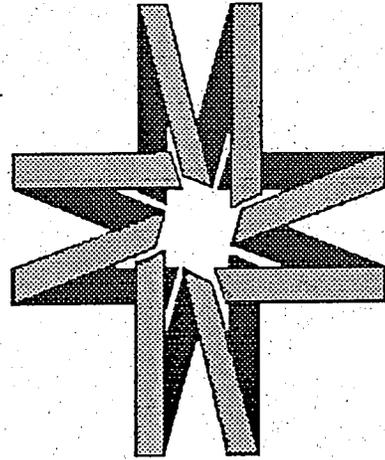
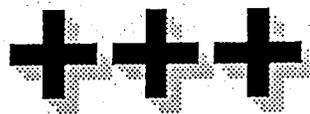


# 1994



# Merriam Police Department



# Annual Report

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# INTRODUCTION



The City of Merriam has proven in recent years that it is a progressively managed community. Major steps have been taken in 1994 to insure the cities continued economic growth while at the same time improving the quality of life for city residents and businesses.

It is no secret that the City of Merriam offers a high quality level of service to its citizens. This success is due to two factors; (1) the city employees committment to excellence; and (2) the high degree of dedication and support they receive from the Mayor and City Council.

This document was compiled and organized by Chief Kenneth Sissom. It has been written to chronicle the 1994 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.

**NOTE:**

The Mission Statement and Organization Values were developed by a committee of Merriam Police Officers with the assistance of a group of concerned citizens.

June / 1993

# 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 the 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 of 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.

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## 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.

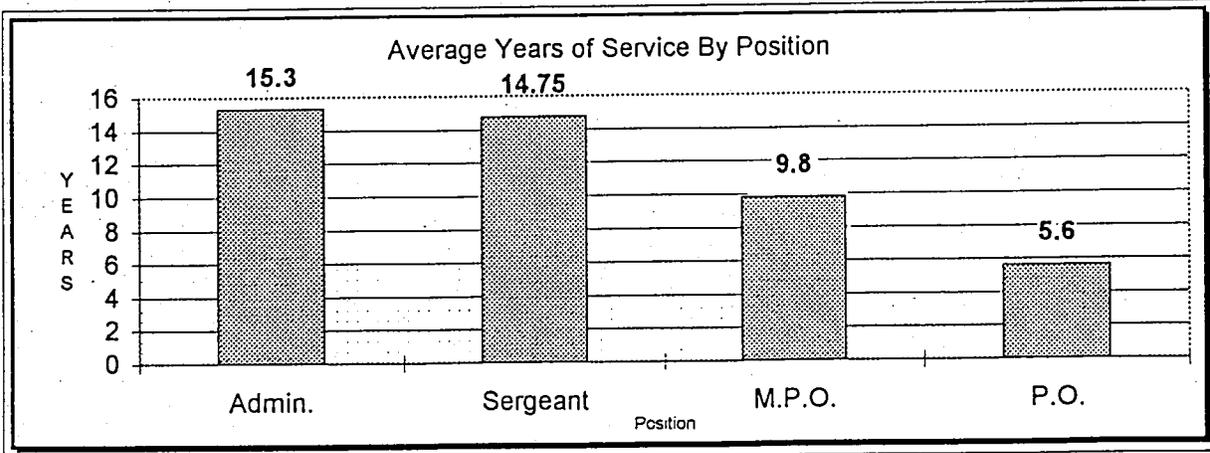
I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...

law enforcement.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER 12/31/94			
RANK	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	TENURE
Chief of Police	KENNETH SISSOM	Administration	15
Lieutenant	BILL LIETZKE	Administration	14
Sergeant	BOB SMITH	Administration	17
Sergeant	SYD TUBBS	Patrol	15
Sergeant	STEVE HAYNES	Patrol	14
Sergeant	RANDY DAVIS	Patrol	13
Average tenure for Sergeants =			14.75
Master Police Officer	TIM BURNETT	Investigations	12
Master Police Officer	AL JONES	Investigations	11
Master Police Officer	DAN KELLERMAN	Patrol	10
Master Police Officer	JOAN HUETTENMUELLER	Patrol	9
Master Police Officer	MIKE DANIELS	Patrol	7
Average tenure for M.P.O.s =			9.8
Police Officer	CHARLIE YOCUM	Patrol	17
Police Officer	BILL TROUT	Patrol	11
Police Officer	JEFF MAGEE	Patrol	7
Police Officer	LARRY BIRT	D.A.R.E.	6
Police Officer	LORI VICTORINE	Patrol	6
Police Officer	DARREN MCLAUGHLIN	Patrol	5
Police Officer	CHARLIE SWEANY	Patrol	4
Police Officer	TODD SPARKS	Patrol	4
Police Officer	BOB SCHLUBEN	Patrol	4
Police Officer	GAVIN RUDDY	Patrol	3
Police Officer	GERRY EICKHOFF	Patrol	3
Police Officer	DAVE MELTON	Patrol	2
Police Officer	TOM LYNCH	Patrol	Less than 1
Average tenure for P.O.s =			5.6
Animal Control Officer	DAVE THOMAS	Animal Control	7
Information Specialist 2	LISA ALDRICH	Clerical	3
Information Specialist 2	KAREN GIBSON	Clerical	2
Part time			
Information Specialist 1	TRINA CANADY	Clerical	less than 1





## ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

In 1994, the Merriam Police Department continued in increasing the level of public service access by the community. In addition to the "basic level" of police service, the department also provides vacation house watches, fingerprinting, and conducts security survey services for Merriam residents and businesses. This year we also became responsible for conducting records checks on Merriam residents for area firearms dealers as mandated by the Federal Brady Bill (*116 checks since March 1*).

During the year, more emphasis was placed on making positive personal contacts with Merriam citizens than any other year in the history of the department; officers attended block parties, four new neighborhood watch areas were formed and a series of free classes were offered to the public, covering anti-crime and personal safety issues. It has been a successful year for the police department.

**PATROL ACTIVITY-** During 1994 the Merriam Police Department responded to **17,922** calls for service. This accounts for a 1% decrease from 1993. On the average the Merriam Police responded to a request for service every **29** minutes. In researching the call flow, the year has been assessed as typical. The busiest months were March-April and July-August. This has been consistent with past years.

A year end study has shown a **5.8%** increase in Part One crimes, which is an indication that the statistics are returning to "normal" (*NOTE: Last year's statistics were at the lowest level in 10 years*).

Report writing continues to take up a large share of the police officers' time. In 1994 officers spent **2,574.4** hours writing police reports. This equates to over **7** hours of writing, per day. The police department is currently studying ways to reduce the amount of time spent on report writing through new computer and radio technology.

**PERSONNEL-** The Merriam Police Department started the year with two openings. In January, Tom Lynch was hired as a probationary police officer. He successfully completed the police academy and the Field Training Program and was assigned to a regular shift in July.

Jenni Smith was hired as a part-time Information Specialist I. She resigned in May and was replaced by Trina Canady in August. Trina is also a full-time employee, working evenings with the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department as a clerical worker assigned to the Investigations Division.

During the year, two officers were injured on duty:

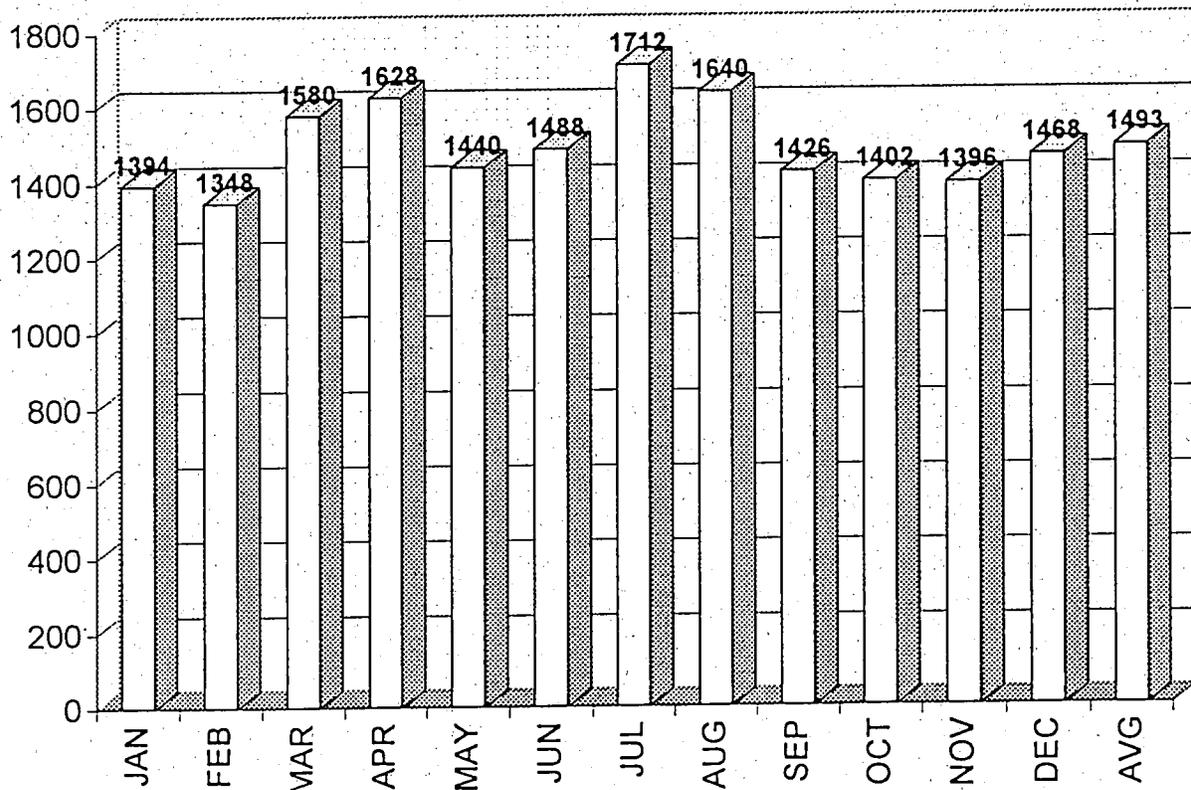
Officer Bob Schluben was attending some training on bicycle patrol techniques when he had an accident and broke his arm.

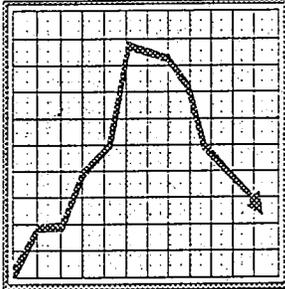
Sgt. Syd Tubbs was searching for a burglar in the attic of a residence and fell through the ceiling and into a stairwell below. He suffered a back injury.

Both officers recovered and are now back on the job.

**DEATH INVESTIGATIONS-** Death investigations are very critical functions of any police department. During 1994, the department investigated nine unattended deaths (*this is a reduction from 13 investigated in 1993*). Of these, six were natural deaths, one death case was attributed to an accidental overdose of prescribed medication, one death was due to an apartment fire and the remaining death was classified as a suicide.

### CALLS FOR SERVICE - 1994





## ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS

Each January, the media reports annual crime statistics. Yearly comparisons are made along with comments or assumptions on what is believed to have caused the fluctuation in "crime rates". Many times, 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, in 1988 our department began a change in policy with regard to handling domestic violence situations. Prior to that, officers would commonly resolve family disturbances by separating the couple for the night. Under the new policy, when there is evidence that a crime has occurred an arrest is required. Consequently, the next year the department experienced an increase in the number of reported batteries and arrests. Did this mean that there is more crime in Merriam? No -- the crimes are simply being properly reported and acted upon.

### WHY DO WE COLLECT CRIME STATISTICS?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation requires that police departments keep track of certain classifications of crimes. These are called **PART ONE CRIMES**. They are considered the most serious or commonly occurring crimes in the United States. Part One crimes include:

**MURDER, RAPE, ROBBERY, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT,  
BURGLARY, THEFT, and ARSON**

**During 1994 there were 786 Part One crimes reported to the Merriam Police Department. This represents a 5.8% increase over 1993.**

While the crime rate in 1994 indicates an increase over the previous year, it is important to realize that the 1993 Part One crime rate was the lowest rate in the past 10 years in Merriam.

**ARRESTS**

During 1994, Merriam Officers made 1,001 arrests. This represents 8% decrease over 1993. The predominate reason for this decrease is due to the fact that less emphasis was being placed, department wide on D.U.I. enforcement, giving more time for Community Oriented Policing functions.

(D.U.I. Arrests 1993 = 273 / D.U.I. Arrests 1994 = 190)

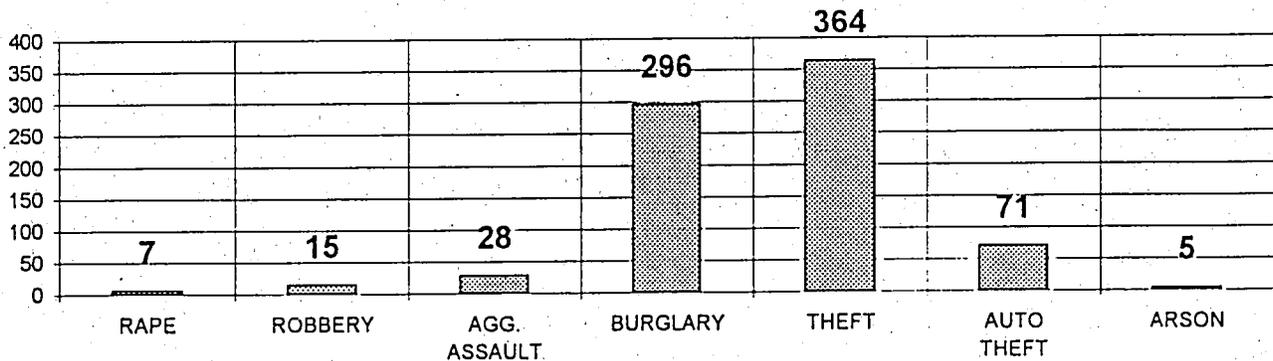
Of the 1001 arrest, 92 or 9% were felony arrests and 71 or 7% were arrests that were connected with domestic violence situations. It should also be noted that 428 persons (43% of the total 1994 arrests) were arrested for having outstanding warrants.

**1993 vs. 1994**

When taken as a whole, there is little difference in the crime picture, comparing this year with the last. When making a comparison with the past five years, the 1994 crime rates are still below average. Significant reductions were observed in two categories of violent persons crimes. They include robbery and aggravated robbery. In 1993, robberies had shown a 32% increase over 1992. A dedicated effort was made to reduce business and street robberies through aggressive patrol tactics. It is hoped that this effort contributed to the 21% decrease in 1994.

The types of crimes that have shown significant increases include aggravated battery, burglary to auto, business burglary and auto thefts.

1994 Part 1 Crime Breakdown

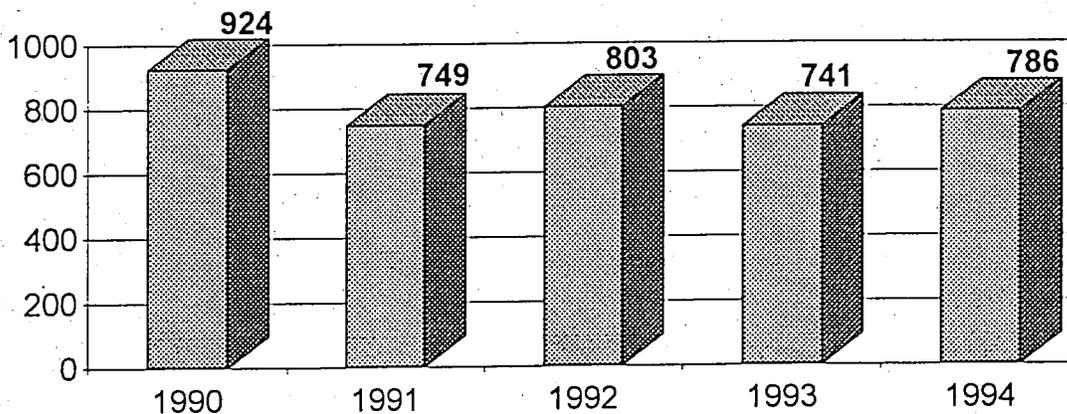


<b>CRIMINAL CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>Difference 93/94</b>
Murder	1	0	0	0%
Rape	2	6	7	14%
Robbery	9	5	4	-20%
Agg. Robbery	4	14	11	-27%
Agg. Assault	21	25	13	-48%
Agg. Battery	19	10	15	50%
Burglary / Auto	156	129	173	15%
Burglary / Residence	66	63	62	1%
Burglary / Business	28	34	40	15%
Burglary / Storage	18	25	8	-68%
Agg. Burglary / Residence	21	10	12	12%
Agg. Burglary / Business	1	2	1	-50%
Theft over \$500	58	65	74	12%
Theft under \$500	335	287	288	less than 1%
Possession Stolen Propert	8	7	2	-71%
Auto Theft	52	57	71	19%
Arson	3	2	4	100%
Agg. Arson	1	0	1	100%
<b>TOTAL CRIME</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>5.80%</b>

**PART ONE CRIMES AS REPORTED TO THE KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

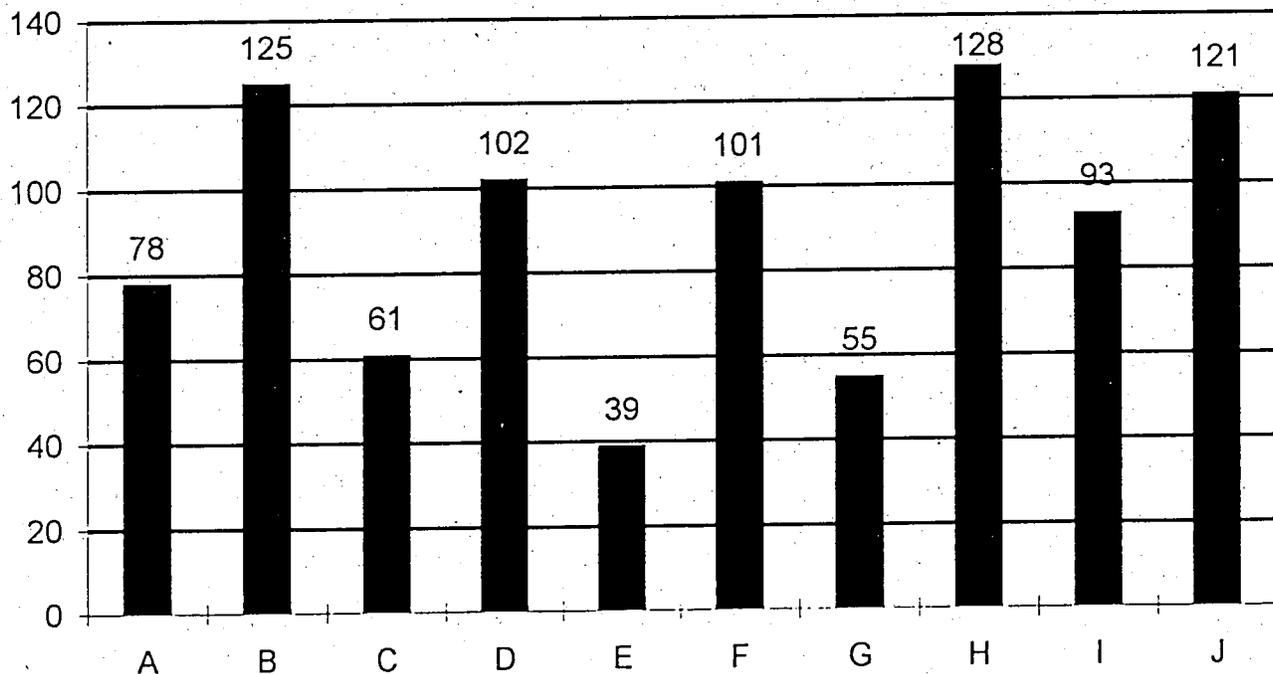
NOTE: THE 1992/1993 PART ONE CRIME FIGURES WILL BE LOWER THAN ORIGINALLY REPORTED.  
SIMPLE BATTERIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THESE FIGURES AS THEY ARE NOT RECOGNIZED  
AS PART ONE CRIMES BY THE K.B.I. OR F.B.I.

**PART ONE CRIMES / PAST 5 YEARS**

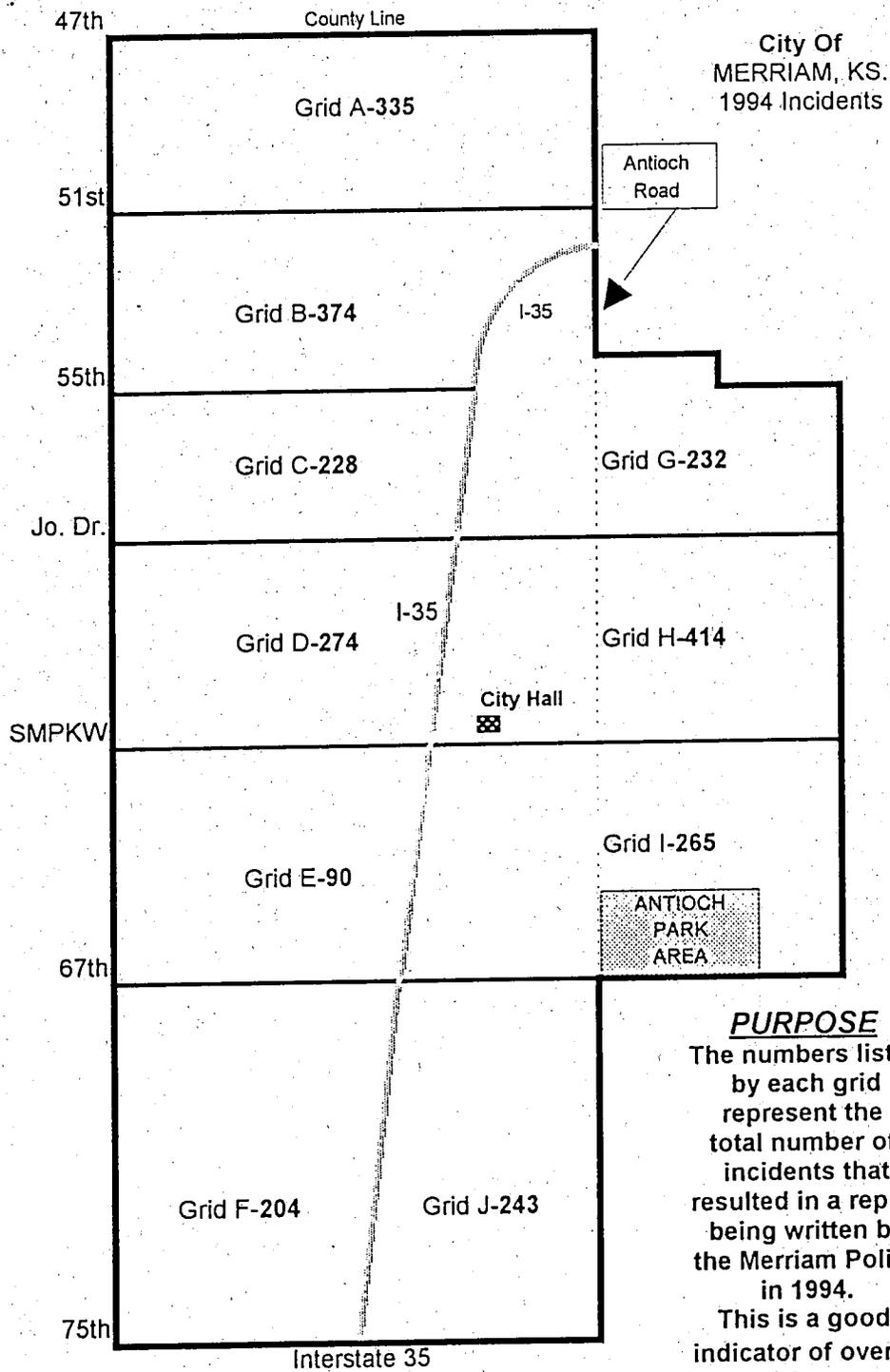


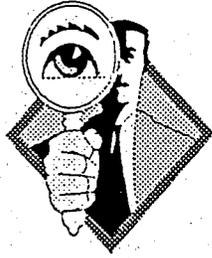
<b>CRIME</b>	<b>GRID A</b>	<b>GRID B</b>	<b>GRID C</b>	<b>GRID D</b>	<b>GRID E</b>	<b>GRID F</b>	<b>GRID G</b>	<b>GRID H</b>	<b>GRID I</b>	<b>GRID J</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
BURGLARY - AUTO	11	16	13	19	3	27	11	26	34	13	173
BURGLARY - RESIDENCE	13	6	5	3	1	12	6	1	4	12	63
BURGLARY - BUSINESS	2	10	6	9	1	2	1	4	1	4	40
BURGLARY - STORAGE	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	8
AGG. BURGLARY - RESIDENCE	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	1	3	12
AGG. BURGLARY - BUSINESS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
THEFT OVER \$500	5	13	7	9	4	5	5	13	6	7	74
THEFT UNDER \$500	20	41	11	29	23	31	16	31	53	33	288
POSS. STOLEN PROPERTY	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
THEFT OF AUTO	2	14	8	9	3	5	2	13	11	4	71
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERT	21	25	11	20	4	14	12	37	16	11	171
<b>TOTALS BY GRID</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>903</b>

**PROPERTY CRIMES BY GRID - 1994**



# 1994 MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT





# 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 four other regular officers that have been specially trained to fill in as investigators and to assist with crime scene call-out situations.

In 1994 the Investigations Unit investigated **504** cases. Of those cases, 233 were cleared with an arrest or by exception. This translates to a **46%** clearance rate (up from **42%** in 1993).

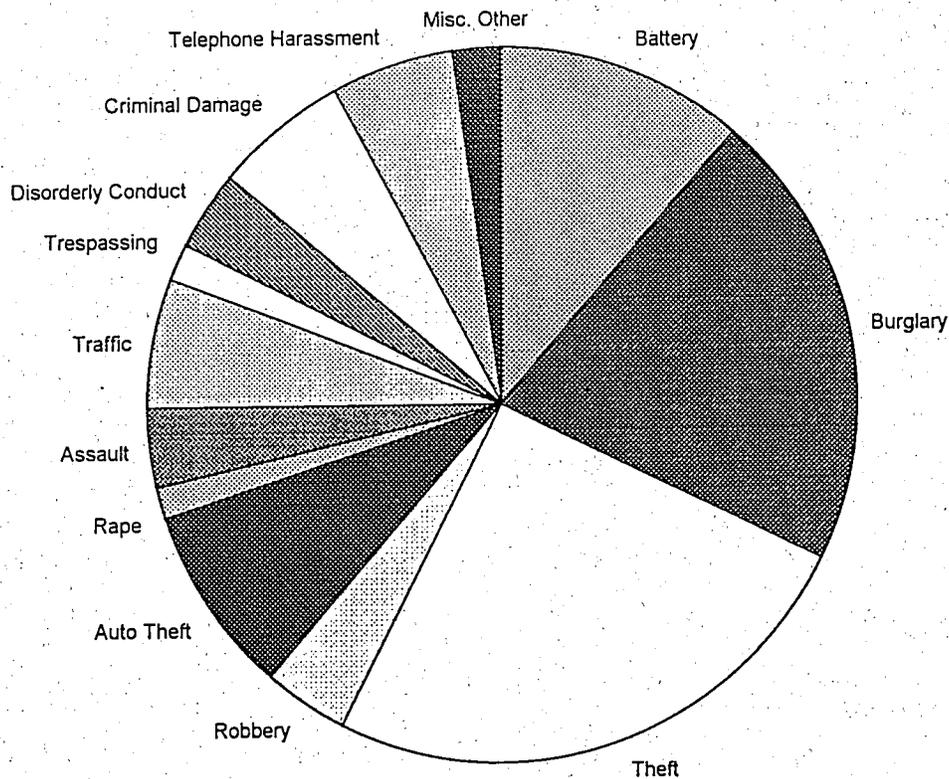
The investigators were also called out a total of 20 times and they worked 91 hours of overtime on follow-up investigations. 1994 was the first full year where assistant investigators were used. Because there were more officers with this special training, the number of off-duty call-outs were reduced by **52%** and overtime by **43%**.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1994

Of the 504 cases followed up by the Investigative Unit, there were:

54	BATTERIES	3	MISSING PERSONS
100	BURGLARIES	8	TRAFFIC CASES
121	THEFTS	2	STALKING CASES
18	ROBBERIES	2	NARCOTICS CASES
41	VEHICLE THEFTS	8	TRESPASSING CASES
7	RAPES	17	DISORDERLY CONDUCTS
2	ARSON CASES	29	CRIMINAL DAMAGES
18	ASSAULTS	26	TELEPHONE HARASSMENTS
20	HIT AND RUN ACCIDENTS	2	SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

## Types of Crimes Investigated by Percentage



### UNIT TRAINING INCREASES EFFECTIVENESS

In order to give continued professional service, the Investigative Unit received the following training:

Investigator Tim Burnett received on-the-job training as a LEAD OFFICER for the Kansas City Area Metro Squad. This has given him a greater understanding of how major investigations are organized. He will get the opportunity to be a lead officer at some future Metro Squad case.

Investigator Al Jones attended the Reid Interview School, which is a 40 hour course that teaches a professional and effective technique of interviewing. This technique has been used in our department for the past few years with great results.

Lt. Bill Lietzke, the Unit Commander attended a seminar hosted by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation concerning the new laws on property seizures and forfeitures.

Lt. Bill Lietzke and Investigator Al Jones attended a seminar concerning insurance fraud.

## NOTEWORTHY AND HIGH PROFILE CASES IN 1994

JANUARY 6TH, Sgt. Robert Smith investigated a street robbery in the 9900 block of 55th Street. Sgt. Smith obtained a confession from all four suspects involved.

JANUARY 25TH, Investigator Tim Burnett obtained a confession from a suspect involved in exposing himself to school girls in the 4900 block of Switzer. With this confession, Burnett cleared two Merriam cases and eight other cases throughout the Metropolitan area.

FEBRUARY 4TH, Investigators Al Jones and Tim Burnett spent a week investigating a non-fatal shooting of a resident of Kings Cove. A suspect was developed, charged and later convicted.

MARCH 17TH, Investigator Tim Burnett attended a Metro Squad investigation in Kansas City, Kansas. During this case, Burnett received his training as the lead officer for the Squad.

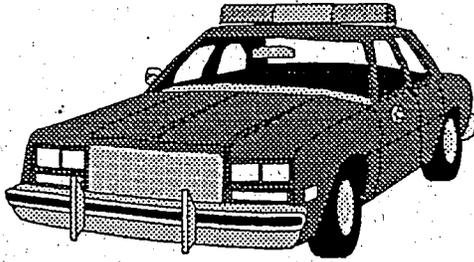
APRIL 22ND, A stolen television video crane valued at over \$50,000 was recovered by Investigator Al Jones due to his persistence. He had been looking for this property since the theft occurred at a Merriam Drive area business in December of 1993.

JUNE 10TH, Investigator Al Jones investigated a "drive-by" shooting in the 9100 block of West 49th Street. Nine shots were fired at an unoccupied house. As suspect was developed and later charged with the incident.

JULY 8TH, Investigator Al Jones investigated a street robbery in the 4800 block of Knox. A suspect was developed and later arrested by Officer Jones.

SEPTEMBER 7TH, Master Police Officer Mike Daniels was assigned to a Metro Squad murder case in Olathe, Kansas. A 14-year old suspect was arrested and later charged.

OCTOBER 20TH, Sgt. Robert Smith was assigned to assist the Metro Squad with a homicide in Edgerton, Kansas. A suspect was eventually charged with the killing.



## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

During 1994, 3,699 traffic tickets were issued by the police department. This represents a 39% decrease compared to 1993. There are two primary reasons for this decrease: a) loss of the traffic officer assignment; and b) a change in philosophy toward Community Oriented Policing. These reasons are explained below.

During ten months of 1993, we had an officer specifically assigned to traffic. This officer wrote over 1,000 tickets during these 12 months. In 1994 it became necessary to slightly change the department's structure. The traffic position was discontinued. In its place, a person was assigned to assist in facilitating many of the new components that will make Community Oriented Policing a success. This resulted in the citizens getting a higher level of service than ever before. Consequently, there was a reduction of overall traffic enforcement.

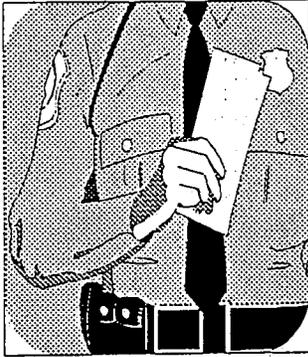
### **WHAT'S AHEAD IN 1995?**

**DIRECTED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:** In 1995 patrol officers will be assigned to attack specific problems as they are determined. Officers will be more accountable to their supervisors to address these problems as neighborhood problems. When time allows they will conduct directed traffic enforcement, which will include:

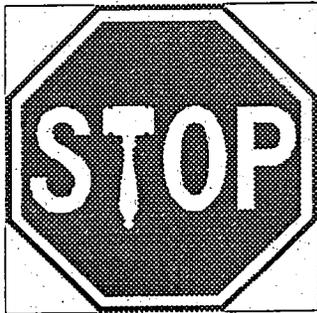
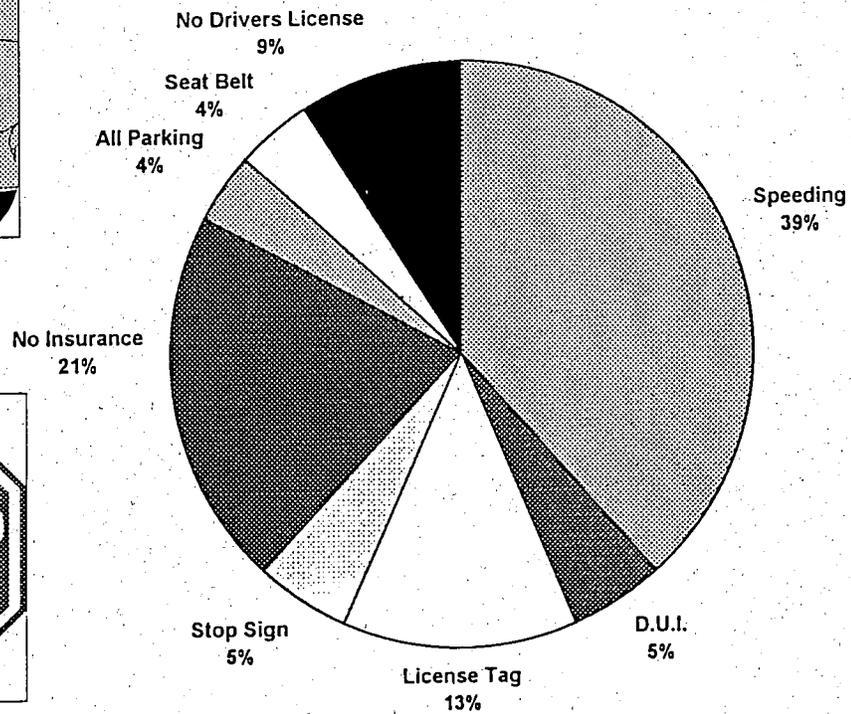
**LARGE TRUCK VIOLATIONS  
NEW SIGN PLACEMENT LOCATIONS  
SPEEDING VIOLATIONS, IN COMPLAINT AREAS  
VIOLATIONS IN NEW CONSTRUCTION AREAS**

The patrol sergeants will also be very involved in this new approach. It will be a department goal to be able to report an increase in traffic enforcement in the next annual report.

**LASER EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:** The purchase of the third LASER speed detection device is planned for 1995. These new tools have proven to be very effective in trapping speed violators. Nearly all officers have been trained in their use and they have been very well received.

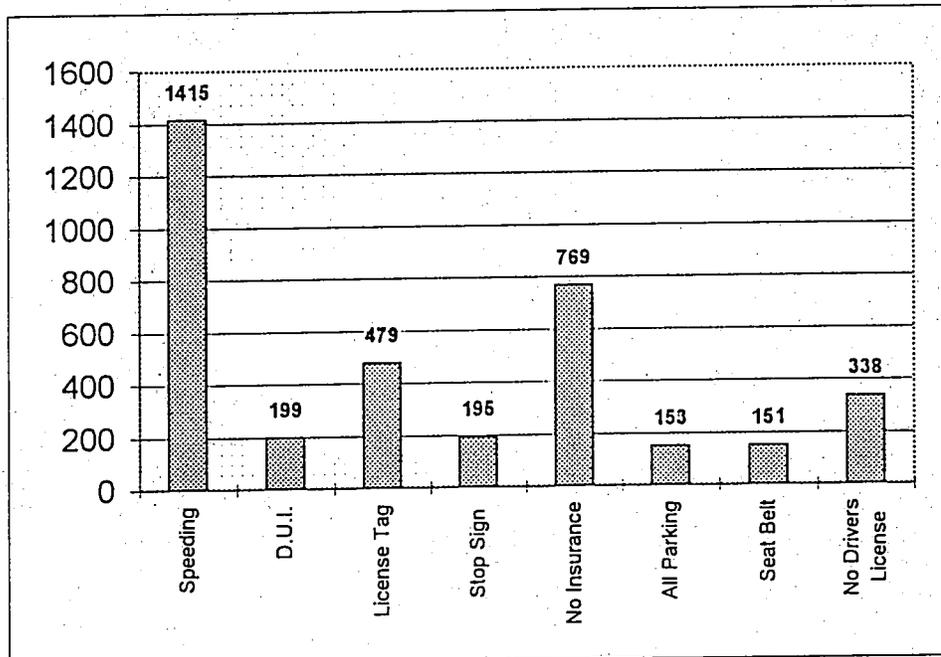


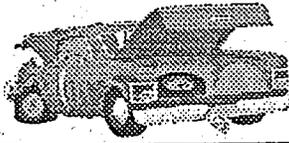
# Traffic Tickets by Type - 1994



Speeding	1415
D.U.I.	199
License Tag	479
Stop Sign	195
No Insurance	769
All Parking	153
Seat Belt	151
No Drivers License	338
<b>TOTAL TICKETS</b>	<b>3699</b>

Tickets by Year	Total
1990	3537
1991	5473
1992	4675
1993	6104
1994	3699





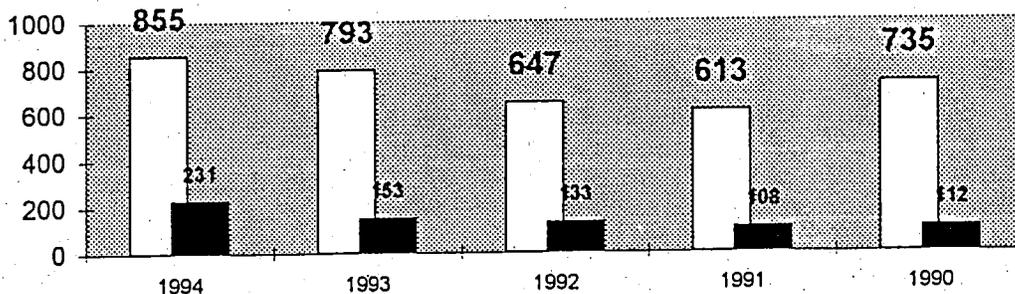
## VEHICLE ACCIDENT SUMMARY

1994 is the second year in a row that there was an increase in reported accidents. Weather conditions did not appear to be a factor this year. 855 motor vehicle accidents were reported, marking a 7% increase over 1993. Out of the 855 accidents, 231, or 27% were accidents with injuries. There were 33% more injury accidents in 1994 than in 1993. There were no fatal accidents reported in 1994 (*this is a decrease from the four fatalities investigated in 1993*).

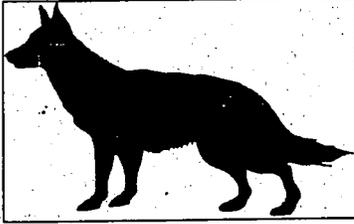
One of the primary factors that have contributed to the increase in reported accidents has to do with procedural changes with the Kansas Highway Patrol. In years past, the majority of accidents that occurred on Interstate 35 were investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol. In 1994, the incidents where the KHP was not available to respond increased by 7% (1994 = 192 accidents, 1993 = 179 accidents). Consequently, we have an increase in our statistics. This may not indicate that there were more accidents in 1994, just more being investigated by the Merriam Police Department.

Another factor was road construction. Two major road reconstruction projects took place in 1994 -- the Antioch Road and Shawnee Mission Parkway Projects. It is not uncommon to have a slight increase in accident rates under these circumstances.

Listed below is a breakdown of accidents over the past five years.



Due to a pedestrian related fatality on I-35 in 1993, the City of Merriam did not receive a Pedestrian Safety Citation from the Automotive Association of America (AAA). This broke a string of six consecutive years Merriam had received the award. We should receive this award for a fatality free year in 1994.



## ANIMAL CONTROL 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 1994, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) received 744 requests for service from citizens. While the ACO was off-duty, police officers handled an additional 282 animal calls. The total number of animal related calls in 1994 were 1,026. This represents an increase in requests for service of less than 1% over 1993.

The Animal Control Officer has continued his involvement in many different duties within the department. He has been involved in assisting with clerical duties and can now work efficiently in the front office when there is a replacement need. He worked as an alternate school crossing guard when a regular guard was absent due to illness or other unexpected leave. He also helped out by running errands to pick up equipment, deliver reports, etc.

In 1995 the Animal Control Officer will continue to serve in the same capacity as in 1994. Below is a breakdown of the statistics as they relate to the animal control function in Merriam:

Activity	1992	1993	1994
Service Request	927	1021	1026
Enforcement Action	284	205	183
Animal Impound	146	166	232
ACO Investigation	1090	1086	1067
Reports Written	784	642	615
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3231</b>	<b>3120</b>	<b>3123</b>



Teaching Kids To Never Take Drugs.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Compiled with the assistance of Officer Larry Birt

1994 marked the fifth year of the D.A.R.E. Program in Merriam. This was also the first full year that the program was operated without any state funding. This program continues to be of great benefit to the citizens of Merriam. It has impacted a large group of people in many positive ways. The D.A.R.E. Program plays an integral part in developing positive relations between the police department and the community.

### 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. In 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.

During the school year, Officer Birt spends nearly four days a week in the classroom. In addition to teaching classes he participates in many recreation activities and joins children during lunch periods. He is also involved with the various Parent Teacher Associations and attends those meetings as well as other meetings with teachers and school officials.

## 1994 D.A.R.E. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

In 1994, the department continued to change the functions of the D.A.R.E. Program. We have continued to ask the community to assist with support of this program. We received monetary support from local businesses to help pay for some of the materials and help support some of the after school functions at the end of the year. In 1994 we received \$1,400 from private area businesses.

This past year, Officer Larry Birt made weekly visits to more than 60 classrooms (Kindergarten through 6th grade) and to more than 1,250 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, mug, and other items. In May, the Police Department hosted a skating party for D.A.R.E. graduates at Skateland, in Merriam. 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 1994 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 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 1994, 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

1994 marked the first year that the D.A.R.E. Parenting Classes were given at the Community Center. Sergeant Syd Tubbs instructed this special course to the parents of D.A.R.E. students. Parents were 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. The parents also learn about building self-esteem, listening and communication 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 was the first area department to offer this course for parents. The next series of parenting classes are scheduled to begin during the first part of 1995 with other sessions planned throughout the year, depending on the level of interest.

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

Each year every student in the sixth grade class is asked to write an essay or poem where they relate what they feel about what was learned in the D.A.R.E. class that year. These essays are studied and the essay or poem judged to be the best from each school is selected. These students are rewarded during the graduation. The students' works are also sent the Kansas D.A.R.E. Association to be entered in a state-wide contest. On August 13, 1994, Michael Mahoney, a sixth grader at Crestview Elementary School, was selected as one of the five best in the state contest. The newspaper article concerning this event is copied on the following page.

# Youth wins D.A.R.E. essay contest

Michael Mahoney, a sixth grader at Crestview Elementary in Merriam last year, has won a \$500 savings bond for his winning entry in an essay sponsored by the Kansas D.A.R.E. Officers Association.

According to Merriam D.A.R.E. Officer Larry Birt, he was asked to choose one essay from each of the Merriam elementary schools where he provides drug abuse resistance education and submit it to the state contest last year. Michael's essay (reprinted below) was chosen from those written by Crestview sixth graders and was judged one of the five best in the state.

The son of Pat and Mary Jo Mahoney of Overland Park, Michael was invited to read his essay at a D.A.R.E. officer conference in Wichita on Aug. 12.

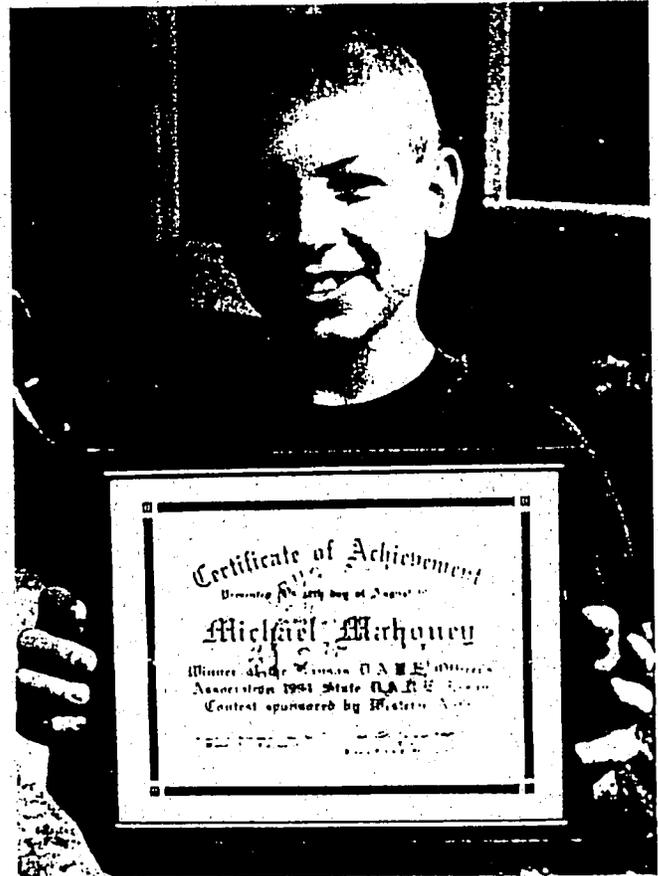
## D.A.R.E. — What It Did For Me

I'm Michael Mahoney. I'm a 6th grader at Crestview Elementary School. I make pretty good grades, for the most part. I love sports, especially baseball, basketball, soccer and football. I even like music! So, why did I need to learn about drugs? Why me? I'm a good kid. I go to church. I listen to my parents once in a while. I even listen to my teachers. So, I don't need to hear all this about drugs, right? They're not in my neighborhood, right? They're certainly not around my school, right? I would never be tempted to try something like that right? WRONG!!!

The cold hard facts? Yeah, they're in the neighborhood...closer than I think. I just have to read the police blotter in the paper to know there is drug-related crime going on around me...and it is getting closer to home every day.

In my school? Well, I don't think so, because we have a program called D.A.R.E. that helps keep it out of our school. How, you ask? Well, there's Officer Birt, for starters. He's not just a policeman, but he's a friend, too. You can tell him your problems or ask him a question, and he's right there with an honest answer. He's pretty cool, too. And what is he telling us? He's telling us that it's okay to be honest, to be ourselves, to not be afraid to say no to something that we know is very wrong. Yeah, our parents have tried to teach us right from wrong, but sometimes when you are in a crowd of your "friends," everybody wants you to be like them, even if what they are doing is not really the right thing. That's where you have to just think, then do the right thing.

What I've learned is not just that drugs and alcohol are wrong, but the reasons behind the fact that they are bad for you. I've learned about some of the illnesses caused by alcohol abuse, and I've learned about the deadly effects of drug addiction. I've also learned that there are a lot of



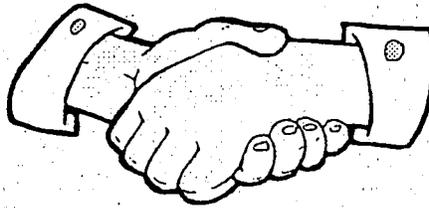
people out there who would really like to make a living off of starting someone like me on a lifelong habit of drugs and I know that I have to recognize what they are doing and "just say NO!"

I've also learned who it is I can talk to and trust...and I don't just mean my friends, either. I've learned that there are adults you can trust out there, people like my parents, my teachers, the principal, the counselor, the school nurse, Officer Birt, my relatives, my older sister (yeah, even her!), and I can go to any one of them if I'm ever in a situation that I don't know how to get out of comfortably or need help with something.

"Cold shoulder," "Strength in Numbers," "Just Say No," "Avoid the Situation"...these are some of the ways to avoid a bad situation. I guess I've just decided that there are a lot of other ways to get "high" on life...hitting a homerun, making good grades, scoring a run or a touchdown, riding my bike, earning lawnmowing money, beating Marcus at Bubble Bauble...yeah, there's a lot of other things to look forward to. It's easy for me to say no, but maybe not for others. That's where I also need to try to be a friend, so they have something to look forward to like me.

So, I guess I can say I'm drug-free...and I intend to stay that way! Pass the salad...pass the ice cream...pass the Reese's Pieces...but you can keep the drugs and alcohol away! They are not and will not be a part of my life!

If this makes me different, then I'm glad I'm different!!!



## COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

**INTRODUCTION:** The Merriam Police Department has completed the second full year with the implementation of the COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING philosophy, commonly referred to as C.O.P. This new philosophy has swept across the country, taking in many police agencies. The Federal Government has made numerous grants available to help both large and small police departments, transcend to this new form of policing.

The Community Oriented Policing philosophy is basically described as:

- \* *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 neighborhoods 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 of police department employees at the lowest level of the department to problem solve.*

### EVERYONE MUST BE INVOLVED.

During 1994 the C.O.P. philosophy training was reinforced with a series of individual training sessions. Short training meetings were also given to each shift as well as Investigations and civilian employees, to make sure they had an

adequate understanding of how the philosophy relates to the day-to-day operation of the department. C.O.P. training is an on-going continual process.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT -- NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

As the planning was done in preparation for department goals in 1994, one primary focus was placed on reactivating the Neighborhood Watch Program. This is a nationwide program that links specific neighborhoods with police departments in an effort to work together in the prevention of crime. This program has been an internal part of the C.O.P. philosophy. As Chief of Police, I felt it was important to take a personal role in setting up and attending the initial Neighborhood Watch meetings.

During 1994 four new Neighborhood Watch areas were formed. In addition to these meetings, three other meetings were held with existing Neighborhood Watch areas. It is apparent that this program is very beneficial and will be further expanded in 1995. The newly formed areas include:

<p><b>MEYERS CREEK RESIDENTIAL AREA SWITZER MEADOWS RESIDENTIAL AREA WELLINGTON WOODS RESIDENTIAL AREA SUNFLOWER TOWERS APARTMENTS</b></p>
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### **NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMER BLOCK PARTIES**

Each year key neighborhoods in Merriam get together at organized block parties. In the past two years, the Merriam Police Department has attended as many of these gatherings as possible. This involvement has been received very positively.

The 1994 Merriam block party locations are listed below:

<b>July 24, 1994</b>	<b>Meyers Creek residential area</b>
<b>September 10, 1994</b>	<b>Antioch Hills Homes Assoc. area</b>
<b>September 17, 1994</b>	<b>Wellington Woods Homes Assoc. area</b>
<b>September 25, 1994</b>	<b>New Milburn West Homes Assoc. area</b>

## **1994 NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME**

On August 2, 1994, Merriam officers made special visits to four neighborhoods that were involved in the annual 1994 Night Out Against Crime. Nearly 100 residents were contacted during this symbolic nationwide event that attempts to improve police and community relations.

## **TURKEY CREEK FESTIVAL**

In 1994 Merriam officers were again involved in the Turkey Creek Festival expending a greater effort on community awareness issues. More crime prevention and general police related information was made available to the festival attendees.

For the second year an emphasis was placed on softening the police department's image at the festival. The special event's summer uniform, consisting of navy blue shorts and tennis-style pull-over shirts were worn by most officers. This change allowed the officers to work in a more comfortable uniform. Firearms were not worn, as the officers' main functions were crowd and traffic control. The uniform change was popular with citizens and it also improved officer morale concerning their working at the festival.

## **BICYCLE PATROL UNIT**

The Merriam Police Department unveiled its new Bicycle Patrol Unit at the 1994 Turkey Creek Festival. Four patrol officers received special training in safe operation of a bicycle during specialized patrol. This new tool will allow officers to go places that they could not go in a conventional patrol vehicle. The primary function is to patrol neighborhoods, parks and business areas in a more visible and approachable manner. While they are generally more visible, under the right circumstances an officer on bike patrol can move swiftly and silently. This has proved to dissuade open market drug activity and business burglaries.

The Bicycle Unit will be expanded in 1995 with the completion of the new Streamway Park. Officers will be able to easily patrol all park areas. Through cooperation with Consolidated Lumber, a bicycle will be stored at their business. Officers can go there in their patrol cars, switch to the bicycle, and then make a quick but thorough check of the park area. This bike will be stored at the new Public Works facility when it is built.

## SECURITY SURVEY PROGRAM

In 1994 Officer Larry Birt, the Community Involvement Officer, continued conducting business security surveys at Merriam businesses and residences. Each location was given a thorough examination to determine if improvements could be made that could increase physical security to prevent crimes such as thefts, burglaries and robberies. During the year, 11 business surveys and four residential surveys were conducted. In each case, a detailed written survey report was delivered to the owner, manager or resident, listing the results of the survey with suggestions for security improvements. The purpose of this program is to better serve the community by taking a proactive approach at reducing crime. This was the first full year for this program. It has been very well received and has strengthened community relations.

### **WHAT'S AHEAD?**

In 1995, the Merriam Police Department will continue its focus on the neighborhoods. The grid system will be altered. Each grid has been divided into sub-grids. This new grid system, coupled with the up-dated records management system will make it easier to identify specific area problems earlier, so that corrective measures and solutions can be put into place.

In February the Department will launch **BUSINESS PROJECT 1995**. This new four-part aggressive program will increase business security and help to heighten cooperation between the police department and the business community. The project parts include:

**A] POLICE DEPARTMENT / BUSINESS SURVEY VISITS-** Each active business in Merriam will be contacted by an on-duty police officer. During this visit the officers will get to know the business owners or managers and inquire about any problems the business might be experiencing. Hopefully, some of these problems can be addressed and solved in a cooperative spirit. Another function of this officer/business visit is to take care of some crime prevention duties. This part will be completed during the year of 1995.

**B] WINDOW WATCH PROGRAM-** With the permission of the businesses, small, one inch, 3-M reflective stickers will be placed on some high risk building windows. These stickers can be easily observed by evening and midnight shift patrol units with the use of a spotlight, which will illuminate these reflective stickers. Officers will be able to check to see that the windows are intact, increasing the efficiency of nighttime patrol. This will be an on-going program.

**C] DOOR HANGER PROGRAM-** New door hangers will be printed and distributed to officers on patrol. These door hangers will be left at businesses whenever an officer observes a non-functional outdoor light, finds an unsecured outer door, etc. If the officer has any suggestions on how the business could be made more secure, they will list them on these door hangers. This will let the business owners know their businesses are being watched at night. This will be an on-going program.

**D] FAX ALERT PROGRAM-** Through the use of the business survey, businesses will be asked to list their FAX numbers. Those businesses with FAX machines will then be identified and their information will be organized for later use. When a crime pattern erupts in a business area, the police department will construct a timely and informative notice, which will then be FAXed immediately to each business in the area. The businesses will be encouraged to share this information with neighboring businesses that do not have FAX machines. This program of networking businesses will increase communications and hopefully reduce crime in our business district. This will be an experimental pilot program. It is the intent to make it an on-going program.