



SHERIFF BOYD BUSHEY

July 2009

Boyd A. Bushey Clay County Sheriff's Office Life

Boyd Bushey joined the Sheriff's office as Deputy in March of 1963.

On December 16, 1963 due to the death of Sheriff Thorall All, the Clay County Board of Supervisors held a special meeting. The Board moved to appoint Deputy Bushey to fill the office until the next general election.

The Iowa Association of Sheriffs confirmed that Boyd Bushey was the youngest sheriff in State of Iowa. He was 26.

At the time Boyd Bushey became sheriff, the Clay County Sheriff's office was located in the northeast corner of the second floor at the Clay County Courthouse. The office was moved to the Clay County Jail Building. Prior to the move, the first floor of the building served as the home of the sheriff, with the jail located on the second floor. After the move, the Sheriff's office occupied on the first floor of the jail building with the jail remaining on the second floor.

When the general election was held in 1964, the Clay County Voters elected Sheriff Boyd Bushey.

During his years in office various activities occurred:

- New transistor type radios were purchased and installed in the Clay County Sheriff's department cars. The radios would give a wider range for making and receiving calls. These radios operated on 100 watts as compared to the 60 watts for the old ones, and permitted coverage of the entire county.
- Sheriff Bushey announced a 12-man roster of special deputies. The men will be on call for special patrol duty to protect life and property in event of a natural disaster, riot or other trouble.
- At times the occupants of the Clay County Jail, who had been sentenced to labor would paint the jails cell areas.
- Boyd Bushey worked with neighboring county sheriffs on various occasions and was active in the Northwest Iowa Sheriff's Association.
- Boyd Bushey joined several Law Enforcement personnel who went to Des Moines to assist in the safety of President Lyndon B. Johnson. They were stationed at various points of which the motorcade would travel.
- He was involved with National Child Safety Council's promoting child safety principles and practices program. Visits were made to all elementary schools in the county.

In 1970 a Pony Express Ride fund raising event was held in March. This event was held for several years. The event collected funds for Children with disabilities so they might walk. Participants, including Sheriff Bushey, rode horseback and would stop along the way to collect donations. Each group rode several miles until they met with the next group. The fund raising riders came from all corners of the State and met at Camp Sunnyside in Des Moines.

Year 1971 was the year that Spencer celebrated its 100th anniversary. To start off the events for the centennial a caravan headed by Sheriff Bushey traveled to various neighboring towns to promote and advertise the centennial. He was active in many of the events that were held that summer.

In April 1972 Spencer was selected by the Fortune Magazine to issue a story about "A Small Town That Has Kept Its Vigor." Sheriff Bushey along with many of the citizens of Spencer, Iowa were interviewed and proudly supported the article honoring this community.

On several occasions the Clay County Fair featured entertainers who required extra assistance. One of those entertainers was Roy Clark, who developed a fast friendship with Sheriff Bushey. Sheriff Bushey designated Roy Clark a special deputy and presented him with a Deputy Sheriff's Badge. Sheriff Bushey also provided support to entertainer Ray Griff and his band. When Sheriff Bushey greeted them, they asked about the reputed Iowa sweet corn. Sheriff Bushey made sure that Mr. Griff and his band were treated with corn on the cob and butter. Mr. Griff sent Bushey a thank you for the great Iowa corn on the cob and said he couldn't begin to tell how much they enjoyed it.

Along with all of this Sheriff Bushey worked hard to keep Clay County a safe place to live and share with families.

On June 1, 1976, Sheriff Boyd Bushey submitted a letter of resignation. He had served as Clay County Sheriff for 17 years.