



Santa Barbara County Probation Department

100 Years of Historical Highlights 1909-2009

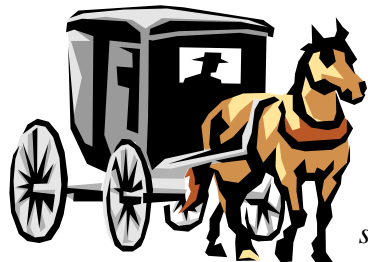


Horse & Buggy Beginnings . . .

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anta Barbara County Probation Department Annual reports have provided a wealth of history and information that has been used in this brochure. In particular, the 1962 and 1964 Annual Reports gave us the most surprising histories: “The History of the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Court, “ and “The History of the Juvenile Hall La Posada.” The Department wishes to express great appreciation to Carter Ray, Fiscal Manager, Retired, who discovered these stories and sent us on our path in memorializing our Department’s History.

The local Santa Barbara County story comes to light with its “horse and buggy” beginnings.



In 1906, the Juvenile Court in Santa Barbara County was established. Governor Pardee appointed the Honorable Samuel E. Crow as the first Juvenile Court Judge. Prior to that time juveniles were handled in the Justice Court or taken by horse and buggy to court in Los Angeles, for placement and detention facilities. *The trip to Los Angeles was a lengthy one because one had to gallop along the beach at low tide, or when the tide was in, make the circuitous journey over the Casitas Pass to Ventura via Foster Park outside of Ojai. In either case, one was always on the lookout for bandits, holdup men, broken axles, tired horses or nightfall. Occasionally a Ward would “cut out” which meant that the deputy sheriff had to unhitch the horses, saddle up one of the horses (if he remembered to bring a saddle), and ride off in hot pursuit of the fleeing Ward. This meant that the deputy’s wife, who often acted as matron had to sit and wait for hours. In those days there were no hamburger drive-ins, service stations, two way radios, or even buggy radios.*

Between 1906 and 1908 the State Board of Charities and Corrections investigated the operation of the probation laws through letters mailed to each Superior Court Judge in the state. It was learned that 12 counties had established Probation Committees and that in all those counties, probation officers had been appointed upon recommendation of the Probation Committee. Although it was noted that Santa Barbara County was listed as one of the 12 counties that had appointed probation officers, it wasn’t until 1909 that Santa Barbara County appointed their first Probation Officer.

MYRA MORGAN
1909 – 1910

In 1909, Myra Morgan was appointed first Probation Officer of Santa Barbara County. Miss Morgan was a school teacher who had long been interested in underprivileged children. She had taught school in her home, which ironically was at 118 East Figueroa Street, the site of the present Superior Court House annex. After her resignation, Miss Morgan was appointed Superintendent of the Detention Home in 1913.

OTTO KRAMER

1910 - 1929

Following Miss Morgan's resignation, Chief of Police James Ross's brother served for a short period of time until May 1, 1910, when Otto Kramer was appointed. Mr. Kramer received a salary of \$100 per month. When he resigned 19 years later, he was earning \$166.66 per month! Mr. Kramer was married to Myrtle Marble who was Judge Crow's Secretary.

In a 1962 interview, Mr. Kramer nostalgically recalled his trips by train to Guadalupe where he transferred to a street car for the long ride to Santa Maria (then called Central City). In Santa Maria he rented a horse, a horse and buggy, or a bicycle to make his calls and investigations. He would take the narrow gauge railroad that ran from San Luis Obispo to Los Olivos. From Los Olivos he would take the overland stage coach to Santa Barbara over the "treacherous" San Marcos Pass. Sometimes he would go only as far as Los Olivos and Santa Ynez. On those trips he got off the train at Gaviota where he took the stage coach for an overnight trip to Los Olivos. The stage stopped overnight at an Inn where Nojoqui Park is now located.



In 1914, the Board of Supervisors bought Mr. Kramer a Model T touring car. He no longer had to make his house calls on horseback, bicycle or foot. Mr. Kramer was delighted!



In 1917 a new modern two story brick Detention Home was completed at 1015 Garden Street with a capacity of 12 boys and girls.

In April 1927, the Junior League of Santa Barbara built Sunshine Cottage at 4500 Hollister Avenue. The cottage was built for undernourished children. The land was owned by the County of Santa Barbara and leased to the Junior League.

W.J. WALL

1929 - 1934

Following Mr. Kramer's resignation, Mr. W. J. Wall, former Chief of Police, served as Probation Officer. In 1934, the Probation Department moved from a one and a half room office space in the Court House to renovated quarters in the Detention Home on Garden Street.

ARTHUR W. EVANS

1934 - 1942

After Mr. Wall's resignation, Judge Westwick and the Probation Committee appointed Arthur W. Evans as Chief Probation Officer and John Chadwick was appointed as the first Assistant Probation Officer.

E. M. BAXTER

1942

W.F. GUNNERSON

1942 – 1949

In May 1943, Arden Houser was named full-time superintendent for the Detention Home. Shortly after taking over management of the home, Mr. Houser told how he had given strict instructions to the staff that if there were any runaways he was to be notified immediately. During Mr. Houser's 1964 interview, he recalled: *"One night the phone rang and one of the staff members excitedly reported that Danny just ran away. OK, I'll come right over, Mr. Houser said. The excited staff member went on, Mary just ran away, Sarah just ran away, and Frank and Gloria just ran away. Wait a minute, Mr. Houser said, how are they getting out? They are jumping out of the window, she said. Well, hang up and go close the window before everybody escapes, Mr. Houser screamed!"*



Mr. Houser further recalled, with a twinkle in his eyes, *"the time that someone donated six gallons of syrup to the Detention Home. The next morning stacks of pancakes were served to everyone. Some of the children sopped up the 'syrup' with great relish. A few complained that the syrup seemed to be sour. Dutifully, Mr. Houser tasted the syrup only to discover that it was Burgundy wine!"*

Los Prietos Boys Camp was established in the summer of 1944 as a facility to which the Juvenile Courts of both Santa Barbara County and Ventura County could commit boys who needed to be removed from the community, but whose records were not serious enough to justify committing them to the California State Youth Authority. Although the Camp was maintained jointly by the two counties, the Camp was actually operated as a branch of Santa Barbara County. Budgeting, employment, salaries, purchasing, and payment of claims were taken care of by Santa Barbara County. Control of the Camp rested in the hands of a Board of Directors composed of the Superior Court Judges of each County, a member of the Board of Supervisors of each County, and the Chief Probation Officer of each County. The Superintendent of the Camp was responsible to this Board for the operation of the Camp.

In 1947, the lease to the Junior League was terminated and the Detention Home facilities were moved from 1015 Garden Street to 4500 Hollister Avenue. The wooden building consisted of a kitchen, two dormitories, a classroom, and a reception room.

GLENN WALLACE

1949 – 1960

Chief Wallace stated in the 1949 Annual Report that, *"Although it has not been possible to compare the statistics for 1949 with figures for the preceding year, we have been able, in some items, to make a comparison at the intervals of six years. These intervals represent a year prior to the war, 1937 – 414 juvenile referrals, a year during the war, 1943 -755 juvenile referrals, and a year following the war, 1949 – 700 juvenile referrals."* Chief Wallace also stated that a statistical reporting system was developed and would be implemented in 1959 and the department would be able to give monthly tabulations regarding cases handled by the office.

During 1949, 230 cases were handled by the Adult Division. The responsibility for enforcing the Court's orders regarding payment was in the hands of the District Attorney until the Spring of 1949; it then became the responsibility of the Probation Department. A total of \$14,505.05 on orders from the Justice Court was received during 1949. Almost the entire amount represents monies paid by persons on summary probation and paid out in the form of County warrants to dependents.

It was during 1949, under the green thumb of Mr. Kenneth Engle at Juvenile Hall that 50,315 pounds of vegetables were obtained from the 20 acre garden at Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall for use by various county agencies including 6,715 pounds going to the Los Prietos Boys Camp. Vegetables not useable were fed to pigs, which were eventually butchered and the meat used either by the Hall or the Camp. The garden provided an activity in which the children in custody at the Hall could participate, always under supervision.



The Department's budget for Fiscal Year 1949 – 1950 was \$239,140. There were a total of 27 employees within the Department, excluding Los Prietos.

In 1950, an Assistant Probation Officer was employed and an office established in Lompoc in the Veterans Memorial Building. From there the new officer handled whatever problems arose, including both juvenile and adult cases.

In 1953, the new security wing was built and occupied at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall. In May 1958, the dependent unit was completed and the first children were housed in August 1958. Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall or La Posada was designed to hold 19 boys and 15 girls, exclusive of the dependent wing. Also that year, the Grand Jury recommended that the "proper county officials give serious study to the possibility of operating a home for teen-age girls comparable to the Los Prietos operation. That was also the year that the annual Report stated that burglary, forgery, and writing fictitious checks continues to be the most common offense among adult offenders.

CLIFFORD C. ROMER

1960 – 1976

In the 1961 Annual Report, Chief Romer stated, "*On January 12, 1961, during the regular meeting of the Probation Committee, Mrs. Barbara Wallace, widow of the late Glenn Wallace, Chief Probation Officer, presented a painting of Santa Barbara Valley by Clarence Hinkle to the Probation Department and asked that it be hung in the office of the Chief Probation Officer in memory of her husband. Mr. Wallace admired the painting for many years and after his death Mrs. Wallace asked Mr. Hinkle if she could purchase the painting. He told her that it was not for sale, but then added he would very much like to give it to her. Mr. Hinkle died July 20, 1960.*" The painting can still be viewed on the second floor of the Probation Administration Building, 117 East Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara.

Former Chief Wallace wrote an article, *Summary Probation* for the October 1960 issue of Crime and Delinquency, a publication of the national Council on Crime and Delinquency. The article won the prize for being the best published article in the field of corrections in Southern California in 1960 – 1962. Mrs. Barbara Wallace, on behalf of her late husband, accepted the Les Hay Memorial Award of \$25.00 for the article. Mrs. Wallace donated the \$25.00 to the Probation Department.

On June 1, 1961, a Junior Camp Unit (age 12 to 15) opened with 12 boys, three staff, and two night supervisors. By the end of 1961, there were 22 boys in the Junior Camp.

Chief Romer also reported that, *“For the month of October (1961) this department filed the greatest number of juvenile Court petitions that had been filled in any one given month in its history: 82, with 28 supplemental petitions also having been filed.”*



In 1961, Christmas furlough for all boys began at 9:00 a.m. December 24 and ended 7:00 p.m. December 26. While many camps use some type of holiday furlough, insofar as is known, Los Prietos is the only one to totally close down and send every boy home for Christmas.

A tea was held February 20, 1962, at Juvenile Hall in honor of the many volunteer workers. Judge Westwick, Juvenile Court, presented awards to Mrs. Rene Burns, Mrs. L.T. Eisenberg, Mrs. Ida Hoover, Mrs. Mildred Murphy, Mr. Anthony Marquette, Mr. John Gilchrist, Dr. and Mrs. Bouslough and Mrs. Ellen Harrison.



On July 15, 1963, after many years of effort and hard work La Morada, a placement facility for teenage girls coming before the juvenile court, opened its doors to the first two girls. The home was limited to 15 girls.

In the 1964 Annual report, Chief Romer wrote, *“Because of the increase in the number of juvenile delinquents appearing in the courts, the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall has been over-crowded by approximately 75% in the greater part of the last eight years.”*

Thomas P. Weldon was the first judge appointed to the Second Municipal Court in Santa Maria that opened July 1, 1964. It is interesting to note that upon finishing high school, Judge Weldon entered the military service as a private with the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps--the year was 1918, during World War I!

In 1970, the Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of a Volunteer Coordinator to work with the various aspects of volunteer work possibilities. This officer will be used to coordinate volunteers, College and University Practicum Programs, and any other sources of volunteers that would benefit the Department and the community as a whole.



In 1972, the Dependent Child intake and supervision cases were transferred to the Welfare Department for processing and the Dependent Children's wing at Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall was closed.

In 1973, there were 2,913 formal and informal juvenile referrals.

In the 1975 Annual report, Chief Romer wrote: *“There is a growing belief that youthful offenders would be handled in non-secure facilities and handled on a community referral basis rather than being referred to a criminal justice system. Some areas of our Nation have been experimenting with this concept with reported good success. The State of California Probation Subsidy, as we know it today, should be revised. The emphasis should be placed on prevention not after the fact. Most Counties in California are experimenting with diversion programs today. Since our current practices in handling both youth and adult offenders have come under much scrutiny as to their effectiveness in attempting to curb crime, we should place our major emphasis in the area of delinquency prevention both for adults as well as minors. Perhaps by the year 2000, we can hope that through our trial and error experimenting to try to cure the ills of our society, we will have achieved a greater measure of success, and have answers to some of the problems that we seem to lack today.”*

BILL JOHNSON

1976 - 1978

Your probation dollar in 1977 went to: Institutional Services, 43¢; Research/Training, 2¢; Juvenile and Adult Field Services, 52¢; and Administration, 3¢.

The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall was completed in 1976 with a capacity to house 20 minors. The facility was officially dedicated on March 9, 1977, with approximately 400 people in attendance. Occupancy took place on March 11, 1977.

After the passage of Proposition 13, the Board of Supervisors in July 1978 approved a Probation Department budget with a 12- ½ % cut over the prior fiscal year's budget. The reality of Proposition 13 required the lay-off or demotion of 29 staff members. It was a difficult year for our Department.

In Adult services, two new programs were initiated in 1978 to service those adults on probation for drunk driving and/or in need of alcohol information and counseling. In 1978, drunk driving offenses comprised approximately 18% of the supervision caseload.

In 1978, the Santa Maria Juvenile Unit along with Adult Services was moved to its new location at the old County Hospital which was centrally located in the Santa Maria area. Also, the Santa Barbara Juvenile Units (two) were reorganized into one Unit and located at the Juvenile Hall complex.

There were approximately 24 in-service training programs as well as workshops from outside resources in 1978.

LARRY PARRISH

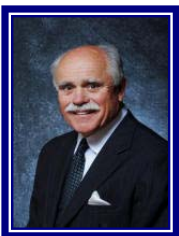
1979 - 1980

Chief Johnson resigned and accepted the position of Deputy Chief Probation Officer for Los Angeles County and Larry Parrish, former Acting Chief Probation Officer for Santa Cruz County was appointed Chief Probation Officer.



ALAN CROGAN

1980 - 1988



Larry Parrish was appointed Santa Barbara County Chief Administrative Officer, and Alan Crogan was appointed Chief Probation Officer.

Chief Crogan began a Department tradition in 1985 that is still continuing today. To show appreciation to the employees of the Department, the first Staff Recognition Awards Dinner was held October 29, 1985, at the Sheraton Hotel, Solvang. The cost was \$13 per person. Staff members who showed outstanding leadership, dependability, and approachability were nominated by their fellow employees to be recognized. It is not surprising that many of the nine recipients of the awards went on to achieve even more success within the Department. Of the recipients from Santa Maria, Scott DeuPree, Group Counselor, became Chief probation Officer from 2005 - 2007.

“Alan Crogan says the County Probation Department, which he is in charge of, can be a tough place to work. Counselors and officers deal day to day with what Crogan calls the negative aspects of society, the people who have violated the community. The staff is able to deal with the negativity and still go to work with their chins up, Crogan said, because most are committed to the belief that they are helping the community and society be a better place to live.” Santa Maria Times, 11/04/85

SUSAN J. GIONFRIDDO

1988 – 2005



Susan J. Gionfriddo was sworn in by the Honorable William Bruce Dodds, Superior Court, on August 13, 1988. Chief Gionfriddo began her career with Santa Barbara County Probation Department as a Juvenile Hall Group Counselor in 1968.



In 1990, our Probation Department was the first Probation Department in the United States to have narcotic detection K-9s. Ebony and Maggie were the first two K-9s assigned to Probation Officers Martin Conoley and Gail Hermreck.

In 1991, the Santa Maria Juvenile and Adult Services along with Administration were moved from the old County Hospital to Centerpointe Parkway.

In 1994, the Multiagency Intergrated System of Care federal grant was funded to serve high-risk minors and their families countywide. The Probation Department was a partner in this collaborative that coordinated services to children and families across agencies and over long periods of time.

In October 1977, Tri-Counties Boot Camp was established and opened through a federal Boot Camp construction grant, and a partnership between Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, an early intervention program for non-violent offenders serving a maximum capacity of 40 juvenile court wards, ages 13 to 17 years old.



In 1991, the main office in Santa Barbara was moved from the County Engineering Building, adjacent to the County Administration Building, to 117 East Carrillo Street, formerly the location of the County Welfare Department.

During 1997 and 1998, the Department received several State and Federal grants including the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge I grant which involved the development of a Local Action Plan for juvenile services in our County, Partnership for Families (OCAP) which established a Family Resource Center facility in Lompoc, Targeted Truancy, and a Juvenile Drug Court Planning grant which resulted in the establishment of a Juvenile Drug Court in Santa Barbara County.

In May 1999, the State Board of Corrections funded the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant II (NEW VISTAS). This three year grant was designed to reduce juvenile crime in the City of Santa Barbara and served families with minors ages 11- 18 years old and living in the targeted neighborhood.

By 1998, computers were on the desks of every Probation Officer. This was a major change from the Probation Department’s “horse & buggy” pencil and paper days. The Department migrated from the County computer mainframe to the development of the department-based IMPACT system.

As of 2001, group and foster home placements and placements to the California Youth Authority from Santa Barbara County were one of the lowest rates in the State.

In 2003, the Memorandum of Agreement for the operation of the Tri-Counties Boot Camp expired and Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties withdrew from the Boot Camp program. In January 2004, Tri-Counties Boot Camp was reorganized and renamed the Los Prietos Boys Academy. The Academy provides a structured, consistent and challenging environment in which Wards can reevaluate and alter preexisting negative behaviors and attitudes.



In March 2005, the construction of the Santa Maria Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center was completed. This project expanded the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, adding a new intake and release center, an administration area, a state-of-the-art master control center capable to visually monitor over 70 cameras and provide keyless entry and exit within the interior and exterior of the facility, a serving kitchen and three 30-bed living units. Each unit has two classrooms, a kitchenette, dining room, dayroom and outdoor recreation area.

R. SCOTT DEUPREE 2005 – 2007

With the retirement of Susan J. Gionfriddo, it had been 17 years since a new Chief was sworn-in. Scott DeuPree received the Oath of Office from Judge Arthur A. Garcia, Juvenile Court Presiding Judge, on March 25, 2005. Chief DeuPree’s career as a Probation Officer spanned 37 years beginning as Deputy Probation Officer I at Central Juvenile Hall in Los Angeles County. He held the contributions of line and supervisory staff in high-esteem, and was a past Santa Barbara County Chapter President of SEIU Local 535, as well as having been a co-founder and first President of the Probation Peace Officer’s Association. He placed a high value on organizational ethics and professionalism, and his brief tenure as Chief realized the strengthening of department infrastructure, expansion in the use of technology, the introduction of voluntary 12-hour shifts in the Institutions, and marked Probation vehicles.



Occupancy of the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center was completed in April 2005. The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall has a capacity of 140 detainees. In May 2005, the downsizing of the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall was completed with the transferring of detainees to the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall. The Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall now has a capacity of 20 detainees.

Chief DeuPree wanted a means by which to keep local policy makers, judicial officers, and media informed of noteworthy events and facts regarding the Probation Department and accomplished this need through an informational and interesting monthly one-page newsletter – in June 2005, the first issue of *Probation Today* was distributed.

In June 2005, 1,579 Santa Barbara County adult offenders reported to Probation Officers via electronic kiosks. 37% of those adult offenders routinely provided information via kiosks. This allowed Probation Officers more face-to-face contacts with high-risk offenders.

PATRICIA J. STEWART
2007 – PRESENT

On May 21, 2007, The Santa Barbara County Probation Department announced the appointment of Patricia J. Stewart to the position of Chief Probation Officer of Santa Barbara County.



Chief Stewart has been employed with the Santa Barbara County Probation Department for over 25 years and has worked in all divisions of the Department. Prior to her promotion, Chief Stewart served as the Deputy Chief Probation Officer in charge of the Institutions Division from 2004 to 2007 and as the Probation Manager of the Los Prietos Boys Camp programs from March 1996 to 2004. She is well suited to her new position with experience at every level within the Department. She filled the position of Chief R. Scott DeuPree, who retired on March 24, 2007.

Chief Stewart has received many awards and distinctions over the course of her career including the H. Thomas Guerry Award for Outstanding Performance in 1992 and the Chief's Award in 1995. She is a member of the First Five Commission and is a graduate of Chief Probation Officers of California Command College.

*The Mission and Goals of the
Santa Barbara County Probation Department
continues...*

