



# MBPD RETIREE NEWS

MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 2009 ISSUE

UNITY IS STRENGTH FOR A BETTER RETIREMENT

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## Sam's Corner - "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Brace yourselves; I'm starting off this month with a happy story. Gene Toreky wrote in to let us know that one Sunday recently, Wally Neumann came over to visit him in Waynesville, North Carolina. Wally has a cabin near Sylva, North Carolina. They chatted for awhile at his house, and then they went to Maggie Valley to enjoy a craft show. Afterwards, they went to Sagebrush for an early dinner. The highlight of the evening was when they visited the new Walmart Center they built where the old "Dayco" plant used to be.

Ok guys, rest assured I'm not making fun of you! On the contrary, going to the Walmart in North Carolina has

got to be *much* more fun than going to the Walmart in Miami! Geez, I could write about that experience alone in a future column. Gene further reports that Wally "looks good and is in good spirits." Gene, Wally and Jim Casey were the Hotel Squad together, and they used to do "specialization." I was afraid to ask what that means. They cleared a lot of hotel and building crimes and were responsible for anything over 5 floors. My question is: Who was responsible for anything under 5 floors? Gene said those were good years and "we had some good laughs reminiscing!" Thank you very much Gene, aka "the phantom" for your e-mail. Glad to hear

about Wally as well. We love getting these e-mails, keep em coming!

Tommy Moran and I worked together in S.I.U. back in the early 80's. I have absolutely no idea why I went to S.I.U. when I was in my early 20's. I clearly wasn't cut out for it, but Ken Glassman, who was the chief at the time offered it, and I took full advantage. It was one of the best moves I ever made. Although my tenure there was relatively short, I had the pleasurable (and sometimes painful) experience of working with some of the most experienced and nutty detectives in the police department. If my memory serves me correctly, I had the



On July 17, 2009 a breakfast was held at the 84 Diner with 21 people attending, retirees attending were Ellen Roelofs, Alan Skolnick, Don McGavern, Jason Psaltides, Don Freeman, Mike Bauer, Pat Ryan, Bobby Moorehead, Gary Bergert, Jack Mackie, Charlie Seraydar, Charlie Losey, Sam Gam, Vinny Aprile, Dean Adler along with his wife, Ana and son Jake. Also retired firefighter Tom Columbano, active officer Pat Quinlan and Sgt Howard Zeifman. Also Charlie Seraydar brought with him for breakfast Charlie Vega who was the Assistant Security Director at the Fountainbleau Hilton Hotel in the late 1970's through the early 1990's.

Next breakfast date to be announced...

*Cont'd. on pg2*

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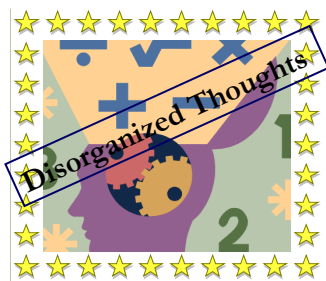
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## Sam's Corner - Continued from pg 1

opportunity to work with, among others, Tommy Moran of course, Gary Schiaffo, Timmy O'Regan, Buddy Petit, Charlie Reed, Tony Holt, Tony Pizzo, Jimmy Smith, Gerry Tollefsen, and Dina Fanelli. I'm sure I missed a few and again, sorry about that!

This core group of detectives I mentioned were some of the funniest I've ever worked with. They played practical jokes on each other on almost a daily basis. There was no mercy for the "greenhorn", and I was THE greenhorn for the longest time. In fact, from the time I started to the time I left. Tommy Moran and Gary Schiaffo were absolute cut-ups. I recall at one time Tommy had a collection of cassette tapes that he called "Tommy's Bloopers."

Tommy's Bloopers was a collection of tapes Tommy used to make of gag phone calls to businesses and fellow officers.



He would disguise his voice while playing some of the strangest

characters you've ever heard. To my knowledge, Tommy didn't know how to speak Spanish, yet from working in the city, he picked up a mixture of "Spanglish"; mostly dirty words. He would then call a business such as an insurance company, and proceed to play a shady character looking for a massage parlor. In one call, he spoke to an obviously young, innocent receptionist at a Miami insurance company, and in his "dirty spanglish" asked her how much she charged for a massage. The poor sweet reception-

ist tried politely telling Tommy that he reached an insurance company, but he pretended not to listen. He had her going for about 10 minutes, discussing prices and what she was going to "do" to him, until she finally got wise and hung up.

Another time, he called his boss, Sgt. Tony Pizzo at 4:00 in the morning and pretended to be a drunken Spaniard, looking for a hooker to visit his hotel room. Tony kept screaming "wrong number buddy" over and over again until he figured out it was Tommy, and then he got even madder. "Tommy, it's 4 in the f---ing morning!" he yelled, before slamming down the receiver. I played that recording over and over again, laughing until I cried each time!

When I first arrived in S.I.U., I was assigned to the Organized Crime Squad. One of our primary responsibilities was to follow around old mobsters. Every one of them had nicknames. One such fellow we used to tail was a guy named "Peanuts" Tronolone. He and his henchmen would drive from one restaurant to the other. First Wolfies, then to the Rascal House, then to some newspaper vendor store, then back to Wolfies, etc... It was the most boring job I ever had as a cop. I had to sit in the back seat and take notes of where they went, what they were driving (usually Cadillacs or Lincolns, like on the Sopranos), and what times they arrived at their destinations.

After being on the road for a couple of years or so, answering hot calls and having fun, I couldn't believe I was doing this! I started to hate coming to work. Soon enough, I transferred to the Vice Squad under Charlie Reed. Charlie used me to practice his best

practical jokes on. One time, he arranged to have a hooker "service" me as a reward for some business arrangement that went well. I met her in a room at the Fontainebleau. She told me Charlie had begged her not to charge by the pound, because he said he could never afford to pay her otherwise! Nice guy...Thanks Charlie!

Another time, he told me that the bartender at the Fontainebleau Poodle Lounge (who knew we were on the hooker detail) complained to him that if I didn't stop eating up all the free peanuts and drinking all their Coca-Cola, the detail would be banned from the Poodle Lounge. I was issued a directive by Sgt. Reed to stop eating peanuts and drinking Coca-Cola as the Fontainebleau budget could no longer support it. Again, thanks Charlie!

My first week on the job as a vice cop (when I could still eat as many peanuts as I wanted), I was learning how to do "small talk" with women. I was very shy and didn't know what to say, so I was instructed to watch the more experienced detectives. I watched as Tony Holt sweet talked a hooker up to our special hotel room. The backup team waited, then we all went up to the room and waited outside. Through the door, we overheard Tony announce to the hooker that he wanted to "check the door and make sure it was locked." This was our cue to prepare to enter the room.

Tony jiggled the lock, and then opened the door to let us in. He was buck naked. The lock wasn't the only thing jiggling. He walked to the dresser, opened it, and took his badge out of a drawer. He walked up to the surprised hooker, who was also naked and held his badge up.

*Cont'd. on pg.4*



# Goldcoast Ballroom

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with two of South Florida's  
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## **"Legacy"** DooWop



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## Sam's Corner - Continued from pg 2

"Miami Beach Police, you're under arrest for offering to commit prostitution, get your clothes on!" He then calmly put the badge down and proceeded to get dressed. I was very confused, but later on I was told that the court ruled it was "ok" for the detective to get naked. For some reason, Charlie Reed ordered me NEVER to get naked. I was ok with that. Thanks Charlie!



After some time I finally got the hang of making small talk with hookers. This wonderful new skill led to several successful prostitution arrests. Unfortunately, this skill never worked with regular women. Fortunately though, I still like peanuts, but I rarely eat them now. They bring back bizarre memories!

Getting back to Tommy Moran, he and his band "Legacy" are for the first time joining a Salsa band called "Sonido Cha" at the Goldcoast Ballroom, 1415 Lyons Road in Coconut Creek. The event will take place on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 starting at 7:30 P.M. It will feature 50's, 60's, and 70's music combined with the "hottest salsa, cha cha, and meringue." The admission is \$20.00 and Tommy asks that you call either (954) 384-2345 or (561) 441-6430 for more information.

In his flyer, Tommy writes: "Travel back to 1950's and 1960's in New York City. The Doo-Wop (Oldies) groups were singing on the street corners and subway tunnels. The Salsa bands were playing in the playgrounds, parks & after hours clubs. Those young performers are all grown up now and still live for their

music. See what the music sounds like...The music that's in the blood and performed from the heart. Join Legacy and Sonido Cha for a night of dancing, singing, and most of all... Remembering!" Sounds like fun Tommy, looking forward to it! By the way, four members of "Legacy" are law enforcement officers.

As I write this column, there is a controversy going on regarding the arrest of black Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. for disorderly conduct in his own home. The arrest, by Cambridge, Massachusetts Police Sergeant James Crowley sparked "outrage" by many, including our President, Mr. B. Obama, who said that the Cambridge Police acted "stupidly". After Obama said that, he went on to talk about police race relations in this country. Blah, blah, blah.

I'm not going to talk about police/race relations in this country. I don't have enough room here for that, nor is this the proper forum. You see, this very thing happened to me a long, long time ago. The Cambridge incident is being called one thing, but in my opinion, it's really about something else. It's very simple as far as I'm concerned; it's about people that can't stand cops for whatever reason, and use race or some other reason to disguise their hatred and disgust for the uniform.

Getting calls of people breaking into their own homes is nothing new, as many of you folks know. We all are aware of how these calls are handled. They usually start out "hot" and continue so upon arrival. Once the real story is exposed, we explain, say our apologies, shake hands and leave. No big deal! There are people in society who can't leave well enough alone.

They have to take it to the next level, as what happened in my case back in the early 80's.

Some reading this may remember the incident. Two prominent attorneys on the Beach who happened to own some properties were helping one of their tenants get back into her apartment after she locked herself out. As they shimmied the awning windows, another neighbor called in a burglary in progress. Yours truly arrives along with some other cops and draws down on the pair, thinking they're really burglars.

The attorneys (who were white, just so ya know), were well known in those days for their disdain of Miami Beach cops, (and cops in general) decided they were going to play "hardball" with us and proceeded to unleash a barrage of insults, while totally disregarding our instructions. We did find out who they were; and yes, they were arrested. I seem to recall that their case went to trial, and their buddy the judge let them off with a "stern" warning not to act like naughty boys again. Big friggin deal! I saw that one coming. What I didn't see coming was the civil suit that followed. Fortunately, that ended well for us, but it was aggravating to say the least.

Just like President Obama, I was not in Cambridge to witness this "cluster", so I can't imagine what really happened. I can only draw upon my own experiences...And I *know* how these things can go! But I guess its ok for the President to comment without knowing the full story because, after all...He *is* the President, and...*Somebody* voted for him!! Until next month, be well, and try not to look at your electric bills, just pay em!





## Spotlight on Retiree Richard Procyk

By Jesse Webb and Samuel Gam

Jesse Webb sends me stuff from time to time. Amazingly, I usually manage not to lose his stuff, although I did lose the newspaper article he sent me a few months ago about retired Lieutenant Richard Procyk. Found it! The Palm Beach Post did an article about Richard titled "Forgotten Sacrifice, the Battle of the Loxahatchee".

According to the article, Richard always wanted to be an archeologist, but his father didn't think it was a practical career, so he joined the Miami Beach Police Department. He eventually became a homicide detective and enjoyed piecing together stories and searching for clues. Upon retiring, his interest in history and archeology remained strong. He and others took an interest in finding the site where Seminoles and soldiers died 171 years ago.

They died fighting against 1,500 US troops and the "Tennessee Volunteers" for their freedom. If defeated, they knew they would be probably be forced to head west to Oklahoma reservations on the "Trail of Tears". They would be joined by their black allies, who joined the Seminole cause after escaping from Southern Plantations, and knew they could be sold back into slavery.

"You actually can feel the spirit of those who fought and died 171 years ago" Richard told the Palm Beach Post. After retiring,

Richard spent years looking for the battlefield. He discovered it, in what is now known as Riverbend Park in Palm Beach County. Riverbend Park used to be a trailer park that the County bought and converted in 1978. The newspaper article was about a ceremony the County held to commemorate the find and to place a marker at the site where artifacts were found. Richard also gave a battlefield tour of the site.

It was thought that the battle described occurred in Martin County, further north, based on accounts from U.S. Army surgeon Jacob Motte who was there and witnessed what occurred. The State placed a marker in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, although no artifacts were ever found there. In the late 1980's, Richard and others began searching south into Palm Beach County. By late 1986, they had found the Seminole War-era encampment of the Tennessee Volunteers in what now is a community called "The Shores of Jupiter". Richard continued looking for the actual battlefield for years, going up and down the river in a canoe. Finally, in early 1990, he believed he had found it. Archeolo-

gists confirmed the find and submitted their report to the County in 1994. Great job Richard!

There is a lot more written about the struggle of the Seminoles, their black war allies, and their battle for freedom. Richard obviously worked hard to find this battleground where many died. It goes to show that life after police work doesn't HAVE to be about police work. There's a world out there, and retirees like Richard Procyk have demonstrated it many times over. Richard Procyk, former police lieutenant, now author and historian. We'll try to do "spotlight on retirees" from time to time, if there's anyone you want to spotlight, let us know.



Richard Procyk stands in front of a live oak tree at Riverbend Park believed to be the site where soldiers were laid to rest after they were killed in battle



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As well as the layout,  
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of the monthly  
newsletter.

## Retirees Newsletter Exclusive

**AUGUST 2009**

### Florida Police & Fire Games

**By Retired Captain Danny Reid & Samuel Gam**

Without input from Dan Reid, I a repeat of his accomplishment was not able to capture the energy and enthusiasm of the participants in the 2009 Florida Police and Fire Games. As he did last year, retired MBPD Captain Dan Reid has once again brought "glory" to the department by winning three medals during the 2009 Florida Police & Fire Games (FPFG) which were held June 20 - 27th in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River Counties.

last year when he achieved one bronze and two gold medals. Dan stated he plans to return to the 2010 FPFG to defend his title or move up to a higher division. And, as he indicated last year, Dan is willing to assist with the training of MBPD officers who are interested in creating additional bowling teams to compete in the games. Thanks Danny for a job well done!

Dan achieved gold in Men's Singles and All Events Bowling (C Division) and with the assistance of current MBPD Officer Alkareem Azim, he achieved silver in Men's Doubles Bowling (D Division). His total of three medals is

In other news, I am still waiting to hear of the results of the golfing competition. The over 40 men's softball team finished top 10 in the standings, and Sgt. Rick Lonergan finished 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 45-49 triathlon age group.

### Happy Birthday!

Dean Adler	William H. Lamb	Sonia Puckett	Keith Strickland
Drew Bunnell	Forrest Lake	Artie Schickler	John F. Tighe
Rocco DeLeo	Paul Marcus	Chuck Spagnola	Dale Twist
Ed Feigenblatt	Gerry Mackey	Alan Seres	John Umamo
Billy Guillem	Kenny Miller	Pete Smolyanski	Charlie Weaver
Sandy Kohan	Chris Pallis	Don Sphar Jr.	Fred Wooldridge



**HIGHLIGHTS OF VINNY'S  
BREAKFAST ON JULY 17th  
At 84 DINER**



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ATTORNEY AT LAW

407 LINCOLN RD., PENTHOUSE SE  
MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139  
TELEPHONE: 305-534-4757  
FACSIMILE: 305-538-5504

110 SE 6 ST., STE#1970  
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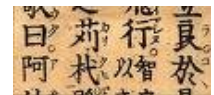
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