

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 2991  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92112  
(714) 232-3811



JOHN F. DUFFY, Sheriff

January 8, 1973

DONALD R. OLIVER, Undersheriff

TO: All Cab Companies in San Diego County

The attached memorandum directed to all cab drivers licensed to operate in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County will supersede the memorandum previously issued September 15, 1972.

Please discard the prior memorandum and post the attached in an appropriate place.

*John F. Duffy*

John F. Duffy, Sheriff

nlm

cc: Mr. Ed Allensworth

Escondido County Station  
1111 Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92021  
2-3811

North County Station  
325 Santa Melrose  
Vista, CA 92081  
724-2104

Lemon Grove Station  
2059 Broadway  
Lemon Grove, CA 92043  
231-3611

Encinitas Station  
140 E. Street  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
733-5851

January 8, 1973

TO: All Taxicab Drivers licensed to operate in the  
unincorporated areas of San Diego County

FROM: John F. Duffy, Sheriff

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF SOME CAB DRIVERS

Due to the misunderstanding of the memorandum issued by my Department on September 15, 1972, and the apparent misinterpretation of my attempts to clarify it, that memorandum is hereby superseded by the present letter, which I hope more succinctly sets forth the legal responsibilities of cab drivers. The following is a list of the most frequently violated sections of the San Diego County Code covering the licensing and operations of taxicabs:

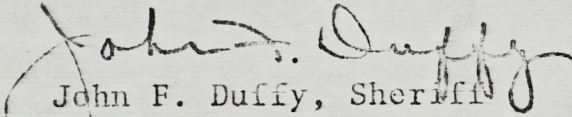
1. Knowingly (or with reasonable cause to believe), and with unlawful intent, transporting illegal aliens throughout San Diego County and into other counties.
  - a. This is a violation of both Section 1324 of the United States Code and Section 21.320(k) of the San Diego County Code.
2. The practice of "FLAT RATING"; i.e., charging a fixed fee for transportation from one place to another, rather than the rate indicated on the taxi meter.
  - a. This is a violation of Section 21.319 of the San Diego County Code.
3. Refusing or discouraging prospective passengers the use of their cab without just cause.
  - a. This is a violation of Section 21.320(m) of the San Diego County Code.
4. Transporting a larger number of persons than the manufacturer's rated seating capacity. (This violation commonly occurs in conjunction with transportation of illegal aliens and military personnel.)
  - a. This is a violation of Section 21.320(e) of the San Diego County Code.

All Taxicab Drivers  
January 8, 1973  
Page 2

Drivers who have reason to believe their passengers are in violation of any Federal, State or local law are encouraged to notify their dispatcher and request a check by the appropriate enforcement agency.

Violations of any of the above listed Sections (or any other Section) of the San Diego County Code shall constitute grounds for immediate suspension or revocation of the driver's identification card.

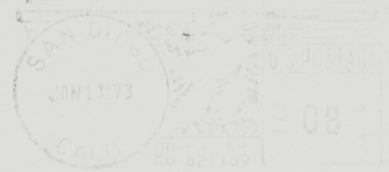
It is my specific intent to inform taxi drivers that I will not tolerate violations of the above stated laws, or the utilization of licensed vehicles in the furtherance of any illegal or immoral act. My office will vigorously investigate and take appropriate action against those who do.

  
John F. Duffy, Sheriff

JFD/nlm

2260

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
POST OFFICE BOX 2991  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92112



Floyd Wilson  
3730 Fifth Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92103

Personal



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 20, 1984

The Committee on Chicano Rights has called today's Press conference to accuse San Diego County Sheriff John Duffy of "illegally" initiating the January 13 and 14, 1984 immigration raids against businesses and patrons of Mexican ancestry in Vista, California. (See attachment A and B)

Sheriff John Duffy's action according to CCR Chairman, Herman Baca, "borders on the illegality of the law, as he demonstrated in 1972 with his famous Tax Cab Memo, (see Memo-1972), the La Costa issue and now Vista, California".

In initiating the illegal immigration raids in Vista, California in defiance of a 1972 Justice Department ruling(see attachment C) and Attorney General Griffin Bell's 1977 Memo (see Bell Memo), Duffy in collusion with the INS/Border Patrol has stated Baca, "Once again, placed the constitutional rights of over 300,000 persons of Mexican ancestry in San Diego County, in serious jeopardy". For these reasons the CCR has written the following letters requesting the following actions: See enclosed letters to County Board of Supervisors and United States Department of Justice.

In concluding Baca stated, "That failure by the County Board of Supervisors or the Justice Department to stop Sheriff Duffy from future enforcement of federal immigration laws will prompt the CCR to contemplate legal action and to escalate political action against both Sheriff Duffy and the Reagan Administration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE CCR AT-474-8195, Herman Baca

1837 Highland Avenue, National City, CA 92050 (714) 474-8195



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

January 18, 1984

Tom Hamilton, Chairman  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Building  
1600 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

A matter of great concern to the Committee On Chicano Rights and persons of Mexican ancestry has come to our attention which we believe is under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors.

John Duffy, San Diego County Sheriff, has once again, as in the past has seen fit to unlawfully involve the Sheriff's Department in the illegal enforcement of immigration laws. As noted by recent news articles, San Diego Union, Evening Tribune and La Prensa newspaper, it is our strong opinion that Sheriff Duffy is acting in collusion with the Immigration and Naturalization Service/ Border Patrol in enforcing federal immigration laws. (See attachment A & B and Sheriff's Memorandum-1972)

On three separate incidents, November 25, 1983, January 13 and 14, 1984, the Sheriff's Department, using the pretense of rising high crime (no individual arrested on criminal charges), conducted immigration sweeps against businesses and patrons of Mexican ancestry in Vista, California. In fact, the sweeps of January 13 and 14 were initiated by Sheriff Duffy as verified by Captain Robert Desteunder of the Sheriffs Department. (See L.A. Times article)

Duffy's raids have raised many serious questions of jurisdiction (See Atty. General Bell's memo-1977 and attachment C), usurpation of federal law and violations of constitutional rights. These concerns have been expressed in a letter dated January 18, 1984 to the United States Department of Justice for an immediate investigation.

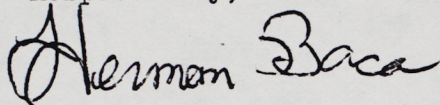
However, our most serious concern in this matter is the dangerous implications that these illegal raids pose to the constitutional rights of the more than 300, 000 persons of Mexican ancestry in the County of San Diego.

It is with these reasons that the Committee On Chicano Rights is requesting the Board of Supervisors to initiate an immediate investigation into the following issues:

1. Has the Board of Supervisor's approved the expenditures of County funds, i.e., taxpayer monies, for the enforcement of federal immigration laws by Sheriff John Duffy?
2. Does the Charter of the County of San Diego authorize or permits the use of County funds to enforce federal immigration laws by Sheriff John Duffy?
3. Does the County Board of Supervisors have a complete and detailed report on the expenditures used in the raids of November 25, 1983 and January 13,14, 1984 by Sheriff John Duffy?

Our organization will be expecting a prompt reply from your office regarding this serious matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herman Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Herman Baca, Chairman  
CCR



Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

January 18, 1984

William French Smith  
United States Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Smith,

The Committee On Chicano Rights demands an immediate investigation by your department into the following:

1. The collusion between the Immigration Service/Border Patrol and San Diego County Sheriff John Duffy in carrying out immigration sweeps in Vista, California on November 25, 1983 January 13 and 14 1984 against businesses and patrons of Mexican ancestry. (See attachment A and B)
2. Under what statute and legal authority did the San Diego Office of the INS/Border Patrol deputize San Diego Sheriff John Duffy to enforce federal immigration laws?
3. Who in the San Diego Office of the INS/ Border Patrol gave the authorization to Sheriff Duffy to carry out immigration sweeps?

Since 1972 Sheriff Duffy has involved his department (See enclosed memorandum-1972) in the illegal enforcement of federal immigration laws. This practice prompted the U.S. Department of Justice in 1973 to stop Sheriff Duffy from further enforcing federal immigration laws. (See attachment C) Sheriff Duffy now, in defiance of both the 1973 memo and 1977 memorandum from the Attorney General Griffin Bell (See Bell memo) has once again chosen to intrude into enforcing immigration law.

Sheriff Duffy's involvement in the immigration area poses a serious threat to the constitutional rights of San Diego County's 300,000 persons of Mexican ancestry.

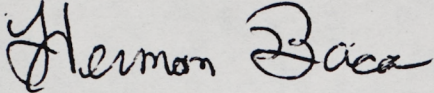
It is with these reasons that the Committee On Chicano Rights is demanding the immediate investigation by the Reagan administration of both the INS and San Diego County Sheriff John Duffy. Furthermore, it is our organizations position that the Department of Justice take immediate action to enjoin Sheriff John Duffy from violating the constitutional rights of persons of Mexican ancestry



by his enforcement of federal immigration laws.

Our organization will be awaiting for a prompt response to this serious matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herman Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Herman Baca, Chairman

CCR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Washington, D.C.

PRESS RELEASE

June 23, 1978

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell today reaffirmed Department of Justice policy that the responsibility for enforcement of the immigration laws rests with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and not with state and local police.

INS officers are uniquely prepared for this law enforcement responsibility, because of their special training and because of the complexities and fine distinctions of immigration laws, Mr. Bell said.

The Attorney General stated that the Department would continue to urge state and local police forces to observe the following guidelines:

1. Do not stop and question, detain, arrest, or place an "immigration hold" on any persons not suspected of crime solely on the ground that they may be deportable aliens;

2. Upon arresting an individual for a non-immigration criminal violation, notify the Service immediately if it is suspected that the person may be an undocumented alien, so that the service may respond appropriately.

INS officials will continue to work with state and local law enforcement officials to carry out this policy.

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 2931  
San Diego, California 92112  
(714) 232-3811



September 15, 1972

JOHN F. DUFFY, Sheriff

TO ALL TAXI CAB DRIVERS

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Due to the increasing number of aliens entering the county and their utilization of taxi cabs for transportation into the State of California a meeting was held with the owners of taxi cab companies licensed by the Sheriff and the following policy was adopted in an attempt to assist the Border Patrol in alleviating this problem.

When a taxicab driver picks up a person or group of persons whom he feels may be in this country illegally he should notify his dispatcher via the radio of the situation by use of a code number or otherwise, and advise of his destination. The dispatcher will then notify this department who will contact a police agency to stop the taxicab and determine the status of the passengers.

If the driver follows the above procedure every effort will be made by the law enforcement agency making the stop to keep his actions confidential and get him back in service as soon as possible. HOWEVER, if the driver of a taxicab is stopped by a law enforcement officer and found to have illegal aliens in his vehicle and the circumstances indicate he was aware they were in this county illegally and he has not notified his dispatcher of the situation then his permit to operate a taxicab in the county area will be SUSPENDED.

Further, it should be noted that according to Section 1324 of the United States Code it is a felony to transport or move persons who are in this county illegally if the person knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that they have entered this county illegally. This is punishable by a \$2,000 fine or imprisonment in prison for FIVE years for each alien transported.

As you can see this is a serious matter and while we do not expect the drivers to act as police officer, we are requesting your cooperation. Moreover, we do not expect you to call on each individual you transport, but are primarily interested in the large groups of 5 or 6 persons who are obviously, by their mannerisms and dress, illegal entrants into this county.

If you desire any further information on this matter contact your dispatcher or Deputy M. Stayrook of this department, 236-2961.

JOHN F. DUFFY, Sheriff

*M. C. Rath*

M. C. Rath, Sergeant  
Investigative Support Unit

City Station

North County Station

Lemon Grove Station

Encinitas Station

# 22 arrested in Vista alien sweep

By Jim Okerblom  
Staff Writer

VISTA — A task force of Border Patrol officers and sheriff's deputies swept into three Vista bars last night in a surprise raid, but the results were less than spectacular.

Only 22 suspected undocumented aliens were arrested, 11 fewer than the number of officers who participated in the raid.

"It's just one of those nights," said a clearly disappointed Capt. Robert DeSteunder, in charge of the sheriff's deputies.

In a coordinated effort beginning about 8:30 p.m., a force made up of 15 sheriff's deputies, 17 Border Patrol officers and one investigator from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control simultaneously burst through the doors of My Place and the El Rey bar on South Santa Fe Avenue and into the Sundowner on East Vista Way.

It was the second raid in less than two months at the three bars, which the Sheriff's Department says are havens for undocumented aliens.

On Nov. 25, also a Friday night, a task force of 26 deputies and Border Patrol agents arrested 72 undocumented aliens in a similar raid, officials said. (The November raid included another bar, the El Sombrero on South Santa Fe, that deputies said has since closed.)

At My Place last night, about 20 surprised patrons sitting at the bar and playing pool watched as Border Patrol officers questioned those suspected of being undocumented.

"I think it's just a show," said an angry Joe Diaz, manager of My Place, as 10 men and one woman were escorted from the bar and placed into a waiting bus.

"All these people (the officers) are getting paid by the government, and they are doing absolutely nothing but wasting people's time. They'll send these guys across the border, and they'll come back the next day."

In the November raid, which occurred about the same time of night, about 30 undocumented aliens were taken into custody at My Place. Officials could not account for the lower number this time.

"They could have been tipped off,



ATT. A

*Jim Okerblom*  
1/14/84



The San Diego Union/Don Kohlbauer

Border Patrol officers frisk suspected undocumented aliens after conducting raids on three Vista bars last night. Sheriff's dep-

uties also participated in the roundup, which occurred less than two months after another sweep at the same establishments.

## Sweep: 22 arrested in Vista

maybe it's too early in the evening or maybe it's just one of those nights where there's not many around," DeSteunder said.

The November raid resulted, DeSteunder said, after residents and business owners near the bars complained about undocumented aliens and increased crime, especially in the 500 block of South Santa Fe.

DeSteunder said there had been a substantial increase in residential burglaries, automotive thefts, narcotics violations and prostitution in the neighborhood that was linked to patrons of the bars. He said fights in and around the bars also have been common.

Vista city officials also had complained about the situation at the three bars, saying they were attracting a "criminal element."

But Julia Sanchez, who tends bar at My Place, disagreed with the description of her clientele. She said most of her patrons are hard working men, and that any criminals were very few in number.

"Most of these people never cause any trouble," she said. "I'll go out from behind the bar and grab any man by the collar and drag him out.

"The trouble is, the aliens are going to be back tomorrow, anyway. They will be headed back, as soon as they step off the bus."

Before the raid, Border Patrol officers were warned about a recent federal district court ruling prohibiting officers from "creating a detentive environment" by blocking the exits to bars. "That does not mean we are not to remain vigilant of those exits," said Michael Connell, patrol agent in charge.

Agents waited outside My Place and questioned patrons who left. Sheriff's deputies were warned not to question any patrons about their immigration status. DeStuender said deputies were there to "watch the backs" of Border Patrol officers as they did their work.

ATT B

## New Vista raids net more aliens

By Ed Jahn, Staff Writer

VISTA — Los Daddy's Band played last night at The Sundowner on East Vista Way here despite the fact the Border Patrol arrested two band members and 18 other people at the bar Friday night when they looked for undocumented workers.

As Richie Macedo, bouncer at the downtown bar explained, "The band always plays, no matter."

And undocumented workers, many of them here for the beginning of the tomato planting season and the clearing of the celery fields, will continue to flock to The Sundowner and places like El Rey Club nearby and My Place south of town, which also were raided Friday, he said.

"As long as they don't make trouble, what can you do?" he asked. "Two raids in one night, though, that's overdoing it."

Friday, the Border Patrol swooped down on The Sundowner at about 8:30 p.m. and expected to net several dozen illegal aliens, according to Michael Connell, patrol agent in charge of the El Cajon Border Patrol station.

"We thought they'd be coming back from Mexico after the holidays and the new crop season is starting," he said. But the Border Patrol, with the assistance of county sheriff's deputies, found only two people suspected of being in this country illegally.

See SWEEP on Page B-5

1/15/84

# Sweep: Aliens arrested in Vista

Continued from B-1

Twenty more were taken into custody at the other two bars, leading Connell to think someone may have leaked information about the raid, he said.

"These places get busy right at sundown because that's when the workers start coming in. We figured someone either tipped them off or they put two and two together," Connell said.

So at 10:30 p.m., the raiding team struck again and this time arrested 68 more people for a total of 90 suspected illegal aliens.

Connell said all but eight of those arrested voluntarily went by bus to Tijuana and Calexico. The remainder requested deportation hearings, he said.

Macedo said a couple of those arrested joked about getting a free ride home for the weekend.

"I wouldn't call this harassment," said Connell of the contention that the raids were selective enforcement of the law. "We are in these places on a routine basis making arrests and knew what we could expect."

Vista Councilwoman Gloria McClellan said she was pleased about the raids and said she has been pushing for them because of the number of complaints she has been receiving about prostitution, narcotics and robberies near the bars.

"We certainly aren't trying to run anybody out of town. I'd just like to see those businesses take hold and upgrade and clean up what's happening," she said.

But Sergio Molina, owner of El Rey Club, said there is little he can do except run a legal and safe business "and I can't control what happens out on the street."

"I can't say one person gets in and another person can't. I try to make sure everyone is the legal age but this is a free bar to people and I'm here to sell beer," he said.

"Even the sheriff's deputies can't ask someone for their immigration papers, so what can I do? They (undocumented workers) are just going to keep coming back," Molina said.

Molina and others said the raids Friday were conducted without problems, for the most part. But Molina said El Sombrero, a bar just down the street from his in the 500 block of Santa Fe Avenue, was raided so often last year that it had to close.

Last Nov. 25, the Border Patrol rounded up 73 suspected illegal aliens at El Rey Club, My Place, the Sundowner and El Sombrero.

McClellan said that area of downtown is considered "the hot spot" and has occupied a disproportionate amount of the time of law enforcement people.

"The facts speak for themselves. The sheriff's deputies flush people out and make arrests. I'd think the bar people would know in two minutes if someone they were selling beer to happened to be an illegal alien," she said.

Although many signs in the three bars are in Span-

ish and many patrons speak the language, the establishments do not appear to be "dives" and yesterday served a clientele of both Chicanos and Anglos.

The Sundowner, which has a beer license, is at Santa Fe Drive and Vista Way and is flanked by retail stores. Shopkeepers in the

area said the bar has had some incidents that have required the attention of sheriff's deputies but it could not be singled out as worse than any bar in the area.

At My Place, the barmaid yesterday said a dance planned for last night would go on as scheduled even

though several band members had been arrested there Friday also.

A sign at the door in Spanish asked gentlemen to please not spit on the floor. "Yes, it hurt business last night when they came twice. But I think business will be OK tonight," the waitress said.

# 'Hands-Off' Policy On Aliens Aired

ATT. C

## Only Immigration Authorities May Hold Suspects, Lawmen Told

Local peace officers generally do not concern themselves with arresting suspected illegal aliens, a survey showed yesterday.

Sheriff John Duffy said he has been legally advised that "no one but immigration authorities, not even the FBI, has the right to detain, interrogate or arrest illegal aliens." Such aliens come under federal immigration statutes.

"We do not even have the right to ask them to show their papers," Duffy said.

### SHERIFF'S JURISDICTION

The sheriff's department, under contract, polices three of San Diego's 13 cities as well as unincorporated areas. The three cities are Del Mar, Vista and San Marcos.

The department's policy is pretty much followed now by police in Escondido, El Cajon, La Mesa, National City and Coronado.

Said Police Chief Arthur G. LeBlanc of Coronado, "Until a month ago, our policy was to apprehend aliens and turn them over to the Border Patrol. But because of legal interpretations about our authority, we stopped doing so. It's a gray area. The Border Patrol is an enforcement arm of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Police Chief Frank LeCourt of Imperial Beach said that "we do not bother" anyone walking through town who might be an illegal alien.

### LA MESA POLICY

Police Capt. Don Fach of La Mesa said, "We used to pick up suspected illegal aliens. Now we notify the Border Patrol and otherwise treat the suspect as John Q. Citizen."

In El Cajon, Police Chief Wallace Dart said his department's policy was altered several weeks ago after a meeting between Sheriff Duffy and police chiefs. "We now pass the word to the Patrol and go our way," Dart said.

Oceanside's police chief, Ward Ratcliff, said, "If they violate the law in some way and get into our net, we turn them in, but we are not getting stuck in the river bottom looking for them."

### ESCONDIDO PRACTICE

In Escondido, "our policy has been that it is not necessary to get involved," according to Police Chief Chester Lund. Sometimes, late at night, if officers are not pressed by other duties, they may pick up a suspected alien, he said.

Chula Vista's policy is to notify the Border Patrol, and the policeman may stand by until the Patrol arrives. "But we have told our officers to stop beating the bushes," said Police Chief William J. Winters.

Carlsbad's police chief, Ralph Laughlin, said, "If nothing illegal is done in the officer's presence, we can't do much but pass our suspicions on to the Patrol."

National City follows this pol-

icy, too, according to Police Chief Jack Liesman.

But Police Sgt. G. T. Reed of the San Diego police department, which patrols the San Ysidro border crossing, said, "Anytime we find illegal aliens, we apprehend them."

San Diego's department appears to be an exception in dealing with aliens.

"If we see people prowling back roads, we stop them," said Robert Jauregui, assistant police chief. "We want to find out who they are and why they are there."

### MARCH ARRESTS

During March, 14,195 aliens were arrested in the Chula Vista sector and returned to Mexico, according to Richard Batchelor, in charge of the sector for the Border Patrol.

Batchelor said the influx began increasing in the mid-1960s when the United States ended its bracero program—bringing in farm workers from Mexico.

In 1961, the arrest rate here ran about 400 a month. Now it is 35 times higher.

The rising influx, plus the change in law-enforcement policy by local agencies, has federal officials worried.

S. D. C. 1001  
4-22-73



# SAN DIEGO COUN

Los Angeles Times

Thursday, January 19, 1984

## Crackdown on Illegal Aliens Stirs Controversy

By DANIEL M. WEINTRAUB and DAVID SMOLLAR, *Times Staff Writers*

VISTA—To his friends, Felix Valencia is a longtime Vistan, a graduate of Vista High School and Palomar Community College and a U.S. Army veteran. But to the Border Patrol, Valencia is just another Latino face.

During one of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's recent raids on downtown bars, Valencia was ordered outside the El Rey Club along with other suspected illegal aliens, lined up against a wall and forced to identify himself as a legal resident.

"I can put up with that once or twice," said Valencia, a legal resident in Vista since 1963 but not a U.S. citizen. "But you start thinking you can't even walk down the street without getting pulled over."

Valencia is just one Vista resident caught in the middle of the INS crackdown on illegal aliens here. Two recent raids—one in November and another Friday—have netted about 160 illegal aliens in and around four Vista bars.

Despite the contention of Sheriff's Department and INS officials that the raids have been successful, some city officials, bar owners and patrons believe the high-profile action will not have any lasting effects. Some say the raids have served only to heighten the tension between law enforcement agencies and bar owners, who in some other cities are the police's strongest allies.

INS officials say the raids were prompted by an increase in crime in and around the bars. They have received numerous complaints from city officials, nearby shopkeepers and residents along South Santa Fe Avenue, where the El Rey and the El Sombrero bars are situated.

Sheriff's Capt. Robert DeSteunder, head of the department's Vista substation, said he requested the raids after pressure from the City

*'We're not really targeting the bars for doing anything illegal.'*

Council to clean up downtown. A survey of the areas surrounding eight local bars showed that the 500 block of South Santa Fe is the center of much of the city's crime.

DeSteunder said that block was the site of 162 arrests for disturbances, 16 for being under the influence of drugs or alcohol and 68 for other reasons from Jan. 1 to Nov. 19, 1983. Those figures were far higher than the numbers for any of the other areas, he said.

Mike Connell, agent-in-charge of the Border Patrol's El Cajon office, which conducted the raids, said he had received a rash of calls from businessmen and residents in the

area complaining that the number of aliens had gotten out of hand.

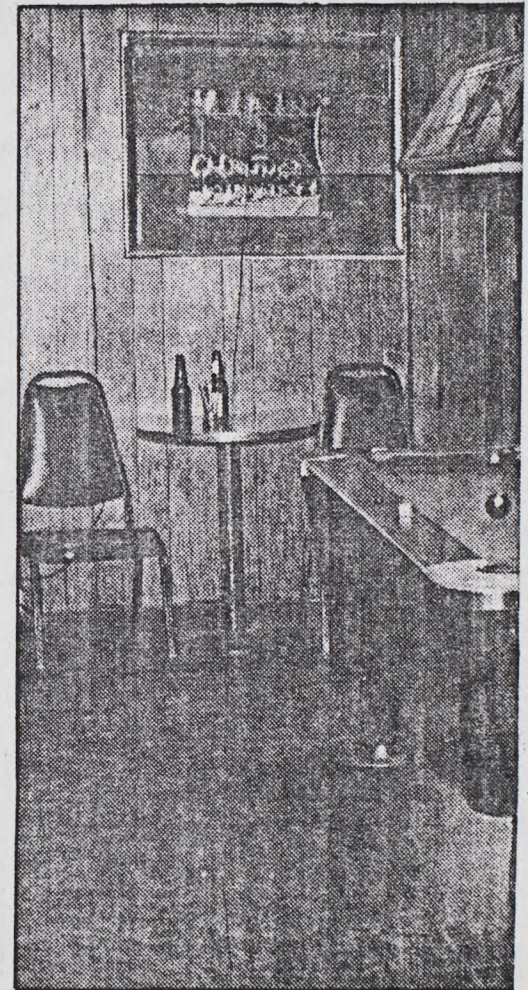
"We're not really targeting the bars for doing anything illegal," Connell said. "It's just where the aliens congregate. It's gotten to the point where the citizens of the area have been calling us often and begging us to do something about it."

Though DeSteunder has no statistics showing that aliens are at the root of the downtown crime problem (Vista's overall crime rate dropped 27% last year), he said officers "have noticed we are arresting more illegal aliens for serious crimes, such as burglary, than in the past."

The raids have been a combined effort of the two agencies because the sheriff has no jurisdiction over federal immigration laws, and the Border Patrol cannot enforce local and state laws. It is the involvement of the sheriffs, who are present to provide security for the Border Patrol agents, that has upset the employees and owners of the targeted bars.

"Half of us don't trust the sheriffs anymore, and I'm an American," said one patron at My Place who declined to give his name. "It's all just a big game they're playing."

"We don't have any trouble with the Border Patrol," said Hugh Lawson, co-owner of the Sundowner.



Please see VISTA, Page 6

Legal U.S. resident Felix Valencia at a Vi

# VISTA: Arrests

Continued from Page 1

"Hey, if there are illegal aliens in here, we say go ahead and do your duty. That's what the Border Patrol is for. It's the way the sheriffs act that bothers me."

Lawson, whose bar was the site of just one arrest in the period covered by the sheriff's crime survey, said deputies have been rough on his patrons. Deputies block the doorway and use racist language, he said.

"They'll say: 'Hey, you greaseball, you got papers?'" Lawson said. "Well, these 'greaseballs' may have been born in the United States. It's wrong to degrade somebody by making racist remarks instead of talking to them as another human being."

DeSteunder said he has told his deputies it is illegal for them to block the bar's doorway, and he said any officer using the kind of language quoted by Lawson "would be coming from way out in left field. We don't condone that."

## No Sympathy

But DeSteunder said he has no sympathy for those who complain about the presence of the Border Patrol in Vista.

"I have never understood what they're talking about," DeSteunder said. "They've grasped this word 'harassment,' and anything they don't like, they call it that. These people (aliens) have violated United States law. Immigration officers are supposed to enforce the law."

Councilman Lloyd von Haden, however, said he thinks the concern and controversy over the alien question is overblown. Aliens, he believes, are a "rather minor" part of the city's crime picture.

"When a Mexican gets drunk, he's liable to be just as obnoxious as the President of the United States when he's drunk," Von Haden said. "Most of the fights in that area are caused by people in the bars, but I don't think it's just because of the aliens."

Von Haden said he thinks the raids are futile.

"You pick them up one day, and they're back the next," he said. "What we do today or tomorrow is not going to get anywhere near the heart of the problem, which is in the economies of Mexico and Central America."

Mayor Nancy Wade praised the raids as effective but conceded she doesn't think the aliens present much of a problem in Vista.

"I suppose I look at them, trying to make a living, trying to eke out an existence for themselves and their families, and my heart goes out to them," Wade said. "Unfortunately, they seem to like the bars, to relax



BOB GRIESER / Los Angeles Times

Hugh Lawson, co-owner of Sundowner bar, says the way sheriff's deputies act bothers him.

there with their own nationalities, and frequently problems erupt when they're all gathered like that."

But Wade said the crime surrounding the bars might be more due to the taverns themselves than the aliens.

"I think the nature of the bars and their close proximity to one another would still cause some problems," she said. "I'm not saying the illegals don't cause some of them, but I'm not sure the problems would be eliminated completely if the illegals were not there."

What  
brings  
together a seller  
with a trailer in  
Ventura and a  
buyer from  
Palm Springs

Times  
Classified Ads  
When you need action now.