

## TPD History in 1950's – 1960's



In 1954, Chief Stroh resigned and Captain **Willard H. "Pop" Haslam** was appointed Chief. Under Chief Haslam's guidance, a new police facility was built at 3131 Torrance Boulevard. Chief Haslam is also credited with adding to the motorcycle squad already equipped with Harley Davidson motorcycles.



1951

Assistant Chief **Percy Bennett** succeeded "Pop" Haslam as Chief of Police in 1956. Under Chief Bennett's leadership, the Department grew to 110 employees handling an ever increasing and diversifying workload. Chief Bennett instituted an Administrative Vice Detail marking the start of the Department's undercover vice and narcotics enforcement. Officer training was also expanded and all new police officers were required to attend a 16 week academy conducted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



*Officer Hartel in first radar unit (1959)*



*Sergeant Hone and Officer Weyant*



Chief Bennett retired in 1964 and a search was conducted for a new Chief. **Walter R. Koenig**, a former Los Angeles Police Department Captain, was appointed Chief of the Torrance Police Department in July of 1964. Chief Koenig made many positive changes in the Police Department. He reorganized the Department, instituted a Cadet program to attract and develop qualified Police officer recruits, graduated the first Torrance Policewoman from the Sheriff's Academy, and expanded the police building. Clearly, the most significant of his accomplishments was dramatically increasing the community's confidence in their police department.