

THEN AND NOW

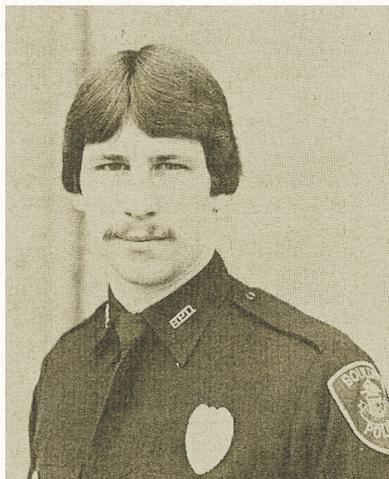
Boulder Police Department's Annual Report

Volume I

2008

Free





Officer Mark Beckner, 1978



Chief Mark Beckner, now

Police chief looks back on year(s) of service

Department marks 130th anniversary

There wasn't much in the way of fanfare, but in 2008, the Boulder Police Department marked a significant milestone – 130 years of service.

Over the course of the past 13 decades, we have grown in every way.

More officers.

More crime.

More calls for service.

More technology.

More community expectations.

More professionalism.

More challenges.

We have done our best to keep up with changing times and adapt the way we protect and serve our community.

This past year, we saw the difference science can make in unsolved homicides. We were reminded, again, how important it is to have specialized teams that can respond to crisis situations. We launched a new records management system that will help us share and analyze information more effectively. We started updating our communications center to meet the needs of an evolving community.

While all of this was happening, we continued to focus on what we consider our core crime-fighting mission.

We had our hands full. Serious crime in Boulder was up nearly 18 percent in 2008, following a steady decline over the past several years. It is too soon to tell whether this was an anomaly or a trend that we can expect to continue.

Even with the rise in crime, our clearance rates continued to set us apart. In nearly every category of serious crime, including homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault and theft, we had clearance rates that well exceeded the national averages calculated in 2007 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

New challenges greet us every day, and sometimes, it becomes all too easy to forget those we have already overcome. In that spirit, we decided to design the 2008 annual report around a theme – Then and Now. We're looking back while also keeping an eye on our future.

We thank you for your interest in our department's accomplishments and look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

- Mark R. Beckner,
Chief of Police

DNA leads to arrest in '97 Chase slaying

Detective Chuck Heidel was celebrating his birthday when he got the call he'd waited years to receive – DNA collected in the 1997 sexual assault and slaying of University of Colorado student Susannah Chase had finally paid off.

DNA had been entered into the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database after the crime. Now, for the first time, there was a hit.

The profile matched one taken by Wyoming corrections officials and belonged to an ex-convict who had been released from prison in Wyoming a few months earlier after serving time for a felony conviction.

Detectives set to work, finding out everything they could about the suspect, 38-year-old Diego Olmos-Alcalde.

On Jan. 26, 2008, they learned that

he was likely staying with his mother in Aurora. With the assistance of the Aurora Police Department, officers located him at that address and took him into custody without incident.

The arrest marked a significant turn in the case that had troubled the Boulder community and investigators alike for years.

Chase, a 23-year-old University of Colorado student, was beaten with a baseball bat and left to die in an alley a block from her Boulder home on Dec. 21, 1997.

The arrest warrant against Alcalde listed a variety of serious charges: first-degree murder (premeditation), first-degree felony murder, second-degree kidnapping and first-degree sexual assault.

As of this publication, Alcalde remains in jail awaiting trial on the charges.

But Police Chief Mark Beckner said the case exemplifies the important role new technology can play in criminal investigations.

"We are pleased with this development and grateful for the opportunity to finally see justice in this case - for Susannah, the Chase family and the Boulder community," Beckner said at the time of Alcalde's arrest.

Heidel personally called Chase's mother to let her know the news.

A short while later, the family issued a statement: "As you might imagine, our emotions have run the gamut since we first heard of the DNA match with Susannah's case. We are delighted that a suspect has been identified and apprehended."

One of the earliest DNA cases involved a sex assault in 1993 where DNA profiles were linked back to a suspect 10 years later. Before the days of DNA, serology was used for identification. This entailed blood typing to eliminate suspects.

Serious crime clearance rates, 2008

Crime	Boulder Rate, 2008	Natl. Average, 2007
Murder	100 percent	61 percent
Forcible rape	65 percent	40 percent
Robbery	32 percent	26 percent
Aggravated Assault	88 percent	54 percent
Burglary	11 percent	12 percent
Theft	24 percent	19 percent
Vehicle Theft	12 percent	13 percent
Arson	14 percent	Not available



SWAT members take position to respond during a bomb scare/photo courtesy of The Camera

SWAT and bomb teams respond to threat, standoff at crowded hospital

The Boulder Police Department's resources – from patrol to the bomb unit, SWAT, detectives, communications and command staff – were tested on March 17, 2008, when a suspect holed up in the Boulder Community Hospital lobby, saying he was wired with explosives.

Officers Sharon Ramos and Pam Gignac arrived on the scene in the 1100 block of Balsam Avenue and began talking with the suspect – Terrance Baughman, 32, of Boulder.

As the day unfolded, it was determined that Baughman, who was sitting in a wheelchair, might have suicidal and homicidal tendencies.

While officers and investigators tried to determine everything they could about Baughman and attempt to resolve the situation peacefully, SWAT and bomb technicians got to work, assessing the threat and setting up a variety of entry options.

Patients in the hospital were relocated outside of the possible blast zone and the area was locked down for more than five hours.

Officers' primary objective was to keep Baughman from entering the populated portion of the hospital, where he would be in a position to

In 1964, the first Emergency Squad was established to aid police when they were unable to handle certain situations. The squad was equipped with night sticks, riot guns, tear gas and gas masks in addition to regular service revolvers.

cause significant injuries.

At 1:15 p.m., after several hours of communication with Baughman, the suspect stood up and began moving toward the emergency room area. Officers attempted to use less-lethal devices but the suspect continued advancing.

Baughman was shot once in the chest by a SWAT officer. He was immediately brought into the emergency room to undergo

treatment for his gunshot wound.

Throughout the incident, Baughman was holding a red bag that he referred to as a bomb.

The bomb squad x-rayed the bag and observed contents that appeared similar to an explosive device. The bomb squad used its robot to transport the bag one block west of the hospital to North Boulder Park and detonated it. Investigators later determined that the box contained no explosive materials but had items assembled to look like a bomb. A second package found in the area was cleared at the scene.

Doctors performed surgery in the very ER that Baughman had threatened, but the suspect died as a result of his injuries.

The District Attorney's Office subsequently ruled that the shooting was justifiable.

The department recognized many of the participants involved in the incident with Medal of Valor and excellence awards. Medal of Valor awards are extremely rare. The last one was awarded in 2000, and until this incident, no current member of the department had earned this distinction.

Detective nabs robbery suspect in latte line

Sometimes, it's all about being in the right place at the right time - and then realizing that you are.

Detective Kurt Foster discovered this May 26, 2008, when he left the office to talk to victims of a robbery that had occurred the previous day at the Starbucks in the 2400 block of Baseline Road.

The suspect had walked into the store at 9:45 p.m. on May 25 and motioned for a pen. The suspect wrote "Vanilla Latte" and "the \$" on a piece of paper. The clerk thought he was asking for the price, so he wrote \$3.09 on the paper. The robber responded in a low voice, "Give me all your money. I'm armed. Twenties will do." He then ran from the store.

While at the store the next day, Foster noticed that a man waiting in line matched the description and was wearing some of the same distinctive clothing as the suspect.

The suspect nearly reached the counter, but then he abruptly left the store. Foster walked out after him and identified himself as a police officer. The man took off running. After a brief pursuit, Foster got his man.

The suspect was later linked to an armed robbery at a grocery store.

One of the earliest reported robberies happened in 1915 when two masked men entered Allaback's Meat Market and the Arapahoe Mercantile. They had revolvers and forced employees to put their arms up, ripped out phone lines and went through cash registers. Nine dollars were stolen from the meat market, \$135 from the cash register and \$70 from one of the employees. The suspects were never found.

Police launch new, modern records system

Gone are the days of paper reports and file card indexes. In September 2008, the Boulder Police Department catapulted into the 21st century with the launching of a new, state-of-the-art records management system.

Like the most recent program used by the department, the new system, called Tiburon, is computer-based. But it provides several important features that should enhance the department's recordkeeping abilities.

First and foremost is the issue of storage. Tiburon keeps all records electronically, relieving police information specialists from having to make paper copies and find space to store them in already cramped quarters.

In 1965, the Boulder Police Department was first in the state to initiate The Royal McBee Keydex records system. This replaced the prior method of records keeping which involved typing cards for every person who had contact with the police.

Because the records are electronic, it is possible to search them for key words or phrases, suspects'

descriptions and M.O. This feature should give investigators the ability to compare and contrast cases and allows information specialists to find related reports for members of the public more easily.

Tiburon is a system used by many law enforcement agencies, so Boulder police can now share reports with other police departments and prosecutors' offices.

Property is linked to individuals electronically, providing quality assurance for people from whom items have been seized and for prosecutors who need to track evidence while preparing for trials.

The implementation of Tiburon was a huge undertaking.

After signing a vendor contract in January 2007, the department compiled a team of employees. The team included records staff, IT employees and police officers, many of whom were asked to step out of their traditional duties to take on this new challenge.

The team was tasked with building more than 75 code tables involving more than 100,000 records. When coding errors were discovered, the product was sent back to the vendor to be fixed. Often, those "fixes" required the team to return to the start of their coding process.

In January 2008, department leaders threw another challenge into the mix.

For years, the department has compiled statistics based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Officer Sharon Ramos accesses a Tiburon report from her patrol car.

Under this system, a crime is counted once based on the most serious charge linked to the case.

This was a manual system that required an information specialist to read each report and decide how to code it based on his or her interpretation.

In recent years, the FBI has started urging departments to go to an incident-based system, called the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS counts each charge involved in a case.

If, for example, someone is arrested for homicide and the case involves drugs, additional assaults and the possession of an illegal weapon, each one of those charges will be counted as an individual crime statistic.

On paper, it can look like crime has increased, but the benefit of NIBRS is that it creates a more complete and clear picture of all the types of

incidents occurring in a community.

Tiburon can classify NIBRS crimes automatically, taking out some of the subjectivity of the manual UCR process.

Because of these benefits, Police Chief Mark Beckner made the decision to track cases in Tiburon under the NIBRS standards. (The department will continue to pull out UCR figures as well, so that it is possible to compare current statistics with those of previous years).

Team members took it upon themselves to learn all the nuances of incident-based reporting so they could configure Tiburon properly – and train 245 employees on the system and changes that were needed to existing business practices.

Tiburon went live on Sept. 28. Members of the team received Awards for Excellence as a result of their work.

Suspect convicted in murder case

As police officers often like to say in this CSI crime drama-era, not every crime can be wrapped up in an hour. In fact, some can take years.

In December 2008, Boulder detectives saw the fruition of good police work that started in 2006 with the murder of Sergio Libman.

Libman, a Boulder businessman, was killed Dec. 18, 2006, after two men showed up at his home purportedly to buy a 2003 Porsche Carrera he had listed for sale. The

pair, instead, shot Gusman to death and stole the vehicle.

Investigators were able to arrest both men, as well as a woman who had driven them to the crime scene.

On Dec. 12, 2008, nearly two years to the day after Libman, was killed, a jury convicted the final defendant, Ryan Barry, 27, of first-degree murder. He will serve life in prison without parole.

The other defendants are also serving prison time.

Accident data

	2006	2007	2008
Total accidents	3,644	3,641	3,242
Bike/pedestrian	142	137	195
DUI arrests	1,163	989	907
Injury accidents	793	347	357
Fatal accidents	4	2	2
Alcohol related fatalities	3	1	0
Traffic summons	18,226	19,554	18,426



Employees set up shop in a temporary communications center.

Dispatchers get new digs

9-1-1 is at the heart of most of what we do, and in 2008, the Boulder Police Department's communications center launched a much-needed redesign in hopes of serving the public better.

The new and improved communications center was made possible by about \$2 million, most of which came from 50 cents a month that Boulder residents pay as a part of their phone bills. Additional money was made available through a federal Homeland Security grant, asset forfeiture funds and the department's budget.

The center features 10 new dispatch consoles. The city uses five on a regular basis. The additional consoles will allow for growth and provide a backup in the event that the county's system fails.

The county's dispatchers shared space with the city for years, but this summer, the county moved into a new home near the jail on Airport Road. Because built-in redundancy is essential given the life-and-death service the 9-1-1 system provides, the county's new center is also large enough to house city communications, if necessary.

Average response time for priority one calls in 2008 was two minutes and 15 seconds.

Communications Manager Lonna Donin.

Donin said the county's move gave the city the opportunity to work on a redesign that has been necessary for years.

The center hadn't been upgraded, she said, for 12 years, and much of the

"If either one of us had to evacuate our center, we'd be big enough to accommodate the other center," said

equipment was becoming obsolete.

"We were buying parts off of Ebay," she said. "We knew all those things would need to be replaced and the time to do it was when the county moved out."

Construction work began on Sept. 30 and continued into 2009.

The new 4,800-square-foot center features state-of-the-art technology, including phones with voiceover internet protocol, which eventually will allow people to text message or send video from a cell phone.

Both of these tools are expected to be enormously helpful to officers responding to calls.

The center will also feature new work stations that allow dispatchers to sit or stand.

The 9-1-1 system is also built around two data centers, one in Longmont and one in Englewood. The signal is carried along two distinct paths in an effort to make it more difficult for the phone system to fail.

"It's not perfect," Donin said, "but we are as redundant as we can be."

The first police radio was purchased for \$1,500 after City Manager H. C. McClintock persuaded City Council to approve the funds. Before this purchase, officers were summoned by a signal light and found the nearest phone to call the police.

Adoption broker arrested, convicted

Violent crimes almost always seize the headlines, but white collar crimes can cause untold amounts of pain and heartache as well.

In 2008, Boulder Police Detective Jeff Kithcart arrested an adoption agency owner who was accused of pocketing thousands of dollars from hopeful parents.

Several families said they had placed their trust and their money in the hands of Lisa Novak, who ran the Claar Foundation in Boulder. The families planned to adopt children from other countries and had arranged to go through Novak to navigate all international and legal requirements.

Instead, police alleged, Novak pocketed or spent the families' money and failed to produce any of the children she had promised.

Novak, who used to be a trustee in Erie, stood trial in December. She was convicted of fraud, two counts of theft of \$20,000 or more and theft between \$1,000 and \$20,000, all of which are felonies. A judge sentenced her to 90 days in jail, 12 years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Lisa Novak and her husband have since moved to Maine. The Claar Foundation has closed.

At least one of the victimized families was able to eventually adopt the boy they had been promised, but delays caused him to spend extra months in an orphanage.



Contractors identify wiring that needed to be changed and upgraded to accommodate new technology.

Calls for Service

Year	Total*	Calls per officer**	Officers per 1,000 residents
2000	64,389	371	1.83
2004	72,819	426	1.67
2008	78,204	457	1.66

*Total calls for service do not include about 30,000 additional contacts that are generated each year by officers, such as traffic stops, on-site arrests and pedestrian contacts.

**Number of officers was reduced in 2004 from 176 to 171.

CSI: Boulder?

Blood spatter pros hold conference

Training continued to be a major department priority in 2008. Over the course of the year, the department hosted or conducted dozens of classes and training sessions. Employees participated in more than 18,000 hours of learning, re-certifications and qualifications.

In addition to all the in-house training that was offered, the Boulder Police Department hosted a three-day conference for the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts.

A variety of hands-on workshops took place at the Public Safety Building, 1805 33rd St., and at the Hotel Boulderado, 2115 13th St.

The conference lasted three days, from Oct. 7 through Oct. 10, 2008, and involved more than 100 participants from around the world.

The media was also invited to attend and cover some of the more visual events.

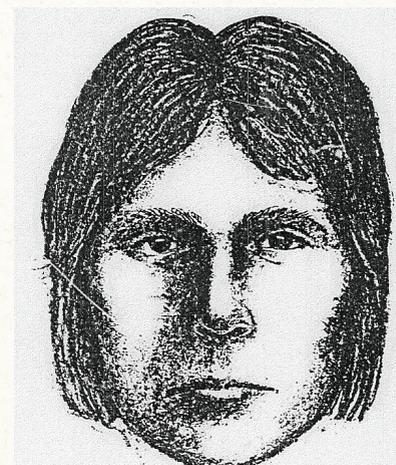
The IABPA is an organization of approximately 900 forensic experts from 31 countries. The experts specialize in bloodstain pattern analysis.

When examined by a qualified analyst, bloodstain patterns can assist in the reconstruction of an incident and in the evaluation of witness statements.

Chief Teegarden, along with other officials, established the Boulder Crime School in 1949 for officers to learn first hand about crime scene investigation, including blood and fingerprint collections, ballistics and gunpowder tests and analyses of hair, fiber, handwriting and typewriting specimens. Classes on organizing, charting, drawing and photographing crime scenes were also given.



Composite of sexual assault suspect by Renee McCoy, 2008



Composite of Robert Wieghard arrested for murder in 1982.

Composite, DNA crack bike path sexual assault

A picture is worth a thousand words. Boulder police were reminded of this again in December 2008, when, in the midst of community concern about reported sexual assaults, detectives were able to make an arrest in an attack from months earlier.

A young woman told police she had been out walking along the bike path near Berkley and Moorhead avenues in the early morning hours of April 20, 2008, when a man approached her. He spoke Spanish and she tried to tell him she did not understand what he was saying. The suspect forced himself on top of her, covered her mouth and nose with his

hand and sexually assaulted her.

She did not know her attacker.

The man police believe was responsible for the crime was arrested Dec. 15 as a result of physical evidence linking him to the assault. He might never have been identified if not for a sketch the victim helped develop.

Detectives first got a name of the possible attacker because of a tip

Before Boulder police had a composite sketch artist, a system called the Identikit was utilized. This involved putting together a composite by using interchangeable templates of facial features.

that was called in after a community member saw a composite sketch prepared by artist Renee McCoy.

Investigators followed up and ultimately secured enough additional evidence to make a case.

Community members sometimes ask how effective composite sketches are. This is just one example of how helpful they can be.

This suspect is awaiting trial.



Conference participants analyze simulated bloodstain patterns.

Milestones, recognitions

Courage. Lifesaving. Service that went above and beyond.

These are just some the traits that were exhibited by those who earned recognition for their work in 2008.

In all, 43 members of the department or multi-agency Boulder Police SWAT team received awards. These included 12 people who earned the rare Medal of Valor for their bravery during a bomb scare March 17 at Boulder Community Hospital. Others received Awards of Excellence as a result of the same event.

The department also awarded Officer John Smith with a Medal of Lifesaving for his second year in a row and honored four community members for their assistance apprehending criminals.



Twelve department or SWAT members received a Medal of Valor. Not every recipient is pictured here.

Medal of Valor :

Michael Bodnar
Scott Morris
Edmund Burke
Jeffrey Long
Matthew DeLaria
Sharon Ramos
Pamela Gignac
Nick Smetzer
David Kaufman
Keith Steinman
Jeffrey Kessler
Robyn VanDerLeest

Award for Excellence:

Joel Burick
Karen Mullenix
David Colvin
Bryan Parch
Bradley Frederking
Gregory Perry
Kurtis Foster
Jeffrey Puttkammer
Herman "Bud" Kelt
Shane Rodgers
Rebecca Kilpatrick
Paul Reichenbach
Scott Little
Elizabeth Reller
Alastair McNiven
David Ritchey

BPOA Officers of the Year:

Pam Gignac
Sue Barcklow

BPOA Detective of the Year:

Jane Harmer

Medal for Lifesaving:

John Smith

Unit Citation

CVSA Operators:

Kurt Foster, Jane Harmer, Jenny Paddock, Bob Wands, Colleen Wilcox, Kristi Peterson and Alastair McNiven

Unit Citation

Property and Evidence:

Rob Bustrum, Lucy Batton, Casey Henrickson, Erica Solano, Karen Mullenix and Georgene Mulvaney

Outstanding Citizen Award:

Michael Dodgion
Kyle Doman
Andrey Henao
David Richichi

Promotions:

Curtis Johnson
Janet Aguirre
Alastair McNiven

Retirements:

Kurt Matthews
Fred Patterson
Robert Thomas
Julius Toporek

Making a difference, an hour at a time

The Boulder Police Department was fortunate to have more than 80 people donate their time in 2008. Volunteers worked for the department as victim advocates, role players for training scenarios, members of the Accessible Parking Team, in Records, Community Services, Crime Analysis, Traffic, Detectives, with the Armorer, and on special projects.

These volunteers totaled more than 3,400 hours. At a value of \$20.25 per hour (the amount they would likely earn in the private sector), that adds up to more than \$68,000.

To recognize that contribution, an event was held during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Attendees enjoyed a dinner and played poker, blackjack and bingo.



Volunteers enjoyed a 2008 "Casino" appreciation dinner.

Cover Photo Credits:

Historic Mall photo courtesy of: *Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Historical Society Collection;*

Contemporary female officers from left to right: Sgt. Lauri Wegscheider, Cmdr. Kim Stewart, Sgt. Melissa Kampf and Sgt. Katie McEldowney; Contemporary Pearl Street Mall

and motorcycle photos courtesy of Donna Compton.

Special acknowledgements and thanks to Silvia Pettem and her book "Behind the Badge" <http://www.silviapettem.com/BehindBadge.html> for many of the historical pieces in this report.

BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 1930

	ENTRIES	ACCIDENTS	ARRESTS	AUTOS STOLEN	AUTOS RECOVERED	INVESTIG- -ATIONS	FIRES ATTENDED	DOORS OPEN	BURGL- -ARIES	PEOP. STOLEN	PROP. RECOVERED	FINES COLLECTED
JANUARY	113	10	32	0	0	10	4	1	1	59 ⁵⁰	16 ⁰⁰	112 ⁰⁰
FEBRUARY	195	11	64	2	1	8	7	3	0	83 ⁵⁰	22 ⁷⁵	401 ⁸⁰
MARCH	181	15	53	9	9	14	10	5	2	375 ⁰⁰	15 ⁰⁰	89 ²⁰
APRIL	181	21	68	3	2	10	5	0	2	94 ⁵⁰	47 ⁰⁰	104 ⁰⁰
MAY	197	19	65	2	2	10	1	0	3	105 ¹⁵	160 ⁰⁰	121 ⁰⁰
JUNE	248	16	167	0	0	42	1	1	4	132 ⁰⁰	113 ⁰⁰	225 ⁰⁰
JULY	254	13	158	0	0	15	0	0	1	261 ⁵⁰	142 ⁰⁰	241 ⁰⁰
AUGUST	215	17	128	1	1	20	3	1	1	191 ⁸⁵	47 ⁵⁰	325 ⁶⁵
SEPTEMBER	215	12	37	0	0	26	3	5	3	402 ⁵⁰	418 ⁴⁵	52 ⁵⁰
OCTOBER	279	19	158	3	3	15	4	4	4	192 ⁰⁰	7 ⁰⁰	317 ⁰⁰
NOVEMBER	410	16	282	3	3	35	10	10	2	121 ⁰⁰	35 ⁰⁰	272 ⁰⁰
DECEMBER	236	22	125	0	0	49	3	0	3	479 ⁰⁰	157 ⁰⁰	193 ⁰⁰
TOTALS.	2724	191	1337	23	21	254	51	30	26	2498 ⁰⁰	1180 ⁷⁰	2454 ¹⁵

ARRESTS CLASSIFIED

SPEEDERS	216	DISTURBANCE	10
DRUNKS	36	JUVENILES	6
MINOR TRAFFIC	902	GAMBLERS	11
DRUNKEN DRIVERS	7	ON WARRANT	1
RECKLESS DRIVERS	19	VICIOUS DOGS	3
POSSESSION	21	PEDDLERS	6
LARCENY	16	SOLICITING	4
ROBBERY	2	BREAKING GLASS ON ST.	2
STICK UPS	2	MASHERS	1
INVESTIGATION	4	PASSING FLAGMAN	5
INSANITY	2	PASSING STANDING ST. CAR	4
CONC. WEAPONS	1	PEEPING TOMS	1

MISCELLANEOUS

NOTICES	123	DOGS POISONED	7
DISTURBANCE CALLS	52	MEN SHOT & KILLED	1
LODGERS	64	DEATH BY ACCIDENT	1
SUICIDES	1	PROWLERS	15
		PEOPLE BITTEN BY DOGS	6

SIGNED: *Rolla C. Proctor*
CHIEF OF POLICE.

Photo courtesy of: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Historical Society Collection

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