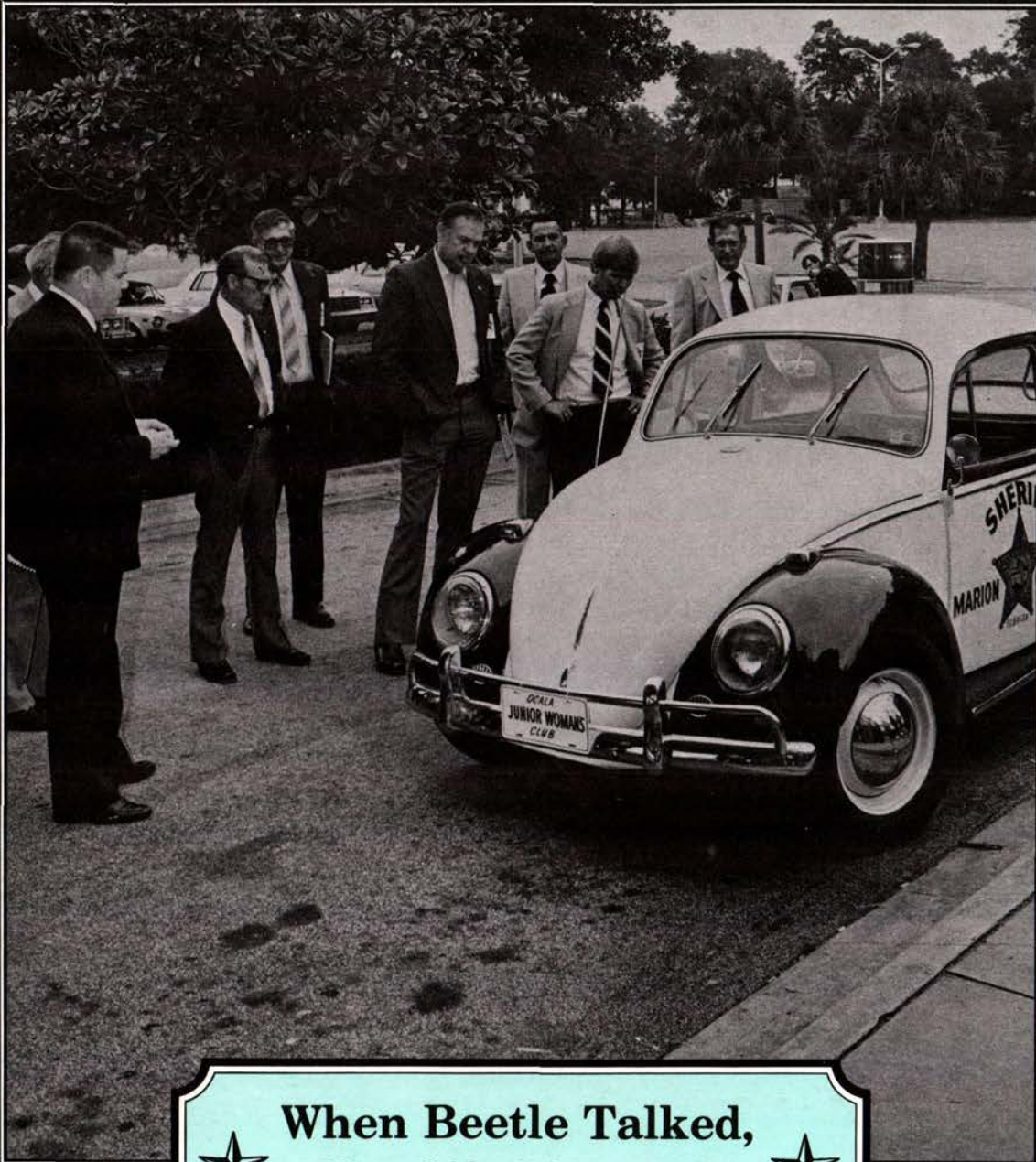


the Sheriff's Star

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

February 1981



★ When Beetle Talked,
Sheriffs Listened! ★

(see story page 3)

A Way to Make Lawbreakers Pay for Law Enforcement

CRAWFORDVILLE — 'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the Wakulla County Courthouse the holiday cheer was so thick you could almost cut it with a machete. Sheriff David Harvey — who has neither the girth nor the hair-trigger mirth to play Santa Claus — had nevertheless just put on a pretty good imitation of the jolly old saint by walking into the county commission meeting and handing Chairman Avery Scott a check for \$111,000.

The money had once belonged to some drug smugglers, Harvey explained, but now it could be legally stashed away in the county coffers. He said in the past Florida law did not provide for the forfeiture of cash confiscated in drug cases, and the money usually wound up in the hands of the U. S. Internal Revenue Service. "However," he added, "a Florida law which went into effect in July, 1980, provides for the forfeiture of currency and other items of value, and requires that the proceeds be placed in a trust fund to be used exclusively for drug enforcement activities.

"In effect," said Harvey, "we will be using smugglers' money to combat drug abuse rather than taxpayers' dollars, which is, of course, the intent of the Legislature. We hope to periodically add more dollars to the fund through additional seizures."

Harvey announced he had budgeted \$20,000 of trust fund money to finance a new drug enforcement division within his department. He said he was also planning to match \$2,000 budgeted by the Wakulla County School Board to purchase a dog trained for drug detection work.

It's a neat trick — financing law enforcement with lawbreakers' bucks — and one that will be frequently duplicated by Sheriffs all around the state as time goes by. Harvey happens to be one of the first to pull it off, simply because he hails from a small, thinly-populated county that has become famous for its big drug busts.

One of these big busts netted five tons of marijuana and a briefcase loaded with \$111,000 in cash early in 1980. Thirteen people were arrested, but no one admitted ownership of the cash-laden briefcase, and forfeiture proceedings permitted Harvey to go into his Santa Claus act at the county commission meeting on December 15, 1980.

Harvey pointed out that fines will continue to go to the county, and only confiscated currency, or the proceeds from the sale of seized property such as cars, trucks and boats, will go into the drug enforcement trust fund. "In the past three years," he said, "we have collected about \$600,000 in fines and approximately \$50,000 in forfeitures, all of which went to the county. Under the new law, the \$50,000 would go to the trust fund."



Reservists Receive Special Recognition

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Sheriff Jennings Murrhee (center, standing) gave special recognition to six of his reservists for outstanding dedication to duty during 1980. Five were honored as squad deputies of the year. They are (front row, from left) Karen Green, Gwen Richardson and Margaret Emmert; (back row, from left) Wayne Oxford and Edward Elster. Edward Carter (on Sheriff's left) was chosen as reserve deputy of the year. Also pictured is Capt. Hal Blalock, who is a full-time paid deputy, but heads the reserve unit of non-paid volunteers.

the Sheriff's Star

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Justice Survives Without Plea Bargaining

Florida's opponents of plea bargaining — that widely-used court maneuver in which an accused criminal makes a deal to enter a guilty plea in return for having his charges downgraded — are getting some new and powerful ammunition from Alaska.

Plea bargaining has been banned in Alaska since July 3, 1975, but the criminal justice system there seems to be surviving — perhaps even thriving.

Opponents of the Alaska ban warned that if plea bargaining was wiped out very few defendants would plead guilty, and the courts would bog down in a quagmire of untried cases.

However, a study funded by the National Institute of Justice, an agency of the U. S. Department of Justice, revealed that Alaska's court processes did not bog down. Instead, they accelerated.

The study also found that:

- * Defendants continued to plead guilty at about the same rate.
- * Although the rate at which cases were disposed of by trial increased substantially, it did not become unmanageable.
- * Overall conviction rates did not change significantly, although prosecutors won a larger proportion of those cases that actually went to trial.
- * Sentences were more severe, but only for relatively less serious offenses and relatively "clean" offenders.
- * The conviction and sentencing of persons charged with such serious crimes as murder, rape, robbery, felonious assault appeared unaffected by the change in policy.

The plea bargaining ban, the study said, was motivated largely by district attorneys who thought they were too involved in the sentencing process — rather than just functioning in their intended prosecutorial role.

The study concludes that the ban has been largely successful with very little evidence of "under-the-counter" dealings between prosecutor and defense lawyer.

Said the report: "A primary goal of the new policy against plea bargaining was to end the prosecutor's role in sentencing and let the sentence be the product of an independent decision by the trial judge. The analysis shows good evidence that this goal was at least partially achieved.

"Court records showed that sentence recommendations by prosecutors declined greatly in the first year after plea bargaining was prohibited. Also, sentencing became more severe in certain kinds of cases.

"These facts indicate that judges were, in fact, making sentencing decisions more independently after plea bargaining was banned. Also, there was evidence that the dis-

crepancy in sentencing between defendants who pled guilty and defendants who were convicted by trial was eliminated in cases involving burglary, larceny, and receiving stolen property."

The study said that offenders guilty of property theft, fraud, and drug crimes received substantially higher sentences in the year after the plea bargaining ban than in the year preceding it.

Sentences were raised by an average of 117 percent in fraud convictions and 237 percent in drug convictions.

The report points out that while sentences for violent offenders appeared to be unchanged, sentences for the "cleanest" group — young offenders with no prior convictions who were charged with less serious crimes of larceny, burglary, and receiving stolen goods — increased by an average of 53 percent.

The study theorized that the violent offenders had been unable to make a deal for themselves while plea bargaining was in effect because of the serious nature of their crimes. After plea bargaining ended, judges were reluctant to give them stiffer prison terms than they had been receiving. The less serious offenders, who had been able to plea bargain, now found this avenue cut off, hence the increase in severity of sentence.

The trial rate did increase — jumping by 97 percent in Anchorage, the state's largest city — but was well within the prosecutors's manpower capabilities.

Predictions that the court docket would bog down did not come to pass. In fact, cases were processed faster than before the ban, dropping an average of 103 days in Anchorage, 44 in Fairbanks, and 20 in Juneau.



Not Just a "One-Time Hero"

OCALA — After scouting ten Marion County law enforcement agencies in search of a man who was not just a "one-time hero," but the type of officer who does an outstanding job every day, the Ocala Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, chose Marion County Sheriff's Department Investigator Curtis Boor to receive its "Most Outstanding Officer" award for 1980. Boor is pictured above, flanked by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charles E. Morris, President of the Ocala Chapter; and Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland (right).

Past President John Polk (right) swears-in the new Sheriffs Association officers. They are (from left) Joe Peavy, Secretary; David Harvey, Treasurer; W. A. Woodham, Vice President; and Don Moreland, President.



Mid-Winter Conference Report

Moreland Heads New Line-up of Sheriffs Association Officers

JACKSONVILLE — The election of officers — usually one of the last items on the agenda — was the first order of business when the Florida Sheriffs Association held its annual Mid-Winter Conference here January 18-21.

Sheriffs had no choice. They had lost their president, vice president, secretary and six members of their 12-man board of directors through retirements, election defeats and one murder.

Past President John Polk presided during the balloting, then turned the gavel over to the new president, Marion County Sheriff, Don Moreland; and to the new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Washington County Sheriff Fred Peel.

Also elected were Gadsden County Sheriff W. A. Woodham, Vice President; Madison County Sheriff Joe Peavy, Secretary; and Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey, Treasurer.

Board of Directors members in the new administration are: Jefferson County Sheriff James Scott; Washington County Sheriff Fred Peel; Osceola County Sheriff Ernest P. (Kayo) Murphy; Gilchrist County Sheriff Roy Rodgers; Alachua Sheriff L. J. (Lu) Hindery; Bradford Sheriff Dolph Reddish; Polk Sheriff Louie Mims; Hillsborough Sheriff Walter Heinrich; Pasco Sheriff John Short; Collier Sheriff Aubrey Rogers; Highlands Sheriff Joe Sheppard; and Palm Beach Sheriff Richard Wille.

President Moreland appointed Sarasota County Sheriff Jim Hardcastle Sergeant-at-Arms; and Calhoun County Sheriff W. G. (Buddy) Smith Chaplain. *continued on page 4*

Host Sheriff Dale Carson welcomes his colleagues to Jacksonville. Seated beside him are Sheriffs Association Board Chairman Fred Peel, Mrs. Peel and Mrs. Carson.



Attorney General Jim Smith talks to Sheriffs about proposed changes in Florida law. Presiding at this session was Broward County Sheriff Robert A. Butterworth (left), Chairman of the Sheriffs Association's Legislative Committee.

President Moreland (second from right) with the 1981 Florida Sheriffs Association Board of Directors: They are (from left) K. E. (Ken) Murphy, John M. Short, L. J. (Lu) Hindery, Aubrey C. Rogers, Joe Sheppard, Roy Rodgers, Richard P. Wille, Louie T. Mims, Fred Peel (Chairman), James H. Scott and Dolph Reddish. (Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich is also a member of the Board, but was not present when this photograph was taken.)



Cover Story

When Beetle Talked, Sheriffs Listened

JACKSONVILLE — Sheriffs were bombarded with information by judges, attorneys, lawmakers, bigwigs and bureaucrats during their annual Mid-Winter Conference here in January. The array of speakers was impressive, but a talking Volkswagen beetle stole the show.

Parked outside the Thunderbird Resort Hotel, the beetle winked its blue light at pretty girls, revved up its siren, chatted with strangers, flipped its windshield wipers, beeped its horn and answered questions, even though no one was inside.

The gabby, irrepressible little car was brought to the Florida Sheriffs Association conference by Sheriff Don Moreland, who described it as his newest safety education tool. He said he plans to send it to schools in Marion County to deliver safety messages to youngsters. Quite a change this will be from the beetle's old assignment, which was delivering illegal drugs.

Moreland said the beetle was confiscated in a drug bust, and became the property of the Sheriff's Department through court proceedings. Deputy Dennis Strow suggested using it as a safety education tool after seeing another VW that was used similarly in South Florida. Moreland gave him a ten-four.

Aided by the Ocala Junior Woman's Club, Strow used donated services and parts to give the VW a complete facelift. Then he loaded it with electronic gear so that he could operate it by remote control with his walkie-talkie radio.

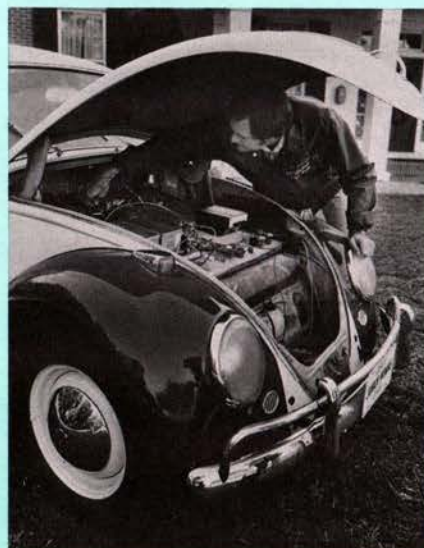
Now the brainy bug is fully equipped and on duty as Strow's assistant in community relations. It lacks a name, but the Junior Woman's Club is taking care of that omission by holding a name-the-car contest.



Cover Photo — Sheriff Don Moreland (left) demonstrates his newest teaching tool to Sheriffs and guests attending the Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association.



Community Relations Deputy Dennis Strow was in the background controlling the talking Volkswagen by radio.



Communications Officer Ray Mulkey installed the beetle's electronic "innards." (Ocala Star-Banner photo)



State Attorney Ed Austin gave Sheriffs a hard-hitting speech on needed court reforms.



Conference speakers included Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Jim York (left) and Commissioner of Agriculture, Doyle Conner.



Sheriffs are men of action. Consequently, they didn't take time to sit down when Board of Directors members caucused to elect Sheriff Fred Peel as their new chairman.



Audrey Burton, 17, President of the Florida Sheriffs Explorers Association, received a few last-minute pointers from her father, Manatee County Sheriff Thomas M. Burton, Jr., before she addressed the conference. Her law enforcement legacy includes a grandfather who was on the New York City Police Department and a brother, John J. Burton, who is a deputy sheriff in Sarasota County.

Mid-Winter Conference report continued

continued from page 2

Once the leadership vacancies were filled, the 22 new sheriffs and 33 old-timers registered for the conference began moving at a fast clip through a wide-ranging agenda that covered a large portion of the criminal justice spectrum.

Subjects discussed included court reforms, jail improvements, plea bargaining, non-partisan election of Sheriffs, mandatory sentences for serious crimes, enhancing the role of public schools in curbing crime and delinquency, helping crime victims, and improving telecommunications.

Sheriffs agreed that there is a critical need for more law enforcement funds at the local level; that the state should get out of the business of inspecting jails; and that county taxpayers should not be unduly burdened with the growing problem of medical expenses for county jail prisoners.

Circuit Judge Clifton Kelly told Sheriffs "the time has come when the public schools should be given the opportunity to take an active role in curbing and controlling crime and juvenile delinquency."





After delivering a speech, Lieutenant Governor Wayne Mixson (left) shares a laugh with Sheriff W. G. (Buddy) Smith. Behind them is Sheriff Ken Murphy.



"Dealing with Stress" was the subject of this session for Sheriffs' wives arranged by Dr. Doris Carson (at podium), who is the wife of Jacksonville Sheriff Dale Carson.



Sheriff David Harvey makes a point.



After serious discussions about issues to be dealt with in the 1981 session of the Florida Legislature, State Senator Malcolm Beard (right) relaxed with Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard. Beard is a former Hillsborough County Sheriff.



Lafayette County Sheriff Bobby McCray and Mrs. McCray checking in at the Thunderbird Resort Hotel. He was one of 22 newly-elected Sheriffs who attended the Mid-Winter Conference.

Although Monroe County Sheriff William A. Freeman, Jr., (left) had to travel farther than any other conferees, he was one of the first to arrive. Sharing a coffee break with him is Iven Lamb, Editor of the Florida Sheriffs Manual.



After many clean-shaven decades, moustaches are back in style for Sheriffs. This avant garde group includes (from left) David Harvey, Jim Hardcastle (whose full beard helped to get him appointed Sergeant-at-Arms) Ken Murphy (whose mustache was almost too new to view), Francis M. O'Loughlin, Jr., Daniel H. Bennett, Dale Carson, John Short and Joe Sheppard.



Sgt. James Healy, Broward County Sheriff's Department, placed first in the 440-yard dash, over 34 division, last year. Don Bender, Coral Gables Fire Department, came in second.



Carlos Valdes, Sweetwater Police Department, took third place in the long jump, open division, last year.

The Dates: March 25-28:

Hey there, you fitness buff! Come on and show your stuff

FT. LAUDERDALE — Hundreds of firemen and policemen are expected to enter the Second Annual Florida State Police and Fire Championships which will be held here March 25-28.

Hosted again by Sheriff Robert A. Butterworth, the Olympics-type sports competition will feature individual and team competition in 21 sports. These include arm wrestling, basketball, bowling, pistol marksmanship, cross country, golf, judo, karate, power lifting, racquetball, skeet, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track & field events, trap shooting, volleyball and wrestling.

Active or retired federal, state, county or municipal law enforcement officers or fire fighters who live in Florida are eligible to compete. They can obtain entry blanks and additional information by contacting Sgt. David Waud, Training Division, Broward County Sheriff's Department, P. O. Box 9507, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33310. His phone number is 305/733-5193.

Individual gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to individual competitors, and plaques will be presented to the three top-scoring police and fire departments.

Last year's competition drew athletes from 51 police, sheriffs' and fire departments, in spite of the fact that it was a newly-organized event, and was plagued by adverse weather. A rainstorm packing winds up to 75-miles-per-

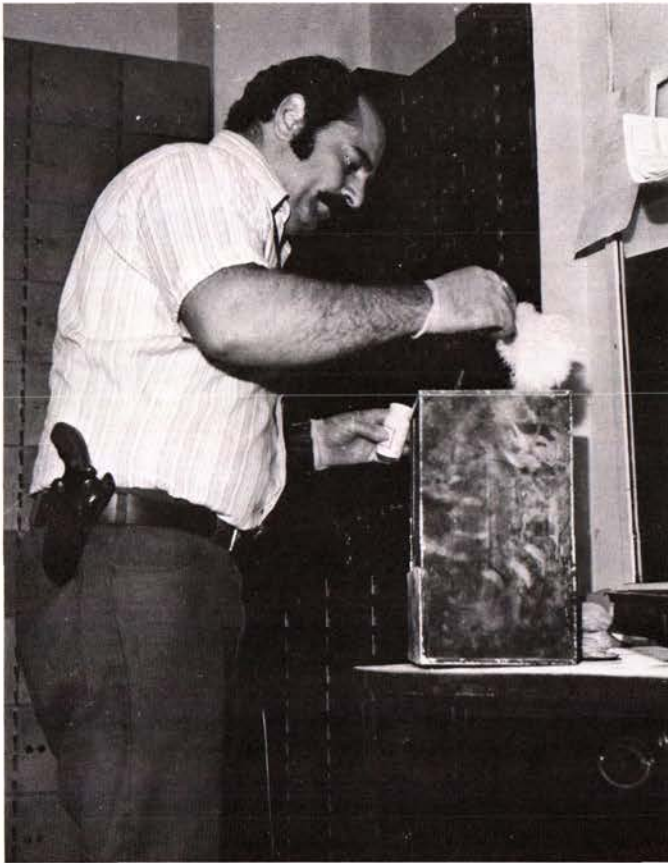


Broward County Sheriff Robert A. Butterworth will again host the Championships.

hour dropped temperatures to the low 60s. This year's event will be later in March, and balmy weather is anticipated.

Originated by Sgt. Waud, the championships serve as a warm-up for the annual Florida State Police Olympics, which will be followed by the International Police Olympics. Sgt. Waud said the championships encourage physical fitness and alleviate stress, while giving policemen and firemen an opportunity to develop contacts that are beneficial in their daily work.

silver items for five or ten days after they are purchased. Sheriffs say these ordinances are working, but they only serve as stopgaps. If one county cracks down on the pre-



A crime investigator searches for fingerprints after burglars looted hotel safety deposit boxes in search of gold, silver and jewelry. (Wide World Photos)

cious metals dealers, burglars simply take their loot to neighboring counties and sell it to dealers who are not regulated. There's a growing conviction among criminal justice practitioners that a state law is needed to implement statewide regulations.

Some precious metals dealers have joined lawmen in citing the need for state rules. Tallahassee attorney Walter Smith, who represents metals dealers across the state, was quoted as agreeing. According to news reports, he predicted that there will be a push for a state regulatory law in 1981, either to license dealers, or to put a freeze on inventories for a certain number of days at the dealer level. A cooling off period would give law enforcement officers an opportunity to intercept "hot" stolen items before dealers disposed of them.

Volusia County Sheriff's Department Lt. Ed Carroll said the best way to attack the problem of gold and silver thefts is to take away the incentive by making the loot difficult to sell. "It's a race against the clock now and we're losing it," he said.

Carroll said precious metal thefts have increased by about 61 per cent in Florida during the past year, and the increase is approaching the 100 per cent mark in Volusia County.

Dick Simpson, Public Information Officer in the Leon County Sheriff's Department, pointed out that the soaring value of gold and silver has caused amateurs — particularly juveniles who are now responsible for more burglaries than adults — to change their style. He said teen-age burglars used to steal beer, clocks, radios, stereo equipment and similar items, but now they go first to the jewel cabinet. Professionals have always done this, Simpson said, but now, with gold and silver so valuable and so easy to dispose of, juveniles are imitating the "pros." He said there are some dealers who will purchase gold and silver items from juveniles without questioning the source.

Burglary — The Preventable Crime

Citizens who fail to secure their homes adequately against illegal entry pay for it through a large number of preventable household burglaries, a federal report on burglary shows.

Usually, burglars enter homes, garages and other buildings "simply by opening an unlocked door or window, or using a key," the report said. "Clearly, most burglaries are crimes of opportunity and are preventable. Homeowners and others should be aware of this and properly secure their homes. This is a serious national problem that warrants the public's attention," the report said. "These are crimes that could be prevented with just a little more care."

The statistical evidence "tends to substantiate the theory that many burglaries of this type are committed on the spur of the moment by 'nonprofessionals,'" the report noted, adding: "it is most important to emphasize that effective prevention of unlawful entry may in many cases be as simple as locking doors and windows before leaving home."

The report pointed out that "not all households are equally vulnerable. For example, households headed by very young individuals experience a higher rate of

unlawful entry than households headed by older persons; renters are more vulnerable than owners; and relatively wealthy families are more likely to be victimized than those with moderate incomes."

Sometimes no-force burglaries lead to more serious crimes, the report said. "During a recent three-year period, there were more than 100,000 incidents in the United States which began with an unlawful entry but escalated with victim-offender contact into robbery. In about one-third of these incidents, the victim suffered some type of physical injury; and it is not known how many offenders were injured. Hence, the potential for violence and injury always lurks in the background during any crime encounter.

On the other hand, a National Crime Survey found relatively few devastating economic losses from illegal entries. About half of the burglaries resulted in losses of less than \$50. However, some 15 percent cost the property owner \$250 or more, and losses of \$1,000 or more occurred in 3 percent of the incidents.

In four-fifths of the cases, no property was recovered. All property was recovered in 7 percent; and some property was recovered in 11 percent of the incidents.



Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund HONOR ROLL



On these pages the Florida Sheriffs Association gives special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund and its child care institutions: The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch. Those listed as "Builders" have given gifts totaling \$100 or more.

Those listed as "Lifetime Honorary Members" of the Florida Sheriffs Association have given \$1,000 or more. Builders receive certificates suitable for framing. Each honorary lifetime member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to The Sheriff's Star.

Lifetime Honorary Members

GEORGE H. BRODERICK
Daytona Beach
J. W. CARLILE
Titusville (See photo)
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Vero Beach
MR. & MRS. JAMES E. CRAWFORD
Springfield, Virginia
CROWN & COMPANY
Clearwater
MR. & MRS. E. V. ERICSSON
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St. Cloud
THEODORE J. KOENIG
Winter Park
MRS. AUGUST KRESS
Zephyrhills
MR. & MRS. HARVEY MURPHY
Zephyrhills (See photo)

ELWOOD W. PARKER
Indian Lake Estates
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KENNETH T. PERONA, II
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St. Petersburg
THOMAS B. SHELLEY
Hialeah
COMMANDER & MRS. ROBERT P. SHIMP
Leesburg
CHUCK ULRICH
Seminole
EARL J. WARD
West Palm Beach (See photo)



WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County Sheriff Richard Wille presents Lifetime Honorary Membership plaque to Earl J. Ward.

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Lakeland
BERT HALL
Ridge Manor
WILLIAM L. HALL
Redington Shores
MS. BEULAH H. HAMM
San Mateo

Builders continued on next page

Lifetime Honorary Members



TITUSVILLE — James W. Carlile is one of Brevard County's newest additions to the roster of Lifetime Honorary Members.



ZEPHYRHILLS — A Lifetime Honorary Membership was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Murphy by Tommy Rossettos (left), Community Services Representative for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office; and Deputy Sheriff Sam Falzone (third from left), Director of Community Services for the Sheriff's Office.

Builders *continued*

MR. & MRS. PAUL H. HARDIN, JR.
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O'Brien
MR. & MRS. HAROLD A. HEPP
Port Richey
JOHN E. HICKMAN
Ft. Walton Beach
HENRY R. HIDAY, SR.
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PAUL HIGGS BAIL BONDS
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Gulfport

*Builders continued
on next page*

Happy (?) New Year Message: _____

You Could Become a Hostage

Now that the parties are over and the funny hats are in the trash can, here is a sobering thought to contemplate as you face the new year: No matter who you are your chances of becoming a hostage are greater than ever.

Not many years ago, hostage jokes were making the rounds. It was the "in" thing to amuse your friends with greeting cards that said: "Help! I'm being held prisoner in a Chinese fortune cookie factory."

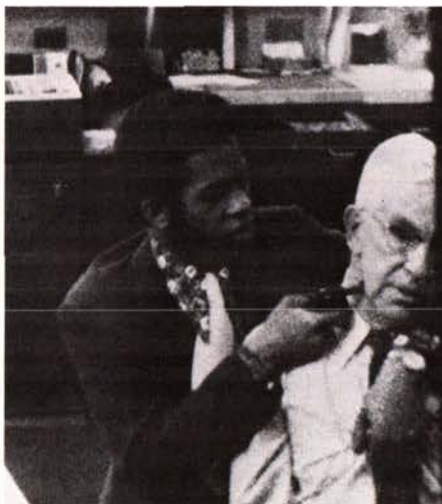
Today, being held hostage is no longer something to joke about. The laughter has stopped, and, in its stead, police officials are warning the public to be prepared — or to at least take a few precautions.

First off, think about security. Do you leave your doors unlocked when you are in a car? Are you careful about where you park? Do you vary your daily routine so that you travel different routes and make changes in your departure and arrival times?

There are simple preparations you can make in advance which will make a big difference later on. Women are being advised to carry a few survival items in their purses — a little hard candy, vitamin pills, a pencil and pad and a slim flashlight — just in case.

If you are a high-risk prospect, such as a bank or supermarket employee, you should have photos and descriptions of yourself readily available at home and at work to aid the police.

The most important thing to keep in mind in a hostage or



2



THE REAL THING!

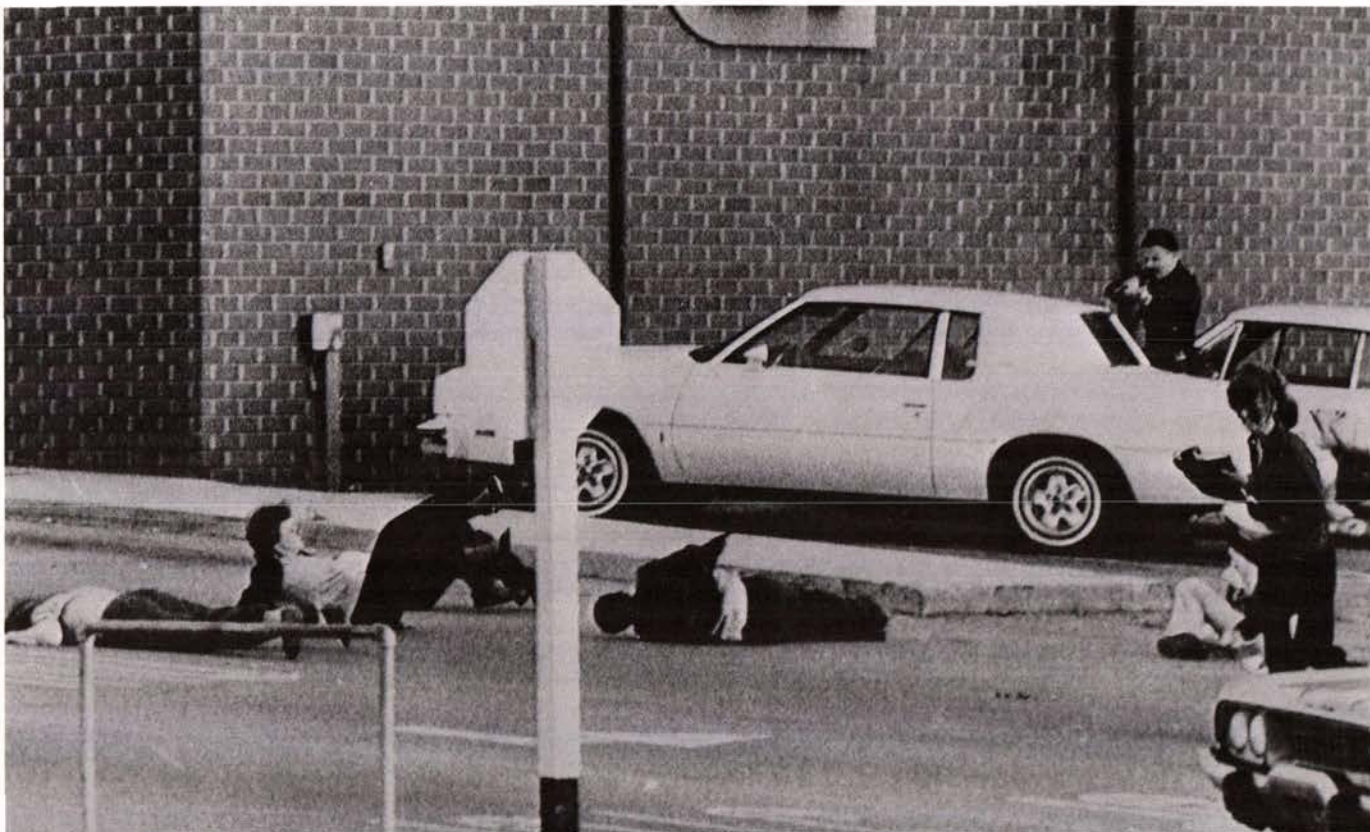
No posing here. The pictures on these pages --- all of them from the files of Wide World Photos --- were taken during actual hostage emergencies in Florida and elsewhere.

- 1 A Miami, Florida, SWAT team member heads for cover during an attempted airplane hijacking incident in which a maintenance worker was held hostage.
- 2 Bank President P. Roland Hebert was held hostage in this Boston area bank robbery.
- 3 Hostages scatter as a SWAT officer (behind car) shoots bank robber in Redondo Beach, California.
- 4 While SWAT team members waited outside a Social Security office in New Orleans, negotiators inside talked a gunman into releasing his hostage. There were no injuries.

4

1





3

kidnap situation is that the hostage taker is not usually interested in the hostage except as a bargaining tool. Hostages are taken to be traded, and they are not likely to be harmed when negotiations are in progress.

If you are seized, try to observe your captors closely. What do they say? Do they seem to be frightened or nervous? Memorize details about their appearance and dress. You may have to identify them later. Do not be argumentative. Talk with them if you have a chance. While you are

chatting, you are buying time at helping to keep the situation from escalating.

Remember that you are not dealing with normal individuals. According to Dr. Harvey Schlossberg, who pioneered in the training of hostage negotiators while serving as director of psychological services for the New York Police Department, hostage takers are invariably troubled by deep-seated psychological problems that cry out for help. He said they may feel unloved, unfulfilled in life or inflamed with a cause they feel has been neglected.

*Builders continued
from page 11*

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Sheriff Don Moreland presented certificates of commendation to Major Jerry P. Holland...



...Sgt. Alton Freeman...



...William Schossler...

From Moreland with Praise

Ocala — Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland presented Certificates of Commendation to six persons who in a variety of ways have elevated the quality of law enforcement and crime prevention in Marion County.

Major Jerry P. Holland, William Schossler and Sgt. Alton Freeman were honored for their roles in disarming a convenience store robber without bloodshed.

Moreland said Major Holland, who is a high-ranking Sheriff's Department staff member, continued to try to talk the armed man into surrendering even after Holland had been fired upon. Holland also summoned Schossler, who is Superintendent of Alyce D. McPherson School, because he knew the gunman was an escapee from that institution.

Schossler was commended for talking the gunman into surrendering; while Sgt. Freeman, an officer from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, was praised for his assistance. Moreland said Sgt. Freeman was the first officer at the scene, and, although off-duty at the time, held the armed man at bay until other officers arrived.

Also honored were:

Deputy Wayne Vaught for his outstanding youth work achievements with the Sheriff's Explorer post, the school safety patrol, and a proposed junior deputy program. He received a commendation certificate and a commendation medal.

Sheriff's Department Investigator Eddie Scott for successfully closing 316 major crime cases in a 12-month period and working 351-1/2 hours of overtime in the same period.

Sheriff's Department Captain Gerard T. King, Sr., for his thoroughness, conscientiousness and dedication to duty in a major crime case.

...Investigator Eddie Scott...



...Captain Gerard T. King



...Deputy Wayne Vaught...