

Sheriff Reports Increase In Crimes in This County

Crimes reported to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office were in the "increase in 1955-56, following a nationwide trend, according to the annual report issued this week by Sheriff E. W. Biscailuz.

"The Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement in 3334 square miles of Los Angeles County with a population of 1,209,238," said Biscailuz, "and during the fiscal year ending 1956, there were 173,550 cases reported to our office."

Out of the total of 33,482 dispositions, 26,386 were prosecuted, with the remainder being turned over to other law enforcement agencies. Of the total cases that went to court,

96 per cent were found guilty, an increase of 2.3 per cent and the highest percentage ever attained by the Sheriff's Department.

Violent Crimes Up
Crimes included in the Part

I offenses as classified by the FBI are murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and auto theft. There was a 22.4 per cent increase in these crimes as reported in Los Angeles County.

"The crime of robbery is recognized by authorities as the best rule for measuring the efficiency of law enforcement," Sheriff Biscailuz reported, "and there was only a 4.5

per cent increase in this jurisdiction. The Sheriff's Department recovered property valued at \$3,356,393 which is 63.6 per cent of that which had been reported stolen," the Sheriff added.

42 Murders Here
"There were 42 murders committed in the county area

last year, of which, 40 have been solved. Of all major crimes, the incidence of murder is the least indicative of law enforcement effectiveness as it is a crime of passion and cannot be controlled through crime preventive or repressive measures," said Biscailuz. A total of 15,032 juveniles

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were arrested or investigated, and 4690 of these were reported as missing or runaways. Eighty-three per cent of the entire juvenile contact were in the classification of curfew violations, runaway, victims or miscellaneous contacts.

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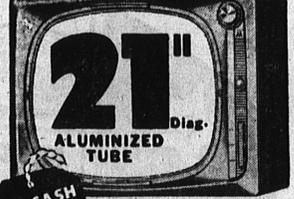
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