

NOVEMBER 2009
ISSUE

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Miami Beach Police Department

MBPD RETIREE NEWS



"Unity Is Strength For A Better Retirement"

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



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Happy Thanksgiving To All!

Two of a cop's main tools are of course their service weapons, and the other is their police car. Of course, in the "street survival" course, they teach that a cop's most important "tool" is their body. This certainly has a ring of truth to it, but for the purposes of this column, I'd like to keep it simple and talk about cars.

Police cars, squad cars, cruisers, prowl cars, units, patrol cars, marked units, etc...Call them whatever you'd like, but they're basically the same thing. A lot of activity revolves around our police cars. Mainly, we use them to patrol, to respond to calls, get around, go to court, transport people, and write our reports in. Additionally, we eat in them, some of us smoke in them, and snooze in them. I have

heard from some reliable sources that patrol cars have been used for other, more private types of activities, but I refuse to further elaborate...Let's keep it clean! So, you see what I'm getting at? They are used as mobile offices, an extension of headquarters, and our sanctuaries.

Over the years, I've driven some pretty good cars, and some *really* crappy ones. The history of the Miami Beach patrol car from the time I started my career in 1979, until my retirement in 2008 has been sort of fascinating. Since I'm writing this column based strictly on memory taken from the deep recesses of my disorganized thoughts, I'll warn you that some of the content may be a bit mixed up; and I know that some of my readers

may have a clearer recollection of the details contained within. My usual disclaimer: If I messed up, please shoot me an e-mail and I'll correct it; that is, if anyone cares! By the way, I would love to hear some patrol car stories from the "old timers" (sorry, just turned 50 last month, I can say that). What did you guys drive back in the 50's and 60's? I'd be tickled to hear from you.

From 1979 until 1981, I was a civilian employee in the police department. During that time though, I had outside volunteer employment and worked in two other police departments. As an auxiliary officer in Pembroke Park (located between Miramar and Hallandale),

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Vinny's Breakfast... 84 Diner



On October 16, 2009 a breakfast was held at the **84 Diner** with 24 people attending. Attending were Billy Rosenstein, John Tighe, Mike Bauer, Vinny Aprile, Pat

Ryan, Billy O'Neil, Carlos Devarona, Charlie Seraydar, Bobby Bauer, Jim Burnette, Lisa Newland, Joan Donnelly Ochoa, Lenny & Lynda Veski, Doug Bales, Dean & Ana Adler, Samuel Gam, Ellen Roelofs, Jack & Amy Tighe, Ken Dudenhoefer, FOP Presi

dent Alex Bello, and retired Miami Beach firefighter Tom Columbano.

The next breakfast will be held on Friday, November 13, 2009 at the 84 Diner at 930am. All are welcome.

Hope to see you there!

“A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts”.... Continued from pg.1

they used the 1976 Pontiac Lemans, which I believe may have actually been a “police package” vehicle. It was a remarkably sleek and “cool” looking police car for the times. Don’t ask me what kind of motor it had, I couldn’t tell you, but it was fast. Later on, when I graduated the reserve academy and got my certification, I moved over to Biscayne Park as a reserve. Over there, they were using ’75 or ’76 Plymouth Fury’s. That was a heck of a police car, and the air conditioning was so good, you could use the car for cold storage. I believe it was actually the first time I ever saw power windows in a police car.

I was hired as a “full timer” at M.B.P.D. in 1981, and during those times, the car situation on the Beach was very bleak but also somewhat interesting. We had an unusual collection of cars including the 1980 Chevrolet Malibu (more on this later), ’76 Plymouth Fury, ’77 Plymouth Volare, ’81 Chrysler LeBaron, and the ’82-’89 Dodge Diplomat’s. These were the days before take home cars. If anyone had told me back in the day that someday we were going to get our very own cars to take home, I would have told them “you’re nuts.” But eventually, much to my surprise it did happen, however it took many years until I was able to enjoy that privilege.

Back to 1981. When you’re with a field training officer, you’re going to try to get the newest car

you can get. Otherwise, your FTO is going to be very upset with you; and if your FTO is upset, you’re going to have a



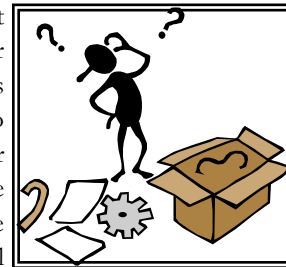
lousy shift! Before the days of take home cars, in order to

secure a better car, you had to be at that property window on the 3rd floor of 100 Meridian Avenue very early. Of course, if Rosie was working the property window, you knew you were going to get the “3rd degree.” The big joke back then was that some officers showed up for their shifts 2 hours early just to get a better car. The brass caught on to this little trick, so in the traditional Miami Beach way, they made a new rule. No cars will be given out prior to a half hour before roll call. In the traditional Miami Beach way, this rule lasted about 2 months.

Once I got “kicked loose” and on my own, I checked out Plymouth Volare police cars quite a bit. They were ’77’s I think, but they were easier to check out and handled real well. They did overheat a lot, but the air conditioners were excellent. I gave up on trying to get the LeBarons, which were really good, comfortable cars. They were in big demand and usually ended up in the hands of the officers with more seniority. Nobody wanted to drive the 1980 Chevy Malibu’s. The Department bought those off the lot at

Potamkin when it was determined that there was a serious shortage of patrol cars and they needed a bunch immediately. They were different colors, but basically equipped the same. They definitely were *not* police package cars as they were equipped with horribly underpowered six-cylinder engines. I’d seen lawn mowers with more power.

The department proceeded to have them all painted white and marked (except for one that became the Chief’s car). Bobby Jenkins and David Dweck, perhaps police explorers at the time were tasked with installing the equipment on the vehicles. They did a pretty good job and the cars looked good; but they were clearly not police cars. In order to get up to 40 miles per hour, one had to press the accelerator all the way to the floor and make sure you had several



blocks ahead to build up speed. Pray that you had green lights all the way. I think the Department finally realized these cars were a huge liability and had them converted back into unmarked cars. They were eventually stripped down, repainted different colors, and issued to the Detective Bureau. All that money spent on paint jobs...What a waste!

I recall that on or about the year 1983, more Dodge Diplomats were purchased and the

Department launched a pilot take-home car program for officers living on the Beach. Some of the cars were designated as “pool” cars. I was sort of jealous about not having a take-home until they put the equipment on the cars. The single “FHP” style blue light on the roof looked ok, until someone at City Shops designed a bracket to attach alley lights to it. It was the goofiest thing I’d ever seen. The light looked like it had big ears coming out of it. Since the lights were not really designed to have anything attached to them, they never really worked right. They were weak, unfocused and vibrated like crazy.

Sometimes one light would break off and the other would remain. This made the car look even goofier; like a

big dog with one ear up and one down. I was not happy with this arrangement and tried to choose cars with the newly designed light bars. I felt better driving a car with a light bar. They just looked *cooler*!

For the next few years, the only reasonably priced cars readily

available to law enforcement

were Plymouth Fury’s and Dodge Diplomat’s. Miami Beach

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“A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts”... Continued from pg.2

purchased quite a few of these cars until Chrysler Corporation stopped production. During that time I joined “A.I.U.” (Accident Investigation Unit) and had one

assigned to me. I was in heaven! They were not take-home cars per se, but we were allowed to take them home periodically to clean them. Since I cleaned mine every day, I took it home just about every day. I also added equipment to it. First grille lights, then flashing headlights, then I took the light bar apart and polished the lenses. I found a set of amber colored inserts and stuck them in the back part of the “Jetsonic” light bar for more visibility. This was clearly in violation of some rule, because City Shops kept removing them and leaving them on the front seat every time I took my car in for service. I would wait a couple of days and put them back. After about the 4th time, the Fleet Director (who shall remain nameless) fired off a memo to the Department complaining about my persistent violation of their rules regarding unauthorized equipment being added to my assigned vehicle. I fired off a memo of my own defending my little “urine” colored light bar inserts. I lost the battle but won the war. The newer light bars had the “urine” colored lenses built in. Ha!!!

I’ll continue next month with Miami Beach Po-

lice Cars, 1990 and beyond. I promise to share some interesting and funny stories. I’m also



going to poke quite a bit of fun at myself. It will be *very* entertaining...I promise!

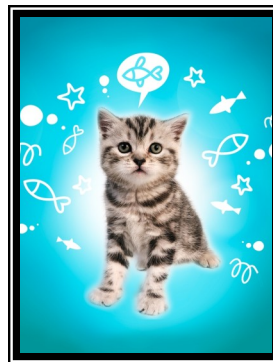
For those of you who have ever had pets, this will be sort of sad, but I think you’ll be able to relate. Recently, Ana and Dean Adler lost their pet cat. They were understandably upset. Losing a pet can be a traumatic experience. I have experienced this loss on several occasions and I understand why we feel the way we do. Pets are really members of the family. They don’t last as long as humans, so we try to make their quality of life as good as can possibly be. We pamper and spoil them. When I had dogs (my ex wife has them now, waaaaa!) they slept with us. My



“ex” complained about my snoring. The dogs never did; they just kicked and scratched me until I turned the other way. They are always happy to see us, unlike some human companions.

Without getting into a spiritual debate about the existence of heaven or hell, I would submit to you that if heaven does exist (none of my *current* readers can truly say), then our pets certainly deserve a place there. During other “religious discussions”, I’ve had folks tell me in no uncertain terms that animals, more specifically pets, are not eligible to go to heaven upon death. It’s some kind of rule. Much like the rules that prevented me from putting little plastic amber inserts in my light bar.

If there *is* a heaven, than pets are



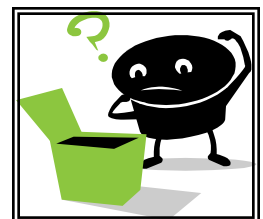
most certainly entitled to go. Even mean pets because, after all, humans are the ones that make pets mean. To those who say with conviction that pets are not eligible to saunter through those pearly gates, I say HOG-WASH!! Who are humans to say who gets to go and who doesn’t? I don’t want to drag this out my friends. It just annoys me when some people, who are most likely not animal lovers, decide to exclude our little furry friends from the same privileges we may have because of some bizarre, twisted interpretation of

something written in the Bible. Again, I don’t want to delve too much into this area because I really don’t know what I’m talking about myself. Just being honest. I have my opinion...And my opinion is; our pets should go to heaven, but not *too* soon! Let us enjoy them and long as possible.

My 50th birthday was more or less uneventful, and that’s how I wanted it. A few friends joined me for some drinks at “The Pub” and “Tavern” in Pembroke Pines. When I returned home, my neighbors (joined by my other friends) treated me to a small surprise party. It was a good day. I don’t really *feel* any differently now than I did a month ago. I did receive a membership package from AARP, which I not only threw away, but shredded! Not ready yet! I do feel like talking about the weather though, which is a sign of old age. It was cool, now it’s hot. What the heck is going on here in South Florida? I’m very disappointed. I’m praying for a *real* cold front, but until then, please take care of yourselves. See you next month.

By: Sam Gam

***The master of
Disorganized Thoughts!***



Miami Beach Police Retirees Association Annual Holiday Party

December 5th, 2009 6PM-10PM \$30 Per Person
6PM-7PM Cocktail Hour

West Broward Hall

927 NW 178th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL

Menu Selection

Entrées:

Chicken Marsala - Pasta Primavera with Shrimp - Prime Rib

Side Dishes:

Garlic Mashed Potatoes - Sautéed Vegetables

Includes:

Garden Salad - Homemade Dinner Rolls & Butter - Soda/Beer & Wine

Music will be supplied by DJ Chris Mitchell

RSVP & Send Checks to:

Charlie Seraydar: 5701 SW 134th Avenue, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

*** RSVP must be received by NOVEMBER 21st, 2009**

Newsletter Exclusive!

LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT

By Howard Zeifman

Howard Zeifman retired from the Department very recently and asked to have his "letter to the Department" shared with the retiree's membership.

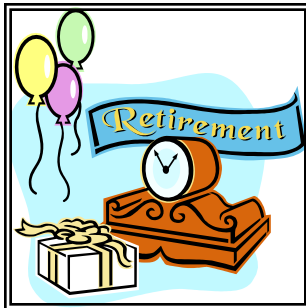
Here it is, in its entirety:

I am, and have been, a proud member of the Miami Beach Police Department, and I am grateful to this department for the 28 plus years of opportunities and unforgettable experiences it has given me. These years have flown by and afforded me one extraordinary career - which I have loved.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity, during the latter part of my career, to be able to work with members of every division/unit within the police department. I hope I will be remembered as a person who always took care of all those who have worked for me and with me.

As the saying goes, "with age, comes wisdom". There is an honor and distinction that comes with wearing a badge. Once

the badge is pinned on it never comes off, whether you admit it or not. The badge fuses the soul through adversity and fear and every officer wears it with guts, pride, and integrity. Despite the negatives I have been exposed to, I have learned to spend my energy on positive things and focus on the good that can be done.



Be proud of who you are and the profession you have chosen, a select very few achieve the honor of protecting this great city. I will remain within the Police Department as a Reserve Officer.

What I hope for you, as I retirement.

ease into retirement, is that you be safe, that you look out for one another

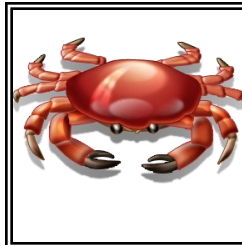
and that GOD watch's over each of you. Never forget that YOU are a member of the greatest fraternity of one of the best police departments.

Howard also wanted to everyone to know that he is now working at Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant as an "Assistant Manager Trainee". As such, he wants to share his "Howard Zeifman vs. Bobby Moorehead" comparisons:

- Bobby and Howard both worked off-duty for Joe's for a long time.

- Bobby and Howard both worked in the Property Unit prior to

- Bobby and Howard both retired.



- Bobby and Howard both joined the Joe's Stone Crab family as full time employees upon retirement.

Bobby was the general manager while Howard is currently in management training.

- The difference? Howard has big shoes to fill and doubts he can come close to filling Bobby's shoes. Nice compliment!

On behalf of the Miami Beach Retiree's Newsletter staff, we wish Howard a happy and healthy retirement and a great career with Joe's Stone Crab. Now Howard, where do we pick up our Stone Crab orders?





November Birthdays

Jon Anderson

Richard Barreto

Gary Bergert

Bert Bernstein

Al Boza

Mark Fidler

Don Freeman

Ken Glassman

Jack Gordon

Chuck Hayes

Curtis(Glenn) Hodges

Jack Krolak

Dale Lassiter

Fran LaRosa-Ferla

Paul Lupien

Tony Marten

Jimmy Mazer

Emmett Miller

William Murray

Buddy Petit

James Preston

Tom Ratner

Joe Roussell

James Smith

Barry Stamp

Fred Walder

William Webb

Tom Weschler

Lou Youngman

In The News....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHELLY GOLDSTEIN

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Shelly Goldstein, who turned 80 years old on October 17th, 2009. Shelly, we passed a by-law in October 2007 freeing members who turn 80 years old from the responsibility of having to pay dues. Shelly, your dues will be free for the rest of your life. May you live another 80 years! If any other members have turned 80 years old and are still paying dues please contact Charlie Seraydar or Vincent Aprile to have your dues waived.



In The News...

M.B. POLICE RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On October 22, 2009 a General Membership meeting was held at the La Brochette Bistro in Cooper City. 31 members attended the meeting. The list of members who attended is as follows:

President William O'Neil, Vice President Lynda Veski, Secretary Vincent Aprile, Treasurer Charlie Seraydar, and Trustees Fred Walder, Robert Jenkins, & Joan Donnelly-Ochoa. Also attending were members James Whitehead, Rocco DeLeo, Ed Young, Lenny Veski, John & Cathy Tighe, Samuel Gam, Billy Rosenstein, Jason Psaltides, Bobby Bauer, John Millerick, Ken Dudenhofer, John VanVranken, Pat Ryan, William MacDonald, Don Hasley, Artie Ganz, Jack Mackie, Shelley Goldstein, Dean Adler and his wife Ana, Jack Tighe & his wife Amy, and FOP President Alex Bello.

Discussed at the meeting were the upcoming holiday party (see the announcement in this newsletter) and the widow's fund. Last year, our Retiree's Association donated \$100.00 each to 9 widows. The FOP provided matching donations. The widows received a pension of \$800.00 a month or less. Treasurer Charlie Seraydar would like to increase this amount to \$1000.00, which would mean 12 widows would receive the money.

In addition, Treasurer Seraydar advised that the now defunct ORGANIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (O.P.L.E.) generously donated \$5000.00 to our retiree's organization.

The upcoming nominations for Board of Directors of the Miami Beach Police Retiree's Association Office was also discussed. So far, those members interested in running are: President-Vincent Aprile, Vice President-Lynda Veski, Secretary-Joan Donnelly-Ochoa, Treasurer-Charlie Seraydar, Trustees-Bobby Jenkins, Fred Walder, Pat Ryan and Lisa Newland. Of course, the Past President would be William O'Neil.

If you are interested in running for any of the positions please contact Secretary, Vincent Aprile. His e-mail address is Vin455@myacc.net. All terms are for two years.

IMPORTANT DENTAL COVERAGE INFORMATION!

The City has sent out Annual Open Enrollment Dental Plan application forms to all members. They are changing our current coverage from CompBenefits to Metlife beginning on January 1st, 2010. The dental forms must be returned by November 10th, 2009. **Failure to do so may mean no coverage for 2010!**

FOP President Alex Bello advised that due to the Health Trust investments not doing as well as in past years, the cost of your health insurance will be going up approximately \$8.00 per month beginning in January, 2010. *This applies to members who are covered by the MBFOP Health Trust.*

CARL WARD IS RECUPERATING!

Jackie Ward wrote in to let us know that Carl had a total left knee replacement procedure done on Oct 2nd. Carl came home on Monday, October 5th and is doing exceptionally well. They hope to get a lot of mileage out of this one!! Jackie is "holding her breath". Carl said that his back pain is gone also, and hopefully that will continue as well. **Please continue to remember him in your prayers.** Hope all is well with everyone!

MICHAEL DELEO, PROMOTED TO PLANTATION DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

On October 19th, 2009, Rocco's DeLeo's son Michael was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police for the Plantation Police Department. Michael DeLeo comes from a law enforcement family: In addition to being the son of retired Miami Beach Chief of Police Rocco DeLeo; his brother is a Drug Enforcement Administration agent and his sister is a police officer with the Pembroke Pines Police Department. Congratulations to the DeLeo family on Michael's promotion!

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(Former City Attorney)

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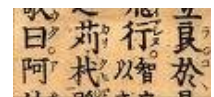
The Fred Wooldridge you never knew
Read His book...

"I'm Moving Back to Mars"

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



When rookie South Beach
Police Officer Katie Maguire
agreed to work undercover, the
exceptionally tall and attrac-
tive 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

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E-Mail: Mackyg2007@yahoo.com

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