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sheriffs Star

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Mounted deputies capture 8 awards

(see page 2)



Mounted deputies capture 8 awards

By Doug Sarubbi

ORLANDO — Two Orange County deputy sheriffs and their horses recently galloped, demonstrated crowd control and jumped their way to national awards in competition with riders and steeds from 50 law enforcement agencies from around the United States.

Cpl. Randy McKendree and Deputy Terry Brewer brought home eight awards from the Seventh An-

nual National Mounted Police Competition, in Tampa. They placed 6th and 5th respectively in equitation; 4th and 7th in gymkhana; 3rd and 2nd in obstacles; and 5th and 2nd in the Grand National, total overall points.

McKendree rode "Sunshine," one of the original horses donated to the Sheriff's Office by the International Drive Hotel/Motel Association in 1984. Brewer rode "Sarge," a horse donated by a professional breeder.



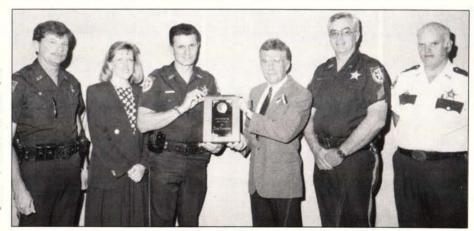
COVER PHOTO: Deputy Terry Brewer (left) and Cpl. Randy McKendree with the trophies and ribbons they were awarded at the Seventh Annual National Mounted Police Competition.

Sheriff Walt Gallagher's Mounted Patrol Unit consists of seven horses, five full-time deputies, and a full-time groomer. Four additional deputies are being cross-trained to fill future positions.

The primary function of the mounted unit is to patrol residential and business areas such as The Florida Mall, International Drive, and West Colonial Drive in Pine Hills.

Deputy Overacker had what it takes

GAINESVILLE — Alachua County Deputy Sheriff Tom Overacker was chosen "Officer of the Year" by the Gator Exchange Club because of his professionalism, his skill in training new deputies, and his astuteness in recovering over \$100,000 worth of stolen property. Participating in the award ceremony were (from left) Lt. Butch Jones (his watch commander), Carol Overacker (his wife), Deputy Tom Overacker, Exchange Club President Paul Fuller, Sgt. David Parker, and Capt. J. M. "Buddy" Crevasse.

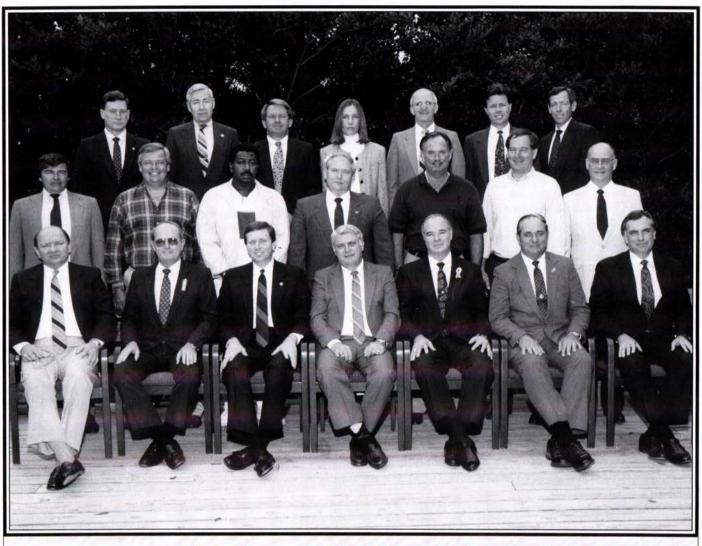


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Seven Sheriffs complete Executive Seminar

WAKULLA SPRINGS - This group of law enforcement executives completed the first Chief Executive Seminar offered by the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute on March 27. It includes seven Sheriffs and three chief correctional officers from county correctional facilities. The graduates are: front row (left to right): Superintendent C. George Denman, Department of Corrections; Sheriff Neil Perry, St. Johns County; Commissioner Tim Moore, Florida Department of Law Enforcement: Sheriff Lawrence Crow, Polk County; Sheriff Jim McMillan, Jacksonville (Duval County); Sheriff Al Harrison, Gulf County; Michael A. Berg, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Corrections; Middle row (left to right): Director Terry Moore, Volusia County Corrections; Sheriff Tim Dobeck, Indian River County; Director Charles A. Felton, Pinellas County Corrections; Chief Lee McGehee, Ocala; Sheriff Bobby Knowles, St. Lucie County; Sheriff Everett Rice, Pinellas County; Chief Ron Martin, Winter Haven; Back row (left to right): Secretary Richard Dugger, Department of Corrections; Director Don Ellingsen, Florida Marine Patrol; Chief Paul Uravich, University of South Florida (Tampa); Superintendent Marta Villacorta, Department of Corrections; Chief Frank Ross, Kissimmee; Chief William B. Berger, North Miami Beach; Chief Billy R. Riggs, West Palm Beach.

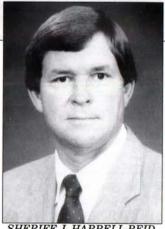
Sheriff Reid is FBI Academy grad

JASPER — Hamilton County Sheriff J. Harrell Reid was graduated from the FBI National Academy, in Quantico, Virginia, on March 22.

He attended the 164th Session of the Academy in a class that included men and women from 48 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, 15 foreign countries, six military organizations and three federal civilian organizations.

A total of 23,892 students have been graduated from the Academy since it was founded in 1935. More than 15,000 are still active in law enforcement.

Reid was a deputy sheriff for ten years before he was elected Sheriff in 1988. He holds an AS Degree from Miami-Dade Junior College; and a BS Degree from the University of Florida. He completed the Criminal Justice Standards Training Course at North Florida Junior College.



SHERIFF J. HARRELL REID

When you're old and feeble and gray Miss Willie's call can make your day

OKEECHOBEE — Imagine that you're old and frail and lonely and not in very good health, and your phone rings and a voice says "Good morning. How are you dear? This is Willie."

Does that make your day, or what??

You better betcha!

A call from Willie Whidden, 88-year-old deputy sheriff in the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, is really special because she doesn't just say "are you Okay?" and hang up.

Willie is a patient person and a great listener, and when you tell her about your arthritis pains, or about your pension check being late, or the peculiar noises you heard after midnight, she won't rush you and she never seems to be impatient.

"When they wanna talk about something, I let 'em talk, because they live alone and they's just bubblin' over to tell somebody," Miss Willie explained.

"Sometimes they want to talk about makin' quilts or gardens. We also exchange recipes, but the main thing is that I really wanta know how they are doin'... if they're sick or well or what. That's the whole purpose."

Miss Willie (That's what most folks call her) has over 200 senior citizens on her list, and she calls them every week. Sometimes she visits them or sends a deputy to check on them. If they need special attention, she notifies the Council on Aging.

"She's got a heart of love for everybody," said 90-year-old Belle Godwin, who has known Miss Willie for more than 70 years. "She wants to do anything she can to help."

Perhaps the same thing can be said about Okeechobee County Sheriff O. L. Raulerson. It was his concern for the welfare of senior citizens — many of them frail and living alone — that prompted him to put Miss Willie to work as his friendly, patient checker upper.

She began her new assignment early in 1991 and plunged into it with enthusiasm and energy — in somewhat the same manner that she started her law enforcement career 26 years ago.

She recalls how fired up she was when she helped



Miss Willie goes over her file of senior citizens with Deputy Elaine Fralix, Sheriff Raulerson's secretary.

the late John Collier get elected Sheriff "by a landslide" in 1964, and what a struggle they had when she went to work in the Sheriff's Office in January 1965.

"We took inventory," she said, "and we didn't have any food and we didn't have any money. We also had the December bills to pay.

"The Sheriff told me, 'We're gonna hafta work hard...long hours...but if you stick with me, I'll make this county a Sheriff's Office that it'll be proud of.'

"So I said, 'Let's go to work,' and we went to work. There was three deputies and one dispatcher, a secretary and another one that wrote up complaints and things like that. We had to hire a bookkeeper, and it took us six months to straighten out the records.

"Let me tell you... when we first took over we didn't have any money and we had a time feedin' eight prisoners. So then I told the Sheriff, I said 'Let's plant a garden.' So we did and I raised potatoes, onions, cabbage, carrots, turnips, beans and peas.

"Then, you know what? I fed the prisoners for 27 cents a meal. Now people don't believe that. They say I'm a'lyin', but it's true. We had all them vegetables."

Raising vegetables is just one of many tasks Miss Willie has undertaken for the Sheriff's Office. "I've been a deputy sheriff and a matron," she explained. "I also supervised the purchasing of everything that went in the jail."

At one time she was the jail cook, and in 1978 she became a school crossing guard — a duty assignment she performed faithfully in all kinds of weather for 12 years.

In 1989 she had pneumonia, and Sheriff Raulerson

decided it was time to bring her in out of the bad weather. At the beginning of 1991 he assigned her to her present job contacting senior citizens.

"Iloveit," she said, and apparently Sheriff Raulerson is pleased with her. "She has always been reliable in any position she has held," he said.

Miss Willie still drives to and from work every day. She is careful about her diet and exercises every morning. She says that's what keeps her going.

"People get old and sit in a rocking chair and rock themselves to death," she said. "You've got to have exercise."

"I don't give up," she added. "I hang in there."

Working 20,000 hours without pay, that's doing it Jack Bell's way

WEST PALM BEACH — Time means nothing to Jack Bell. He literally gives it away!

At last count he had given 20,000 hours of volunteer time to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. That's 500 40-hour weeks with no pay, and this 77-year-old time-giver is still on the job as part of a three-agent team in the Prescription Fraud Section of Sheriff Richard Wille's Organized Crime Bureau.

This remarkable fellow passes up paydays with carefree disdain, but he does get compensated in other ways — with respect and praise and the satisfaction of knowing that, while other oldsters are just rusting away in their rocking chairs, his dwindling "golden years" really count for something.

Sheriff Wille recently expressed his appreciation by awarding a unique plaque to Bell. Attached to the plaque was a desk pen, and a clock—the perfect gift for a guy who has never been accused of being a clockwatcher.

Col. Richard L. Sheets, who is in charge of the Sheriff's Investigations Division, added words of praise:

"Mr. Bell is an outstanding senior citizen who has displayed a very special concern for public service that is unprecedented, to our knowledge," said Sheets. "He interacts wonderfully, and has gained the respect and admiration of all with whom he works."

As a postscript, Sheets announced that Jack Bell had been nominated for the prestigious Jefferson Award which recognizes volunteers for "the greatest public service benefiting their local communities."

Sheets pointed out that Bell hasn't always worked without pay. He accepted a paycheck from the Chevrolet Division of General Motors for 34 years, and achieved the position of Sales Executive before retiring in 1971.

Seven years later, in May, 1978, he signed up as a non-paid special deputy in the Sheriff's Marine Enforcement Auxiliary, and served full-time in this capacity for five years.



Sheriff Richard Wille (left) selected the perfect award for Jack Bell, the man who gives his time away with carefree disdain. It's a plaque with a clock mounted on it.

When the new Criminal Justice Complex was completed in 1982, he manned the front reception desk for a year, then returned to the Marine Enforcement unit for another year.

In 1985, a doctor's order to stay out of the sun caused him to be transferred "inside" to the Detective Division, where he was responsible for the Pawn Shop Detail, and, according to Col. Sheets, "once again did an outstanding job."

In 1986 he transferred to his present full-time nonpaidjob in the Organized Crime Bureau, and there have been no reports that he has the slightest intention of quitting.

Why should he? Just look at the photo accompanying this article. Doesn't Jack Bell appear to be happy and contented? Would anyone believe he's 77? Is this guy for real? Is he trying to start some kind of a massive protest against paydays?

Watch him, Sheriff, he's dangerous!!

Sheriff's crime lab expands services

KEY WEST — With Dr. Don Pope on board as the newlyqualified serologist, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office crime lab is now offering expanded services to law enforcement agencies in the area.

In the past, drug analysis constituted a large portion of the lab's case load, and virtually everything else was farmed out to distant labs with more sophisticated equipment and trained personnel. Sometimes the test results were not received for months, and on occasion they were too late to be used in a court case.

Now the testing of body fluids such as blood and semen will be done "in house," producing speedier results, and in some instances, faster processing of some criminal cases.

"Most cases involving body fluids are crimes against people," said SheriffRick Roth. "Oftentimes, prompt testing of fluid samples can help to identify a suspect and lead to an arrest. This kind of quick action is extremely important for the well being of the victim, and for the safety of the rest of the community."

Dr. Pope was hired by the Sheriff's Office two years ago to begin training as a serologist, and recently became

Sheriff's Office is helping to stop wanderers from wandering

TITUSVILLE — Sheriff C. W. "Jake" Miller and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office are participating in a Wanderer's Identification Program which is designed to identify Alzheimer's patients and other memory-impaired individuals who stray from their homes or care-givers.

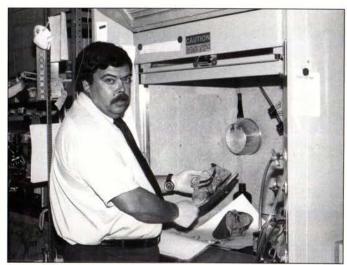
Also involved are the Brevard Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and Walgreen's Drug Stores.

The drug stores are providing free identification bracelets for the patients, and the Sheriff's Office is maintaining an information file on each patient. The Alzheimer's Chapter is providing information for the Sheriff's file.

Each bracelet contains the first name of the patient, the words "memory impaired," an access number, and the telephone number of the Sheriff's Office.

Law enforcement officers and other informed individuals know that anyone wearing an Alzheimer's bracelet should not be alone, and steps can be taken to send the wanderer home.

When the Sheriff's Office is given a patient's access number, full information can be provided regarding the patient's full name, and the address and phone number of a family member or care-giver. The Sheriff's file will also contain pertinent information such as "patient may fight or bite" or "patient thinks he lives in New York."



Dr. Don Pope's expertise as a serologist enhances the services offered by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office crime lab.

qualified to handle case work. He is also trained in collecting micro trace evidence such as hairs and fibers.

Lab Director Tom Zimmer is primarily responsible for processing all drug testing. He has worked for the Sheriff's Office for four years, and has 14 years experience in the field.

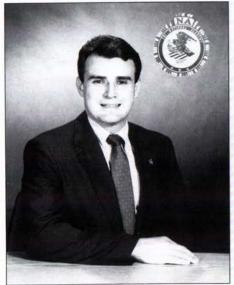


Joan Sword, Executive Director, Brevard County Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, explains the "wanderer's" identification bracelet to Sheriff C. W. "Jake" Miller.



There goes the 18th "crack house"

ORLANDO — While state prison inmates demolished Orange
County's 18th "crack house," interested spectators included
(from left) Sheriff's Major "Buck" Buchanan, Sheriff Walt
Gallagher and County Commissioner Bill Donegan. Gallagher
said more of the crack shacks are due for destruction.



CAPT. CASEY

FBI National Academy graduates

Osceola County Sheriff Jon Lane, Kissimmee; and Capt. C. Steven Casey, from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Key West, were graduated from the FBI National Academy, in Quantico, Virginia, on December 14, 1990. They attended the 163rd session of the Academy and were in a graduating class of 247 law enforcement officers from the U.S. and numerous foreign countries.



SHERIFF LANE



This is a "Good Neighbor"

TITUSVILLE — Brevard County Sheriff C. W. "Jake" Miller presents a "Good Neighbor" award to Mrs. Pat Wilkins in recognition of her efforts to reduce crime in the Windover Farms area. As chairman of the Neighborhood Watch program in her area, Mrs. Wilkins established a block captain system and arranged for fingerprinting of children. Sheriff Miller praised her for increasing community awareness and crime prevention involvement among her neighbors.





50th birthday was a breeze

BUSHNELL — The prospects of old age depicted by this fancy birthday cake didn't seem to bother Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., when he celebrated his 50th birthday. He seemed to be impressed (rather than depressed) and invited his friends from courthouse offices to come see and share.

Signs designed with parents in mind

DADE CITY—Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum is giving strong support to a "Buckle-Up" billboard campaign sponsored by the Florida Coalition for Auto Safety. He was photographed at the unveiling of one of the signs. Over two dozen others are on major highways in Pasco County. Gillum serves as chairman of the Coalition's Law Enforcement Advisory Committee.



These VOICE volunteers patrol the Pine Island area of Lee County. They are (from left) Dick Jones, Tom Thorn, Bill Herrmann and Jerry Crapnell.

Sheriff McDougall is very vocal in praise of VOICE volunteers

FORT MYERS — "Last night someone came by and knocked down your mailbox. Well, you want that mailbox replaced, but your insurance company won't do it unless you have a police report.

"You call the Sheriff's Office, and we take your complaint. Are we going to send out a gun-toting, arrest powers, six-foot deputy who has five calls already backed up?

"No way. Instead three senior citizens roll up to your door in a 'Volunteer Observer' car without blue lights or siren, and they take care of your problem."

Lee County Sheriff John McDougall was talking about a program called Volunteer Observers Impacting Community Effort — VOICE for short, and he was really enthusiastic.

VOICE is made up of trained volunteers who expand the patrol coverage of the Sheriff's Office and also respond to non-violent crime reports so that certified deputies can be freed to handle calls of a more urgent and dangerous nature.

"It's an amazing program," said McDougall. "On the very first day we put our first VOICE unit out on the street, these three elderly volunteers were sitting in their patrol car when they heard on the radio that there had been an armed robbery. Then along came a station wagon that fit the description of the getaway car. They picked up the 'mike' and reported their location and followed the suspects.

"The station wagon turned down a side street, and the



VOICE uniforms include a cap with a Sheriff's Office shield emblem on the front, white shirt, a distinctive vest and dark trousers. Heavy jackets with similar markings are issued for cold weather.

suspects switched to a van and took off in the opposite direction.

"Well the VOICE volunteers had the tag number and the direction of travel of the van, and we had time to get into position and stop these guys. But it never would have been accomplished if it hadn't been for those VOICE volunteers. They're mobile and they're out there.

"If you look at the backgrounds of these people, they are unbelievable. One is the former Secretary of State from Illinois. We have executive board members from General Motors, a design engineer, doctors, lawyers, teachers. It's amazing.

"I tell these VOICE people if I could unscrew their heads and put them on the bodies of young deputies, it would be great because they have a maturity level . . . all those life skills that our new deputies don't have.

"They're patient, they're kind, they're courteous and they're very detailed. These people know the areas that they patrol. They know, for instance, that the corner house is Mrs. O'Leary's. They know she's 83 years old and there shouldn't be a Harley-Davidson motorcycle with an extended front end parked in the carport. If one of our certified deputies saw that motorcycle, he would just keep on driving because it wouldn't seem to be anything out of the ordinary."

VOICE recruits receive 40 hours of training in report writing, fingerprinting techniques, radio procedures, use of equipment, driving skills and patrol techniques. They also ride with certified deputies for up to 20 hours, before going out on patrol in two or three-man units.

Each member is provided with a VOICE uniform, a hand-held radio, flashlight, binoculars, raincoat, first-aid kit and other miscellaneous equipment.

They are not allowed to carry firearms or any other type of weapon, including chemical devices such as mace.

VOICE volunteers patrol in their own residential areas, prepare reports on misdemeanor thefts, vandalism and similar crimes against property; tag abandoned vehicles; make vacation house checks; assist certified deputies at crime scenes; work parades; and assist the

Sheriff's Office with paper work, communications and serving subpoenas.

Near the end of 1990 the VOICE roster totaled 131 men and women ranging in age from 38 to 84, with the majority being elderly and retired. Their activities are coordinated by Sgt. Ed Stone, who is also the President and Director of the Lee County Police Athletic League.

"We are proud to have citizens of this caliber as part of our working team," said Sheriff McDougall. "Countless hours of service (approximately 9,000 in 1990) have been donated to the citizens of Lee county by VOICE volunteers in an effort to make our community a better place in which to live."

Sheriff receives award

FORT MYERS — In 1989 Sheriff John McDougall received an award from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association honoring him for his VOICE (Volunteer Observers Impacting Community Effort) program. The program was cited as an outstanding contribution to law enforcement.

The invitations offered super prizes but what 77 guests got was arrested

NEW PORT RICHEY — The possibility of winning a 1991 Pontiac Firebird (see photo) and the certainty of getting two free tickets to Superbowl XXV lured 77 "guests" to a party supposedly staged by SSF (Southeastern Sports Federation) at the Sheraton Inn.

Actually, SSF stood for "Sheriff Snags Fugitive" and the party guests were promptly arrested by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office and held on fugitive warrants.

SheriffJim Gillum said this successful "sting" operation was staged at a cost of \$780, but if those who showed up for the party from out of state had been extradited, the cost of these cases alone would have been over \$8,000.

Two of the fugitives were from Virginia and Georgia. One was a military deserter trying to avoid duty in Saudi Arabia.

Gillum said he was "tickled" with the success of the sting operation which had been in the planning stage for four months. It began when the Sheriff's Office wrote approximately 1,000 letters to persons wanted on fugitive



The grand prize offered to SSF party guests was this 1991 Pontiac Firebird.

warrants. The letters appeared to be from SSF, and they offered prizes and Superbowl tickets to invited guests who showed up for the January 11 party with a picture identification.

One letter went all the way to California, and the fugitive didn't respond. However, his brother showed up and tried to use the fugitive's driver's license with his own picture pasted on it as identification. He was arrested for possession of a fraudulent license.

During the SSF party over 40 members of the Sheriff's staff posed as cheerleaders, DJs, photographers and greeters to add to the realism.

It's time to pick a winner

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Retail Federation is asking Sheriffs, police chiefs and state law enforcement agency executives to nominate candidates for the 1990-91 Florida Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

Established in 1974, the award is limited to line-duty officers up to and including the rank of sergeant. It provides cash awards and personalized plaques for the top choice, and for the first and second runners-up.

The deadline for nominations is August 15, 1991. For further information contact John Rogers, Jr., Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Florida Retail Federation, P. O. Box 10024, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2024. The telephone numbers are (800) 226-4082 and (904) 222-4082.

No need for "war chest"

JACKSONVILLE — While most candidates were busy scratching up campaign dollars, Sheriff Jim McMillan was trying to give his war chest away.

Three days after he learned he had no opposition in his campaign for re-election, McMillan said he would give more than \$30,000 in campaign funds to the Police Athletic League.

- Florida Times Union, 3/3/91

(The charter of the consolidated City of Jacksonville requires the Sheriff and other officials to run in 1991. All other elected Sheriffs in Florida will run in 1992.)

Murder case involved 12 agencies

OCALA — Cooperative efforts of 12 law enforcement agencies from Florida and three northern states resulted in the arrest of Aileen Wuornos, prime suspect in the widely publicized serial killings of seven middle-aged men in north and central Florida.

The arrest occurred January 16, 1991, in Volusia County, following a 13-month investigation spearheaded by Capt. Steve A. Binegar, Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division at the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

One of the important breaks in the case occurred when Capt. Binegar and Major Dan Henry, Chief of Staff in the Marion County Sheriff's Office, went to Cadiz, Ohio, to confer with Harrison County Sheriff Richard P. Rensi.

According to Della Cormier, Community Relations Division, Marion County Sheriff's Office, the Florida investigators obtained from Rensi valuable information on Wuornos and material witness Tyria Moore. She said this information was "a key factor in bringing the case to fruition."



Capt. Steve Binegar (left) and Maj. Dan Henry (right), from the Marion County (Florida) Sheriff's Office, obtained valuable background information on a serial murder case when they visited Harrison County Sheriff Richard P. Rensi (center) in Cadiz, Ohio.

Indian River and Charlotte SOs are accredited; Hillsborough is "unconditionally reaccredited"

Florida's leadership in law enforcement accreditation was strengthened recently when the Indian River and Charlotte County Sheriffs' Offices became accredited, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office was reaccredited.

This action taken by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) during a Denver, Colorado, meeting March 14-16, gave Florida nine accredited Sheriff's Offices — more than any other state in the nation. No other state comes close. In the rest of the nation, only 20 Sheriff's Offices are accredited.

The small number is due to the fact that accreditation is a new development in law enforcement. CALEA, a private, non-profit organization, was formed in 1979 through the combined efforts of the National Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Police Executive Research Forum. It became operational in 1983.

Florida Sheriffs' Offices accredited prior to Indian River and Charlotte Counties are Manatee, Marion, Hillsborough, Broward, Monroe, Palm Beach and Pinellas.

Accreditation is for five years. At the end of five years, an agency must once again prove through reaccreditation that it meets approximately 850 state-of-the-art standards.

The recent reaccreditation of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office was especially noteworthy because, according to Information Services Director Jack Espinosa, it was the first Sheriff's Office in the U.S. to become "unconditionally reaccredited."

Normally, when an agency is reaccredited, the certification comes with conditions that must be met within a year. "But we passed every single standard," said Espinosa.

Accreditation has been granted to 170 city, county, state and federal agencies throughout the U.S., and only 18 have been reaccredited, according to a recent news report. About 18,000 are eligible to go through the accreditation process, the report stated.

Pinellas jail reaccredited

LARGO — A team of inspectors representing the Commission on Accreditation, an affiliate of the American Corrections Association, reaccredited the Pinellas County Jail recently and gave high marks to the staff.

The team measured compliance with 30 mandatory standards, and over 300 secondary standards, involving conditions for inmates and staff.

The jail earned a score of 100 percent for compliance with the mandatory standards, and 98.5 percent for the secondary standards. These scores are higher than when the jail was first accredited in 1988.

Only 55 detention facilities have been accredited in the U.S. To attain this status, they have had to meet the highest standards approved by the American Corrections Association.

1991 Torch Run covered 1,400 miles

Following routes that began in St. Cloud, Pensacola, Naples and Key West, and ended in Tallahassee, more than 1,200 law enforcement officers traveled 1,400 miles in the 1991 Law Enforcement Torch Run.

They focused attention on, and raised over \$100,000 for Special Olympics, which was more than twice the amount raised last year.

The end of the run in Tallahassee was timed to coincide with the start of the Indoor Special Olympic Games at Florida State University.

Col. Cal Henderson, from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, served as the State Director for the 1991 run, and agreed to take on the same responsibility for 1992.

He said the Torch Run gives law enforcement officers a unique opportunity for community involvement, and he commended the officers who participated this year.



Orange County
Sheriff Walt
Gallagher (fourth
from right,
kneeling) was on
hand to cheer
Orange County
runners at the
finish line.



Ken Magee (left), Executive Director of Florida Special Olympics, presents the 1991 Torch Run plaque to Col. Cal Henderson, from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Col. Henderson was the State Director for the Torch Run.



Destitute transient's honesty rewarded ORLANDO — After transient Darrel Teel found an elderly woman's life savings of almost \$30,000 and turned it over to the Orange County Sheriff's Office to be returned to the owner, Sheriff Walt Gallagher (left) gave him a Community Service Award. That was not the only response to his honesty. Citizens stepped forward with cash gifts totaling \$3,000; and, after Teel told a news reporter he needed reading glasses, an optometrist gave him a free eye exam and glasses. A Sheriff's Office spokesman said Teel had only nine cents in his pocket when he found the bag of cash and walked over a mile to turn it in. "It was tempting," Teel said, "but what do I tell my grandchildren?"

Five employees receive awards

PENSACOLA — Escambia County Sheriff Charlie Johnson, assisted by County Commission Chairman Dave Pavlock, presented awards to five Sheriff's Office employees.

Howard Enderson and Greg, Lancaster shared "Deputy of the Year" honors for 1990. They were cited (along with K-9 "Shadow") for the following patrol duties performed during the last six months of the year: making 150 arrests (including 57 on drug-related charges); confiscating 26 vehicles valued at \$116,000; and writing 288 traffic citations.

Gerlinder Smith was honored as "Employee of the Year" for her hard work and her knowledge of employee benefits.

Patsy Bradley, supervisor in the radio room, was named "Employee of the Month," and Richard Goodwin was chosen "Deputy of the Month."



"It's a deal," said representatives of the Georgia and Florida Sheriffs Associations on October 4, 1990, when planning began for a tri-state crack attack. The representatives are (from left) Clayton County (Georgia) Sheriff D. G. "Bill" Lemacks; Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro, Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Association's Crack Cocaine Task Force; and Hendry County Sheriff Earl "Sermon" Dyess, Jr., President of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

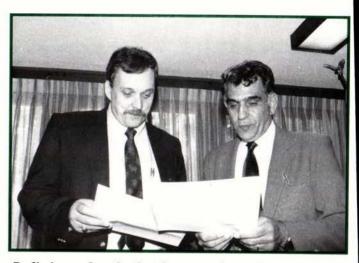
Operation Rockpile expands: Nation's first tri-state crack attack hits drug trade in Fla., Ga. and S.C.

After two years of success in Florida as a coordinated attack on crack cocaine organized by the Florida Sheriffs Association, "Operation Rockpile" expanded into Georgia and South Carolina at the beginning of 1991.

As a result, Sheriffs from the three states, assisted by federal, state and municipal law enforcement agencies, mounted the nation's first tri-state drug sweep on the weekend of February 22-24, 1991.

On February 26 law enforcement officials from the participating states held a press conference in Atlanta to announce that the tri-state crack attack had resulted in more than 13,000 arrests, plus confiscation of drugs, property and cash valued at more than \$32 million.

Georgia Governor Zell Miller told news reporters that similar tri-state sweeps will be conducted in the future. "This 'Crack Attack' won't be the last, and when you least expect it, that's the time to expect it," he said. "I join the others standing before you today in assuring you that we will be back."



Preliminary plans for the tri-state crack attack were discussed on October 4, 1990, by Steve Bertucelli (right), Administrator of Operation Rockpile; and Dave Slemons, Director of Training for the Georgia Sheriffs Association. Bertucelli is the Director of the Organized Crime Division in the Broward County Sheriffs Office.



In foreground, Lt. Gov. Nick Theodore (left) of South Carolina, and Gov. Zell Miller (center) of Georgia listen to Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams convey remarks in behalf of Florida's Gov. Lawton Chiles at the Atlanta press conference.

Other speakers emphasized that cooperation among agencies from various levels of law enforcement was a prime factor in the success of the operation.

Following the press conference, officials from other southeastern states expressed a desire to participate in future multi-state drug sweeps.

"Operation Rockpile" began crippling Florida's drug trade early in 1989 after the Florida Sheriffs Association organized a statewide crack cocaine task force. In the first coordinated crack attack, Sheriffs and deputies, supported by many police departments, arrested more than 2,200 narcotics violators, and took 50 weapons off the streets. Approximately 1,000 officers were involved.

Six additional statewide drug busts in 1989 and 1990 boosted the grand total to 112,632 arrests, and produced the following two-year tally of seized items: \$2.2 million worth of drugs; 1,664 vehicles; 639 weapons; and \$1,163,931 in U.S. currency.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL

his Honor Roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to progressive law enforcement. Distinguished Service Certificates are awarded to those who have supported the Sheriffs Association as Honorary Members for 25 or 30 years. Lifetime Honorary Memberships are awarded to veteran law enforcement officers whose careers have spanned 40 years or more; and to supporters whose donations to the Florida Sheriffs Association total \$1,000 or more.





BUSHNELL - Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., presents 30-year Distinguished Service Certificates to Leland Poole and Mrs. Rose Coker.









LINDABURY

NAPLES - Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter presents Distinguished Service Certificates to M. Dan Nickel (30 years), and Robert E. Lindabury (25 years).

SARASOTA — Sarasota County Sheriff Geoffrey Monge presents 25-year Distinguished Service Certificates to Robert K. Dean and Winfield C. Cook.







TITUSVILLE - Brevard County Sheriff Claude W. Miller presents Distinguished Service Certificates to Charles B. Provost (25 years); and Mr.



PALATKA — Putnam County Sheriff Taylor Douglas (right) presents a 30-year Distinguished Service Certificate to Bill Peters, who shared the limelight with Mary Broas.



and Mrs. Curtis H. Bliss (30 years).





VanDecar

SAWYER



KEY WEST - Monroe County Sheriff Richard D. Roth presents 30-year Distinguished Service Certificates to James McManus and Harold J. VanDecar; and 25-year certificates to Milton Sawyer, Roy Ek, Walter Price and Craig Pontin, who was accepting the award for his father, H. T. Pontin.





PRICE



Florida Sheriffs Association's Charter Business Members



A charter and by-laws amendment that went into effect at the beginning of 1990 permits business firms to enroll as Business Members of the Florida Sheriffs Association in three categories: Gold for those who pay annual dues of \$500; Silver for those paying \$250; and Bronze for those paying \$50.

The first Business Members were enrolled in February, 1990, and by the end of July the roll call was well over 1,000. In gratitude for this generous and enthusiastic response, we are printing the following roster of recently enrolled Charter Business Members:

SILVER BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP:

WELBRO Construction, Inc.

BRONZE BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS:

A. B. C., Inc. **Bert Thomas Grocery Beyond Electronics** Carla's Sandwich Shoppe Charles Redi Mix, Inc. Colonnade and Conquistadore Apartments Commercial Tire, Inc. Dr. Anthony H. Anderson, D.C. Edgar Watson, MD George Dietz Electric Company Jeff Blair Landscape Service, Inc. Michael T. Petty South Western Communications, Inc. The Boschen Family W. International Group Americ



LAKE CITY — Columbia County Sheriff Tom Tramel (left) presents a Gold Business Membership to W. W. Woodruff.



SANFORD — Seminole County Sheriff Donald F. Eslinger (right) presents a Silver Business Membership to Doug Corp, owner of UPA.



BURDIN



TAMPA — Hillsborough County Sheriff Walter C. Heinrich presents Silver Business Memberships to David Burdin, of USAA Insurance Co.; and Cliff Anderson, representing the Tampa Showmen's Association.

A message to our Honorary Members

We just completed our annual Spring Membership Drive and this seems to be the appropriate time to tell all of our Honorary Members how much we appreciate their loyalty and their generous support. Our gratitude is extended especially to the many new members who accepted their Sheriffs' invitations to come aboard. They responded in substantial numbers in spite of the fact that we are all feeling the impact of the current recession, and in spite of a computer error that gave some of them duplicate invitations. The same computer error also sent invitations to a few of our existing members, but early returns indicate that we have been forgiven for our errors. Nevertheless, we do want to apologize for any confusion created as a result of this oversight.

Now, a few words about the recession. Economists can't seem to decide whether or not we are in one. Take it from us, we definitely are! We know because of our reduced cash flow, and the budget cuts we have been

compelled to make. It's rough, not only for us, but for our loyal supporters. Many of them have been card-carrying honorary members of the Sheriffs Association for 20, 25, even 30 years, and when some of them are forced to drop out due to the current economic crisis, we know they are facing some tough decisions.

Membership renewals are down substantially. Our recruiting of new members has slumped to one-third of normal. We are in a crisis, but our honorary members have always stood by us through good times and bad, and we have no reason to think that they will desert us now.

We need them desperately, not only for survival, but also to continue our efforts to combat crime and delinquency. Experience tells us that when the economy slumps, crime and delinquency are likely to prosper. That is the challenge currently faced by the Sheriffs Association, and we will meet it head-on with the help of our honorary members.



Statewide Law Enforcement Organizations it can all be very confusing . . .

by Tom Berlinger Director of Operations Florida Sheriffs Association

There appears to be some confusion and misinformation as to the titles of various law enforcement associations, and whom the various law enforcement organizations represent.

The only organization representing all 67 Florida sheriffs is the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA). We are the proud founders and sponsors of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch which has evolved into the youth care programs now under the umbrella of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.

No statewide organizations other than FSA and the above mentioned youth care entities are authorized to use the title of "sheriff" in their names, and in no case does any other organization represent all 67 sheriffs as we do.

As a service to our Honorary Members and others who may read this publication, the Florida Sheriffs Association is presenting the following description of the leading law enforcement organizations in Florida, including FSA:

Florida Association of State Troopers (FAST)

Provides legislative services, insurance plans, and legal services for member state troopers. Does not negotiate as a labor/bargaining unit for law enforcement officers. Publishes "The Florida Highway Patrolman" magazine.

Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA)

Provides legislative services, legal services, and insurance plans for its member officers. Serves as a labor/collective bargaining negotiator for a number of state and city police officers, and state correctional officers. Publishes "The Florida Trooper" magazine, and "The Roll Call," a newsletter for its members.

Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA)

Provides legislative services, professional services, training and education programs for the police chiefs of Florida. Does not negotiate as a labor/bargaining unit for law enforcement officers. Publishes "The Florida Police Chief" magazine.

Florida Peace Officers Association (FPOA)

Provides legislative services to its membership, which includes a cross section of police officers, deputy sheriffs, and state law enforcement officers. Sponsors meetings which may include exchanges of information between its members, pistol competition, and social interaction. Does not negotiate as a labor/bargaining unit for law enforcement officers. Publishes "The Florida Police Journal."

Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA)

Provides legislative and professional services to sheriffs and their staff, hosts two statewide training conferences a year for sheriffs and their staff, sponsors statewide jail administrators' training sessions, hosts regional training programs across the state for sheriffs' legal, fiscal and civil staff. Provides fiscal and management assistance to the Florida Sheriffs Association Statewide Crack Cocaine Task Force. Does not negotiate as a labor/bargaining unit for law enforcement officers. Sponsor of the original Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and a host of child care programs which now operate under the umbrella of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. Publishes "The Sheriffs Star" magazine, "The Rancher" magazine and "All Points Bulletin," a newsletter for the employees of Florida's 67 sheriffs.

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Nationwide organization and statewide organization with local member chapters located in many cities across the state. Largely fraternal and social organization whose members include a mixture of police officers, correctional officers, deputy sheriffs and state law enforcement officers. Provides legislative services, insurance plans and legal defense for members. Serves as a labor/collective bargaining negotiator for a number of law enforcement officers across Florida. Publishes "Florida on Patrol," a newsletter for its members.

It is a sign of true support for law enforcement that residents are willing to support these many organizations found within Florida.

We know, too, that individuals fiscally support these groups for a variety of reasons. Some are philanthropic for benevolent reasons. Others simply have a specific group they like for one reason or another. Still others may be seeking certain tax advantages for making charitable donations.

If tax advantage is an important part of your giving, we respectfully urge you to contact the specific organ—izations you have under consideration to determine their tax status.

Please know well that the Florida Sheriffs Association and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. are charitable organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax regulations. As such, donations made to us are deductible for income tax purposes.

Last, please be informed that neither the Florida Sheriffs Association nor the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. solicits for donations or membership by telephone. Any and all solicitation performed in our behalf is effected by direct mail only. We strongly disapprove of, and will not be a party to high-pressure telephone solicitation techniques.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact FSA headquarters at (904) 877-2165.



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.

Adam's Mark Caribbean Gulf Resort Mr. John G. Adams Mrs. William Aspaugh Mr. Robert Bach Barnett Bank of the Treasure Coast -Port St. Lucie Dr. Edwin G. Barton Mr. and Mrs. H. Burt Bassett Bay to Beach Resorts BellSouth Mobility Best Western Cocoa Inn Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Bowling Braham's, Inc. Ms. Deborah Butler Mrs. Eunice E. Byers Mr. Carmen Ciaramello Citrus 95

Mr. William C. Clark, Jr. Clearwater Linen and Uniform Supply, Inc.

Mr. John Corbett

Covenant Christian Center
Darby, Peele, Bowdoin, & Payne
Attorneys at Law
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary #28
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary #67
Double Double U Thoroughbred Farm

Dugout Sport Shop
Dundee Citrus Growers Association
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Dyment
E & S General Contractors
Dr. John Elkins, Jr.

Ms. Celi Ervesun Mrs. Marjory A. Farkas Fleet Reserve Ladies Auxiliary Unit 173 Florida Food Service, Inc.

Fort Pierce Toyota, Inc.

EM

TIPPETT

OCALA — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Stephen Feldstein (right) to J. Neil Fisher and Clem Tippett, of Marion Electronics. Photographed with Mr. Tippett is Mrs. Ruth Byrne, a dedicated donor who encouraged him to become a Youth Ranches supporter.

Fox Hill Farm Mr. and Mrs. Ed Freddo Ms. Gladys C. Gallenkamp Mr. Bobby Garrett Grand Cypress Golf Resort Mrs. Frances L. Green **Gulf Towers Motel** Mr. Robert Hedges Mr. and Mrs. George Heldt High Point Lions Club - Brooksville Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Hill Hilliard Groves, Inc. Ho Jo Inn - West Palm Beach Mrs. Grace Hocking Hospitality Inn - Pensacola Mr. James E. Jensen



FISHER

Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Jones Mr. David Kayanek Mr. James H. Kennedy Mr. Michael B. King Mr. Timothy B. King Ms. Josephine W. Kixmiller Knights of Columbus #6241 Mr. Arthur LaCroix Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Lee Mr. Gordon C. Lowder Mr. Guerrino V. Lucas Mrs. Dorothy C. Lytle Mrs. Kenneth H. Maglathlin Mr. and Mrs. John Mango, Sr. Ms. Mary E. Martin Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Mathews, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. James W. McFadden

(continued top of next page)

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL continued...

Sheriff and Mrs. J. E. "Jim" McMillan Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Millard Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Miller Mr. John F. Millet Mr. Larry Moderau Monroe County Sheriff's Office Mrs. Margaret Mullady National Merchandise Co., Inc. North Florida Reception Center -Lake Butler Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nuzzi Miss Doris A. Nyman Mrs. Mary O'Donnell Olin Ordnance Division Mr. Kingsley M. Page Mr. Herman J. Paradies Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pecore Polk County Jail Printing Ideas by M.E. Ms. Sharon Puleo R & R Pump Service Co. Radiology Imaging Associates Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rudolph Saint David's Episcopal Church Salerno Civic Association Representative Debby Sanderson Mrs. Thelma E. Schloss Sebring International Raceway, Inc. Ms. Katherine Seymour Shoe City, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Grant Simmons Mr. and Mrs. Miner M. Sistrunk Southeast Correct Craft, Inc. Mr. Douglas L. Sprey Lt. Col. Frank B. Stewart Dr. Patrick Sullivan SunBank - Ft. Pierce SunBank & Trust Company-Crystal River Mrs. James R. Sweer Mr. Wayne Thorell Tri-County Feed & Farm Supply Tuxedo Fruit Company Ms. Darby Wallpher Mr. and Mrs. Ray Waters Mrs. Richard K. Webel Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Williams Winn Dixie Stores, Inc./ Orlando Division Mr. Kenneth E. Zeller Mr. and Mrs. David H. Zirkle Mr. Henry Zukowski



MIAMI — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Alison Evans to Jim Wishnek, General Manager of Empire Outdoor Advertising, a subsidiary of Ackerly Communications of Florida, Inc.



FORT LAUDERDALE — Presented by Arlene Boumel, Supervisor of Family Services at the Fort Lauderdale Office of the Youth Ranches, to Walter Hancock, of Templeton Investment Counsel.



SAFETY HARBOR — Five Lifetime Honorary Members received plaques presented by Pinellas County Sheriff Everett S. Rice (third from left) and Youth Ranches Regional Director Fred "Mac" Stones (on the Sheriff's left). The Lifetime Honorary Members are (from left) Tony Koutsourais, Safety Harbor Postmaster; Walter Blessing; Mr. and Mrs. William J. Davis; and George Dyhouse.



BUSHNELL—Presented by Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., (right) to Harold Luther.



YOUTH RANCH — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Fred "Mac" Stones and Youth Ranches Vice President Planned Giving Jean Newell (right), to Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Ford (left).



3M National Advertising

LIBRARY

SAFETY HARBOR —
Presented by Youth
Ranches Regional
Director Fred "Mac"
Stones to Safety Harbor
Library, represented by
Cathy Laird (left) and
Mary Ann DeMeo; Mrs.
Judith Gras; and Joe
Laurinaitis, Manager,
Human Resources,
Planning and
Development, Honeywell
Corporation.



MRS. GRAS



LAURINAITIS

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL continued...



BOYS RANCH - Presented by Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver (right) to Jackie and John Arnold.



YANKEETOWN - Presented by Levy County Sheriff Ted Glass to Mrs. Evelyn Musgrave.



CARUTH CAMP—Presented by Levy County Sheriff Ted Glass (left) and Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sapp.



LAKE CITY - Columbia County Sheriff Tom Tramel (right) and Youth Ranches Regional Director Pat Monogue (left) presented awards as follows: (front row) Tom Gascon, Sales Manager, Coca Cola Bottling Co. (Lifetime Honorary Membership); W. W. Woodruff (Florida Sheriffs Association Gold Business Member); Dr. and Mrs. Leopold Leblique (Lifetime); Jessie Munn, Manager, Motel 6 (Lifetime); (back row) Dr. Charles D. Nach; Bharat Patel, Manager, Econo Lodge; Willie R. Jr. and Myrtle Merrell; Leo Hart, Jordan Gospel Music Ministry (all in back row received Youth Ranches Builder Certificates).



SARASOTA -- Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Geoffrey Monge (right) and Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust (left) to Dr. and Mrs. Douglas R. Murphy.



OCALA - Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Stephen Feldstein (left) to C. Linne Carlson, President, Carlson Color Graphics.



TITUSVILLE - Presented by Brevard County Sheriff Claude W. Miller (left) to Henry H. Walters.



SHALIMAR - Presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Gilbert (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd R. Clayton.



FEATHERSTONES



KIRKENDALL





MIAMI — Presented by Director Fred Taylor, Metro-Dade Police Department, to Judge and Mrs. Harold G. Featherstone; Officer Lenny Kirkendall, representing the City of Miami Mounted Patrol; Ms. Tina Waters, from County National Bank of South Florida; Mrs. Concetta de Rosa; and Charles Edwards.



MRS. DeROSA

Former Sheriff dies

TRENTON — Former Gilchrist County Sheriff Charlie Parrish died April 11, 1991, and funeral services were held on April 12. He was 81.

A native of Gilchrist County, he was the Chief Deputy in the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office for ten years. He was appointed Sheriff in 1967, was subsequently elected for two terms, and served through 1976.

According to the Gilchrist County Journal, the former Sheriff was looked upon as a "goodwill ambassador" because of his involvement in fund raising projects, and his support for youth activities.

He was almost a daily visitor in many of the public places, telling jokes, greeting his many friends, and inquiring about things in general, the newspaper stated. He was affectionately known as "Charlie" to adults, and as "Uncle Charlie" to young folks.

"Partners in Uniform" blood drive produced 72 units in one day VERO BEACH — A "Partners in Uniform" blood donor drive conducted by the Indian River County Sheriff's Office produced 76 units of blood in one day and gave the county's blood bank a near-record supply.

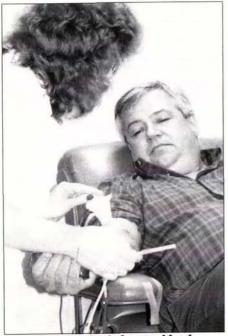
The "Partners in Uniform" theme was chosen to give men and women in law enforcement uniforms an opportunity to support their counterparts wearing military uniforms.



Photo of Sheriff Charlie Parrish that was printed in the March/April issue of The Sheriff's Star, 1976.

Indian River County Sheriff R. T. "Tim" Dobeck said the "Partners in Uniform" idea was originated by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, and its success there prompted him to adopt it.

At the time of the drive the troops serving in the Persian Gulf did not have an urgent need for blood, Dobeck explained, but there was a need in Indian River County due to the fact that January and February are traditionally times of high demand and low supply.



Sheriff Dobeck donates blood.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL continued...



POLLARD



FRIES



NAPLES—Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (right) to Raymond D. Pollard and William V. Fries.

LARGO — Pinellas County Sheriff Everett S. Rice held a "round up" of donors and presented Lifetime Honorary Memberships and a Sheriffs Association Business Membership to: (front row) Mrs. Betty Kennedy, representing ESA International Sorority; and Mrs. Mary Glynn; (back row) S. Carter Phillips; Ray Kennedy; (Sheriff Rice); Al Estes (Gold Business Member); Restituto Rios and Steve Hair, representing the Safety Harbor Lions Foundation; and Dr. William F. Glynn.

Captain Crimefighter urges kids to join his "Drug Buster Team"

TAVARES—Lake County Sheriff George E. Knupp has deputized a superhero to help him teach youngsters that its dumb and dangerous to get involved with drugs.

The masked superman lookalike goes by the name of Captain Crimefighter and if his debut at the Lake County Fair is any indication of his future popularity, drug dealers are facing a challenge.

The mystery man's limousine rolled onto the fairgrounds behind a caravan of more than 30 patrol cars with blue lights flashing and sirens blaring. He strode to the midway stage, where he was introduced, deputized and immediately promoted to captain by Sheriff Knupp.

"My arrival is a symbol to drug dealers and criminals that we're not going to take it any more," he said. Then he told the children: "Stand up and be seen, and join the Drug Buster Team." The kids responded by gathering around to meet the masked one and get his autograph.

Sheriff Knupp called the Captain's debut "fantastic" as he watched the reaction of the children. He added that Captain Crimefighter would be making appearances at schools throughout central Florida "to teach kids not to get involved with drugs."

"It's better to get the message to young children," he said, "than to try to get it to them when they are older and in drug rehabilitation programs."

