

# the Sheriff's Star

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

December 1991/January 1992

Will he live?  
Will he walk?  
Will he work?

**THE  
QUESTIONS  
HAVE BEEN  
ANSWERED**

*(see page 4)*



**Sheriffs take a stand  
on legislative issues**

*(see page 8)*



## Stumped but not stopped, Randy Boyd got his man and a Crimeline award

SANFORD — For weeks Sgt. Randy Boyd tried unsuccessfully to locate Mark Edward McCullough, a fugitive charged with kidnapping, three counts of sexual battery, and battery.

With the help of other Seminole County Sheriff's Office deputies, he checked every known address, combed through the available information on McCullough's background several times and ended up empty handed.

Boyd had two strikes against him because news reports had made McCullough aware that he was a suspect, and he had obviously departed for parts unknown, leaving behind a hot warrant and a cold trail.

Stumped but not stopped, Boyd turned next to Crimeline, a service that assists law enforcement agencies by accepting tips about crimes and criminals from private citizens. He gave Crimeline the information he had gathered about McCullough, and it was run through the system.

Then Crimeline's Rochelle Groetsch gave Boyd every lead that seemed to have a bearing on the case. He checked the new material carefully but ended up no closer to McCullough. Later

Rochelle called with a lead that the fugitive was living with his sister, Judy. Her full name and address were not given, but the tipster had told Crimeline that she was living "two towns up" from where McCullough's parents lived.

The tipster also reported that the fugitive had shaved off his mustache and had put on pounds to change his appearance. Through the Probation and Parole office Boyd learned that Judy's last name was McCullough, and she lived in Catskill, New York, which was close to her parents' residence at Coxackie.

Armed with that information, Boyd contacted Sgt. Passaretti in Green County, New York. "I faxed him everything I had," Boyd told *The Sheriff's Star* recently, "and within a couple of hours he called to say that Mark McCullough had been taken into custody."

That was how Sgt. Boyd "got his man," but it wasn't the end of the story. In the final chapter, Crimeline gave Sgt. Boyd an award as the "outstanding investigator for 1990-91."



Sgt. Randy Boyd with the award he received from Crimeline.



### Needy families welcome her visits

DADE CITY — Pasco County Sheriff Jim Gillum presents an Outstanding Service Award to Civil Deputy Gloria Mays for her compassion, concern and humanitarian efforts. Each year she takes time off from work, cranks up her pickup truck, and delivers Christmas baskets prepared by the Sheriff's Office for needy families.

# the Sheriff's Star

## Volume 35, No. 6, December 1991/January 1992

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

Editor, Carl Stauffer Art Director, Frank Jones Production Assistant, Lynn Meek

*The Sheriff's Star* is published monthly during June and September, and bi-monthly during December and January, February and March, April and May, July and August, October and November, by the Florida Sheriffs Association, a non-profit corporation, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519 (street address, 2617 Mahan Drive). The subscription rate is \$5 per year and the publication number is USPS 493-980. Second class postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Please send address corrections to *The Sheriff's Star*, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519. Copyright © 1991 by Florida Sheriffs Association. ISSN 0488-6186



## Orange County Sheriff's Office welcomes

# Dreamflight kids

by Jim Solomons

Manager, Office of Public Information  
Orange County Sheriff's Office

ORLANDO — Over 250 terminally ill youngsters from England came to Orlando on November 4, courtesy of British Airways, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office was on hand to give them a first class Florida welcome. Much to the children's delight, their Boeing 747 was given a motorcycle escort as it taxied to its parking area at the Orlando International Airport.

"Dreamflight has become a very popular and special annual event with the Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Walt Gallagher. "It is heart-warming to see our deputies reach out to these children and make them a part of our family."

The morning after Dreamflight's arrival, a local hotel parking lot was alive with the sights and sounds of some very special children and their new friends from the Sheriff's Office. Kids were on motorcycles and in boats, or marveling at the mounted patrol's horses or Sheriff's helicopter. Several hugs and handshakes later it was time for the youngsters to load up and hit Orlando's tourist trail.

"When you stop and think about how much these youngsters have to look forward to while they are in Orlando, it amazes me how much they enjoy the time they spend with the deputies," Sheriff Gallagher said. "When our little part of their visit is over they don't want to leave, that makes us all feel like we're a part of their trip they really look forward to."

**Top Photo** — The British Airways 747 that carried the Dreamflight kids to Orlando was escorted to its parking area at the airport by motormen from the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

**Bottom Photo** — A delighted youngster from Dreamflight tries out the siren on Deputy Bob Now's Harley Davidson motorcycle as her mother looks on. A few hours with the Orange County Sheriff's Office is always on the kids' itinerary when they visit Orlando.





Will he live  
Will he walk  
Will he work  
**THE QUESTIONS  
HAVE BEEN  
ANSWERED !**

**S**TUART — "Is he going to live or die?" That was the question friends and family were asking on March 15, 1991, when Martin County Deputy Sheriff Donald Morgan Knott lost both legs in a horrible accident.

He lived, and one month later when he left the hospital in a wheelchair, the next question was: "Will he ever walk again?"

The answer came five months later when the 26-year-old deputy walked out of the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitative Medicine in New York City using canes and artificial legs; boarded a commercial flight under his own power; and returned to Stuart.

Remembering how he had been carried aboard a private airplane in April when he was enroute to the Rusk Institute, friends at the Martin County Sheriff's Office applauded his amazing progress, but they also wondered if he would be able to return to work.

They stopped wondering in November, 1991, when Martin County Sheriff Jim Holt announced that Knott was not only returning to duty, but would actually be working "in the field" as a narcotics agent.

After Holt's announcement reached the headquarters of the Florida Sheriffs Association, in Tallahassee, the editor of *The Sheriff's Star*, went to Stuart looking for the answer to one more question: How did he do it?

The short answer is that he did it with tremendous courage and determination, but Knott emphasizes the help and encouragement he received from friends, co-workers, family and skilled medical practitioners.



**COVER PHOTO:** It was a happy day for Deputy Sheriff Donald M. Knott when Sheriff Jim Holt told him he would be working "in the field" as a narcotics agent. "I don't want a desk job," he said, "and I don't want to just draw a paycheck and not do anything."

On the night of March 15 when Knott had both legs crushed by a recklessly driven van that pinned him against the rear bumper of his patrol car, many people were involved in saving his life.

Deputy Bill Padgett and Wilbur Barrett, a retired police chief, were at the scene and applied tourniquets to Knott's legs after Padgett radioed for help.

Radio communications operators and dispatchers Diane Abell, Vaughn Lesley, Paula Sesta and Terrie Jade were on duty at the Sheriff's Office that night, and handled Padgett's urgent message with a high level of professionalism.

"They were all my link to life that night," said Knott many weeks later when he was on the road to recovery. Hour by hour and day by day the cast of supporting actors in the Donald Knott drama continued to grow. It included the doctors and staff at Martin Memorial Hospital; the Sheriff's Office staff members who gave Knott so much moral support





Before Knott left New York, he presented an appreciation plaque to a group of officers representing the New York Police Department. The plaque was from the Martin County Sheriff's Office, and it was delivered by Lt. Glenn Lockwood (third from right). It was accepted by Police Commissioner Lee Brown (fourth from left).

that his hospital room often resembled a crowded squad room at shift change; the sponsors and patrons who raised over \$54,000 for the injured deputy during a benefit auction and flea market; the benefactor who provided a private airplane to transport Knott to New York City; and the hundreds and hundreds of people whose cards, letters and phone calls bolstered Knott's morale.

The New York Mets ball club was in spring training at nearby Port St. Lucie when news of Knott's accident made headlines, and team members headed by Pitcher David Cone chipped in \$10,000 toward the injured deputy's expenses.

When someone tipped off New York cops that an "injured-in-the-line-of-duty" deputy was going through the pain and strain of rehabilitation at the Rusk Institute, they overwhelmed Knott with their kindness and concern.

"They just started tricklin' in," said Knott, "and I started getting fruit baskets and other stuff." Later Knott's new-found "buddies" took him for a helicopter ride over Manhattan, provided transportation to a restaurant, took him to a New York Mets baseball game, and gave him other opportunities to experience the sights and sounds of the city. He spent one weekend at a policeman's home on Long Island, and Police Commissioner Lee Brown, busy head of a department with some 28,000 sworn officers, visited him for about an hour at the Rusk Institute.

Before Knott left New York to return to Stuart, he presented a Martin County Sheriff's Office appreciation plaque to Commissioner Brown and other representatives of the NYPD. Lt. Glenn Lockwood, from the Martin County Sheriff's Office, hand-delivered the plaque and assisted Knott with the presentation.

Knott said the encouragement he received from hundreds of



Using special hand controls, Knott is currently driving an unmarked Sheriff's Office car. He can stow his wheelchair and get into the driver's seat without assistance.



A helicopter ride over Manhattan was one of the experiences Don Knott had, courtesy of his friends in the New York Police Department.

people, including New York Cops, was a big factor in his recovery, and he was inclined to minimize his own courage and determination.

"People ask me how I found the strength to do what I have done," he said, "and I really feel everybody's got it in them. It's in there. They've just gotta find it.

"I've always been bull headed, or something like that," he added. "All I did was focus it and put it in the right direction."



# Ban on butts clears the air; in smoke-free county jails

**O**ne historian suggests that it started about 1603 when Sir Walter Raleigh was imprisoned in the Tower of London for conspiring against the king.

Sounds plausible, since the colorful, swashbuckling nobleman was credited with introducing tobacco to England. "He took his wife and son to jail with him, as was the custom in those permissive days," said this authority on English history, "so it stands to reason that he was also allowed to take his pipe and tobacco pouch."

Perhaps no one really gives a hoot whether Sir Walter started the time-honored custom of smoking in jails. The point is that inmates have been doing it for centuries, and now it's being banned in jails all over Florida.

The era of smoke-free jails has arrived, but not without repercussions. Court suits have been filed by inmates who claim it's their inalienable right to smoke behind bars. They want to ban the ban.

Other inmates are adding urgency to the ban by threatening to sue Sheriffs for the lung damage they sustained before "no smoking" rules went into effect.

A newspaper photo recently showed the wife of an inmate picketing a Florida jail in an effort to uphold her husband's right to smoke behind bars.

Sheriffs — including some who are reformed tobacco-users — have taken a sympathetic approach by allowing inmates to taper off. Instead of cutting off the sale of cigarettes to inmates "cold turkey," they have decreased sales gradually and urged smokers to substitute candy for the weed when they felt an uncontrollable need.

In one smoke-free county jail the Sheriff had two psychologists standing by to help inmates with severe withdrawal problems.

In another county where the tobacco ban was extended to jail employees, the Sheriff helped them through their trauma by offering clinics, counseling and acupuncture. Twenty-five of them volunteered to have tiny needles inserted in their ears to block their urge.

In some counties the no smoking ban not only includes the jail, but also offices and patrol cars. One Sheriff justified a ban of this magnitude by claiming that cigarette smoke could be harmful to computers and communications equipment.

With cigarettes getting scarcer and scarcer behind



bars, it was inevitable for a "black market" to develop, and there were reports of hoarded cigarettes selling for \$5 to \$10 each. One inmate told a news reporter he had spent \$100 on black market cigarettes. "It's really hard to just stop," he said. "Smoking was one of the things that kept us sane."

Fights have broken out over tobacco transactions. "I've seen three guys get black eyes because of this," said an 18-year-old inmate charged with possession of cocaine. "People buy [black market] cigarettes and then when it comes time to pay, they don't have the money, so they get hit."

Proponents of the "right to puff" are really in a huff, but there is a prevailing feeling that the turmoil is only temporary.

Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro said he expected some negative reactions and was prepared for an



outcry from the jail population when a smoking ban was phased in, "but to my surprise the inmates took the new policy in their stride, and to date we still have yet to document a single incident involving smoking restrictions."

The attorney who represents Broward County inmates in class action suits supports the smoking ban, and says that smoking is not a constitutional right, according to Navarro. The litigator also agrees that smoking infringes on the rights of non-smoking prisoners by exposing them to the hazards of second-hand smoke, the Sheriff added.

Supporters of the smoking ban claim many benefits will result. For example: Matches will no longer be supplied to inmates, and there will be fewer, if any, attempts to create disturbances by setting fires. Inmates will have a cleaner, healthier environment. Non-smoking inmates will no longer have to inhale second-hand smoke. Jail employees will no longer have to scrub cell walls and air conditioning vents to remove a "gummy" film they blame on tobacco smoke.

The same historian who blamed Sir Walter Raleigh for smoke-filled jails, said the present "dust up" about smoke-free jails reminded him of a wartime incident in London. He was told his mental ruminations were a bit barmy. Nevertheless, here they are:

With war reaching a state of inevitability and London under a blackout decree, a British prime minister stood at the window of his darkened office and looked

out over the city. "Lights are going out all over Europe tonight," he said, "and we may not see them come on again in our lifetime."

So now, at this current point in time, our ruminating historian feels it would be jolly well appropriate, m'lads, if some equally philosophical Sheriff would step to his office window, look out over the landscape, and declare: "By jove, the smoldering glow of jailhouse cigarettes is being extinguished all over Florida tonight, and we may not see them glow again in our lifetime."

## Smoke-free isn't for everyone

**MONTICELLO** — Some jail administrators are enthusiastic about smoke-free jails — but not all of them. Lt. Rick Knowles, Administrator at the Jefferson County Jail recently stated the case for the opposition. First of all it should be noted that Jefferson is a small, rural county (population 11,296 according to the 1990 census), and its small jail is so overcrowded that the overflow inmates have to be transported to jails in nearby counties.

Lt. Knowles pointed out that he has no solitary confinement cells in which to isolate problem prisoners. Therefore, when it becomes necessary for him to discipline a trouble maker, his options are limited to taking away television, smoking or telephone privileges.

Of these three, he said, taking away an inmate's smoking privilege is the most effective, and normally gets results in less than 24 hours.

To make the Jefferson County Jail smoke-free under the present conditions would eliminate Lt. Knowles' favorite disciplinary tool, and aggravate the horrendous problems that are already threatening to overwhelm him.

## Office work is her occupation; and saving lives is a sideline

**KEY WEST** — Although Amanda Hernandez is employed in the Finance Division of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and handling emergencies out in the field is not part of her job, she recently proved that she can save a life when the need arises.

She was driving home from work when she saw a small child lying in the middle of the street after having been hit by a passing van. Trained in CPR, and also coached in first aid procedures by her husband, Deputy Raul Hernandez, Amanda knew what to do when she discovered that the child had stopped breathing.

She tipped the child's head back, explored her airway, and discovered that her throat was blocked by her tongue. Once the victim's throat was cleared she began to breathe, and was starting to recover from her near-fatal experience by the time emergency medical technicians arrived at the scene.

The child was treated for cuts, bruises and abrasions, and was doing fine when Amanda checked on her later. No charges were filed against the driver of the van after it was determined that the child had dashed into



Sheriff Rick Roth presents a medal and commendation to Amanda Hernandez for meritorious conduct.

the street from between parked cars.

Sheriff Rick Roth awarded a medal and a commendation to Amanda for meritorious conduct. "Fortunately," he said, "the end result was a safe and healthy little girl, but if Amanda had not acted so quickly and correctly, the outcome might have been very tragic."





# Sheriffs take a stand On legislative issues

In a position paper distributed to Florida lawmakers and other appropriate government officials, the Florida Sheriffs Association has taken a stand regarding criminal justice issues which are expected to be addressed during the 1992 session of the Florida Legislature.

The following article is a condensed summary of the position paper. The full text can be obtained by writing to The Florida Sheriffs Association, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519; or by calling 904-877-2165.

## Important Dates in the 1992 Session of the Florida Legislature

### January 14

Regular Session convenes. House filing deadline for all member bills and joint resolutions, except committee bills.

### January 17

Last day for filing bills for introduction in the Senate.

### January 27

Filing deadline for committee bills in the House.

### March 3

50th day of Regular Session, last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings.

### March 13

Last day of Regular Session, if Legislature completes work in 60 days.

### May 12

Effective date of laws when no effective date is specified, provided Legislature adjourns on 60th day.

### *The issue:*

## Reorganization of state law enforcement agencies

### *The position:*

## Proceed with caution

To merely reorganize or reshuffle state law enforcement agencies in order to react to the currently publicized management problems of the Florida Highway Patrol and the Florida Marine Patrol is not worth the time, effort or cost. However, meaningful reorganization can and should enhance

the services provided by state law enforcement agencies provided the following factors are carefully considered:

## Identify the role and purpose of each agency.

For example: The primary role of the Florida Highway Patrol is in traffic law enforcement, and that is where its resources should be directed — not necessarily to drug enforcement, security functions or other non-traffic enforcement activities. Since Florida's Sheriffs and municipal police officers are the primary providers of law enforcement in this state, there is no need to establish a state-funded agency that provides law enforcement services at the local level.

Therefore, Florida's Sheriffs reject the establishment of a state police force whose responsibility is to provide local law enforcement services. It is their position that state law enforcement efforts should be focused and specialized in nature.

## Eliminate overlapping administrative levels

If measured against the trooper allocation formula adopted by the Governor and Cabinet, the Florida Highway Patrol is currently staffed at 50 percent of its needed level. This inadequate staffing has created a desperate need for additional

troopers, and has had a serious impact on local law enforcement. In several counties deputy sheriffs have been diverted from their regular duties to investigate traffic accidents because of the inability of the Florida Highway Patrol to respond within a reasonable length of time. Administrative positions must be eliminated in order to put more troopers on the road.

### *The issue:*

## Additional prison beds



### *The position:*

## Thumbs up

FSA supports construction of additional prison beds in order to address Florida's lack of prison capacity. Although the state currently has more than 46,000 beds "on line," the system is at capacity. Each week hundreds of additional persons are sentenced to the state prison system, resulting in the release of an equal number of previously incarcerated prisoners. This is accomplished through the Controlled Release Authority, or through the expiration of sentences which, in many cases, have been shortened by gain time and provisional release credits.

Early release means that the average time served is approximately 36 percent of the imposed sentence, if inmates serving mandatory sentences are included in



the computation. Eliminating them drops the average time served to an even lower percentage of the sentence imposed. Due to a lack of prison space, some so-called "low risk" offenders are released virtually upon arrival at the prison door.

Fifty-five Florida Sheriffs became so concerned about early release of prisoners that they filed suit to stop it. Sheriffs are also actively involved in STOP (Stop Turning Out Prisoners), an organization of crime victims and other citizens concerned about the crimes committed by convicted felons released early from prison.

In 1989 the Legislature, at the urging of the Governor, approved funding for 9,368 prison beds. In 1990 funding was approved for 9,400 additional beds. Because the Legislature had failed to authorize the number of prison beds required by Florida's population growth and increasing crime rate prior to 1989, this was a "catch up" approach to the problem of prison overcrowding.

In 1991 the Legislature failed to authorize any additional prison beds in spite of Florida's ranking as number one in crime in the nation. If a similar decision is made by the Legislature in 1992, Florida will again find itself in a dangerous "catch up" situation. Florida does not have a prison overcrowding problem. It has a lack of capacity problem, which must be addressed by increasing capacity **now!**

*The issue:*

### **Community Corrections Partnership Act**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs down**

In 1991, despite opposition from Florida's Sheriffs, the Legislature passed, and the Governor approved, a Community Corrections Act. Approximately \$7.8 million was appropriated to establish local community corrections programs.

Sheriffs opposed this action for several reasons. They felt it represented a fundamental change in state policy because it allowed convicted felons (who would normally become state prison system inmates) to serve their sentences in county custody for up to 22 months, and in some instances longer.

They viewed this policy change as an effort to shift prisoner punishment costs from the state to the counties, and it should be noted that their position was consistent with previous opposition to legislative proposals that would have established regional prisons supported by local ad valorem taxes.

Because adequate facilities have not been provided in the state prison system, and adequate funding has not been made available for prison alternatives such as probation and community control, Sheriffs feel that the state is not fulfilling its responsibilities.

They point out that Florida's counties are spending approximately 20 percent of their ad valorem tax revenue for county correctional purposes (many counties spend far in excess of this, and also add sales tax dollars), while the state allocates only four percent of its budget for correctional purposes.

Last year, when the Community Corrections Partnership Act was being considered by the Legislature, FSA offered an alternative proposal which would have shifted the responsibility to the state by authorizing the Florida Department of Corrections to establish a local community corrections program.

This proposal was narrowly defeated in the House of Representatives on procedural vote. Nevertheless, Florida's Sheriffs continue to believe that the care and custody of state prisoners should be a state responsibility, and should not be shifted to the counties.

*The issue:*

### **Sentencing guidelines**

*The position:*

#### **Proceed with caution**

In 1991 the Legislature directed that proposals be formulated to revise sentencing guidelines so that they would emphasize incarceration for violent offenders, and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

Because of the state's current financial crisis, Florida's Sheriffs believe that fundamental changes should be delayed for at least a year to permit a more in-depth assessment of proposals. This is consistent with the opposition Sheriffs voiced in past years when the Legislature was considering substantial changes in the guidelines.

Sheriffs support in principle the legislative goal of emphasizing incarceration for violent offenders and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders. However, they also recognize that this formula could provide an opportunity for the state to shirk its responsibilities — particularly the responsibility to provide sufficient prison beds for habitual offenders and repeat property crime offenders who may not be classified as "violent."

Sheriffs see a possibility that restricting state prison beds so that only violent offenders could use them may shift the responsibility for incarcerating non-violent offenders to the counties. They are opposed to any such shift.

*The issue*

### **Diverting contraband forfeiture funds**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs down**

Because Florida's contraband forfeiture laws have proven to be effective tools in the ongoing battle



against crime, and because they negate financial gains resulting from criminal activities, FSA is opposed to any efforts designed to take this most effective tool away from law enforcement.

The Association is also opposed to any legislation that will divert funds generated by contraband forfeiture away from the currently authorized law enforcement uses.

*The issue:*

**Law enforcement officer  
"Bill of Rights"**



*The Position:*  
**Thumbs down**

Florida's Sheriffs oppose legislation which, under the guise of including deputy sheriffs within the provisions of the law enforcement officers "bill of rights," would restrict the ability of the Sheriff to hire and fire deputies, or to take appropriate disciplinary action.

Since a deputy sheriff is a local officer appointed by the Sheriff to act as his alter-ego, the constitutionally recognized relationship between the Sheriff and his appointed deputies is not an employment relationship. Therefore, this proposed legislation would erode the Sheriff's constitutional and statutory independence regarding the selection and retention of personnel.

FSA seeks to protect the due process rights of deputies, but is opposed to erecting confrontational barriers between them and their Sheriffs.

*The issue:*

**Qualifications for the  
Office of Sheriff**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs up**

This legislation would establish statutory qualifications for the office of Sheriff, and require candi-

dates seeking the office to have professional qualifications. Presently there are no special qualifications, and FSA believes that Sheriffs should at least be required to meet the standards established by general law for law enforcement officers.

Other states, including Georgia, California, Oregon, Ohio and South Carolina, have already established qualifications.

*The issue:*

**Legalization of  
controlled substances**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs down**

Florida's Sheriffs are strongly opposed to legalization of controlled substances. They believe that legalizing any drugs that are now illegal, will not eliminate crimes committed to support drug habits; and will convey the wrong message: namely that the war on drugs cannot be won.

They support vigorous enforcement of existing drug laws; anti-drug education; federal military assistance in the war against drugs; and treatment programs for drug addicts.

They are urging the Legislature to provide prevention and treatment resources; as well as adequate prison space for those who sell, manufacture or distribute controlled substances.

*The issue:*

**Modifying jail standards**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs up**

FSA supports legislation modifying current standards and requirements imposed by the Florida Division of Corrections for construction of county jails. Current standards reflect "good correctional

practices," but in many cases they exceed constitutional requirements and impose unnecessary financial burdens on taxpayers in the counties.

*The issue:*

**Reimbursing counties  
for medical expenses of  
state prisoners**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs up**

FSA supports legislation providing reimbursement for medical expenses of "state prisoners" held in county jails. Counties presently absorb these expenses even though the treated inmates may have been arrested by a state or municipal officer; may have become ill or injured while awaiting transfer to the state prison system; or may be held for parole, probation, community control or control release violations.

*The issue:*

**Changing county jail  
privatization procedures**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs down**

An extraordinary vote (one more than a simple majority) is presently required if county commissioners seek to transfer operation of the county jail to a private operator.

FSA will oppose any legislation that attempts to repeal this extraordinary vote requirement.

*The issue:*

**Additional funding for  
crime labs**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs up**

Recent funding cutbacks have had an adverse impact on the state



crime lab system, frequently causing law enforcement agencies to wait several months for lab results needed to obtain criminal convictions.

FSA supports desperately needed additional funding for the crime lab system.

*The issue:*  
**Shifting authority for  
DUI certification**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs up**

The Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) presently certifies the methods used in analyzing DUI evidence. FSA will support legislation transferring this authority to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). Because of FDLE's responsibilities for assisting local law enforcement, this should improve the efficiency and efficacy of the certification program.

*The issue:*  
**Proposed changes in  
pre-trial procedures  
for releasing suspects**

*The position:*  
**Proceed with caution**

FSA is concerned about legislation designed to change substantially the procedures for pre-trial release of persons accused of crimes. These proposed changes appear to place public safety at risk and would have an adverse impact upon a criminal justice system that is already overburdened.

*The issue:*  
**Fixing a broken criminal  
justice system**



*The position:*  
**Thumbs up**

Florida's citizens as well as Florida's Sheriffs have known for a long time that Florida's criminal justice system is broken and desperately needs to be repaired.

This broken system:

- Fails to provide sufficient state prison facilities for violent criminals, as well as habitual property crimes offenders and drug offenders.
- Fails to protect the public — and particularly crime victims — by tolerating various early release programs that return convicted felons back into society after they have served only a fraction of their sentences.
- Fails to provide adequately funded, effective alternatives to in-

carceration such as probation and community control, or to permit meaningful supervision of those diverted from, or released early from prison.

- Has failed abysmally in its handling of juvenile offenders.

Florida's citizens feel cheated by the criminal justice system, and here's why:

- When a criminal is caught, more than likely no prison time will be imposed.
- If imposed, it will be relatively short because of sentencing guidelines.
- The convicted and imprisoned criminal will serve only a fraction of the lawfully imposed sentence because of early release through gain time, provisional release credits, or control release.

Obviously the system is a joke, and Florida's citizens know it. FSA will do everything possible to cut the comedy.

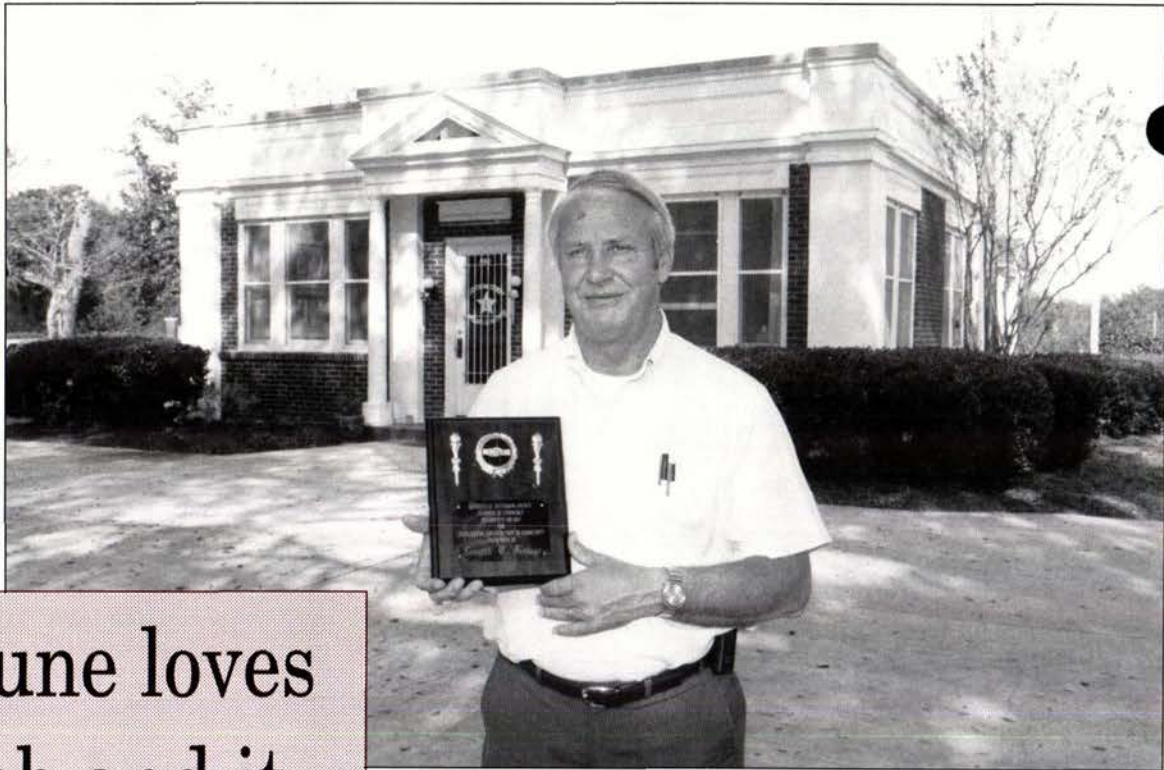


**Correction — FBI Academy grads group grows**

BROOKSVILLE — The Hernando County Sheriff's Office aggregation of FBI National Academy graduates recently increased from a threesome to a foursome when Capt. Richard B. Nugent (second from left) received his diploma. The other members of the foursome were incorrectly identified in the October/November, 1991 issue. They are (from left) Chief Deputy Donald E. Shields, Sheriff Thomas A. Mylander, and Capt. G. Z. Smith.



# Fortune loves his job and it really shows !



Good fortune smiled on Sheriff Ken Fortune recently when he received the annual President's Award from the Monticello/Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce and moved his operational headquarters into the building pictured in the background. The award is a pat on the back for a job well done, and the new headquarters building will enable him to do his job more efficiently.

MONTICELLO — Sheriff Ken Fortune ought to be depressed. He needs a new jail, more deputies, and more “meat” on his “bare bones” budget at a time when money is “tight” in Jefferson County.

The outlook is gloomy, but Ken is full of enthusiasm, and shrugs his shoulders about the nagging problems of his job. He prefers to call them challenges. He likes challenges.

“If it wasn’t fun coming to work every day, I’d leave right now,” he told a visitor recently. “It’s still fun after seven years. Even though there’s days when I’m beat down and everything goes wrong, I can’t wait to get up the next day and start over. I’m like a kid in a toy store.”

Unlike Shakespeare’s Hamlet who couldn’t decide whether to “suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune (no play on words), or take up arms against a sea of troubles,” Fortune has a firm plan of action. His clear objective is to give Jefferson County residents the best possible law enforcement within the limits of his scrawny budget and thinly spread staff. Evidence that he’s accomplishing his goal is not difficult to find.

Some examples:

- \* Establishing a countywide Neighborhood Crime Watch program, and a 911 emergency response system.
- \* Increasing the efficiency of his staff by adopting

computerized procedures, and quadrupling the office space.

\* Attacking drug problems by hiring a full-time drug enforcement deputy, establishing a school resource officer program, and acquiring a trained K-9 for drug investigations.

Fortune’s ability to carry out progressive ideas on a penny ante budget is his trademark, and he recently received special recognition for his efforts when the Monticello/Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce gave him its annual President’s Award for outstanding contributions to the community — particularly for Crime Watch and 911.

With characteristic modesty, Fortune said the late Sam Scott, Florida Power Corporation’s former district manager, deserved much of the credit for these improvements because of his activities as a dedicated volunteer.

“Sam became the front person,” said Fortune, “and he also got the Chamber of Commerce behind the projects.” Be that as it may, Fortune has learned to “make do” with severely limited resources, and make progress at the same time. Meanwhile, an altered version of a major airline’s advertising slogan sort of sums him up: “He loves his job and it really shows!”



# FSA holds workshop for Sheriffs' secretaries

by Tom Berlinger  
Director of Operations  
Florida Sheriffs Association

When you're holding a workshop for the important people who serve as Sheriffs' "right hands," what do you teach them that they don't already know?

That was the dilemma faced recently by the staff of the Florida Sheriffs Association when they hosted a first-ever two-day workshop designed specifically for those special women who serve throughout the state as Executive Secretaries to Florida's Sheriffs.

The program was held December 3 and 4, and reactions by the 59 executive secretaries from 44 counties who attended indicate it was a rousing success. They pleaded for an encore in 1992.

The first day included a tour of Florida's Capitol Complex, where the group was addressed by Joe Brown, Secretary of the Senate, and John B. Phelps, Clerk of Florida's House of Representatives. Senate President Gwen Margolis also provided an interesting personal insight into the role she plays as the first woman to serve in that capacity.

Mark Herron, FSA's Legislative Affairs Coordinator, told the gathering about the important role Sheriffs play in the legislative process, particularly when criminal justice issues are involved.

During a luncheon in the Capitol cafeteria, the ladies were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Gov. Lawton Chiles.

The second day's sessions were held at the Women's Pavilion in Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center. There, the group explored personal issues specific to their jobs including: recognizing stress and its health effects, time management, dealing with difficult

clientele, assertiveness without aggressiveness, and techniques for stress reduction.

In the day's final session FSA staff members explained how the Association functions as a statewide coordinating agency for Sheriffs.

Carol McCullar, Executive Secretary to St. John's County Sheriff Neil Perry, summed up her feelings by noting, "I've been in this position nearly five years, and this program was about five years late in coming for me. Meeting my counterparts personally will open up the lines of communication and this fact alone will work to everyone's benefit — ours, the Sheriffs, and the citizens we serve," she noted.

Oddly enough, although most of the participants had been communicating by phone over the years, few had ever met face-to-face before.



Hey, Sheriff! If you couldn't find your executive secretary on December 3 and 4, look for her in these photos. She was probably attending the workshop at the headquarters of the Florida Sheriffs Association.





# WHO CARES?

## Sheriffs and deputies do, and it shows in many ways

**\* Do Sheriffs care about homeless, neglected and troubled youngsters?**

**\* Do they give a hoot about frail, elderly citizens who live alone and need to be checked on daily?**

**\* Are they willing to take time off from their official duties to entertain handicapped youngsters?**

**\* Have they done anything to protect victims of Alzheimer's Disease?**

**\* Do they raise funds for worthy causes?**

**\* Have they found effective ways to warn children about the dangers of drug abuse?**

**\* Are they giving guidance and encouragement to talented young people who are interested in law enforcement careers?**

**T**he answer is YES! to all of these questions; and the amazing thing is that all of these compassionate, caring activities are ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY!

One more question: How did Sheriffs and Deputies get this way? The answer: Blame it on U.S. Senator Estes Kefauver and the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

Kefauver mounted a crusade against corruption around 1950, headed a committee that held hearings in Florida, and exposed chummy links between law enforcement and organized crime.

A few Sheriffs were booted out, and in 1952 voters finished the clean-up job by electing a bunch of younger, better qualified, progressive, and presumably more ethical candidates. These new Sheriffs took control of the Florida Sheriffs Association, teamed up with old timers who had survived the "throw the rascals out" election, and instituted a lot of law enforcement reforms that are still producing dividends almost 40 years later.

Sheriffs acquired a new image, and their compassionate side was exposed dramatically in 1957 when they announced they were founding the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, a home for homeless, neglected and troubled youngsters.

This was a turning point with a message that went like this: "Sheriffs and their deputies really care." Thirty-four years later — now that the Boys Ranch has evolved into a statewide network of child care facilities operated by Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. — the message is stronger than ever.

Prior to 1953 Sheriffs were the last of the great individualists. Each was doing his own thing, and their Association was more of a social club than a professional organization. They rallied around the Association to lobby the state legislature, which held short sessions every two years, but saw no need to get involved in major cooperative ventures.

During this era, Sheriffs and deputies were doing kindly and compassionate things, but it was primarily on a person-to-person basis and their good deeds received no publicity or acclaim.

"In those days," according to one old timer, "people were more neighborly. When they helped each other, it was no big deal. I guess Sheriffs were sort of like father figures. People went to them to settle disputes, or for financial help, and when a Sheriff dug down in his own pocket to help somebody who was in trouble, it was a private matter."

So, that's how it was before Sheriffs discovered the great advantages of working together through the Sheriffs Association to achieve benevolent and professional goals. They made that discovery in the 1950s, and the results have been pretty spectacular.

Prior to the 1950s they were "closet benefactors" with kindly, caring characteristics that were seldom exposed to public view.

In 1957 the founding of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch brought them "out of the closet," and their collective image has been improving ever since. Working together as members of the Sheriffs Association, and sharing progressive ideas, they have demonstrated that they care about:

### PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Forty years ago in a typical Sheriff's Office the deputies wore street clothes, drove unmarked cars without radios, and got their training on the job.

Today the deputies are in uniforms. They drive marked patrol cars equipped with radios, radar, computers and video cameras. Standards which Sheriffs helped to establish require them to be trained before they go on the job.

Professionalization has been so extensive that de



scribing it would require a separate article, but the point is that law enforcement has been lifted out of the "dark ages" because Sheriffs care.

### DRUG ABUSE

It's the duty of Sheriffs and deputies to arrest drug dealers, confiscate illegal drugs and seize property used in drug traffic. Above and beyond this call of duty they are also involved in many drug abuse prevention activities. Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Programs are doing an effective job of guiding young people away from drugs. Deputies employed as School Resource Officers are delivering anti-drug abuse messages. Unique treatment programs are being proposed and developed.

### THE ELDERLY

Sheriffs and deputies have demonstrated their concern for the problems of senior citizens in various ways. In many counties frail, elderly folks who live alone receive daily phone calls from the Sheriff's Office to check on their general welfare and help them with any problems that arise. Some Sheriffs' Offices are also serving as central registries for elderly Alzheimer patients. Each patient wears an identification bracelet with a registration number, and when they stray, get lost, or become confused away from home, they can be identified simply by calling the Sheriff's Office.

### THE HANDICAPPED

Sheriffs and deputies are really "old softies" when it comes to helping the handicapped. They organize handicapped volunteers into special patrols to prevent illegal use of handicapped parking spaces. They also employ handicapped persons in communications and administration duties.

### THE YOUNG

If Sheriffs didn't care about young people, would they bother to organize Junior Deputy Leagues, Explorers, and Police Athletic Leagues; employ school crossing guards; stockpile teddy bears to comfort victims of child abuse; invest in robots that teach safety lessons to toddlers; or participate in Christmas carnivals, even to the extent of sometimes wearing Santa Claus suits?

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., now approaching its 35th year of service to thousands of needy, neglected and troubled youngsters, is the most visible evidence that Sheriffs care about kids. It's more than "just the tip of the iceberg," but a lot less than the whole iceberg.

*continued on page 19*

## Spectacular things can happen if you really care about kids

KEY WEST — When 35 kids with Cystic Fibrosis were attending a camp at Plantation Key Yacht Harbor, one of the counselors called his friend Sam Holton, a deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and asked him if he could come around to the camp and let the campers see his patrol car.

Sam said he didn't have a patrol car any more because he was in the Sheriff's Training Division, but he would see what he could do. From there things just kind of took off.

All it took was some phone calls to some of Sam's friends in the Sheriff's Office, U.S. Customs, Florida Marine Patrol, and Florida Highway Patrol, and, presto, one week later the field in front of the Yacht Harbor was full of law enforcement people and law enforcement vehicles.

To start the fun, Col. Bill McDonald, Undersheriff of Monroe County, swore in the kids as deputies and gave each a miniature gold badge.

U.S. Customs flew in its big Blackhawk Helicopter, and the kids were allowed to put on flying helmets and sit at the controls. Each camper was photographed as a take-home souvenir.

A helicopter from the Sweetwater Police Department also landed, and four K9 units from various agencies staged an obedience demonstration. Afterward the kids had an opportunity to meet the dogs and inspect the specially equipped K9 team vehicles.

To top it all off, the Florida Marine Patrol arrived with two boats and took the campers for rides around the harbor. "I

only had a week to make arrangements, and I thought I might be able to cash in a few favors and get a couple of people to come out and entertain the kids. Then it became this big, terrific show," said Holton after the field day was over.

"I think I'll probably be washing cars and taking people to lunch for the rest of my life, but it was worth it to see those kids' faces," he added.



Deputy Sam Holton talks to a camp counselor and campers in front of the U.S. Customs helicopter.



Was it fun or what?





# Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

## Honor Roll

*Roster of*

### Lifetime Honorary Members

*Home towns eliminated*

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

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

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

On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association by giving \$1,000 or more to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to *The Sheriff's Star*. Under a new regulation which became effective in 1984, those whose gifts total over \$5,000 will receive additional gold stars on their plaques — one for \$5,000, two for \$10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over \$25,000.

### Presentations

We regret that photos of Lifetime Honorary Members are not always available when their names appear on the membership roster. Consequently, we often find it necessary to print the names in one issue of *The Sheriff's Star* and the photos in a subsequent issue.

#### ROSTER OF NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

American Legion Aux. Long Key  
Post # 305  
Mrs. Linda Barley  
Barnett Bank of Alachua County  
Boeing Employees Good Neighbor  
Fund  
Mr. Ross W. Borlase, Jr.  
Ms. Sigrid L. Burroughs  
Cargill Fertilizer, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Caves  
Mrs. Lennie M. Childs  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Christensen  
Mrs. Wanda Coleman  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Crum  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Derby  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeLair  
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Di Girolamo  
Dynasty Art & Frame  
Emergency Medical Services  
Associates, Inc.  
ECCI Corporation  
Ms. Jane Fennessy  
Florida Law Enforcement Anglers  
Assoc., Inc.  
Friends of the Largo Library  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hall  
Mrs. Janet Hobson

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Hudgins  
Mr. and Mrs. Louie Huffstutler  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hunt, Jr.  
Mr. Ivan Johnson  
Kelly Brown Company  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis R. Lappin  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Larson  
Mr. Paul Laska  
Ms. Claudia Le Tourneur  
Leverock Seafood House  
Little Bar Restaurant  
Mrs. Elizabeth Loznack  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. McLendon  
Mrs. Vicki Scott McMullen  
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Morfit  
Morrison's Farms, Inc.  
Dr. and Mrs. Paul F. Nugent, Jr.  
Mrs. Pat Oldnettle  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Perry  
Mrs. Mable M. Rice  
Rising Sun Arabians  
Rumberger, Kirk, Caldwell & Wechsler  
Dr. Roger D. Scott  
Ms. Jane Small  
The Isaly Klondike Company  
Tri-State Systems, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Tully, Jr.  
West Coast Citrus Insurers



BUSHNELL — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Stephen Feldstein (right) to Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., with Sgt. Sumter the robot as a witness.



MADISON — Presented by Madison County Sheriff Joe Peavy (right) to Madison Correctional Institution, represented by Assistant Superintendent Vernon Dukes (left) and Superintendent Ronnie Griffin.



## FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL continued...



**YOUTH VILLA** — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Biebuyck (left) to Mr. and Mrs. Tommy B. King.



**LIVE OAK** — Presented by Youth Ranches Representative Linda Crews to Mrs. Marjorie H. Wallace.



**LAKE CITY** — Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Tom Tramel (left) to William W. Woodruff.



**NAPLES** — Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Lee.



**PENSACOLA** — Presented by Escambia County Sheriff Charlie Johnson to Mrs. Norville E. Shearer in memory of Norville E. Shearer.



**CITRA** — Presented by Capt. Fred LaTorre, Marion County Sheriff's Office, to VFW Auxiliary No. 8978, represented by President Esther Davidson.



**STUART** — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Bob Haag (second from left) to representatives of Martin County Correctional Institution. They are (from left) CO-1 Ross Babb, Col. Tom Tippins, Superintendent David Farcas, and Sgt. Dwayne Watson.



**WRIGHT**

**BARTOW** — Presented by Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow to S. R. Wright and Co., P.A., represented by Stephen R. Wright; and R. W. Summers Railroad Contractor, Inc., represented by Mrs. Esther Summers Naberhaus, President; and Charles D. Merritt, Executive Vice President.



**SUMMERS**



**ZUFFANTES**

**OCALA** — Presented by Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland (right) and Youth Ranches Regional Director Stephen Feldstein (left) to Saverio Zuffante and his sister, Lena Lois Zuffante; and to Robert Spradlin.



**SPRADLIN**



**PALM CITY** — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Bob Haag (left) to Robert F. Grover.



## FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL continued...



ALESAFIS



SWEER



JORGENSEN

**YOUTH RANCH, SAFETY HARBOR** — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Terry Gregg to Mrs. Michael Alesafis (left), who was accompanied by Kathy Alesafis, a clerk for the City of Tarpon Springs; Mrs. James Sweer; Mary Jorgensen; Attorney Delores Jendrynski; and Seton Thompson.



JENDRYNSKI



THOMPSON



LINCOLN-MERCURY

**BRADENTON** — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust (left) and Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells (right) to Bradenton Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., represented by Alex Karras (left) and James E. Jensen; and to Waste Management of Manatee County, represented by Robert Hanna.



OLIN



WBHS-TV50

**YOUTH RANCH, SAFETY HARBOR** — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Fred "Mac" Stones to Olin Ordnance Division, represented by Jack Picker; and WBHS-TV50, Home Shopping Network, represented by Michelle Tunstall.



HANNA



ELDERS

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA** — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan S. Elder, Bradenton; Dr. and Mrs. Willard T. Jones, Bradenton; and Victor O. Bernthal, Port Charlotte.



JONESES



BERNTHAL



## FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL *continued...*



WALSH



WILLIAMSES



SKIPPERS

**BOYS RANCH** — Presented by Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver to Robert Walsh, President of Tequesta Motors; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Williams; Mr. and Mrs. Mack Skipper; "Woody" James Neely; and Emmett and Mary Ann Metrick. (Albert Williams is a Boys Ranch alumnus. Mack Skipper and "Woody" James Neely are Youth Ranches Central Office employees.)



NEELY



METRICKS



**FT. LAUDERDALE** — Presented by Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro (right) to Marty Kaufman, a Community Service Aide with the Sheriff's Office.

## WHO CARES *Continued from page 15*

Parents used to threaten their kids with "straighten up or I'm gonna tell the Sheriff to put you in jail." That doesn't work any more. In camps and in schools kids have discovered that law enforcement officers are their friends. Many of them have had opportunities to become pals with deputies assigned to schools as Resource Officers. They learn to respect, not fear, law enforcement when Sheriffs and deputies put on schoolyard demonstrations with helicopters, K9 units and rescue equipment. President Bush please note: law enforcement is a kinder, gentler business out there, and it has many points of light" that weren't there 40 years ago.

### CRIME VICTIMS

Corralling criminals is a full-time job, but Sheriffs' Offices do not ignore the distress and the problems experienced by crime victims. Many Sheriffs have Victim Advocates who protect victims' rights and provide professional counseling. They often refer victims to helpful community resources.

... AND THE WAR GOES ON ...

There's still a war on crime, and fighting it is the



## Just A Reminder

Please take a moment to verify that your membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association is current. If your membership expires on November 31, 1991, this will be the last issue you will receive until your membership is renewed. If you have any questions regarding the status of your membership, please contact the Florida Sheriffs Association, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519 or phone (904) 877-2165 and we will be happy to assist you. **Your continued participation has made a difference, and will continue to make a difference! You are a valued member!**

number one job for Sheriffs and Deputies, but they also find time to do many kindly, compassionate things along the way. In a word: **THEY CARE!**



# Lawyer just couldn't resist the lure of law enforcement

by Richard D. Morrison

PANAMA CITY — Why would an attorney stop practicing the law and return to enforcing the law? That's the question folks frequently ask William M. "Billy" Harris when they see him driving a Bay County Sheriff's Office patrol car.

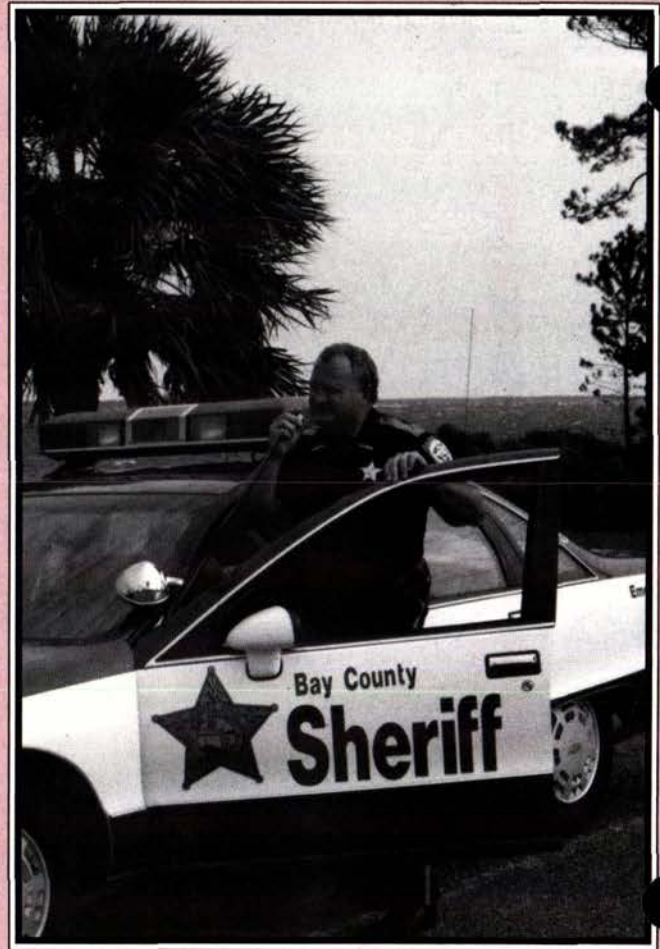
And, even Harris has to admit it's a little odd. After all, it isn't every day that you find a member of the Florida and Alabama Bar Associations wearing a deputy sheriff's uniform and answering patrol calls.

"Law enforcement is in my blood," Harris explains. "I like it better than anything I've ever tried. I really feel good about my job."

Born and raised in Bay County, Harris received a Bachelor's Degree from Florida State University, and entered police work with the Panama City Police Department in 1977. Later he transferred to the Bay County Sheriff's Office, but, at his father's urging, he left law enforcement to get a law degree at Cumberland Law School, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Billy's father, the late William E. Harris, was a well-known attorney, and had gained fame as the state prosecutor in the landmark Gideon vs. Wainwright Supreme Court case. He apparently had visions of his son following in his footsteps as an attorney, and no one can say that the son didn't strive to comply.

After graduating from law school, the former deputy sheriff served a short stint as an assistant prosecutor in Bay County, but the lure of law enforcement was strong, and he eventually returned to the Bay County Sheriff's Office.



**Deputy has no regrets.** ( Photo by Kathy L. Morrison )

"I just missed it so much," Harris said recently, and the way he said it left no doubt that he was happy with his decision. Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell is happy, too. "I guess it does sound a little peculiar to have a deputy who is also a lawyer," he said, "but Harris loves patrol and I'm delighted to have him out there representing the Sheriff's Office. He does a super job for us."