THE FABULOUS FIFTIES 1950-1959

April 10, 1950

Sheriff Carl Enlow today enrolled in the prestigious law enforcement training academy in Quantico, Virginia sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In his absence, Undersheriff Orville Kitterman will be in charge of the Sheriff's Department. Enlow would graduate from the F.B.I. National Academy on June 31, 1950 and be honored in a banquet in Lakewood, Colorado at the Aviation Club.

August 17, 1950 Thursday

Today the public raised an angry voice toward their law enforcement in regards to slot machines. Sheriff Enlow had felt that the slot machine problem was not in his authority or jurisdiction to control, and in the past allowed the Federal Government to fight the gambling devices which were springing up all over the county. In an editorial today, the public spoke up and Sheriff Enlow listened.

Sheriff Carl Enlow stands in the gulley below the street overpass on HI 93 north of Golden and surveys the murder scene of a University of Colorado coed, Theresa Foster, in 1948. Sheriff's Deputies stand by for assistance.

"We are against slot machines....Why should they (slot machines) roll at Aspen and an establishment in Arvada be raided for having them? This means that officials can be bribed if they want to accept a bribe. This means that slot machine owners within the state, be they clubs or private citizens, have now foundation on which to keep out gangsters and racketeers, the fellows who want a percent for letting them (the slot machines) run..."

October 25, 1950 Wednesday

Today ground was broken for the construction of the new $575,000.00 courthouse. It was to be located at 17th Street and Arapahoe, where now a large green park was located, but was quickly being scraped under by heavy equipment.

November 7, 1950 Tuesday

Today the Republican, Carl E. Enlow easily carried the general election for the office of Sheriff, defeating Democrat George B. Smith by over four thousand votes.

April 10, 1952 Thursday

Today a B-25 Bomber crashed into the side of Mount Zion (called Golden Peak) and instantly killing eleven on board. Sheriff Carl Enlow immediately set up roadblocks, called the American Red Cross, and also notified his Sheriff's Reserve to help with the containment of the crash site and search for bodies. This new "Sheriff's Mounted Posse" was formed by Sheriff Enlow on March 1, 1952 with the induction of twenty five residents of the Evergreen area with Doctor John Hunt as their leader. This plane crash was to be the Posse's first call out for the department.

November 4, 1952 Tuesday

1952 was seen as a great year for new innovations and inventions for all of Jefferson County. This year, metal street signs replaced wooden signs throughout the county, phone booths with dialers were installed, and television sets were sold for the first time in the county this August. Sheriff Enlow succeeded in getting social security and medical insurance for his deputies, as well as the employees first vacations.

Today, Carl Enlow was successful in his re-election bid for Sheriff, defeating Democrat Harold Brumbaugh by over eight thousand votes.

Searching probe the waters of an irrigation ditch in an all night search for a missing 4 year old Golden boy. Sheriff Carl Enlow, far right, and firemen from the Lakewood Fire Department later found the boy dead.

July 24, 1953 Friday

Deputy Sheriff Richard Schippers knocked Kenneth E. Stanley to the ground with his rifle stock at 1441 Dudley Street in Lakewood. Other Sheriff's Department personnel rushed in to help Schippers in arresting the man, including Carl Enlow. Dan Hiatt of the Colorado State Patrol was there to lend whatever aid was necessary.

Stanley rolled over on the ground and came up again with his gun and fired, hitting Schippers in the shoulder. Deputy Harold Martindale, Schippers, and Carl Enlow opened fire on the suspect, hitting him fifteen times in the body, killing him.

Next Tuesday, Jefferson County District Attorney George Priest filed first degree murder charges on Sheriff Enlow, Harold Martindale, and Corporal Richard Schippers for the shooting death of Stanley. Trial was set for September 1, 1953.

December 1, 1953

Today Sheriff Enlow, Harold Martindale, and Richard Schippers were exonerated in the shooting death of Kenneth E. Stanley last July 24th. Last September 1st, the Sheriff and his deputies were arraigned in District Court before Judge Smith and bail was set at $500.00 each. However, today the court decided that the death of the Lakewood Meteorologist and free lance writer was brought on by himself and the lawmen were not to blame.

Sheriff Carl Enlow created the Youth Division in 1953. This unidentified little man was a member of the first group of youths to enlist in the program.

August 10, 1954 Tuesday Morning

Five prisoners, George Quatsling, Julian Keels, James Meyers, William Flanders and James Brumett sawed a one inch thick bar off the door where food is admitted in Cell Block 9 of the Jefferson County Jail, and squeezed through a 10 inch wide opening. After gaining entrance to the cell block the five prisoners sawed the bars off a high window in the east wall, and made good their escape. At 4:30 am the escape was discovered and Sheriff Enlow called in his deputies and his reserves to scour the countryside looking for these men.

August 11, 1954 Wednesday Night

James Meyers and William Flanders were spotted near Mount Olivet cemetery tonight by a Deputy Sheriff and were captured and returned to jail.

The Board of County Commissioners issued this statement today regarding the escape of the five prisoners of last Tuesday morning.

"The Board of County Commissioners hopes to begin the accumulation of a fund for the purpose of construction of a new jail within a few years. This appears desirable, from the point of view of sanitation and efficiency. In the opinion of the board, however, there is no emergency..."

August 12, 1954 Thursday

District Court Judge Osmer Smith sentenced William Flanders to 20 years in the State Penitentiary, and James Meyers to 16 years in the same place.

Another of the fugitives, Albert Brummett was spotted by a Colorado State Trooper walking alongside the Union Pacific Railroad tracks at Highway 40 five miles west of Deer Trail. Sheriff Enlow today concentrated the search for the remaining two men in the Genesse area where Quatsling and Keels were reportedly seen near a springhouse.

September 16, 1954 Thursday

George Quatsling was captured today in Spokane, Washington after robbing the Dishman State Bank of $135,000.00. In his rented room in this city, law enforcement officials discovered over 50 guns and a lot of cash.

November 2, 1954 Tuesday

Today Sheriff Carl Enlow ran against Democrat Gilbert Dunn for the office of Sheriff. At the end of the day, Enlow had narrowly squeezed out a victory over the popular Democrat, receiving 12,431 votes to Dunn's 12,409 votes. Immediately, Dunn's attorneys called for a recount of the vote since over 14,000 registered voters did not vote. Dunn's popularity came from his residential area in Lakewood and his experience, in a way, as a Denver County Deputy Sheriff. A week later, Robert Newton, Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder announced that Enlow did win the election by 22 votes.

January 22, 1955 Wednesday

Today, Gilbert Dunn filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of Colorado looking for irregularities in the voting last November. El Paso County Judge Charles Simon ruled in favor of Enlow last November 11th and Dunn felt that there was fraud on the part of the County Clerk and Recorder in the official count of the votes.

June 2, 1955 Thursday

Sheriff Carl Enlow today announces the evacuation plan for Jefferson County in case of a nuclear attack or enemy strike on the Colorado front range. He went on the air at 1:30 pm on radio station KVOD for a fifteen minute lesson on how to evacuate the area, and was repeated at 6:15 pm for those 27,000 eastern Jefferson County residents who did not hear the afternoon broadcast.

October 22, 1955 Midnight

In April of this year the first dial telephones went into operation in Jefferson County. Tonight, Sheriff Carl Enlow announces that dial telephones are now installed in the Sheriff's Department and the office has a new telephone number. Crestview 9-2571

December 31, 1955 Thursday

El Paso County Court Judge Charles Simon threw out the law suit filed by Gilbert Dunn, when the Democrat's attorneys could not show enough improper ballots to change the election results.

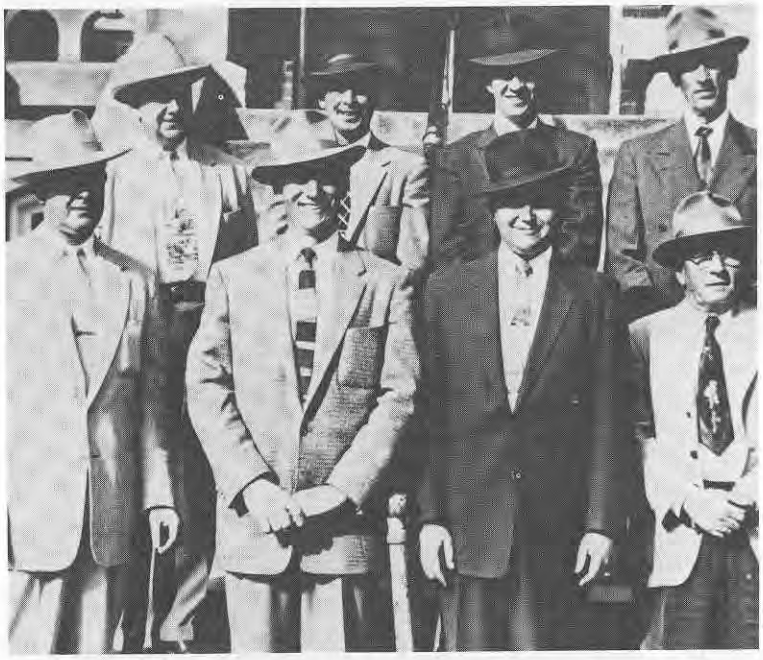
January 1, 1956 Friday

This year marked the first term of Colorado Sheriffs to stay in office for four years instead of the two year terms held in obeyance since 1859. Therefore, Sheriff Carl Enlow would not have to run for office again until the Fall of 1958.

March 10, 1956 Saturday

Sheriff Carl Enlow and former Jefferson County District Attorney, Clement R. Hackenthal were arraigned today on charges of income tax evasion. The charges were returned by a Federal Grand Jury after conducting an investigation (limited as it is) into slot machine and gambling protection payoffs of officials of the First Judicial District in 1949 and 1950.

Assistant United States Attorney Robert Swanson initiated the Grand Jury probe. He interviewed Paul Enrichi, a henchman for Clyde and Eugene Smaldone (gambling leaders in the Jefferson County area), but the mobster would not relate any information regarding to the organization of the Ace Music Company on West Colfax Avenue and alleged payoffs. Nonetheless, Swanson offered some kind of evidence to the Grand Jury and the indictment was issued.



Sheriff Carl Enlow and his Investigative staff in 1956. Enlow is bottom far left. Harold E. Bray stands next to Enlow.

January 11, 1957 Friday

Throughout 1956 Sheriff Carl Enlow would battle the Federal Court System over his indictment issued last March. A jury found him guilty of evading $1,271.00 in taxes, but the Sheriff maintained his innocence. He admitted that he ignored many gambling operations since this was a Federal problem and most other County Sheriffs were ignoring the problem, but he denied taking any payoffs. He was fined $500.00 and sentenced to three years in prison. Sheriff Enlow did not give up easy. He appealed the conviction and refused to resign as Sheriff. Outraged Democrats started a petition drive to have Enlow recalled. Even Governor Ed. C. Johnson called for his resignation. Sheriff Enlow had spent all of his money.

Today at 4:00 pm Sheriff Carl Enlow delivered his resignation to a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Carl Enlow was escorted off to Fort Leavenworth Penitentiary to start serving his time.

The darkest moment in Jefferson County Sheriff's Department history began today when the finest of all our past Sheriffs walked from the courthouse steps in Golden for the last time. It would take years for the department to recover from this lack of justice.

The Board of County Commissioners had a decision to make. Who would they select to finish out Carl Enlow's term as Sheriff? They were to select an evergreen rancher, Arthur Wermuth. Wermuth was known as the "one man army of Bataan" after he killed 116 Japanese soldiers during World War Two in the Phillipines. He was captured and held in 17 Japanese prison camps where he lost nearly one hundred and fifty pounds. He seemed to the Board the type of man who could take charge of the county and right all the wrongs seen in the terms of past Sheriffs.

They would be mistaken in their judgement and choice.

Nonetheless, Arthur Wermuth became Sheriff of Jefferson County in early 1957.

Sheriff Arthur Wermuth

June 16, 1959 Tuesday Morning

William Scott Wright was a playboy bachelor who lived in a large house in Denver and also owned a mountain cabin in Indian Hills. Last Friday, Wright invited Harold D. Wooley and Mary Pearl Walker to spend the weekend with him at his Indian Hills cabin. He would supply the beer and whiskey and even give them a ride in his sleek '56 Thunderbird. Wooley and Walker accepted the offer and the three enjoyed a drunk weekend in the mountains.

On Monday morning the 15th of June, Wright drove his new found friends to Denver to buy more whiskey and beer. Wright also wanted to pick up his .38 calibre revolver from his home to do some target shooting in the solitude of the mountains. Unknown to Wright, Harold Wooley bought his own supply of .38 ammunition.

That night they returned to Indian Hills and enjoyed an evening of drinking and conversation. At about 1:00 am all three went to bed. Wright slept in the livingroom on a cot while the two guests could have his bedroom. Ten feet from the cot was the large portico leading into the kitchen area. At 7:30 am the following morning, the 16th of June, Wooley woke up and went into the kitchen where he could sit at the table and watch a sleeping host a few feet away.

Mary Pearl Walker joined her lover in the kitchen while Wright still slept. Each had a couple of shots of whiskey and Wooley mentioned that they ought to take in some target practice. He pulled out Wright's .38 revolver. Mary Pearl Walker deliberately counted out six rounds from the box of ammunition bought on Monday by Harold and gave the bullets to her lover. Harold David Wooley loaded the .38, leveled the pistol on the sleeping figure of Wright ten feet away, and pulled the trigger.

The bullet smashed through the right temple of William Wright. He moaned once and was quiet. Harold and Mary quietly left the cabin and went to a local cafe (now the restaurant across the street from the Indian Hills Post Office) to have breakfast. At 9:00 am the two murderers returned to the cabin and felt for a pulse on Wright's body. Mary held a mirror in front of the man's nose to see if his breath would tarnish the glass.

Wooley retrieved a canvas from the cabin basement and the two lifted the dead body of Wright onto it, tied it up securely, and loaded the corpse into the trunk of Wright's white '56 Thunderbird.

They left Indian Hills and drove down Highway 285 to Morrison, up to Golden, up Clear Creek Canyon to Highway 119 to Central City. They found a culvert about three miles up Highway 119 and stashed the wrapped body in the recess under a pile of rocks.

Harold David Wooley and Mary Pearl Walker then returned to Denver to have a good time in William Scott Wright's white '56 Thunderbird.

September 9, 1959

Today the Denver Police Department asked the assistance of this department in locating a missing Denver playboy. Investigator Harold E. Bray responded to the mountain cabin of

William Scott Wright, searched the interior, and discovered no sign of violence. Earlier in the day, the Denver Police Department made a traffic stop on a white '56 Thunderbird and subsequently arrested Harold and Mary for questioning in the disappearance of William S. Wright.

September 17, 1959

At 11:00 am this morning, Captain Harold E. Bray joined other Denver Police investigators and began an interview with Mary Pearl Walker and Harold D. Wooley. Harold Wooley admitted to the killing of William Scott Wright.

On May 2, 1960 Judge Stoner of the Jefferson County District Court sentenced Wooley to death in the gas chamber for the week of August 1, 1960.

Captain Art Nelson, Investigator Al Urich, and the standing Sheriff Wermuth go over evidence in 1959.

Deputy Bob Mitchell in 1958

December 31, 1959

The years 1957 and 1958, tragic as they were with the downfall of Carl Enlow, showed a surge of growth that needs to be addressed. Sheriff Carl Enlow purchased the first "fleet" of departmentally owned patrol cars in 1951, and as a lasting reminder of his contribution to the marketing of the department's image, the department purchased another fleet of patrol cars in early 1958 and marked them with the first "star", created by Enlow in 1956. In 1958 twenty eight uniformed deputies made up the Patrol "Division", headed by Captain Chuck Morris and Lieutenant George Drazich. At the end of 1957, the Patrol Division Deputies handled 6,418 calls for service. In 1957 the Board of County Commissioners were able to expend the money collected in the treasurey to construct a new Sheriff's Department and Jail. By the end of 1957 the jail was built adjacent to the courthouse and was destined to accomodate 114 prisoners, the offices needed for Sheriff's Department functions, two court rooms (now the Assembly Room), a laboratory, polygraph room, and space for a State Patrol District Office. In 1959 the Sheriff's Department grew even more in manpower and workload. Nearly 1,500 cases were investigated by the Investigation Division headed by Captain Art Nelson, and nearly 9,000 complaints were handled by the Patrol Division. 1960 was destined to be a very busy year.

Investigation Section in 1960