Police Turn to Science for Help With Records

Continued from First Page

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sonably afford," Darton explained.

The rising flood of paper work is indicated by the growth of arrests within

that city of 43,000 people.

Five years ago, the Lyn-

wood Police Department averaged from 98 to 105 arrests monthly.

In 1970, the figure had grown to 263 for a monthly average and in March

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Downey Police Chief Loren D. Morgan says his department's system of

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Downey has cut down on many reports, however. Reports good only for in-

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officer and filed.

Reports, which take up rows of filing space in many law enforcement

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"We have quit reporting some minor crimes—such as a kid tossing an orange

against a house when we have no suspect, or loud radios. This type of in-

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POLICE BATTING PAPER WORK TIDE

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But despite efforts to cut down on report writing time, the requirements for paper work climb as legislation adds new requirements for information. For instance, reports on burglaries are now broken down into daytime, nighttime, over and under $50, value, commercial, resident, and other. More record keeping is also now required in narcotics violations than a few years ago, classified according to the types of drugs and offenses.

Within the past year, law has required police officers to prepare detailed information for the courts on suspects, including material status, length of time married (if applicable), how long worked at job and length of residence in one location.

"It's a small thing, but year by year, legislation stacks one record requirement on another," Morgan explains.

To help bolster the department against the pressure of paper work Downey is hoping that it too can join the planned countywide ORACLE system as soon as it is available.

Quick Advantage

In Bell Gardens, Police Chief Ferlie Childers has had a break in handling his growing demands for records. But he still says the basic problem is that "a greater flood of material simply requires faster handling."

Still, the department gained a quick advantage during organization of the records bureau last year when the department was formed.

"The Golden State Bank agreed to let us use their computer during their down-time, as a public service," the chief says. The bank charges only enough to cover the direct cost of the service.

With this backup in record keeping the department logs every call received where any action is taken.

To cut down report handling time now, Whittier police block their reports which are duplicated as needed. The department tried recorded reports from officers, but found that revisions took about as much time as the there were not enough typists to keep up with the incoming records.

"There is a need for a common denominator in record systems because there are so many systems which are not interchangeable," Hatch emphasizes.

Volume Increasing

In South Gate, a city of 56,400 residents, Police Chief Don Chase says that "we just keep up with it (the records flow) as best we can."

He explains the volume is increasing but that the department has not gone to a computerized system. ORACLE is expected to help meet that growing demand, make records available on a uniform basis throughout the county and cut down costs of records preparation, filing and retrieval.

The system is being prepared in three stages. In the first stage, the equipment is being installed in the entire third floor of the Hall of Justice in Los Angeles, where it will connect Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department records facilities.

Complex System

A video tape file, ORACLE will contain regional case files, mass storage and retrieval of documents, photos, graphics and support data and identification of arrested persons.

In addition, the system will contain past histories of suspects, investigators' interviews and jail documents.

Unique to the system will be the fingerprint identification system which will include updated radio equipment as well as the video receiver.

With the video screen, the station dispatcher will be able to read in seconds the complete file of any person in the centralized memory banks.

H SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1971 ::::S":s:i I A if FOREST OF FILES Downey police McCollum pulls a folder from case COMPUTER SYSTEM Police Paper Work Burden Grows BY PEYTON CANARY Tunis Staff Writer To many citizens, law enforcement is the officer on the beat and the patrol cars which spell security or quick aid in time of trouble. And although the field officer and investigative backup is the prime function, law enforcement has be-co-me an increasingly complex struggle against mounting crime, more laws and a mountain of paper work. The paper work is required to give service to citizens, the courts and to enforcement agencies themselves as they follow patterns, trends and disposition of community problems. To streamline paper work and put officers in the field for most possible time per shift. Southeast area law enforcement agencies are combining increasing technical resources and simplified methods. Look to ORACLE Many of the six police departments in the area are hoping that the Sheriffs Department will provide a major answer to record keeping and retrieval through the ORACLE system now being developed. ORACLE for Optimum Records Automation for Courts and Law Enforcement is an integrated computer-based filing system. Using videotapes as a storage medium, it will cut most records retrieval time and through its pioneer fingerprint file will give officers eight times the chance to tie latent prints with a suspect, sheriff's spokesmen say. But that system probably won't be available to area police departments until 1972, although it is expected to reach sheriffs stations in Lakewood, Korwalk and East Los Angeles beginning this fall. Those stations serve 11 Southeast area cities. Already working and serving is K V' clerk Bobbie files in rec... HOPE FOR FUTURE '... TiME-SAVER To cut down report handling time, Whittier police now block print their reports, which are duplicated as needed. many police departments and the sheriffs stations which serve the Southeast area is the AWWS program. AWWS Automated Want-Warrant System works from a highspeed computer which gives law agency communications centers almost instant information on outstanding warrants or wanted persons. By using the system which costs "a typical police department $5 monthly per sworn officer field ords area. The department has cut down on reports, cleans out old records as quickly as possible. Times photos by Larry Anderson V'i J! 4 , ? check time Is cut from hours or hourly fractions to minutes and even seconds. Still, the paper work problem is a front-runner in police administrative and operational problems. "The problem has become critical," according to Capt. Leslie Sourisseau, 31-year-old administrative chief for the Montebello Police Department. In 1970, the Montebello police had money allocated for purchase of a microfilm aperture card system, but Please Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

Police Turn to Science for Help With Records Continued from First Page the money had to be diverted for emergencies because of area disorders. Now, Sourisseau is hoping that ORACLE will be available to his department within a couple of years. "We are holding off for that, because there is no reason to spend several thousands of dollars on other equipment if that will be open to us soon," the captain said. But the department has reduced the number of report copies made by officers and gone to a block printing system of report writing. The original report Is then duplicated in as many copies as needed. In Lynwood, Police Chief Ralph Darton reports that simplification of police officer involvement in reporting has greatly aided departmental efficiency. But record keeping Is still a mounting problem, "which you don't cope with you exist
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UAW-TEAMSTERS-CARPENTERS IRONWORKERS-PIPE TRADES-RETAIL NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY COMPLETE ImkMhiuw tACY BELLFLOWER 17802 S. Clark St. Just South of Artesio 925-3753 (714) 523-8260 Mtst firim vulibli it Rr