

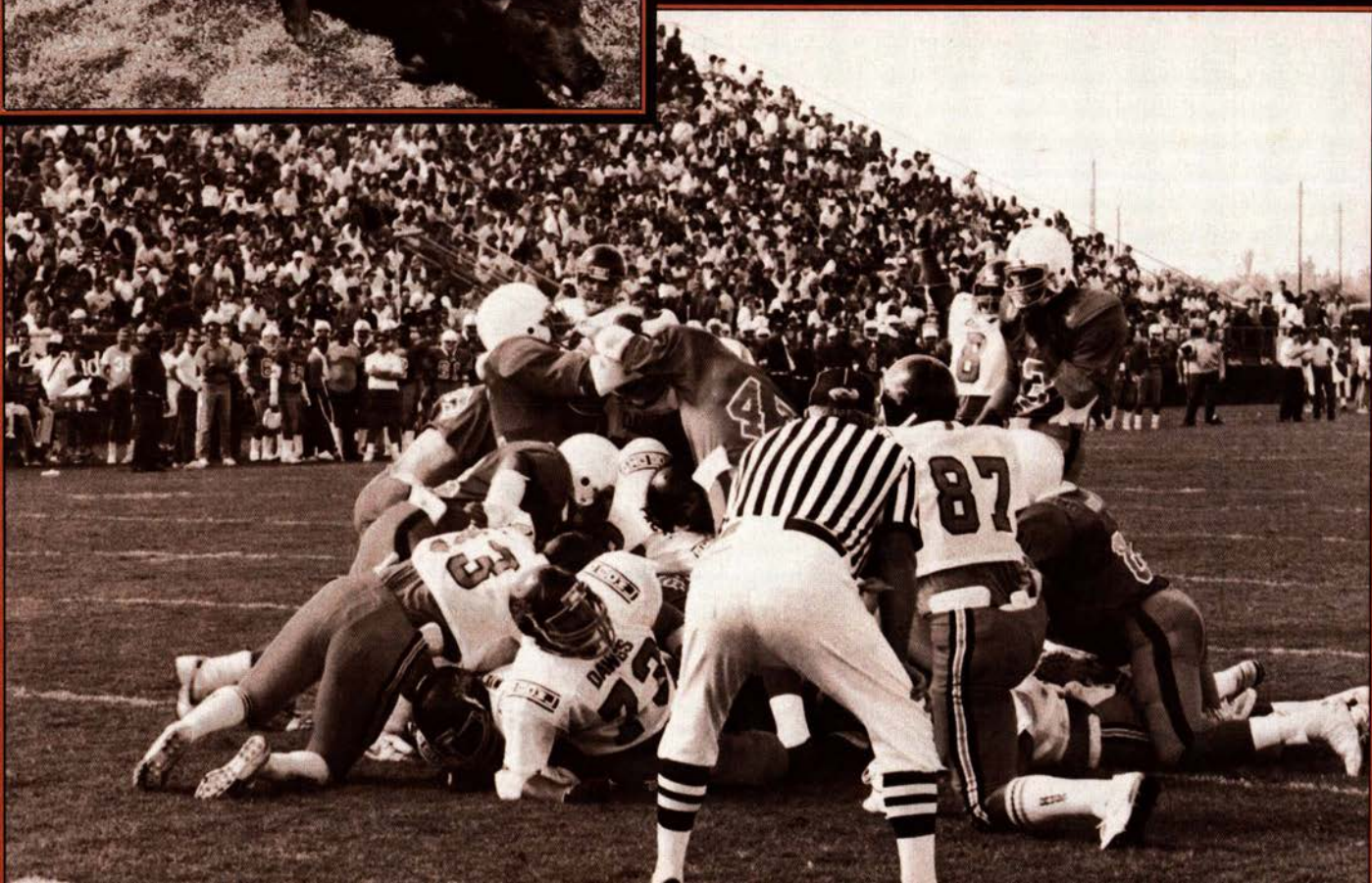
the Sheriff's Star

PUBLISHED BY THE
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

In Miami it's OK
to be an addict*

(*football addict)

*Metro-Dade Police Chief Irving Heller
maneuvers the mascot during annual
Pig Bowl. (see page 2 for details.)*



Sheriff's research: Sets the record straight on first Negro deputy

ARCADIA — When retired deputy sheriff George Brown went to see DeSoto County Sheriff Joe Varnadore, he was carrying a February, 1986, copy of *The Sheriff's Star* featuring the late Wilbur C. Burney as Florida's first Negro deputy sheriff.

The Star said Burney had started wearing a sheriff's badge in Palm Beach County in 1948, and had often been described as Florida's first black deputy; but Brown felt that the title belonged to him.

"I think we ought to set the record straight," said Brown, pointing to his copy of *The Star*, and Varnadore agreed.

So Varnadore dug out some old ledgers and eventually verified that Brown had been on the Sheriff's Office payroll in 1945, approximately three years before Burney became a deputy sheriff.

Then, because DeSoto County was preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding and many long-forgotten historical facts were being resurrected, Varnadore reported the results of his research to the County Commissioners. They in turn lost no time in passing a "Special Centennial Resolution" recognizing "Lieutenant George Brown as the first black deputy sheriff in the State of Florida."

On May 19, 1987, during a centennial celebration outside the county courthouse, Sheriff Varnadore presented the resolution to Brown, and produced a round of public acclaim that was some 42 years overdue.

In one of the interviews Brown gave to news reporters, he recalled that opportunities for blacks were rare in 1945 but the late Sheriff Tom Anderson encouraged him to become a deputy. (Excerpts from that interview follow:)

However, there was a problem. Back then, no bond-



Retired deputy sheriff George Brown, 72, with some of the souvenirs from his long career. (Tampa Tribune photo by Carl Belcher)

ing company would consider backing a black man, and the only way to become a certified deputy was to be bonded. So, Anderson went to work trying to find a way to get Brown bonded. He eventually learned it could be done if at least five black taxpayers agreed to sign bond papers for Brown.

They did — and once Brown started, he couldn't quit. "It finally just got under my skin, and I couldn't walk off and leave it," Brown said.

For many years all Brown's work was focused in the black community of Arcadia. "I didn't bother with the whites," he said. "That was out of the question. You didn't interfere with white people. But, I can say one thing for this country county, I didn't get picked on too much."

the Sheriff's Star

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Editor, Carl Stauffer Art Director, Frank Jones Production Assistant, Denise Dickey

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One reason he didn't hear as many smart comments as others might have was because he stood six feet, three inches tall and weighed more than 200 pounds. Besides, Brown's handling of dangerous situations earned him — respect.

"Believe it or not, I met more resistance from blacks than whites," he said. "They had never had to take orders from a black man before, but they soon found out they did have to listen to me.

In addition to the changes Brown has seen in relations between blacks and whites, he's seen a vast change in law enforcement in general.

When he was a deputy in 1945 he furnished his own gun, car and holster. He was paid by the arrest (\$8 in February, \$20 in April, according to the old 1945 records researched by Sheriff Varnadore), so he had to "moonlight" picking oranges and driving a truck to support his family.

As time passed, Brown eventually got good benefits, uniforms, patrol cars, respect from citizens of both races and formal police training.

Brown (who retired in 1983) says he's proud of his career, and he doesn't harbor any hard feelings about the difficult times racism sometimes brought him



Sheriff Joe Varnadore congratulated George Brown after the County Commissioners confirmed Brown's status as "the first black deputy sheriff in the State of Florida."

when he was younger. When you can't change things, it's best to stand tall and not let them bother you, he says. "I tell the young guys today they should appreciate the things they have now more than they do. I tell them 'you've got nothing to be bitter about.' "

(The foregoing excerpts are from a *Tampa Tribune* article by Mary Toothman.)

Odds are improving

For criminals awaiting sentencing, the odds against going to prison are looking pretty good.

A Department of Justice study recently showed that one out of every four bozos convicted of serious felonies serves no time behind bars.

Seven major felony categories were surveyed in 28 large state court systems, using 1985 figures, and the final totals revealed that 74 percent went to prison, while 26 percent got probation.

Probation was granted to 8 percent of the killers, 16 percent of the rapists and 32 percent of the drug dealers. The average prison term for homicide was 16 years; for rape 13; for robbery, nine; for aggravated assault, seven; for burglary, 5½; for larceny, four; and for drug dealers, five.

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COVER PHOTO: The Metro-Dade football team justifies using Darwina as its mascot by claiming that P-I-G stands for Pride-Integrity-Guts. The massive four-foot trophy presented each year to the Pig Bowl winner carries out the same theme. It features a huge football surrounded by pigs.

Public relations prescription:

“Coppers” clash, addicts applaud, charities collect and kids get ticketed for talking to police officers

MIAMI — “It’s OK to be an addict, as long as it’s only football you’re addicted to.”

That seems to be the message the Metro-Dade Police Department is spreading around in a two-pronged public relations campaign aimed at enhancing morale within the department, building bridges of friendship between police officers and youngsters, generating positive publicity, and raising funds for local charities.

One prong of the campaign is the annual Pig Bowl, a football classic that features teams from Metro-Dade and the Miami Police Department butting heads for charity.

The other prong encourages kids to collect football cards that have photos of Miami Dolphins stars on one side, and carry safety or anti-drug abuse messages on the flip side. Metro-Dade officers carry the cards while on duty. Kids get cards by asking for them — the theory being that these brief encounters help to break down barriers of fear and hostility. Each week during the football season new cards go into circulation; and

to get a full set, a youngster must talk to a uniformed officer 16 times.

How this approach to public relations would play in Peoria no one knows, but in football-rabid Dade County it is being hailed as a winner.

The card-trading program has been in operation with the endorsement of Kiwanis Clubs since 1980 in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. It benefits from news media support, and results in the distribution of some three million Dolphin-of-the-week cards each fall. The cost is underwritten by private corporations.

Chairman Pete Cuccaro, a Metro Police Lieutenant, said the program not only improves relationships between cops and kids, but also provides “a show of unity and solidarity in law enforcement in three counties.”

The Pig Bowl (with PIG being an acronym for Pride, Integrity, Guts) has been generating similar raves and a surge of media hype. The *Miami Herald* called it “The clash of the coppers — good guys versus good guys.” It was recently covered live by six television



A typical Pig Bowl half-time show featured SWAT Team demonstrations, a precision parachute drop and a celebrity appearance by "Miami Vice" star Don Johnson.

stations. Reporters from at least five radio stations interviewed coaches and players. Public service announcements aired for eight weeks on virtually every local TV and radio station. Articles about it were printed in 21 local newspapers.

Growing spectator support resulted in an overflow crowd at the 1987 opus in 12,000-seat Tamiami Stadium and touched off discussions about moving to the 75,000-seat Orange Bowl.

Enthusiasm frequently erupts from Metro-Dade Police Chief Irving Heller, director of the project. When given an opportunity, he praises the interaction the bowl game has encouraged with various people from city and county government, the overwhelming support of the community, the cohesiveness created within the department, and of course the end result: a substantial monetary donation each year to two worthy local charities. "It's extremely gratifying," he added.

Eleanor H. Schenk, Special Projects Coordinator for Metro-Dade Police Department (which is the Dade County equivalent of a Sheriff's Office), provided the information and photos for this article.



Reunion celebrates heyday of Sheriffs Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Former staff members of the old Florida Sheriffs Bureau, accompanied by spouses and a few young'uns (mostly grandchildren), gathered on the environmental award-winning turf at the Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters on August 8 to relive for an afternoon and evening "the glory days" of Florida's first statewide crime fighting agency.

Founded in 1955 under the sponsorship of the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Sheriffs Bureau was the forerunner of the present Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Described frequently as almost a clone of England's Scotland Yard, the Bureau was unique because it did not directly enforce any laws. Instead, its primary function was to assist local law enforcement agencies by providing trained technical personnel, operating Florida's first central identification unit containing the photos and records of over 30,000 criminals, conducting law enforcement training sessions and operating a crime laboratory.

This was the Bureau's first-ever reunion, and it gave old-timers an opportunity to recall the amazing accomplishments of an agency that, although created by the Florida Legislature, was so puny from lack of funding that it had to beg and borrow funds and equipment from other state agencies to sur-



Former Sheriffs Bureau employees now with FDLE

From left, bottom row: Doug Barrow, Fred Johns, June Gray, Marge Gibson, Jean Plant, Joe Kendrick; (middle row) Inez Peterson, John Burton, Bob Hin-nant, Al Spradley, Don Bragg and Randy Desilet; (top row) Joe Mitchell, Bob Scharlau, Larry Adams, Danny Hasty, Bob Darnell and Charlie Jacobs.

vive its first year.

There were in the reunion crowd, enjoying a cookout under giant live oak trees, venerable law enforcement veterans who could recall how Sheriffs nurtured the Bureau through its formative years as members of its governing board and gave it a permanent niche in the state's criminal justice system.

The mood was casual and light-hearted during most of the celebration. Cloggers and musicians entertained. A tour of Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) facilities featured historical sidelights offered by two former Sheriffs: Ed Blackburn, Jr., who served on the Bureau board in its heyday and later filled an interim appointment as FDLE Commissioner; and Ed Yarbrough, who was the Bureau's second Director following the retirement of former Sheriff Don McLeod.

An appreciation plaque was presented to reunion host Berwin Williams, the Executive Director of the Florida Sheriffs Association. He was one of the first agents hired by the Sheriffs Bureau, and served as the Assistant Director before it became the Florida Bureau of Law Enforcement and later evolved into FDLE.

Laughter and friendly heckling accompanied "war stories" and recollections offered by the elder statesmen in the group. There was a solemn interlude, too, honoring the memory of deceased associates, including Mrs. Louise Edenfield, former secretary to Director Don McLeod.

Mrs. Edenfield was given credit for suggesting the reunion. She also participated in preparations, but suffered a fatal illness weeks before the celebration.



Former Sheriffs Bureau employees

From left, front row, standing and kneeling: Vera Teston, Paul Phillips, Joe Mitchell, Berwin Williams, Dot Marsh, Farrell Bass, Truman Bussey, Tom Boen, Jim Halligan and Jim Moore; (second row) Dick Marsh, Jim Hendrick, Jim Alford, Lynn Koelliker, Sheriff Eddie Boone, Bob Hinnant, Danny Hasty, Mary Frances Pearson, Maude Snider, Bob Scharlau, Gerry Baldwin, Pete Peterson, next person unidentified by editor's informant, Charlie Gilbert, Brooke Kitchens, Henry Lovern, and Al Spradley. (Editor's note: Some people appear in both pictures. This was apparently due to the casual nature of this wingding, and not to any fraudulent actions.)

Three "chiefs" (ours and theirs) in harmony

CLEWISTON — After helping to judge a Seminole beauty and talent contest, Florida Sheriffs Association Executive Director Berwin Williams (left) and Association President Joe Sheppard (center) harmonized with Seminole Chairman James Billie to provide some impromptu entertainment for the audience. Chosen in the annual tribal pageant were Charlotte Gopher, Miss Seminole; O.B. Osceola, Jr., Mr. Seminole; and Theresa Nunez, Junior Miss Seminole.





We Salute!



Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles (left) with Sgt. Michael Graves, holder of a national "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" award (see accompanying article).

Sgt. Michael Graves

FORT PIERCE — St. Lucie County Deputy Sheriff Michael Graves was named "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" by the National Sheriffs Association and the National Newspaper Association, and received the award during a ceremony in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sgt. Graves, who directs Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles' Crime Prevention Bureau and School Resource Officer Program, was honored for implementing numerous programs aimed at preventing crime and fighting drug abuse. He is a black belt karate expert and frequently gives self-defense instructions to law enforcement agencies. He is also a member of Sheriff Knowles' Special Operations Team.

"Sgt. Graves has been untiring in his efforts to help make St. Lucie County a safer place in which to live and work," said Sheriff Knowles. "He consistently demonstrates a willingness and ability to take on new tasks. Indeed, he often initiates activities without having been



FORT PIERCE — Quarterly outstanding performance awards were presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles (left) to: (from left) Corrections Officer Debra Newbern, for helping to implement computerized booking; Detective James Stuart, for a high rate on clearance of cases and for excellence in preparation of cases for prosecution; and Deputy Richard Voth, for demonstrating a high level of enthusiasm and professionalism.

requested to do so. He is a model employee and an outstanding leader."

Geoff's jocks

SARASOTA — The jubilant jocks on the staff of Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge captured first place in Division II for the second straight year when they competed in the 1987 Florida Law Enforcement Olympics. A team of 49 participants captured 38 gold, 20 silver and 33 bronze medals. A total of 2,751 competitors from 123 law enforcement agencies participated in the Tampa event.

Lonnie Tanner

BARTOW — Polk County Deputy Sheriff Lonnie Tanner received a division commendation for diligence and attention to detail after he was successful in tracking down a homicide suspect.

St. Lucie Resource Officers

FORT PIERCE — The Florida Association of School Resource Officers chose St. Lucie County's unit as the best in Florida after an evaluation that measured the deputies' effectiveness in crime prevention, crime solving and interaction with students. Some 40 school resource officer units were considered for the award.

Jennings Murrhee

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — The National Child Safety Council presented an award to Clay County Sheriff Jennings Murrhee in recognition of the programs he has sponsored over a ten-year period to promote safety and crime prevention awareness among youngsters.

Lu Rosskamp

VERO BEACH — Cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructions given over the phone by Lu Ross-



McCabe



Hall

DADE CITY — Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum presents CARE (Certificate of Appreciation for Responding in an Emergency) Awards to Benjamin McCabe, who tackled and restrained a fleeing suspect being chased by deputies; and Edward Hall, who assisted Deputy Rodney Bishop in handcuffing a struggling man charged with law violations in a number of outstanding warrants. These men were the seventh and eighth individuals to be honored with CARE Awards since this accolade was initiated in January, 1986.



KISSIMMEE — Osceola County Sheriff R.W. "Bob" Fornes (center) presented Distinguished Service Awards to Corrections Officers Mike McClain and Dawn Cutcher after they were responsible for detecting contraband that was being smuggled into the Osceola County Criminal Justice Facility.

kamp, a dispatcher with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, were credited with saving the life of a 15-month-old child. News reports said the dispatcher gave the instructions to the child's frantic parents while an ambulance was en route to their home. They had called 911 for help after a seizure caused their son to stop breathing.

Tom Tramel

LAKE CITY — Columbia County Sheriff Tom Tramel acquired an additional title when the Lake City Junior Chamber of Commerce named him "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" for 1987.



INVERNESS — Citrus County Sheriff Charles Dean (right) cited Investigator Les Cross for outstanding performance of duty after Cross spent many long hours establishing the identity of an abandoned child.



GAINESVILLE — Four deputies from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office won the team competition in the 9th Annual 5K Run held as a fundraiser for the Sunland Training Center. They are: (from left) Mike Crane, Greg Weeks, Scott Adams and Martin Snook.

Frank Campbell & Lobo

LARGO — Pinellas County Deputy Sheriff Frank Campbell and his K-9 partner Lobo were awarded the state championship when a tournament for police dogs was held in Fort Walton Beach. The team competition was also won by a Pinellas County aggregation that included Campbell and Lobo, Deputy Pete Sierchio and Gero, Clearwater Police Officer Rick

Trombley and Barron, and Dunedin Police Sergeant Rick Hoover and Majic.

Agnes Beckwith Elinor Gleet

Ocala — Crimewatch volunteers Agnes Beckwith and Elinor Gleet received Distinguished Service Awards from Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland after their alert action resulted in the arrest of three juveniles who had vandalized a church.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL



Presented in this Florida Sheriffs Association Honor Roll are individuals who have demonstrated their interest in progressive law enforcement by giving loyal and substantial support to the Association, or through career achievements.

Those whose gifts to the Association total \$1,000 or more, and those whose law enforcement careers span 40 years or more, have been awarded Lifetime Honorary Memberships.

Please note that the design of the membership plaque for this category of lifetime affiliation is distinctly different from the one awarded to outstanding supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who are identified in the Youth Ranches

Honor Roll elsewhere in this issue.

However, all lifetime members receive the same permanent wallet identification cards, a lifetime subscription to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher*, and a lifetime auto tag.

Honorary Members of the Sheriffs Association who sustain their affiliation for 25 years or more receive Distinguished Service Awards.

To inquire about qualifying for the Florida Sheriffs Association Honor Roll, write to the Association at P.O. Box 1487, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

To inquire about qualifying for the Youth Ranches Honor Roll, write to Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Boys Ranch, FL 32060.

Lifetime Honorary Memberships



TAMPA — Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich (right) to Derrell Brown in recognition of his 40-year law enforcement career, which includes 20 years with the Tampa Police Department and 20 years with the Sheriff's Office.



JACKSONVILLE — Presented by Sheriff James E. McMillan (right) to Lt. Roy H. Smith in recognition of his 45 years of service with the Jacksonville and Duval County Sheriff's Offices.



DeLAND — Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Edwin H. Duff, II (left), to Russ Galbreath in recognition of his 47 years of law enforcement experience as a city police officer in New Smyrna Beach, as constable in southeast Volusia County, and as a deputy sheriff under three Sheriffs in Volusia County.

Distinguished Service Awards

The individuals pictured here received awards for 25 years or more as honorary members of the Florida Sheriffs Association.



FORT LAUDERDALE — Presented by Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro (right) to J. Jerry Kopen.



TAVARES — Presented by Lake County Sheriff Noel E. Griffin, Jr. (right) to Clifford St. Louis.



FORT PIERCE — Presented by Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles (left) to John Baker.

Distinguished Service Awards continued . . .



Halls



Peyssards

Ocala — Presented by Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland (center) to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Remi J. Peyssard.

Orange County Jail study fathoms the impact of drug abuse on crime

ORLANDO — Orange County Sheriff Lawson Lamar said a study he was commissioned to conduct in the Orange County Jail to determine the impact of drug involvement on crime revealed several alarming facts, including the following items:

- * Over three quarters of the interviewed inmates used cocaine and 37% were habituated.

- * Nine out of ten respondents used marijuana, and eight out of ten were habitual users.

- * Marijuana users had been spending an average of nearly \$50 a week to support their habits.

- * The average for cocaine users — many of whom were poly-drug consumers — was \$500 per week.

- * Almost a third of the inmates had drug habits more expensive than their legal incomes, and had to "steal or deal" to feed their addiction.

Sheriff Lamar said results of the county jail study were similar to national statistics revealing a high rate of recidivism among parolees, and particularly young (under 20) parolees.

"When examining the problem of drug addiction and the rate of young adult criminal recidivism," he added, "it becomes apparent that the two are more than linked, they are fused!"

The study was commissioned by The Police Executive Research Forum, of which Sheriff Lamar is a member; and the inmate interviews were conducted by John Cassady, Staff Psychologist in the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

"It would be foolish for anyone to believe that young recidivists stand much of a chance of acclimating to society without first ridding themselves of their



Orange County Sheriff Lawson L. Lamar

addictions," Lamar said after seeing the results of the study.

"It is folly to expect these individuals to purge themselves of their addictions without some type of affordable professional assistance. This cycle of recidivism will continue unless it is short-circuited by a more intense effort in both drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation."

In a move focused upon this goal, Sheriff Lamar has assigned Police/School Liaison Deputies in public schools. All of these deputies are state-certified instructors, and they devote a substantial amount of their time to classes dealing with drug prevention.



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.

Mr. Lloyd R. Allen
Mr. Joe Alleque
American Boat
Center, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. William
Atteberry
Ms. Mona Becker
Big Bend Police
Benevolent Assn.
Mr. Stanley G. Carey
Mr. Luther W. Dease
Mrs. Carol Demkowicz
Mr. John W. Dyer
Mr. & Mrs. Harlis R.
Ellington
Flav-O-Rich, Inc.
Mr. James T. Garvin
Warren P. Hunnicutt, Jr.
Law Enforcement
Fishing Tournament
Mr. A. L. Lenahan

Mr. Newton C. Mack
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis L.
Manucy
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F.
Nakles
Mr. & Mrs. John L.
Parsons
St. Johns County
Sheriffs Office
Mrs. Lynne Petty
Mr. Edmund Ross
Saddlecreek Corporation
Mr. & Mrs. Roscoe Seay
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Stampfl
Colonel Paul Trammel
Mr. James L. Van Buren
Veterans of Foreign
Wars Aux. #8713
Veterans of Foreign
Wars Aux. #2093
Volusia County
Speedway

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.

SARASOTA — Sheriff Geoff Monge with the Lifetime Honorary Membership presented to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.



LEESBURG — Presented by Lake County Sheriff Noel Griffin (left) and Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Terry Knox (right) to Mr. and Mrs. John Covey.

Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued ...



Stickles



Vickory



Highsmith

TAMPA — Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stickles, Mrs. Kathleen Vickory and Wayne J. Highsmith.



Hagin



Bolestas



Lynch

BUSHNELL — Presented by Sumter County Sheriff Jamie Adams to T. Richard Hagin, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bolesta, and Mike Lynch.



WINTER HAVEN — Presented by Polk County Sheriff Lawrence W. Crow, Jr., (right) to Edward W. Carver.



OKEECHOBEE — Presented by Okeechobee County Sheriff O.L. Raulerson, Jr., (right) to J.B. Pilgrim.



YOUTH VILLA, BARTOW — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Biebuyck (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wells, employees of the Youth Villa.



FORT LAUDERDALE — Presented by Edward J. Werder (second from left), Broward County Sheriff's Office Chief of Staff, to Everglades Lakes Mobile Home Community, represented by (from left) Donald Castle, Raymond Pabel and Jack Williamson.

Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .

LAKE CITY — Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Thomas S. "Tom" Tramel, III, (right) to Toni Roberts, representing Tanglewood Convalescent Center; Delores Sundeck and Beatrice Bowman, representing Lake City Women of the Moose No. 1399; Robert E. Persons and George Duren. (Tanglewood Convalescent Center and Duren received Lifetime Honorary Memberships from the Florida Sheriffs Association, and the others received Builder Certificates from the Youth Ranches.)



Libel suit outcome: Sheriff and State Attorney accept settlement

FORT MYERS — Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka announced in September that he and 20th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Joseph P. D'Alessandro had agreed to accept a settlement in a libel suit they filed against a newspaper in neighboring Charlotte County.

Named in the suit were the *Punta Gorda Herald*, now known as the *Charlotte Daily Herald-News*, Thompson Newspapers, Inc., and individuals.

Wanicka said the suit was filed after the newspaper printed "malicious, vicious lies" implicating him and the State Attorney in a cover-up, and naming him as a "suspect" in "a killing . . . made to look like a suicide."

"To our knowledge," said Wanicka, "this is the first time ever where a State Attorney and a Sheriff sued for libel against any news media, and were offered a settlement out of court."

A retraction will not be forthcoming, Wanicka explained, because numerous articles were printed; and also because their attorney, Allen Parvey, had suggested that a retraction would only repeat the damage already done.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed. However, at a press conference the Sheriff declared he wouldn't have settled unless he was totally satisfied.

"Joe and I both feel vindicated," he said. Then he added: "Who says the press has the last word?"



The big smiles flashed at a press conference by State Attorney Joseph P. D'Alessandro (left), Sheriff Frank Wanicka (right) and their attorney, Allen Parvey, revealed how they felt about winning a landmark libel suit.

Conference dates set

The Annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association will be held at the Holiday Inn Riverfront, Bradenton, Florida, on February 7, 8 and 9, with Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells as host.

Meetings and exhibits will be located at the Manatee County Civic Center.

The 75th Annual Summer Conference will be held at Saddlebrook Resort, Wesley Chapel (near Tampa), June 12-15, with Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum as host.

Itinerant "College of Sheriffing Knowledge" visits six cities with series of seminars

Over 800 Sheriffs and deputies from 64 of Florida's 67 counties attended Regional Training Seminars presented in five cities by the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Held in August, the three-day seminars covered technical aspects of fiscal accounts, personnel regulations and civil process procedures. The full complexity of these subjects is not covered in Florida's criminal justice training centers, and the Sheriffs Association seminars have been offered annually for many years to fill this void.

The 1987 faculty included Virindia Sample, Assistant General Counsel for the Florida Sheriffs Association, who discussed legislation having an impact on Sheriffs' procedures; Mike Givens, from the CPA firm of Givens and Givens, who dealt with audits and other financial matters; Florida Sheriffs Association Consultant Iven Lamb, who covered civil process procedures; Attorneys Theresa Gallion and William Powers, who discussed drug testing, sexual harassment and other labor relations subjects; Scott and Dick Hunt, from Hunt Insurance Group, Inc., Tallahassee, who discussed employee insurance benefits and various types of property and liability insurance coverage.

For the convenience of Sheriffs and deputies from all areas of the state, the Seminars were held in Punta Gorda, West Palm Beach, Gainesville, Lakeland, Tallahassee and Pensacola.

Arrangements for the seminars were orchestrated by Consultant Iven Lamb and Gary Perkins, the Sheriffs Association's Director of Administrative Services.

Thomas who?

When Philadelphians reenacted the first reading of the U.S. Declaration of Independence in front of Independence Hall last summer, news articles lifted from oblivion the name of Thomas Dewees, the Sheriff of Philadelphia whose weak vocal cords had cheated him out of everlasting fame 211 years earlier.

According to historical accounts, the Continental Congress in 1776 requested that the newly-signed-and-sealed Declaration of Independence be read to the public in front of the State House, which was later named Independence Hall. Then the city's Committee of Safety ordered Sheriff Dewees to do it.

However, the Sheriff declined, claiming his voice lacked sufficient volume to deliver a proclamation to a boisterous throng outdoors; and he appointed Lt. Col. John Nixon, a merchant and militiaman, to do the deed.

By most accounts, Nixon experienced no difficulty before a crowd that was neither large nor particularly boisterous. The entire Declaration had been published

in the Pennsylvania Packet, a newspaper, that morning; and therefore the citizenry already knew its contents.

The question remains: How did a timid fellow with a weak voice get to be Sheriff?



... and now he's "Major Creamer"

SARASOTA — Veteran law enforcement professional Robert E. Creamer (right) knew he had reached another milestone in his 27-year career when Sarasota County Sheriff Geoffrey Monge handed him a Major's badge. Creamer, who was promoted from Captain to Major recently, will remain in charge of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, and will serve as Acting Sheriff during the Sheriff's absence. His career includes 3½ years as a constable in Sarasota County; one year with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; seven years with the Sarasota Police Department; and 15 years with the Sheriff's Office. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of Tampa, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Touch of realism for Sheriff's investigators

DADE CITY — Anatomically explicit black dolls donated to the Pasco County Sheriff's Office by the East Pasco Junior Women's Club will add a desirable touch of realism to investigations of juvenile sexual abuse cases when the victims are black youngsters. Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum is pictured accepting the gift from Jamie Dombroski (center) and Beverly Day, club representatives.



Video Store "stung" 197 career criminals

TAMPA — When J.R.'s Video Store went out of business in September, 1987, almost 200 career criminals specializing in assorted types of burglary and larceny discovered they had been royally stung by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

For 12 months these supposedly "street wise" thieves had been taking their stolen property to the Video Store and selling it for about one-fiftieth of its actual value — all the while remaining unaware that the folks through whom they were "fencing" their loot were actually undercover deputies.

For many the truth dawned when the store closed and deputies began serving arrest warrants on a "hit list" of 197 former customers.

Sheriff Walter Heinrich, whose qualifications for the mythical "King of Sting" title are absolutely impeccable, said this was one of the most successful sting operations in a series of six his undercover merchandisers have carried out since 1978.

He said the fencing transactions recovered stolen property valued at over \$2 million, including credit cards, computers, television sets, tape players and motor vehicles.

The money to purchase these items, he explained, came from forfeiture proceedings

Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich explains the Video Store "sting" to radio news reporter Renee Heath.

involving cash and property seized from criminals, and therefore created no drain on tax dollars.

A final box score revealed that the highly successful sting had cleared or identified 130 burglaries, 25 armed robberies, 110 auto thefts and 12 heavy equipment thefts. It resulted in 556 criminal charges filed against 197 career criminals, 11 of whom faced the possibility of being prosecuted under Florida's RICO (Racketeering Influenced Corruption Organization) Act.

Heinrich said J.R.'s Video Store was a departure from previous stings because it was fronted as a legitimate video movie rental business, while its predecessors had been operated as swap shops.

The calibre of the customers patronizing the Video Store became apparent when Heinrich disclosed that nearly 95 percent had prior arrest records.