custody, the girl grabbed a large bayonet that had been hidden behind her. During the ensuing confrontation, the agents tried ordering her at gunpoint to drop the weapon, repeatedly spraying her in the face with mace and hitting her several times with a baton. The girl then stabbed Wamsley in the upper thigh, causing a deep wound. Stone and Lichtenberg were able to subdue the girl without resorting to deadly force and assist their wounded fellow agent.

## **Agent John Moore, November 1, 1985**

Agent Moore was dispatched to a domestic dispute, unaware that the male half of the altercation had loaded a semiautomatic military assault rifle and told his wife he was “going to kill the cops.” When Agent Moore arrived, the suspect’s wife ran outside and warned him that her husband had a gun. Agent Moore directed her to safety and took cover behind a tree. The husband came outside and fired numerous rounds at Agent Moore and his patrol car, striking Agent Moore once in the arm. Agent Moore continued to keep other agents advised of the situation by radio and moved to another position of cover. When the suspect was unable to locate Agent Moore behind the original tree, the suspect shot himself.



## **Agent Kris DeRoehn, October 31, 1999**

Agent DeRoehn was also awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries described in the Medal of Valor section of this publication.

## **Agent Keith Marks, November 2, 1999**

Agent Marks was also awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries described in the Medal of Valor section of this publication.

**Information about recipients of other awards is available on the Lakewood Police Department website.**

# LAKWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BECOME LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

Name	Years of LPD Service	Where Served and/or Currently Serving (Last City Listed)
Craig Camp	1970-1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northglenn, Colorado</li> </ul>
Frank Bell	1970-1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Littleton, Colorado</li> </ul>
Larry Hesser	1970-1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park City, Utah</li> <li>• Henderson, North Carolina</li> <li>• Longmont, Colorado</li> <li>• Georgetown, Texas</li> </ul>
Richard "Dick" Hayes	1970-1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jackson Hole, Wyoming</li> </ul>
John Marks	1970-1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idaho Springs, Colorado</li> </ul>
Jack Storne	1970-1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escalon, California</li> </ul>
Robert Christopherson	1970-1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Hawk, Colorado</li> </ul>
Erik Dam	1970-1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Englewood, Ohio</li> <li>• New Canaan, Connecticut</li> </ul>
James Wanek	1970-1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breckenridge, Colorado</li> </ul>
George Johnson	1970-1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LaGrande, Oregon</li> <li>• Hickory, North Carolina</li> <li>• Warner Robins, Georgia</li> </ul>
G. Joseph Moffitt	1970-1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Springfield, Missouri</li> <li>• Park Ridge, Illinois</li> </ul>
Dean Shoars	1973-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Northern Iowa</li> <li>• Cedar Falls, Iowa</li> </ul>
Roger Willard	1971-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keene, New Hampshire</li> </ul>
James Tising	1972-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Southern Colorado</li> <li>• Pueblo, Colorado</li> </ul>
Larry Brunson	1974-1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brighton, Colorado</li> <li>• Ridgecrest, California</li> </ul>
Donald Braunton	1973-1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitola, California</li> </ul>
Robert Holmes	1971-1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Englewood, Colorado</li> <li>• Rutland, Vermont</li> </ul>
Clyde Kemp	1974-1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock Springs, Wyoming</li> </ul>
Pierce R. Brooks	1971-1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eugene, Oregon</li> </ul>
Earl Hering	1971-1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piedmont, California</li> </ul>
Kyle Sowell	1970-1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenwood Village, Colorado</li> <li>• Douglas, Wyoming</li> </ul>
Michael Graham	1975-1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hayden, Colorado</li> </ul>
Patrick Ahlstrom	1970-1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sioux City, Iowa</li> <li>• Broomfield, Colorado</li> <li>• Arvada, Colorado</li> <li>• Colorado Department of Public Safety</li> <li>• Area Director - Transportation Security Administration Security Operations-Area 10</li> </ul>

Name	Years of LPD Service	Where Served and/or Currently Serving (Last City Listed)
Alan Waters Al Shaw	1975-1978 1975-1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powder Springs, Georgia</li> <li>• Hellertown, Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Sutton, Massachusetts</li> <li>• Massasoit University Police Brockton, Massachusetts</li> </ul>
Robert Hooker Jeff Snider	1975-1978 1973-1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherman Township, Michigan</li> <li>• Woodland Park, Colorado</li> <li>• Gig Harbor, Washington</li> </ul>
J. Tony Lane	1971-1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Bend, Kansas</li> <li>• Rangely, Colorado</li> <li>• Castle Rock, Colorado</li> </ul>
Ken Sortland Howard Cornell	1970-1979 1970-1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avon, Colorado</li> <li>• Streamwood, Illinois</li> <li>• Broomfield, Colorado</li> </ul>
Ken Hutchins Michael Grover Steve Archer James Heironimus	1973-1980 1972-1980 1974-1980 1975-1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northborough, Massachusetts</li> <li>• Cottage Grove, Oregon</li> <li>• Crested Butte, Colorado</li> <li>• Lockhart, Texas</li> <li>• Director of Enforcement &amp; Licensing Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education Austin, Texas</li> </ul>
Kenneth Hughey Leon Kutzke	1973-1980 1973-1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vail, Colorado</li> <li>• Carpentersville, Illinois</li> <li>• Lombard, Illinois</li> </ul>
Sid Klein John Vermilye Charles Brown	1970-1980 1970-1981 1973-1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearwater, Florida</li> <li>• Lakewood, Colorado</li> <li>• Southwest Texas State University San Marcos, Texas</li> <li>• University of Texas Medical Center Galveston, Texas</li> </ul>
Gerald Whitman Clint Blackhurst Aleck Shilaos Dan Montgomery Bruce Glasscock	1978-1982 1970-1982 1972-1982 1971-1982 1973-1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denver, Colorado</li> <li>• Brighton, Colorado</li> <li>• Price, Utah</li> <li>• Westminster, Colorado</li> <li>• Fort Collins, Colorado</li> <li>• Plano, Texas</li> </ul>
James O'Dell David Purdy	1970-1985 1974-1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kettering, Ohio</li> <li>• Columbus, Nebraska</li> <li>• Auburn, Washington</li> </ul>

Name	Years of LPD Service	Where Served and/or Currently Serving (Last City Listed)
John Stone	1974-1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Golden, Colorado</li> </ul>
Russell Cook	1973-1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golden, Colorado</li> <li>• Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Golden, Colorado</li> </ul>
Robert Forrest	1979-1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Berthoud, Colorado</li> </ul>
David Dial	1973-1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naperville, Illinois</li> </ul>
Ronald Beckham	1972-1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Golden, Colorado</li> </ul>
Michael Maudlin	1977-1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheridan, Colorado</li> <li>• Commerce City, Colorado</li> </ul>
Gregory Morrison	1980-1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silverthorne, Colorado</li> <li>• Vail, Colorado</li> <li>• Grand Junction, Colorado</li> </ul>
Dennis Goodwin	1979-1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arapahoe Community College Littleton, Colorado</li> </ul>
Gary Mecham	1973-1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montrose, Colorado</li> </ul>
John Patterson	1976-1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silverthorne, Colorado</li> <li>• Cherry Hills Village, Colorado</li> </ul>
Joe Wray	1977-1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dillon, Colorado</li> </ul>
Rollie Inskip	1982-2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Rocks Community College Lakewood, Colorado</li> </ul>
John Mackey	1981-2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Rocks Community College Lakewood, Colorado</li> <li>• Dillon, Colorado</li> </ul>
Charles Johnston	1970-2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auraria Campus Police, Denver, Colorado</li> </ul>
Gerald Garner	1973-2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakewood, Colorado</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Lupton, Colorado</li> </ul>
Gary Barbour	1972-2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greeley, Colorado</li> <li>• Interim Chief - Lakewood, Colorado</li> <li>• Frederick, Colorado</li> </ul>
Daniel Brennan	1977-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheat Ridge, Colorado</li> </ul>
Kevin Paletta	1981-Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakewood, Colorado</li> </ul>
John Camper	1981-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grand Junction, Colorado</li> </ul>
Pete Palmer	1970-1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chaffee County Sheriff's Office Salida, Colorado</li> </ul>





A. Chief Charles Johnston with President George Bush

B. In honor of their Physical Trainer Pete Palmer, the 1981 Recruit Class wore skull caps to training.

**Back Row** L-R: John Doyle, Quinn Wilhelm, John Mackey, George McGlynn, Kevin Paletta, Greg Bramblett, Gary Rini, John Camper

**Front Row** L-R: Jim Greer, Dave Adams, Mark Betcher, Karen Bradley, Mary Beth Klee, Karen Wesley (Vincent), Francis Kavanaugh **Seated in Front:** Pete Palmer

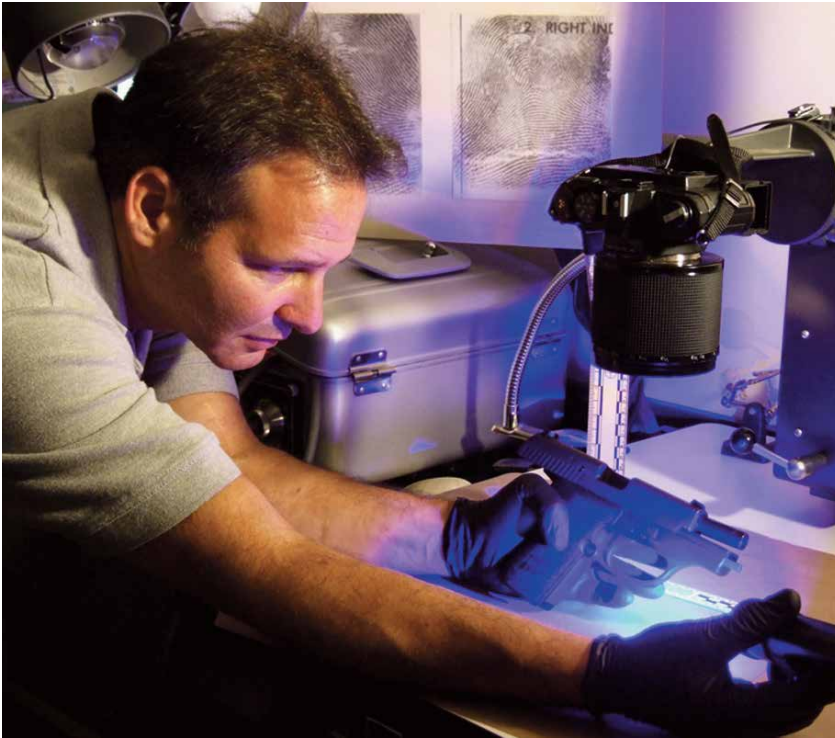
C. Captain Al Youngs with President Bill Clinton

**D. Back Row** L-R: Al Youngs, Roger Willard, Pierce Brooks, Jack Stone, Dale Hopper

**Front Row** L-R: Joe Schallmoser, Doug Monsoor, Dan Montgomery

E. John Vermilye, Bob Liddell, Tony Lane

# Civilian Units



Crime Scene Analyst Ken Pomeranz examining weapon for fingerprints utilizing an Alternate Light Source

## Crime Lab

In 1970, the Crime Lab's beginnings were humble. The unit was staffed by two people, Doug Monsoor and Jerry Cole. This was not the Jerry Cole who became a sergeant, but an earlier Jerry Cole who later joined the Secret Service. They worked from a Quonset hut on Yarrow Street before moving to another building on West 16th Avenue. These two men shared crime scene, photographic, and latent print duties for almost two years.

The lab's original crime scene equipment consisted of a fingerprint brush, a bottle of black powder, cut-up pieces of white bond paper, and regular Scotch tape — all carried around in a small fishing tackle box. A "Bell-boy" type of pager was used to contact whoever was on

call. They would appear at a crime scene in a beat-up tan Plymouth station wagon.

In mid-1971, Crime Lab personnel handled the developing and printing of black and white film in a darkroom in the Quonset hut. Color film was used for major cases only and was developed by K-Mart.

The ensuing years saw many changes, beginning with the appointment of Doug Monsoor as the lab supervisor. Monsoor staffed the lab with skilled specialists and installed current equipment. Personnel included latent fingerprint examiners, full-time crime scene specialists, fingerprint technicians, a document examiner, photographic technicians, a polygrapher, sex offender registrars, a part-time criminal history technician, two part-time fingerprint clerks, and a secretary.

The Lakewood Police Department was one of the first agencies to require national certification of its latent examiners. Certification requirements have applied to other lab specialties including certified crime scene analysts, a certified forensic computer analyst, and a certified forensic photographer. Many of these specialists share their expertise with Lakewood's new recruits, Patrol's crime scene investigators, and law enforcement agencies in the Rocky Mountain region.

Much has changed since the early 1970s. New digital photographic mug systems were added at the station and at the Colorado Mills substation. The AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) was added in 1999 and was followed by LiveScan in 2000. In 2002, the department added AFIX (an automated identification system for palm prints) and IAFIS (Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System). Photographic evidence in all forms can now be handled digitally, without chemicals. An old tan station wagon no longer pulls up at a crime scene; instead, a large cargo van and two Chevy Suburbans arrive, fully equipped to handle any type of crime.



## Highlights of a few Crime Lab Cases

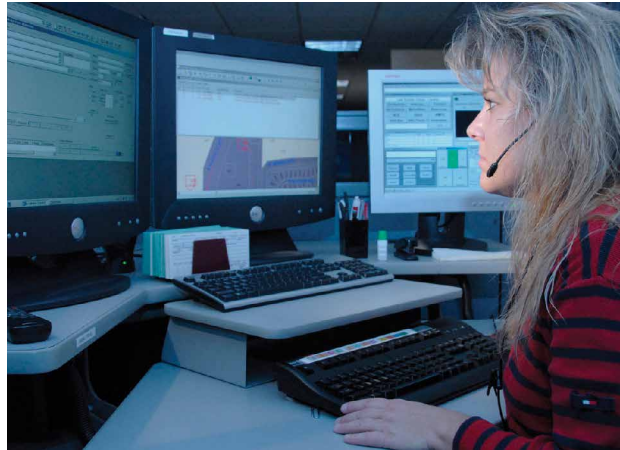
Lakewood's first Alternate Light Source and DNA case was in 1989, involving a sexual assault on a child. Stains found on the bedding via the Alternate Light Source matched blood samples given by the suspect.

One of Lakewood's best known homicide bloodstain analysis cases occurred during an assist to the Arvada Police Department in the early 1990s. Arvada had asked Lakewood Police Department investigators to assist since the Lakewood specialists had more experience in this new form of forensic evidence. There were bloodstains all over the living room of a home belonging to an estranged couple. Spraying the doors with a chemical called Luecomalachite Green enhanced the stains' visibility, and crime scene investigators were able to see evidence of the suspect's hand in the victim's blood. The bloodstain analysis was critical in defusing the defendant's argument of self-defense.

In 1988, the lab got its first AFIS hit on a burglary/auto theft. The victim's Cadillac had been stolen after the owner's house was ransacked. The car was abandoned with stolen jewelry left in the trunk. Processing the vehicle led to four latent prints on the rearview mirror. The prints were entered on AFIS, and the system was able to provide a name for the suspect.

In the late 1980s, the metro area was being hit with convenience store armed robberies. Suspect information varied. An IAFIS hit was made on a latent print found on a newspaper left behind in a robbery. When investigators processed the newspaper that the suspect had held over the gun during the robberies, they found a print from a fingertip. This was in turn entered into IAFIS, which yielded a possible match. A comparison confirmed the subject's identity.

In 2009, the lab successfully used computer analysis to solve a case. A breach of the computer system used by a local restaurant's credit card swiping machine had been found. After seizing the server and credit card machine, investigators found that the security breach had been extensive. Romanian hackers had been able



Dispatcher  
Julie Gorham at  
Communications  
Center console

to insert a "keystroke logger" into the equipment of a specific company. Every time a card was swiped, all the information was downloaded and sent to Romania. It was found that more than 10,000 systems had been at risk in Colorado, other western states, and on the East Coast. This case prompted a federal investigation of computer crime around the world.

## Communications Center

According to Judy Edwards and Diana Rose, two of the first dispatchers, the early Communications Center was far from the state-of-the-art operation that it is today.

In the early 1970s, a total of 12 people in the "Com Center" and Records shared space in a Quonset hut attached to City Hall on Yarrow Street. No one had experience, and no structured training was available. They had to figure it out fast — it was trial by error. Most agents hired in those early days were experienced lateral hires from other departments. They came to Lakewood with expectations. They knew things could be better and the new, young, inexperienced crew in the "Com Center" scrambled to develop procedures with rudimentary equipment.

Dispatchers had a teletype machine into which information was entered on tapes and sent to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Other information was sent to the sheriffs' offices in Adams and Jefferson counties. In addition to the teletype, the primary piece of equipment was the telephone. For example, to clarify motor vehicle information, they had to improvise and



Crime Scene Analyst  
Erin O'Neil dusting for  
fingerprints



Officer John Whiteoak Buckley,  
June 8, 1950 - April 15, 1977

call Denver and Arvada Police Departments to check their listings. Com Center personnel reported spending hours and hours every day on the telephone, which resulted in lasting neck pain. They had to share headsets in the early 1970s, and often food crumbs were found in the microphones, much to the disgust of some dispatchers. The quality of radio transmission was often poor and agents reported difficulty in hearing transmitted information — there was trouble on both ends of the line.

At "44 Union," the center was separated from the booking area by the watch commander's office. Staff could hear when fights broke out in the booking area, and they would immediately call for backup units.

The Com Center moved from 44 Union Boulevard in 1984 and was relocated in the lower level, northeast corner of the new building on Allison Parkway. It remained at that location until the first quarter of 1999, when the center was moved to a West Metro Fire Protection District facility at 9001 West Jewell Avenue. The goal was to consolidate dispatching costs by sharing office space with West Metro Fire Dispatch, the Emergency Operations Center, and the training facility. Dispatchers worked at this off-site location for nearly 10 years.

On May 6, 2008, the entire Communications Center moved from 9001 West Jewell Avenue, which was necessitated by the West Metro Fire Protection District's plan to demolish the building to begin construction of a new facility. By moving the center to its new location in the Lakewood Police headquarters at 445 South Allison Parkway, all Police Department employees were reunited under one roof. The overall success of the move was attributed to the cooperative effort of a team whose common goal was to create state-of-the-art centers for dispatch, network operations, and emergency preparedness.

Moving the Com Center of the state's fourth largest city required the combined expertise of many city employees. The move was conceived in 2003 and was one of the largest and most complex projects under-

taken by the city. The multi-year project required coordination by four of Lakewood's major departments including Community Resources, Finance, Information Technology, and the Police Department. The challenges and evolution of the Communications Center continued throughout the four decades of the department's development.

**The following entry reminds us of the high price some are called to pay in service given to their communities. The Lakewood Police Department offers its gratitude and deep respect to Officer John Buckley and to the Buckley family.**

John Whiteoak Buckley was one of Lakewood's first police dispatchers during the summer of 1970. He returned to Springfield College to complete his undergraduate degree and later joined the Arlington County Police Department (Virginia) in 1972.

On April 15, 1977, Officer Buckley responded to a silent alarm at the Virginia National Bank on Columbia Pike after two men had entered the bank, taken an undetermined amount of money, and shot out the surveillance cameras. As they ran out of the Glebe Road entrance, they were confronted by Officer Buckley. Shots were exchanged and he was struck in the chest and killed. He was survived by his expectant wife, who delivered their only child six months later to the day. That child eventually earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado.

Officer John W. Buckley is memorialized on the Arlington County Police Memorial, on the Virginia Law Enforcement Memorial in Richmond, and at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.



A. Latent Print Examiner Josh Gallegos

B. Cil Morrill at dispatch console in the early 1980s

C. Pictures L-R: Jennifer Kidney and Noelle Lovato during training session

D. Vivian Lanes, Juvenile Team

E. Dan Gooding pictured with hard-copy police reports

F. Randy Draper and Tammy Draper, in the Training Room

G. **Emergency Operation Center** – 445 South Allison Parkway  
L-R: Mark Dietel, Cindy Schneider, Ed Loar, Steve Boatwright

H. **Records Section Staff – Day Watch**

**Back Row:** Dan Gooding, Cindie Boatwright, Linda Pfanz, Sam Hebert, Shari Eilers, Brian White, Debbie Lopez, Jane McElroy

**First Row:** Shirley Kesson and Sue Vansaghi



## Emergency Operations Center

Emergency  
Operation Center  
– 445 South Allison Parkway

In 2008, the cities of Lakewood and Wheat Ridge, and the West Metro Fire Protection District, celebrated the completion of a new joint Emergency Operations Center (EOC), designed by Lakewood's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Brian Nielsen. The purpose of the EOC is to develop and maintain coordinated support for the Incident Commander during a critical incident and to provide event awareness to city decision-makers.

For many years, the city of Lakewood had a location in the Police Department serving as an EOC. In most cases, however, the location was inadequate to fully support the technology needed for management of responsive emergency information. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the guiding principles of emergency management changed, with much more emphasis on homeland security, critical incident response regulations, and best management practices including EOC design and operating procedures.

The newly instituted design requirements added construction and operating costs that Lakewood and Wheat Ridge felt could be best justified by using a joint approach. The major operating systems in the EOC are connected to an alternate power source that supports eight overhead projectors and television screens to provide emergency response officials with real-time images and information. Also available are back-up police dispatch consoles, ham radio equipment, and 12 laptop computers to support the center staff on a 24-hour basis.

## Records

In the first years of the department, the Records office was small and connected to the Communications Center. There were approximately 15 to 18 people working in this little office, and the rest of the department was across the street. All reports were read and UCR coded for statistical purposes. They were handwritten into large ledgers similar to those used in book-keeping. At the end of each month, the statistical report was compiled and submitted to the FBI.

Each report, arrest and summons was condensed and typed on 3 x 5 cards. Records technicians used carbon paper to create three copies, and filed the copies by name, location and crime in a sizeable machine called "Godzilla." Godzilla was huge — from the floor to the ceiling and always breaking down. When this happened, the technicians were unable to search for the information requested.

In 1979, the office moved from Yarrow Street to 44 Union Boulevard. Records was located on the first floor. The rest of the department was scattered between five of the six floors of the building, which was rented by the city. Since everything was handwritten or typed, detectives searching for information would come to the Records office for assistance. In addition, personnel handled frequent phone calls from agents and the public.

In 1984, Records made one more move to Allison Parkway. At that time, the employees were introduced to computers, making a huge leap into a whole new world of information technology. Each morning they had huge reels they had to download into the new computer system. UCR reporting began to be completed by computer. Instead of writing reports by hand, detectives began using the computer. Patrol agents continued to write their reports by hand. Records employees then had to enter the information into the computer.

Jan Adams and Kim Almy  
Investigation Division



A system called Sequoia changed Records — gone were typewriters and the large handwritten ledgers for statistics. This new technology enabled technicians to search by name, location, and information entered into the Sequoia computer program. Before that time, reports had been saved in various ways, such as microfilm.

In September 2003, the Records staff increased to 40 employees and changed to another information management system called I-Leads, in which reports were scanned and made more easily accessible. Once again, Records specialists adapted, and continued to be a reliable source of information.

## Police Support Staff

Great numbers of people call the Lakewood Police Department daily — citizens, prosecutors, attorneys, other police personnel, victims, and suspects. Their calls and inquiries are received by the department's first point of contact and "customer service specialists," the Support Staff. These professionals have the privilege of helping people maneuver through the criminal justice system and the city government. Professionalism has always been the hallmark of the department.

The first department secretaries faced the daunting task of running offices and providing support functions with little to no furniture and very little equipment. From those rugged beginnings, the current police support staff enjoy the benefits of computerization, excellent software, and modular furniture.

Equipment used through the years included Selectric I & II typewriters, IBM mag-card typewriters, Canon typewriters, WANG, and Dell Desktop computers and laptops. Telephone equipment has ranged from Mountain Bell to Rolm and most recently the ShoreTel telephone system. Titles have included clerk I & II, typist, receptionist, secretary I & II, support specialist, business specialist, and investigative technician.

In the early years, all reports were either handwritten or dictated, then given to the typist for transcription. Although transcription of interviews continues, civilian employees have broadened their scope of knowledge and assistance. They work alongside sworn members of the department, to ensure that Lakewood citizens are well served and to coordinate the logistics of the department.

The Police Support Staff addresses the minutia of organizational details to ensure the divisions operate efficiently. They record the proceedings of meetings, purchase supplies, coordinate training, and schedule meetings and events, along with set-up and tear-down. Technicians take reports, collect evidence, investigate cases, complete filings, present cases to prosecuting attorneys, and testify in court. They inspect pawnshops and receipts, complete follow-up on cases, accompany detectives on search warrants, and assist with booking property.



### 2010 Police Support Staff

**Fifth Row:** Meg Bogacz,  
Cindy Schneider,  
Danielle Zambrano,

**Fourth Row:**  
Cindy Henderson,  
Tammy Draper,  
Lani Peterson,  
Debbie Lopez,

**Third Row:**  
Therese Megargee,  
Kim Orcutt, Lori Roberts,  
Tanya Pamp,

**Second Row:**  
Toni Holsinger,  
Elizabeth Draper,  
Angela Botello, Betty Clark,

**First Row:**  
Pam Persch, Lori Miller



Warehouse property storage

## Property

Over the past 40 years, the changes in the way evidence is handled and stored by Lakewood's Property Section have mirrored the radical changes undergone by law enforcement as a whole. As advances in the science and practice of law enforcement have gradually demanded that more and more types of evidence be stored for longer and longer periods of time, the Property Section has adapted.

As recently as 25 years ago, when Lakewood property technicians needed to find an item of evidence, they were forced to search through 63 different files to find the manual property reports, which had been marked with different color-coded pens to indicate storage bin numbers.

Property was stored, among other places, in a building next to the city greenhouses near Yale Avenue and South Estes Street. Dubbed the "Mouse House" because of its chronic rodent infestation, seasonal storms often flooded the building when the banks of nearby Bear Creek overflowed. It was a popular destination for raccoons, which tended to set off the alarms at 3 AM.

When Bob Huestis was hired to manage the section in 1986, he had to give the unpopular order of prohibiting employees from storing their lunches in the same refrigerator used to store the rape kits and urine samples. He solved that dilemma by ordering another refrigerator for the employees' use.

It was Lakewood narcotics Agent Kip White who

made the first move toward modernizing the property retrieval system. He resigned from his sworn position to work full time in Information Technology in the mid-1980s and developed what was at the time the novel concept of a computer-automated property control system.

Huestis and programmer Ingrid Dorgan then spent years developing and refining the system. When it was implemented in 1986, it was the first barcode system for law enforcement property management ever used in the United States. In fact, the city was inundated by requests from all over the world for the system's programming information.

Since then, the system has received several upgrades. The first system used thermal paper, and as the years went by, property technicians discovered that the barcode paper was turning black from heat, age, and methamphetamine fumes. A different kind of paper solved that problem, and by 2006, the Property Section had converted to the paperless FileOnQ system. Patrol agents were required to use the new system in 2009.

By 2010, Lakewood had five different storage locations, including its own 50,000-item warehouse, complete with a forklift that all the evidence technicians were required to learn to operate. Legislation passed in 2009 requiring the indefinite storage of many items of DNA evidence prompted the acquisition of two large commercial refrigerators and two equally large commercial freezers.

Changes in the expectations of the public and the criminal justice system, no doubt fueled in part by years of watching CSI on television, have also prompted additional responsibilities for Property. For example, in preparation for a recent murder trial, a team of property technicians had to retrieve and display 893 pieces of evidence so defense attorneys could spend two days reviewing them.



Property Technician  
Danette Bechler,  
scanning barcode



Example of Releasing  
Property to the Public  
L-R: Vi Eggert and  
Carla Saunier

## Victim Assistance Program

On November 1, 1987, the department made a commitment to strengthen its support of victims of crime or traumatic events by instituting the Victim Assistance Program. For the first two years, the program was funded by a VALE (Victim Assistance Law Enforcement) grant.

Before this, the department had two volunteers who made phone calls to victims of certain property crimes to obtain additional information about their losses. Those duties were then expanded to assisting victims with their emotional reactions and providing information about resources available to them.

The first year of the new program was spent developing policy, getting to know the department's agents by doing ride-alongs, and gradually establishing trust that the victim assistants could work together with agents at crime scenes without interfering with the integrity of the investigations.

During the first two years, Program Coordinator Tom Waddill provided crisis intervention. His many duties prevented him from responding to anything but the more serious incidents such as homicides, death notifications, SIDS, suicides, serious assaults, and other cases with severely traumatized victims.

It became evident in 1989 that volunteers and graduate interns could be used to increase the program's availability for crisis response and on-scene intervention. Four volunteers (John Monis, Karen Stickland, Corone Morcum, and Jill Couchman) were recruited and trained to assist victims of major crimes.

A 1990 VALE grant funded a part-time victim advocate, and in 1991 another full-time position was added. In August of 1992, a city court surcharge was implemented to increase funding and improve the program. The surcharge provided funding to partially support program salaries, training costs for volunteers, police



**Victim Advocate Team**  
L-R: Carol Bollig and  
Tracy Peronard

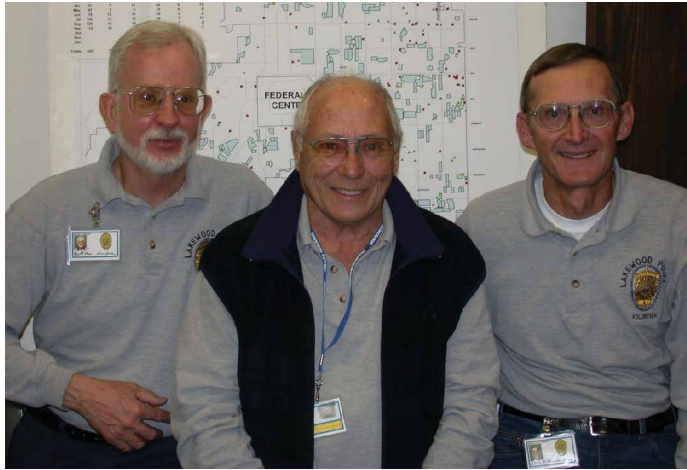


and victim advocates, and funds for minor victim compensation.

A specially designated vehicle enabled advocates to quickly respond to requests for assistance by police agents. This mobile unit was one of very few in the nation and the only one in Colorado. It was so successful that it was soon joined by a second van, providing coverage to all sectors of the city every night of the week.

Over the years, victim advocates have assisted police agents by caring for, supporting, and comforting victims, as the agents worked to understand, investigate, and resolve traumatic incidents. This partnership has enabled the police to focus on the crime and the investigation, knowing that the victim and family are being assisted and cared for by the victim advocate. The 1991 summary from reaccreditation by CALEA summed up the benefits of this program: "Victim Assistance has proven its value not only to the victims, but also to the police agents and command staff, to the local government, and to the local citizens."

**Victim Advocate  
Supervisor**  
Tom Waddill counseling  
individual at  
445 South Allison Parkway



**Volunteers**  
*Dave Donar, Bob Wieland, Doug Eller*

## Volunteer Program

In keeping with its community policing philosophy, the Lakewood Police Department is committed to strengthening its partnerships with the citizens of Lakewood. Volunteers for the department are recruited from throughout Lakewood and surrounding areas to assist in delivering programs and services to the department and the community. These volunteers have proven to be a valuable community resource.

The department began using volunteers in 1984. By the end of 1986, volunteers were providing clerical support in Investigation, Records, Public Information Office, Communications, Patrol, and Planning & Analysis. They handled such duties as follow-up on runaway juveniles, answering telephones, filing, typing, and maintaining records of pawn tickets, false alarms, and Neighborhood Watch participants.

The work of some of the early volunteers is still evident in current functions of the department:

- Bob Smith (1986-1995) began the Neighborhood Watch program and his block numbering system was incorporated into the GIS formatting currently used.
- Martin French (1987-2008) investigated over 14,000 runaways. Martin not only helped runaways return home but worked with families to get appropriate counseling and support to intervene in repeated runaway episodes.

- Bernie Bernstein (1986-1996) left a lasting legacy through the Bernstein Scholarship for Lakewood Explorers, funded by his family after Bernie's death. A scholarship is given annually to deserving Lakewood Explorers pursuing a college education.

- Frank Middleburg (1985-2002) organized the records and maintained the bookkeeping on false alarm accounts, which facilitated a smooth transition to a computerized billing process prior to the department going to the verified alarm system.

- Jack Chelius (1986-1995) wrote a computer program to keep track of the volunteer hours and anniversary dates, the basis for the record-keeping system we use today.

- Jim Jewett (1986-1992) researched background on all service medals awarded, then designed the cabinets and perpetual plaques to display the historical record of medals earned. These perpetual plaques are proudly displayed in the Training Room and updated as new medals are awarded.

- Fred Zastrow (1986-2009) was one of our earliest volunteers appointed by the department, and celebrated his 23rd year of active volunteer service with Lakewood Police in December 2009.

The need for volunteers began to increase with the addition of a Victim Assistance Team in 1986-1987 and further increased with the opening of the Newland Square substation in April 1992. The addition of the Villa Italia substation in May 1994 also greatly increased the use of volunteers and provided new opportunities for graduates of the Citizen Police Academy (CPA).



**Volunteers** *Jim Webb and Bill Owens enforcing handicapped parking violations*



Beginning in 1995, the Neighborhood Watch program was computerized. Volunteers specially trained in the use of GIS mapping equipment greatly enhanced Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention efforts by plotting maps showing crimes in proximity to established Neighborhood Watch blocks and by doing crime analysis. These efforts have enhanced the department's ability to get crime alerts out to citizens and to keep them informed of crimes in their neighborhoods.

The Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) gave graduates of the CPA a means of giving back to the community and a way to stay connected to the department after completion of the academy. In 1994, City Council approved members of the Volunteer Surveillance Team to issue parking summonses for violators parked in spaces reserved for the disabled.

In the spring of 2000, volunteers were trained on the use of the radar equipment and began patrolling areas around school zones and neighborhoods where the residents had reported speeding vehicles. The Spanish Translator Program began in 2002, recruiting volunteers proficient in Spanish to ride along with agents in areas where there was a high Spanish-speaking population.


In 2003, the position of Volunteer Program Coordinator was created to oversee the appointment of volunteers and maintenance of the volunteer program. Leilani Peterson was appointed and served until her retirement in September of 2010. The program has increased steadily in the number of volunteers as well as the total hours contributed to the department. By the close of 2008, the department had over 100 volunteers contributing over 15,000 hours of service annually.

New opportunities have been added for volunteers, such as motorist assists, puffer patrol, graffiti photographing and cleaning, abandoned property pickup,



senior visitation, Colorado LifeTrak, EOC ham radio operators, and numerous clerical positions. Volunteer Surveillance Team members are now scheduled for shifts six days and evenings each week.

The Lakewood Police Department's strong commitment to volunteers is evidenced by the longevity of its volunteers, many of whom have been with the department for over 20 years. Volunteers range in age from their early 20s to 91 and bring expertise from varied backgrounds in such categories as retired doctors, engineers, teachers, government workers, nurses, EMTs, homemakers, journalists, college students, pilots, social workers, television producers, and ham radio operators.

 Volunteers Doug Eller and Dave Donar entering statistics

# Community Outreach Charity



## Christmas Donation Drive in Costume for Caring by Sharing

L-R: Pam Persch, Lisa Clark, Mayor Bob Murphy, Jason Ezell, Steve Davis

Lakewood's employees have always tried to reach out to the community's more disadvantaged members, beyond what they do in their regular jobs. These outreach efforts are frequently spearheaded by civilian employees as well as sworn staff and often involve both groups working in tandem to benefit the community. Descriptions of some of these charitable projects follow.

## Bikes for Tykes 1984-2000:

The Bikes for Tykes program ran for 16 years and provided approximately 150 bicycles annually to children during the holiday season. The bicycles were donated by citizens and were cleaned, repaired, and delivered by Lakewood agents and citizen volunteers. When bikes were given to the children, it was with the understanding that when they had outgrown the bikes, they would in turn give them to other children. Agent John Mackey, originator of the program, received letters from mothers who had gone on to more profitable jobs and better fortune and who had left places like Mitchell's Trailer Park far behind. The letters explained that their children had benefited over the years from new toys and other gifts, but they had kept their first bike until it was absolutely time to give it away, at which time they cleaned, repaired, and gave the bikes to other happy children.



Christmas Delivery  
John Mackey with gift recipient

## Caring by Sharing

Judy Edwards was the Communications supervisor in 1980 and organized Operation Santa Claus to provide food baskets for less fortunate Lakewood families. Since then the program has been maintained by police support staff. In 2007, a citywide contest resulted in a "Caring by Sharing" name change for the nonprofit, but the mission remains the same. Working with volunteers from the community, this program annually provides food boxes and other gifts to senior citizens during the holiday season. Volunteers from the city's Fox Hollow Golf Course and local Kiwanis clubs help deliver holiday dinners and gifts. Every senior also receives a poinsettia plant grown by the city's greenhouse staff. In addition, police employees fill backpacks with school supplies every fall and donate them to the Jeffco Action Center to add to the center's annual school supply effort.

## Christmas Cheer for Children

For a number of years before 2002, the Lakewood Police Department participated in the metropolitan Denver program, Christmas Crusade. In 2002, the department started its Christmas Cheer for Children program with the intent of better serving struggling families, involving more of the department's personnel, and developing a greater sense of community through participation in the program. Beginning with only a small group of individual donors and working with the schools in Lakewood, the program became well accepted and has now grown to include numerous churches, civic organizations, individuals, schools, medical offices, grocery stores, drug stores, and homeowner associations.



**A. Clarene Shelley and Mary Wamsley** organizing at the donation center for Christmas Crusade



**B. 2009 Law Enforcement Torch Run – Bicycle Contingent**  
John Romaniec, Mark Reeves and Dave Hoover, Unknown bicyclists



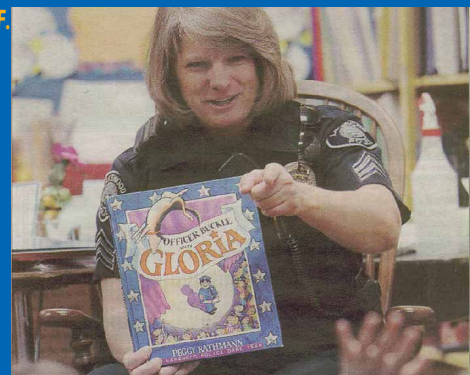
**C. Neighborhood Community Event**  
Agent Kyle Okamura demonstrating police tactical gear



**D. Agent Patrick Fairbanks** with child victimized by the theft of his wheelchair. Agent Fairbanks contacted Kids Mobility Network and facilitated the donation of a replacement wheelchair.



**E. Lakewood Department of Public Safety Junior Baseball Team – Alameda Area**  
Coached by George Johnson and Bob Ellis (1977) (One of the players on this team grew up, went to college, and became a Lakewood agent (Angelo Capolungo). Can you spot him in this picture?)



**F. Read Across America Program**  
Sergeant Pat Heffner reading to elementary school children



Lakewood Police Athletic League coached by Sergeants George Hinkle and Dan Brennan

Localizing the program to Lakewood has allowed the department to accept nominations for gift candidates through other sources with the level of need verified by a police agent's visit. This has also provided the opportunity to assist the families that agents come across up to and including Christmas Day and at other times of the year when they find a family in desperate need. The Christmas Cheer for Children program has provided gifts for 2,825 children through 2009.



Cops that Cook Fall Event Tom Pfranz showing a specialty pancake platter

### Lakewood Police Employee Assistance Fund (LPEAF)

The Lakewood Police Employee Assistance Foundation (LPEAF), a nonprofit, was formed in 2006 to assist Police Department personnel in a time of financial crisis due to death, illness, financial hardship, or catastrophe. Beneficiaries of this fund may include current sworn or civilian employees, any retired employee (retired with 20 years of consecutive service) and any volunteer.

In the event of an employee's death, financial assistance may be provided to the spouse, significant other, or nearest next of kin. All requests for assistance are held in confidence. The Fraternal Order of Police assists in fundraising and the foundation is supported by the police union.

The primary source of funds is through payroll deductions from employees. The foundation's goal is to have 100 percent commitment from Lakewood police employees. Additional funds are obtained through individual donations throughout the year, fundraising events, or from endowments. The foundation has assisted many Lakewood employees and volunteers over the years.

### Police Athletic League (PAL)

On June 18, 1976, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety Police Athletic League (PAL) officially filed its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Colorado. PAL has been active since that time. PAL was organized to guide youngsters into productive and stimulating sports activities. Supported by area businesses, individual contributions, volunteer police personnel, and fundraising, the program has a mission to expose youth to the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and responsibility. PAL has expanded to include annual scholarships awarded to deserving graduating seniors from the city's four main high schools and one to a PAL member's child.

Over the years, the PAL board of directors included such members as Mike Powell, Steve Evans, Tom Monteath, Gary Barbour, Al Youngs, George Hinkle, Dan Brennan, Don Lewis, Dave Adams, and Michelle Tovrea.

### Police/Fire Youth Hockey Program

This program was formed in the fall of 2002 by Denver metropolitan area police, fire, and emergency medical personnel for the purpose of promoting youth hockey by teaching skating and hockey fundamentals to children. It has operated every year since 2002, from September to June. It has operated as a nonprofit organization for five years. The volunteer coaches for the program are local police and firefighters. Sessions are eight and ten weeks in length, and new kids receive a jersey on their first day. The program has given thousands of kids in metropolitan Denver the opportunity to play hockey. It is an all-volunteer operation, and the Police Athletic League (PAL) has been a consistent sponsor, along with the National Hockey League Association.

## The Snack Shack

Lakewood Records personnel created the Snack Shack in late 2004 to provide donations for charities and individuals with medical-funding needs. Donations have been made to large organizations such as the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Fund, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Fund. In addition, requests for donations can be made by all city employees. Other beneficiaries of Snack Shack donations have included the Jefferson County Food Bank, the Table Mountain Animal Shelter, the Jeffco Action Center, and the Coats for Colorado program. In addition, Watch 3 employees have expressed appreciation to Records as most restaurants are closed during their work shift. Snack Shack items also are provided to comfort children and victims of traumatic events who are meeting with police personnel in the department.

## Special Olympics - Torch Run

In 1985, the Lakewood Police Department began its partnership with Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) with Chief Charles Johnston serving on its advisory board. The organization provides sports and competitive opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run was the primary fundraising event and originally began at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and traveled north on I-25 to the state capitol. In 1988, the Torch Run went to a four-route format, whereby law enforcement runners came in from the north, south, east, and west state lines using I-70 and I-25 as primary routes.

Lakewood was assigned the route from the west and began the run at the Jefferson County Stadium on West 6th Avenue, ending at the US Bank on 14th and Carr streets. In 1990, the west boundary was changed and the run began at Idaho Springs on I-70. When the Colorado Mills Mall opened on West Colfax Avenue, the



finish line was established at the mall's Lakewood police substation. In 2001, bicycle segments were added. Over the years, law enforcement has raised many thousands of dollars for Special Olympics. (See "Special Olympics-Torch Run" by George Hinkle in "Memories.")

2009 Law Enforcement Torch Run Special Olympian carrying the torch

## Polar Plunge- "Freezin' for a (SOCO) Reason"

The success of the Special Olympics program is enhanced by the creativity of fundraising events sponsored by the law enforcement community. This was evident on December 5, 2009, when the Lakewood police command staff agreed to dive in for a good cause. Confronting temperatures in the lower 40s with stiff winds, they took a chilly plunge into Chatfield Reservoir for the second annual "Freezin' for a Reason" Polar Plunge. Motivating others and leading by example, the command staff soon scrambled for warm, dry blankets, and the Lakewood police family raised more than \$1,000 for Special Olympics. An added bonus to the price of admission was seeing the bosses dunked.

Law Enforcement Polar Plunge to Benefit Special Olympics L-R: Dan McCasky, Kevin Paletta, Jeff Streeter, Michelle Tovrea, Mark Reeves, Dave Hoover



# Thanks for the Memories

The following memories came from near and far, via e-mail or snail-mail, and are testimonies to the value that many place on their years of association with Lakewood's finest. These memories are provided below in much the same format in which they arrived.

## **Dan Montgomery, Chief of Police,** Westminster, CO (Ret.)

In 1972, I was working a drug raid with Arvada PD, and while we were arresting one of the parties, I had a cigarette in my hand. A news photographer snapped a shot and the photo appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News* the next day. Pierce Brooks was not too happy, and as a result I was docked 40 hours of overtime. A few months later, he promoted me to lieutenant.

In the early 1980s, Charlie Johnston was jogging out on Rooney Road during his lunch hour. He felt a pain in the back of his lower leg. He looked down and discovered a rattlesnake biting his leg, fangs stuck in Charlie's leg. Charlie waved down a passerby and ended up at St. Anthony's Hospital. Dave Dial and I went to visit him and Charlie ended up spending the night. The snake was recovered at the scene and taken to St. Anthony's where the nurses took an x-ray of it and gave the x-ray to Charlie as a gift.

Thank God, there are no more blazers and slacks manufactured by Sung Woo, and thank goodness, there are no more shoulder patches that say, "Lakewood Department of Public Safety." The blazers were a novel approach for sure, but a miserable failure. I remember when I got here in 1971 after eight years as a cop in Los Gatos, California, and I first saw an officer directing traffic wearing a blazer and helmet, with a baton sticking out from under his jacket. It triggered a gag reflex. Thank you, Pierce Brooks, for being the outstanding chief you were, and thank you for getting rid of the blazers and turning the Department of Public Safety into a police department. We owe you.

## **Jerry Hamilton, former Agent**

Working the day shift in the northeast corner of the city, Michelle Tovrea (then an agent) and I were dispatched to a silent alarm at an abandoned bank building near 14th and Teller. The drive-up facility was gone, but the underground tunnels allowing employees access to the detached pods were still there. The alarm was coming from that area. The openings in the parking area were covered with large pieces of plywood so it was a quick check to see no one was in the tunnel.

We both heard Sergeant Mary Wamsley call out on scene. Since it was April 1, we quickly decided on a "gotcha" scheme. I got back in the tunnel and Michelle pulled the plywood back in place. There was a long piece of flexible PVC pipe lying in the tunnel. Michelle then asked Mary to look at something near the hole. When I could hear voices right above me, I shoved the pipe above ground and began screaming hysterically. I couldn't see the reaction but could imagine what it was. Mary's face was still red when I climbed out, cobwebs and all – but it was worth it.

I was working on Mary's team at the time but never did see a log entry. Evidently, Michelle didn't suffer any negative repercussions either since she is now a division chief.

## **John Mackey, Chief of Police,** Auraria Campus Police, Denver, CO

### **Dave Swanney:**

Here are a couple fond memories of Dave. Walked into the front desk on a slow day. Swanney had taken the court display board and rearranged the letters to say: "Officer is deaf and dumb. Please come back tomorrow." Swanney had his hair and uniform all messed up. Backed Swanney on a domestic up north. Swanney walked into the apartment, grabbed the remote control, sat down on the sofa and started changing the channel on the TV. Swanney asked the couple to quiet down so that he can hear the TV show. The couple started laughing and the arguing ended.

He looked down and discovered a rattlesnake biting his leg . . .

### ***Youth Educational Tours (YET) 1983 – Present:***

The YET program has assisted over 10,000 youth and families throughout Colorado. The youths participating in the one-night program have toured our county, state, and federal correctional facilities and learned the realities and consequences of poor choices first-hand from Colorado's male and female prison inmates.

During the first year of our YET program, I met a juvenile inmate "Doug" who later went on to assist with the Bikes for Tykes program each year. Doug commented during the first year that he had been stealing cars last Christmas, and this year he was giving out bikes. Doug's father gave up on him in 1986 and would not talk to him despite an annual attempt at doing so, at my urging. Doug's father finally had lunch and talked with Doug for the first time in 19 years (since he was 14) in 2005. Doug was 32 at the time and has continued his relationship with his father. Doug now lives in Florida and picks me up at the Sarasota airport whenever I'm visiting my own father, about twice a year.

### ***Connie Hieb:***

Connie will not be comfortable with this, but I think I could add a whole chapter on Connie that most people are not aware of. She met two young children, who were being raised by their grandmother, while delivering bikes during our Bikes for Tykes program. Connie arranged for tutoring for these children as long as they would abide by their grandmother's rules. As the years passed, she was a surrogate parent to this family as she and her husband provided them with ever-increasing assistance up to the point that they purchased and provided a small rental home for them to live in. They were frequently losing their Section 8 housing. I understand Connie was arranging for college tuition – not sure how that panned out. Connie's always been my hero, and I would hope we could put something in the book to recognize her.

Connie wrote and financed the first and best booklet on gangs due to her interviewing countless people, including detention center supervisors, and personally attending gang roundtables at juvenile and adult prisons

(I know, I was there). She became a mentor to many high-profile juvenile offenders to the point of assisting them in finding housing and jobs.

### **Gary Goldsberry, Lieutenant (Ret.)**

There are two facts about the Lakewood police that I tell anybody when they ask me. First, working for Chief of Police Pierce Brooks. In my 33-year career, he was the finest chief I worked for. Second, all the fine people, sworn and civilian, made it a pleasure for me to come to work every day.

### **James E. Szakmeister, former Agent**

I thought I would send this because the crew working that night cracked up: I was working Watch III and patrolling Beat 1. It was around 0100, and I saw a guy in the Winchell's Donut Shop at Pierce and Colfax. From driving by, I thought I saw the butt of a shotgun in his hand and thought a robbery was going down. I aired it over the radio, and you can imagine the stir it caused as other units started my way. I watched him as I stopped and got out of my car and got a better view. My next radio transmission was, "311 — it's the man's wallet, disregard." Needless to say, I didn't stop hearing about that for several weeks from my teammates. In fact, when I run into someone who worked with me during those days, they still bring it up!

### **Kathy Egli, Crime Lab (Ret.)**

There isn't enough cyberspace for stories of Dave Swanney. From him doing a 15-page report and Goose telling him that, "It doesn't make any sense; you are going to have to start over." Swan got a lighter and burned it right there and then on the table in the booking area over on Union. Then the time Swan told an unruly prisoner that I was booking to straighten up and watch out for "her" (me). I had been an officer on the street but had killed so many prisoners that they took me off the streets. The time they had a mouse in Investigation — the secretaries went nuts and wanted rid of it. So Swan set a trap, caught one, put a little hangman's noose around its neck and put it on the bulletin board, with a little suicide note stating: "Everyone hates me. I am going to end it all."

I thought I saw the butt of a shotgun in his hand . . .

Swan got a lighter and burned it right there . . .

### **Dutch Smith, Agent**

One funny memory of Dave Swanney was when we were in a high-risk situation at West 20th Avenue and Kipling where a suspect with a potential for escape was taken into custody. Dave took it upon himself, even though the FBI was on scene, to “duct tape” the suspect’s wrists, legs and arms to prevent escape. I was taking cover behind a vehicle because another suspect was inside a motor home and possibly armed. I could hear in the distance the distinct sound of duct tape being applied and Swanney saying, “No sir, you won’t be escaping today.” Even though this was a potentially dangerous situation, I could not stop laughing at what Dave did.

### **Daniel Brennan, Chief of Police,** Wheat Ridge, CO

I enjoyed my 27 years with the Lakewood Police Department, primarily because of the quality of people who worked there. Everyone associated with the department was committed to a vision of being the very best in providing police services to the Lakewood community. I learned a tremendous amount about policing, teamwork, leadership, and excellence from all of you.

Over the years, I learned about the importance of change and finding new and innovative ways of providing service. One of these changes was the use of volunteers in policing. Through the department’s volunteer program, I had the opportunity to work with some of the most committed and dedicated people I have ever met in my career, like Bernie Bernstein, Martin French, Connie Hieb, Gene Gist, and all the others who have volunteered a tremendous number of hours serving the Lakewood community.

Lastly, I had a lot of fun in my career. The humor I saw, and sometimes experienced, left me with memories I will never forget.

### **Nancy Stone, former BRAND secretary**

The BRAND team secretary, Nancy Stone, had a lovely philodendron plant on her desk that she watered, shined its leaves, and pampered daily. One day she noticed a small hole in the leaf. She cut the leaf from the plant fearing some type of disease or pest would

infect the plant. The following day there were more holes on more leaves, then more and more holes. “This must be some kind of genetic problem with the plant,” she said. This hole-in-the-leaf problem continued for some weeks until the culprit was caught in the act. It was Agent Ken Fischer holding the weapon of mass destruction – the paper punch.

### **Stephen Stroud, former Agent**

My special thanks to Chief Pierce Brooks for his leadership and direction — he remains the best chief of police ever; Chief Charlie Johnston, for hiring me in 1974 and bringing me onto the STAR team that same year; Chief David Dial, for his mentoring and leadership on the STAR team; Chief Howard Cornell, who challenged me to become a better writer of police reports; Chief Dan Montgomery, who continues to be a guiding light in the fight against crime; Sergeant Norm Hauser, who brought me onto the Youth Investigations Team as a detective; Sergeant Ed Janssen, the toughest and best patrol supervisor; Sheriff Ron Beckham, who could make me crazy and remains a good friend; all the dispatchers and Records clerks who made sure I was safe and covered by backup; all the clerical staff, who made sure my reports were error-free and completed on time; all my fellow police agents who served with me, and those who continue to serve; the citizens of the city of Lakewood, who entrusted me with the opportunity to serve and protect them.

### **Tony Bogacz, former Agent**

This incident happened sometime in the 1980s when LPD was located at 44 Union Boulevard. I was a theft detective at the time. I had this unconscious habit of tapping my pen on my coffee cup when I was put on hold while making a call, and it really irritated Detective Bill Barrow, also in theft. He would shout across the room, “Bogacz, stop it!” Once I learned that this irritated him, I could not resist. His response was always the same.

One morning I came in early and made a tape recording of me tapping my pen on a coffee cup. I gave it plenty of silent lead time and then began tapping, continuing this for about 20 minutes. Before I left the

Dave took it upon himself . . . to “duct tape” the suspect’s wrists, legs and arms . . .

Everyone associated with the department was committed to a vision of being the very best . . .



building, I turned the tape recorder on. When the tapping began, true to form, Bill yelled across the room and when I didn't respond, he walked rapidly to my cubicle with fury in his eyes. He saw I wasn't there, so he jumped on my desk to look over a partition to see if I was there. When he couldn't find me anywhere, he finally began to connect the dots and realized it was a recording that was irritating him. All the detectives thought it was hilarious, and luckily Bill did too, and then the laughing began.

**Dick Lurz, former Agent** currently serving as an LPD Community Services Officer

You Might Be an Old-Timer if:

1. Tillie ever brought you eight draft beers for \$2.00 at Lane's Tavern.
2. You ever got a call to McDonald's and knew where to go. There was only one.
3. You ever felt a chill up your spine when you heard over the radio: "Staff 1" in a real deep voice.
4. You ever wrote a ticket to Jesse on his Boonemobile.
5. You ever received a hand-written note signed in green ink.
6. You ever responded to a DK domestic at the Cozy B Trailer Park.
7. You remember Pony's Lounge.
8. You responded to a disturbance at Whiskey Bill's.
9. You know what the "geo code" box is on the manual offense report page.
10. You ever handled a call involving Orville Brackeen.
11. Last, but not least, if your duty uniform was a blue blazer and gray polyester slacks.

### **Deb Lopez, Fugitive Technician**

Clarene Shelley was my very own Guardian Angel. I met Clarene when I started here in January of 1991. In May 1991, I became pregnant and was having a few problems at home with the father of my child. I would talk to Clarene when she came into Records, and she was always concerned about whether I was doing okay. I told her a little about what was going on in my life, and she told me that she had been there for a girl who

had a baby and that it was the most remarkable and beautiful thing she had ever done. Clarene offered to be my Lamaze coach.

On January 17, 1992, I went into work. I told the girls in the office that I thought I was in labor. They immediately called Clarene, who called me. When it was time, Clarene got her car, drove me across the street to the doc, who said to go to the hospital.

Clarene took me there, called my family, walked with me, and helped me through labor. Two hours later, my daughter Ginaya was born. She was also supportive of my 12 year-old daughter, who was there with me. I could not have done it without her. She was so happy to be there and still have time to come back to work to tell everyone the story. It was amazing for both of us. Five years later, when I got pregnant again, I asked her to be my coach – and she did. How dedicated, devoted, and selfless she was to share her time and love. She will always have a special place in my heart, and I miss her being here very much.

### **Jeff Rogers, Sergeant**

In 1994, my mother passed away. She and I were very close, and her funeral was a little cloudy. I still don't remember much about the day of the funeral, but I do remember that Sergeant Pfanz, whom I hadn't worked for in over a year, was there. Just seeing that someone cared enough to be there to support me during that terrible time was great.

### **Meg Bogacz, Investigative Technician**

All I can say is "thank you" to all the people here who have donated their sick leave to me in the past when I desperately needed it, showed compassion to me and my family, and who always, always are there when you need them. I see this every time there is a need. I have never worked with such caring and unselfish people. I am truly blessed. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

### **William Teater, former Agent**

During the summer of 1978, the General Assignment Team of the Investigation Division consisted of Sergeant Graydon Mayfield and Agents Joseph

Clarene Shelley was my very own Guardian Angel.

I have never worked with such caring and unselfish people.

Fanciulli, John Lauck, Bob Blunt, Russ Locke, and me. The Investigation Division was located on 16th Avenue, west of Allison Street within a series of rented buildings. In May 1977, I began my assignment on the team, which Blunt had nicknamed the Bunco Squad. Occasionally the telephone would be answered, "Checks, Wrecks, Frauds, Fugitives, and Forgeries."

I worked for the Lakewood Department of Public Safety from 1975 through 1980. I often look back on those five years with great fondness and admiration to this very day. The training and experience I received at Lakewood were skills used in a 25-year career with the FBI. I am very proud to say I was a member of one of the finest and most professional police departments in the United States. I wish continued success to the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department in the celebration of the 40th anniversary.

### **Russ Locke, former Agent**

In June 1973, I started in a lateral class that included such memorable people as Russ Cook, Tim Steffes, Dave Dial, Ken Hughey, and many more great people whose names escape me now. In the fall of 1975, I was assigned to the General Assignment Unit of the Investigation Division as the traffic investigator under the guidance of Sergeant Don Mayfield. Initially, my office was in the Little Brown House along with Juvenile.

Shortly, however, I moved to the building on 16th Avenue in what had been the library across the street from the main building. It was here that much tomfoolery took place. The General Assignment Team consisted of myself in Traffic, Joe Fanciulli in Fraud, John Lauck and Bob Blunt in Forgery and Checks, "Scrawny Ronnie" Coulter in Fugitive, and Mayfield, Sergeant. I think Mike Grover was also part of General Assignment for awhile at that time. We were packed into the little office so tightly that we had to take turns breathing and go out in the hall to change our minds.

One of the things we did before I left in January of 1980 was to rig our car to surprise Captain Charlie Johnston, who liked to use our car since it was one of the few "large" vehicles in the division. We rigged everything to come on when the key was turned on —

lights, radio, wipers, heater fan, and all at high speed and full volume. After he came for the key, we all gathered at the window to watch. Shortly after getting in the car, he came bolting out of it, shaking his fist at us in the window above. But he was a good sport and went on to become Chief Charlie.

### **Bill Barnes, Sergeant (Ret.)**

Here are a few of the pranks I can recall:

When Charlie Johnston was a captain, he frequently smoked a pipe in the station, and he was always leaving his tobacco pouch lying about. An idea was formulated and quickly carried out, to cut up some rubber bands of the same color and size as the tobacco and mix a few strands into the pouch. Then one only had to sit back and enjoy the event. Much to everyone's surprise, Charlie not only lit his tainted pipe, but he walked away looking down at the floor (which was his usual manner when walking from place to place), without seeming to notice anything different about his brand of tobacco. Somehow he failed to see the streamers of black sooty smoke exiting his pipe or to smell the odor of burning rubber as he continued down the hallway. Whenever Charlie passed someone along the way, they looked at him as if he had just grown two heads. I have no idea when (or if) he finally figured out what was happening. Talk about your greenhouse gases!

After certain events had occurred and everyone was on edge, Intelligence Captain Sid Klein was preaching to everyone to be careful and to watch for possible counter-surveillance. During this same time, and fortunately for any potential pranksters, Sid liked to park his unmarked unit near the lunchroom window at the original LPD station (which provided an excellent view for the practical jokers to admire their work).

One fine evening, Sid exited the station to go off duty (OD). When he entered his unmarked vehicle, he began adjusting his rearview mirror. All of a sudden, he froze. He quickly rolled out of the car, drawing his revolver from a concealed holster located under his impeccable suit. Sid crouched low, then went to his knees. He crawled to the rear of his vehicle, holding his weapon at the ready, continually looking around as if he were under fire. Reaching carefully upward with

The training and experience I received at Lakewood were skills used in a 25-year career with the FBI.

We were packed into the little office so tightly that we had to take turns breathing and go out in the hall to change our minds.

one hand, while still holding his gun with the other, he gingerly touched the bullet holes stitched across his rear window – only to find the “bullet holes” were actually very realistic-looking decals! Sid never heard the howling laughter coming from the darkened (but well-occupied) lunchroom behind the partially opened blinds.

When Al Youngs (aka Benny Besquezzo) was working as the original SET lieutenant, he would always park in a certain spot behind the LPD station at 44 Union Boulevard. It did not take long for some enterprising SET agents to obtain his car key and have a copy made. For weeks Al would park in his favorite spot, only to come out at the end of the day and occasionally find his car moved one or two spaces. He would wander back and forth, looking at both spaces with the confused look of an elderly person unable to recall where the car was parked while visiting the Villa Italia.

The *coup de grace* occurred when he got into his car one day and put it into reverse, but nothing happened! Al would gun the engine, change the gears, apply and release the emergency brake and look at the dash, but the thing wouldn't move. He actually left his vehicle in gear, with the engine running and exited the vehicle! Al walked around his car but failed to notice the rear wheels turning. He got back into his vehicle and went through the same sequence of events.

Unbeknownst to Al, the SET members were in the fourth floor lunchroom, watching all of this and rolling on the floor laughing and crying until they couldn't breathe! Al shut his car down and walked back into the station, where the SET sergeant distracted him long enough for the SET agents to remove the concrete blocks from underneath the rear wheels of the lieutenant's vehicle. The sergeant then accompanied Al back out to his car to “help.” Much to Al's surprise, the sergeant was not only able to back the car out of the parking space, but declared he could find nothing wrong with the vehicle. The sergeant left a very perplexed lieutenant standing in the parking lot – one can only wonder.

### **Columbine High School, April 20, 1999**

**By Commander Burdell Burch**

“Shots Fired at Columbine High.” Those words are

enough to get the adrenaline started in any cop. I was en route to a lunch-hour workout at the Police Athletic League gym. I wondered briefly if this was a drive-by type shooting, a disgruntled student or teacher, or even a terrorist attack in response to the NATO bombing in Kosovo.

I knew that patrol units would be responding and that most incidents can be quickly handled. I switched to the Colorado Law Enforcement Emergency Radio channel (CLEER) as Lakewood patrol cars started toward Columbine. Columbine High is in unincorporated Jefferson County, literally a matter of blocks from the southernmost Lakewood police beat. The Sheriff's Office was requesting any and all available patrol cars from surrounding jurisdictions. Five Lakewood cars were responding as other agencies came on the air, reporting the number of cars that they were sending.

I turned on the television at the gym. Initial reports indicated that there had been numerous shots and even explosions at the school. Reporters estimated that hundreds of officers were already on scene. I initially felt that with so many cops there, I would not be called, but I had my radio, pager, and the television going just in case.

My pager went off: “Jeffco is requesting SWAT.” As SWAT Commander for Lakewood, I knew that on-duty SWAT personnel would already be gearing up. My tactical sergeant at the police station was seeing to the loading of the SWAT van and would be en route as soon as possible. I dressed and started toward Columbine.

From the police station, Columbine is about nine miles away. I expected heavy traffic and knew that my driving time would be about 15 minutes. As I drove, I monitored the radio as patrol officers set up perimeter positions in Clement Park, north of the school. One officer radioed that he was confronting a man with a gun. Other officers were responding. The man was taken into custody. He had been armed with a BB gun and a knife. He had heard the news reports and was heading toward the school to help.

A patrol sergeant was initially handling the set-up of perimeter units. He reported that the location of the command post was on Pierce Street, south of Bowles Avenue. As I approached the area, I saw seven helicop-

Initial reports indicated that there had been numerous shots and even explosions at the school.

My pager went off: “Jeffco is requesting SWAT.”

ters and one fixed-wing aircraft circling the area. The news channels were already out in force. The copters would hover, then move forward, as each shot footage of the school. They stayed at about 1,000 feet.

I started hitting the traffic perimeter control points. Officers who were keeping vehicles out of the area saw my badge and SWAT uniform and waved me through. I parked at Bowles and Pierce, walking the last block to the Lakewood SWAT van. I passed the Incident Command Post, composed of command vehicles from Jefferson County, Arapahoe County, and the Denver Police Department.

Lakewood SWAT Teams were already moving in. With Littleton Police SWAT and Denver Police SWAT, we began evacuations of students and faculty still inside Columbine. I checked in at the Jefferson County Sheriff's van. Command from all responding agencies was centered there. Radio frequencies are different, and this was the place where commanders tried to keep track of what everyone else was doing and passed it on to their respective commands. We were not succeeding.

I saw lieutenants, captains, deputy chiefs, sheriffs, school security, fire chiefs, investigators, victim assistance personnel, district attorneys, and others wanting to help. Special Weapons and Tactical commanders know that coordination is critical. We agreed to form a second forward SWAT command post in front of the school. This arrangement began to work. I was one of the unlucky ones. I had to stay at this command post while my assistant SWAT commander and the troops moved out.

I was monitoring the tactical teams' movements. Sixty students were evacuated from the cafeteria, 15 from windows at another corner. One of my teams made it to the roof to take the high ground but was called back down when no suspects were found.

We had a mission to find the suspect vehicles in the parking lots in front of the school and immobilize them in case someone tried to escape. I grabbed an armored car and asked the driver to transport my team to accomplish this mission. It was done. We found propane tanks in the suspects' car.

The team in the armored car rescued a student and a teacher from the school. They were hampered by a

news helicopter that dove down to the school for pictures, drowning out radios and sending up debris in their faces. They couldn't believe the stupidity and screamed for the command post to get the helicopter out of the area. The news helicopter left.

The team in the armored car saw a sign in a second floor window, "Help, 1 bleeding to death." They wanted to go. Another SWAT team inside was already in the area, and the information was passed on. A bloody student was hanging from a blown-out window near the sign. If he dove out, he would die. The armored car moved in, driving within two to three feet of windows that might conceal a gunman.

Two officers climbed to the top of the armored car, exposed to possible gunfire, and reached up to the student, still almost above their reach. The others provided cover. The student's arms were bloody and his right side was paralyzed. He plunged from the window and the two SWAT members barely hung on to him. He hit the truck hard but he was safe. The truck backed away, avoiding the body of a dead student.

Back at the command post, ambulances were lined up two abreast. They moved off with the injured and the line moved up. As several hundred students were rescued, they went first to a medical triage area. A team of detectives and victim assistance personnel took the uninjured for interviews. Some of them said that a suspect had taken off his black trench coat and may be trying to blend with other students.

The kids understood. They had been told to keep their hands up as they ran out. Each was identified and cleared. Buses from the R-1 school district took the kids to the nearby library or to an elementary school. I knew that parents were frantically awaiting word. The parents and news media had been kept back from the scene.

The chief hostage negotiator for my SWAT Team had been by my side since the beginning. He and other negotiators had set up an area for negotiations personnel in case they were needed. Later I was told that his daughter went to Columbine High and was 30 yards from the library when the shooting started. She had made it to a neighbor's house and called him. I also found out later that some of the initial responding

Sixty students were evacuated from the cafeteria, 15 from windows at another corner.

We found propane tanks in the suspects' car.

He plunged from the window and the two SWAT members barely hung on to him.

SWAT members had kids at Columbine. The grandson of a friend of mine from the district attorney's office was one of the dead.

A man with a cell phone walked up to me. His son was still inside, and he had just been talking with him. I told him there were six SWAT teams inside the school now, and we would get his son out as soon as possible. The reports kept coming in. Two students down, confirmed DOA. Nine down, 13 down, up to 25 down. I realized that different teams may be counting the same victims, but there was no doubt that this was a tragedy beyond imagination. A military armored vehicle was volunteered. I authorized the response. Ten minutes later it rumbled past the command post down to the school.

I was funneling information from the command post to the forward command post and was starting to receive progress reports from the teams in the hallways. Our radios were not working well inside the building, and we lost contact frequently. Another team made it to the library, where two suspects were believed down, dead of self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

The school had been checked once. Unexploded pipe bombs were everywhere. A second micro-search was begun. There was still a possibility that suspects or students might still be hiding in ceilings or closets. At that time, we believed that there were probably more than two suspects and proceeded accordingly until each area was checked and re-checked.

The Lakewood Communications Center received a call from someone claiming to be a student in the gymnasium who was shot in the chest within the last five minutes. Although the gym had been checked once already, two teams rechecked the area. This was confirmed as a false call from some sick-o.

Throughout the school, locked doors were opened with frangible shotgun rounds designed to destroy locks and hinges. The damage to the doors was insignificant compared to the overall damage caused by bullets, bombs, water from a sprinkler system set off by the bombs, and flying glass.

The "all clear" was given after the building had been thoroughly checked twice. A third search would be conducted by fresh SWAT teams from other jurisdictions.

My team was relieved by FBI SWAT, and we stood down from the operation. We were asked to report to Leawood Elementary School, where psychologists had been assisting parents and students.

The school was a madhouse with people everywhere, but it was quiet. The team filed into a room, first to be screened by the Jefferson County Shoot Team to see if anyone had fired a gun; then to meet with a psychologist. We were told to expect raging emotions of anger, frustration, nightmares, and sadness. Many of us had been through these sessions before and knew what to expect. A follow-up session would be scheduled later as the Critical Incident Trauma Team dealt with our needs.

We were done, but a major investigation was only beginning. Detectives from numerous agencies would assist in the coming nights and days to try to put a million details in order and to find out and identify any other persons having a hand in this crime. The scope of the endeavor was mind-boggling.

Back at the Lakewood Police Department, team members briefed the chief, patrol captain, and city manager. They had been providing support and resources throughout the ordeal, and I had been in touch with them throughout. We discussed what to expect from the media onslaught in the coming days. We knew that we would be criticized — justly or unjustly. We knew that heroes would be scorned and that so-called "experts" could have done it better.

When I arrived home, my wife told me that my sister and her husband had called from California. They had been watching on TV, as had the rest of the nation and the world. They were concerned for my safety.

Days passed. I had the chance for my 15 minutes of fame in the national media limelight but declined. I assigned Sergeant George Hinkle and Agent Donn Kraemer from the tactical team to handle media requests. They were articulate representatives and did an excellent job.

As expected, media criticism was abundant. Despite the fact that the plan of the suspects to capture the entire cafeteria full of students had been thwarted by the school resource officer, he and the first responding

I realized that different teams may be counting the same victims, but there was no doubt that this was a tragedy beyond imagination.

Unexploded pipe bombs were everywhere.

We knew that we would be criticized — justly or unjustly.

SWAT Teams were being condemned. Rather than focus on the fact that hundreds were saved, some were focusing on the teacher who wasn't.

Based on the fact that news video was obtained of the Lakewood SWAT team's involvement in a dramatic rescue, we were given recognition that should have been shared with all of the teams present. Despite the criticism of some, accolades poured in.

I am convinced that most of the victims were beyond our help even before the first responding officers arrived. I know that we were prepared as much as a part-time SWAT Team could be. Based on prior school shootings in Oregon and Arkansas, we had trained for just such a scenario at local schools in Lakewood.

I am sadly aware that the events of April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School will probably not be the final episode. We will continue to train at schools, malls, government buildings, post offices, and other locations. While we train, we will continue to hope that the climate of hate and violence fostered by selfish cowards will be reduced because of this tragedy.

Burdell Burch, Lieutenant  
Lakewood Police Department  
SWAT Commander  
April 1999

### **Navigating in Early Lakewood & Other Reminiscences By Commander Burdell Burch**

Getting around Lakewood in the early days was not as easy as it is today. The city and the Colorado Department of Transportation have transformed the roadways substantially so that the largely rural infrastructure existing in 1969 has been improved. Major streets have been widened, left- and right-turn traffic lanes have been added, and right-turn "ramps" now boast "Yield" acceleration ramps. Curbs and gutters are now prevalent on city streets, and sidewalks have been added and made handicapped accessible.

The north/south through streets improved traffic flow greatly. Kipling Street formerly ended at Mississippi Avenue, picking up again south of Jewell. Kipling

Parkway between Jewell and Hampden did not exist. The canyon west of Morrison Road that Kipling Parkway now traverses was a rifle range. Garrison Street provided access between Mississippi and Jewell but curved around the marsh near Saint Jude's Catholic Church. Garrison is now straight through the area and in fact continues through to Morrison Road via the Estes Street extension. C-470 now handles traffic on the western edge of Lakewood, replacing Rooney Road from Alameda to Highway 285.

Winter ice would bring gridlock to portions of Lakewood streets. Old Kipling between Morrison Road and Iliff, Jewell at Oak, Wadsworth at Yale, Wadsworth at Ohio, and Alameda west of Youngfield became impassable. The angle of roadway incline has been reduced at those areas by road construction over the years, somewhat mitigating but not eliminating the problems.

Imagine the surprise of a motorist on the 6th Avenue freeway in the 1970s when they came upon a red traffic light at Oak Street and a freight train making its way across 6th Avenue onto the Federal Center. Thankfully, the tracks have been removed, and the newly planned light rail will not disrupt traffic on 6th Avenue. The demise of the Federal Center rail line was hastened by a tragic accident. A rail car, parked on a siding in the area of 13th and Quail, had its brake somehow released. The car rocketed eastbound on the tracks, colliding with a vehicle crossing the tracks at Carr Street, and causing two deaths. Lakewood agents and firefighters were frequently dispatched to the rail line in the summer when passing trains would ignite the dry grasses along the tracks.

In the early days of Lakewood, many citizens were reluctant to accept the encroaching urbanity and rapid growth. It wasn't unusual to see a local resident running alongside a mule in west Lakewood as he prepared for the annual Idaho Springs "Mule Run." The Nichiren Shoshu (Buddhist Church) marching band frequently practiced on the 6th Avenue north side Frontage Road west of Simms since it led to nowhere (now the Simms Landing area).

Union Boulevard, from the Flying A gas station at 6th Avenue to the Shop-N-Go at Cedar, was vacant land on both sides. It was a darkly quiet stretch of Beat 4 for

I know that we were prepared as much as a part-time SWAT Team could be.

It wasn't unusual to see a local resident running alongside a mule...

years until Denny's restaurant, the Sheraton Hotel, and other buildings appeared.

The city's growth included the building at 44 Union Boulevard that was to become the Lakewood City Hall and Police Station. Following the move to Union, police agents were reminded of the transition from rural to urban when we were sent scrambling by shots fired nearby at late-night watch change. Not being under actual attack, agents discovered that a firing range existed just east of the police station on the Federal Center grounds. Federal Protective Service officers thought nothing of firing their weapons at the range, apparently not realizing that there was a whole new world beyond the dirt range backstop.

### **My First Year at Lakewood DPS and What I Wore By Howard Cornell, Chief of Police, Broomfield, CO (Ret.)**

In March 1970, a police teletype announced openings at Lakewood, Colorado, in what this newly incorporated city called its Department of Public Safety, known everywhere else as a police department. By the time I unraveled the mysteries of the application process and its delays, it was the weekend of July 4th. Interviews were held, a polygraph by a couple of Denver police detectives at Associated Polygraph was given, and Director Ronald G. Lynch pronounced me acceptable and, he was to tell me later, "average and capable," with "potential to become a good agent." Another agent, Jack Bowman, loaned me his blue sport coat, and I started work on the night shift.

On that first long night in July, I knew only how to get to 16th and Yarrow from my apartment at 25th and Kipling; the approximate direction to 6th Avenue and the Ramada Inn at Simms; and where the longest commercial street petered out in the darkness beyond Simms. At that moment, the dispatchers guided me around town, mostly on the north side of 6th Avenue, where Colfax started at Sheridan Boulevard with unnumbered sleazy bars lining its gutters, beginning with the Wigwam and ending at the Lemon Tree. Adding to the mix were odd-sounding and comical motels such as the Bugs Bunny and all-night hash joints, chief among them the Par-Ker House.

On many of those July nights, it was just the two of us: John Marks and I. Officially, we were assigned north and south of 6th Avenue, but we mostly ended up along Colfax attending to the bars and interpreting Colorado's traffic laws by what we knew from Alabama and Utah, avoiding issuing tickets in our uncertainty. The night began with coffee at the Par-Ker House, walking distance from City Hall at 16th and Yarrow. John Marks became morose about working 12-hour shifts six days a week and often threatened to quit rather than work without sufficient backup. Usually my job was to coax John out of a booth and onto the street and to get our names and assignments to those happy few at the dispatch office.

Uniforms arrived, and we were all outfitted in gray trousers, a light blue shirt, and a snappy blue blazer. The blazer was better suited for yacht wear, but it quickly became something to talk about, complain about, and as a point of conversation with vacationing cops, nearby cops, former cops, and wannabe cops. For most of us, it was an article of clothing that went directly into the back seat. New faces and warm bodies arrived to fill out the shift roster: Jack Storne from Sandpoint, the Kamloops Capital of the World (Idaho); Dick Rorer from Sleepy Hollow (Illinois); and Joe Ward.

Again, it was Jack Bowman, blessings upon him and his children, who came around one morning and asked me if I would trade shifts with him, nights to days. Well, let me see ...

Everything looked better on day shift. Food tasted better, sleep happened naturally rather than in fits and starts, and Green Mountain geography, still feral beyond Mississippi Avenue, was slightly clearer. There were dragons out there, but things settled down in August.

There were 28 police agents working somewhere and 30 more idling in the shade of the police academy, with occasional forays to Lane's Tavern near Simms and Colfax for a five-cent beer. I met the training agent, Jim Wanek, and saw Craig Camp, Larry Hesser, and George Johnson walking around headquarters. Gray Buckley and Al Bowman were names dropped here and there as being responsible for administering the application process, its successes and its delays. Joe Moffit

Adding to the mix were odd-sounding and comical motels such as the Bugs Bunny and all-night hash joints ...

... we were all outfitted in gray trousers, a light blue shirt, and a snappy blue blazer.

was said to exist. Doing the Lord's work somewhere were John Vermilye, Sidney Klein, and Charlie Johnston, but I was a working stiff just coming off night shift, and my eyes were still adjusting to sunlight.

A couple vacationing from Iowa happened to be in DC Britt's way one morning, and he ran into the side of their car. A small matter — no one was injured, and if there was one thing I could do, it was to investigate and diagram an accident. Ron Lynch came to the scene. I was generous with what was in Lakewood's treasury as I took the Iowans to a garage, bought them a couple of new tires, repaired their car, and sent them on their way. It was before the opening of Casa Bonita, so I don't know where they went, although there was a chicken joint at the JCRS that teemed with tourists. The chief was so impressed with my accident diagram and generosity that I was raised in September to Agent II, a giddy \$30 more every month.

Ron Lynch and I had regular conversations once I began working the day shift. I would say, "Good morning, chief."

He would reply, "Don't call me chief."

"What should I call you?" I would ask.

"Call me Ron," he would reply. That was about it, but we were on a first-name basis.

### Stories that Need Telling By Sergeant Ken Fischer

While there are multiple stories worth telling in the 40 years since the department's inception, several occur to me with regard to Director Pierce Brooks. Upon our swearing in as laterals in 1973, Tim Steffes, Flint Buetell, and I were aware that we were working with a man who knew cops and knew his job.

A short time later, Flint was to experience the support of a no-nonsense man who composed one of the best response letters that we had ever seen to an irate citizen (also published in the *Sentinel*). Each paragraph began with, "You are factually incorrect when you assert..." The letter ended with an admonition that should this citizen behave in a similar manner, he would again be arrested and prosecuted vigorously.

Bob Ellis, John Miller, Tom Monteath and I were

fortunate to attend Mr. Brooks' four-hour robbery/homicide presentation in Vail in 1975. Several hundred detectives were walked through the "Onion Field" (original photos and investigative process), as well as the investigation of one of the first serial killers, Harvey Glatman. Mr. Brooks successfully identified this killer, got him convicted, and walked him to the gas chamber for multiple strangulation murders. For four hours, he led us through some fascinating cases and kept it oriented to cop humor. The "old man" (a personal usage which we would never use publicly then) had it going that day.

Prominent among his procedures was one very direct approach to policy issues. He would hear something aired that bothered him, such as giving a partial plate on a stop, and Mr. Brooks, without hesitation, would go on air and change the policy for that type stop to a two-car response. He would also sound out the street supervisor (and there would be one on the street by the end of his transmission) on the efficacy of the policy. Flint, Tim, and I recount a dozen instances in this vein, and most often they dealt with officer safety. Thank you, Mr. Brooks.

Pierce Brooks loved to catch and see caught "stick-ups," though his days of running down 211s were long over by the time he came to Lakewood. One would cherish a returned hard copy report embossed with large handwritten "nice work" in green ink! Only he could use that color.

Our boss in BRAND was Ron Beckham, one of the best and funniest guys ever to pass through Lakewood. A detective decided to enter into what sounded like a pursuit one afternoon while driving an unmarked unit equipped with just a "Kojak" light. This began at West 6th Avenue and Simms Street and ended in Cherry Creek, during rush hour.

Mr. Brooks was not a fan of pursuits in unmarked units and ordered the detective and his supervisor to his office "code 2." Ron Beckam briefed the detective expeditiously: "You are to say, 'yes, sir' and, 'no, sir.' If you say anything else, I'll suspend you myself." As was his habit and using the technique of a seasoned detective, Mr. Brooks spoke through hands clasped in front of his face and said, "Start from the beginning and tell

Doing the Lord's work somewhere were John Vermilye, Sidney Klein, and Charlie Johnston...

The chief was so impressed with my accident diagram and generosity that I was raised in September to Agent II, a giddy \$30 more every month.

... we were working with a man who knew cops and knew his job.



me every detail of what happened on this PURSUIT!"

As the lieutenant and the detective sat in the shadow of a 4' x 6' signed poster of the *Adam 12* team that hung prominently behind Mr. Brooks, Ron Beckham jumped in, taking the ball for a "99-yard run," explaining that the detective earnestly thought he had a "fleeing 211" and did not want to let a "stickup" elude us. Unofficial count on the number of times the word "stickup" was used in 10 minutes: 53.

The "old man" dislodged his blue steel gaze at the detective after about nine minutes, looked at Beckham, and inquiringly said, "Stickup – stickup?" Beckham, using his considerable communicative skills, said it four more times, whereupon Brooks kicked both of them out of his office with an admonition, "Next time you're toast."

### **Special Olympics – Torch Run By Sergeant George Hinkle**

In 1985, when Chief Charles Johnston joined the Special Olympics board, the department began its partnership with Special Olympics of Colorado (SOCO). In 1986, there were 65 Lakewood participants in the SOCO Torch Run fundraiser. Initially, Lakewood was assigned to run the route from the west. It was staged at Jefferson County Stadium and ran to the old US Bank at 14th and Carr Street. The bank had been a major sponsor of SOCO and hosted a festive party at the conclusion of the run.

In 1990, Greg Morrison left the department and asked me to take over coordination of the Torch Run. I had been coaching Special Olympics athletes at Fletcher Miller School. At the conclusion of the previous year's run, Hal Shucard asked, "Wouldn't it be cool if we ran it from the JeffCo line next year?" This would include west on I-70 where cops were not running. My suggestion was that the run begin in Idaho Springs, four miles west of the county line, since it provided an easier staging location and also included Floyd Hill. That hill posed a challenge in my younger days and today it's ludicrously difficult.

In 1990, the tradition began with Lakewood PD running from Idaho Springs, 25-plus miles to the finish line. The first two years we finished at the US Bank,

with regrouping at Blue Star Park where runners would gather for the final push down West Colfax Avenue. One year, Hal and I had lunch at the Moose Hill Cantina before the grand finale (our timing wasn't quite perfected and we had an hour to wait). This was a tactical error, and we never did that again! US Bank dropped its sponsorship in 1992, and we began regrouping at JeffCo Stadium and finishing at Lakewood PD, still 25-plus miles.

We settled in at around two dozen runners each year, again running various segments and supported by the Eagle County Sheriff's Office's recreational vehicle. The state Torch Run coordinator was an Eagle County deputy, Lou Samara, and the sheriff was good friends with Chief Charlie. We would stop at JeffCo Stadium then finish with a strong flourish at Lakewood PD. The FOP provided sandwiches, I bought soft drinks, the chief would make a speech, and we would have everybody from the station come out to the back patio to welcome the runners. It was quite a scene.

In 1994, we had plenty of runners from JeffCo Stadium into Lakewood but for some reason nobody was running from Idaho Springs on I-70, probably because they were smart. At the last minute, Mary Ann Edens was dropped off by one of the narcs, and she ran I-70 with me to the El Rancho exit (now called the Evergreen exit). This was a complete surprise since she had never run that segment before. She kicked my \_\_ s and ran hard and strong for the entire 11-mile stretch. A few months later she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died later that year. Because she ran the toughest 10 miles of our Lakewood PD segment, I started calling it the "Toughest Ten," and it became a featured segment of our run. The dirty secret is that it's 11 miles, but "Toughest Ten" sounded way better and didn't scare off so many people. We stopped the next year, and have every year since, at the top of El Rancho hill, where Mary Ann stopped running in 1994. She had a ride waiting to take her back to the PD.

We have had a moment of silence, not just for Mary Ann but for others of the Lakewood PD family we've lost. Stymie was one of the first, followed by Brian Fairbanks, Mike Monn, etc. I had "Toughest Ten" patches made up, and everybody who finished that seg-

Floyd Hill . . . posed a challenge in my younger days and today it's ludicrously difficult.

The dirty secret is that it's 11 miles, but "Toughest Ten" sounded way better . . .

ment of the run got one. Mary Ann's family showed up the year following her death. They heard that we were dedicating that segment of the run to her memory, and they supported us for several years at various points along the course — honking horns, cheering, offering food and water.

The next year we invited Wheat Ridge PD to join us, and they have participated every year since. In 1996, we received a plaque from SOCO for having the most runners in the state (55). We have also worked with Jeffco every year. The Federal Correctional Institute at Quincy/Kipling joined as well and continues to each year. We have also had appearances over the years from Denver PD and Denver SO, usually on the “Toughest Ten” segment. One year, we even had Denver Fire join us.

We settled into a good groove but lost our RV when they changed sheriffs in Eagle County. We borrowed one from Windish in 1999 – brand new, \$54K sticker on the kitchen table. Unfortunately, our driver that year did \$2,500 worth of damage hitting guard rails, signposts, and an assortment of other supposed immovable objects. The cost of the damage was more than we raised that year. We never got another RV from Windish.

When Colorado Mills opened, we changed the finish from our police station to the Mills. We added bicycle segments in 2001. Last year, I handed the reins over to Dave Hoover and Mark Reeves. Over the years, we made over \$30K for Special Olympics (a conservative figure), enjoyed fantastic camaraderie with fellow cops and Special Olympics athletes, and raised awareness in our community. It has been an honor to be associated with this cause.

### **First Denver-Metro Undercover Sting Operation By Dick Lurz, Community Service Officer (and former Agent)**

In the 1970s, undercover sting operations were a popular law enforcement tool used to recover stolen property and to identify and arrest various types of criminals. These operations had numerous sources of funding, sometimes including funding from the Feds.

In 1977, the cities of Lakewood, Denver, and Aurora funded what I believe was the first operation of this type in the metro area. The operation consisted of two residences: one located in the northwest Denver area and the other in 1400 block of Yosemite Street, the jurisdictional separation between Denver and Aurora. Aurora Police Department provided a male and female officer to operate the northwest Denver location, and Agent Laurel Lichtenberg and I ran the other location.

Each agency provided support personnel who would identify the stolen merchandise, the property owner, and file any appropriate criminal charges. Our objective was to contact the bad guys in whatever setting we found and ultimately purchase stolen merchandise from them at the undercover residence. We had very basic audio-visual surveillance installed at the undercover residence. We most generally found the bad guys in bars, parks, and just on the street.

After contacting the bad guys and getting them to trust us as “fellow crooks,” we would provide them with our phone number and address and whenever they had stolen merchandise to sell, they would contact us and we would arrange a time for them to come to the house where the transaction was conducted. We preferred that the transactions be conducted at the undercover location since our access to any type of sophisticated mobile surveillance equipment was quite limited. Once we left our secure environment at the site (i.e. going to parks, bars, etc.) to contact the crooks, we were pretty much on our own.

The operation only lasted about five months but was quite successful in the recovery of a large quantity of residential items taken in burglaries and stolen construction equipment. Our singlemost most prolific “customer” was a guy named Jerry White, who specialized in larger type of construction equipment, including vehicles and equipment. On our final buy/bust purchase from Jerry, he had stolen a truck, flatbed trailer, and a bobcat type loader from a construction site and brought it directly to his “fence.”

A rather humorous contact was with a black guy who called himself “Mickey.” He had a wife and a couple of kids who he would occasionally bring along when he sold his goods to us, and it seemed almost like a

In 1996, we received a plaque from SOCO for having the most runners in the state (55).

We most generally found the bad guys in bars, parks, and just on the street.

friendly social meeting. There were times when Mickey would just show up without calling first, and we had to really scramble to get the audio-visual set up before we'd let him in. When we first met with Mickey, he was a little suspicious, but after two or three meetings he told us that he didn't usually trust white guys. But he had "his boys check us out and we were okay." I'm not sure who "his boys" were, but I would say that he was paying them far too much for their services.

I don't recall the final number of arrestees or dollar value of property recovered, but it was substantial considering that the funding was barebones, and it was the first sting of its kind, to my knowledge.

### **Undercover Sting Operation 1978 – 1980 By Dick Lurz, Community Service Officer (and former Agent)**

Between 1978 and 1980, Lakewood Police Department was involved in a multi-jurisdictional undercover sting operation that operated throughout the Denver metro area. The other agencies involved included Aurora Police Department and U.S Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The objective was to purchase stolen merchandise from crooks who we would meet by hanging out in bars, parks, and other places where they might be. In addition to myself, some of the other personnel involved included Paul Harrold, Dennis Garvin, Gary Harper, Al Youngs, Bill Wilsey, Nate Miller, Mickey Roemer, Ted Mink (Arvada Police Department) and Dick Mathis (ATF).

Though the operation was oriented toward purchasing stolen property in general, it turned out that a majority of the property being purchased was automobiles. Since we did not plan to make any arrests until the close of the operation, we could not return the vehicles to their owners so they were stored at a remote off-site location in south Jefferson County.

The undercover site was located in the area of 10th Avenue and Harlan Street in Lakewood and was a large three-four bay vehicle garage, which also had a surveillance or administrative room that was concealed behind a "false wall." The bay area and an adjoining "office" had video surveillance cameras, which were monitored by support personnel in the surveillance room. This

allowed them to provide immediate assistance in the event it was needed while conducting "business" with the crooks.

Some insight into how callous and uncaring some crooks can be is seen in a transaction where Mickey and I bought a stolen car from a guy who said he had stolen it in Broomfield. Since we were a "full service fence," we graciously returned him to Broomfield to the bar where he had stolen the car. We went in to have a cool one, and the crook then tells us that the guy he took the car from is a friend of his who is still in the bar. Obviously, the friend had not yet discovered his car had been stolen and when we went inside, the thief bought his friend a beer with the money we had paid him for the car! It's good to have friends.

Though most of the vehicles purchased were family-type cars and pickups, there was one time when we bought a brand new semi-tractor that had been stolen from a dealership in the Commerce City area. There was also a time when we purchased a stick of dynamite from a guy! I was actually glad that we had an ATF agent there who appeared to know what to do and what not to do with it.

A note of humor: As we prepared to arrest the people involved in the thefts, we would call them on the phone and give them some reason to come to the site — usually money or beer. When the crooks came to do their business, they were offered a beer from the refrigerator, and they would just help themselves. On this particular day we called a guy named "Russ" and invited him over. Paul Harrold had put his badge in the refrigerator with a note saying, "You are under arrest," thinking Russ would look in and see it. Well, Russ didn't even look in, he just opened the door and reached in for a beer. Since there was nothing else in there, he couldn't miss! Anyway, Paul reminded him that he had missed something, and Russ looked back in and read very slowly, "YOU – ARE – UNDER – ARREST. He turned to Paul and said "Quit f\_\_\_\_\_ with me," at which time Paul assured him that he wasn't f\_\_\_\_\_ with him and confirmed it by putting handcuffs on him.

Unfortunately, the successful operation was closed somewhat prematurely when two of the crooks sold us stolen cars from the owners who had been killed before

There was also a time when we purchased a stick of dynamite from a guy!

Unfortunately, the successful operation was closed somewhat prematurely when two of the crooks sold us stolen cars from the owners who had been killed ...

their cars were stolen. The murderers, who were brothers, Fred Morris and Russell Freeman, were subsequently convicted of various crimes including murder and are still in the Colorado Department of Corrections. (See "1979 Death Investigation: Victims – Steven Tackett and Susan Williams" in "Cases-Decades.")

I remember saying that I did not know the city boundaries and was told not to worry, neither did the dispatchers.

## Memories of the 1970s

By John Miller, Lieutenant (Ret.)

I was discharged from the US Army in August of 1970. My undergraduate college degree was in industrial engineering. There were no engineering jobs in the Denver metropolitan area at the time, so I accepted a job with the Lakewood Department of Public Safety starting in November 1970. I found the organizational environment to be complete chaos and almost quit after the first week on the job.

Ron Lynch was the first director of the department and had a rather *laissez-faire* approach to organization and supervision. I remember coming to work the first night and asking who I was working with that night. I was told that I was the only one working because everyone else had worked during the day, following up on cases. I remember saying that I did not know the city boundaries and was told not to worry, neither did the dispatchers. Coming from the structure of the US Army, it was shocking to be involved with this sort of disorganization.

The next major event was the hiring of the second director of Public Safety, Pierce Brooks, in about April of 1971. He came from the Eugene, Oregon, Police Department by way of the Los Angeles Police Department. One of the first things he did was to appoint Al Youngs and me as detectives to work the stack of burglaries that were pending. Thus ended the brief experiment with the "generalist theory" of organization.

Al and I, being the college educated guys we were, decided to go to Denver PD to ask for help in figuring out who may be pulling these burglaries. After all, Denver was the center of the metro area and would surely know something about burglary suspects. We went to DPD at 13th and Champa one sunny morning. We walked into the Detective Bureau on the third floor, introduced ourselves, and were told, "Oh, you are those

college educated M-F'ers." All of the detectives got up *en masse* and walked out of the Detective Bureau. It did not take long for us to get to know these guys, however, and we eventually worked many cases jointly with DPD.

## Denver Burglar Alarm Case

One of the more notorious joint investigations was the Denver Burglar Alarm caper. Mikki Meininger worked for the Denver Burglar Alarm Company and was aware that some of the technicians were staging commercial break-ins. After the police finished with the initial investigations, they would pilfer goods from the stores while they reestablished alarm service. Mikki became an informant and tipped us off when these schemes were to occur. Several arrests were made and some ex-Denver Police Department officers were implicated. These ex-officers had been convicted in the 1960s of committing burglaries and had been sentenced to prison for these crimes. Mikki was later hired by LDPS as a dispatcher.

## Delores House – Unsolved Murder

In 1972, Delores House was reported missing from Westland Shopping Center. Her car was found abandoned in the parking lot. There was no physical evidence discovered to indicate what may have happened to her. Without any viable leads, the case has never been solved. It was believed that she might have been a victim of Ted Bundy since he was known to have been through Colorado at the same time that she was reported missing.

## Timothy McVey Murder

In the fall of 1976, Timothy McVey was murdered at his home in Green Mountain. The night of the murder, Al Youngs and I were scheduled to conduct a stakeout with DPD on safe burglars. My wife, Marty, told me to be careful because a murder was to occur and something funny was going to happen. I told her not to worry since I would be working the stakeout.

As it turned out, the stakeout team was close by the Athmar Bowling alley in Denver when an alarm was set off. We responded and ultimately arrested Hayward

It was believed that she might have been a victim of Ted Bundy...

My wife, Marty, told me to be careful because a murder was to occur and something funny was going to happen.

Curtis Lawson and Jackson Leroy Wiggins. They had entered the bowling alley through the roof and had fallen through a false ceiling into the pin-setting area, setting off the burglar alarm. The McVey homicide had occurred several hours earlier, but we had no idea these two were responsible.

A year or so later, an informant identified Lawson and Wiggins as the murderers. McVey's wife, Charlene, did not see the murderers but had reported that one of them had a very distinctive voice that she was sure she could identify. A voice lineup was conducted, and when Lawson spoke the words used at the murder scene she broke down and stated that Lawson was one of the murderers. This voice identification was subsequently used at Lawson's murder trial. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Wiggins was deemed insane and not able to stand trial. He was sent to the Colorado State Hospital for an undetermined amount of time. To my knowledge, both remain incarcerated.

## Memories of the Early Years

By Doug Monsoor, Criminalistics Supervisor (Ret.)

### *April 1971 – Bitten by Bear*

A black bear was observed running in the area of West Wesley Avenue during the investigation of a house explosion, which turned out to be a gas explosion. As the location was just south of Carmody Junior High School and it was nearly time for the end of the school day, the Lakewood Department of Public Safety and Bancroft Fire Department agreed that something needed to be done.

We followed the bear, chased it into a garage and closed the doors. An elderly woman came out of the residence and opened one of the doors, allowing the bear to run out. We chased it into a fenced yard, but the bear climbed up into a very small tree, which bent over from the bear's weight.

After some discussion of whether to shoot the bear, I successfully argued that we should try to capture it to release it into the wild. We decided to try to rope the bear, and, Lord, what kind of Old West scenario did that turn out to be! What were we thinking? Using the fire department ropes, Dallas Riedesel finally roped the

bear, snubbed it down, and got other ropes onto all four legs, and then loosened the rope around the bear's neck.

During the struggle, one of the ropes on the front leg came loose. After telling those holding the neck rope to snug it up, one foolish young man (yours truly) volunteered to replace the rope around the leg. While I succeeded, the head rope was loose and the bear took a swipe at me and caught my left hand, cutting about a four-inch-long gash along the outside of the little finger and palm.

I tried to radio in about the bite and the fact that we had roped a black bear; however, I was unable to make contact as the radios in use at that time were the old taxicab style with limited range, especially over the crest of the Kipling hill out of sight of the repeater. While en route to the doctor for my finger, when I crested the Kipling hill I radioed the information and requested help from Animal Control.

Help arrived and after fruitless attempts to contact State Wildlife, which wouldn't be available for at least 24 hours, the decision was made to try to tranquilize the bear. We did, but later found that the nicotine-based tranquilizer that Don Wentz and Animal Control used for dogs was fatal to bears. Subsequent investigation revealed that the bear was the former mascot of the Denver Bears baseball team and had escaped from the current owner's cage.

The proverbial "stuff hit the fan," and public outrage was prevalent over the "murder" of the bear. Poor Don Wentz and his family were subjected to serious threats of bombings, killings, and kidnappings. The department had to provide security for them, but the outrage escalated. The mayor finally had to hold a press conference to try to explain the extraordinary efforts that were employed to try to rescue the bear and how badly we all felt about the loss of life.

### *Lakewood – AKA Jefferson City*

Almost everyone starting at the Lakewood Department of Public Safety had come from somewhere else, so they were totally lost without maps. In fact the city pre-incorporation was called Jefferson City, which appeared on the state maps. There was no location known as Lakewood on state maps for quite a while.

In July of 1970, I came to Denver to interview for a job. After asking a number of gas stations how to get to

We decided to try to rope the bear, and, Lord, what kind of Old West scenario did that turn out to be!

I was unable to make contact as the radios in use at that time were the old taxicab style with limited range . . .

Lakewood and being told they had no idea, we stayed in a motel somewhere around 11000 East, or eastern Aurora. Once I finally reached someone I knew with the department, I learned that Lakewood/aka Jefferson City was at the farthest opposite direction from where we were. Anyway, as there were no available maps, especially for the Green Mountain area, we were frequently "lost."

### ***Use of Overheads***

There were a number of incidents in which the agent called dispatch for assistance and was told to "turn on your overheads." Then someone would go outside of Communications with binoculars and try to spot them and thus try to help them get back down to "the level." I remember one incident in late 1970, about November, back in the days when I used to hop calls, when a "hot-code 3" was dispatched. George Price and I met each other going opposite directions running code at the intersection of Garrison and 10th Avenue (I think) at the light. We stopped in mid-intersection and asked each other, "Where are you going?" Seems that we were both responding to the same call from opposite directions, and neither one of us was sure where we were headed. As I recall, neither of us ever found the location before the call was canceled.

### ***Swanney-ism***

A memory of Dave Swanney was back during the 1970s when we were experiencing many complaints about the killing of ducks/geese at Kendrick Lake. State Wildlife was of little help as they were always understaffed and unable to rapidly respond anywhere. The episode was "staffed" seeking an appropriate response. I remember Dave Swanney presenting a very serious (although tongue in cheek) proposal to seek funding for a two-man submarine to patrol the lake and nab the culprits. I'm sure others have fond memories of other "Swanney-isms."

### ***Wives Auxiliary***

I have fond memories of the "Wives Auxiliary" who planned many fun social activities and parties. In July 1976, they published the first and only bicentennial edition of *Code Seven*, a cookbook containing many recipes provided by the wives. I still have a copy of it and occa-

sionally refer to it to refresh my memory of names. The book was dedicated to Joyce Brooks, wife of COP Pierce Brooks.

This caused me to remember the absolute total dismay I felt upon receiving a handwritten note attached to a report or any other document, which said in green ink, "SEE ME PRB." It struck horror into the heart of any recipient. Although I received several, I did survive and even got a "well done" occasionally. But I'm sure that I did not do my heart or blood pressure any good in anticipation of a "meeting with the chief." May he rest in peace! I'd gladly work for him again at any time or place.

### ***Lakewood's Dirty Harry***

I remember when we moved to the building on 16th Avenue, and my outfit was located next to the dance studio across the street. John Marks was an agent (before we called them detectives) in Investigation. He (John) was sitting in the sergeant's office one day, and I was visiting with him when the phone rang. John facetiously answered the phone with "Callahan-Homicide." It was Chief Brooks on the other end. The chief asked, "Who is this?" John, without answering, hung up the phone, and both he and I very rapidly exited out the side door and spent the next hour or so at the coffee shop up on the corner of Colfax and Yarrow, staying out of sight and mind. I don't believe that the chief ever learned who it was, which certainly was instrumental in our continued employment.

### ***Office Furniture Upgrade***

When I started with the department in October of 1970, my operation (two people, me and the "other" Jerry Cole) had our "office" in the walk-in safe at 1600 Yarrow, which was also the city's headquarters. As I recall, both Senior Agents In Charge John Vermilye's and Joe Moffitt's "office" was at the end of the Quonset hut where my operation ended up. I vividly recall July of 1970, when I was interviewed by John Vermilye in that "office," which was furnished with several orange crates, one chair, and one typewriter, which was propped up on another orange crate. Boy was I impressed with the assistant chief's office!

I'd gladly work for him again at any time or place.

John facetiously answered the phone with "Callahan-Homicide." It was Chief Brooks on the other end.

### ***First CSIs***

During the first year and a half, agents were equipped with fixed focus, 3M instant cameras with black-and-white film to record scenes for court or a major investigation. We took the exposed film to K-Mart for development once a week and picked up the negatives a few days later. We did not introduce color until about mid-1971 for use by Jerry Cole or me only, still taking the film to K-Mart once a week. If color photographs were taken, they were printed in the 3 x 5 format, but I do not ever recall having K-Mart print anything in an enlarged format. I also remember that with the wide variation of abilities of the agents, their photographs frequently left a great deal to be desired and included a tremendous amount of superfluous pictures.

### ***Kechter Kudos***

Ray Kechter, who was "intake officer" at the district attorney's office, was very impressed with the efforts of our infant "crime lab." During the first month of my employment, Jerry Cole and I identified latent prints in over 40 different cases. Even though many of those cases were never filed, Ray told us that there had been no more than three or four trials that included fingerprint identifications for the previous 10 years. I never questioned those statistics, but his comments certainly gave a tremendous boost to our morale and our efforts to bring "professionalism" to Lakewood law enforcement.

### ***Fingerprint Protocol***

The first homicide I worked was in October of 1970, involving a murder in Applewood of a wife by her husband. I believe the suspect's name was Gordon Brown. Anyway, it seemed that every agent on duty, from Chief Ron Lynch down, swarmed to the scene. When Jerry Cole and I arrived, we had to move everyone out of the house so we could work. As a result, we had to do latent print comparisons to eliminate the agents that had been on scene. Much to their chagrin, we identified several of the highest-ranking members of the staff, including the chief. Henceforth, scene security was implemented immediately.

### ***Intergovernmental Cooperation – First Arson Investigation Team***

In about 1973, the first joint arson investigation team was formed through the combined efforts of the Lakewood Fire Department Assistant Chief Bill Hunter and me. The team including Detective Greg Cline and others operated very successfully until the consolidation of Lakewood and Bancroft Fire districts. This effort was held up as a statewide example illustrating the benefits for small fire departments combining the resources of fire, police and/or sheriff departments to successfully investigate suspicious fires.

One of the best examples of this was the arson/homicide investigation that resulted in the arrest of Sydney Sarah Brown for setting the fire that killed both of her parents. Initially, Sydney was credited with heroism for saving the lives of several of her younger siblings in the early morning hours. However, following an intensive investigation, Chief Hunter and I were able to document the proof of arson and effectively discredit Sydney's statements. By late afternoon, she was arrested for one count of first-degree arson and two counts of murder in the deaths of both her parents. She was ultimately determined to be "mentally incompetent to stand trial" and was committed to the state hospital in Pueblo where she finally admitted to setting the fire.

### ***Liquor Enforcement on West Colfax***

A couple of pretty tough bars along the Colfax corridor were the Lemon Tree Lounge and The Red Rocker. George Johnson and George Price took the entire first recruit class, along with a number of regular agents, Jerry Cole and me for a "bar check" at the Lemon Tree Lounge. We were likened to invading storm troopers when a group of nearly 30 people entered the bar and conducted identification checks of everyone present. Usually, an agent trying to conduct such an activity at the Lemon Tree would just about have to fight the owner, George Guy. He was built like a professional wrestler with a full mane of long blonde hair and was infamous for using the back end of a pool cue to settle many fights. That check ended without further incident except for the growing hard feelings against the "college boys in their blazers."

Much to their chagrin, we identified several of the highest-ranking members of the staff, including the chief.

We were likened to invading storm troopers . . .

### Dallas Riedesel, Sergeant (Ret.)

I remember April 1, 1970 (April Fool's Day). Five of us started that day in Patrol — George Johnson, Larry Hesser, Ken Lindbloom, DC Britt, and me. Fourteen agents were hired by the time six of us went on patrol in May 1970. Initially, we had no equipment, no uniforms, no police department identification, but by May we did have some marked patrol cars. The radios physically came out of taxi cabs from Grand Junction. The radio system was some kind of maritime thing, the Q-system, and no one knew how to use it. Initially we worked 12 on and 12 off. The cars were a model of the Plymouth Fury, and it was unmarked and had no lights. There would be one agent working north and one south; they would be gone (somewhere) for hours.

In April 1970, George Johnson and I were in the Knotty Pine area doing background checks, and we had absolutely nothing that identified us as police officers, but for some unknown reason, people seemed to believe us. I left patrol and worked in the Intelligence Section. A “supposed” bomb was taken to the Com Center by an agent. I responded for follow-up. We found that the bomb was definitely not explosive, but it could have been and was some kind of electronic device. There were some scary times. We were given 39A semi-automatic pistols, which no one had ever had. We took them to the Federal Center's target range to practice shooting at targets. We had no information about the gun; no one told us how to take care of it.

Another story: In June or July of 1970, in the afternoon, I responded to a call of a bear roaming the neighborhood south of Jewell and Kipling Street. When I arrived, sure enough, there was this big black bear wandering around in an open area. A number of folks were in the area watching the bear. Well, I got out of the car (not knowing anything about dealing with bears) and approached this beautiful animal. It seemed very friendly, as it would stand on its back legs and approach folks. Sometime during this activity, Doug Monsoor arrived (he was a crime scene technician from Florida). Someone said they had a rope they could get for us. I radioed a request for Don Wentz, an animal control officer, to respond. While waiting for him, I decided to rope the bear, and I did. With Doug's help we sorta had it under control. It sure seemed like it had

been around a lot of humans, as it never attempted to attack us.

Don arrived and had a tranquillizer gun. However, he had never dealt with a bear, only dogs. He guessed how much of this tranquilizer he would need to use on the bear. He shot the bear with the tranquillizer, and the bear went to sleep. But he ended up in eternal sleep – poor bear. Too much tranquillizer. Later, we learned that the bear was the mascot for the Denver Bears professional baseball team. So I guess it had dealt with a lot of humans. Apparently it had escaped from its cage in the area. But no one on scene knew about this bear.

I have attached a note that my daughter Tiffany forwarded to me years ago. This shows the human side of the police profession. Many times we just talk about our big arrests, cases, etc. However, I think there is a much larger picture, that of our impact on the lives of citizens we worked with daily.

Frank was a young with issues (a lot more to the story) who attended Alameda High in Tiffany's class.

*“... How is your father? I know he retired some time ago. Please tell him hello for me. He was probably one of the few adults who took time to listen to me when I was going through my angry young man phase. I remember I had gotten into trouble one night, nothing serious, but it caused quite a few ripples in my home. He heard about it that night, picked me up, and took me out to Denny's for a bite to eat. The really awesome thing about it was, he just listened. He didn't judge or tell me where I'd gone wrong. He took the time – on duty – to personally come to talk to me as a friend, not a cop. I have always remembered that about him and always wanted to let him know how much I appreciated it. I really credit him for playing a major part in steering me in the right direction. I've lost my way here and there (we all do at some point, I reckon) but I managed to find my way back on the right path.”*

### The Turkey Sting

By Sergeant Jerry Cole (Ret.)

The Turkey Sting was the idea of Agent Ken Perry while we served on the Special Enforcement Team. I was the sergeant in command of SET, 1982-1984. Of

Initially, we had no equipment, no uniforms, no police department identification ...

There were some scary times.

... I got out of the car (not knowing anything about dealing with bears) and approached this beautiful animal.



course, at the time, SET's main objective was "Colfax Cruising" enforcement, conducted from April to October, but in the winter when it was off-season for cruisers, we spent most of our time as a fugitive unit picking up people on warrants.

Since it was "turkey time" that winter, Ken formulated an idea to mail "you are a winner" letters to people with Lakewood arrest warrants. The lure was a prize of 50 lottery tickets and a holiday turkey. The only requirement was that individuals appear at the Villa Italia Shopping Center, a nonthreatening public location, and complete a brief questionnaire expressing their opinion of the remodeling that was in process. The sting was scheduled as a one-day operation with the hope that it could be repeated later.

Even though the remodel was in process, the security team loaned SET the use of their office space with additional rooms in the back. Uniformed agents and others in plain clothes were assigned different duties. Signs were placed throughout the Villa to direct the "winners" to the appropriate office. The person at the information desk also directed people. Agent Laurel Lichtenberg was recruited as receptionist in the office to give the ruse legitimacy. She asked people for their identification and letter, then gave them the questionnaire to complete before they could claim their prize. Meanwhile, agents in a back room were checking the validity of the warrant. I don't recall that we had any cancelled warrants for the folks who showed up.

Once that was completed, "winners" were escorted to another back room and given the bad news about the arrest warrant. The arrestee was taken to another area where uniformed agents handled the paperwork, transportation to the station, booking, and jail. A steady stream of "winners" entered the mall that day.

Unfortunately, the sting could not be repeated at a later date because one of the "winners" freaked out when he saw uniformed agents in the second office and therefore gave us the publicity we didn't want. This guy tried to run but was easily controlled except that he wiggled, shouted, and screamed all the way back to the booking area. I was there when the guy tried to bolt. I had a leg and three or four of us carried him back to the booking table where he settled down and was booked without further incident. After being released from jail, this unhappy, disruptive arrestee went to a television

news station and received his 15 minutes of fame. His comment that was aired (which gave the Turkey Sting its name) was, "I asked them, where's my turkey?" To which someone replied, "YOU are the turkey."

The plan worked very well and was not a difficult operation to set up. We had a steady stream of "winners," especially mid-day and later. I don't recall the total that we bagged but possibly more than 20. Denver Police Department repeated it soon after and had the benefit of Bronco playoff tickets as the lure using the Convention Center as the public place.

The only kickback was the anger of the mall's general manager, concerned about the publicity from the police department's luring of criminals into the mall particularly during the busy holiday retail season. Conversely, SET felt that the sting made the Villa Italia a safer place for customers since the bad guys were afraid we were still there and many of them would not be shopping at the Villa for plastic pilgrims, stocking stuffers, or anything else for a while.

Participants in the Turkey Sting were Jerry Cole, Dan Garcia, Dave Adams, Laurel Lichtenberg, John Griffith, Greg Bramblett, Pete McParlane, and John Kuebler.

"I asked them, where's my turkey?" To which someone replied, "YOU are the turkey."

Denver Police Department repeated it . . . and had the benefit of Bronco playoff tickets as the lure . . .

# Cases of the Decades

## Cases of the Ron Lynch Era (1970s Decade)

### First Shooting: Suspect - Joyce Castleberry

In September 1970, a Lakewood resident, Robert Emch, experienced an assault at his business in Denver. He did not file a police incident report. On September 10, 1970, in the early morning, the Lakewood Fire Department responded to a reported fire at the Emch residence on South Cole Drive. The fire department determined that the garage was the target of a firebomb; the fire did not enter the residence. The department extinguished the fire before any serious damage occurred.

The Emch family also reported receiving threatening telephone calls against them. The telephone calls continued until September 21, when at 4 AM the residence was again the target of a firebomb. This bomb went through the utility room window but failed to ignite.

At 11 AM, Lakewood agents began surveillance. Shortly after, the Emchs received a number of threatening telephone calls demanding money from a person identified as Joyce Castleberry. Agent Eric Quinichet taped these calls.

At 7:30 PM, Joyce Castleberry arrived at the residence and entered the home. At this time, Quinichet hid in a bathroom, and Agent Dallas Riedesel went to a neighbor's home to call dispatch. Quinichet heard Castleberry again threaten to burn the house if she did not get the money. The agent then exited the bathroom, identified himself as the police and told her that she was under arrest. Castleberry ran out the front door with Quinichet in pursuit.

Castleberry entered a waiting vehicle in an attempt to flee. She then attempted to run over Riedesel, who stood in front of the vehicle. The vehicle accelerated. Quinichet ordered the vehicle to stop numerous times and finally fired one round at the left front tire, disabling the vehicle. The agents arrested the occupants. However, the only person charged with robbery was Eva Joy Castleberry. This was the first documented shooting involving an agent of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety.

### First Homicide: Victim - Rafael Antonio Dorantes

On May 9, 1970, eleven young males arrived at a construction site near the 2400 block of Yukon Way. One of the subjects climbed onto and started a piece of equipment. At this time, someone exited a nearby vehicle and began firing shots at the subjects. The victim attempted to leave the scene in his vehicle but died after being shot. Edna Lawrence, a security guard for Witkin Homes, confessed to firing the fatal shots. She pled guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter.

## Cases of the Pierce Brooks Era (1970s Decade)

### Homicide Investigation: Victim - Leeora Rose Looney

On August 20, 1971, agents responded to the Mr. Donut Shop, 8950 West Colfax Avenue, on a suspicious incident. Customers at the shop discovered that there was no clerk on the premises. The body of the clerk, Leeora Rose Looney, was located three days later in a Weld County field. It was determined that she had been raped, strangled, and shot.

An exhaustive investigation resulted in the arrest of a family of traveling criminals believed to be responsible for a string of robberies, abductions, and murders in several states. Ginger McCrary Taylor later provided Grand Jury testimony; Carylton Elizabeth McCrary pled guilty to accessory after the fact to murder; Sherman McCrary was convicted of kidnapping and murder; and Carl Taylor, entered a negotiated plea of guilty of murder. Subsequent investigation showed that Carl Taylor had been involved in at least 15 homicides. Detective Joe Fanciulli and Criminologist Doug Monsoor were instrumental in identifying Taylor and McCrary and proving they were responsible for this murder.

Fanciulli consulted with author Orvel Trainer to write the book, *Death Roads: The Story of the Donut Shop Murders*, based on these crimes.

### **Accidental Shooting: Philnor Pharmacy Burglary**

In July 1972, at approximately 3 AM, Agent Nate Miller responded to a burglary in progress at Philnor Pharmacy on the corner of West Colfax Avenue and Quail Street. Miller chased the suspect, Anthony James Maldonado, from the building and across West Colfax Avenue. During the foot pursuit, Maldonado dove into a hedge. As Miller was attempting to pull the suspect out of the hedge, Miller's pistol discharged and the round severed the suspect's femoral artery. Due to responding agents' collective first-aid efforts, the suspect survived. Miller was cleared of any wrongdoing. After reviewing the incident on scene the following day, Director Brooks reassured Miller, "I'm behind you 100 percent. You don't need to worry."

### **Major Pursuit: Lakewood, Jefferson County, and Denver Police**

On December 27, 1972, at 2 AM, the Denver Police Department notified the Lakewood Department of Public Safety and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office that it was in pursuit of a Corvette westbound on West 6th Avenue. The Corvette exited West 6th Avenue onto Wadsworth Boulevard in Lakewood. In the course of the pursuit, the Corvette caused an accident. Agent Tony Lane, followed by Jefferson County units, observed the suspect vehicle spin out and stall at West 10th Avenue and Wadsworth Boulevard.

As Lane and deputies approached the vehicle, the driver restarted the engine and accelerated toward one of the deputies, who fell to the ground. Lane fired at the Corvette until his semi-automatic jammed after two rounds. Other officers at the scene also fired at the fleeing vehicle, which came to an abrupt stop at West 10th Avenue and Pierce Street. The two occupants fled on foot, and Denver officers apprehended the passenger. Terry Lee Ward sought treatment for gunshot wounds and later confessed to driving the Corvette. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office handled its portion of the investigation, and Agent Burdell Burch handled the Lakewood shooting investigation. Ward pled guilty to a charge of felony menacing as part of a plea bargain.

### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - Ansel Carpenter**

On March 21, 1973, Agent Aleck Shilaos noticed Clarence Goode standing next to a Pontiac in the parking lot of the Rally Lounge, 9500 West Colfax Avenue. Goode was apparently pulling up his trousers and appeared to be intoxicated. Shilaos placed

Goode under arrest for public intoxication. He looked inside the Pontiac and saw Theodore Trusty lying motionless across the front seat. Shilaos radioed for assistance and later, with the help of Agents Ron Coulter and Bill Holman, attempted to rouse Trusty.

After several minutes of banging on the car windows, shouting, and whistling, Trusty sat up in the seat of the car, unlocked the car door, and got out. Trusty stated that the car did not belong to him — it belonged to some guy he knew. Shilaos decided to impound the car, and he and other agents decided to conduct an inventory search. They unlocked the trunk to locate the spare tire and jack and discovered Ansel Carpenter's dead body. An autopsy revealed that Carpenter died of manual strangulation. Trusty, Goode, and Oliver Eaglefeather were charged with murder.

### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - Dorothy Britt**

On August 17, 1974, Dorothy Britt's 15-year-old son reported to the department that she was missing. He stated that his mother had left with Larry Britt, her ex-husband, on August 16 and hadn't returned. Larry Britt worked as a foreman at the Chatfield Dam construction site. Investigators located Britt's bloodstained coat, a bloodstained hatchet, and his pickup truck that had bloodstains of Dorothy's type on the floorboard. Britt was arrested. However, he was not bound over for trial since no body had been located, and a murder could not be proved. Britt failed a polygraph exam, but extensive excavations at the dam site were unsuccessful.

For 24 years, nothing happened on the case. Then one day in 1998, Lieutenant Clarene Shelley, who had worked on the case as a rookie detective, heard that the girlfriend Larry Britt married after Dorothy's disappearance had divorced him. Shelley asked detectives to look into the case. In January 1999, Detectives Phil Tenney and Mark Good interviewed Britt's ex-wife, who recanted her earlier story, thus eliminating his alibi.

Using new technology, a lab matched Dorothy's DNA (derived from a sample of her son's blood) to the blood found in Britt's truck. In November 1999, the Grand Jury indicted Britt for first-degree murder. He was arrested in Hudson, New Hampshire, where he was living with a wife believed to be his sixth or seventh. Britt fought extradition to Colorado,

but was returned in January 2000. In January 2001, Larry Britt pled guilty to manslaughter after admitting in court that he had killed Dorothy in 1974. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

### **Harley Davidson Motorcycles Investigation**

In the summer of 1974, Investigators Jerry Cole and Duane Mueller found that a number of Harley Davidson motorcycles had turned up with altered vehicle identification numbers. Their investigation resulted in the impounding of numerous motorcycles and the recovery of stolen vehicles. It resulted in numerous civil actions filed against the department by the persons in possession of the motorcycles. None of these civil cases had basis in fact, but there were numerous prosecutions resulting in the convictions of those who possessed and altered the motorcycles.

*(See Jerry Cole's discussion in "Memories.")*

### **Cases of the John Vermilye Era (1970s Decade)**

#### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - Vernon "Rip" Maurice Clark**

On December 31, 1977, at approximately 6 PM, Ron Lyle, a ranked professional boxer, called off-duty Lakewood Lieutenant Dave Dial, who was a neighbor, and asked to talk to him about something "important." Upon arrival at Lyle's residence, Dial learned that Lyle had shot to death Vernon "Rip" Maurice Clark during an argument over money. Lyle was subsequently charged with first-degree murder and second-degree murder.

During Lyle's trial in December 1978, the defense claimed that Lyle had killed Clark in self-defense. Lyle testified that Clark had pulled a gun on him during the argument, and as Lyle struggled to take the gun away, it went off, striking Clark. The jury found Lyle not guilty of murder.

#### **Old West Arms Store - Attempted Robbery (STAR Operation)**

At 4:14 AM, August 2, 1978, a silent alarm was received from the Old West Arms Store at 6360 West Colfax Avenue. The retail business specialized in all types of firearms and ammunition.

Agents Kelly Ohzourk and Jim Killion were dispatched, arriving at 4:17 AM. When checking the rear of the building, Killion noticed that a door panel was removed from the adja-

cent store, Lovett Business Machines, and rifles were lying on the floor inside the building. Several police units responded within minutes, and the entire business complex, consisting of single-story connected units, was sealed off to prevent entrance or exit.

At 4:30 AM, Sergeant Joe Schallmoser, who coordinated the initial response, observed two subjects inside one of the retail units. When Schallmoser called to them, they ran toward the rear of the building and disappeared. The subjects did not respond to further contact attempts, and Lieutenant Merrill Headrick called for the STAR (Special Tactics and Response) Team's response. STAR personnel arrived at 6:15 AM.

Agents Tom Pfanz and Vince DeBenedette were lifted to the roof of an adjacent three-story apartment building by a Lakewood Fire Department truck's cherry picker. The fire department remained at the scene for the entire operation, as did Denver Police Department personnel, who responded at 8 AM with one sergeant, nine officers, and two K9s.

Sergeant Charles Brown strung landline cable between command positions and the high-ground position held by Pfanz and DeBenedette. As the operation progressed, Major Sid Klein gave the go-ahead to fire gas rounds through the rear door of the Lovett's unit, next door to Old West Arms. Sergeant Barbour and the entry team took position after firing a smoke grenade for cover at Lovett's rear door. A thorough, several-hour search of the buildings commenced. STAR then fired gas cartridges into crawl spaces above the ceilings of the businesses, but the suspects were not located.

At 4:20 PM, Agent Morrie Spiess located a buck knife believed to have been dropped by one of the suspects. He then saw the suspects, who were lying wedged into a narrow space between the ceiling and the roof joints. To enable agents to reach them, a power saw and pry tools were obtained from the fire department truck, and STAR agents cut an access hole into the crawl space through the roof. Both suspects were raised through the hole in the roof, lowered to the ground, and taken into custody. They were checked on the scene by fire department personnel, and then transported to Saint Anthony Hospital to be treated for exposure to tear gas.

This 11-hour operation received national media coverage and congratulations from Lakewood Mayor Chuck Whitlock, metro-area police chiefs, and local business owners. Total cost of the operation was \$5,090.

## **Homicide Investigation: Victims - Steven Tackett and Susan Williams**

On July 16, 1979, a decomposing body was found behind bushes at the entrance to Molholm Elementary School, 6000 West 9th Avenue. The autopsy showed that the victim had been shot in the head. The victim's sister identified him as Steven Tackett.

The next night, Intelligence Agent Dennis Garvin heard the victim's name on the news. He remembered that name as being on the registration of a vehicle purchased in an undercover stolen property "sting" being conducted by Lakewood, Arvada police, and ATF. Undercover agents posing as fences had purchased Tackett's vehicle on July 13 from Russell Freeman and Frederick Morris.

On July 17, Freeman called the undercover agents and told them he had another car to sell. As Freeman and Greg Griffin approached the undercover location in two cars, detectives and uniformed personnel on stake-out attempted to stop them. Griffin pulled over and was taken into custody. A .45 caliber pistol was found in the car.

Freeman drove off in a blue Lincoln. A high-speed pursuit ended at 136th Avenue and Huron Street, where the vehicle spun out and Freeman was arrested. The investigation showed that the Lincoln was stolen, and the girlfriend of the owner was missing, as was her Monte Carlo. Susan Williams, the girlfriend, had disappeared on July 15th. The undercover operation had purchased her vehicle from Freeman and Morris on July 16th. Detectives Mike Powell, Phil Anderson, Dick Lurz, and District Attorney Investigator John Kiekbusch interviewed Freeman. Freeman admitted to killing both Tackett and Williams. He drew detectives a map, and the body of Williams was found at 4040 Dahlia Street in Denver. Suspects Freeman and Morris were convicted of murder in these cases and sentenced to life in prison. (See "Stings" article in "1970s Decade," and "Stings," by Dick Lurz, in "Memories.")

## **Conviction of "The Stamp Burglar" - James Butler Haskins**

Between December 1978 and April 1979, there were 91 burglaries of office buildings reported to the department's BRAND unit. There were similar burglaries throughout the metropolitan area, including Denver, Aurora, Boulder, Arvada, and unincorporated Arapahoe County. The perpetrator made discrete entrances into the buildings and then pried various office doors. The items taken were predominately cash, precious metals, and postage stamps. As a result of the stamp thefts, the perpetrator was

dubbed "the stamp burglar."

Interdepartmental investigation of a suspicious vehicle seen in the area of a burglary in Denver eventually led to the apprehension of Lakewood resident "James R. Butler," later identified as James Butler Haskins. He acknowledged that he committed numerous office burglaries in the metropolitan area and that he had a business in which he bought, sold, and traded precious metals, coins, and stamps. He also stated that he held a college degree in metallurgy, and therefore was able to extract the various alloys from the precious metals and sell the metal at a higher price.

Prior to going to trial, Haskins was housed at the Denver County Jail, where he was attacked by an unknown assailant. Haskins' injuries caused him permanent mental disabilities. He became a patient/inmate at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo and the court dismissed charges against him.

## **Operation Lollipop**

In December 1979, a drug investigation called "Operation Lollipop" concluded. For eight months, undercover Agent Laurel VanderMeulen capitalized on her youthful appearance and attended a city high school, posing as a 17-year-old student. Agent Harry Smith posed as her 28-year-old boyfriend, who transported her to and from school in a police department undercover vehicle. The couple rented a furnished apartment to give them credibility, in case students wanted to see where they lived. They frequented local parks, amusement centers, and attended parties, where most transactions took place.

Before VanderMeulen set foot in the school, she underwent a crash course in drugs — how to identify them, and the appropriate jargon. The only school personnel aware that she was an undercover agent were the principal, campus supervisor, and the school's assistant principal, who prompted the drug probe. The two agents were in constant contact with Captain James O'Dell, head of the Intelligence Division, who supervised the operation. The investigation resulted in 33 arrests on drug trafficking charges. Estimated value of the drugs was \$21,000.

## Cases of the Charles Johnston Era (1980s Decade)

### **Manslaughter: Victim - Freddie West**

In June of 1980, Agent Kelly Eliassen went to 7474 West 20th Avenue to investigate a reported fight with weapons. He found Freddie West lying in front of the apartment with the metal shaft of an arrow protruding from his chest. He was still conscious and was transported to Saint Anthony's Hospital by the Flight for Life helicopter. Prior to his transport, West told Agent Ron Highstreet that "the kid shot me with an arrow."

Lillian Schmittel told agents that her 14-year-old son had seen West commit domestic violence against her. The boy reportedly threatened his mother's boyfriend and told him that he was no longer going to beat up his mother. The boy went to the bedroom, obtained a bow and arrow, re-entered the living room, and shot West with the arrow. He then obtained a baseball bat and struck West, who later died in surgery. The arrow had penetrated the vena cava, puncturing the liver, and embedding itself in the victim's spine. It could not be removed. The boy was charged with manslaughter in juvenile court. He pled guilty and was sentenced to two years of probation, psychiatric counseling, and placement in a foster home.

### **Aggravated Robbery & Attempted Murder**

On July 10, 1980, Sergeant Al Padilla observed two robbery suspects fleeing Lakewood after the robbery of a local tavern. He initiated a pursuit of the subjects' vehicle toward Golden, assisted by Juvenile Team Sergeant Jerry Garner. The pursuit continued despite one of the subjects firing a shot at Padilla. The pursuit ended near the Coors Brewery in Golden when the suspect vehicle caused an accident. The suspects attempted to run from the scene, but Coors security apprehended them. One suspect took a hostage for a short time. Both suspects were later convicted of aggravated robbery and attempted murder.

### **Early Contact with John Hinckley**

On March 18, 1981, Agent Chris Worsham contacted and briefly questioned John Hinckley at the Golden Hours Motel on West Colfax Avenue. This is the only known contact of

Hinckley by a law enforcement official before he shot President Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C., on March 30. After the assassination attempt, when Chief Johnston learned of the suspect's Colorado connection, he was fond of relating how former Director Pierce Brooks called him, and "directed" him to contact Jefferson County Sheriff Harold Bray. He was to instruct Sheriff Bray to immediately isolate the home of Hinckley's parents in Evergreen because of media and potential evidence issues. Chief Johnston stated that he did as he was told.

### **Homicide Investigation: Suspect - Vincent Groves**

On August 14, 1981, in the early morning hours, Vincent Groves drove up to the Lakewood Police Station at 44 Union Boulevard in a pickup truck with a camper in the bed. He contacted the desk agent, Catherine Compton, and advised her that he had the body of a female, overdosed on cocaine, inside the camper. Sergeant Paul Harrold confirmed the report and called robbery-homicide Detectives Tom Pfanz and Ellis Armistead to investigate. The autopsy showed that the victim had actually been strangled, rather than suffering a cocaine overdose. Vincent Groves was convicted of second-degree murder. Groves posted an appeal bond and remained free until June, when he kidnapped and attempted to rape a woman near Stapleton Airport. Further investigation showed that Groves was also a suspect in other abductions and homicides. He died in prison.

### **Robbery, Interstate Kidnapping, Homicide: Suspect - Michael O'Driscoll**

On January 20, 1983, the Lakewood Gem and Trading Post at 1470 Carr Street was robbed at gunpoint, and the proprietor was pistol-whipped. On January 21, Agent John Romaniec took a missing-persons report on a 39-year-old Lakewood resident, who left for work in his car the morning of January 20 and had not been seen since. On January 23, Agent John Hunt received word from the Salina County Sheriff's Office in Kansas that the body of the missing man had been found shot to death on a dirt road outside Salina. He had been shot 10 times, and his vehicle was still missing. Detective Richard Gearke was assigned to the case.

On January 30, Agent Karen Wesley impounded a Dodge van abandoned at the JCRS shopping center on West Colfax Avenue. Completing an impound inventory on the van, Wesley found a small blood spot on a newspaper and an empty handgun box inside

the vehicle. Sergeant Burdell Burch of the Crimes Against Persons Team assigned the abandoned vehicle case to Detective Dick Gearke on the chance that it was somehow connected to the apparent kidnap/murder of the Lakewood resident. Investigating the van, Gearke learned that it had been purchased by a subject using a driver's license under a false name. Due to the interstate kidnapping and murder, the FBI entered the case.

FBI Special Agent Brett Bray (son of Jefferson County Sheriff Bray) met with Gearke to review the missing persons file and the vehicle impound case. Bray noticed that the fake name of the van owner was an alias of Michael O'Driscoll, a suspect in a December 1982 Denver bank armed robbery. The photograph on the fake driver's license was indeed Michael O'Driscoll. He was currently a fugitive and a suspect in several bank robberies in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

On February 2, the vehicle belonging to the murdered victim was found abandoned in Groton, Massachusetts. The FBI processed the vehicle and located a latent print on the rearview mirror. The print was positively identified as belonging to Michael O'Driscoll. In September, on an informant's tip, O'Driscoll was arrested in Pierce County, Washington. He was believed responsible for numerous bank robberies and a crime spree across the country. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on the interstate kidnapping and returned to Denver for trial.

A female accomplice arrested with O'Driscoll told authorities that on January 21, O'Driscoll robbed the Lakewood Gem and Trading Post. He abandoned the van at the JCRS shopping center in Lakewood, carjacked a man from the parking lot, and transported him to Kansas, where he shot him.

In May 1984, O'Driscoll, convicted of kidnapping and two bank robberies, received a sentence of 300 years plus two consecutive terms of 25 years each. At the time of conviction, O'Driscoll still faced 71 other charges in various jurisdictions. Nineteen years later, while in prison, O'Driscoll murdered a cellmate by stabbing him 30 times. Detective Gearke appeared as a witness. The prosecution sought the death penalty, but the jury vote was insufficient for the death sentence.

### **Sexual Assault Cases, 1983: Suspect - Paul Fredrick Rather**

During the summer of 1983, Lakewood was terrorized by a serial rapist. The suspect, armed with a .45 caliber pistol, broke into residences at night, and confronted and raped women living

alone. One of the victims was employed by the Lakewood Police Department. Detective Dave Swanney was assigned as lead investigator.

During one case on August 12, the suspect had apparently entered the victim's apartment while she was out with her boyfriend. The boyfriend had noticed that the porch light at the back of the apartment was off when they arrived home. The victims were awakened later that night by the armed suspect standing near their bed. At gunpoint, he forced the woman to tie her boyfriend with a cord cut from the window blinds. He then assaulted the woman.

On August 20, 1983, a woman was again confronted by an armed gunman inside her residence at 8837 West Woodard Drive. She was able to escape when the gunman left her alone for a time. She ran to a neighbor's and called the police. Agent Catherine Compton drove toward the residence and saw a car with rear-window louvers leaving the area. She attempted to stop the car, but it eluded her in the area of Morrison Road and Wadsworth Boulevard.

While agents took the report, Agent Dave Adams was dispatched to 2540 South Garland Street to check on a reported prowler. While conducting an area check, he observed a Camaro with rear-window louvers parked in the area. Adams parked and later saw a subject get into the vehicle and drive away. The subject matched the first-degree burglary suspect's description. Agents Dave Adams, Dick Swanson, and Jack Lennig stopped the car and took Paul Rather into custody.

Swanney interviewed Rather at the police station and booked him into the Jefferson County Jail on first-degree burglary charges. The weapon was not found. The next morning technician Carolyn Barker positively matched the latent print on the light bulb in the August 12 case. Six cases were filed from Lakewood against Rather, plus an additional rape case from Westminster. Rather was convicted and spent 25 years in prison.

### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - William Truesdale**

On June 18, 1986, off-duty Jefferson County Deputy William Truesdale was working as a guard at the Citywide Bank at 3345 South Wadsworth Boulevard. At 11:55 AM, two masked suspects entered the bank in an obvious robbery

attempt. They immediately approached Truesdale, standing at the customer service counter with his back to the front door. Both suspects shot Truesdale, who fell to the floor, fatally wounded.

Witnesses spotted a license number from the suspect car, which was later discovered behind Furr's Cafeteria approximately a half block north of the bank. Witnesses also had observed a white, older model, full-sized car, possibly a Chevrolet, behind Furr's Cafeteria just before the robbery.

Officers from Lakewood Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the FBI responded to the bank and began an immediate investigation. The FBI was working two similar robberies of credit unions that had occurred during the past several months. Denver Police Department authorities were notified of the attempted robbery and homicide, and were requested to look for a white car used in a prior, similar robbery.

On June 18, a white Ford Bronco was found at 32nd Avenue and Osage Street. It was occupied by Richard Charles Borrego and Rose Marie Ortega. Both were taken into custody concerning the robbery of a King Soopers credit union. An interview with Richard Borrego identified the second possible suspect as Anthony Lucero. Latent processing of the Bronco revealed Borrego's fingerprints.

A search warrant for Borrego's residence recovered one of the two guns used in the murder of Truesdale. A photo array was shown to a witness who had seen the two suspects without their masks. The witness identified one of the two occupants of the Bronco as being Lucero, and a nationwide hunt was initiated for him. He was arrested on July 12 at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas determined that his office would pursue the death penalty on both Richard Borrego and Anthony Lucero. Both suspects were eventually sentenced to life in prison.

## **Cases of the Charles Johnston Era (1990s Decade)**

### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - Jakeob McKnight**

On July 21, 1991, 10-year-old Jakeob McKnight did not return home from riding bicycles with his brother and several friends. His parents called the Police Department, who

immediately conducted an extensive search throughout the night and into the next day. The department enlisted the help of the Arapahoe County Search and Rescue Team. Just before 4 PM, July 22, searchers discovered Jakeob's body, with multiple stab wounds, near a tree stump in the greenbelt that parallels Bear Creek. Although possible suspects were quickly identified, the evidence did not result in arrests. The case remains open and continues to be worked by the Cold Case Unit formed in 2008 in the Investigation Division.

### **Grand Jury Investigation over Shooting of Michael Rael**

On August 6, 1991, agents responded to a shots-fired incident at 10661 West Dartmouth Avenue. Michael Rael, reported to be suicidal and armed with a Mac 11, came out of the townhome armed with the Mac 11 and fired a round. Agents strategically placed themselves around the building complex. Agent Joe Wray began talking to Rael and told him to put the gun down. Rael responded by firing more rounds into the air and into the ground. At one point, Rael put the gun in his mouth. The gun jammed, and Rael cleared the jam and exchanged the magazine. Rael began yelling at agents and threatening to shoot agents and himself. He then left the townhome and started walking down the sidewalk toward Wray and Agent Michelle Tovrea. He pointed the gun at Wray, who responded by firing his weapon at Rael. Two shots hit Rael, who died from the gunshot wounds. A grand jury determined Wray's actions were legally justified.

### **Homicide: Victim - Cher Elder**

In March 1992, Cher Elder's father reported her as missing. Previously, Elder argued with her boyfriend, Byron Powers. Following the argument, Elder went to Central City, Colorado, with a man later identified as Thomas Luther. There was no trace of Elder since. Questioned by detectives, Thomas Luther denied any involvement or knowledge of her whereabouts. Commander Burch located Elder's car in the JCRS shopping center parking lot; however, her location was a mystery. Witnesses and associates of Cher Elder, Byron Powers, and Thomas Luther were interviewed by Lakewood detectives. Rumors circulated that she was killed and her body hidden due to her threat of divulging information to the police about narcotic transactions.

In 1995, a court convicted Byron Powers on unrelated charges. At that time, he revealed information about the death and burial



of Cher Elder, implicating his brother JD, and Thomas Luther. Byron also claimed to know where Elder's body was located, agreeing to lead detectives to the location for a reduction in his sentence.

On February 23, 1995, Byron Powers led his attorney and Detectives Stan Connally and Scott Richardson to the gravesite just outside of Empire, Colorado. Authorities extradited Thomas Luther to Colorado. He was in custody in West Virginia on charges of sexual assault. Convicted of second-degree murder in the case of Cher Elder, Luther will likely remain in prison due to this and other convictions. In Denver, Westword newspaper reporter Steve Jackson, in cooperation with Lakewood Detective Richardson, wrote a book titled *Monster*, describing the investigation of Elder's murder and Luther's conviction. The book also describes Luther's history of other rapes and murders.

#### **Homicide: Victim - Tamera Krizman**

On August 24, 1995, Lakewood Police received a report of the shooting of a TCI cable installer. Robin Talley, a former fellow worker at TCI, shot to death Tamera Krizman. Talley noticed Krizman working in a nearby area, returned home to get his gun, and then shot the victim numerous times. As agents raced to the crime scene, Robin calmly drove to the Lakewood Police Department and told the desk agent that he shot someone. After pleading guilty by reason of insanity, the court determined him sane. This was the initial Colorado first-degree murder case to go to trial since a change in the law combined insanity issues with a criminal case. Convicted of first-degree murder, Tally received a sentence of life without parole.

#### **SWAT-Involved Shooting**

On February 24, 1996, patrol agents were dispatched to 7259 West 13th Avenue in reference to a suicidal subject armed with a handgun. A perimeter was established. An hour later, an armed subject left the apartment and walked across the yard to 1342 Upham Street. The subject was challenged and when he failed to comply with orders to drop the weapon, he was struck by a bean bag round fired by Agent Dutch Smith. The subject continued walking and entered the apartment, where he was confronted by Sergeant Jerry Cole, who had entered through a rear door to evacuate the apartment.

A stand-off ensued when the subject sat in a chair and put the gun to his head. SWAT agents took up positions around the

apartment and attempted to negotiate with the subject. At 1:30 AM, the subject, still holding the gun, walked outside the apartment and was hit with another less-lethal round. He returned to the apartment with his weapon pointing at several SWAT members inside. Agents Mike Ott and Mark Dewhurst fired at the suspect, striking him four times. He later died at Saint Anthony's Hospital.

#### **Homicide: Victim - Sabrina Stevens**

On June 8, 1998, Jefferson County deputies called the Lakewood Police Department to report a body found on C-470 in Lakewood's jurisdiction. The coroner performed an autopsy and noticed tattoos on the body. They were consistent with the ones described by Adam Dixon as being those of his fiance, Sabrina Stevens. Dixon had contacted hospitals and coroners' offices in search of her. The body was identified as Stevens, and it was determined that she had been strangled. Agent Carol Rosenoff, providing scene security, was approached by Adam Dixon at the site. He said that he heard a body had been found there.

Detectives Gregg Slater and Michael Rushford interviewed Dixon. Dixon stated that he and Stevens had a "sometimes" relationship and became engaged in 1998. One month later, the engagement was canceled and Dixon moved. Dixon said that Steven's roommate came to Dixon's house looking for her. Dixon then reported her missing to the Police Department. Although a person of interest in the case, Dixon never confessed, and not enough evidence existed for an arrest warrant. The case remains open.

#### **Homicide: Victims - Janice Danforth and Susan Kuhnle**

On May 11, 1999, the bodies of Janice Danforth and Susan Kuhnle were discovered at 14001 West 6th Avenue during a welfare check. Both had been killed by gunshots in their sleep. Robert Kuhnle, Janice's son and Susan's brother, was later contacted and admitted to killing them both. Robert said he was upset that Susan was not helping him in a joint business venture and that Janice was, in general, holding him back.

## **Cases of the Gary Barbour Era (2000-2001)**

### **Warrant Service: Lakewood SWAT**

On November 30, 2000, Lakewood SWAT served a no-knock warrant on a methamphetamine-related residence at 5885 West Ohio Avenue. When the flash-bangs were deployed, the house caught fire and was burned extensively. Although many neighbors applauded Lakewood's "cleanup" efforts, this was not the outcome SWAT expected.

### **Attempted Robbery: Suspect - Steven Holley**

On October 6, 2001, Steven Holley attempted to rob a bank located inside a King Soopers grocery store at South Wadsworth Boulevard and West Jewell Avenue. While trying to escape, the suspect took a female hostage and attempted to flee in a stolen vehicle. Agents Kyle Okamura, Garrett Waugh, and Jesus "Moose" Chavez were able to apprehend him on scene after an exchange of gunfire. Holley had been mistakenly released by authorities in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was serving a sentence for robbery.

## **Cases of the Ron Burns Era (2000s Decade)**

### **Homicide: Victim - Alvin Spears**

On December 7, 2003, agents responded to a fight call at 10555 West Jewell Avenue, Apartment 2-201. Inside the apartment, they contacted Darlene Spears. They also found Alvin Spears with severe wounds to his head. Investigation revealed that Darlene had taken out a large insurance policy on Alvin. An arrest warrant for Darlene Spears was issued on March 3, 2004. She was arrested the same day.

### **Homicide and Burglary: Victim - Charles Repenning**

In January 2005, agents were dispatched to 9010 West 5th Place on a security check. While checking the residence, agents found the dead body of homeowner Charles Repenning. It was later determined that Repenning was assaulted and murdered by asphyxiation. Some unusual items were stolen from the residence such as a Navajo rug, animal bones, and Nazi memorabilia. After extensive evidence collection and analysis, as well as in-depth investigative interviewing,

Michael Wessel, Nicholas Savajian, Richard Kasparson, and Michael Mapps were arrested and convicted of the homicide. Mapps appealed his sentence of life without parole, claiming that the information in a search warrant written by Detective Mike Rushford that implicated him in the crime was "stale." The court rejected his appeal.

### **Agent-Involved Shooting**

In 2006, two suspects were attempting to leave the scene of a theft incident at 1135 South Balsam Street. The stolen vehicle they were in became trapped in the deep snow in front of 1114 South Balsam Court. As Agents Josh Stramel, AJ Zayatz, and Mark O'Donnell attempted to stop the escape, the vehicle began to rock back and forth in the snow. Agent Zayatz fell under the truck and was in danger of serious injury or worse. Agent Stramel shot the driver of the vehicle, who died on scene.

### **Agent-Involved Shooting**

In January 2007, the Lakewood Police Department was contacted by a woman who said that her sister's ex-boyfriend was en route to the sister's residence at 1643 South Ammons Street. The reporting party felt her sister was in danger. While agents were on the way to the home, the suspect called the Police Department stating that he would confront the police. When Agents Mark Schmachtenberger and Crystal Bragazzi reached the residence, the suspect met them outside holding a knife in each hand. Refusing to drop the weapons, the suspect continued to advance toward police and was shot and killed.

### **Agent-Involved Shooting**

On March 13, 2007, the department was contacted by the female victim of a domestic dispute. The initial information indicated that the male subject was leaving the residence at 3285 South Indiana Street but that he might have a gun in his vehicle. Upon arrival of Lakewood agents, the subject got out of his vehicle with a handgun and began running toward the house. He refused orders to drop the weapon and was shot by Agents Steve Hipwell and Paul Geiger. The subject then shot himself fatally.

## **The Cigarette Burglaries**

During 2006, the Denver metropolitan area saw a string of burglaries and thefts involving \$80,000 worth of cigarettes from gas stations and convenience stores. Six of the stores hit were in Lakewood. In January 2007, Anita Duran, Eugenia Duran, and Kenneth Cortez were convicted of theft and of violation of Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act.

## **ATV Thefts**

In 2006, Lakewood investigated a series of over 40 ATV thefts occurring between April and December 2006. Using a bait vehicle equipped with a tracking device, detectives and agents were able to follow the vehicle to an address in Denver. They conducted a search of the Denver house and several other addresses, and recovered four stolen ATVs, two stolen trailers, and five other stolen vehicles. It was discovered that the vehicles were being shipped to Mexico. Nine people were arrested in connection with the case.

## **Cases of the Kevin Paletta Era (1/15/2000 - Present)**

### **Serial Bank Robbery Suspects Arrested: Patrick McCuaig and Jessica Garrett**

In February 2008, Agent Dave Swanney spotted a motor home that was associated with a string of recent bank robberies. After a brief struggle, agents were able to arrest Patrick McCuaig. Jessica Garrett barricaded herself inside, and eventually she was talked out of the motor home, ending the situation without bloodshed.

### **Pursuit: Suspect - Steven Stewart**

In late October of 2008, Lakewood police personnel received information regarding wanted person Steven Stewart, 38, who had been on a one-man crime spree for weeks. The spree included home invasion robberies, carjackings, burglaries, and the menacing of citizens with deadly weapons.

On October 28, agents received an alert of another crime involving Stewart, as well as information on the vehicle he was driving. Agent Michael Rushford observed Stewart and the vehicle near C-470 and Morrison Road. Upon seeing Rushford, the suspect attempted to elude agents by driving recklessly and at

high speed through rush-hour traffic. Rushford was joined in the pursuit by Agent Sean Radke as Stewart's vehicle drove eastbound on Highway 285, in the westbound lanes. Agents deployed Stop Sticks, causing the vehicle to leave the highway and collide with a fence near Kendall Street. A female passenger was taken into custody as Stewart fled on foot.

Agent DJ Braley of the Special Enforcement Team (SET) responded to the area and engaged in a foot pursuit of the suspect, who fired one shot at him. Braley, who was not struck by the round, continued the chase while directing responding units to the area. The suspect broke into an apartment where he took six citizens hostage. Eventually, five of the hostages were able to escape, but Stewart held an elderly grandmother at gunpoint. Denver SWAT personnel arrived while Lakewood negotiated with Stewart. Late into the night, Stewart released his last hostage before taking his own life.

### **Second-Degree Assault on a Police Officer: Suspect - Shawn Brndiar**

On November 19, 2008, Agent Josh Dexter observed suspect Shawn Brndiar walking out of Walmart at 440 Wadsworth Boulevard. Dexter believed the suspect to be possibly under the influence of a controlled substance. Agents Mary Munger and Dexter contacted Brndiar in the area of West 2nd Avenue and Wadsworth Boulevard. During a consent search of Brndiar's backpack, the agents found needles and methamphetamine and proceeded to arrest the suspect. Brndiar, who was 6 feet, 8 inches tall and 285 pounds, began to resist violently.

Although the agents tried to subdue him with verbal commands, physical force, a baton and a Taser, they were unsuccessful. Brndiar was able to grab the Taser, and pointed it at Dexter. Dexter shot Brndiar once in the abdomen. As a result of this event, the Colorado legislature amended CRS 18-8-116 (Disarming a Peace Officer) to include a Taser.

### **SET Gang-Related Homicide Investigation:**

On February 11, 2009, at 11:30 PM, SET Agents Mike Bell and Chuck Konrad stopped a subject running near Alameda Avenue and South Jay Street. He told agents that his friend had just been murdered — shot in the mouth — and that the shooting was gang-related. He directed them to a residence on South Ingalls Street where other SET agents joined the call.

Shortly after their arrival, a vehicle left the suspect residence. SET agents attempted to stop the vehicle, but it fled into Denver at a high rate of speed. During the pursuit one of the occupants began throwing bloody clothing out of the vehicle. The vehicle stopped at West Alameda Avenue and Kalamath Street, where one suspect exited and was apprehended inside a nearby Denny's restaurant. The driver and female occupant continued the pursuit a short distance before a PIT (Pursuit Intervention Technique) maneuver was performed by Denver, rendering the vehicle inoperable. The other two suspects were arrested at that time.

The body of a 19-year-old male was discovered in the trunk of the car, dead from a single gunshot wound. All three parties were charged for various roles in the murder. The driver, Angela Sanders-Blake, was sentenced to 12 years in prison. The passenger, Derrick Blake, pled guilty and was sentenced to a range of 48 to 63 years in prison. The rear passenger who fled on foot, Phillip Montano, was sentenced to 24 years in prison.

### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - Wayne Kawcak**

On April 7, 2009, agents were called to 7150 West Colfax Avenue, the Denver West Inn, Room #223. A maid had discovered the body of Wayne Kawcak, a 38-year-old white male, in the blood-spattered room. The investigation showed that the victim had been involved in a disturbance during the early-morning hours. The victim had been stabbed. An investigation led to the identification of Adrian Morrison as a suspect in this case. He was arrested, charged with murder, and bound over for trial.

### **SET Agent-Involved Shooting:**

In June of 2009, SET members responded to a felony menacing at a liquor store near West 1st Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard. Team members began looking for the suspect vehicle and located it going north on Sheridan Boulevard. A chase of the vehicle led the team into Denver and finally to Sheridan Boulevard near 17th Avenue. The suspect rammed a SET car and the driver took off on foot toward Sloans Lake. The fleeing suspect pointed his weapon at pursuing SET Agent DJ Braley, who fatally wounded him.

### **Homicide Investigation: Victim - Bonnie Gilbert-Martin**

On July 28, 2009, detectives responded to a house fire at 11905 West 20th Avenue, where a burned body was found. The investigation involved many detectives from the Lakewood Police Department, the Office of the District Attorney, and several West Metro Fire District arson investigators. Major Crimes Team detectives wrote and executed 16 search warrants and conducted dozens of interviews. The collective effort netted the arrest of Britt Cox, who was charged with the murder of Bonnie Gilbert-Martin. Detective Chris Langley was the lead investigator in this case.

# Timeline for the Lakewood Police Department

## January 16, 1970

Ron Lynch was sworn in as director of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety (LDPS). He served as director until February 28, 1971.

## May 3, 1970

LDPS relieved the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and took over Lakewood law enforcement duties with 19 sworn agents. The department was structured under guidelines established in a national report entitled, "The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, Task Force Report: The Police."

## December 1970

LDPS graduated its first recruit class. Thirty recruits completed six months of training.

## 1971

A management consultant position was established as a permanent staff position. Dr. David Fletcher of Denver University's College of Business Administration was hired for the position.

The School Crossing Guard Program was formed as a civilian adjunct to the LDPS. Crossing guards were hired, trained, and deployed.

Lakewood Police Explorer Post #226 was established to allow a law enforcement scouting experience for students interested in pursuing a future career in the police field. In addition to police environment exposure, the Explorers assisted the department with administrative and operational tasks such as directing traffic at Lakewood events, providing facility tours, and presenting safety programs.

## April 12, 1971

Pierce R. Brooks became the director of public safety, chosen from 67 applicants. He served as director until May 15, 1976.

## April 1971

The four enforcement areas of the established team policing and generalist concept were terminated. A new Investigation and Review Division was established.

## August 1, 1972

The LDPS eliminated the "ten code" method of radio communication and instituted "clear speech" for all radio traffic, following a detailed study of air traffic time and efficiency comparisons.

## September 1972

The first department manual was issued. It consisted of a light blue, 6.5 x 9 inch, swing-hinge binder with the LDPS badge logo on the front. Prior to that issue, policies and procedures were available in memorandum format.

## January 2, 1973

The Lakewood Municipal Court moved to 1455 Ammons Street from the Lakewood City Hall at 1580 Yarrow Street.

## September 1973

The SCAR Team (Special Crime Aerial Reconnaissance) was formed in collaboration with the Denver Police Department. Two LDPS agents served as police helicopter observers.

## 1973

Transition from the blue blazer uniform began. The blazer was no longer required as outerwear while on duty except in court or more formal occasions.

## March 17, 1973

The switch from FBI-type ranks in the LDPS was made in order to facilitate recognition in contacts with other agencies. Field advisor (FA) changed to sergeant; senior field advisor (SFA) changed to lieutenant; agent in charge (AIC) became captain; and senior agent in charge (SAIC) became deputy chief.

## October 1, 1973

Partially funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the Legal Advisor Unit was established within the department. One full-time deputy city attorney, Douglas Wamsley, was hired for the position.

## October 15, 1973

The Training Division was re-established as the Personnel and Training Division of the Staff Services Bureau.

## November 27, 1973

The Information Center Division was renamed the Records and Communications Division in the Staff Services Bureau.

## 1974

The Special Tactics and Response Team (STAR) was formed under the command of Captain Charles Johnston. Personnel on the team received training from the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team in Los Angeles, California.

The Burglary Reduction and Neutralization Detail (BRAND) was established to combat home and business break-ins in Lakewood.

The FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) system was adopted at the LDPS.

Operation Identification was implemented in an attempt to encourage citizens to record identifying numbers on their belongings. The program supplied an electronic engraver and inventory forms to citizens to mark property with a ZIP code and a name.

A mounted horse patrol was evaluated for Lakewood police patrol. Such a team would patrol parks and open areas as well as perform crowd control duties as needed. The team was not adopted largely due to cost issues.

#### **January 1, 1975**

Recruit agent salary: \$889 per month (starting) to \$1, 532; Lateral entry: \$1,031 to \$1,321 per month.

#### **May 15, 1976**

Director Pierce R. Brooks retired to accept a doctoral fellowship at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

#### **May 16, 1976**

John L. Vermilye became director of public safety. He held this position until retiring on May 1, 1981.

#### **June 18, 1976**

The Lakewood Police Athletic League (PAL) was organized to guide youngsters into productive and stimulating sports activities. Supported by area businesses, individual contributions, and volunteer police personnel, the program served to expose youth to the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and responsibility.

#### **August 1976**

The first Lakewood on Parade celebration was held. Originally begun to celebrate the nation's bicentennial and the Colorado state centennial, the festival was not formally named until 1977. "Lakewood on Parade" consisted of a parade and carnival-style booths and rides. Modified since then, it remains an annual event.

#### **January 21, 1977**

The Volunteer Police Chaplain Program was formed to provide on-call access for religious consultation and counseling to crime victims and agents.

#### **1977**

The department Canine (K9) Team was established. Prior to its organization, Agent Jack Lennig and canine Luger assisted in suspect and evidence tracking, building searches, and agent protection details. Five K9/handler teams took to the field.

#### **August 2, 1978**

Two armed subjects barricaded themselves in The Old West Arms gun shop on West Colfax Avenue after patrol units responded to a silent alarm. A standoff ensued during which the STAR Team was activated. Eleven hours later, the two burglars were apprehended. This incident received national press coverage, and the unit received numerous commendations for its professionalism.

#### **1980**

The Tactical Robbery Apprehension Program (TRAP) was initiated using grant funding. Twenty-two cameras disguised as stereo speakers were installed in area businesses by Sergeant Burdell Burch of the Crimes Against Persons Team. Cameras were activated when "bail" bills were pulled from the cash drawer.

#### **1981**

"Cutback management" required that the Inspectional Services Division and Support Services Division be merged into the Administrative Services Division.

The "senior agent" concept was approved and implemented for picking patrol watch assignments. Agents with 10 years of service were considered senior agents.

The Patrol Division took over administration of the Field Training Academy Program from Personnel Services.

#### **May 5, 1981**

LDPS Acting Director Charles Johnston was officially appointed director by City Administrator Bill Kirchhoff. James O'Dell was appointed assistant director.

#### **September 4, 1981**

"Colfax Cruising" enforcement officially began. As acts of disorderly conduct, littering, trespassing, and traffic violations escalated, four patrol agents and a sergeant were initially assigned to specifically provide enforcement weekend nights on West Colfax Avenue.

#### **December 1981**

The first Operation Santa Claus was organized by volunteer LDPS personnel. The program provided food baskets for 17 elderly Lakewood residents.

**1982**

Soft body armor was purchased and issued to patrol agents for the first time.

Animal Control integrated into the LDPS. Don Wentz was appointed supervisor.

**1984**

New word-processing terminals were installed in the new city building.

**June 14 – 22, 1984**

The LDPS moved from 44 Union Boulevard to 445 South Allison Parkway, the new Lakewood City Hall.

**1986**

A new Jefferson County E-911 Authority Board was established to coordinate emergency communication funding, equipment, and protocol.

The first onsite inspection of the Lakewood Police Department by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) occurred. The department was the 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation to receive full accreditation.

The “police officer” position was established to bolster community service capabilities, allowing agents to focus on more complex criminal cases. The position did not require a bachelor’s degree. Nine police officers were hired.

**April 1986**

The Accident Reduction Team (traffic team) became operational with the assignment of one sergeant, five agents, and two investigators.

**May 1986**

The automated ROLM telephone answering system was installed in police and city offices. The system consolidated telephone lines and standardized voicemail formats.

**1986 – 1987**

Bar code scanning became operational in the Property Division.

**November 1, 1987**

The Victim Assistance unit was established. Tom Waddill obtained Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) grant funding.

**July 14, 1987**

Ordinance 0-87-40 was signed by Mayor Linda Shaw officially amending Chapter 2.08 of the Lakewood Municipal Code changing the name of the “Lakewood Department of Public Safety” to the “Lakewood Police Department,” as well as changing the title of “Director of Public Safety” to “Chief of Police.”

**June 5, 1989**

The Hall of Fame Awards Program enjoyed a famous guest speaker, actor Raymond Burr, of the *Perry Mason* and *Ironsides* television series.

**1990**

The Cooper Program was adopted for testing of department sworn personnel’s physical fitness. The department trained fitness specialists to administer the program and testing.

**October 1994**

The Police Resource Optimization System (PROS) was purchased for analytical study of agent deployment. It was the first computer scheduling software used in Lakewood.

**January 1996**

Meiers-Briggs “style type” personnel testing was used to assist employees in determining their individual “styles.”

**November 1996**

The Lakewood Police Department was honored as one of "America's Best Suburban Police Forces" by *Good Housekeeping Magazine*, for setting the standard for professionalism in law enforcement.

**November 1998**

The *Ladies Home Journal* magazine listed Lakewood, Colorado, as the nation’s fifth most romantic place to live.

**August 1998**

Agent John Hunt became the department’s first official school resource officer (SRO).

**December 12, 1998**

Construction began for the new Lakewood City Hall, a city-managed entertainment venue called the Lakewood Cultural Center, and the nearby Lakewood City Commons. The City Commons consisted of retail stores and restaurants on the southwest corner of West Alameda Avenue and Wadsworth Boulevard.

**1999**

The city “Y2K Project” prepared for possible chaos, as all computers were required to change from 1999 to the new decade beginning 2000. Jacque Wedding-Scott, project coordinator, worked to prepare the city for emergency response.

**February 24, 1999**

Patrol rifles were approved for use by the department following an extensive study and report by Lieutenants Burdell Burch and Dan Brennan.

**April 20, 1999**

Nearby Columbine High School became the scene of mass murder as two young, unstable student gunmen placed bombs in the school and shot fellow students, a teacher, and themselves. Lakewood agents and SWAT assisted in the aftermath.

**July 14, 1999**

The Denver West Office Park was annexed to Lakewood.

**January 1, 2000**

Y2K came and went with no major problems. Fears of chaos caused by predicted malfunctioning of computers and technology “meltdown” did not materialize. The city task force was commended for its preparatory work.

**June 3, 2000**

The Colorado Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated at a ceremony in Belmar Park. The ceremony commemorated firefighters who had given their lives in the performance of their duties.

**January 5, 2001**

Chief of Police Charles Johnston submitted his resignation and a transition period began. Captain Gary Barbour was named interim chief.

**March 21, 2001**

The title of lieutenant was changed to commander and captain to division chief. City Manager Mike Rock approved the title name changes upon request from Chief Gary Barbour. Job titles of police managers nationwide have been changing to more accurately reflect duties.

**December 3, 2001**

After an extensive selection process, Ron Burns was sworn in as the Lakewood Chief of Police.

**2002**

Sector policing was implemented. The city was divided into three police sectors.

LPD implemented a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program. De-escalation techniques and mental health awareness better equipped agents when responding to people in crisis.

**November 2002**

The Colorado Mills Mall Substation opened in northwest Lakewood.

**January 2003**

Patrol's Neighborhood Action Team was disbanded due to budget constraints. The unit evolved into the Sector Liaison Unit and provided two agents per sector for community liaison activities.

A Watch II Traffic Team began in the Patrol Division.

**March 2003**

M-26 Tasers were deployed in the sergeants' cars; X-26 Tasers were deployed in September 2003.

**May 15, 2003**

Integrating Public Safety software training began the transition from the Sequoia computer system to the automated CAD and records management system software. (I/Leads, etc.)

**November 2003**

GPS/AVL hardware and software were installed in patrol cars so dispatchers could track the location of the vehicles.

**January 5, 2004**

The JD Edwards automated payroll system was implemented citywide. The new system eliminated the use of Excel spreadsheets and paper forms.

**May 14, 2004**

Mayor Steve Burkholder officially declared Belmar, Lakewood's new “downtown,” open for business at the corner of South Teller Street and Alaska Drive. Belmar replaced the old Villa Italia Mall.

**January 2006**

School resource officers and the Special Enforcement Team were reinstated after a tax increase was approved by voters. Budget issues had forced program reductions that resulted in these units being cut.

**May 21, 2006**

The inaugural *Post-News* Colorado Colfax Marathon was held. The route stretched from the Aurora Sports Park, across Denver, through Lakewood and ended at the Colorado Mills Mall. Participants included individual runners; wheelchair athletes; full, half, and team relay marathon runners; and walkers. Beginning at approximately 6 AM, the last athlete was expected to reach Colorado Mills at approximately noon.

**October 2006**

City intranet and e-mail became available in patrol vehicles. MDT's operated in vehicles with PacketCluster software.



## **2007**

The K9 Team was disbanded. K9-handler teams were then assigned to patrol teams.

## **January 2008**

Kevin Paletta succeeded Ron Burns as Chief of Police.

## **April 2008**

West Corridor light rail construction activity began at Kipling Street, where crews built a bridge to carry vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic over Kipling Street at West 13th Avenue. The Regional Transportation District (RTD) broke ground for the first time on the FasTracks Program when the West Corridor light rail project began construction on May 16, 2007.

Construction began with removal of the old trolley tracks along West 13th Avenue, followed by the relocation of utilities along the line. Light rail is expected to be operational in Lakewood in early 2013.

## **May 2008**

The Communications Center moved from the fire department building at 9001 West Jewell Avenue back to the upper floor of the Lakewood Department of Public Safety Building. This move allowed for improved security, equipment upgrades, expanded Emergency Operations Center (EOC) space, and a new and secure hub for the city's computer and phone equipment. The transition was accomplished with little noticeable disruption in service. The new EOC was a collaboration of Lakewood and the city of Wheat Ridge.

## **July 2008**

The Cold Case Unit was formed in the Investigation Division to review old, unsolved cases and to determine if new information or advances in forensic tests might lead to case solution. Detective Michelle Stone-Principato and retired detective Alex Jameson (part time) comprised the new team. Sergeant Creighton Bates was assigned as supervisor.

## **August 22 – 29, 2008**

The Lakewood Police Department deployed 135 people to assist the Denver Police Department and the United States Secret Service in providing security for the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Barack Obama was nominated as the party's candidate at the Denver Pepsi Center. He gave his acceptance speech at Invesco Field.

## **2009**

Commander Mike Becker spearheaded the grant funding application process and subsequent formation of the Jefferson County Regional Auto Theft Task Force, later changed to the Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (MATT). Dave Hoover was appointed the first team sergeant.

## **June 30, 2009**

The Table Mountain Animal Center, known as TMAC for 33 years officially changed its name to Foothills Animal Center. The name changed due to construction of a new 30 thousand square foot facility scheduled to open in 2010 near the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

## **August 4, 2009**

Patrol Division Chief John Camper was selected to serve as interim chief of police in Grand Junction, Colorado. A cooperative agreement between Lakewood and Grand Junction allowed Camper to serve as chief for approximately six months until completion of a new chief selection process. On February 7, 2010, Camper officially became chief of the Grand Junction Police Department.

## **November 2, 2010**

Former Lieutenant W. Peter Palmer was elected sheriff for the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office and the 66th Lakewood Police Department employee to become a chief executive of a law enforcement agency.

## Credits

### **Chief of Police Kevin Paletta extends great appreciation to:**

Sergeant Al Padilla, who envisioned an accurate, enjoyable, and historical record and whose effort greatly helped to achieve it.

Police volunteer Connie Hieb, for her writing, editing, and organizational abilities. Also for the influence, inspiration, and clarity she gave to this vision.

Agent Lee Thomas, whose professional editing and writing background was as essential to the book as was her commitment to the project.

Administrative Assistant Lori Miller, who endlessly routed e-mail documents to the editors, created numerous documents, edited, reviewed/selected photos and created captions, and offered historical perspective of the Police Department.

Commander Burdell Burch, a resourceful researcher and prolific writer whose many contributions were significant, who never said “no” to yet another request, and who always provided needed historical information.

Alvaro Pinel, Lakewood Graphic Design and Print Services Supervisor, whose time, talent, and artistry created the book’s design and the impressive final product.

### **Apology – Chief Kevin Paletta:**

I would like to extend a preemptive apology to anyone who was overlooked and for any event inadvertently omitted in this book. Although hundreds of hours went into the research and preparation of this publication, I am certain we did not capture every memory from the first 40 years. If we missed a story or a name, or if our retelling of an event differs from your recollection, we apologize.

### **The contributions of the following personnel created a memorable 40th anniversary publication:**

1970s Decade: Bob Ellis & Lee Thomas; 1980s Decade: Burdell Burch & Randy McNitt; 1990s Decade: Pat Heffner & Mary Munger; 2000s Decade: Kelly Karinen & Lee Thomas; Animal Control: Holly Gilbertson & Burdell Burch; Bike Patrol Unit: Chuck Parker; Bison Shooting: Lee Thomas; Caring by Sharing: Pam Persch; Cases of the Decades: Burdell Burch, Bob Ellis,

Randy McNitt, Pat Heffner, Mary Munger, Kelly Karinen, Dave Swanney; Christmas Cheer & Citizens Police Academy: Lani Peterson; Columbine: Lee Thomas; Columbine, Personal Account: Burdell Burch; Communications Center & Emergency Operations Center: Brian Nielsen, Steve Davis, Cindy Ferguson, Judy Edwards, Diana Rose, Gray Buckley; Cover Photo: Heather Leider; Crime Lab: Dione Stanley & Lee Thomas; Crisis Intervention Team: Kelly Karinen; Critical Incident Response Team: Burdell Burch; Cruising in the 1980s: Bob Ellis; DARE/SRO: Lani Peterson; Democratic National Convention: Lee Thomas; Directors/Chiefs: Lee Thomas & Lori Miller; Honor Guard: Dave Adams; Internal Affairs: Bob Major; K9 Unit: Darren Maurer; *Lakewood, Colorado, Illustrated Biography, 25th Birthday Edition*; LDPS Ring Photo & Caption: Dallas Riedesel; Lakewood on Parade: Al Padilla & Burdell Burch; Lakewood Police Employee Assistance Fund: Rob Buchan; Lakewood Police Explorers: Burdell Burch & Kelly Karinen; Lakewood Police Support Staff: Lori Miller; Ilama Wrestling: Lee Thomas; Medals of Valor & Purple Hearts: Lee Thomas; Old West Arms Store: Gary Barbour; PAL: Dave Adams; Memories: Bill Barnes; Columbine & Navigating Lakewood: Burdell Burch; Dan Brennan; Howard Cornell; Kathy Egli; Gary Goldsberry; Ken Fisher; Jerry Hamilton; Special Olympics: George Hinkle; Deb Lopez; (2) Stings: Dick Lurz; John Mackey; John Miller; Doug Monsoor; Dan Montgomery; Dallas Riedesel; Jeff Rogers; Nancy Stone; Jim Szakmeister; Stephen Stroud; Dutch Smith; William Teater; Turkey Sting: Jerry Cole; Personnel/1990s Budget: Pat Heffner; Photo/Illustration Selection & Captions: Lori Miller, Pat Heffner, Dawn Fink; Photo Reproduction: Dawn Fink; Pistol Team: Bob Ellis, Quinn Wilhelm, Bob Clark; Polar Plunge for Special Olympics: Mark Reeves; Police/Fire/Youth Hockey: Jim Moffat; Property: Lee Thomas; Records: Shirley Kesson & Lee Thomas; Roster of agents to chiefs: Lori Miller; Snack Shack: Sue Vansaghi, Lynda Allison, Jane McElroy, Beth Ferguson; Special Enforcement Team 1990s: Pat Heffner & Dallas Riedesel; Special Enforcement Team 2000s: John Hitchens; Stings: Burdell Burch; SWAT (STAR): Donn Kraemer; LPD Timeline: Burdell Burch; Traffic Team: Ty Countryman & Flint Buettell; Tumultuous Times: Burdell Burch; Victim Assistance: Tom Waddill & Lee Thomas; Volunteer Program: Lani Peterson; Women in History: Lee Thomas; Final Readings: Thank you, Sandra Teller, editor and writer in Anacortes, Washington, and Stacie Oulton, Lakewood Public Information Officer.