

A

HISTORY

OF

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

1853 - 1960

## CONTENTS

Preface.		Page 1
Brief Content Outline.		Page 2 - 3
Historic Beginning and Establishment of Sheriff's Department - Its Functions and Duties.		Page 4 - 9
Chronological Listing of all Sheriffs by Date and <u>Name</u> .		Page 10-14
Peter Lothian	1353-1855	Page 14-16
William I. Reed	1856-1857	Page 16-17
Abner Dill Sevier	1858-1859 1870-1871	Page 17-18
Barrant Van Nest	1860-1863	Page 18
Joseph Tracy	1864-1867	Page 18
William S. Barnum	1868-1869	Page 18-19
Eliphalet Bulkeley	1872-1875	Page 19
John C. Bull, Jr.	1876-1877	Page 19-20
Thomas M. Brown	1878-1906	Page 20-22
George Lindsey	1906	Page 22-23
J. W. Ferrill	1907-1910	Page 23-24
Robert A. Redmond	1911-1920	Page 24-26
Arthur A. Ross	1920-1925	Page 26-29
John W. Runner	1926-1929	Page 29
Arthur A. Ross	1930-1946	Page 30
Charles H. Raab	1947-1954	Page 30
Albert A. Nickols	1955-1959 1959-	Page 30-31

Contents (Cont'd)

Old Jail Facility - Second and I Streets.	Page 32
Old Jail Facility - Old Court House, 4th & J Streets.	Page 32-33
Present Jail Facility, 4th & J Streets.	Page 33-34
New Jail Facility - New Court House, 4th & J Streets.	Page 35
Departmental Breakdown and Functions.	Page 35-39
Bids - Present Jail Facility, 4th & J Streets.	Page 40-42
Population and Personnel Increase Chart.	Page 43
Salaries of Humboldt County Sheriff's Department.	Page 44
Organization Chart of Sheriff's Department.	Page 45
Your Undersheriff.	Last Page

Dear Friend:

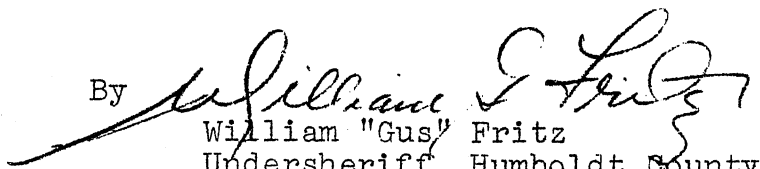
To the knowledge of the undersigned there has never been a consolidated history prepared on the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. The material contained herein has been in the process of compilation for the past five years by the undersigned. Much of the credit for gathering of information can also go to Jon Mitts, Jr., who used this writer's information along with much of his own to prepare a college history paper. This information is far from complete and is meant to be added to or corrected if in error.

The information contained herein is prepared as a tribute to those who so faithfully served their fellow man as public servants. This information is also dedicated to Andrew Genzoli, President, Humboldt County Historical Society and its members for their information and files.

Information has been obtained through personal interviews, searching of history books, ordinances, libraries, charters, etc.

Pictures have been located on all former Sheriffs except two, William I. Reed, 1856-1857, and B. Van Nest, 1860-1863.

By

  
William "Gus" Fritz  
Undersheriff, Humboldt County  
1 April 1960

## A HISTORY OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY

### SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"As Humboldt County grew, the Sheriff's Department of the county developed and expanded its facilities for the benefit of the people in the area, from 1853 to the present time."

- I. The historic background of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department has its beginning as the organization of the county begins.
  - A. Various conditions made the establishment of the Sheriff's Department a necessity in Humboldt County after its formation in 1853.
  - B. Needs existed in the county that exemplified the importance of the Sheriff's Department to the surrounding area.
    1. With the influx of population into the newly settled area and the establishment of the various Humboldt communities, the maintenance of law and order was desired.
    2. In time the Indian troubles were settled and the United States Army abandoned Fort Humboldt, thus causing the need for a local law enforcement organization.
- II. The Sheriff's Department has existed in Humboldt County since 1853.
  - A. Ordinances were required to establish the Sheriff's Department.

- B. Humboldt County has had ~~sixteen~~ Sheriffs since 1853.
- C. Development of the Sheriff's Department extended into many areas as the needs arose in the county.
- D. The Sheriff's Department offered many services to the area which it covered.
  - 1. Jail facilities. (Eureka, Hoopa, Garberville)
  - 2. Departmental organization.
  - 3. Department Personnel.
  - 4. Patrols.
  - 5. Other Services and Facilities.

III. Future plans that exist with respect to the expansion and further development of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department have many implications.

- A. New Jail and Office facilities are planned in the new Court House.
- B. Projected plans of the Sheriff for the future of the department.

HISTORIC BEGINNING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT - ITS FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

In 1853, when the California State Legislature had not yet permanently established in Sacramento, action was taken to divide the county of Trinity in northern California and form a new county, Humboldt.

On Wednesday, March 16, 1853, during the fourth session of the Legislature, a message was received in the State Senate informing them that on March 12, 1853, the Assembly passed a bill for "An act to divide the County of Trinity, and form a new county out of the western portion of the same to be called Humboldt." The bill was read twice and referred on motion of Mr. Charles F. Lott to the committee on counties and county boundaries.

Later, on Saturday, March 26, 1853, Samuel B. Smith, of Sutter County, Chairman of the counties and county boundaries committee reported back to the Senate on the Assembly bill for the division of Trinity and the organization of Humboldt County in the western portion. The report was accepted and laid on the table.

From March 1853 when the bill for the establishment and organization of Humboldt County was first introduced to the Senate, until May 1853, the bill was tabled five times. On Thursday, May 5, 1853, the bill for "An act to divide the county of Trinity, and form a new county out of the western portion of the same to be called Humboldt County", was taken under consider-

ation. On motion of Mr. S. B. Smith, the amendments reported by the committee were concurred in. Mr. Royal T. Sprague moved to lay the bill upon the table. This was not agreed to.

The bill was read for the third time in the Senate on Thursday, May 5, 1853. Upon the question of its passage, the ayes and naves were demanded by Messrs. Sprague, Wombough and Baird, with the following results: Fourteen Ayes and five naves.

— On May 10, <sup>1853</sup> 1853, Mr. John Lind, Chairman of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, reported that the committee had this day presented to the Governor, John Bigler, a bill creating the County of Humboldt out of the division of Trinity County. On May 12, 1853, Governor Bigler signed legislation into law creating Humboldt County.

In 1875, Klamath County, which had originally included a great part of the northwestern portion of the state, was dissolved. This was in consequence of the act of March 28, 1874. In accordance with this act Humboldt County received all that part of Klamath County lying south and west of a line "commencing at the point where the present boundary of Klamath and Del Norte crosses the Klamath River; thence running easterly in a direct line to where the Salmon River enters the Klamath River; thence in a southerly direction, following the ridge of the mountain that divides the waters of the Salmon and its tributaries, to the northern boundary line of Trinity County."

With the final establishment of county boundaries, Humboldt County amounted to a large territory in area, 3,573 square miles.

Early history is marked by clashes between the settlers and hostile Indians, and in 1853 Fort Humboldt, once commanded by Ulysses S. Grant, was established to afford military protection. Establishment of the Hoopa Indian Reservation in 1864 marked an end of the hostilities.

With the end of the Indian trouble and the abandonment of Fort Humboldt, needs existed in the area that exemplified the importance of the Sheriff's Department in the newly formed area. The influx of population into the area of northern California and establishment of the various Humboldt Communities made the maintenance of law and order a necessity.

In the early days of Humboldt County the main officers of the Sheriff's Department were the Sheriff, the Undersheriff, Jailer and those regular deputies as desired by the Sheriff. This was prescribed by law. \_

The Government Code of the State of California states the following with respect to County Sheriffs. The Sheriffs and Constables in the several counties shall execute the lawful orders of a department in their counties. Whenever a department succeeds to and is vested with the duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of a State agency, deputy, employee, or employment of its several members, officers deputies and employees, when used in any law then in force or thereafter enacted, shall be construed to mean the department, as though the title of the department had been specifically set forth by law.

With respect to the supervision of Sheriffs the Governmental Code states: The Attorney General has direct supervision over the Sheriffs of the several counties of the State, and may require of them written reports concerning the investigation, detection and punishment of crime in their respective jurisdictions. Whenever he deems it necessary in the public interest he shall direct the activities of any Sheriff relative to the investigation or detection of crime within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff and he may direct the service of subpoenas, warrants of arrest, or other processes of courts in connection therewith. Whenever he deems it necessary in the public interest, the Attorney General may appoint some competent person to perform the duties of the sheriff with respect to the investigation or detection of a particular crime and cause the arrest of persons in connection therewith. Any person so appointed has all the powers of a sheriff with respect to the particular matter.

Under the Government Code with respect to duties of the Sheriff, he must:

1. Preserve the peace.
2. Arrest and take before the nearest magistrate for examination all persons who attempt to commit, or who have committed, a public offense.
3. Prevent and suppress any affrays, breaches of the peace, riots and insurrections which may come to his knowledge.
4. Attend all Superior Courts held within his county,

and obey all lawful orders and directions of all courts held within his county.

5. Command the aid of as many male inhabitants of his county as he may think necessary in the execution of these duties.
6. Take charge of and keep the County Jail, and the prisoners therein.
7. Release on the record all attachments of real property, when the attachment placed in his hands has been released or discharged.
8. Indorse upon all process and notices the year, month, day, hour and minute of reception, and issue therefor to the person delivering it, on payment of fees, a certificate showing the names of the parties, title of paper, and time when received.
9. Serve all process and notices in the manner prescribed by law.
10. Certify, under his hand, upon process or notices, the manner and time of service, or if he fails to make service, the reason of his failure, and return the same.

The original section of the above code was enacted March 12, 1872, and repealed when the present section was enacted March 19, 1907.

From Humboldt County records it is found that the Sheriff was to be elected at the General Election to be held on the fourth day of November, 1884, and shall be the ex-officio tax

The Sheriff of the County of Humboldt shall be License Tax Collector, and shall ascertain by an affidavit the amount of business transacted by any party applying for a license.

Section One of County Ordinance 261 includes: "the office of Sheriff shall be kept open for the transaction of business from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. every day except Sundays and Holidays.

Article 11, Section 5, of the Constitution of California states: "The Legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election or appointment, in the several counties, of boards of supervisors, sheriffs ... and such other county, township, and municipal officers as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties and fix their terms of office."

LISTING OF SHERIFFS - HUMBOLDT COUNTY

1853	Peter Lothian
1854	Peter Lothian
1855	Peter Lothian
1856	William I. Reed
1857	William I. Reed
1858	Abner Dill Sevier
1859	Abner Dill Sevier
1860	B. Van Nest
1861	B. Van Nest
1862	B. Van Nest
1863	B. Van Nest
1864	Joseph Tracy
1865	Joseph Tracy
1866	Joseph Tracy
1867	Joseph Tracy
1868	W. S. Barnum
1869	W. S. Barnum
1870	Abner Dill Sevier
1871	Abner Dill Sevier
1872	Eliphalet Bulkeley
1873	Eliphalet Bulkeley

1874	Eliphalet Bulkeley
1875	Eliphalet Bulkeley
1876	John C. Bull
1877	John C. Bull
1878	Thomas M. Brown
1879	Thomas M. Brown
1880	Thomas M. Brown
1881	Thomas M. Brown
1882	Thomas M. Brown
1883	Thomas M. Brown
1884	Thomas M. Brown
1885	Thomas M. Brown
1886	Thomas M. Brown
1887	Thomas M. Brown
1888	Thomas M. Brown
1889	Thomas M. Brown
1890	Thomas M. Brown
1891	Thomas M. Brown
1892	Thomas M. Brown
1893	Thomas M. Brown
1894	Thomas M. Brown
1895	Thomas M. Brown
1896	Thomas M. Brown
1897	Thomas M. Brown
1898	Thomas M. Brown
1899	Thomas M. Brown

1900	Thomas M. Brown	
1901	Thomas M. Brown	
1902	Thomas M. Brown	
1903	Thomas M. Brown	
1904	Thomas M. Brown	
1905	Thomas M. Brown	
1906	Thomas M. Brown	
<hr/>		
1906	George Lindsey	Appointed by Board of Supervisors, March 8, 1906, to succeed the late T. M. Brown. The vote was 3-2 for Lindsey against J. W. Ferrill, then Undersheriff.
1907	J. W. Ferrill	J. H. Campbell, Undersheriff
1908	J. W. Ferrill	J. J. McCahan, Office Deputy
1909	J. W. Ferrill	
1910	J. W. Ferrill	
<hr/>		
1911	Robert A. Redmond	John Helms, Undersheriff
1912	Robert A. Redmond	
1913	Robert A. Redmond	
1914	Robert A. Redmond	
1915	Robert A. Redmond	
1916	Robert A. Redmond	A. A. Ross, Undersheriff
1917	Robert A. Redmond	
1918	Robert A. Redmond	
1919	Robert A. Redmond	
1920	Robert A. Redmond	

1920 (28-Dec.)	Arthur A. Ross	Took over after Redmond's death December 28, 1920, and served rest of his 4 year term.
1921	Arthur A. Ross	
1922	Arthur A. Ross	
1923	Arthur A. Ross	
1924	Arthur A. Ross	
1925	Arthur A. Ross	
1926	John W. Runner	
1927	John W. Runner	George Frazier, Undersheriff
1928	John W. Runner	
1929	John W. Runner	
1930	Arthur A. Ross	
1931	Arthur A. Ross	
1932	Arthur A. Ross	
1933	Arthur A. Ross	
1934	Arthur A. Ross	
1935	Arthur A. Ross	
1936	Arthur A. Ross	
1937	Arthur A. Ross	
1938	Arthur A. Ross	J. N. "Doc" Henderson Undersheriff
1939	Arthur A. Ross	
1940	Arthur A. Ross	
1941	Arthur A. Ross	
1942	Arthur A. Ross	
1943	Arthur A. Ross	
1944	Arthur A. Ross	

1945	Arthur A. Ross	
1946	Arthur A. Ross	
1947	Charles H. Raab	Fred Frakes, Undersheriff
1948	Charles H. Raab	
1949	Charles H. Raab	
1950	Charles H. Raab	
1951	Charles H. Raab	Adrian Anderson, Undersheriff
1952	Charles H. Raab	
1953	Charles H. Raab	
1954	Charles H. Raab	
1955	Albert A. Nickols	William "Gus" Fritz Undersheriff
1956	Albert A. Nickols	
1957	Albert A. Nickols	
1958	Albert A. Nickols	
1959	Albert A. Nickols	William "Gus" Fritz Undersheriff
1960	Albert A. Nickols	

In compiling material on the various sheriffs of Humboldt County many barriers were met in searching out the material. A lot of material can be found on some of the sheriffs, and only scatterings of not too reliable material can be found on other sheriffs.

PETER LOTHIAN 1853-1855

Peter Lothian held the office of Sheriff, as Humboldt County's first, from 1853 to 1855. It is known that the Court

of Sessions of Humboldt County appointed Lothian sheriff. However, the exact date is not available. From the San Francisco Alta California, the following was found: "On Sunday, the 4th n.d., the citizens of Arcata were startled and shocked at the announcement that Mt. Peter Lothian, a resident of that place, was dead; that he had been killed at the place known as the "Mad River Saw Mill," near the farm owned and occupied by him down to the commencement of the Indian hostilities. Mr. Lothian left his home and family on Sunday shortly after 9 o'clock, with his horses and wagon, for his farm across Mad River, where he had intended to remain for the night, and on Monday morning kill a beef and return with it to town. He had crossed the river and reached the mill, about a half mile distant from this place, at which point is a bridge across a deep gorge in the rocks through which the mill stream runs. Here he stopped and fastened his horses, it is supposed, for the purpose of examining the bridge, and while thus engaged, he stepped upon a plank at some place in the mill from which he could view the bridge from the under side, when the plank broke or tilted over, precipitating him upon the rocks below, a distance of some twelve feet, from which point the ledge standing at so sharp an angle no foothold could be obtained by anyone, he was hurled down a further distance of about fifteen feet into the creek at the bottom of the gorge. Here he was found, his body not entirely immersed in the water. There is but little water running in the creek at this time, not sufficient to drown a person unless so much disabled as to render him

helpless. It is believed that the injuries received from the fall were not of themselves sufficient to have produced death, but that he was stunned and insensible only, when he reached the water, and that he came to his death by drowning. Deceased immigrated to Humboldt County, and was one of the founders of Arcata. In 1853 he was Sheriff of the county. He was aged thirty-five years, a native of Rochester, N.Y. He leaves a wife and five children."

The following report in the Humboldt Standard stated that "A telegram from Los Angeles, yesterday, announced the death there, Tuesday afternoon, of Mrs. D. L. Lothian, a pioneer woman of Humboldt, formerly of Arcata, and mother of Mrs. J. N. Davies and Miss Della Lothian, former Humboldters, but now residents of Los Angeles. The cause of death was heart failure owing to the breaking down incident to old-age

Deceased lacked just 15 days of being 70 years old at the time of her death. In 1876, while yet a girl in her early teens, she came to Humboldt from the East with her father, the late Isaac Nixon of Arcata, and resided here until 1876, when she moved to Los Angeles. In 1853 she was married to D. L. Lothian, who was the first sheriff of Humboldt County, the couple making their home in Arcata."

WILLIAM I. REED 1856-1857

William I. Reed held the office of Sheriff from 1855 to 1857. No material can be found concerning Mr. Reed as Sheriff.

WILLIAM I. REED

Census record

Dwelling house No: 512  
Family no: 478  
Name: Reed, Wm. I  
Age: 50  
Sex: M  
Occupation: Packmaster, U.S.A.  
Value of real estate: \$2,000  
" " personal " : \$100  
Nativity: Mass.

JULIA REED

Dwelling house No: 512  
Family no: 478  
Name: Reed, Julia  
Age: 24  
Sex: F  
Nativity: New Bruns.

From: U. S. Census of California, 1860, Humboldt County  
Eureka Township. p.171

ABNER DILL SEVIER 1858-1859 1870-1871

Abner Dill Sevier was Sheriff of Humboldt County from 1858 to 1859 and from 1870 to 1871. He was a native of Indiana and crossed the plains in 1850. In 1851 he came to Humboldt County as one of the original settlers. For a time he worked as the driver of an ox team in one of the logging camps, but later he went to the Eel River section and took up a government claim. In the early period he endured many hardships. To earn a livelihood from the undeveloped land was most difficult, nor was it easy to find a market for such crops as could be secured. After unceasing hard work, he became a prosperous farmer and a man of wide public influence, serving two terms as Sheriff and as a County Supervisor. Sevier married Sarah A. Stringfield

and was the father of four children. He held the position of Police Judge in Eureka from 1884 to 1888. Abner Dill Sevier died in Rohnerville on March 24, 1888.

BARRANT VAN NEST 1860-1863

Barrant Van Nest was Humboldt County Sheriff from 1860 to 1863. He was born in 1825.

JOSEPH TRACY 1864-1867

Joseph Tracy was Sheriff of Humboldt County from 1864 to 1867.

WILLIAM S. BARNUM 1868-1869

William S. Barnum was Humboldt County Sheriff from 1868 to 1869. The Humboldt Standard reported on July 5, 1907: "Another pioneer who was prominent in the early history of the county has answered the last call, William S. Barnum, who died in this city Wednesday afternoon practically from old age. William Seth Barnum was a native of Ohio, aged about 83 years old. He came to this county more than 50 years ago. He settled in the Eel River Valley where he had almost ever since been a resident. His first venture was hotel keeping and 45 years ago he was proprietor of the hotel at Hydesville. Quitting this business he entered politics and held several deputyships. He was a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Tracy from 1866 to 1868 and succeeded him as sheriff in 1868, holding the office for one term, which was then two years. After that he engaged in race horse breeding at Rohnerville, but of late years had

followed the real estate business."

ELIPHALET BULKELEY 1872-1875

From 1872 to 1875 Eliphalet Bulkeley was County Sheriff. Bulkeley was born in January 1812 in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. He came to Humboldt Bay in 1852, and resided in this county most of the time since, having held many important positions, including Sheriff. Eliphalet Bulkeley died August 13, 1890, in Eureka.

JOHN C. BULL, JR. 1876-1877

John C. Bull, Jr. was Sheriff from 1876 to 1877. Bull was one of the county's foremost citizens. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in April of 1840, the son of Capt. John C. Bull and Melissa Bull, both of whom were also born in Boston. With his parents, Bull came to California in May of 1850. In 1856 he came to Arcata in this county and with the exception of a few years at school in San Francisco made Humboldt County his home. He learned the plumbers and coppersmith's trade when a boy but did not follow it long, as he early went into the ranching and butchering business he conducted with skill. He added to this greatly by securing the government contract on the jetties at the entrance of Humboldt Bay. He also made investments in mills and timber lands, and was president and principal owner of the Bendixsen Shipbuilding Company, in which concern he retained a large interest until the time of his death. He was also a leading spirit in the Redwood Land & Investment

Company, and at one time was owner of the Humboldt Times of this city and dictated its policy. Bull was always an active politician and took a leading part in the conduct of the Republican party here. At one time early in his career he was sheriff of the county, and he was several times the Chairman of the Republican County Central Committee and held that at the time of his death. Mr. Bull was a man of powerful and progressive characteristics and was a leading spirit in all undertakings in this city and county. His death was keenly felt in many quarters. Bull died of ptomaine poisoning on June 24, 1907.

THOMAS M. BROWN 1878-1906

Thomas M. Brown was in the office of Sheriff from 1878 to 1906. This is the longest any individual has held the office in the county. Brown was born in Overton County, Tennessee, January 26, 1829. He traveled across the plains to California with an ox train, arriving in Sacramento, California, on October 5, 1849. In April 1857 he went to Orleans Bar, then the county seat of old Klamath County, and was soon appointed deputy sheriff of that county. This was the commencement of his career as a Peace Officer of northern California. He also engaged in mining there, and at one time was an owner Orleans Bar Gold Mining Company's property at Orleans, which he sold to an English company. He held the office of Deputy Sheriff in Klamath County until 1858 when he made a trip back to his old home in Missouri. This trip he made by steamer from San

Francisco to the Isthmus, thence to Cuba and New Orleans, so that he did not reach Missouri until 1859. Because of his wife's illness he did not return to California before 1860. After a five months travel Brown and his wife reached Orleans Bar during the winter of 1860-61. He engaged in mining until the latter year when he was elected Sheriff of Klamath County. This office he held continuously until the disorganization of the county which was divided between Humboldt and Siskiyou counties in 1874. Being then a citizen of Humboldt County he was nominated for Sheriff on the Democratic ticket against J. C. Bull, Republican, and defeated his opponent at the polls, taking office in 1877. He was re-elected at each succeeding election and held the office continuously for almost 30 years.

Born with a happy disposition, a warm heart and noble impulses, Sheriff Brown passed a long and somewhat eventful life. He was in the Sheriff's Office of this and an adjoining county for many years. He knew more people and knew them better than any man who ever made his home here. There were but few homes in the mountains and valleys of Humboldt but where he was personally known and where his name was a familiar household word. Mr. Brown had more influence among the Indians than any other white man living in Humboldt, and all of them respected and feared him. They all understood his undaunted courage, which was a chief element of greatness among Indians. By his influence among them, assistance was rendered the military authorities in quieting disturbances, and contemplated

raids by Indians were more than once prevented. If Mr. Brown had an enemy on earth those who knew him best were not aware of it. He was charitable, generous, honest, and ever ready to risk his life in aid of supporting humanity.

Sheriff Brown died of heart failure while reading his paper in the jail on March 7, 1906. Brown also served 11 years as Tax Collector in Humboldt County.

GEORGE LINDSEY 1906

George Lindsey was appointed by the Board of Supervisors, March 8, 1906, to succeed the late T. M. Brown. The vote was 3-2 for Lindsey against J. W. Ferrill, then Undersheriff.

Following is an article which appeared in the Humboldt Times on March 10, 1957:

"51 Years ago - March 8, 1906

LINDSEY IS SHERIFF - George Lindsey, a good staunch Republican, was appointed Sheriff of Humboldt County to succeed the late T. M. Brown by a good staunch Republican Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors met in session in the morning and after preparing the call for the special meeting adjourned until the afternoon at 2 o'clock.

When the court house clock struck twice, Chairman Brown called the meeting to order and S. F. Pine immediately placed the name of N. G. Lindsey in nomination for the office. The petition of J. W. Ferrill was already on file, and the Board immediately proceeded to ballot upon the candidates.

When Clerk Kay canvassed the result it was found that Lindsey had received three votes and Ferrill two. A question arose as to the legality of the ballots, as two of the slips bore the name of "Geo. Lindsey, and one that of N. G. Lindsey." To obviate any possible technicalities another ballot was ordered and on three of them N. G. Lindsey was written. Chairman Brown declared Mr. Lindsey elected and the meeting adjourned.

The newly elected sheriff was busy during the early hours of last night securing bondsmen and will take the oath of office this morning. He asked Under Sheriff Ferrill to retain his present position, but that gentleman refused, so a new under sheriff will be appointed today. The position has been tendered a rising young Republican, but he is yet undecided whether he will accept, as business cares of his own must be first decided."

J. W. FERRILL      1907-1910

John W. Ferrill was born in Arcata on February 9, 1861, and was raised at Ferndale. He was Undersheriff of Humboldt County for 22 years under Sheriff Brown before being elected Sheriff in 1907, which position he held through 1910. Ferrill was the first sheriff to occupy the present jail facilities. He was a member of the Woodmen of the World Lodge.

Ferril was married to Florence Soper, who was born and raised at Ferndale. They were the parents of three children, Bertha Lockhart of Sacramento, now deceased, Ethel Berrigen,

804 H Street, Eureka, and Clarence Ferrill, 2025 Hodgson Street, Eureka.

John W. Ferrill moved from Eureka to Lake County in 1911, and served as Undersheriff in that county for 16 years. He was 81 years of age when he resigned as Undersheriff of Lake County. He died in Lake County on May 1, 1949.

ROBERT A. REDMOND 1911-1920

In 1911 Robert A. Redmond was elected Sheriff. John Helms was Undersheriff until 1916. In 1916 Art Ross became Undersheriff. Following is information related to Sheriff Redmond as taken from the History of Humboldt County, California, by Leigh H. Irvine:

"Few officials in Humboldt County have had more substantial evidence of the confidence of their fellow citizens than Robert A. Redmond, whose continued public service, first as Constable and later as Sheriff, is abundant evidence of his unqualified fitness as a public servant. His thorough knowledge of conditions and routine gained through long public experience contributes to his reliability and efficiency, and the appreciation and approval of his work have been shown in the enthusiastic support he received at the polls. It was after he had been in public service continuously since the year 1906 that he was elected Sheriff in the fall of 1910, and so faithfully and well had he discharged his duties that he was reelected to succeed himself in 1914.

Mr. Redmond has lived in Humboldt County from childhood,

having been thirteen years old when he came here, and he continued his education thereafter at the public schools of Eureka. As a foundation for business experience in later years he learned the trade of boilermaker, and for fourteen years, consecutively, was employed with Langford Brothers, in the Eureka Boiler Works. During these years Mr. Redmond's ability as a public servant became recognized by his fellow citizens, who appointed him Constable of Eureka Township to fill an unexpired term. So satisfactorily did he discharge his duties that his name was placed upon the ticket for reelection. At the close of a successful term in this office he was nominated and elected Sheriff of the county, and as before, at the close of his first term in 1914 he was again elected to succeed himself, receiving a large majority. With some particularly trying and hazardous situations to meet he has come to be regarded as one of the most competent incumbents of the office in the state. He has been especially successful in criminal cases, and deserves the trust that has been reposed in him because of his faithful performance of every duty and his evident sincerity to do his utmost to interpret the responsibilities of his office and discharge them with impartiality without fear of criticism from any quarter.

Mr. Redmond has numerous fraternal connections and has been particularly prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to all its branches, lodge, encampment and canton, and taking an active part in their work. He is past

noble grand of Fortuna Lodge No. 221, past chief patriarch of Mt. Zion Encampment, and past deputy grand master of District No. 9. He also holds membership in the Red Men, Modern Woodmen of America, Woodmen of the World, Fraternal Order of Eagles, being past president of Eureka Aerie No. 130, and the present district deputy of the district embracing Humboldt and Del Norte counties. He is also an active member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Humboldt Club and Sequoia Yacht Club.

Mr. Redmond was united in marriage with Miss Marian McLain, a native of Nova Scotia, whose father, Jonathan McLain, was an early settler in Humboldt County. Five children have been born to this union: Rutherford, Olive, Robert A. Jr., Lucile and Vivian."

ARTHUR A. ROSS      1920-1925      1930-1946

On December 28, 1920, Arthur A. Ross took over the office of Sheriff at the time of Redmond's death and served the rest of his four year term.

Following is information related to Sheriff Ross as taken from the History of Humboldt County, California, by Leigh H. Irvine:

"Though at present giving his time to the duties of his office as deputy sheriff of Humboldt County, Mr. Ross, until he assumed that position, was engaged in mechanical work, being a high class boilermaker and expert in construction work. He has been engaged on many notably important structures, his reputation extending all through this section of the state. In

his public service he has given evidence of the same efficiency which has characterized all his work. Coming to Eureka in boyhood, he has resided here much of the time since, and is a credit to the community. He was born in Humboldt County May 3, 1882, son of Stephen H. Ross, a resident of Eureka, born in Charlotte County, New Brunswick in 1849. The father came to California when about sixteen years of age, and followed logging in the woods of Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt Counties, becoming an expert driver of ox teams, which occupation he followed until there were superseded by steam power, since which time he has been woods foreman, and is at present foreman in the woods for the Pacific Lumber Company at Scotia. The father returned to New Brunswick, and at Saint Stephen, was married to Miss Mary Amanda Armstrong, who was a native of Charlotte county, New Brunswick. They had two children, Ethel J. and Arthur Alexander, the daughter now the wife of E. C. Langford, a boilermaker, formerly connected with the Eureka Boiler Works at Eureka, but now manager of the Eureka News Company.

Arthur Alexander Ross was four years old when his parents moved to Fortuna, where he lived until 1895. He had good public school advantages in his boyhood, and on January 1, 1899, when in his seventeenth year, entered the Eureka Boiler Works, where he served a thorough apprenticeship, remaining there for a period of six years. Meantime he had supplemented his early education with a course in the Eureka Business College, which he completed in December 1906. He continued work at his trade

as a boilermaker and general machinist, doing outside construction work for Mr. Langford, of the Eureka Boiler Works, in all for about five years, after which he went to Portland, Oregon, in 1905, where he became outside foreman for the Marine Iron Works. He also did work at his trade along the line of the Oregon River & Navigation Company in Oregon and Washington, and at West Berkeley, California. He again worked for Mr. Langford in the Eureka Boiler Works in 1907-08, and in 1908 took a position with the Western Steel Plate & Construction Company, of Portland, Oregon, for which he was engaged as foreman of construction in the State of California. In this connection he erected oil stills and cooling boxes at Oleum, near Crockett; put up acid tanks for the DePont Powder Company; did work for the Union Oil Company at Fresno, California, where he put up four oil tanks; put up a large tank for the California & Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company near Port Costa, its diameter being one hundred fifty feet and being thirty feet in height. Returning once more to Eureka he resumed work with his old employer, Mr. Langford, until he took the position of deputy sheriff, to which he was appointed January 1, 1910, under Sheriff R. A. Redmond. His chief appreciates thoroughly the system and efficient methods which this capable young man has helped to introduce into the conduct of the Sheriff's Office, and the people have found him as trustworthy and public spirited as the expected, when his appointment was recommended. Personally he is a young man whose fine traits have appealed to all who have come in

contact with him. The Sheriff's Office has never been in better condition than it is with Mr. Ross as deputy sheriff, or more ably conducted, a condition for which Mr. Ross should receive his share of credit. A representative of substantial Humboldt County citizenship, and a man of exceptional qualities as proved by his conduct in all the relations of life, he deserves the high place he holds in the esteem of the people he is serving so faithfully. He is a member of the B. P. O. E. and I. O. O. F. lodges at Eureka, and of the Eureka Development Association. Politically he is a Republican.

On March 17, 1907, Mr. Ross was married at Eureka to Miss Nettie Vreeland, a native of that city, daughter of John and Harriet (Stagg) Vreeland. Mr. and Mrs. Ross live with her parents at No. 815 N Street, Eureka. They have one child, Helen Catherine."

In 1921 Ross was elected sheriff and held the office until 1925. The term of Ross and that of John Runner who followed him was highlighted by Prohibition. The so called problem was handled by the "Dry Squad" of Humboldt County. Billy McKay was the chief of the squad. At this time Steve Metzler was the District Attorney. Members of the squad were: Nifty Hill, John Cunning, Vince Getty, Steve Hash, George Wyman and Jack Lennon.

JOHN W. RUNNER 1926-1929

Intervening during the terms of office held by Sheriff Ross was the term of John W. Runner, who was Sheriff from 1926 to 1929.

ARTHUR A. ROSS 1930-1946

Sheriff Ross also served the term from 1930 to 1946. Art Ross and his wife lived in Eureka for several years after this and then moved to their ranch at Weitchpec. He died here in Eureka November 24, 1958.

CHARLES H. RAAB 1947-1954

In 1947 Charles H. Raab became Sheriff of Humboldt County. He was born on July 21, 1885, in Duluth, Minnesota. Raab served sixteen years with the county sheriff's office before becoming sheriff. During this time he was Chief Criminal Investigator.

During his term as Sheriff Raab was active in civic affairs. He organized the first mounted posse and helped organize and promote local rodeos. Raab was an ardent horseman. He also organized the Marine Posse.

Raab was married to Jessie Hill, who was born January 22, 1889 at 1153 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, and comes from an old Pioneer family. Mrs. Raab still resides next door at 1151 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka. Raab passed away here in Eureka on May 25, 1958.

ALBERT A. NICKOLS 1955 -

In 1955 Albert A. Nickols became Sheriff of Humboldt County. Nickols was born in Los Angeles, California, on December 27, 1897. He moved to Red Bluff with his folks at the age of three months. The Nickols family lived in Red Bluff until after all of the children had received their schooling. In 1916 Albert's father

and grandfather moved to Humboldt as blacksmiths, and he moved to Ukiah and entered the barber trade. In 1930 Albert Nickols joined the California Highway Patrol and remained in that organization until his election to the office of Humboldt County Sheriff in 1955. Nickols was re-elected with a substantial majority in 1958 over K. C. Conners. Nickols is married to Ilene Myers Nickols, and is the father of three sons and one daughter.

Undersheriff with Nickols is William "Gus" Fritz, who was born in Rio Dell and received his education there and in Fortuna. Fritz has studied law enforcement at San Jose State College Police School and has attended several institutions for training. In the service he was a 2nd Lieutenant and in 1946 he was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. Fritz held a position as Police Investigator and Police Administrator with General McArthur's Headquarters in Tokyo. Fritz is a resident of Eureka with his wife Betty and three children. For further information pertaining to Undersheriff Fritz turn to the last page of this history.

*Wm. Pederson re-elected June 1962*

The development of the Sheriff's Department extended into many areas as the needs arose in the county. As population increased resident deputies on a 24 hour basis were required because of the traveling distance to areas such as Hoopa, Orleans and other out of the way locations. As the new work of county roads expanded night patrols were established to protect property and business in remote areas. Population increase

and judicial actions caused the need for the Civil and Criminal divisions in department organizations.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office offers many services to the area which it covers. Essential to the department was the jail facilities for holding law breakers and criminals. The county jail first existed in the county court house located on Second and J Streets in Eureka. The Sheriff's Office and Jail consisted of one large room and three cells substantially arranged. This building was constructed at a cost of \$5,507.00.

In 1885 with the completion of a new County Court House on Fourth and Fifth Streets between I and J Streets, the Sheriff's Office was moved to this new location. In the new court house the jail facilities were located in the northwest corner of the first floor. Old timers say that a hanging tree existed on the court house lawn. No information is available to substantiate this claim.

It was the general practice of the Board of Supervisors to periodically visit the county facilities, including the jail. The Board, having visited the County Jail, reported that they found everything in a good, clean condition, but the jail overcrowded. On the periodic visits of the Board to the jail it was realized that the facilities were inadequate. One such report read: "On motion of A. Wiley it was resolved that a committee of two be appointed by the Chairman of the Board to take into consideration the question of providing the county with a good and sufficient jail and report at the next regular

meeting, September 21, 1877." The Chairman appointed as such committee A. Wiley and Stephen Hill.

Other such reports concerning the condition and needs of the jail were regularly sent to the board. One report states, "Whereas the room above the Court House now used as a County Jail is at times inadequate to contain all the prisoners committed thereto, it is therefore ordered that the Sheriff of Humboldt County be and he is hereby authorized to negotiate with the authorities of the City of Eureka for the use of the city jail when required by him provided this order shall in no case be construed as entitling said Sheriff to any additional remuneration for taking care of the prisoners confined in said city jail more than he would be entitled to were all the prisoners confined in one building."

On January 13, 1891, the Board visited the jail and it appeared that some repairs were necessary in order to more strictly comply with the law in regard to the prisoners being kept separate, and also to secure better ventilation in and about the jail. It was ordered that said matters be referred to Supervisor Mercer to take such action as may be deemed necessary in said matter, and also such repairs to other portions of the building as may be found necessary to protect the same.

On January 10, 1893, a committee of the Board having visited the jail, reported that everything was in satisfactory condition, and recommended that the jail be provided with iron bedsteads for the use of the prisoners, and also that suitable

bedsteads be placed in the apartments used for insane persons. Upon motion of Supervisor Mercer it was authorized to procure one dozen iron bedsteads to be placed as recommended by said committee.

From these reports one can readily see the need for new jail facilities in Humboldt County. In the matter of a new County Jail, on April 8, 1907, it was ordered that Warren Skillings be employed and directed to prepare plans for a re-enforced concrete building. On June 11, 1907, Architect Skillings having presented plans and specifications for a new County Jail, it was ordered that he submit the same to the State Board of Charities and Corrections for its approval.

On July 15, 1907, Warren Skillings, Architect, having completed and presented plans and specifications for a new county jail building, and the same having been approved by the State Board of Charities and Corrections, upon motion of Supervisor McLeod, seconded by Supervisor Williams, it was unanimously ordered that said plans and specification be and they were accepted and adopted by the Board and it was further ordered that the Clerk of the Board be and was thereby directed to advertise for bids for the construction of said new jail building, said bids to be received up to 10 o'clock A.M. Wednesday, September 11, 1907. See Bids Page 40.

In 1912 the new County Jail was completed for 87 prisoners and the facilities in the Court House were vacated.

In the early days of Humboldt County the main officers of

the Sheriff's Office were the Sheriff, Undersheriff, Jailer and those regular deputies as desired by the sheriff. As the population grew and the services of the department expanded, deputies were sent to the outlying areas. However the organization and size of the force was left up to the sheriff. In 1955 Sheriff Nickols instituted the present organization of the department. (See page 45)

Seven divisions were set up by Nickols, Criminal, Business, Jail, Identification, Communication, Civil and Farm.

Under the Criminal Division, a Chief Deputy handles the criminal cases, including all misdemeanor and felony cases, with the help of an Assistant and two deputies in the northern part of the county and two deputies in the southern part of the county. Also under the Criminal Division is the Livestock Deputy, Warrant Deputy, Juvenile Deputy, Water Safety Deputy and the Night Patrol. This division also supervises the Resident Deputies who are located in Orick, Orleans, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Scotia, Bridgeville, Alderpoint, Garberville and Petrolia.

Under the Jail Division the prisoners are handled by a Chief Jailer and seven assistants, a Chief Matron and four assistants. The present number of prisoners in custody per day averages about 150. In the new jail facilities eight additional jailers are to be added to handle the two floors. Two jailers are to be located on each floor at all times (24 hrs. per day) except from 12 midnight to 8 A.M. when the floors will be manned by one jailer each, with one roving jailer.

The Chief Identification Deputy heads the Record and Identification Division, where records on all complaints and cases handled, both felony and misdemeanor, are filed. Criminal records on all persons confined to the Humboldt County Jail are kept in this department for reference, and identifications are made from fingerprint classifications, photographs, prior arrests, etc. Deputies from this division also photograph the scenes of crimes and lift any available latent fingerprints for possible identification of persons involved in the crime.

Communications throughout the county for the Sheriff's Office are handled by the Communications Division and Dispatcher.

The Civil Division, which is considered one of the most technical functions of the Sheriff's Office is headed by the Chief Civil Deputy. Under his direction, this division handles the processing, serving and returning of all legal papers brought to this office for service.

The Farm Division is supervised by a Chief Guard and six assistants. Prisoners work in gardens, raise cattle, and assist in other tasks on the County Prison Farm located at the Arcata Airport. Prisoners from the farm are also sent to the Humboldt County Hospital to do gardening and maintenance work. The main purpose of the farm in the beginning was to help rehabilitate prisoners and take care of the overflow of prisoners in the main jail which was constructed for but 87 persons. The new jail facilities will house up to approximately 300 prisoners with a

good outlook towards future county growth. As a point of interest, the top floor is so constructed that an additional floor can be added in years to come.

Plans are presently in the making to eliminate the housing of prisoners at the farm and keep them all in the main new jail in order to cut down on feeding and operation costs. The present plan is to send work crews of approximate ten to fifteen men to the farm to take care of the raising of pigs, cattle, hay and vegetables, which are used to feed the prisoners.

From early times when the Sheriff's Office employed only three or four people the needs of the county have increased. At the present time 63 people, including the Sheriff, are employed by the department.

The Night Patrol was first tried under Sheriff Raab, and then permanently established as a part of the department under Sheriff Nickols. The Night Patrol is under the jurisdiction of the Criminal Division and all unincorporated areas in the northern, central and southern parts of the county. The North Patrol covers the area north to Trinidad. In special cases the North Patrol extends to Orick. The Central Patrol covers the fringe area around Eureka, and as far south as Fernbridge. This has added much to the protection of property in the Freshwater, Cutten and Fieldslanding areas. The Central Patrol extends east to Willow Creek and Hoopa when any special need is anticipated. The South Patrol covers the area south from Fernbridge to Weott and Garberville on occasions.

The Marine Posse was first organized in 1951. This organization volunteers its services and equipment for use on Humboldt Waters for rescue and water safety purposes. This organization works very well in promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office facilities.

The Mounted Posse was re-organized in 1956 to assist in search and rescue work and to extend service to the Sheriff when called upon. The promotion and participation in horsemen's activities is also fostered by the posse.

The Sheriff's Office has radio communication with 27 of its vehicles and two F.B.I. cars. Including the prison farm vehicles the Sheriff's Office has 30 cars. The radio network also includes all municipal police bands except Eureka. During the night and on weekends the California Fish and Game Department's network is tuned in. This combined radio network has proven invaluable in many emergencies and in the apprehension of criminals.

For the security of prisoners in the outlying areas of Humboldt County the Sheriff's Office maintains a holding jail at Hoopa and Garberville.

The future shows plans that exist with respect to expansion and development of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. The new Humboldt County Court House will house modern jail facilities. In the Court House basement will be located an escape proof prisoner drive in compound. After the deputy's car has entered the compound area the doors will automatically close.

The administrative offices of the Sheriff's Office will be located on the ground floor of the east wing toward Fourth Street. Jail facilities will be placed on the third and fourth floors. The female prisoners, juveniles, and drunks will be held on the third floor. Also on the third floor will be located the kitchen and laundry facilities. The fourth floor will hold all sentenced male prisoners. Special elevators will connect all of the various department of the Sheriff's Office. All doors will be electrically controlled from a central position to insure the safekeeping of the prisoners. The contemplated moving date to the new sheriff's facilities should be May 1960.

With respect to the projected plans of the Sheriff for the future, every opportunity will be taken to improve the facilities and qualities of law enforcement.

PRESENT JAIL FACILITIES - 4th & J Street

In the Matter of Constructing a County Jail Building:

This being the time for opening bids for constructing a County Jail Building and for furnishing the grating and cell work for the same, the following bids were opened and read:

Pacific Construction Co. bid for constructing said building with brick walls and wooden floors, \$51,597.00

and for constructing said building of re-enforced concrete, \$54,487.00

W. N. Cocanon bid for constructing said building of brick and wood, \$52,600.00

and for constructing said building of re-enforced concrete, \$56,390.00

Cotton Brothers and Co. for constructing said building with brick walls and wood floors, \$53,983.00

and for constructing said building of re-enforced concrete, \$58,743.00

Cotton Brothers and Co. for erecting the cells and gratings for one tier of cells, \$27,843.00

and for erecting cells and gratings for two tiers of cells, \$37,947.00

M. G. West and Co. for erecting all jail cells according to plans and specifications, \$28,822.00

and to deduct from said amount for all window guards, entrance doors, visiting grill and closets, if omitted,

the sum of, \$ 1,050.00

and to deduct for second tier of felon cells, \$ 8,060.00

<u>Eureka Pavement Co.</u> for constructing said building with brick walls and wood floors,	\$51,940.00
and for constructing said building of re-enforced concrete,	\$55,860.00
<u>Pauly Jail Building Co.</u> for erecting one tier of cells for each felony ward,	\$24,335.00
and for erecting two tiers of cells in each felony ward,	\$33,913.00

After due consideration of said bids and upon motion of Supervisor Pine, seconded by Supervisor Williams, it is unani-  
mously ordered that the bid of Pacific Construction Co., for  
constructing a re-enforced concrete jail building, according to  
the plans and specifications therefor, be and the same is here-  
by accepted and the said Pacific Construction Co. be awarded  
the contract to construct said building upon filing with the  
Clerk of the Board a good and sufficient bond in the sum of  
\$54,487.00 for the faithful performance of the contract, and a  
good and sufficient bond in the sum of \$27,243.50 for the pro-  
tection of material, men and labor. It is further ordered that  
the Chairman of the Board be authorized to enter into and sign  
a contract, on behalf of Humboldt County, with said Pacific  
Construction Co. And upon motion of Supervisor Williams,  
seconded by Supervisor McLeod, it is unimously ordered that  
the bid of the Pauly Jail Building Co. to manufacture, deliver  
and erect the cell work for two tiers of cells, according to  
the plans and specifications therefor, be, and the same is here-  
by accepted, and that the contract to construct said cell work

be awarded to said Pauly Jail Building Co. upon its filing with the Clerk of the Board a good and sufficient bond in the sum of \$33,913.00 for the faithful performance of the contract, and a good and sufficient bond in the sum of \$16,956.50 for the protection of material, men and labor. It is further ordered that the Chairman of this Board be authorized to enter into and sign a contract on behalf of Humboldt County, with the said Pauly Jail Building Co.

POPULATION AND PERSONNEL INCREASE CHART

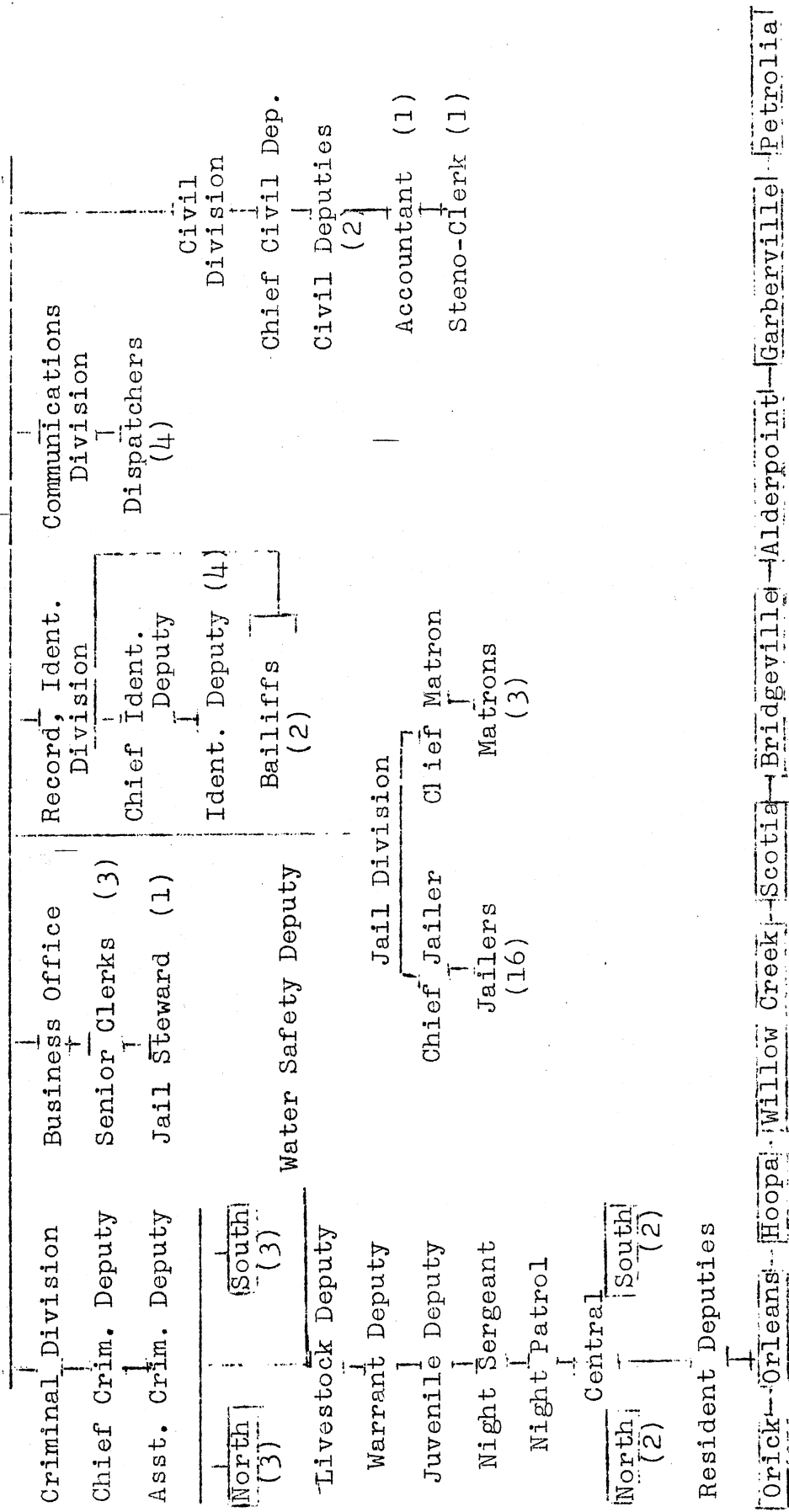
County Population			Sheriff's Dept. Personnel and increase.
	1936		8
(Aug)	1940	45812 5.96% from 1930	9 - 1
	1942		11 - 2
	1950	69241 53.32% from 1940	13 - 2
	1951		18 - 5
	1952	78800	24 - 6
	1953	82750	33 - 9
	1954	86500	37 - 4
	1955	89880	47 - 10
	1956-57	94000	56 - 9
	1957-58		57 - 1
	1958-59		58 - 1
	1959-60		64 - 6 48 hr. week to 44-hr. week.
	1960 (April)		69 - 5 Needed Personnel - New Building.

SALARIES HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT. 1959-60  
 (44 HR. PER WEEK - MALES)  
 (40 HR. PER WEEK FEMALES)

	No.			Per Annum (Jan. 1, 1959)
Sheriff			\$ 9,600.00	
Undersheriff	(1)	Range (15)	\$ 439.00 -	\$ 549.00
Chief Crim. Dep.	(1)	" (14)	415.00 -	519.00
Night Sgt.	(1)	" (13)	392.00 -	491.00
Chief Civil Dep.	(1)	" (13)	392.00 -	491.00
Criminal & Civil Dep.	(26)	" (12)	371.00 -	464.00
Chief Ident. Dep.	(1)	" (11)	351.00 -	439.00
Chief Jailer	(1)	" (11)	351.00 -	439.00
Ident. Dep.	(4)	" (10)	332.00 -	415.00
Warrant Dep.	(1)	" (10)	332.00 -	415.00
Bailiff	(2)	" (10)	332.00 -	415.00
Jailer	(16)	" (10)	332.00 -	415.00
Dispatcher	(2)	" (10)	332.00 -	415.00
Acct. Jr. I	(1)	" (8)	297.00 -	371.00
Chief Matron	(1)	" (6)	266.00 -	332.00
Matron	(3)	" (6)	266.00 -	332.00
Clerk, Sr.	(3)	" (5)	252.00 -	314.00
Clerk, Steno.	(1)	" (4)	238.00 -	297.00
Steward	(1)	Umclassified	392.00	415.00 1960

ORGANIZATION OF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff  
Undersheriff



# Your Undersheriff

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTY OFFICIALS? In this instance, we have reference to Humboldt County's Undersheriff, WILLIAM "GUS" FRITZ, a man born, raised and schooled in Humboldt, where he received his elementary training at Rio Dell, and his high school diploma at Fortuna Union High School.

Following graduation from high school, Fritz enrolled at San Jose State College Police School where he majored in law enforcement, together with an administrative curriculum, that makes for efficient performance of Police Department work, and its many intricate phases of operation unfamiliar to the layman.

William "Gus" Fritz selection and appointment to the position he now holds as Undersheriff by Humboldt County's eminent and capable Sheriff, Albert Nickols, in 1955, was made following a painstaking study and investigation of Fritz's background and training, which convinced him that Fritz was the man to aid him in the duties of the Department, and in service and protection of Humboldt County's populace, expected of himself, his Ranking Officers, and associate affiliates made up of Experienced Deputies, and office personnel.

Sheriff Albert Nickols investigation revealed that, in addition to his Police School training, Fritz was, for a period of time, associated with a previous Sheriff as a Deputy, prior to his enlistment in the Armed Forces in 1941, where he was assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps, of Military Intelligence, as a Special Agent, with whom he received intensive investigative training in all phases of subversion, sabotage, and espionage. For Duty in this important Department of Military tactics, he was thoroughly investigated relative to character, integrity, discretion and loyalty, before being accepted. With the Corps he advanced from Private to Technical Sergeant, then sent to Officers Candidate School, at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he received a Gold Bar and Commission as 2nd Lieutenant. In 1946 he was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

Fritz took his discharge in Japan to accept a position as Police Investigator with General MacArthur's Headquarters (S.C.A.P.) in Tokyo, in the Public Safety Division, under G-2 (Army Intelligence). Within the Public Safety Division, in addition to a Police Branch, were a Fire, Prison, Maritime and Coast Guard Branch. These branches for the most part, were staffed by retired Police, Fire, and Coast Guard personnel.

In the beginning of the occupation, it was the action of these branches to investigate all phases of Japanese Government with particular attention to the branches mentioned. A complete investigation was made into functions, methods of operation, personnel, equipment and the like, of each branch. Following this intensive study, recommendations for implementation and legislation were recommended to the National Japanese Government to correct Nationalization to decentralization. From then on it was the duty of the occupation forces to work closely with the Japanese, to assist them in carrying out their decentralization problems throughout major cities and smallest hamlets of Japan.

From Police Investigator, Fritz was advanced to Police Administrator, a position in which he was responsible for coordinating and carrying out occupation policies with Japanese Police in Traffic, Crime Prevention, and Gangster control and its elimination. He worked closely with all the traffic police throughout Japan and assisted in re-writing of the Japanese traffic laws, which were patterned after the uniform Traffic Codes of America. He also worked with the Japanese police in promoting traffic safety for their adult population and school children. Among other things, Fritz also aided Japanese police in organizing Junior softball teams as an assist in eliminating juvenile delinquency. At the time of his return to the States in 1951, Junior softball was a going and accepted sport in all sections of Japan, with approximately 50,000 children participating. Close liaison was also held with the Japanese police in conducting crime prevention exhibits to acquaint the public with the Police, their activities, and performance of duty.

Relative to the control of gangster movements, Fritz's principal assignment was to control that element of individuals that preyed on local merchants in Tokyo, who operated street stalls fronting business establishments.

Fritz's current duties and responsibilities as Undersheriff are many and varied. They include sitting as Chief Executive Administrative Head of the Sheriff's Department in the absence of the Sheriff. The latter, a duty that in-

cludes the responsibility of making administrative decisions and conducting the affairs of the Department. To administer office policies and procedure through the respective Division Heads of the Criminal, Jail, Records and Identification, Civil, Farm, Senior Clerks, Dispatcher, Bailiffs, and general routine business that passes through the office of the Department. To confer with Division Heads as necessary, regarding problems deviating from established policy and make changes when required. Resolving controversial or unusual problems affecting the operation of the Department. The compilation and drafting of Sheriff's Department Fiscal Budget for Sheriff's approval, and presentation to the Honorable Board of Humboldt County Supervisors. To draft explanation and justification for needed increase in Department personnel for Sheriff's approval and presentation to said Honorable Board of Supervisors.

It should be mentioned here, that Fritz also passed the rigid examination for California Highway Patrol Officer, which, when called, he was forced to withdraw, due to his Military affiliation.

Gus Fritz personal statistics sum up as follows: He was born in Scotia, California, October 3, 1917, a son of William Fredrick, and the late Lilly Fritz. He has one brother, Irving, a Teacher of Music at Sequoia Junior College, at Visalia, California.

In high school he was active in the 4-H Group, Future Farmers of America, and numerous school activities. From 1936 through 1937, he was employed by the Pacific Lumber Company of Scotia. In 1939, when he completed his police course, he returned to Rio Dell where he was employed by an uncle, Einar Rickter, at the time, owner and operator of the Rio Dell Water Works, then a second period of employment with the Pacific Lumber Company until the date of his enlistment in the Armed Forces.

Subsequent to his discharge from Military service, in addition to continued night study in the many phases of police work, he accepted employment in various endeavors that included a period with Millard Barsdale, associated with the Pacific Lumber Company through a hauling contract, Joe Abraham, box mill operator and manufacturer in Rio Dell, and the Eel River Propane Gas Company of Rio Dell, under the management of Ange Barsanti.

Fritz has tolerance, is a slow going, easy sort of fellow, with unusual control of anger. He does not say a great deal, but expects things to run along on an orderly and even keel without driving, but when they do not—he is for knowing the reason, then active in ironing out or correcting, whichever is found necessary. Fritz is a man with a pleasing, likeable personality, and of soothing voice with all whom he converses. An admirable trait for a man in the position he holds.

Gus's hobbies consist of hunting, fishing, raising of bull frogs, and pottery making, an art he learned while in Japan.

He has attended numerous FBI Training Schools. Also attended the majority of Police Officer Administrative Institutes in San Francisco, held the past several years. He was a member of the Rio Dell Methodist Church, and was active in Epworth League work. At present the family attend the First Methodist Church in Eureka.

Fritz is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars—Fortuna Post, Eureka Lion's Club, California Peace Officers' Association, and California State Sheriffs' Association, Humboldt County Peace Officers' Association, and Humboldt County Safety Council.

Much of the streamlining and efficient operation of the present Sheriff's Department can be attributed to his ability to organize and set up policies which were not repetitious or wasteful. Sheriff Nickols appreciates thoroughly the system and efficient methods which this capable young man has helped introduce into the conduct of the Sheriff's Department. He has been found trustworthy, and fair to all. A young man of fine traits that appeals to all with whom he contacts.

In 1953, Fritz exchanged vows with Betty Elizabeth (nee Markman) a registered nurse from San Francisco who came to Humboldt County in 1941 to work at Scotia hospital. The union has blessed them with two children, James and Carol Ann. Fritz is also the father of a son Tommy by a previous marriage, and a son John, by a former marriage of Betty, whose husband was a war casualty.

By W. G. "BILL" MILLER  
Rio Dell, California