

OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

One Hundred Years of Excellence

1915-2015



The Oath of Office

"I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States, and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State; and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of Okaloosa County Sheriff on which I am now about to enter. So help me God."

Sheriff Benjamin Haywood Sutton

1915-1921

- Appointed to Sheriff by Gov. Park Trammell on Oct. 10, 1915
- No prior law enforcement experience
- Funded agency with his own money until Jan. 1916
- Won election to remain Sheriff in 1916
- Murder of Bud and Nancy Davis on March 21, 1917
- Served as executioner for Robert Blackwell
- Resigned from office and did not seek re-election

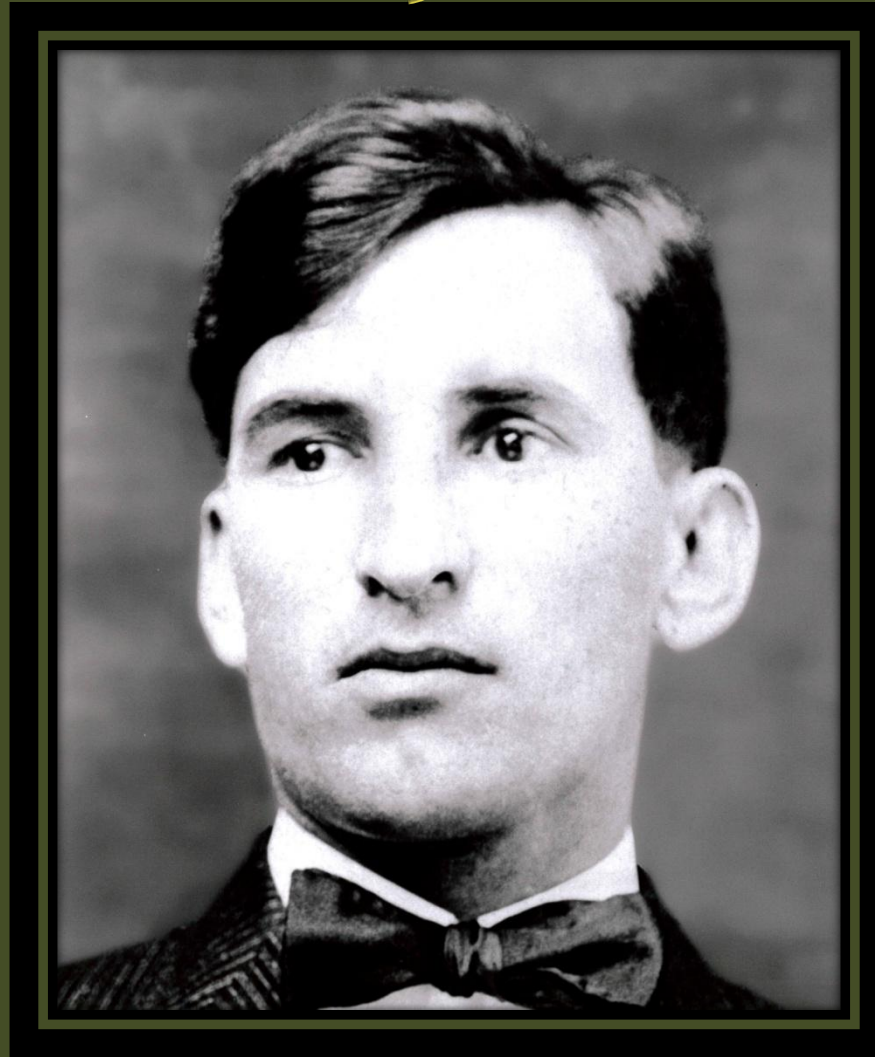


Robert Blackwell Hanging

In this photo it is unknown which person is Sheriff Sutton. At the time of this presentation there are no known photographs of Sheriff Sutton

Sheriff John M. Summerlin

1921



Sheriff Summerlin

- Family was from Laurel Hill: part owner of dry goods store
- Community minded, active in groups
- Sworn into Office on Jan. 10, 1921
- Executed court order to have William Bishop taken to the State Hospital in Chattahoochee on Jan. 21, 1921
- First Line of Duty Death in Okaloosa County history
- Will be recognized formally in May 2015 for his service and sacrifice to Okaloosa County



Sheriff Summerlin

A undated
photograph of
Sheriff Summerlin
with three
unidentified men

Sheriff Peter Jackson Steele

1921-1930



Sheriff Peter Jackson Steele

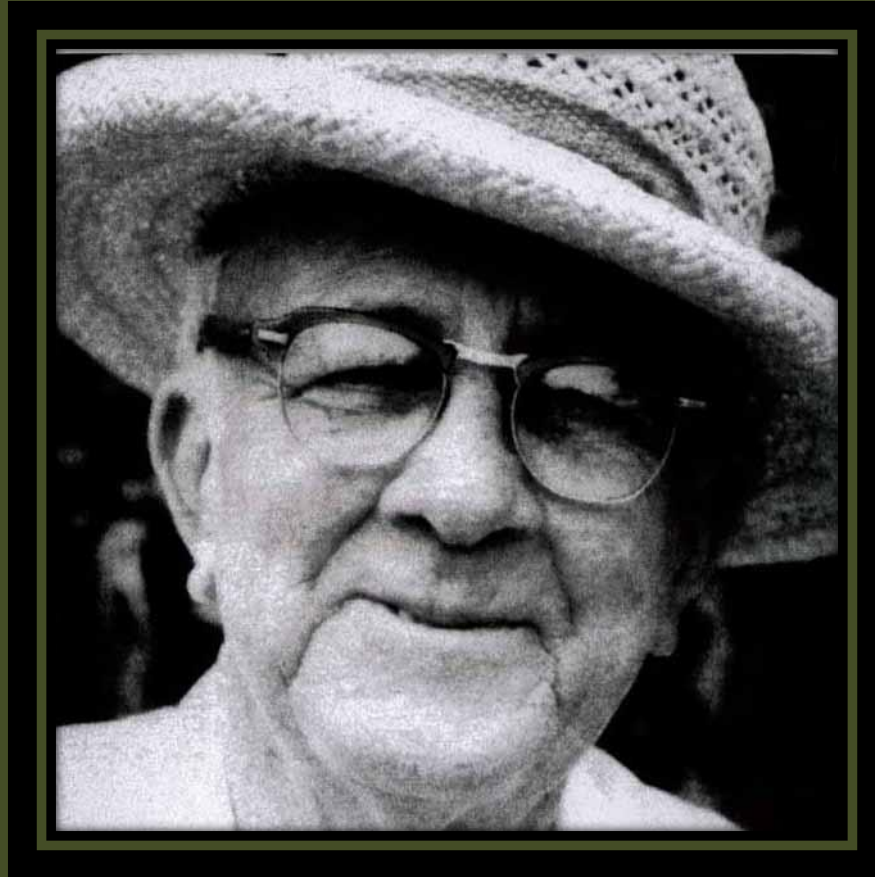
- Grew up and was raised on the family farm in Svea
- Worked in a Mercantile Store in Laurel Hill
- Appointed to be the county's first Treasurer in 1915 by Gov. Trammel
- Sworn in as a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Summerlin
- Appointed as Sheriff after the death of Summerlin
- Won re-election in 1924 and 1928
- Was highly thought of and respected throughout county

Sheriff Peter Jackson Steele

- Mr. Harry Gardner Cutler wrote this glowing review of Sheriff Steele in his book titled *History of Florida, Past and Present, Vol. III*, which was published in 1923
- "Sheriff Steele has handled the sheriff's office in masterful style and has been preeminently successful in the enforcement of law and order in his county. He has the respect and esteem of the law-abiding element and his courage, promptness, and firmness have made him feared by evil-doers."
- On June 6, 1929 Sheriff Steele passed away at the age of 40 from an unknown ailment which caused his throat to swell shut

Sheriff Lancelot H. Hughes

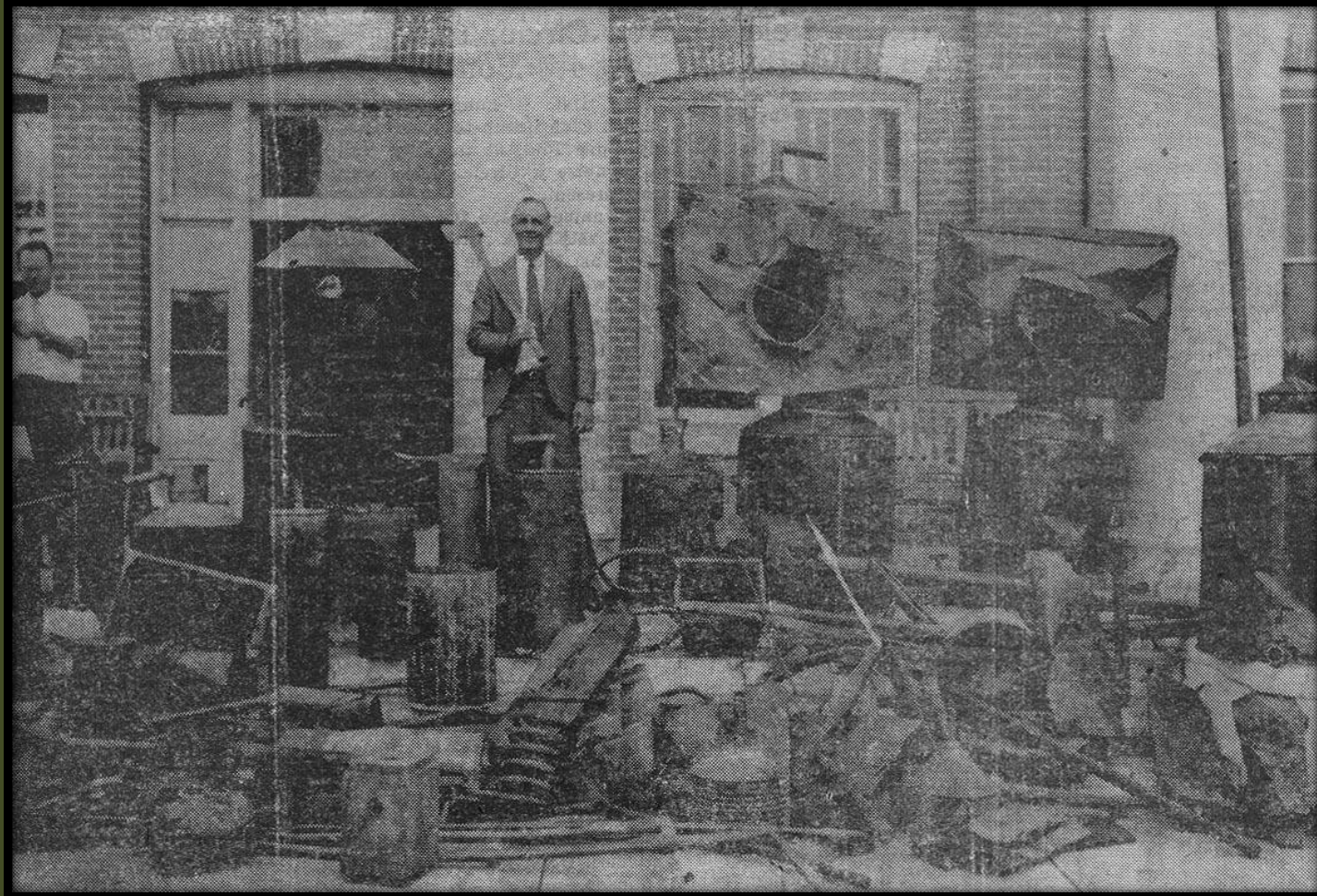
1929-1933



Sheriff Lancelot H. Hughes

- Grew up in Ponce DeLeon Florida
- Worked for his father who owned a dry goods store and sold automobiles
- At the age of 30 moved to Laurel Hill to sell cars with his younger brother. A natural salesman
- Approached by Gov. Carlton to be Sheriff after death of Steele
- On June 15, 1929 appointed as Sheriff
- Prohibition Era and Bootleg Liquor

Sheriff Lancelot H. Hughes



Sheriff Lancelot H. Hughes

- Purchased the county's first pair of canines in February 1930
- Landslide victory of 1930 to remain Sheriff. 80% margin of victory
- He employed 4 deputies for all of Okaloosa County...
- "I could fit my entire sheriff's department in one car. I had one chief deputy and three part-time deputies; one in Holt, one in Niceville, and one in Laurel Hill,"
- One of them was eventually arrested for cattle rustling and sent to prison!

Sheriff Lancelot H. Hughes

- Lost his bid for a second term as Sheriff in 1933
- After leaving the Sheriff's Office went to work for the Remington Firearms Company
- In 1992 was recognized as Florida's oldest living Sheriff at the age of 98

Sheriff John P. Steele

1933-1941



Sheriff John P. Steele

- Was a cousin to former Sheriff Peter J. Steele
- Chief Deputy J.A. McArthur died while on duty
- 18th Amendment was repealed
- Roosevelt's Tree Army and the CCC Camps
- Okaloosa County beginning to expand, roads, bridges developed with Federal funds in 1934
- Won re-election in 1936
- Would not seek re-election in 1940
- Murder of Sheriff Office candidate Les Wilson

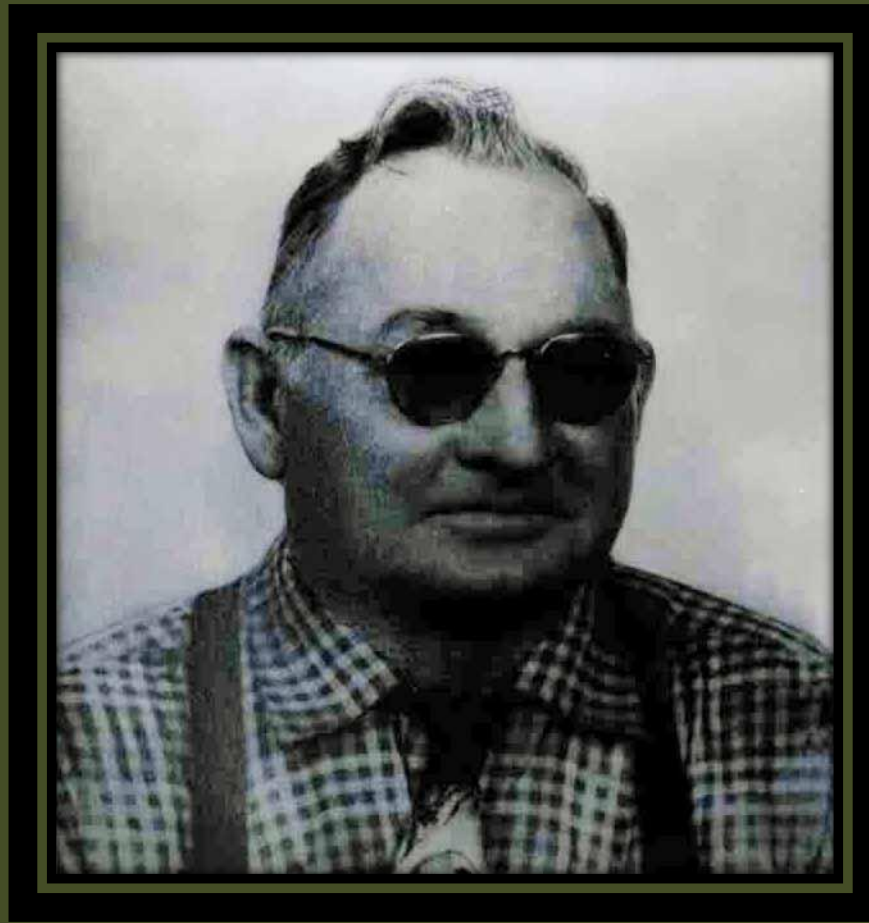


Sheriff candidate Les Wilson

March 15, 1940 Les Wilson was gunned down by a blast from a shotgun while he was sitting in his Crestview home. His 13 year old son; Ray Wilson was home at the time of the murder and vowed revenge against his fathers killer(s)

Sheriff Herman Isle Enzor

1941-1950



Sheriff Herman Isle Enzor

- Family name well known throughout Okaloosa County
- Served in Europe during World War I
- No previous law enforcement experience
- Eglin Air Field established: population of Okaloosa County at 12, 900
- Gambling makes its way into the county
- Won re-election in 1944 by capturing 91% of vote
- Won re-election in 1948 and a third term as Sheriff
- Tampa Tribune article creates concern in Tallahassee in December 1949
- Removed from office by Gov. Warren Aug. 2, 1950

Deputy Sheriff Badge

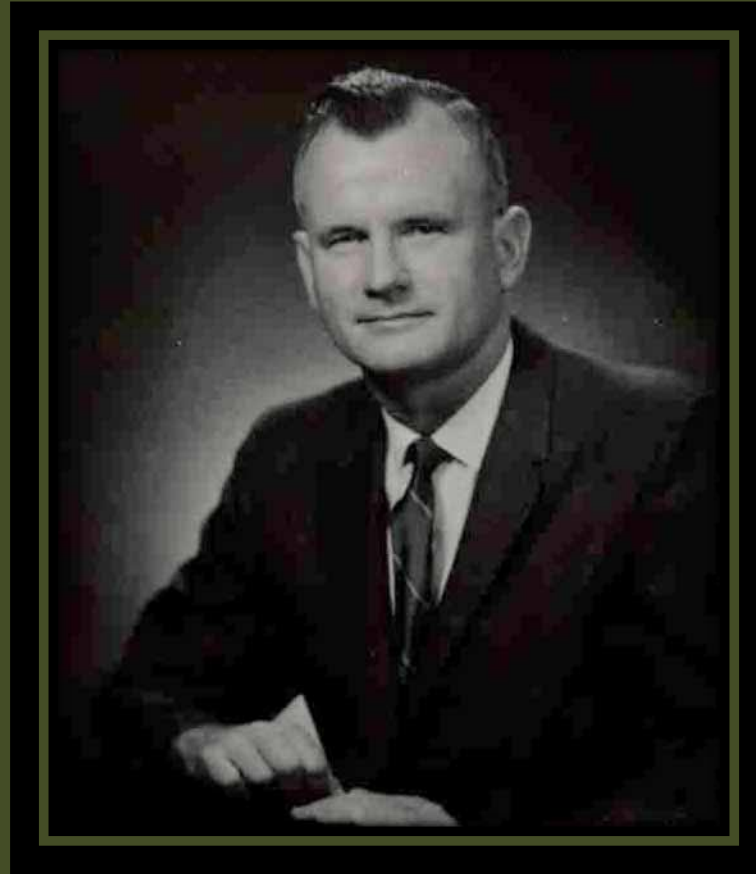
This is a photograph of a badge presumed to be from the Enzor Era. This badge was meant to be worn on the chest.

Considerably smaller than today's badges.



Sheriff Ferrin C. Campbell

1950

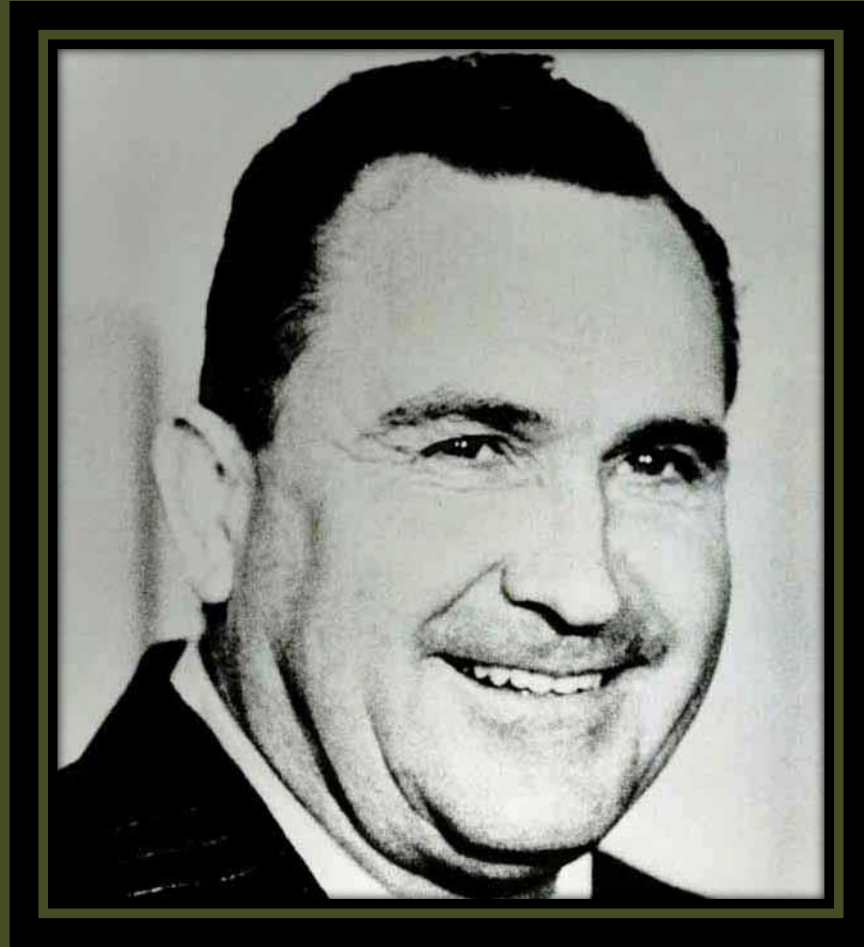


Sheriff Ferrin C. Campbell

- Attended Laurel Hill High School
- Was a pilot in the Marine Corp during World War II
- Received a law degree from University of Florida
- Was a practicing attorney in Crestview
- Elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1950
- Appointed as Sheriff *ad interim* by Gov. Warren
- Was married to Ila Enzor; the daughter of former Sheriff Enzor
- Removed by Governor after only 3 months in office

Sheriff James Alta McArthur

1950-1953

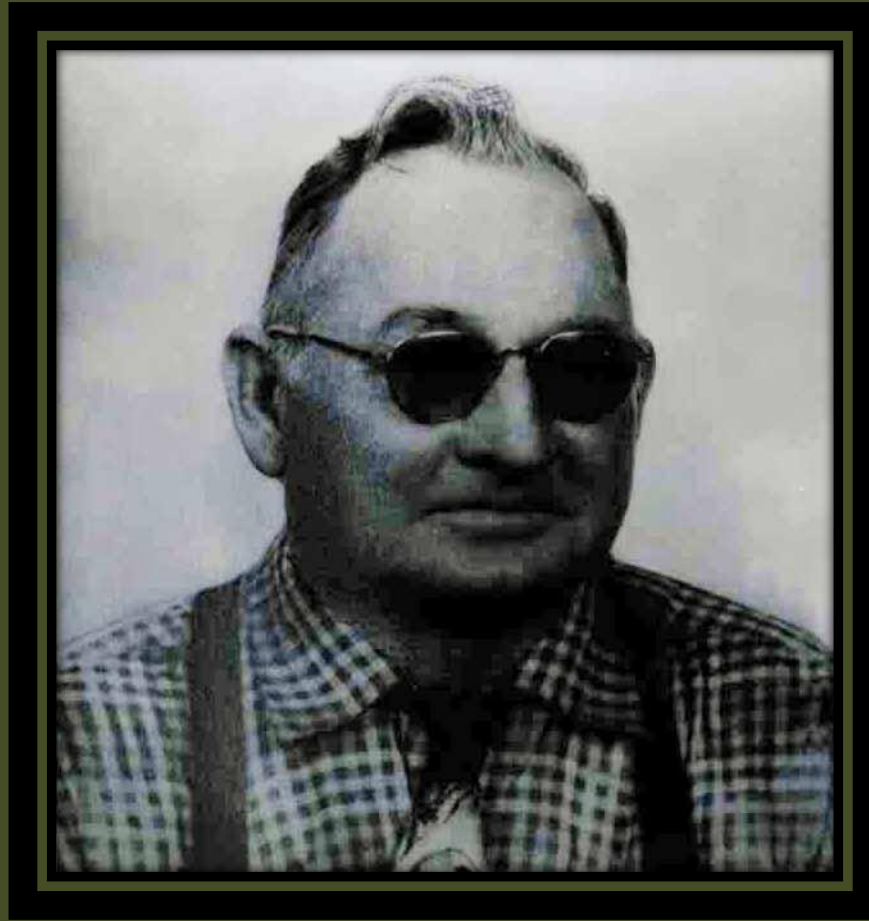


Sheriff James Alta McArthur

- Attended Crestview High School
- Received a degree from The University of Florida
- Worked as a project engineer with the State Road Department
- Helped clean up gambling in Okaloosa County, virtually gone by 1952
- Installed two-way radio communication for deputies with his own money
- Married to Mallinee Mapoles, daughter of William Mapoles. (founder of Okaloosa County)
- Returned to State Road Department after term was up

Sheriff Herman Isle Enzor

1953-1956

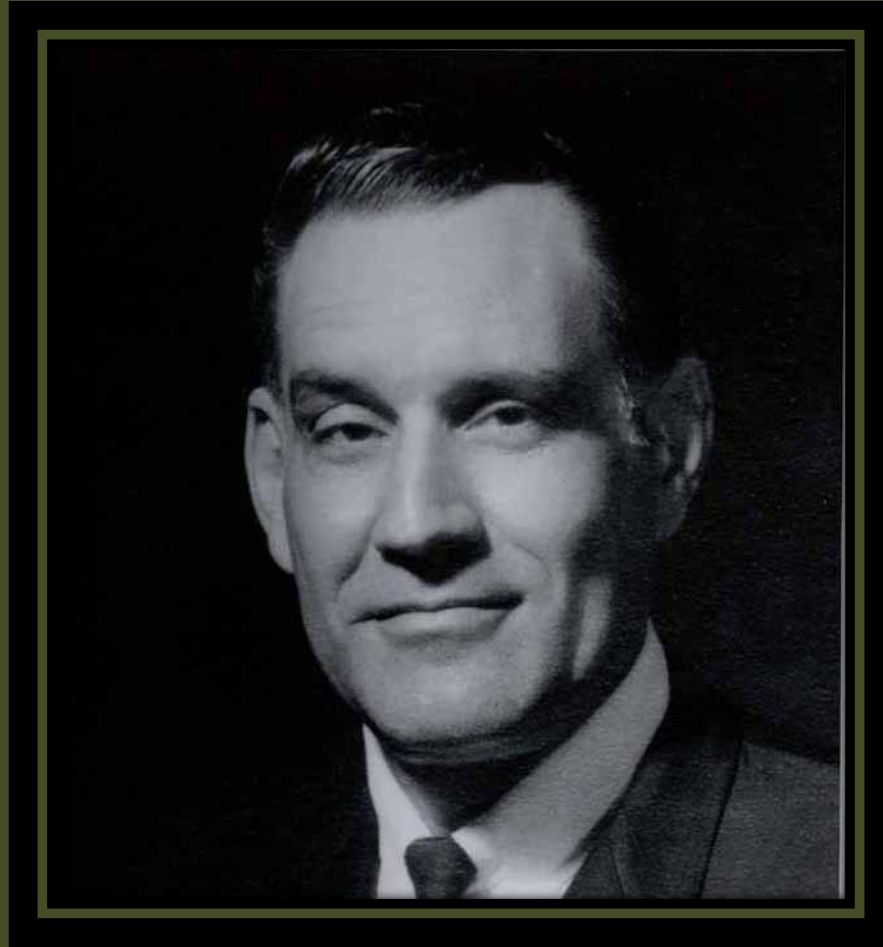


Sheriff Herman Isle Enzor

- Ran unopposed in the 1952 election
- Population was near 27,000 in Okaloosa County
- 1956 election he had 5 opponents for the office
- Lost election to Ray Wilson
- Died a few days later in his home from a heart attack on June 22, 1956
- Board of County Commissioners wanted to have his wife Florence Enzor fill his seat
- Governor Collins refused and placed Sheriff-Elect Wilson in office immediately

Sheriff Ray Wilson

1956-1976



Sheriff Ray Wilson

- Graduated from Crestview High School
- Served in the US Army 7th Infantry during US occupation of Korea
- Owned and operated Crestview Dry Cleaners prior to becoming Sheriff
- Reopened the murder investigation of his father
- On Nov. 28, 1958 Jessie and Doyle Cayson found guilty
- In 1968 Sheriff's Office still only had 7 deputies for entire county despite a population close to 88,000 people

KEEP

**WILSON
SHERIFF**



A
GOOD
MAN
FOR
THE
JOB

A
MAN
NOW
DOING
A
GOOD
JOB

**Sheriff Ray
Wilson**

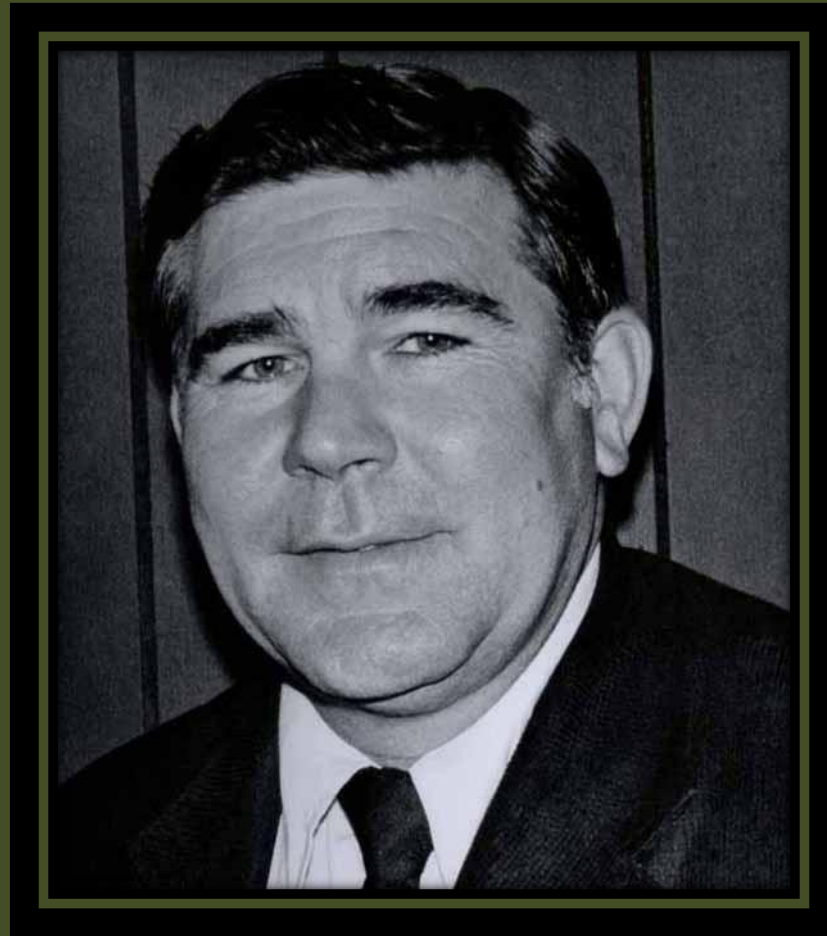
A campaign poster for Sheriff Ray Wilson used during one of his re-election bids.

Sheriff Ray Wilson

- Served as Sheriff of Okaloosa County for 20 years
- Defeated in 1976 election by Frankie Mills, a total of 5 different challengers for the Office of Sheriff
- Passed away in February 2014 at the age of 87

Sheriff Frankie L. Mills

1977-1981

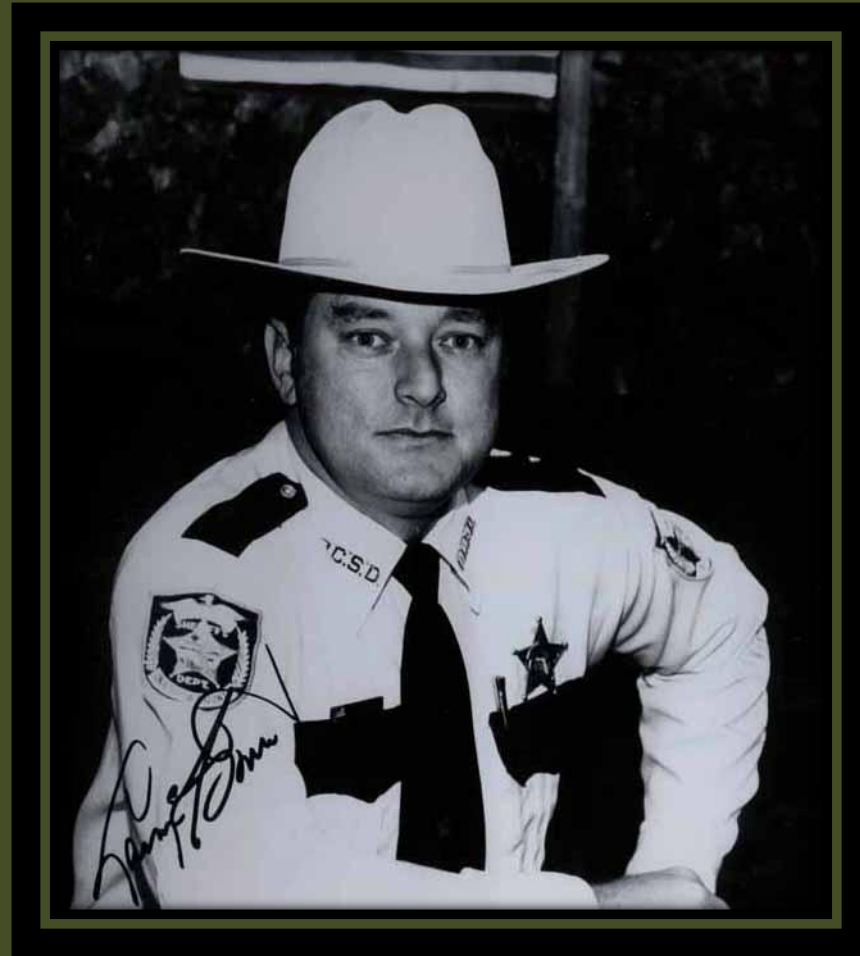


Sheriff Frankie L. Mills

- Worked for the Florida Highway Patrol prior to becoming Sheriff
- First Sheriff of Okaloosa County with any prior law enforcement experience
- Agency had a total of 38 deputies and 6 investigators, population closing in on 100,000 citizens
- Was defeated in 1980 election by Larry Gilbert

Sheriff Larry Gilbert

1981-1997

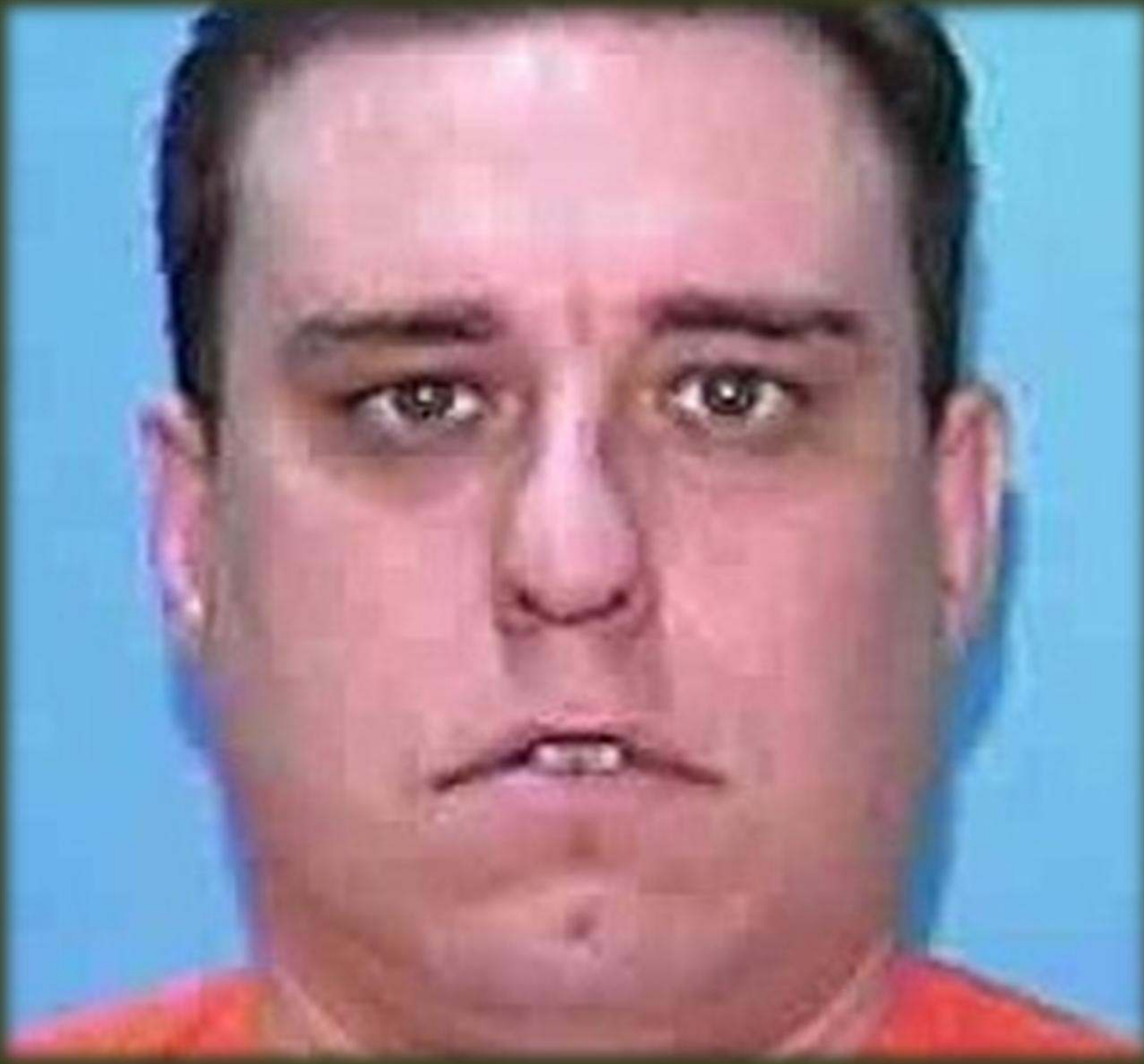


Sheriff Larry Gilbert

- Ran for Sheriff back in the 1977 election and lost to Sheriff Frankie Mills
- Served 4 years with the State Fire Marshalls Office
- Also served 9 years with the Sunshine State Bank
- Won re-election 4 consecutive times
- County installed 9-1-1 System in 1988
- Switched political parties in 1989 from democrat to republican
- In 1989 relinquished control of the County Jail back to the County Commissioners

Sheriff Larry Gilbert

- Equipped deputies with ballistic vest as well as automatic weapons, until then deputies had a wide range of firearms that they carried on duty
- Population of the county near 150,000
- The size of the agency grew to about 120-130 deputies
- Sept. 11, 1987 Officer Kenneth Baldwin found shot to death at Okaloosa County Airport (Still unsolved)
- Most celebrated case: The Frank Walls Serial Murders which stretched from 1985 till 1987. In 1994, after his arrest and conviction, Walls admitted to 3 more slayings during that time span
- Lost bid for a 5th term as Sheriff to Charlie Morris in 1996



Frank Walls

Inmate photograph of Okaloosa County's first serial killer: Frank Walls. He was only 17-19 years old at the time of the killings making him one of the youngest killers on record.

Sheriff Charlie Morris

1997-2009



Sheriff Charlie Morris

- Served in the USAF Security Police Squadron
- Was a police officer in the Jackson Mississippi Police Department
- Hired by the FWBPD in 1993 and began as the first School Resource Officer at FWBHS
- Restructured the Sheriff's Office
- Brought in new technology and training to the agency, Computer Aided Dispatch/ Mobile Computers in vehicles
- Established sub-stations throughout community

Sheriff Charlie Morris

Programs installed while Sheriff

- Expanded School Resource Officer program
- Underwater Dive Team
- Honor Guard
- Special Response Team
- Marine/Beach Unit
- Crime Stoppers
- Chaplin Program
- Neighborhood Watch
- Citizens Academy
- Citizens on Patrol
- Sex Offender Unit
- SALT Program
- Child Protective Team
- Fugitive Warrant Unit
- Human Trafficking Unit

Sheriff Charlie Morris

- Expanded benefits program for employees
- Increased salaries for deputies
- Established a employee education program
- Worked to diversify the agency
- Won re-election in 2000, 2004, and 2008
- In 2008 elected to serve as President of the Florida Sheriff's Association
- On July 23, 2008 Deputy Sheriff Anthony Forigone was shot and killed while attempting to apprehend a escaped Baker Act patient



**Deputy Anthony
Forigone**
EOW: 7-22-2008

In April 2009 the Florida Senate passed the Deputy Anthony Forigone Act which mandates reform to existing Baker Act protocol

Sheriff Charlie Morris

ONLINE NORTHWEST FLORIDA

LOCAL & STATE | B1

Motive unknown in 'horrific' murders of Chilean students



75 cents daily

TO READ THE FBI'S ARREST AFFIDAVIT, GO TO NWFDAILYNEWS.COM

SHERIFF ARRESTED

Charlie Morris, employee face fraud, theft, money laundering charges

- Federal agents make arrest in Las Vegas
- Arrest shocks staff, other officials and residents

By TOM McLAUGHLIN
Northwest Florida Daily News
75-4425 tmm@nwfdailynews.com

Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris was arrested Friday morning in Las Vegas.

His administrative director, Teresa Adams, was taken into custody at the Sheriff's Office headquarters in Shalimar.

The arrests on charges of fraud, theft and money laundering came following an investigation conducted by the IRS and FBI, said Jeff Westcott at the FBI's office in Jacksonville.

An affidavit summarizing the charges against Morris was filed by FBI agent James Van Pelt on Wednesday.

It states, "It is believed" Morris, 59, "repeatedly utilized subordinate employees of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in order to facilitate a scheme whereby he has withdrawn tens of thousands of dollars in OCSO public funding for his personal discretionary spending."

Adams, 50, Morris' director of administration and finance, "repeated fictitious bonuses to Sheriff's department employees," according to a news release. She is charged under the same federal

The night before federal agents arrested Charlie Morris, there were whispers.

Early Friday, while Morris was in Las Vegas on what his employees called a vacation, the whispers grew louder, along with rumors of federal charges following him.

And by the evening at the Sheriff's Office administration building in Shalimar, there were tears of disbelief.

"Sheriff Morris has been like a father to me," his spokeswoman Michelle Nicholson, said, crying. "To say that we're hurt, to say that we're stunned, to say that we're disappointed does not begin to cover it."

"I feel like I'm in a dead zone," Santa Rosa County Sheriff

PLEASE SEE ARREST SHOOTS | A5

PLEASE SEE AGENTS MAKE ARREST | A4

United States District Court
NORTHWEST DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
vs.
CHARLES W. MORRIS
aka CHARLES MORRIS

WARRANT FOR ARREST
CASE NUMBER: 3-027-20

For The United States Marshal
and any Authorized United States Officer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest CHARLES W. MORRIS aka CHARLES MORRIS

and bring him or her forthwith to the nearest Federal Court for arraignment.

At Court

Okaloosa County

RIBBON CUTTINGS

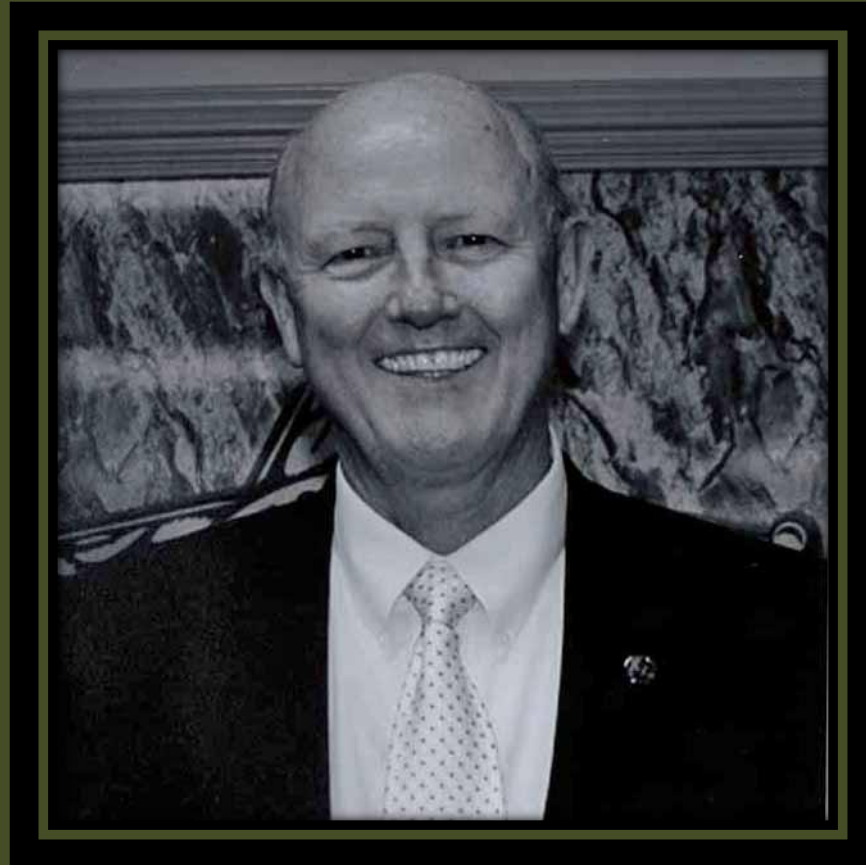
CRESTVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sheriff Charlie Morris

- On February 27, 2009 Sheriff Morris was arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada on federal charges of fraud, theft, money laundering, and conspiracy charges. These charges were investigated by the FBI
- Governor Charlie Crist removed Sheriff Morris from office and placed Ed Spooner on a *ad interim* basis as Sheriff
- On August 11, 2009 Mr. Morris plead guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 5 years and 11 months in a Federal Prison

Sheriff Ed Spooner

2009-2010



Sheriff Ed Spooner

- Began his law enforcement career in 1973 as an intern with the Florida Highway Patrol
- Worked with the Tallahassee Police Department 1973-1977
- Was an instructor at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy from 1977-1979
- At the time of his appointment he was the Assistant Special Agent in Charge with FDLE
- Helped keep the Sheriff's Office on course during a difficult time

Sheriff Ed Spooner

- On April 25, 2009 Deputy Sheriffs' Burt Lopez and Warren "Skip" York attempted to arrest a subject in connection with a earlier report of domestic violence. They made contact with the subject at the Shoal River Shooting Range and as they tried to take him into custody gun fire rang out. Both deputies were shot and killed. The suspect was later killed in a gun fight in Walton County after a high speed chase.



**Deputy Burt
Lopez
EOW: 04-25-2009**



Deputy Warren
"Skip" York
EOW: 04-25-2009

Sheriff Ed Spooner

- Served as Sheriff of Okaloosa County for 22 months
- In a Special Election held in November 2010, Chief Deputy Larry Ashley won the election to become Sheriff
- On May 4, 2011 President Obama nominated Ed Spooner to become US Marshal for the Northern District of Florida

Sheriff Larry Ashley
2010 to Present



Sheriff Larry Ashley

- Went to Geneva High School in Alabama
- Achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice at The University of Southern Mississippi, while on a football scholarship
- Second Sheriff elected in Okaloosa County who had begun his law enforcement career at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (First was PJ Steele : 1924)
- Began his career as a patrol deputy under Sheriff Larry Gilbert in 1990
- Worked as a K-9 handler



Sheriff Larry Ashley

Front row L-R:

Chris Lahr, Larry
Ashley, Johnny
Eubanks.

Back row L-R:

Roy Parker, Bob
Dudley

Sheriff Larry Ashley

- Worked in Investigations, Captain of Field Services, Major of Support Services, Major of Finance and Administration, and as Chief Deputy in 2009
- Recipient of the Senate Medal of Excellence in 2009
- Elected as Sheriff in 2010 by defeating numerous other opponents
- Implemented the Physical Agility Test for all sworn employees
- Lead the agency in achieving its first Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation in July 2010: CFA (261)
- Currently completing self assessment for National Accreditation for agency: CELEA (484)

Sheriff Larry Ashley

- In 2010, OCSO Crime Prevention Specialist Ashley Bailey was selected as the Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year
- In 2012 won re-election as Sheriff by defeating 3 other candidates
- In May 2012 Gov. Scott appointed Sheriff Ashley to the “Citizen Safety and Protection Task Force”
- NIXLE ALERTS available as a Smartphone app
- December 14, 2012 a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut
- Immediately places deputies in all elementary schools in Okaloosa County

Sheriff Larry Ashley

- In 2012 OCSO Sgt. Gary Venuti was selected as the S.R.O. of the Year by the Florida Association of School Resource Officers
- Agency has solved 5 cold case murders, some of them dating back to the 1970's
- Offers a Citizens Firearm Safety Course: Free of Charge
- Introduced the "Pill Take Back Program" in 2011
- Teen Driver Challenge
- Began utilizing social media for crime prevention: Facebook – Twitter- Smartphone Apps

Sheriff Larry Ashley

- 2014 Crime Stoppers Program awards OCSO Nicole Wagner their Person of the Year Award
- Currently consolidating Central Patrol Division, Investigations, Warrants, Records, and Civil Process into one building. This has streamlined operations and made it more efficient.
- In 2014 the School Resource Officer Program is voted the “Best in the State” by the Florida Association of School Resource Officers and is a model for all other programs to pattern themselves by
- 2014 began issuing Body Worn Cameras to the deputies

**Deputy Sheriff
Bill Myers
EOW: 09-22-15**



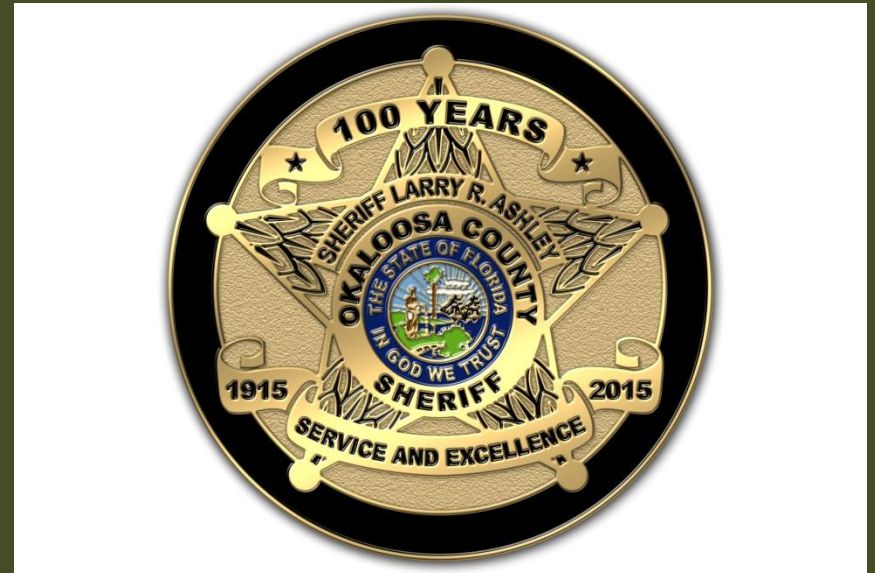
Sheriff Larry Ashley

- On 09-22-15 Deputy Bill Myers was serving a domestic violence injunction on a subject at his attorneys' office in Shalimar, Florida. The injunction called for the surrender of all firearms by the subject until a further hearing could be held. Deputy Myers was escorting the subject to his vehicle to retrieve the firearms when he pulled a concealed weapon and ambushed Deputy Myers, shooting him in the back. Deputy Myers succumbed to his injuries later that day.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office 1915-2015

*“Those that can not
remember the
past, are
condemned to
repeat it.”*

- THANK YOU



Resources

- Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriff's 1821-2008
- Crestview the Forkland
- History of Florida, Past and Present, Vol. III
- Florida Sheriff's Association www.flsheriffs.org
- Okaloosa Clerk of Courts www.clerkofcourts.cc
- Supervisor of Elections www.govote-okaloosa.org
- The Baker Block Museum
- Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida
- Okaloosa News Journal
- Northwest Florida Daily News
- Northwest Florida State College
- Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office