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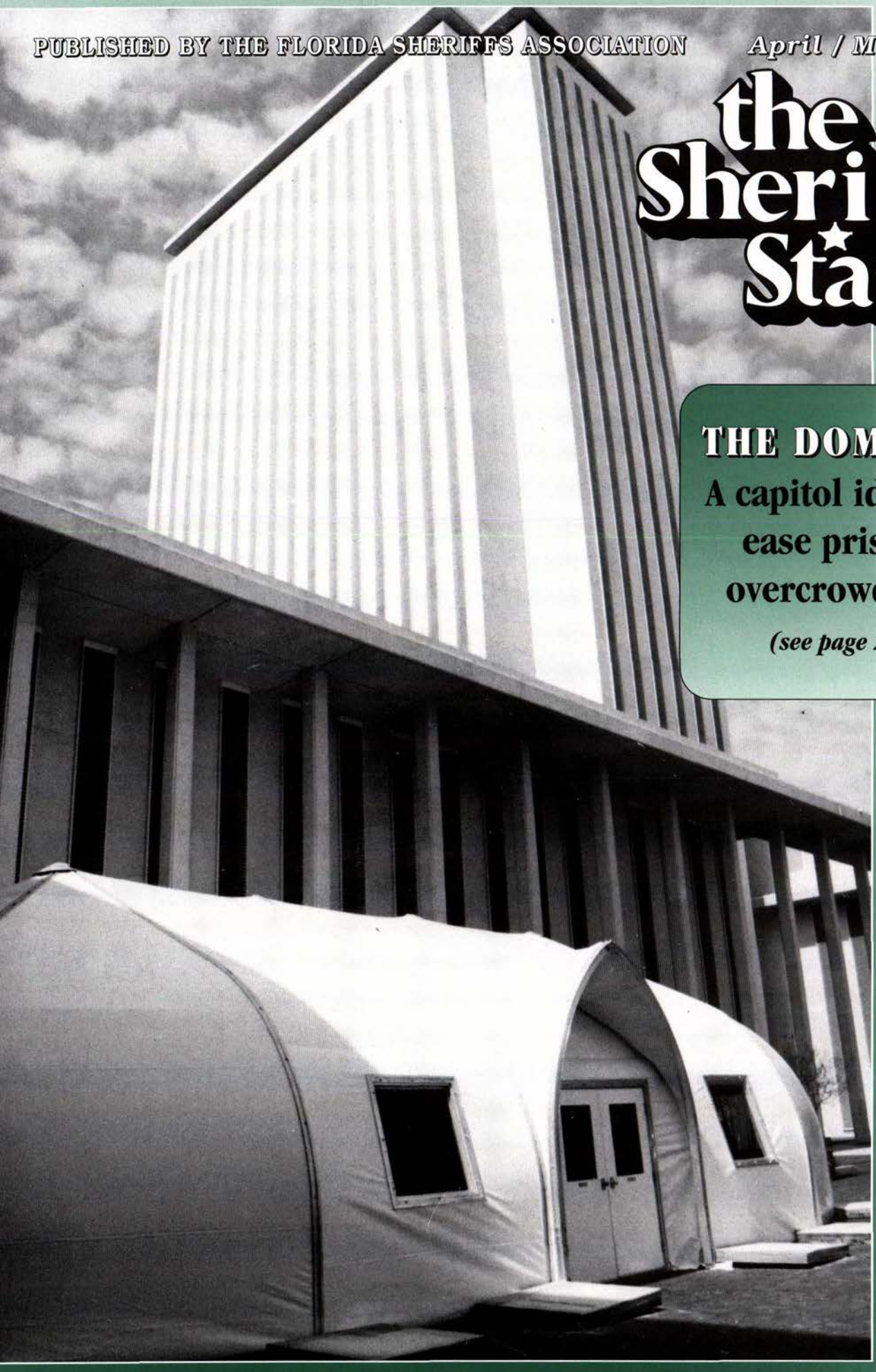
the Sheriff's Star



THE DOME ! !

A capitol idea to ease prison overcrowding

(see page 2)

THE DOME ! !

A capitol idea to ease prison overcrowding

Sheriffs make a strong pitch for low-budget instant structures

Other states are already using them to ease overcrowding

"Criminals deserve to be locked up in prisons. Citizens don't deserve to be locked up in their houses."

— Senate President Ander Crenshaw

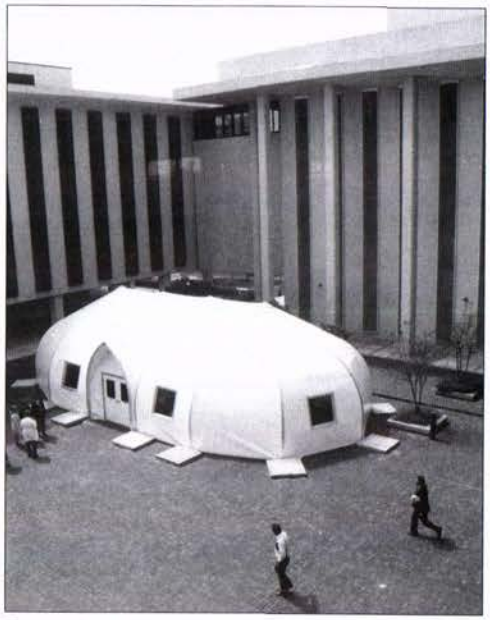
"If it (the instant structure) proves that it makes sense from a dollars and cents and all other perspectives, there's no reason we wouldn't look at some of those."

— Governor Lawton Chiles

TALLAHASSEE — While lawmakers were debating the crisis created by Florida's overcrowded — almost gridlocked — prison system, the Florida Sheriffs Association was carrying on its own search for an answer.

Numerous proposals were discussed, but the one that appealed to the Association the most was to put Florida's surplus prisoners in low-budget "instant structures" like the ones currently being used in seven states to provide emergency housing for thousands of inmates.

Finding a practical and speedy way to ease the crisis was relatively easy. However, communicating it to the legislators in the frantic final weeks of their 1993 session was a real challenge.



Erected on the plaza between the House and Senate office buildings, the instant structure could hardly be overlooked by lawmakers going to work on March 15.

Activists by nature, Sheriffs wasted little time in strategy meetings. Instead, they arranged to have one of the Sprung Instant Structures erected on the patio between the House and Senate office buildings.

Interior view of the dome prior to the March 15 press conference.

So . . . up went this strange looking structure that bore a faint resemblance to a giant submarine sandwich . . . a blimp . . . an igloo . . . and a streamlined circus tent. The curiosity of Capitol Center workers was aroused. The Capitol press corps began asking questions, but detailed information was withheld temporarily.

A few days after the structure was hoisted into place, it was severely tested by the equivalent of a winter hurricane that roared through Tallahassee during the weekend. However, the "con-dome" (as one Capitol wag christened it) weathered the storm in good shape, and there it was in all its pristine glory when the Senators and Representatives returned to their deliberations on Monday morning, March 15.

During a press conference later that day news reporters were given an estimate that prisoners could be housed in this metal and fabric structure for approximately $5,000 per bed, com-

Company spokesmen said this 800-inmate facility at New York's Riker's Island Prison was erected in 75 days.

Press conference speakers included (from left) Florida Sheriffs Association President R. C. "Bobby" Knowles; Vice President Tom Tramel; and Florida Senate President Ander Crenshaw.

Martin Levy, former warden, describes the use of Sprung Instant Structures at New York's Riker's Island Prison. "So they put up eight Sprung structures to be used temporarily, then converted to warehouses," he said, "but lo and behold levels of violence decreased and staff felt better about working in the new facilities. So, instead of taking down the eight, they went out and bought a whole bunch more. I believe there are 53 or 56 on Riker's Island now." Levy explained that the structures are being used as support facilities such as administrative offices, recreation centers and dining rooms in addition to housing prisoners dormitory style.

pared to the going rate of $18,000 to $49,000 per bed in a conventional prison.

Sheriffs Association President R. C. "Bobby" Knowles set the tone of the press conference by telling the media, "We are strongly encouraging the Governor and the Legislature to develop a dedicated, recurring funding source to address the long-term prison problem. However this Sprung Instant Structure will address the short-term problem of releasing habitual and minimum mandatory inmates.

"We are excited about these new structures," he added, "and we hope the Governor and the Legislature will be too. We think this could be the beginning of a new prison system in Florida."

Senate President Ander Crenshaw attended the press conference and expressed an interest in the Sprung Instant Structures. "I'm here basically," he said, "because I believe like the Sheriffs that the solution to the overcrowding problem is not to let people go. Criminals deserve to be locked up in prisons. Citizens don't deserve to be locked up in their houses. What we need to solve the problem, I think, is a commitment to look at new technology like we have here today."

With some fast mental arithmetic, Crenshaw estimated that erecting two of the Sprung structures at each

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the Sheriff's Star

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THE DOME - *Continued from page 3*

of Florida's 46 prison sites would provide 4,600 beds speedily and at a minimal cost.

A representative of Sprung Instant Structures backed him up by reporting that an 800-inmate facility was erected at Riker's Island, New York, in just 75 days. He said by the end of 1993 Sprung Instant Structures will be housing 25,000 to 30,000 inmates in Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas, California, Michigan, New Jersey and New York.

Sheriffs Association Vice President Tom Tramel, who also serves as the Association's Legislative Committee Chairman, told the news reporters that Florida belongs to the law-abiding, and not the lawless, "and with the help of people like Senator Ander Crenshaw and Senator Gary Siegel, we plan to get it back!

"While Florida's Sheriffs believe that alternative treatment and rehabilitation programs should exist, we believe that these programs should be offered at the front end where first-time nonviolent and drug-use offenders may benefit," Tramel added.

"However, we do not believe that these programs can, or should, take the place of incarceration for those who have continuously, repeatedly and habitually perpetrated crimes against the law-abiding citizens of our state.

"When you consider that it takes a virtual miracle to get criminals into prison now, given all the legal barriers that exist . . . and when you consider that once we do manage to get them into prison, they only serve approximately 22.8 percent of their sentences, then you must conclude that only the worst of the worst are presently in our prison system.

"To suggest early release of these criminals is to disregard our obligation to our citizens, and to render our system a mockery of justice."

In response to questions from news reporters, Sprung spokesmen gave reassurance that the structures will withstand high winds; can be air conditioned and heated; and do not require artificial light in the daytime.

"Slash and dash" escapes through the tough vinyl walls of the structures have not been a problem because of "direct supervision" that allows unarmed guards to mingle with the inmates and prevent escape attempts, the spokesmen said.

In response to questions about the life expectancy of a Sprung Instant Structure, reporters were told the fabric is guaranteed to last 12 years and the support structure guaranteed for 25 years. "After that," a company spokesman said, "we can completely replace the fabric for about 18 percent of the original cost, and you can have a [practically] new building at about $3 a square foot."

Round-up results:

Orange County was number one in 45-team SWAT competition

By Jim Solomons
Public Information Officer
Orange County Sheriff's Office

ORLANDO — Forty-five SWAT teams — including one from Munich, Germany — came to Orlando in November for the Tenth Annual SWAT Round-up, and the "home team" from the Orange County Sheriff's Office took top honors.

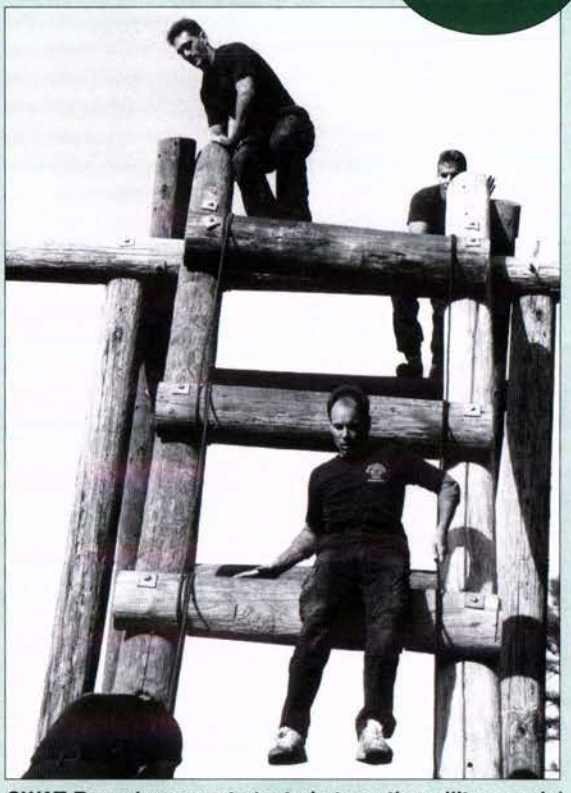
The week-long event featured competition in a variety of special events tailored to showcase the special skills, personal conditioning, and expertise required of SWAT team members.

The Washington, DC Metro Police Department team, 1991 Round-up winner, finished second in the 1992 competition. Also in the top five were Boca Raton Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and Indian River County (FL) Sheriff's

Newly-elected Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (center) discusses the results of obstacle course competition with members of the Orange County team.

Continued on next page

Orange County was number 1



SWAT Round-up events tested strength, agility, special skills, and personal conditioning.

Office. The Munich team deserved honorable mention for a respectable 19th place finish overall.

While exciting, head-to-head competition is the hallmark of the SWAT Round-ups, the annual events offer much more than tests of strength and agility. Team members are also given opportunities to share experiences, discuss common problems, and receive specialized training through seminars and classes.

Vendors that supply the tools of the trade for SWAT teams also attend to display and demonstrate the latest state-of-the-art equipment.

Annual Round-ups are staged by a volunteer committee representing law enforcement agencies that participate in the activities of the Central Florida Regional Training Center, and the Orlando Criminal Justice Institute.

The committee is currently looking for instructors with expertise in SWAT tactics, basic technical skills, or specialty area programs to present training programs at the next Round-up. It is tentatively set for the week of November 7, 1993.

Interested volunteers are requested to send a course description and outline, learning objectives, and resume to Jeff Hopkins, CFCJI at Orlando, 2950 West Oak Ridge Road, Orlando, FL 32809.

Information Network Systems, Inc., (INS) was one of 30 exhibitors displaying equipment and services at the Seminar. INS representatives Charles Butler (left) and Rick Rogers (right) are shown explaining their product to Chief Deputy Tom Depolis (second from left) and Col. Daron Diecidue, from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. (Photo by Don Flynn)

Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson (right) welcomes Florida Sheriffs Association President R. C. "Bobby" Knowles to the seminar. (Photo by Don Flynn)

Administrative Management Seminar draws record attendance

By Tom Berlinger
Director of Operations
Florida Sheriffs Association

Late February was the date and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tampa was the site for the Florida Sheriffs Association's 1993 Administrative Management Training Seminar. Turnout this year set an all-time record!

Over 200 command staff employees representing 75 percent of the Sheriffs' offices in Florida arrived pens in hand and ready to take notes on an array of topics that included agency trust funds, securing grants, worker's compensation issues, personnel administration, selecting computer software, sexual harassment issues, and strategies for handling the anticipated fiscal stress of the 90's.

One of the highlights of the 3-day program was the presentation of a cost-saving program which provides for lease/purchase financing of marked and unmarked police vehicles. Offered by the Florida Sheriffs Association in conjunction with Municipal Services Group, Inc., the plan allows for affordable financing of equipment over a term that more closely matches the useful life of the vehicle. Thus, Sheriffs' offices are being given an opportunity to update their fleets and maintain proper fleet rotation, while controlling maintenance costs.

John E. Webb, Vice President of Municipal Services Group, Inc., explains the benefits of a new full service lease/purchase plan which his firm is offering to Sheriffs in cooperation with the Florida Sheriffs Association. It will provide affordable financing for patrol cars and equipment. (Photo by Don Flynn)

"This particular seminar brought together professionals from several disciplines within Sheriffs' offices, and the source vendors who serve them," noted Gary Perkins, Deputy Executive Director of the Association. "We will strive to keep every Sheriff abreast of the latest technology, equipment and services needed to operate in a cost-effective manner."

Jail Administrators Explore ' Direct Supervision '

The Florida Sheriffs Association recently hosted a 22-hour workshop entitled "Jail Management Issues in Florida - 1993." With the assistance of the Florida Jail Association and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, it was held February 22-24 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Tampa.

"There were over a hundred participants, an array of Corporate Partners and an exciting program," noted Buddy Phillips, FSA's Executive Director. "This was a real success."

The topics presented and discussed included issues pertaining to jail overcrowding, Department of Corrections' jail rules, the need to take a proactive approach to civil liability, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the use of correctional auxiliary personnel in a county jail setting.

"For me, one of the highlights of this year's program was the tour of the new Hillsborough County Jail," said Monroe County Sheriff Rick Roth, one of several Sheriffs in attendance along with the state's jail administrators.

"Direct supervision is certainly an interesting way to do business as compared to the traditional style of jail management we're all accustomed to," he added. Roth has a new jail under construction in Key West, and it, too, will employ direct supervision.

For those unfamiliar with the system, the distinction between the conventional style of jail management and direct supervision is unmistakable. Under the traditional style, inmates are housed apart from the staff who work within the facility. Steel bars and concrete create a clear line of separation between the two. However, with direct supervision, staff and inmates intermingle in common areas 24-hours a day.

"Direct supervision has increased the level of cooperation and respect between staff and inmates," noted Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson, "and it has reduced the stress in what can often be a pressure-cooker atmosphere."

Grocery shop and meet a cop

BIG PINE KEY — Winn Dixie supermarket has given the Monroe County Sheriff's Office space for a community service desk in the front of the store and it appears to be a good deal for all concerned. The supermarket has upgraded its security, and the Sheriff's Office has become more accessible to the public. Pictured at the grand opening of the new outpost are (from left) Lt. Mitch Snider; Winn Dixie Manager Keith Courtner; and Bicycle Deputy Pat Golemme.

Sheriff Roth attends NSI

KEY WEST — Returning from an Executive Development Program presented by the National Sheriffs' Institute (NSI) at Longmont, Colorado, Monroe County Sheriff Richard D. Roth said he learned many things that will enable him to do his job more effectively.

He said sessions on pitfalls of the legal system were particularly helpful. "They will help me to avoid costly lawsuits," he added.

Sponsored by the National Sheriffs' Association, NSI is designed to help Sheriffs develop effective leadership, and meet the needs of their communities.

Roth was in a class of 24 Sheriffs from 22 states who were serving their first elected terms.

Record conference attendance

reflects seriousness of current crime problems

Kathleen Finnegan, Executive Director of STOP (Stop Turning Out Prisoners), a statewide organization of concerned citizens and crime victims, reported that chapters have been organized in 24 Florida counties. "It's blossoming incredulously," she said. The primary aim of STOP is to take violent, habitual criminals out of circulation and shut the prison system's "revolving door."

Jacksonville Sheriff Jim McMillan expressed the general consensus when he said providing more prison beds will end the frustration of arresting the same people over and over, and will save the taxpayers money in the long run.

St. Lucie County Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles (right) and Columbia County Sheriff Tom Tramel presented proposed future goals for consideration. Knowles is the president of the Sheriffs Association and Tramel is vice president as well as chairman of the Legislative Committee.

CLEARWATER — Sixty-two of Florida's 67 Sheriffs answered roll call when the Florida Sheriffs Association held its Annual Mid-winter Conference here, January 31-February 3, making this the best-attended meeting in the 82-year history of the organization.

Association officials said the record attendance was especially noteworthy because one-third of the Sheriffs were new members who had been elected in November, 1992, and were deeply involved in change-of-command procedures.

Executive Director J. M. "Buddy" Phillips, Jr., said he was pleased with the record turnout because it demonstrated the strength and solidarity of the organization. It was also, he said, an indication of the deep concern Sheriffs share regarding Florida's severe crime problems.

The consensus was that these problems will not be solved unless the prison system is expanded dramatically to end the present "revolving door" that puts convicted criminals back on the streets after they have served only a small portion of their sentences.

"More prison beds. It's the only answer," said Jacksonville Sheriff Jim McMillan, and his fellow Sheriffs responded with the heaviest applause of the three-day meeting.

Mary Ann Andrews told Sheriffs about the federal government's "Weed and Seed Program" designed to redevelop high-crime neighborhoods by "weeding" them with enhanced law enforcement, and "seeding" them with increased social services such as job training and drug treatment.

Mark Herron, Governmental Affairs Attorney for the Sheriffs Association, discussed criminal justice issues that are expected to be addressed by the Florida Legislature during its 1993 sessions.

Attorney General Bob Butterworth offered to work with Sheriffs to achieve changes in court orders that have restricted the housing of jail and prison inmates. Florida is in an entirely different situation now as a result of upgraded correctional facilities, he said, and it is no longer cruel and unusual punishment to be incarcerated here. "The public is no longer going to condone what is happening in the criminal justice system," he added. "They want the violent people locked up."

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Harry K. Weaver gave Sheriffs a progress report, and provided a preview of a new Youth Ranches movie titled "Today's Children . . . Tomorrow's Future."

Fred Taylor, Director of Metro-Dade Police Department, thanked Sheriffs for the massive, statewide emergency response they organized in the wake of Hurricane Andrew's devastation. Referring to the approximately 2,000 Sheriffs' deputies and technicians that came to the rescue in Dade County, he said, "I have never seen such an outpouring of assistance. If any of you ever need help, we'll be on the way before they clear the roads."

Col. Robert Edwards, Director of the Division of Law Enforcement for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, gave Sheriffs a consciousness-raising description of environmental crimes such as sink hole dumping and cruise ship dumping.

Record conference attendance. . .

NO ACCIDENTS

NO AT-FAULT ACCIDENTS

Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey, Chairman of the FSA Self-Insurance Fund Board, presented safety recognition awards to eight Sheriffs. Those who had no accidents during 1992 are (from left) William G. "Buddy" Smith, Calhoun County; Harrell Reid, Hamilton County; (Sheriff Harvey); Jim Floyd, Gilchrist; and Robert Leonard, Suwannee. Those with no at-fault accidents are (from left) Tom Tramel, Columbia; John P. McDaniel, Jackson; Dwayne Walker, Lafayette; Joe Peavy, Madison; (Sheriff Harvey).

Over 80 vendors and manufacturers who provide law enforcement equipment, services and supplies participated in the conference as sponsors and exhibitors. The vast array of items on display included a helicopter and a military-type hummer modified for crime fighting duty.

Election's over — Sheriff's still running

ORLANDO — Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (left) passes the 1993 Special Olympics torch to Orlando Police Chief Tom Hurlburt during the law enforcement officers torch run, a fund raising event staged to send physically challenged youngsters to the Florida Special Olympics.

It's a stand-off: Air bags and high-tech equipment create patrol car space problem

Fleet managers attending FSA seminar seek ways to surmount future roadblock

TAMPA — There's a nasty roadblock up ahead for high-tech law enforcement — the wave of the future that puts radios, videos, radars, computers and other razzle dazzle equipment in the front seat areas of patrol cars.

It was a prime topic for discussion among Sheriffs' fleet managers and purchasing agents attending the Florida Sheriffs Association's 1993 Administrative Management Seminar, February 24-26, but remained an unsolved dilemma.

According to Wyatt Earp, Director of Fleet Maintenance at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the problem boils down to this :

Modern patrol cars have a "stack" of high-tech equipment on the drive train tunnel (that hump on the floor of the front seat compartment). Items "stacked" in this small area include a radio, siren drive, video and computer.

There's very little room left for patrol deputies and their sidekicks. However, some have managed to squeeze in a mount for an automatic weapon or shotgun.

No problem up to this point, but along comes a federal regulation requiring driver and passenger air bags in all 1994 cars. Great idea safety-wise but a nightmare for patrol deputies because there just won't be sufficient front seat space to accommodate the passenger side air bag and the present stack of high-tech equipment.

The air bags deploy with such explosive force that the one on the passenger side would be capable of demolishing the equipment stack and turning high-tech contrivances into lethal missiles.

Something's gotta give, and apparently it won't be the air bag because it has a "window of deployment" that can't be reduced without taking away some of its lifesaving properties.

Earp, who helped to plan the seminar and moderated one of its sessions, said the FSA seminar gave Sheriffs' command staff employees an opportunity to look at several alternatives.

One is bucket seats which would give more space for the high-tech equipment. Another is redesigning (in other words: miniaturizing) the high-tech equipment so that it requires less space. This, however, is considered to be an expensive proposition.

Ford, General Motors and Chrysler brought 1993 patrol car prototypes to the FSA seminar and allowed Sheriffs' employees to test drive them at the Tampa fairgrounds. (Photos by Don Flynn.)

A third option is trying to get patrol cars exempted from the regulation that requires passenger side air bags. This, however, could create financial and possible insurance problems. When these half-safe patrol cars were traded in, passenger side air bags would have to be installed before they could be resold, and this is said to be an expensive proposition — much more expensive than factory installation.

In reply to a question, Earp agreed that wide, roomy Humvees, the military vehicles now being marketed for law enforcement duty, would solve the air bags problem. He doubted, however, that any Sheriff's budget could be stretched to cover the $60,000 vehicles.

He said a 1992 national conference wrestled with the air bags problem and failed to find a solution. "Now," he added, "we are seeing more light."

(Editor's note: Earp is not an imposter. He claims the same family roots as the legendary lawman and gunfighter of the American West, but is not a direct descendant of that Wyatt.)

For young people:

Exploring law enforcement is fascinating and contagious

WARNING TO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A YEN TO WEAR A BADGE AND A UNIFORM:

Law enforcement is contagious, and once you get the "bug" your affinity for police work could become chronic and get you locked into a lifetime career!

If this sounds like a frivolous warning, consider the fact that approximately 600 Florida youths between the ages of 14 and 21 are learning the basics of law enforcement as members of the Florida Sheriffs' Explorer Association (FSEA).

They are all in danger of getting "hooked" on law enforcement as a career — just as many of their predecessors have. The latest available statistics show that 207 former Explorers are now adult employees in Florida's criminal justice system.

All kidding aside — joining a Sheriff's Explorer Post offers a unique opportunity for young people to "explore" the advantages and disadvantages of a criminal justice career by becoming an "insider" and getting actual "hands-on" experience.

Explorers receive 40 hours of basic training, and 60 hours of advanced training in such widely varied subjects as criminal investigations, surveillance, communications and corrections. They learn how a Sheriff's Office operates, and also have opportunities to get involved in community service projects.

During 1992 members of FSEA logged almost 40,000 hours of community service in their home counties. In September, when FSEA delegates were meeting in West Palm Beach, they sacrificed a day of training to participate in the processing of relief supplies for Hurricane Andrew victims.

FSEA was created in May, 1979, to encourage law enforcement Explorer Posts, coordinate their activities, and provide approved guidelines. The Association holds delegate meetings in March, September and December; and a seven-day state conference in June. Members of FSEA are eligible for numerous awards and scholarships.

Explorer posts are currently being sponsored by Sheriffs in 21 Florida Counties. Information about the posts and FSEA can be obtained by contacting Det. Sgt. Steve Haller, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (407) 996-1689; or Deputy Sheriff James Meeks, Leon County Sheriff's Office (904) 922-3300.

Explorers Herbie Smith and Kathy Sobach were special guests at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association, February 1, 1993. During a conference business session they had an opportunity to describe their personal experiences and express their enthusiasm for exploring.

Processing relief supplies for Hurricane Andrew victims was just one of many community service projects carried out by law enforcement Explorers in 1992.

Florida Sheriffs Association
HONOR ROLL

This Honor Roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to progressive law enforcement. Distinguished Service Certificates are awarded to those who have rendered outstanding assistance to law enforcement officers; or who have supported the Sheriffs Association as Honorary Members for 25 or 30 years. Lifetime Honorary Memberships are awarded to veteran law enforcement officers whose careers have spanned 40 years or more; and to generous supporters whose donations to the Florida Sheriffs Association total $1,000 or more.

SARASOTA — Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge presents a 25-year Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Henrietta N. Clapper.

MRS. MURPHY

KEEL

TAVARES — Lake County Sheriff George Knupp, Jr., presents 25-year Distinguished Service Awards to Mrs. Catherineanne Murphy and Pat Keel.

ARMSTRONG

FORT MYERS — Lee County Sheriff John J. McDougall presents a 25-year Distinguished Service Award to Harry C. Armstrong; and a 30-year Distinguished Service Award to Morton A. Goldberg.

PAILLES

CARTER

GOLDBERG

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster presents 25-year Distinguished Service Awards to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Paille, E. W. Carter, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Williams, and G. W. LaPrell.

WEST PALM BEACH — Palm Beach County Sheriff Richard P. Wille (left) presents a Florida Sheriffs Association Lifetime Honorary Membership to Cpl. Edward J. Manak in recognition of the outstanding support Cpl. Manak has given to the Association.

WILLIAMS

LaPRELL

Good deed transforms pedaling patroller into a bicycling benefactor

Bike Deputy Gabor Simoga shows the electrically controlled hospital bed to Carmen Johnson, a friend of Evylin Price, before delivering it to Ms. Price.

KEY WEST — Remember 'way back when the friendly, jovial "cop on the beat" strolled through the neighborhood on foot patrol, making friends, listening to complaints, settling disputes, and "nipping" potential crimes "in the bud?"

Modernization of law enforcement swept him off the beat many years ago — literally swept him off his feet and into a patrol car.

That resulted in fewer contacts with the neighborhood residents, but the patrol officer could still pull over to the curb occasionally and talk to folks through the rolled down window of his cruiser.

With more modernization, along came air conditioning, and it was no longer practical to roll down the window for a chat. What a shame. It was only a matter of time until the friendly officer found that he was becoming isolated from his constituents, and law enforcement lost a lot of rapport with the public.

A uniformed deputy sheriff could still wave or nod as he cruised around, but to the public he was likely to be looked upon as "just a big bruiser in a cruiser."

Law enforcement officials didn't really like the change that was taking place, but, with the advent of urban sprawl and suburban growth, foot patrols were no longer practical.

Then to the rescue came an old world idea — bicycle patrols. It invaded the USA, caught on from coast to coast, and is currently helping law enforcement to recover some of its friendly image without sacrificing efficiency.

A 1992 survey revealed that numerous Sheriffs' Offices have created bicycle patrols to get law enforcement "closer to the people." This new approach is called "community policing," and here's one example of what a deputy on a bike can do to bring out the compassionate, neighborly side of law enforcement:

Recently the Red Cross called the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, in Key West, and said "Hey, we have a dandy hospital bed to give away. Can you find someone who needs it?"

"We'll try," said the Sheriff's Office, and a message went up and down the keys about the dandy hospital bed in search of a needy patient. Eventually the information reached Bicycle Patrol Deputy Gabor Simoga, and, while canvassing his Hibiscus Park patrol area, he found Evylin Price, a paraplegic who was being cared for by her mother and sister.

Simoga verified that Ms. Price really needed that hospital bed. Then, he and Sgt. Roy Bogue not only delivered it to her, but also assembled it and gave the family instructions on using the controls.

This is precisely the sort of community service Sheriff Richard Roth hoped to provide as a spinoff when he created a bicycle patrol. It is also likely to change Simoga's public image from "patrolling pedaler" to "benevolent bicyclist."

Lovers of law enforcement legends mourn the death of Marvin Freeman

PANAMA CITY — Before he died on January 28, 1993, at the age of 84, Lt. Marvin Freeman, was a living law enforcement legend known far and wide for his 55-year career, for the publicity he received in 1990 as the nation's oldest active lawman, and — most of all — for the wild stories he used to spin about his unorthodox exploits.

The Bay County Sheriff's Office, where he served the greatest portion of his tour of duty, will never be quite the same now that he's gone, but fortunately the wild stories will linger on and get wilder with each telling.

Generations hence lawmen will still be talking about the time the late Lt. Freeman flew to Dallas, Texas, to pick up two prisoners; got stranded by an airline strike; and hitch-hiked back to Panama City with the two handcuffed suspects.

Sheriff Doc Daffin paced the floor and asked Marvin if he had lost his mind, but he didn't fire the maverick. In fact, later on Marvin was given another opportunity to pick up a prisoner.

This time the deputy drove to Miami in a patrol car, took custody of a Bay County fugitive, and allowed the prisoner to do the driving on the return trip.

It made sense to Marvin. After all, the prisoner had a chauffeur's license, so why not let him drive? "Some people had fits, and some had heart attacks," Marvin told an interviewer in 1990, "but we made it, didn't we?"

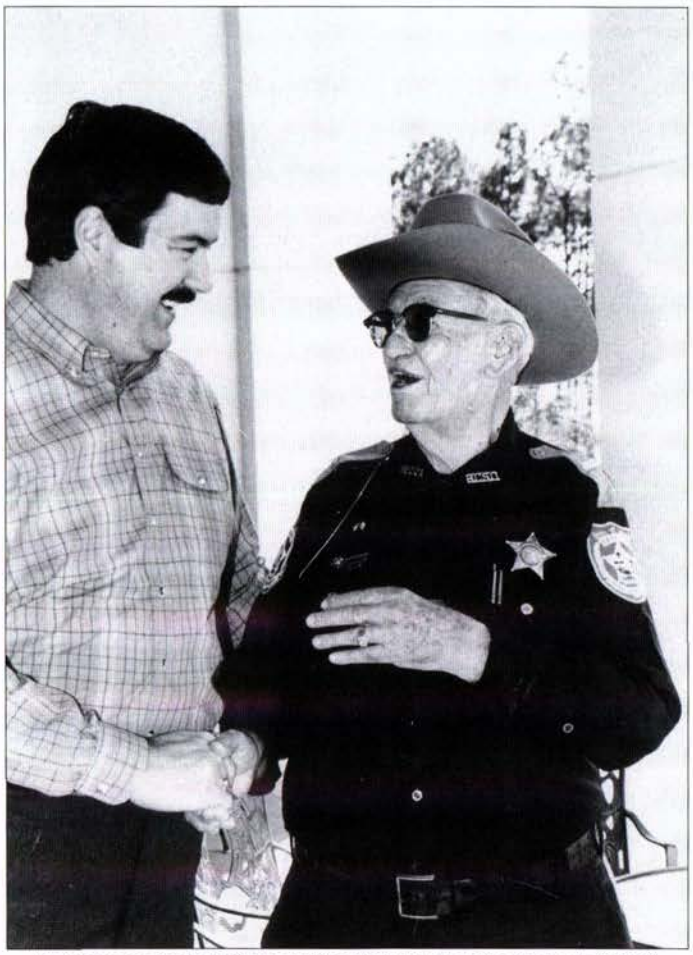
The saying around Bay County is that Marvin always brought back his man, but not necessarily "by the book." Marvin loved to tell about the time a teenager came up to him and said: "Old Pop's got a gun, but he couldn't hit that telephone booth over there."

The way the story goes, Marvin said "Cap'n, set that beer can on your head," and promptly shot it off. A policeman who saw the incident ran over, picked up the can and yelled, "Man, are you that good or just plumb crazy?"

"Some of both," Marvin replied.

In his prime, few people were foolish enough to challenge this 300-pound deputy who measured six-feet, three-and-one-quarter inches from the toes of his boots to the top of his Stetson. He was still "walkin' tall" in 1990 at the age of 81, and was hailed as the nation's oldest, active law enforcement officer.

That accolade was given to him on January 23, 1990, when he was introduced to Sheriffs attending the Annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association, and the Sheriffs responded by giving him a standing ovation.



On the eve of his retirement in 1990, Lt. Marvin Freeman (right) received congratulations and best wishes from Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell.

Lt. Freeman retired two months later, at the end of a 55-year law enforcement career. He served under twelve Sheriffs in Calhoun, Gulf and Bay Counties; held some jobs as a policeman and police chief in various communities; wore the uniform of a State Beverage Agent for six months; and accepted a World War II Coast Guard appointment as "Captain of the Port" in Port St. Joe.

Near the end of his career he told *The Sheriff's Star* he had no regrets. "No sir," he said, "if it was back in 1934 and I had my education, I would do it all over again.

"I pulled some boners," he admitted, "but it worked. It damned sure worked."

Following Lt. Freeman's death, Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell described him as "a very special individual who had his own unique methods of enforcing the law."

Then he added: "We will certainly not see his like again."

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

Honor Roll

Roster of
Lifetime Honorary Members
Home towns eliminated

To protect our Lifetime Honorary Members from receiving unwanted solicitations and junk mail, we have discontinued printing their home towns when we print their names.

We decided this was necessary after we learned that certain organizations of questionable legitimacy were adding our Lifetimers to their mailing lists. Obtaining a complete mailing address was relatively easy for them as long as they had the Lifetimers' home towns. Without the home towns, it will be extremely difficult.

We have never permitted other organizations to use our membership lists, and we will continue to do everything possible to protect the privacy of our members.

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 $1,000 or more to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to *The Sheriff's Star*. Under a new regulation which became effective in 1984, those whose gifts total over $5,000 will receive additional gold stars on their plaques – one for $5,000, two for $10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over $25,000.

Presentations

We regret that photos of Lifetime Honorary Members are not always available when their names appear on the membership roster. Consequently, we often find it necessary to print the names in one issue of *The Sheriff's Star* and the photos in a subsequent issue.

New Lifetime Honorary Members

Mr. Jerry Achee
American Legion Orlando Memorial Post 19
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Anderson
Ashley Glen Apartments
B.P.O.E.. Lodge #1974
B.P.O.E. Lodge #1795
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Baker
Colonel and Mrs. Dale H. Balke
Mr. Douglas G. Bareiss
Mr. and Mrs. Don Barnard
Belk-Lindsey Stores, Inc. – Crystal River Mall
Bennett's Glass Company – Lake City
Ms. Betty Boggs
Mr. J. Adrian Bovis
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Boyd
Broward County Fair
Mr. Thomas N. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. John Brownlee
Cablevision Industries – Live Oak
Ms. Mary Canjelosi
Mr. Al K. Carlisle
Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Carpenter
Mrs. Neeltje Case
Mr. Don Casey
Mrs. Ed Charles
Church Women United in Manatee County
Circle B Inc.
Citrus Alliance for Sheriff's Employees – Citrus County
Mrs. Kevin Clancy
Clearwater Chapter Retired Officer Association
Mr. and Mrs. John Cousins
Cove Cay Village II – Clearwater
Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Cummings
Ms. Nancy V. Damon
Captain and Mrs. Earl J. Dare
Mr. C. Q. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Davis
Deep South Products, Inc.
Mr. Nicholas Dijoy
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Dougan
Mr. and Mrs. Fay Duffy
Mr. Clay Durham
Mrs. Bruce C. Embody
Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Emery
Mr. Charles W. Evans
Fairway Village Square Club
Mr. and Mrs. John Faustini
Mr. William J. Fialkowitz
Mr. H. D. Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Gentry
Mr. and Mrs. Bud Gier
Mr. Edward A. Gilchrist
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Gill, Jr.
Mrs. Gerald Givens
Dr. Jeff Glickman
Mr. Robert A. Gowell
Mr. Adrian Jerome Green
Mr. Bobby J. Greene
Mrs. Helen B. Hadley
Harris Concrete
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hatfield
Mr. V. Patrick Heaney
Mr. Richard Heitmann
Sheriff and Mrs. H. C. Henderson
Mr. James Henderson
Mr. and Mrs. Jean Heron
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hilliard
Holiday Lake Estates Security Patrol, Inc.
Mr. Lindsey Hooper, Jr.
Captain Laurie H. Hosford
Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Hubbard
Mr. Joseph M. Hudick
Ms. Carolyn Hufty
Mr. Charles L. Huisking, Jr.
Humane Society of Okeechobee
Mr. W. F. Hurlburt, Jr.
Mr. Lamar Jenkins
Mrs. Ella Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Emory Judy
Mr. G. R. Katzenbach
Kelly's Gym
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kempton
Mr. Joseph Kocak
Koon's Pontiac
Dr. and Mrs. Allen E. Kuester
Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Kull
Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Kurth
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kutner
Ladies Auxiliary South Venice Volunteer Fire Dept.
Ms. Kathleen Lambert
Mr. Arnold C. Lane
Miss Lucy Lang
Mrs. Sarah S. Lawhorne
Mr. and Mrs. Al LaVire
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Lechner
Mr. and Mrs. David Levene
Loyal Order of Moose Lodge Ft. Myers Beach Lodge #964
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey G. Maloy
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Marossy
Mr. and Mrs. Rolando Martinez
Mr. and Mrs. Duke McCallister, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McCoskey
Mr. Victor McCoy
Mrs. Janet M. McKenney
Mr. Walter L. McManus
Ms. Miriam M. Mercer
Sheriff and Mrs. Bob Milner
Ms. Robin Mineo
Mr. and Mrs. Ulrick Moesly
Mr. Charles W. Moneypenny
Mrs. J. R. Moody, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Moore
Dr. and Mrs. Ian Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Muench
Ms. Patricia Murray
Mr. and Mrs. George Nevergall
Ms. Connie Nickolson
Dr. Ralph J. Nobo, Jr.
Mr. Guss H. Nolan
Mr. Cliff O'Donnell
Mrs. Sandra Oller
Orange County Air Boat Association
Colonel and Mrs. Marcus O. Owens, Jr.
OK Generators
Mr. Mark Pantlin
Mr. Ron Parham
Mr. John W. Payson
Mrs. Shirley Peacock
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Pepper
Mr. Timothy Pernsteiner
Pine Lake Village Activities Association
Mr. and Mrs. James Plumley
Mrs. Josephine K. Poling
Ms. Marianne Power
R. V. Johnson Insurance Agency
Ramadan Hand Institute
Mr. Arthur T. Ratcliffe
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reese
Dr. and Mrs. Richard W. Reichert
Mr. Kenneth Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Roche
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rock
Roger Holler Chevrolet, Inc.
Mr. Miles Ross
Royalites Social Club Park Royale MHP
Dr. and Mrs. Dean Sadler
Mr. Harry Sanders
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Sapp
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Scanlon
Schmenny's, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Clay A. Schnitker
Mrs. Jane Y. Schofield
Dr. and Mrs. John T. Schwartzbek
Mr. and Mrs. John Scull
Reverend and Mrs. S. H. Lewin Shaw
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Silva
Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Sloan
Mrs. Carl W. Smith
Southeast Car Agency, Incorporated
Ms. Mary Starr
Mrs. Pauline Stead
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Stonerock
Mr. John C. Stratton
Mr. and Mrs. John Stull
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Swain
The Davis Agency, Inc.
The Industrial Company Southeast, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Thomas
Treasure Island Charities, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Turley
Mrs. Ann B. Urchison
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Van Der Tweel
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Van Roten
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Vanden Hoek
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton VanDenLangenburg
Wal-Mart Store #1083 – Jacksonville
Ms. Ethel B. Wallace
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Walton
Mrs. Muriel M. Watts
Mr. and Mrs. Harry K. Weaver, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Archie W. Weinberg
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Welch
Mr. Andrew Wiesen
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Witt
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Wright

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .

LIVE OAK — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Pat Monogue (left) to P. C. Crapps III.

FORT LAUDERDALE — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Alison E. Evans to Mrs. Carolyn Stickney, owner of the C R Book Nook.

FORT MYERS — Presented by Lee County Sheriff John McDougall to Cora Seifert.

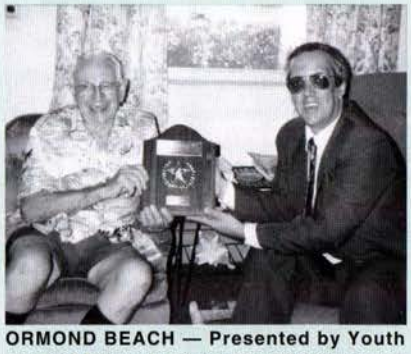
LIVE OAK — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Pat Monogue (left) and Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Linda Crews to Richard H. Brashear, President, Alltel Florida, Inc.

HUDSON — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Terry Gregg to Dorothy Schultz, representing Pasco-Hernando County Hospice.

YEEHAW JUNCTION — Presented by Boys Ranch Unit Director Dru Thompson (right) to General Manager Dave Graham, representing River Ranch.

KEY WEST — Presented by Monroe County Sheriff Richard D. Roth (left) to Bobby Greene.

BARTOW — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Michele Linebaugh (center) to Mr. and Mrs. E. Clifton Dowell.



ORMOND BEACH — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director David Kritzmacher (right) to Hobart E. Pratt.

WATKING

KIRKLAND

WATSONS

LIVE OAK — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Linda Crews to Capt. Terry Watking, representing the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse; Ray Kirkland, representing Occidental Chemical Co., White Springs; and Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Watson.

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .

WATTERSON

MS. PALMER

MISS ZOLLER

MS. TROPEA

SAFETY HARBOR — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Jean Newell to Minor H. Watterson; Ms. Dorothy Palmer, Dunedin (two stars added to plaque); Miss Frances Zoller, Belleair Bluffs; and Ms. Carolyn Tropea, Clearwater.

POTTER

MS. RIDINGS

MRS. LAMPKIN

MS. JAN SILBERSTEIN

BRADENTON/SARASOTA — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Bill Brown to Rodney Potter, representing Leeds Building Products; Ms. Dorothy "Dot" Ridings, Publisher and President, The Bradenton Herald, respresenting the Knight Foundation; Mrs. Catherine Lampkin, who received one plaque for herself and one for the K-F Foundation; and Ms. Jan Silberstein.

MELLICAN

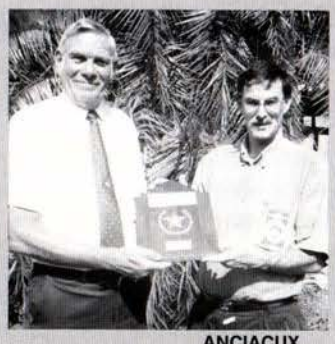
DR. DEVITO

NODERER

SAFETY HARBOR — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Mac Stones to Paul L. Mellican (accepting for Mr. and Mrs. Mellican); Dr. Michael Devito, Clearwater; Art Noderer, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, representing Cypress Lake Baptist Church, Oldsmar; Myrna Levine, owner of The Closet Collection, Clearwater; Gunther Heyse, President, accepting for the Hill of Plenty Club, Seminole; Marc Anciacux, Secretary, accepting for Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, No. 48, Clearwater; and Monte Evans, President, accepting for the United Methodist Men of St. Paul's Church, Largo.

MS. LEVINE

HEYSE



ANCIACUX

EVANS

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .

SONNENBERGS

CARLSONS

MAROSSYS

SARASOTA — Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge (right) and Youth Ranches Regional Director Bill Aust (left) to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sonnenberg; Mr. and Mrs. Elis T. Carlson; and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Marossy.

MRS. BRIDGES

MRS. BAIRD

MS. WEATHERWAX

CARUTH CAMP — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Stephen Feldstein (in shirt and tie) to Mrs. Gale Bridges, a Caruth Camp Employee, who was accompanied by her husband, Charles Bridges; to Mrs. Judy Baird, Gainesville, accepting for her husband, Carl Baird; and to Ms. Evelyn Weatherwax, from Hernando County.

BRADENTON — A Lifetime Honorary Membership awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Ed H. Price, Jr., was accepted by Mr. Price (center). It was presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Bill Brown (left) and Bill Beckley, past president and founder of the Manatee River Youth Ranch.

SARASOTA — Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge (right) to Howard M. Strasser.

ORLANDO — Presented by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Terry Knox to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Elicker.

JOHNSON

HEITMANN

PAYSON

STUART — Presented by Martin County Sheriff Robert Crowder to Rudy Johnson, representing R. V. Johnson Insurance Agency; Richard Heitmann, of Jensen Beach; and John W. Payson, of Hobe Sound.

"Big Mac" attacks drug abuse!

By Richard D. Morrison
Photos by Kathy L. Morrison

PANAMA CITY — Everyone is familiar with the "Big Mac Attack" portrayed in television commercials, but the "Big Mac Attack" currently featured by the Bay County Sheriff's Office has nothing to do with marketing juicy hamburgers.

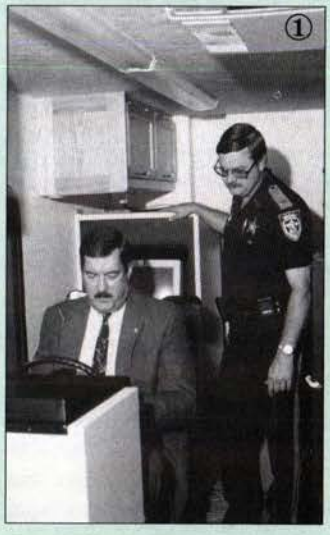
In this case, "MAC" stands for Mobile Anti-Drug Classroom, and Sheriff Guy Tunnell describes it as an alternative method for reducing drug abuse. "Instead of waiting for a tragic event where we have to make an arrest," he said, "maybe we can avoid this unpleasant situation altogether through prevention efforts."

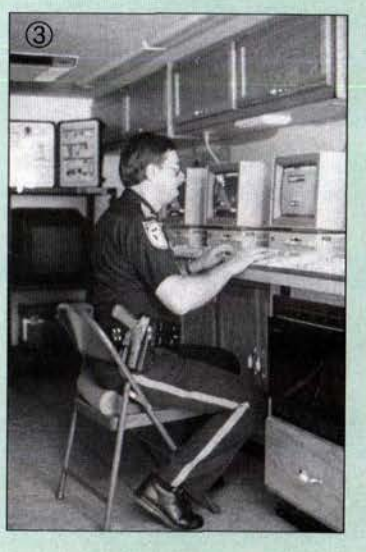
A special feature of the MAC unit is the "driver simulator" which can be programmed to simulate various levels of intoxication, road conditions and vehicle speeds. The results are displayed on a digital readout panel that shows what the "test driver's" reaction time should be under normal conditions, and what it is with alcohol and road conditions factored in.

Lt. Larry White, supervisor of the Sheriff's School Resource Officer unit, says "kids are really excited about using the simulator, but best of all it makes a lasting impression on them about the harm of drug abuse."

MAC's arsenal of anti-drug weapons also includes "hands on" computer displays, interactive video programs, and static displays showing the disastrous effects of illicit drugs.

Lt. Larry White (in uniform) tests Sheriff Guy Tunnell's reaction time on the "driving-under-the-influence" simulator ① ; explains the static display of drug abuse results ② ; and demonstrates the "hands on" computer program ③. (Photos by Kathy L. Morrison)





Purchased for approximately $160,000 with a federal grant — and in cooperation with school and municipal officials — MAC really gets around. The big green and white schoolroom on wheels put on 1,200 demonstrations for some 30,000 visitors in its first ten months of operation.

Sheriff Tunnell has chosen school children as MAC's primary target, but is making the unit available to all interested groups in Bay County.

"This is a unique approach to drug awareness training," he said, "and I hope we can wear it out teaching people about the drug problems of our society."