

Noted for
His Nifty Nose
(see inside front cover)

the Sheriff's Star



Santa Rosa County Sheriff Jim Powell with Jake and the plaque Jake won when he was runner-up in regional competition.

training under the tutelage of Sgt. Joe Callahan, the kennelmaster at Eglin Air Force Base.

Currently they are being taken out on training searches at least twice a week to keep their sniffing skills sharp.

Although detector dogs do not have to be pedigreed, they must have special qualifications such as a keen sense of smell, good intelligence, and a willingness to work.

Unlike human detectives, the canine snoopers have to be recertified yearly. Recertification requires them to demonstrate before county and circuit judges that they have not lost their ability to find illegal drugs.

They also enter regional meets sponsored by the U.S. Police Canine Association. In 1983 and 1984, Jake placed second in competition with dogs from Georgia and Florida, then had the honor of posing for a picture with Sheriff Powell.

Jake and Gitche get other rewards such as tennis balls to play with, pats of affection, and extra dog biscuits, but theirs is not an easy life. When not working on Sheriff's Department assignments, they assist other agencies such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Customs Service. Their specialties include searching freighters docked at Pensacola, and checking out airplanes suspected of carrying drugs.

Their occasional searches in public schools and adjoining parking lots have produced several arrests, and have been credited with reducing drug abuse in schools.

Some dogs lead lazy, shiftless lives, but not Jake and Gitche. These are hard working, skilled dogs who have earned the respect of their boss, and the right to wear the deputy badges attached to their collars.

The Pick of the Pack in Pinellas

CLEARWATER — Pinellas County's outstanding school crossing guards for 1984 are Nancy Comey, Blanche Parrish and Sharon Lough.

They received the Tenth Annual Maybelle Rollins Bradford Memorial Award, and praise from their boss, Sheriff Gerry Coleman.

The award was established in 1975 by the late Thomas Turner and his wife in memory of Mrs. Turner's mother. Its purpose is to give recognition to law enforcement people whose good deeds often go unrewarded.



Sheriff Gerry Coleman was assisted by Mrs. Thomas Turner in presenting school crossing guard awards to (from left) Blanche Parrish, Nancy Comey and Sharon Lough.

the Sheriff's Star

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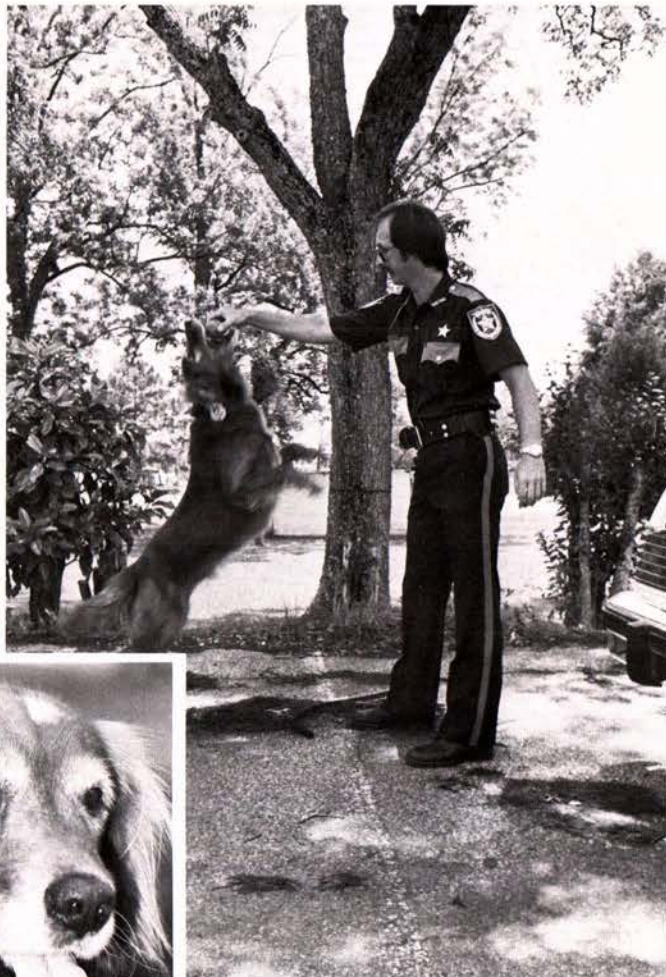
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Cover Photo-Jake's nifty nose has earned him the right to wear a deputy's badge.



Jake demonstrates his ability to find a hidden stash of marijuana, then receives a tennis ball as his reward.



Deputies Noted for Nifty Noses

MILTON — In the Santa Rosa Sheriff's Department there are two deputies who get turned on by marijuana, hashish, heroin and cocaine, but Sheriff Jim Powell has never said a word about firing them.

In fact, he has been known to hug one of them and say "nice going, Jake." The other one gets an occasional pat on the head and words of commendation like "great job, Gitche."

Jake and Gitche are detector dogs who are noted for their nifty noses — also for their ability to find illegal drugs hidden in schoolhouse lockers, air conditioning vents, electrical wall receptacles, and other secret hiding places.

They don't use drugs, but they are trained to get

excited — thoroughly turned on — when they smell drugs. They bark, sniff, paw, point and give signals that their handlers understand when they find a stash of illegal stuff.

Jake, whose handler is Investigator Bruce Johnson, has seven drug arrests to his credit, and he has also assisted in about 30 other arrests. He is a mixed golden retriever.

Gitche, a black Labrador retriever, is younger and less experienced. He has five arrests to his credit. His handler is Deputy Don Limerick.

Keeping these sniffer dogs up to snuff takes a lot of training and retraining. Accompanied by their handlers, they went through three months of basic

Sheriffs' Conference Ends With Standing Ovation for "The Dean"

ORLANDO — The Dean has done it.

Yes, John Whitehead, the Dean of Florida's Sheriffs, has decided to retire. He announced it at the 71st Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association here June 10-13, and his fellow Sheriffs gave him a rousing sendoff.

During a banquet that climaxed the Conference, Sheriffs Association President David Harvey announced that Whitehead had been voted a Congressional Distinguished Service Award by Florida's U.S. Senators and Representatives.

Harvey said U.S. Representative Don Fuqua had notified him of the award and had praised Whitehead for typifying "the dedication and service necessary to uphold the constitutional office of Sheriff."

Fuqua was quoted as saying that Whitehead's influence had "gone far beyond the borders of his beloved Union County," and that the veteran Sheriff was "in truth, one of Florida's most distinguished citizens."

After the banquet audience gave him a standing ovation, Whitehead said he would always remember the friendship of the Sheriffs with whom he had served. He said it had been a great privilege for him to be "one of the 67."

"A lot of people have asked me why I didn't run for something else," said Whitehead, "and I told them: 'all I ever want to be is Sheriff, and if I can be Sheriff as long as I want to be I won't ever ask for nothin' else. I want to be remembered as a Sheriff.'"

Whitehead acquired the title of "Dean of Florida Sheriffs" three years ago by serving longer than any of the Sheriffs then in office. He is winding up his 32nd year as Sheriff of Union County, and will yield the Dean's title to Putnam County Sheriff Walt Pellicer.

Harvey said he had been asked to make some remarks about Whitehead for the Congressional Record, and had cited the good example set by Whitehead for other Sheriffs to follow, "and then," said Harvey, "I got to thinking about the



Sheriff John Whitehead (seated) receives a standing ovation.



Sheriff John Polk speaks in praise of Sheriff Ernest P. "Kayo" Murphy, who is planning to retire at the end of 1984. Polk and Murphy both began their careers as Sheriffs in 1969.



The three survivors from the "Class of 1969" are (from left) Volusia County Sheriff Edwin H. Duff II; Seminole County Sheriff John Polk; and Franklin County Sheriff Jack Taylor, Jr. Polk said 17 new Sheriffs were sworn in at the beginning of 1969, and the group has dwindled to three now that Osceola County Sheriff Ernest P. "Kayo" Murphy is retiring.



Distinguished guests attending the conference included State Senator Malcolm Beard (left), a former Sheriff of Hillsborough County. He is shown in conversation with Walter C. Heinrich, the present Sheriff of Hillsborough County.

President David F. Harvey presided at the various conference sessions. He is the Sheriff of Wakulla County.



Red Mitchum, well known Florida humorist, entertained a luncheon audience.



Alachua County Sheriff L.J. "Lu" Hindery (left) exchanges opinions with Doyle Conner, Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture.

time John put the possum in the bathtub in Walt Pellicer's hotel room."

Another veteran Sheriff who has announced his intention to retire at the end of 1984, Ernest P. "Kayo" Murphy, from Osceola County, was praised by Harvey and Sheriff John Polk, and applauded by the banquet audience, but, unfortunately, he had found it necessary to leave the Conference early and was not present to make a farewell speech.

Other retirement announcements are anticipated, but Whitehead's and Murphy's were the only ones officially confirmed at the Conference.

Held at the International Inn, the 71st Annual Conference was hosted by Sheriffs Lawson

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Lamar, Orange County; John Polk, Seminole County; Noel E. Griffin, Jr., of Lake County; and Ernest P. "Kayo" Murphy, of Osceola County.

Sheriffs attending the four-day meeting heard favorable reports on the 1984 session of the Florida Legislature, and the self-insurance fund established by the Association to defend Sheriffs in liability suits.

Gary Keith, Vice President for Marketing for Federal Construction Co., St. Petersburg, told Sheriffs how to apply Construction Manage-

ment procedures to jail construction projects.

Robert L. Edwards, Director of Local Law Enforcement Assistance for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, led a discussion on current efforts to eradicate domestic marijuana growing and enhance the apprehension of fugitives. He was assisted by John Kreppin, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Agent; and Ken Morris, from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Sheriffs' Conference continued



Edwards



Kreppin

Conference speakers included Robert L. Edwards, Director of the Local Law Enforcement Assistance Division in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Ken Morris, a member of Edwards' staff; and John Kreppin, an agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.



Morris



Sheriffs Association Officers and their wives were seated at the head table during a banquet which was the final event on the conference program. They are (from left) President David Harvey, Board Chairman Joe Sheppard, Sergeant-at-Arms R.A. "Bob" Thomas, Secretary John M. Short, and Treasurer L.J. "Lu" Hindery.

Sheriff Bob Durkis (top row, left) poses with members of his Auxiliary Unit. They are (first row, from left) Lt. E.C. Thomas, Yvonne L. Kinchen, Katherine G. Brantley, Lt. Jerry W. Seeley, Lorneza R. Jackson; (second row) John B. Branaman, Curtis R. Pullen, Raymond J. Howard, Luis E. Hormilla, Jr., Cpl. James A. Fielder, Joseph R. Risley, Jr., Oscar Guasp, Jr.; (third row) Durkis, Terrell J. Fielder, Thomas O. Loftis, Cpl. Frank Royal, Eliberto Carmona, Charlie H. Peacock and John T. Branaman. Seven members were not present when the picture was taken.



Lots of Praise — But No Paydays

LaBELLE — Serving without pay, the Hendry County Sheriff's Auxiliary logs an average of 600 hours of patrol duty per month. Translated into cash, their services would cost taxpayers almost \$75,000 a year, if they were drawing salaries.

After receiving police academy training, they are assigned to ride with full-time deputies, pinch-hit as corrections officers or radio dispatchers, and work traffic and crowd control at public functions.

From funds earned while providing security at social functions and sporting events, they have been able to purchase their own equipment such as flashlights, night sticks and jackets.

The payoff comes in words of praise from Sheriff Bob Durkis, who calls them an outstanding example of citizen involvement in the fight against crime.

"I can say with all sincerity," he added, "that without their help we would have a tough time."

"Remarkable Coolness"

WEST PALM BEACH — The *Palm Beach Post* said Palm Beach County Sheriff Richard Wille and his SWAT team "showed remarkable coolness and skill in handling a tense six-hour hostage situation at a Palm Springs drugstore.

"Because of their professionalism," the newspaper continued, "six hostages were released unharmed and their captor was taken into custody uninjured.

"Numerous times during those terrible hours the special SWAT negotiating unit kept communication lines to the suspect open. The ordeal ended only after the suspect's wife was flown in from Sarasota County and Wille had made a special appeal to him on a live television hookup.

"Recognition also must go to WPTV-Channel 5, which set up the live TV coverage in record time and cooperated fully with the Sheriff's Office.

"The crisis extended from about 2 a.m. to nearly 8 a.m. SWAT team members had to consider children walking to school through the shopping center where the besieged drugstore was located. They had to protect businessmen who showed up to open their stores.

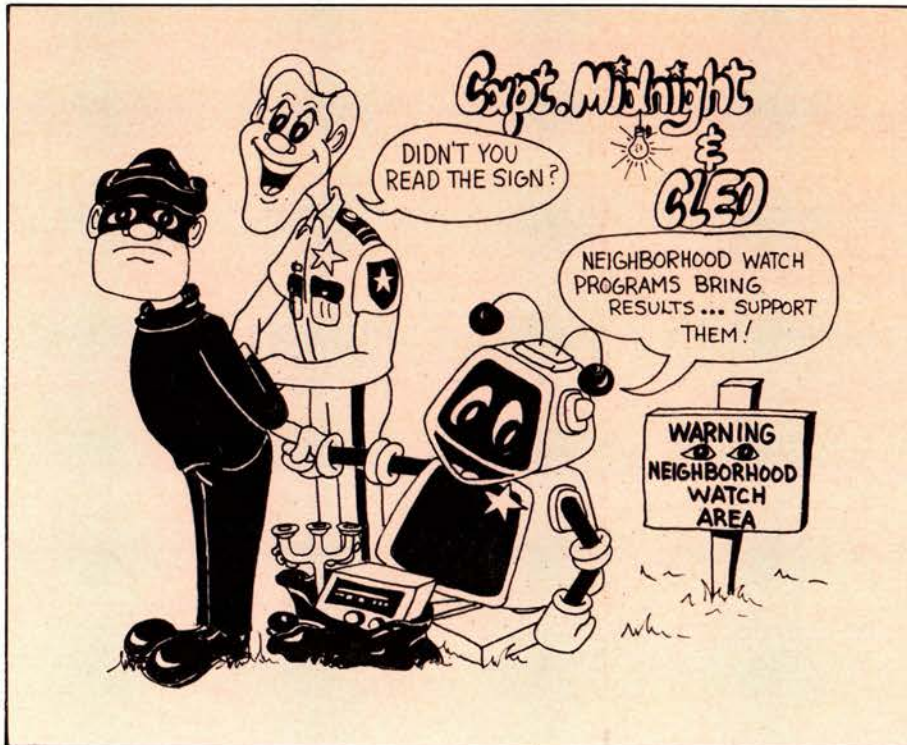
"At one point, Wille had to stand alone in front of the drugstore to make the live television appeal to the suspect, and to make certain the hostages emerged safely.

On the National Level

Putnam County Sheriff Walt Pellicer is serving on four standing committees in the National Sheriffs Association, and is also a Past President. The committees are: Awards; Conference Site; Insurance, Membership and Employee Benefits; and Constitution, By-Laws, Missions, Goals and Objectives.

Other Florida Sheriffs on National Sheriffs Association Committees are: Richard Wille, Palm Beach County, Chairman, Drug Prevention and Enforcement Committee; Aubrey Rogers, Collier County, Crime Prevention, Youth Activities Committee; Dale Carson, Jacksonville, Chairman, Standards, Ethics, Education and Training Committee.

Gadsden County Sheriff W. A. Woodham has been named State Director to serve a liaison function between Florida Sheriffs and the National Sheriffs Association.



Chief Deputy Tom Pagels with "CLEO," his latest cartoon creation. Cleo's name is an acronym for "Computerized Law Enforcement Officer."

After Midnight:

The Chief Deputy Draws and Dreams

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS — All day, and most of the night, Tom Pagels is a law enforcement man dealing with the stresses of his job as Chief Deputy in the Walton County Sheriff's Department.

But, around about midnight, he goes home, sheds his uniform, lets his nerves go slack, takes a couple of deep breaths and eases into his other life — his unfulfilled career as a cartoonist.

Those early morning hours in front of a drawing board provide the relaxing tonic Pagels needs to keep going. They also keep alive his dream of some day having a cartoon strip running in a newspaper.

"Art is definitely in my background," said the veteran lawman. "Poet Sidney Lanier is my great, great uncle. My sister is a poet too, and my mother paints landscapes.

"I've been drawing off and on all my life, and most of my work is still in my room at the house."

One of Pagel's recent creations is a cartoon strip titled "Crime Time," which is designed to help citizens fight crime.

"I feel this is a much needed thing," said Pagels.

Asked what he would prefer, his present job or full time cartooning, Tom Pagels said, "Both."

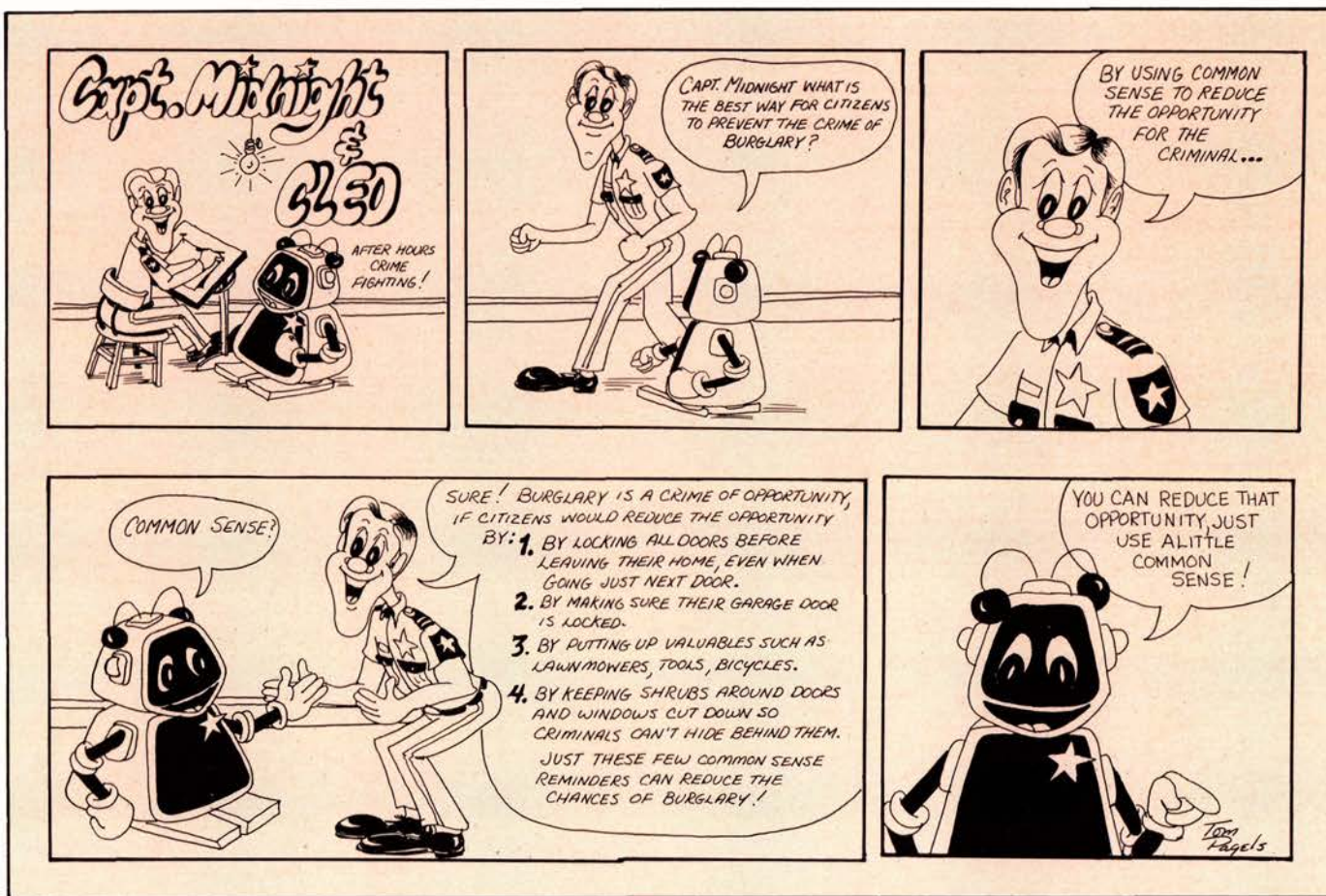
"There are a lot of people who have to sit at home and can't get out to go to our crime prevention talks and classes, but they do read newspapers.

"This is a way we can get our point across — using comedy. I've always believed, and believe very strongly, that the citizen is as much a part of crime prevention as the law enforcement officer."

For folks with a high-tech turn of mind, Pagels has also created a cartoon strip about a robot called "Cleo," who is programmed to teach safety and crime prevention lessons to children and adults. CLEO is an acronym for "Computerized Law Enforcement Officer."

Before he went to Walton County, Pagels served eight years in the Florida Highway Patrol. During seven of those eight years he was in Orlando, where he used his cartooning talents for the benefit of Crime Watch, Inc.

Crime Watch was running reenactments of



Captain Midnight and Cleo team up to deliver crime prevention messages in cartoons from the pen of Tom Pagels.

unsolved crimes on television in hopes of finding witnesses and clues. Pagels drew reenactments of the crimes in cartoon form, and these were printed in a newspaper to supplement the television shows.

"My cartoon strips have a lot to do with citizen involvement and neighborhood watch programs," Pagels said. "I tell people what to look for — what information we need. I even run little tests like, 'Which one of these characters is the burglar? Which one is the rapist?' then give the answer so they can see they were probably wrong."

Pagels aims his strips at children and adults to avoid limiting himself to one market. This, he hopes, will enhance his chances of marketing his late night creations.

"It's just a dream," he said, "but if I keep plugging at it, I think I'll make it."

Editor's Note — We think so too, Tom, and, to help you in your search for a market, we are printing some of your strips and cartoons.



Praise for a Child Protector

ST. PETERSBURG — Kids are often told that law enforcement officers are their friends. Pinellas County Sheriff's Department Detective Leroy Kelly (second from left) is a good example. He recently received the St. Petersburg Elks Club's "Law and Order Award" for the good job he did in halting a severe case of child abuse. Shown participating in the presentation are (from left) Mel Pfohl, Elks Club Americanism Chairman; Al Stevens, Exalted Ruler of the Elks Club; and Jack Brady, Director of Law Enforcement Operations for the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Gilbert's drift toward thrift is saving taxpayers a bundle of bucks



Sgt. Everette Helms (right) gives Sheriff Gilbert a progress report on the reconditioning of used patrol cars. In the background is a 1984 four-wheel-drive Bronco which is being added to the Sheriff's fleet. It was salvaged from under water after a highway accident, and will cost the Sheriff's Department about half of its actual value by the time it has been reconditioned.

CRESTVIEW — County jail prisoners complain because he puts them to work.

Car dealers have been known to grumble because he doesn't buy any new patrol cars.

Folks who deal in illegal drugs call him "the plague."

But taxpayers . . . they think Sheriff Larry Gilbert is about the greatest thing to come along since aspirin, and so they should.

In these melancholy times when everyone seems to be worrying about rising taxes, spendthrift public officials and runaway budgets, Gilbert is being widely acclaimed for coming up with unique ways to save tax dollars.

Because he was in the banking business before he became Sheriff of Okaloosa County in 1981, Gilbert has a good banker's traditional respect for other people's money. Consequently, one of his top priorities has been to operate the Sheriff's Department as economically as possible without sacrificing the quality or quantity of services rendered.

This clear-cut drift toward thrift became evident when Gilbert ramrodded the building of a unique round jail and used inmates as part of the labor force — also when he demonstrated that an ultralight airplane could be used as an economical way to patrol crowded beaches — and when he saved approximately \$20,000 by deciding not to reconstruct the Department's wind-damaged radio tower.

Instead of authorizing an expensive repair job, he made arrangements to install an antenna on top of the Florida Highway Patrol's Crestview tower, and it worked just fine. In fact, the Department's radio reception actually improved.

Although still in his first four-year term of office,

Gilbert is fast approaching the status of a world class budget trimmer. And, lately he has been enhancing his reputation by putting jail inmates to work in a body shop that reconditions used patrol cars, and also on a farm that raises food for the jail.

Three years ago Gilbert budgeted \$65,000 to operate his fleet of 39 patrol cars. Today he has 70 cars on the road, but the budget hasn't increased — not a penny. It is still \$65,000 in spite of inflation and the rising cost of cars.

To accomplish this spectacular feat, he has been buying used patrol cars from the Florida Highway Patrol and reconditioning them. The reconditioning is done by inmates in a three-stall area rented from Glen Lowe, the operator of a local salvage and body shop. The inmates are selected on the basis of previous experience as auto mechanics or body shop workers, and Lowe instructs and supervises them. He lets them use his equipment.

This is a totally unique project that allows Gilbert to save a big bundle of tax funds. Currently he is buying the used patrol cars at an average cost of about \$1,700. After they are repainted and thoroughly rejuvenated, they are driven for approximately 40,000 miles and sold at auction, bringing an average price of about \$750.

Cars confiscated in drug arrests go through a similar process, and produce similar budgetary benefits.

Gilbert said if he were buying new patrol cars at approximately \$11,000 each, he would have to budget about \$300,000 a year for this purpose alone. Therefore, he figures he has already saved taxpayers about \$1 million in this category.

Savings have not been as spectacular on the 20-acre

farm operated by jail inmates, but they are substantial. Gilbert started the farm project with a \$20,000 state government grant arranged by State Representative James Ward. He spent the grant money for farm equipment, including an irrigation system constructed by jail inmates; and he also found suitable farm land that the owner was willing to lease for a dollar a year.

Gilbert estimates that he will spend just under \$10,000 on seed, fertilizer, fuel and supervision to produce about \$40,000 worth of vegetables this year.

A bountiful harvest this will be, but in Gilbert's eyes it will be overshadowed by the benefits inmates will receive. He believes that their farming experience will give them a better understanding of the work ethic, and will probably orient them toward law-abiding self-respect when they are released.

A newspaper echoed his sentiments. "For the life of us we can't envision a more sensible plan than having inmates labor for their daily bread," said an editorial writer. "It seems a far more productive way of life for the inmates than lying on a bunk watching TV, or whatever prisoners do."

It has been estimated that allowing inmates to help with construction of the unique round jail in 1981 saved taxpayers at least \$50,000, and this was only one portion of a big economy package.

Because Julian Chesser, Okaloosa County's Superintendent of Buildings, designed the jail and also supervised construction, there was no need to hire architects or a contractor. Consequently the total cost was only around \$300,000, or about one-tenth of the going rate for conventional jails of the same size.

Taxpayers were delighted, and county commissioners were so pleased with the results that they authorized construction of a twin structure that is now nearing completion.

Okaloosa County's jail population has been averaging about 180, and approximately half of the inmates are on work crews. Those not working on the jail, on the farm or in the body shop are assigned to other public service projects such as mowing grass, pulling weeds, cleaning public beaches, picking up trash, digging ditches and painting public buildings.

They have learned that going to jail in Okaloosa County is no picnic, and, ironically, when they complain, their complaints are muffled by walls built with their own hands.

In the outside world, however, acclaim for Gilbert's tax-saving ventures has been loud and clear — also widespread.

"Gilbert's move to launch a prisoner work program is the most refreshing piece of news to come out of the courthouse since — well, we just can't remember when," said an editorial in the *Playground Daily News*, a Fort Walton Beach newspaper.

"Larry Gilbert is our kind of guy," said an editorial aired by TV Channel 13, in Tampa. "He says going to jail should be no fun. His prison work program has



Charles Sellers (left), the farm manager, shows Sheriff Gilbert a bumper crop of squash.



This patrol car looks like a total loss, but it isn't. Glen Lowe (left), who rents body shop space to the Sheriff's Department and instructs inmates who work in the shop, explains to Sheriff Gilbert that he will be able to salvage the motor and many parts.

won support from taxpayers and local media. We believe it, support it, and encourage more of it."

The Leesburg (Florida) *Commercial* declared that "the work ethic for prisoners probably would have kept many of them out of jail to start with. It's a pattern that should be watched with interest, and perhaps even tried in local prison facilities."

Last year the Okaloosa County Commissioners passed a resolution praising Gilbert and his Department for implementing the work program; for making jail improvements that resulted in the dropping of a federal lawsuit; for implementing more than 100 neighborhood crime watch programs; and for reducing burglaries 39 percent.

Taxpayers have not been heard from as a group, but they soon will be. Gilbert has announced he will be a candidate for reelection in the approaching 1984 elections.

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, Youth Ranch and Youth Camp. 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

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BERNARD BRAZ
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Longwood

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Delray Beach



WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County Sheriff Richard Wille (left) presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to James Feola, representing Bingorama; and Mrs. Alma Glover.



TAMPA — Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter Heinrich (right) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Gerald Lind, Accounting Manager for Alumax Extrusions, Inc., Plant City.





NAPLES — Collier County Sheriff Aubrey Rogers (right) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Deputy Chief Louis Gibbs.



Macnab

BARTOW — Polk County Sheriff Louie T. Mims presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Jean Macnab and Dr. and Mrs. Ben M. Crowder.



Crowders

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HARVEY W. JOHNSON, INC.
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South Pasadena
JAMES L. HEREFORD
Bonita Springs



BROOKSVILLE — Hernando County Sheriff Melvin Kelly (right) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership and a Builder Certificate to John Law Ayers, former member of the Florida House of Representatives and former Chairman of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.



OCALA — Capt. Gerard King (right), representing Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland, presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Bertrand Heuser, Jr., representing Lighting Unlimited of Florida.



DADE CITY — Pasco County Sheriff John M. Short (left) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Fred Elia, Senior Trustee for the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie #3752.



FORT MYERS — Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Mrs. Nell Armstrong.



ORLANDO — Orange County Sheriff Lawson Lamar (center) accepts a \$12,000 check donated to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch by VFW District 18. The gift was presented by (from left) Jo Bailey, Ralph "Bill" Bailey, District Commander Bill Mayo and Ada Reily.



SARASOTA — Sarasota County Deputy Sheriff Charles Rowe (right), representing Sheriff Jim Hardcastle, presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Mr. and Mrs. James J. Hunt, of Venice.

Builders continued

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Stuart
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ET 8 CHEVAUX
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Daytona Beach
LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING THRIFT SHOP
Live Oak
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Nokomis
SOLAR SUNTAN PRODUCTS CORP.
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Pittsford, NY
MR. & MRS. JOHN STEEL
Pensacola
MR. & MRS. ROYAL STIRLING
Stuart
MR. & MRS. ELMER E. STOKLEY
Deland



Butterworth



Hunt



Dyer



Moderau



Fain



Hofhenz

TALLAHASSEE — Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone presents Builder Certificates to C.A. Butterworth, Jr.; John E. Hunt, Sr.; Emily Dyer; Robert Moderau; Troy Fain; William J. Hofhenz; Dorothy Ley; Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Shaparo; Everett C. Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Donald McMullen; and Robert M. Melin.



Ley



Shaparos

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Punta Gorda



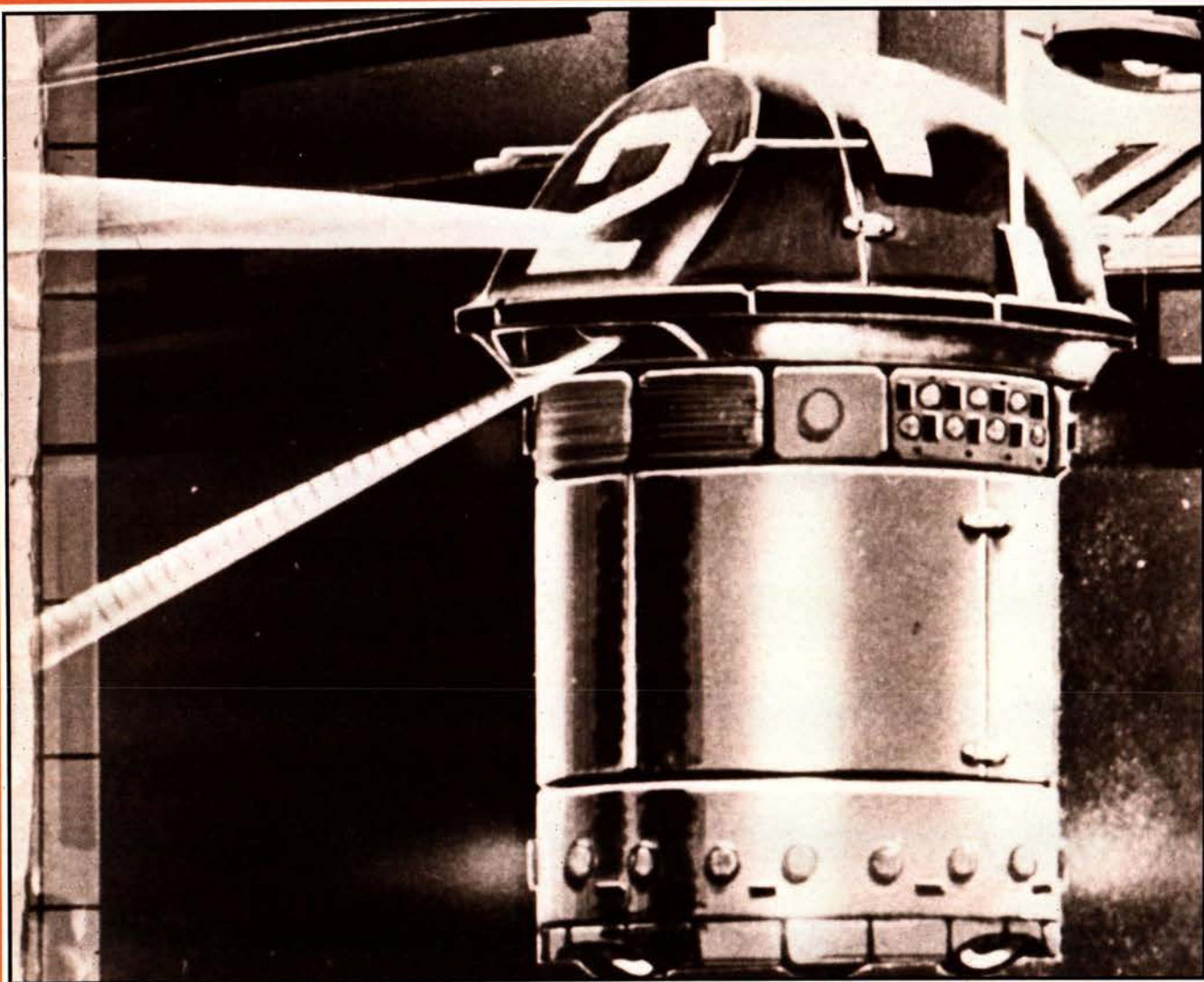
Smith



McMullens



Melin



This is an artist's sketch of "Denny," the jail guard of the future. (Wide World Photos)

Robots Programmed to Guard Jails

A 400-pound, bulletproof, mobile robot programmed to operate as a jail and prison guard will soon be on the market, according to *Law Enforcement News* (LEN). His name is "Denny," and he's four feet tall.

LEN said the robots are being designed by Denning Mobile Robotics, Inc., of Woburn, Massachusetts, for Southern Steel Co., of San Antonio, Texas, and will sell for about \$30,000 each.

Each robot will be equipped with devices that will enable it to detect the presence of humans. These will include a sonar rangefinder, sonic and infrared sensors, and an odor detector.

Built rugged to survive beatings and hard knocks, the robots will have internal computers that allow them to find their way through a strange building, recognize landmarks, and diagnose their own internal ailments.

The robots have been described as looking "business-like but menacing." When they encounter stray prisoners they are programmed to say in a stern, synthesized voice, "You have been detected."

They are also capable of uttering a few other phrases such as "Who are you?" — and woe to the human who answers, because then the robot knows a stray has been found.

The Associated Press reported that Denning Mobile Robotics, Inc., has signed a five-year contract to produce as many as 1,000 robots.