

THE SHERIFF'S **STAR**

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION — FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

JANUARY 1975



MODICOM
THE COMPUTER THAT RIDES IN PATROL CARS (Page 2)



Governor Reubin Askew (left) accepts Sheriff Don Genung's letter of resignation.

Sheriff Don Genung Resigning: Will Take Youth Fund Position

CLEARWATER—Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung has announced he intends to resign on April 1, 1975, to accept a new position as the first Director of Development for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund.

He said he will continue to live in Pinellas County, and will establish a branch office there. The main office of the Youth Fund, however, will remain at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, near Live Oak.

The Youth Fund is a relatively new legal entity established in 1973 by the Florida Sheriffs Association for the purpose of receiving and dispersing gifts to the Boys Ranch, the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa, and other group child care programs planned for the future.

Sheriff Genung said his primary duties with the Youth Fund will be to keep citizens in and around Pinellas County informed regarding the status and progress of the Ranch, the Villa, and other proposed programs. He said he will be available to discuss with individuals and groups the charitable gift opportunities available through the Youth Fund.

A long-time trustee of the Boys Ranch, and currently Chairman of the Girls Villa Trustees, Sheriff Genung pointed out that he has had a long and active involvement in the Florida Sheriffs Association's child care programs. "The success of these programs

is very important to me," he said, "and therefore my decision to go to work for the Youth Fund on a full-time basis is neither sudden nor illogical.

"My desire to help children to develop their fullest potential is strong and intense, especially when I am involved with youngsters who have had some bad breaks in life.

"All of these factors, together with several months of prayerful consideration convinced me that I should direct all of my energies toward helping to build a strong financial base for the Ranch and Villa.

"It is also my desire to develop financial resources which will enable the Florida Sheriffs Association to develop additional programs for more and more deserving children."

In addition to the many years of active support he has given the Ranch and Villa—years in which Pinellas County led the state in gifts donated to the two institutions—Sheriff Genung has also sponsored a number of successful youth programs on the local level.

His Junior Deputy program especially has attracted attention nation-wide, and has been used as a model by other Sheriffs in many states. Each year this program instills in thousands of youngsters a healthy respect for law and order, and a clear understanding of modern law enforcement techniques.

Youth work, however, is only one facet of a broad-based law enforcement career that spans some 30 years and has been punctuated with many honors and accomplishments.

Sheriff Genung began his career in the Clearwater Police Department where he worked his way through the ranks from Sergeant, to Detective, to Captain, and to Assistant Chief.

He transferred to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department and became the Chief Deputy under Sheriff Sid Saunders.

When Sheriff Saunders died in 1958, Genung was appointed by the Governor to succeed him, and he has been Pinellas County's chief law enforcement officer ever since.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, and holds a colonel's commission in the U. S. Air Force Reserve. During World War II, he served as a glider pilot in the U. S. Air Force, and was awarded seven battle stars.

In 1969, he served as President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, and prior to that he was a member of the Board of Directors.

The many honors awarded to him include: Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation, George Washington Honor Medal, 1969; J. Edgar Hoover Award from National VFW as nation's Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer, 1967; appointed to National Crime Information Center Advisory Policy Board, 1969; member, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Board of Trustees; President, Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa Board of Trustees; member, Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals (GCCJSG); member Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Unit, (GCCJSG); received 33rd Degree from Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masons, Washington, D. C., 1973; member Pinellas County Services Study Commission.

THE SHERIFF'S
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Burglars Aren't Laughing

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Sheriff Jennings Murrhee is pleased with his new electronic burglar alarm system. It alerts the Clay County Sheriff's Office if anyone tries to enter specially wired business firms in this area. The alarm panel pictured here is in the Sheriff's communications room so that patrol cars can be instantly dispatched by radio to the scene of a break-in.



FOCUS ON CLAY COUNTY



Another Gift For The Ranch

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — The heavy flow of gifts from Clay County to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa during 1974 included this large quarter horse gelding donated by Gary and Joyce Outlaw. John Schmutz (left), a staff member at the Boys Ranch, accepted the gift. D. R. Bullock and Douglas Pittman, 4, of Middleburg, assisted him in loading the horse for transportation to the Ranch. Clay County Sheriff Jennings Murrhee is Chairman of the Boys Ranch Board of Trustees, and he places a high priority on support for the Ranch and Villa. This is reflected in the large number of donations received from Clay County.



ORANGE PARK — Sheriff Jennings Murrhee (left) presents a plaque to Richard M. Watkins honoring him for eight years of outstanding and devoted service in the Clay County Sheriff's Reserve. Watkins was recently promoted from non-paid volunteer status in the Reserve, to full-time employment in the Clay County Sheriff's Department with the rank of Sergeant.



"Patrolman Of The Year" Honored At Awards Dinner

ORANGE PARK — Presentation of the "Patrolman of the Year" award to Reserve Deputy Sheriff John M. Monson by Sheriff Jennings Murrhee (left) was one of the highlights of the 8th Annual Awards Dinner honoring the Clay County Sheriff's Reserve. This award is presented annually to the Reserve Deputy who does the most to advance professionalism in law enforcement. The award recipient is chosen by vote of members of the Reserve unit. The awards dinner was hosted by Sheriff Murrhee as his way of thanking the Reserve members for services rendered to law enforcement on a non-paid volunteer basis. During 1974 the Reserve logged 4,520 hours of training and 7,072 hours of active duty, for an average of 313 hours per man. Total miles driven to duty assignments and training sessions totaled 57,960. Sheriff Murrhee, who handed out 32 service certificates to reservists during the award dinner, pointed out that the Reserve unit has served as a valuable training ground for full-time officers. He said over the past eight years 13 reservists have become full-time deputies with the Sheriff's Department, and five have gone into full-time employment in other areas of law enforcement. He added that 20 reservists recently completed the 80-hour training course required by the Police Standards Council.



Hillsborough County Sheriff Malcolm Beard (left) has MODICOM equipment located in his new communications center. From these units, dispatchers are able to send messages to deputies on the road without using voice messages. (TAMPA TIMES photo by Bill Lamneck.)

MODICOM

The computer that



Messages can be sent from a sheriff's communications center to a mobile unit in a fraction of a second, and the officer doesn't have to stop even long enough to write down the address. He just presses a key that acknowledges he has received the message. ("SIG 4" stands for signal 4, or accident; "AMB 1051 and FIRE EQUIP 1051" indicate an ambulance and fire truck are en route; and "GO CODE 3" tells the officer to use his lights and siren.)

Computers know all there is to know about crimes and criminals and they hoard the information in giant memory banks.

They also operate sophisticated communications systems, crank out crime reports, solve tactical problems and produce statistics to justify Sheriffs' operating budgets.

Bit by bit, computers have been taking over law enforcement and now they are actually riding in patrol cars.

It's a fact. There are hundreds of deputy sheriffs in Florida who carry computer terminals in their patrol cars and there are hundreds of well trained trigger fingers doing double duty as computer keyboard punchers.

The deputy tooling around with a terminal beside him can talk directly to computers in Tallahassee, Washington, D.C. and other points without any voice traffic on the radio waves.

His fingers do the talking, not only when he wants information from far away computers, but also when he wants to talk to his home base. Answers appear on a video screen above the terminal keyboard and criminals can't listen in.

This is one of the latest developments in electronic crime fighting and it's called mobile digital communications

(MODICOM). In the simplest terms, MODICOM replaces voice radio communications with computerized messages that blip from headquarters to patrol car, or vice versa in split seconds.

The deputy in the patrol car and the dispatcher at headquarters each has a computer terminal keyboard and a video screen. Radio channels are not tied up during the time messages are being punched out on the keyboard; and once the message has been entered in the terminal, the sender merely punches a button to transmit it in a fraction of a second.

Score one important point for MODICOM. It relieves overcrowded radio channels. But, this is not its only virtue.

It also protects the confidentiality of law enforcement messages; it gives the man in the patrol car a speedier response when he seeks vital information from near or far away computers; and, it gives lawmen many time saving statistical and administrative spinoffs.

When the deputy using MODICOM sees a message on his video screen, he can respond by simply pushing one button on the keyboard. One blip and he's on his way to his assignment, freeing the radio channels so that several dispatchers can use the same radio frequency.

Both the deputy in the patrol car and the dispatcher at the base station have a choice between MODICOM messages and voice radio messages, so that the computerized equipment supplements rather than replaces older, established methods.

Used routinely to check the license number of every vehicle stopped for a traffic violation, MODICOM can be a real lifesaver. Before the officer ever gets out of his patrol car he types in a code and the license number. The message is transmitted back to the communications center and then travels by high speed telephone lines to Tallahassee and the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) where the computer files are checked to see if that car has been reported stolen. If there is no record at FCIC, the message goes on to Washington, D.C. and the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to see if it has been reported stolen by some other state.

rides in patrol cars

Even if it is not reported stolen, the officer can get, from the Tallahassee computers, information on the car ownership in case someone other than the registered owner is driving. It takes about 10 seconds to get a reply.

In the event the officer gets a "hit" informing him the vehicle is stolen, he can radio for help and approach the car with caution. Many an officer has been shot down as he approached a car not knowing the driver or passengers were wanted.

When a deputy leaves his car to check a stopped car, to investigate a prowler report, or to enter an unoccupied building where he thinks a burglar is hiding, he reports his location and presses a key on his mobile terminal which tells the dispatcher he is going to be out of his vehicle. This starts a computer countdown so that if he does not return to his car and stop the countdown within a certain length of time, the computer automatically assumes he cannot return and needs help. A warning light flashes and the dispatcher sends help.

In departments with MODICOM, deputies often ride through the parking lots of motels and other businesses when nothing much is happening and do a computer search on every license plate. This sometimes turns up a stolen car or two.

By letting their fingers do the talking, deputy sheriffs are safer and more efficient in several ways.

Sheriff Jim Hardcastle (foreground), of Sarasota County, gets the feel of the compact computer terminals his deputies use to make license tag checks which turn up a lot of stolen cars.
(Photo by Kathy Tuite, SARASOTA HERALD TRIBUNE.)



Before Palm Beach County Sheriff William Heidtman's Department had MODICOM, deputies were asking dispatchers, via voice radio, to make about 550 inquiries per month on car tags, names and other matters. Each inquiry required establishing radio contact and relaying the tag number. Then the dispatcher had to make an inquiry through the FCIC and NCIC networks before transmitting the information back to the deputy by radio. This was a time consuming procedure.

Presently, Palm Beach County deputies are using their patrol car computer terminals to make 50,000 to 60,000 inquiries per month, thus increasing tremendously the chances of getting hits. When deputies had to use voice radio channels to make inquiries the department was getting 2 or 3 hits a month, but Chief William Bennett said they have been getting that many a day recently.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department was the first in Florida and one of the first in the country to implement MODICOM. That was in June, 1972. Since then the system has been refined and 27 additional mobile units have been added to the original 30 units. The mobile units fit on special mounts in the patrol cars and can be transferred from one car to another

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MODICOM

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in a minute or two. This means that when a deputy goes off duty and drives his car home, the mobile unit doesn't just sit idle; it's working in another car.

Broward County Sheriff's Department has also installed MODICOM equipment. According to John Tiedeberg, who is Sheriff Ed Stack's Administrator of Services, they have 15 mobile units and would like to have more for their officers and the local police departments.

Broward County has developed a sophisticated communications network which will handle dispatching for the Sheriff's Department and all police departments. MODICOM is a vital part of this system.

Tiedeberg says the department has been doing tag checks and inquiries on possible stolen merchandise for about a year. From August 8 to October 7, 1974 the Department made 19 felony arrests, 51 traffic arrests and recovered 66 stolen vehicles as a result of inquiries made through the mobile terminals. Dispatching through the mobile units is the next step.

Because of many technical problems, MODICOM systems have to be phased in over a period of time, step by step.

In Florida, five sheriffs' departments are in various stages of using or implementing MODICOM systems. They are Palm Beach, Broward, Sarasota, Hillsborough and Pinellas. All are under contract to Kustom Data Communications Inc., headquartered in Chanute, Kansas. The police departments in Melbourne and Miami also have MODICOM systems produced by Motorola and E-Systems respectively.

In Sarasota County Sgt. Bob Seifried said eventually officers in patrol cars will have access to a sophisticated local criminal justice file which will keep track of criminals from arrest to sentencing.



In a metropolitan county such as Hillsborough, the normal police radio channels are overtaxed—a situation Sheriff Malcolm Beard hopes to overcome by installing computer terminals in each patrol car. (TAMPA TIMES photo by Gary Rings.)

The MODICOM system in the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department became operational recently with 50 mobile units available for uniformed officers and supervisory personnel.

Hillsborough Sheriff Malcolm Beard and Pinellas Sheriff Don Genung (located across Tampa Bay) have been exchanging information between their computers for some time and because of this link, mobile units in both counties will have access to warrants and BOLO (be on the look out) bulletins originating in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

Walter Jacques, Genung's Project Coordinator, believes there will be many valuable management spinoffs from the installation of the mobile digital system. As an example, the local computer will keep track of the location and type of every complaint received. At the end of each month, the computer will print a complete breakdown of how many and what types of crimes occurred in the various zones of the county. This information will be used in determining how many patrol cars to assign to various areas. "Hot spots" of crime can be pinpointed and measures taken to cool them off.

The computer system can be used for clerical duties also. It can record and tabulate information the state requires for Uniform Crime Reports which keep track of crime levels and arrest rates on a monthly basis.

A sheriff's vehicle maintenance department can also be notified automatically when patrol cars need servicing. Deputies simply tell the computer their mileage at the beginning and the end of each shift, and the computer warns them when servicing is due.

Not only will deputies be safer and more efficient using MODICOM, but they will also spend more time on the road because of simplified report writing. When a shift is over, a deputy will be able to get a complete printout of every complaint he investigated, including the time he was assigned and the time he completed his assignment. The printout will also log any other information sent out or received by the officer via his terminal.

MODICOM solves the problem of police calls being monitored by the criminal element, simply because the radio signals that activate the computer terminals cannot be translated into words or numbers unless the eavesdropper has a terminal too. With voice radio messages it's easy for a burglar to listen in and know when a certain part of town is not being covered or for an armed robber to hear where road blocks are being set up to stop him. There is no way to monitor MODICOM without a computer terminal, and they are very hard to come by.

Most small and medium-size law enforcement agencies are not feeling the pressure of overcrowded communications systems, but large metropolitan agencies may be forced to go MODICOM soon. Said Maj. Richard Overman, of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (Orlando), "We will have to do something in the next few years, because the airways are too crowded. We are using four voice channels now, and we need a fifth, which is not available. There is no question about the need (for MODICOM). The difficulty is in getting the money."

According to the Division of Communications of the Florida Department of General Services, Tallahassee, the Federal government is helping out with the financing of such systems through Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funds. If an agency were planning to install a \$500,000 MODICOM system, and LEAA requirements were met, the local agency would have only to put up \$25,000 or 5% of the total cost, with the state contributing another 5% and the LEAA share would be \$450,000.

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As an example of the pressure being placed on the present voice communications, Overman said a test showed the Sheriff's Department switchboard was handling an average of 185 complaints between 12 noon and 1 p.m. each day.

The problem is the same in Duval and Dade counties where mobile digital communications is being studied and planned for, but the funds are not available now. In the Polk and Leon county sheriff's departments, "down the road" plans are also being made to utilize mobile digital systems.

Maj. Gene Geiger of the Leon County Sheriff's Department is a strong believer in better communications but he is not sure the advantages of MODICOM justify the great expense.

Geiger, Overman and many others feel that careful planning is very important before undertaking the installation of MODICOM. This planning also has to be comprehensive when several agencies are to be involved and costs start running into the millions.

MODICOM, like many other expensive scientific advances, will not revolutionize law enforcement overnight. However, it does serve to trigger a warning that computers are "on the march".

A PAT ON THE BACK FOR THE NEWS MEDIA

ORLANDO — Law enforcement officers often accuse news reporters of messing up important cases by premature publication of confidential information, by inaccuracies, and by irresponsible reporting.

But, there's another side of the coin, as pointed out by Deputy Sheriff Richard King, who is Orange County Sheriff Mel Colman's Public Information Officer.

In defense of the news media, King cited two kidnapping cases in which reporters voluntarily imposed a tight news blackout to protect the safety of the victims and to give officers an opportunity to apprehend the kidnappers.

One of the kidnappings occurred in Orange County when two men abducted the wife of a banker, and demanded a ransom of \$1,000,000. As the tense drama unfolded, news reporters gathered at the Sheriff's Office and were fully briefed regarding all developments.

They were allowed to listen to radio messages between the Sheriff's base station and helicopters and ground units, but none of them broke their self-imposed silence until the kidnap victim was safe.

There were times during the 6½-hour operation that the Sheriff and his deputies were unable to use electronically "scrambled" radio messages, and photographers and reporters could have easily trailed the officers who were trying to apprehend the kidnappers.

"But," said King, "this did not happen, nor did the media do anything else which might have impeded the safe recovery of the victim, the pick up of the ransom money and the arrest of two suspects."

Finally a press conference was called and the reporters were told officially what they had known for more than five hours. Unfortunately, many of them had to shrug off the fact that they had missed important deadlines.

King said similar restraint was shown by the media in neighboring Seminole County when a man was kidnapped from his business and ransomed for \$30,000.



Palm Beach County Sheriff William R. Heidtman was the first Florida sheriff to put mobile terminals in the patrol cars of his deputies.

He said reporters kept a silent vigil in Sheriff John Polk's Department for almost a day and a half before they were rewarded with a 3 a.m. press conference. This occurred after the kidnap victim had been recovered unharmed.



Muzzled by choice, news reporters monitored the Orange County Sheriff's Office radio messages during a tense kidnapping case, but did not break their news blackout until the kidnap victim was safe. They are (standing, from left) Adrian Charles, WDBO Radio; Greg Gentlemen, WLOF Radio; John Gordon, Cupboard News; Carl Berquist, Sentinel Star; Lamar Wooley, WFTV-TV; (seated) Don Smith, WFTV-TV; and Pat Flynn, WKIS Radio.

Classic Attempt To Frame The Sheriff Five Months Of Hell



WEST PALM BEACH—For five months Sheriff Bill Heidtman, his family, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department went through hell because of accusations which, if true, would have been sufficient to put the Sheriff out of office, and "under the jail."

The hue and cry in the press and otherwise became so great that Governor Reubin Askew sent State Attorney Joseph P. D'Alessandro to investigate.

D'Alessandro talked to hundreds of people, took 1,478 pages of sworn testimony from 48 people, dug into government and bank records, used the expertise of the State Auditor General's Office, and finally filed a 64-page report to the Governor in which he completely exonerated the Sheriff of any wrongdoing.

Then, before returning to his office in Fort Myers, D'Alessandro triggered perjury charges against two former Palm Beach County Deputy Sheriffs who had been described in the press as critics of the Sheriff — and presumably were responsible for some of the allegations against the Sheriff.

Perhaps "All's Well that Ends Well" but Bill Heidtman and lesser targets caught in the scattershot will be a long time recovering from the physical, emotional and professional damage that was wrought.

This then, is a classic example of how irresponsible, vindictive individuals can seek to destroy a public official; and, because it is also a classic example of the perils Sheriffs often face at the hands of supposedly responsible and law abiding citizens, it bears some treatment in depth.

D'Alessandro pinpointed the flimsy nature of the allegations when he said there were no signed complaints from any individual citizen in Palm Beach County accusing the Sheriff of committing an alleged crime. Most of the concern, he added, originated from numerous newspaper articles reporting allegations attributed to informed sources, and these articles insinuated violations of the law which were given tremendous amounts of publicity.

The State Attorney said he investigated 18 specific areas, and did not make public two of them because they were of an extremely scandalous nature, and there was no evidence whatsoever to substantiate them. They were based upon the rankest of hearsay and gossip, he stated.

The remaining 16 areas of investigation were covered in D'Alessandro's report as follows:

Accusation No. 1 — That the Sheriff obtained possession of a white Lincoln Continental contrary to the laws of Florida and used the car illegally: D'Alessandro said he found that the procedure instituted in this matter was completely lawful, and the vehicle was subsequently used by the Sheriff's Department for official business.

Accusation No. 2 — Allegations regarding the Sheriff's real estate holdings in Florida: D'Alessandro said the allegations were based upon rumor and hearsay, and the insinuations made from them were not accurate.

Accusation No. 3 — That the Sheriff employed a member of his family as a deputy in violation of the nepotism laws: D'Alessandro found that a member of the Sheriff's family was employed by the Sheriff's Department for a short time, but this was done before the present nepotism law was enacted, and therefore was no violation of the law.

Accusation No. 4 — That the Sheriff investigated allegations accusing County Commissioner Bud Weaver of using prison inmates to work on his private property, and the Sheriff "blackmailed" Weaver by agreeing to withhold action on the investigation if Weaver would vote for the Sheriff's budget: D'Alessandro said the alleged improper use of prison inmates occurred in 1965 before Heidtman became Sheriff, and Weaver voted against the Sheriff's budget in 1971.

Accusation No. 5 — That the Sheriff misused his office by not enforcing the laws against certain individuals and/or places of business: D'Alessandro said he investigated this accusation very thoroughly and found no substance or basis to it whatsoever. "In fact and reality," he added, "every member of the Sheriff's Department has complete authority to arrest any individual who has violated the law."

Accusation No. 6 — That the Sheriff tried to silence his critics by investigating them and charging them with violations of the law: D'Alessandro said he found no substance to this accusation.

Accusation No's. 7, 8, and 9 — That the Sheriff and two members of his staff, Chief Robert J. Widmann and Kay Frances Hill Slattery, misused or converted prisoners' funds for personal gain: D'Alessandro said these allegations were thoroughly investigated by him, as well as by the State Auditor General's Office. He said he found that the Sheriff's Office has a very good and strict proce-

Gave Bill Heidtman

dures for handling prisoners' money when they are booked into the jail. This is known as the "prisoners fund"; and the persons making the accusations against Heidtman didn't know the difference between the "prisoners fund" and the "canteen fund" which contains money collected from prisoners when they purchase items such as candy, cigarettes, tobacco, etc. According to D'Alessandro the State Attorney found there were occasions when money was borrowed from the "canteen fund" for a legitimate, lawful purpose, and not from the "prisoners fund". He said the "canteen fund" does not belong to the prisoners, and "I found no unlawful or illegal purpose in this matter." D'Alessandro cited one instance when money was borrowed from bond funds belonging to the county, but he said this was for a legitimate, lawful investigative purpose. There was an allegation that Chief Widmann misused prisoners' funds for his personal gain and kept \$1,500 for a year-and-a-half for his personal use without paying interest. D'Alessandro said Widmann borrowed these funds at the request of the Sheriff for legitimate lawful travel purposes within the department, and "I find no substance to the allegation he used these funds for his own personal gain."

Accusation No. 10 — That Chief Widmann received kickbacks of money from Sargent Travel Bureau: After making his own investigation and reviewing an investigation made by Air Transport Association of America, Washington, D. C., D'Alessandro concluded "there is no substance to the allegation that R. J. Widmann received kickbacks."

Accusation No. 11 — That Chief William Bennett recommended the purchase of equipment from a certain firm in return for either a kickback, stock in the firm, or an offer of an executive position in the firm: D'Alessandro said he thoroughly checked all the facts behind this accusation and found no substance to it. "I further found," he added, "that the company involved was referred to Chief Bennett by The Governor's Council on Criminal Justice."

Accusation No. 12 — That the Sheriff violated Florida law by failing to report gifts in excess of \$25: D'Alessandro said one of the alleged gifts was actually an election campaign contribution and was duly reported. He said the other gifts came from employees, and although combined they totaled hundreds of dollars, no employee gave the Sheriff any amount in excess of \$25. There is some confusion as to how the law applies to aggregate gifts totaling over \$25, D'Alessandro added, and he said he had

advised the Sheriff to report future gifts of this nature until the confusion is resolved, either by an Attorney General's opinion or clarifying legislation.

Accusation No. 13 — That the Sheriff changed the dollar value of his inventory for an illegal purpose: After this was thoroughly investigated by the State Attorney and The State Auditor General's Office, D'Alessandro said he found no substance to the allegation. There were some figures changed, D'Alessandro said, but this occurred "because two individuals of the Sheriff's Department in arriving at an inventory figure came to two different figures. One of the individuals, not wanting to admit his mistake, continued to use his authority so that his figure was used and not his employee's."

Accusation No. 14 — That employees were ordered or forced to give money toward the Sheriff's birthday and/or Christmas parties: "I thoroughly investigated this," said D'Alessandro, "and there is no substance to the allegation."

Accusation No. 15 — That the Sheriff or members of his department received kickbacks in return for having all auto repairs performed by Brown Auto and Body Shop: D'Alessandro found that the body shop doing most of the work on sheriff's vehicles had been doing this type of work before Heidtman was elected. Further he found that the auto insurance carrier was willing to accept one body repair estimate if it came from Brown's firm, and if the Sheriff used any other body shop it would be necessary to get two estimates. D'Alessandro said he determined "there were no kickbacks whatsoever to any member of the Sheriff's Department..."

Accusation No. 16 — That the Sheriff used one of his deputies to investigate the Sheriff's ex-wife while the Sheriff was in the process of a divorce: D'Alessandro said the allegation referred to a deputy who was working in an undercover capacity, and "my investigation revealed that the work this agent performed had no relationship to the Sheriff's divorcee."

In conclusion, D'Alessandro described most of the accusations and allegations he checked into as being "completely baseless and founded upon the rankest of hearsay, rumor and gossip."

He said he found that four or five of the allegations "were created by former employees who used unrelated incidents as to time, place and individuals involved, and arrived at erroneous and wild conclusions."

"There does exist in The Sheriff's Department the normal morale problems for a department of this size, and there is some room for improvement like in any other governmental agency," he added.

However, he found that The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department "operates very effectively, and efficiently and should be commended for having as few problems as it does with the amount of people in the area that it has to cover."

After the State Attorney's report was made public, Sheriff Heidtman expressed his appreciation to D'Alessandro and his staff for their "very able, competent and dedicated performance in this most difficult task."

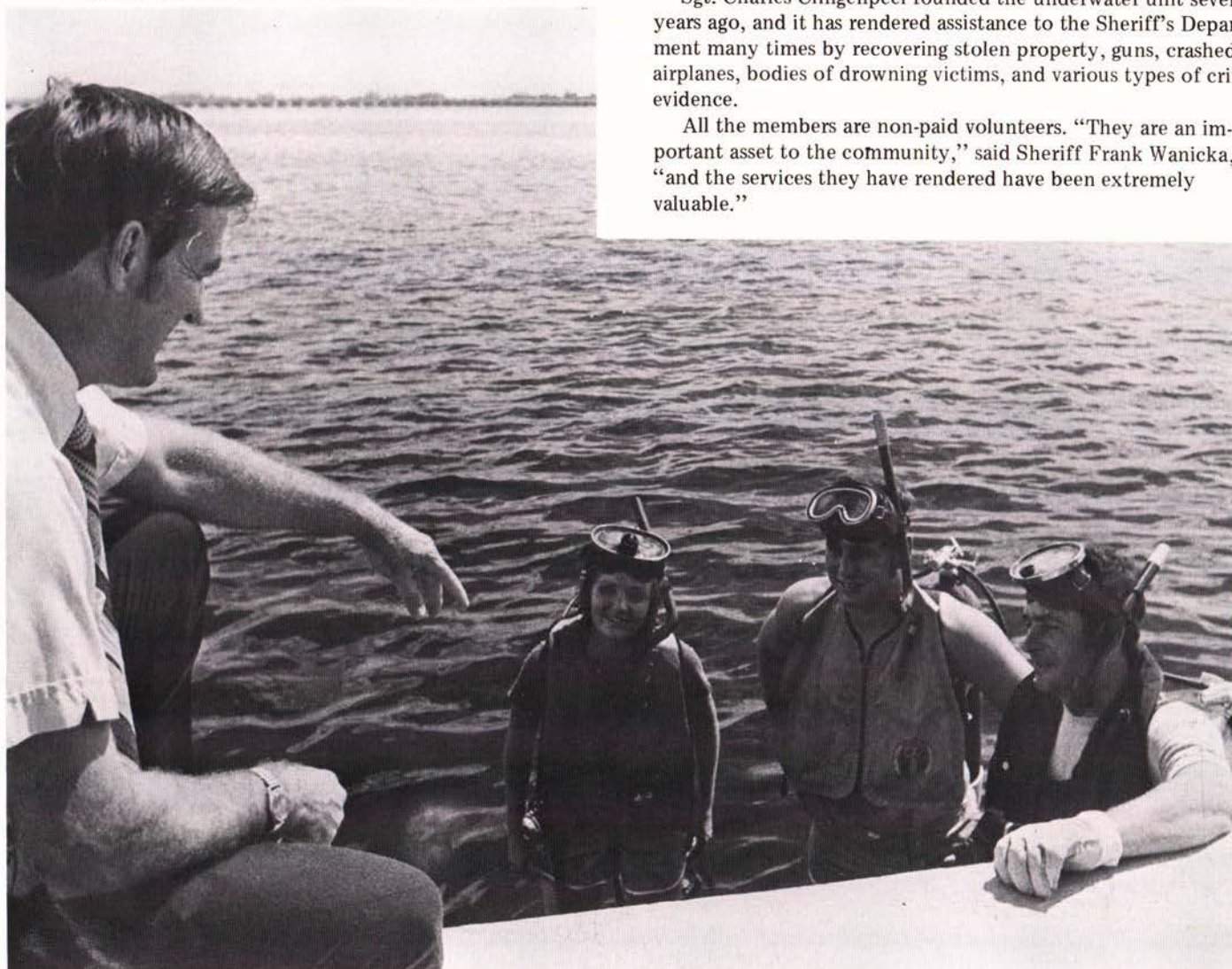
He also thanked the friends and supporters who stood by him throughout his ordeal, and he praised the deputies who continued their "very able performance of duty under these adverse conditions."

"It has been," said the Sheriff, "a most difficult time for all of us, especially my wife, my family, and certainly for all of the deputy sheriffs and their families."

115 Pounder with Blue Eyes
Becomes

First Woman Deputy to Qualify for Underwater Search-Rescue Team

Sheriff Frank Wanicka gives instructions to Deputy Sheriffs Linda Mann, Jim Johnson, and Jim Minick during underwater search for firearms used in a crime case.



FORT MYERS — Never mind those tired old jokes about mermaids. Linda Mann swims like one, but swimming is a serious business with her.

Linda is the first female member of the Lee County Underwater Operations Unit, a search and rescue team headed by officers of the Lee County Sheriff's Department, and although she stands only five-foot-five and weighs only 125, she asks for no special favors from her male associates.

The diminutive deputy is employed full-time as a bookkeeper on Sheriff Frank Wanicka's staff. She's also a certified revolver marksman, and she has logged over 100 diving hours, including ascending and descending with pressure, reading a compass underwater, rescue techniques, survival training and night diving.

Qualifying as a member of the underwater unit is no picnic. It requires providing your own equipment at a cost of around \$300, and it involves long hours of intensive training in safety, life saving and underwater recovery procedures.

To simulate actual conditions, training is carried out day and night in the Gulf of Mexico, rivers and lakes. Each trainee must negotiate an obstacle course that in some instances requires removing the underwater breathing apparatus. A deep dive of 105 feet is also required.

Membership is restricted to public service personnel such as law enforcement officers, ambulance attendants, protective service employees and firemen.

Sgt. Charles Clingenpeel founded the underwater unit several years ago, and it has rendered assistance to the Sheriff's Department many times by recovering stolen property, guns, crashed airplanes, bodies of drowning victims, and various types of crime evidence.

All the members are non-paid volunteers. "They are an important asset to the community," said Sheriff Frank Wanicka, "and the services they have rendered have been extremely valuable."

GOOD CHECK ARTISTS

People who write worthless checks are known as Bad Check Artists and often go to jail. Good Check Artists write very worthwhile checks to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa, and Youth Fund, and while they sometimes go to jail, it's only to present the checks to their Sheriffs. Witness:



Alachua County Chief Deputy Lu Hindery (right) receiving a \$1,000 check from Pat O. Warren, president of the Communications Workers of America, Local 3105 of Gainesville.



World War I veteran Joseph Teufel (Left) of Ft. Pierce, presenting St. Lucie County Sheriff Lanie Norvell with a \$1,000 check for the Boys Ranch and Girls Villa in memory of his wife and parents.



Pasco County Deputy Robert Sampler (left) receiving a check for the Boys Ranch and Girls Villa from Mrs. Ann Hoyer and Thomas Dowling, Acting Chairman, American Association of Retired Persons, Hudson Chapter Number 1357.



Sheriff Don Genung (right) of Pinellas County accepting two checks for the Boys Ranch and Girls Villa from members of the Cow Pony Pleasure Club. From left: Deputy and Club member, Howard Owens; Sue Bustle, President; John Johnson, Director; and Mel Petit, Vice President.



Sheriff Malcolm Beard, (right) of Hillsborough County, thanking Howard Carter, President of Branch Number 599, National Association of Letter Carriers, for a \$500 donation to the Boys Ranch.



Members of the "Hole in the Wall Gang" horse Club, from Lutz, presenting Hillsborough County Sheriff Malcolm Beard with a check for the Girls Villa after raising the money by putting on a horse show.



Sheriff Joe Crevasse of Alachua County surrounded by the Silver Bells of Gainesville who raised money for the Boys Ranch at their annual Baton Twirlers Variety Show. From left: Lisa Roberts, Mrs. Mary Whaley, Brenda Whitesides, Carolyn Fowler, Sharon McDonnell, and Karen Whitesides.



Organizations and individuals who have given large gifts to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa become members of the Builders Club by giving \$100 or more. They qualify as Lifetime Honorary Members by giving \$1,000 or more.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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Manatee County Builder

Manatee County Deputy Sheriff Donald
T. Shaw (left) received a Builder certificate
from his boss, Sheriff R. W. Weitzenfeld.



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Westway Club of North America, Bene-
fit Association, Miami
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Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Alexandria, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Wright, Dunedin

In recognition of large gifts to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Fund,

Florida Sheriffs Association Lifetime Honorary Memberships

have been presented to:



Mrs. Betty Sherman, of Winter Park, by Boys Ranch Trustee Ed Pickerill.



Van Swearingen (left), of Orlando, by Boys Ranch Trustee Ed Pickerill who said Swearingen donated a truck load of frozen foods to the Ranch.



L. Stanley (Buddy) Berenson (right), President of Miami Jai-Alai, by Grant Gravitt who is President of Tel-Air Interests, Inc. and an Honorary Member of the Sheriffs Association. Jai-Alai has been a strong supporter of the Boys Ranch.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS **BOYS RANCH** IS...

... a home for dependent, neglected and homeless boys sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association. It is not an institution for delinquents.

LOCATED — nine miles north of Live Oak, Florida

FOUNDED — in 1957

FINANCING — supported entirely by voluntary gifts

SIZE — 2,800 acres

ENROLLMENT — 100 boys are under care at the present time

MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

PHONE — AC 904 842-5501

FLORIDA SHERIFFS **GIRLS VILLA** IS...

... a similar institution for needy and worthy girls located near Bartow, Fla. It was founded in 1970. The first buildings were completed in July 1972; and the first girls were admitted in August, 1972.

MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

PHONE — AC 904 842-5501

FLORIDA SHERIFFS **YOUTH FUND** IS...

... a newly-chartered convenience for donors. Its purpose is to generate, receive and disburse funds for the Ranch, the Villa, and any other youth programs that may be developed by the Florida Sheriffs Association. Donors who do not want to make a choice between supporting the Ranch or Villa can give their gifts to the Youth Fund and the money will go where it is most needed. This makes budgeting and bookkeeping more economical and more efficient.

MAILING ADDRESS — Boys Ranch, Florida 32060

PHONE — AC 904 842-5501

ALL GIFTS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

A Thank-You Note For Sheriff Bent



Sheriff Bent

Englewood Herald Editorial

Charlotte County Sheriff J. P. (Jack) Bent, and his staff are, in our opinion, "Standing Ten Feet Tall," not only as regards our own Englewood

Community and Charlotte County as a whole, but throughout the State of Florida and the Nation.

We point with pride and sincere appreciation to the accomplishments of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department in recent months, with specific reference to the swift apprehension and prompt trial and convictions in the murder of Alan Rummel, of Englewood, and more recently, in the apprehension and arrest of a suspect in the senseless murder of 15-year-old Loni D. Yopp, also of Englewood.

Murder for "hire" and killings of "passion" have long been traditionally two of the most difficult crimes to solve. We had cases of each in these two Englewood murders and we heartily applaud the Sheriff and his Department for the tenacity they exhibited in their efforts to solve the cases. No lead was ignored, we understand, no stone unturned in the investigations of these two crimes.

It is impossible, actually, to determine how many extra man-hours were put in by Charlotte deputies and investigators in bringing about arrests in the two slayings. We have learned that investigations were conducted in far corners of the

country, with one arrest being made in North Carolina and the other in Illinois.

But these two cases, colorful as they are, and their quick solution which has drawn county-wide plaudits for the dispatch with which they were handled, are by no means all for which we believe Jack Bent and his men deserve congratulations on jobs so expertly and so conscientiously done.

Among other topnotch accomplishments of this excellent law enforcement agency was the intensive manhunt which resulted in the capture of a suspected dope hauler following the crash of his dope laden plane near Rotonda Airport last January. More recently, another similar capture was made when a marijuana loaded plane crashed on Englewood Beach.

In addition to the above, we recall a massive manhunt in Charlotte County which resulted in the apprehension and conviction of the killer of Highway Patrol Trooper Baker -- another bright feather in the cap of Sheriff Bent and his Department.

Yet another big laurel in the Sheriff's wreath of victory over crime is the fact that the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department was responsible for apprehending a gang of escaped prisoners from Washington, D. C., who were bent on crime in this area and elsewhere.

Realization that Sheriff Bent and his Department are not blessed with either the manpower or galaxy of sophisticated detective devices as are other larger law enforcement agencies of many communities far larger and far richer than our own, makes it all the more reason why we extend herewith our congratulations and thanks to the dedicated men who have displayed not only excellence in their work but devotion in their service. We know there are many who share our sentiments and who join us in this gesture of appreciation.

Thanks to you, Sheriff Bent, and to your men, for some very tough jobs expeditiously done. We can all sleep better at night knowing that our lives and properties are in the hands of such dedicated law enforcement personnel who hold our safety in their hands.

Not Many Trophies Left For The Other Contenders

CLEARWATER — Sheriff Don Genung (right) congratulates Sgt. Robert Schutte (left) and Detective Robert Parlamen for bringing home an impressive array of trophies from the First Annual Florida State Police Combat Championship matches. They received a trophy and two gold medals for winning the two-man team state championship. Sgt. Schutte also won a trophy for high county master and Det. Parlamen won one for second high overall. In individual matches they won 10 additional trophies and two guns.



Record Setting Piece of Loot

STARKE—Sheriff Dolph Reddish (right) and Deputy Sheriff John Dempsey pose beside a \$40,000 bulldozer which was the largest piece of stolen property ever recovered by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office. Thieves borrowed a tractor-trailer rig to steal the bulldozer from Chesser and Strickland Sand Company. (BRADFORD TELEGRAPH photo)



Duff's Usually Where The Action Is

DELAND — Ed Duff is no desk-bound Sheriff. Instead he's likely to be found where the action is. Consequently, when a suspect in a kidnap-murder case was traced to an apartment building, Duff went inside and brought the man out while armed deputies and FBI agents covered the building. This picture shows the Sheriff (left) escorting the suspect to jail. (ORLANDO SENTINEL STAR photo by Paul Jenkins)



Another Claim to Fame

INVERNESS — Citrus County Sheriff B. R. Quinn has made headlines many times for his law enforcement accomplishments, but he is also famous for his barbecue sauce and was chosen by the Ocala Star-Banner for special recognition as one of "our good cooks". He's pictured here stirring up a batch of sauce for his annual fund raising barbecue which over the years has produced many thousands of dollars for the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch. (OCALA STAR-BANNER photo)



Honored For Honesty

SANFORD — Because honesty prompted him to turn in a lost wallet containing money and credit cards, Daryl Sanders, 15, received a Florida Sheriffs Association distinguished service award from Seminole County Sheriff John Polk. (SANFORD HERALD photo)



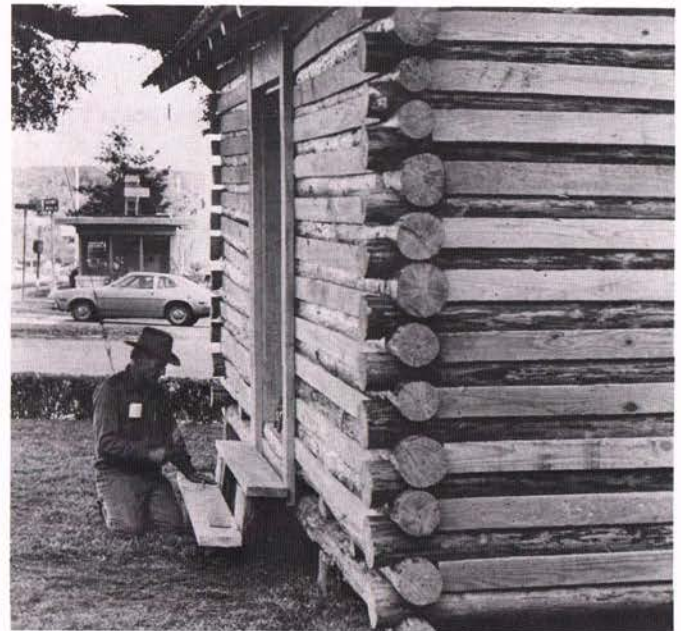
Spotted Robbery — Prevented Escape

BRADENTON — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Affolter (right) and their daughter, Joy Affolter (left) observed an armed robbery taking place, called the Manatee County Sheriff's Department, then blocked the getaway car until deputies arrived and captured the suspects. Sheriff R. W. Weitzenfeld presented the Affolters with Florida Sheriffs Association distinguished service awards.

First In Manatee

BRADENTON—"This couldn't happen to nicer and more deserving guys," said a white deputy after Sheriff Dick Weitzenfeld announced he was going to promote Patrolmen J. W. Robinson and Sylvester Bellamy to plainclothes positions in the Investigation and Warrants division in the Manatee County Sheriff's Department. Robinson and Bellamy are black, and the first representatives of their race to rise above the rank of patrolman. "Every guy in the department is pleased with the decision to promote Syl and J. W.," said Sgt. Oscar Perez. "They have earned their jobs."

JANUARY 1975



Replica of Log Cabin Capitol Built by Sheriff

TALLAHASSEE—Leon County Sheriff Raymond Hamlin, a student of historical lore, puts the finishing touches on an authentic replica of Florida's log cabin capitol building—the one in which the first meeting of Florida's Legislative Council was held in 1824. The cabin, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of lawmaking in Florida, was built by the Sheriff with the help of two other men and some supervision from his 85-year-old father. Sheriff Hamlin erected the building on his farm east of Tallahassee, and it was moved to the Capitol grounds for commemorative ceremonies. The Sheriff used a double-bit axe to hew the logs and a shovel to peel the bark. The shingles are cedar, and the cabin rests on large "lighter'd" stumps for termite protection. (Photo by Sev Sunseri)

Rape.

A Crime Against Women



Rape is the most serious, frightening and violent of all crimes against women. Victims find the experience painful, debasing and emotionally disturbing. The most important thing to remember is that the rapist frequently plans his crime by looking for the right chance and the easiest victim. Your best defense is to eliminate his opportunity to attack you.

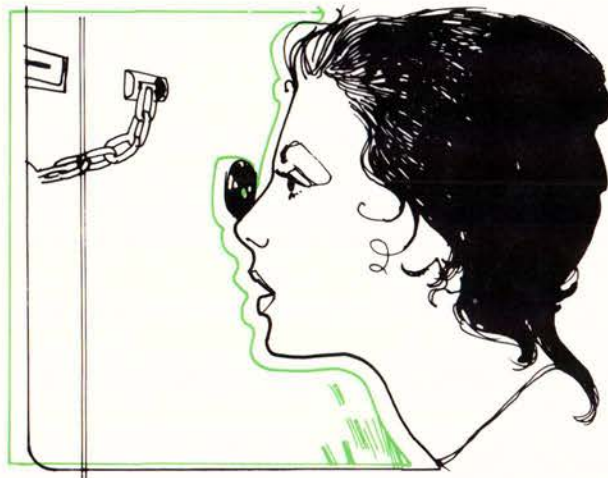
Play it safe. Follow these precautions suggested by the HELP STOP CRIME program, which is sponsored by the Governor's Crime Prevention Committee. (For more information about the program, write to HELP STOP CRIME, 660 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.)

HELP!
STOP CRIME

How to Avoid "Rape Situations" ... At Home.

Close and lock all doors. When moving into a new home or apartment—or if you lose a house key—have door locks changed. Invest in **good** locks. Install a chain lock inside your door, and if possible a viewing peephole so you can see who is outside.

When home at night, keep drapes and shades drawn. Never reveal to a telephone caller or someone at the door that you are alone. Warn family members, especially children, not to give information by phone, about who is home, who is out, how long anyone is expected to be out.



A shrill blast from a whistle into the telephone will discourage most obscene calls. However, if you continue receiving mysterious or obscene calls, contact your telephone company and law enforcement agency. Remember, criminals often give themselves away by following a pattern and you may help the officers detect the pattern.

Use only your first initial and last name on mailbox and in telephone listing. If you live in an apartment alone, add "dummy" names to the mail box listing to create the illusion that you have roommates.

Require identification of all repairmen and utility men before removing the chain lock. If you have any doubts, call their employer and verify their identification before admitting anyone.

Do not send a child to answer the door. In fact, train children **not** to answer the door.

Avoid entering an elevator occupied only by a stranger. Always stand by the control panel so that you can push the alarm button if necessary. If a suspicious-acting man follows you onto an elevator, step out.

A dog makes a fine alarm system, but don't count on him for more than that.