

1950

In the early 1950s, The Sheriff's Aero Squadron was terminated by the Sheriff due to inappropriate activities by Squadron members.

In the 1950's the Sheriff's Department purchased Model 870 pump shotguns.

LASD Vice scandal. Undersheriff Arthur Jewell resigns due to corruption. Capt. Al Gausti goes to prison for corruption.

Prisoner Wristbands were created after a deputy noticed identification bracelets on hospital newborns.

1951

The Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service was founded. DCS is a volunteer organization administered by the [Sheriff's Department](#) Emergency Operations Bureau for the [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors](#). Their main function, authorized under County Ordinance, is to provide disaster relief communications for the citizens of [Los Angeles County](#).

The Professional Peace Officer's Association (PPOA) was formed by a group of Deputy Sheriffs, County Marshals and District Attorney Investigators who wanted to protect their jobs, their ideals and their future. PPOA represented deputies as well as Supervisors.

1952

Terminal Island Women's Jail is opened. Sentenced female inmates were housed at Terminal Island, unsentenced female inmates were confined at the Hall of Justice Jail.

East Los Angeles Station opened on 3rd Street. (June 22)

The Los Angeles County Marshall's Office was formed by an act of the State Legislature.

1953

Barbara Graham commits murder. She is arrested, confined in the Hall of Justice Jail and tried in a Hall of Justice Courtroom.

The Dick Tracy comics appeared in the daily newspapers. One section of the comics was called Crimestopper's Textbook which gave tips on how to prevent crime. One of the Crimestopper's tips stated, "Officers should not wear a shoulder strap holding up their gun belts. Criminals can grab the belt and use it to control the officer." Many deputies cut out the comic and mailed it to Sheriff Biscailuz. A few days later the sheriff's department issued an order for deputies to remove the D rings holding the shoulder strap and also no longer wear the shoulder strap.

1954

Contract law enforcement begins. The city of Lakewood is formed and contracts with the Sheriff's Department to do its policing. This became known as "The Lakewood Plan." The cities of Norwalk (1957), Santa Fe Springs (1957), Paramount (1957), Pico Rivera (1958) and Rosemead (1959) follow.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office becomes the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Frances Blumfeld-Jansen becomes the first woman promoted to the rank of captain. It was believed at the time that she was the first woman to hold this rank on any law enforcement agency in the United States.

Mildred Reyes becomes the first female Mexican-American deputy sheriff. (September 25)

There were eighty-four women working on the department by this year. Fifty-eight (58) were assigned to custody and worked either at Terminal Island or the Hall of Justice. Seventeen (17) worked transportation and moved female prisoners to and from courts, jails and to state institutions. Nine (9) worked in plain clothes as detective sergeants assigned to work juvenile cases. The salary was \$355 to \$417 a month.

1955

Deputy Edwin Falkowski suffered a fatal heart attack while he and other deputies attempted to disperse a crowd of unruly juveniles. (March 10)

All green uniforms changed to tan and green. The shoulder strap that supported the Sam Browne was eliminated.

The Department purchases its first helicopter from Bell Helicopters, a Bell – 47G (N2473B). The primary mission was search and rescue. It was trailered to remote locations accompanied by a small fuel truck. It was also available for surveillance and disaster damage assessment. The helicopter was available on an on-call basis only.

Terminal Island Women's Jail Riot occurred.

1956

Changed from solid color patrol cars to distinctive black and white patrol cars.

The Department acquired a Cessna 182 for search, surveillance and the transportation of prisoners and investigators.

Deputy Jaryl Patton is assigned to work the desk at Norwalk Station. She became the first woman assigned to work at a patrol station in a job that directly supported the patrol function. All previous women served in an investigative or other capacity.

Cadets in Academy Class 60 were used as extras in the movie, “The Delicate Delinquent” starring Jerry Lewis. The cadets appeared in their khaki uniforms which were the standard uniform worn by academy cadets at that time.

Annabelle F. Ishii becomes the first female Japanese-American deputy sheriff. (July 10)

1957

Although already opened for a few weeks, the new West Hollywood Station, 720 N. San Vicente, was officially opened and dedicated. (February 21)

Sergeant Vernon Corbell and Raymond Willis, a civilian polygraph technician for the department, were killed in an airplane accident while searching for a downed plane. (April 15)

The County Board of Supervisors authorized the purchase of two additional Bell – 47G-2 helicopters. These 3 helicopters were now used extensively for search and rescue, assisting Fire fighters with fire line reconnaissance, flying fire fighters into hot spots and the Forestry Service with re-seeding the fire area

Radio cars were changed from 6 volt to 12 volt power.

LASD purchased their first helicopter.

Television Show Code-3 T.V. debuted. The show highlighted deputies working a variety of jobs on the Sheriff’s Department as well as Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz who was featured at the end of each show.

Deputy Harold Blevins was shot and killed during an armed robbery. Blevins partner, Charles Covington was also shot and survived. They had responded to a restaurant in the County area of San Gabriel as an assisting unit. (211 in progress call) (October 12)

1958

An out of control fire in Malibu was not detected until a pilot reported it. A Sheriff’s helicopter was sent out to investigate and located the fire in a deep canyon which was not accessible to fire personnel. The P.A. on the helicopter was used to notify residents of the danger and to evacuate. During this disaster, people were pulled out of the canyon by the deputies in the helicopter. The Sheriff’s helicopter was also used to reseed the hillside after the fire was extinguished.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess 1958 – 1982

Deputy David Horr succumbed to a gunshot wound received two months earlier after responding to a disturbance call. The suspect fired through a rusty screen door. The bullet wound wasn’t fatal but the bullet pushed a piece of screen into the deputy’s body which resulted in fatal blood poisoning. (February 9)

A midair collision occurred between a transport plane and navy bomber. One of the planes crashed into Norwalk Station's parking lot. 46 people were killed in the incident. Deputies responded from other stations to assist. (February)

Lieutenant Donald Gillis was shot and killed off duty while attempting to disarm a drunk. (September 20)

Tube Radios replaced by transistors.

Deputy Harold Reis was killed in an automobile accident when his patrol car was broadsided while he was responding to a call. (September 23)

The Stanley Mosk courthouse was built in the mid 1950's to replace the old "Red Sandstone" Courthouse. It was formally dedicated on October 31, 1958, with U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren in attendance. The Stanley Mosk courthouse still handles civil cases today.

1959

Lakewood Station was completed.

Women inmates riot during escape attempt at the Hall of Justice Jail.

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) was established by the Legislature to set minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement.

First Composite Drawn for the Sheriff's Department by artist Jack Moffett.

Biscailuz Center Range is built.

The Weaver Stance was developed by pistol shooter and deputy sheriff Jack Weaver, a range officer at the L.A. County Sheriff's Mira Loma pistol range. It is a two-handed technique in which the dominant hand holds the pistol and the support hand wraps around the dominant hand. Prior to this, deputies fired with only one arm extended.

Residents of Chavez Ravine are evicted by deputies in order to build Dodger Stadium (May 8)

Dr. Raymond Bernard Finch and Carol Tregoff killed Barbara Finch. LASD Homicide investigator Hoppy Hopkinson assisted West Covina P.D with the investigation.