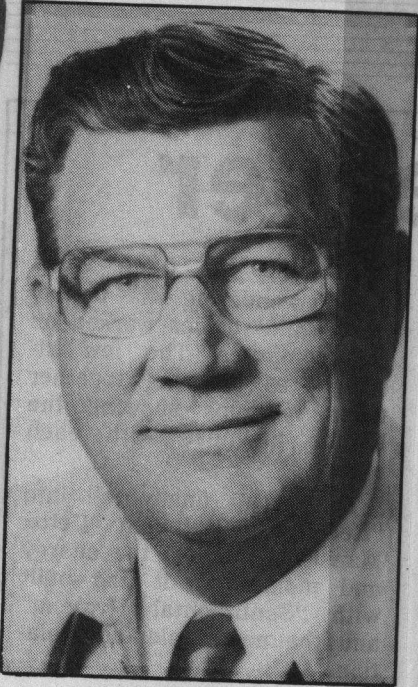


# Deaths



## Doug James

Doug James, who served as Santa Cruz County sheriff for 16 years until 1974, died Friday at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz of an apparent heart attack. He was 64.

Mr. James was a sergeant and juvenile officer with the Santa Cruz Police Department when he decided to run for sheriff in 1958. He won three bids for reelection, losing to Al Noren, the current sheriff, in 1974.

Mr. James was at the helm during a period when three mass-murder cases in the county gave it the reputation as a "murder capital of the world," and that became a campaign issue in the election that resulted in his defeat.

Today, those who worked with Mr. James while he was sheriff, including Noren, praised him above all for his affable personality.

Noren, who worked under James for 15 years, said he was sorry to hear about James' death, adding, "He was a nice guy."

Former Watsonville Police Chief Ray Belgard, who came to Santa Cruz in 1967 as chief investigator for the District Attorney's office, said James was "a great deal of help" to his office.

"He accepted us right away," Belgard said.

Dennis Clark, now a district attorney's investigator who served as a deputy under James, said, "He was a hell of a guy. You could always talk to him."

Mr. James was a native of Pasadena, where he grew up. He served in the Navy during World War II, and came to Watsonville in 1947, where he met and married his wife, Betty.

He worked at several places, including Farmer Bros. Coffee, and played and coached semi-professional football for the Santa Cruz Seahawks, a period of his life that was interrupted when he was recalled for Navy duty during the Korean War.

In 1952, he began his law-enforcement career when he joined the Santa Cruz Police Department. It was a career he continued even after leaving the sheriff's post, serving for a short time as the constable in Jamestown.

He and his wife returned to settle in Aptos two years later, however, and in 1980, Mr. James ran for county supervisor. He lost to Robley Levy. Mr. James then began a semi-retirement, becoming a real estate agent with Bob Bailey Properties.

Besides his wife, Betty, he leaves a son, Michael, of Spokane, Wash.; a daughter, Stacy James-Ryan, of Aptos; three grandchildren, Brian and Michelle James, of Spokane, Wash., and Cole James-Ryan, of Aptos; a sister, Dorothy Datter, of Santa Maria; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held this morning at Resurrection Church in Aptos. The family prefers contributions to the Santa Cruz SPCA or the donor's favorite charity.