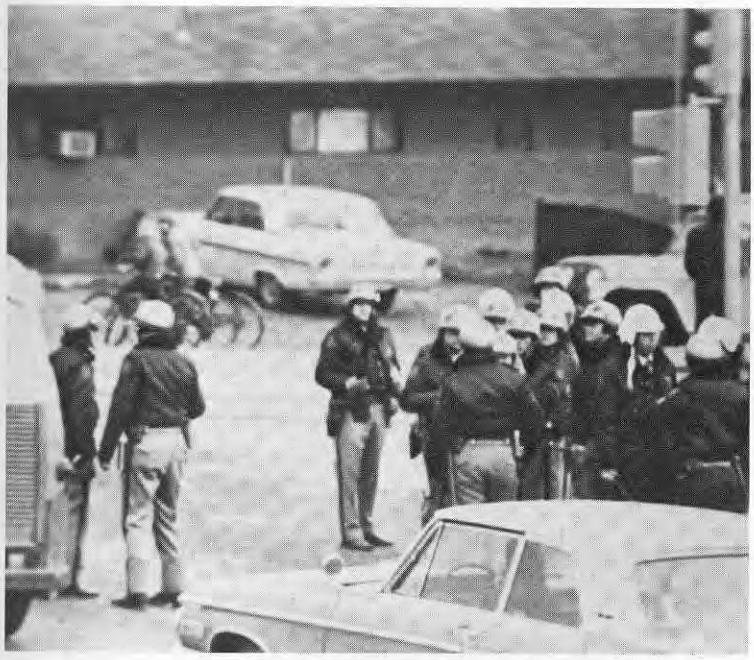
THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY
1970-1979

November 3, 1970 Tuesday

Today Sheriff Harold E. Bray ran unopposed for re-election as Sheriff of Jefferson County, receiving a total of 48,819 votes.



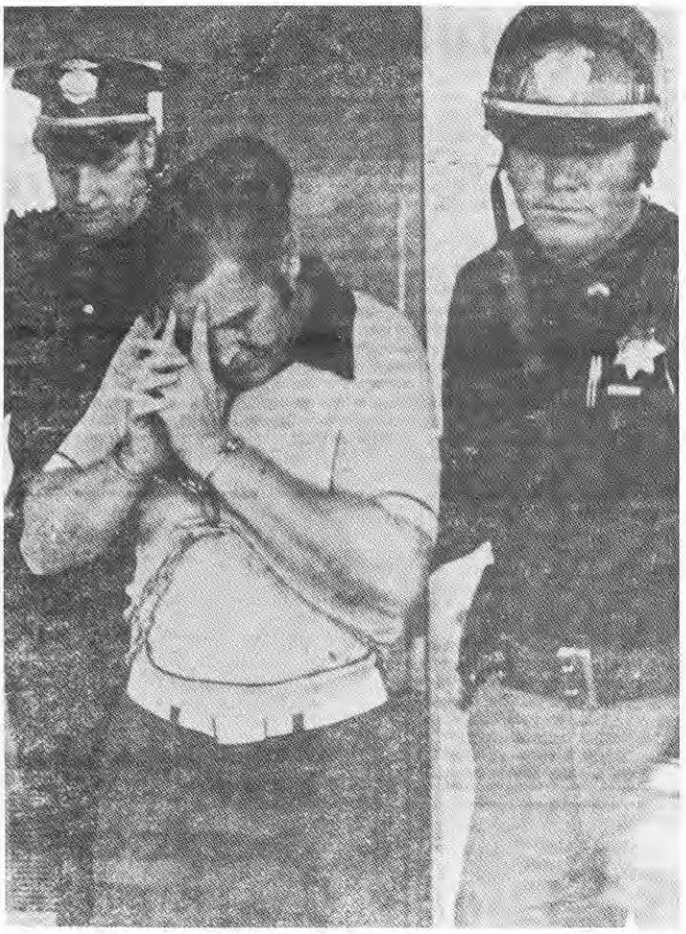
May 9, 1972 Tuesday

Today thirty five uniformed deputy sheriffs from Jefferson County, and several investigators, were sent to Boulder County to assist the local law enforcement officials in quelling a riot. President Richard Nixon decided to mine the harbors in North Vietnam and bomb supply routes into Cambodia. Thousands of anti-war protestors flooded into Boulder and by 12:15 pm today had erupted into a mass of disorder. Fires were lit on the major highways leading into the city to stop traffic. Parks in the city were vandalized and ransacked. Lieutenants Louis Martinelli and Robert Elliot led the thirty five Patrol Division Deputies into Boulder and set up a riot formation line on Highway 36 leading into Boulder.

At 12:15 pm gas was thrown down Highway 36. Bricks and rocks were thrown back. Arrests were made. Bitter fights and confrontations occurred all afternoon along the main highways in Boulder. A slow, drizzling rain began to fall at sunset and the protestors faded away for a short time.

After dark the rain ceased to fall, a fog rolled in, and the rioters began once again to disrupt the city. The power plant to the east of Boulder was put out of service due to sabatoge, and the only lights in the foggy city were aerial flares fired randomly throughout the night.

By midnight the riot was over. 119 protestors were arrested. At 12:30 am all Sheriff's Department personnel were withdrawn from Boulder with alot of bruises, hurts, and stories to tell.



Haywood Lawson is escorted from the Jefferson County Airport by a Wheatridge Officer and Deputy James Saunders after he was returned from New Orleans on charges of shooting two Wheatridge Officers in November of 1973.

The Sheriff's Department Communications Van is blown up by terrorists in south Jefferson County in 1974.

June 25, 1977

In the Fall of 1975 Sheriff Bray began to formulate plans for the construction of a new communications network. Daily incoming telephone calls had esculated to 800 per day. Radio transmissions had tripled since 1974 and fire and rescue calls for service had doubled over the same time period. The old radio system was falling apart. It was held together with "toothpaste and bubble gum". It had been in operation since 1964 and the consoles were now illegal by Federal standards. In June of 1976 the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners signed a resolution that gave the go ahead for the construction of a new micro-wave radio system

In November of 1976 the actual construction work began. The old pistol range in the basement of the Sheriff's Department was torn out and sound proof walls and computer flooring was installed. By June of 1977 the construction was complete. For micro-wave consoles were installed with five tower sites dotting the landscape.

Today the new radio dispatch system for the department was turned on.

Deputy James Saunders, driving the Patrol Car, and Deputy Dennis Potter, his passenger, in 1972.

November 7, 1978 Tuesday

Today Sheriff Bray defeated Democratic candidate Russell Stone 71,182 votes to 33,167 votes for the office of Sheriff.

Since 1973 at the death of Undersheriff Charles Morris, Sheriff Bray announced his decision to make then Captain of Patrol, Denzil Boeka, as his Undersheriff. Undersheriff Boeka would continue to serve in that capacity.

Deputy Earl Spenard as a dispatcher in 1972.

The 1975 "Black and White".

In June of 1977 the "new" microwave Communicatons Center was turned on with the Department's first compliment of "civilian" personnel as full time dispatchers. On the far console is Gary Wertin, with Diane Grote in the foreground.

Investigator Richard Webb and the cultivation of contraband.

The "Law Enforcement Authority" Patrol Unit in 1971.