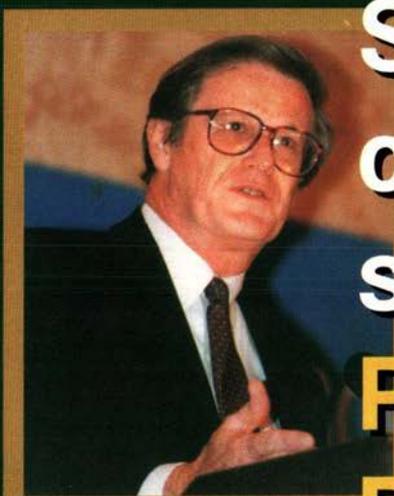
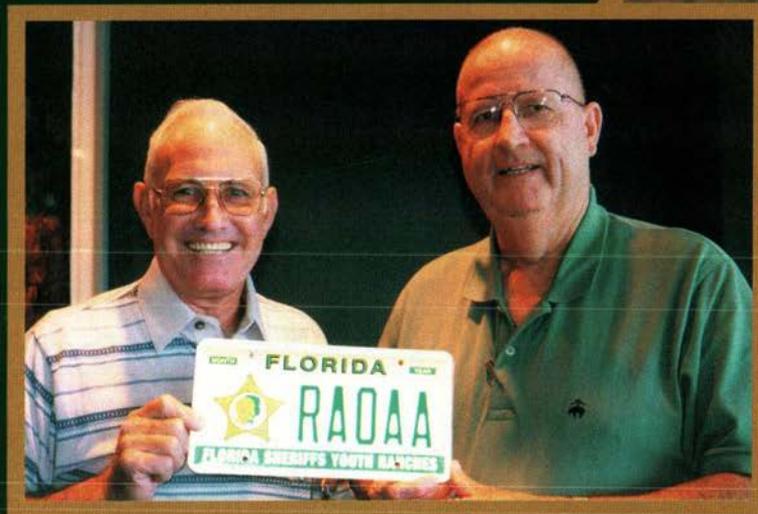
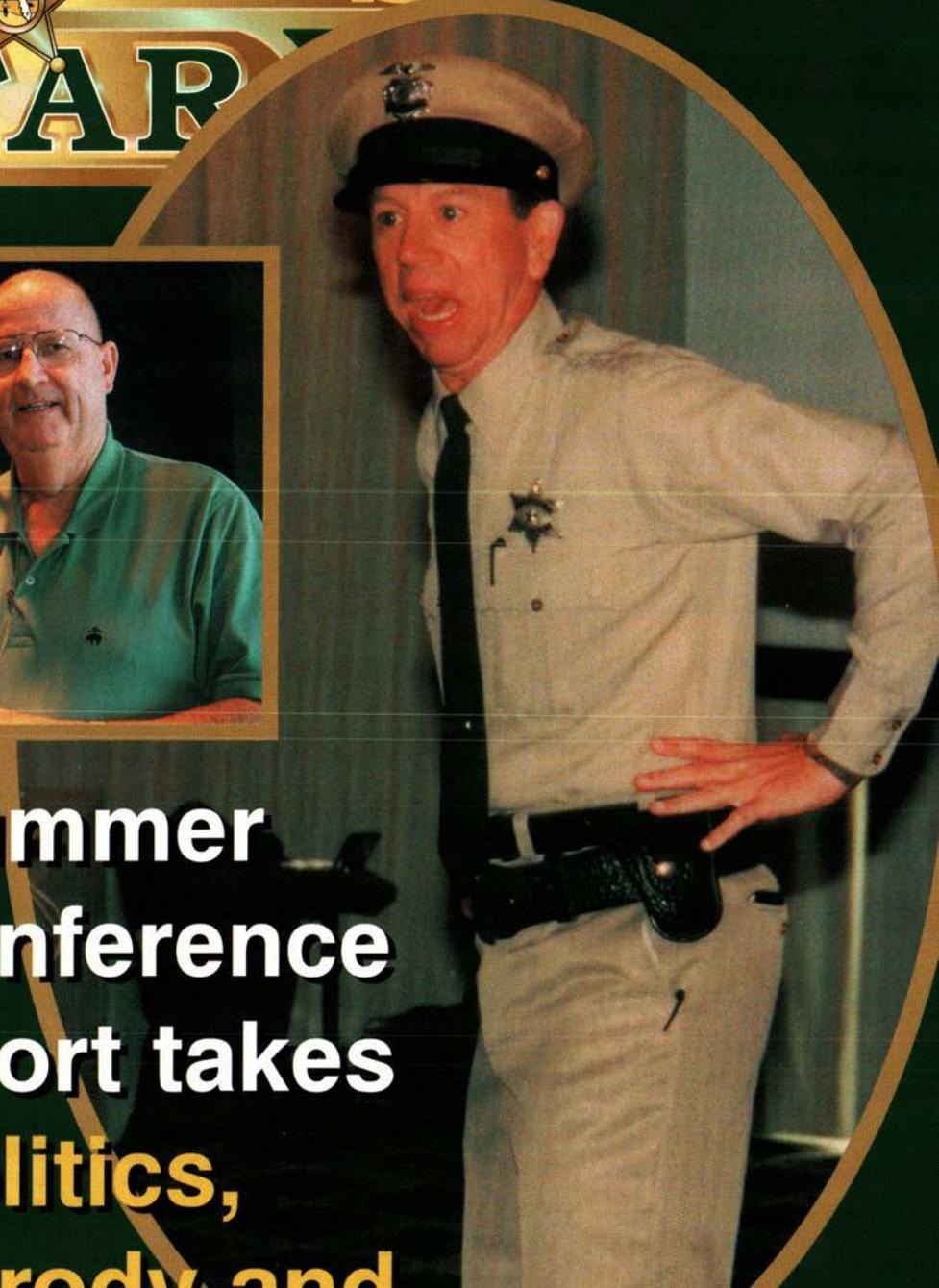


THE SHERIFF'S STAR



Summer
conference
short takes
Politics,
Parody, and



From the desk of . . .

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



In this day of SWAT teams, DNA fingerprinting and other high tech crime fighting techniques, it may be difficult to think that it wasn't long ago when law enforcement in Florida involved chasing bad guys on horseback and dodging the bullets of drunken cowboys.

Being the oldest law-enforcement organization in the state, the Florida Sheriffs Association decided it was time to get some of this colorful history down on paper. We contracted with two notable historians, William W. Rogers, Ph.D., and James M. Denham, Ph.D., to write a history of the Florida Sheriffs from 1821 to the present.

Bill Rogers is a semi retired professor at Florida State University who has written many books on Southern history. James Denham earned his Ph.D. under Rogers and authored his own book, "A Rogue's Paradise: Crime and Punishment in Antebellum Florida," which was released last year. He is an associate professor of history at Florida Southern College.

As these two men and their associates conduct their research, we plan to run their articles when we think their findings may be of particular interest to our members. In this issue, we've included the first of many historical accounts to come — a look at the role African American Sheriffs played in the history of our state (page 12).

As Denham and his associate, Canter Brown, Jr., tell it, during the period from the early 1870s until the late 1880s in many parts of Florida, African American men wore the badge and defended their communities. During that period, the towns of Pensacola, Tallahassee, Lake City, Fernandina, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palatka, and Ocala numbered among the state's largest. Each saw at least one black man provide protection for whites and blacks alike, chosen by popular election. Most communities selected several.

By sharing this story with you, we hope to gain your support in our effort to document the history of Sheriffs. We invite you to spread the word about this project and tell us about any interesting historical materials and facts you might have to add to this book-in-the-making.

Photo collections needed

Another project related to the history documentation, is being organized by our Art Director, Frank Jones. Frank is locating and preserving the FSA composite posters with Sheriffs' official photos. These posters were published every four years. We have been able to locate one copy of all except for the years 1957 - 1961, 1961 - 1965 and 1969 - 1973. We are not aware of any done before 1957, but who knows what our research might uncover.

If you have historic materials, or know of any materials relating to the office of Sheriff, I encourage you to contact us at the telephone numbers, e-mail and postal address on the facing page. Letters, diaries, personal reminiscences, autobiographies — even if never published — are also welcome.

Part of what keeps the office of Sheriff strong is our roots. We look forward to documenting more about those roots and sharing them with you, our loyal members, over the next few years.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Buddy".

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

Crime Prevention Tip:

Don't give away the "keys" to your telephone

That remarkable tool called the telephone. . . it keeps us in touch, increases our purchasing options, and is often our lifeline to the outside world. But it can be a dangerous weapon, too. An opportunity for scams and slams.

Recently, one telephone scam was exposed through an advice column by Ann Landers and an e-mail warning that appeared in one person's mailbox three times — from three separate senders. Their hope was that spreading the word would reduce the number of victims of this scam.

One version of the story goes something like this:

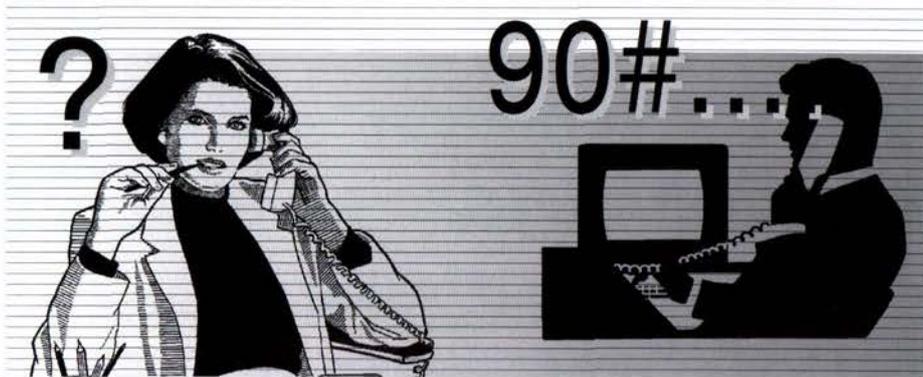
"I received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service Technician who was conducting a test on our telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine (9), zero (0), the pound sign (#) and then hang up.

"Luckily, I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company I was informed that by pushing 90# you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which allows them to place long distance telephone calls billed to your telephone number.

"I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local jails and prisons. I have also verified this information with other phone companies."

One letter urged its readers to be aware. "This sounds like an Urban Legend - IT IS NOT!!! Do not press 90# for anyone."

According to the telephone companies, this is an old scam that was recently revived when the information was posted on the Internet. The



scheme is mostly directed at business and government agencies.

Real AT&T technicians do not call and ask customers to help check the phone lines or run tests. Nor will they ever ask to verify your calling card number. Managers of businesses should notify their staffs NOT to comply with such requests.

Rates too good to be true

Another, seemingly official scam has been receiving similar acclaim. It's the process of "slamming."

A person is slammed when their phone service is switched to another company without their permission. Slammers hope the customer won't notice and will pay them on their next phone bill.

A handful of small long-distance companies have the highest rate of

slamming complaints, but the majors may slam you, too. The problem lies in the ease of switching. If you say yes to a legitimate telephone or mail solicitation, that carrier can arrange the switch without you having to lift a finger.

Slammers, however, will make the switch without getting your permission or they will get your permission under false pretenses. It could be through a sweepstakes entry or your purchase of a discounted vacation package. When you sign a form, you could miss the fine print that "authorizes" the switch to a new phone company.

To prevent slamming, call your local phone company and ask them about slamming protection. Your line can be frozen (known as a Primary Interexchange Carrier freeze). After that, no change can be made unless you call your local company and say it's OK.



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FSA 85th Annual Summer Conference

July 19-22, 1998

Sanibel Harbor Resort

Ft. Myers, Florida

A Time For

- Celebrating success in combating crime and the good that can come out of it



U.S. Attorney's Office Managing Assistant Doug Molloy presented Sheriff McDougall with three checks — each in the amount of \$999,999.99 — the Sheriff's office share of the drug money recovered in Lee County.



Lee County Sheriff John McDougall, right, successfully recovered \$3.5 million in what he calls "blood money" — dollars that were dumped in a private waterfront community by drug dealers under federal investigation. As part of Florida's forfeiture law, Sheriff McDougall received the money and presented \$250,000 of the funds to the Florida Sheriffs Association Task Force. Accepting the check are Pinellas County Sheriff and Task Force Chairman Everett Rice (center) and Director Tom Tramel.



State Rep. John Thrasher (R-Orange Park), addressed the Florida Sheriffs and other attendees at Tuesday's luncheon. He received one of FSA's legislative awards.

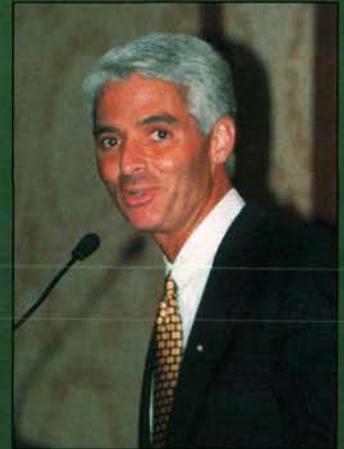
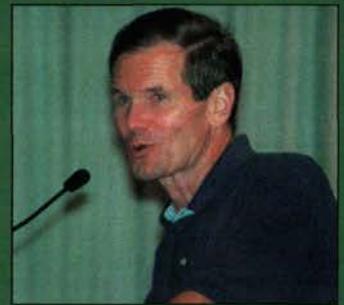
- Recognizing Legislative efforts



FSA legislative chief, Maury Kolchakian (at podium) and Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner present Union County Sheriff Jerry Whitehead with a commemorative University of Florida Gator clock for his support of legislative efforts, including hosting a barbecue dinner for Senator Charles Williams.



Senator Fred R. Dudley (R-Cape Coral), second from left, receives a legislative award from FSA president/Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice, left, legislative director Maury Kolchakian and Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells, far right.



..... Politics, we can't forget it's an election year

The Florida Sheriffs heard from many candidates for state and U.S. political offices, including (clockwise, from left), Faye Culp (R-Tampa), candidate for Education Commissioner; Jeb Bush, candidate for Governor; incumbent Attorney General Bob Butterworth; incumbent Insurance Commissioner Bill Nelson; State Senator Charlie Crist (R-St. Petersburg), candidate for U.S. Congress; and Senator Catherine Harris (R-Sarasota), candidate for Secretary of State.



..... Committing to cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies



Curt Hall
Florida Highway Patrol

The Florida Sheriffs demonstrated many efforts to promote cooperation between law enforcement agencies throughout the year. Perhaps the most important relationships are those which exist between the Sheriffs and the Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Both agencies support FSA's crime-fighting efforts and provide supplemental resources to Sheriffs' offices. FDLE Commissioner Tim Moore gave an update on Criminal Justice Standards and Training, the Crime Lab and number of successful DNA hits or matches, the establishment of a computer crime center and other important informational support services. It was Florida Highway Patrol Col. Curt Hall's first appearance before the Sheriffs, following his appointment as Director, but it was clear he was among friends. Hall has served with many of the Sheriffs during his 32 year law enforcement career.



Tim Moore
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

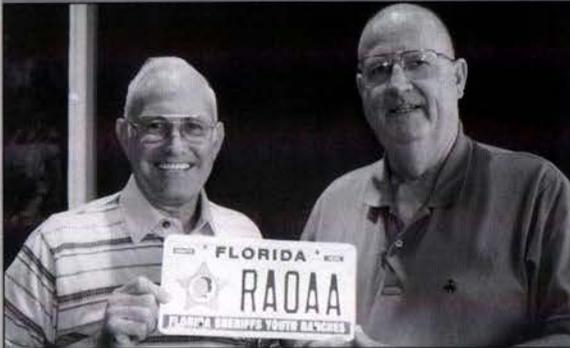
A Time For

■ Taking time out for laughter

Supplying the lighter moments was "The Mayberry Deputy," David Browning. Very rarely found out-of-character, Barney -- or Browning, rather -- had all of the mannerisms, the dress, and the props to make him believable. Pictured right, he jokes around with Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid, Sergeant-at-Arms, as they kickoff the first day of the conference.



■ Honoring our youth



The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch made a big splash at this year's conference, introducing their hard-earned Youth Ranch Florida license plate. Youth Ranch Chairman, Calhoun County Sheriff Buddy Smith (above left) and acting President Harry K. Weaver, display the design. At right, Youth Rancher "Roy" told the Sheriffs about how his life before the Ranch consisted of living in a car with his mother and stealing gas to stay on the run. He now has a 3.3 grade point average and holds down a part-time job.



"Roy," a Youth Rancher



Harry K. Weaver

■ Listening to presenters



Ruth D. Osterhage, state Coordinator for the American Association of Retired Persons "55 Alive" program



John Hunt, Jr., Hunt Insurance Group



Alachua County Commissioner Leveda Brown, representing the Florida Association of Counties



Rebecca Smith, Pre-Paid Legal Services



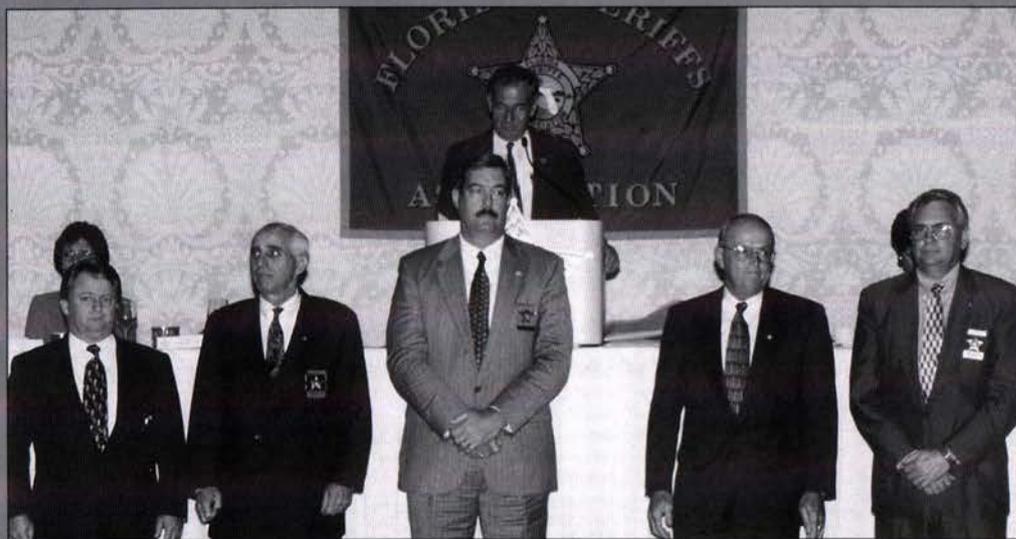
Putnam County Sheriff Taylor Douglas, right, receives information from Security Supply, Inc. vendors Bea and Don Levy.

■ Rewarding sponsors, getting to know exhibitors



Vicki Johnson, Correctional Industry Specialist with Sprint, receives a special recognition plaque from outgoing FSA president, Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice.

■ Ringing out the old, bringing in the new



Outgoing FSA president Sheriff Everett Rice (at podium) calls each of the incoming officers to the front to be sworn in. From left, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder; Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson; Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell; St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry; and Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon.



Pinellas County Sheriff and outgoing FSA president Everett Rice.



St. Johns County Sheriff and incoming FSA president Neil Perry

Edward "Ned" Foy is 1998 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year

by Tom Berlinger,
Director of Operational Services
Florida Sheriffs Association

Over the past several years, the Florida Sheriffs Association has honored a number of individuals who have been chosen as our state's Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

Our 1998 recipient did something rather extraordinary -- he risked his own life to save the lives of others.

To fully appreciate his extraordinary efforts, try for a minute to imagine being in his shoes.

It was an otherwise quiet and sunny day. Manatee County Deputy Ned Foy was off-duty and casually dressed in civilian clothes. It was about 3:45 on Friday afternoon, June 13, 1997. Foy and one of his sons were shopping at a local Wal-Mart store in suburban Manatee County when things started to go awry.

While browsing through the aisles for some needed items, Deputy Foy heard a voice on the store's public address system. Instead of the usual call for "Customer needs assistance on aisle seven," he heard a loud, nervous voice trying to crack out the words he'll never forget:

"Attention all shoppers... Please exit the store immediately..... We repeat.... you are to exit the store immediately... there is a man with a gun..... man with a gun... get out of the store as quickly as possible..."

Shoppers raced for the exits in terror -- some even seeing the crazed man with a gun. He forcibly dragged a woman down the aisle with one hand, brandishing a gun with the other. They were headed toward the back of the store.

A few minutes earlier, Lisa Libby, a loss-prevention officer for this particular Wal-Mart store had run into Deputy Foy on one of the aisles. After some small talk, Foy and his son resumed shopping, and Libby went back to her duties.

In response to the alert, Libby told the public address operator that she had seen an off-duty deputy in the store, but the PA announcer was so nervous she could hardly talk. Finally, she gained enough breath to blurt out the words, "Deputy Sheriff please report



Top photo: Manatee County Deputy Ned Foy receives the Deputy Sheriff of the Year plaque from his Sheriff, Charlie Wells.
Inset: Foy with his family and Sheriff Wells.



to the front of the store..... Deputy Sheriff to the front of the store.... urgent."

Deputy Foy, child in tow, hustled to the front of the store and was briefed by Libby. He was told that a man with a gun had just gone to the front counter, and he was demanding to see one of their female employees, a woman later determined to be his estranged girlfriend.

They also told Deputy Foy that the gunman had found the woman working in an aisle near the back of the store. It appeared to observers that he was forcibly taking her hostage. Worse yet, he was last seen dragging her toward the back stock room, waving the gun and yelling wildly.

Foy then handed off his child to store security personnel and told them to remove the child from the store. He then calmly told store personnel to call 911, and proceeded toward the back of the store to locate the suspect.

Arriving at the threshold of the back room, Foy observed two males with a woman in the stock room, but only one of them was struggling with her. Foy entered the stock room and found the men yelling and the woman crying. Foy yelled out, "Which one of you has the gun?"

Without hesitation, the armed man waved the gun in the air and screamed out, "And I'm gonna use it, too!"

The suspect then hollered out that he was going to kill himself and anyone else who got in his way. He also screamed at the woman that he was going to kill her, too, if she didn't go with him.

Foy inched his way closer and closer to the suspect, talking and maintaining eye contact with him the whole time. He pleaded with the gunman to release the woman and give up the gun, but the gunman steadfastly refused.

Tension peaked when uniformed "back-up" deputies began arriving at the store. Seeing that the suspect was growing more anxious and agitated than before, Foy waved back the uniformed deputies and urged them to get out of sight.

Foy continued to try to reason with the suspect, but to no avail.

What happened next was nothing short of amazing.

Those of us who have been through a police academy or some military training will remember a technique that was taught. It's a technique that amounts to a last ditch effort to save your own life or the life of another. It's one of those tactical moves that you train for — then hope you never, ever have to use.

Thankfully, most law-enforcement officers will go through their entire careers and never even think about attempting it. It's called the "grab and twist take down move."

For those who are unfamiliar with the technique, it means grabbing the suspect's gun with your bare hands. If you're successful in grabbing the gun, you hold on as tight as you can while applying a twisting motion to the hand and gun.

Properly executed, the move forces the suspect to

continued on page 10

The Runners-Up FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year

Lt. Lonnie R. Carson of Lee County

Lt. Lonnie Carson began his working career by serving a three-year stint in the United States Army in the late '60s, including a tour of duty in Vietnam

where among other honors, he was awarded the National Defense Medal; the Bronze Star; and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

During the past five years, Carson has been assigned as the chief pilot and commander of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit, based in Fort Myers.

He has performed many great feats during his time with the Sher-

iff's Office. But, 1997 was a banner year for him, notes Lee County Sheriff John McDougall in his nomination of Carson.

Among his feats from the seat of his helicopter, Carson was responsible for the recovery of 110 stolen motor vehicles; was involved in 95 arrests; recovered four boats; rescued six stranded boaters; personally located and pulled up 454 marijuana plants; located 12 of 41 missing persons he searched for (with the rest being located by ground troops); located two crashed aircraft; located two vehicles which had been car-jacked; and recovered approximately \$4.5 million in stolen property.

In addition to this, Carson finds time to work regularly with the Florida Department of Natural Resources in locating endangered manatees, and he works with the Florida Marine Patrol to assist in enforcing the state's net ban.

Runners-Up continued on next page



Lee County Deputy Lt. Lonnie R. Carson (right) receives his Runner-Up plaque from Sheriff John McDougall.

Deputy Forrest B. Yingling of Martin County

Almost immediately, Yingling began making his mark on Port Salerno. Whether in his patrol car, on foot, or on the seat of his police-equipped bicycle, Yingling has planned, initiated, promoted and carried out many children's activities designed with one thing in mind — keeping them safe, occupied and away from the pitfalls of criminal activity.

He hosts bike rodeos, bicycle repair parties, fishing trips and various activities at the New Monrovia Community Center, making friends all along the way.

Then, in 1997, two women were tragically murdered in the Port Salerno area. Deputy Yingling was one of the first to be called to assist in the investigation, primarily because of his extensive knowledge of the community and the contacts he had made. A potential suspect was developed as a direct result of the information that Yingling was able to provide, and the case was later cleared.

On July 10, 1997, a third murder victim was discovered. Again, because of his close relationship with the community, Yingling was able to provide valuable leads on the case. Then, just six days later, another homicide victim surfaced. Again, Yingling was able to provide useful information for follow-up by investigating detectives.

He was named deputy sheriff of the quarter several times in Martin County, received their life-saving award, and was nominated for their distinguished service award as well.



Big grins. Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder, left, congratulates Deputy Sheriff of the Year runner up, Forrest B. Yingling.

the floor. And, with a successful grab and twist, you can take the gun away with relative ease — or at least that's the way it works at the police academy.

But, what if you slip or miss? What if the suspect sees you coming and pulls the gun away? You get only one chance to make the move, and there's absolutely no turning back once you start.

Carefully waiting to make his move, Foy studied the behavior of the gunman intently. He noticed that the man was irrational and distracted at times, and that he would sometimes break eye contact and look away for just a brief second.

Foy made his move. With both hands, he lunged for the gun and was able to grab it. Holding on for dear life, he twisted the gun

and the hand — and in a split-second, the suspect was on the floor. Foy then wrenched the gun out of the suspect's hand before any shots were fired.

The other male, initially thought to be a second suspect, wound up being the son of the man with the gun. Once down, the son actually helped in subduing his father.

In the end, the suspect, his estranged girlfriend, all store employees, and hundreds of shoppers were safe. We will never know how many lives Deputy Foy saved that day.

For his heroic act, Deputy Ned Foy was awarded a handsome plaque and a check for \$1,000 — but the story doesn't quite end here.

Normally, this prestigious honor is presented in front of the state's Sheriffs and invited guests at the annual summer conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association. This year, it was held in mid-July in Fort Myers.

Oddly enough, just days before he was supposed to travel to Fort Myers for the ceremonies, Deputy Foy was involved in an on-duty traffic accident while trying to capture a robbery suspect. As a result, he was recuperating in his hospital room in Bradenton on the night that his boss, Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells accepted the honor on his behalf.

One County, Four Sheriffs

One hundred years of law-enforcement service. That's a lot of years.

This past summer, Sheriffs Don Genung, Bill Roberts, Gerry Coleman and Everett Rice gathered recently to reminisce about their years serving the citizens of Pinellas County in the office of Sheriff.

Sheriff Don Genung (seated, right) became a Clearwater police officer in 1946 and joined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in 1953. Sheriff Genung enjoyed the longest term as Pinellas County Sheriff -- serving from 1958 to 1975.

Sheriff Bill Roberts (seated, left) began his law-enforcement career with the Largo Police Department in 1950. He joined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in 1953. He served as Pinellas County Sheriff from 1975 to 1980.

Sheriff Gerry Coleman (standing, right) joined the former Pinellas County Patrol in 1959 before becoming a Pinellas County deputy Sheriff under Don Genung in 1960. He was elected Sheriff in 1980 and served



two terms.

Sheriff Everett Rice (standing, left) was hired as a new deputy Sheriff by Sheriff

Genung in 1967. He was elected Sheriff in 1988 and is now in his third term.

Sheriffs-to-be?

In other Pinellas news.

Many current Sheriffs, deputy Sheriffs and Sheriffs' Office supervisors can point to the Explorer Program for giving them their start in law enforcement. This year, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Explorer Post 900 team won the state championship at the 1998 Florida Association of Police Explorers competition. Their overall score of 96.187 bested 33 other Florida Explorer Posts at the June event in Pasco County. At the end of July, the Post 900 team scored high marks at the national competition in Washington, DC, by placing first in the Traffic Accident Investigation event and earning fifth place in the Crisis Intervention event. The national competition attracted over 3,000 Explorers on 326 teams from across the country.

A branch of the Boy Scouts of America, the Law Enforcement Exploring Program is open to young people from 14 to 21 years old. "Exploring really gives these stu-



Following the state championship, where they won first place, Pinellas County Sheriffs Explorer Post 900 member show off their trophies. From front row, left to right, Nick Bedy, Jennifer Straube and Lee Harrington. Standing: Lt. Skip Cutting, Dep. Dino Damico, Cpl. Merilee Bennett, Glenn Offutt, Frank Holloway, Richard Peterson and Sgt. Debbie Justin

dents an insight into a career in law enforcement," says Pinellas Explorers Advisor corporal Merilee Bennett. "These annual competitions offer them an opportunity to test their knowledge and learned skills."

The program immerses the candidates into real life police experi-

ences and training. Events at the state and national meets include conducting a traffic stop, burglary in progress, search and arrest and "shoot, don't shoot." There are also pistol matches that test the Explorers marksmanship.



History of the Florida Sheriffs

To our readers: This is the first of several articles that *The Sheriff's Star* will be running on the history of Florida Sheriffs. FSA has contracted with two well-known historians, William W. Rogers, Ph.D., and James M. Denham, Ph.D. to write a history of the Florida Sheriffs, 1821 to present.

If you have materials relevant to the history of county Sheriffs, particularly the operational side of the Sheriffs office, we encourage you to contact the Florida Sheriffs Association. Letters, diaries, personal reminiscences, autobiographies — even if never published — are also important.

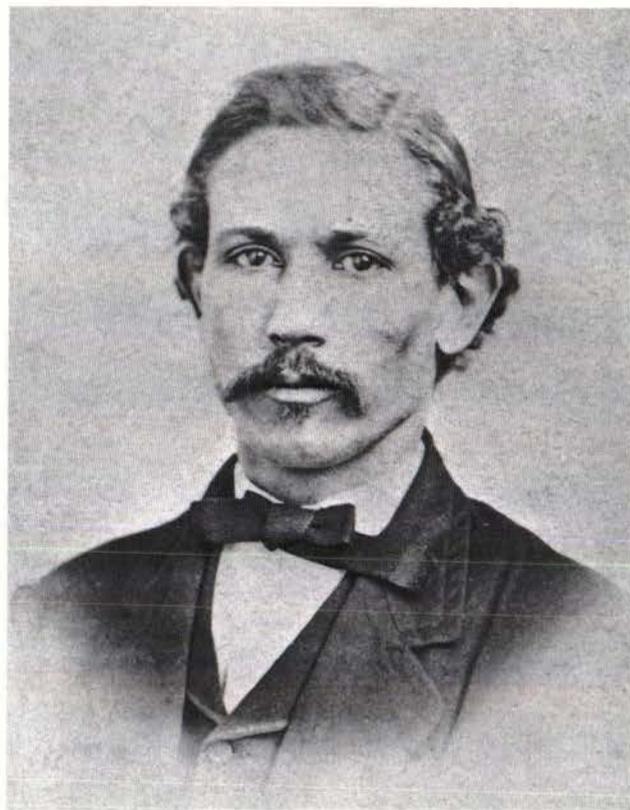
Rogers and Denham are seeking information from those with personal experiences relevant to the past operational activities of the Sheriffs office, as well. We encourage anyone willing to be interviewed by Rogers or Denham to contact Buddy Phillips, Executive Director, Florida Sheriffs Association, P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519. Phone: 850-877-2165, fax: 850-878-8665 or e-mail: buddy@flsheriffs.org

Black Sheriffs of Post-Civil War Florida

by: *James M. Denham and Canter Brown, Jr.*

If Orlando's Universal Studios or one of its many competitors offered us a movie tribute to the rough-and-tumble years that Florida experienced after the Civil War, the casting choices might come as a bit of a shock to many Floridians. It might be a mistake to think too quickly of Michael Douglas or Kevin Costner as the courageous lawman who single-handedly faced down the bad guys. Rather, if you will, picture Morgan Freeman or Danny Glover.

That's right. In many parts of violence prone Florida during the period from the early 1870s until the late 1880s, African American men wore the badge and defended the community. During that period, for



Emanuel Fortune

example, the towns of Pensacola, Tallahassee, Lake City, Fernandina, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palatka, and Ocala numbered among the state's largest. Each saw at least one black man provide protection for whites and blacks alike, chosen by popular election. Most selected several.

The totals are impressive. Almost three dozen men served as town marshals, with St. Augustine's John Blake remaining in office as late as 1889. Some, such as Jacksonville's Emanuel Fortune, exercised responsibilities for only one or two years. At Palatka, though, Albert N. Doyle held the peace for most of the time between 1870 and 1884. Fernandina's Turner Dueling lasted from 1871 to 1881. At Florida's capital city, five different individuals maintained the office from 1876 to 1886.

The courage required of these individuals should not be underestimated. Crime and racial violence terrorized parts of the state at various times, while abuse of alcohol could spark trouble in the blink of an eye. Most marshals witnessed life-threatening situations. Ocala's Burrell Dawkins paid the ultimate price.

Executive Department.

In the Name and under the Authority of the State of Florida.

Whereas, *David Montgomery* hath been duly appointed by the Governor's with the advice and consent of the Senate, according to the Constitution and Laws of said State to be Sheriff of the County of *Madison* for four years from the day of *1868*

Now, Therefore, Showing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, patriotism, fidelity, and prudence of the said *David Montgomery*

F. HARRISON REED,

Governor of the State of Florida, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of said State, Do hereby Commission the said *David Montgomery* to be such Sheriff according to the Laws and Constitution of said State for the time aforesaid, and in the name of the People of the State of Florida to have, hold, and exercise said office and all the powers appertaining thereto, and to perform the duties thereof and to enjoy all the privileges and benefits of the same in accordance with the requirements of Law.

In Testimony Whereof, I do hereunto set my hand, and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of the State, at TALLAHASSEE, the Capital, this *Eleventh* day of *September* A. D. 18 *68* and of the Independence of the United States the *98* year.

By the Governor. Attest:

Geo J Alden

Secretary of State.

Harrison Reed

Governor of Florida.

Executive Department.

IN THE NAME AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE

STATE OF FLORIDA.

Whereas, *Charles F Dupont* hath been duly appointed by the Governor *Elected* according to the Constitution and Laws of said State, to be Sheriff (*Charles F Dupont*) for *Monroe* County for *4* years from the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in *January* 18*89*, and until his successor is qualified

Now, Therefore, Showing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, patriotism, fidelity and prudence of the said *Dupont*, I,

EDWARD A. PERRY,

Governor of the State of Florida, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the said State,

Do hereby Commission the said *Dupont* to be such Sheriff

according to the Laws and Constitution of said State, for the time aforesaid, and In the Name of the People of the State of Florida, to have, hold, and exercise, such office, and all the powers appertaining thereto, and to perform the duties thereof, and to enjoy all the privileges and benefits of the same, in accordance with the requirements of Law.

In Testimony Whereof, I do hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of the State, at TALLAHASSEE, THE CAPITAL, this *22* day of *Dec* A. D. 18*88*, and of the Independence of the United States the *119* year.

E. A. PERRY
Governor of Florida.

By the Governor. Attest:

JOHN L. CRAWFORD,
Secretary of State.

Pictured above are the commissions of David Montgomery, first black Sheriff and Charles F. Dupont, first elected black Sheriff. Thanks to Joan Morris, Florida State Archives, for providing photographs of the original citations.

Gunned down by a drunken white man in 1875, he survived but retired the following year. Re-elected in 1880, Dawkins's luck deserted him. The following March a second gunshot ended his life. Once again, the assailant was white.

The story of Florida's black town marshals is as exciting as it is little known, but even more intriguing is the fact that many of the true pioneers of black law enforcement served in the office of Sheriff, as well as in the lesser county office of constable. From 1868 to 1877, seven individuals presided as a county Sheriff in Florida, with an eighth man heading the office in Monroe County from 1889 to



"From 1868 to 1893, eight African-American Sheriffs brought credit upon themselves, their race, and their communities by laboring at the risk of their own lives to protect and preserve the peace during a tumultuous era."

1893. What tales they could have told.

The dynamics that placed Florida's first black Sheriff in office were set in motion in 1867 when the United States Congress passed a series of laws known as the Reconstruction Acts. They mandated that most of the defeated Confederate states, including Florida, rewrite their constitutions. They also required that adult black men be allowed to vote in elections for delegates.

Florida's constitutional convention met at Tallahassee in early 1868. It produced a charter that

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guaranteed black voting rights in state and local elections, but it removed most county offices from electoral politics. Instead, the constitution specified that the governor would appoint all county officials except legislators and constables.

The new constitution and state government came into effect during the summer of 1868 under the administration of Governor Harrison Reed, formerly of Wisconsin. As one of his first official acts, Reed rewarded his black political ally David Montgomery by offering him the position of Madison County Sheriff. Montgomery, a New York native then about 32 years of age, had practiced his trade as a mason and bricklayer at Key West and Tallahassee since 1857. He had never lived in Madison County.

Although without long-time roots in the county which he was to serve, Montgomery persisted for four-and-one-half years in the Sheriff's office. He encountered steady resistance from the white community. Apparently, the tense situation derived partly from the fact that Montgomery was a northerner. "It does not make any difference how long a man has been here from the North," he told a congressional committee in 1871, "if he is a Republican he is a carpetbagger."

The resentments blunted effective law enforcement. "Well, since I have been there I have made five hundred arrests, speaking within bounds," Montgomery related in 1871. "In that time I think we have had within the neighborhood of thirty-seven murders in the county, and we have never been able to convict a man yet." He continued: "I take it that if a white man kills a colored man in any of the counties of this State you cannot convict him."

The violence nearly took Montgomery's own life. During the troubled state elections of November 1870, a party of 10 white men attempted to waylay the Sheriff, who was coming into Madison from a nearby plantation. Sensing their intentions, he whipped the horse that was pulling his buggy into action. The assailants shot after him, wounding the horse and hitting the buggy, which overturned. Montgomery survived by secreting himself all night in the woods. The next month, following Republican successes in the

county, the Sheriff's general merchandise store burned at the hands of a white arsonist. These and similar challenges failed to deter Montgomery. He remained in office as Sheriff until taking a seat in the Florida House of Representatives. That occurred in 1873 during the administration of Governor Ossian B. Hart, who named Montgomery a major and quartermaster of the state militia. The legislator honored the governor the next year by serving as one of his pallbearers. In 1876 Montgomery achieved the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor. Following a narrow and contested loss he moved to Jacksonville, suffering from illness. He died at his father's home at Hempstead, New York, in April 1878.

During most of Montgomery's term, he remained Florida's sole black Sheriff, although African American men held office as constable in many counties. Reed's politics and the problems encountered by Montgomery held the governor back from naming another black man to the office until the election year of 1872. In that case he designated Benjamin F. Collier to occupy Hamilton County's position. Unfortunately, little information concerning Collier has come to light.

Governor Hart appointed scores of black officeholders. As to Sheriffs, when Collier's appointment expired, Hart continued the incumbent in office until 1874. Collier resigned that year, possibly from health-related concerns. Also in 1874 Hart named Henry Hutchinson as Sheriff for Franklin County, having removed a popular white incumbent. He did so against the wishes of the local white legislative delegation. Despite ensuing furor, the governor persisted. Once in office, Hutchinson proved so effective that he maintained his position until the summer of 1877, six months after Reconstruction's end.

The relative success of Sheriffs Montgomery, Collier, and Hutchinson prompted Governor Hart's successor, Marcellus Stearns, to add four more African-American individuals to office during 1874-1876. They included Philip L. DeCoursey in Leon County, Lafayette N. B. McCray and George W. Monroe in Jefferson County, and James A. Roberts in Monroe County. DeCoursey died in office of pneumonia during the first year of his term, while the placement of McCray, an African Methodist Episcopal minister,



"It does not make any difference how long a man has been here from the North," he told a congressional committee in 1871, "if he is a Republican he is a carpetbagger."

appears to have been intended as a temporary measure. As was true of Hutchinson, Monroe and Roberts served honorably until Reconstruction's end in early 1877.

Several common themes arise from the appointments and service of the Sheriffs who followed David Montgomery. Whereas a northerner Montgomery faced hostility, his six immediate successors enjoyed long-time ties to the community in which they served. Those communities, as had been true of Montgomery's Madison County, all were grouped in Middle Florida's old cotton plantation belt, where majority-black populations were typical. Additional points deserve mention. Each of the Sheriffs was an intelligent and energetic man, usually in his early thirties. Seemingly, most possessed on-the-job law enforcement experience. Roberts, for instance, had acted as a Monroe County constable. McCray stepped up from deputy to Sheriff. As to other previous work experiences, diversity rather than similarity proved the key. Collier was a farmer, and Roberts made cigars. Hutchinson had worked as a stevedore, loading and unloading ship cargo. DeCoursey clerked in a store; Monroe listed himself as a laborer; and McCray ministered for the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church.

Significantly, the six men died in the counties they served or else lived in them for years after stepping down from the Sheriff's office. Most went on to further community service. McCray sat in the state legislature, while building churches. Hutchinson and Roberts achieved election to town councils. Their elections came in Apalachicola and Key West, respectively.

Finally, the six shared one important trait with Montgomery that further buttressed their community credibility and potential effectiveness. Each apparently joined openly in community activities, expressing thereby a public delight in living where they did. To cite one example, local residents long remembered Montgomery for his prowess as a baseball pitcher. Even a critical local newspaper admitted with some sense of pride that "he is quite an expert with the bat and ball." Roberts lent his musical skills to the creation of the Key West Cornet Band. Acknowledged a local correspondent of the group, "They were liberally patronized by the citizens of Key West."

The Democratic takeover of the governor's office that marked Reconstruction's end in 1877 soon termi-

nated the service of Florida's African-American Sheriffs then in office. Still, black constables labored on for years in some counties, and the decade of the 1880s would see one additional and remarkable black man

administer justice as a Sheriff. The event that set the stage was Florida's 1885 constitutional convention, where white conservatives once again placed the selection of Sheriffs in the hands of local voters. At the first popular election held thereafter, Monroe County electors in 1888 expressed their confidence in a 38-year old carpenter and Republican activist who also happened to be an African American. After taking the oath of office in Janu-

ary 1889, Charles F. Dupont became Florida's first popularly elected black Sheriff.

Dupont, a Tampa native, served his four-year term with distinction, a fact recalled generations later by one of his successors. "It's a shame that Sheriff Dupont has not received more credit," related J. Allison DeFoor II while trying to call attention to Dupont's service in 1995. "He accomplished much good against difficult odds." Among those accomplishments, on one occasion Dupont outwitted a lynch mob, thereby saving the lives of several prisoners. Following his term, he remained at Key West where he continued the tradition of public service by helping to found Florida's first branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He died at Key West in 1938.

From 1868 to 1893, eight African-American Sheriffs brought credit upon themselves, their race, and their communities by laboring at the risk of their own lives to protect and preserve the peace during a tumultuous era. In mourning the death of Sheriff Philip DeCoursey, a white editor known as an avowed conservative Democrat spoke words that might have applied to each of his peers. "He was an honest man," wrote the newspaperman, "a good citizen, and a faithful officer." It is a legacy in which all Floridians can take pride.

*James M. Denham is associate professor of history at Florida Southern College and the author of "A Rogue's Paradise: Crime and Punishment in Antebellum Florida" (Tuscaloosa, 1997). Canter Brown Jr. is Historian in Residence at the Tampa Bay History Center and the author of "Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867-1924" (Tuscaloosa, 1997). Many sources were used in compiling this article. For a complete bibliography, please write: Editor, *The Sheriff's Star Magazine*, P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519.*



After taking the oath of office in January 1889, Charles F. Dupont became Florida's first popularly elected black Sheriff.



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.



LEON COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell (right) to Jimmy Petrandis.



PASCO COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon (left) to Daniel F. Leary.



Frank J. Broedell

PALM BEACH COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert Neumann to Tom Broedell on behalf of Frank J. Broedell; and Gay B. Mueller.



Gay B. Mueller



PALM BEACH COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert Neumann to Mrs. Hallie E. Worthing.



Mr. & Mrs. Carl Vause

SUMTER COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer, Jr. to Mr. & Mrs. Carl Vause; Franklin Dixon; and Mr. & Mrs. Roy W. Beckman.



Franklin Dixon



Mr. & Mrs. Roy W. Beckman



James W. Webb



James F. Franklin



Lillian P. Taylor



Willis F. Johnson

OKALOOSA COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to James W. Webb; James F. Franklin; Lillian P. Taylor; Willis F. Johnson; and Willie Mae Taylor.



Willie Mae Taylor

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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.

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Mr. S. Kenneth Wood
Ms. Ann C. Wynkoop



ALACHUA COUNTY - Presented by Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich to Richard Cain.



BRADFORD COUNTY - Presented by Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner to Eugene V. Chason.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranch Staff to Anthony Pepe of the Italian American Club.



CLAY COUNTY - Presented by Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster (right) to Deputy Dave Colburn for his many years of volunteer service at the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.



Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly



Jean Marzer



Calvin Patrick

COLUMBIA COUNTY - Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Frank Owens to Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly; Jean Marzer; Calvin Patrick; and Doris Howard and Barbara Berton representing Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.



Doris Howard and Barbara Berton

YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL CONTINUED . . .



Charles Hamm



C. B. Harrison, Jr



Debbie Adams



Sue Gandhi

HAMILTON COUNTY - Presented by Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid to Charles Hamm, owner of Jasper Hardware; and Lt. C. B. Harrison, Jr.

HAMILTON COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches Development Officer Linda Crews to Debbie Adams, owner of Debbie's Beauty Shop; and Sue Gandhi, general manager of the Scottish Inn.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Queck

LEE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranch staff to Ernest Hesse; and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Queck.



Ernest Hesse



MARION COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lance.



SUWANNEE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver (right) and Youth Ranch Development Officer Linda Crews to Suwannee County Chamber Chairman Dean Papapetrou at the Chamber's 50th Anniversary Celebration.



Mr. and Mrs. Hal Airth



Joe Allinder



James Leming

SUWANNEE COUNTY - Presented by Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams to Mr. and Mrs. Hal Airth; Joe Allinder, Pastor of the First United Methodist Church; and James Leming of Bassett Dairy.



SEMINOLE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches Development Officer Sandra Phillips to Deborah A. Clements, public affairs manager for Sprint, Southern Operations. Sprint has been a continuing Silver Sponsor (\$1,000) at the Wide Open Golf Tournament.



Joseph Mancini



David Marshall

ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Bobby Knowles to Joseph Mancini; and David Marshall.



PALM BEACH COUNTY - Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert Neumann to Commander Ted Wright.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Maj. James Lockwood (center) and Mac Stones, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, to Gilly Aguilar (left).

VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Bob Vogel (right) and Mac Stones, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, to Ruth Cates.



Attention Members:

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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.

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The Florida Sheriffs Association

P.O. Box 12519

Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

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City/State/Zip: _____

Area code/phone: _____



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FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION HONOR ROLL



VOLUSIA COUNTY - 30 year certificate presented by Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel (right) to Bernon Abbott and Barbara Cowart.



HERNANDO COUNTY - 25 year certificate presented by Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander to Mr. & Mrs. John Mears.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - 30 year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Francis Charles McClain.



HELP WANTED

The Florida Senate is currently seeking applicants for the following position: Project Manager for Juvenile Justice Issues (OPS Contract). This position will manage, coordinate and draft the Senate's 1998 Interim Work Plan for the following projects: 1) Effectiveness Review of the Juvenile Justice System, the objective being to determine if Florida is doing all that it can to reduce juvenile crime by assessing the department's efficiency and operation strategies in implementing legislation concerning accountability for programs, results, and operations; and 2) Implementation of Cost Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Commitment Programs, the objective being to ensure that the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board, in consultation with the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and providers, develops standard methodology for inclusion in the cost effectiveness model which is applied to each commitment program. In conjunction with the Ways and Means Committee, the contract manager will monitor the following activities: 1) Department of Juvenile Justice Prevention Grant Awards, the objective being to monitor the Department of Juvenile Justice's implementation of provisions associated with Item 1005A, 1998-99 General Appropriations Act relating to prevention and intervention grants; and 2) Juvenile Justice Information System Development, the objective being to monitor the Juvenile Justice Information System in order to identify any barriers to development and implementation. Project deadline is January 1, 1999. Salary: Commensurate with education, skills and experience. Applications should be forwarded to: Mark Castille, Rm. 409, The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100



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