

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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in the
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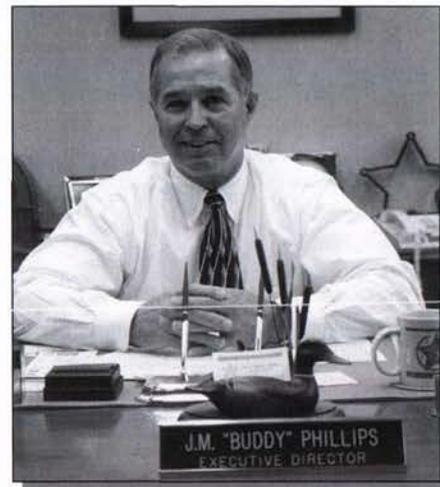
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From the desk of . . .

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



With this issue, I would like to welcome our newest members to the Florida Sheriffs Association. In our most recent membership drive, an incredible 20,000 individuals pledged their support for the efforts of the 67 Sheriffs of Florida and the Association's charity, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we are often scrutinized by the media and charitable-giving watchdog groups. Anytime I am given the opportunity to educate people about how your honorary membership dollars are spent, I welcome it.

Of the major law-enforcement organizations in the state of Florida, I am proud to say that the Florida Sheriffs Association is one that meets the criteria set forth by the National Charities Information Bureau (NCIB), which recommends that at least 60% of a group's annual budget should go to the purpose for which the money was raised.

In recent years, administrative costs represented only 12% of the Florida Sheriffs Association's annual budgets, with 80% of funding going directly into programs serving local Sheriffs' offices and the public. So we beat their minimum by 20%.

In fact, with just 19 employees, FSA efficiently serves its statewide membership, which includes non-law enforcement members, 31,000 Sheriffs' Office employees and 67 Sheriffs. FSA's costs are less than half of the nationally recommended level for administrative expenditures by nonprofit organizations.

And when it comes to fundraising, we rely on conservative means, spending far less than the 30 cents of every dollar on fundraising the American Institute of Philanthropy and the National Charities Information Bureau use as their bottom-line measure of credibility.

The work of your Association is far reaching, too. From helping to provide warm and caring homes and solid educations to young people at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, to fighting for the interests of public safety in the halls of the Capitol, we organize efforts and resources to make a difference in Florida.

Of course, our work reaches out to every community in the state, as well. Through our task forces, training programs, legal services and networking between agencies — virtually every citizen in the state receives some kind of benefit from FSA.

Getting tough on crime

If you're new to the Association, you'll quickly learn that we don't take law enforcement lightly. We take tough stances on sometimes very controversial issues.

One fight that is still ahead, and one which you will be hearing more about in subsequent issues of *The Sheriff's Star* magazine, is our "zero tolerance" for the effort to legalize marijuana in Florida.

To the 67 Sheriffs of Florida, there is no such thing as an appropriate use for this drug, even for medicinal purposes.

At our 1997 Winter Conference this past January, the Florida Sheriffs heard from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). They told the Sheriffs research shows that approving the drug even for medicinal purposes is an invitation for abuse. The state of California is now dealing with many challenges related to new laws governing use of marijuana for alleged medicinal purposes.

All you need to do it talk to any veteran law-enforcement officer about dealing with those individuals under the influence of marijuana, and they will tell you there's nothing "safe" about this drug.

What's worse: Once approved for medicinal purposes, there's no way to draw the line. And that makes enforcement of standards surrounding such a liberal law almost impossible. Expect to see the Florida Sheriffs Association take a supportive stance toward the anti-legalization of marijuana in the coming year. And to our new members: We look forward to keeping you up to date on the issues affecting you and your families in the coming year.

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

When You're The Victim

A first-person account from your Sheriff's Star magazine editor, Julie Bettinger



It started with a quizzical feeling I had during my lunch break on a recent Wednesday afternoon. I was at our new home, the one we built on family property where I spent my childhood years. While standing at the kitchen sink, I noticed an obvious void in the landscape outside of the picture window.

The huge Ducane gas grill that my husband bought last year wasn't where it had been the night before. Jim had cooked our favorite that evening — barbecue chicken — and that's what prompted the question in my mind. "Where's our grill?"

I made a mental note to call my husband on my way back to work. Once in the car, I dialed his store.

"Did you have to put the gas grill in the shop or something?" I asked. "No, why?" he answered. "You're kidding, right?" I said. Sometimes he has a twisted sense of humor.

"No, I'm not kidding," he said in a more serious tone. "Why are you asking?"

"It's not where you left it last night," I told him.

The realization hit us: We had become victims of crime.

This is not a coveted title, let me assure you. All those descriptions other crime victims told me about through my years of writing articles on burglary came flooding back to me. Yes, I felt violated, mad, paranoid, and totally shocked at the brazenness of these criminals.

For one thing, this was no run-of-the-mill sized grill. My husband had saved for it for over a year and bought one of the top-line models. It took two grown men to move it to its parking place on our back patio — so I knew these were pretty strong bad guys.

And to top it off, as I was standing next to the Leon County Sheriff's deputy while he took a description of the missing item, I had

a realization. There was a key to my house in one of those magnetized hide-a-key boxes on that grill!

Needless to say, I spent the rest of the afternoon with a locksmith having every door to our home re-keyed.

A story unfolds

After the crime report had been written, we discovered that *not only* had these criminals taken our grill, complete with house key, but they'd also made off with two giant fishing coolers my husband used when boating. It's not like we keep an inventory of items left outside, at least we didn't before the crime.

We found out that two of our neighbors across the street had also been hit the same night. A cellular phone was taken from one vehicle and numerous CDs and a CD player were stolen from other cars.

When a victimized neighbor learned of our grill being stolen, long after his own police report had been filed, he peered

out on his patio. Yep, his was gone, too.

There's another baffling fact: My neighbor kept his grill in a fenced yard with two elderly dogs in it.

Did I say "brazen?" These characters were just about as bold as they get. My neighbor is in the market for a new, much younger, and likely more vicious, dog.

Even after walking a mile in the shoes of a victim, I can honestly say my husband and I shared one positive moment throughout the ordeal. Two nights after the crime, Jim and I were saying our dinner prayers. As hard as I know it was for him, he asked God to forgive the people who stole our grill. "They must need it more than we do," he said. Not something that can be said of every crime, but a bright spot nonetheless.

I'm writing this in hopes that others can learn from my experience. . . . never hide a key in a moveable item, secure valuable items that are in your backyard, and if you're going to have outside dogs — make sure they know their job.

Better yet: Call your local Sheriff's Office for advice on securing your home. It could save you from becoming a victim like me.



Volume 41, No. 4, July/August 1997

Publisher

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

Editor

Julie S. Bettinger

Editorial Consultant

Carl Stauffer

Art Director

Frank Jones

Production Assistant

Lynn Meek

The Sheriff's Star is published six times per year; January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December, 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 © 1997 by Florida Sheriffs Association. ISSN 0488-6186

E-mail: fsa@flsheriffs.org

Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org/>

Phone (850) 877-2165 Fax (850) 878-8665

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Law enforcement in the Florida Keys: a unique challenge...

by Tom Berlinger
Director of Operational Services
Florida Sheriffs Association

Question: What is about a hundred feet wide (in places), and over a hundred miles long?

Answer: Monroe County, Florida.

While this may be a slight exaggeration, it serves to conjure a visual image of how Monroe County's unusual configuration could present some of the most unique challenges confronting any Sheriff's Office in America.

Primarily made up of the Florida Keys, there is no single law-enforcement jurisdiction in the country more defined by geography than this one. And physical isolation from the rest of the state and, for that matter, the rest of the nation, has fostered a psychological sense of "independence" among the residents that is unlike any other, according to several Key West locals interviewed during a recent visit.

Key West, the county seat, is the well-known home base of Jimmy Buffet. Looking more like the Bahamas than the Bahamas themselves, Key West has produced some world-renowned legends, such as Ernest Hemingway and Tennessee Williams.

It also produced one Charles "Sonny" McCoy, an architect and native son who still holds the record for being elected mayor of Key West five consecutive times. In the middle of his 10-year stint as the city's top politician, this self-styled showman got an idea. In a well-publicized stunt, the mayor water skied from Key West to Cuba, a distance of some 90 miles — on a single ski!

Just another day in paradise.....

The most glaring example of this free and independent spirit occurred in 1982, when the U. S. Border Patrol set up roadblocks along U.S. 1, the only highway through this string of islands. Agents were looking for



This photo and cover photo courtesy of Andrew Newman and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council

illegal drugs and unregistered aliens. What they found, instead, were tourists. Thousands of 'em. In some instances, agents made these island visitors sit idle for hours at checkpoints.

So, in response to agents "antagonizing" the tourists, their prime source of revenue for the local economy, angry politicians and many of the local folks planned, and actually staged, a mock secession from the United States. It culminated with the hoisting of the yellow and blue flag of the "Conch Republic."

Some fifteen years later, "Conch Republic" T-shirts still abound in the local stores. While the concept of establishing an independent republic was, for the most part, done "tongue-in-cheek" and to make a point, it stands as a shining example of the "what-are-they-gonna-do-next?" notion that many outsiders have about the colorful, playful nature of these interesting island dwellers. Many of them live their life as almost caricatures of themselves.

Although Monroe County enjoys the distinction of being the only county in the United States where the temperature has never dropped below freezing in recorded history, living in the Keys is not for everyone. There is no doubt that the locals want it to remain that way, and most do all they can to preserve their little piece of heaven just as it is.

In 1991, to show the power of the "preservationists," and in what can only be described as an unprecedented political move, the county commission banned hotel construction for a period of five years, and voted to limit the number of new homes that can be built in the Keys. Living here presents endless contrasts between Florida as it once was, and how it is today for over 81,000 permanent residents.

Geography makes for unique challenges

Unknown to many, the lion's share of Monroe County's land mass of 1,418 square miles is actually located on mainland Florida. Hardly anyone lives there full-time, though, save for a few park rangers and a few Native-Americans. The mainland part of Monroe County makes up about one-half of the dense, marshy southern tip of the state we all know as Everglades National Park, and it includes a portion of the Big Cypress National Preserve. Monroe County's share of mainland Florida is west of Miami and Dade County. So, if you traveled north by car from the Monroe/Dade county line at Key Largo, you'd have to drive over 50 miles through Dade County just to get back into



KEY WEST – The Monroe County Jail, the "only jail in the country that is built on stilts," is actually located on Stock Island, the first island north of Key West. Built 20-25 feet above ground, the design was adopted to withstand the storm surge and flooding that would inevitably occur, if Key West were to take a direct hit from a hurricane.

Monroe County.

Aside from the mainland, Monroe County is made up of some 822 islands (every one of which has a name), but only about 30 of which are regularly inhabited. From the air, the chain of islands resembles a "connect the dots" puzzle that runs farther than the eye can see and is joined together by a string of 42 bridge spans, the sum of which totals 19.3 miles in length. The Sheriff's Office authority extends three miles out into the Atlantic Ocean from the coastline of any nearest island; and nine miles into the Gulf of Mexico from the same starting point.

Key West, proud to be known as the "Southernmost City" in the United States, is situated some 60 miles closer to Cuba than to Miami. And, if you're among most who think that Key West is the end of the line for Monroe County, you'd be wrong.

Monroe County's borders extend more than 50 miles west of the city, taking in the Marquesas Keys and Fort Jefferson, a massive fortress located on the Dry Tortugas Islands. Several of the "unconnected" islands have wealthy part-time inhabitants who have their own electrical generators and use boats or helicopters to get themselves to and from the more developed islands.

A challenge for law enforcement

When somebody on one of these 822 islands needs a "cop," they call "Rick" Roth.

Richard D. "Rick" Roth joined the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in 1965 as a radio dis-

patcher. Moving through the ranks and — by his own description — "working at one time or another in almost every job that the Sheriff's Office has to offer," Roth was appointed Sheriff in June, 1990, when his predecessor resigned to make a run for lieutenant governor. Roth was elected in his own right in 1992 and re-elected in 1996, a tribute to the popularity this Minnesota transplant enjoys as a lifelong public servant to the residents of the Keys.

So, you may ask, other than the obvious, what's the effect on policing in this unusual geography? Roth explains this dilemma with complete candor.

"Compared to other locales, our geography causes lots of expensive duplication. In fact, most everything we do, we must do in triplicate — or more. We're forced to operate three separate radio dispatch centers; three courthouse sites; a main jail in Key West, and holding facilities in Marathon and on Plantation Key," the Sheriff noted.

"Calling from one end of the county to the other is a long-distance call, so in addition to 911, we maintain an inbound, toll-free 800 number for non-emergency use. And, we maintain offices on Cudjoe Key, Big Pine Key, and at Key Largo," he said.



Sheriff Roth

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a unique challenge...

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Since "response time" is a universal concern of residents, no matter where they are, Monroe County must employ more deputies per capita, than other police agencies with a similar service population.

"By necessity, we probably have the highest ratio of deputies to residents of any Sheriff's Office in the country," Roth laments. "So we've got to constantly remind our residents that operating a law-enforcement agency in this unusual geography is a very, very costly proposition. If we didn't remind them, we'd have a new Sheriff elected every four years, because opponents would beat the incumbent Sheriff to death over the budget every time we had an election."

Policing any land on the water in the southeastern United States necessitates a guarding of the coastline in an effort to stem the tide of illegal narcotics entering our country from Central and South America. On one side of the Keys lies the Atlantic Ocean, and on the other, the Gulf of Mexico. From a policing standpoint, this gives Monroe County authorities the arduous task of guarding the largest stretch of "coastline" of any local police agency in the nation.

Sheriff Roth and his agency were tapped a few years back by the federal government to administer the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funds for South Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. For the last six years, Roth has overseen upwards of 50 employees of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office who work at countering the international drug trade in Dade, Broward and Monroe counties, as well as in some islands of the Caribbean. Although they are employees of his agency, the salaries of these individuals are paid, in their entirety, by federal funds. In this role, Roth is the fiscal agent for about \$14 million in federal funds a year; funds that are sub-granted throughout South Florida to fight drug importation.

Prisoner transportation and security is another area of special concern in the Keys.

"Depending on whether you get arrested in the Upper, Middle or Lower Keys, you'll likely be housed in the nearest holding facility," notes Undersheriff Bill McDonald, "But those facing extremely serious or violent charges will likely be transported to Key West, where the jail facility is the most secure."

A jail... on stilts?

Sheriff Roth grins when he describes one oddity that distinguishes his jail from all others in the country. "We have the only jail in the country that is built on stilts," he says with a grin. "We had to make accommodation for the possibility of a hurricane or severe flood striking at any time."

If you think he's talking about a little beach front structure up on stilts, think again. The jail's capacity is around 600, and the entire facility is 20-25 feet above ground, built atop gigantic concrete pilings. The building was erected in this manner to allow for tidal surge or flooding during weather-related incidents, to eliminate the need to evacuate inmates and staff every time the wind blows.

To counter long-distance driving for the on-call judges, the jail has installed "video first appearance," operated by live remote video hookups. This arrangement allows for the judge, no matter where he/she lives, to only have to report to the nearest video site to perform their necessary duties.

"Video first appearance has been a Godsend," noted Major Jerry Enos, the jail's commander who was a staunch proponent of the idea. "I recommend that all jail administrators take a look at how they can incorporate video into their everyday operation, both for convenience and the added security that it provides. We no longer have to remove and transport inmates anywhere for first appearances, or for anything short of their actual trial."

From the air

Aviation must play a major role in policing the Keys, and Chief Pilot Mike Reeder has watched the Sheriff's air fleet continue to grow over the last decade. The agency recently hired Jack Diehl, an experienced military helicopter pilot who flew for the military in Operation Desert Storm. Among the other aircraft in their fleet, Diehl flies the Huey helicopter that Roth secured from a U.S. government surplus program.

"Right now, we're training hard to become experts in air rescue, rescue swimming, medical evacuation and air search and rescue," Reeder noted. "With more and more visitors to the Keys each year, Sheriff Roth felt that we needed to expand our capabilities to meet the ever-growing demand for these kinds of specialized services."

With the unique hardships, we asked the Sheriff, "Are there any unique benefits to polic-

ing in a geographic aberration like the Keys?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, there is," says Roth, now laughing out loud. "Despite all the money made and spent in Monroe County, we hardly ever have a bank robbery," he notes.

"When we do have a bank robbery, there's only one way in and one way out, and that's U.S. 1, our single highway to the mainland. When a robbery or something equally serious happens, all we need is a description of the suspect or the getaway car. At that point, our geography becomes one of our best allies," says Roth.

"As soon as the call goes out, we can arrange to set up a roadblock at the closest draw bridge or wherever we need to do so...and nature takes care of the rest."

Spend some time with Sheriff Rick Roth and you'll find him to be an engaging, easy-going individual who doesn't appear to let the pressures of this interesting and often difficult job get to him.

"This may seem like an unusual place to enforce the law for somebody who has never worked here, but not to me. For me, the Keys are home, and it's the only kind of civilian law enforcement I've ever known. I joined this agency when I was 26, and I've been here ever since.

"But for others, when we hire a new Deputy Sheriff who has had some experience in working on the mainland, the first few weeks tell the tale about whether or not they're going to enjoy this environment. Most love it, but a few have had a hard time dealing with the isolation.

"A simple trip to the mall, something most mainlanders take for granted, can be a major event. The nearest mall is three to four hours away from Key West, depending on traffic, then it's three to four hours back. So, it's an all-day undertaking."

"There's a price to be paid for the good life that the Keys offer," one newspaper columnist wrote recently, accounting for how the county is slowly, but unintentionally, eliminating its middle class by having the highest cost of living in the state.

Some properties in the Key West area recently increased in value by a whopping 30% in one year. The median cost of a home in Monroe County in 1994 was \$151,200, far above the state average.

But, for those who love it, and thousands do, it's the price one pays for living in this sunny, sandy, and warm paradise.

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Explorer Post 400 brings home honors

By: Mark Weinberg,
Public Information Officer
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

This has been a banner year for St. Lucie County Sheriff's Explorer Post 400.

The Explorers — 94 strong — took numerous honors in late June when Sheriffs' Explorer posts from all over the state staged a shooting competition and board of directors meeting in Fort Lauderdale.

The Explorer adult advisor, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Sgt. Barbara Smith, also has been honored at the national level.

Sgt. Smith, who became adult advisor of Post 400 in 1992, has been named Explorer Post Advisor of the Year, 1997, by the National Sheriffs Association. In June, she received the award in person at the National Sheriffs Association's annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. It was the second honor for Sgt. Smith this year.

In May, the St. Lucie County Bar Association awarded her a Special Recognition Award for her work with young people in St. Lucie County.

And the winners are. . .

At the state competition and board meeting in Fort Lauderdale, awards included:

- In the CO2 pistol competition, Explorer Bill Mangan took first place marksman; Capt. Ursula Grant (Post 400 president) won second place marksman and Sgt. Christian Merchant took second place in the marksman pistol competition.

- In the .38-caliber pistol competition, Sgt. Chad Bloomfield won first place marksman and Sgt. John Gummere won third place beginner.

Also in Fort Lauderdale, the Florida Sheriffs Explorer Association elected board members and recognized outstanding achievements.

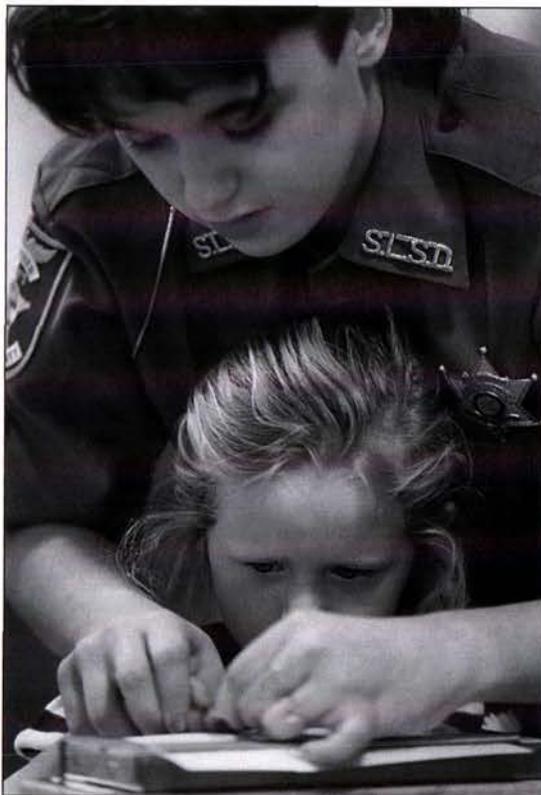
- St. Lucie County Sheriff's Sgt. Barbara Smith received a distinguished service award.

- Explorer Capt. Teresa Hartzog received

a recognition award for her year of service on the association board of directors as south central regional vice president.

- Explorer Sgt. Crystal Kinder was named outstanding 1977 association communicator. Explorer Capt. Ursula Grant was honored for her service to Post 400 with a plaque acknowledging outstanding service.

- Explorer Lt. Sally Quirion was elected to a one-year term on the board of directors to serve as historian.



St. Lucie County Sheriff's Explorer Kelley MacLeod fingerprints Megan McKinley, of Port St. Lucie. The fingerprinting of children, in "Operation Identification," is one of the many service projects St. Lucie County Sheriff's Explorer Post 400 performs throughout the year. Photo by Ian Solender, Port St. Lucie News.

A well-earned award

Sgt. Smith has been involved in scouting all her life. For the last 12 years, she has been an adult advisor for the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers.

She served for several years as the Explorers District Commissioner for St. Lucie



Sgt. Barbara Smith, National Sheriffs Association Explorer Post Advisor of the Year.

County in the Gulf Stream Council of the Boy Scouts of America. She organized the Fort Pierce Police Explorers, the Lawnwood Medical Explorers and the Miconopy Indian Explorer Post. She has assisted in training the Port St. Lucie Police Explorers as well as several other Explorer posts around the county.

She became a Deputy Sheriff in 1992 and has served as a Senior Advisor to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Explorer Post since that time. Under her leadership, Post 400 has grown to include more than 80 youngsters and has received a number of state recognition awards.

She was promoted to sergeant this year.

Many children who have taken advantage of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Explorer program under Sgt. Smith's direction have gone on to successful careers in law enforcement and the military. All have graduated from high school and many have gone on to college.

Sgt. Smith recently started a cadet program for young adults between 16 and 21 years of age to give them more interactive, hands-on experience and training to prepare for law-enforcement careers.

All of her accomplishments stem from her own experiences as a child in scouting, her desire to have good, wholesome activities and programs for her own children and grandchildren and the enjoyment she receives from making the benefits of scouting and Explorers available to the children of St. Lucie County.

Franklin may be a small county, but it's organized against crime

In the early morning hours of June 6th, eight search warrants on local homes in Apalachicola were served following an extensive investigation by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit, headed by Sgt. Michael Moore.

By 9:00 a.m. a total of 17 persons were arrested, five outstanding non drug-related warrants were served, as were three warrants for the sale of crack cocaine.

A large amount of drug paraphernalia, ranging from rolling papers to razor blades and crack pipes, were seized. Just under 20 grams of cannabis, more than 30 grams of crack, \$1,000 in cash and two hand guns were also seized. The drugs seized during the operation had an estimated street value of more than \$5,000.

The charges ranged from first-degree misdemeanors to second-degree felonies and bonds were set that ranged from \$2,500 to \$29,000 with a handful of the defendants held without bond.

The effort, called "Operation Crackdown," utilized 83 law-enforcement officers, including the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Apalachicola Police Department, Bay and Leon County Sheriff's Office S.W.A.T. Teams; Gulf County Sheriff's Office; Florida Highway Patrol; Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms; and United States Customs.

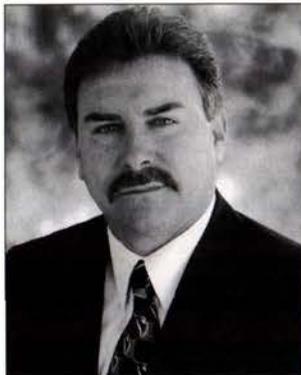
Sheriff Bruce Varnes, the new Sheriff in town since January of this year, is clearly delivering on his campaign promise. A former D.A.R.E. officer, he says cleaning up the drug problem in Franklin County is just one part of his four-year plan. And with the rapid pace of arrests and subsequent news that some of the king pins have moved on — he says he's ahead of his self-imposed schedule.

For a county with a population of 18,000 to 20,000, having 60 to 70 people in jail on crack cocaine charges is unusual. But the high percentage shows Varnes is serious about fighting drug dealers.

"We're cleaning the streets up," he says. "I don't care who it is, if it was my own mother, God bless her. If you're dealing drugs, you're going to jail."

Their investigations showed that the areas infected with the drug culture were traditional neighborhoods. So a real concern in the drug raid was for children.

"We hit right at day-break while the kids were still asleep," Varnes says.



Sheriff Bruce Varnes

A Move to E-911

Something that is assisting Varnes is better communications — including Enhanced 911 service to the entire county.

But going from a county that didn't even have street names, much less house numbers for many residences — to one with an organized map and everyone with telephone service accounted for, was a GIANT step in the right direction for fighting crime.

In January 1995, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners agreed to impose a 50-cent surcharge on all telephone lines in the county to upgrade the 911 service to Enhanced 911.

Because Enhanced 911 requires that each telephone line have a physical address, as opposed to a directional address, it was necessary to construct a house numbering system and apply it county-wide. A directional address is "go to the second dirt road past the oak tree and turn right and go to the blue house on the left." A physical address is "123 Oak Street."

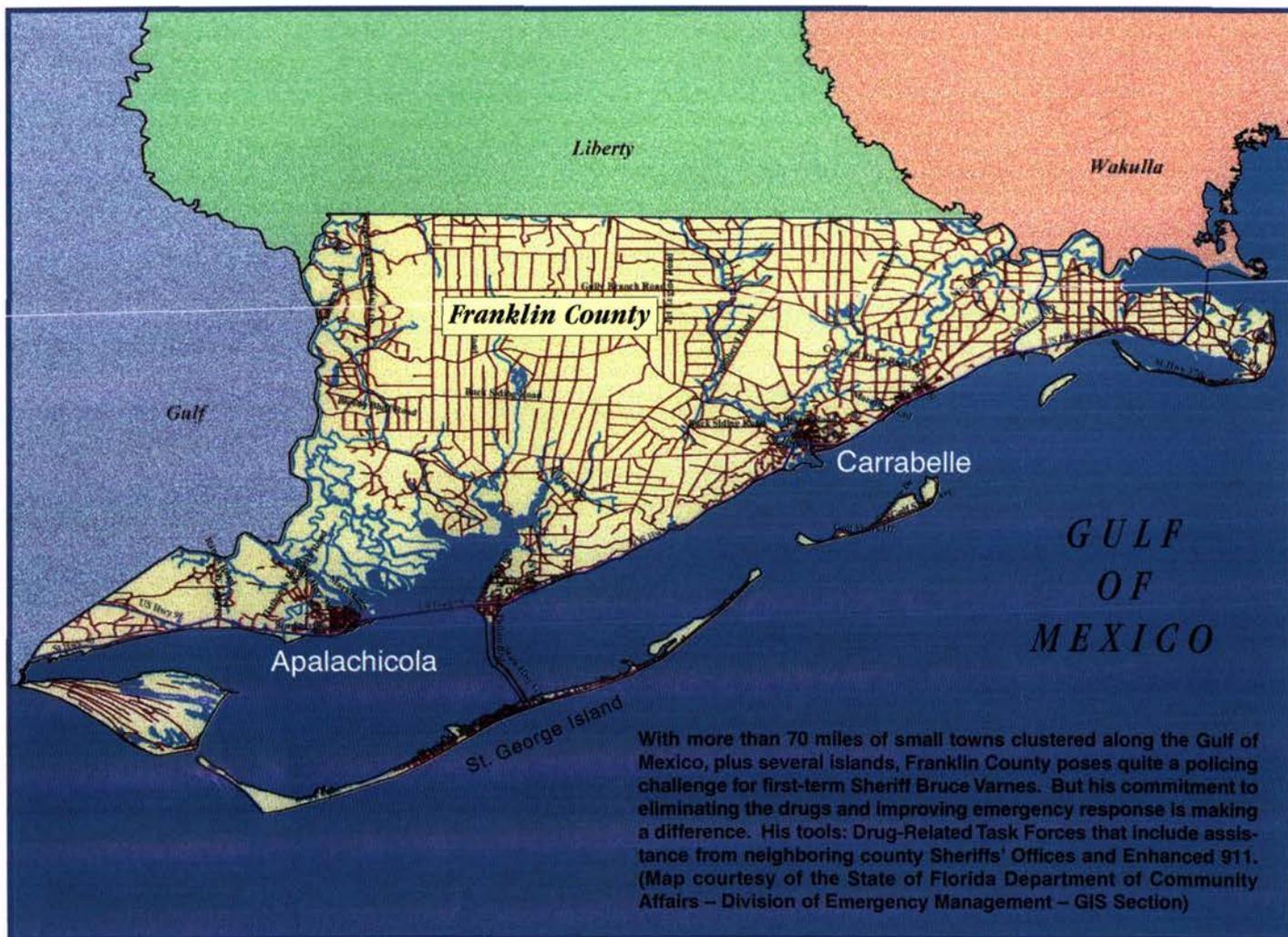
Alan Pierce, County Planner, initially served as the 911 coordinator as part of his job as Civil Defense director. When the county made the switch from Civil Defense to Emergency Management, the 911 coordinator position moved to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

Then-Sheriff Warren Roddenberry, who is now retired, appointed Pat McWhinnie as 911 coordinator. Both Pierce and McWhinnie were interested in moving the county toward an Enhanced 911 system soon after the Basic 911 system was operational.

Pierce had already directed Assistant County Planner Mark Curenton to begin working on a set of base maps for the entire county in 1988. Prior to that, the county had no complete record of the location of roads or the configuration of lots. When the commissioners agreed to upgrade to E-911, Curenton began creating a county-wide numbering system using the base maps. McWhinnie took the numbers that Curenton created and in early 1996 began notifying property owners of their physical address.

The system that she and Curenton developed is now being used for mail and parcel post delivery in parts of the county that never had house delivery before. And Florida Power is now assisting in distributing numbers by refusing to provide service to new customers until they have obtained a 911 street address.

An accurate numbering system was not the only problem



the county had to overcome. There was no complete road inventory, nor was there any written record of what roads the county maintained and what roads the county did not maintain. The county engineer was assigned the task of completing the road inventory. As the inventory was being done, it became obvious that the county could not afford to buy street signs for all the road intersections.

Pierce and McWhinnie visited Wakulla County and were extremely impressed with the inexpensive yet durable signs that their county was using. They investigated further and in July of 1996, just over a year ago, convinced the county commission to purchase a sign machine similar to Wakulla's.

Once purchased, McWhinnie began the process of street sign production. The signs the county makes cost approximately \$6.50 per sign compared to the \$23 per sign it was costing without the machine.

To date, the county has made 825 street signs and still has more to make. Additionally, McWhinnie has made and sold approximately 200 house numbers for people using the same materials.

"The backbone to this whole thing was Lt. McWhinnie's

willingness to ride these pig trails and get addresses," Sheriff Varnes says. Her work helped open some eyes on the county commission, too. Whereas the county previously estimated its population to be around 9,000 to 10,000 — with complete addresses and telephone records, the estimate is much closer to about double.

Now Varnes' challenge is to provide reasonable response time for each call which could come from anywhere along the 70-plus miles of small towns clustered along the Gulf of Mexico. With only 20 deputies, 13 of which are uniformed, and himself, it has been difficult to keep up with the 600 to 800 calls coming in each month.

Sheriff Varnes says because his county is becoming such a magnet for tourism, with historical Apalachicola and St. George Island, he's started stacking the evening shift. That means he is part of the day shift which answers 911 and other emergency calls. In addition, he says all of his deputies are basically "on call" even when off-duty, but they don't seem to mind it.

"That's what you've got to do when you have a small county," he says.

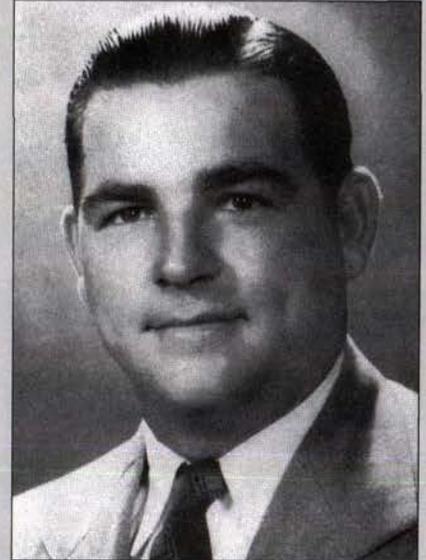
Taps for three common men with uncommon ability



Simeon Huey Moore died June 19, 1997. He served as Sheriff of Madison County from 1949 through 1972. He was 86.



Hagan Parrish died June 7, 1997. He was appointed Sheriff of Polk County in 1953, and was subsequently elected to the office. He was 82.



B.R. Quinn died June 18, 1997. He served as Sheriff of Citrus County from 1950 through 1980. He was 76.

By Carl Stauffer
Editorial Consultant

When three outstanding former Sheriffs died in a span of 15 days, it brought back memories of the “good (and bad) old days” of law enforcement ... memories of a slow-paced, open-spaced Florida where Sheriffs walked tall and got no help a-tall from computers, helicopters and college-level, criminal-justice courses.

This – I told myself — was truly the end of an era, but what kind of an era was it? What was the common denominator shared by Hagan Parrish, B.R. Quinn and Simeon Huey “Simmie” Moore?

I searched in vain until I saw a newspaper quote attributed to Charlie Dean, a former Citrus County Sheriff. Charlie said B.R. Quinn was “a common man, with uncommon ability,” and this phrase seemed to fit all three old-timers. It also seemed to aptly describe the bygone years when these law-enforcement legends were in their prime.

Those were the days when a man didn’t need impressive law enforcement or academic credentials to run for Sheriff. He didn’t depend on television to carry his campaign rhetoric to the people – didn’t need big bucks in his campaign fund.

Warm handshake was an asset

All he really needed was a warm handshake, the stamina of a long-distance runner, and the digestive system of a heavy equipment operator. Did anyone count calories at those political rally barbecues? Did anyone worry about the cholesterol in those service club luncheons? HA!!!

I remember one old-timer noted for his longevity in office. His campaign strategy was “never miss a funeral, a christening or a wedding. People need to know you care.”

Sittin’ and a’rockin on a voter’s front porch in the cool of the evening, talking about the current citrus crop; that was one way you got votes. You had to get immersed in people’s everyday lives. You had to care. You couldn’t fake it – at least not totally.

In Madison County, the good deeds of Simmie Moore are well remembered. How about that time an elderly farmer was delivering collard greens to his regular customers and his pick-up truck broke down? Simmie loaded up the collards, and finished the delivery route.

They say Simmie was responsible for sending a lot of bad guys to prison. That was a matter of public record, but not too many people knew that he also visited some of those bad guys in prison and counseled them.

The present Madison County Sheriff, Joe Peavy, was a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper in Madison County for 16 years, and worked so closely with Simmie that he was practically a spare Deputy Sheriff. Simmie only had two deputies, plus a jailer who could occasionally pinch-hit as a deputy.

"Simmie was a 24-hour Sheriff," Joe recalled. "He helped many people....helped to deliver calves, find lost children. He was like a daddy to me." Simmie cared. He will long be remembered in Madison County.

Barbecue was his secret weapon

It's a "fur piece" from Madison County down to Citrus County, but the same can be said about B.R. Quinn, that uncommon common man who was more like everybody's favorite uncle than a hell-bent law enforcer. His first name was Burton, but only complete strangers used it. To home folks he was always "B.R." or "Sheriff." Respectful kids called him "Mr. B.R."

Barbecue was B.R.'s secret political weapon. He wasn't a great orator, but when he cranked up his barbecue grill, voters were absolutely captivated. Here's how one admirer remembers the weekly routine:

"Every Friday was barbecue day at the Sheriff's Office. A deputy would start a log fire to make coals and shovel the burning embers into a metal bin outfitted with a huge grill. Turning the ribs and chicken and slathering them with a special sauce was B.R.'s job. The delicious aroma filled the entire courthouse square.

"I can't imagine a Sheriff firing up a barbecue grill during work hours these days. The press would have a fit, grouching about misuse of public funds. However, those same newspapers never printed a [derogatory] word... The reporters were too busy eating B.R.'s delicious cooking."

A trend toward professionalism

Polk County Sheriff Hagan Parrish was not as much of a "good ole boy" as B.R. and Simmie. Instead, he offered voters a slightly more "wave of the future" image supported by college attendance, experience as a Florida Citrus Mutual executive, and a solid law-enforcement background. In a modest way, he was an early example of a trend toward greater emphasis on professionalism in law enforcement.

(A brief pause here to note the level of professionalism that prevailed in Hagan's era. His contemporaries included a door-to-door housewares salesman, a barber and a holiness preacher, all without law-enforcement experience prior to being elected Sheriff.)

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Hagan began his law-enforcement career with the Orlando Police Department, became a charter member of the Florida Highway Patrol and got an insider's perspective by working as the Chief Deputy in the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The governor appointed him Sheriff of Polk

County in 1953, and he was subsequently elected to the office.

His interest in youth activities (Dads Club and PTA president, DeMolay and Rainbow Girls advisor, Boys Club director, Boys State counselor) was a political asset. It also foreshadowed his role as one of the founders of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and his appointment as a member of the first Boys Ranch Board of Trustees.

A bizarre Polk County bank robbery pulled off by airborne thugs during Hagan's term of office was an early example of multi-county cooperation.

Former Hillsborough Sheriff Ed Blackburn recalls that two men robbed a Fort Meade bank, made their getaway in a stolen airplane, hid their loot offshore on Boca Grande, then flew to Winter Haven airport where they were apprehended.

Blackburn said although Hagan was home in bed with the flu, close cooperation between Polk, Hillsborough and Lee County Sheriffs' Offices resulted in swift apprehension of the robbers and recovery of the stolen loot (\$25,000 in a suitcase stashed on Boca Grande).

Historical footnote

It may seem that Sheriffs had closer, person-to-person relationships with their constituents in the Parish-Quinn-Moore era of law-enforcement history, but that's not exactly true. Today, the ties that bind Sheriffs to their home folks are still strong in spite of population growth, high-tech complexities, and a faster-paced lifestyle.

However, maintaining those "ties that bind" has become a new ball game, and the game can't be won by delivering babies, grilling chicken and ribs, or delivering collards. To win today in all but the smallest counties, new techniques are required.

Community policing, for instance, gives Sheriffs and their deputies an opportunity to develop a closer rapport with the public. Deputies frequently park their patrol cars and ride bikes through neighborhoods, stopping to chat along the way. Deputies trained as School Resource Officers bring order out of chaos in public schools. Through personal contacts, advocates employed by Sheriffs deal with the problems faced by crime victims.

Sheriffs publish newsletters to keep their constituents informed about crime trends and crime prevention. Many Sheriffs are also keeping in touch with the public through web pages on the Internet.

By sponsoring the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., with its statewide network of child care services, Sheriffs have enhanced the lives of thousands of troubled children and their families.

Two words sum up the historic, paternal relationship between Sheriffs and their constituents: SHERIFFS CARE.

That was true in the Parrish-Quinn-Moore era. It's also true in 1997, but Sheriffs are being forced to use new, creative methods to accomplish the same results.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL

This honor roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association as honorary members for 25 years or more. Some receive 25-year certificates. Others qualify for 30-year certificates.



SANTA ROSA COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Santa Rosa County Sheriff Jerry Brown to Katharine H. Lytton.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Charlotte County Sheriff Richard Worch, Jr. (right) to Capt. B.O. Roessler.



Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Morris, Sr.



Jessie A. Donaldson

PASCO COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon to Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Morris, Sr.; and Mrs. Jessie A. Donaldson.



CLAY COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster (right) to Sam Saunders.



MONROE COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Monroe County Sheriff Richard Roth (right) to Stephen Klem.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Deputy Chief Leonard Davis to James E. Sapp (left photo) and George Napoli.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel to Mrs. E. Gardner (left); 25-year certificate presented to Lousia Roberts.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Highlands County Sheriff Howard Godwin to Mr. & Mrs. David Wooster (left photo); and Mike Swaine.





FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL

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 \$2,500 or more in cash or \$5,000 or more in non-cash gifts to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and lifetime subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher*. Under a 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.

New Lifetime Honorary Members

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Albright
American Legion Auxiliary Unit
#155 – Crystal River
Mrs. Thelma Ammerman
Mrs. Lillian C. Avera
Mrs. Etta J. Bates
BellSouth Advertising &
Publishing Corp. – Orlando
Mr. and Mrs. James Bouie
Mr. Gary E. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bunch
Mr. Remo Campanile
Mrs. Marian A. Celletti
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund L. Chipley
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Clark
Mr. Kevin Corr
Ms. Betsy A. Coxé
Mr. Gene Daley
Mr. Lawrence J. DeGeorge
Mr. Cliff S. Dunaway
Mrs. Louisa C. Eldredge
Mr. and Mrs. James Emmert
Mr. Vincent Esposito
Mr. Richard F. Fake
Florida Power & Light Company –
Sarasota
Ms. Geraldine Gernhardt
Mr. Dennis Gibbons
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Graham
Grand Marnier Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Gresham
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hamilton
Hamilton Correctional Institute –
Jasper Work Camp
Mr. and Mrs. George Hamm
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Harden
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Harris
Mrs. Evelyn Henderson
Mr. W. C. Hildenstein
Ms. Terri Hope
Mr. and Mrs. John Hrabovsky
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Huff
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm E. Hunt
Mr. and Mrs. Bob c. Johnson
Mr. Richard N. Jowitt
Kathleen K. Catlin Foundation
Mr. Herbert M. Klein
Mr. Steve Klein

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Langford
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Leedy
Mr. and Mrs. Keith C. Leibfried
Liberty National Bank – Bradenton
Mr. Kim Liew
Ms. Helen A. Lore
M. C. Winco Services Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Medla
Mrs. Harold A. Mehler
Mr. Paul H. Mitchell
Mr. Dan Mortimer
Mr. John E. Morton
Mr. Gregg Mullins
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney E. Murray
Mrs. Carol North
Northwest Builders Hardware
Mrs. Peggy Nunn
Mrs. Lucy Oh
Ms. Ann C. Pape
Mr. and Mrs. James Parker
Mrs. Antonia Perez
Mrs. Mary Rauhoff
Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Raymond
Sheriff and Mrs. Everett S. Rice
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Romasco
Mrs. Connie Rooney
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Roth
Mr. Michel Roux
Mrs. Dorothy J. Russo
Mr. William H. Sanders
Mrs. Lila Schenck
Mr. Herman M. Searcy
Mr. Eason Sever, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Slaughter
Mr. James P. Smith
Mr. Sam Stamper
Mr. Warren S. Stanganelli
Sunshine State Tag Agency
Swartz and Carter
Wakulla County State Bank –
Crawfordville
Welch Cabinets and
Appliances, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Wesley
Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Wilcox
Mrs. Carolyn Winburn



ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Bobby Knowles (left) to John Barfield.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Undersheriff Dennis M. Williams to Arlyne Kerr.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY - Presented by Charlotte County Sheriff Richard Worch, Jr. to Carmine Troncone (left).



MANATEE COUNTY - Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells to Kit Hobbs.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel and Youth Ranch Financial Development Officer, Mac Stones, to Rotary Club of Oceanside President Bob Davis (left photo); and Marion Hagstrom.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel (center) to Leroy and Carol Copp.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY - Presented by Highlands County Sheriff Howard Godwin (right) and Youth Ranches Development Officer Bill Brown (l) to Gary Veldhuis.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY - Presented by Highlands County Sheriff Howard Godwin to Gary Veldhuis (center).

YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL CONTINUED . . .



Patricia Reed



Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Mohr



Brian Will



DIXIE COUNTY - Presented by former Sheriff Larry Edmonds (right) to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Poulsen.

LEON COUNTY - Presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to Patricia Reed; Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Mohr; and Brian Will.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nichols



Charles and Vita Snowden

ALACHUA COUNTY - Presented by Alachua County Sheriff Stephen M. Oelrich to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nichols of H & D Pawn and Saddlery; and Charles and Vita Snowden.



Thomas Pledger



Robert and Rose Fannon

PALM BEACH COUNTY - Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Bob Neumann and Youth Ranches Vice President of Financial Development Bill Yarick (l) to Thomas Pledger. Sheriff Neumann also presented to Robert and Rose Fannon.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Attridge



Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Bonilla



Mr. and Mrs. William Glover



Myron Lutes



Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Phillips



Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pike



Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Struck



Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Stumpfarnagel

CITRUS COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches staff to Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Attridge; Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Bonilla; Mr. and Mrs. William Glover; Myron Lutes; Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Phillips; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pike; Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Struck; and Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Stumpfarnagel.



COLLIER COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches staff to Dave Fisher, Foxfire Country Club, at an annual charity golf tournament.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches Development Officer Terry Gregg (left) to Gene R. Hellmers.



Irma L. Boyett



Forest L. Brubaker III



Shelly Cronin



Olive L. Kriner



Col. and Mrs. Anthony Mattos



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nychyk



Irene and George Scranton

LEE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches staff to Irma L. Boyett; Forest L. Brubaker III; Shelly Cronin; Olive L. Kriner; Col. and Mrs. Anthony Mattos; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nychyk; and Irene and George Scranton of Elegant Encore Resale Shop.

Attention Members:

Has Your Address Changed Due to 9-1-1 or Have You Moved?

Emergency management officials have been working to improve access for emergency vehicles in neighborhoods throughout the state. In cases where street names were similar, they have actually changed the residents' addresses.

Unfortunately, this also means that mail often gets re-routed by the Post Office, and in some cases is returned marked "No such number."

We don't want to lose you as a valuable member, but if your address has been changed, you may not be receiving your FSA mailings.

Please take a moment to check the mailing label on the back cover of this magazine. If your address is different in any way, let us know. Just cut out the current label, paste it on the outline below, then write your new address next to it and return it to:

The Florida Sheriffs Association
P.O. Box 12519
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519
Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (904) 878-8665

OLD ADDRESS:

OLD MAILING LABEL FROM BACK OF MAGAZINE GOES HERE

NEW ADDRESS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Area code/phone: _____

YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL CONTINUED . . .



Carol Boczon



Kenneth Goodenough



Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Hange



Carolyn Hawkins



Mr. and Mrs. George Hottel



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Johnson



Dr. and Mrs. James B. Kirkwood



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Krpata

CITRUS COUNTY - Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy to Carol Boczon; Kenneth Goodenough; Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Hange; Carolyn Hawkins; Mr. and Mrs. George Hottel; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Johnson; Dr. and Mrs. James B. Kirkwood; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Krpata; Mrs. John Liberman; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Nelson; Mr. and Mrs. Bob O'Connell; and Dave Stanton.



Mrs. John Liberman



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Nelson



Mr. and Mrs. Bob O'Connell



Dave Stanton



Jack LaBarck

CITRUS COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranch Development Officer Doug Medlin to Mr. Jack LaBarck. Presented by Youth Ranches Opportunity Store Manager Jim Sheaffer to Dorothy Dixon and Ann Kane.



Dorothy Dixon



Ann Kane



CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN - with multi-colored embroidery including metallic gold thread, adjustable band



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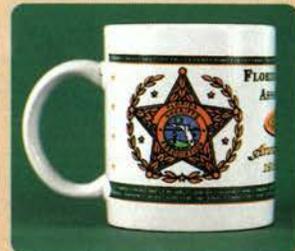
Show Your Pride in Law Enforcement

Public safety is a concern to all citizens, and one way you can support public safety in your community is to show your pride in local law enforcement.

To help you demonstrate your pride in crime-fighting efforts, the Florida Sheriffs Association has designed several items displaying the Sheriff's Star, and made them available to the general public.

These items - quality baseball caps, coffee mugs, belt buckles, watches, golf shirts and lapel pins - make great gifts, too. Just fill in the order form below and return it with your payment.

Quantities are limited, so mail your order today!



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Face No. 1

Style # 4200
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Face No. 1

Style # 4502
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Face No. 2

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WOMEN'S TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

Style # 4500
MEN'S GOLD BAND
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Style # 4200
WOMEN'S GOLD BAND
Face No. 3



NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" dials in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style are available in both all gold or gold/steel two-tone as depicted above. All watches carry a 3-year limited warranty from the date of purchase against failures due to defective materials or workmanship. Gold or two-tone bands can be purchased with either of the three available faces.

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Please make check or money order payable to

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If you would like to renew your membership at this time please make out a separate check for \$20. Membership Dues are deductible for income tax purposes.

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