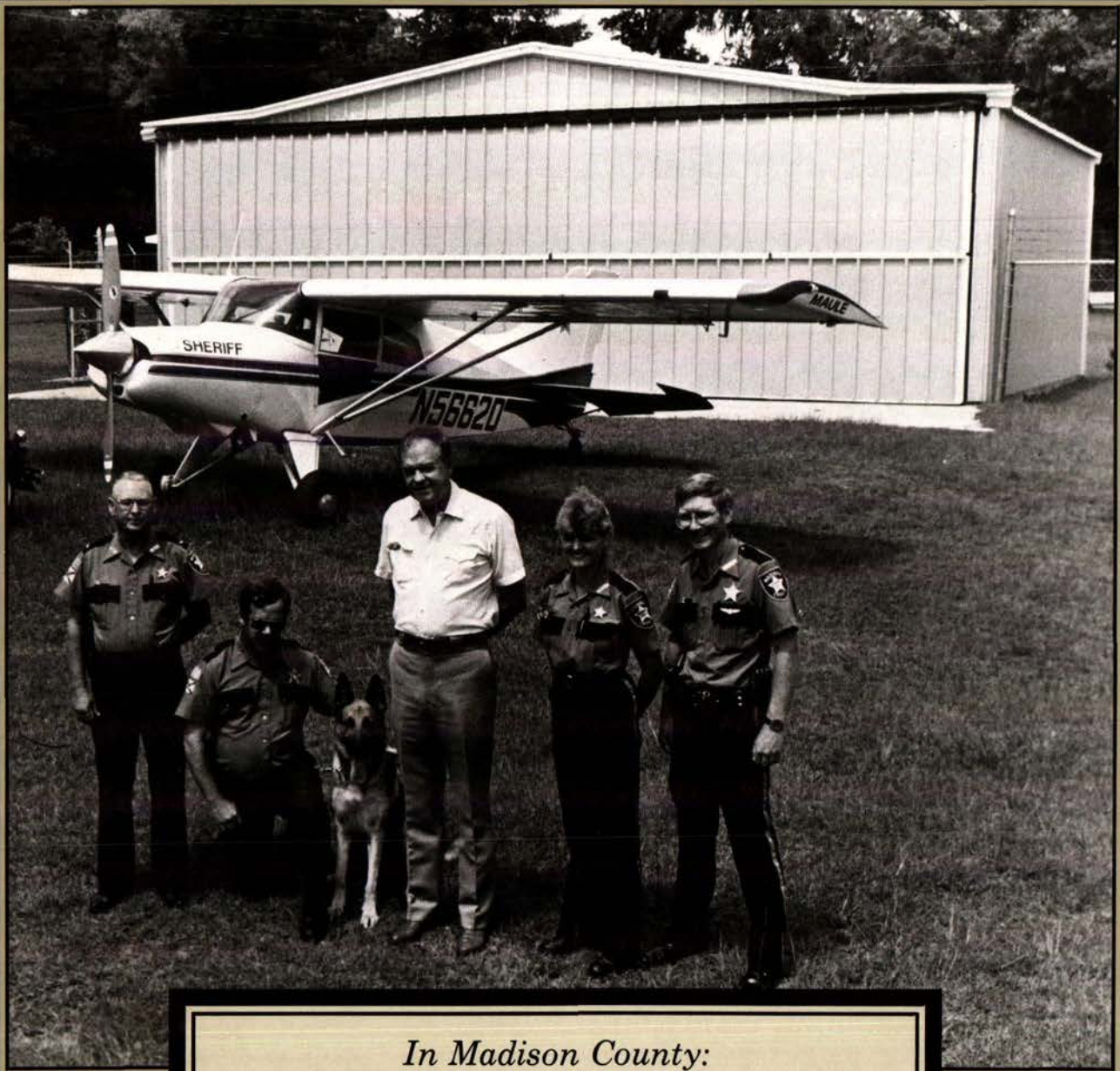


# the Sheriff's Star

October/November 1988

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



## *In Madison County:*

**A drug importer's mistake has helped to pay for a new airplane, airstrip, hangar, super K-9 and other criminal justice system improvements. (see page 12)**



# Sheriff solves infant car seat problems

VERO BEACH — A grandmother called the Indian River County Sheriff's Office (IRCSO) with a problem. Two small grandchildren were visiting her and she couldn't take them anywhere safely, or legally, without car seats.

In most Florida counties the answer would have been "Sorry Ma'am, we can't help you," but IRCSO solved the lady's problem in a heartbeat by telling her to come around and borrow two car seats free.



Checking out infant car seats from the Sheriff's Office enabled Air Force Capt. Nancy Robinson DuRant, Lace Ann (20 months) and Alex John (1 month) to travel safely and legally.

Fortunately, the call came right after Indian River County Sheriff Tim Dobeck had purchased three of the safety seats and donated them to the IRCSO. Now they are available for grandparents, aunts, uncles and others to check out when they have tots visiting them.

"So often relatives with small children will arrive for a visit not knowing that Florida has child restraint laws," an IRCSO spokesman said, "and the seats donated by the Sheriff will enable the tots to travel around safely as well as meet the requirements of the law."

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# the Sheriff's Star

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### Sarasota wins Olympics laurels third year in a row.

**SARASOTA** — After the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office captured the Division II first place in the Florida Law Enforcement Olympics for the third consecutive year, the champs posed with Sheriff Geoff Monge for a victory portrait.

Shown in the photograph are: Front Row, l-r: Deputy Pedie Hipps, Corporal Jim Klein, Deputy Carrie Palmer, Deputy Heidi Rodgers, Detention Officer Sergeant Johnny Yong, Bailiff Ed Kochis. Back Row, l-r: Lieutenant Bill Stookey, Captain

Eddie Palmer, Corporal David Hart, Deputy Robin Crane, Deputy Harry Brayley, Deputy Mike Hulstein, Deputy Rocco DeNenna, Deputy Gary Kraayenbrink, Corporal Chuck Forbis, Sheriff Geoffrey Monge, Deputy Chris Iorio, Deputy Del Robeson, Deputy Ed Berger, Detention Officer Al Lumpkin, Deputy Joan Verizzo, Lieutenant Ed Anderson, and Deputy Ralph Lindemann.

### Volunteers receive distinguished service awards

**ST. AUGUSTINE** — St. Johns County Sheriff Neil J. Perry (center) presents distinguished service awards to five civilians and a state law enforcement officer in recognition of services rendered to the Sheriff's Office. They are (from left) Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agent Gary A. Nehrbass, who assisted the Sheriff in a major drug trafficking case; William Armstrong and Clarke Moore, Civilian Handicapped Parking Lot Enforcement Specialists (CHIPS); Bertha Hiers, a volunteer who coordinates volunteer activities for the Sheriff; Viggo Wood, who helped to rescue a traffic accident victim; and J. Marvin Canova, from Winn-Dixie Stores, who, together with Lewis Libby, arranged for the Sheriff to use the firm's special off-loading equipment in a drug interdiction operation.





## Rhoden's retirement:

*It's not good news for anyone except the guys who rob and run*

**J**ASPER — Could anyone possibly be happy to see Sheriff Charlie Rhoden retire?

Certainly not the law-abiding citizens for whom he has labored night and day through 32 years.

Surely not the Hamilton County taxpayers who have benefited from his frugal style of leadership and the model jail he has developed without putting any stress on the budget.

It couldn't be the many folks to whom he has handed out cash when they approached him with hard luck stories.

Well, that covers nearly all of Hamilton County's 9,237 residents except those few who have been notorious in their attempts to rob and run, or break jail and hit the trail. It's reasonable to believe that these frustrated felons will be happy to see the retirement of "Florida's champion tracker."

Many of them have learned through sad experience that the Sheriff has an uncanny ability to track down fleeing fugitives —with or without a dog, across fields and streams and even on paved roads where footprints are usually invisible.

Hamilton County's law enforcement lore offers numerous examples:

\* There was the gunslinger who shot a man and ran, leaving heavy brogan tracks. Charlie, unaided by a dog, tracked him through a pulpwood yard, along a paved road, into the "quarters" and right up to his front door.

\* A holdup suspect was caught before he could spend the loot he had stolen from a convenience store, even though the Sheriff had to follow his trail at night, on and off a paved road.



*Sheriff Rhoden was photographed in 1985 with jail docket volumes dating back to 1957 in which he had posted nearly all of the jail bookings. Now that's personal involvement!*

\* Patience was revealed as one of the Sheriff's prime virtues when, accompanied by deputies, he trailed a fugitive through the woods and across a pond. He lost the trail a couple of times, but kept moving by instinct until he picked it up again. Finally he decided his quarry was hiding in a big, thick stand of huckleberry bushes.

The search party could have started beating the bushes, but Charlie said, "Just wait around a while and he'll come out." Sure enough he did, thinking his pursuers had given up the chase, and the Sheriff was credited with another successful pursuit.

Charlie is a quiet man, not accustomed to telling law enforcement "war stories," but he could hold an audience into the wee hours if he would just cut loose with some of the experiences he has had with "Sue, Red and PoBoy," his favorite tracking dogs.

Recently, he had to be encouraged by his wife, Nell, and an interviewer, before he delved into his memory and came up with a few tracking tales, including this one:

A fugitive crossed the Suwannee River with Charlie and PoBoy in hot pursuit. When they reached the river, PoBoy was so eager that he pulled Charlie down the river bank and caused





Although nearing 60 when this picture was taken, Charlie was hale and hearty enough to stay on the trail of a fugitive for as long as 16 hours. Pictured with him is "Red," one of his favorite tracking dogs.



The end of another successful pursuit for the Sheriff and "Sue."

him to sprain his wrist. Ignoring his injury, Charlie followed PoBoy across the river and eventually got his man.

The sprained wrist was not the only injury Charlie sustained during 32 years as Sheriff. On one occasion a bullet pierced him from shoulder to shoulder, barely missing his spine.

Another painful incident evolved when he unlocked a jail cell to take an inmate to the dentist. The inmate, using a shower head inside a sock as a weapon, walloped Charlie's skull. "I saw stars," said Charlie, "but he didn't get away."

So it goes when you're the Sheriff in a small, rural county. You often handle chores that would be delegated to a deputy or corrections officer in a larger county, but advantages and disadvantages seem to balance out.

On the plus side, the rural Sheriff gets close to his constituents, and that makes it relatively easy to find out what's going on around the county — or to discover who did what to whom on any given day.

On the minus side, the constituents feel so close to their Sheriff that they don't hesitate to hit him up for money to pay an overdue utility bill, buy some desperately needed groceries or alleviate some financial crisis.

Charlie is inclined to reach for his wallet when he hears a hard luck story. He's notorious for

buying bus tickets to help stranded drifters. He has often purchased groceries for migrants who were flat broke, but he's nobody's fool.

A transient claiming to be out of funds went to a Hamilton County minister for help, and the minister called the man most likely to help out. Charlie went to see the transient and was planning to give him some money, but he hesitated because the man looked familiar.

"Haven't you been around here before?" he asked.

The transient admitted he had.

"Mind if I search you?" said Charlie.

"Go ahead," said the transient.

Charlie's search was more thorough than the transient had anticipated and it produced \$300 in cash hidden in various places. No handout that time.

The Sheriff's generosity has undoubtedly put some stress on his bank account at times, but there is no evidence that it has caused any strained relations between him and his wife, Nell.

"My daddy was in politics. He was the School Superintendent, so I knew what to expect," Nell explained recently. "I figured Charlie would be

*(continued on next page)*



## **Rhoden's Retirement** *continued . . .*

giving money away, so we always kept our money separate."

Nell's money has come from 33 years as a school teacher and administrator. She retired this year.

When asked what percentage of his charitable hand-outs had been paid back, Charlie declined to hazard a guess.

However, Nell said there were numerous offers of cash this year from people who had been helped by Charlie in the past. Word got around that Charlie was in a hospital intensive care unit and hospital bills were going to be very high. A black woman who couldn't really afford it, offered to pay back the \$150 she had received from the Sheriff when she wanted to take a bus trip to see her grandchild. A man offered to pay back the \$18 Charlie had given him years ago to keep the utility company from turning off his electrical service.

Apparently there were other similar offers, and the timing was excellent. Nell desperately needed these and other gestures of community concern during the spring of 1988 when the Sheriff was in a hospital fighting for his life. A series of illnesses had climaxed with cardiac arrest and a stroke. Eventually he came out of that ordeal with considerable paralysis and began a slow recovery with the help of therapy sessions.

When interviewed for this article, Charlie was using a cane and learning to become a lefty because the stroke had impaired the use of his right hand. He appeared to be wearing a brace on one leg, and his speech was not quite up to par. Nevertheless, he was showing up at the Sheriff's Office daily and seemed to be keeping his hand on the helm.

What a letdown for a man who was hale and hearty enough in 1987 to spend 16 hours tracking a fugitive — a man who also demonstrated his stamina by spending six hours in last summer's scorching heat helping to destroy a marijuana patch.

In between these and other bursts of strenuous activity, Charlie was making plans to run for re-election one more time and thus stretch his



*This family portrait of Charlie and Nell Rhoden and their two daughters, Ann (left) and Kathryn, was taken in happier times — before Ann's death in 1986 and Charlie's disabling stroke in 1988. The Rhodens almost lost Ann in 1977 due to kidney failure, but she recovered after the Sheriff donated one of his kidneys.*

tenure to 36 years. This would have allowed him to equal the all-time record set by the late John P. Hall, Sr., Sheriff of Clay County, but the stroke that hit him on his 63rd birthday, April 15, 1988, changed everything and forced him to announce his retirement.

To give up the job he loves early in January, 1989, at the end of his present term, is bound to be distressing for Charlie, but outsiders who have never had law enforcement in their blood will have difficulty understanding his reluctance to give up a public office that demands so much and seems to offer so little in return.

They will fail to see anything attractive about a job that, calculated on an hourly wage basis, pays a measly salary — a job that has allowed Charlie and Nell to take only one real vacation in 32 years.

They spent five days in the mountains last year. Prior to that the only breaks they took were their infrequent trips to summer conferences of the Florida Sheriffs Association. There were only seven times in 32 years when Charlie felt he could cut loose from his night and day responsibilities to attend the three-day conferences.

Perhaps Charlie has forgotten these and other adverse aspects of his job, but Nell hasn't. She





*In 1985 when this picture of Sheriff Rhoden was taken, his new jail, shown in the background, was called "the best little jailhouse in Florida."*

remembers the many mealtime phone calls that interrupted the rare occasions when the Sheriff had an opportunity to spend time with his family. She also hasn't forgotten the late night phone calls that sent Charlie off on dangerous missions, disturbed their two daughters and raised her apprehension level several notches. She has lost count of the many social events from which she returned home alone because Charlie had gotten an emergency call.

It seems that the Sheriff is prone to focus on more pleasant memories such as winning six election races and getting re-elected two additional times without opposition.

It's possible that he would rather let his reveries dwell upon career highlights such as his success in developing a model jail — one that was praised recently for having a record of no escapes, no fires, no liability suits and no "black marks" from state jail inspectors.

The jail was occupied in 1983 with a capacity of 32 beds, but the core area containing the control room, booking area, medical facilities and other essential features was made large enough to serve a much larger facility.

In 1985 two new sections were added, almost tripling the capacity, but the core area remained relatively unchanged and the cost to Hamilton County taxpayers was unusually low.

By agreeing to reserve some jail space for short-term housing of federal prisoners, Charlie obtained a federal grant that paid about half the cost. According to a jail consultant's opinion, the fees the Sheriff is currently collecting from the federal government for housing federal prisoners will eventually pay for the jail.

This sweetheart of a deal is pleasant to contemplate, especially in contrast to the tough times Charlie and Nell went through in the early part of his career. The old county jail was about as secure as a sieve, and the entire Sheriff's Office staff consisted of a bookkeeper, a cook for the jail and one deputy.

Nell was involved to the extent that she supervised the jail and was on call to search or interview female inmates.

Currently the Sheriff's staff numbers around 45 and Nell is no longer on call. Her number one assignment now is to nurse Charlie through his long recovery ordeal.

Meanwhile, although the Sheriff's tracking days are over, there is another claim to fame he can pursue if he continues the progress he has made since he emerged from a hospital's intensive care unit months ago.

He owns 100 acres of farm land where he has been raising cattle and growing sugar cane. Each fall when he grinds cane and makes syrup that is famous for its high quality, word gets around and friends show up to lend a hand. Their real motive, of course, is to take home a bottle of "Rhoden's Prime."

This being the case, there's a new career waiting for Charlie when his strength and stamina reach an appropriate level. After 32 years of arresting people for "raising Cain," it's his turn to raise cane on a big scale and become Hamilton County's "Cane Syrup King."

If that ever happens, people will say the champion Florida tracker has turned into the ultimate Florida cracker.



## It's time for lawmakers to get tough on cocaine traffickers

During the past two sessions of the Florida Legislature, the Florida Sheriffs Association has strongly advocated decreasing the amounts of cocaine necessary for a "trafficking" conviction. The present minimum is 28 grams (one ounce). The present penalty is a mandatory minimum three-year sentence, but this lacks toughness because the traffickers can shorten their sentences by accumulating "gain time."

The Association wants to reduce the threshold to four grams of cocaine, set a mandatory minimum sentence of two years and eliminate basic gain time. In cases involving 15-28 grams, the Association wants a mandatory minimum sentence of three years, a \$50,000 fine and no basic gain time.

Riding a wave of eloquent "get tough" speeches, the 1988 bill backed by the Association passed all

substantive committees and the House of Representatives, but died in the Senate during the last few days of the session.

Opponents argued that the proposed law would increase the prison population and would therefore be too costly. However, with the prison population already at the maximum level, resulting in the early release of prisoners, the Association believes its push for a tougher law will simply keep the right persons in prison for a longer period of time.

The Association believes very strongly that the time is far past due for the Florida Legislature to quit "talking tough" about drug crimes and start "acting tough" by passing in 1989 the bill that almost passed in 1988.

Simply put, the State of Florida cannot afford to do otherwise.

### 1988 LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Here is a summary of major laws passed during the 1988 session of the Florida Legislature which will have an impact upon law enforcement:

#### **Serious Habitual Juvenile Offender (SHO/DI)**

##### **Chapter 88-319 Effective July 6, 1988**

This law expands statewide the Serious Habitual Offender/Drug Involved (SHO/DI) Program that was initiated as part of a federal pilot project by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to identify juvenile SHO/DIs and create model programs designed to halt their crime careers. Chapter 88-319 establishes criteria for classifying SHO/DIs and encourages Sheriffs to organize multi-agency task forces so that the identification of SHO/DIs can be expedited through the sharing of information. More importantly, the General Appropriations Bill gave the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services \$1.7 million to establish an ongoing 18-month treatment program as a sentencing alternative for SHO/DIs. An additional \$5,000 was appropriated so that the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office could assist other Sheriff's Offices in developing SHO/DI Programs.

#### **Sentencing Guidelines, Career Criminals, and Habitual Violent Felony Offenders "Career Criminal Bill"**

##### **Chapter 88-131 Effective October 1, 1988**

This act, which gives judges broader discretion in following Florida's sentencing guidelines, is based upon recommendations contained in a 1988 Florida Supreme Court opinion.

It amends s. 921.001, F.S., by removing the Supreme Court from the guidelines revision process. In the future, the guidelines commission will submit its recommended changes directly to the Legislature by November 1 of each year. Among factors to be considered by the commission will be the prison population and fairness to the victims of crime. The commission is instructed to submit, by March 1, 1989, a revised set of guidelines designed to punish the more serious offenders.

#### **Career Criminals**

The law creates a new section which directs law enforcement agencies around the state to concentrate their investigative, prosecutorial and incarcerative resources on arresting, convicting and imprisoning career criminals. The section provides factors to consider in designating career criminal targets and requires state attorneys, Sheriffs and police chiefs in communities with populations greater than 50,000 to create career





### Farewell with fanfare for John Fuller

TALLAHASSEE — After John Fuller (center) resigned his position as the Florida Sheriffs Association's General Counsel in October, the Association held a reception in his honor and gave him an appreciation award. The award was presented by Gadsden County Sheriff W.A. Woodham (left), a past-president of the Association, and J.M. "Buddy" Phillips, Jr., the Executive Director of the Association. Fuller has accepted a position as Criminal Justice Policy Coordinator in the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning.

criminal units within their agencies. Criteria for designation as a "career criminal" shall be set by the individual law enforcement agency and state attorney.

### Habitual Violent Felony Offenders

Section 775.084, F.S., is amended to provide that persons convicted of two or more felonies be designated habitual felony offenders (deletes convictions for misdemeanors).

It also creates a category for "habitual violent felony offender," if the person has one or more prior felonies involving arson, sexual battery, robbery, kidnapping, aggravated child abuse, aggravated assault, murder, manslaughter, discharging a destructive device, or armed burglary. The current felony must have occurred within 5 years of the date of the previous conviction or within 5 years of the defendant's release from imprisonment or parole. Both habitual felony offenders and habitual violent felony offenders will be subject to the enhanced penalties currently in place. However, in the case of an habitual violent offender, there will be mandatory minimum sentences of 15 years for a third degree felony, 10 years for a second degree felony and 15 years for a first degree felony. A sentence imposed pursuant to this section will not be subject to the sentencing guidelines.

### 3% Special Risk Retirement Chapter 88-238

Effective October 1, 1988

Amends s. 121.071, F.S., relating to contribution rates, and s. 121.091, F.S., relating to benefits payable, to provide for an incremental increase over a five-year period to a total of 3% retirement benefits

per year. Effective January 1, 1989, contribution rates will increase 1.6% in addition to the new contribution rate set in HB 1497. Special risk members will accrue 2.2 percent of the average monthly compensation for the year from January 1, 1989, to December 31, 1989. Benefits for each year thereafter will also increase by 2.2 percent.

### Criminal Depositions HCR 1679

Effective upon passage

This Concurrent Resolution urges the Florida Supreme Court to appoint a Commission on Criminal Discovery consisting of a balanced representation of law enforcement, prosecution, public and private criminal defense counsel, victims' rights organizations, the judiciary, the Florida Bar and the Legislature. The court is also asked to consider limiting depositions to only essential witnesses, prohibiting the defendant from attending the deposition unless good cause is shown, and the use of technological advances and alternative discovery techniques. The Attorney General, Commissioner of FDLE and the Chairman of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges are asked to advise the Legislature of revisions of the discovery depositions rules proposed or adopted by the Supreme Court.

### Impersonating an Officer Chapter 88-339

Effective October 1, 1988

This act amending s. 843.08, F.S., increases the penalty for falsely assuming or pretending to be a law enforcement officer, including a state attorney's investigator, to a felony in the third degree, unless the impersonation occurs during the commission of a felony when it shall be considered a felony of the first degree.

### AIDS

### Chapter 88-380

Effective July 6, 1988

This act is a comprehensive package dealing with numerous AIDS-related issues. Of particular interest to Sheriffs:

1. Creates s. 943.172, F.S., to require the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission to establish standards for instructing law enforcement officers on the subject of AIDS;
2. County and municipal detention facilities must, in conjunction with their medical providers, develop criteria under which inmates will be tested for any infectious diseases (not just AIDS). The Sheriff may be informed of test results and may advise his staff on a need-to-know basis, but the information remains exempt from Ch. 119. Blood test results may be transferred to another correctional facility with the rest of the inmate's medical

(continued on next page)



# Legislative Update

*continued . . .*

file, but the file must be marked "confidential;"

3. The penalty for committing prostitution knowing that one is infected is raised from a second to first degree misdemeanor.

## **Concealed Weapons Clean-Up**

### **Chapter 88-183**

**Effective July 1, 1988**

Amends s. 790.052, F.S., to provide that persons holding active certifications as either full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law enforcement or correctional officers may carry concealed firearms off-duty. Language is added to section 790.052, F.S., which states that it should not be construed to limit the right of an off-duty law enforcement officer to carry a concealed weapon as a private citizen. The bonding requirement of section 790.052(3), F.S., is eliminated.

Section 790.001, F.S., is amended to provide a definition for the "sterile area" of an airport; and to prohibit possession of concealed weapons in such areas as well as the passenger terminal unless the weapon is encased for shipment and checked in as baggage.

The act amends s. 790.06(1) to exclude machine guns from being licensed as concealed weapons or firearms.

The act provides that five years instead of three must have elapsed since competency was restored by court order for persons to be eligible.

Section 790.06(2), F.S., is amended to exclude from licensing persons who have had adjudication of guilt withheld or a sentence suspended on any felony or misdemeanor unless 3 years have passed since they fulfilled the conditions set by the court, or expungement has occurred.

Section 790.06(3), F.S., is amended to authorize the Dept. of State to suspend a license or the processing of a license application upon notification by a law enforcement agency, a court, or FDLE and subsequent written verification that the applicant has been arrested or indicted for any crime which would disqualify that person from having a license until final disposition of the case.

Section 790.06, F.S., is further amended to provide that if a legible set of fingerprints cannot be obtained after a minimum of 3 attempts, the Dept. of State shall determine licensing eligibility based on a fingerprint check by the Fla. Dept. of Law Enforcement and an FBI name check.

Non-resident consular security officials shall be granted a one-year statewide concealed weapon or firearm license within 20 days of the receipt of their completed application, certification documents and nonrefundable license fee of \$300.

## **3 Working Days/Waiting Period**

The act amends s. 790.33, F.S., to authorize a three-working-day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a handgun. Ordinances creating such waiting periods may be adopted by a majority vote of the commission.

## **Open Containers of Alcohol in Motor Vehicles**

### **Chapter 88-22**

**Effective October 1, 1988**

This law creates s. 319.1936, F.S., prohibiting the possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages in or on a vehicle being operated in the state. Exceptions are passengers riding in chauffeured vehicles or buses and passengers in motor homes longer than 21 feet. The act also provides for counties or municipalities adopting more stringent requirements.

## **Victim's Rights**

### **Chapter 88-96**

#### **Effective on adoption of the Victim's Rights Amendment to the Florida Constitution**

This law amends s. 775.089, F.S., to require courts to order full restitution to victims unless clear and compelling reasons exist not to do so. Such reasons must be stated in detail, on the record.

Restitution is made a condition of probation and a condition of completion of probation. The court can require restitution within a specified period or in installments. Payment must be completed before the end of the period of probation, or within five years after the term of imprisonment, or within five years of sentencing. If not otherwise ordered by the judge, it must be paid immediately.

The new law provides for the issuance of an income deduction order which would apply to the earnings of an employed offender.

The act also amends s. 914.22, F.S., to provide that use of physical force, intimidation, threat, or the offer of pecuniary benefit to any person with intent to influence an official investigation; or altering, destroying, mutilating or concealing an object with intent to impair an official investigation is a third degree felony. Intimidating or harassing a person to hinder, delay, prevent, or dissuade their cooperation with an official investigation will be a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Most importantly, the new law allows the courts to consider statements submitted by the victim of a crime as credible facts upon which to base a departure from the recommended sentence under Sentencing Guidelines. It also allows the victim of a crime to testify or submit a written statement to the Parole Commission at a parole hearing regarding his views on releasing the offender.





# We salute!



**LARGO** — Captain Cliff Voege (left) joined Pinellas County Deputy Sheriff Gary Swanhart and Mrs. Swanhart for this photo after Deputy Swanhart was honored by the Clearwater Civitan Club for his unselfish services to the community. The Club gave Swanhart its "Outstanding Service" award and a \$100 savings bond.



**SARASOTA** — Sheriff Geoff Monge (left) and Capt. Ed Palmer (right) presented an Heroic Achievement Award to Sarasota County Deputy Ed Hoss. (See details elsewhere on this page.)

## Eddie Lightsey

**ST. AUGUSTINE** — Lt. Eddie Lightsey, who has been on the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office staff for 24 years, received a Law Enforcement Medal from the Sons of the American Revolution to honor him for his outstanding career.

Described as one of the most dedicated law enforcement officers in St. Johns County, he was credited with formulating the investigative processes that are currently in use at the Sheriff's Office. He was Chief of Detectives before he assumed his present position as a Watch Commander.

## James Driscoll Raymond Stanley

**DADE CITY** — Sgt. James Driscoll and Deputy Ramond Stanley from the Crime Prevention Division of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, qualified as crime prevention practitioners after completing 120 hours of classroom and field work at the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute, in Tallahassee.

## Ed Hoss Don Lewis

**SARASOTA** — Sheriff Geoff Monge honored two members of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office staff for life saving actions.

Deputy Ed Hoss received an Heroic Achievement Award for rescuing a suspect from a burning car that had been identified as stolen and had been pursued at high speeds before it crashed.

Deputy Don Lewis received a Certificate of Merit for rescuing two men whose sailboat had capsized.

## James V. Wilkerson

**ORLANDO** — Florida's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for 1987, who is also the nation's "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" for 1988, has received an additional honor.

Sgt. James V. Wilkerson was awarded a plaque and a \$5,000 bond when the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police chose him as its "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for 1987.

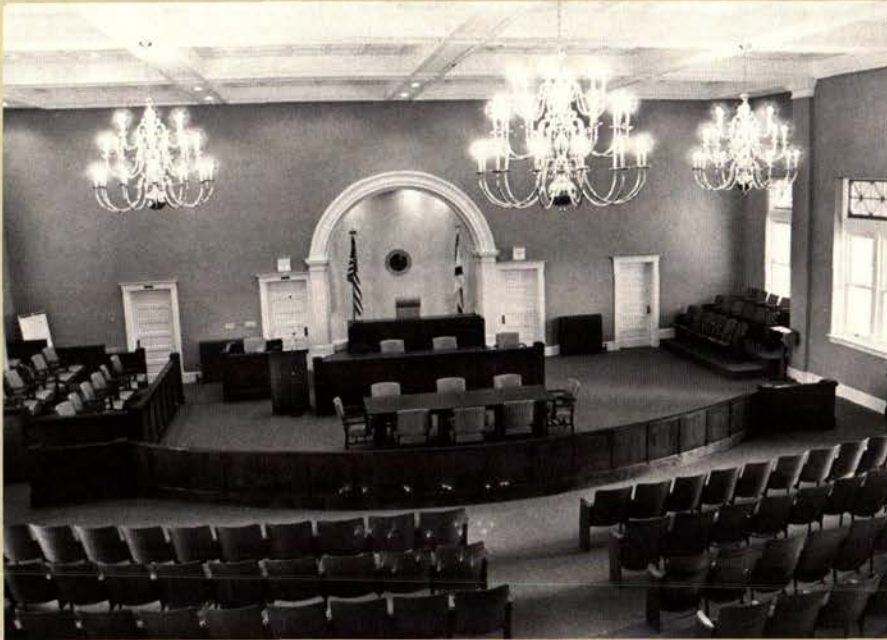
All of these awards were presented to Sgt. Wilkerson, a member of the Orange County Sheriff's Office Staff, after he wrestled with an armed man who was holding a live grenade. The detonation tore through both men, ripping off Sgt. Wilkerson's right hand and shattering one leg. The suspect Wilkerson had been trying to take into custody was critically injured. He had allegedly been threatening people in a densely populated area.

After the 1987 incident, Orange County Sheriff Lawson Lamar described Wilkerson as "a model of dedication, courage and integrity."

The Fraternal Order of Police award was the second "Officer of the Year" honor given to Wilkerson on the state level. The first was from the Florida Citizens Against Crime. His national award came from the National Sheriffs' Association.



## In Madison County:



# Drug importer's mistake has helped to pay for criminal justice improvements

*Funds derived from drug bust confiscations paid for a complete restoration of the Madison County courtroom — just one of many criminal justice system improvements for which Sheriff Joe Peavy has been responsible.*

**MADISON** — Strangers passing through Madison County sometimes get the impression they have found a quiet, quaint version of the old south.

It's only an illusion — a first impression created by handsome antebellum homes, giant old live oak trees, Spanish moss and an unhurried lifestyle — but hotshot marijuana importer Joe Valverde fell for it when he came here several years ago seeking a remote, rural setting for his base of operations.

If he had made a careful survey he would have discovered that — contrary to first impressions — Madison is a progressive county with a healthy economy, a well-rated junior college, cultural opportunities, a proud heritage of political power and a Sheriff who is "on the ball."

But, Valverde failed to "case the joint" the way he should have. Instead, he acquired a house surrounded by many acres, built an airstrip and a \$150,000 hangar for his \$500,000 airplane, and began importing marijuana.

Apparently he felt secure in his remote location, but Sheriff Joe Peavy wasn't napping. He and his deputies, assisted by Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents, were watching the importer's landings and takeoffs.

One opportune day in 1985 when Valverde had just arrived from Columbia and was unloading 3,000 pounds of marijuana, the Sheriff's stakeout team moved in and arrested him. This ended Valverde's drug importing business, and eventually



*Sheriff Joe Peavy (left) and pilot Ben Stewart have found many useful assignments for the new Maule airplane purchased with proceeds from the Valverde drug case. The Sheriff has two other pilots on his staff, including Chief Deputy Jimmy Bunting.*

added approximately \$350,000 to the trust fund into which Peavy puts the money derived from drug bust confiscations.

The confiscated property included Valverde's airplane, a King Air appraised at \$500,000; cash totaling \$110,000; and a motor home. After appropriate court proceedings, Peavy and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement split the proceeds. The King Air gained respectability when it was taken over by the state's "air force" and became the Governor's mode of transportation.





K-9 Deputy Gay Swift with Lord Von Lingerhind, the Sheriff's talented German Shepherd whose accomplishments include sniffing out hidden drugs. His first drug search netted \$5,000 for the Sheriff's trust fund.

In due time, Valverde accumulated state and federal prison sentences totaling 57 years, and he may be sitting in his cell at this very moment wondering why in the world he failed to check out the caliber of law enforcement in Madison County before setting up business there. It was his one big mistake.

Meanwhile, Peavy has been using the proceeds from the Valverde case and many other drug busts to upgrade his agency and improve Madison County's criminal justice system.

Improvements paid for from the trust fund at no cost to taxpayers include a new Maule airplane with short take-off and landing capabilities; a Sheriff's hangar and airstrip; and a "drug sniffing" K-9 cross-trained for tracking, making building searches and protection.

The German Shepherd is "Lord Von Lingerhind," but he answers to "Lord" and understands only German commands. Peavy said he paid \$5,000 for the talented K-9, but got the money back promptly when Lord sniffed out hidden drugs on his first assignment. Confiscated property from this bust produced \$5,000 for the Sheriff's trust fund.

Peavy spent \$64,000 out of the trust fund to provide an office annex for his investigators who previously had no space to call their own. The annex also houses a photographic darkroom, a conference room and an evidence vault. This falls within the guidelines of trust fund spending, Peavy said, but he also wanted to dip into the trust fund to do an extensive restoration job in the county courtroom, and that required a unique special act of the Florida Legislature.

The 1987 act, with a one-year time limit, permit-



Although modern to the core when it comes to serious law enforcement matters, Peavy enters this ancient Model A Ford in parades. Lt. Paul Prince (right), head of the Sheriff's reserve unit, is the designated driver. The car is a gift to the Sheriff's Office from Attorney Cary A. Hardee, a descendant of the Florida Governor by the same name who was the state's chief executive from 1921 to 1925.

ted \$190,000 to be spent on air conditioning, carpeting, handsome brass chandeliers, new restrooms, an attractive decor and a public address system.

Peavy said trying cases in the old courtroom with its lowered celotex ceiling, ugly fluorescent lights and lack of air conditioning was an ordeal for everyone involved. On warm days when the windows were open, traffic noises often forced a pause in proceedings.

Now the once seedy judicial arena is a handsome showplace Madison County folks can be proud to show visitors. North Florida newspapers have been giving it rave reviews.



Donna Melgaard is Madison County's first female road patrol deputy, and an example of Sheriff Peavy's progressive approach to law enforcement. In addition to patrol duty, she maintains the Sheriff's case and disposition files; gives firearms instructions; and conducts interviews and searches when female suspects are in custody.





# Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Honor Roll

## Roster of Lifetime Honorary Members

### Home towns eliminated

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

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

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

A.H. and C.K. Malcom  
Company

Al Con Enterprises

Mrs. Annie M. Baacke

Mrs. Sybilla Bargstedt

Mr. Tony Barr

Mr. Henry Belanger  
Boardwalk & Baseball,  
Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Bray  
Ms. Beatrice L. Burridge  
Carr Bros. Institutional  
Foods & Paper Co.

Ms. Barbara Ceuleers  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas  
Crossnoe, Jr.

Mrs. Evelyn J. Davis

Mr. Lloyd Docktor

Mrs. Ruth E. Donovan  
Dunnellon Merchants

Mr. Jerry Ellis

First Federal Savings  
and Loan Association

Mr. & Mrs. Sixto J.  
Garcia

Mr. Dan Harris, Jr.

Mrs. Winifred M. Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Charles H.  
Hutchins

Inglis-Yankeetown  
Lions Club

Jessie A. Bunn Memorial  
Foundation

Ms. Laura Johnson

Mr. Frank G. Jones

Mrs. Arlene Keller

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen C.  
Kerns

Mr. & Mrs. James Klein

Mr. Richard Lane

Mr. Robert Langdale

Mr. Neil D. MacKinnon

Mr. & Mrs. George E.  
Milbrook

Ms. Debra Miller

Mr. Nile D. Miller

Mrs. Ruth Moore

Mrs. Bessie L. Morgan

Mr. & Mrs. Les A.  
Morrow

Mrs. Helen E. Nelson

Mrs. Pauline Phillips

Prudential Employee  
Community Services  
Comm.

Mr. & Mrs. Victor Purkey

Mr. & Mrs. Tom  
Rossettos

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.



*Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Financial Development Ed Waldron (left) to Charles E. Muller, Esquire.*

**CLEARWATER** —  
*Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Fred "Mac" Stones (right) to Mark Spencer, of Spencer's Western World, Inc.*



Dr. Bruce Scarola

Mr. & Mrs. Charles D.  
Stidham

Mr. & Mrs. Pat  
Summerall

Ms. Ina Toole

Mr. Marion A. Tryon

Mrs. Elizabeth Wheatley

Sheriff Richard P. Wille

Mr. Richard L. Wilson

Mrs. Perry S. Woodbury

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C.  
Wurtele

Y.E.A.R., Inc.



## Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .



**CORAL SPRINGS** — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President Bob Haag (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Ptak. (Mrs. Ptak was formerly an employee of the Youth Ranches organization and is an active supporter of its programs.)



**TALLAHASSEE** — Presented by Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone (right) to J.T. Bush.



Anderson



Hyman

**TAMPA** — Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich to Gary Anderson, representing Gulf Coast Chemical Company; and Joanne Hyman, from Five Gaits Farm, Inc.



Vincents



Tausches

**SARASOTA** — Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Geoffrey Monge and Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust to Mr. and Mrs. Melbourne Vincent, Col. Roland Tausch and Mrs. Gerry Tausch. Sheriff Monge is on the right in the photo of the Vincents, and on the left in the other photo. Regional Director Aust is on the opposite side in each photo.



## Graduating twice made 1988 a banner year for Sheriff



BUSHNELL — It is unlikely that Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., will score as many accomplishments in any future year as he did in 1988. It was a banner year in which he was awarded a long-postponed college degree and graduated from the FBI National Academy.

His degree, which he obtained by attending St. Leo College on weekends, is a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. He prizes it because it was aquired the hard way.

Adams said his family urged him to go to college right after he was graduated from high school in 1958, but he chose to go into the U.S. Army and served three years as a paratrooper.

He was eligible for G.I. Bill benefits, and college was again one of his options, but he chose instead to become a Florida Wildlife Officer. That detour lasted 17 years, but it was not a static time in his life. He married, began raising two sons, put down some deep roots in Sumter County, and had many rewarding experiences.

In 1980 he was elected Sheriff of Sumter County, and in the stress of taking on his new responsibilities, a college education was again placed on the back burner.

Finally, after he was re-elected for his second term in 1984, he decided to give academic credentials a higher priority. "I began to see that I could become an even better public servant by becoming better informed, and it seemed that this was the time for me to take the big step," he said recently.

A big step it was, because it meant fulfilling his full-time responsibilities as Sheriff while keeping up his grades at St. Leo, a private, four-year college in neighboring Pasco County. Nevertheless, Adams per-

*These 1988 photos show Sheriff Adams (right) graduating from St. Leo College (in academic garb) and the FBI National Academy.*



severed and emerged from the ordeal singing the praises of academia.

"It was a long haul," he said, "but one I am recommending to my employees and anyone who is trying to measure up to the demands of public service."