

MBPD RETIREE NEWS

Miami Beach Police Department "Unity Is Strength For A Better Retirement"

Sam's Corner-"A Collection of disorganized thoughts"

One of the advantages of waiting until the end of the month before I submit my final draft of this column is that I sometimes get some juicy material to write about in the last week of the month. Stuff that for some strange reason doesn't come in the first, second, or third week. Of course, this suits me just fine because although I do enjoy writing my column, I tend to get lazy and wait until the last minute anyway.

"They" say that famous people die in threes. This round of celebrity deaths with Johnny started Carson's old sidekick Ed

McMahan, followed by the beautiful actress Farrah Fawcett, and last (and in my opinion) least Michael Jackson. I liked Ed and Farrah, ves: I was on a first name basis with them. While growing up, I was always taught not to speak badly of the dead. and I'm certainly not here to trash anyone's memory. But, what is this thing about Michael Jackson?

Yeah, he and I are about the same age, so I did sort of grow up with his music to a certain extent. The guy was very talented and made some good music, but what the heck did he do to himself? Don't











expect me to believe that he's an American icon, or a hero, or a "king" because he was a great artist. I'm sorry folks, where I come from, when you get caught playing with little kids, (you KNOW what I mean); your name is typically mud forever! Ok, if you want to have yourself transformed from a normal looking guy, which I believed he was, into a freak, then that's your problem. Leave the kids alone. I've heard so many excuses for Jackson's behavior that it made me sick.





July 2009 Issue

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Vinny's Breakfast

Vinny took a break in June, so he didn't host a breakfast, however, plan on attending Vinny's breakfast this month! Iuly 17th at the 84 Diner. 9:30a.m. All are welcome!

Inside this issue:

Sam's Corner— "A Collection of

Disorganized Thoughts"

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Miami Beach Budget Crisis

MBPD RETIREE NEWS

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Sam's Corner - "A Collection of disorganized thoughts"

by: Sam Gam

He couldn't handle fame, he lost his childhood, and he was abused as a child. Ok, you've got millions, hire the best therapists and get some treatment. When you decide to relive your childhood and sleep with little kids who are not your own while you're in your 40's, it's time to go away.

Many fans all over the world seem to have selective amnesia when it comes to this kind of stuff. They're willing to overlook inappropriate and bad behavior because someone happens to be good at singing and dancing. WRONG! If it were you or I, we'd either be in jail, or on a sexual predator's website, or both. And this business with dangling your own child upside down from a balcony still puzzles me. Why didn't this idiot get arrested? He certainly would have on the Beach!

Good, got it out of my system. Rest in peace Michael Jackson, (some) of the children of the world are safe now. As for Ed McMahon, I enjoyed tuning in to the Johnny Carson show just to watch him. He was extremely funny and entertaining, one of those guys that only comes along once in a lifetime. What can I say about

Farah Fawcett? I had a crush on her for years. A great and beautiful actress. And that concludes the entertainment news portion of my column.

My favorite eating establishment in the Upper Keys is called "Alabama Jacks". It's not much to look at, basically a shack on the water at Cardsound Road. Cardsound Road ain't much to look at either. It's the ugly, out of the way road into the Upper Keys. Alabama Jacks is situated on the bayside, just north of the tollbooth leading into Monroe County. It's a bar/restaurant where the only ventilation is provided by the crosswinds between the ocean and the bay. The food, (mostly fried seafood) is always fresh and tasty and the service is pretty good. If you get there early on a weekday or even a weekend, you can grab a table by the water and watch the local wildlife swim or fly by. I especially like it in cool weather. It's a relaxing way to spend an afternoon. I'm not being paid to advertise Alabama Jacks. In fact, this is not even ABOUT Alabama Jacks. It's really about an embarrassing little traffic situation I was involved in.

Recently, a lady friend (who shall remain unnamed for security reasons) and I paid a visit to my favorite Upper Keys slop house for lunch. As we were leaving, the waiter warned us to watch our speed because "they're out there today". Being the brain trust that I am. I knew exactly what he was talking about, because I'm one of "them". With this valuable traffic safety alert tip safely stored in my noggin, I decided to take the long way around back to the mainland. South on Cardsound Road. State Road whatchamicallit back to US 1. and north on US 1.

By the time we reached US 1, my memory of the speed trap warning had faded. As I headed north over a newly built bridge, I saw a line of FHP cars parked along the side of the wide bridge. Suddenly, a Trooper stepped out onto the highway and flagged me to the safety zone. I could see he was a young, serious looking fellow, probably not more than 12 or 13 years old.

Cont'd on page 3....

"They" say that famous people die in threes. .."

Lunch At 4000 Feet

On Tuesday, August 4th our annual "Lunch at 4000 Feet" will be held at the Rib Shack Restaurant in Highlands, North Carolina. Lunch starts at twelve noon and restaurant says we can stay and sip beer or just "hang out" for as long as we want. This is the perfect time to visit with retirees who have moved away from South Florida and want to get brought up to date on what is happening with retirees elsewhere. Twenty-five retirees attended last year's event with some coming all the way from Miami.

The Rib Shack is located right in Highlands on Spring Street just one block from Main Street. For those with a GPS, the address is 461 Spring Street, Highlands, NC. For those without a GPS, just pull over and ask anyone.

While it's not necessary to make a reservation, Fred and Maddy Wooldridge would appreciate a phone call or e-mail telling them you will attend. It helps with seating arrangements. If you decide to attend at the last minute, no problem, just show up. Our phone number is 828-526-3063 and e-mail is rappeldown@aol.com.

See ya there, Fred and Maddy



Sam's Corner continued...

He approached my truck and asked me for my driver's license, which I cheerfully provided. Then he proceeded to explain to me that he "got" me doing 61 in a 45 on laser. I thought of letting him know that the speed limit in the Florida Keys changes every 17 feet, but I suspect he's heard that plenty of times before. I then went into my "routine", telling him that it was my duty to inform him (for his safety of course) that I was carrying a firearm since I'm a law enforcement officer. The Trooper asked for my credentials and I whipped out my Virginia Gardens badge, since I didn't have my retired Miami Beach Lieutenants badge with me, and I don't have room to carry both. You understand don't you? Well, let me get on with it!

The young Trooper studied the Virginia Gardens badge and said "Virginia Gardens huh?" I replied "yeah, you know someone that works there?" He replied "no, I got a ticket in Virginia Gardens, for doing 10 miles per hour over the limit, today is my lucky day!" The Trooper stared at me. Total silence. All color drained from my face. I started having heart palpitations. I smiled and said, "well, geez, I'm just a reserve there, actually, I spent almost 30 vears with Miami Beach, did vou ever get a ticket there?" He said "no". I said "great, let me show you my Miami Beach ID, and let's forget I ever worked at Virginia Gardens". Silence. Deadpan look. I realized at that point my luck just ran out. As I reached for my registration and insurance, the trooper said "Hey, I don't write cops, see ya later", with a hint of a sarcastic smile on his face. He got me!! Anyway, moral of the story; when you're in the Keys, watch your speed!

Don't get the wrong idea about me. iust because I was doing 16 miles over the limit doesn't make me a bad driver. I'm not going to talk about motorcycles this month. OK I lied, I am, but for a brief time. When you're on a motorcycle, you're naturally more cognizant of traffic around you, and what drivers are doing. I also get more annoyed with people doing stupid stuff in traffic when I'm on a bike, more so than when I'm in my truck, for obvious reasons. Swerve into my lane and hit me on my bike and I'm pretty much done.

We've all seen people do some pretty interesting things while driving. My personal observations include reading the newspaper, putting on makeup, reviewing work papers, eating a five course meal, smoking crack (yes it's true), smoking Marijuana, squeezing zits, picking teeth, dancing, and a host of other things. All of that stuff is dangerous, but lately, with technology being what it is: texting on the cell phones is really getting out of hand. Almost on a daily basis, I see people with their faces almost buried in their phones texting back and forth. They try to hold their steering wheel while holding their phone in their left hands, while tapping the keys with their right hands. All the while. their cars are drifting from side to side. Sometimes, they'll be doing 20 miles under the speed limit in the passing lane and doing this. Now I'll admit that I talk on my cell phone while I'm driving, and I don't have one of those "bluetooth" things, but at least I'm watching the road. These goofballs aren't even doing that. Well you know something? There ought to be a law!

I recall one time I stopped a fellow on the MacArthur Causeway on a

Sunday morning. As he traversed over the east bridge, the Sunday Herald sports section was draped over his steering wheel. I asked him if he wanted me to get him a cup of coffee and a donut. He gave me a puzzled look and asked "why?". I told him he should have coffee and donuts to go with his Sunday paper. He respectfully declined, so I gave him a careless driving citation instead!

Finally, I attended Lieutenant Kelly Reid's retirement party at Finnegan's on Ocean Drive; a very popular place for retirement parties it seems. I don't have much to say about it for a change, other than the weather was hot, hot, hot!! In fact, the only cold place in the joint was the bathroom. It was so cold; you could hang meat in there! No pun intended.

Attendance was very respectable. To the best of my recollection, the retirees attending were; Retired Chief Rick Barreto, Surfside Chief Dave Allen, Surfside A/C John DiCenso. Jimmy Mahle, Jim Mazer, Richie Pelosi, John Millerick, Buddy Petit, Don McGavern, John and Cathy Tighe, Alan Solowitz, Paul Dinkins, Bobby Jenkins, Bernie Winer, and Jason Psaltides. Retired Fire Lieutenant Mike Timmoney was there of course, since he and Kelly are hitched. Again, forgive me if I missed you, as I'm nearing 50 and I forgot to bring a pad and pencil! Congratulations to Kelly on her retirement! Until next month, stay cool, and happy Fourth of July to all!



By: Sam Gam "A collection of disorganized



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MBPD RETIREE NEWS

By: Jesse Webb

A Slice of MBPD, back in the 50's! Newsletter Exclusive

Retiree Jesse Webb was kind enough to share with us his small version of what the "job" was like back in the 50's, I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much as I did! Thank You Jesse! - S. Gam

Hi Sam, you are kind enough to mention old timers in your Retiree News frequently; and, at least to me, it is almost a tragedy your readers don't know what outstanding, distinguished officers those "old timers" actually were.

Your June issue includes the Jack Tighe report which mentions Sandy Kohan and others. Jack, Sandy, and their colleagues really served the City and the citizens daily in an effective, unselfish mode. They made life better for residents and probably even saved lives! I would like to present just two examples out of many of how these two officers made life better for citizens, as they took action while ignoring personal risk to themselves.

The 1950's in Miami Beach! Night Clubs, bars, studios, etc... were all



Night Clubs, bars, studios, etc...

over the city as they were a major attraction to the tourists who financed the city. One of the largest and best known clubs was on Dade Boulevard just west of Alton Road. By around 8:00 P.M., customers started showing up by auto, in the hundreds. The few club parking guys would merely give the customer a parking ticket and just leave the car there as he went to the next car and did the same thing. The club didn't have enough employees to move cars. nor did they have a parking lot to move them to.

Soooo....By 9:00 P.M., Dade Boulevard from Alton Road westward was completely blocked by all those empty cars belonging to customers. Thus, the eastbound and westbound lanes were completely blocked and closed to citizens. Motorcycle duo Sandy and Cal (Cal?) had warned the club doorman a couple of times that he must move the cars, but the problem only expanded. So one night, they started writing costly parking violation tickets in numbers, even though they knew their assignment would be endangered, since the Club's owners were wealthy city "big shots"!

The second morning after the tickets started, their boss, only a sergeant but in charge of the "4-12" was ordered to the City Manager's Office. He was kind of in a bind as the "big shots" had quite actively complained. But, the city officials learned that the tickets would



Good Ol' 50's

continue; and, if any officers were transferred, the Miami Herald would hear about it. Needless to say, City Hall told the club to correct the problem immediately.

The club hired many part timers to keep the cars moving, and rented three nearby parking lots from daytime businesses to have places to park the cars. This was just one example of Sandy Kohan correcting problems to make life better for citizens, regardless of personal danger or criticism.

Back in those days, a task force had been formed of some 15 uniform officers who wore civilian clothes to handle special problems, which were happening often. Jack Tighe was selected to command this unit. Several gangs of hardcore, professional criminals had been formed in Miami. These gangs robbed the rich and didn't care how many civilians they shot or wounded while doing their "jobs".

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A Slice of MBPD, back in the 50's!

Continued from page 4

Obviously, the largest gang had to consider coming to Miami Beach because that's where the most wealth lived.

Soooo....One night, Tighe and his squad saw a car full of the largest, best known gang members cruising the North Bay Road area, obviously looking for places to hit. Tighe escorted the gang to an isolated area away from clusters of homes, and removed them from their car...Gently, I'm sure!

Since people today are far more interested in all the rights of the hardened criminals than they are in the safety of civilians, I'll have to be careful of how I share what took place then. I'll just mention that the gang's attorney called me to complain about the shotgun holes in the windows and sides of the new huge red Cadillac the gang had been riding in. He also mentioned something to the effect that the gang was informed that "if they were seen on Miami Beach

again, they might not be removed from the Caddy before similar holes were made".

Surprise! Thanks to the work of Tighe and his unit, and the obvious huge personal danger that action created, no gang was seen in our city again. A huge benefit to all residents!

These brief examples of how Sandy Kohan and Jack Tighe served the city, its residents, and its visitors are only one of thousands! They endangered their careers and personal safety probably each day as they were very dedicated officers. It was a special privilege to know them and work with them. It is still a special privilege to chat now n' then with two such SPECIAL PEOPLE! THANK YOU Sandy and Jack!

"Thank you Sandy Kohan and Jack Tighe"



July Birthdays

Juan Andreu, Terry Bahn, Robert Bauer, Jim Blitch,
Jim Burnette, Danny Clemons, Pat Devaney, Nick DiMartino, Mark Eichel,
Rich Francioni, Iva Gabor, George Kriminger, Woody Lucius, Greg Strong,
Warren Smith, Don MacKenzie, Dean Mielke, Bryan Miller, Vinny Mulshine,
Dave Plescow, Jaime Rezzonico, Ernie Prather, Elmer Sutton, Lynda Veski,
Bob Watson, Jim Whitehead, Billy Williams,
and Howard Zeifman.

Happy Birthday!!!



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Miami Beach Police and Fire Fishing Tournament

Submitted by Officer Larry Marrero

I'm proud to announce that the Police and Fire Fishing 1st Place Dolphin - Retired M.B.P.D. Officer David Tournament was a success! 48 vessels participated, and it was a close call for the top three fish. Lots of fish were caught, the weather was great, and all went well and safely. All of the involved committee members did a great job, and I would thank them; Det. Raul Busquet on the Pig Roast, Nelson Gonzalez of the Fire Department, Major Brian Sliman, our Weigh Master, Det. Leslie Lanier on Top T-Shirt sales, Det. Eddie Garcia, Sgt. Lorenzo Han, Retired Officer David Tracey, Det. Rigoberto Olivera (MBHPOA), FOP President Sqt. Alejandro Bello, Officer Rocky Morgan No Wahoo was caught.



and Retired Officer Bernie Winer of the Miami Beach PAL, Officer Vicente Canete and retired Sqt. thank D.J. Laz (Lazaro Mendez) Power 96 for the enterand tainment.

The results of the tournament were as follows:

Tracey 32.40 lbs.

2nd Place Dolphin - M.B.F.D. Matt Fiskelli 32.35 lbs.

3rd Place Dolphin - Power 96 DJ Lazaro Mendez 31.20 lbs.

4th Place Dolphin - Dan Carballo 23.20 lbs.

1st Place Kingfish - M.B.P.D. Officer Larry Marrero, 9.50 lbs.

Jr. Angler went to Chris Mc Nally with a 17.45 lb. Dol-

Edgardo Avila. I would also like to Chief's Trophy went to Assistant Fire Chief Jesus Sola, with a 5.0 lb. Dolphin.

> Proceeds went to the Miami Beach PAL and the UM Burn Center.

Miami Beach Police Retirees Assoc..Inc. General Membership Meeting - June 17, 2009

On June 17, 2009 a Miami Beach Police Retirees General membership meeting was held at 12 noon at the New China Buffet, located at 8369 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines. Attending the meeting were President Billy O'Neil, Vice President Lynda Veski, Secretary Vinny Aprile, Treasurer Charlie Seraydar, Trustees Joan Donnelly -Ochoa, Lisa Newland, Bobby Jenkins and Fred Walder, Also attending were Jason Psaltides, Doug Bales, Carl Ward, Tom Wilson, Artie Schickler, Kevin Graham, Jack Mackie, Jim Burnette, Pat Ryan, Lenny Veski, Jim Corbett and his wife, Gail, Lori Figliolia-Harris, Bill Rosenstein, and FOP President Alex Bello.

The minutes of the May 13, 2009 Executive Board Meeting were read by Secretary Vinny Aprile and approved. Treasurer Charlie Seraydar advised that as of May 29, 2009 the organization had \$9458.86.

President Billy O'Neil advised that the organization was looking for people to run for the open positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and trustee.

Also that the mid-state meeting had a bad turnout and

that they wished to cancel the mid-state meeting as the majority of the people attending were from So. Florida. Cancel and have something else in So. Florida.

The holiday party to be moved from Hollybrook Golf and Country Club. Joan Donnelly-Ochoa checked the Masonic Hall in Silver Lakes and we could have a buffet with Chris Mitchell as a DJ for about the same price as what we were charged at Hollybrook. Joanie will continue to check on fees.

Vice President Lynda Veski rewrote the by-laws for the Retirees Association and a copy was handed out to all that attended. After going through the by-laws, a motion was made by Bobby Jenkins to accept the new by-laws. Seconded by Joanie Donnelly-Ochoa. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was to do away with civilian employees paying \$1.00 a year for membership. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned...



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Miami Beach Budget Crisis May Spell Trouble For Pension

Recent articles in The Miami Herald (and we know this is true), the service fees and raising the retirepension contributions, increased in-special details, court overtime, and Beach Police Department. surance costs, and what politicians holidays require proper staffing, say are too many merit raises, which increases use of the overtime among other factors. It's not a pretty budget. It's unavoidable. picture...Especially for the Police and Fire Departments, which account for half of the city budget, or \$130 million dollars.

shortfall.

What this means is, that the presidents of both the fire and police unions, Adonis Garcia (fire) and Alex It seems from reading these articles, Bello (police) are preparing for a there is a lot of finger pointing going By the way, those who know me battle with the city, since contract back and forth as to who is responsi- know that I'm not a genius when negotiations should be coming up ble for this mess, at least in Miami it soon. Both union presidents have Beach. Some point out that the and contract negotiations; however, identified areas where the city should steady trim back, rather than public safety. salaries, 15% just in the last three this information as accurately as to the Media Department, mis- sions have not helped the current to add or appropriation of tourism dollars, or situation, According to Commissioner free to raising the millage rate.

Some commissioners on the other hand, such as Commissioner Victor Diaz are pointing out what they say is exorbitant overtime going to police officers and firefighters. pointed out examples such as one lieutenant who pulled in a salary of roughly \$170,000, while a sergeant made almost \$193.000. According to Alex Bello

In addition, according to "The Lead the unions will expect the same of Miami Beach" article, both the gen- the city. Oh boy!! It's my opinion, and eral workers pension fund, and the I'm sure some would agree, that Police and Fire Pension Fund are the police and fire unions are going DeeDe Weithorn, a City Commis- currently under-funded by staggering to have a tough time convincing the sioner, CPA, and former chair of the amounts. The general workers fund city and the residents that they city's Budget Advisory Committee is down about \$100 million and the deserve a contract salary increase. told The Lead Miami Beach that to Police and Fire Pension fund is under But then again, we've seen times like put it in perspective, eliminating the -funded by roughly \$174 million. The this staff and offices of the Mayor and city will have to contribute \$7 million this critical; but you never know, our Commission, the city manager, city this year just to stay ahead. It's my police union negotiators have pulled clerk, city attorney. IT and human understanding that the current state off some amazing feats in the past! resources would still leave the city of affairs will not affect those of us I hope they have some astounding with a \$3 Million dollar budget currently on the pension plan, but if a tricks up their sleeves this time plan is not put into place, it could around! I certainly don't want to jinx conceivably affect officers starting anyone, and I'm hopeful that things out now in their careers.

> increase in negotiated I've money going years, with an associated rise in pen-possible. If Weithorn, between 1999 and 2001, following nothing into the plan...and they that your comments should have. One of the city's to proposals is raising the employee contributions from 10% to 14%. As you know, there has also been "talk" of moving new employees into the Retirement System. Some Florida other proposals from city leaders include freezing or cutting employee salaries, raising taxes, increasing

and The Lead Miami Beach papers department was up to 401 sworn, ment age from 50 to 55. At any rate, have painted a bleak picture of the while now it's down to 367 due to as I've said before, negotiations are City's serious budget problems. The attrition. This causes officers to be coming up. along with elections; city is currently in a \$23 million dollar "forced over" to comply with so this will be a very interesting time budget shortfall most likely due to minimum staffing requirements. In for the City of Miami Beach and the lost property tax revenues, increased addition, numerous special events, current employees of the Miami

> At any rate, as in previous times, the city will be expecting the unions to be fair in their negotiations. before, although perhaps not will go well for those currently on the

comes to budgets, pensions, mν best done anyone has anything correct, please feel contact me the e-mail address: when the city prospered, the city paid sam0444@yahoo.com. I will ensure added the August newsletter.



Adonis Garcia (MBFD-Left), Alex Bello (MBPD-Right)

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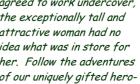
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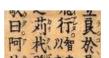
"I'm Moving Back to Mars"

Buy it from your local book store, Amazon, Barnes and Noble or Border

When rookie South Beach Police Officer Katie Maguire agreed to work undercover, the exceptionally tall and attractive woman had no idea what was in store for her. Follow the adventures of our uniquely gifted heroine as she journeys along



her destiny's path.



A Necessary End: A Katie Maguire novel

Gerry Mackey- Author E-Mail: Mackeyg2007@yahoo.com

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