



MBPD RETIREE NEWS

"Unity is strength for a better retirement"

May 2011 Issue

Holidays observed in May

- Mother's Day 5/08
- Police Memorial Week
May 15-21
- Memorial Day 5/30



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At any of our functions old stories are told and retold, always with laughter. These are the stories SAM GAM and I are looking for to add to the monthly letter. Send them to us at our e-mail address.

Since I started with roll call, I'll stay with that theme. A Shift commander holding roll call always answered the wall telephone when it rang. Knowing that and his fear of snakes, a dead snake was wound through the telephone coil with the snakes head right at the mouthpiece. The result was predictable. Speaking of snakes another story A different shift commander waiting for a yearly Christmas bottle learned it had been delivered to the station but it was kept by another Commander. He got revenge



Jack Tighe's Little Corner

by putting two live snakes in the other man's private car.

DRESS CODE The City of Plantation just issued a dress code for detectives. I for one was shocked and disappointed to see Officers in shorts and Tshirts. Way back in our time we had summer and winter uniforms. Summer was white short sleeve shirts with the full pants. Winter grey long sleeve shirt with tie and the regulation pants. Pants were blue and early on a strip down the side. AND GOD FORBID if you were caught outside the patrol car with your hat off.

BUCK GRISCOM's name has been being mentioned often lately. Buck had only one speed, full steam ahead. In the past I credited him with having more informers then anyone on the department. The hold up at the Gotham was a example of that. Another story I wrote

about was during a hurricane, him telling me he had a gas tank floating at 5th and Alton. After I told him to put on the side he asked for me to come to the scene. When I did, found the large underground gas tank used at gas stations rolling in the street. It was reacting to the winds. rolling one way if a strong gust blew, then return when it became calm. From some place Buck found concrete blocks shored up the tank.

At one time I doubted Buck. It seemed a lot of his arrests began, "stopped vehicle on traffic violation As I approached noticed the aroma of marijuana and observed a marijuana cigarette ". We would look at one another and say sure. Then one time I backed him up and he told me to stand by the window and look at the ash tray. I did and surer then shit ,found the same thing. That's when I learned not to doubt Buck.

Vinny's Breakfast

On April 15th, 2011, a breakfast was held at Blue Moon Diner in Cooper City with 17 people attending. Retirees attending were: Vinny Aprile, Jack & Amy Tighe, Cathy Tighe, Pete Bitume, Don Freeman, Alan Skolnick, Jack



Mackie,
Carl
Ward,
Lisa
Newland,
Jim Bur-
nette,

Billy O'Neil, Joan Ochoa,
John VanVranken, Eddie
Bason and retired Miami



Beach fire fighter Tom
Columbano. Also active
Officer Pat Quinlan.



***"The Count,
not his actual
photo"***



Remember last month's Sam's Corner? I mentioned Don McGavern a lot didn't I? Don retired as a motor sergeant and he's now working full time for Surfside. His last official assignment on the Beach was the supervisor of the 63rd street bridge project. He drew up the plans for the new drawbridge, formulated the traffic plan and arranged for the removal of the overpass. Yes I know, of *course* he didn't do all this, but he thinks he did. But I won't burst his little bubble by telling him this. Let him have his little fantasy. It's never a good idea to argue with a senior citizen anyway.

Don was so proud of being featured in April's newsletter, that he wanted to be a regular character in our newsletter...And what a character he is! All of this "fluff", in case you wondered is leading to something, because I wanted to write about some of the "Characters of South Beach".

Since I started the road in the very early 80's, I've had the opportunity (if you can call it that) to meet a lot of interesting characters, or "regulars"; you know, folks that were always interacting with law enforcement for one reason or other. Some of these characters were the kind you loved to *not* like because they were despicable. There were others who were sort of annoying because they generated a lot of calls, but were amusing and sometimes even likable in their own bizarre way. The majority of them were in the South Beach area because I guess, that's where the action was.

One interesting fellow I met very early on while still in my FTO phase, riding with Joe Weber was a guy they called "The Count". I don't quite recall his last name but it may have been Russian, or Polish, or something to that effect; like

"Slobbadowsky". My first introduction to "The Count" was a call we had on Lincoln Road about a man drowning in one of the fountains. When we arrived, there was indeed a guy floating face down in the fountain, and he was wearing a black suit. I quickly prepared myself to start CPR on the guy, trying to recall the steps I'd learned in the academy, but Joe stepped in and I realized soon enough that would not be necessary.

He stood over the floating man, put his hands on his hips and said "C'mon Count, get out of the fountain, you look like a fool". The man slowly reached over and pulled himself to the edge, got out, said he was sorry and walked away, soaking wet of course. My mouth was open and my first thought was "holy crap, I thought that guy was dead". Joe explained to me that "The Count" pulls this stuff all the time, for attention. As time went on, I discovered that most, if not all of our "characters" needed and craved a lot of attention, even if it meant going to jail.

I fondly recall a guy I called "The Wizard". He was an African American guy who wore strange costumes almost every day. I think he dug

some of his props. One day he would wear a blue robe, the next day a wizard hat, the day after a Jewish prayer shawl, complete with a Yarmulke. I still to this day wonder where he got that. The Wizard was always laughing and reciting poems in the street. I remember one or two of them, but they can't be shared here due to their bizarre and vile content. They were still funny though.

One day, I asked the Wizard why he liked wearing different costumes. His reply was that he was born on Halloween, and because of that, he felt compelled to live every day like it was Halloween. Although the guy was a few sandwiches short of a picnic, *that* made sense. Remind you of something? Disorganized thoughts perhaps?

Another one of our characters back in the day was Andrew Such. A local homeless guy who's daily alcohol level made up about 25% of his blood. Then there was Jorge Remange, a slime ball I didn't like too much; and not because he had this huge mole on his nose that looked like a prickly pear, but because he was a low life scumbag dope dealer with a major attitude problem. Then there was this Mariel refugee that had a tattoo of a naked woman on his bicep that was etched around a mole with hair coming out of it. I'll let you guess what part of her anatomy the mole was centered over. Quite clever.

I'm quite sure the "running man" is still around. He's the black guy who runs all day on Alton and the Venetian with no shirt. The Running Man goes to Publix on Dade Boulevard once a day and buys one half gallon of vanilla ice cream, then proceeds to eat the whole carton with a little plastic spoon in one



"The Wizard of South Beach"

through trash bins to find

Continued on pg 3



Sam's Corner... continued

sitting. Of course he burns it off the next day. Not a bad guy, but sometimes he would "go off" and do something stupid like yell at someone in the street. Most of the time he was friendly, so I took the opportunity to try having a conversation with him one day (I liked to know what made some people tick). The first minute he was making sense, then everything turned into "mish mash", and he made no sense at all. At that point I realized he was a few ribs short of a Bar-B-Que. I used his conversational skills strategy with my supervisors and it worked splendidly, because you were assured not to get details that took more than one minute to explain.

Anyone remember the "one armed bandit"? He hung out at 15th and Washington, was constantly drunk, and picked fights with everyone. That man literally went to jail daily and sometimes two or three times a day. He'd go in a 10 A.M., get out by 10:30, and sometimes be back by 2:30 P.M. How about that Pam Weir? We called her the "Quaalude queen". If you ever got a call of a young blonde passed out in a flower bed anywhere south of 5th Street, it was Pam, strung out on Quaaludes. Last I heard, she was doing pretty good, but who knows!

Quite a few of us knew Elliott Offen. He was mostly a middle and north "character", although he did venture to Ocean Drive from time to time. His claim to fame was running on Collins Avenue (the street, not the sidewalk) in the middle zone wearing a shiny tight leotard, his face covered in cold cream. We would get calls from him about county bus drivers harassing him by trying to get close enough to hit him with the right hand mirror. Based on his looks, I believed him. He was a very intelligent guy, but obviously

did not get enough attention as a child.

Last I heard, he moved to New York City, (the perfect place for studs like him) and became a regular on the Howard Stern show. One time, he sat down and hand wrote complimentary letters to the Chief, praising a bunch of officers whom had responded to his calls. I got one. Each letter was different; in mine he described my law enforcement service as "poignant-ne-plus-ultra" and wrote that "quality wise, Officer Gam deserves the magna cum laude". How can you not like a guy like that after seeing that letter? Even if he is a little... strange. Of course I don't like him enough to go jogging with him down Collins in a leotard, but hey, to each his own.

And now for the bizarre story of the month. Of course, who else but Don McGavern could have been involved in this one? Before you read this, a little disclaimer, this story is sort of rated "R". It's not for the squeamish. So if you're easily offended, STOP NOW! And for heaven's sake, don't leave this where kids can get to it and read it, or they might need years of therapy. Back in the 90's, Don worked security for Fedco on Lincoln Road. One day, he was inside the store and two neighborhood kids that he knew walked in; a little boy and a little girl. The little boy said to Don-"there's a man doing bad things on your motorcycle". Don asked the boy what the man was doing and he replied-"he has his 'thing' out".

Don walked out back to where his police motorcycle was parked and indeed, there was a fellow

sitting on it. Now, bear with me on this. It was bad enough that some guy was sitting on his motorcycle. After all, everyone knows that you NEVER sit on another person's bike. But this guy took it a few steps further. He had his "thing" in one hand, and the radio microphone in the other. He proceeded to contact the dispatcher, saying stuff like-"Alpha, Delta, Bingo, Bango". Upon seeing Don, the hopelessly romantic cop motorcycle enthusiast proceeded to rub the microphone all over the front of his pants, making sure to make contact with his...thing.

Don reacted immediately and the man ended up on the ground. Backup units then arrested him while Don ran into Fedco for bleach, and a bucket of hot water. After giving the bike a good wash using soap and bleach, he dunked the microphone in the bucket, thankfully rendering it useless. It was a moot point anyway; Don was never going to put that mike to his lips again, not after it touched a....thing. Good for him. As far as "lover boy", he was hit with a slew of charges, some of which hadn't been used since 1954. I guess it's one thing to love police motorcycles, but this guy really loved police motorcycles!

Enjoy May; it's getting hot out there. Remember Mother's Day and of course, Memorial Day. Don't forget the Vets who gave their lives and the brave military men and women still "fighting the good fight".



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Dean Adler, Retired MBPD Officer

Phantom TidBit by Gene Toreki

Just a little info; myself and Cathy found out recently here in Naples that we are allergic to pollen. After suffering for a couple of weeks, we went to a doctor; especially for me, because I was coughing a lot and bringing up green stuff. (Yuk Gene!)



After using an inhaler, nasal spray, antibiotics and debrow(?) in the ear canal due to loss of hearing in the left ear proved that none of the things she prescribed worked. We went back to the doctor, again being prescribed Z-Pak antibiotics, which *again* did not work. After that, we went to an ear doctor and I told him the other doctor checked my left ear canal and it was clear. The ear doctor looked in there and said "negative". After a few minutes of him digging in my ear he took out the equivalent of thimble full of wax,

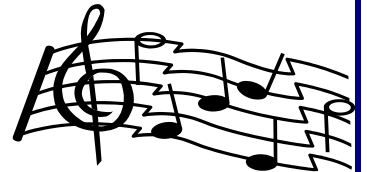
(yuk Gene!), and gave me some Nasanex,

By the time I got home I could hear again after almost an 85 percent hearing loss in my left ear. I need to go back for a checkup again but I can hear! The moral of this story is:

If you feel your hearing is getting less go to an ear specialist, it could be just wax in the ear, how about that! Incidentally, The doctor said- "never use Q-Tips, the ear cleanses itself, and ear cleaners can make ear problems worse...hope this helps someone else after I went thru it all...g (Thanks Gene!)

Memorial Day May 30th

May Birthdays



George Astel

Arthur Robinson

Francis "Casey" Conwell

Devon Stewart

Walter "Vinny" Campbell

Bill Thrall

Forrest Cummings

Rick Trado

Robert Dorigo

Jack Webb

Marty Drucker

Konrad Von Eiff

Lon Guasto

The Yawn

Joseph Kishick

David Young

Philip Kromsky



News Capsules

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Active Officer Hector Fernandez is interested in restoring a car to look like an MBPD Police car from the 60's. He would like to know what type of cars were used in the 60's, were they Fairlanes, Galaxies, Falcons? Other? Was the light mint the correct colors? Or were they two tone? What type/color of lights..Red? Blue? There is a restored MBPD Police car out there that is brought to events but according to him it's not to specs. It's a 1955 Dodge. Please e-mail me at sam0444@yahoo.com. Thanks.



The "restored" 1955 MBPD Dodge, with new decals on the rear.

*Cop Jokes...**Framed...*

A police officer pulls a guy over for speeding and has the following exchange: **Officer:** May I see your driver's license?
Driver: I don't have one. I had it suspended when I got my 5th DUI. **Officer:** May I see the owner's card for this vehicle?
Driver: It's not my car. I stole it. **Officer:** The car is stolen? **Driver:** That's right. But come to think of it, I think I saw the owner's card in the glove box when I was putting my gun in there. **Officer:** There's a gun in the glove box?
Driver: Yes sir. That's where I put it after I shot and killed the woman who owns this car and stuffed her in the trunk. **Officer:** There's a BODY in the TRUNK?!?!? **Driver:** Yes, sir. Hearing this, the officer immediately called his captain. The car was quickly surrounded by police, and the captain approached the driver to handle the tense situation:
Captain: Sir, can I see your license? **Driver:** Sure. Here it is. It was valid.
Captain: Who's car is this? **Driver:** It's mine, officer. Here's the owner's card.
The driver owned the car. **Captain:** Could you slowly open your glove box so I can see if there's a gun in it? **Driver:** Yes, sir, but there's no gun in it. Sure enough, there was nothing in the glove box. **Captain:** Would you mind opening your trunk? I was told you said there's a body in it. **Driver:** No problem. Trunk is opened; no body. **Captain:** I don't understand it. The officer who stopped you said you told him you didn't have a license, stole the car, had a gun in the glove box, and that there was a dead body in the trunk. **Driver:** Yeah, I'll bet the lying no-good bastard told you I was speeding, too!



MBPD Retiree News



May 15th - 21st

Police Memorial Week

News Capsules



MBPD CALENDAR

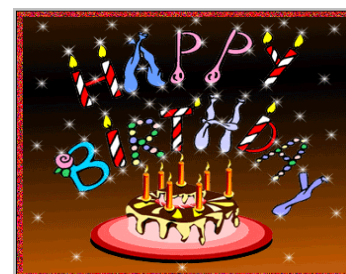
This item was found in the Department's most recent Official Bulletin, who would've ever thought?

DECEMBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

"We are thinking of producing a 2012 calendar featuring Miami Beach Police Officers. Any Officer with an idea for a photo shoot or wishing to be considered for the calendar, please e-mail Detective Juan Sanchez no later than Friday, May 6, 2011."

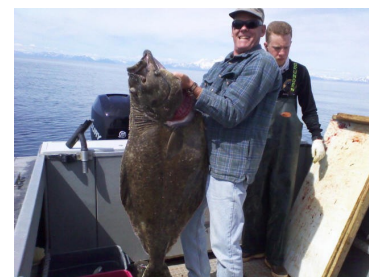
HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGE!

In October 2007, the Miami Beach Police Retiree Association changed the bylaws to give free dues to members who are eighty years of age and older, in good standing with the organization. Beginning with the May 2011 pension check please stop the \$2.09 monthly dues deduction on the following member: George Astel.



2011 POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS FISHING TOURNAMENT

Submitted by Officer Larry Marrero (From the MBPD Official Bulletin)



This year's Police and Fire Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at the Miami Outboard Club on Watson Island. Proceeds from this event will be raised for the Police Athletic League (PAL).

The Captains meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., also at the Miami Outboard Club. Entry fee per boat will be \$200 which includes meal tickets and tournament shirts. Additional tournaments shirts will be \$20.00 and additional meal tickets will be \$15.00.

Please see any committee member below for Registration Forms and Official Rules. You may also obtain copies at the Property and Evidence Unit. Feel free to contact Officer Marrero for additional details at (786) 344-8879 or ext. 5492.

The Committee Members are: Larry Marrero, Art Martineau, Robert Lanier, Lorenzo Han, Rocky Morgan, Raul Busquet, Eddy Garcia, Alex Bello, Nelson Gonzalez (Fire Dept), David Anderson (Fire Dept.)

News Capsules ... *continued*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On May 18th, 2011 at 12 Noon, a general meeting will be held at the Blue Moon Diner located on the SW corner of Griffin Road and Palm Ave in Cooper City. Cost is \$11.00 per person which includes the meal, tax and gratuity.....

The main dishes will be:

- *Grilled marinated chicken breast on Caesar Salad.
 - *Grouper Broiled with white wine, lemon, and garlic crust; served with rice and veggies.
 - *Oven roasted turkey wrap with steak fries.
 - *8oz. Angus steak cheeseburger with steak fries.
- All entrees include soft drink. Cash bar-wine or beer.

Hope to see you there!



RETIREE'S GOLF GROUP

OK boys AND girls. We now have a retiree's golf group that plays most Sunday mornings at different courses in both Dade and Broward counties. Any and all golfers are welcome to join us for a fun time, followed usually by lunch and drinks at the clubhouse. Anyone interested should contact our designated "Golf Commissioner", Mike Putz, at (305) 450-3141.

This past week, April 17th, we played the "International Links of Miami". Attending players were Don Freeman, Robert Williams, Mike Putz, Ellen Roeloffs, Charlie Weaver, Dave Allen, John DiCenso. Other players attending from week to week are Sam Azicri, Rick Gullage, Scott Lowe, John Millerick, Richie Pelosi, Jerry Tollefson, and Julio Yero.

By the way, check out John DiCenso's legs. Smooth huh!?



L-R Don Freeman, Bobby Williams, Mike Putz, Ellen Roeloffs, Charlie Weaver, Dave Allen, John DiCenso



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Read my latest book, **A Cold Logic**, available through the publisher, Lulu.com, as well as through most major booksellers (Barnes & Noble, Amazon, etc.) You might just recognize some of the fictional South Beach Police Officers. Don't forget to check out my first two books, **A Necessary End** and **Seed of Thetis**.

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