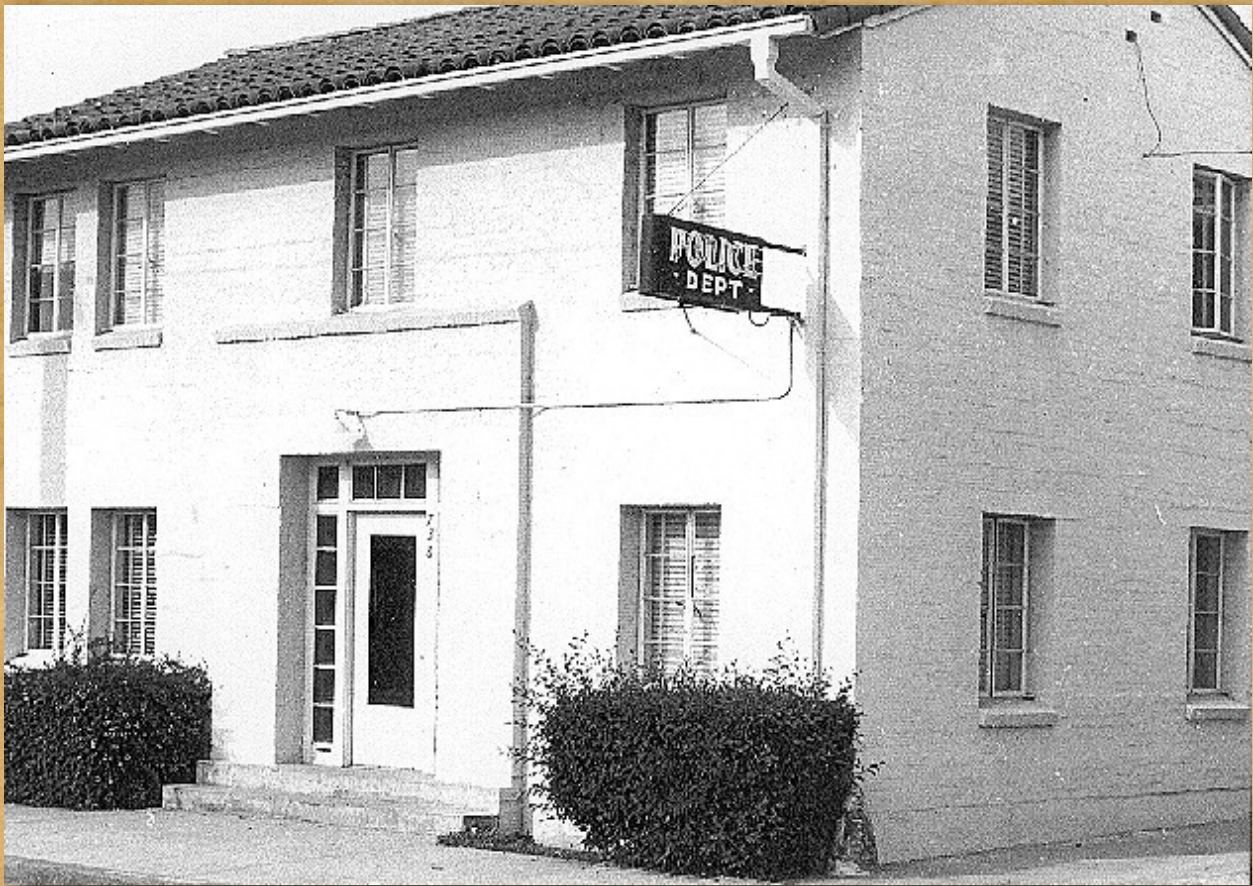


The 1960's

The 1960's ushered in a time of confusion, upheaval, and rebellion. Police departments across the country had to deal with contention like never before. It was a time of mini-skirts, Nixon, LSD, and sit-ins, the Viet Nam war, the Hong Cong flu, and the passage of the Miranda warning. Police officers who had always been looked up to and respected were treated to sneers and called "pigs" by young rebels. It was a very difficult time to pursue a career as an officer and at times it was a thankless place to be.



The Pismo Street Station

On the left side, ground floor was the Records Clerks Office. On the right side was the Watch Commander's office. Behind that was the briefing room and locker room. In the rear of the office was a co-ed bathroom and next to that was the fingerprint counter and suspect holding room. There was a single bar welded to the wall where the suspects were handcuffed. If the officers had to go

on a call, they doubled handcuffed the suspect and had the dispatcher keep an eye on them. On the second floor was the Chief's office, the Captain's office, and the Detective Division.



The Records Clerks
On the left is Marge Jordan and on the right (?)



On August 15' 1960, the first policewomen were hired in San Luis Obispo. The Tribune article was titled "First Policewomen on Parking Meter Duty."

"Police women as traffic officers became a reality in San Luis Obispo today. Mrs. Gloria Meyer, 22, is one of two women who joined the force today, having completed two weeks of training in Alhambra. The other policewoman is Mrs. Patricia Wray, 27. A definitely pretty touch was added to the downtown scene today to brighten up the drab business of handing out parking tickets. Smiles will be more prominent than the usual frowns from

motorists cited for traffic violations with the addition to the force of two attractive young policewomen. They started the patrol of the downtown area this morning. Many other California cities using women for parking meter patrol have also noted the plan as efficient and excellent, according to Police Chief William Schofield, who inaugurated the program for this city. Mrs. Meyer was fully equipped with the especially designed uniform today, while Mrs. Wray, the taller of the two, required additional alteration to put her in the attractive outfit chosen. Chief Schofield pointed out that the policewomen will always be equipped with small change to aid the motorist caught with coins unsuited for meters.

"Temporarily, they will walk their beats, awaiting the arrival of parts to complete the scooters which will be their permanent mounts. The scooters, when put in service, will provide the women with two-way radio communications to the police headquarters.



Linda Healy

She left the San Luis Obispo Police Department and was selected to be one of 40 women on CHP. She was one of twenty who were successful while assigned to East L.A. patrol from 1974-1976. She later went to LA County Sheriff's Office and, promoted through the rank of

Captain. She was assigned as Captain in charge of the largest women's jail in the country and then was assigned to a patrol station serving 250,000 residents. She was promoted to Commander and retired in 2000 at that rank.

"The pay scale established by the City Council for the policewomen as a starter is \$312 a month. The Chief pointed out that although the women will be engaged primarily in meter enforcement, they will also have other duties and will enforce all parking regulations in an endeavor to lower traffic congestion downtown. He said their presence will also be welcomed as matrons for women and children in the shopping district. Their employment releases two male officers for additional traffic duties in outlying areas. Chief Schofield observed that there were 467 traffic accidents in the city last year, with 266 of them occurring in the downtown area."



Chief Lee Schofield

On December 17' 1963, an article appeared in the Tribune regarding the need for more officers for the department.

"The San Luis Obispo Police Department should be beefed up with the addition of five patrolmen and three new patrol cars,' a city consultant recommended to the City Council. 'You have a well-organized, well-run department,' Louis Kroeger of San Francisco stated. 'But our study turned up a number of recommendations which you should consider.' Among the reports findings:

- That the city be divided into three sections for police administration
- That City Council should begin planning a building to house police department facilities

- That the city should turn the financing of policing school children home from schools and across streets over to the school system

"The police department study was made after a prolonged hassle last spring over the size of the department. One city administrator said it would be adequate to continue to add one patrolman a year. Police Chief Lee Schofield said he needed eight men. The mayor, who ran for election which included a promise to enlarge the department, said that the report, which cost \$2,275, finds that crime is not presently a serious problem in the city because the city has a reputation of being inhospitable to lawbreakers. He further stated that patrolmen should do their cruising in marked police cars and other police work should be done in unmarked cars."

Financing of the school crossing guard service was transferred to the school budget at a savings of \$12,500. As to the building of the kind proposed, it would have cost around \$50,000, an addition of 13 to 14 cents on the tax rate unless made a long range plan.

In February 1964 the City Council did approve adding five more patrolmen on to the city police force. Adding the new men brought the total full strength patrol force to 24, including two detectives. Police Chief William Schofield was authorized to employ the officers as soon as possible.

Photo includes:
Tom Gallimore, Larry
Lundsford, and either
Lieutenant Elsea or Lieutenant
Morrisey on the far right



In 1964 civil unrest was rampant, especially in the cities where large populations of college students were housed. In San Francisco, UCSF was in turmoil with sit-ins and protests. Our city was calm in comparison. On September 1, 1964, an article titled "New Weapon For

Police" was noted. It read as follows and established a precedent to enable police officers more control in civil confrontations.

"Police officers, in making an arrest, are being attacked by bystanders who either seek to prevent that arrest or who want to vent some unrelated irritation with the law. The problem became so serious in the San Francisco Bay area that Assemblyman Don Mulford introduced a bill to cope with it. The measure becomes law September 17. As of that date, the police are going to have a new weapon on their side, and the hoodlums who want to give the police a bad time might as well face up to it. Mulford's measure makes it a felony to attack a policeman in the performance of his duty. No more of this misdemeanor routine. A felony charge is a tough rap to beat and an even tougher stigma for a young man to escape once he has been convicted.

"Mulford reports that continued attacks on police (and he was speaking before the riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles) were responsible for the drastic step taken by the legislature to provide greater protection for law enforcement officers. He put it this way: 'I am determined to do everything possible to support the police departments in their attempt to preserve law and order in our communities. The rule of law in our society is an important one and evidently it is going to take some stiff sentences to the state penitentiary to stop these unprovoked assaults when police are merely carrying out their sworn duty.'"



Sergeant Don Englert in front of Pismo Street Station. He later retired as Chief of Police in 1987.



Accident at "The Big Block"



Range Qualification:
Third from the left is Sergeant Morrissey, last on the right is Officer Tom Stewart

That year a young officer was praised for his courage in facing down a man with a loaded rifle. The article read as follows:

"Without regard for his own safety, a young San Luis Obispo policeman faced the muzzle of a 30.06 Enfield rifle Monday to disarm and arrest a burglary suspect in the Southern Pacific Railroad yard. The arrest was made by Patrolman Winston B. Morrissey, 24, who had responded to a call from a woman who said a man had just stolen a radio from a neighbor's house. Booked into the county jail on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon against a police officer was a 58 year old man from Arkansas.

"The chain of events began when a man noted a stranger had just entered the property of a neighbor. His wife went to the neighbor's residence, as her husband had to leave for work, to investigate as she knew her neighbors were not at home. Looking in the window, she saw a man walking around the living room. She waited until he came out and noticed he was carrying a red radio. She told the man, 'Get out of here!', then demanded that he give her the radio. He complied and politely said, 'Bless you lady,' before walking away. Mrs. Ludwig called police and patrolman Morrissey arrived a few moments later.

"Heading for the railroad tracks, Morrissey spotted the suspect about 300 yards ahead, walking east. The officer shouted but the man ducked behind some sheds momentarily and came into view again. The suspect began to run and Morrissey ran after him for a short distance before the man stopped. As the suspect turned around to face the officer, Morrissey saw a rifle pointed at him. The patrolman drew his own weapon slowly, demanding he drop the rifle. 'He kept it pointed at me as I walked toward him,' Morrissey said. 'I don't know why I did it. He could have shot me any time because the gun was loaded; it had a shell in the chamber. The thought of being killed apparently didn't enter my mind. I was thinking only of taking the rifle away from him. After I had disarmed him, he offered no resistance and seemed to be reflecting on the seriousness of the situation. I did some reflecting too.' "Police believe the suspect obtained the rifle after he left the residence he'd broken into, since the weapon was later identified as belonging to another neighbor nearby."



Officer Copeland

A reporter conducted an interesting experiment in November 1964. He wrote his results in the Tribune and titled it "Feet May Be Flat, But Mind Is Sharp." It reads as follows:

"The cop on the beat may have flat feet, but he has a sharp mind—I know. I recently took the aptitude test administered to police candidates in San Luis Obispo. It was difficult. Its difficulty accounts for the failure of half the 84 candidates who have taken the test since 1961. The exam is one of the major reasons why approximately 96 out of every 100 men who apply for police officer positions never put on a uniform in the city.

"Passing the test is one of several requirements which keep the city police force effective—and short of men. The force is currently short of seven patrolmen. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the police officer applicants are screened out before they even get to the aptitude test, San Luis Obispo Police Chief William Schofield said. If a man fulfills preliminary requirements, he may take the California State Personnel Board Aptitude Test for Law Enforcement.

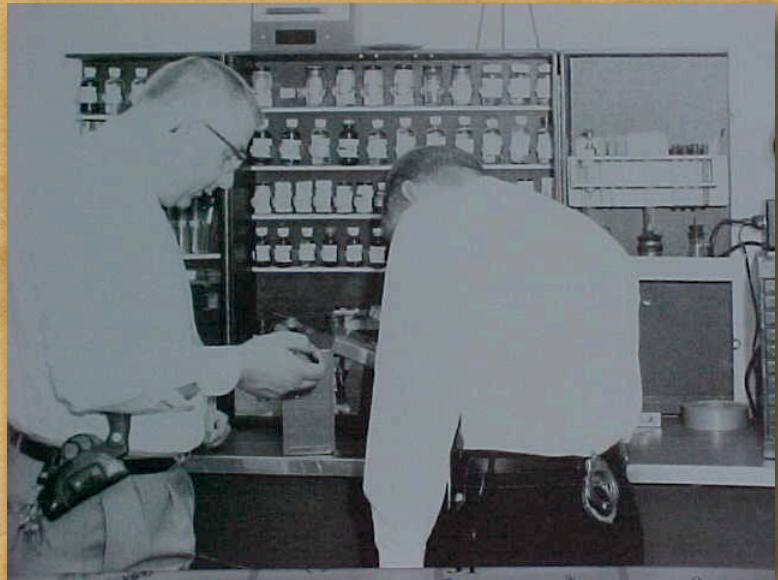
"When I took the test, 13 candidates (not including myself) were seated around a table in City Hall. Seven passed. The test consisted of four categories. They were observation and memory (15 points), judgment for law enforcement (15 points), writing and speaking effectively (25 points), and analytical and reasoning (45 points). Applicants who passed the test were then given an oral exam and had their backgrounds checked before being offered an appointment.

"Although high school graduation was the only educational requirement, the testing required a higher degree of concentration unusual in the high school exams I have taken.

Certainly the test seemed more difficult than aptitude exams I took in the US army. Insistence that the officers pass the difficult test drastically narrows the field of available candidates. It also assures the city of an intelligent police force. Apparently the only hope for the criminal of today is a college education."

It's interesting to note that the writer of this piece never mentioned whether he actually passed the test!

Evidence Technician
Dick Rayburn



Murder in the city was a rare occurrence. On December 7 1968, an article appeared in the paper about a homicide that had taken place as a result of domestic violence. Battered wives and spousal abuse were rarely mentioned back in the 60's and before. Today, officers are trained to recognize and understand these issues, but then it was an unspoken problem, not mentioned in polite society. The fact that the paper covered it is unusual, perhaps because it had led to the desperate act of murder on the part of the battered wife. Or was it self defense? Only the wife truly knew the answer to that. It was titled, "Steak Knife Kills Man; Wife Jailed."

"A 28 year old San Luis Obispo man was stabbed to death Friday night and his wife was booked into county jail for investigation of murder. The suspect told police the incident was the result of a family argument. Investigators said the man and woman apparently had been quarreling but the reason has not yet been determined. Police were called to the scene shortly after 6:30 PM and found the husband lying on

his back. He had suffered one stab wound in the chest. An eight inch serrated steak knife was found in the bushes nearby. Officers said the man apparently died instantly when the knife penetrated his heart. His wife was standing on the street with a friend when officers arrived.

"Although the suspect made no statement, two friends of the couple indicated the stabbing resulted from the victim's alleged mistreatment of his wife. The suspect called her friend asking if she could take the victim to the hospital because 'he has been hurt.' The neighbor quoted the wife as saying, 'He should not have been dragging me. I didn't cut him bad, just a little.'

"Detectives said the couple had been quarreling in their home, but the wife walked out of the house, taking the steak knife with her. She walked around the corner of her home and apparently was standing there when her husband reached her and started the argument again, officers said. The wife was taken into custody and charged with manslaughter."

The outcome of this case was not noted in the Tribune and the disposition is unknown. However, it illustrates the issue of domestic violence in the past and shows that domestic disputes can turn deadly if not addressed before they get out of hand. Police officers have a moral, if not legal, obligation to take each call in this arena seriously as the above outcome can occur again if not addressed carefully and proper referrals made. A recent article mentioned that domestic violence is now following women into the workplace in America and some companies are putting programs in place to deal with abusive spouses who come into the workplace and assault them there. This may be another place that officers will be called to intervene.

Some interesting information has been provided by retired Officer Gary Wilde.

"The first Tactical Squad was formed in 1969. It consisted of ten officers, me being one of them, and they were the only officers allowed to carry batons. All the training took place in the basement of City Hall during many evenings. The team was formed because of all the Vietnam protests at Cal Poly, the opening of Diablo Canyon, and the riots in Isla Vista in Santa Barbara. We went three nights in a row to Isla Vista, including the night the Bank of America was burned down completely. Captain Don Englert was our supervisor and accompanied us all three nights. Because we were so short-handed with officers, all the detectives had to put on their police officer uniforms and patrol the streets of San Luis.

"Interesting but true - When I hired in January 1968, our radio system was so poor that if a police unit went south on US 101 past the Los Osos Valley Road over-pass, we would

literally have to put a police unit on top of the overpass to transmit to the southbound unit, then back to the police department on Pismo Street. If you reached the curve by Ontario Grade (now the Avila Beach turn-off), you lost total communications with anyone. Every south county police agency was on a different radio frequency.

"In 1968-69, if you needed a back-up unit at night from either the Sheriff's Office or the Highway Patrol, it was slim pickings. The Sheriff had only one unit on patrol for the coast and north county and only one unit on patrol for the south county. Same with the CHP. And we did not have portable radios to carry. On a silent alarm in the city, two officers were dispatched and had to keep each other in 'the line of sight.' Usually there were only three officers working the swing shift (4PM-12M) and three working the graveyard shift (12M-8AM). There were 4-5 officers on Friday and Saturday nights. In 1969, on the graveyard shift, Sgt Larry Lunsford was the Watch Commander, Officer Tom Stewart was the dispatcher, and I was the solo officer in the field. No kidding! That's what happened when you were a junior officer!

"Another fact of interest - In 1968, on the graveyard shift there were no female dispatchers. The junior or rookie officer was assigned to the desk/dispatch. This was at the old police station on 738 Pismo St. After the department moved to Walnut Street in 1970, the old police station was taken over by the Fire Department. The alley between the old PD and FD was removed and the two buildings were joined together."