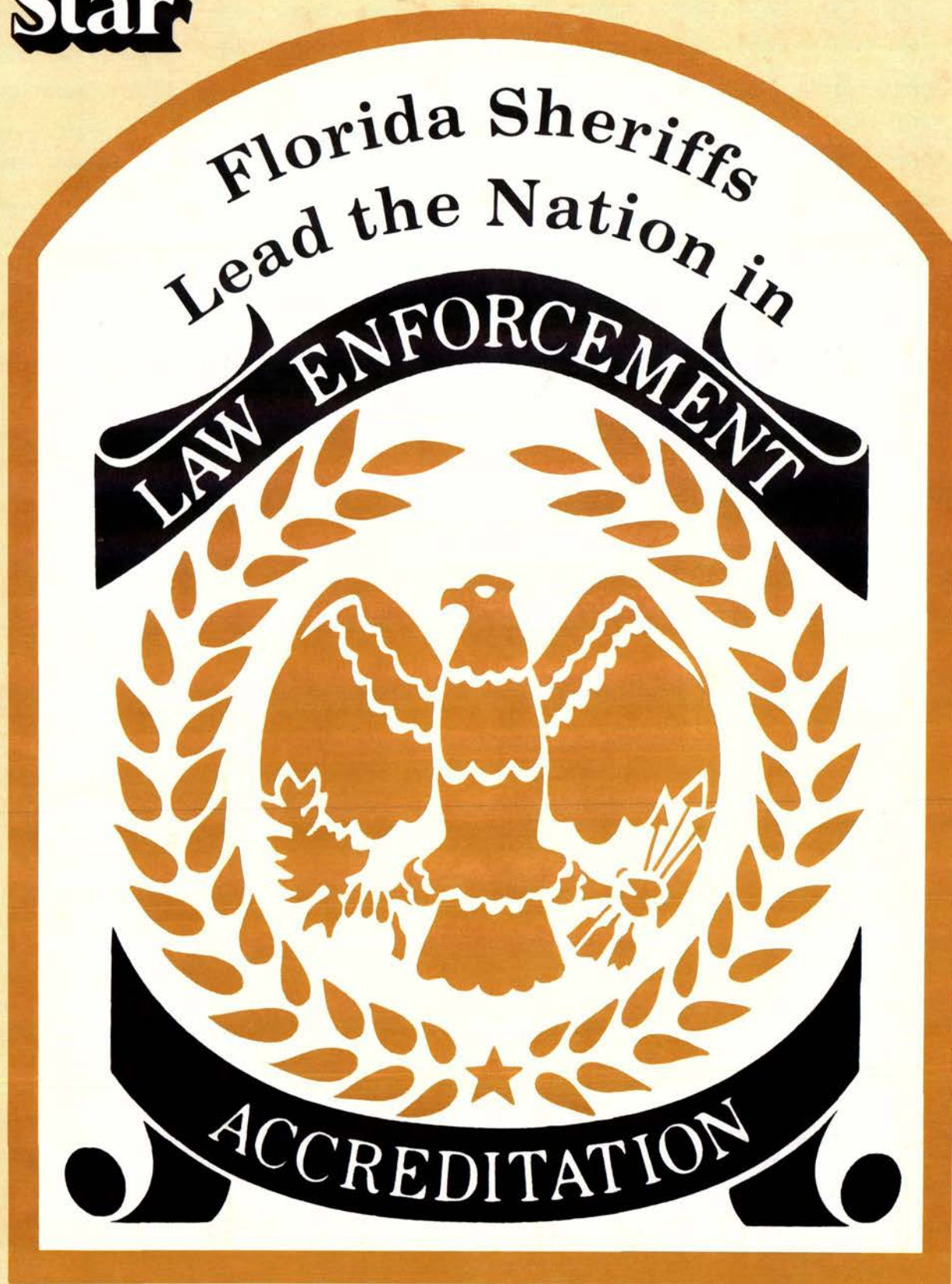


June 1988





Cover Story:

Florida's Sheriffs lead the nation in law enforcement accreditation

Accreditation has been described as the "Pulitzer Prize of law enforcement" and Florida's Sheriffs are leading the nation with five "prize-winners" and six potential winners.

The five winners — all of them accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) — are the Sheriff's Offices in Pinellas, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Broward and Monroe Counties.

The six potential winners are the Sheriff's Offices in Marion, Charlotte, Hernando and Manatee Counties, plus the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. All of them have applied to the CALEA for accreditation and are in the self-assessment phase of the process which requires them to comply with almost 900 state-of-the-art standards.

Meanwhile, two of the Sheriff's Offices accredited by CALEA have lengthened Florida's lead by claiming to be the first in the nation with triple accreditation. Palm Beach and Pinellas Counties have been accredited by the American Medical Association for providing outstanding medical services in their jails and by the American Correctional Association for maintaining top-notch corrections facilities.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the first in Florida to be accredited by CALEA, is likely to become the state's and the nation's third "triple-crown" winner. (See details elsewhere in this issue.)

Statistics received from CALEA on April 14, 1988, revealed that Ohio had 61 law enforcement agencies (Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments) in various phases of the accreditation process, the same total as Florida. However, Florida had ten accredited agencies

at that time, including five Sheriff's Offices; while Ohio had five accredited agencies, including only one Sheriff's Office.

It seems clear that Florida's Sheriffs are leading the nation's Sheriffs in the accreditation derby and are once again enhancing their status as professional law enforcement practitioners.



Chill failed to kill Sheriff's enthusiasm

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — How important is accreditation to Florida's Sheriffs? Well, this threesome thought it was important enough to brave a snowstorm and 26-degree temperature readings when a 1987 Accreditation Conference was held in Rochester, N.Y. They are, from left, Richard Wille, Palm Beach County; Gerry Coleman, Pinellas County; and Don Moreland, Marion County.

the Sheriff's Star

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AC-CRED-I-TA-TION

How, when and why did this new word enter the lexicon of law enforcement?

Ac-cred-i-ta-tion is a new word in law enforcement's vocabulary — so new that dictionaries define it as "the granting of approval to an institution of learning by an official review board after the school has met specific requirements."

But accreditation is gaining wide acceptance as a yard-stick of professional competence in law enforcement and future dictionaries are likely to show that this unweildy five-syllable word applies to police agencies as well as "institutions of learning."

The motivating force behind accreditation is the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), a private, nonprofit entity formed in 1979 through the combined efforts of the National Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and the Police Executive Research Forum.

CALEA was created to develop a set of law enforcement standards and to establish an accreditation process by which law enforcement agencies could voluntarily adopt these standards. Its 21 members include 11 law enforcement professionals and ten representatives from other areas of the public and private sector.

CALEA is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, and its staff is headed by K.H. Medeiros, the appointed Executive Director.

The process

Law enforcement agencies apply to CALEA for accreditation and spend approximately two years in self-assessment that is designed to achieve compliance with CALEA standards. Then they have to pass an exacting on-site assessment verifying that they have met nearly 900 state-of-the-art standards.

The on-site assessment is conducted by a team of three to five law enforcement professionals and lasts for three to five days. The team welcomes community comments as well as reviews agency documents, tours facilities, observes activities and interviews personnel.

The final review which determines whether to grant or defer accreditation is conducted by the Commission, a 21-member group of law enforcement executives and leaders from the public and private sector. The Commission never denies accreditation but may require further effort according to Medeiros.

Accreditation is for five years and requires annual reports from the accredited agency to document continued compliance with the standards.

"It requires a lot of hard work, enthusiasm and sheer grit," said Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich, who heads up the first Sheriff's Office to become accredited in Florida, "but it's worth it."



Award commemorates 20-year ministry

OCALA — Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland (right) presented an appreciation award to the Rev. Robert Gant to express his and the jail staff's gratitude for 20 years of ministerial services the Rev. Mr. Gant has provided in the Marion County Jail.



Handicapped youngsters had fun at the fair

LARGO — When the Junior Deputy League at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department sponsored a trip to the Florida State Fair for three bus loads of handicapped children, adult Deputies Bryan Gavin (left) and Mickey Dawes were on hand to help the handicapped youngsters on and off the carnival rides. It was Shriner Day at the fair.



In Pinellas County:

Triple accreditation was the fulfillment of a promise to be "the best of the best"

LARGO — After the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) on March 20, 1988, Sheriff Gerry Coleman called it "the fulfillment of our promise to be the best of the best."

Then he pointed out that, in addition to being accredited by CALEA, the Sheriff's Office had also been accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care of the American Medical Association and would soon be accredited by the American Correctional Association.

"These awards make our office the only Sheriff's Office in the United States to acquire this unique triple honor," he said. "We now have an agency that is recognized as a national leader in the business of providing services and justice equally for all."

Earlier, when it became evident that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office was going to qualify for triple accreditation, Coleman viewed this achievement as proof that the agency had succeeded in becoming an effective, high performance organization.

Success resulted, he said, from three rules for leadership and management he developed when he became Pinellas County's Sheriff in 1981, namely: (1) "Take care of the client; (2) constantly innovate; and (3) respect the dignity and creative potential of each member (employee) in the organization."

To highlight the results of rule number one, Coleman pointed out that although there had been almost a million separate transactions between his employees and citizens during 1987 — a record number — less than 50 formal complaints had been filed in the Sheriff's Office.

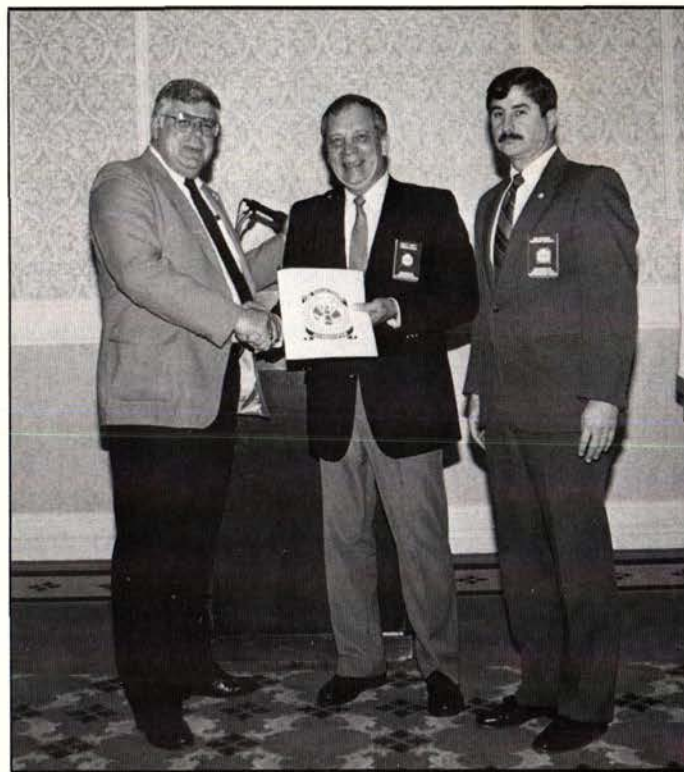
"I am sure," he said, "that other service corporations like the phone company or the utility companies would welcome this level of customer satisfaction."

Coleman said rule number two had resulted in "innovations that have become acknowledged and accepted by members of our profession throughout the country." Then he cited the following examples:

- * A three-year program planning cycle which, according to national reports, can be matched in its careful planning and development processes by only one other Sheriff's Office in the U.S.

- * A Bias Crime Unit to attack and prosecute crimes of hate and violence against individuals because of their religious, racial or ethnic origins.

- * An Automated Fingerprint Information System (AFIS) which will make the Pinellas S.O. the lead



Accreditation credentials were delivered to Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman (left) on March 20, 1988, by CALEA Chairman John F. Duffy (center), Sheriff of San Diego County, California; and CALEA Executive Director Ken Medeiros.

agency for this high tech activity in the Tampa Bay region.

- * An Emergency Operations Plan which is constantly tested and updated in preparation for hurricanes, airline crashes, toxic waste spills, terrorist attacks and similar emergencies.

- * A Victim Advocacy Program to serve the needs and rights of crime victims — the first in an urban county, according to Coleman, and one that has become a model for "hundreds of Sheriff's Offices and law enforcement agencies."

- * A Computerized Crime Analysis Unit to identify crime trends and improve crime control tactics.

- * Selective traffic enforcement that has had a major impact on drunk driving and is considered a model program by the National Sheriffs Association and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

- * A Crimes Against Children Unit that was featured in a report by former U.S. Assistant Attorney General Lois Herrington regarding law enforcement's role in the fight against child molesters and child



Pinellas County's campaign for accreditation climaxed when a Review Committee of CALEA commissioners met in St. Petersburg and cast a favorable vote. Star witnesses from the Pinellas Sheriff's Office in this final inquisition included (from left at far end of the table) Det. Paul Glatthorn (standing), Sgt. Gary Dimmer, Lt. John DiBetta, Director Gay Lancaster, Undersheriff H. Jerome Miron, Capt. Bernard Wojtasik (Accreditation Manager) and Sheriff Gerry Coleman.

pornography.

* A Professional Standards Bureau that investigates every major complaint against the Sheriff's Office and, as a unique procedure, allows citizens to review its findings in detail. The Bureau also acts as an "Inspector General" to make an annual assessment of the quality of work performed by the Sheriff's Office.

Coleman said rule number three has resulted in a "solid reputation for quality members (employees)." To support this claim, he cited the fact that less than 200 new employees were hired from 2,000 applicants in 1987.

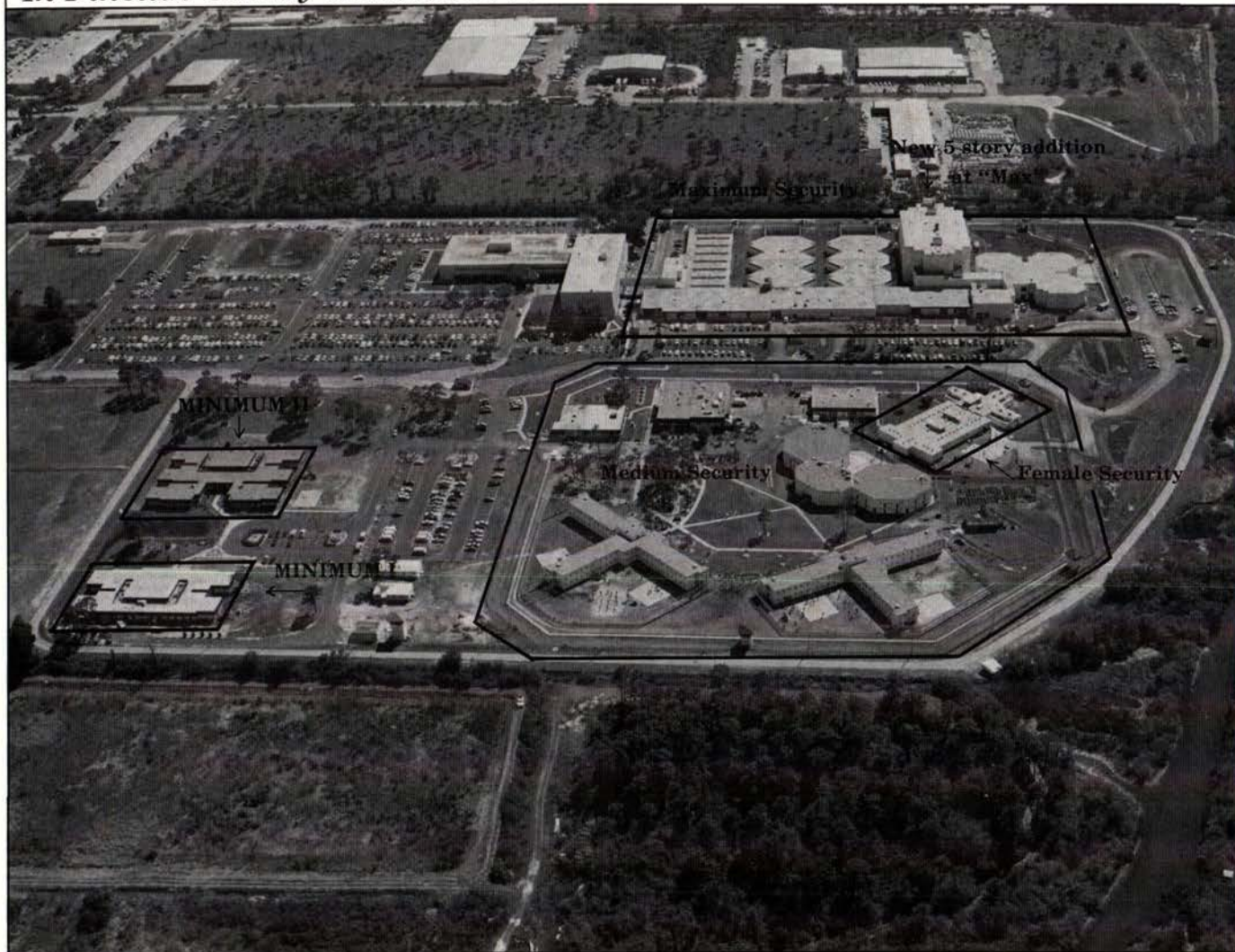
"We have worked hard to select, train, supervise and provide leadership and direction to our members," he added.

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For almost two years, posters, memos, and pep talks reminded the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department staff that "Accreditation is Job #1." Then this four-man on-site assessment team arrived to determine whether or not the slogan had been translated into a successful search for excellence. They decided it had and awarded their stamp of approval. The team members are (from left) Capt. Douglas F. Matthews, Lakewood (CO) Police Department; Cmdr. Melvin E. Nichols, San Diego (CA) S.O.; Sheriff Vincent Swinney, Washoe County (NV) and Cmdr. Billy E. Kirtley, Los Angeles County (CA) S.O.

In Pinellas County continued . . .



The Pinellas County Jail Complex shown in this aerial photo was the subject of a March 14, 1988, news release in which Sheriff Gerry Coleman said: "I am pleased to report . . . that our jail complex is the first fully accredited adult institution in the State of Florida. We are . . . proud of the extraordinary efforts made by Director Charles Felton and all of his staff in guiding our Office to accomplish this magnificent achievement."

In Monroe County: Accreditation increases public confidence

KEY WEST — After the Monroe County Sheriff's Office achieved law enforcement accreditation on March 20, 1988, Sheriff William A. Freeman, Jr., said one of the greatest benefits would be to give Monroe County citizens assurance that the Office is operating on a professional level.

Other benefits that were cited include:

- * It provides outside evaluation of an agency's operations.
- * It provides a basis for correcting shortcomings before they become serious problems.



Sheriff
William A. Freeman, Jr.

* It increases public confidence in the agency's effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness.

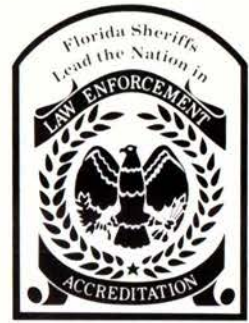
Efforts to meet accreditation standards resulted in the formation of a Special Response Team, which Sheriff Freeman said was a great asset.

He said many other improvements have been made in the past five or ten years, not for the purpose of complying with modern standards, but because they were needed.

"The county is getting too big to keep operating like we have in the past," he added.

In Palm Beach County:

Triple accreditation became something to shoot and shout about!



WEST PALM BEACH — The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office held a flag raising ceremony accompanied by a shotgun salute on April 14 to celebrate triple accreditation.

After the law enforcement accreditation flag was raised to join the American flag and the Florida state flag in front of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Complex and the shotguns of the honor guard were silent, Sheriff Richard P. Wille reminded employees assembled for the ceremony that they had just witnessed something that would not happen again anywhere in the USA.

He was alluding to the fact that the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office claims to be the first in the nation to achieve triple accreditation — a feat that required complying with nationally sanctioned standards in law enforcement, corrections and corrections health services.

Wille has played a leading role in establishing accreditation as a yardstick of professionalism in law enforcement, and during this celebration he obviously derived considerable pleasure from asserting that his agency is the national pace setter.

"I was involved with accreditation when it was not popular at all," he recalled after the flag raising ceremony. "In 1979 when the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies was formed, I was appointed by the National Sheriffs Association to serve as one of their representatives.

"I have been a member ever since and have served twice as chairman. At the present time I am one of two members from the original 21 still serving."

Asked to identify the benefits of accreditation, Wille said he thought that many law enforcement agencies had been doing an excellent job in establishing professional standards prior to accreditation but had no nationally accepted guidelines.

"Maybe our procedures were correct," he said, "but we couldn't prove it. Also, a lot of times we found we were doing things because we had always done them that way, and as long as nothing happened, we would leave them that way."

Wille described the old way of adopting policies and procedures as "reactive."

"We would wait until a catastrophe or something serious happened, then say 'we've got to change that policy.'"

"What accreditation does is that it gives you an opportunity to formulate standards that have been well thought out and passed by the Commission, and

(continued on next page)



Sheriff Wille with the three-star accreditation decal that is a symbolic reward for his persistent efforts to establish accreditation as a yardstick of professionalism in law enforcement. He has been a member of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) for nine years, and has twice served as chairman.



With the law enforcement accreditation flag flying just below the American Flag, Sheriff Richard P. Wille reminds employees assembled for the flag raising ceremony that their agency is the first in the nation to achieve triple-accreditation.

Palm Beach County continued . . .

you can comply with them before a catastrophe occurs.

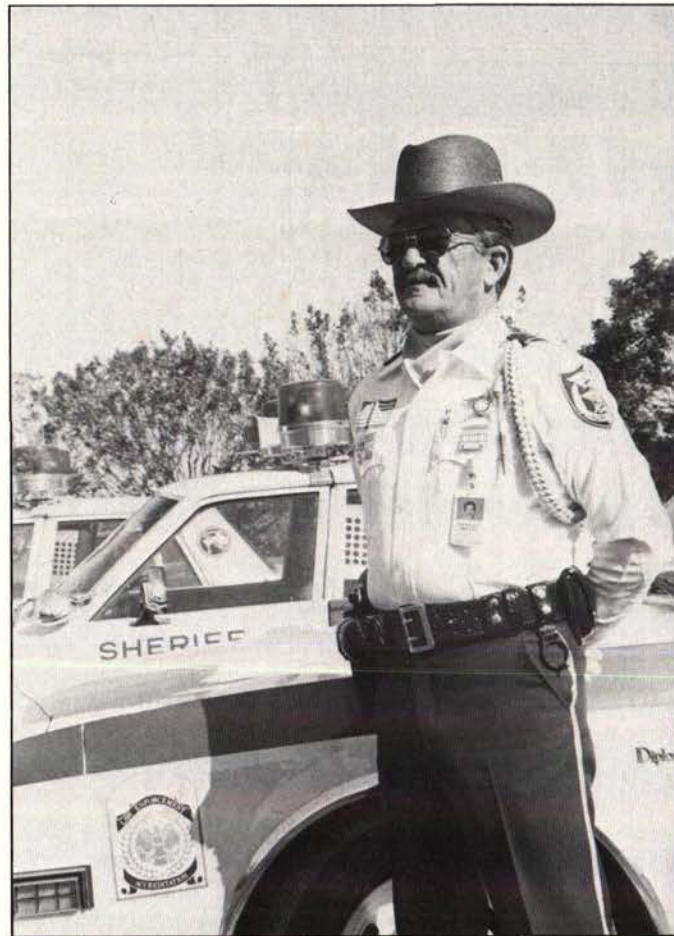
"You see what I mean? I think that accreditation has made us more proactive than reactive."

Wille said achieving accreditation is expensive, but the costs are worthwhile. "No one would think of going to a hospital that isn't accredited, or a school that isn't accredited, and now that law enforcement is going in that direction, we can say we are professionals and we can prove it."

Accreditation will encourage law enforcement agencies to aim for high standards instead of just maintaining the status quo, Wille added.



Capt. A.F. "Tony" O'Brien, assisted by Research Assistant Dawn DeGroff, displays the accreditation flag hoisted in the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office ceremony.



Capt. Richard "Gunny" Grimes, District I Uniform Patrol Commander, holds the military stance that became second nature during 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was asked to pose beside one of the accreditation decals that have been placed on all of the PBSO patrol cars. Capt. Grimes, a former drill sergeant, put the Sheriff's honor guard through its paces during the accreditation ceremony.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard prepares to fire six-shotgun salute celebrating triple accreditation.

"Tough" sums up the struggle for accreditation

When Capt. A.F. "Tony" O'Brien, the Accreditation Manager for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, was asked to describe the trials and tribulations of achieving accreditation, he summed up the two-year struggle with one word: "Tough."

"It was a lengthy, detailed procedure," said O'Brien, "and there were times when we couldn't see the end of the tunnel. The most difficult part of the project was keeping up the enthusiasm of the employees."

O'Brien, who heads a Staff Inspections Bureau that will continue to monitor Sheriff's Office compliance with accreditation standards, described his role as somewhat like that of a cheerleader. He admitted he had used candy from the jar on his desk to bribe weary associates during the self-assessment phase of the accreditation process.



Capt. O'Brien with the three manuals containing approximately 1,200 combined pages of standard procedures that were the end result of the accreditation process.

Triple accreditation near for Hillsborough Sheriff's Office

TAMPA — The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (SO) was the first SO in the state and third in the nation to become accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); and now it is on the threshold of becoming the third SO in the state and nation to gain triple accreditation. (Pinellas and Palm Beach Counties were the first in the state and nation. See articles elsewhere in this issue.)



Walter C. Heinrich
Sheriff of
Hillsborough County



added. "The honor of achieving accreditation belongs to all of our personnel."

Hillsborough will be due for reaccreditation in 1991. Meanwhile, compliance with accreditation standards will be monitored constantly by Cpl. Joe Howlett, the Sheriff's Accreditation Manager.

"The future holds many challenges due to the tremendous growth in this area of the state," said Heinrich, "and accreditation standards will help us to meet those challenges."

Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich said Hillsborough's jail health services have also been accredited by the American Medical Association, "and we are in the last round" of achieving accreditation for the jail by the American Correctional Association.

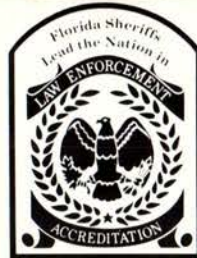
He said two years of experience as the head of an accredited agency have convinced him that accreditation has many benefits and no disadvantages.

Complying with over 800 professional standards required "a lot of hard work, enthusiasm and sheer grit," he said, but it was worth it.

"It was a test of the dedication and enthusiasm of the men and women who serve the Sheriff's Office," he

Boss of the Year

TAMPA — Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich was honored as the 1988 "Boss of the Year" by the South Hillsborough County Chapter of the American Businesswomen's Association. Deputy Sheriff Grita Perry nominated him for the award. It was described as a means of strengthening on-the-job relationships and developing a better understanding of the roles business plays in the community. Heinrich has been the Sheriff of Hillsborough County since 1978.



In Broward County: Accreditation marks beginning of new era

FORT LAUDERDALE — "Accreditation is not the ending, but rather the beginning of a new era of improvement and development," said Sheriff Nick Navarro after the Broward County Sheriff's Office received the hallmark of professionalism from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA).



Sheriff Nick Navarro

"Having received accreditation," he added, "we are now in a position to move forward with several new programs. One of these is Problem Oriented Policing (POP), a concept that emphasizes analysis of groups of incidents and works toward solutions that draw upon a wide variety of public and private resources."

"The results of this new program will be integrated into the yearly report which we are required to submit to CALEA in order to maintain accreditation. We will submit these reports for four years, and then in the fifth year we will be visited by another assessment team which will verify our compliance."



Training completed by Citrus County Explorers

INVERNESS — The first command Citrus County Explorers received from Sheriff Charles S. Dean (left) after completing their basic training was: "Stand up and face the camera." The Sheriff is obviously proud of his Explorer Post, an organization that gives young people an opportunity to get an insider's view of law enforcement job opportunities.



A famous general and a generally famous Sheriff

SEBRING — Dignitaries attending a Lincoln Day Dinner here included Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard (left) and retired Major General James Dozier, who was the featured speaker. General Dozier became the subject of headlines around the world when he was held hostage in Italy prior to his retirement.

The target: career criminals

ORLANDO — The Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association are jointly sponsoring a law enforcement symposium to organize a crack down on career criminals. It will be held here August 3-5, 1988. For full information including registration details, contact Patrick Callahan at the Gainesville Police Department.

The Symposium will feature nationally prominent speakers who have experienced success in dealing with professional full-time crooks. It will also offer small group workshops where law enforcement practitioners can evaluate crime control alternatives in detail.



Citizen's rescue efforts receive recognition

INVERNESS — After Jack Auerback (center) assisted in rescuing a traffic accident victim trapped in a car, Citrus County Sheriff Charles S. Dean (right) and Deputy Sheriff Charles Hall awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to him.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL



The Florida Sheriffs Association Honor Roll includes individuals who have demonstrated their interest in progressive law enforcement by giving loyal and substantial support to the Association, or by attaining outstanding career achievements.

Those who have supported the Sheriffs Association as Honorary Members for 25 years or more receive Distinguished Service Awards. Law enforcement practioners whose law enforcement careers total 40 years or more receive Lifetime Honorary Memberships.



Lifetime Honorary Membership

BRADENTON — Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charles B. Wells (right) to Cecil R. Williams.

Distinguished Service Awards



ST. AUGUSTINE — Presented by St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry to Mrs. Jerome Eichelsderfer.



SEBRING — Presented by Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard (right) to Edgar Johnson.



INVERNESS — Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Charles S. Dean to Julie Green, who was representing her mother, Ms. Mary Cummins.



OCALA — Presented by Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland (right) to Francis D.J. Smith.



Durden



Steelman

PANAMA CITY — Presented by Bay County Sheriff William A. Lewis (left) to Dewey T. Durden and Carl T. Steelman.



Sheriff Rogers (left) and Chief Deputy E.G. "Chuck" Whidden have many shared memories spanning 31 years of duty in the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Rogers in review:

Retiring Sheriff began 41-year career with 74 cents an hour and a broken gun

On his first day at work as a Fort Myers police officer, Aubrey Rogers was drawing down 74 cents an hour for a 60-hour week, with no fringe benefits, no overtime pay, and no prospects of a vacation.

He was carrying a 32 calibre revolver he had bought from a buddy, and he didn't discover until later that it wouldn't shoot because the firing pin was broken.

His uniform . . . well, it was on order, but meanwhile he was told to go ahead and wear pants and a shirt from his World War II Army Uniform.

He was untrained, except for the few times he had pulled a little duty as a sort of reserve policeman, but that was no problem. The Chief merely told him to ride with some of the experienced officers and get the hang of it. Fortunately, one of these old timers took him out and taught him to shoot straight after he had discarded the broken 32 and acquired a Smith and Wesson 38.

The year was 1948. Crime fighting was a casual vocation, with few pretensions of professionalism; and the husky, young Army veteran was about to get hooked on it.

Today, while winding up a 41-year career, this one-time rookie policeman is the Sheriff of Collier County with a well-paid staff of some 600 professionals thoroughly capable of using the latest high-tech trappings of law enforcement. These people are likely to talk about laser technology or computer assisted dispatching during coffee breaks; and, while the Sheriff speaks their language, it is a safe bet he would rather seek out some old timer like Chief Deputy E.G. "Chuck" Whidden to escape from the complexities of his job for a few minutes and discuss less technical subjects like hunting and fishing.

Whidden and Rogers share an affinity for hunting and fishing that goes back to the 1950s when both were Collier County deputies and it was customary to



Kneeling in this 1949 photo of the Fort Myers police force are two future Collier County Sheriffs. Aubrey Rogers is on the extreme left, and Doug Hendry on the extreme right.

carry a rifle, a fishing rod and hunting clothes in the trunk of a patrol car.

Whidden explained recently that deputies were never certain of getting their scheduled days off due to various unexpected emergencies, and to compensate for this uncertainty, they would occasionally take a short hunting or fishing break on a slow day when there were no pressing duties. Similar actions could get a deputy fired in 1988, but then these 1988 deputies are accustomed to getting days off and vacations.

Whidden became a road patrol deputy under Collier County Sheriff Doug Hendry early in 1957, and Rogers also came aboard at the same time as Hendry's Chief Deputy.

Although Rogers had advanced from rookie patrolman to Lieutenant in charge of the detective division at the Fort Myers PD in nine years and loved the investigative work he was doing, his decision to go to Collier County was influenced to some extent by his long friendship with Hendry, a former schoolmate

and police department co-worker.

Hendry had left the Fort Myers Police Department around 1951 to become a Collier County deputy sheriff, then ran for Sheriff twice. After he was successful in his second try, one of his first moves after being sworn in was to hire Rogers as his top deputy.

Those were the days Rogers and Whidden now look back upon with wistful nostalgia. The Sheriff, three civilian employees and five deputies were responsible for keeping the peace in an area of over 2,000 square miles, but this was a manageable task since Collier County was still on the threshold of becoming a tourist mecca and had a population of only 14,000. Rogers recalls that catching fugitives was relatively easy since there were only two principal highways, and three deputies setting up three blockades could seal off the county.

The county seat was at Everglades, a remote village that was still emerging from its pioneer past, and the county jail was a model of sweet simplicity. Rogers

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Aubrey Rogers (left, foreground) sometimes looks at this picture of a 1957 moonshine bust and wishes he was back there blowing up stills instead of handling the administrative chores that keep him strapped to his desk in 1988. Sheriff Doug Hendry (pictured beside

Rogers) netted reams of publicity out of this mammoth still because raiding it resulted in the arrest of Frank Brock, who was described as the "most wanted" moonshiner in the business.

Rogers in review continued ...

recalls that there were no correctional officers on duty, and inmates elevated to the status of trustees served as cooks and turnkeys. The trustees were under supervision of a sort since Rogers, as Chief Deputy, had the privilege of living in the jail.

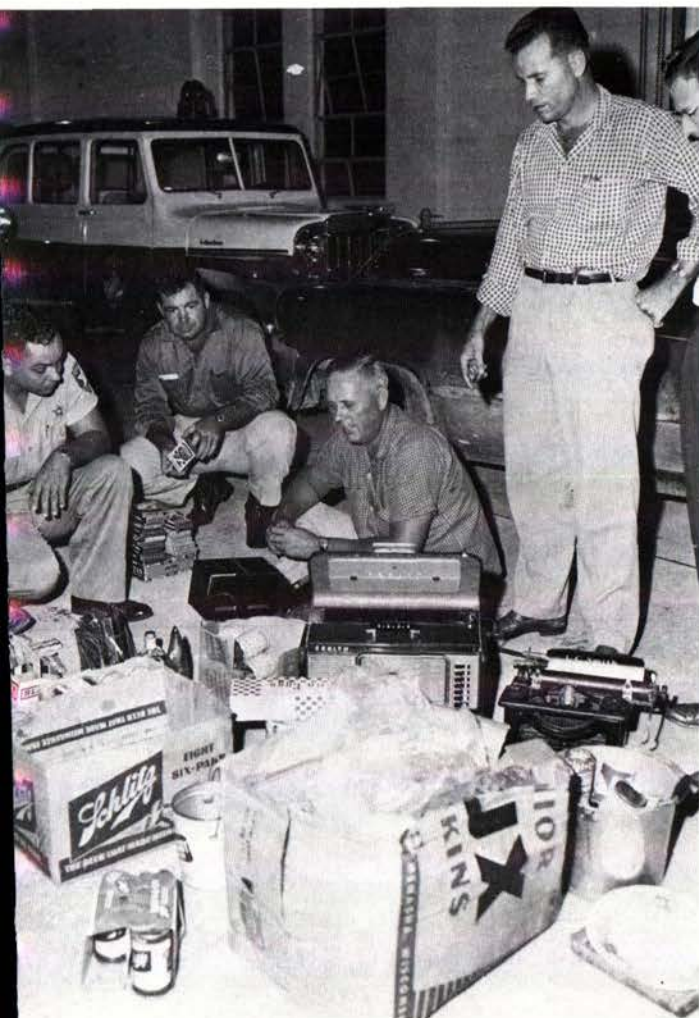
The jail had a rated capacity of 66 beds and an average inmate population of about 120, but because there were no court orders or regulations like the ones that are driving present day jail administrators to distraction, overcrowding was not a serious problem. Excess inmates simply had to dream their dreams of freedom on mattresses on the floor.

In contrast, the present new jail with its rated capacity of 382 inmates and its staff of almost 200 correctional officers is already up to the limits set by court

orders and state regulations; and unfortunately, federal judges and state inspectors have an intolerant attitude toward mattresses on the floor.

Jail statistics provide only one yardstick for measuring the tremendous growth that has taken place in Collier County during the 13 years of Rogers' tenure as Sheriff. There are many others. Between 1975 and 1988 the staff has grown from 159 to 597; the budget has ballooned from \$162,798 to \$21,588,600; and the county population has increased from 14,000 to 130,000.

While coping with the population surge and the law enforcement problems accompanying it, Rogers has also presided over a technical transformation of impressive dimensions.



Aubrey Rogers (kneeling, second from left) was the Chief Deputy in the Collier County Sheriff's Office when this 1950s photo was taken. "Chuck" Whidden (kneeling, extreme left) was a patrol deputy then and is now Rogers' Chief Deputy. Standing in the checked shirt is their boss, Sheriff Doug Hendry.

Computerization of the Sheriff's Office began years ago and is still evolving. Current upgrading from an NCR 8555 system to an NCR 9822 System will triple the Sheriff's data processing power and give his subordinates the ability to link up with central communications and records.

Data processing improvements are also resulting in faster and better service. For example, new software has accelerated the handling of civil process documents; while computer assisted dispatching of patrol cars has resulted in speedier response to emergency calls.

Further evidence of Rogers' progressiveness can be seen in the comprehensive health and fitness program he provides for his employees; in the laser technology used in analyzing fingerprints, body fluids and other types of criminal evidence; in the robot used to enhance anti-drug abuse and crime prevention programs; in a breath alcohol testing van (Batmobile) that has been given much of the credit for a 99 percent conviction rate in drunken driving cases; in a surveil-



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers recently admitted that his youth programs have given him the greatest satisfaction in a career loaded with many accomplishments. This photo was shot when he took hundreds of Junior Deputies to the County Fair for fun and free rides.

lance van equipped with high tech electronic equipment; and in a stealth communications system that prevents outsiders from monitoring the Sheriff's Office radio messages during special operations such as raids and undercover maneuvers.

Rogers has many accomplishments for which he deserves applause, but the ones that please him the most are his highly praised youth programs designed to curb crime and develop positive relationships between youngsters and law enforcement officers.

Youth activities sponsored by the Sheriff include a Junior Deputy League that provides a badge, an identification card and a code of conduct for all fourth and fifth graders in the Collier County schools; a Youth Relations Deputy Program that places a uniformed deputy in every high school and middle school to cultivate good rapport with teen agers, make classroom presentations, and offer counseling; and an Explorer Unit to encourage young people who are interested in future law enforcement careers.

Rogers' involvement in youth activities dates back to 1958 when he helped Sheriff Doug Hendry organize the Junior Deputies. At that time he went on camping trips with Junior Deputies; now he has on his staff many deputies who are former Junior Deputies. At one time he counted 30. Currently there may be more than that.

Considering all that Rogers has done to upgrade the Collier County Sheriff's Office and his track record as a popular politician who has never been forced into a runoff, it seems a shame that he has decided to retire at the end of 1988.

However, although the Sheriff has had a 40-year love affair with law enforcement and has never con-

(continued on next page)

Rogers in review continued ...

templated changing careers, he is not blissfully happy with the present trends in law enforcement.

He would be the last person to suggest going back to "the good old days," but he also has difficulty generating any enthusiasm for the status quo with its proliferation of bureaucratic, legislated and court-ordered mandates that are tying Sheriffs' hands, eroding their authority and causing budgets to skyrocket.

Rogers recently admitted to a friend that although he has really enjoyed his long law enforcement career, it will be a relief to get away from the present frustrations and complexities of his job.

That being the case, he deserves an opportunity to catch up on his hunting and fishing; to spend more time with his wife, Peggy, children and grandchildren; and to enjoy his vacation home in North Carolina.



In February, 1988, during the Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association, Sheriff Rogers (right) was awarded a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Sheriffs Association. It was presented by Association President Jack Taylor in recognition of Rogers' 40-year law enforcement career.

Sheriff and Elks co-sponsor anti-drugs campaign

PUNTA GORDA — Charlotte County Sheriff Glen E. Sapp recently teamed up with Charlotte County Elks Lodge #2153 to stage a "Say No to Drugs" campaign featuring bumper stickers and a public information drive to warn Charlotte County residents about the dangers of drug abuse. These photos show the Sheriff explaining how deadly "crack cocaine" can be; and joining a group of Elks Club members to display the campaign bumper sticker. The Club members are, from left, Dave Koch, Lorraine Ver Planek, Ed McFadden, Rose Olsen and Ed Olsen.



OPERATION FRUIT RANGER

An insight into South Florida rural law enforcement

By: Donald Thompson, Staff Writer
Metro-Dade Police Department

MIAMI — Arithmetic sometimes dictates police activity. Case in point: Operation Fruit Ranger. The time: late summer, 1987. The place: the Metro-Dade Police Department's South District Station.

Sergeant Mickey Brelsford, supervisor of the Agricultural Patrol, a special detail designed to deal with rural crime, is struck by two salient facts in newly-published statistics: One, arrest for fruit-theft-in-progress had doubled during July and August; two, all the subjects were urban residents living within a few blocks of each other. To Brelsford, these figures suggested the beginnings of a farm theft conspiracy.

Dade County, Florida, thanks to its national media image, is perceived as one sprawling city; but great expanses of the County, especially those south of Miami, are still basically rural. Their economy is agricultural. A fruit theft conspiracy, such as that suspected by Brelsford, could represent a serious financial loss.

For two lead investigators, Officers Jorge Carnero and Thomas Kelly, the question to be resolved was: since all this produce is being stolen, where is it going?

Carnero and Kelly began re-interviewing the arrested subjects and developed a confidential informant. He supplied them with important information on the other thieves and the dealers who were buying the stolen fruit. To verify the data, Carnero and Kelly arrested one of the fruit stand dealers, and the charge stuck.

The two officers then formulated Operation Fruit Ranger, a plan for systematically shutting down the stolen fruit pipeline. It was a reverse sting, and its targets were the fruit stand dealers who knowingly bought stolen property. Before launch, one more officer was added to the staff: Margarita Rogers.

One by one, fruit stands that had been named by the informant received visits from the trio. It was customary for two of the agents to visit a fruit stand to act as witnesses while the third, appearing a few minutes later, played the role of a thief selling stolen goods. In order for a dealing-in-stolen-property arrest to be made, it was necessary to establish that the dealer had reasonable cause to believe the merchandise he was buying was stolen.

Brelsford laughs to recall some of the extremes his agents went to. In one instance an agent complained of exhaustion. He said, as he winked broadly at the



Metro-Dade Police Officers assigned to the Agricultural Patrol covered large areas of rural Dade County in their efforts to put fruit thieves and crooked fruit stand dealers out of business.



dealer, "That's what happens when you spend all night 'harvesting'." The dealer winked back and bought more than a couple of baskets of supposedly stolen fruit. In another, an agent wrapped his arms in bandages, all the while cussing the barbed wire fence he pretended he had climbed in the dark.

All told, twelve arrests were made. Nine of the arrests have already resulted in convictions; two are still pending; one is on appeal.

By late fall, both the thieves and their dealers had effectively been put out of business and Operation Fruit Ranger was brought to a close.

Sergeant Brelsford said the fines and costs incurred by the thieves and dealers just about covered the expenses of the operation. Most important, he says, is the impression that things seem to be back to normal among the fruit growers of South Florida.



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. William Barbarowicz	Jupiter Island Garden Club, Inc.
Barberville Cypress	M. A. Bruder & Sons, Inc.
Baywood Shores	Mrs. Martha G.
Women's Club	McMullen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth G.
Benjamin, Jr.	Miller
Mr. Lawrence J. Bernard	Mr. Charles E. Muller, II
Dr. & Mrs. Fred M.	Mrs. Nancy A. Paris
Bolding	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph C.
Mr. & Mrs. Luther T.	Rylott
Bollman, Jr.	Mr. Roman N.
Mr. Ralph Braun	Sajkiewicz
Mr. H. M. Cavanaugh	Mr. & Mrs. Willard A.
Ms. Carole Davis	Schroeder
Crocker	Mr. & Mrs. Charles
First Federal Savings	Seligman
and Loan	Southern Art Supply
Fish Memorial Hospital	Summersport
& Auxiliary	Enterprises, Ltd.
Mr. Lee Gentil	Mrs. Gerry Tausch
Ms. Betty Goss	Colonel Roland D.
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis O.	Tausch
Greene	Tomoka Correctional
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas	Institute
Grymes	Yamaha Motor
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent S.	Corporation USA
Gullo	
Mrs. Joanne Hyman	
I.B.M. Corporation	

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.



OCALA — Presented by Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland to VFW Auxiliary No. 2009, represented by President Leonora Ellson (right) and Mrs. Bob Grant.

Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued ...



NAPLES — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust to Mrs. Frank G. Akers.



SEBRING — Presented by Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard to American Legion Post No. 25, represented by Mrs. Mary Marlow.



MELBOURNE — Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schleyer



MT. DORA — Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pheil.

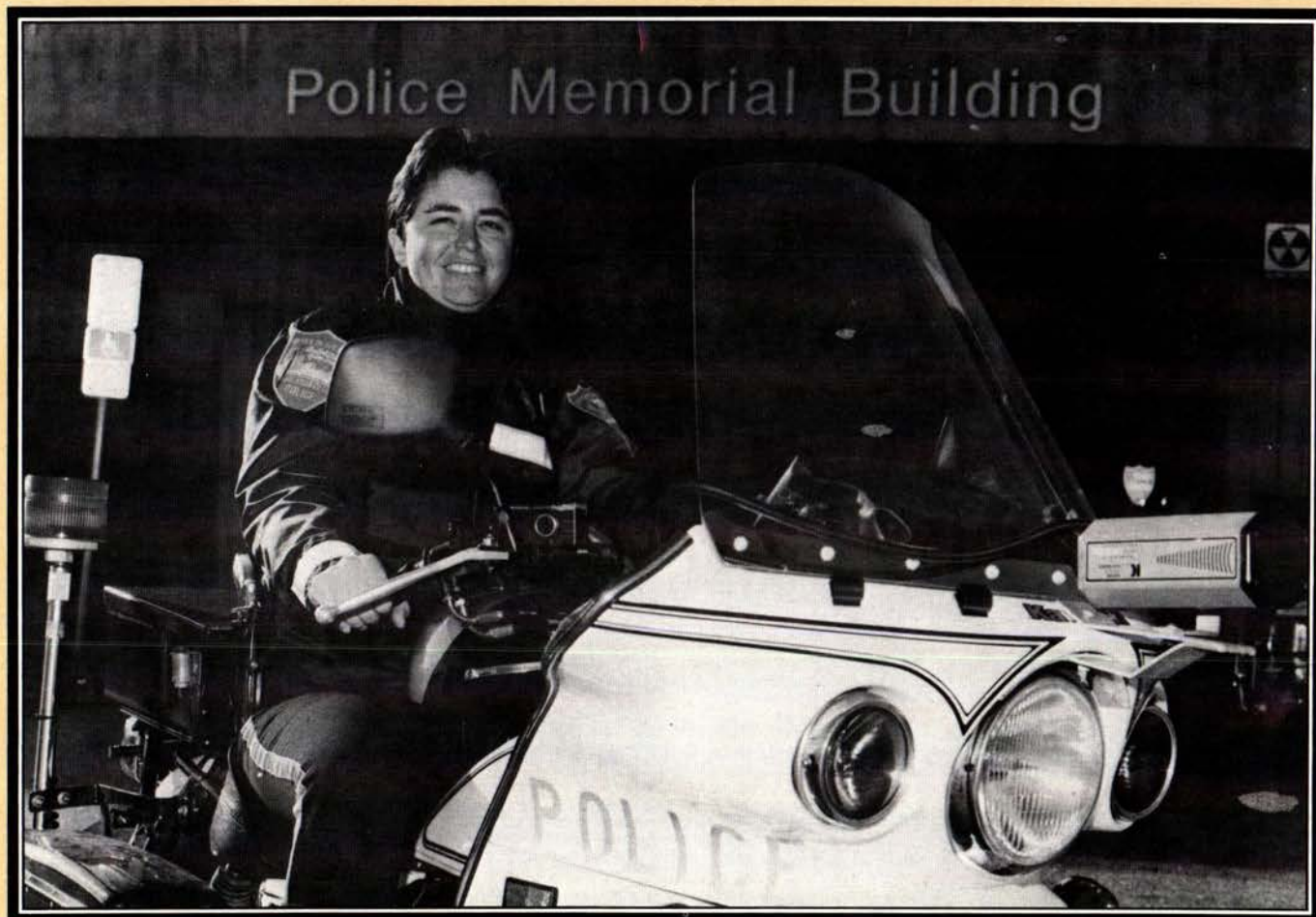


KAYES

VERO BEACH — Presented by Indian River County Sheriff Tim Dobeck to Mrs. Joella Kayes, representing The Paperback Place; and Maria Frankie, representing Key Club of Vero Beach High School.



FRANKIE



First woman joins the "motor men"

JACKSONVILLE — Tradition was fractured when Officer Karen Renckley became the first woman assigned to the motorcycle traffic unit at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. This unit has been called "the motor men" in the past. It may have to find a new title.

According to an article in the *Jacksonville Journal*, some officers doubted that Ms. Renckley could pass the tough, eight-day course required for all motorcycle traffic officers, but the 28-year-old mastered the skills necessary to maneuver a heavy motorcycle through tight curves and tight quarters, and she passed.

"Karen's a good rider," said Officer Tom Voutour, an instructor. "She was in the upper half of her class."

Lt. George Bennett, commanding officer of the traffic unit, pointed out that "it takes a tremendous amount of skill to be able to ride the motorcycle and operate the radio, siren and other equipment. You have to pay attention to things that are occurring around you and ride the motorcycle at the same time."

According to Bennett, Ms. Renckley is not only the first female motorcycle officer, but also the first

"Anybody can do anything they put their mind to," said Karen Renckley regarding her decision to take the tough course motorcycle traffic officers are required to pass.

woman assigned to a vehicle with radar — a piece of equipment that required her to take additional training.

She described the training for motorcycle traffic officers as "the hardest thing I've ever done in my entire life. It's mental and physical because you always have to think. It's real strenuous."

After her first two days on the job, Ms. Renckley had two complaints: She wasn't enthused about the bulky boots motorcycle officers have to wear; and she didn't like the way her helmet flattened her hair.