

YOUR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

1934 Manual Restored By
Retired Deputy Michael Koch

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HALL OF JUSTICE located at Temple Street and Broadway in Los Angeles. The entire ground floor houses the Sheriff's Department. The upper five floors and roof contain the county jail.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND INFORMATION SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles County, California

DEDICATED TO
CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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FOREWORD

The office of Sheriff is a most ancient one, dating back to at least the tenth century in England. The holder of the office has always been the chief executive officer and conservator of the peace in his shire or county. The name "sheriff" has an early Saxon origin. Scir meant shire or county and gerefa meant reeve or bailiff. So through the centuries "shire reeve" ultimately became "sheriff."

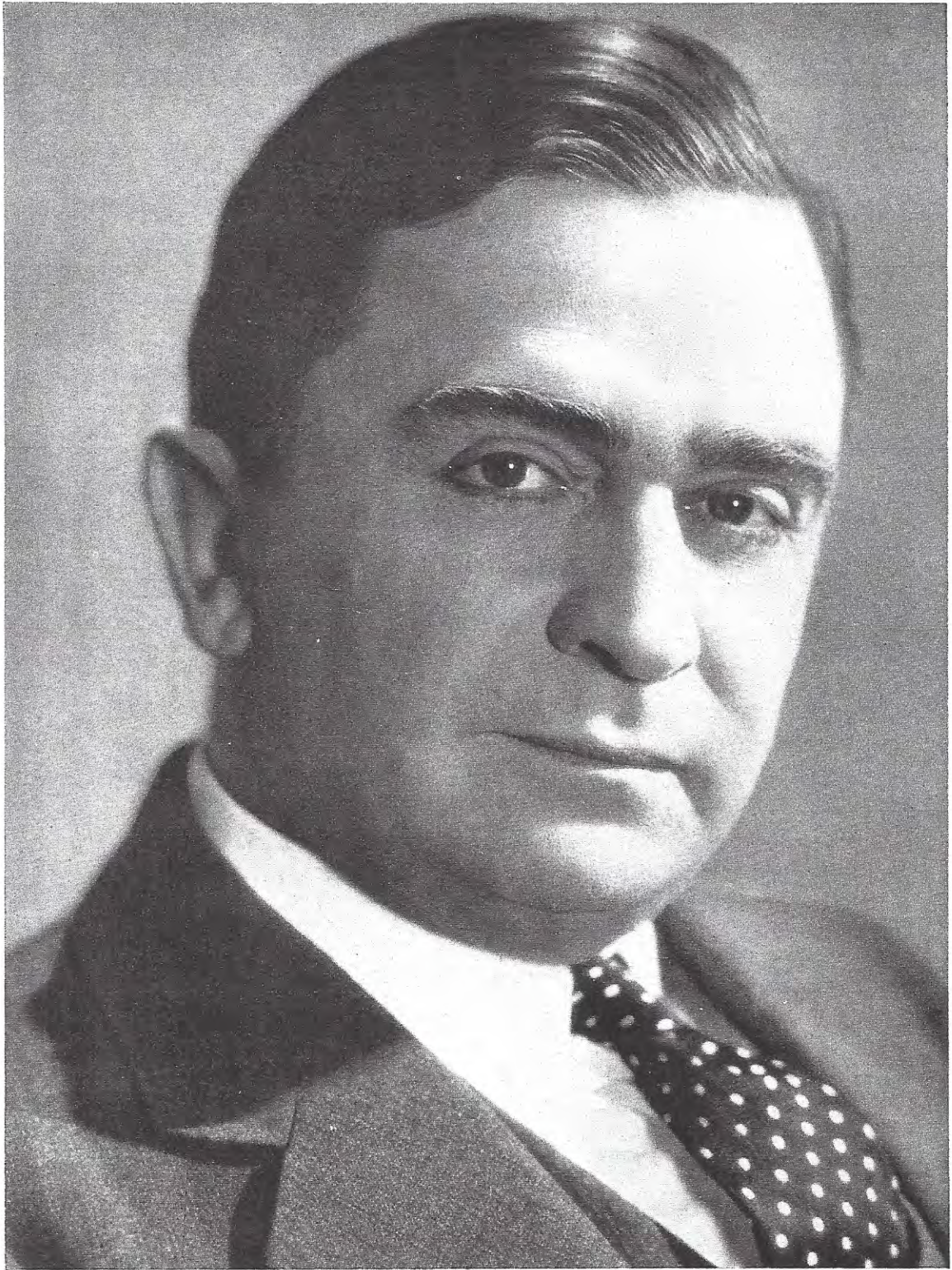
Under common law, the sheriff was appointed by the king and was superior in rank to any nobleman within the limits of his shire, during his term of office. Most present day duties of a sheriff have been handed down from common law. Among these are the power and duty to preserve the peace and to arrest and commit to jail violators of the law. The sheriff may command all the male population of his county to attend him, which is called the posse comitatus, or power of the county.

In Los Angeles County, the office of Sheriff carries with it unusual responsibility. The duties and obligations of this department are somewhat different than commonly encountered in other counties. This is so partly because of our unique political structure under a charter system of county government and partly because of the great area and population of the jurisdiction.

This booklet contains information and pictures in connection with work carried on by the Sheriff and his assistants and the system of organization which is used to do the work efficiently.

It is the belief of this administration that citizens who pay the tax bills which finance operations of this department of County Government are entitled to full knowledge of the type of service they receive. For that reason and in order that they may form their own conclusions, this booklet is dedicated to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

EUGENE W. BISCAILUZ,
Sheriff.



EUGENE W. BISCAILUZ
Sheriff of Los Angeles County

EUGENE W. BISCAILUZ

Sheriff of Los Angeles County

Eugene Warren Biscailuz was born March 12, 1883, on Summit Avenue, in the Boyle Heights section of the City of Los Angeles.

He is the son of Martin Biscailuz, for many years a Los Angeles attorney of high standing. Martin Biscailuz was of French-Basque lineage and a native son born on a ranch in Los Angeles County. His wife, the mother of Eugene, was Ida Rose Warren, a descendant of one of the oldest Spanish families on the Pacific Coast. Her father, Billy Warren, was a native of New York State and a famous character in early Los Angeles County history. He was killed in line of duty while marshal of the City of Los Angeles.

Eugene Warren Biscailuz received a public school education in Los Angeles and attended St. Vincent's College. He was fifteen years of age when his father died, and was obliged to make his own way thereafter. In later years, he took up the study of law at the Law College of the University of Southern California. His first contact with law enforcement work occurred when he was appointed Foreclosure Clerk in the Civil Division of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, under Sheriff William A. Hammel. This was in the year 1907.

Mr. Biscailuz showed natural aptitude for the work of the Civil Division of the Sheriff's Department, and his knowledge of law was of great value to Sheriff Hammel. Later he was made Assistant Chief Civil Deputy of the Division, which position he held until 1921. At that time, Wm. I. Traeger, recognizing the executive abilities of Mr. Biscailuz, appointed him as Under-sheriff, which position he held to August 14, 1929. At this time, Mr. Biscailuz was appointed Superintendent of the California Highway Patrol. He held this position with honors until March 12, 1931, at which time he returned to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as Under-sheriff.

On December 1, 1932, Mr. Biscailuz was appointed Sheriff by the County Board of Supervisors to complete the term of Wm. I. Traeger, who had been elected to United States Congress.

Mr. Biscailuz' service in the Sheriff's Department has been featured by notable criminal investigations as well as distinguished work in the Civil Division.

Since becoming Sheriff, Biscailuz has instituted numerous economies in his department. His program of efficiency, economy and service has resulted in a saving of thousands of dollars to taxpayers.

Recognizing Mr. Biscailuz' ability and experience, the Governor of the State appointed him a member of the Board of Managers of the California State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. While Mr. Biscailuz was Under-sheriff, he played a prominent part in the establishment of what is now the Records and Identification Division, which is considered one of the most efficient in the United States.

The present Sheriff is a 32nd degree Mason, Past Exalted Ruler of the B.P.O.E. No. 906, Santa Monica, California, Past President of the Native Sons of the Golden West, member of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, Past President of the Peace Officers' Association, State of California, Past President of the Acacia Club of Los Angeles, President of the Sheriff's Relief Association of Los Angeles County, and is affiliated with many other fraternal, civil and historical organizations.

Sheriff Biscailuz determines to uphold the traditions of his office and build upon the worthy records of his predecessors. His popularity is almost a proverb, and probably no man in the United States ever came into office of Sheriff better qualified and generally supported by the public than Eugene W. Biscailuz.





ARTHUR C. JEWELL
Under-Sheriff

ADMINISTRATIONS

Sheriffs of Los Angeles County Since 1850

YEAR	NAME OF SHERIFF
1850-52	<i>George P. Burrill</i>
1852-55	<i>James R. Barton</i>
1856	<i>D. W. Alexander</i>
*1856	<i>C. E. Hale</i>
1857	<i>James R. Barton</i>
*1857	<i>E. Bettis</i>
1857	<i>William C. Getman</i>
*1858-59	<i>James Thompson</i>
1860-67	<i>Thomas A. Sanchez</i>
1868-71	<i>James F. Burns</i>
1872-75	<i>W. R. Rowland</i>
1876-77	<i>W. D. Alexander</i>
Sept. 5, 1877	<i>H. M. Mitchell</i>
Sept. 5, 1879	<i>W. R. Rowland</i>
Nov. 7, 1882	<i>Alvan T. Currier</i>
Nov. 4, 1884	<i>George E. Gard</i>
Nov. 2, 1886	<i>James C. Kays</i>
Nov. 6, 1888	<i>Martin G. Aguirre</i>
Nov. 4, 1890	<i>E. D. Gibson</i>
**Nov. 8, 1892	<i>John C. Cline</i>
Nov. 6, 1894	<i>John Burr</i>
Nov. 8, 1898	<i>William A. Hammel</i>
Nov. 4, 1902	<i>Will A. White</i>
Nov. 6, 1906	<i>William A. Hammel</i>
Nov. 8, 1910	<i>William A. Hammel</i>
**Nov. 3, 1914	<i>John C. Cline</i>
**Nov. 5, 1918	<i>John C. Cline</i>
*Mar. 9, 1921	<i>William I. Traeger</i>
Nov. 7, 1922	<i>William I. Traeger</i>
Nov. 2, 1926	<i>William I. Traeger</i>
Nov. 4, 1930	<i>William I. Traeger</i>
*Dec. 1, 1932	<i>E. W. Biscailuz</i>
Nov. 6, 1934	<i>E. W. Biscailuz</i>

* Appointed.
 ** The only ex-Sheriff of Los Angeles County alive today is John C. Cline.

COOPERATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement today presents an entirely different problem from that contended with a generation ago. At the beginning of the twentieth century, crime and lawlessness were chiefly of a local character, confined to districts and communities which were policed by local officers. A large majority of crimes were committed by persons who were permanent residents. After commission, the criminal did not attempt to leave for other parts of the country, but rather tried to conceal his identity and remain unarrested in the community where he had lived and was known.

Itinerant criminals were practically unknown, and those operating met with repeated difficulties in carrying on their lawless activities. This was so because traveling facilities and means of communication were entirely different from what they are today. People did not move about from one community to another with such frequency and rapidity as they do these days, with our great railroad systems, our modern airplanes and swift automobiles, and even our greatly improved time schedules in ocean travel.

Local peace officers were able to get acquainted with the various citizens of their jurisdictions and newcomers or strangers were usually noted immediately and rather closely observed until they had established an acquaintance and good reputation. Today, it is a frequent occurrence for a criminal to come from one place, commit his crime in a second, dispose of his loot elsewhere and seek concealment and refuge in still another community. Peace officers are thoroughly accustomed to dealing with strangers in their localities, and the mere fact that a person is an itinerant and is unknown is no cause for suspicion on the part of the police. Some of our finest and most substantial citizens comprise a tourist or itinerant class and frequently could not be distinguished from clever criminals posing as such tourists.

In order to meet the changing conditions, today's law enforcement authorities have utilized all modern scientific methods and equipment. More and more team work has been developed between the many law enforcement agencies and the whole police structure is undergoing an evolutionary change.

Clearing houses have been set up for the pooling of statistical data and information upon the activities of criminals. These State and National

Bureaus have been able to gather facts from every peace agency in the country and interchange information beneficial to all. Throughout the State of California, there has been built up a number of peace officer's associations, formed for the purpose of promoting better cooperation and harmony between peace officers.

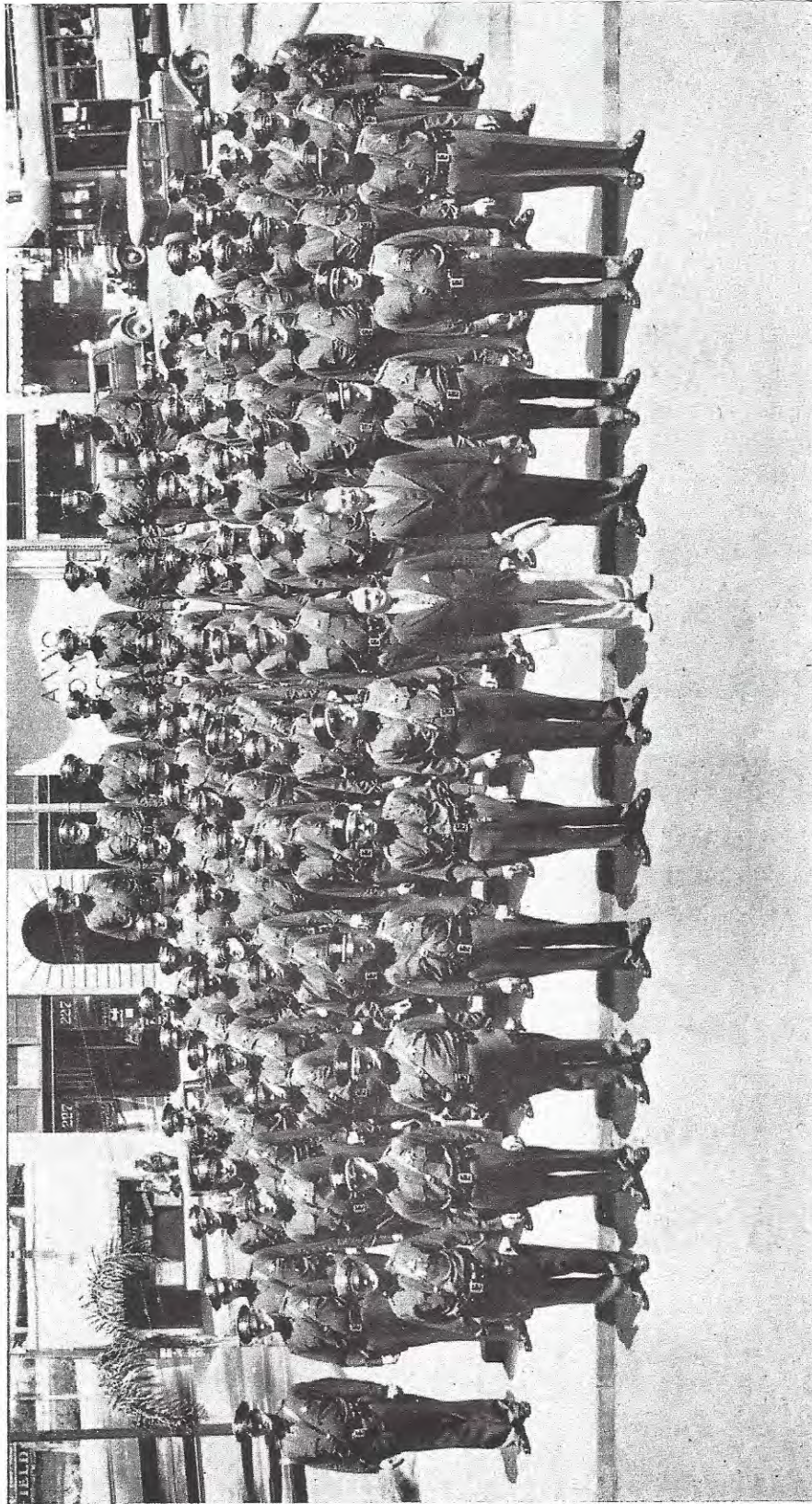
Today, this policy of bringing together official police bodies into a more closely knit unit is progressing rapidly. We find more and more that the larger and better equipped agency is cheerfully lending a helping hand to its smaller brothers. Naturally, the large law enforcement agency of a great county or metropolis is able to employ specialists and the finest of laboratory and technical equipment, whereas the smaller department would not find it economically practical to do likewise. So it is that all facilities and assistance are held available to any peace agency at any time, in a spirit of cooperation and a desire to better the status of all peace officers.

The near future will undoubtedly bring refinements and improvements in our law enforcement structure. Unquestionably there are some weaknesses which must be overcome. Intelligent suggestions are being made by many students of the problem, and changes may take form in a variety of ways. Perhaps it would be advisable to enact statutes giving peace officers state-wide jurisdiction. Jurisdictional boundaries are sometimes declared to impede peace officers in their warfare against criminals.

Some small body of specialist investigators might well be organized as a state function, and having statewide jurisdiction in order that their services might be utilized by the smaller and rural peace agencies when proper occasion arises. This would be somewhat in the nature of a State Bureau of Investigation similar to the National Bureau which has been so successful.

There exists today a state law making it compulsory for peace agencies to report crime statistics upon standard forms to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. Laws could equally well be enacted making it compulsory that all policing organizations be active members of associations and adopt standardized systems for training and schooling their officers.

The agencies functioning throughout the State are known to be efficient and conscientious on the



Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz and Undersheriff Jewell with a group of the department's uniformed officers.

whole. Changes in the future should be predicated upon the splendid basic structure which we now have. Intelligent consideration and legislation based upon unselfish and constructive thought will undoubtedly solve our problems and give us a law enforcement service to meet our especial and par-

ticular needs—a service which will be second to none and one which may pioneer the way for others to follow.

E. W. BISCAILUZ, *Sheriff*
County of Los Angeles, California.

JURISDICTION AND ORGANIZATION

Geography and Area

The geographic jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Los Angeles County covers an area of about seventy miles long and seventy miles wide.

This area consists of 4,083.21 square miles. Of this area, 3,951 square miles are in the mainland, the rest being covered by the islands of San Clemente and Santa Catalina. The area of San Clemente Island is 56.41 square miles, and that of Santa Catalina Island, 74.82 square miles.

San Clemente Island is 43 miles off the coast of Los Angeles County. It is 20 miles in length and 5 miles wide. Santa Catalina Island lies about half way between San Clemente Island and the mainland. It is about a third larger than San Clemente.

The mainland area is largely mountainous, with altitudes ranging from sea level to Mount Baldy, which rears its head to a height of 10,059 feet. The mean average altitude is 270 feet above sea level. The northern part of the county is very mountainous, sparsely settled, and the communities are far apart. There are 80 miles of sea coast on the west and south, with some ten beach cities, some of them of considerable size. The harbor district of the county is in the southwestern section.

The jurisdiction includes the metropolitan city of Los Angeles and forty-three other incorporated cities, 30 of which are in a radius of 20 miles from the center of Los Angeles City. Los Angeles County originally included 34,000 square miles of territory, about one-fifth of that of the entire state. From that original area, 24,000 square miles were cut off to become San Bernardino County. In 1886, 5,000 square miles of the county were incorporated into Kern County, and in 1889, Orange County was formed on the southeast.

Population

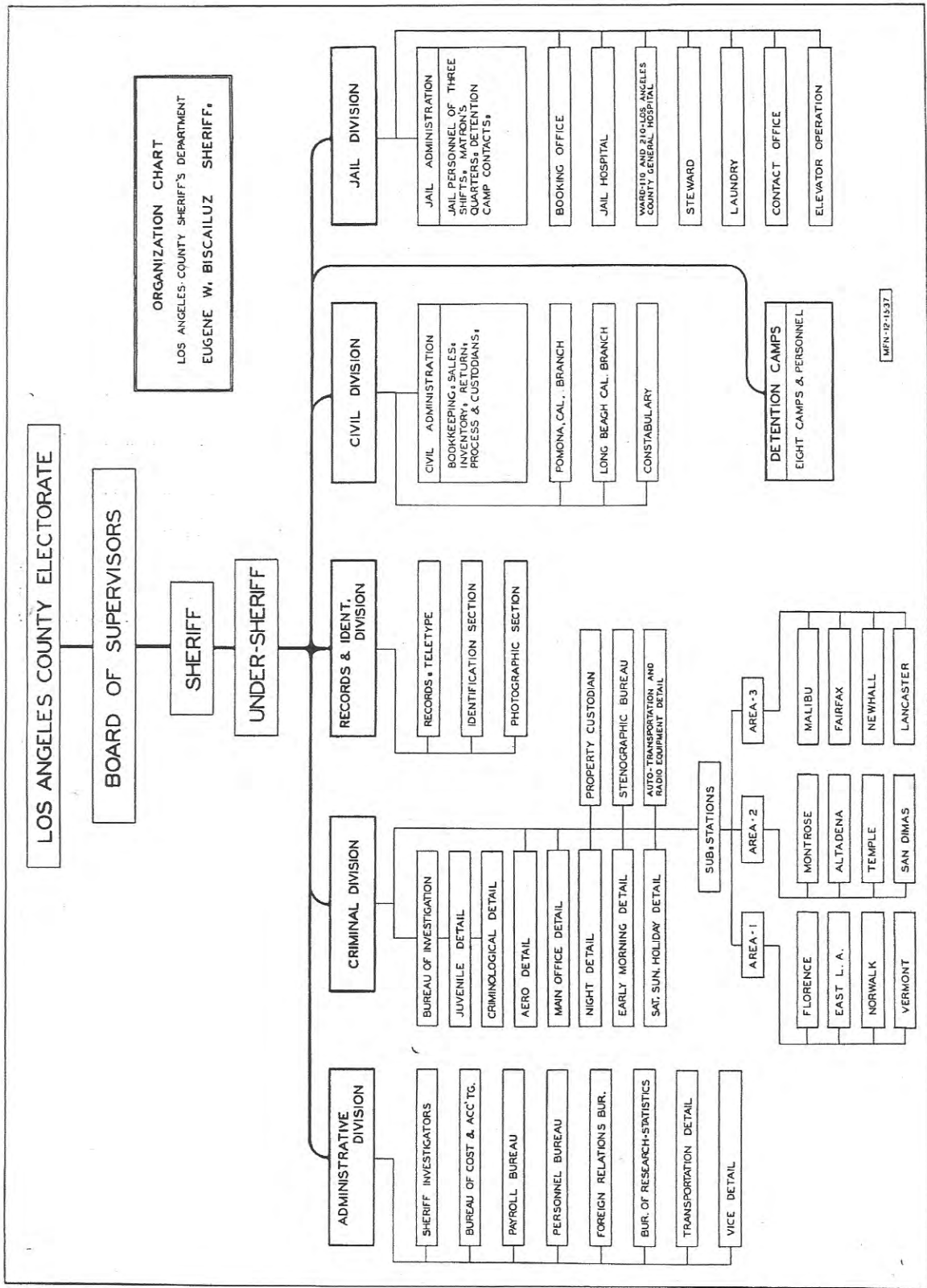
Los Angeles County is not only large in point

of area, but the southern half of the county contains an immense population. The last census enumeration gave the county 2,208,248 inhabitants, of which more than half a million people lived outside of incorporated municipalities within the county. These figures make it the third largest Sheriff's jurisdiction as to population in the United States, the only counties exceeding it in numbers being Cook County, Illinois, and Kings County, New York.

According to the same census report, the county has the largest number of different foreign nationalities represented in its population of any county in the whole country. At the present time, nearly one million people living in the county are either foreign born or children of parents one or both of whom were foreign born. Some 46 different national and racial groups are represented in this number, the largest being the foreign English speaking population, numbering about 300,000. The second largest of these groups is the Spanish speaking population, numbering about 200,000. The Germans follow with 100,000, and the Scandinavians with 75,000; Russians with 51,000; Italians, 40,000; Japanese, 35,000; French, 18,000; and many others with constantly decreasing numbers, down to the Malays, of which there were three persons shown in the county population given in the 1930 census report.

Industry

In industry, practically every line of manufacture and fabrication is represented. The production of oil is enormous. Wealth in "black gold" is evidenced by forests of derricks and acres upon acres of storage tanks. The extent and activity of the cinema industry is known all over the world. The county is the aero industry center of the entire country. Some 35 airports are maintained, and in aircraft manufacture and transportation, Los Angeles County leads the world.



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