

The 1984 Summer Olympic Games (the 23rd Olympiad) opened in Los Angeles on July 28th and closed on August 12, 1984.



At 7:42 am on October 1, 1987, the City and its environs experienced an earthquake of 5.9 intensity. Only one life was lost in Los Angeles compared to 57 deaths in the 1971 earthquake. Hardest hit by the earthquake was the City of Whittier, some 18 miles from the Los Angeles Civic Center.

Following two unrelated tragedies, each involving mentally disturbed individuals, a committee was organized by the Chief of Police, in 1987, to devise a method of anticipating and responding more effectively and compassionately to similar incidents. The Department established the Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) staffed by seven detectives and three police officers. The Unit provided on-site and telephonic assistance to street officers who encountered persons with indications of mental disturbance.



Opening Ceremony of 1984 Olympic Games

Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was installed in Records and Identification Division in late 1986.



Earthquake damage in Whittier

The Challenge Cup/Baker to Vegas Relay was the vision of LAPD Officers Chuck Foote and Larry Moore that began in 1986. It was spawned following the format laid by the LAPD Metro Division's "Death Valley Relay" which came to an abrupt end in 1985. The race has 20 stages and is 120-miles.



Chuck Foote running a stage of Baker to Vegas.

In May 1986, as part of a two-year field test, it became optional for officers to acquire 9mm double action, semiautomatic handguns in lieu of the Smith and Wesson .38 caliber weapon which remains regulation issue.

In 1988, a stray bullet fired by feuding gang members killed a Long Beach woman in Westwood. The incident brings gang violence to the forefront of attention in Los Angeles.

1984

In January 1984, the 9-1-1 emergency number became operational throughout the City of Los Angeles.



PSR at Dispatch Console

The first recruit class to experience an entirely new training program entered the Department's Training Academy in July 1986. The ongoing program replaces the Multimedia Instruction for Law Enforcement (MILE) curriculum introduced in 1973. The decision to replace MILE was made by the Chief of Police in favor of the basic course recommended by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) based upon performance objectives.



First Lady Nancy Reagan with Chief Gates

First Lady Nancy Reagan observed DARE in action when she visited Rosewood Elementary School in February 1987.

A three-way "partnership" between the police, the public and the business community was established in 1985 with the formation of the Los Angeles Police Crime Prevention Advisory Council.



September 1987 Pope John Paul II visited Los Angeles. After the visit, the Vatican wrote: "The City of Los Angeles has the most professional officers in the world. The security and all other planning aspects were the finest and the Los Angeles event went off the smoothest of all the cities..."

"Richter" was a three year old German Shepard and the newest member of the Department's K-9 Corps. Assigned to Metropolitan Division's search team, he had served for just a month when, on September 9, 1987, he was stabbed to death by a warehouse burglar. "Richter" was the first K-9 killed by a suspect and the second K-9 "officer" to die in the line of duty.



Pope John Paul II

In 1987, Officer Joanna M. Brownell became the first female to qualify as a motor officer.

Richard Ramirez being escorted to be booked by LAPD detectives at Hollenbeck Division, following his capture by enraged East Los Angeles residents.



The arrest of Richard Ramirez, the Night Stalker, in August of 1985 ended weeks of terror. In 1989, Ramirez received the death sentence for 13 counts of murder.