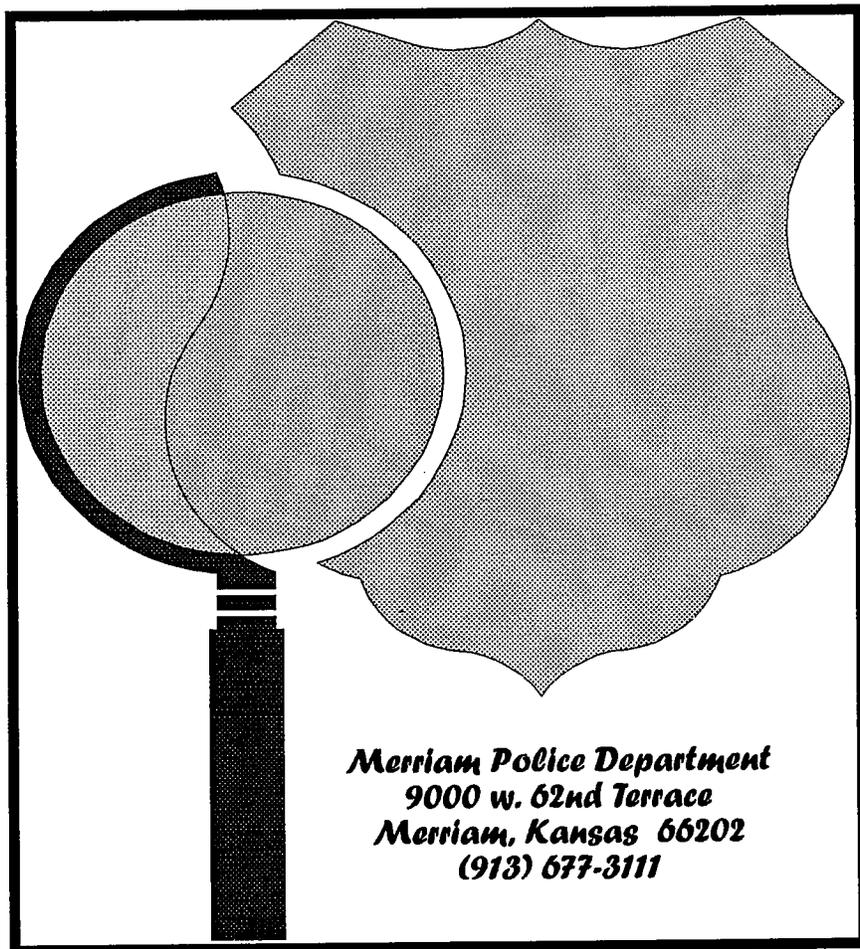


# MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT



*Merriam Police Department  
9000 w. 62nd Terrace  
Merriam, Kansas 66202  
(913) 677-3111*

# 1993 ANNUAL REPORT

# “WE BELIEVE...

- ....that discipline comes from within-  
discipline is determined by how good the  
individual wants to be;
- ....that your individual goal will be to become  
the best Police Officer you are capable of  
being and our Department goal will be to  
become the best Police Department we are  
capable of being;
- ....that talent is no assurance of success-  
success stems from hard work;
- ....that both Staff Members and line Officers  
must have mutual respect for one another;
- ....that team success is in direct relationship  
to individual sacrifice;
- ....that WE win or lose, never I - WE win as  
at team and lose as a team;
- ....that when the team wins there is enough  
glory for everyone;
- ....that each employee is responsible for their  
own growth”

# 1993 ANNUAL REPORT

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# **INTRODUCTION**



**The City of Merriam has promoted and maintained its image of being a planned and well managed community. During recent economic downturns, few cities have been able to continue with the high standard of city services and public safety services in a manner that compares with Merriam's.**

**This document was compiled and organized by Chief Kenneth Sissom. It has been written to chronicle the 1993 events and experiences of the MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT. Its purpose is to illustrate these activities and provided services through narrative form, statistics, charts and graphs.**

# MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

## **Mission Statement**

We, the Merriam Kansas Police Department, are a Community Oriented Police Department. We are committed to providing the highest quality of police services by empowering our employees to work co-actively with the community toward the goal of improving the quality of life within Merriam. We pledge to maintain the highest level of respect for an individual's rights and human dignity.

Our purpose is to provide safety and security for all persons within our city with responsive and professional services utilizing compassion and concern. Our mission is accomplished within the moral and legal standards of our community, through a partnership of the community and the employees of the Merriam Police Department.

## **Organizational Values**

### **PARTNERSHIP:**

We are committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve issues which impact the community, ourselves and other professional agencies.

### **DEDICATION:**

We are committed to providing the highest quality of law enforcement service to the community with the goal of enhancing the quality of life within Merriam.

### **RESPECT:**

We are committed to the respect of individual rights, human dignity and the values of all members of the community and the department.

## **INTEGRITY:**

**We value the adherence to the rule of law, to the Constitutions of Kansas and of the United States, and to utmost honesty. We are committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.**

## **COMMUNITY:**

**We value working with Merriam's diverse community to ensure the safety and security of our neighborhoods. We are committed to the highest level of communication and cooperation with both the residential and business community in Merriam in an effort to reduce crime and increase the feeling of security and well-being within the city.**

## **EMPOWERMENT:**

**We are committed to empowering our employees and the community to resolve problems by creating an environment that encourages solutions that address the needs of the residential and business communities.**

## **ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH**

**We value the creation of an environment which focuses on solving problems through teamwork, participation, cooperation and enthusiasm fostered by decisive, professional leaders who support creativity and innovation.**

### **NOTE:**

**The Mission Statement was developed in June/1993 by a committee of Merriam Police Officers with the assistance of a group of concerned citizens.**

---

## **Law Enforcement Code of Ethics**

**As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.**

**I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life.**

**I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.**

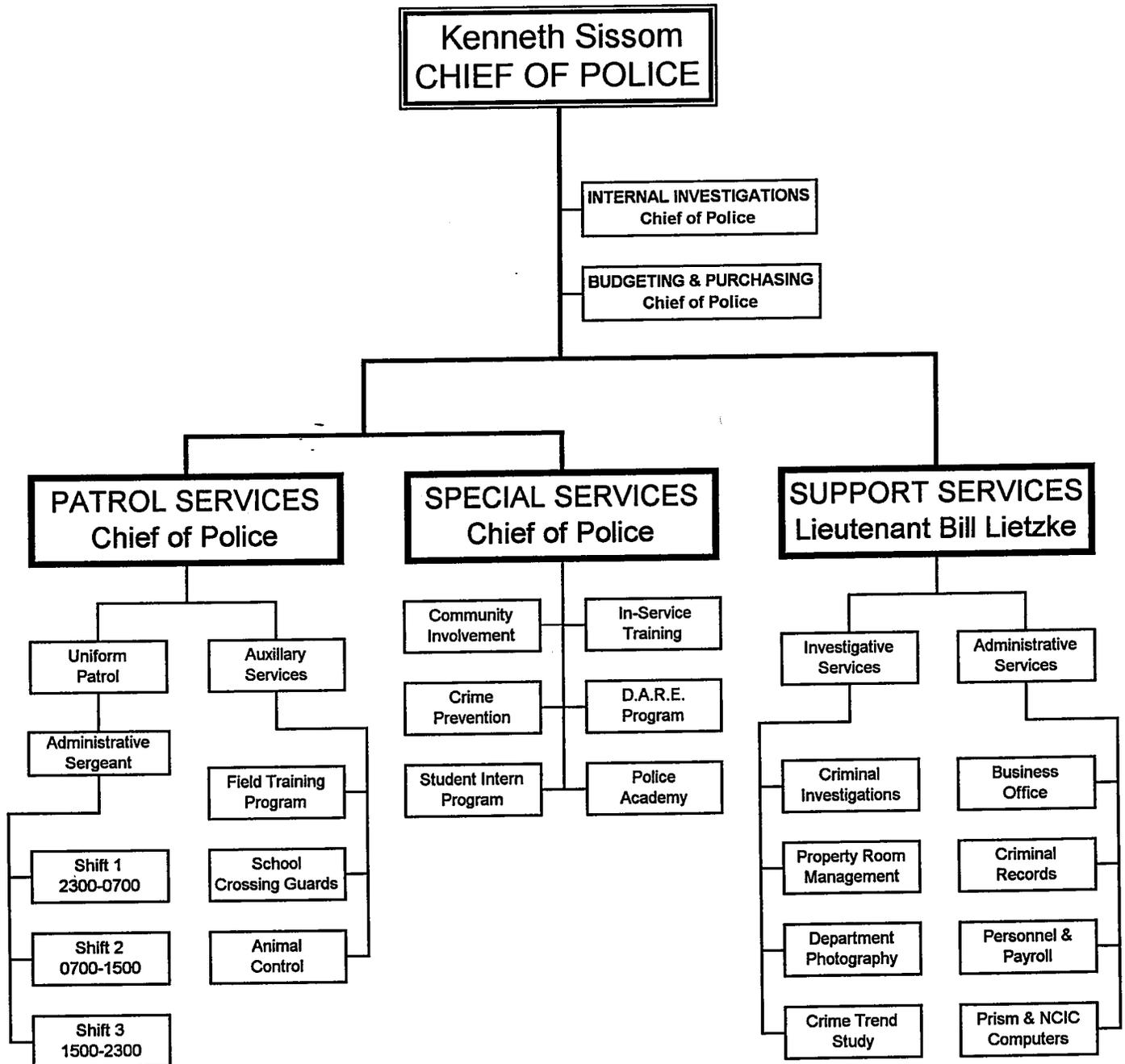
**I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.**

**I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...  
law enforcement.**

---

# MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER 12/31/93

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
KENNETH SISSOM	Chief of Police	14
BILL LIETZKE	Lieutenant - Administration	13
BOB SMITH	Sergeant - Investigations	16
SYD TUBBS	Sergeant - Patrol	14
STEVE HAYNES	Sergeant - Patrol	13
RANDY DAVIS	Sergeant - Patrol	12
<i>Average Years of Service for Sergeant =</i>		<b>13.75</b>
TIM BURNETT	Master Police Officer - Investigations	11
AL JONES	- Master Police Officer - Patrol	10
DAN KELLERMAN	Master Police Officer - Patrol	9
JOAN HUETTENMUELLER	Master Police Officer - Patrol	8
<i>Average Years of Service for M.P.O. =</i>		<b>8.5</b>
CHARLIE YOCUM	Police Officer - Patrol	16
BILL TROUT	Police Officer - Patrol	10
MIKE DANIELS	Police Officer - Patrol	6
JEFF MAGEE	Police Officer - Patrol	6
LARRY BIRT	Community Involvement Officer	5
LORI VICTORINE	Police Officer - Patrol	5
DARREN MCLAUGHLIN	Police Officer - Patrol	4
CHARLIE SWEANY	Police Officer - Patrol	3
TODD SPARKS	Police Officer - Patrol	3
BOB SCHLUBEN	Police Officer - Patrol	3
GAVIN RUDDY	Police Officer - Patrol	2
GERRY EICKHOFF	Police Officer - Patrol	2
DAVE MELTON	Police Officer - Patrol	1
<i>Average Years of Service =</i>		<b>5</b>
DAVE THOMAS	Animal Control Officer	6
LISA ALDRICH	Information Specialist II	2
KAREN GIBSON	Information Specialist II	1



## ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

1993 has been an outstanding year of police service to the community. "Doing more with less" has been the benchmark in nearly every category of the department. While we have increased efforts to better serve the community, the department has faced its share of challenges in 1993. I have outlined some of these challenges, below:

**WEATHER-** 1993 has been a year plagued with extreme weather conditions.

- ◆ The first week of January brought a sudden and severe ice storm. Some of the hilly parts of the city were completely inaccessible for hours.
- ◆ In February, Merriam was hit with two blizzard-condition snow storms. One storm dropped 14 inches of snowfall which, according to records, was the heaviest snowstorm in 63 years.
- ◆ In April, Merriam suffered a heavy hailstorm that caused a thousand dollars damage to each of our police vehicles.
- ◆ In the early morning of July 10th, after weeks of rainfall, the city was suddenly faced with flooding that caused over a million dollars in damage.

**PATROL ACTIVITY-** In 1993, Patrol handled 18,152 calls for service. This is a 4% decrease in calls over 1992. On the average, a Merriam police officer was sent to a call every 29 minutes in 1993.

During the first five months of 1993, police activity was unusually high. Offense reports and general calls for service were both up. As summer approached the department braced itself for a busy summer season. For reasons unknown, the activity slowed down during the summer months. In September the call load resumed to normal and remained there for the rest of the year. A year-end study of crime statistics indicated a 11.85% decrease in crime over 1992 and the lowest crime rate in ten years. For more information, see the 1993 ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS section of this report.

**PERSONNEL-**The Police Department personnel remained constant through 1993. No new officers were hired. One officer left the department at the end of December and was replaced in January, 1994. The primary records clerk,

Joanie Crotchett, left the department in the end of December and was replaced by a part-time front office employee. The part-time position was also filled in January, 1994.

There were some officer injuries during the year:

- ◆ Officer Mike Daniels suffered a broken thumb, during an arrest situation.
- ◆ Master Police Officer Huettenmueller was off work for several weeks recovering from shoulder surgery from an on-duty injury in 1992
- ◆ Officer Jeff Magee was off work for several weeks due to an off-duty injury.
- ◆ In November, three officers were exposed to tuberculosis while dealing with a prisoner. These officers were referred to the Johnson County Health Department for testing and follow-up.

As part of an OSHA requirement, all officers in 1993 were given the option of receiving inoculations to guard against the threat of infectious hepatitis. Twenty officers received inoculations from the Health Department. These mandatory inoculations cost the city nearly \$4,000 and was not originally figured in the 1993 budget.

**TRAFFIC PROBLEMS-**In January, after renewed public complaints, the department started to concentrate on the problems of large trucks on Johnson Drive, west of Merriam Drive. Merriam officers began writing citations to the drivers of large trucks using Johnson Drive to access Shawnee. Over the first eight months, numerous large truck violation tickets were written. Toward the end of the summer a significant reduction of violators were observed. In the fall, efforts were made to change the ordinance's large truck definition. The new definition is simplified and targets large trucks only and does not apply to standard pick-up trucks or small delivery vans.

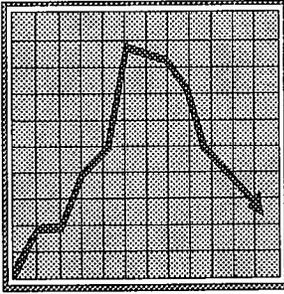
Road construction, such as the Antioch Road Project, also contributed to the traffic problems. The Antioch Road widening project presented some traffic and emergency response challenges. On several occasions, officers had to be assigned to this construction area to discourage drivers from using Antioch during the construction activity. The spring rains prolonged this project and caused more problems for the area residents. The Antioch Road project also created an increase in traffic along Merriam Drive. Extra traffic enforcement was needed to deal with an increase in speeders and parking violators.

**DEATH INVESTIGATIONS-** Death investigation is an critical function of any police department. In April, it appeared that Merriam officers had discovered the first homicide of 1993. A man's body was found barricaded in his bathroom. The immediate cause of death could not be determined. Due to the unusual nature of this incident, assistance was requested from the Kansas City Metro Squad. Officers from several agencies assisted in this investigation. After many hours of investigation two suspects were developed. The case was turned over

to the District Attorney's Office for consideration. After careful investigation, the incident was reclassified to a kidnapping and robbery. The autopsy results coupled with other evidence indicated that the victim had committed suicide. There were no reported homicides in 1993.

On Saturday, September 5th, Merriam officers with the Kansas Highway Patrol responded to a serious accident in the 5400 block of southbound I-35. Upon arrival they discovered two men, a woman and two children injured. The woman was trapped in the car and had to be extricated with heavy equipment. She later died at the hospital. One of the men had been ran over while standing outside the family's car. He also died the next day. Approximately four hours after the first accident another serious accident occurred on the same stretch of highway, about one block north. This accident claimed two more lives. In all four fatalities occurred. There were no other traffic fatalities in 1993.

In 1993, Merriam Police were called to 13 resident locations where they investigated deaths. Included in these 13 deaths were two suicides. The other 11 cases involved apparent natural causes.



## ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS

Each January, the media reports the annual crime statistics. Comparisons are made with the year before along with comments or assumptions on what is believed to have caused the change in the "crime rate". Unfortunately, police departments and even entire cities are judged by how these statistics are perceived by the public.

There are many factors that can have an effect on the "crime rate". These factors could include economic conditions, weather, incursion of drugs or organized crime, and increase of police enforcement or presence. To illustrate an example, consider the Merriam K-Mart store. As Merriam's largest retail center, shoplifting has always been a problem. When K-Mart hires an aggressive security officer the number of shoplift arrests increases. When this happens the theft crime rate also increases. Does this mean that there is more crime in Merriam? No -- the crime is simply being discovered and reported.

### WHY DO WE COLLECT CRIME STATISTICS?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation mandates that police departments keep track of certain classifications of crimes. These are called PART 1 CRIMES and are considered the most serious or commonly occurring crimes in the United States. Part one crimes include:

### **MURDER, RAPE, ROBBERY, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/BATTERY, BURGLARY, THEFT, ARSON**

(NOTE: For the purpose of illustration, all batteries are included in the below figures)

During 1993 there were 886 Part 1 crimes reported to the Merriam Police Department. This represents a 11.85% decrease over 1992.

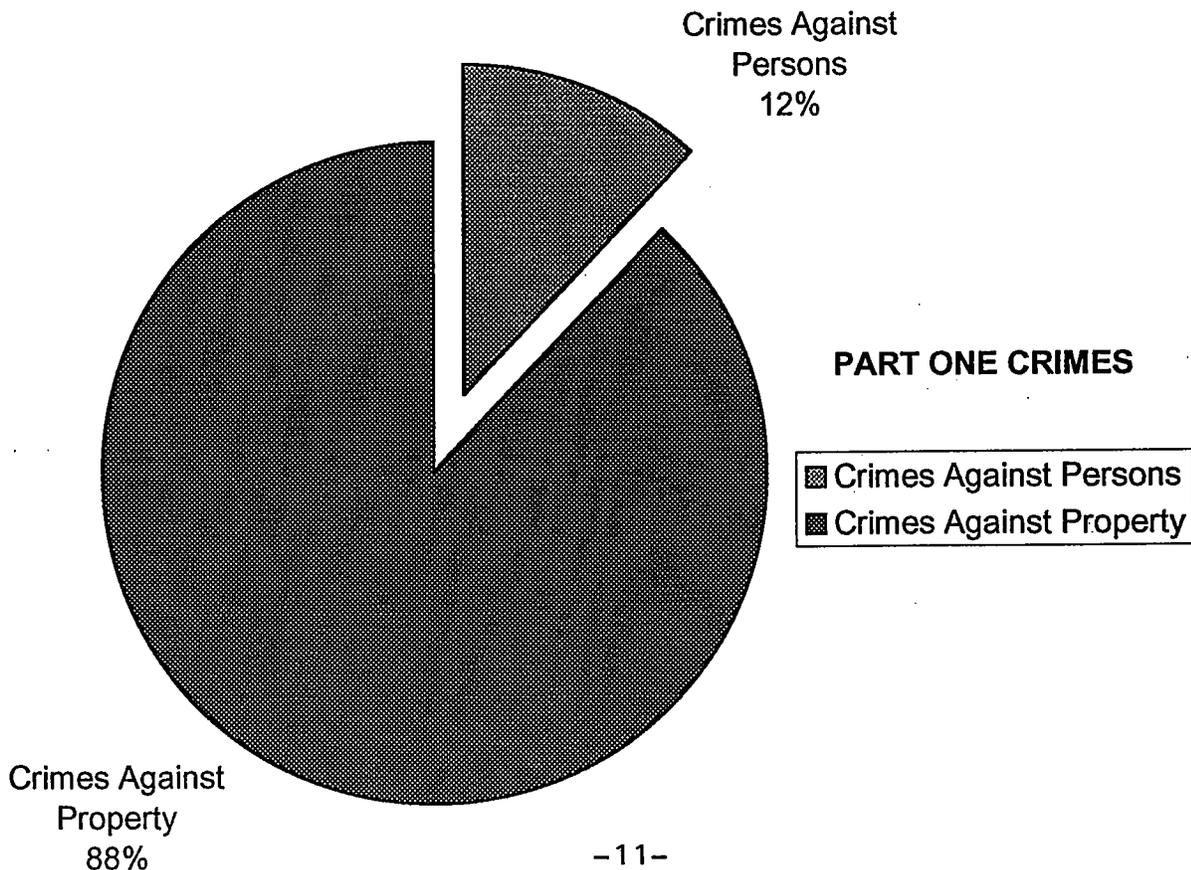
**The crime rate in 1993 was the lowest rate for the past 10 years in Merriam.** It is impossible to determine a specific cause for the decline in reported crimes. One cause could be the weather. Studies have proven that when the weather is bad, crime is lower. 1993 had an abundance of unusually bad weather. Another cause could be increased law enforcement.

During 1993, Merriam Officers made 1,091 arrests. This represents 15.3% increase over 1992. A significant percentage of the arrests were for violations connected with domestic violence. 1993 was the fifth year that the Merriam Police Department was involved in an aggressive domestic violence arrest program. With increased arrests over five years, perhaps it is having a positive and anticipated affect on reducing domestic violence in our area. Of the 170 domestic violence incidents, officers arrested 80 violators.

**1992 vs. 1993**

When taken as a whole, the picture is bright. Merriam registered the lowest crime rate in ten years. Significant reductions were observed in the catagories of minor thefts, auto and residential burglaries, and simple batteries.

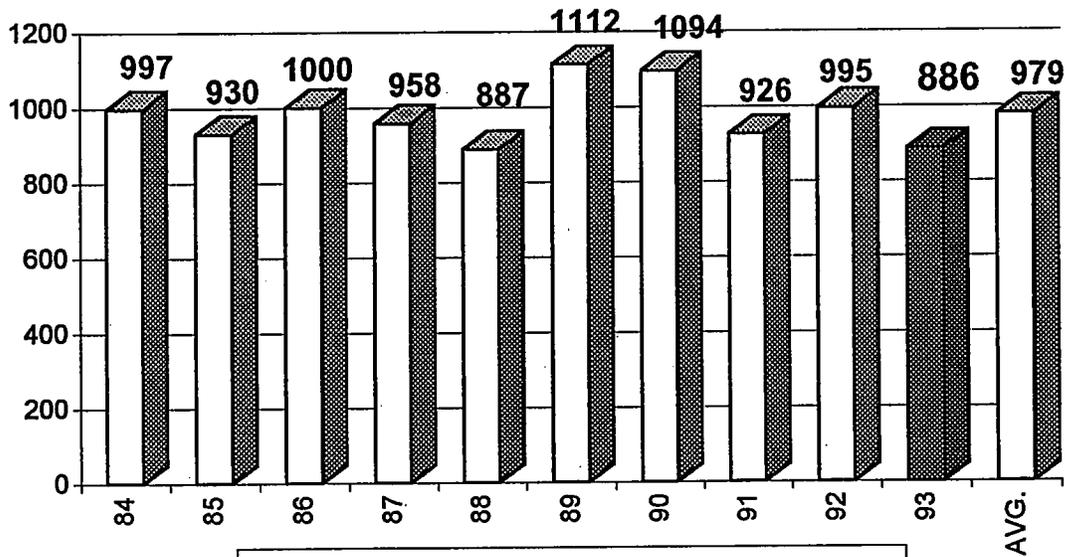
Although the overall rate is down, there are some disturbing aspects concerning the crime rate. Robberies and rapes have shown a marked increase over 1992. The rapes reported in 1993 all occurred with in residences and would, under normal circumstances, be very difficult to prevent through police patrol intervention. The robberies are another matter. Of the 19 total robberies, eight of them are classified as "street robberies". These type of robberies are usually drug and/or gang related. While street robberies are usually associated with the inner-city, this trend may indicate that our proximity to the urban core is as close as reported in the recent Mid-America Regional Council report. The remainder of the robberies occurred primarily at convenience stores, but also occured at restaurants, a laundry and other areas.



Crime Detail 1992/1993

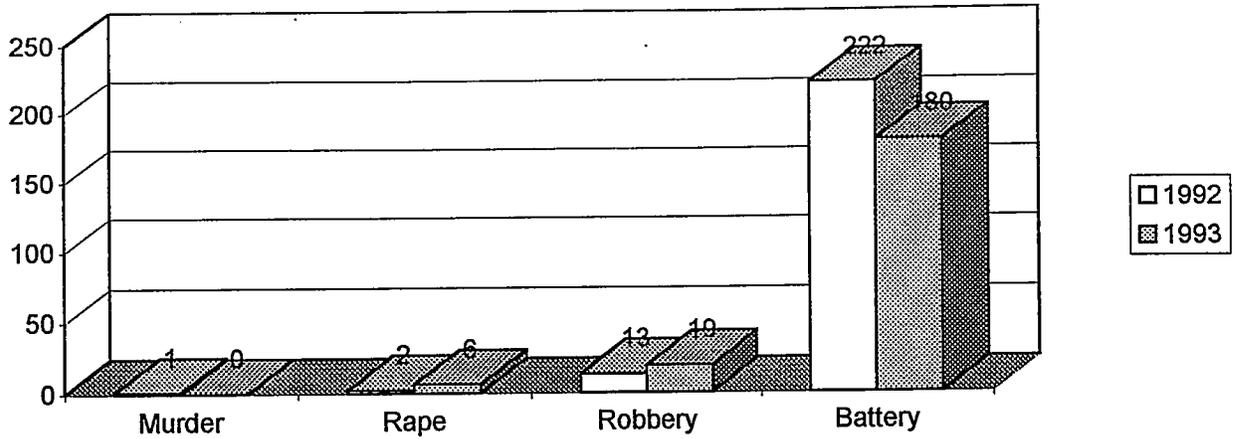
<b>CRIMINAL CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Murder	1	0	-1
Rape	2	6	4
Robbery	9	5	-4
Agg. Robbery	4	14	10
Agg. Assault	21	25	4
Battery	182	145	-37
Agg. Battery	19	10	-9
Burglary / Auto	156	129	-27
Burglary / Residence	66	63	-3
Burglary / Business	28	34	6
Burglary / Storage	18	25	7
Agg. Burglary / Residence	21	10	-11
Agg. Burglary / Business	1	2	1
Theft over \$500	58	65	7
Theft under \$500	335	287	-48
Possession Stolen Property	8	7	-1
Auto Theft	52	57	5
Arson	3	2	-1
Agg. Arson	1	0	-1
<b>TOTAL CRIME (as reported to the KBI)</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>-109</b>

**PART ONE CRIMES FOR LAST 10 YEARS (1984-1993)**

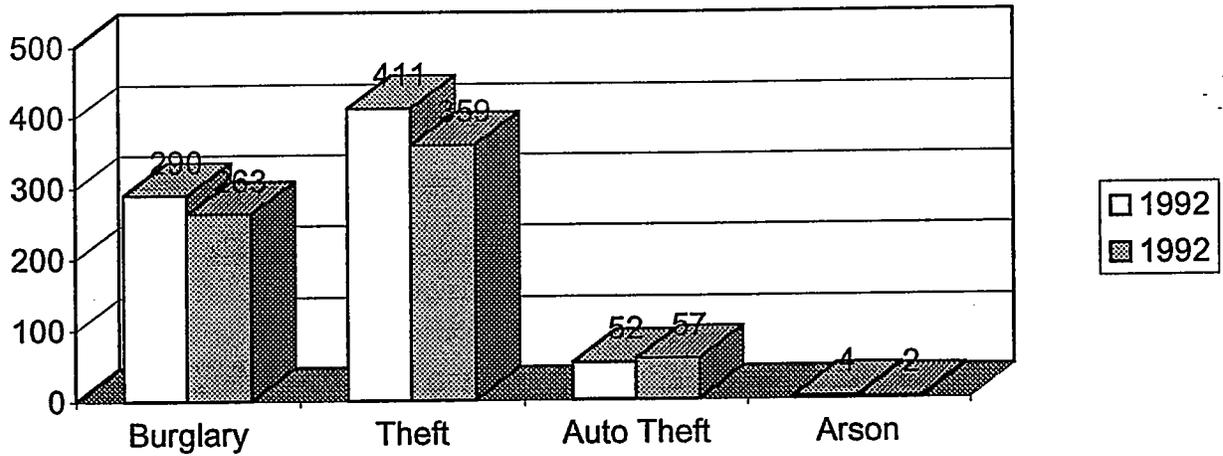


The above includes all simple assaults and batterles

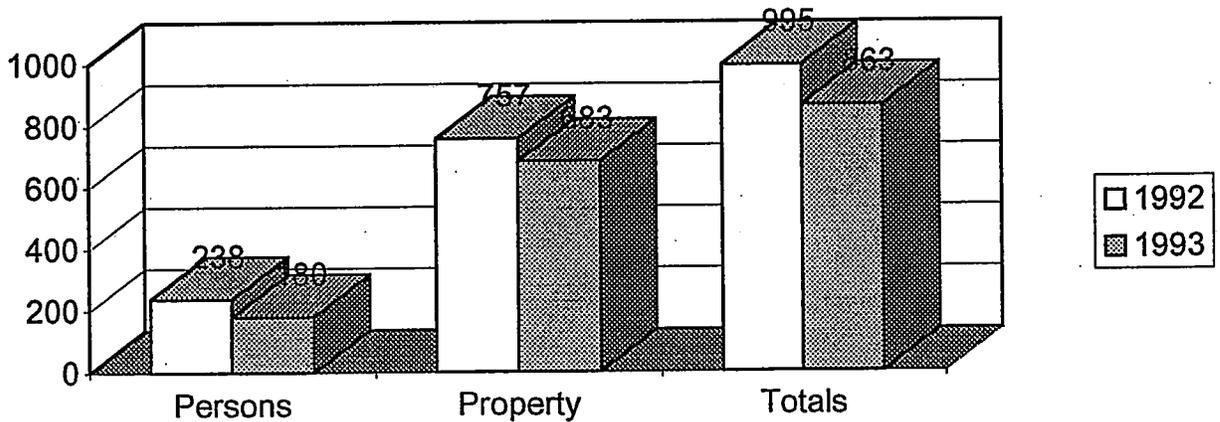
### CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

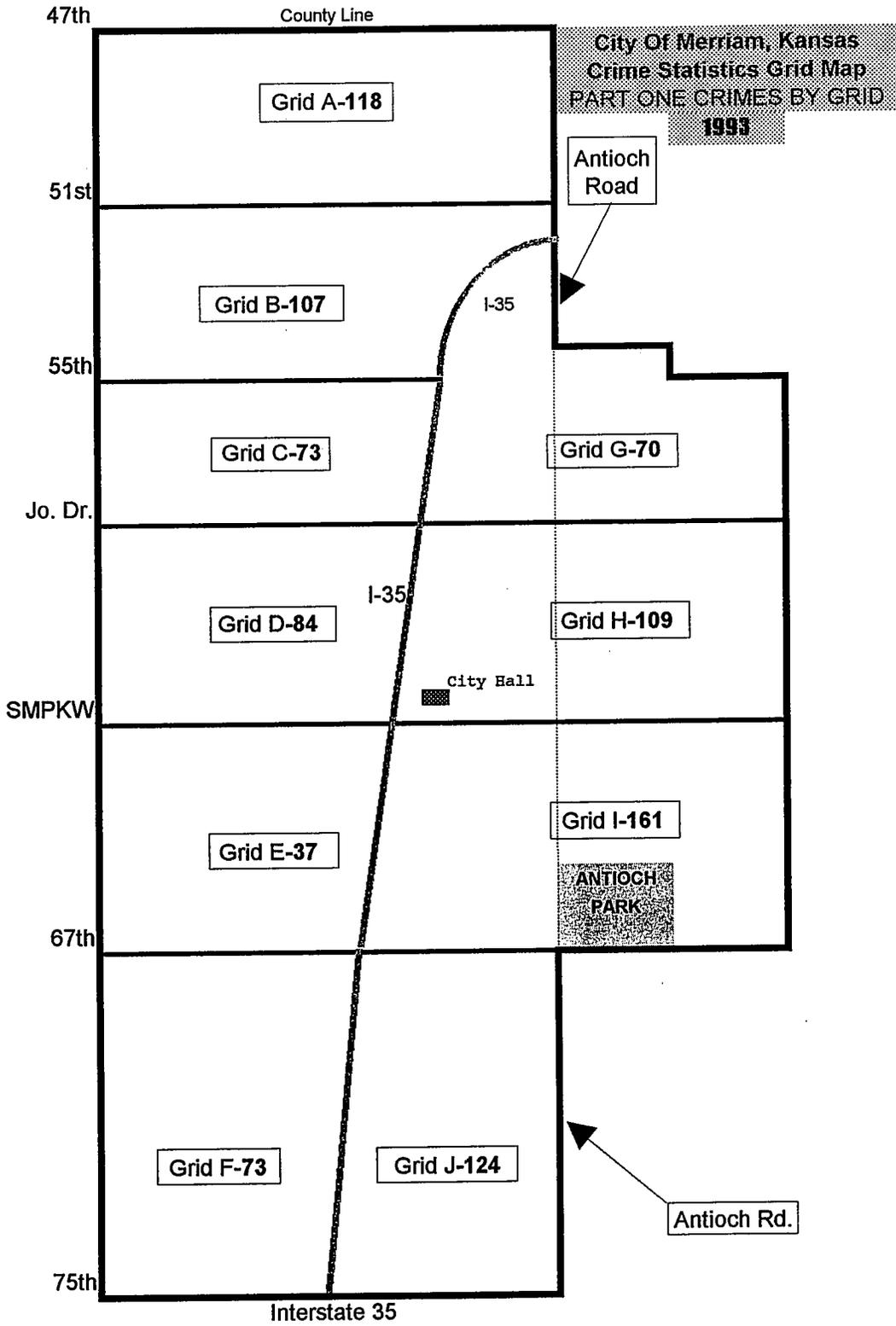


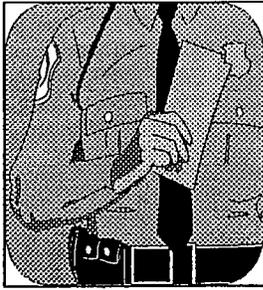
### CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY



**Total Part One Crimes 1992 = 995 1993 = 886  
Decrease of 11.85%**



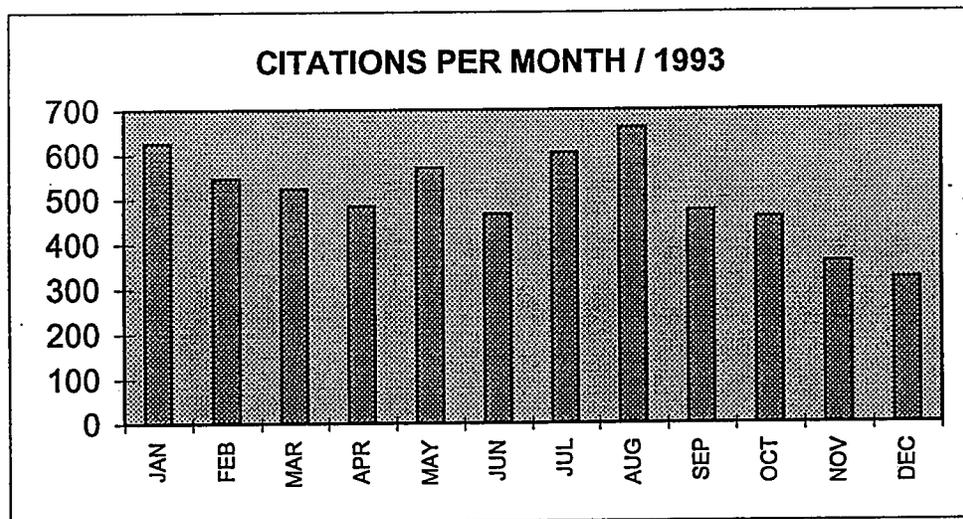




## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

1993 was a very active year for traffic enforcement. A total of 6,104 citations were issued during the year. This represents an increase of 1,429 citations or (24%) over 1992. There are two primary reasons listed below:

JAN	626
FEB	547
MAR	524
APR	485
MAY	572
JUN	467
JUL	604
AUG	660
SEP	476
OCT	460
NOV	360
DEC	323
93-Total	6104
92-Total	4675
Increase	24%



### 1. TRAFFIC OFFICER ASSIGNMENT

During the first ten months of 1993, there was an active traffic officer assigned to the day shift. This officer's assignment was to write traffic tickets. The traffic officer was responsible for writing 1,085 or nearly 18% of the total tickets. Had the department not assigned a traffic officer, the number of citations would be about the same as last year.

### 2. INCREASE IN D.U.I. ENFORCEMENT

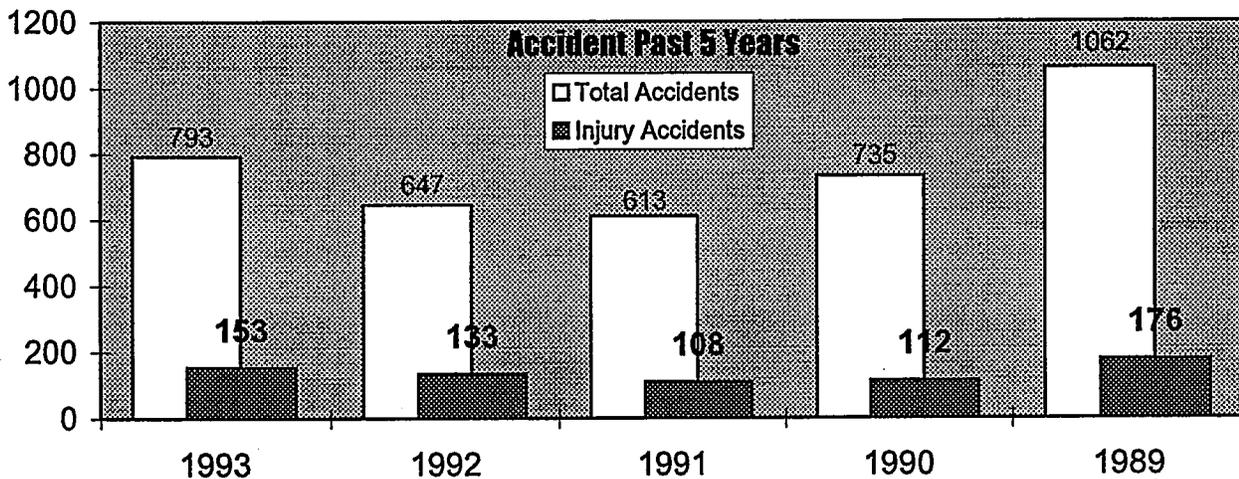
In 1993 there was an increase in driving under the influence arrests. Merriam Officers arrested 273 drivers under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. This number represents a 63% increase over 1992 and the largest number of arrests since 1987. In addition to the citations written for D.U.I., there are usually associating violations in which citations are written.



## VEHICLE ACCIDENT SUMMARY

With a year of extreme weather conditions it is no mystery why the accident rate increased in 1993. Inclement weather is a major contributing factor to accidents. In 1993 there was a major ice storm, two blizzard condition snow storms and the spring rains were at record levels. There were also two significant hale storms that created traffic accident problems.

During the year, 793 vehicle accident reports were investigated by the Merriam Police Department. This figure does not include many of the accidents that occurred on I-35, which are worked by the Kansas Highway Patrol.



Of the 793 accidents in 1993, 19% were injury accidents. There were four traffic fatalities in 1993 that occurred on I-35 that were investigated by the Highway Patrol.

During 1993, the City of Merriam was a recipient of a Pedestrian Safety Citation from the Automotive Association of America (AAA) for its efforts to increase pedestrian safety through education and traffic enforcement. This is the fifth straight year that the City of Merriam has received this award.



MISSOURI

## News From The Auto Club

December 1993

PHOTO ENCLOSED

### MERRIAM RECEIVES AAA AWARD

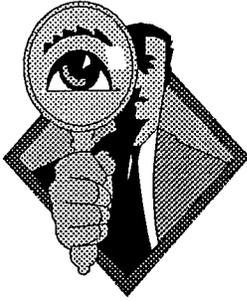
The City of Merriam has been awarded a PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CITATION in the American Automobile Association's 54th Annual Pedestrian Safety Inventory.

Pedestrian accident summaries and safety activity reports were compiled by the AAA-Auto Club of Missouri and submitted to a national judging panel. Some 2,200 cities from throughout the nation entered this year's inventory. The panel reviews accomplishments and programs designed to reduce pedestrian accidents. Cities are evaluated in comparison to others of similar population size.

Awards and citations are presented to cities and states based on low pedestrian death and injury rates for 1992 and on accident prevention programs which are evaluated in seven key areas--accident records, safety legislation, enforcement, traffic engineering, traffic safety organization, school safety programs, and public information.

Merriam was judged along with 864 other cities in the 10,000-25,000 population group, and Merriam had a pedestrian death rate of 0.0 per one hundred thousand people compared to its population group's rate of 1.3.

Merriam's low death and injury rates and having had no pedestrian deaths for the past 6 years has earned Merriam this award.



## INVESTIGATIONS UNIT SUMMARY

Compiled by Lt. Bill Lietzke

The Merriam Police Investigations Unit is made up of two full-time investigators and a Unit Supervisor. In addition to the full-time investigators there are 4 other regular officers that have been specially trained to fill in as investigators and to assist with crime scene call-out situations.

In 1993, the Investigations Unit investigated 692 cases. Of those cases, 291 were cleared with an arrest or by exception. This translates to a 42% clearance rate.

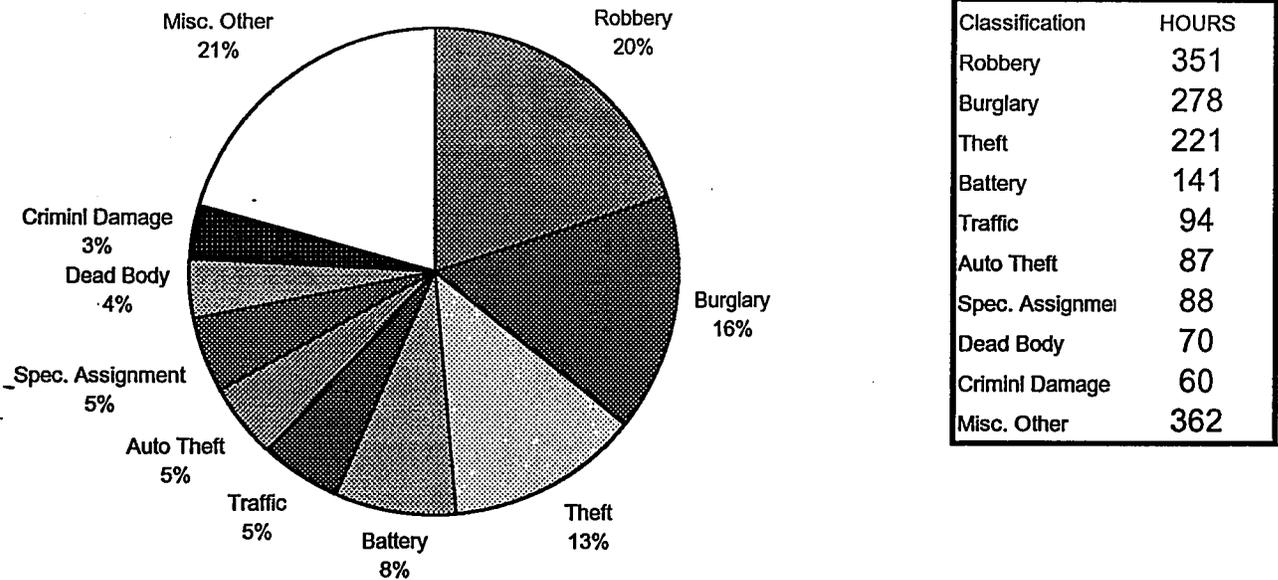
The investigators were also called out a total of 42 times and totaled 159 hours of overtime on follow-up investigations.

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1993

Of the 692 cases followed up by the Investigative Unit, there were:

57	BATTERIES	6	MISSING PERSONS
110	BURGLARIES	4	TRAFFIC CASES
13	DEAD BODIES	29	DISORDERLY CONDUCTS
19	ROBBERIES	5	NARCOTICS CASES
31	VEHICLE THEFTS	3	FAMILY OFFENSES
4	RAPES	7	FORGERIES
1	ARSON CASE	1	FRAUD CASE
20	ASSAULTS	1	LIQUOR VIOLATION
34	HIT AND RUN ACCIDENTS	2	STALKING CASES
38	TELEPHONE HARASSMENTS	6	TRESPASSING CASES
14	SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS		

## Investigation Manhours by Crime



### MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE UNIT

The Investigative Unit has improved its effectiveness by adding the following items:

- ⇒ **Personal evidence kits for every call-out person.** This insured every officer has the proper equipment, and that it is in working order at all times.
- ⇒ **Computerized Identi-Kit.** By replacing the standard kit with a computerized version, we can now produce more life-like composites in a shorter period of time. This can be crucial in identifying suspects in shorter periods of time.
- ⇒ **Hand held portable phone.** The addition of this phone allowed greater freedom and safety for the investigators. It was also used to set up an on-site command post during several investigations.

- ⇒ **Personal computers for all investigators.** All investigators now have been issued personal computers to better organize their case loads and give them the ability to type the majority of their reports.
- ⇒ **Complete follow-up of all vehicles stolen in Merriam.** By adding this to our duties, we were better able to track the 57 vehicles stolen during the year. This function had earlier been done by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office.

## **TRAINING RECEIVED BY THE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

In addition to the state mandated 40 hours of training, the officers that are assigned to the Investigations Unit received 166 hours of investigative training. The attendance of these seminars and courses directly improved the quality of the unit. In 1993, the training included:

- ⇒ A seminar on crime scene photography attended by Lt. Lietzke, Sgt. Smith and Investigator Burnett.
- ⇒ A seminar on managing a crime scene attended by Lt. Lietzke and Sgt. Smith.
- ⇒ A seminar on auto thefts and frauds attended by Sgt. Smith.
- ⇒ A class on child sexual abuse attended by Investigator Burnett, Officer Al Jones and Lori Victorine
- ⇒ A death investigation seminar attended by Investigator Burnett, Officer Jones and Officer Victorine
- ⇒ The Identi-Kit class attended by Investigator Burnett and Officer Bob Schluben
- ⇒ A command development course attended by Lt. Lietzke.

### **NOTEWORTHY AND HIGH PROFILE CASES IN 1993**

1. April 3, 1993     Investigators were called to the scene of an aggravated battery at 75th and I-35. The victim was shot twice with a 25 cal. handgun. Their investigation revealed a suspect who subsequently confessed.
2. April 12, 1993     A robbery victim was found dead in his residence in the 8800 block of 48th Street. The entire Investigative Unit responded and did the initial investigation. The case was later turned over to the Metro Squad. Suspects were developed and charged with robbery and aggravated kidnapping.

3. April 26, 1993 A series of apartment storage locker burglaries were reported involving three apartment complexes in Merriam. Investigators developed three suspects and cleared six of the seven reported burglaries.
4. July 30, 1993 The suspicious death of an infant in the 9900 block of West 51st Terrace was investigated. After more than a solid week of investigation by three officers, it was determined that no foul play could be proven.
5. August 24, 1993 The investigation of seven residential burglaries at Georgetown Apartments led to the arrest of a maintenance man. The suspect had used a master key and had staged the scene to look as if forced entry had been used. All seven cases were cleared by the arrest.
6. August 31, 1993 Officers reported to Merriam Public Works and Owens Lumber concerning \$6,000 in criminal damage to property there. After several days of investigation, one adult and one juvenile suspect was developed. They were located, questioned, and later charged in District Court.
7. November 5, 1993 A string of lewd and lascivious incidents at the Shawnee Mission Medical Center was investigated by the unit. This case involved as least four child victims and spanned a time period of over a year. A long-term employee suspect was developed and charged in District Court. As a result of this investigation, the security conditions have been improved in the hospital's child day care department.
8. December 14, 1993 The rape of two 13-year-old girls in the 6900 block of Eby was reported to police. Investigators were called out. After a lengthy investigation, the case was forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review. A request was made to charge four suspects in this case. The final outcome is still pending.



## ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT SUMMARY

Statistics compiled by Officer Dave Thomas

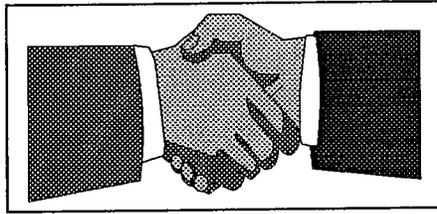
The Animal Control Unit consists of one full-time officer. His primary duty is to handle all animal related problems in the City of Merriam. In 1993, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) received 1,021 requests for service from citizens. The majority of these calls were handled during his normal 40 hour work week. However, he was called out on several occasions during the year to handle animal problems that were beyond the training and capability of the normal patrol officer. While the ACO was off-duty, the police department handled an additional 272 animal calls. The total number of animal related calls in 1993 were 1,293. This represents a 7.4% increase in requests for service over 1992.

During the past three years the overall role of the Animal Control Officer has changed. This officer is involved in many duties throughout the year that have nothing to do with the animal control function. This officer now is expected to assist with many clerical duties and can work in the front office when there is a need. He works as an alternate for school crossing guards when a regular guard can not work due to illness or other unexpected leave. He also helps out by running errands throughout the KC Metro Area to pick up equipment, deliver reports, etc.

In 1994, the Animal Control Officer will continue to serve in the same capacity as in 1993. He will also take a more active role in public education in the area of dog bite prevention and how to deal with the wild animal pest problems we have each year.

### ACTIVITY COMPARISON 1991-1992-1993

ACTIVITY	1991	1992	1993	Average
Service Requests	946	927	1021	964
Enforcement Actions	306	284	205	265
Animal Impounds	191	146	166	168
Investigations	1043	1090	1086	1073
Reports Written	793	784	642	740
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3279</b>	<b>3231</b>	<b>3120</b>	<b>3210</b>



## COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING - 1993

**INTRODUCTION:** During the fall of 1992, decisions were made to make a major change in the operational philosophy of the Merriam Police Department. As Chief, I began researching the COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING Philosophy, referred to as "COP". At the conclusion of my research it became apparent that the time was right for the City of Merriam to commit to a positive change to bring its policing operations into the "90's". Aggressive plans were made for the department's transition to the COP philosophy. In 1993, many very important strides were made in moving toward this new philosophy. The COP philosophy is very simple. It means:

- ◇ policing based on a set of established values which reflect beliefs clearly articulated to the community and throughout the department;
- ◇ a commitment to problem solving rather than simply responding to each incident as it is reported to the police;
- ◇ an increased focus on the city's neighborhoods as a basic level of police service delivery, moving away from specialization toward generalized police service delivery at the neighborhood level;
- ◇ getting the neighborhood and business communities involved in solving the problem of crime in their areas and sharing some of the responsibility for a solution of problems, not just leaving it up to the city to solve problems;
- ◇ increasing the accountability of the police to neighborhood residents; and
- ◇ involving and empowering police department employees at the lowest level of the department to problem solve. EVERYONE MUST BE INVOLVED.

The first step in this process was training. Training for the new philosophy began at the 1st Annual Merriam Police Department Meeting, held February 2, 1993. At this meeting, all members of the Police Department were present. The Community Oriented Policing philosophy was defined and discussed. Two

follow-up training sessions were also held in 1993. This initial training gave officers a clear understanding on what the new philosophy was all about.

During the first few months of 1993, the department made some changes in operations. These measures were aimed at giving officers more time to devote to positive public contacts. Officers were encouraged to get out of their patrol cars and meet the public that they are sworn to serve. The Daily Report Form was abolished and there was a reduced emphasis on department standards concerning traffic enforcement and unnecessary report writing.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As the Chief of Police, I placed a greater importance on making personal public appearances.

- ◇ In March, I gave a Neighborhood Watch Meeting at the Merriam Community Center for the Milburn West Homes Association.
- ◇ In April, I attended the Annual Meeting of the Antioch Hills Homes Association where I introduced myself and talked about Community Oriented Policing.
- ◇ In July, I spoke at the Merriam Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on the topic of Community Oriented Policing. This luncheon was attended by over 70 persons from the business community.
- ◇ In August, I spoke to four separate groups of concerned citizens during the Annual Night Out Against Crime.
- ◇ In September, I spoke to several Merriam citizens from the Edelweiss area and formed a new Neighborhood Watch Group.

One of the basic components of Community Oriented Policing is total officer involvement. Each officer is encouraged to get out of the car and meet the public. To facilitate this interchange between the officers and the citizens, officers were assigned to represent the police department at several citizen gatherings throughout the year.

During the summer months, different officers were assigned to attend the various Merriam block parties. Their presence at these functions showed residents that the officers care about the citizens. Officer involvement will continue in the years to come. The block party locations are listed below:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◇ 50th Terrace and Farley | ◇ New Milburn West        |
| ◇ 6500 Mastin             | ◇ Sherwood Forest         |
| ◇ Brookhaven Townhouses   | ◇ 47th Terrace and Carter |
| ◇ Antioch Hills           |                           |

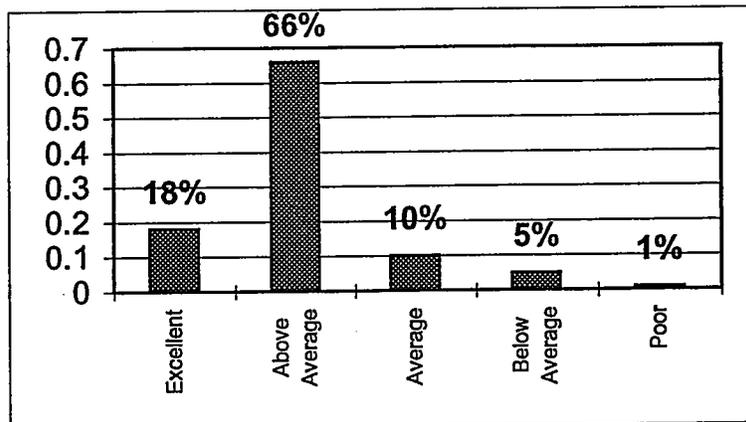
## **BUSINESS CHECK SURVEY** (GETTING THE BUSINESSES INVOLVED)

At the beginning of March, the Merriam Police Department started a new activity called the MERRIAM BUSINESS SURVEY PROJECT. I constructed a survey form that asked the business owners or managers what they thought about their police department. Each patrol officer, working the day and evening shifts, were assigned to go into the businesses and make contact with the owners or managers. They were instructed to introduce themselves, explain the COP philosophy and explain that they were there to make a public relations contact. They were encouraged to complete and mail in the form so that the department could get an ideal of how it is viewed by the business community. Printed on the reverse side of the survey form was information concerning the basic principles of Community Oriented Policing.

At the end of 1993, 477 businesses in all had been contacted by a Merriam Officer. Of the businesses contacted, 160 surveys were returned. The surveys were tabulated and the results are charted below:

### **BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS**

Excellent	0.18
Above Average	0.66
Average	0.1
Below Average	0.05
Poor	0.01



This program has proven to be a major success in the transition toward Community Oriented Policing. The general feelings of trust and confidence from the business community has improved greatly. Many positive comments were listed on the surveys received. This program was completed in 1993 and will be repeated again in 1995.

## **TURKEY CREEK FESTIVAL**

Merriam officers were again involved in the Turkey Creek Festival. In 1993, the department took a larger role in community awareness. More information was made available to the general public at the festival. This year

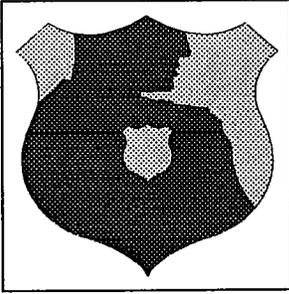
we tried to change our image with the community. There were some changes in the uniforms worn by officers during the festival. The uniform of the day was navy blue shorts and tennis-style pull-over shirts. This change allowed the officer to be more comfortable while working. Firearms were not worn as the officer's main function was crowd and traffic control. Many positive comments were received by citizens concerning the uniform change, bringing about a friendlier appearance. It also improved officer morale concerning working the festival.

## **GOALS FOR 1994**

In 1994, the Merriam Police Department will focus on the neighborhoods. The core neighborhoods will be identified and placed into groups based primarily on location. The department will start a communications process to identify any problems that may be present or perceived. In one neighborhood the problem may be junk vehicles being stored illegally, while in another neighborhood the problem may be congregating juveniles or recent criminal activity. Each area will be viewed separately. Neighborhood Watch Groups will be established where possible. Some work will be done with established neighborhood associations. The department may also do some survey work to determine if a problem or perception is present.

During 1994, the department will continue refining operations to improve police service. Routine operations will be examined to see if changes are needed or if police emphasis should be changed to other areas of importance.

There will be continued training on the COP philosophy. All employees will be encouraged to interact with the public as much as possible. Increased public profile will be stressed.



## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Community Involvement through contact and crime prevention is an important function of any police department. In 1993, the Merriam Police Department took a more active role in crime prevention. This was done in concert with the Community Oriented Policing philosophy.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OFFICER**

One of the Department Goals in 1993 was to expand the role of the D.A.R.E. Officer. The duties of this officer were increased to include crime prevention. In July, the D.A.R.E. Officer attended a week long school on Crime Prevention at the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. This school is considered by most to be the finest in the world. When he returned he was assigned to formulate an active crime prevention unit. This function would be done during those times when he is not engaged in his assignment as D.A.R.E. Officer.

### **BUSINESS SECURITY SURVEYS**

In August, the Community Involvement Officer set up a Business Security Survey Program and began making contact with businesses in Merriam that had previously requested suggestions and advice on how they could increase the physical security of their buildings to prevent crimes such as thefts, burglaries and robberies. In 1993, Officer Birt conducted **45** business surveys. In each case the business areas were inspected. A complete written report of survey findings were delivered to the owner or manager of each business with intent of convincing them to increase the security of their businesses. The purpose of this program is to serve the business community and to take a proactive approach at reducing the crime rate. This program, so far, has been very well received by the business community and has strengthened community relations.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

Two new Merriam Neighborhood Watch Programs were established in 1993. In March, a meeting was set up at the Merriam Community Center for the Milburn West Homes Association. In September, a large group from the Edelweiss Homes Association met at the Edelweiss Club House. Both groups received a two-hour program concerning how to make neighborhoods safer. At the end of the meetings the groups decided to become involved in the program. There will be a major effort to expand and refine this program in 1994. Many of the existing Neighborhood Watch Programs will be reactivated. New neighborhoods will be contacted, for the first time in some cases. Getting the citizens actively involved in reporting suspicious activity should have a positive effect of reducing crime in residential neighborhoods. This is an important step to reduce the possibility of neighborhood deterioration due to criminal incursion.

## **BUSINESS AND PERSONAL SECURITY SEMINARS**

In 1993, Merriam Officers spoke to specific groups about security:

- ◇ In January, a group of clerical employees from Shawnee Mission Medical Secretaries Association were instructed in personal safety by Sgt. Steve Haynes.
- ◇ In February, Sgt. Haynes was contacted and asked to give a similar presentation to the Kansas City Area Emergency Room Admitting Nurses Association. This presentation was made at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.
- ◇ In April, Sgt. Syd Tubbs gave a robbery prevention presentation to the management of the Metro Area Perkin's Restaurants.
- ◇ In July, Officer Todd Sparks addressed a group of elderly residents at Trinity Lutheran Nursing Home concerning criminal activity and personal safety.

In 1994, more officers will get involved in making community presentations.

## **VACATION HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM**

For many years, the Merriam Police Department has had a Vacation House Watch Program. When a citizen goes on vacation they can complete a House Watch Request Form which lists the dates they will be gone, with other pertinent information such as emergency contact numbers, a list of who is supposed to be on the property, etc.

In 1993, we received 81 requests for Vacation House Watch. Under the house watch agreement a Merriam Officer makes a physical inspection of the residence at least once a day while the citizen is gone. The purpose of the program is to increase police presence in the area and to give residents an added measure of comfort while they are gone.

This has been a successful program in the past. 1993 was the first year the department started keeping track of the number of requests.



## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Compiled with the assistance of Officer Larry Birt

1993 marked the fourth year of involvement by the Merriam Police Department. From January through July, this program was primarily funded by a state drug grant. In July this funding abruptly ended as the grant was not renewed by the state. Although this funding was lost, it was decided that the D.A.R.E. Program would be continued through the 1993/1994 school year.

### PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Project D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Its primary goal is to prevent substance abuse among children. This will be accomplished through the following objectives:

- ◇ ***To equip students with skills to resist experimenting with drugs.***
- ◇ ***To help students develop self-esteem.***
- ◇ ***To teach positive alternatives to substance abuse.***
- ◇ ***To develop student skills in risk assessment and decision making.***
- ◇ ***To develop "life skills" in a positive manner.***

Police Officer Larry Birt is currently assigned as the D.A.R.E. Officer. While wearing full uniform, he conducts a series of structured classes in all four of Merriam's Elementary Schools. The sixth grade is the primary target of the D.A.R.E. Program and each sixth grader receives 17 weeks of instruction. Studies have proven that children are most commonly faced with tough decisions about drug and alcohol use during their sixth or seventh grades. The D.A.R.E. mission is to give these children as much information as possible prior to or during this time to increase their chances of making the right choices.

Officer Birt spends nearly four days a week in the schools, teaching classes, attending recesses and eating lunch with the children. He also attends various Parent Teacher Association Meetings as well as other meetings with teachers and school officials.

## **1993 D.A.R.E. ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

In 1993, many things happened with the D.A.R.E. Program. With the loss of state funding, the program will be more dependent on support from local donations. Each year, local businesses have assisted in paying for some of the aspects of the program that were not covered by the grant. In 1993, the D.A.R.E. Program received \$1300 from private sources. The largest donation was from the Eagles Club of Overland Park, Kansas, who donated \$1,000. In addition to monetary donations the Police Department receives assistance from sponsoring businesses through food donations, prize donations or the use of business facilities for D.A.R.E. parties, etc.

This past year, Officer Larry Birt made weekly visits to more than 40 classrooms (Kindergarten through 6th grade) and to more than 1,150 students from South Park, Merriam, Crestview and West Antioch Elementary Schools. From the four schools more than 170 sixth grade students graduated from the program. The graduation ceremony is held in the schools where each graduate receives a certificate, D.A.R.E. tee shirt and mug, along with some other items. In May, the Police Department with the assistance of Merriam's Skateworld hosted a skating party for D.A.R.E. graduates. Over 130 graduates were in attendance. Pizza was provided and the entire evening was offered, free of charge, to reward them for their hard work during the class.

During the summer months, the Merriam Police Department sponsored four summer clinics for kids in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. Each individual clinic ran for one week and was offered free of charge in hopes of drawing those kids from families that could not afford to pay a fee.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE SUMMER CLINICS**

- *to give area kids something to do during the summer in a structured environment;*
- *to teach them a new skill or enhance a skill they already have and therefore help to build their self-esteem;*
- *to build on the relationship between the D.A.R.E. Officer and the students; and*
- *to teach them that there are alternatives to getting involved in any form of delinquent behavior.*

The clinics offered in 1993 were soccer, basketball, volleyball and Tae Kwan Do Karate. More than 60 kids were involved in these clinics. The Police Department also received much appreciated help from the Community Center and Fire Department Staff and Karate Instructor, John M. Polk.

As in past years the D.A.R.E. Officer has been involved in training seminars concerning updates in the program and new teaching techniques. Continuing education plays an important part in the success of the D.A.R.E. Program in Merriam. During 1993, Officer Birt attended meetings of local D.A.R.E. Officers and with educators within the school district. He also participated in both the National and Kansas D.A.R.E. Conferences.

### **D.A.R.E. PARENT PROGRAM**

During the summer of 1993, the Merriam Police Department had the opportunity to send another D.A.R.E. Trained Officer, Sergeant Syd Tubbs, to receive free training in Illinois concerning the D.A.R.E. Parent Program. During this week-long school, Sgt. Tubbs learned how to instruct a special course to the parents of D.A.R.E. students. Parents are invited to spend two hours a week in classes for five weeks to learn how to help their children maintain a drug-free childhood. This course is designed to work in concert with the standard D.A.R.E. student curriculum so that a full benefit of drug abuse awareness is in the family and not just at the student level. Parents also learn about building self-esteem, listening and communications skills, peer pressure among kids, media messages, drug and drug paraphernalia recognition and about area resources to help those who already have a problem.

Merriam is the first area department to offer this course for parents. The first in a series of parenting classes is scheduled to begin in February of 1994 with other sessions planned throughout the year, depending on the level of interest.

### **D.A.R.E. ESSAY CONTEST**

Each year the sixth grade class is asked to write an essay or poem that relates what they feel about what was learned in the D.A.R.E. class that year. On the following two pages, are examples of student essays or poems. These were selected as the best from each school in Merriam.

## SOUTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

What D.A.R.E. Has Done For Me  
By Kelly Lange

D.A.R.E. - four little letters that represent four huge important words. Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Drugs are a problem all over the country. Kids are faced with drugs every day of their lives. What is that called - Peer Pressure.

D.a.r.e. has taught me about many kinds of pressure and how to say NO! No is a very simple word to say but kids, teenagers, and adults have trouble saying it every day. And those situations don't necessarily involve drugs or alcohol. Many things are hard to say no to.

Drugs are very harmful to your body if taken in the wrong way. If you take a prescription from you're doctor the wrong way you could harm you're body. That's why it is important to always read how often to take a medicine, what is the dosage and so on. It is all so important not to take any thing given to you by some one you don't know or trust.

Drugs and alcohol are two very misused items. In D.a.r.e. we have learned about the risks of drunk driving, and how many people you can hurt by having one to many drinks. D.a.r.e. is a very important program that teaches us kids that one little word that is sometimes hard to say, NO! I am very thank full I have learned about the risks of drugs and alcohol when misused. I'm glad people in the future will learn about them to.

## WEST ANTIOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHY DO PEOPLE DO DRUGS?  
By Amy Meyer

You're a jerk they say  
If you run away -  
Why do people do drugs?

All I do is sigh  
When I want to break down and cry -  
Why do people do drugs?

My stomach does a turn  
When I hear my sister's terrible yearn  
Why do people do drugs?

Should I tell my mother and father  
Or should I not even bother -  
Why do people do drugs?

My sister just died  
All my mom says is "Why, oh why?"  
Why do people do drugs?

What's done is done  
You cannot run -  
Why do people do drugs?

## CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### MY NAME IS COCAINE

By Ashleigh Rice

My name is cocaine "Coke" for short.  
I came into this country with out a passport.  
Every since then I've been hunted and sought,  
By junkies, pushers, and plain clothed cops,  
But mostly by users who want to forget,  
All their problems, and must admit  
I'm more valued than diamonds and more precious than gold.  
You won't care for your life once I take hold.  
Then came D.A.R.E. and you didn't really care.  
You turned me down, and ban me from your life,  
You've found other ways to deal with the strife.  
My slaves all called you chicken,  
But with D.A.R.E. on your side,  
You gave me a lickin'.  
You said I was junk,  
And my friend was a punk.  
Because of D.A.R.E. you betrayed me.  
It's because of D.A.R.E. I am told,  
That over your life I have no control.  
In every way I've been deceived  
So it is now that I will leave.

## MERRIAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### "What D.A.R.E. Has Done for Me."

By Abigail Mitchell

I promise to say no to drugs. Saying no to drugs is not an easy thing to do, especially in my generation. The fight against drugs is growing stronger every day. I thought I knew all about drugs and how they can effect you, but thanks to D.A.R.E., I learned that was just the beginning. D.A.R.E. has helped me feel more confident about saying no, and I myself know that there is always an alternative. I know from personal experience that a life with someone who is addicted to alcohol is not the kind of life that anyone would want to live. One of my close relatives was addicted to alcohol at one time. I was many times very afraid of this person. I wish that there was something to do to change the past, but there isn't. The only thing left to do is face the future and learn from the past. I feel fully prepared to face whatever challenges come my way, and I am sure that I will be faced with more than just one in my life. Growing up, I will make many changes and have many problems, but one problem I will never have is a drug problem, because drugs are more than just a problem, they are like buying yourself a one way ticket to the end of your life!