

Police chief cites past effectiveness

# End of city-county drug squad offers threat to Meridian drug-control

Elimination of the combined Boise City-Ada County narcotics division, as announced Tuesday, "leaves us in a position where we now don't have either the money or the man-power to cope with the drug situation within Meridian".

Gene Hiner, Meridian chief of police, made that statement Wednesday after it was announced in Boise that the city-county operation was being suspended.

Sheriff Paul Bright and Boise chief of police John Church, in a joint press release, said the narcotics division was being eliminated because the county commissioners have "refused to furnish one additional officer to the agency and to provide funds to pay a fair share of the cash expenditures".

Hiner was emphatic in his statement that Meridian has a real drug problem and was equally emphatic about the efficiency of the city-county agency in combating it.

"We know for sure we have a drug problem in the high school," Hiner said, "and we know it has spread, to some extent at least, to the junior high school. There also is some activity outside the two schools by older people.

"But it takes lots of time and considerable money to keep it under control and, under the present circumstances, Meridian has neither of those things."

arrests and got 21 convictions. But to do this, we had to put out more than \$1,000 to buy evidence, get equipment, and hire under-cover men."

He said that in a 30-day period alone, his records show that 486 man-hours were spent on drug investigations. That, he said, included two under-cover men and two men (including himself) on the regular force.

During that 30-day period, \$322 was spent to buy drugs and \$355 was spent on equipment.

On the other hand, he pointed out, during the entire year the city-county vice squad was in operation, Meridian police handled only 14 drug cases, used up a total of 182 man-hours and spent \$250.

He emphasized the fact that Meridian police will not let down on the investigation and prosecution of narcotic cases on their own. But he did say, the work would have to be dangerously reduced because of the lack of both money and man power.

"There are rare times," he said, "where we run across open-and-shut cases, but they are certainly the exception. For instance," he went on, "we had a case just recently where a 16-year-old high school boy was going over to the junior high school and selling pills for 50c each.

For the past year, Hiner said, the city-county narcotics division has been doing the bulk of the work in Meridian, and he had nothing but praise for the efficiency and hard work of those officers.

He explained that when Meridian police had any information of drug operations within the city, they would contact the Boise office, tell them what they knew or suspected, and then co-operate with them in the investigation.

He went on to say that to make an arrest and obtain a conviction in a drug case generally takes a lot of hard work by specially trained investigators.

"We really got a lot of help from those people," Hiner said. "The Boise officers were deputized, so they could work in any part of the county, and there were six such officers (counting the two from the county office) who could help us.

"They would take over the major part of the work and all the expense connected with an investigation, and our department would merely assist them in the leg work."

As an example of the amount of work and money it takes for this type of police work in Meridian alone, Hiner cited the activities of his department during the year previous to the city-county operation.

"During that year," he said, "we made 21

"It so happened that, after we became suspicious of him, we were able to catch him with the goods. But that doesn't happen very often. In most cases, you have to set up a 'buy', and then plan the arrest in great detail -- and some times it takes weeks and months to get a single conviction."

Hiner said that from now on, there will be just two officers in the sheriff's office to cover the entire county on drug cases.

"It stands to reason," he said, "that two men simply can't begin to handle the job. It's impossible. We plan to do the best we can but, as I said, the way the drug situation is today in Meridian, we simply can't cope with it by ourselves."

Hiner said that during the past year, local police have been concentrating more on preventative operations than prosecution of drug offenders.

Recently, he said, they conducted an all-day program at the junior high school, showing a number of films, displaying exhibits of drugs and making talks. Doug Tremaine, a Meridian student at Boise State College majoring in criminology, lectured on the drug problem.

"At the end of the day," Hiner reported, "three young pupils came to us or to their teachers and handed over pills they had recently bought, saying

they didn't realize the danger they were running into taking the pills."

### Commissioner comments

Referring to the elimination of the city-county vice squad, Rulon Swensen, chairman of the Ada County board of commissioners, said he believed the whole situation was "more political than budgetary".

Around  
Second, the budget that the county  
Swensen also said the fact that the state is adding 20 to 30 special agents to work on the drug problem was taken into consideration.  
"I don't know what the state setup will be as far as Meridian is concerned," he said, "but I would imagine some assistance could be obtained from the state."

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heard months ago that there was dissension in the city-county squad and that Bright and Church were going to break up the operation. I think they just wanted somebody to pin it on and they selected the commissioners."

Swensen denied that Meridian will be limited to the assistance of the two special officers who have been working on the city-county squad.

"The whole force is hired to enforce the law," Swensen said. "Nobody is hired to specialize in narcotics or any other branch of law enforcement. If Meridian needs help in keeping drugs under control, all of the deputies should be available."

Swensen also said the fact that the state is adding 20 to 30 special agents to work on the drug problem was taken into consideration.

"I don't know what the state setup will be as far as Meridian is concerned," he said, "but I would imagine some assistance could be obtained from the state."



## Meridian Police Don Traditional Blue

AFTER WEARING TWO-TONED UNIFORMS for 11 years, Meridian police have changed to midnight blue. Officer Lee Cordell is wearing a uniform so new that all the insignia patches are not yet on it.

## Police Wear Blue Uniform In Meridian

7-8-72  
**MERIDIAN** — The "good guys" in Meridian are now wearing midnight blue.

The switch to the dark blue uniforms was made after 11 years in the old two-tone tan uniforms. Chief Gene Hiner said, "We're trying to get away from the two-tone look."

He also pointed out that there are no traditional stripes on the trouser legs, and the only "extras" are a name badge, American flag, and the new "Meridian Police" patch on the shoulder.

The new uniforms were paid for by appropriated city funds and four regular, one part-time, and six reserve policemen will wear the new blues.

Meridian's police force consists of Sid Spath, Larry Scarborough, Lee Cordell, Larry Moore and Gene Hiner, chief. Reserves are Terry Tradel, Bill Luke, Craig Boyd, Charles Stewart, Doug Tremaine, and Rock Carpenter.

## Hiner reports quiet Halloween

Nov. 2, 1972  
 Meridian had a quiet and trouble-free Halloween Tuesday night, Gene Hiner, chief of police, reported. He said there were fewer youngsters on the streets for "trick or treats" and that outside of a few, minor soaping of windows, there was no trouble.

"There are fewer and fewer youngsters out every year," Hiner said. "We had no calls at the police station and, compared to years ago, it was a very quiet night."

## Apologies included Feb 15-1973 Mail-box hacking spree by juveniles results in police-inspired repairs

Two 15-year-old Meridian boys are pretty busy after school these days making apologies and repairing mail boxes along Meridian mail routes numbers 1 and 3.

They're not doing it because they like to make apologies or fix mail boxes. They're doing it because police chief Gene Hiner has the idea they should be doing it.

Hiner received complaints some time ago that mail boxes along the two routes had been smashed and hacked, as though somebody had used an axe on them. He investigated and found out that somebody had.

As Hiner got into the matter a little deeper, he found that two axes had been taken from school buses, left parked in the mid-high school parking lot. The just led

to another, until Hiner had the two boys who admitted taking the axes and then going on the mail box rampage.

Before they were through, the boys had hacked away at about 25 mail boxes. Now, they're going back over the routes to patch them up — and apologize to the owners.

Then, they'll have a date in juvenile court, which hasn't as yet been set.

spent.

**Police chief resigns**

3-8-73  
Police Chief Gene Hiner appeared at Monday night's meeting to announce that he had submitted his resignation February 28 to Mayor Storey. The mayor and council members expressed regret at the announcement, and the matter was tabled for further study.

APRIL 4, 1923

# Spath Replaces Hiner In Meridian Police Job

MERIDIAN - Sidney L. Spath, who has been a Meridian patrolman the past four years, was named police chief at a City Council meeting here Tuesday night.

Spath succeeds Gene Hiner, who had held the post for a number of years. Hiner resigned two weeks ago and since has moved outside the city.

Spath joined the Meridian force after serving two years with the Caldwell Police Department.

About 30 persons attended the public hearing before the council meeting on the preliminary draft of the Meridian sewer and water plan which is being prepared for the Ada Council of Governments under funding by the Farmers Home Administration.

H. Tom Davis, project manager with ACOG, said it is hoped to have the plan approved by the Meridian City Council and ACOG and have it published in fi-

nal form sometime next month.

J. Michael Anglea, project manager for Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Mertryfield - Hill, explained the proposed plan in detail and showed maps and graphs on land use, population projections, water use requirements and water supply system.

The existing Meridian sewage treatment plant, built 16 years ago, is overloaded now. Mayor Don M. Storey said one of the problems of the treatment plant is infiltration of groundwater. The city is in the process of drilling surface wells to reduce the amount of groundwater entering the system.

Of seven different methods of enlarging the sewer system, the consensus at the meeting was for Meridian to have its own treatment plant separate from the proposed metropolitan system for the Greater Boise area.



## New police chief

SIDNEY SPATH was named Meridian's new chief of police Monday night by the city council, following the resignation of Gene Hiner, who has moved out of town. The new chief has been on the Meridian force the past four years, and prior to that he served two years on the police force at Caldwell. In his new post, he heads a department that has six full-time policemen, plus six trained reserve officers.

APRIL 5, 1923

ary, page 4C)

Gene D. Hiner, 62, Meridian, a retired police officer, died of natural causes Tuesday in a Boise hospital. Graveside services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday in Terrace Lawn Memorial Gardens, under the direction of Cloverdale Funeral Home.

3/24/1992



George Bush

August 17, 1989

Mr. Gene Hiner  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Hiner,

I am delighted to inform you that at the last meeting of the membership committee of the Republican Senatorial Inner Circle, your name was placed in nomination by Senator Steve Symms and you were accepted for membership.

The Inner Circle has many outstanding members including Joe Coors, Estee Lauder, Arnold Schwarzenegger, George Shultz and Sam Walton. I know you will enjoy meeting your fellow members at Inner Circle gatherings both in Washington, D.C. and around the country.

Barbara and I are especially excited about the news of your nomination because we will have the chance to meet you at the Inner Circle's next meeting in Washington, D.C., on October 1st and 2nd. At that time we will be hosting the Inner Circle's 10th Anniversary Presidential Gala Ball and we certainly hope you can make it.

Your formal invitation to join the Inner Circle and join us in October will be mailed to you in a few days. I urge you to respond as quickly as possible.

In closing, I want to congratulate you on your nomination and I hope that you will decide to accept membership in this most prestigious organization. Barbara and I look forward to seeing you in Washington on October 1st and 2nd.

Sincerely,

*George Bush*

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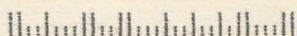
George Bush

Mr. Gene Hiner  
[REDACTED]

Railroad Mail Car  
1920s  
Presorted  
First-Class



21 USA





The Republican Leadership  
of the  
United States Senate  
cordially invites

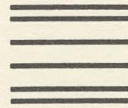
**Mr. Gene Hiner**

to become a member of the  
Republican Senatorial Inner Circle  
as nominated by  
The Honorable Steve Symms



Republican Senatorial Inner Circle  
Nomination Acceptance  
and  
Fall Briefing Registration

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Washington, D.C. 20077-7577



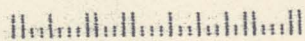



# Republican Senatorial Inner Circle

MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

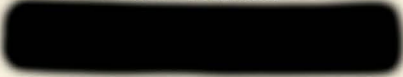


Mr. Gene Winer



HOWARD H. BAKER JR.

August 21, 1989

Mr. Gene Hiner  


Dear Mr. Hiner,

On behalf of my colleagues in the United States Senate, it is my privilege to invite you to accept membership in the Republican Senatorial Inner Circle, and join President and Mrs. Bush at our Presidential Gala Ball to be held here in Washington, D.C. on October 2nd.

You should know that Senator Steve Symms placed your name in nomination because he believes your accomplishments and commitment to our nation prove you worthy of membership in this most prestigious organization.

In addition to the Presidential Gala Ball, which will celebrate the Inner Circle's 10th Anniversary, you'll also take part in an exciting two days of events that will begin on Sunday, October 1st. Your schedule will include "A Taste of the Senate" Welcome Reception, a full day of briefings by Republican Senators, Cabinet members and key Washington policy-makers, and an exclusive members-only luncheon where we'll salute some of the GOP's major stars.

As the most prestigious political and social organization of its kind, the Republican Senatorial Inner Circle is made up of individuals, just like yourself, who come together twice a year to discuss political views in a comfortable mix of business and social gatherings.

As the enclosed agenda for the October meeting notes, Inner Circle members have the rare chance to talk one-on-one with some of the most important people in the government. Via true give-and-take sessions, members discuss trade and monetary policy, crime and drugs, education, the environment and a host of other important issues directly with our elected and appointed Republican leaders and other national newsmakers.

Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Labor



Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Budget Director Richard Darman, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, Director of National Drug Policy William Bennett and Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick are among those who have joined our Republican Senators to brief Inner Circle members in person.

The "Salute to Republican Leaders" luncheon will bring together some of the most noteworthy GOP individuals who today are in the forefront of Republican Party leadership. Invited honorees at this exclusive affair include such luminaries as Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

Finally, we'll join President and Mrs. Bush for an elegant evening of celebration at our 10th Anniversary Presidential Gala Ball at Washington's historic Union Station. While there, the President is sure to personally thank Inner Circle members for all they have done, and all they will do, to help enact his agenda for America's future.

Since invitations to the Presidential Gala Ball with President and Mrs. Bush as well as to our other exclusive events are strictly limited, I hope you will confirm your reservations by returning your enclosed Nomination Acceptance today.

In addition to all of the above, Inner Circle nominees who join at this time will also be able to participate in something truly unique to the Inner Circle.

Come next spring, you'll be invited back to Washington to join the Republican Senator, Cabinet member, or Administration official of your choice for a VIP dinner at a luxurious private home, historical site or internationally acclaimed restaurant. During the same event, you'll also get to join Vice President and Mrs. Quayle for a special reception which is traditionally held at the Vice President's residence.

Many other benefits will be made available to you when you become a member of the Inner Circle. These are all explained in the Inner Circle Membership Prospectus I've enclosed.

The financial details of Inner Circle membership are fully covered on your Nomination Acceptance form. There

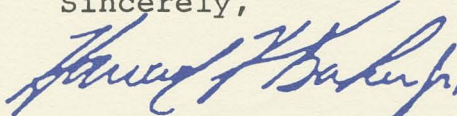
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is no doubt in my mind that Inner Circle membership is a worthwhile investment of your time and commitment.

I recommend it to you without qualification.

Thank you in advance for your extraordinary commitment to the ideals we share for our nation. I hope to see you here in Washington at our Inner Circle Fall Briefing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Howard H. Baker, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr.

P.S. It is imperative that you fill out all information regarding your date of birth and Social Security number when accepting your Inner Circle nomination since this information is required by the Secret Service for events with President Bush and Vice President Quayle.

If you have any questions concerning Inner Circle membership, please feel free to call our Membership Services Coordinator, Chris Young, at (202) 675-6106.

Phone 466-3508

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Meridian, Idaho



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1165 Lavender

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Love,  
Us Kids



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Gene Hiner  
S. As

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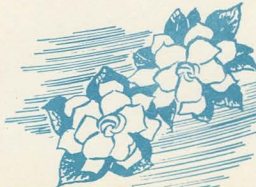
Monday

Room # 401 Bed # 2

Gene Hiner

St. Alphonsus Hospital

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Gene Hiner

701-2

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Speedy Recovery



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Get Well Soon



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If cared for properly they will last for several days.

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on them

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Meridian, Idaho



A Speedy Recovery



Marv and  
Arline

MERIDIAN POLICE DEPT.  
Meridian, Idaho

This Certifies That

Gene D. Hiner

whose signature, fingerprint and photograph  
appear hereon, is a regularly appointed

Chief of Police Expires 1969

of the Meridian Police Department, and as  
such is charged with the duty of the enforce-  
ment of all laws of the State of Idaho and  
ordinances of the City of Meridian.

Signature

Gene D. Hiner

Chief of Police

Gene D. Hiner

Mayor

Don M. Storey



Right Index

25 Years Ago -  
March 6, 1969

Pinochle was enjoyed at the Terry Trakel home by the Gene Hiners, Lee Braithwaites, Charles Stewarts, Ballard Tacketts and Tom Brandts. A late supper was served.

6 Thursday, March 10th, 1994

## From Our Early Files compiled by Lila Hill

25 Years Ago -  
February 26th, 1979

A public meeting will be held at the Meridian high school on the drug problem in Meridian. Panel members who will answer questions from the audience will be Mayor Don Storey, Wayne Mittleider, Scott Canning and August Hein. Also on the panel are drug expert Walt Belveal and Police Chief Gene Hiner. The meeting is open to all community residents.

Thursday, October 20, 1994 5

25 Years Ago -  
October 20, 1969

Meridian's one and only traffic signal has been saved from the dumpyard and will continue to regular traffic through the business section of the city on a "temporary" basis. This was established when a small, well-organized Meridian delegation headed by Mayor Don Storey appeared before the state highway board to appeal a recent ruling that the light be taken down because traffic flow did not meet standards set by the highway department. Speakers accompanying the mayor were Rep. Harold Agee, Police Chief Gene Hiner, Carl H. Rathjen, Gary Emerson and State Senator Vern K. Brassey.

The Valley News

January 3, 1991

## From Our Early Files

25 Years Ago

Meridian Times  
Jan. 6, 1966

Mayor Storey and city council members Keith Ellis and John Navarro began their new four-year terms at the city council meeting Monday night. Other members of the council are Wayne Skiver and Marvin Bodine. Re-appointments were read for city personnel - Herald Cox, city clerk; Oral Coleman, city Treasurer and office clerk; Gene Hiner, chief of police; Orville Vincent, work superintendent; Eugene Lone, assistant work superintendent, and Grant Ambrose was appointed as the city attorney. City Planning and zoning

members Ray Pitman, Vernon Schoen, W. G. McCurry, E. L. Bennett, Robert Fouser and Wayne Skiver. The council voted unanimously not to renew the beer license for the Sport Shop in Meridian.

January 18 is the deadline to purchase your 1966 license plates at the Meridian City Building, no long drive, no waiting.

Guests at the Vernon Law home on New Year's day were Mrs. Faye McGuire, Messrs. & Meses. Julius Kueiger, Everett Fowler, Curtis Blackwell, Frank Florian, Pat Fowler, Roy Fisher, Miss Brenda McGuire, Miss Sharon McGuire, Mrs. Cora Frymeyer, Mrs. Rillous Yates.

Allen Riddle was home on leave, after completing a 16 weeks course as a hospital corpsman at San Diego.