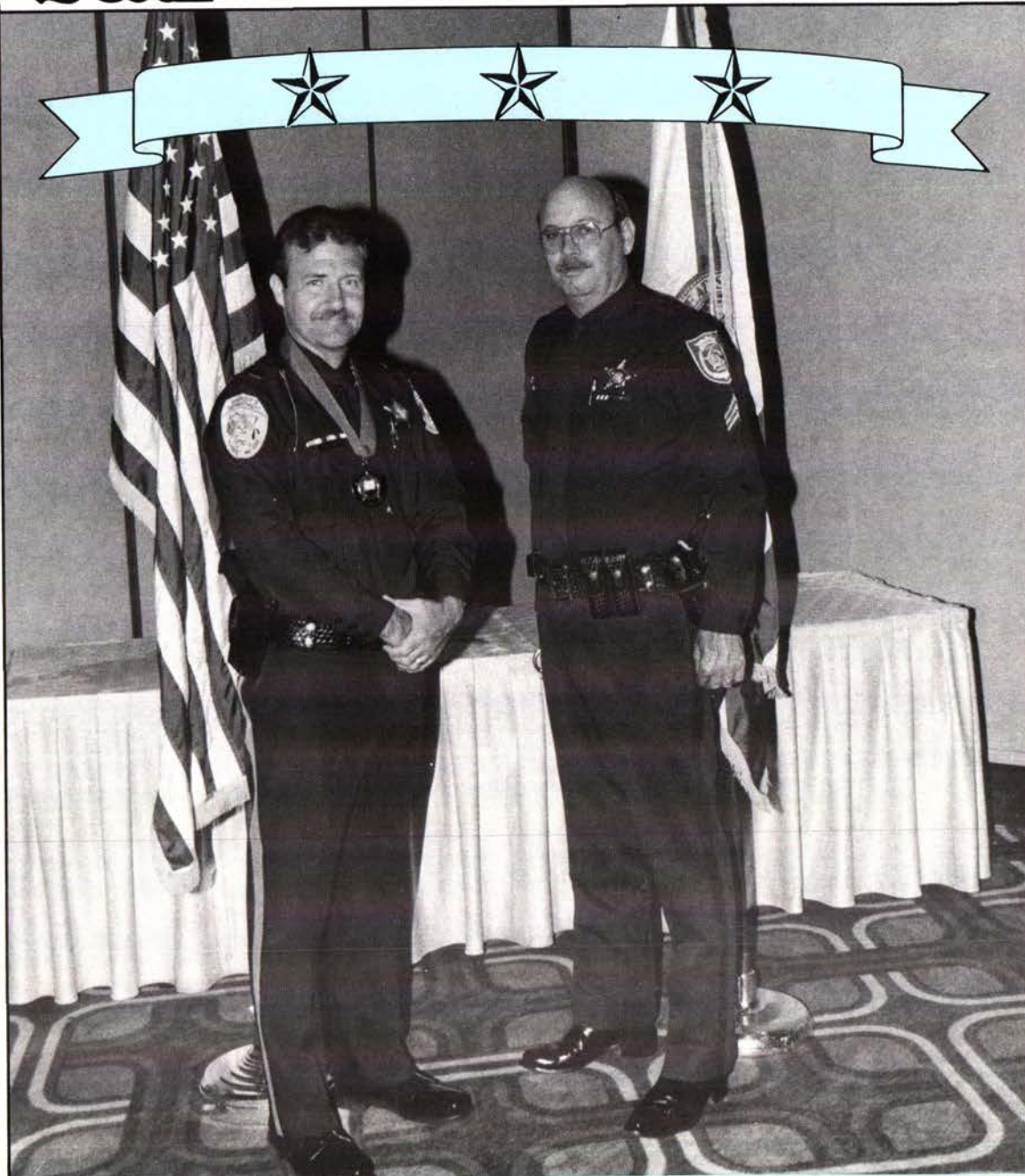


# the Sheriff's Star

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

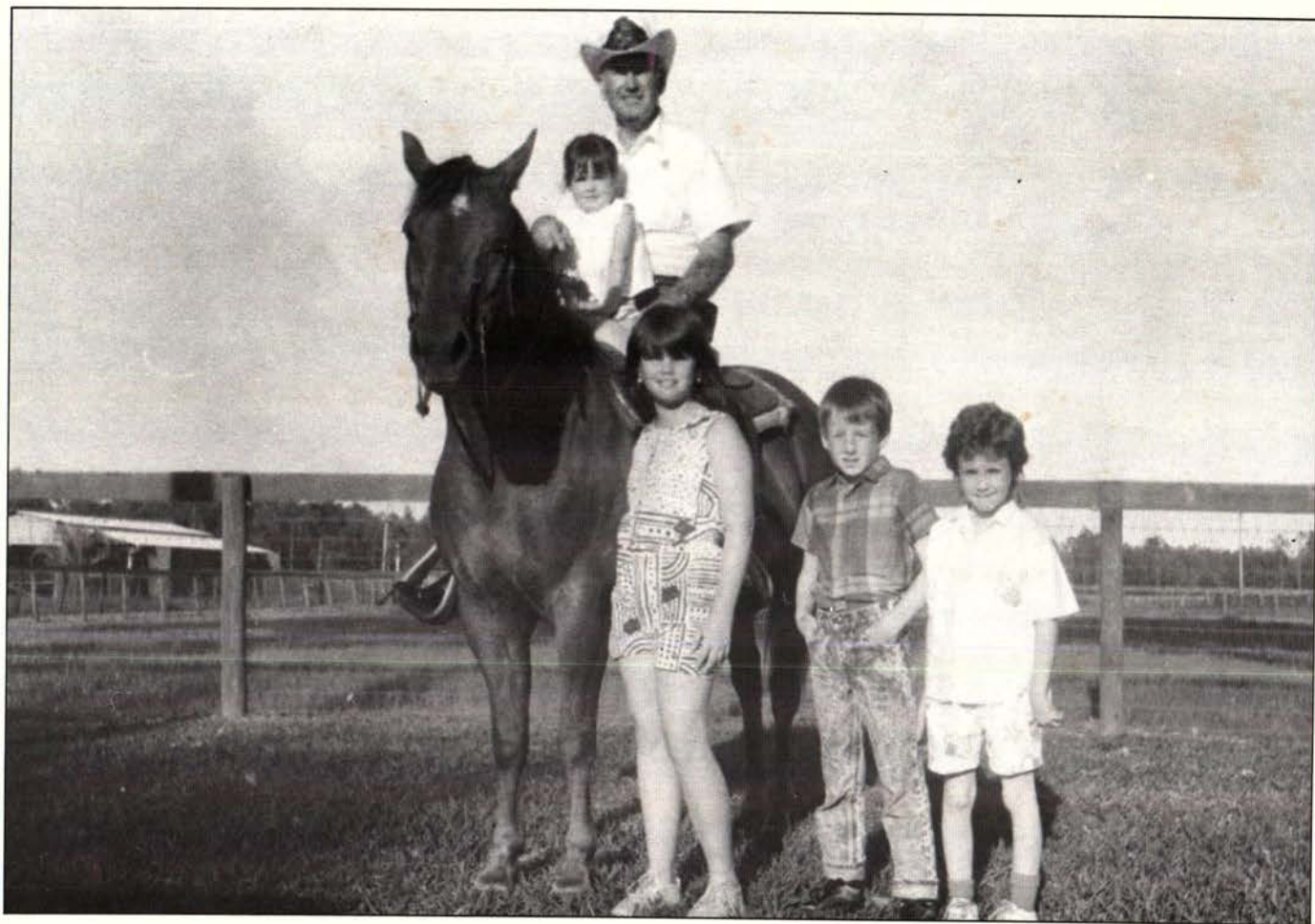
*July-August 1988*



**SHERIFFS HONOR DEPUTIES CHOSEN AS  
NATION'S FINEST**

(see page 2)





*Sheriff Murrhee with four of his five grandchildren. They are (from left) Nicky, 3; Dana, 10; Scott, 8; and Christin, 6. The Murrhees have two children, Delores and Michael. The quarter horse (an important member of the Murrhee menage) is "Native Jay."*

## *A visit to:* The private world of Jennings Murrhee

By E. R. Rowe

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Sheriff Jennings Murrhee has devoted 24 years of his adult life to the people of Clay County. For the average person, one major commitment of this magnitude is sufficient for a lifetime, but the Sheriff also has a private life that is sharply focused on his dedication to family and horsemanship.

To maintain a proper balance between these diverse obligations would baffle the average person, but Jennings Murrhee is a unique individual who moves from his public duties as Sheriff to his private duties as husband, father and grandfather with singular ease.

Calling this trait to Murrhee's attention gives him an excuse to speak with enthusiasm about his private

life . . . especially his lifetime interest in quarter horses, his affinity for outdoor activities, his childhood experiences and the special relationship he has with his grandchildren.

"I like to hunt and fish," he explained. "I was brought up as a woodsman and I learned to do this at an early age with my father and some of my uncles. In the outdoors I feel at ease, at home, at peace with my God. When I get out in the country and see the trees and listen to the birds and bees, then I know there has to be a creator somewhere."

Murrhee's father, Otto, taught him to ride when he was a small child. He owned a horse before he was six and has been an avid horseman ever since. He has continued this tradition with his children and grandchildren and seems to be getting the desired results.

To watch him introduce a grandson to the world of horses is an intriguing experience. The child's fear and trembling quickly fade as the Sheriff talks to him calmly and holds him securely. The grandson is urged to touch the saddle . . . talk to the horse . . . and within a matter of minutes the child is saying he wants to ride. Later he wants to take the reins and lead the horse. So



much for step one in the making of a future horseman.

Murrhee describes raising quarter horses as a family oriented sport. "We find parents all over the United States getting involved with horses with their children," he said. "They go to 4-H Club events much the same way my father did with me and the way I am doing with my children and grandchildren.

"Children that are involved with 4-H Clubs and horses are seldom in trouble. They are taught to groom the horses, take care of them, and to show them as thoroughbred racing horses."

Murrhee speaks from experience and backs up his belief in the benefits of 4-H Club activities by giving support to the 4-H Foundation.

He and his wife, Georgia, work as a team to pursue their hobby of breeding and raising quarter horses — a truly demanding and absorbing diversion. They are currently taking care of approximately 30 horses on their 1,200-acre ranch located about 18 miles from the Sheriff's Office.

Many of the horses are being bred to sell. Some will be selected for racing and placed under the discipline of a trainer. Others will remain at the ranch simply because the Murrhees have become attached to them and are reluctant to part with them.

To folks who have seen only the public side of Jennings Murrhee — especially the stern, tough facade that his job often demands — it may come as a surprise to find that he can form a sentimental attachment for one of his horses, or that he can be gentle, patient and affectionate with his grandchildren.

Perhaps this glimpse into his private life will make them aware that the Sheriff is an exceptional individual whose achievements as a horseman, husband, father and grandfather are as noteworthy as his achievements in the realm of law enforcement.

*E.R. Rowe is the pseudonym of Edry Rowe Surrency, a free-lance writer from Orange Park, Florida.*

## *In drug war resolutions:* Sheriffs said "yes" to military backup; "no" to legalizing illegal drugs

SADDLEBROOK, Wesley Chapel — In resolutions passed during its 75th Annual Conference, June 12-14, the Florida Sheriffs Association urged the U.S. armed services to enter the war against illegal drugs and voiced strong opposition against legalizing drugs that are presently designated as controlled substances under the law.

The resolution calling for military "backup" pointed out that the expense of keeping pace with the high tech strategies employed by illegal drug importers is creating an increasing burden on local law enforcement agencies, and the armed services have the technology available to overcome this disadvantage.

During the conference Sheriffs had an opportunity to get their points across in person to U.S. Representatives Michael Bilirakis, Buddy MacKay and Connie Mack, who were among the special guests.



*U.S. Representatives attending the 75th Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association included Connie Mack, who is pictured here with Sheriffs Jim Gillum (left) and Aubrey Rogers (right). Mack represents Florida's 13th District, which is composed of Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota Counties, plus part of Collier County.*

# the Sheriff's Star

**Volume 32, No. 4, July-August 1988**

*Publisher, J. M. "Buddy" Phillips, Executive Director, Florida Sheriffs Association*

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

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*When St. Lucie County Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles (right) nominated Lt. Michael Graves for the "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" award he described him as a model employee and an outstanding leader.*



*Sgt. James V. Wilkerson, from the Orange County Sheriff's Office, was accompanied by his wife, Emily, when he attended the 75th Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association.*

## Sheriffs honor deputies chosen as nation's finest

SADDLEBROOK RESORT, Wesley Chapel — Two Florida deputy sheriffs chosen as the nation's finest in 1987 and 1988 were honored with standing ovations and sustained applause on June 13 during the 75th Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Lt. Michael Graves, from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, and Sgt. James V. Wilkerson, from the Orange County Sheriff's Office, were guests of honor at a banquet session midway in the three-day conference.

Lt. Graves was named "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" by the National Sheriffs Association and the National Newspaper Association in 1987, and received the award in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sgt. Wilkerson received the same award for 1988 when he attended the annual conference of the

National Sheriffs Association in Louisville, Kentucky.

Lt. Graves, who directs Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles' Crime Prevention Bureau and School Resource Officer Program, was honored for implementing numerous projects aimed at preventing crime and fighting drug abuse. He is also a member of Sheriff Knowles' Special Operations Team, a highly trained emergency tactical unit.

Under his leadership, the Crime Prevention Bureau was chosen as number one in the state by Florida's Attorney General in 1987, and the School Resource Officer Program was awarded similar status by the Florida Association of School Resource Officers.

In 1985, Palm Beach newspapers gave him their "Distinguished Law Enforcement Officer of the





### ***First from Florida***

*TAVARES — Lake County Deputy Sheriff Roy D. (Buck) Wrightam received the "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" award from the National Sheriffs Association and the National Newspaper Association in 1985, and was the first Florida deputy thus honored. At that time, although he was 67 years old, he was averaging 68 hours a week as a Community Service Officer, and was credited with numerous successful crime prevention and safety programs.*



Year" award.

Sgt. Wilkerson was described by his boss, Orange County Sheriff Lawson Lamar, as "a model of dedication, courage and integrity."

This was never more apparent, said Lamar, than during the evening of Tuesday, September 29, 1987, when Sgt. Wilkerson and Deputy Gary Jones confronted an armed man who had allegedly been threatening people in a densely populated area of Orange County.

As the deputies approached, the suspect dove into his car, apparently trying to grab a submachine gun on the seat; but Wilkerson pulled him out of the car and discovered that he was clutching a hand grenade. Yelling a warning to his partner, Wilkerson clasped his hand over the suspect's.

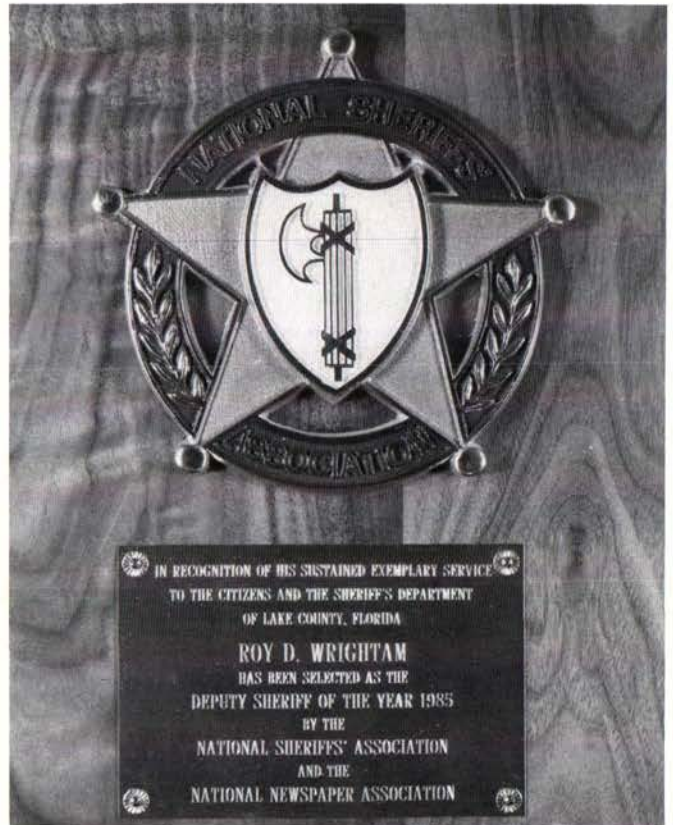
"What followed was quick, bloody and tragic," said Sheriff Lamar. "Sgt. Wilkerson had no way of knowing that the pin had already been pulled. The detonation tore through both men. Sgt. Wilkerson fell, his right hand gone and one leg terribly broken. The suspect was critically hurt, and Deputy Jones suffered numerous but non-debilitating shrapnel wounds.

"No one else on that teeming street was injured, and this was solely because Sgt. Wilkerson had done what he has always done. He put himself on the line. He placed himself between the innocent and those who would harm them."

Florida Citizens Against Crime responded to Sheriff Lamar's comments by choosing Sgt. Wilkerson as Florida's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for 1987, and the award was presented to him

on May 24, 1988, during a meeting of the Governor and Cabinet.

Less than a month later the National Sheriffs Association honored him as the nation's "Deputy Sheriff of the Year."



*Recipients of the National Deputy Sheriff of the Year award receive a plaque and a medal.*



# 75th Annual Conference was a convocation of communicators

SADDLEBROOK RESORT, Wesley Chapel — A large covey of communicators descended upon this Tampa Bay area resort June 12-14 to parley, palaver, exchange ideas, confer and consult with Sheriffs during the 75th Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Some were content to hold casual dialogues. Others, including Governor Bob Martinez, made their points from a podium.

The Governor arrived in a Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office helicopter and described the 1988 meeting of the Florida Legislature as "a good session." He mentioned several accomplishments of interest to law enforcement practitioners, including legislation designed to crack down on habitual offenders and funding that will give Florida 4,056 additional prison beds.

The Governor also praised the Sheriffs Association for sponsoring the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., a child care agency that provides statewide services to neglected, unsupervised and troubled youngsters. He said the Sheriffs Association is setting an example of public service for other organizations to emulate.

There were many serious discussions during the three-day meeting, but hilarity was no rarity — especially during a banquet featuring humorist William J. "Red" Mitchum, Vice President and assistant to the president of Enterprise Building Corporation, an Ocala firm.

The redhead entertained Sheriffs and guests with his inimitable style of humor, but ended on a

*Susan Keegan, representing the National Sheriffs Association, describes programs offered on the national level to enhance the professional stature of Sheriffs.*



*With William J. "Red" Mitchum at the podium, hilarity was no rarity.*

serious note by describing laughter as "God's hand on a troubled world.

"It brings light into life," he added.



*When Sheriffs Association President Jack Taylor makes a point, Sheriffs listen. In this instance his audience included (from left) Sheriffs David Harvey, Don Moreland, Fred Peel, and Larry Gilbert.*



*Governor Bob Martinez thanks Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office pilot Mike Harrell for a safe flight after arriving at the Sheriffs Association Conference.*





Bud Roode (left), representing Planned Facilities Corp., explains the advantages of "PortaPlex" to Brevard County Sheriff C. W. "Jake" Miller. Roode said PortaPlex is the only portable detention dormitory designed to help Sheriffs relieve overcrowding in jails.



Bomb CAD, a computer program that can determine the vulnerability of jails and other law enforcement structures subjected to terrorist bomb attacks caught the interest of Sheriffs Jim McMillan (left) and Frank Wanicka. They were briefed by (from left) Dr. Ron Massa, Lorrin Corporation; Jeff Meska, Prime Design, Inc.; Doyle Swisher (seated) and Wally Howard, from Everett I. Brown Co.

## Forty-seven sponsors helped to make the 75th Annual Conference an outstanding success

SADDLEBROOK RESORT, Wesley Chapel — As usual, sponsors contributed substantially to the success of the Florida Sheriffs Association's 75th Annual Conference when it was held here June 12-14.

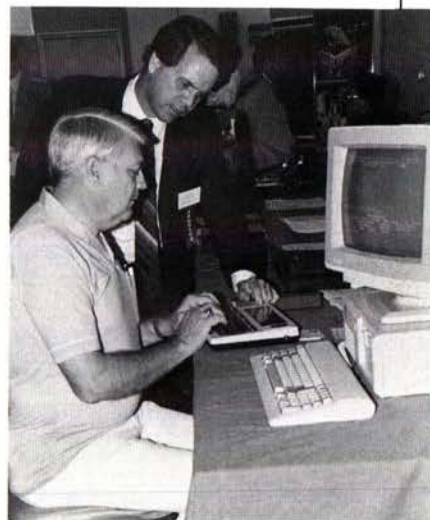
They included 35 business firms selling a wide variety of law enforcement products and services ranging from computers to mobile jails, uniforms to high tech communications systems, and insurance to legal services.

These law enforcement-oriented sponsors not only assisted with the expenses of the three-day meeting, but also enhanced the professional status of the program by displaying many current improvements in law enforcement technology.

Also involved were 12 local sponsors who assisted Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum in performing his duties as conference host. Their most visible accomplishment was an outdoor barbecue that Gillum hosted as the opening event on the program.

The Sheriffs Association expressed its appreciation by holding a luncheon honoring the sponsors.

Woody Spenser, Jr., representing Raymond Thibault & Associates, demonstrated computer programs that permit deputies to prepare reports in the field on laptop computers. Polk County Sheriff Lawrence W. Crow, Jr., (seated) stopped by for a chat, but didn't need a full-scale demonstration. He said his Crimes Against Property detectives are already using the technique, and he is in the process of providing laptop computers for his patrol deputies.



Local sponsors helped Host Sheriff Jim Gillum to put on an outdoor barbecue that was the opening event of the conference.



# After 32 years "on active duty" Joe Sheppard is calling it quits

SEBRING — There are many styles of smiles — broad, tentative, sinister, crooked, rueful, sickly, happy and so on . . .

Most of the time Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard wears a run-of-the-mill version — a smile without guile that simply indicates he's in a pleasant mood.

Occasionally, however, he switches to a sort of roguish smile (for the benefit of his hunting and fishing buddies: by roguish we mean playful, prankish, mysterious, mischievous, even devilish); and when that happens, his friends and associates start wondering what he's up to.

A few months ago Joe was wearing his roguish smile more often than usual, and his chums in the Florida Sheriffs Association were wondering what was going on behind it. They found out in May when Joe announced his plans to retire at the end of 1988.

This wasn't exactly a shocker or a bombshell, but it did cause some of his long time associates to pause and meditate. They knew that Joe had spent more than half of his life "on active duty" in one fashion or another, and it required some mental gymnastics to imagine him going "off duty."

While others were exercising their imaginations, the Editor of *The Sheriff's Star* began researching the life and times of this 54-year-old public servant with a singular affinity for uniforms and badges. Digging and delving revealed that Joe had gone on "active duty" at the age of 18 when he began a four-year hitch in the U.S. Navy, and had continued his "on duty" status through five years as a Florida Wildlife Officer, 11 years as a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper, and almost 12 years as Sheriff of Highlands County.

"A career of this calibre," said the Editor, "deserves a 'hail and farewell' salute." Then he promptly began preparing one by getting permission to browse through Joe's personal scrapbook of photos and clippings.

This browsing stamped Joe as a man of action — not exactly a clone of Sylvester Stallone, John Wayne or Clint Eastwood, but still a macho type in the same tradition. It also turned up some interesting contrasts



*Sheriff Joe Sheppard (right) lost his presidential prestige when Franklin County Sheriff Jack Taylor was installed as the 1988 president of the Florida Sheriffs Association. However, Taylor presented a past-president's plaque to Sheppard as a reminder of the power Sheppard had possessed during 1987.*

such as Joe's performances in operas produced at Florida State University, as well as his success in nationally-rated swamp buggy races.

Clearly, this was not an easy bird to pigeonhole. He sometimes seemed to play the role of a "good ole boy," but didn't really fit the mold. However, he recently revealed some country boy characteristics when he disclosed that his hitch as a Wildlife Officer was the most enjoyable part of his law enforcement career.

Joe loves the outdoors and hunting and fishing — perhaps due in part to the thread of Miccosukee Indian ancestry that runs through his genealogy. Consequently, covering a "beat" in the woods and swamps and fields of southwest Florida was right up his alley.

Scrapbook clippings show that life was seldom dull for Joe the wildlife officer. His actions were grist for the news mill while he was banding wood ducks with federal agents; arresting gator hunters when gators were an endangered and protected species; tracking down state prison escapees; arresting hunters who were illegally bagging deer at night; and even baby sitting an abandoned one-week-old fawn abandoned by its mother.

There were high risk experiences, too, such as the 1963 confrontation with a rancher caught hunting deer at night. The following excerpt from a copy of





*The popularity of Wildlife Officer Joe Sheppard among Charlotte County school children increased spectacularly after he rescued a one-week-old fawn that had been abandoned by its mother.*

Joe's official report reveals what happened after the rancher returned to his "hunting buggy" where Joe had been hiding in the darkness:

"I turned my light on and the 'firehunter' put his gun and light on me, saying: 'Don't move . . . or I'll blow your blankety blank brains out . . .' I then told him there were five other wildlife officers with me. He said 'Don't move. Don't make me blow your blankety blank brains out. There is no one with you.'

"I asked him if he had killed anything, and he said, 'Hell no.' I advised him he was not in as much trouble as he would have been if he had killed a deer, and that if he shot me he really would be in trouble.

"I asked him if his name was Mills (knowing that a fellow named Mills had a Model A hunting buggy.) He then took the gun off me and leaned against the right rear side of the buggy and said, 'Where did you get the idea that my name was Mills?'

"I stood on both feet then (Sheppard had been kneeling by some brush when the hunter approached) and walked up to him, placed my flashlight under my arm and took hold of the gun with both hands. Gripping the gun tightly, I placed him under arrest for illegal possession of a gun and light at night and pulled the gun from his hands. (continued on next page)



*As a recruit early in his law enforcement career Joe Sheppard (far left) was never "at the back of the pack."*



## After 32 years "on active duty" continued . . .

"I told him I would need the light, too, and reached for it. He then snatched the light from his head, striking me on the forehead with it and turned and ran . . . I called to halt and gave chase after he failed to stop.

"As we were running, I pulled my pistol and shot into the ground as a warning and to let others in my party know where I was . . . He continued to run, and I gained on him and kicked his feet. He stumbled and knocked my flashlight out of my hand but got to his feet and started running again. My flashlight was on the ground shining in the direction we were running, and I left it there.

"I grabbed the rifle by the barrel and swung it at him several times while we were running, finally hitting him a solid blow on the head and he fell to the ground."

The report goes on to describe how Joe, with help from the other men in his party, took the suspect to the Lee County Jail to be booked, and then took him to the hospital to have a head wound examined.

"While enroute from the hospital back to the jail," the report added, . . . "the suspect admitted to my Area Supervisor that he was trying to kill a deer before he was apprehended."

This was one of many times that Joe, as a Wildlife Officer and later as a Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Trooper was at risk.

In 1971, approximately six years after Joe began wearing a FHP uniform, he was one of the top candidates for the "Trooper of the Year" award because he had saved the life of a woman trapped inside a car that had collided with a gasoline tanker carrying 8,000 inflammable gallons of fuel. The rescue took place while gasoline was flowing onto the wreck scene from the ruptured tanker.

In 1972, Trooper Joe was transferred to the Highlands County area and, whether by design or not, began laying the groundwork for his eventual elevation to the office of Sheriff. His scrapbook contains letters of commendation from the 70's in which motorists he had arrested described him as "courteous, tactful, diplomatic and respectful."

In 1975, Joe received public acclaim for using his own airplane to search for and locate a 75-year-old man who had been missing.

In the middle of 1976 he was in the headlines again when he was responsible for a drug bust that netted a valuable airplane, a pick-up truck and \$140,000 worth of marijuana.

In November of the same year he was elected Sheriff of Highlands County and began a 12-year stint that took him out of uniform for the first time in many years, but kept him "on duty" and wearing a badge.

During his tenure as Sheriff, Joe has received many honors, including commendations from the Florida



*One of Sheriff Joe Sheppard's 1988 goals while serving as immediate past president of the Florida Sheriffs Association was to increase the visibility of the organization's headquarters in Tallahassee. Adding star emblems at the property entrance and on the wall of the office building was part of the campaign.*

Citrus Mutual Crime Unit and the American Legion; also expressions of appreciation from the Heart Fund, the FFA, Egypt Temple Shrine, Masonic Grand Lodge, the Grange, Rotary, Lions, National Child Safety Council and others.

Among the souvenirs of distinguished service hanging on his wall is a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association, and this is not the only evidence of the esteem his fellow Sheriffs hold toward him. They have elected him to numerous offices in the Association, including the presidency. They also named him to the Board of Directors of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, and he became the chairman of that body.

Now his tenure as Sheriff is coming to an end, and he faces retirement with many laurels to rest on. After 32 years of serving his county, state and nation, he deserves a respite and a chance to discover what it's like to be "off duty."

Meanwhile, from his chums in the Florida Sheriffs Association comes this message: "Rest easy Joe, we hate to see you go."



# Enough is enough for Sheriff Ed Duff

*Former FBI agent is preparing to  
end 47-year law enforcement career*

DELAND — Edwin H. Duff, II, the Sheriff of Volusia County, is getting ready to retire, and it's about time because the veteran crime fighter is running out of wall space on which to hang the photographs, certificates, plaques, and souvenirs that bear witness to a long and distinguished law enforcement career.

Duff, who recently celebrated his 77th birthday, is going to "pack it in" on January 3, 1989, and one of his final duties will be packing up his big collection of souvenirs.

Out of their present frames and into a scrapbook will go several photos of J. Edgar Hoover, the man whose orders shaped Duff's 27-year career as an FBI agent; also a photo of Duff, as Sheriff, greeting and escorting President Gerald Ford.

Destined for a similar fate are office wall photos taken when Duff, in academic robe, accepted an honorary degree from Bethune-Cookman College; and when he received an honorary Black Belt in tribute to the many years he toiled as a judo and defensive tactics instructor for the FBI.

It's obvious to anyone visiting the Sheriff's private office that one scrapbook will not hold all of the photos. There will be several volumes, and it's a safe bet that a special space will be reserved for portraits of Duff's late wife, "Ducky," the former Helen Glass, a Virginia debutante who shared his troubles and triumphs for 45 and a half years. The Sheriff really misses her. It shows.

Duff can be gruff, and military drill sergeants would kill — maybe even hug a recruit — just to acquire his skillful use of profanity. But, under Duff's macho veneer lies a stratum of sentimentality that attaches special importance to photos of old friends, including a law enforcement character named Duffy.

Duffy is the retired bloodhound the Sheriff visits every Sunday to deliver a two-pound package of hamburger meat. This ritual at a hunting camp shared with some 14 other nimrods awakens memories of tracking escapades from the past. It also reveals a sentimental side of the Sheriff's personality that isn't always exposed to public view.

The same can be said of Duff's visits to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp, which is located near Barberville, a Volusia County community. It is customary for



*At a Florida Sheriffs Association Conference some four or five years ago, Duff, Florida's oldest Sheriff, gave some advice to Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey, the state's youngest. Since then Harvey has lost his "youngest" title, but Duff, who recently celebrated his 77th birthday, is still the oldest.*

him to drop in by helicopter to entertain the neglected, troubled and unsupervised youngsters vacationing there with demonstrations of modern law enforcement maneuvers.

Although Duff is in the final year of a 20-year stint as Sheriff, his wall space problem doesn't seem to be easing off. Souvenirs continue to accumulate, including the "National Lawman of the Month" award he is slated to receive from *True Detective* magazine; the





*Routine Sheriff's tasks include confiscating robbers' masks. This photo was taken several years ago.*

## **Sheriff Ed Duff continued . . .**

congratulatory letter he recently received from Governor Bob Martinez; and the soon-to-be-presented plaque the Florida Sheriffs Association traditionally awards to the few lawmen whose careers span more than 40 years.

Asked recently which of his souvenirs are his favorites, Duff pointed to the Sheriff's commissions signed by Governors as the result of five successful elections — all of them decisive victories. The undefeated campaigner recalled with undisguised relish that the closest race left his opponent holding a deficit of 4,711 votes.

Apparently the oldest souvenir in the Duff collection is the law degree diploma he received from Columbus University in 1940 after a three-year struggle that required holding down a full-time job in the daytime and attending classes at night.

This hard-earned memento reminds him that the summer of 1940 was not the best of times. He had his law degree, but couldn't find work as an attorney in the nation's capital, so he had to hang on to his old job with New York Life Insurance Company.

This unfortunate state of limbo dragged on for months until a casual phone call launched the frustrated law school grad on a 47-year law enforcement career and eventually gave Florida one of its outstanding Sheriffs.

Here's how Duff described the 1940 turning point during a recent interview:

"Stumpy Talbot, who worked for the WPA, called me. We had gone to law school together, and he said 'Hey, they're givin' exams for FBI agents'; and I said, 'What do them bleep bleeps do?'

"He said, 'Well, they go around and pick up bad



*This photo of Duff searching for a weapon in a homicide case helps to sustain his reputation as a "man of action."*



*Duff the FBI agent seemed to have no difficulty switching to Duff the candidate for Sheriff. Pictured with him on a parade float are Hilda Woods and L.C. Gilley (standing by the flag). Woods was the Sheriff's secretary for many years, and Gilley is still on his staff as Chief Transportation Officer.*

boys, kidnappers and all that stuff"; and I said, 'Well, let's give it a whirl.'

"At that time I was makin' \$1,800 a year. I said, 'What do they pay?' He said '\$3,200.' I said 'Let's go! Yes sir!' So I was all fer it."

After passing the necessary exams, Duff reported to Quantico, Virginia, on October 21, 1940, to begin training as an FBI agent. He anticipated many weeks of preparation for his new role, but because the war was escalating in Europe and U.S. officials were apprehensive about the increasing risk of sabotage and espionage in the states, his training was cut short and he was sent to the Houston, Texas, office of the FBI to begin active duty.

"They needed agents on the street," Duff explained recently, "and I became a hot shot investigator."

In an official commendation the FBI used more formal language to praise him as "an outstanding Criminal Investigator."





*Duff in one of the three helicopters presently operated by the Sheriff's Office. The pilot pictured with him is Andy Fennell.*

Duff seemed to have natural aptitudes for law enforcement, and in a relatively short time he advanced from a recruit to a full-fledged agent. In those days that meant wearing a conservative suit, tie and hat and maintaining the fearless traditions established by incorruptible prohibition era "G-men."

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor when Duff was enroute to Quantico for additional training, and he returned to Houston. His wartime duty in Houston, New Orleans and Washington, D.C., included investigating enemy aliens, exposing defense contractors who were defrauding the government, and gathering information from undercover operations about enemy activities in Central and South America.

After World War II Duff was assigned to Miami and Gainesville, Florida, before becoming the resident agent in Daytona Beach in 1947. He remained in Daytona Beach until he retired from the FBI in December, 1967.

In 1968 he ran his first successful race for Sheriff of Volusia County, and was sworn-in at the beginning of 1969. This signalled the beginning of a 20-year era in which the county's population increased from 160,000 to 336,000, and the Sheriff's Office was challenged to keep pace with the county's spectacular growth.

Statistics confirm that Duff met the challenge by increasing his total personnel from 53 (including jailers) to 480 (excluding jailers); the number of sworn deputies from 14 to 258; and the annual budget from \$500,000 (including jail expenses) to \$16,900,000 (without jail expenses). These figures are spectacular, but they fail to reflect completely the growth of the Sheriff's domain because a unique form of charter government that was adopted after 1968 relieved the Sheriff of responsibility for operating the county jail.

Was Duff happy to get rid of the jail responsibilities? "Hell yes!," he told an interviewer, adding a chuckle for emphasis.

Under Duff's leadership the Sheriff's Office has achieved many improvements, including an outstanding aviation unit that began with a \$1,000 investment in a government surplus Helio Courier airplane designed for surveillance work. This unit presently consists of three helicopters equipped for Medevac (medical emergency transportation) duties as well as law enforcement activities. The latest addition to the Sheriff's "air arm" is a million-dollar Bell 206-L-III acquired in a joint venture with Halifax Medical Center.

Lt. Michael Mellon, a Viet Nam veteran who heads the aviation division, estimated that the Sheriff's helicopters are worth at least \$2 million, but the cost to Volusia County taxpayers has been only about \$400,000. Duff explained that this piece of financial legerdemain was accomplished with the help of funds accumulated through the sale of equipment confiscated from drug dealers; also through a series of trades with other law enforcement agencies involving rebuilt government surplus choppers, as well as fixed-wing aircraft.

The aviation unit with its own hangar and maintenance facilities, is Duff's showcase achievement, but by no means the only evidence of his progressiveness. If he had to defend his credentials as a state-of-the-art Sheriff he could also list his high-tech communications setup; his SWAT team; his specially designed mobile unit for use in raids, hostage situations and similar emergencies; his K-9 Corps; and his four-boat marine patrol.

A biographer would have no difficulty portraying the Sheriff as a man of vision. Anyone listening to the "war stories" spun by some of his law enforcement buddies would discover that he also qualifies as a man of action rather than a desk chair commander.

Capt. Howard McBride, who is in charge of the Sheriff's Civil/Courts Division, recently recalled a typical incident from the Duff legend. He said an armed mental patient was barricaded in a house surrounded by deputies and was firing a gun in response to attempts to flush him out with tear gas. "The boss was leading the pack, and when we finally got the mental patient outside, the boss helped Lt. Johns

*(continued on next page)*



## Sheriff Ed Duff continued . . .

*When Duff removes the photos, plaques and certificates from his office wall, the photo he is holding will definitely go into his scrapbook. It shows him with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, a man he obviously admires.*



tackle the suspect even though he had a broken arm."

Duff, who was listening to the tale, edited the story slightly by explaining that the cast he was wearing



*Duff's souvenirs include a scholarly looking figurine of a Sheriff. It was presented to him by some deputies who called themselves "Rodes Scholars," after the Sheriff had criticized the unacceptable grammar and spelling they were using in their reports.*

was for a broken finger rather than a broken arm.

"So you brought him down?" asked the interviewer.

"Oh yeah," said Duff, . . . tackled the bleep bleep. That was back in my younger days."

Then the interviewer wanted to know if Duff, who had carried a gun for 47 years, had ever shot anyone.

"Nope," said Duff.

"Did you ever fire a warning shot to stop someone?" was the next question.

"Yeah," said Duff, "one time when I was in the FBI I was out in the bleep bleep piney woods lookin' for a Navy deserter . . . Slim "What's-his-name" was with me. This guy was livin' in a little log cabin shack . . . I told Slim, 'You go to the front and I'll go to the back.' Well, the guy came out the front door and ran around the side and ran through some bleep bleep scrub palmetto, and he was runnin' like a stri-ped ass ape.

"I went around behind the house and a clothesline caught me and I fell down in the bleep bleep mud and I got up and I was so bleep bleep mad I fired one in the air. He stopped a hundred yards down the road, or we'd never caught the bleep bleep."

At the end of a long interview, Duff was asked how he felt about all the changes that had taken place and the complexities that had evolved in the law enforcement business during his long career. "Is it as much fun as it used to be, or are there too many restrictions on it?" the interviewer asked.

"Oh, I've been able to roll with the punches, so to speak," said Duff.

"So, you're not disillusioned with the present status of law enforcement?"

"I love it," said Duff.

"If you could turn the calendar back 20 years, would you do it [run for Sheriff] all over again?"

"Hell yes!"





# We salute!



**SARASOTA** — Sarasota County Sheriff Geoffrey Monge (left) presented the annual Felony Arrest Award to Deputy Dan R. Cohn for 1987-88. The award is presented to the deputy making the most on-view felony arrests. It includes a uniform bar and a \$100 bonus.

## Bill McCurdy

**MILTON** — Santa Rosa County Deputy Sheriff Bill McCurdy received an "Officer-of-the-Month" award from Sheriff Maurice Coffman, Jr., for saving the life of an ambulance attendant who suffered a heart attack on the job.

Two attendants were treating a heart attack victim when one of them, Gary Stewart, was stricken and fell to the pavement. McCurdy arrived shortly afterward and gave Stewart cardiopulmonary resuscitation until a second ambulance arrived.

## Ed Miller

**KEY WEST** — For performing his duties in an exemplary manner, Monroe County Sheriff's Office Detective Ed Miller was awarded an "Officer of the Year" plaque by Sheriff William A. Freeman, Jr.

## Stephen Cole

**SARASOTA** — After Sarasota County Sheriff awarded a Certificate of Merit to civilian Stephen Cole, the honoree announced he was going to put it on his mantelpiece beside his high school and



**LARGO** — The Annual Maybelle Rollins Bradford Memorial Awards recognizing outstanding Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Crossing Guards were recently presented to Erica Parkes, Patrick Vaccarella and Joyce Nicholson. Involved in the presentation were (from left) Lt. Norman Romanosky, Crossing Guard Supervisor; Parkes, Vaccarella and Nicholson; Sheriff Gerry Coleman and Mrs. Thomas R. Turner, sponsor. The award was created in 1975 by Mrs. Turner's late husband to honor Mrs. Turner's mother.

college football trophies.

It seemed appropriate, since Cole was honored for helping deputies to capture a fleeing suspect with what was described as "a great tackle."

## Laurence E. Mahn Donald R. Gumble Terry L. Isaacs

**ST. AUGUSTINE** — During the annual St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Awards Banquet, top honors went to:

Sgt. Laurence E. Mahn, Combat Medal for his actions in a drug bust shootout;

Deputy Donald R. Gumble, Exceptional Service Award, for rescuing a drowning fisherman from the Matanzas River;

Deputy Terry L. Isaacs, Exceptional Service Award, for administering first aid to save the life of a shooting victim.



**INVERNESS** — Sgt. Bruce Lovett (left) and Investigator Jerry Thompson, from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, received awards recognizing their exemplary service to crime victims and witnesses during a seminar sponsored by the Fifth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office.

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## We salute continued . . .

### Debbie Bowe

**PUNTA GORDA** — "The uniform is gone, but the gun remains" said the newspaper headline announcing that Cpl. Debbie Bowe has become the first woman detective in the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. She recently transferred to the Detective Division after spending six years in uniform as a patrol deputy. The Sheriff's Office has had her on its employee roster for more than nine years.

### Gerry Coleman

**LARGO** — During the Third National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community, Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman received an award for his development and support of crime prevention initiatives, particularly the Bias Crime Unit he established to focus on crimes of hate and violence committed against individuals because of religious, racial or ethnic origins. The award was presented by Bob Butterworth, Florida's Attorney General.

### Dawn Redstone

**VERO BEACH** — Indian River County Deputy Sheriff Dawn Redstone has been receiving recognition for her crime prevention activities.

The National Jaycees named her one of five Outstanding Young Floridians. The Vero Beach Jaycees awarded her their Distinguished Service Award; and the Exchange Club of Vero Beach chose her to receive its "Book of Golden Deeds" award.

### Doyle W. Bryan

**WAUCHULA** — The Wauchula Elks Lodge chose Hardee County Sheriff Doyle Bryan as its "Citizen of the Year" for 1987-88 in recognition of the progressive improvements he has developed during his eight years as Hardee County's chief law enforcement officer.



**DADE CITY** — The Pasco County Sheriff's Office Pistol Team captured 12 trophies during the Second Annual Pasco County Law Enforcement Pistol Match, then posed for this photo with Sheriff Jim Gillum (fourth from left). The team members are (from left) Deputy Ray Stanley, Detective Jim Campbell, Corrections Officer Anita Schramm, (Gillum), Sgt. Joe Schramm and Sgt. Kurt Gell. The "King of the Hill" trophy for overall match winner was awarded to Sgt. Gell, with Stanley finishing second and Tanner third, making a clean sweep for the second year in a row. Six state and local agencies competed.



**LARGO** — During "Employ an Older Worker Week," Harriett B. Farmer was honored as the oldest staff member at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and had her picture taken with Sheriff Gerry Coleman (right) and her immediate supervisor, Larry Broga. Sheriff Coleman described her as competent and dedicated. "Although she was hired only one year ago," he said, "she has already been promoted from Clerk I to Data Entry Clerk in our Crime Analysis Unit."





# 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.

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.

Across the Pond  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Aldridge  
Beki Productions  
Berkley Inn  
Miss Linda Clark  
Flo-Rite Paints Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Herman Gunter  
Ms. Minnie Hancock  
Mr. John Hobart  
Ms. Genevieve S. Johnstone  
Mrs. Maria Knapp  
Mr. John LaCapra  
Nixdorf Computer Corporation  
Mr. Ralph T. Prindle  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard J. Reinhart  
Mrs. Frances S. Robson  
Mr. Ramon N. Sajkiewicz  
Mrs. Paula Scowden  
Mr. Francisco T. Valdes  
Mrs. Melbourne W. Vincent  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy D. Wrightam



**JACKSONVILLE** — Presented by Jacksonville Sheriff James E. McMillan (right) to George Canady, representing A&B Distributors, Inc.

**WEST PALM BEACH** — Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Richard Wille (right) to Charles J. Funk.



(continued on next page)



## Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .



Megletti



Suttle



O'Shea



Macon

**FORT MYERS** — Presented by Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka, with assistance in three instances from Dr. Bill Aust, Youth Ranches Regional Director. The recipients are William A. Megletti (left) with Wanicka; Hugh B. Suttle (center) with Wanicka (right) and Aust; Daniel O'Shea (center) with Wanicka and Aust; and Peter Macon (center) with Wanicka and Aust.



**FORT MYERS** — Presented by Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka (right) to Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust and Mrs. Aust.



Evans



Gills



Gordons

**DELAND** — Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Edwin H. Duff, II, to Paul and Estella Gordon; Cmd. Russell Gill and Yvonne Gill; Dr. Richard Evans; and William and Jeanette Stemmler.



Stemmlers



**BRADENTON** — Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charles B. Wells to Daisy D. Masterson.



## Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .



**BARTOW** — Presented by Polk County Sheriff Lawrence W. Crow, Jr. (center) to firms that sponsored the 1987 Youth Villa Classic, a highly successful golf tournament. The individuals representing sponsors are (from left) George Douglas, Florida Equipment and Service Co.; George Harris, Citrus and Chemical Bank; Ernie Helms, U.S. Agri-Chemicals; Andy Anderson,

Compressed Air Products; (Sheriff Crow); Brian Hinton, W.H. Stuart Ranch; Lyle Bulman, C. Wilson Construction; (Lois Clevinger, President of the Bartow Chamber of Commerce and Bill Simpson, General Chairman of the Youth Villa Classic); and Warren Leonard, HiWay, Inc.



**DUNEDIN** — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Fred "Mac" Stones (left) to the Dunedin Optimist Club, represented by President Paul Nystrom.



**BOYS RANCH** — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Pat Monogue (right) and Boys Ranch Supervisor of Medical Services Ray Waters (left) to Dr. Mark Brown, Live Oak.



**WINTER HAVEN** — Presented to Phoenix Industries, Inc., represented by Bruce Bachman, General Manager.





## Sheriffs succeeded where foes failed

TALLAHASSEE — Foes have failed to “pin something on” Governor Bob Martinez, but Sheriffs succeeded during a recent social event hosted by the Florida Sheriffs Association at the Association’s headquarters on Mahan Drive.

The “something” they “pinned on” the smiling chief executive was a gold star lapel pin that identifies him as a friend and admirer of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, a child care agency sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association and described as “Florida’s charity for Florida’s children.”

By submitting to the pinning ritual, Governor Martinez joined a distinguished fraternity of Youth Ranches lapel pin wearers that includes members of Congress, Florida legislators, Cabinet members, Lt. Governor Bobby Brantley and many other people of prominence.

*Governor Martinez was “pinned” by Sheriffs Ken Fortune, Jefferson County; Charles S. Dean, Citrus County; and Larry Gilbert, Okaloosa County (from left to right). Fortune is the Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Association’s Board of Directors; Dean is a Past President of the Association; and Gilbert is a member of the Board of Directors.*

