

# The Glendale Police Foundation

SUMMER



2007

Congratulations to the officers who were honored at the Twelfth Annual Police Appreciation and Awards Luncheon. The Glendale Police Foundation along with the Glendale Bar Association, Glendale Kiwanis Club and your families are very proud of you.

The Annual Luncheon is made possible in part through the generosity of many sponsors and the community at large. Our sponsors this year are listed below. We thank you!

## TABLE

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***"In a series of ongoing articles, we'll look at gangs in general and those in Glendale."***

By Lt. Don Meredith

## Gangs 101

In coming issues of the GPF newsletter, we'll provide an overview of gangs and their genesis. We will also focus on gangs in Glendale, starting with Hispanic gangs, followed by other ethnic street gangs as well as Stoners, Prison gangs, Motorcycle gangs and Taggers.

## Chapter 1

World history documents gangs back to at least the 1500's. Gangs in the United States chart their history back to the 1700's with the existence of immigrant gangs in New York City. The early gangs are believed to have their origins in the impoverished area known as "Five Points." These early gangs were generally composed of immigrant children who had been abandoned or orphaned in this tough neighborhood. They banded together for a sense of belonging, security and commonality of culture.

Gangs that were predominant in the early days of this country were generally recent immigrants who lived in impoverished and crime ridden conditions. These recent immigrants faced discrimination because of their heritage.

As the United States came of age, so did gangs. They have grown into violent, criminal enterprises in both metropolitan and rural areas of the United States. In California a criminal street gang is defined as any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in California Penal Code section 186.22 and have a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and

L - R: Volunteer of the Year, Leroy Smith; Officer of the Year, Detective Joe Allen; Reserve Officer of the Year, Tim Anderson; Civilian of the Year, Mariel Estipona.



Glendale Police Chief's Award of Excellence; l-r, Sergeant Mario Marchman, Lieutenant Donald Shade.

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whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

### California Gang Activity

In California gang activity dates back to the early part of the 20th century. Between 1910 and 1920, over 21,000 Mexicans immigrated to Los Angeles to escape the ravages of the Mexican Revolution. Many of them settled in what is now known as Atwater and Tropic (southwest Glendale). They settled in the same area due to their common bonds of culture, religion, family and friends. By the early 1940's, the Mexican immigrant population in Los Angeles swelled to 250,000. This was the largest group of immigrants in Los Angeles. They often experienced discrimination and disparity in treatment.

About 1940, articles on Mexican Street Gangs started to appear in local papers. In August 1942, the "Evening Herald Express" front page brought these gangs to the front page, covering the "Sleepy Lagoon Murder." Sleepy Lagoon was located in the Montebello area and a death of a local ranch hand occurred during a fight between the Los Angeles based, "38th Street gang" and the "Downey gang."

### Zoot Suit Riots

Subsequent to the Sleepy Lagoon murder a young man immigrated to Los Angeles from Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico via El Paso, Texas. This young man, Mickey Garcia, had mimicked the style of dress worn by jazz musicians and drug traffickers of the time. This style of dress was a fancy oversize suit, short fat tie, chain, Fedora style hat and dress shoes. Mickey Garcia's style of dress became known as the "Zoot Suit" and was quickly adopted by the Mexican youth as well as some youth within the African-American and Filipino communities.

As a result of a fight in which some U.S. Navy sailors were beat up by some Mexican youths, a series of street brawls occurred. These fights were between members of the U.S. military and anyone they could find of Hispanic decent. This became known as the "Zoot Suit Riots" and was a catalyst in street youth banding together for protection.

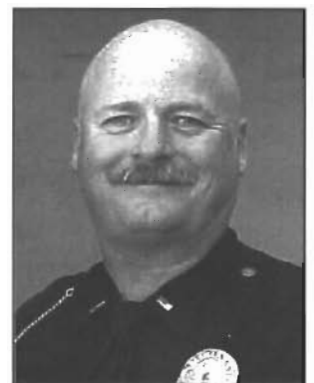
### Gangs in Glendale

Glendale gangs date back to 1937 and the "Latin Souls", a group active in southwest Glendale and Atwater Village.

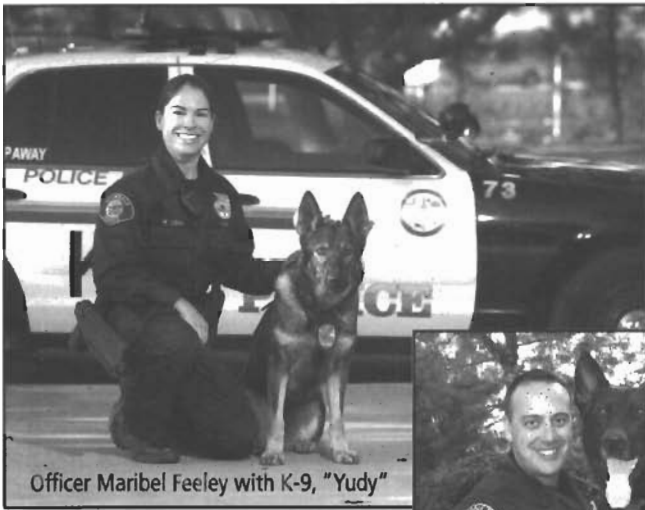
In the 1940's the gang became known as "Toonerville" gang. Toonerville was slang for Atwater Village, a stop on the Pacific Electric street car line. The street cars were shabby just like those in the 1940's depicted in a Looney-Tunes cartoon entitled, "Toonerville."

Two rival gangs the --"Avenues" and "Frogtown"--formed in Northeast Los Angeles around the same time. The Avenues took their name from the fact that streets in the area are called, "Avenue 53," "Avenue 54". The Frogtown gang derived their name from an event where large number of frogs appeared in neighborhoods along the Los Angeles, River.

Stayed tuned for the next installment on Gangs.



Lt. Donald Meredith is a 35-year veteran of the Glendale Police Department and has served in many of its divisions. Presently, he is in charge of the Community Services Bureau



Officer Maribel Feeley with K-9, "Yudy"

Officer Robert Wynkoop with K-9, "Marlin"



Officer Aaron Hamilton with K-9, "Quai"



Officer Shawn Sholtis with K-9, "Sam"

## Police Canines in Competition

On May 11, 2007, two of the Glendale Police Department's canines and their handlers participated in the Redondo Beach Police Canine Trials Competition. The competition, which took place over a two-day period and hosted 20 different agencies, showcased the extensive hours and dedication that are put into training the canines and keeping their skills sharp.

The two-day competition consisted of several categories and contests for the canines to participate in. On the first day of the event, canines competed in narcotics searches of boats, cars and buildings. Marlin, handled by Glendale Police Officer Robert Wynkoop, made an impressive third place finish overall in this category while competing against 36 other canines.

On the second day of competition, canines participated in a box search, which consisted of the dog attempting to find a hidden person, an obedience contest and obstacles. Quai, handled by Officer Aaron Hamilton, placed third in the obedience category.

Marlin also finished second overall in the novice competition. In order for canines to compete in this category, they had to have participated in three previous competitions. Marlin made an impressive finish among canines who have been working for over three years.

Officers Wynkoop and Hamilton have only been working with their dogs for one year. Both Marlin and Quai began narcotics training in November, 2006, and are now considered fully trained.

Previously Sam, who is handled by Officer Shawn Sholtis, placed first in the obedience competition out of 33 dogs at the Riverside County Canine Trials Competition this past year.

In the Ventura Canine Competition Trials in July, 2006, Officer Sholtis and K-9, Sam won 2nd place in Overall Novice, 2nd place in Speed Agility and 2nd place in an Explosives building search.

Officer Maribel Feeley and K-9 Yudy won 4th in Overall Novice at the Ventura Canine Competition Trials, July, 2006.



The Glendale Police Department's Canine Program has been in existence for two years.

**Yes, I want to support the Glendale Police Department in its efforts to keep Glendale one of the safest cities in California with a donation to the Glendale Police Foundation. I am enclosing my check payable to GPF.**

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Please complete and mail with your donation to The Glendale Police Foundation, P.O. Box 10142, Glendale, CA 91209-3142.

The Glendale Police Foundation is endorsed by Glendale Police Chief Randy Adams and the Glendale Police Officers' Association.  
The Glendale Police Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## **The Glendale Police Foundation Mission Statement**

*Originally Glendale Citizens for Law & Order, now the Glendale Police Foundation, was organized by a group of local citizens led by Raymond D. Edwards, then Chairman of the Board of Glendale Federal Bank was incorporated as a non-profit 501c3 Corporation, February of 1968.*

*The Glendale Police Foundation's stated mission is to encourage every citizen to become active, involved and responsible in supporting law enforcement to fight crime. The Foundation has carried on the goals established in 1968 and recently, with the support of the community, has added to those goals as a major contributor toward the purchase and maintenance of a Canine Unit. The Foundation will purchase, as needed, equipment not covered in the department's budget. The Foundation will continue the annual Police Appreciation & Awards Luncheon.*

*The goals of a quarter century ago continue to be fundamental today. Glendale has grown into a thriving center of finance and trade. With that growth has come many of the problems typical of large metropolitan areas. However, through the efforts of the Glendale Police Department with the support of its citizens, Glendale remains one of the safest cities in California and in the country.*

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