History of the NAVAJO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF KC CLARK

HISTORY OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On March 21, 1895, Apache County was split to create Navajo County. (US President at this time was Grover Clevland)

The newly created Navajo County made Holbrook, founded in 1881, its county seat.

There was obviously a need for law enforcement in Navajo County and Holbrook soon brought in Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens to settle down the lawless elements.

Owens was appointed as its first sheriff, a position he held until Frank Wattron was elected to the post in 1896.

SHERIFF COMMODORE PERRY OWENS

Upon taking office the Sheriff was entrusted with 14 bench warrants that were left un-served.

Among the warrants was Tombstone bad man Ike Clanton and rustler Andrew Cooper.

In September 1887 Owens attempted to serve the warrant he held for Cooper. On September 4 Sheriff Owens went to Blevins cottage in Holbrook. There were 12 people inside the house. Cooper opened the door with pistol in hand. Sheriff Owens order him out of the house. Cooper refused and closed the door on the Sheriff. The Sheriff dropped his rifle to his side and shot Cooper through the door hitting Cooper in his stomach.

SHERIFF COMMODORE PERRY OWENS

Andrew's half brother, John Blevins, pushed a pistol out the door to Owens right and fired a shot at the Sheriff. He missed and killed Coopers saddle horse which was tied to a tree. Owens turned toward this assailant and fired, wounding John Blevins in the arm, and putting him out of the fight.

Owens then backed out into the street so he could see all sides of the house. Seeing Cooper moving inside, Owens fired a third time through the front wall of the cottage striking Cooper in the right hip.

A man named Mose Roberts , who was boarding with the family, jumped out of a window. Roberts saw the Sheriff then turned to run. Owens shot him. The bullet passing through his back and out of his chest.
Legend had it Mose also had a gun.

At this moment fifteen year old Samuel Blevins ran out the front door gripping his brothers revolver which was taken from the wounded outlaw. His mother tried to hold him back. As the boy went toward the Sheriff, Owens fired once more, killing the boy instantly. This whole incident reportedly took less than one minute and this shoot out made Owens a Legend.

HISTORY OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

In 1898, the county erected a new courthouse that would become the scene of a number of notorious trials over the years. The basement of the courthouse housed the jail cells, manufactured as complete units in St. Louis, Missouri and shipped to Holbrook on railroad flatcars. The small, dark cells were very effective throughout the years.

1898 to 1976

LEGEND OF THE OLD JAIL/COURTHOUSE

It is also home to a couple of resident ghosts! The most prominent spirit lurking about this historic building is none other than George Smiley, the one and only man ever hanged at the courthouse. After keeping his date with the noose in 1900, he has been seen wandering about the building and pacing up and down the stairs. Historical Society staff also blames this old ghost on doors that seemingly close on their own according, strange noises heard throughout the building, and objects that are mysteriously moved.

Another entity seen looking out of the windows is a woman that staff identifies as a former prisoner named "Mary.” According to the legend, Mary died inside one of the old jail cells while looking out a window and longing for her freedom.

Today, this historic courthouse should be the first stop for Holbrook visitors as staff will gladly provide maps, directions and information about the area. The museum provides information on Navajo County’s past which includes ancient pottery, Native American art displays, artifacts of Holbrook's early pioneers and businesses, and a tour through the old county jail. During the summer months, Native American dancers offer free performances weekday evenings at the courthouse.

HISTORY OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The historic building continued to serve the Navajo County public up until 1976 when a new governmental center was established south of Holbrook.

1989 to 1976

1976 to Present

New Jail

JAILS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Original County Court House Jail

Show Low Jail

Pinetop Jail

Both the Pinetop and Show Low Jail were built by Deputy Sheriff Ray Butler while working under Sheriff Divelbess.

NEWEST JAIL EXPANSION

Dayroom

Soft Booking

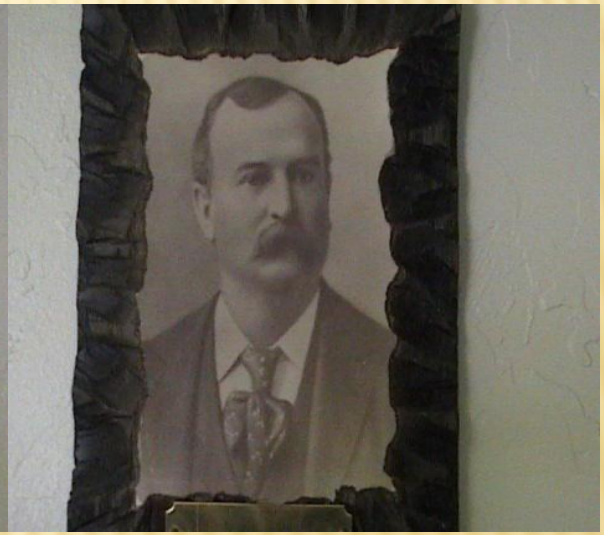
Female Trustee Pod

Male Trustee Pod

SHERIFFS OF NAVAJO COUNTY

Commodore Owens-
3/1895 to 12/1896

FJ Wattron-
1/1897 to 12/1900



FP Secrist-
01/1901 to 12/1902

FRANK J. WATTRON 1/1897 TO 12/1900

Frank J Wattron former school teacher and second Sheriff of Navajo County (US President was Grover Cleavland then William McKinley)

In December of 1899 The Navajo County Court House was holding one of its most notable prisoners, a murderer by the name of George Smiley.

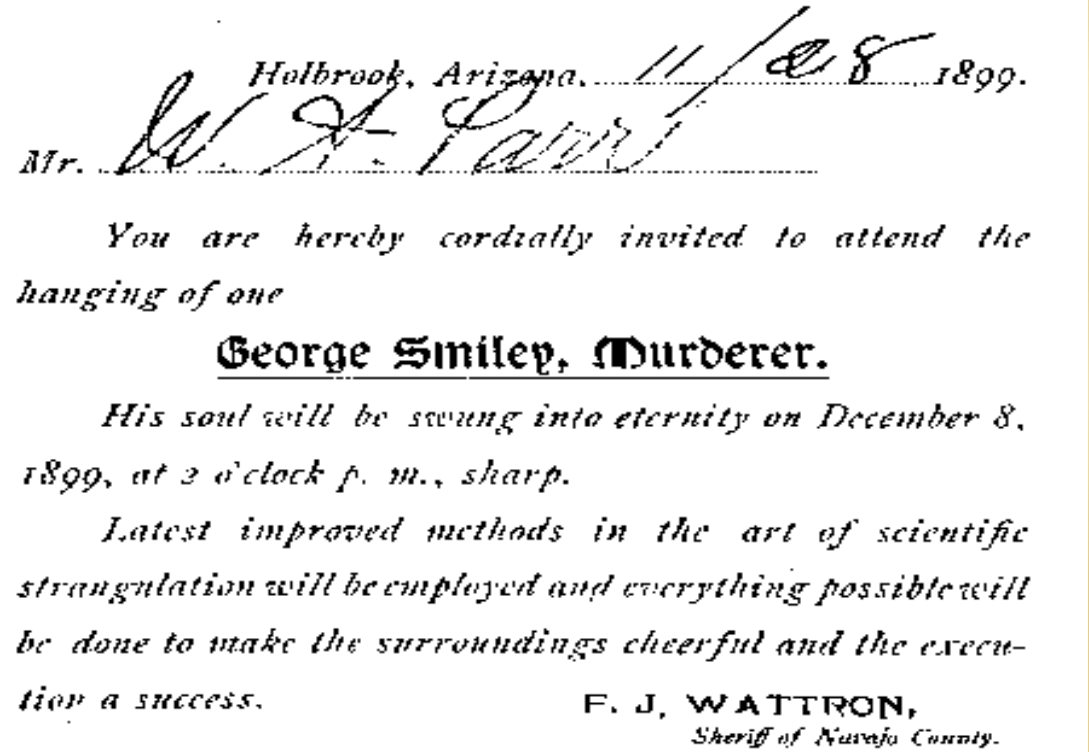
The killer was sentenced to be the first person executed in Navajo County.

On December 08, 1899, Wattron issued a “novel” invitation, professionally printed on gilt-boardered paper, to what was quickly looking like a “social affair”. However a reporter got a hold of the invitation, he wired it to the Associated Press and soon there were hundreds of protesting letters regarding the Sheriff’s poor sense of humor. Reprimanded for his flippancy by the governor of Arizona, Smiley was granted a months reprieve. However the killer finally went to the gallows on January 8, 1900.

NAVAJO COUNTY'S FIRST LEGAL HANGING

The courthouse became the scene of numerous notorious trials including the trial of murderer George Smiley. Smiley was convicted of having killed a railroad section foreman named McSweeney, and was scheduled to hang on December 8, 1899. After a thirty day stay of execution issued by Governor Nathan Oakes Murphy he was executed on January 8th, 1900. He would become the first and only man hanged at the courthouse.

First Invitation



Holbrook, Arizona. 11/28 1899.

Mr. W. H. Pahl

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the hanging of one

George Smiley, Murderer.

His soul will be swung into eternity on December 8, 1899, at 2 o'clock p. m., sharp.

Latest improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the surroundings cheerful and the execution a success.

F. J. WATTRON,
Sheriff of Navajo County.

George Smiley's Invitations

<u>First Invitation:</u>

Holbrook, Arizona ____(DATE)____MR/MRS (NAME)_____.

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the hanging of one GEORGE SMILEY, MURDERER.

His soul will be swung into eternity on December 8th 1899 at 2 o'clock p.m. sharp.

Latest improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the proceedings cheerful and the execution a success.

Sheriff F.J. Wattron

SECOND INVITATION

Holbrook, Arizona, January 5th, 1900.

Mr. P. B. Peckyfield

With feelings of profound sorrow and regret, I hereby invite you to attend and witness the private, secret and humane execution of a human being; name, George Smiley; crime, murder.

The said George Smiley will be executed on January 8, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m.

You are expected to deport yourself in a respectful manner, and any "flippant" or "uncouth" language or conduct on your part will not be allowed. Conduct, on anyone's part, tendering an unkindly and tending to mar the solemnity of the occasion will not be tolerated.

F. J. WATTROUS,
Sheriff of Navajo County.

Second Invitation:

Holbrook, Arizona___(DATE) ____MR/MRS_____ (NAME)_____.

With feelings of profound sorrow and regret, I hereby invite you to attend and witness the private, decent and humane execution of a human being; name, GEORGE SMILEY; Crime, MURDER.

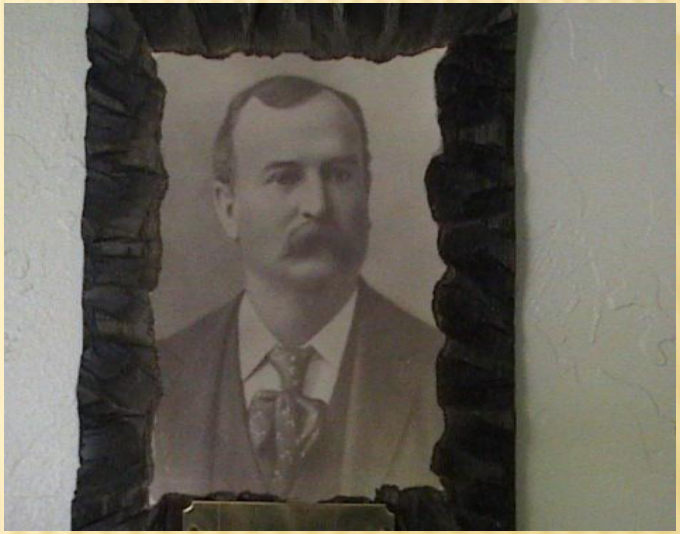
The said GEORGE SMILEY will be executed on January 8, 1900 at 2 o'clock p.m.

You are expected to depart your self in a respectful manner. And any "flippant" or "unseemly" language or conduct on your part will not be allowed. Conduct, on anyone's part, boarding on ribaldry and tending to mar the solemnity of the occasion will not be tolerated.

Sheriff F.J. Wattron

F.P. SECRIST 01/1901 TO 12/1902

US President was Theodore Rosevelt



Information is currently being researched

SHERIFFS OF NAVAJO COUNTY

CI Houck –
01/1903 to 12/1906

JF Woods-
10/1907 to 12/1914

RL Newman-
01/01/1915 to 12/31/1918
01/01/21 to 12/31/1922

CI HOUCK 01/1903 TO 12/1906

"Drink for the Dead"
In the year 1905 beginning on the night of April 7, there occurred one of the most bizarre incidence in western history, ending within sight of Two Guns. Two cowboys, John Shaw and Bill Smith, twenty-two and twenty-four years old, entered the Wigwam Saloon on Second Street in Winslow. They ordered a drink and while the bartender poured the whiskey, the men robbed the dice table stealing stacks of Silver Dollars. The two cowboys were able to get away this night.

Sheriff CI Houk and his Deputy J C N Pemberon, rode the train west to Flagstaff searching for the two cowboys. The Sheriff was tipped off the cowboys had been seen near Canyon Diablo Station.

CI HOUCK

Going there in the new night, Houk and Pemberton neared the side of a warehouse belonging to Voltz. Abrubtly Smith and Shaw appeared moving towards them from the opposite direction.

In the bat of an eye a gunfight erupted. Twenty shots were fired during which Houcks' clothing was holed several times and Smith was wounded. Customarily that many cartridges would have been loaded in only four guns,

The firing pin resting on the sixth, the empty chamber. Only Pemberton did not observe this safety precaution. He had six bullets loaded and the last one brought Shaw down dead as he wheeled to flee with an empty gun. Shaw was buried and Smith was rushed to the Winslow Hospital.

CI HOUCK

Over at the Wigwam Saloon, the cowboys heard of the shoot-out at the Canyon Diablo.

Out of a long stretch of silence one of the cowboys remarked seriously, “Them two boys paid for drinks and didn’t down their whiskey. Was Shaw given a snort before they planted him?”

Another cowboy replied sarcastically, “Now, you know lawmen don’t go around giving a dead man no drink!”

“Shucks, that feller has a drink coming to him and not getting what he paid for ain’t right. We should go to Canyon Diablo and give him one!”

The idea caught on quickly and within minutes twenty-odd cowboys hopped on a freight train west. Arriving with assorted bottles of whiskey. They borrowed shovels from trader Voltz and uncovered Shaw’s body. Rigid in rigor mortis he was held upright out of the grave. He was then given his going away drink from a brown bottle as the sun set. There was still enough sunlight for the cowboys to take snap shot pictures before Shaw was replanted. The six prints from the film were displayed in a Winslow Saloon for many years.

CI HOUCK

Drink for the Dead photograph

US President was Theodore Roosevelt

JF WOODS 10/1907 TO 12/1914

Information is currently being researched

US Presidents were:
Theodore Roosevelt
William Taft
Woodrow Wilson

RL NEWMAN 01/1915 TO 12/1918 01/1912 TO 12/1922

Sheriff RL Newman was one of the posse leaders during the Posey War. Sheriff Newman was asked to lead the posse by Marshall Ward from Salt Lake City. He was paid $5.00 a day for six days and was also given a tip of $50.00.

The Newman's had only lived in Bluff a short time, but Robert had been a Sheriff for eight years in Holbrook, Arizona prior to moving to Bluff.

Zeek Newman son of RL Newman was town marshall and only law enforcement for Holbrook.

US Presidents were Woodruff Wilson and Warren Harding

SHERIFFS OF NAVAJO COUNTY

CW Harp-
01/1919 to 12/1920

CD Divelbess-
01/1923 to 12/1932
01/1939 to 12/1940
01/1949 to 12/1949

CW HARP 01/1919 TO 12/1920

Information is still being researched

LD DIVELBESS

LD Divelbess served from the following dates:

01/1923 to 12/1932
01/1939 to 12/1940
01/1949 to 02/1949

Sheriff LD Divelbess died in 1949 only 46 days after he last took office. Sheriff Ben Pearson was his replacement.

OC Williams took Office after LD Divelbess first term in 1932
OC Williams served for 3 years from 01/1933 to 07/1936

LS HATCH

Sheriff Hatch replaced Sheriff OC Williams in July of 1936 he served until 1938.

During this time, there was a jail break and the posse was tracking the prisoner. Between Holbrook and Snowflake the posse caught up with the prisoner. Sheriff Leaf Hatch was with the posse and saw the prisoner with a 30/30 rifle, Sheriff Hatch shot the 30/30 out of the prisoners hands before the prisoner could shoot at the posse members.

For many years the rifle stayed at the sheriff's Office on display. There was a scar on stock from where the sheriff's bullet hit the weapon.

Sheriff Hatch Served
07/1936 to 12/1938
01/1941 to 12/1944

There was illegal gambling going on and Sheriff Hatch raided the bars and put a stop to the illegal gambling in Navajo County.

LB PEARSON 02/1949 TO 12/1960

Sheriff LB Pearson (Ben) replaced Sheriff Divelbess after his death in February 1949.

He was a police officer in Winslow at the time he was appointed as sheriff.

People in this time wanted liquor licenses appealed to the board and were often denied. The supervisors added voting precincts (Indian Wells and Hotevilla) and dissolved school districts (Zeniff and Shumway).

LB PEARSON

Ben Pearson was Sheriff when the Sheriff's Hash Knife Posse was formed in 1957.
The Sheriff's Hash Knife Posse in still in operation today.
Sheriff "Ben" Pearson was also a member

SHERIFFS OF NAVAJO COUNTY

OC Williams-
01/1933 to 07/1936

LS Hatch-
07/1936 to 12/1938
01/1941 to 12/1944

Cecil McCormick-
01/1945 to12/1948

SHERIFFS OF NAVAJO COUNTY

LB Pearson-
02/1949 to 12/1960

Glen Flake-
01/1961 to 12/1968
01/1985 to 12/1989

Lyle Jenkins-
01/1969 to 07/1973

SHERIFFS OF NAVAJO COUNTY

Marlin Gillespie-
07/19/73 to12/1984

Sheriff Gary H. Butler-
01/1989 to 2008

MARLIN GILLESPIE 07/19/73 TO12/1984

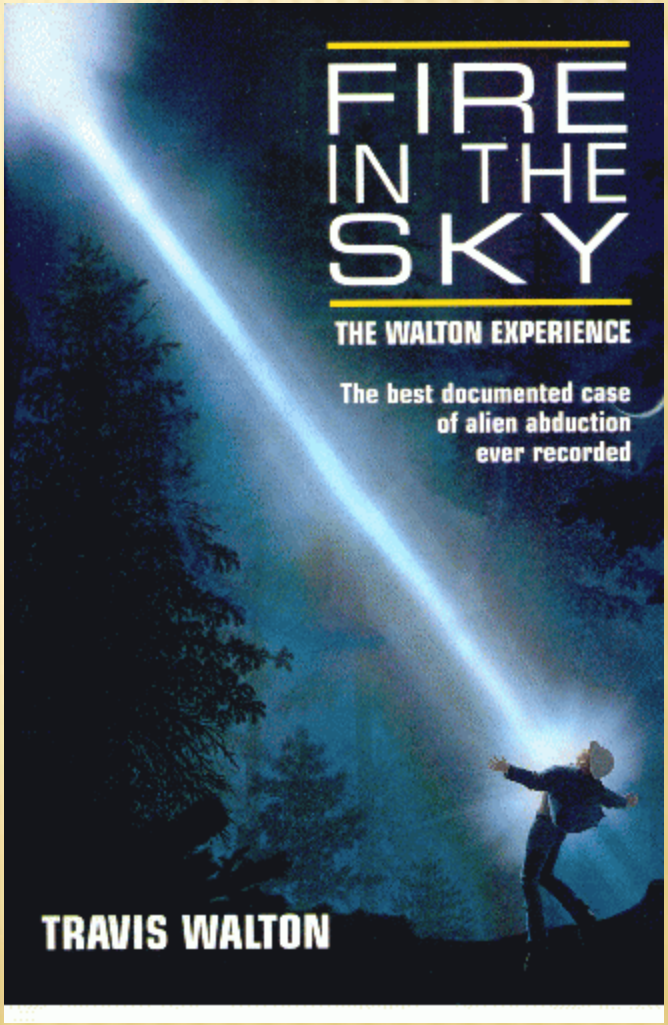
FIRE IN THE SKY

In 1975, a man named Travis Walton, claims that he was abducted by an alien spacecraft when returning home from work where he was logging in Turkey Springs, Arizona. Himself and his fellow 6 workmates were driving down a logging trail in the middle of dense forest at approximately 6.00 pm when they claim to have come upon the UFO, saucer shaped object hovering over a slash pile of cut timber in a clearing. Allen Dalis and Travis were both witnesses to this strange object. Walton jumped out of the truck and ran towards the object which was emitting a yellowish light.

Presidents during Sheriff Gillespie's term were
Richard Nixon
Gerald Ford
Jimmy Carter
Ronald Regan

MARLIN GILLESPIE

Rogers then contacted Sheriff Deputy L.C. Ellison who met with them in the town. Rogers and the rest of the crew told of their story and Ellison then contacted Navajo County sheriff Marlin Gillespie. Gillespie, his deputy’s Kenneth Coplan, Ellison and two of the crew members all returned back to the site to search for Travis Walton - they left three crew members behind who were too frightened to return back into the forest. After abandoning the search at approx. 1.30 am Coplan and Rogers went to notify Walton's mother, Mary Kellett of Travis's disappearance.



MARLIN GILLESPIE

The reappearance of Travis Walton was just as strange as his mysterious disappearance. Calling his sister collect after midnight , Travis was in a dazed and confused state and begged for help when his sister's husband answered the phone. Grant Neff then picked up Duane Walton and the two of them drove to Heber to pick up Travis after informing his mother of the call. The telephone operator who handled the call took it upon herself to call Sheriff Gillespie and notify him of Travis's reappearance.

The Polygraph test that Gillespie had scheduled for Travis, didn't happen, Travis choose not to show up for it as his excuse was that the press had laid siege and Duane didn't feel that Travis was ready to face the press.

For further information on this event you can buy the book or rent the movie

MARLIN GILLESPIE

When Gillespie got out of the Navy, Ben Person was Sheriff of Navajo County. Gillespie was hired on as a Deputy Sheriff in July 1957.

Gillespie worked 24 straight days with12 hour shifts. His first shift worked was from 12 noon to midnight. He was given 4 days off a month only if there was someone to relieve him. This schedule was due to the fact Navajo County Sheriff's Office only had 9 deputies to cover the entire county.

In his off time, he worked at a service station during those 4 days he had off.

Deputies in this time had to use their own cars. The Sheriff's Office put in radios in their cars and as an incentive to use their own cars, the Sheriff's Office paid an extra $25.00 a month.

The average Deputy wage paid was $275.00 a month with no insurance offered. After the first year got an extra $10.00 a month raise.

MARLIN GILLESPIE

When a Holbrook Deputy would go on patrol, he would leave the jail absent of any deputies. They would tell the phone operator they would be out of the office. When a call for service came in, the telephone operator would hit a switch which would turn on a Blue light which sat on top of a large pole that you could see all around town.

At this time operators would connect calls, you could not dial out yourself. Police agencies in New York were on same radio frequency as Deputies in AZ When Deputies had trouble communicating through the police radio Officer's in New York would sometimes relay information for the Navajo County deputies.

Photo courtesy of the Old Trails Museum

These ladies are sitting at the switchboard in Winslow's first telephone company office. Service was established there in 1924, and Winslow shared a book listing phone numbers with the towns of Flagstaff and Williams. The location of the first telephone service in Winslow was 216 Kinsley Ave. For more information on Winslow's history, visit www.oldtrailsmuseum.org

MARLIN GILLESPIE

Late 70's Sheriff Gillespie enacted the first Special Dive Team search and rescue unit in the State of Arizona. Navajo County was the first 1st County in the state to enact Special Dive Teams rescue and boat patrol

Sometimes, the deputies on the team were dispatched to Pima and Maricopa County to assist with searches for drowning victims.

The Sheriff's Office first boat was a military surplus pontoon boat used in the Korean war to make bridges. The Sheriff fitted it with outboard motor similar to this one seen here.

MARLIN GILLESPIE

Mid to late 70's Sheriff Gillespie also created a Motorcycle Traffic Squad. He was able to secure motorcycles from DPS surplus

Sheriff Gillespie put himself through the motor school at age 50 and passed all requirements. The reason he did this was to see what Deputy he wanted to send through the course.

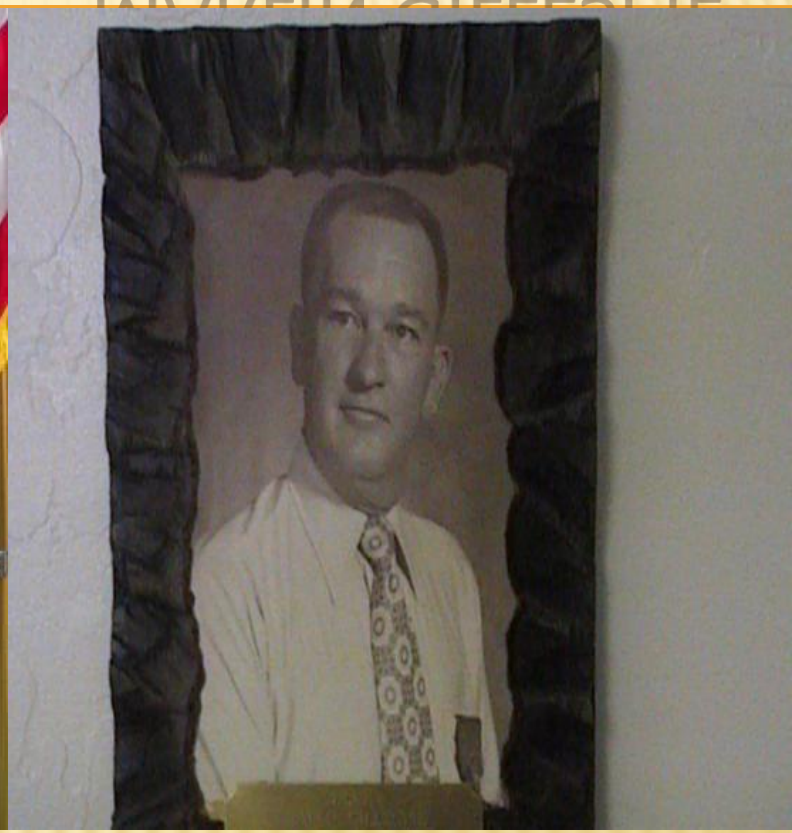
MARLIN GILLESPIE

It is because of Sheriff Gillespie, The Navajo County Sheriff's Office Deputies of today have a retirement through the **Public Safety Retirement Plan** rather than the **State Retirement Plan** used by other county employees

Sheriff Gillespie is also accredited with having the first Detective in Navajo County. LT. EM Romo

LT. EM “SIKIE” ROMO

MARLIN GILLESPIE



LT ROMO went to work for the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, where he worked for more than 26 years rising to the rank of Lieutenant. He retired in June of 1989. He continued to work for Navajo County as Constable, for six years. In July 1969, while employed with the sheriff's office, Mr. and Mrs. Romo started the family business, Romo's Cafe. It turned into a very successful business and is still a popular venue amongst the area citizens. He died on May 1, 2011

GLEN FLAKE

Sheriff Glen Flake was Sheriff of Navajo County Before Marlin Gillespie then came to Office again after Sheriff Gillespie

Information is still being researched

GARY BUTLER 1989 TO 2008

Prior to serving as Sheriff, he served as a Marine in Vietnam. He returned home and was with the Scottsdale, Apache County Sheriffs, and Show Low police departments, serving as Chief of Police for Show Low. He has been an instructor for Northland Pioneer College and the Arizona Police Officer's Standards and Training Boards.

On Gary's first day as County Sheriff, the first Navajo County Deputy was killed in the line of duty. Within the first three days of the shooting, one killer was apprehended and is still in prison, with the other killer committing suicide before Sheriff Butler, his deputies and other officers could apprehend him.

Robert Varner Jr End Of Watch 01/01/1989

SHERIFF BUTLER

During the investigation, Sheriff Butler made a field promotion to a Sergeant by the name of Jim Taylor. Sheriff Butler made Sergeant Jim Taylor a Lieutenant and placed him in charge of the criminal investigation involving the death of Robert Varner Jr.

Working underneath Lieutenant Jim Taylor were:
Deputy Tim Zarimba
Deputy David Elmore
Deputy Bob Vernham

These men were given the title of “Detective” by Sheriff Butler

This was the first criminal investigations team formed in Navajo County and as of 2012 it is still operational today.

GARY BUTLER

Sheriff Butler has been associated with the following:
Chairman, Arizona Police Officers Standards & Training,
Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Auto Theft Task Force
past President of Fraternal Order of Police
past President of Arizona Police Alliance
National Chief of Police Association
twice past President of Arizona Sheriffs Association
Past President of Arizona County Attorney & Sheriff Association
National Sheriff's Association Indian Affairs Committee
founding member of Western States Sheriff's Association
past President Northern Arizona 911 Users Association
past President Northeastern Arizona Police Association
twice past President of Arizona Association of Counties
twice past President of Show Low Rotary Club
Show Low Chamber of Commerce

GARY BUTLER

past Chairman of Northland Pioneer's Community College Law Enforcement Steering Committee
instructor of National Rifle Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Masonic Lodge El Zaribah Shrine
Navajo County Cattle Growers Association
Eagle Scout, Scout Leader and past Executive Director of Boy Scouts of America

US Presidents during Sheriff Butlers term
Ronald Regan
George HW Bush
Bill Clinton
George W Bush

SHERIFF BUTLER

Sheriff Butler was also responsible for creating the **Sheriff Auxiliary Volunteer Program** in 1990 which allowed citizen volunteers help ease the burden on deputies by taking on patrol, traffic control, and community relations duties. NCSO's Sheriff Auxiliary Volunteers (SAVs) program began in 1990 and has grown to include over 30 members. Each volunteer participates in a six-week training program where they receive training in self-defense, defensive driving, report writing, officer safety and gang identification. The program is divided into five units, each covering a particular area of the county. SAVs serve as a force multiplier for NCSO. With only 28 deputies in 1990 to cover 10,000 miles, SAVs serve as additional "eyes and ears" throughout the county and as a valuable resource to the community. County Sheriff Gary Butler says the, "SAVs have really helped us with our job. After 42 years in law enforcement, it's really nice to know that there are citizens who want to come out and help us."

SHERIFF BUTLER

In 2012 the SAV program now has over 80 members and 6 units with the possibility to expanding to a 7th unit in Winslow.

SHERIFF BUTLER

Sheriff Butler began the first task force designed strictly to enforce and apprehend people involved in narcotics. This team was called the Navajo County Drug Task Force. This task force operated under a grant named after a law enforcement officer who died in New York called the Jim Byrne Grant.

The Jim Byrne Grant required the agency to work Narcotics only

In 1995 The grant requirements changed and required the awarded agency to work Narcotics, Gangs and Major Crimes. Thus the multi-agency Major Crimes Apprehension Team was created.

SHERIFF BUTLER

Charles Lane

Captain Charles Welch Lane succumbed to injuries sustained three days earlier when he fell while searching for a lost child at a local fair.

Captain Lane landed on his service weapon, which broke his hip. After surgery, a blood clot broke free and killed him.

Captain Lane had served with the agency for 34 years. He was 75 years old.

End Of Watch September 2nd 1996

SHERIFF KC CLARK 2008 TO PRESENT

Kelly “KC” Clark was elected Navajo County Sheriff in 2008 and has served in the Navajo County Sheriff's Office since 1987.
Sheriff Clark is an Arizona Certified Police Officer, having graduated from the Northland Pioneer College Police Academy, and is a graduate of the 220th F.B.I. National Academy and the Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Unit Commander's Academy and Past President of the Arizona Narcotic Officer’s Association.

Sheriff Clark has been supervising Criminal Investigations for 14 of his past 25 years with Navajo County. This unit includes the multi-agency drug task force, Major Crimes Apprehension team (MCAT), the Medical Examiner Investigators, K-9 unit, Internal Investigations and the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations unit. Sheriff Clark was one of the first law enforcement officials in Navajo County to partner with the Navajo County Drug Court Program and also assisted in forming the Navajo County Drug Coalition.

SHERIFF KC CLARK

Sheriff Clark has been associated with:

President of the Arizona County Attorney's Association.
Homeland Security Regional Advisory Committee for the Northern Region.
Board member for Northern Regional Advisory Committee.
Executive Committee of the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center
Involved in several civic community organizations
Awarded the "Excellence in Law Enforcement Award" presented yearly to Law Enforcement Professionals by the Executive Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee by Federal/State/and Local Law Enforcement Professionals. Sheriff Clark is also a member of this committee

SHERIFF KC CLARK HONOR GUARD

KC Clark established the1st Honor Guard Team in 2010. Pictured Below from left to right: Detective Daniel Deets (not pictured) Sergeant Lorin Larson, Sergeant Jack Arend, Sergeant Dennis Warren, Sergeant Jason Van Aller and Deputy Garrett Jahns

SHERIFF CLARK HONOR GUARD INSIGNIA

This Honor Guard insignia was created by the ideals of the first Navajo County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard Members on March 23, 2010. The first members consisted of Sergeant Jason VanAller, Sergeant Lorin Larson, Detective Daniel Deets and Deputy Garrett Jahns.

The rifles seen on the insignia represent the 30 30 Winchester rifles used by the Sheriff's and Deputies in 1895 and 1896.

The colors of Silver and Gold were chosen to represent the Sheriff's Office current badge established in 1989 which was established by Sheriff Gary Butler. This badge was created shortly after the death of one of our own, Deputy Robert Varner.

Our badge and the Navajo County Seal have a black ring around the outside to show the Navajo County Sheriff's Office is always in mourning for the fallen.

Our badge which also encompasses the Seal of Navajo County is located in the bottom center. This represents the beginning of our story of the past and present.

As depicted in the insignia, the olive branch wreath encompasses and holds everything together.

The Honor Guard chose to have an Olive Branch Wreath to depict tradition in the history of mankind. The Olive Branch symbolizes peace and forgiveness in many cultures and religions around the world today.

The olive branch is a symbol of prosperity. As far back as Ancient Greece and the Roman age, the olive branch was offered to seek peace in times of war. The symbolism of the Olive Branch in the form of a wreath was awarded to warriors as a display of power.

The Olive Branch is found on the flag of several countries and is found on the seal of the United Nations and the United States.

Biblically speaking, the Olive Branch was returned to Noah by a dove to let him know the flood waters had abated and the Great Flood of God's judgment was over.

We display the Olive Branch Wreath as a symbol for all these things, but most importantly for the fallen Warrior/Officer who found peace in God after their time of war. Also to symbolize: Hope, love and prosperity to the fallen warrior's families after their great loss.

KC CLARK

In 2011 Sheriff Clark purchased the 1st Army Humvee to utilize during search and rescue operations and also to get further into “the back country roads” where regular vehicles would have difficulty traveling.

This Humvee will make servicing the people

2012 VEHICLES OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF KC CLARK

Sheriff Clark is credited for starting the first K-9 unit at the Sheriff's Office.
The first K-9 unit was Gram Roberts in 1989
As of 2012 the K-9 unit is still operational (23 years later).

SHERIFF KC CLARK

When Sheriff Clark came into office he stressed the importance to his Deputies on serving the community with the utmost professionalism at all times. With the input from Sheriff's Office Employees, they wrote the New Sheriff's Office Mission Statement and challenged all of his Deputies to memorize it. Which, they did.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the employees of the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, commit to providing all individuals a safe environment using innovative techniques and resources while being sensitive to the needs of each community.

We will respond in a timely manner with respect, dignity and compassion when called upon.

We will make all decisions based on the highest ethical and moral standards and will accept responsibility for our actions

We will work proactively with our citizens and communities providing effective leadership while ensuring quality services.

We as professionals view our responsibilities as a covenant of public trust."

BADGES OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

First badge of NCSO under Commodore Perry 1895-1920

1920 to 1949 under Sheriff Divelbess

1950 to 1960 under Sheriff Pearson

BADGES OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

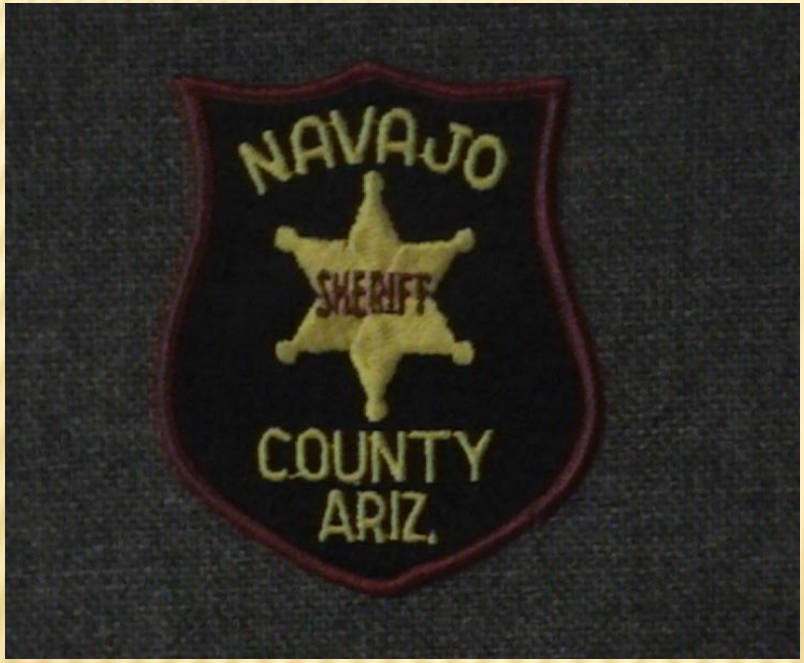
1960 to 1989 under Sheriff's Flake, Jenkins and Gillespie

Current badge was brought under Sheriff Butler in 1989 used under Sheriff Clark

BADGES-OLDEST COMPARED TO NEWEST

Current badge has an interesting similarity to the original badge for Navajo County

PATCHES OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MEANING BEHIND THE PATCH

This particular patch has only been in existence since July 1, 1989 when Sheriff Butler decided that there was a need to bring a new image to the department and the patch. The patch was designed by Don Weiss, a collector and designer of patches, under the instructions of the Sheriff.

As Sheriff Butler requested, the patch represents all of Navajo County and was to indicate the mourning of one of its Deputies.

On January 1, 1989, Deputy Robert Varner was shot and fatally wounded while attempting to stop a motorist on Interstate 40 in Winslow, Arizona. Deputy Varner was the first Navajo County Sheriff Deputy killed in the line of duty.

The patch has a blood red boundary to signify the loss of life by a deputy. The background scene of the patch depicts the White Mountains of Arizona to the High Desert area of Monument Valley.

The center has the outline of the state of Arizona depicted by our state flag, and a five point Silver Star encompasses the state and is surrounded by a black circle. Navajo County is in silver in the right hand corner of the state. The circle around the star indicates Navajo County's continued mourning for its lost brothers. Within the black ring are four gold arrows that indicate the bonding together of the Sheriff's Office with three Indian tribes, The Navajo, The Hopi and the Apache. All working together for one common cause.

MEANING BEHIND THE BADGE

The Badge, being a circle, represents the whole universe, a never-ending circle, which is good in harmony.
Inside the circle is a five pointed star, as of the five-fingered hand. Inside the star sits a man, the man sits in the big hand for protection from all that is evil.
Surrounding the man are two black rings. The big ring is for the mourning of a big loss and the smaller ring is for the protection of the single man who sits in the badge.

There are two stars off to the side, one on the right then another on the left. The star on the right is the morning star and the one on the left is the evening star. The two daily stars are there from protection during the day and thru the night always protecting mankind.
This badge as a great symbol is never buried with a Fallen Officer. It is because this badge will never be put to rest in the ground.
However, it is passed on to the survivor for their grief and their protection.

Thank you