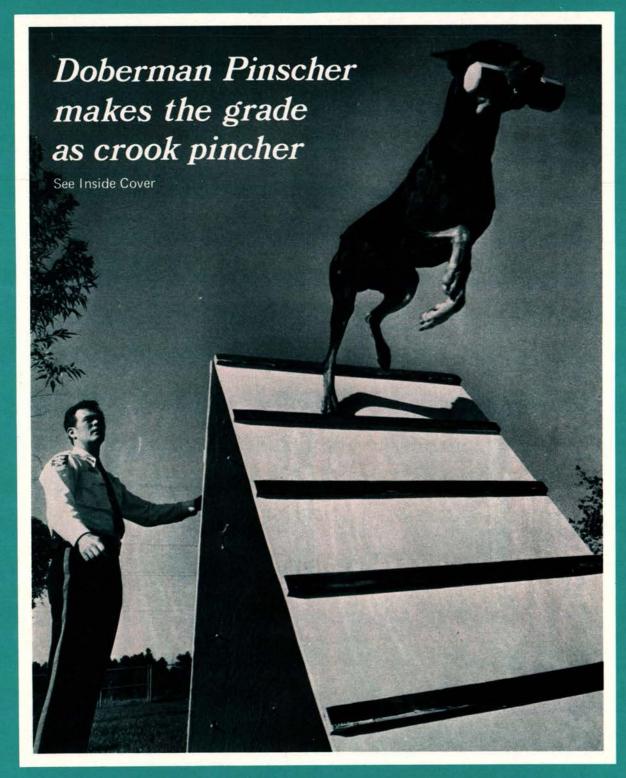


PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION - FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

**MAY 1976** 





Cover Story

(Cover photo is from The Tampa Times.)

## Doberman Pinscher makes the grade as crook pincher

Being black was no problem for "Cinder".

But being a Doberman Pinscher was — especially since no one around the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department had ever heard of a Doberman wearing a canine deputy's badge.

A look at the records of the U. S. Police Canine Association didn't help. In fact, this simply verified that German Shepherds had a monopoly on the police dog business, because, as one official explained, they have the proper traits such as good personality, good temperament and good nose for tracking.

Cinder's tail, what there was of it, drooped.

The seven German Shepherd deputies in Sheriff Malcolm Beard's canine corps took one look at this outcast, sniffed and trotted away.

Cinder's chances of joining the pack looked doggoned slim, but he had one thing going for him. He had an owner, Deputy Jim Russell, who wasn't easily discouraged. Jim was determined that Cinder was going to qualify as a canine deputy, and he drilled him constantly.

Finally, after a year and a half of training, Cinder got his badge and an opportunity to show what he could do. "We made an exception because of Jim Russell's expertise — because he did such a good job with his dog," said Sheriff Beard.

Apparently, this was a good decision. In just a few months Cinder had four felony arrests to his credit. During one of these, he trailed a grand larceny suspect a mile and a half through a wooded area and caught him. In another, he was credited with recovering four stolen stereos hidden in the woods.

"So far," said a Sheriff's Department official, "Cinder has worked out well — very well."



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Associate Editor, Al Hammock

Art Director, Frank Jones

Production Assistant, Louise Stauffer

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Application For Honorary Membership In The

#### Florida Sheriffs Association

A subscription to THE SHERIFF'S STAR is one of the benefits of Honorary Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association, but there are others. Each Honorary Member also receives a wallet identification card and membership emblem for his car. If you would like to become affiliated with Florida's oldest and most outstanding law enforcement organization, simply fill in this form and mail it to The Florida Sheriffs Association, P. O. Box 1487, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302 along with a check for \$10 to cover first year's dues.

Address	
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#### Hamming It Up For Charity

ARCADIA — DeSoto County Sheriff Frank Cline and his wife, Donna Jo, will do almost anything for a good cause — and that includes portraying Al Capone and torch singer Helen Morgan in a Red Cross benefit talent show. Later with leading lady Donna Sue Anderson and his wife, Donna Jo, the Sheriff took several curtain calls. (Photos by Joseph Baker Picture Service)

#### Sheriff's Team Challenges Policemen

SEBRING — Highlands County Sheriff O. L. Raulerson (right) gives final instructions to Deputy Sheriffs Clark Jackson and Keith Albritton, before challenging the Sebring Police Department in a bicycle endurance race to raise funds for Retarded Citizens. Joe Stephenson (left), Ridge Area Director, listens in to make sure the Sheriff's coaching is kosher. (Sebring News photo)



Friendly Reception For Air Force Secretary

PANAMA CITY — When Secretary of the Air Force, Thomas C. Reed (left), visited nearby Tyndall Air Force Base, greeters who welcomed him included State Senate President Dempsey Barron (center) and Bay County Sheriff Tullis Easterling.

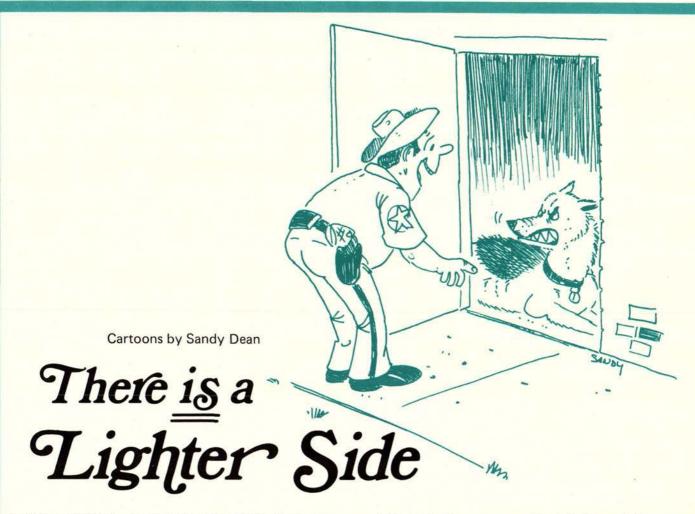






**Awards For Rescuers** 

PORT ST. JOE — Carl Raffield (left) and Bobby Raffield (right) both risked their lives when they took their boat, "Cap'n Bob", out into stormy St. Joseph's Bay to rescue four men whose boat had capsized. Gulf County Sheriff Raymond Lawrence presented both men with Florida Sheriffs Association Distinguished Service Awards. (Photo from The Star, Port St. Joe)



■ PUNTA GORDA — To prove there is a lighter side to law enforcement, Bill Nielsen, the Public Information Officer of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department, kept a three-month log of some of the most humorous or unusual complaints answered by deputies and investigators. Here are a few little gems from his collection:

"How do you get a snarling German Shepherd out of the ladies' restroom at Port Charlotte Beach?" "Very carefully!" according to Sgt. Paul Farley and Deputy Gary Zullo.

"Where does a German Shepherd go to the bathroom?"
"Anywhere he pleases," they replied.

Members of the Flying Wheels Motorcycle Gang told investigating officers: "We will take care of this complaint if we find out who kicked over our cycles at a bar parking lot."

Sheriffs deputies never know what to expect. Sometimes they get complaints like these:

Wild ducks flew through a swimming pool screen enclosure. A restaurant employee got his hand caught in a mixer.

A restaurant employee got his hand caught in a mixer.

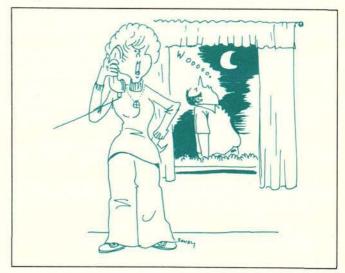
A kitchen fire started when a husband was frying bologna.

A merchant reported a small child was left in his store. The mother traveled five miles before realizing she had forgotten her offspring.

We've all heard the expression about being "hit by the proverbial Mack truck". Well, a cow briefly felt the same as it was hit broadside on U. S. 41. The cow died and \$200 damage was done to the Mack truck.

A reported house fire turned out to be an electric bug killer doing what comes naturally — killing bugs.

A Punta Gorda woman complained that her neighbor was harrassing her. She said the man comes outside, howls like a wolf, and calls her names.



To prove that thieves will take anything, an undetermined amount of soap powder was reported taken from an all-night laundromat.

Sometimes it's necessary to "milk" the complaint file persistently to find any humor — and all you come up with is someone throwing a cocoanut through a window.

A domestic quarrel flared up when the husband went to take a shower and found no soap in the bathroom.

The shooting of a pet goose led to a neighborhood fight.

An investigation of a prowler revealed that the so-called prowler was a family of raccoons out for a night of mischief.



Burglary of the Port Charlotte Post Office netted thieves 94 cents and an insured package. The package was addressed to the Sheriff's Public Information Officer. In the next day's broadcast he asked the thief to please let him know what was in the package "because curiosity is killing me."

A Port Charlotte woman reported wild ducks were eating up her bean patch.

A woman reported a bulldozer operating near her home in the wee hours. The bulldozer turned out to be an exceptionally noisy air conditioner in the neighborhood.

A pet mouse bit his mistress. The mouse died.

A Port Charlotte woman reported the theft of her false teeth. The upper plate was valued at \$350.



How about this one? A young boy called the department to complain that the babysitter was spanking his younger brother. A deputy persuaded them all to "be nice".

A husband who says his wife drives like a maniac, unhooked the battery cable so his wife couldn't use the car. She complained about being denied her driving privilege.

A Port Charlotte woman who had reported her purse stolen called the Sheriff's department to say she had found it exactly where she had hidden it.

An alert citizen reported two suspicious vehicles parked at the rear of a service station. A tag check showed that the vehicles belonged to two deputies doing some "undercover work".

You've heard of cat calls? Deputies get them frequently. Like the prowler that turned out to be a "cat on a hot tile roof"; or the distraught mistress who called deputies after her cat was treated by a veterinarian for "gunshot wounds in the rear"; or the husband who complained his wife wouldn't let him sleep—all the poor guy had done was wind the clock and put out the cat, then his wife started worrying about the durned cat!!



That's life for deputies in Charlotte County — and apparently things sometimes get just as slapstick in other areas of the state.

When the editor of THE STAR asked Pensacola cartoonist Sandy Dean to send him some sketches to go with the Charlotte County chuckles, she volunteered a few "off beat" items from Escambia County.

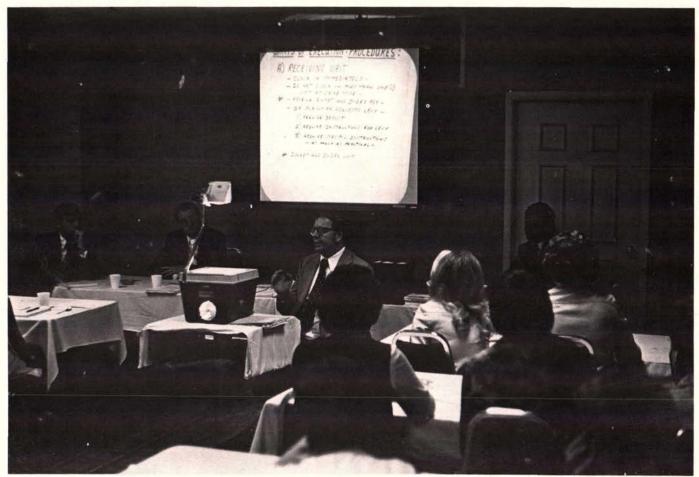
There was the lady, for instance, who called the Sheriff's Office because a lizard was in her bedroom. Later a deputy reported dryly: "Prowler too small for handcuffs. Detained him in a coffee cup."

Some husbands are real "cutters" — like the one who was driving his power mower while intoxicated. Resourceful deputy didn't take him to jail. Simply removed the starter coil from the power mower, patted the playful drunk on the head and advised him to stop being such a "cut-up".

And then there was the deputy who was sitting in his patrol car drinking a milkshake when the radio suddenly came alive with an emergency call. With one hand, the deputy shifted into gear; with the other, he threw the milkshake out the window — oops, the window was closed.

Sandy also monitors fire department calls, and she threw this one in gratis. A volunteer fire department got a call from a citizen who had seen a refrigerator on fire in a neighbor's carport.

The volunteers arrived in a cloud of dust, doused the fire, then caught hell from the homeowner because they had just ruined her mullet smoker!



Iven Lamb presides at one of six regional seminars he organized and supervised for the Sheriffs Association.

# From A (accounting methods) to Z (zapping sex offenders) That's Diversified Training

There is a modest little college of law enforcement knowledge that functions without a campus, a full-time faculty, a football team or academic frills.

It's as transient as a floating crap game, as practical as a policeman's riot baton, and as effective as a wide-open siren on a busy street.

We call it the Florida Sheriffs Association's Diversified Training Program, and we don't measure its success in terms of degrees, but in terms of the good results it produces in Sheriffs' Departments throughout Florida.

Its faculty members are experienced practitioners from various sectors of the criminal justice system, and its curriculum is designed to provide training that is not available elsewhere.

During the current fiscal year, the Diversified Training Program has offered instruction in the technical aspects of judicial process, in budget preparation and in the proper method of maintaining accounts and records.

These subjects were presented in a series of six regional seminars that covered every area of the state and involved hundreds of Sheriffs and deputies.

Iven Lamb, a Jacksonville attorney who is a well-qualified criminal justice instructor, organized and supervised the seminars as he has been doing for many years; and he was assisted by Berwin Williams, Director of Professional Services for the Sheriffs Association; staff members from the State Auditor General's Office and key personnel from various Sheriffs' Departments.

In February, the Diversified Training Program (DTP) sponsored a state-wide sex crimes seminar for Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, deputies and police officers which was organized in cooperation with Seminole Community College, Sanford, and featured nationally-famous Walter McLaughlin as the guest lecturer.

On March 18-19, the DTP focused attention on livestock theft prevention during a seminar jointly sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

Next December, in Tallahassee, the Sheriffs Association, through DTP, will hold a three-day orientation school for newlyelected Sheriffs.

During the 63rd Annual Conference of the Sheriffs Association, in St. Augustine, June 13-16, there will be a DTP symposium dealing with innovative programs that are effectively dealing with vandalism and other problems within the public school system.

The curriculum of DTP is flexible, the horizons are continuously shifting, but the primary goal remains constant — to give Sheriffs and deputies practical, professional training which will enable them to do a better and more effective job.



Leon County Sheriff Raymond Hamlin addresses livestock theft prevention seminar in Tallahassee, while Palm Beach County Deputy Sheriff Claude Tindall, State Attorney Robert Eagan and Commissioner of Agriculture Doyle Conner (from Left) await their turns at the podium.



Nationally-famous authority Walter McLaughlin, second from left, was the guest lecturer at a three-day sex crimes seminar. Pictured with him are (from left) Volusia County Sheriff Ed Duff; Jim Bradley, Palatka Police Department; and Detective Bernie Bishop, Hernando County Sheriff's Department. (Photo by Sgt. Beau Taylor, Seminole County Sheriff's Department)

#### County maps now ready

A specially prepared multi-colored publication containing the 67 county maps of the State of Florida is now available .... 154 pages, size 16" x 11".... minutely detailed fine line maps. The book of maps may be obtained for \$6 from Bureau of Maps, Mail Stop 5317, Tallahassee, Fla., 32301.



Officers who attend seminars sponsored by the Sheriffs Association's Diversified Training Program will receive certificates like this.

### Judges rule no penalty against witness who made an honest mistake

LAKELAND — Second District Court appeal judges ruled that a citizen who makes an honest, good faith mistake in identifying a criminal suspect should not have to pay a financial penalty for false imprisonment.

In doing so, the judges agreed with Florida Sheriffs Association attorneys John A. Madigan, Jr. and Jack Skelding who were permitted to file amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs.

Amicus curiae briefs were also filed by Florida's Attorney General, Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc., and the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Inc.

The appeal court's opinion reversed a \$3,586 judgment against Nora Manis, obtained in Polk County Circuit Court by Leamon Lee Miller, who charged he was falsely imprisoned after Mrs. Manis mistakenly identified him as the man who beat and robbed her and her son, Charles, of some \$2,600 in her home in February, 1974.

Appeals Judge Edward F. Boardman, in the appeals court opinion, termed the question one of "substantial public interest and great concern." He said, "prompt and effective law enforcement is directly dependent upon the willingness and cooperation of private persons to assist law enforcement officers in bringing those who violate our criminal laws to justice.

"Unfortunately, too often in the past, witnesses and victims of criminal offenses have failed to report crimes to the proper law enforcement agencies. Private citizens should be encouraged to become interested and involved in bringing the perpetrators of crime to justice and not discouraged under apprehension or fear of recrimination."

Chief Judge T. Frank Hobson, Jr. and Judge John M. Scheb concurred in the opinion.



Captain E. L. Robinson (right) receives congratulations from Sheriff W. A. Woodham.



Sheriff Mel Colman (left) accepts thanks from scouting officials Jack Martin, who is also chairman of the Orange County Commission; and Richard A. Buck, Jr., (right).

# LAURELS for



Sheriff E. Duff, "Man of the Year" (Deland Sun News photo)

On the pistol range, in classrooms, in bloody shootouts, in successful raids, in complex investigations, in youth work, in the sometimes grubby business of just plain keeping the peace, and in practically all facets of the law enforcement profession, Sheriffs and deputies have been receiving recognition for outstanding attainments.

The list is long and we don't pretend to have all of the names, but, at least, these are the ones we know about — our star-studded honor roll for the month of May, 1976.

CAPTAIN E. L. ROBINSON, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, was honored by the Quincy Exchange Club as the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" and was praised by his boss, Sheriff W. A. Woodham, as a proficient professional who has the ability to remain cool and make good decisions under stress.

VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF ED DUFF, Daytona Beach, added to his collection of trophies and plaques a coveted award from the Volusia-Flagler County Central Labor Union identifying him as the "Man of the Year". He's a graduate of the Columbus University Law School, a veteran of almost 30 years with the FBI and a candidate for reelection for his third four-year term as Sheriff.

"Lawman of the Year" Russell "Ric" Cassady (Fort Myers News-Press photo)





Deputy Sheriff Dan Bowen



Sheriff Jim Scott (left) accepts diploma from National Intelligence Academy Director Ron Stanley.

# LAWMEN

(continued on next page)

#### ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF MEL COLMAN, of Or-

lando, received a framed cover of Scouting magazine from area Boy Scout officials as a token of appreciation for the assistance he has given to scouting activities. Sheriff Colman's department was also cited by the editors of Official Detective Stories Magazine for skillful investigation of a rape case which was described as having been carried out "in the highest traditions of law enforcement."

#### DEPUTY SHERIFF RUSSELL "RIC" CASSADY,

from the Lee County Sheriff's Department, was selected from a field of 13 candidates by the FORT MYERS NEWS PRESS editorial board to receive the newspaper's "Southwest Florida Lawman of the Year" award, and was cited for his bravery in helping to thwart a bank robbery.

DEPUTY SHERIFF DAN BOWEN, from the Collier County Sheriff's Department, was the runner-up for the NEWS-PRESS award, and was cited for capturing an armed and dangerous bank robber.

# LEVY COUNTY SHERIFF PAT HARTLEY, of Bronson, was elected by his colleagues as Chairman of the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Board for Santa Fe Community College, a group of 21 law enforcement professionals representing various segments of the criminal justice system.

SHERIFF RAY WILSON, and the Okaloosa Sheriff's Department were cited by Official Detective Stories magazine for skillful detective work in the Lynn Conley murder case.

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF JIM SCOTT, of

Monticello, became the first Sheriff to graduate from the National Intelligence Academy, and was also elected spokesman for his graduating class. He urged his classmates to use their newly-acquired knowledge about the latest investigative techniques to elevate the quality of law enforcement in their respective jurisdictions.

- LT. RONALD BOSWELL, of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, Milton, was honored as the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" when the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 109 held its annual awards banquet.
- LT. JOE KICKLIGHTER, of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department, was selected as Duval County's outstanding law enforcement officer for the current year and became the recipient of the first annual D. K. Brown award, given in memory of the late D. K. Brown who was undersheriff in Jacksonville at the time of his death last year. Kicklighter, who is head of Sheriff Dale Carson's vice squad, was praised for raising his division's conviction record in heroin cases to 96 per cent; and for leading a drug raid in which 205 persons, including 75 major heroin dealers, were arrested.
- DEPUTY SHERIFF JOHN C. RAINES, from the Alachua County Sheriff's Department, Gainesville, was honored as the "Deputy of the Year" by Gator Exchange Club. He was also identified as president of his Florida Police Standards Academy class.



Sheriff Dolph Reddish reads the magazine article that led to his being cited for outstanding detective work. (Gainesville Sun photo)





Sheriff Monroe Brannen (seated) with "Top 20" marksmen Al Marler, Sam Clark and Sgt. George McClelland (left to right).

LAURELS FOR LAWMEN (continued from page 7)

#### BRADFORD COUNTY SHERIFF DOLPH REDDISH,

of Starke, was cited by Official Detective Stories magazine for outstanding detective work in tracking down the murderer of three women killed near Melrose in 1971.

#### POLK COUNTY SHERIFF MONROE BRANNEN, of

Bartow, was pleased and proud when his department became the only police agency in the state to place three marksmen in the "Governor's Top 20" during Florida Police Combat League competition. They are Deputies Al Marler, Sam Clark and Sgt. George McClelland.

#### PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF BILL ROBERTS.

of Clearwater, was equally proud when two of his deputies, Mike Platt and Bob Parlaman, gained "top 20" ranking for the second year in a row. Platt, who finished third in a field of 175 sharpshooters, and Parlaman, who finished seventh, also brought home the two-man championship (a distinction that was attained by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office last year).

#### DEPUTY SHERIFF CHUCK SPENCER, of the Polk

County Sheriff's Department, Bartow, received a letter of commendation from Sheriff Monroe Brannen after he prevented the suicide death of a Lakeland man. Spencer approached the armed man slowly, talking to him and trying to calm him, but the man held a loaded and cocked pistol over his own heart and refused to change his mind about suicide. Just before the gun went off, Spencer lunged for it and was able to deflect it so that the victim received a non-fatal wound in the stomach area.

#### INVESTIGATORS PAT KICKLIGHTER and NOEL

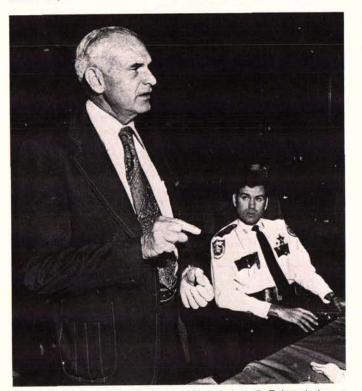
E. GRIFFIN, JR., of the Lake County Sheriff's Department, Tavares, received generous rewards from Florida Citrus Mutual, after they were involved in the arrest and conviction of a fruit thief.



Investigator Pat Kicklighter, with the smiling approval of his boss, Sheriff Guy Bliss (center) accepts Florida Citrus Mutual reward from Dalton Yancey (right). A reward check was also issued to Investigator Noel E. Griffin, Jr., but he was not present when the photo was taken.

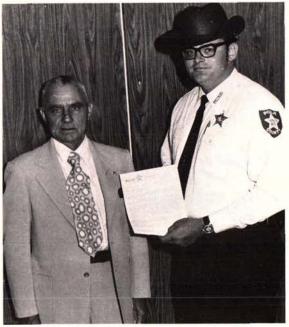


Sheriff Bill Roberts (left) checks shooting accuracy of Bob Parlaman (center) and Mike Platt, who also made the "Top 20".



Sheriff Joe Crevasse (standing) praises Deputy John C. Raines during Exchange Club cermony. (Gainesville Sun photo)

DEPUTY SHERIFF THOMAS STORCH, of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Titusville, received three awards in one day from Sheriff Leigh Wilson. Number one was a merit award for apprehending five individuals minutes after they committed a breaking and entering offense. Number two was apprehending two persons in the process of burglarizing a home; and number three was the annual "Deputy Sheriff of the Year" award. Sheriff Wilson said the third-mentioned award was not for any specific acts of heroism, but rather for dedication and skill displayed in performance of duty, and also for good attitude and conduct in contacts with the public. A grandfather with seven children and two grandchildren, Storch expects to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Technological University in June. He is a veteran of 14 years in law enforcement.



A citation from Sheriff Monroe Brannen (left) praised Deputy Chuck Spencer for bravery.

### Appointed Sheriff Proposal defeated

Sarasota County voters on March 9 resoundingly defeated a proposed county charter amendment which would have made the sheriff's office an appointed, rather than an elected, position

The final, unofficial tabulation showed 27,163 against the amendment and 16,798 in favor.

Sheriff Jim Hardcastle, who had taken a public stand in favor of an elected Sheriff, was enthusiastic about the outcome. He said experience had convinced him an elected sheriff has more flexibility, is more responsive to the people and can be a better law enforcement officer.

Other sheriffs in the lower west coast area, including Manatee County Sheriff Dick Weitzenfeld, Charlotte County Sheriff Jack Bent and Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka, also made public statements supporting an elected sheriff.

They urged the voters of Sarasota County not to relinquish their right to elect their sheriff. They pointed out that Florida has only one county (Dade) with an appointed sheriff, and voters in other counties have repeatedly turned down efforts to switch to appointed sheriffs.

Hardcastle said he became convinced the sheriff's position should remain elective after seeing the difficulties and bureaucratic red tape appointed officials encountered when they attempted to initiate new programs.

He said an appointed sheriff would lose control over hiring and firing personnel, purchasing, setting salaries and setting educational requirements for deputies.

Other proponents of an elected sheriff declared that changing to an appointed sheriff would simply shift law enforcement authority from the hands of a qualified law enforcement man into the hands of county commissioners and a county manager who had no experience in law enforcement.



Organizations and individuals who have given large gifts to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund, Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch and the Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa become members of the Builders Club by giving \$100 or more. They qualify as Lifetime Honorary Members by giving \$1,000 or more.

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Dunedin

# BUILDER

ST. PETERSBURG — Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Director of Development, Don Genung (left), and Pinellas County Sheriff Bill Roberts (right) presented Builder certificates to Carmen Pesce, Administrator, Majestic Towers (center left) and Milton Brown, President, Majestic Towers.

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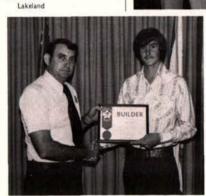
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A. W. WINDHORST LODGE 185.

Eagle Lake SHERIFF & MRS. W. A. WOOD-

# Builders BRADENTON — Manatee County Sheriff R. W. Weitzenfeld (right center) with three of his officers who received Builder certificates — (left to right) Deputy Frank McGann, Deputy Kenneth Reese and Sgt. Robert Gow.

BUILDER



WAUCHULA — Hardee County Sheriff N. H. Murdock (left) presented a Builder certificate to John Eason.



BRADENTON — Mrs. Violet Pope and members of the Paradise Bay Park Star Club with the Builder certificate they received for their donations.



FLORAL CITY — Members of the Floral City Lions Club display the Builder certificate they received for their generous donations to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch.

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Ms. Myrtle Stacy (left), Sheriff Bill Roberts and Mrs. Amelia Igel, Treasurer, Chapel on the Hill.



VFW Post No. 10094 Ladies Auxiliary members (from left) Connie Cleghorn, Barbara Smith and Marilyn Peterson with Sheriff Bill Roberts.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Matranga



Perry Marsh



Matthew Kurzawa



Mrs. Margaret Krause



John P. Spangler



E. Stanton Palmer

#### **Pinellas County Residents**

In recognition of large gifts to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Fund,

Florida Sheriffs Association

#### LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

have been presented to the generous people on these two pages.

#### **Polk County Residents**



Sheriff Monroe Brannen (left), Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McCallister

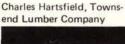




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Hillsborough County Residents



Dan Malzone, Dan's Sport Shop.



Paul Hance (left) and Sheriff Malcolm Beard.

#### Duval County Residents



Sheriff Dale Carson (left) and Robert Snod-



Mrs. Lois T. Johnston and Sheriff Dale Carson,



George W. Martin (left) and Sheriff Dale Carson.

#### **Collier County Residents**



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers (left) and Francis Barley, Barley's Paint Store.



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers and Michael P. DeTroy.



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers and H. J. LaLiberty.



Manatee County Sheriff R. W. Weitzenfeld and Mrs. Evelyn T. Koenig.



Dr. A. W. Epps, Jr. (left) and Seminole County Sheriff John Polk.



Leon County Sheriff Raymond Hamlin (left) and Robert J. Kelly.

#### It was a quiet, peaceful afternoon

## Except for five minutes of gunfire

FORT MYERS - It was Saturday, March 13, 1976 - a quiet, relatively peaceful day - when Frank Yorkavage and his cousin Myron David Fleming parked their Lincoln Continentals and walked through a wooded field. They stopped long enough to put on white coveralls, shoulder holsters, masks and walkie talkies, then armed themselves and sneaked up to the rear of the Purolator Security Company building. John Johnson, a Purolator mechanic, stepped out of the building at 1:15 p.m., was held hostage at gunpoint and was taken inside the building where Yorkavage and Fleming robbed him of his wallet and ordered him to open the safe. About this time, a Purolator supervisor arrived at the front door, saw what was going on, quickly left the scene without being spotted and notified the Lee County Sheriff's Department. Yorkavage and Fleming had been waiting for the arrival of an armored car, but, instead, they saw Sheriff's Department and

Fort Myers Police Department patrol cars converging on the robbery scene. At this point, the masked gunmen made a fatal decision to shoot their way out and they exited from the building with their hostage. They made it to a getaway car parked nearby, but Yorkavage was killed and Fleming seriously wounded in the shootout that followed.

Lee County Deputy Sheriff Mike Yahl was also killed in the five minute exchange of gunfire and three men were wounded: Lt. Jerry Spurling, of the Fort Myers Police Department; Lee County Deputy Sheriff Bob Moore; and John Johnson, the hostage.

It was just five minutes of deadly violence during a quiet Saturday afternoon, but in many ways the tragic results will last for many lifetimes, including those of Deputy Mike Yahl's widow and her two fatherless children.

