

Biography - ALLEC

Local History

## Allec encourages women to pursue interest in police work



DEANA ALLEC

"I would encourage any young woman with interest in criminal justice work to follow her interests. I did and am now a full-time police officer with the Toppenish Police Department," said Deana Allec of Sunnyside.

She graduated from Sunnyside High School in 1979 and started with the Sunnyside Reserves and rode in the patrol cars occasionally on calls. She graduated from the State Reserve Academy in April of

1984. Sunnyside Police sponsored her training.

"I graduated from Yakima Valley Community College with an associate degree in criminal justice. While I attended college I was a reserve officer with the Sunnyside department.

She had met Toppenish Police Chief Karl Hutchinson when she took a course he taught on Patrol Procedures at YVC. She started working part-time in Toppenish in April, 1984.

At present the State Reserve Academy, branch of the Seattle program, is being taught at Toppenish.

"I go on patrol by myself. It is funny sometimes to see the look on peoples faces after you see them by flashlight and they hear your voice and recognize you as a woman. In some cases being a woman has an advantage. It seems I can talk to people more easily. Presently, I am the only woman on the Toppenish force. Sgt. Kelly Rosenew is in charge of my patrol. There is much paper work as you are required to file a full report on every call. This is really a safeguard for us when asked about a matter.

"We have four K-9 units at Toppenish and at least one on each shift. There are over a dozen employees in the department."

With Toppenish being on the Yakima Indian Reservation, the department members need to know the Tribal laws which means there are more laws to learn. Most of the

department members are Tribal commissioned for more complete law enforcement.

"Right now I am on probation for a year so things need to be co-signed in Tribal matters," she said.

Sgt. Steve Robertson, now at Selah, and Lt. Jim Andrew have

been especially helpful and understanding, she said.

She lives near Sunnyside with her father, Emil Allec, and son Eddie, 4 1/2. "My mother passed away just before I got the job. She was always supportive of my choice of career and she just knew I would get the job at Toppenish," she said.

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