



Blowguns Blitzed after Darts Injure People and Animals

(see inside front cover)

Cover Story:

Blowguns Blitzed after Darts Injure People and Animals

MILTON — Santa Rosa County Sheriff J.A. "Jim" Powell thought he had encountered just about every kind of emergency law enforcement officers face in their daily rounds.

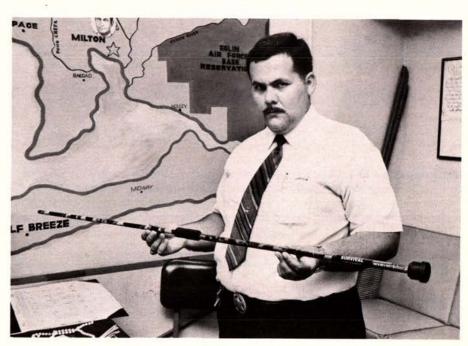
Then he began to get weird reports that someone was driving around the county wounding people and animals with darts fired from a blowgun.

It seemed incredible but, when he got to checking around, he discovered the reports were true. One woman was said to have suffered a collapsed lung from a dart. Five persons were injured by darts and treated at the Santa Rosa County Hospital. About a dozen darts were pulled from the hide of a cow out in a pasture. Other darts were found imbedded in doors, concrete block houses and a dog, according to news reports.

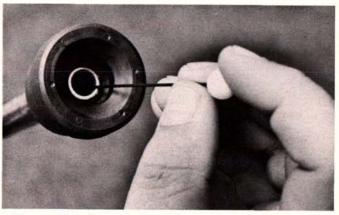
Powell said the dart attacks could snowball into a severe problem, and the Santa Rosa County Commission promptly passed a tough ordinance that had the effect of outlawing blowguns.

The ordinance, which was said to be the first of its kind in Florida, defines blowguns as deadly weapons, and requires blowgun owners to obtain gun permits. Sellers are required to sell only blowguns manufactured with serial numbers, and to keep records of sales.

A merchant who had been selling blowguns was quoted as saying the ordinance will have the effect of outlawing them because they do not come from the factory with a serial number as an integral part of



Sgt. Joel Lowery holds a blowgun donated to the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department. (Pensacola Journal Photo by Gary McCracken)



Closeup shows how a dart made from a piece of wire and a bead is loaded into the blowgun.

the weapon.

Darts are cut from lengths of steel wire and attached to beads that fit snugly inside the blowgun barrel. A strong puff sends the .38 calibre projectile traveling at approximately 300 feet per second, and the guns are accurate within 40 to 60 feet, according to a newspaper report.

The blowguns range in size from 3 to 4½ feet.



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The Sheriff's Star Salutes:

An Outstanding Line-up of Law Enforcement Practitioners

JACKSONVILLE — This month's line-up of award-winning Sheriffs and deputies is headed by Leon C. Ortagus, from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department, who received the Florida Retail Federation's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award.

Ortagus was described as an outstanding example of professionalism. He was praised for having led the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department in total felony and misdemeanor arrests; for a consistently high conviction rate; and for never firing his revolver in making an arrest.

Mark Joseph

PENSACOLA — After Escambia County Deputy Sheriff Mark Joseph chased and apprehended an armed robbery suspect, the Pensacola Exchange Club awarded him its "Officer of the Month" citation.

Thomas M. Burton, Jr.

BRADENTON — Manatee County Sheriff Thomas M. Burton, Jr., received an "Outstanding Citizen" award from the Beachway Merchants Association in recognition of his dedication to public service.

Jack Roberts Eddie Beville Mona Lyons

INVERNESS — Citrus County Sheriff Charles Dean presented commendations to Deputy Sheriffs Jack Roberts and Eddie Beville for successfully investigating the theft of marijuana held as evidence; and to Deputy Sheriff Mona Lyons for creating an operations manual to be used in the Sheriff's communications center.

Frankie Winchester

PANAMA CITY — Sgt. Frankie Winchester, who is in charge of the crime prevention unit at the Bay County Sheriff's Department, has received two awards.

She was named the "Outstanding Health and Safety Award" winner in the state by the Florida Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Shortly thereafter she became the first woman to receive the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency's Distinguished Service Award in Law Enforcement.

Vince Seely

PENSACOLA — Escambia County Sheriff Vince Seely also received an award from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Harold "Beau" Taylor

SANFORD — AmeriFirst Federal of Longwood presented a plaque to Seminole County Sheriff's Department Lt. Harold "Beau" Taylor in recognition of many years of outstanding community service.

He was cited for promoting better

relations between schools, businesses and law enforcement agencies.

Gerard King

OCALA — Chapter 18 of the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency, which includes criminal justice professionals from Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Lake and Hernando Counties, presented an award to Capt. Gerard King, who is in charge of the Patrol Division at the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

He was cited for outstanding work in the criminal justice field.

Russell Stamets

FORT MYERS — Because of his outstanding work in solving burglary cases, Lee County Deputy Sheriff Russell Stamets has twice been chosen "Officer of the Month" in the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

Beau West

TITUSVILLE — Sgt. Beau West was named "Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" by the Cocoa-Merritt Island American Legion Post after he was nominated by Brevard County Sheriff C.W. "Jake" Miller.

Sheriff Miller said West's personnel file contains 11 commendation letters, a Sheriff's Department Distinguished Service Award, and two merit awards. West went to work for the Sheriff's Department ten years ago. He is the Sheriff's sketch artist and is also in charge of the pistol range.

FBI Academy Graduates

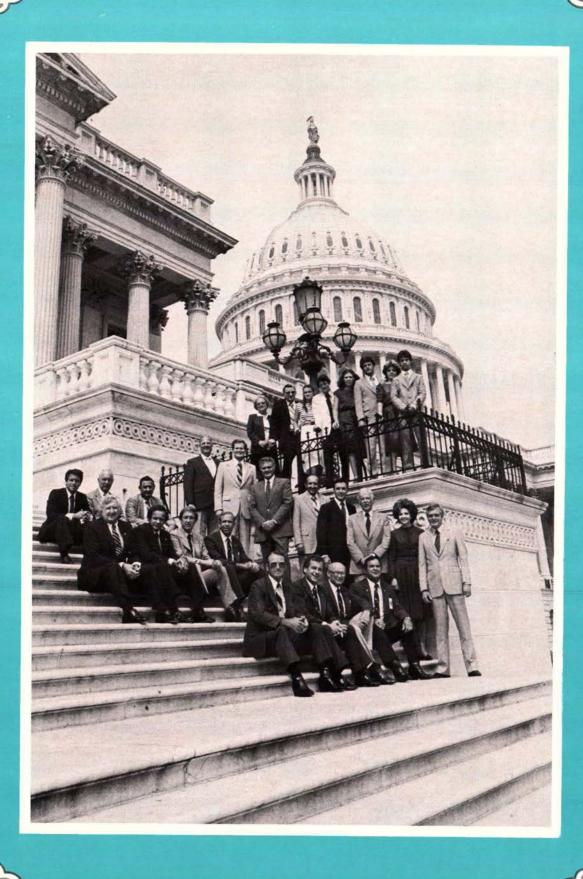
Recent graduates of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, include Charlotte County Sheriff Glen E. Sapp, from Punta Gorda; Mike Barber, who lives in Marathon and is employed as a detective sergeant with the Monroe County Sheriff's



Sheriff Sapp

Department; and Captain Adrian Kirksey, who is in charge of the investigation division at the Escambia County Sheriff's Department, Pensacola.

Sheriff Sapp told the press he lost 17 pounds in the physical fitness phase of the Academy training, but gained a broader knowledge of administration and management in classroom sessions. "I plan to apply some of the methods we studied to increase the efficiency of our department," he said.



Boys Ranch Anniversary Celebration Included "Red Carpet"

Capital Tour

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Festivities celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch included a "red carpet" tour of the nation's capital for six boys and girls representing the Boys Ranch, Florida Sheriffs Girls Villa and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch.

The tour was sponsored by J.P. Hall, Jr., Green Cove Springs banker whose father, the late J.P. Hall, Sr., was the Sheriff of Clay County and also one of the founders of the Boys Ranch. Hall accompanied the group. So did a delegation of Sheriffs, Boys Ranch staff members and Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund officials.

One of the highlights of the Washington trip was a luncheon attended by a goodly "quorum" of Florida's U.S. Senators and representatives. Just prior to the luncheon the group posed for a picture on the east steps of the Capitol. Later the boys and girls received copies of a concurrent resolution passed by Congress in which the Boys Ranch was described as a "worthy and noble project which has tangibly proven that it benefits youth."

Arrayed behind the wrought iron railing at the top of the photo are (from left) Mr. and Mrs. Beck McCoy, Boys Ranch Cottage Parents; Debra Dickler, from the Girls Villa; Billy Dowell, from the Boys Ranch; Cindy Landry, from the Villa; David Henck, from the Boys Ranch; and Penny Parker and Robert Martinez, from the Youth Ranch.

Standing on the steps (from the top) are: Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund President Harry Weaver; U.S. Representatives Bill Nelson, Bill Young, Earl Hutto, Daniel Andrew Mica and Charles Bennett; and U.S. Senators Paula Hawkins and Lawton Chiles.

Seated, top row, are (from left) Cory J. Ciklin, Youth Fund Vice President and Counsel; Ferris Lucas, Executive Director of the National Sheriffs Association; and Putnam County Sheriff Walt Pellicer, President of the National Sheriffs Association.

Second row: J.P. Hall, Jr., Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone; Gadsden County Sheriff W.A. Woodham, who is the current president of the Florida Sheriffs Association; and Polk County Sheriff Louie Mims, Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Board of Directors.

Bottom Row: Clay County Sheriff Jennings Murrhee; Pasco County Sheriff John Short; Alachua



A flag that had been raised over the nation's Capitol was presented to the Boys Ranch by U.S. Representative Don Fuqua, a former Boys Ranch Trustee. It was accepted by Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund President Harry Weaver (left), and Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund Board of Directors Chairman Louie Mims (right).

County Sheriff L.J. "Lu" Hindery, and Highlands County Sheriff Joe Sheppard.

The Boys Ranch Anniversary celebration began on March 10, 1982, when the Florida Legislature passed a resolution praising the Boys Ranch for 25 years of success.

On the same date Governor Bob Graham signed a proclamation designating October 2, 1982, as "Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Day."

The final Anniversary event was a three-day celebration at the Boys Ranch, October 1, 2, and 3. This gala birthday party attended by over 3,500 guests included a horse show, a Suwannee River barbecue, an address by Lt. Governor Wayne Mixson; and dedication rites for a new residence cottage named in honor of Ed Blackburn, Jr. Blackburn was one of the founders of the Boys Ranch and helped to get the project "off the ground" in 1957 as the first Executive Director, a non-paid position. He had a long career as a public official, having served as Sheriff of Hillsborough County, as a member of the Florida House of Representatives, and as a Commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Those Jailhouse Blues:

Oh the Woe that Classification Officers Know!

FORT LAUDERDALE — The horrendous head-aches involved in trying to classify inmates in a big, overcrowded county jail system were described for *The Sheriff's Star* recently by Richard L. Grimes, who is the Inmate Classification Supervisor for the Broward County Sheriff's Department.

His "bible" is the "Rules of the Department of Corrections, section 33-8," which warn against mixing males and females, adults and juveniles, felons and misdemeanants, sentenced and unsentenced inmates. It also requires "special needs" inmates to be considered for segregation.

"Naturally," said Grimes, "33-8 doesn't provide any hints as to where we'll find room for these 'special needs' inmates who may be mentally disordered, extreme security risks, or management problems."

There are some other considerations that aren't covered very specifically, he said, and he gave some examples:

- Sexual battery offenders may create serious problems if housed in open population after their offenses have been made known through the news media.
- Child molesters or abusers aren't safe anywhere if their charges become known.
- Suspected informers are as good as dead if not isolated from other prisoners.
- Large drug busts usually mean that a half-dozen or more people have to be housed separately at the request of the State Attorney so they can't work together to fabricate their testimony. They also have to be kept in the main jail due to huge bonds that usually run around \$500,000.
- Inmates who commit "heavy" crimes like murder, rape, kidnapping and armed robbery are usually too predatory to be mingled with those who commit "lighter" crimes such as burglary and grand theft.
- People who are normally meek and mild sometimes go berserk in a fit of rage or jealousy and kill someone. Do you classify them according to their usual behavior, or according to their crime.?
- Where do you find a suitably quiet place for inmates who want to study for GED high school diplomas?
- How do you arrange special housing for trusties who do most of the manual labor around the jail at all

hours of the day and night?

Grimes said these and many other factors have to be kept in mind while booking and classifying some two or three dozen inmates per day, seven days a week.

"Fortunately," said Grimes, "most of the new arrestees can be sent out to less secure annex facilities in Broward County. However, this outlet can't always be counted on since we have a federal judge making sure we don't exceed population caps he has set for all our annexes.

"Additional spice is added to the classification stew," said Grimes, "because both felonies and misdemeanors are included in the population count at each facility, causing the available space to fluctuate hourly because of new arrests, dropped charges, posted bonds, and so forth.

"This gets especially crazy during the annual spring break when thousands of college kids head for 'Fort Liquordale!"

Grimes said attempting to classify inmates under these conditions requires some degree of rationale to avoid adding to the already existing problems.

Faced with limited space and the rules of "Section 33-8," Grimes said, it is imperative to make certain that placements of inmates are successful — especially since there are so few options for housing to choose from.

To meet this challenge, Grimes and several of the more experienced floor deputies worked out a "Classification Intake Screening Report" which Grimes said had proved to be very successful.

Grimes, who holds a Masters' Degree in Public Administration and had seven years' experience with the Florida Department of Corrections before joining the Broward County Sheriff's Department staff in January, 1982, said the screening report does not require a great deal of education or sophistication on the part of the user—simply some jail sense and an attitude of sincere interest.

He sent us a sample along with a detailed rationale, but we were not able to reproduce them in *The Sheriff's Star* due to space limitations. Readers who want additional information should get in touch with Grimes at the Broward County Sheriff's Department, Fort Lauderdale.

Auxiliarymen Receive Recognition

SEBRING — Two men with 45 years of combined volunteer service to the Highlands County Sheriff's Department received special awards from Sheriff Joe Sheppard.

To one of them, Milton "Hob" Parnell, the award was presented posthumously, and accepted by his

widow, Polly.

The other award went to John Graham, who retired from the auxiliary after 25 years of assisting in many kinds of emergencies, including airplane crashes and searches for lost children.

The Auxiliarymen were paid for assisting with security services at the Sebring races. The rest of the time they worked without pay, and sometimes faced serious risks. Often they used their own vehicles and equipment at their own expense.

"When an emergency came up, they would come off their jobs to help," said Sgt. Colin Harnage, a deputy sheriff who serves as liaison officer to the Auxiliary.



Participating in the award ceremony were (from left) Henry Eures, Auxiliary Lieutenant; J.T. Landress, Auxiliaryman; Mrs. Polly Parnell; Sgt. Colin Harnage, liaison officer to the Auxiliary; Sheriff Joe Sheppard; John Graham, Auxiliaryman; Henry Bailey, retired Auxiliaryman; and Harold Greenway, Auxiliary Captain.

Loyal
Sheriffs Association
Supporters

FORT PIERCE — St. Lucie County Sheriff Lanie Norvell presents a Distinguished Service Award to Lucile Dye in recognition of her 25 years as an honorary member of the Florida Sheriffs Association.



Browns

BRADENTON — Manatee County Sheriff Thomas M. Burton, Jr., presents Distinguished Service Awards to Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. George A. Robinson, in recognition of their 25 years as honorary members of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Robinsons

GIFTS AND GIVERS

Special recognition for donors who have given generous gifts to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund.



FORT PIERCE — St. Lucie County Sheriff Lanie Norvell (third from left) accepts a check for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund from the proceeds of the annual Greek Festival held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Shown presenting the check are Peter Camacho, The Rev. Seraphim Poulos and Evans Costopoulos.



NEW PORT RICHEY — After Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hartmann won a new ten-speed girl's bicycle in a department store contest they turned it over to Pasco County Sheriff John Short (right) as a gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch.



JACKSONVILLE — A hay bailer donated to the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch by Rick Altobellis (second from left), owner of Jacksonville Ford Tractor Company, Inc., was accepted by (from left) Rancher Gary Ponds, Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund President Harry K. Weaver, and Boys Ranch Farm Manager Bruce Goff.



FORT MYERS — Lee County Sheriff Frank Wanicka (center) accepts a gift of \$1,000 donated to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund by Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. Embser.

A Woman Screamed — The Phone Went Dead

PANAMA CITY — Ms. Geraldine Ann Gilchrist was on the telephone with a lady at a Panama City insurance agency when the lady began screaming and the line went dead. She immediately notified the Bay County Sheriff's Department and officers arrived at the scene in time to arrest a man who was fleeing from the building. The man was charged with murder and rape.

Later, Sheriff LaVelle Pitts presented a Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Gilchrist and personally thanked her for her coolness and quick thinking.

Ms. Gilchrist is just one of many persons to whom the Sheriff has expressed his gratitude for outstanding services rendered to law enforcement. During the quarterly ceremony at which she received her award he gave similar recognition to seven other Bay County citizens, and also to four deputy sheriffs.

The citizens are Charles Richard Oliver, Ricky B. Bush, Virgil Weiwel, William F. Tate, Roger Harvey Dillard, Bill Ford and Wavine Turner. The deputies are Mike Broadway, Judy Newton, Floyd Moore and Gregory A. Robarts.

Pitts said the citizens had gone beyond the normal response to assist the Sheriff's Department in various criminal cases ranging from murder to the sale of an infant.

He praised the deputies for saving lives through the use of their "first responder" medical training, and for capturing a man charged with attempted murder.

Sheriff LaVelle Pitts expresses his appreciation to Ms. Geraldine Gilchrist.





Crossing Guard Has a Big Fan Club

VERO BEACH — Over 700 youngsters at Citrus Elementary School signed a jumbo-size card to thank Indian River County Deputy Sheriff Burton Zeiler for doing an outstanding job as a crossing guard. Teacher Karen Persson and her first grade class selected Brian Koehler to present the card to Zeiler. The class also gave Zeiler a "Citrus Stinger" T-shirt. (Vero Beach Press-Journal photo by Pat Morris.)



Old Timers form New Association

OCALA — President Frank Maruna presented a framed copy of the articles of incorporation to Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland after a group of retired lawmen chartered The Retired Law Enforcement Association of Marion County, Inc., a non-profit corporation.



Here is Sheriff Charles Dean (wearing coat and tie) with the "top brass" of the Beverly Hills Surveillance Unit. From left are: Sergeants Joe Carney, Lou Starguzzi, and Max Raminick; Capt. Al LaRose; Lt. John Chipperfield; and Sergeants Al Hauser and George Weis.

Sheriff has 49 Pairs of Eyes and Ears on Patrol Night and Day for Zero Pay

INVERNESS — Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, a Sheriff's patrol car is on the move in the Beverly Hills area covering 45 miles of roads, checking houses whose owners are on vacation, helping stranded motorists, providing traffic control, and reporting any suspicious activities or emergencies to the Citrus County Sheriff's Department.

Beverly Hills is fortunate to have that kind of surveillance service, but can the taxpayers of Citrus County afford it?

You bet your life they can! That prowling car marked with the Sheriff's star is provided by Sheriff Charles Dean, but the well-trained men who operate it are all volunteers who not only work without pay, but also pay dues to keep their public service organization on the go.

They call themselves the Beverly Hills Surveillance Unit (BHSU), but Sheriff Dean calls them his "eyes and ears." He also brags about the good job they do.

Dean said the BHSU traveled 32,897 miles on patrol last year, donated 16,743 manhours, and logged 910 official messages. The 49-man organization is headed by Capt. Al LaRose, Lt. John Chipperfield and five sergeants. It is supported by voluntary contributions and the dues of its members. Each man is committed to serve a six-hour tour of duty per week.

In operation since 1977 when there were 23 original members, the BHSU is well prepared for many kinds of emergencies. Thirteen of the members are certified to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). While on duty the volunteers have communications equipment that keeps them in contact with the Sheriff's Department, the Florida Highway Patrol, the ambulance service and Civil Defense.

BHSU volunteers work closely with Sheriff Dean's full-time deputies, and assist them in many ways. "They have a fine relationship with my men," said Dean.



A Poet's Verdict:

The Cops for Christ, from left to right: Jim Haerer, Sheri Warriner, John McDougall, Jerry Warriner, Hank Wright, Rocky Graziano, Sheriff Wanicka, James Drake, Fred Workinger, Andy Stanforth, Dan Hemphill, Dale Williams, Rodney Shoap, Glenn Ansley, Chuck Kitchen and Jim Jennings. (Since this picture was taken, McDougall, Graziano and Jennings have become inactive; and Debbie Futch and Mike Collins have been added as new members.)

When Cops for Christ Sing They Make Bells of Heaven Ring

FORT MYERS — In the happy, hand-clappin', harmonizin', foot tappin', knee slappin' world of gospel music, there's nothing quite like the group called "Cops for Christ."

They confess a lack of talent and training. They don't get upset if someone sings off-key. They haven't won acclaim from music critics, and yet this motley aggregation of Lee County deputy sheriffs has flourished and prospered for almost nine years.

It's easy to see they have been blessed with success, but it isn't easy to understand why — especially if you run a spot-check on the members of the group.

Sheriff Frank Wanicka is a staunch supporter, but his voice — well, one of the deputies summed it up by saying "Please don't judge his abilities as Sheriff by the way he sings."

Major Jerry Warriner has been described as a leader and adviser of the group, but he's no warbler. "We don't let the Major sing with us," said one of his friends. "He can't play a radio without being out of tune."

The Cops for Christ refuse to get uptight about the quality of their musical output. Instead, they let a lot of squad room kidding and camaraderie spill over into their practice sessions.

Someone asked if Jim Haerer was singing tenor or bass and the response came back: "We're not even sure if he's singing. He's standing next to the Sheriff."

The Roman Catholics in this predominantly Protestant group have been told they are on probation. One of them was promised the guys would put skins on his drums and turn on his mike after he served out his five-year noviate.

They used to say Capt. Fred Workinger, the department's helicopter pilot, could fly better than he could sing. After the chopper crashed they began saying he sings better than he flies.

First Sgt. John McDougall is frequently described as "the fellow who sings the tambourine," but underneath all this horsing around there is a strong undercurrent of religious devotion.

This comes to the surface when the Cops for Christ give personal testimony to audiences. At these times no one has any reason to doubt their sincerity, or their strong desire to lead others to Christ.

"We are just a bunch of plain ole cops, untrained and untalented musicwise, who rejoice that God has been with us through it all, and rejoice in the souls we have reached for Christ," said one of the deputies.

And, perhaps that explains what has kept the Cops for Christ going and growing in spite of their lack of musical skills.

(continued on page 13)

Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund



Honor Roll

On these pages the Florida Sheriffs Association gives special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Fund and its child care institutions: The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, Girls Villa and Youth Ranch. Those listed as "Builders" have given gifts totaling \$100 or more.

Those listed as "Lifetime Honorary Members" of the Florida Sheriffs Association have given \$1,000 or more. Builders receive certificates suitable for framing. Each honorary lifetime member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to The Sheriff's Star.

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RALPH B. WELLER Miami



FORT PIERCE — St. Lucie County Sheriff Lanie Norvell (right) presents Lifetime Honorary Memberships to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Merithew; and to VFW Post 3064 represented by Ray Ford, Department Officer, and Richard Schwartz, Past Commander.

VFW Post



BOYS RANCH — Bill Aust,
Resident Director of the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch,
presents a Lifetime Honorary
Membership to Jan Babston,
from Fort Walton Beach, who
gave Ranchers lessons in airbrush painting and also
donated supplies and equipment to encourage this
hobby.





ST. AUGUSTINE — St. Johns County Sheriff Francis M. O'Loughlin, Jr. (center) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Mr. and Mrs. John J. Darcy, of Green Cove Springs.



OCALA - Capt. Gerard King (left), representing Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland, presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Al McDonald



CLEARWATER - Pinellas County Sheriff Gerry Coleman (left) presents a Lifetime Honorary Membership to Lt. Col. and Mrs. Lincoln S. Jones.

Builders

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For the Deaf:

Communicating is no Longer Frustrating

PINELLAS PARK — Vandalism used to be a chronic problem at Freedom Village, an apartment complex for disabled persons operated by Goodwill Industries-Suncoast.

The apartment dwellers felt helpless and vulnerable. Eddie Hernandez and Ricky Douglas, two maintenance workers who were both deaf, felt downright frustrated.

Several times Hernandez and Douglas had seen vandals doing damage to the property, but by the time they summoned a supervisor to call police the culprits had fled.

Recently Hernandez and Douglas witnessed yet another case of vandalism involving three teenagers, but this time they didn't have to summon a supervisor. Instead they went to a special telecommunications device and reported the crime to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department. Pinellas Park police were dispatched to the apartment complex immediately and caught the kids in the act.

Sheriff Gerry Coleman said this incident is just one example of the benefits resulting from an emergency communications system the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department has installed county-wide. "It encourages hearing impaired residents to take an active role in assisting law enforcement," he said, "and of course they can also use it for personal emergencies."

At the heart of the system is a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) which gives deaf persons a direct line of visual communication to the Sheriff's Department.

The TDD has a keyboard and a cradle designed to hold a telephone receiver. To use it, the deaf person dials 584-3323 (584-DEAF), places the telephone receiver in the cradle, and types out a message.

The message goes by telephone line to a receiver at the Sheriff's department which displays it on a video screen and also prints it out.



Sheriff Coleman (left) and Fred Arthur, Senior Complaint Writer, with the Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD).

Sheriff Coleman said Pinellas was the first county in the state to operate a county-wide emergency communications system for the deaf. It was established in December, 1981, he said, and is now linked to the homes of 1,500 hearing impaired residents.

Coleman gave Jerry Conner, from the Division of Deaf Services, Neighborly Senior Services, credit for playing a major role in establishing the communications system.

The Gasparilla Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association is funding the monthly service charges for the telecommunications equipment installed in the Sheriff's Department. The telephone line and round-the-clock manpower are provided by the Sheriff.

For Collectors — a Few Gems

Some laws make sense, like the one in Waterloo, Nebraska that prohibited barbers from eating onions between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; or the one in Sterling, Colorado, that required pet cats to wear tail lights while running around loose; or the one in Frankfort, Kentucky, that forbade shooting off a policeman's necktie.

Bravo! Batiste and Garfield

VERO BEACH — Indian River County Deputies Richard Batiste and Glen Garfield were chosen "Officer of the Month" for August and September respectively. Both were praised for outstanding service, and Batiste was also cited for arresting an armed robber who attempted to shoot him with a gun that misfired.

"Thanks Sheriff - I Needed That"

NAPLES — People who get arrested and put in jail never express their thanks — well, almost never. That's why the following letter which appeared in the Naples Daily News is a classic:

I would like to commend the Collier County Sheriff's Department for saving my future from total disaster. I was recently arrested for a crime that an acquaintance and I had committed a while back. I was forced to spend three days in jail while my parents arranged bail money. The only thing to do when I was there was to think. I did a lot of that.

I realized then that I had to straighten my life out, right then and there. It was either now or never. Only until now did I realize that I had been heading in the wrong direction. But, to find this out, I had to lose my pride, dignity and self-respect.

The biggest loss... was the love of a girl I had been engaged to. We were very happy until the day I called her from jail to try to explain what I did. It was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. I was more afraid of telling her than my own parents.

But now, I can only try to prove to everyone — and mainly myself — that you can make an honest living in life. That is the only way I feel I can repay them for the shame I have put them through . . . All of my experiences only supplement the old saying: "Crime does not pay."

Mrs. Raulerson is Right

What do you call the inmates who do chores around county jails?

Mrs. O.L. Raulerson, Sr., of Okeechobee, a former Sheriffs Association employee, brought up the question in a recent letter. She said these inmates are trusties, or, if there is just one he is a trusty.

She's right, according to the editor of *The Sheriff's Star*, and also according to The American Heritage Dictionary.

A lot of folks, including newspaper and magazine writers, spell it trustee and trustees. They had better take a tip from Mrs. Raulerson and shape up!

Cops for Christ . . . (continued from page 9)

First Sgt. James Drake, the piano accompanist, is credited with starting the Cops for Christ in 1974. There were six deputies in the group originally, and it has almost tripled in size since then. It has also been gaining in popularity and public acceptance through a long string of appearances before church and community audiences.

On key or off key, the Cops for Christ have acquired many loyal fans, but none more loyal than Millie Stone, a winter visitor. One of the deputies' concerts inspired her to write a poem that began with these lines: "If you want to hear the bells of heaven ring, just go and listen to the Cops for Christ sing."

Ten stanzas later the poem ended with these lines: "Keep up the good work for the law and the Lord; when your work here is ended, you'll get your reward."

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Something to Smile About

SARASOTA — Sheriff Jim Hardcastle has good days and bad days — and then every once in a while along comes an exceptionally good day (EGD). It was on one of those relatively rare EGDs that a Longboat Key constituent by the name of William Manson walked into Hardcastle's office and handed him the keys and the title certificate to a 23-foot sportboat valued at \$18,000.

For a while, all Hardcastle could do was smile. Then he announced what he planned to do with Manson's gift. He said he would outfit it with a police radio and Sheriff's Department markings, and use it to enhance the water patrol capabilities of his Marine Auxiliary.

When the word got around, the ten volunteers in the Marine auxiliary broke out in smiles too. And, that's the way life should be on an EGD. Smiling all the way, five Marine Auxiliarymen took a trial spin in the sportboat, with Marine Officer George Conley at the helm. The Auxiliarymen are (from left) Ed Prose, Joe Hennen, Don Moolten, Art Muldoon and Ron Austin. (Sarasota Herald-Tribune photo by Tannen Maury)



Hardcastle (left) and Manson