

6,520 Arrests, Carrying Fines Totaling \$63,994.62 is Burton Roach's Record as Peace Officer

A total of 6,520 arrests made in 12 years, aggregating fines and costs of \$63,994.62!

These are the startling figures covering the activities of a lone peace officer of Potter County—Burton Roach, who retires from the office January 1. And he is still a young man.

The criminal records of Potter County disclose sensational facts about this young peace officer who quit the drug business 12 years ago due to bad health and has built up in that time a record, which his friends and many officials of this section and state, declare has no equal.

Burton Roach, when he became sheriff 4 years ago after serving the county as deputy constable and deputy sheriff for 8 years, was the youngest sheriff in the state of Texas, and was dubbed by the big dailies of the state as the "King Sheriff of the Plains." Today he is president of the Texas Sheriff's Association and will in the future devote his time and energies to that association, maintaining an office at Austin after January 8th.

Burton Roach's life as a peace officer would furnish material for a book—and it would all be interesting reading—but the criminal dockets of the county have been searched and the highlights of the activities set down against his name are recounted. His countless friends and admirers over the whole state of Texas and in many other states will read with intense interest what Burton Roach did while serving the people of Amarillo, the Panhandle and Texas.

First it would not be amiss to call attention to the fact that the number of arrests made by Burton Roach would equal the population of any city of the Panhandle outside of Amarillo, and is equal to one-third the population of Potter County. The amount of \$63,994.62 in fines and costs assessed against persons he has arrested has been paid into the treasury of this county through the work of a single man.

First Arrest in 1910.
The report which is to follow herewith in detail covers arrests made by Roach personally as a deputy constable and deputy sheriff for eight years and as sheriff succeeding the late W. M. Burwell for 4 years up to the present time. As the name of the officers making the arrest was not given in the records in some instances it is probable that the exact figures are above those given below. His first arrest was that of a hoodlumper on April 20, 1910.

Arrests by Classes.
Arrests made by Roach for misdemeanors as shown by the dockets in the Justice of Peace courts total 3,562. Number shown in highway criminal docket 122; county court docket 1,449; felony cases 1,387. Total number of arrests 6,520.

Fines in Different Courts.
Justice of Peace courts, \$47,991.02; highway violations \$1,507.78; county \$15,185.85. Total fines and costs \$63,994.62. There were 294 convictions in felony cases carrying a total number of 594 years in the penitentiary.

It is interesting to note the increase and decrease in crime by periods as shown by the dockets here. Crime, both in misdemeanor and felony cases, was at a high tide during the period when the open saloons flourished. The old criminal dockets show 842 arrests from Nov. 20, 1910 to the same date 1911, the last year of the open saloon. This number is by far higher than any year of the 12 Roach was in office, the year 1922 being the next highest in number of arrests with 703. The low ebb was reached in 1914.

Different Kinds of Crime.
Again it is interesting to note how when one kind of crime is stopped there is tendency toward an outbreak in some other direction. The records show 352 arrests for intoxication during the last year of the open saloon. The following year showed the number reduced to 39 and the second year to 60.

Bootlegging which at one time was a rapidly vanishing art, has since been increased as a result of uncertainty and changes in legislation. Indictments for bootlegging have dropped from 52 in 1912 to 5 during the last term of court, 8 months, in 1913. In June, 1913, not a single arrest was made for intoxication.

Lowest Ebb in 1914.
The lowest ebb of crime came in 1914. Then money became easy, and contrary to off-accepted statements along this line, the effect seems to have been to increase the amount of crime. The year 1916 showed a slight improvement over 1915, but 1917, when America entered the world war, was one of the worst years as shown by arrests, since the closing of the saloon.

The year 1918 showed a marked decrease. Everyone, even the criminally inclined, it is held, was too busy trying to win the war.

Since 1918 there has been a steady and rapid increase in the amount of crime until the last few months, when signs of a better day have been reported by officials.

Arrests made by Sheriff Roach during the past four years are: 1919, 278; 1920, 206; 1921, 463 and in 1922 a total of 703. The report of 1922 shows only a small portion of the December business, yet it discloses an increase of more than 152 per cent over 1919, the year following the war.

Kinds of Crime.
Another item of interest to the student of criminology is the comparative prominence of the various crimes as shown by arrests made by Roach in each during the period of 12 years he was officer. Arrests in each follow: Liquor violations lead with 341; burglary 142; forgery 145; theft over \$50 29; assault to murder 45; robbery 23; swindling 22; rape (all white) 29; perjury 28; embezzlement 27; pandering 23; burglary of railway cars 19; running a still 19; horse stealing 17; receiving stolen property 15; assault to rob 15; running gambling house 14; whitesapping 14; pickpocket 13; assault to rape (all white) 12; selling mortgaged property 10; bribery 10; obstructing traffic 8; bigamy 7; burglary and theft 6; defrauding state bank 4; incest 4.

The above and 25 other offenses make up the 64 separate offenses for which

And He's Still a Young Man



BURTON ROACH

Burton Roach, retiring sheriff, after serving as peace officer here for 12 years.

that portion of the records checked showed arrests to have been made. Liquor violations take the lead for the 12 years there have been times when but few arrests were being made for that offense. Next to this offense comes burglary, forgery, and theft of over \$50.

First Auto Theft.
Auto theft supplanted horse stealing during this period and relegated the latter offense to the dump heap. The first arrest for the theft of an auto in Potter County was that of Richard Evans, on October 9, 1916. It was stated that not more than one or two cars had been stolen in Potter County when Roach arrested Evans. Evans was first convicted in Houston and then brought here and given a 4-year term for theft of a Red car owned by Nobles Bros. Grocery Company.

Since that time the record shows that if one wants to engage in the business of stealing automobiles for a living he had better pursue his business elsewhere than in Potter County. Fifty-eight more arrests have been made by Burton Roach for auto theft since his first one in 1916, an average of 10 a year. It can readily be seen that stolen cars recovered through the arrests of thieves have amounted to thousands of dollars.

A large per cent of the 58 arrests for auto stealing have been convicted, and many of them are still serving terms in prison. Scores and scores of cars have been recovered where the thief was not captured and thousands of dollars worth of other property has been recovered by Roach as an officer.

Murder Next.
Assault to murder comes next in the list of crimes and murder ties robbery for seventh place with 53 arrests. Two arrests have been made for sheep stealing. Running a still is a new offense but 23 arrests have been made on this charge.

Pickpockets do not seem to have found Amarillo a desirable place in which to operate and this is one of the offenses committed here. One arrest was made for arson and one for attempting to wreck a passenger train. Sheriff Roach certainly has a right to be proud of his record for running down auto thieves. He has made long trips into other counties and has captured cars belonging hundreds of miles away from here. He has broken into garages of auto thieves and recovered as many as 14 cars stolen by one organized gang, operating in two or three states and working in a chain of cities extending for several hundred miles.

He is popular among the peace officers of Texas and New Mexico and has had the assistance of scores of peace officers in accomplishing such important results.

At one time he was the youngest sheriff in the state. He has made many captures of men wanted in distant states and has personally went as far as California and Ohio to get his men.

At present Sheriff Roach is president of the Texas Sheriff's Association, a signal recognition of his ability and persistence as a peace officer.

Now at the age of 35 he is retiring from office on his own accord and will make his headquarters at Austin where he will devote his time to the state association.

Has Wide Acquaintance.

Perhaps no other peace officer in the Southwest is personally acquainted with as many other officers or can call as many of them by their first name as Burton Roach. This intimate acquaintance has been still further augmented by his official connection with the Panhandle Sheriffs and Tax Collectors' Association, of which he is now president.

There is hardly a peace officer in the Panhandle section but what calls the retiring sheriff by his first name. He is never referred to as Mr. Roach. They are always ready to respond to his every request and many of them are frequently dropping into Amarillo at their own expense to see him on official business.

Nor has all this reciprocal courtesy come about without a similar service performed by Mr. Roach and his associates. Numerous long distance trips and man hunts have been made by him at his personal expense, to accommodate officers of other Texas counties or other states.

Work Brought Note.

Mr. Roach and his methods of opera-

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tion have been the subject of many complimentary notices in the big papers of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas and other cities.

At one time because of his diligence in enforcing the laws against the immoral carnival shows he was dubbed "The Original Carnival Buster" and such showmen knew of him all over the country.

Never Hurt Man.

In all his years as a peace officer and in creating thousands of criminals, many of them considered desperate, Mr. Roach has not seriously injured a single man, nor has he been seriously injured himself.

He has made many arrests in other counties that are not shown on the records here to his credit. At one time he had a raid in the South Plains where 44 arrests were made. During a riot at Texas some years ago he took a bad hurt part in placing 165 Mexicans under arrest and restoring order.

At one time Roach and an assistant arrested 21 in a gambling raid in Amarillo. At another time with one assistant he arrested 22 in one lead for theft. They all were caught with the goods and all dealt guilty.

On one occasion he arrested 17 gamblers alone and marched them through the streets to the county jail.

In an interview at his office Sheriff Roach revealed these and many other experiences such as have been met with by peace officers in this part of the country.

Most Useful Citizen Picked

BROWNWOOD — The Brownwood Bulletin held a building contest to decide the city's "most useful citizen for the year 1922" with the purpose of expressing appreciation for the good work done in Brownwood this by its useful citizens. No advertising was indulged in the contest.

Announcing An Old Established Drug Store In A New Location

After the first week in January we will be in our new location at 422 Taylor Street in the building formerly occupied by the Palace of Sweets.

The Randal Drug Co. several years ago adopted a policy of small profits on a large volume of business. We believe that this is the right business policy and feel that it is responsible for the remarkable business which this store has and is now enjoying.

We also feel that the new location lends itself admirably to this policy whereby quantity buying and several thousand dollars less expense a year we can still closer pursue the policy which has made the Randal Drug Co. successful. A policy which means a saving of hundreds of dollars a year to the patrons of this store.

Randal Drug Co.

The Rexall Store



"There's one New Year's Resolution I am going to keep"—

Send My Laundry To The Troy During 1923"

I have never seen their work excelled and their deliverymen are so courteous and painstaking—dealing with them is a pleasure—"

PHONE 42 AND 124

"Send It to the Laundry"

J. N. VERNON, Prop.

The B. & M. Bunch

Wish to thank one and all of their friends and customers for their valued patronage, consideration and pleasant business relations during the past year—and trust to see them more frequently during 1923. Here's hoping this will be your lucky year.

The Bunch

Ben Boshwitz
Don Crossett

Mike Hollander
Mel Cohen.

We Appreciate

The business and friendships we have won during 1923.

We shall strive to make our candies even better during 1923 and if you are not a regular customer, we invite you to become one.

"GET THE CANDY HABIT"

Texas Candy Shop

715 Taylor St.

1922--1923

"THE ONE GREAT TRUTH TO WHICH WE NEED TO come, is that a successful life lies not in doing this, or going there, or possessing something else. It lies in the quality of our daily life. It is just as surely success to be just and courteous to servants or companions of the chance comer as it is to make a noted speech before an audience, or write a book or make a million dollars. It is an achievement on the spiritual side of things; it is the extension of our life here into the spiritual world that is alone, of value."

"Right Decisions
Right Words
Right Endeavor
Right Thought
Right Self-Denial."

These precious possessions must combine to make possible what we wish for you—

A Very Happy New Year

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