

THE SHERIFFS'

STAR

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

SEPTEMBER 1976



THE NEW

YOUNG LOOK

IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

A special series of articles on the YOUNG LOOK starts on page one.

No sad songs for saloon syndrome

When Kojak was a kid, law enforcement was "off limits". Any young bucko who had visions of a law enforcement career had to "cool it" until he was at least 25 years old before sheriffs and police chiefs would let him apply for a job.

It wasn't a case of distrust or hostility toward young fellows. Instead, it was a strong conviction that wearing a gun and badge required a lot of maturity and the ability to make cool, correct decisions under fire.

The police agency heads were right. It does take a lot of maturity — a certain amount of "seasoning with age" — to produce a good law enforcement officer.

However, there are some people who gain maturity at 18, and some who are still trying to acquire it at 80. Sheriffs and police chiefs were aware of this, but they also knew their chances of hiring a scatterbrained dingaling were less at 25 than they were at 18 or 21.

It wasn't a bad policy — but it certainly wasn't the best.

The weakness in it was the "seven-year stretch" between 18 and 25 when the young fellow with law enforcement ambitions had to muddle around like an unwanted stepchild waiting for a slow procession of birthdays. Some played occupational roulette as they pinballed from one job to another and waited for the passing years to put them over the age barrier. Others decided a law enforcement career wasn't worth waiting for and went into other professions or skilled trades.

Some waited patiently, acquiring wives, children, responsibilities, college degrees and other impedimenta. Then, when the long-awaited 25th birthday arrived, they realized their life style and their budget wouldn't fit a police officer's salary.

Fortunately, Kojak, old buddy, all that has changed. Law enforcement agencies have lowered their minimum age requirements, opportunities have developed for young people to get a taste of law enforcement without putting their maturity to

the acid test, and the "seven-year stretch" is becoming as much of a relic as the "seven-year itch".

In these enlightened days, a kid with a gun and badge fetish can indulge his law enforcement fantasies before he leaves the sixth grade by joining a junior deputy sheriff league.

This will let him find out what law enforcement is all about — the duties, the techniques, the skills and the problems.

If, after that, he still has a "fuzz" fixation, there are police cadet and law enforcement explorer groups that will allow him to sample the enforcement mystique in more depth.

In a limited way, he will actually get involved in real-life cops and robbers games, and, if he becomes addicted beyond hope of redemption — and, if he has some aptitude for the sport — there will be opportunities for him to "graduate" into a full-time law enforcement job long before his 25th birthday.

Times — yes, they are changing — and much of this issue of THE STAR is devoted to looking at some of the opportunities for young people to sample the delights and discouragements of law enforcement. Space limitations prevented us from doing it in depth, but, at least, we have demonstrated that law enforcement has escaped from the "saloon syndrome".

"Saloon syndrome"?

That's when the kids have to hang around outside wondering what's going on inside — and believing all the time they must be missing a helluva lot.

Carl Stauffer

Cover Photo TAMPA — Ron Stiller is a good example of the new young look in law enforcement. When this picture was taken he and Sandy Ackerman were both members of the Hillsborough County Law Enforcement Explorer Post sponsored by Sheriff Malcolm Beard (center). Later Ron was accepted as Sheriff Beard's first 18-year-old deputy and enrolled at the police academy. (Tampa Tribune-Times photo by Phil Sheffield)



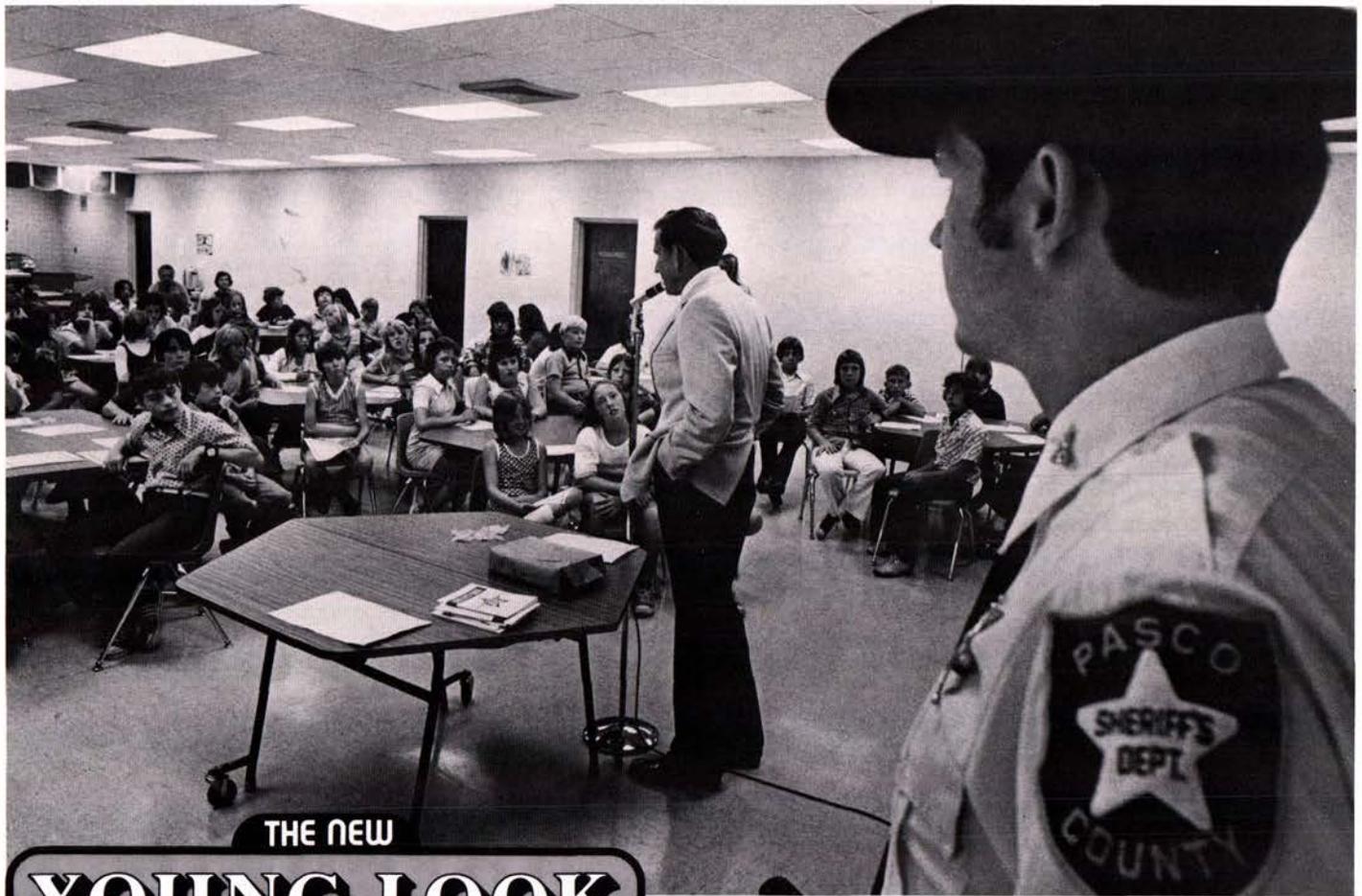
THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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Two Pasco County Sheriff's officers talk to a group of sixth grade students and impress upon them the importance of living up to the pledge they take as junior deputies. (St. Petersburg Times photo)

THE NEW
YOUNG LOOK
 IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HELP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

FOR A GOOD LONG TIME, there has been general agreement among law enforcement officials, especially sheriffs, that a good way to deal with the problem of crime is to have an aggressive youth-oriented program with one main objective — to instill respect for law and law enforcement officers.

Study statistics, if you insist, but they all seem to point to one basic fact — most crimes are committed by young people in the mid-teen to mid-twenties group. Given this fact, the reasoning behind youth programs is very simple — get these kids to respect the law and fewer of them are likely to get involved in criminal activities.

Back in the late 1950's and early 1960's, a few sheriffs developed this rationale without the aid of statistics or studies, but with a generous helping of common sense. What they came up with was Junior Deputy programs for youngsters at the fifth and sixth grade levels.

Then came all types of safety and educational programs for school children at different grade levels.

In very recent years, law enforcement Explorer Posts have been sponsored by local law enforcement agencies for the 14 to 21-year-old age group. A few counties have received federal funding for Cadet programs employing high school students interested in becoming law enforcement officers.

Another type of youth program has deputy sheriffs work-

ing in schools as counselors and teachers — providing yet another chance for young people to get to know officers as people and as friends, instead of authority figures wearing uniforms.

In past issues, in various stories THE SHERIFF'S STAR has tried to inform readers about the many youth programs sponsored by sheriffs' departments around the state, but the time has come to try and give an overall perspective to the many varied programs around Florida.

Every program is not offered in every county and one program may be more or less effective than another, but that is to be expected in a state with 67 counties varying greatly in size and resources.

One final word of caution — even sheriffs' departments with good programs for each of these age groups make no wild claims that every child can be influenced to never commit a crime. No, the problem is much too old and complex to solve so easily. But the programs are effective; they do make a difference for some of the kids — kids who might have gone the wrong way without a little extra help in the right direction. That's what these youth programs are all about — a little extra help in the right direction.

OLD IMAGES ARE CHANGING

TO MOST FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS, a deputy sheriff is someone who rides around in a green and white patrol car and causes Daddy to slow down. Sometimes, he's "the heat", "the man", "the fuzz" or the third party trying to keep Daddy



In Bay County, junior deputies have their own uniforms and attend weekly meetings where they learn about a variety of law enforcement subjects.

and Mommie from coming to blows. Once in a while, a deputy is the man who takes Daddy to jail.

With this kind of limited contact, it's difficult for a child to build up much respect for men in uniforms and badges.

But old images are changing. Deputy sheriffs are making visits to public school classrooms, passing out small star badges, distributing booklets about the sheriff's job, describing how they serve and protect people — and kids begin to get the message.

Next month the deputy is back with a movie warning about taking rides from strangers. Later, he brings in a real, live bloodhound everybody gets to pet. More movies, a tour of the jail, a demonstration of skin diving equipment used by the rescue team, a fly-in by the sheriff's helicopter, a chance to sit in a real patrol car and, wow, a deputy is really a neat guy!

Basically, that's what a junior deputy program is all about — letting kids know a law enforcement officer can be a friend who can help you when there's trouble, and who knows a lot about many different things.

Former Pinellas County Sheriff Don Genung was one of the earliest junior deputy advocates, getting his program underway in the late 50's. Since that time, many thousands of youngsters have been exposed to the friendly law and order message.

On many occasions, kids were entertained by a lady ventriloquist in a deputy's uniform, with a dummy in a green and white uniform who talked about not accepting rides from strangers. She also presented a movie entitled, "The Riddle of the Friendly Stranger".

How about those tours of the jail with all the steel doors and locks? The kids were especially intrigued by remote controlled, electrically powered doors that hummed and clicked like something out of "Star Trek".

The same program continues today under Sheriff Bill Roberts, with regular monthly visits to each elementary class and a different subject each trip. Drug education which started in the high schools many years ago is taught in the elementary schools now, and a highly-trained and hammy German shepherd often steals the show from a deputy, but the results are the same — youngsters begin to look at deputies as human beings, not as uniforms.

Has it affected the crime rate? Hard to say because it's difficult to measure the effectiveness of such a program. One indication of its success is the fact it has been copied by many other departments around the state.

St. Lucie County Sheriff Lanie Norvell is one of the most recent sheriffs to model a program after the Pinellas example. His Junior Deputy League raised its own funds for supplies and programs.

In the first year of operation, Sheriff Norvell's goal was to reach between 800 and 1000 fifth grade students with in-class instruction and field trips. One classroom session was to cover Florida laws and penalties for crimes such as trespassing, vandalism, obscenity, possession of stolen property, false alarms, fighting and illegal use of firearms.

Additional planned sessions will be conducted by deputies in specialized areas such as: the sheriff's helicopter program, K-9 or police dog activities, the mobile crime lab, firearms, narcotics and identification procedures.

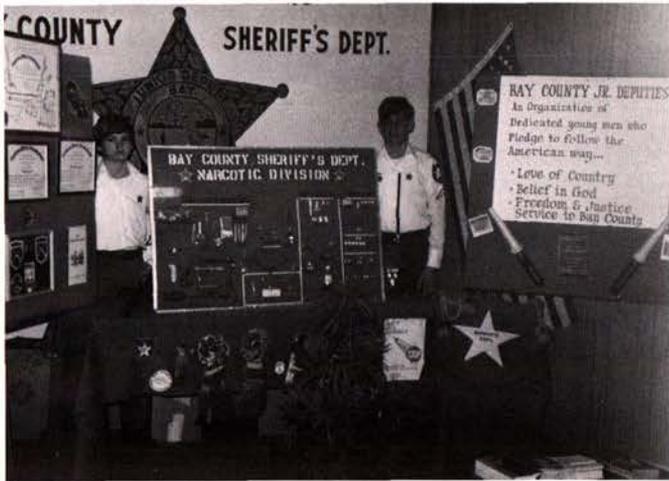
Another early junior deputy outpost was Collier County where former Sheriff Doug Hendry founded a unique program that is now under the guidance of Sheriff Aubrey Rogers. In addition to the usual classroom exposure to deputies and law enforcement officers from other agencies, Hendry started the practice of taking hundreds of junior deputy boys out into the Everglades for overnight camping trips.

Activities included firearms safety and marksmanship instruction and airboat and swampbuggy rides. The Sheriff and his deputies, all on their own time, camped with the boys, cooked for them and made sure they all had a good time. After two days of that kind of fun, how could a kid not have a good feeling for deputies?

Again, it's hard to measure the success of such a program, but you could never have convinced Sheriff Hendry it wasn't worth the effort. He was always proud to point to the fact Collier County had an exceptionally low rate of juvenile crimes.

Sheriff Rogers is just as strong a believer in the Junior Deputies as Hendry was and has expanded the program so girls get to attend a day camp with all the same activities as the boys. The first year the girls were invited, 400 showed up.

Under Sheriff Rogers' direction, the Junior Deputy League, Inc. was reorganized to bring in community leaders as officers. An agreement was worked out with the local YMCA to use its facilities, just outside Naples, for camping and firearms instruc-



Junior deputies in Bay County helped to decorate a booth at the county fair, then manned it and passed out crime prevention material.



Collier County junior deputies get to try out .22 caliber rifles after a firearms safety course.



Many members of a sheriff's department get involved in putting on programs for junior deputies. Here the helicopter pilot explains the use of his craft in law enforcement work.



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers with a group of junior deputies ready to go for a swim as part of their overnight camping trip.

tion. Use of the "Y" facilities also means the boys and girls can swim and participate in other organized sports not available at the old Everglades campsite.

Since its beginning in 1962, the Collier County Junior Deputy program has reached more than 15,000 children. For some youngsters, that taste of law enforcement was enough to bring them back years later as deputy sheriffs.

"We go in (the schools) and work with the children," Sheriff Rogers says. "We try to teach all we can about law enforcement. We bring in people from every available agency — FBI, Border Patrol, Highway Patrol and Customs. We show them all our equipment, vehicles and guns. We tell them how we work — how we investigate burglaries and drug cases and control traffic. We try to build mutual friendship and respect."

One of the first things Malcolm Beard did when he became Sheriff of Hillsborough County in 1965 was to organize a Junior Deputy League. The first year, there were 600 boys in 10 schools who became junior deputies. Today, there are 11,000 students in the program and once a month they are visited by a deputy sheriff.

Each junior deputy gets a 36-page booklet with information about the Sheriff's Department, along with a small plastic badge and identification card holder — something like the ones television police flash before questioning someone. Each jun-

ior deputy signs a pledge in which he promises to "respect and obey my parents . . . respect my school and the property rights of others . . . conduct myself in such a manner that my actions will reflect credit on me and the . . . Junior Deputies League . . .", also to "lead others to do right and assist those who are in trouble and deserve help" while being "fair to the accused and . . . not give any false testimony against any person accused of a crime."

Sometimes the deputy sheriff putting on a program for a group of junior deputies is upstaged by a four-footed member of the sheriff's department team. This sad-eyed bloodhound is sure to be a child pleaser, especially when there is a tracking demonstration.

It's hard to imagine the number of questions junior deputies can come up with when the sheriff's department helicopter sets down on the school house lawn.

Several counties have mobile law enforcement displays which are moved around the county to schools or shopping centers.

The Pasco County Sheriff's Department has outfitted a bus as a rolling crime prevention show youngsters can walk through. This past school year, Sheriff Basil Gaines' officers took the junior deputy program to approximately 3,000 6th grade boys and girls.

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Pasco County Junior Deputy Michael Frank and his sister, Debbie, helped deputies solve a burglary near their home so Pasco County Sheriff Basil Gaines (right) had his pilot take them for a ride in the Sheriff's Department helicopter.



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers of Collier County (far right) poses with the members of his department who once were junior deputies. Also in the group are a county commissioner and a youth counselor.

(continued from page 3)

One of the most exciting junior deputy programs ever staged was in Leon County when several of Sheriff Raymond Hamlin's men put on a real show for several classes of youngsters who gathered on the high banks of an old dirt pit.

Attention focused on a speeding car pursued by a deputy sheriff in a patrol car. The speeding car stopped not far from the children and three men jumped from the car and fled on foot.

The pursuing deputy managed to catch one, but the others escaped by hiding. In short order, another deputy arrived with his tracking dogs and the bloodhound soon had the kids cheering as he sniffed out the hiding places of the other two fugitives.

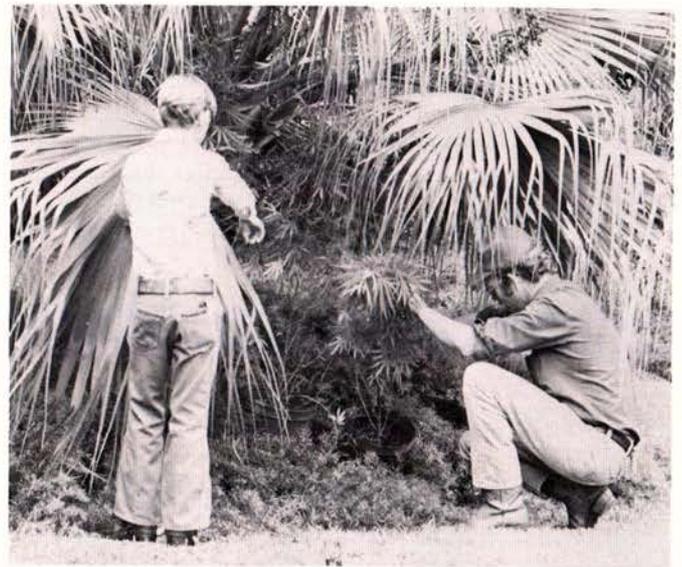
In most counties, the junior deputy program is aimed at all students in one grade in all schools and the next year the program starts all over with a new group.

The approach is a little different in Bay County where there are only about 50 junior deputies 12 to 16-years-old, who attend weekly meetings and are exposed to a variety of citizenship, leadership, educational and public service activities.

These junior deputies have their own uniforms and are exposed to subjects such as boating safety, fire prevention, first aid, causes and penalties of shoplifting, police science subjects and many more.

They carry on many community projects such as traffic control at parades and other civic activities. They also raise funds for their own activities and other worthy causes.

The purpose of the junior deputy program is to gain the confidence and good will of young people. Efforts are also directed toward instilling in them respect for law and authority while teaching them the basics of law enforcement. Or as St. Lucie County Sheriff Lanie Norvell put it, "We in law enforcement feel an obligation to assist parents and schoolteachers in explaining to youngsters basic laws, rules of safety and self-protection so they will know, and not guess, what is right and what is wrong."



As a result of his junior deputy training, a St. Lucie County youngster recognized marijuana when he found it growing in the woods near his home.



Hillsborough County Sheriff Malcolm Beard greets a group of junior deputies as they tour his mobile crime prevention display.

THE NEW
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EXPLORING POLICE WORK AS A CAREER

IF YOU SEEM TO BE SEEING more and more young faces in Florida law enforcement, wearing uniforms, directing traffic, passing out crime prevention material, parking cars, riding in patrol cars or helping to control crowds at public events — it isn't an illusion.

Nor is your local sheriff or chief of police hiring kids as deputies and police officers. Instead, it's simply a current trend for law enforcement officials to work with young people in the Boys Scouts of America's program for young adults known as Exploring.

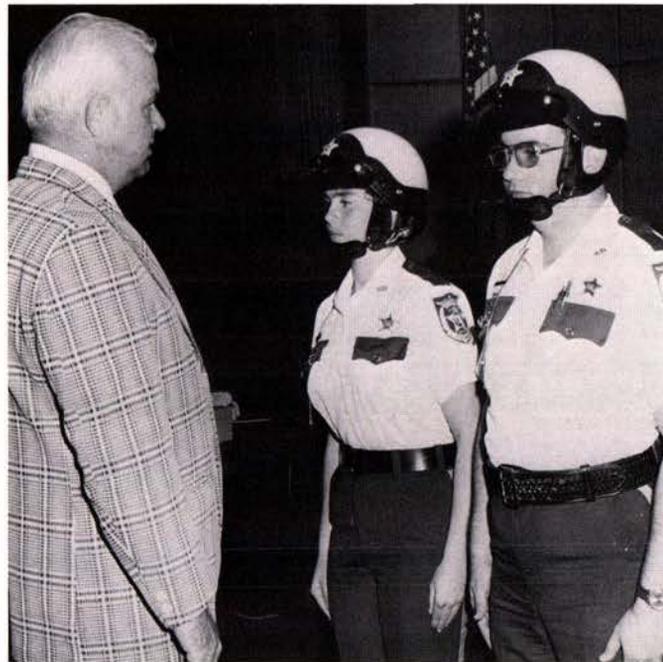
Don't call them Explorer Scouts (Explorers is okay) but, for the most part, you can forget they are connected with scouting at all. They are doing just what the name implies — exploring the field of law enforcement to see if they might want to go into it as a career.

Nationally, there are over 1,500 law enforcement explorer posts and over 32,000 explorers who are getting a close-up, in-depth look at the job of the law enforcement officer.

Explorers attend meetings, study law enforcement subjects, provide additional manpower for sheriffs and police departments, raise money for uniforms and projects, assist in community service projects and help bridge the communications gap between young people and law enforcement officers.

An explorer post is made up of 15 to 40 young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21. A law enforcement agency, such as a sheriff's department, usually sponsors one post, but, if an additional advisor can be found who has plenty of time to spend with the youngsters, another post may be established because there is usually a membership waiting list.

From a sheriff's point of view, there are a lot of good reasons for backing an explorer post. Experience has shown many explorers go on to become full-time deputies, communications



Seminole County Sheriff John E. Polk inspects Youth Deputies Sue Roland and Joe Davis.

operators or jail employees. Such employees already have a solid background in law enforcement and pretty well know what they're getting into.

With the right training and supervision, these young people can take over many of the routine jobs around a sheriff's department — from filing cards to monitoring the citizens band radio, running errands and delivering mail to planning and carrying out crime prevention programs.

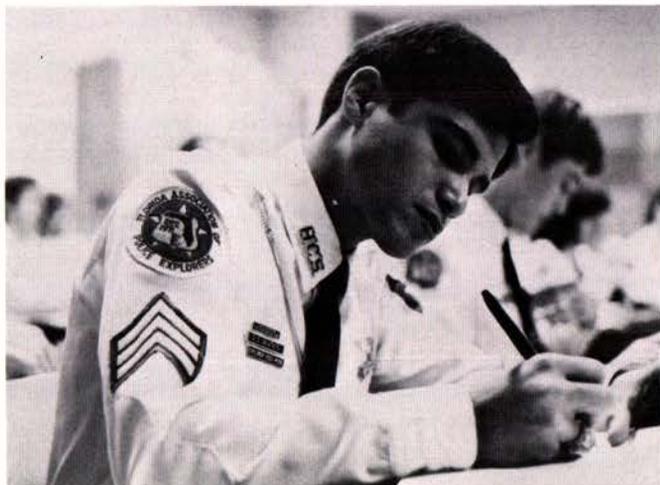
The public relations aspect should not be overlooked. A group of clean-cut young people in uniform lets people know a department is interested in, and willing to work with, teenagers.

In departments where it is allowed, the goal of most explorers is to get to ride in a patrol car with a regular deputy, but that only comes after extensive training in subjects such as criminal justice administration, history of law enforcement, community relations, criminal law, narcotics and dangerous drugs, juvenile procedures, firearms safety, patrol procedures, first aid and traffic control.

In addition, there are radio signal codes to be mastered, department rules and regulations to become familiar with, menial office tasks to be completed and probably some advanced training. If explorers are allowed to ride with deputies, first there is usually an evaluation by peer explorers and the advisor deputy. The thing they look for most is maturity.

There's an extra incentive for learning as much as possible because once a year the Florida Association of Police Explorers (FAPE) has a state-wide meeting with competition in various police procedures, such as traffic accident investigation, first aid,

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After going to school all day, Sgt. S. D. Galatioto and his fellow Hillsborough County explorers have to be dedicated to go back to class at night.



With a little training, explorers can relieve regular employees at certain jobs. This St. Johns County explorer is operating a computer terminal which is tied into the Florida Crime Information Center in Tallahassee and the National Crime Information Center in Washington, D. C.



Explorers are given jobs even when they're riding with a regular deputy. Here a Hillsborough explorer operates a mobile digital computer terminal leaving the deputy free to drive the patrol car. Explorers have to be familiar with the police radio codes so they can also handle the communication with the dispatcher.

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pistol competition, crime scene search and execution of search warrants.

When the FAPE was formed in 1971, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Explorer Post No. 238 had already been in operation five years. Today, there is a second post and talk of a third because of the waiting list of young men and women anxious to join.

Typically, the Hillsborough explorer posts take a careful look at the new, would-be member and it is only after talking to the family and the youth, conducting oral interviews and successful completion of a probation period that the recruit is issued a uniform and assigned to a squad.

The Hillsborough explorers initiated and have carried out an outstanding example of a community service project that was needed but would have overtaxed the manpower of the sheriff's department.

The problem was not being able to get in touch with the owners or managers of stores and businesses in case of an emergency, such as breaking and entering or fire. The owners and managers objected to putting their names and phone numbers

on their buildings because they knew from past experience to expect harrasing phone calls at all hours of the day and night. There was also the threat of being kidnapped or taken hostage.

The solution was to let the explorers print up decals, similar to their shoulder patches, with a different number for each decal. When they passed out the decals, the explorers noted the decal number and took down the name and phone number of the person or persons to be contacted.

Now, whenever a deputy responds to a call at a building with one of the decals, the code number is relayed to the communications center where a rotary file gives the radio dispatcher a name and number to call. According to the Sheriff's Department, many valuable hours and police radio time had been wasted trying to identify owners of commercial buildings found unlocked or vandalized prior to the advent of the decal system.

Another "old" explorer post is 911 in St. Johns County. It was organized and chartered in 1969. Each year when some 2,500 boy scouts take part in the annual fall encampment at Camp Blanding, Post 911 is there to handle traffic and take care of perimeter guard and security duty. The post also boasts a color guard which is called upon to lead parades and open conferences.

Other Post 911 projects have included: collecting money, food, clothing and furniture for a widow and seven children whose home burned; directing traffic and providing security for the historical drama, "The Cross and The Sword", each summer season; putting together and delivering crime prevention material to thousands of St. Johns County households.

In Lee County, crime prevention was the goal of an explorer post which got involved in Operation Identification. This program calls for engraving a person's license number on items such as televisions, appliances, guns, and other valuable items found around the home. Such engraving discourages the thief from carrying off marked loot and makes recovery and identification easier, if it is stolen.

The explorers made themselves available to visit homes and engrave numbers. They also gave the home owner an Operation Identification sticker to place on doors and windows to let would-be thieves know items inside were marked.

Another service the Lee County Explorers provide is a vacation house check. Residents notifying the Sheriff's Department when they will be out of town get their home checked by a team of explorers who make sure the house is secure.

The young peoples' law enforcement program in Seminole County goes by a different name, but the training and activities are similar. Youth Deputies meet weekly and put in about 16 hours per month working around the Sheriff's Department collecting and distributing printed material, recording daily activity reports, answering phones and assisting in communication and supply. Some of the youth deputies put in 40 to 50 hours per week.

Seminole County Sheriff John Polk is one law enforcement official who allows young people to ride in patrol cars with deputies. In addition to passing a test on call signals, rules and regulations before starting to ride, each youth deputy must work an hour in the office to earn an hour in the car.

"All my life I've wanted to be a police officer," said Denise Stahl. But a year as a youth deputy has helped her decide just what kind of law enforcement she is most interested in. First, she would like to be a road deputy and then get into missing persons. She admits that, as a child, she glamorized the work of a law officer, but now she has a "more natural, factual" notion of what her intended career is all about.

Another youth deputy, Sue Roland, joined after taking a law enforcement class at Sanford High School. Now she's look-



Wearing their County Mountie shirts, these Pinellas County explorers took part in a 10-mile walk-a-thon to raise money to go to the National Explorer Olympics in Colorado.



Not all the work explorers do is exciting, but most of it is very useful. Regular employees are freed for more important duties.

ing forward to a career working with juveniles and enjoyed helping prepare a 45-minute safety project to be used in the elementary schools.

Although the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department has been involved in youth-related activities for many years, a Department sponsored explorer post was not organized until the end of 1975. An in-depth constitution was drawn up for the post and has since been adopted by the Pinellas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America as the model constitution for all law enforcement posts.

Meetings are held weekly, with a brief business meeting followed by two hours of classroom instruction. The curriculum is identical to that offered at the Pinellas Police Academy and is taught by specialists from the Sheriff's Department, area attorneys and county and circuit judges. Members are required to complete a certain amount of training prior to obtaining uniforms and equipment and receiving divisional assignments.

As members finish each segment of training, they become eligible for assignment to the various areas of the Sheriff's Department operation with the exception of the jail and vice unit. At the present time, explorers are assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau, the Crime Prevention Bureau, the Records and Identification Division and the Communications section. Assignments are for four months and, in that time, explorers can completely familiarize themselves with each operation.

Post 900 is proud that 12 of its members are junior college students majoring in police administration. There is also a lot of pride in the showing the post made at the District Explorer Olympics. In winning eleven gold, eight silver and fourteen bronze medals, Post 900 earned a bid to the National Explorer Bicentennial Olympics held at Colorado State University.

Like other posts, 900 is co-educational, with 30 males and 10 females — about average. It's a different story in Orange County where the females outnumber the males, and it's not surprising the group's president is a young lady, Linda White. She was featured in Ms. Magazine for her work with the Explorers because she is one of the few women on the executive board of a scout post. She also received the "Youth of the Month" award from local businessmen.

One of post 61's projects is teaching Orange County residents about home safety, first aid and crime prevention. "When we're out giving lectures, we have to remember we represent the Sheriff's Department and we have the same image to uphold as deputies do," says member Ron Howard.



Training for these Hillsborough County explorers includes firearms instruction and practice.



Pinellas explorers learn there is a lot more to good police work than riding around in a patrol car. Taking and printing good photographs is also important.

Crime prevention projects are one of the most frequent explorer post undertakings. In Sarasota County, members of Explorer Post 58 — known as Sheriff's Cadets although chartered by the Boy Scouts of America — worked with deputies specially trained in crime prevention techniques. The cadets went door to door to hand out literature and offer to give a thorough security inspection a week later.

One reason the Sarasota youths are called cadets is that the
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Like other groups, the Seminole County Youth Deputies frequently have a money-raising project going on so they can purchase new equipment or travel somewhere.

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organization was patterned after the Manatee County youth program a few miles to the north. The Manatee Cadet program was started by Sheriff R. W. Weitzenfeld in 1968.

Like all the other explorer programs, there's a lot of instruction, and one of the first ways it pays off is when the cadet gets to take a turn as a relief radio dispatcher. Several cadets, especially some of the girls, have become full-time employees, working as dispatchers.

One of the problems these young people face when working with law enforcement officers is the peer pressure they get from from their classmates. "If some kids get arrested, it's us who get blamed for turning them in," said one cadet. "The kids thought I was a Narc (narcotics officer) at first," said another cadet. "When they found out I wasn't, they thought it cool, what I was doing."

The cadets have also learned real life police work is a lot different from what they see on television. They also get a pretty down-to-earth look at the effects of drugs.

"Drugs really mess up a lot of kids," says one cadet. "We catch them (addicts) inside buildings stealing. They realize they need help, but they keep stealing to get more drugs. You can look at a person and see what it's done."

Another activity explorers are often found taking part in is manning booths at fairs. The Hernando County explorer group prepared a booth for the Sheriff's deputies to use as a headquarters, and they put on demonstrations for people who



Explorers Sgt. Ron Fewell and Cpl. Dale Williams make sure the home of a vacationing resident is secure — one of the services provided by the explorer post sponsored by the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

dropped by, like showing school children how fingerprints are taken. The group also was hoping to swell its own ranks by attracting new members.

In DeSoto County, Sheriff Frank Cline showed how much confidence he had in his cadets of Explorer Post 87 when he gave them full responsibility for traffic control during the 4th of July rodeo. In addition to the cadets being well trained for the task, Sheriff Cline has found the public reacts in a much more friendly and courteous manner when cadets are directing traffic.

In several counties, the explorer program, or a program similar to it, goes by a different name. In Martin, Palm Beach and Putnam Counties the teenagers are junior deputies, but they still do many of the same things.

Whatever name this youth activity goes by, exploring has caught on across Florida and across the nation. An important factor in this success is having a program which benefits the young people and the sponsoring law enforcement agency.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess of Los Angeles County, California, summed up the exploring program when he said, "Although the primary purpose is to prepare young men and women to take their places in the ever-expanding and technical field of law enforcement, the program also provides the sheriff's department with additional human resources while it opens an avenue of understanding with an energetic, concerned society of young people."

One way to get "a foot in the door"

DeLAND — Many young people move from the ranks of an explorer post right into a sheriff's department as a regular deputy or other full-time employee, but, in some areas, cadet programs offer a middle ground.

For example, the Volusia County Cadet program employs 42 young people who are attending school, either as high school seniors or as full-time college students. They work up to 18 hours a week while going to school full time and may work up to forty hours a week when school is not in session.

Cadets are not full-time employees and they do not have authority to arrest, but they are paid and have a foot in the door if they decide on a law enforcement career.

Most jobs cadets are assigned to are clerical or involve office work. The Volusia program has five cadets working in the Sheriff's Department, while others serve with six different municipal police departments, a municipal court, the county

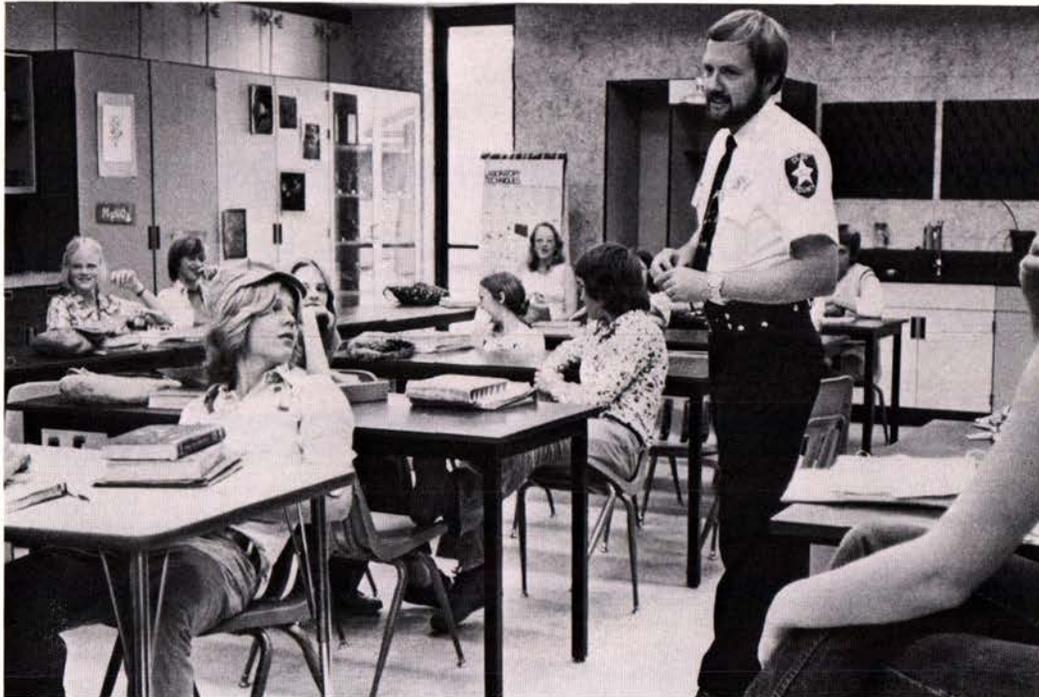


Susan Ford is employed by the Volusia County Sheriff's Department as a cadet and works in the records and identification section. Like most cadets, Susan is planning a career in law enforcement.

corrections department and the state attorney's office.

Funding for the program comes from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, with local agencies matching a portion of the federal funds.

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YOUNG LOOK
IN LAW ENFORCEMENT



Clay County Deputy Sheriff Kerry Page speaks to class at Keystone Heights (Gainesville Sun photo)

Deputies make friends - not arrests

DEPUTY SHERIFFS on duty at public schools in four northeast Florida counties are not security guards or disciplinarians. Instead, they are "good will ambassadors" who establish friendly relationships with students and help them to develop proper attitudes toward law enforcement.

They seldom, if ever, make arrests, and, yet, schools have experienced a sharp drop in violence, disturbances, problems with trespassers and vandalism.

The deputies are assigned to high schools, junior high schools and middle schools by Clay County Sheriff Jennings Murrhee, Flagler Sheriff P. A. Edmonson, Putnam Sheriff Walt Pellicer and St. Johns Sheriff Dudley Garrett in a unique effort to reach out and communicate with young people.

The program is funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), and it enables the four Sheriffs to use deputies as "youth resources officers" who are becoming skilled in befriending youngsters and diverting them from the criminal justice system.

Letters from school principals and parents, changing attitudes among students, a drop in disruptive incidents at the schools all attest to the success of the program, which is now in its second year and is being extended into elementary grades.

"What is so gratifying," said Sheriff Pellicer, "is to notice a continuous increase in acceptance of the youth resources deputies among our county school administrators, and particularly among the youth with whom they come in contact daily."

Sheriff Garrett explained that the youth officers are not under orders to arrest students, but rather to talk to them and

gain their confidence. The youth officers, Joe Bennett and A. M. "Kid" Perez of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office; Alice Terry and Joe Caswell, Putnam County; Wilfred Hunter, Flagler County; and Kerry Page and Guy Kirk, Clay County, are involved in numerous activities calculated to develop positive relationships between students and law enforcement.

Sometimes they put on gym shorts and participate in volleyball, basketball and softball games with students. They also assist with school functions such as homecoming celebrations, sponsor and coach intramural athletic events, accompany athletic teams on out-of-town trips, and chaperon dances and take students on tours of various correctional and law enforcement facilities to enhance their knowledge of the criminal justice system.

Sheriff Murrhee elaborated on how the youth resources deputies are striving to improve the image of law officers among students. "First and foremost," he said, "the youth officers are stationed in schools so they can be in continuous contact with students. Deputy Page, for instance, teaches a course in political science and law enforcement at Clay High School; and what is so noteworthy is that many of his students are classified as disruptive or as troublemakers. But Officer Page is reaching them, and they are accepting him and his teaching most favorably."

As part of his curriculum, Page takes the students on a tour of the State's Correctional Institute at Raiford. "And, believe me," adds Sheriff Murrhee, "Raiford does impress these kids."

Deputy Guy Kirk, the second youth specialist with the Clay County Youth Resources Unit, stresses that the youth officers are not school security guards nor do they attempt to enforce

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school policies. Both of Clay County's youth officers feel that getting students to trust them is the key factor in their program. In fact, the element of trust is stressed over and above all other factors in their interactions with students.

Putnam County's Alice Terry, pretty and petite mother of four, and the only female among the seven youth resources deputies, is assigned to Interlachen High School. Alice plans and conducts field trips to the courts, to Putnam County Sheriff's Office and to the county jail. Before taking a group to Circuit Court to observe the court in session, Mrs. Terry and the youngsters study and act out the roles of a mock court. "Over all, we are making the young people aware of the elements of the criminal court system," she explained. "I think this helps kids to be more knowledgeable and more experienced, and, hopefully, to gain respect for the criminal justice system."

Deputy Joe Caswell has been stationed at Palatka South High School, where Principal John Cunnyngham is enthusiastic about the positive effect of having a youth officer at his school. Parents have also commented favorably. "The program has helped many who have been in the twilight zone," Cunnyngham said. At first, young people and some adults questioned: "How come we've got a cop on campus with a gun?" That lasted two weeks at the most; and now they seek out the uniformed deputy.

In St. Johns County, Deputy Sheriff "Kid" Perez is involved in training the St. Augustine High School ROTC drill team and has coordinated a self-defense course for female students at the school. "He is a natural for such activities," said Sheriff Garrett, "since he is a former Marine and has a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education."

THE SHERIFF'S STAR is indebted to John T. Rivers, Criminal Justice Planner, Region IV, for a major portion of the material in this article. As Regional Planner, he has also been actively involved in the Youth Resources Deputies project.

At Ketterlinus Junior High School, Deputy Joe Bennett has been active in student counseling and in conducting field trips. In other local schools, he coordinates a law enforcement indoctrination program; and he is also the liaison person between the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and Girls Villa.

Flagler County's Deputy Sheriff Wilfred Hunter has been successful in organizing and supervising a well-accepted junior deputy program. In addition, he gives safety lectures at the elementary schools in his county.

The seven youth resources deputies attach a high priority to diverting young people from the criminal justice system — in other words, helping them to stay out of trouble with the law. To accomplish this they are continually counseling individuals who are having problems at school; i. e., peer pressure or problems with school work or with faculty. They also hold conferences with teachers and with the parents of youngsters who are in trouble.

Flagler County's Wilfred Hunter obtains an absentee list each day from the local high school. When a student is absent from school for five consecutive days, he visits that student's home to determine the cause of the student's absence.

All of the youth resources deputies make referrals when necessary to the Florida Division of Youth Services (DYS)

and also give assistance to DYS, take referrals from Sheriffs' line officers, break up fights, give warnings against trespassing, etc. In St. Johns County 89 counseling sessions with individuals who were in trouble and 39 contacts with parents were made in an 8-month period.

The total program in the Northeast Florida region, though a long-range one, is beginning to pay off even now in its infancy. In Flagler County, referrals of troubled youth to DYS dropped from 12 per month in December 1974 to two per month in December 1975.

In St. Johns County, Sheriff Dudley Garrett gave his youth resources deputies credit for the peace and calm that prevailed on school grounds at the end of the 1975-76 school term. He said in past years he had found it necessary to send three or four deputies to the schools on closing day because of fights and vandalism.

Outside interference from non-students who hang around schools and cause trouble has also been eliminated, Sheriff Garrett said. He attributed this partly to the fact that the youth resources deputies go to school in full uniform and park their marked patrol cars at the school grounds. This symbolic warning has been sufficient to keep troublemakers away, he said.

Positive feedback regarding the acceptance and importance of the Sheriffs' Youth Resources Units was contained in a letter from O. C. Hayes, Ketterlinus Junior High School Principal. It stated, in part, "The last day of school was very quiet and uneventful. Deputy Bennett played a direct and important part in the successful ending of school . . . The continued utilization of this program is definitely encouraged."

In a letter to Sheriff Edmonson, Larry Goodmote, Principal of Bunnell Elementary School, stated:

"Your youth officer, Mr. Wilfred Hunter, has been a tremendous asset to the school and community. I feel the 'preventative approach' to law enforcement and good citizenship is the most productive way to aid youth through the difficulties encountered in the maturation process.

"We have found it necessary to call upon Mr. Hunter in many cases, not to reprimand a child, but to provide us with the insight that only an experienced law officer possesses. We have found that the children have the highest regard for Mr. Hunter and see him as a positive force in their lives, not to be feared but respected and appreciated . . ."

James R. Booth, Assistant Principal for Behavior Modification at Orange Park High School, wrote a similar letter to Sheriff Murrhee, informing him that

"Deputies Kirk and Page have done an outstanding job with our students and faculty. We believe they have improved the image of police officers in the eyes of our student body.

"The presence of uniformed officers in our school has had a positive effect on everyone. They have opened many lines of communication with students and teachers that possibly would never have been opened.

"We hope that this program can be continued next year because it has been most beneficial to our students as well as being a credit to the Sheriff's Office."



BARTOW — When members of the Pride of Pinellas Chapter, Sweet Adelines, visited the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa they brought with them a check for \$3,500 representing the proceeds from four barbershop harmony benefit shows. Their director, Phyllis Dean, presented the check to three Villa Trustees (from left) Sheriff Sam Joyce, Mrs. Doris Hough and Sheriff Jennings Murrhee. The other Sweet Adelines are (from left) Georgja Linsky, Jane Jenson and Barbara Rolison, chapter president.

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.



BRISTOL — A charity benefit sponsored by the Sheriffs Departments of Liberty and Calhoun counties resulted in a check for almost \$600 being presented to Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Executive Director Harry Weaver (center) by Calhoun Sheriff W. C. Reeder (left) and Sheriff L. C. Rankin of Liberty County.



FT. MYERS — Members of the Order of Rainbow Girls presented checks for the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa to Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka. From left to right are Beverly Bowen, Leeanne White and Rana Browning.

commendations, and Resolutions



Sheriff Commends Deputies

BARTOW — Capt. Dan Weatherford (seated) presented letters of commendation to Deputies W. A. Sample (left) and J. J. Watkins. The deputies were commended for calming a Lakeland woman and possibly saving her life after she threatened to commit suicide with a shotgun. Deputy Sample talked with the woman for more than an hour and a half to deter her from pulling the trigger. Then her sister arrived and talked her into giving up the gun. Deputy Watkins summoned assistance from the Lakeland Police Department so that traffic and pedestrians could be rerouted away from the area to avoid startling or upsetting the woman.



VFW Selects Outstanding Officer

ORLANDO — When the Veterans of Foreign Wars held their annual convention here June 17, State Commander Harold G. Schult (right), of Satellite Beach, presented a plaque to Sgt. Don Dowdy, of the Polk County Sheriff's Department, designating him as Florida's Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer for 1975-76. Sgt. Dowdy, an 11-year veteran of law enforcement, was cited for many accomplishments, including his role in coordinating a multi-county, multi-jurisdictional task force of over 100 law enforcement officers who tracked down and captured a gang of black terrorists dubbed "The Masked Marauders" following a series of violent crimes.



Winners Got All Fired Up

TAMPA — To celebrate the honor of being named "Officer of the Year" for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Sheriff Herman C. Doby fired up a "made in Tampa" cigar; and the match was provided by Detective Irvin M. Carpenter who won an identical award for the Tampa Police Department. The awards, presented by the North Tampa Kiwanis Club, were based on a number of factors, such as devotion to duty, community service, professionalism, and civic, religious and community activities. Carpenter was also cited for his investigations of the satanic murder of Kenneth Houston and the contract murder of former Tampa Police Detective Richard Cloud. Doby was honored for coming to the aid of a fellow officer who was wrestling with a man violently resisting arrest. (Tampa Tribune photo by Gabe Puniska)



For Child Safety Activities

LIVE OAK — The National Child Safety Council, represented by Florida Coordinator Al Brelsford (left), presented a plaque to Suwannee County Sheriff Robert Leonard honoring him for his child safety activities and his efforts to combat drug abuse. (Suwannee Democrat photo)



SAR Honors Weitzenfeld

BRADENTON — The Saramana Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented a Law Enforcement Commendation medal and certificate to Manatee County Sheriff R. W. Weitzenfeld (left) "for his outstanding service to the community." Lorin A. Corey, awards chairman, made the presentation.