

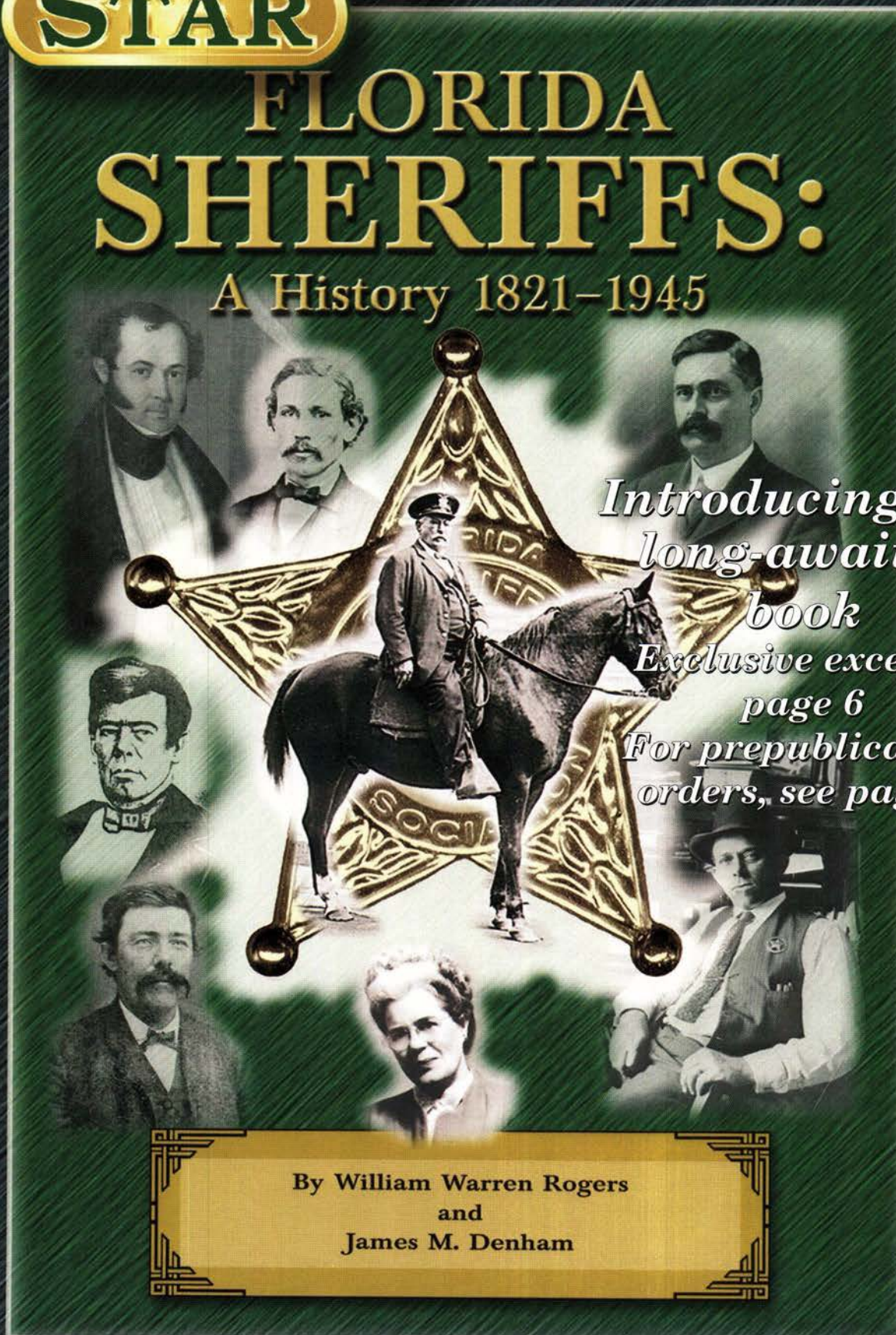
THE SHERIFF'S STAR

PUBLISHED BY THE
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

JULY/AUGUST 2001

FLORIDA SHERIFFS:

A History 1821-1945



*Introducing our
long-awaited
book*

*Exclusive excerpt,
page 6*

*For prepublication
orders, see page 7*

By William Warren Rogers
and
James M. Denham



From the desk of...

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

When you publish a magazine, you expect to make a mistake or two. Someone once told me that doctors bury their mistakes, lawyers send theirs to prison, but publishers advertise theirs for all to see.

That's what we did with our last issue, the May/June *Sheriff's Star*. We "advertised" our editing mistake. In the article about the dedication of our new Membership Services building, we gave Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey a new name – Don.

Our apologies to Sheriff Harvey. We sure appreciate him being such a good sport about the error.

History is here

As you will see from our cover, the long-awaited *History of the Florida Sheriffs* (book one), is finally a reality and we have included a chapter excerpt in this magazine.

I have to say I really found this project enjoyable. As many of our members know, my background is law enforcement – not writing, and I can tell you that I developed a whole new respect for that profession.

The authors, Bill Rogers and Mike Denham, did exhaustive research, as you will note in the references which we included after each chapter. I know history buffs and those who enjoy law enforcement memorabilia will get a great deal of pleasure reading the book and reviewing the photographs and illustrations the two authors discovered over the last few years.

The book is expected to be back from the publisher in early September, and for a limited time we are offering a special price for pre-publication orders. We think it's already reasonably priced at \$29.50, but if you get your order in before September 28th, you can save \$4.50 per book. Look for the order form on page 7.

In this issue, we also recognize all of those who made contributions to our Law Enforcement Memorial fund. As I mentioned in our last issue, we expect to have phase I of the memorial constructed by late fall. We invite all our members to stop by and visit the memorial when you are driving through Tallahassee. Our offices are located on one of the major thoroughfares to downtown (Mahan Drive, which turns into Tennessee Street), so bring the kids or grandkids and stop by.

Back to school

Right about now, many of our members have received the federal tax "refund" and are enjoying a tax-free back-to-school shopping spree. We would like to use this time as a reminder to those with school-age children to build safety education into their preparation for the school year. Lt. Paul Phillips offers a few tips on page 20, which can help.

As we go to press with this issue, we're returning from our 2001 Summer Conference. Governor Jeb Bush was our special guest at the Tuesday night banquet, and the Sheriffs also heard from Secretary of State Katherine Harris. We'll bring you a more complete report about the conference in the September/October issue.

Until then, stay safe in your travels, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director



Telephones Make Us All an Easy Target for Fraud

Ah, the telephone. It can be a lifesaver. We dial 9-1-1 in an emergency, toll-free numbers for vital government services and Mom's phone number to make sure she's OK after a storm. Reach out and touch someone, we're told.

Not so fast, if you want to be safe. The devious minds among us have figured out a way to get a piece of the action and their fingerprints are all over our long distance and local phone bills.

Crime prevention officers are alerting citizens about the telephone fraud "flavors of the month." Here's what you need to do to avoid becoming a victim of the latest telephone crime scams:

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CALLING CARD CHARGES

Never give out your telephone calling card number, unless you have initiated the call. A legiti-

mate telephone service provider would never call YOU to ask for verification of your number.

AVOID BEING SLAMMED OR CRAMMED

Cramming is when a telephone customer is charged for services they've never ordered and/or received. Slamming occurs when customers have their telephone service switched without their permission.

Beware in calling toll-free numbers or filling out contest entries to claim a prize. You may unknowingly be enrolled in a program and the charges will be placed on your phone bill. You may also have accidentally agreed to switch your long distance services, just by making the call or filling out the form.

Read your long distance phone bill each month and watch for unfamiliar company names or charges. Don't hesitate to call and ask for an explanation.

Request that any changes to your telephone service require a confirmation in writing. This way a mailed notice will alert you if you've been tricked into making changes to your service.

Periodically check your phone bill to make sure you still have the long distance company you selected.

PREVENT UNWANTED INTERNATIONAL CALLS

To make international calls, you usually must dial a prefix, such as 0-1-1. But some locations outside of the country have numbers that look like U.S. area codes. Unfortunately, international rates apply and they're hefty. For example, 809, 284 and 876 are area codes in the Caribbean.

To avoid being scammed:

- Be cautious about calling any area codes you don't recognize. Check your phone directory or call the operator to inquire about the location of the area code before returning a call to an unknown source.
- If you don't intend to ever make an international call, ask your carrier to place a block on all international calls.

DON'T FORWARD YOUR CALLS BY ACCIDENT

If you receive an automated message claiming you've won a prize and are asked to dial a 2-digit prefix before calling a toll-free number, don't do it. The combination of dialing an * or # before a 2-digit prefix will forward your calls. Scam artists can then call your phone number, be forwarded to a long-distance operator, and place calls that are billed to your home phone number.

Yes, telephones play a critical role in our daily lives. But don't take them for granted. Keep your guard up at all times to avoid becoming a victim of telephone fraud.

For further information, visit AT&T's web site:

www.att.com/fraud/home.html



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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

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E-mail: jbettinger@flsheriffs.org Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org/>

Phone (800) 877-2168 Local (850) 877-2165 Fax (850) 878-8665

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Legislative Report:

Sheriffs' persistence to the bitter end paid off for public safety in 2001 legislature

By: Frank Messersmith
FSA Governmental Consultant
Metz Houser & Husband
Attorneys

By all accounts, the 2001 legislative session was most challenging.

Why? It was mainly due to a combination of political factors including the effects of term limits, the posturing for future political office, the limitations of the budget, and the looming impact of the first-ever Republican controlled reapportionment of the state.

The last two days of the session were incredibly charged, and high-energy activity abounded until about 8 p.m. on Friday when the Senate decided it had enough, passed the budget and adjourned *sine die* with the House still pounding away at a lengthy agenda of pending issues on the calendar.

The unexpected Senate adjournment did not bode well with the House leadership which began reorganizing its agenda for bills which were "must-pass" and those they wanted. They ultimately smacked the final gavel at about midnight on the last night.

The clock hands inexorably ticking toward the end doomed numerous issues, especially agency bills and those that were needy but not necessary for the basic functionality of state government.

The Florida Sheriffs Association had a lengthy and difficult "wish list" this year, and despite the odds and the difficulty, was able to succeed on

numerous issues. The following is a list of many of the issues in which the FSA was involved.

Without question, the big win for Sheriffs and the families of officers was the restoration of the 3 percent high risk retirement for those persons already retired or in the DROP program (see related article by Tom Berlinger, page 10).

Gov. Jeb Bush and Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan were heroes in this effort and actually made this happen in the last three days of the session. Additionally, the FSA would not have made it past the opening bell if Sen. Locke Burt had not filed SB 252 (which later became SB 2), and Rep. Gus Bilirakis had not filed HB 261 on our behalf. Those two legislators carried the ball for us throughout the session and provided us the backstops when we needed them.

And, of course, the FSA had a great team to make things happen. FSA President Don Eslinger became a regular resident of Tallahassee and was an impressive speaker in committees and a solid mediator on behalf of the Sheriffs. Legislative Chairman Sheriff Phil Williams also piled up the mileage spending significant time in Tallahassee assisting with managing the issues for a second year in a row.

Sheriffs Kevin Beary and Charlie Wells, through their personal friend-

ships with the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, provided us with crucial, timely input for the legislative leadership. Joe Saviak, Sheriff Beary's Chief of Staff, was a solid anchor for our issues here in Tallahassee, providing ideas and legal review and research.

In addition to our main focus, the FSA was involved with numerous legislative issues, some for, some against, and some just interested. They included the following:

Personnel Background Checks: S52 by Sen. Jim King (R-Jacksonville), and H261 by Rep. Stan Jordan (R-Jacksonville), was also a priority, and an effort to provide a process by which detailed personnel information could be made available without threat of litigation. This bill originated with Jacksonville Sheriff Nat Glover, and after several years of effort, the bill passed on the second-to-last day of session.

Racial Profiling: SB 82 by Sen. Kendrick Meek (D-Miami), and H321 by Rep. Bendross-Mindingall (D-Miami), became a vehicle that was amended by the FSA to provide a proactive process of education and training regarding racial bias and improper profiling. This legislation should be a national model for law enforcement to demonstrate its efforts to assure our citizens of their concern for any instances of improper profiling which may exist today.

Educational requirements for law-enforcement officers: H97 by Rep. Allen Trovillion (R-Winter Park) was an effort to require law-enforcement officers to secure a two-year college degree before being certified for work. While the FSA did not oppose the principle of the legislative proposal, it did oppose the legislation due to the difficulties it could create in the personnel management of many small rural counties. Rep. Trovillion, who did not have a Senate companion, ultimately withdrew the bill, but he is expected to re-file it again next session.



Sheriff Eslinger



Sheriff Williams

Parole Commission Resolution:

The FSA adopted a resolution supporting the Florida Parole Commission to remain as it is currently operating and opposing its merger within the Department of Corrections. The Commission survived the session without change.

Domestic Violence Sentencing:

S1778, by Sen. Anna Cowin (R-Leesburg) and H1673 by Rep. Bruce Kyle (R-Ft. Myers) would require the court to sentence a person to five days in the county jail for an offense of domestic violence that involves physical injury to another person, unless the person is imprisoned for the offense. The Sheriffs had initial concerns about this issue that originated with the Governor's Office, but the legislative proposal was amended and the FSA worked with Senator Cowin and the Governor's Office for final passage of the House companion bill.

Counterfeit Checks: H531 by Rep. Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando) and S1282 by Sen. Locke Burt (R-Ormond Beach) passed this session, making the counterfeiting of payment instruments with intent to defraud unlawful. The bill provides a third-degree felony penalty, and specifies prima facie evidence of intent to defraud. The law also exempts law-enforcement agencies for investigative or educational purposes. This bill originated from Sheriff Kevin Beary in Orange County and the FSA lobbied the issue.

Two-Way Communication/Crimes:

H1349 by Rep. David Meador (R-Lake Mary) and S1198 by Sen. Daniel Webster (R-Winter Garden) passed this bill that makes it a third-degree felony to use a two-way communications device, including a portable two-way wireless device, to facilitate or further the commission of a crime. This bill also originated with Sheriff Beary and was picked up by the FSA.

Editor's note: Frank Messersmith is an independent Governmental Consultant (not a lawyer) for FSA.

Sheriffs Thank Lawmakers

Each year, the Florida Sheriffs Association recognizes lawmakers who played prominent roles in public safety legislation. Many of the legislators and politicians attend the annual Summer Conference to receive their accolades and plaques. We invite all members of the Florida Sheriffs Association to join us in commending the following senators and representatives for their hard work and persistence.

Receiving Year 2001
FSA Legislative Leadership Awards:

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush
Florida Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan
Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor)
Sen. John McKay, President of the Senate (R-Bradenton)
Rep. Tom Feeney, Speaker of the House (R-Oviedo)
Rep. Jerry Melvin (R-Ft. Walton Beach)
Sen. Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg)
Rep. Randy Ball (R-Titusville)

Special thanks to one lawmaker

It is very rare for the Florida Sheriffs to bestow their highest honor – that of Honorary Sheriff – on any politician. But there is one lawmaker who truly stands out from the rest. You have read about his tireless efforts to work on behalf of public safety and other legislative issues important to Sheriffs for the past few years. And, it is probably no surprise to our members that the Florida Sheriffs voted to name **Sen. Locke Burt** (R-Ormond Beach) an Honorary Sheriff in 2001.



Senator Burt

Our hearty congratulations go to Senator Burt and his tremendously effective staff. Thank you for all you do to protect the citizens of Florida and visitors to this great state.

Introducing . . .
The long-awaited
FLORIDA
SHERIFFS:
A History
1821-1945

Coming this fall!

Exclusive Book Chapter
Excerpt:

**The First Two
 Decades of the
 Twentieth Century**



Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, of Jacksonville, served as Duval County Sheriff, 1888-1894 and 1897-1900, before his election as governor in 1905. (Courtesy of the Florida State Archives).

At least one Sheriff used his fame as a lawyer to win the governorship. Napoleon Bonaparte Broward used his prominence as a Sheriff to good effect in his campaign for governor in 1904. How he gained that renown entitles Broward to special attention. Some Florida Sheriffs held other political posts before and after their tenures as lawmen. The positions were usually at the city or county level, but sometimes they were elected to the state legislature. As the exception, Broward served as Florida's nineteenth governor from 1905 to 1909. Born on a Duval County farm in 1857, he lost both parents when he was 12. His varied career included work in a log camp, as a farm hand, steamboat roustabout, seaman, fisherman in Newfoundland, river pilot and steamboat owner on the St. Johns River, wood yard operator, phosphate developer, and arms runner to Cuban revolutionaries.

Public outcry against an incumbent Duval County Sheriff (his ineptness permitted a prisoner to escape) caused Gov. Edward A. Perry to remove him from office. At the local Democratic county executive committee's urging, the governor appointed Broward Sheriff in February. Without favor to man or position, the vigorous Broward not only closed down Jacksonville's gambling houses, he made arrests that resulted in convictions. The Sheriff's local popularity soared as he became a figure of statewide reputation. Later, in 1888, Broward was renominated and won. In a bitter contest his faction (the "Straightouts") defeated their opponents (the "Antis"), swept other political offices, and

took control of Jacksonville and the county. It seemed fitting that in national elections, Grover Cleveland, the winning Democratic candidate in 1884 and 1892, was a former Sheriff, having been elected to that office in Erie County, New York, in 1869.

Reflecting the times, one major issue of concern involved the new Sheriff and prize fighting. Some Jacksonville sports enthusiasts and businessmen formed the Duval Athletic Club, and announced its sponsorship of a heavy-weight boxing contest in January 1894. The opponents would be the American champion, James J. "Gentleman Jim" Corbett, and the foreign

challenger, Charles Mitchell of England. Sheriff Broward; Duncan U. Fletcher, Jacksonville's mayor and future U. S. Senator; and Henry L. Mitchell, the sitting governor, strongly opposed the fight. A state law forbade such contests. Backing Broward, the

governor dispatched four companies of state troops to Jacksonville to aid in keeping the peace. Newspapers in Florida and across the country followed events with daily stories. Twisting the limits of justice, the Athletic Club secured from the circuit judge a permanent injunction against Broward forbidding his interference with the fight. A large crowd of local fans and outsiders packed the old fair grounds to watch Corbett knock Mitchell out in the third round and retain his world title. After the fight Broward's men served the boxers with warrants ordering them to appear in court. They posted bond, and in a later trial the jury found Corbett not guilty. The case against Mitchell was dropped. Although the fight took place, Broward's efforts to prevent it and his uncompromising stand both legally and philosophically, increased his popularity.

A Sheriff's concern for uncompromising stands could land him in trouble, as Broward soon learned. In the elections of 1894, Jacksonville endured bitter factional contests between the "Straightouts" and the "Antis." Broward suspected that fraud would mar the balloting, and, acting on what he considered his duty, exceeded his constitutional authority by stationing deputies at the polls. For that, Francis P. Fleming removed him from office. The governor replaced him

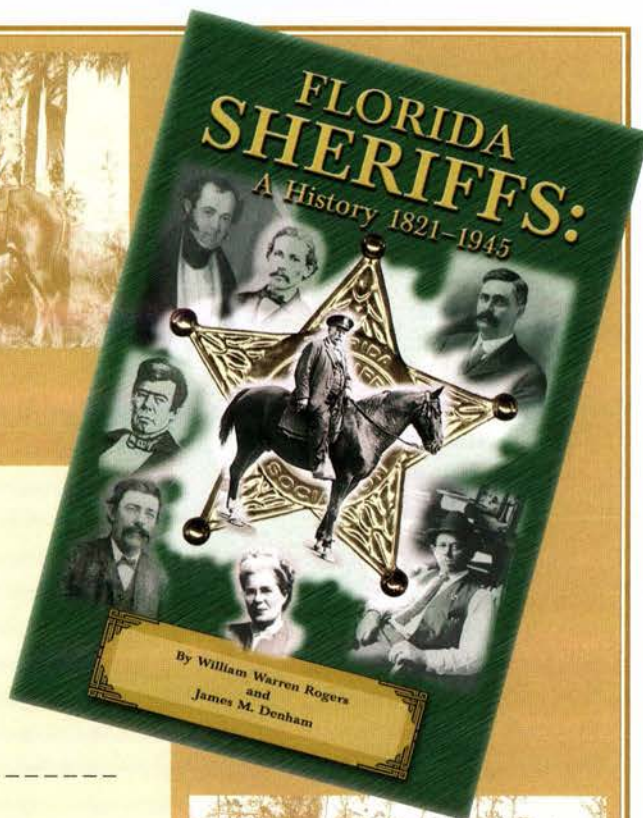
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FLORIDA SHERIFFS: A History 1821-1945

The long-awaited collection of historical facts of the earliest Florida Sheriffs is finally here!

Historically, the Sheriffs have been important as enforcers of the law and protectors of the public safety. And yet, never before has the history of the office of Sheriff been documented and published.

"Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945" covers the earliest years Sheriffs served the citizens of this great state. You'll find intriguing stories, historical facts and a listing of all the known Sheriffs who have served, up to the present day. As a loyal supporter of law enforcement, you don't want to miss this important publication. This edition will also make a great gift, so be sure to order multiple copies!



**Order your books now at the
Pre-Publication Price* and save \$4.50/each!**

The Florida Sheriffs Association is taking advance orders of "Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945." For a limited time, we're able to offer the books at the publisher's "Pre-Publication" price of \$25/each (a savings \$4.50).

*Offer good for orders postmarked no later than September 28, 2001

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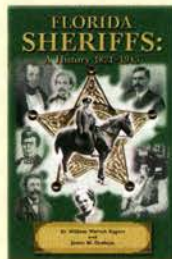
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About the authors

Co-authors William Warren Rogers and James M. Denham have earned enviable reputations nationally for their ability to dig out little known historical facts and publish them in book form for others to enjoy. Both are professors of history, but more important - they are talented storytellers. Their latest project, the history of the Florida Sheriffs, is the result of years of research. Don't miss this printed documentary of the chief law enforcers in our state.



Co-author William Warren Rogers, Emeritus Professor of History, Florida State University



Co-author James M. "Mike" Denham, Professor of history, Florida Southern College



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with his political enemy Fleming Bowden. In the elections, the "Antis" won, but were denounced by a flood of local and statewide protests against their tactics. The Jacksonville *Florida Times-Union* and many voters stuck by Broward making him a political martyr. His reputation enhanced, Broward emerged as the enemy of corruption, dishonesty, and fraud. His faction nominated him for Sheriff again in 1896. Broward's vindication was his narrow victory over Bowden. Talk soon followed that the Sheriff should occupy the governor's chair, and in the election of 1904 he ran and won. Broward became a progressive reform governor who established a board of control for higher education and led the campaign to drain the Everglades. He lost a race for the U. S. Senate in 1908 but won the nomination two years later. The former lawman died in 1910 before assuming office. His important career as a political leader in Florida began with his years as Sheriff, an office that brought him to the public's attention.

Wet or dry? Counties decide

As the nineteenth century closed, the temperance campaign went well for Florida's prohibitionists or "drys," automatically creating a huge work load for the state's Sheriffs and their deputies. A law in 1883 that was upheld by the courts required any person or firm wishing to sell spiritous beverages in a county to apply to the county board of commissioners for permission. The request had to be accompanied by a petition and meet other conditions. Then in 1885, Section XIX of the new Florida constitution made legal liquor sales a matter of local option. If one-fourth of the registered voters in a county wished to vote a dry county wet, or a wet county dry, they could petition for a popular referendum. A majority vote decided the question. The petition could not occur more than once every two years. Backing up the constitution, a law in 1887 made the sale of intoxicating beverages in a dry county a misdemeanor. Persons found guilty of breaking the law were subject to six months in jail, or a \$500 fine, or both. All bars and saloons had to close at 6 p.m. on the day before an



Lewis Washington Fennell served as Alachua County sheriff, 1890-1893 and 1897-1909. (Courtesy of the Florida State Archives).

election and were to remain closed until 6 in the evening on election day. Local option, if passed, operated as a prohibition rather than as a mere restriction and removed from the county commissioners exclusive liquor licensing power. Between 1901 and 1907 the Florida legislature passed several laws complementing local option ordinances. In cases coming before the state Supreme Court, the principle of local option prevailed.

The modern national prohibition movement began in 1907 when Georgia adopted statewide prohibition and

was followed by South Carolina and Alabama. Florida failed to get statewide prohibition enacted in 1907, but by 1908, 34 of the state's 47 counties

were dry by local option. Florida's opponents of liquor were relentless. The Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League joined forces and together with other drys forced the passage of several laws aimed at drinking. Although failing to get a statewide prohibition amendment before the voters, the opponents of intoxicating beverages obtained a law in 1913 forbidding open saloons and permitting social drinking only in private clubs that were taxed. The measure was upheld by the state Supreme Court. Liquor dealers fought back. They claimed the liquor laws violated the state Constitution's Article XIX (local option) as well as the document's Declaration of Rights by violating property rights. Their efforts failed, and in November 1918, the Florida Senate, by joint resolution, amended Article XIX by doing away with local option and making the sale of intoxicating beverages "forever prohibited in the State of Florida." Governor Sidney J. Catts, who had been elected in 1919 as the candidate of the Prohibition Party, signed an emergency law that made the state dry for the rest of the year. When the amendment was submitted to the people, every county returned a majority vote favoring statewide prohibition.

Meanwhile, on December 18, 1917, Congress adopted and submitted to the states the Eighteenth Amendment that established nationwide prohibition. It was declared ratified on January 19, 1919, and went into operation on January 16, 1920. The National

Prohibition Enforcement Act, better known as the Volstead Act, passed in October 1919, and was the amendment's enabling act. For 13 years Florida and the country would experience the "noble experiment." Professor John J. Guthrie, Jr., the authority on prohibition in Florida, has written that "national prohibition enforcement fell disproportionately upon persons who ranked near the bottom of Florida society." Enforcement grew increasingly difficult and the mood of the country changed. In April 1933, Congress revised the Volstead Act and "near beer" became legal under federal law. That May, chief executive David Sholtz signed laws legalizing near beer and light wine in Florida. Nationally, the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed in December 1933. Nevertheless, Florida's constitutional ban, its "bone dry," amendment against the sale of intoxicating beverages remained in effect until November 6, 1934. On that date, the state's voters decided by a 2 to 1 majority to repeal it. Even then, some counties remained dry. The state had gone full cycle—from local option in 1885 back again to local option in 1935.

Along the way, Florida's Sheriffs had been hard pressed. In both urban and rural areas the enforcement of local, state, and national liquor laws, as well as state and national constitutional amendments prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages, had continuously engaged Florida's Sheriffs. After 1935, the lawmen's responsibilities for violations of various liquor laws were less demanding, but they were still there. Not until the advent of illegal drugs as a national criminal, social, and health problem, would Sheriffs face a more challenging adversary.

Bay County Boot Camp Gets High Marks from Former Offender

By: Jennifer Collins

With the number of original boot camp programs in Florida growing smaller, there are questions about the effectiveness of a paramilitary-style environment on juvenile offenders. Is this

very rigid, structured concept still the best way to help reform youth and teach them teamwork, self-respect and the importance of education and physical fitness?

At least one such facility is a shining example of the value of law enforcement boot camps in instilling these values in teenage offenders. In fact, one former resident of the program attributes his current success to the experience.

Josh Squires readily acknowledges that he made some bad choices when he was a teenager. He was constantly in trouble, both in school and out. Multiple battery arrests, involvement with drugs and hanging out with friends who were headed down the same path soon got Josh expelled from school. In 1995, when he was 17 years old, Josh was sentenced to a term at the Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp. He counts this as a turning point in his young life and an experience on which he has been building ever since.

"When I first got to the Boot camp, I was definitely headed down the wrong road," Squires said. "I didn't like to listen; I wanted to do my own thing. But I learned quickly the way things work in there, and that I couldn't do my own thing and succeed. It was an eye opener for me."

The Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp facility houses two platoons, with up to 15 offenders to a platoon. A typical day begins at 5:00 a.m. with physical training led by a drill instructor. Offenders attend fully equipped classrooms for five hours a day, eat three well-balanced meals, attend voluntary church services, learn drill and ceremony skills and may visit the on-site nurse in case of illness. There are up to seven drill instructors on staff who re-teach the offenders manners, respect and discipline – building blocks for a future in a new direction.

The Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp has a 65 percent success rate—one of the highest for a program of this type in the state of Florida. Sheriff Guy Tunnell is very proud of the program and its reputation across the state. "The Boot camp is consistently



See book order form on page 7

continued on page 23

With the stroke of a pen... Governor Bush erases an injustice

By Tom Berlinger
Director of Operational Services

Talk to any insurance professional who knows about the life expectancy of Americans, and they will probably tell you that certain "pressure-cooker" jobs (i.e. law enforcement and firefighting) will shave a decade or more off your life.

That's the reason why, years ago, the Florida Legislature made a conscious decision to beef up the retirement benefit for law-enforcement officers, correctional officers and firefighters who were members of the Florida Retirement System (FRS).

The Legislature created an "FRS Special Risk Class," which said in essence: Statistically, these individuals will not live as long as the rest of the general population, so we need to give them a better annual accrual rate for retirement calculation, and we need to let them retire after 25 continuous years of service if they want to, regardless of their age.

FRS Special Risk retirement benefit is calculated by:

- Determining the average of a person's highest five years of wages under FRS.
- Giving a 3-percent credit for each full year of service, and multiplying that by the number of years that person worked.

Under this scenario, if a person's highest five years averaged \$45,000 a



"This year's bill reinstated the lost 3% accrual benefits to those law enforcement officers, firefighters and correctional officers who worked between 1978 and 1993, but who had already retired and were left out of the 2000 legislation for reinstating benefits."

year, and they worked 25 years within Special Risk Class, their annual benefit would be calculated as follows: 25 years X 3% = 75%, and 75% X \$45,000 = \$33,750 a year as a retirement benefit. A pretty simple plan.

But, in 1978, everything fell apart for the Special Risk members because the state retirement system was going broke.

To make matters worse, the teachers in all 67 counties were added into the FRS system at around the same time, causing an additional temporary shortfall.

In looking for a place to balance the FRS budget, panicky legislators narrowly

focused their budget ax on Special Risk Class. They decided to lower the accrual rate for Special Risk Class from 3 percent back to 2 percent, which doesn't sound like much until you figure that it's a one-third reduction in benefit. That's a 33% cut in retirement pay.

With this cut, the same person used in the previous example would now be retiring on just \$22,500 a year – a loss of just under \$1,000 a month in retirement benefits.

As the FRS became more solvent in later years, the legislature reinstated the full 3 percent accrual rate beginning in 1993.



A legislative powerhouse: From left, Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, state Senator Locke Burt, Governor Jeb Bush, Orange County Chief of Staff Joe Saviak, and Brevard County Sheriff Phil Williams. Photos by: David S. Wainwright, Orange County Sheriff's Office.

By the time calendar year 2000 rolled around, though, the FRS pension fund enjoyed a surplus of more than \$20 billion over anticipated expenditures.

It was at that time that Gov. Jeb Bush and the Legislature decided to "right the wrong" that was dealt to Special Risk Class members over two decades before.

Last year, Governor Bush signed a bill that gave back the 3 percent accrual rate for the lost years (1978-93) to members of Special Risk Class that had not yet retired.

And, on June 20 of this year, through the efforts of Governor Bush, Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan, Sen. Locke Burt (the

Senate sponsor) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (the House sponsor), Senate Bill 2 was signed by Governor Bush.

This year's bill reinstated the lost 3 percent accrual benefits to those law-enforcement officers, firefighters and correctional officers who worked between 1978 and 1993, but had already retired and were left out of last year's bill.

"If we all stood and applauded for the next month without stopping, it would not adequately express the gratitude and thanks that we feel in our hearts," noted Sheriff Don Eslinger, president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

"With the stroke of a pen, the Governor and the Legislature erased an

injustice that was inflicted on thousands of individuals and spread over two decades," said Eslinger.

"And the best part is, correcting this injustice didn't cost the taxpayers of Florida one single penny, because it was funded through wise investment of the FRS pension fund in the last few years." Grinning, he added, "It doesn't get any better than this."

On a closing note, we would be remiss if we failed to thank the representatives of the Florida PBA, the Miami-Dade PBA, the Florida FOP, and the Florida Fighters, all of whom worked with and beside us in the attempt to make this bill a reality.

By Building Computers, Lee County Sheriff's Duo are Making a Difference

Lisa J. Goehle, executive director of the L.A. Social Service Center, Inc., in Lehigh Acres wrote FSA to commend the work of two men with the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

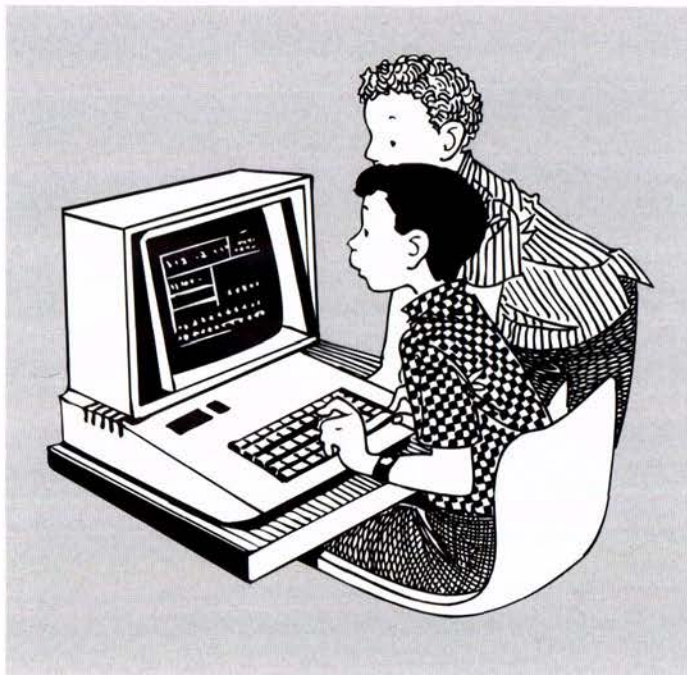
Goehle passed along an article that ran in the Fort Myers News-Press. It was about two officers who are piecing together computers to give to children with cancer.

According to the article, by News-Press writer Jeff Cull, Cpl. Mark Bess of the Lee County Sheriff's Office had been searching for a way to do something for kids as a summer project. He had volunteered for the Candlelighters of Southwest Florida, an organization that helps families with children who have cancer or blood diseases.

Cpl. Bess met with Lisa J. Goehl, executive director of the L.A. Social Service Center, Inc., in Lehigh Acres, and Klair Snellbaker from Candlelighters in Fort Myers and the three came up with a plan: They would refurbish old computers and give them as gifts to kids suffering from cancer.

Since many of the children were hospitalized or homebound, they decided that these computers could help bring the world to them.

L.A. Social Services started collecting old Commodore and Tandy computers and Bess re-worked them. Fortunately, Sgt. Kelly Morris, who had more advanced technical knowledge, joined in the effort. They found it could take five or more computers just to make one that worked. Still, by Christmas last year, they had eight near-new computers.



For people facing thousands of dollars in medical bills, a new computer is an impossibility, Bess told the News-Press. Their program was about the only way many children would ever be able to stay connected with friends and family through the Internet.

Goehle said she was overwhelmed with the cooperation and enthusiasm of Bess and Morris. "This is one program where everyone is a winner," she says, "from the person who donates the computer to the child who is the recipient of the computer." She suggested other Sheriffs' offices in the state adopt a similar project.

If you would like to donate a computer, or get more information about how the program works, contact Lisa J. Goehle: L.A. Social Services Center, Inc., P.O. Box 1301, Lehigh Acres, FL 33970 or phone: 941-369-6739.

"Deputy Golfer" nabs fast drivers

Like most law-enforcement offices, the Seminole County Sheriff's office regularly employs "undercover" cops for investigations. However, their undercover operations took a new twist recently when running radar along a well-traveled road.

Deputy David Lohr, dressed in typical golf garb, leaned casually against a golf cart – only instead of studying the green to line up his next shot, he was pointing a radar gun at speeding motorists.

Drivers barely noticed him as he blended in with the surroundings. Since his target was a popular cut-through between two state roads, the deputy's score wasn't bad. In all, 27 speeding tickets were issued. He and his fellow deputies also issued three citations for other moving violations. One unlucky speeder was also arrested when they discovered he had an active warrant.

The goal of the deputy-as-golfer operation, of course, was to get drivers to take notice and drive safely. The special assignment was so successful (not to mention creative) that Seminole County Sheriff's deputies have said they may attempt similar speed operations in the future.



Seminole County Sheriff's Office Deputy David Lohr gets a different kind of "driver" – speeding motorists.

Pennies to Protect Police Dogs update

Ten-year-old Stacey Hillman, president of Pennies to Protect Police Dogs, received Gov. Jeb Bush's Point of Light Award. She will be attending a reception at the Governor's mansion in October to accept the honor.

The Sheriff's Star published an article about Stacey in the September/October 2000 issue titled, "Her pennies (and nickels and dimes and quarters) are protecting our four-legged friends in law enforcement." Home-schooled, Stacey adopted police dogs as a personal project and started raising money to purchase bullet-proof vests for the K-9s. She decorated milk bottles and convinced local businesses to display them

prominently in their stores and offices to collect donations for the effort. She now has corporate sponsors for her non-profit



Stacey Hillman with Brevard County K-9 officer Bence.

organization that help purchase the pricey vests (about \$700 each).

Referring to the latest award, Stacey's aunt, Jackie Moore, says, "Who knew that a good deed and \$80,000 worth of pennies would go this far?" At last count, Stacey had purchased 108 bulletproof vests for police dogs from Miami to Pensacola.

For more updates check out Stacey's website: www.pennie.stopprotectpolicedogs.org.

Mail checks to: 508 Zinnia Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707, or call: 321-228-1300.

More progress on protecting children from "child lures"

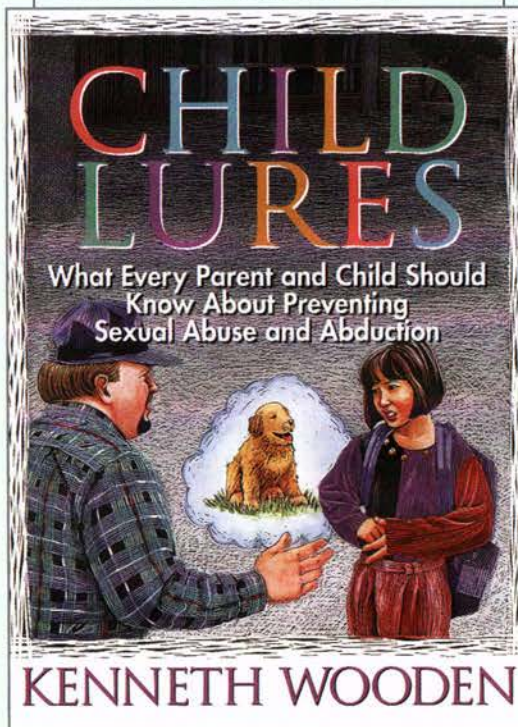
In the November/December 2000 issue of *The Sheriff's Star*, we reported about a new program that was slowly catching on in Florida schools. It's called "Child Lures."

Kenneth Wooden, author of the book, "Child Lures: What every parent and child should now about preventing sexual abuse and abduction," has designed a program that fits into school curriculum. He made a presentation to the Florida Sheriffs at their summer 2000 conference. Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells was one of the first to bring the program to his county, which turned out to be an overwhelming success.

Sheriff Wells said he hosted three two-hour sessions on child lures prevention. The first was held in conjunction with the Junior League of Manatee County. The second was a morning session geared to professionals, including

teachers, daycare employees and law-enforcement personnel. The third, held in the evening, was offered to the general public. Many parents brought their young children to the program.

Though Sheriff Wells' staff reserved a hall big enough to hold 400 people, when the program started it was standing room only. The follow-up was also very



positive. Sheriff Wells said there has been an overwhelming public request for more on child lures prevention. He said the county is implementing the training for all students, grades K-12, in partnership with the school board, using school resource officers as instructors. "We are happy we took the initiative to provide this service for the citizens of Manatee County," Sheriff Wells said.

Television helping spread the word

Expect to be hearing more about Wooden's "Child Lures Prevention" program in the future. At the beginning of the summer, he wrapped filming for the Court TV documentary titled,

"Safety Challenge 2001." Wooden says, "To the disbelief of their collaborating parents, I was able to lure child after unwitting child out of Carl Shurtz Park in Manhattan."

The mother of a young girl who participated wrote to Wooden to

"You know the syndrome, 'Yeah, yeah, I know mom - I won't talk to strangers, I won't walk off with someone I don't know blah, blah, blah,' and the next thing you know, you are watching an experiment and your daughter is doing exactly what you think she understands not to do."
- Parent of a child who was "lured" by Wooden

express her daughter shock after witnessing her fall for his "lure." She wrote: "I watched (my daughter) fall for the lures which got her to help you look for the 'lost puppies.' It was very alarming to know she could be easily seduced to help a stranger..."

"I hope you will pursue focusing on the schools to initiate your program because I feel sometimes I'm tuned out as a parent. You know the syndrome, 'Yeah, yeah, I know mom - I won't talk to strangers, I won't walk off with someone I don't know blah, blah, blah,' and the next thing you know you are watching an experiment and your daughter is doing exactly what you think she understands not to do."

"Thank you for the wake up call. I look forward to future programs and information."

For more details, visit the Child Lures web site: www.childlures.org, or phone: 802-985-8458, or write to: Child Lures Prevention, 5166 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, VA 05482



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FSA Recognizes the Contributors Who Made New Law Enforcement Memorial A Reality

As promised, we are recognizing those members of the Florida Sheriffs Association who answered our special appeal and sent donations for our Law Enforcement Memorial, which is being constructed behind the FSA headquarters.

On behalf of the men and women who died while serving the Office of Sheriff, and their families who survived them, we say "Thank you." We hope that you will be able to visit the memorial, upon its completion this fall.

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HONOR ROLL



SUMTER COUNTY – 30 year certificate presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer (left) to Carl Vause.



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. Many progressive business leaders are supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities by enrolling as Business Members of the Association and becoming "partners against crime." The Florida Sheriffs recognizes those businesses that are making a difference in their communities. Gold members commit \$500 annually, Silver members \$250 and Bronze members \$50 annually.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Gerald Jensen.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Cribb.



Robert Collins

ST. JOHNS COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry to Robert Collins, Lt. Col. Frank Panzarino, James P. Tanner, James Vanairsdale, Leroy Wall Jr.



Lt. Col. Frank Panzarino



James P. Tanner



James Vanairsdale



Leroy Wall Jr.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (left) to Arnold Bosshard.

Are FSA decals illegal?

The Florida Sheriffs Association retains a law firm, mostly for rulings on incidents involving Sheriffs' offices. But, occasionally we need to call on them to clarify an issue on behalf of a member.

Recently, we felt compelled to get such a legal opinion – primarily because the effects were far reaching. It had to do with the display of FSA insignias and license tags.

A member from Palm Beach County wrote to tell us that he was stopped while traveling through Georgia. He was extremely shocked when the Georgia Highway Patrol officer told him that it was illegal in Georgia for a citizen to display the type of tags and decals he had on his vehicle. They were all official Florida Sheriffs Association member items.

The state trooper even made the gentleman remove the decals before continuing his trip. Upon his return to Florida, the member questioned several Sheriffs' deputies and state troopers about the laws in our state. They told him it was illegal for any citizen to carry or display any form of law-enforcement insignia on their person or vehicle.



The member's letter asked, pointedly, "Why would the FSA issue decals and tags if they're illegal?"

The answer is – of course – we wouldn't. But to get the official ruling, we asked the attorneys at Powers, Quaschnick, Tischler, Evans & Dietzen to clarify. Here's what they said, in

summary form:

REGARDING THE FRONT LICENSE PLATE:

"Decals should not be placed on an official license plate... There is no statute forbidding the display of a front ornamental plate on a vehicle that is not required by law to display two official license plates" (such as Virginia). Translation: Using an FSA license plate on the front of your vehicle is "OK." Sticking FSA or other decals on your official Florida tag is not.

REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF DECALS ON

WINDSHIELDS: "In general, no 'sign, poster, or other nontransparent material' may be placed upon the windshield or any window of a vehicle if it materially obstructs or impairs the driver's view." On front windshields, specifically, "There can be no sign, product or covering attached to or located upon the windshield except in prescribed circumstances." (It was allowed, for example,

continued on page 22

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



ST. LUCIE COUNTY – Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara (left) to Steve Patterson.



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*. Those whose gifts total over \$5,000 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

Auburndale Veterinary Clinic
Mrs. Eloise B. Bauer
Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Beckman
Mr. and Mrs. Archie B. Blackwell
Mr. Norman E. Brady
Mr. Roger H. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Burke
Dan Callaahan Enterprises, Inc.
Mr. Jerome B. Casey
Bradley & Carol Collins Fund of Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties
Mr. James Coulon
Ms. Mary Danko
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Mr. and Mrs. Emory Edmunds
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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Mrs. Emilie L. Gadiant
Mr. Kent Geartz
Mr. Mike Guenther
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USA Steel Fence Company
Volusia Sheriff's Youth Foundation
Mr. David G. Walters
Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Wenzel
Mrs. Jean Whitehurst
Mr. and Mrs. David Wiley
Mr. Ron Worley



Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. McDonald
TAYLOR COUNTY – Presented by Taylor County Sheriff Bummy Williams (left) and Youth Ranches Development Officer Linda Crews (right) to Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. McDonald and Mr. & Mrs. Manning Parsons.



SUMTER COUNTY – Presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer (left) to Raleigh and Barbara Cooper.



SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff William Balkwill (left) and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Development Officer David Ulrich (right) to Richard F. Cumbo.



SUWANNEE COUNTY – Presented by Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams to Dr. & Mrs. Harold E. Preston, Jr.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Royce Branch.



HILLSBOROUGH – Presented by Youth Ranches president, Roger Bouchard, to Matt Gill, vice president of U.S. Sales & Marketing for Viewsonic.



OKALOOSA – Presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to James White.



By Lt. Paul Phillips
*Past District 2 Director
Florida Crime Prevention
Association*

About this time each year, crime prevention practitioners encourage parents to spend a little time discussing school safety issues with their children. Each family should establish their own custom-made rules – based on individual ages, comfort levels and abilities. To help get you started, here are a few general school-safety topics you can discuss with the kids.

Getting to and from school

Walk safely

If your child walks to school, or a short distance to the bus stop, plan a safe route to follow. Choose the quickest way – one with the fewest street crossings – or select intersections with school crossing guards. Avoid routes through parks, vacant lots or other places that may present distractions or expose children to danger.

Can your child walk to school along with other children? It may be helpful to walk most of the way with your child each morning and then meet them along the route as they walk home each afternoon.

When the route has been

Start Back to School Safely This Year



selected, walk or ride it with the child. Whether your child must walk alone or with a group, make sure they know areas to avoid, where to go in case of trouble, or where to find safe shelter in a thunderstorm.

Discuss the issue of meeting a stranger along the way. Let your child know what they should do if anyone tries to lure them away from the area, or offers to give them a ride home. Tell children if they see anyone doing something that makes them uneasy or something they think isn't right, to tell a trusted adult, such as another parent, a crossing guard or teacher, right away.

To help avoid child abduction, some parents devise a secret word or phrase with their child. Then, for example, if a molester tells the child that Mommy is in the hospi-

tal and asked him or her to bring the child to them, the child knows not to go with the person unless they give the secret word. Parents should tell the child it is unlikely that something like this will ever happen. But, if it does, and the stranger doesn't say the secret word, they are to run away as fast as they can to tell another trusted adult.

Discuss safety issues with children in such a way as to build confidence and not alarm them. Only *you* know your comfort level and that of your children.

Ride safely

If the child will be riding the route on wheels, make sure they wear proper safety equipment. Purchase a good lock to secure their bicycle while parked at school. Teach children to obey all

traffic signals, signs or safety patrols and know the "rules of the road" before heading out. Remind children to be extra careful in bad weather, during darkness or in foggy conditions when it is harder for motorists to see them. Reinforce these initial lessons throughout the school year so they don't let their guard down when it becomes routine.

Let children know how important it is for them to stand well off the street at the school bus stop. Children who engage in "horse play" often, and unknowingly, dart out into traffic. Warn them about the dangers of playing carelessly while waiting for the bus. Make sure they know it is very important to obey the school bus driver and to obey all school bus safety rules. While you're at it, tell them what you expect them to do if they miss the bus, or if the bus doesn't arrive at all. Often, "bus stop parents" take turns waiting with the children for the bus. They agree to monitor behavior and have permission to take other children to school if the bus is late.

Unless you give permission to do otherwise, tell your child to come straight home from school. If they want to stay after school or go play with a friend after school, they should ask *you* first.

School Safety Issues for Parents

As a parent, make sure your child knows some very basic personal information, such as their home address and telephone number. They should know how to reach you by phone or pager. Is there a trusted neighbor they can call or go to in the event of an emergency? Does your child know how (and when) to use 9-1-1?

When car pooling, deliver and pick up children as close to school as possible, or utilize designated school drop-off and pick-up areas. Don't leave until they are safely in the schoolyard or in the building. Remember to buckle up for safety and drive cautiously in and around school zones and bus stops.

If your child is home alone after school, establishing and enforcing ground rules becomes even more important. Parents should be the final judges of whether or not a child is to be left home alone. If you are uncertain about leaving a child alone, talk to school counselors, school resource officers or other parents before making your final decision. If you decide it's OK for them to be home alone, you may want to consider the following guidelines:

Set up rules for locking doors and windows and for answering the door and telephone while they are alone. Decide what activities are allowed and if friends are allowed to play unsupervised. Can your child have an after-school snack, go outside to play or go to a friend's house? Should they check in with you when they get home from school? Does your child know what to do if a fire breaks out, or they arrive home from school and find the front door open or broken windows? These are but a few safety issues you should deal with after deciding to leave a child at home alone.

Talk and listen, listen and talk

Finally, it is critical for parents to listen carefully to a child's fears and feelings about people or places that make them feel uneasy. Take their complaints about bullies or scary events that

have happened to them seriously. If you don't take the time to pay attention to your child's behavior – by listening to them and talking to them – they may find someone else who will.

So, sometime between buying back-to-school clothes and the first day of class, take time to discuss safety issues with your child. Role play "what if" scenarios with them and help them devise a solid school safety plan of action. Try to keep the safety plan simple. Periodically during the school year, or after holidays, reinforce or revise the plan if necessary. Children should be aware of potential dangers and possess the kind of knowledge that gives them the self-confidence of knowing how to deal with potential problems.

For more information on safety tips, go to these web sites:

The Florida Attorney General's Citizen Safety Center has a page "Just for Kids,"
http://legal.firn.edu/safe_cen.html

The Child Lures page has good safety tip for kids and parents:
<http://www.childlures.org/>

The McGruff page is wonderful for kids: <http://www.mcgruff.org/>

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's web site also contains important back-to-school safety tips, and downloadable brochures. Find them at: www.missingkids.com.

Lt. Paul Phillips is a Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner with the Leon County Sheriff's Office in Tallahassee. Visit the LCSO web site at: <http://lcs.leonfl.org> and the Florida Crime Prevention Association site at: <http://www.floridacrimeprevention.org>



Dr. Ken Grover

ORANGE COUNTY – Presented by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (right) and Seminole County Director Bill Kennedy to Dr. Ken Grover, director of security for Darden Restaurants, Orlando; and to Charles Dean, Sr., former Sheriff of Citrus County, on behalf of Trinity Services Group.



Charles Dean, Sr.



Dr. James O. Fergeson

SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff William Balkwill (left) and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Development Officer Bill Brown (right) to Dr. James O. Fergeson and Ken Alexander.



Ken Alexander



Mr. & Mrs. Harold Frazier



Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Trout



Frank Caprio



Mr. & Mrs. Russ Christner

ORANGE COUNTY – Presented by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary and Youth Ranches Development Officer Sandy Phillips to Frank Caprio; Mr. & Mrs. Russ Christner, Del Frisco's Steak House; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Frazier; Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Trout



LaBron R. Chance



Bruce Jacobsen

ORANGE COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches Staff to LaBron R. Chance, Harcourt School Publishers; Bruce Jacobsen, Jacobson's Plants, Inc.; and Robert J. Gronek, Gronek & Latham, LLP.



Robert J. Gronek



BAY COUNTY – Presented by Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell (right) to Gerald Stanford, Stanford Insurance Agency.

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when vehicle inspection stickers were once required by law to appear in the bottom left corner of the windshield). "It is, therefore, technically a violation of law to place any decals on the windshield. They may be placed on other windows provided they do not obstruct the view." Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Major Ken Howes confirmed this statement. Translation: Displaying FSA decals is "OK," in places such as the bottom corner of your back windshield, where it will not obstruct your view while driving. Lawfully, though, you should not attach the decals anywhere on the front windshield.

ABOUT DISPLAYING A SHERIFF'S STAR ON A NON LAW-ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE:

Officially, "It shall be unlawful for any person other than sheriffs and deputy sheriffs to wear an official sheriff's badge as prescribed herein, or to wear a badge or insignia of such similarity to the official sheriff's badge as to be indistinguishable therefrom at a distance of 20 feet." Translation: It's OK to display official FSA tags and decals on a vehicle, since these were carefully designed so as not to be con-

fused with a Sheriff's badge or other commonly used law-enforcement insignia. Georgia's laws are similar, so we would hope they treated the circumstances the same.

WARNING: As the member from Palm Beach discovered, there is a lot of confusion about this law. But should you run into any problems with this in the future, please contact the Florida Sheriffs Association at 1-800-877-2168.

The Florida Sheriffs Association appreciates hearing from its members, especially when it offers us an opportunity to clear up confusion for our membership and among law-enforcement officers within our state. As a result of the letter and our follow-up correspondence with the attorneys, we have distributed this legal opinion to every Sheriff's office in Florida as well as the Florida Highway Patrol.

To the gentleman in Palm Beach and other alert members: Thank you for keeping us on our toes.

Attention Members:

Are you moving north for the summer? Please send us . . .

. . . your new address so that you'll continued to receive *The Sheriff's Star*. And please remember to let us know again when moving back to Florida.

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: (850) 878-8665

Or call us at (800) 877-2168

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

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Bay County Boot Camp Gets High Marks from Former Offender

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successful in rehabilitating youthful offenders who haven't had the guidance or motivation to make good choices in the past," he said. "There is a definite profile which does well in this type of program, and we make every effort to reach each youth that we serve."

After completing his term at the boot camp, Josh Squires fell into the same group of friends who led him astray before. He credits his stay at the boot camp for giving him the courage to move out of that situation. "The drill instructors gave me an example to follow, instead of trying to be like my friends," he said. "They helped me build my self-esteem and motivated me to believe I could be successful like they were. The boot camp gave me the foundation to make the changes I needed to turn my life around."

Josh soon decided to move to Clearwater with his mother, and he began working in a restaurant. He liked the business so much that he enrolled in the Florida Culinary Institute in West Palm Beach. Upon graduation in March, Josh was hired as executive chef of the Island Way Grill in Clearwater, an accomplishment that surprises even him.

"Not many people my age get an opportunity like

this," he said. "I have been able to get my GED, complete the culinary program and become a successful chef at age 22. Without the examples I had to follow at the boot camp, I probably wouldn't be here. I got my priorities straight and started thinking about the future instead of today. That program has changed my perspective, and I think every teenager should experience it. It definitely gave me a different outlook on life, and I encourage parents to be supportive of boot camps and not to look negatively at them. It may be the best thing to happen to their child."

The Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp, a level-6 security facility, accepts juveniles from Escambia to Taylor counties. Typically, each offender spends six months in the program, but they can be retained if further progress is needed. The boot camp is under contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide these services, and aftercare programs are also provided by DJJ for the offenders. Additional funding from the Bay County Commission is necessary to run the facility. In 2000, 53 juvenile offenders were assigned to the boot camp. Of these, only five were retained for a second term. This program remains one of the most successful in the state and is a valuable resource to Bay County and the state of Florida.



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WOMEN'S TWO-TONE BAND
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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 6-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.

MEMBERSHIP ITEMS ORDER FORM

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 logo, and made them available to the general public. These quality items make great gifts too. Just fill in the order form above and return it with your payment.

☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss

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back cover page with your order.

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