Can a computer replace her?
(see inside front cover)
Sheriff's dilemma:
Now that Frances Skipper has skipped out, can a mere computer actually replace her?

LIVE OAK — Maybe it was just a coincidence, but it looked mighty suspicious when the Suwannee County Sheriff's Department went out and bought its first high powered computer just about the time Frances Skipper, the Sheriff's Administrative Assistant, was fixin' to retire.

Now the question is: Can a mere computer with a hot electronic memory and a high tech personality fill the gap left by a woman whose quiet competence had been a stabilizing influence in the Sheriff's Department for 35 turbulent years?

Sheriff Robert Leonard didn't seem to be exactly sure. "She was so reliable," said he, "and she always seemed to know the answers. I'm really going to miss her."

At various times, four previous Sheriffs had offered similar testimony about this dependable woman, starting with Sheriff Sim Howell, and continuing through the administrations of Hugh Lewis, Duke McCallister and J. M. "Buddy" Phillips.

Perhaps it was praise from Howell that counted the most because he was the one with the courage to hire Frances in 1951 as the first woman ever employed in the exclusively male sanctum of the Suwannee County Sheriff's Department.

There was some grumbling at first, especially from the courthouse loafers who had been careless with their language, cigar ashes and tobacco juice up to now, but Sheriff Howell was convinced the dusty, disordered Sheriff's office needed a woman's touch.

He was right, and Frances soon became accepted as the most attractive feature in a bleak environment that was still emerging from the great depression. She recalled recently that the one-room office where she began her 35-year-career contained two wooden desks, a noisy manual typewriter on a table that "must have come over on the ark," a brass spittoon, two wooden chairs and a school bus seat that served as a sofa for visitors and loafers.

Over the years, Frances' primary duties were secretarial work and bookkeeping, but from time to time she also worked in the courtroom as a bailiff, assisted with transportation of female prisoners, maintained all-night vigils with sequestered juries, and assisted male deputies with difficult assignments requiring a woman's touch.

Looking back over a 35-year-career, Frances finds...
amazing contrasts. In 1951, the Sheriff had three employees: Frances who worked 8 to 5, six days a week, and drew $100 a month; a jailer who lived in the jail and was paid $150 a month; and a deputy whose hours were practically unlimited and whose salary was $175 a month.

Salaries and other expenses were paid from fees collected by the Sheriff such as $5.25 for each arrest; 12½ cents a mile for travel; $1.50 for committing a prisoner to jail; 50 cents for releasing a prisoner; $2 for approving a prisoner's bail bond; and $4 for escorting a prisoner to court.

If fees were sufficient, the Sheriff was allowed to skim off about $4,000 a year as his own salary. Fees totaled around $30,000 in 1951. Six years later Florida Sheriffs switched to a budget system and eliminated the old fee system.

Today the Sheriff's Department has 30 full-time employees, and the monthly payroll is approximately $47,000.

One of the most dramatic changes has developed in the Department's criminal records — dramatic because these records were practically non-existent when Frances was originally hired. At that time arrests were listed in the fiscal records in chronological order, but the Sheriff usually depended on his memory to determine whether or not a suspect had been arrested before.

To go beyond memory meant rummaging through volumes of fiscal records searching for the suspect's name. Frances put an end to this slipshod method by setting up alphabetical criminal records that have evolved into a modern information system.

This was just one of many achievements for which she received praise during her long career. However, the one of which she is proudest is her unbroken string of good audit reports from the State Auditor.

No bad audits in 35 years of keeping complex fiscal records — that may be an all-time record!

Audit's a boon for Boone

TALLAHASSEE — "Perfect" is the word that's being used to describe a recent audit of Sheriff Eddie Boone's accounts and records conducted by MayZima, a Tallahassee CPA firm.

An audit frequently turns out to be the bane of a public official's existence, but this one was definitely a boon for Boone, who is the Sheriff of Leon County. "This is just about unheard of," he said. "I set a goal of getting a perfect audit when we first took office, and that's nearly unachieviable. I am very pleased."

Major Ron Kyle, Boone's Director of Administration was equally euphoric. "I used to work for the State Auditor General," he said, "and I never thought I'd see a perfect audit."

The auditing firm said its "study and evaluation did not disclose any condition that we believed to be a material weakness..." and "we do not have any recommendations concerning the operations of the current year."

This absence of criticism is as close as cautious auditors come to saying "perfect."

Information Officers unite

Florida's law enforcement Public Information Officers (PIOs), the folks who feed facts to the news media and the public have formed an Association and elected Fred Schneyer, the PIO for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, as their first president.

Schneyer said the organization will encourage PIOs to maintain consistency, credibility and accuracy while developing a positive relationship with the news media and the public.

One of the first actions of the Florida Law Enforcement Information Officers Association was to schedule a two-day training session to be held in Orlando, May 12 and 13.
Dean's delight:

A new GHQ — with a view!

INVERNESS — It was a most unusual day!

Down at the old Citrus County Jail, inmates armed with hammers and crow bars were tearing down partitions, ripping out wiring, literally demolishing two floors of office space, and no one was trying to stop them.

The area they were happily trashing had been headquarters for Sheriff Charley Dean and his staff, but the Sheriff obviously didn't care. He and his troops had already moved across the street to a new 22,000-square-foot Operations Center, and they were happily getting used to the unique experience of having offices with unlimited elbow room and wide windows instead of blank walls.

"For 90 percent of my public life I never had a window to look out of," Sheriff Dean was telling a visitor, "and now I have eight big windows with a terrific view of Cooter Pond."

It was a happy time for everyone. Taxpayers were happy because the county was saving money by using county jail inmates as a demolition crew.
"For 90 percent of my public life I never had a window to look out of," Sheriff Charley Dean (left) explains to Washington County Sheriff Fred Peel. In January, Dean was installed as President of the Florida Sheriffs Association to succeed Peel.

County Commissioners were happy because the demolition work the inmates were doing would make room for more jail cells and the capacity of the jail was going to be almost tripled. No more overcrowding. No more threats of court suits. Hooray!

Even the old-timers who had become apprehensive about Citrus County's rapid growth were getting good vibes on this happiest of happy days. They had been reassured that the renovated jail and the new operations center would keep pace with the county's growth for at least the next 10 or 15 years.

Everyone seemed to be favorably impressed — including the kids whose dads had moved into the new operations center. They especially liked the ritzy new street address. Now they could brag: "My dad works at One South Park Avenue!"
College classes in Sheriff's squadroom are "bringing the cream to the top"

ST. AUGUSTINE — Monday through Friday the lights burn late in the squadroom at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department, but not because of the usual shift change briefings or similar routine gatherings.

Inside, something unusual is going on. Twenty-eight deputies are getting three hours of college credit for taking an 80-hour in-service training course in Line Supervision, and the unique thing about it is that this sort of dual-credit training usually takes place on a college campus, and not at a Sheriff's headquarters.

It's entirely possible that this "squadroom college of law enforcement knowledge" is the only one of its kind in Florida, and, if it is, blame Sheriff Neal Perry — him and his strong desire to upgrade the professionalism in his department.

After he was sworn-in as Sheriff in 1985, one of his goals was to encourage deputies to acquire academic credentials, but because of the driving distance and time involved to attend night classes at Palatka, Jacksonville or Daytona Beach, he was more or less stymied.

However, stymied is not a condition that Perry tolerates with patience, so it didn't take him long to come up with a solution. "If deputies can't conveniently come to the campus at Palatka," he asked officials at St. Johns River Community College, "then, why can't we take the campus to the deputies?"

The answer, in brief, was "Well, why not?" And, thus was hatched a plan that would allow deputies to take in-service training and get college credit for it without leaving their squadroom.

It was a jolly good plan, but to work it required an instructor who was qualified to teach college level courses, and was also certified by the Florida Commission on Standards and Training (which is a sort of law enforcement board of regents).

Fortunately, Sgt. Les Stern, the Supervisor of Crime Prevention and Youth Resource Programs in the Sheriff's Department, had the necessary qualifications.

So, since January Sgt. Stern has been spending his days in uniform carrying out his usual Sheriff's Department duties, and his nights in coat-and-tie civilian duds fulfilling the role of college instructor.

While moonlighting as a college instructor, Stern is under the supervision of Col. George W. Higgins, Jr., Director of Police Training at St. Johns River Community College (SRJCC), who, whenever given an opportunity, praises Perry for "his very innovative efforts to advance law enforcement in his department, and in general."

In the daytime, Sgt. Les Stern is in uniform, supervising the School Resource and Crime Prevention Programs of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. At night, in civilian duds, he's a college professor.

"What Perry is achieving here," said Higgins, "is bringing the cream to the top."

Higgins said that although he is approaching retirement and SJRCC is planning to phase out its Law Enforcement Degree Program, the future of Perry's squadroom college is not necessarily threatened. "If sufficient numbers enroll here at the Sheriff's Department," he explained, "the college will reinstitute the degree program."

He confirmed that SJRCC is planning to open a satellite campus in St. Augustine in August, a move that will give deputies an opportunity to take non-law enforcement courses such as English and history that are required to attain a degree. This is expected to further enhance Sheriff Perry's efforts to upgrade the professionalism in his department.

At the present time the squadroom class taught by Sgt. Stern is limited to Sheriff's Department employees, but Perry said when openings become
available in the future, officers from other agencies will be permitted to enroll.

Meanwhile, he is nurturing a dream. "Some day," said he, "I would like to see a requirement that all deputies have at least an AA degree."

Criminals are just dumb

Crime cannot be totally explained by social factors like poverty, peer pressure, or ineffective schools, according to James Q. Wilson and Richard J. Herrnstein, co-authors of Crime and Human Nature. They make these points in their book:

- There is a clear and consistent link between criminality and low intelligence. The average offender differs from the average non-offender by about 10 points in measured IQ.
- Individuals who commit the most serious crimes most frequently begin their criminal careers at a very young age. Deviance is often evident before age 8.
- Criminality runs in families. Identical twins are more likely to have identical delinquency records than fraternal twins.
- Television has not been convincingly shown to foster crime.
- Rehabilitation programs that manage to reduce criminality among certain kinds of offenders may increase it among others.
Odell Kiser
TITUSVILLE — News reports praised Deputy Odell Kiser for having “the right stuff” when he was chosen Employee of the Year at the Brevard County Sheriff’s Department.

The reports pointed out that in one year he had rescued a drowning child, helped to save an auto accident victim, and assisted in arrests of several burglary and shooting suspects.

Kevin C. DeVries
PUNTA GORDA — “I was just doing my job, and I’d do it again without a moment’s hesitation,” said Charlotte County Deputy Sheriff Kevin C. DeVries after he dove into the water to save a woman inside a submerged car.

News reports said the woman had passed out while driving the car and it had gone into the water.

In recognition of his devotion to duty, DeVries received an outstanding Public Service Award from the Fort Myers News-Press, and a commendation from his boss, Sheriff John McDougall.

Alan Arick
BROOKSVILLE — For his skill in handling youth and child abuse cases, Hernando County Deputy Sheriff Alan Arick received an award from the Brooksville Elks Lodge during its annual Law and Order Day observance.

Robert R. Dempsey
TALLAHASSEE — Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Robert R. Dempsey has been appointed to the Executive, Organized Crime and Legislation Committees of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
Linda Smith
VERO BEACH — In the news again is Indian River County Deputy Sheriff Linda Smith.
She first captured the attention of the news media in 1979 when she became the first woman police officer assigned to patrol duty with the Vero Beach Police Department.
This year, having transferred from the Police Department to the Indian River County Sheriff's Department, she made headlines again when she received the Exchange Club's "Deputy of the Year Award" in recognition of her effectiveness as a state certified crime prevention practitioner.

Paul Umbaugh
DADE CITY — Pasco County Deputy Sheriff Paul Umbaugh received a courtesy commendation from his boss, Sheriff Jim Gillum, after Umbaugh waded through waist-deep water to rescue an elderly man from a partially submerged car. He was also cited as Deputy of the Month by WLPJ-FM, a New Port Richey radio station.

Leonard A. Davis
DELAND — Lt. Leonard A. Davis, from the Volusia County Sheriff's Department, joined the ranks of FBI National Academy graduates after attending the 143rd session of the Academy.

Ramon Beltran
KEY WEST — Monroe County Sheriff's Department Deputy Ramon Beltran was honored for his "superior street sense and devotion to duty" after he was responsible for several burglary arrests and recovery of stolen property valued at over $1,000.

Janet Ferris
TALLAHASSEE — Florida Department of Law Enforcement General Counsel Janet Ferris is currently serving as President of the Florida Association of Police Attorneys.
Since 1980 she has advanced from Chief Staff Counsel to Chief Field Counsel to General Counsel at the Department of Law Enforcement. She is a graduate of the Florida State University College of Law.

LaVelle Pitts
Pam Hellett
Hildrie Peel

PANAMA CITY — Bay County Sheriff LaVelle Pitts and two of his deputies received awards from the Jaycees here.
The Sheriff was praised for his handling of evacuation procedures during hurricane crises. Deputy Pan Hellett was chosen as the county's outstanding young law enforcement officer; and Deputy Hildrie Peel was given an award of gratitude for assistance given to Jaycees in their civic projects.

Jim Adcock
TITUSVILLE — Brevard County Deputy Sheriff Jim Adcock received the Sheriff's Department's first Medal of Valor after he risked his life to save a motorist from a burning car.
Using a blanket to shield himself from flames, Adcock pulled the accident victim to safety. Seconds later the car was totally engulfed in flames.

David Alderman
BELLE GLADE — Palm Beach County Deputy Sheriff David Alderman shared the limelight with his K-9 partner "Arpod," after Alderman was named "Deputy of the Month." Alderman was cited for his outstanding performance in helping to round up prison escapees.

John McGuire
MARCO ISLAND — Collier County Deputy Sheriff John McGuire, who holds the rank of Sergeant, was credited with successfully reviving a four-year-old drowning victim with cardiopulmonary resuscitation after the youngster had fallen into a swimming pool.

Noreen Fairbank
SEBRING — Each year Heacock Insurance of Sebring presents an award to the Outstanding Female Officer in Highlands County. The current recipient is Noreen Fairbank, who was cited for her exceptional performance as medical officer at the Highlands County Jail.
A registered nurse with extensive emergency room experience, Fairbank has held her present position since 1983.
Kluetsch and Kaltenbach — what a team!

DADE CITY — Two private citizens who were willing to “get involved” earned the gratitude of Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum, and here's his account of how they did it:

“After going another 20 yards the prisoner was knocked down by Donald Kaltenbach and Walter Kluetsch. Then the bailiff handcuffed the prisoner and took him to a holding cell.”

Gillum said Kaltenbach is an attorney, and Kluetsch, who is 72, is a part-time volunteer in the Community Services Division of the Sheriff's Department. He presented them with Distinguished Service Awards for their assistance.

Manual standardizes testing of drunken drivers

A manual that standardizes roadside testing of suspected drunken or doped drivers is getting good reviews in the press, and higher conviction rates in areas where it was initially tested.

Endorsed by the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police Chiefs Association and the Florida Highway Patrol, the manual was developed by the Institute of Police Technology and Management at the University of North Florida, and financed by a grant from the Bureau of Public Safety Management in the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

A task force representing the Sheriffs’ and Chiefs’ Associations, and the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety provided input.

The manual describes a battery of primary and alternate sobriety tests. The primary tests are walk and turn, one leg stand, and a vision test described as horizontal gaze nystagmus.

According to news reports, initial testing of the manual by 19 law enforcement agencies in Pinellas County produced increases in drunken driving conviction rates that ranged from 28 to 160 percent.

Newspaper editorials described the manual as a new weapon in Florida’s war against drunken drivers, one that “not only holds out the hope of helping police to do their jobs better, but also of protecting drivers from being subjected to inconsistent and arbitrary actions in determining whether they are drunk.”

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Compassionate jocks are warming up again

It's that time of year again — time for Florida's law enforcement officers to reconfirm that they are compassionate jocks rather than indifferent jerks by entering the annual Florida Torch Run for the benefit of Florida's Special Olympics.

Sponsored and coordinated by the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police Chiefs Association and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, this year's Torch Run will be held from May 23 to May 30. Four routes beginning in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Miami and Naples will cover 1,400 miles and converge in Tampa for the opening ceremonies of the Florida Special Olympics Summer Games, a sports event for the mentally retarded.

Aimed at creating a positive image for law enforcement and raising funds for the Special Olympics, the Torch Run will be supported by a number of private and corporate sponsors, including the Armour Food Company and the Burroughs Corporation.

Members of Good Sams, a national organization of recreational vehicle owners, will use their RVs as logistical support to provide beverages and medical supplies for the runners.

Sheriff earns gratitude of triathletes

PANAMA CITY — Bay County Sheriff LaVelle Pitts (third from left) received an award from the Panama City Triathletes Club in recognition of his efforts to keep Bay County roads safe for runners and bicyclists competing in road races and triathlons. It was presented by Dr. John Petelos (left) and David Walby, who also expressed their appreciation to Lt. Hildrie Peel (right) for his road safety activities.

Awards Night cake was a work of art

BROOKSVILLE — To Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander went the honor of cutting the artfully decorated cake when the Explorer Post he sponsors held an awards night. Recognition was given to the Explorers for services donated to the Sheriff's Department; and they in turn expressed appreciation for the support they have received from the Sheriff and his deputies, especially Cpl. Chuck McCrady, the Post Advisor, who is pictured in the background.
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

Honor Roll

Roster of Lifetime Honorary Members

Home towns eliminated

To protect our Lifetime Honorary Members from receiving unwanted solicitations and junk mail, we have discontinued printing their home towns when we print their names.

We decided this was necessary after we learned that certain organizations of questionable legitimacy were adding our Lifetimers to their mailing lists. Obtaining a complete mailing address was relatively easy for them as long as they had the Lifetimers’ home towns. Without the home towns, it will be extremely difficult.

We have never permitted other organizations to use our membership lists, and we will continue to do everything possible to protect the privacy of our members.

A.P. Bell Fish Co., Inc.
Associates Boutique
Jim Beeman
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Beucher
James L. Black
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Breathitt
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Buckio
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Burdin
Mrs. David A. Caley
Manuel N. Cepeda
David Churko
Clearwater Sertoma Club, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack D. Clossen
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell E. Cooke
Mrs. Anna L. Cousley
Mrs. Gladys S. Cubbage
Mrs. Mary G. Cubbage
Mrs. Irene E. Draper
Michael Duane
Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Fisher
Ms. Lynn Foster
Frances Langford’s Outrigger Resort
Ms. Linda French
Golf Host Development
Mrs. Linda Goodin
Mrs. Caroline M. Gray
Charles Griffen
Mr. & Mrs. Lambert R. Gwaltney
Sertoma Club
Hernando County
Ms. Paulette Hilsman
Mrs. Nelda L. Hisle
Ms. Mickie Howard
Kash N’ Karry Food Store
Kash N’ Karry Warehouse
G. E. Lamb
Mrs. Lula St. John Little
William MacKnight
Mrs. Joel B. McLean
Miss Victoria M. Moch
Mr. & Mrs. Darwin Myers
Joe Namath
Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. John Purser
Mr. & Mrs. Dusty Rhodes

On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association by giving $1,000 or more to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to The Sheriff’s Star. Under a new regulation which became effective in 1984, those whose gifts total over $5,000 will receive additional gold stars on their plaques—one for $5,000, two for $10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over $25,000.

Presentations

We regret that photos of Lifetime Honorary Members are not always available when their names appear on the membership roster. Consequently, we often find it necessary to print the names in one issue of The Sheriff’s Star and the photos in a subsequent issue.

TALLAHASSEE — Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Mrs. Judy Henry in memory of her husband, Dr. A. J. Henry, Jr.

Dr. & Mrs. Philip Shetlne
Stuart Jensen Beach Jaycees
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #10095
J. Griffin Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Wolcott

10

THE SHERIFF’S STAR
Mr. & Mrs. Wood

GAINESVILLE — Alachua County Sheriff L. J. "Lu" Hindery (right) presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Wood, and Col. and Mrs. R. B. Baker.

Col. & Mrs. Baker

NAPLES — Collier County Sheriff Aubrey Rogers presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Mr. J. W. Porter.

NAPLES — Collier County Sheriff Aubrey Rogers presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Deputy Linda Caperton and Lt. Douglas Caperton, widow and brother of Deputy Mark Caperton, who was killed in the line of duty in 1984.

Mrs. Neaves

TAVARES — Lake City Sheriff Noel E. Griffin, Jr., presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Mrs. Betty Neaves; Jesse G. Wright; and VFW Post #2380 Auxiliary represented by (from left) Rose Johnson, Dorothy Leib and Helen Giegerich.

Mr. Wright

VFW Post Auxiliary

CRYSTAL RIVER — Citrus County Sheriff Charles S. Dean (right), the newly-elected President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Carl Hille, General Manager of the Plantation Inn.

CRISTAL RIVER — Cristus County Sheriff Charles S. Dean (right), the newly-elected President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Carl Hille, General Manager of the Plantation Inn.

FORT MYERS — Youth Ranches Regional Director Bob Haag (left) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Ed Jenny.
Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .

Mr. Pugh

Mr. Bryan

Mrs. Osborne

Mrs. Diaz

Mr. and Mrs. Forst

Mrs. Brinkley

Moose Lodge

Legion Post

TAMPA — Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Harold C. Pugh; Henry Bryan, Jr.; Mrs. Samuel R. Osborne; Mrs. Wanda Diaz; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Forst; Mrs. Pearl M. Brinkley; Riverview Lodge #2158, Loyal Order of Moose, represented by George McCallister; and American Legion Post #248, represented by (from left) Joseph Piasecke, Adjutant; Nicholas Capitano, Finance Officer; and Ewell Crocker, Commander.

Dr. & Mrs. Jaffe

Mr. Soles

LARGO — Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Jaffe; Harvey Soles; and Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Goetz.
Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued...

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCH CAMPUS, SAFETY HARBOR — Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Regional Director Fred "Mac" Stones (left) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Springtime City Kiwanis Club, represented by Lyle Simons.

PUNTA GORDA — Col. William H. Reilly (left), representing Charlotte County Sheriff John J. McDougall, presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Ries.

Gifts for Youth Ranches

MILTON — The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch has received a substantial cash gift from VFW Post #4833. It was presented by Lewis M. Stupka (left) and accepted by Santa Rosa County Sheriff Maurice Coffman.

FORT PIERCE — St. Lucie County Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles (left), assisted by Youth Ranches Regional Director Bob Haag (right), accepts a gift from 7-Eleven Food Stores employees represented by Dave Hansen, District Manager of 7-Eleven Food Stores.

BOCA CIEGA — A gift to the Youth Ranches from the Boca Ciega Kiwanis Club was presented by Kiwanian Ted L. Hunter (right), and accepted by Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman (left) and Youth Ranches Vice President Joe Spenard.

ORANGE PARK — When the Riverhouse Club raised a substantial sum in a fund drive, the proceeds were presented to Clay County Sheriff Jennings Murhee (left) for the Youth Ranches. Representing the Club were Michael Hambrecht and Pat Horning.

CLEARWATER — Funds collected in the wishing well at the Wagon Wheel Flea Market during 1985 were matched by market owners Hardy and Janet Huntley and presented to Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman (right) as a gift for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch.

LARGO — Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman (left) accepts a cash gift donated to Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., by Elks Lodge #2185, represented by Exalted Ruler Ted Wellington.

MAY 1986
For Jane plaques and praise

TALLAHASSEE — Security was not the thing that attracted Jane Grimes to the Florida Sheriffs Association in 1960. She simply wanted a job, and it apparently didn’t matter to her that the Association was going through some precarious times.

In 1960 the Association was struggling to “keep its show on the road,” and trying at the same time to raise funds for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, an almost impossible dream that Sheriffs had launched less than three years earlier.

Fortunately, the Association survived, and eventually grew from a staff of three in a small rented office to a financially secure agency with 13 full-time employees, an attractive office building, and an expanding spectrum of criminal justice activities.

The Boys Ranch prospered too, and evolved into the present Youth Ranches, Inc., with its statewide network of child care programs.

Jane Grimes was involved in this saga of success as an important member of the Sheriffs Association team for 25 years, and when she retired recently the people who came to her “going away” party were not just Sheriffs Association coworkers.

Friends dropped in from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund (which has since become the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.).

Former Sheriffs Association employees also came from as far away as Panama City and joined in the applause when Jane received awards from the Sheriffs Association and the Youth Ranches praising her for 25 years of loyal service.

It was a sentimental send-off — an appropriate last hurrah, with no long speeches but plenty of hugs and handclasps.