



THE COLLIER STAR

- SHERIFF KEVIN RAMBOSK -

VISIT US
colliersheriff.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/colliersheriff

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/colliersheriff

WATCH US
youtube.com/colliercountysheriff

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM
@colliersheriff



Wayne Maynard, grandson of Collier County's first sheriff, William Riley Maynard, pins a special centennial badge on Sheriff Kevin Rambosk on the steps of City Hall in Everglades City, the original county seat, at a Jan. 9, 2023 ceremony kicking off the Collier County Sheriff's Office's 100th anniversary celebration. Sheriff Rambosk presented Maynard and his son Ryan Maynard with commemorative plaques. The Maynards traveled from their home state of Texas to participate in the inaugural festivities. PHOTO BY CCSO PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER MARINA TREJO

100 Years of Safety and Service

One-hundred years looks good on us!

The year 2023 marks the centennial anniversary of the creation of the Collier County Sheriff's Office. Over the past 100 years we've grown from an appointed sheriff whose wife was his chief deputy to a modern operation with nearly 600 certified deputies charged with serving and protecting a county of nearly 400,000 residents.

We'll be celebrating our centennial throughout 2023 with programs and events - including the official anniversary on Friday, July 7, and the opening of a CCSO time capsule - commemorating this historic milestone. We hope you will celebrate with us.

We're sporting a new logo and badges to mark our centennial year.

"The Collier County Sheriff's Office has proudly served our community for 100 years," Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said. "We look forward to reflecting on the past and preparing for the future. Here's to the next 100 years."

Sheriff Rambosk is only the seventh Sheriff to lead the agency over the course of the past century.

"The one thing that has not changed since 1923 is

the Sheriff of Collier County still serves every resident and visitor of the county, providing a safe place to live, work, go to school, and visit," Sheriff Rambosk said.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of CCSO, we look back at the beginnings of the agency, the impact it has on the community and what's in store for the future.

We've come a long way since July 7, 1923, when the Collier County Sheriff's Office was created by a legislative act where Collier County was carved out of a southwest portion of Lee County and the appointment of William Riley "W.R." Maynard as its first Sheriff.

When Sheriff Maynard took over the lone Lee County deputy who remained stationed and living on Chokoloskee Island became his first deputy.

Back then Collier County was dubbed "Florida's last frontier," and Sheriff Maynard proved this to be true. In December 1926, while Sheriff Maynard was away on business, his chief deputy, his wife Blanche Maynard, accompanied by their 2-year-old son, organized a posse and pursued three escaped fugitives into the Everglades. She captured them and returned them to the county jail in Everglade.

Today, under Sheriff Rambosk's leadership, the

Collier County Sheriff's Office has more than 1,300 members and is among the most progressive, professional and respected law enforcement agencies in Florida.

During his four terms in office, Sheriff Rambosk has implemented an array of progressive policies and crime-fighting initiatives aimed at keeping Collier County safe. They include the creation of a Behavioral Health Bureau with a focus on mental health and substance abuse, a state-of-the-art Communications Center, and an enhanced school safety plan.

Collier County's crime rate is the lowest on record since 1971 and Collier County continues to have the lowest crime rate of any metropolitan county in Florida. Our comprehensive school safety initiatives have been recognized as the best in the nation.

To ensure CCSO is doing all it can to keep residents safe, Sheriff Rambosk also implemented the Real-Time Operations Center, which allows for monitoring and analysis of important investigative information during active crimes and critical incidents.

"Our mission over the past 100 years has been to protect this community and keep our residents and visitors safe, and we are laying the foundation for the next 100 years," Sheriff Rambosk said.



Kevin Rambosk
Collier County Sheriff

Dear Friends,

This is a momentous year for the Collier County Sheriff's Office as we celebrate 100 years of keeping our community safe. Our centennial offers an opportunity to reflect on our history, but also to recognize our achievements and look ahead to our future.

U.S. News & World Report named Naples the safest place in the nation to live in its 2022-2023 ranking, and an accomplishment like that doesn't happen by accident. Here at CCSO we continually innovate, make use of technology, and partner with our community to keep crime low.

One example of our commitment to innovation is our school safety Threat Management Program, which uses a unique multi-bureau response to concerning student behaviors and statements in

schools and works in concert with Collier County Public Schools and the David Lawrence Centers. The groundbreaking program connects at-risk students with resources before their behaviors develop into arrestable offenses. It earned a national award of excellence from the School Safety Advocacy Council in 2022.

State-of-the-art law enforcement technology is in place in our Real-time Operations Center (ROC). Our professional ROC analysts use technology to help deputies respond quickly and efficiently to traffic crashes, reports of missing people, brush fires and most recently, Hurricane Ian.

I am also proud of the fact that CCSO holds seven professional law enforcement accreditation certifications. These certifications demonstrate that we are committed to delivering the highest level of law enforcement possible to you.

As our population continues to grow and we are faced with new challenges my commitment to you is to maintain Collier County's status as the safest metropolitan county in Florida. This means I will keep identifying and implementing

emerging public safety technology, hiring and retaining the most highly trained deputies possible, and nurturing and developing our community partnerships.

Speaking of partnerships, you are an important element of our community safety plan. When you report suspicious activity to law enforcement or secure your home, or drive defensively you are helping us keep paradise safe. Thank you for partnering with us.

Lastly, I'd like to offer a special thank-you to CCSO Captain Thomas Smith, retired, the agency's official historian for his invaluable assistance with this special centennial edition. I would also like to thank Captain David Johnson, retired; the Collier County Museum; and Museum of the Everglades for their help.

Yours in a Safe Community,

Kevin Rambosk
Collier County Sheriff

Sheriffs of Collier County



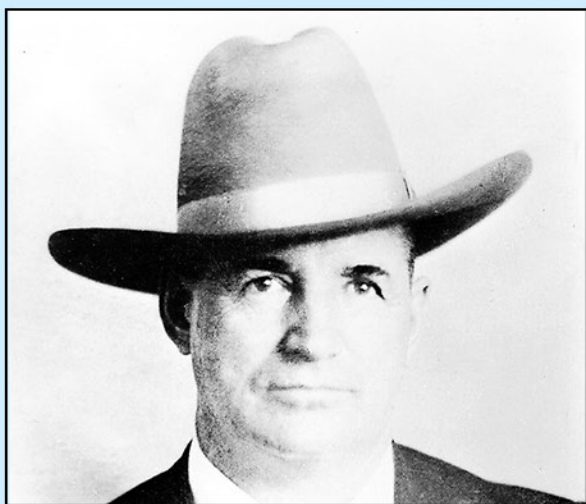
Sheriff Kevin Rambosk (2009 – present)

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk became Collier County's seventh sheriff after Don Hunter retired. Sheriff Rambosk took office on Jan. 6, 2009, and has been re-elected every term since then.

Sheriff Rambosk began his public safety career in Collier County as a Naples Police Department officer in 1978 where he rose to the rank of Chief. He also served four years as Naples City Manager, a job he said enhanced his administrative abilities. He retired in 2003 following a 25-year career in Naples and

joined the Collier County Sheriff's Office in 2003 as Captain of the Organized Crime Division. He soon was promoted and served as the agency's second in command before he was elected Sheriff in 2008.

Under the leadership of Sheriff Rambosk Collier County has earned the status of being the safest metropolitan county in Florida. Also under Sheriff Rambosk, CCSO has an enhanced school safety plan, an enhanced 911 communications system, a real-time crime center, and is one of only a few law enforcement agencies in the country with a designated behavioral health bureau.



Sheriff William Riley "W.R." Maynard (1923-1928)

The Collier County Sheriff's Office was created on July 7, 1923. Then-Gov. Cary A. Hardee appointed William Riley "W.R." Maynard as Collier County's first sheriff with a formal proclamation on July 13, 1923.

Sheriff Maynard, who was hand-picked by the county's namesake Barron Gift Collier, was appointed during Collier County's first meeting of its new county commissioners at the Rod & Gun Club in the town of Everglade in what was then the county seat.

Sheriff Maynard maintained law and order across the wild and rugged Collier County landscape with the help of one sworn deputy and his wife Blanche Maynard whom he made his Chief Deputy.

In addition to Sheriff Maynard serving as the county's primary law enforcement officer, the former WWI fighter pilot was tasked to fly over the vast and barely accessible 2,025 square-mile county, meticulously taking thousands of aerial photographs that were used to create Collier County's first accurate maps.



Sheriff Lewis J. Thorp (1928 – 1953)

Lewis J. Thorp became Collier County's second Sheriff after Sheriff Maynard resigned April 2, 1928. Sheriff Thorp brought a tough crime-fighting approach to the office. He was an expert with the bull whip, which he could swing around his head and crack like a rifle. He used it to break up fights and control unruliness.

Sheriff Thorp was re-elected every term until his death in 1953. During those years he was credited with doing an outstanding job under trying conditions. Communication at the time consisted of undependable telephone (in 1945 there were only 17 telephones in Collier County) and no radio communications. Except for the newly built Tamiami Trail and a short stretch from Everglade to Immokalee, road travel was atrocious.

In spite of these difficulties Sheriff Thorp modernized and expanded his small force which became the nucleus of a modern Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff Roy Oliver Atkins (1953 – 1956)

The third sheriff of Collier County was Roy Oliver Atkins, who had been Sheriff Thorp's chief deputy. After Thorp's passing, Sheriff Atkins served the remaining two years of the term until he was unseated during the next election.

Moonshining was rampant during Sheriff Atkins' brief tenure. Once a moonshiner tried to kill him by running his car off the road into the canal between Everglade and Immokalee in the middle of the night. He was able to crawl out, however, and walk into Immokalee.



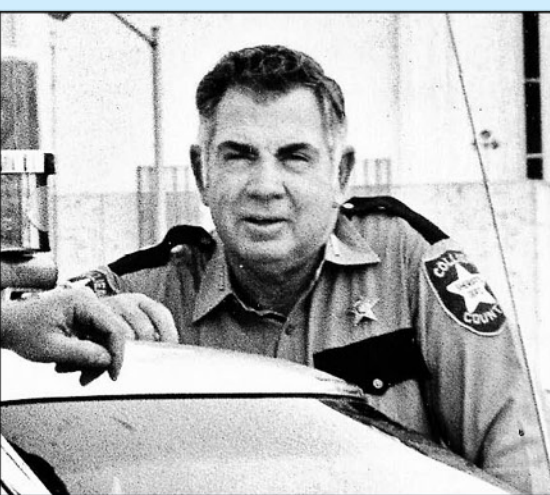
Sheriff Eldridge Albert "Doug" Hendry (1956 – 1975)

Eldridge Albert "Doug" Hendry became the fourth Sheriff of Collier County, and served until his retirement in 1975.

Hendry had been an officer with the Fort Myers Police Department and later went to work for Sheriff Thorp in Everglade in the early 1950s. When Thorp died and Roy Atkins was appointed to serve out his term, Hendry left CCSO for the Naples Police Department until he was elected sheriff in 1956. He brought Aubrey Rogers, a longtime friend from FMPD, as his chief deputy. At the time, the agency was made up of the sheriff, five deputies and a handful of civilians.

Sheriff Hendry had a reputation as being almost larger than life and was the subject of articles in national publications, including the New York Times.

One of his enduring legacies can be found in the creation of his Youth Aid Bureau in January 1961, which would later develop into the Collier County Junior Deputy League, to provide programs to teach youth about drug and alcohol resistance, crime prevention, first aid, firearms, safety, land stewardship, self-esteem, and respect for parents, teachers, and law enforcement.

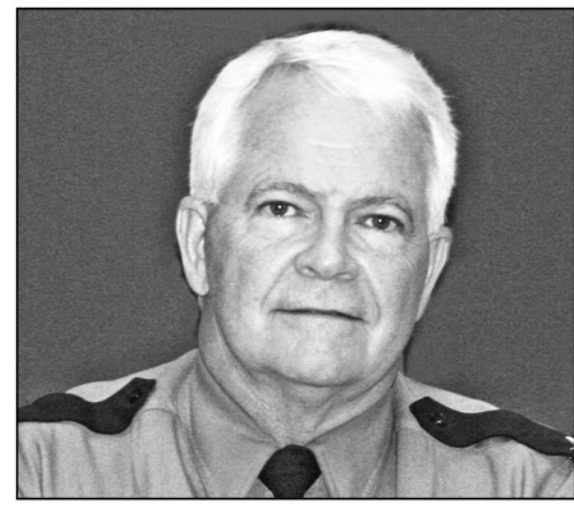


Sheriff Aubrey Rogers (1975 -1989)

Aubrey Rogers served as the fifth sheriff of Collier County.

When he began his career as a deputy at CCSO in 1957, Rogers earned 74 cents an hour. He eventually became Sheriff Hendry's chief deputy. When Sheriff Hendry retired, Rogers was then appointed to complete the term of office and was later elected Sheriff, remaining until his retirement in 1989.

During his tenure, Sheriff Rogers successfully carried CCSO in an era of tremendous growth. For Sheriff Rogers, the only way to cope with a growing Collier County was to have an agency that was growing right along with it. He was instrumental in pushing hefty budgets through to ensure his deputies were well equipped and the county well protected. His many accomplishments during his 31-year tenure at CCSO included bringing the 911 system to Collier County and bringing deputies into the Collier County schools with the creation of Youth Relations Deputies in 1977.



Sheriff Don Hunter (1989 -2009)

When Sheriff Rogers retired he was succeeded by his Chief Deputy Don Hunter, who was elected Collier County's sixth sheriff in 1988. Sheriff Hunter retired in 2009

Sheriff Hunter started with CCSO as a deputy in 1979 and two years later was promoted to chief of administration and special operations. He commanded the agency's narcotics unit, and developed and commanded the SWAT team.

Under Sheriff Hunter, the agency grew from 651 members to 1,387 members. Sheriff Hunter left a legacy of accomplishments, from his taking on the issue of illegal aliens who commit crimes in the community to combating street gangs to using cutting edge technology such as laptops in patrol vehicles and Rapid ID fingerprint scanning devices to enhance officer safety.

CCSO Pioneer Cavalry In The Spotlight



This newly unveiled 1929 Harley Davidson JD motorcycle is the centerpiece of an exhibit about the South West Mounted Police at Museum of the Everglades from Feb. 14 to May 13. The motorcycle was a gift to the museum from its support organization, Friends of Museum of the Everglades. Courtesy of Museum of the Everglades

The South West Mounted Police holds a unique and colorful place in Collier County history.

Collier County will pay tribute to these CCSO pioneers who patrolled the newly built Tamiami Trail on motorcycles, back when Collier was known as Florida's last frontier, with a special exhibit as part of the county's centennial celebration, also taking place in 2023.

The exhibit, called "Collier's Cavalry: The Story of the Southwest Mounted Patrol" will be on display at Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City, the birthplace of Collier County, from Feb. 14 to May 13.

Museum of the Everglades Manager Thomas Lockyear said the centerpiece of the exhibit is a vintage 1929 Harley-Davidson JD motorcycle, like the one the South West Mounted Police officers rode, with a mannequin outfitted in a recreated SWMP uniform, including the signature scarlet Canadian Mountie-style tunic, astride the bike. The motorcycle was a gift from the museum's support organization, Friends of Museum of the Everglades. The exhibit will also feature information about the six SWMP stations along the Tamiami Trail, officer rosters, and an exploration of the evolution of the Sheriff's Office from its roots in the SWMP.

After its run ends in May, the exhibit will move from its place in the Pauline Reeves Gallery to the museum's permanent gallery where it will incorporate other elements of the region's law enforcement history, notably the Prohibition era under Sheriff Lewis Thorp, said Lockyear.

It was the early law enforcers who helped shape Collier County into the great and safe place it is today.

In April 1928, the Tamiami Trail connecting Tampa to Miami was completed and the town of Everglade hosted a grand opening celebration with dignitaries attending from all over the



It's no accident the SWMP uniforms mimicked the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. County namesake Barron Gift Collier and D. Graham Copeland, who managed Collier's vast landholdings and doubled as a sworn deputy, were both fascinated by the RCMP and designed the local mounted patrol's uniforms.

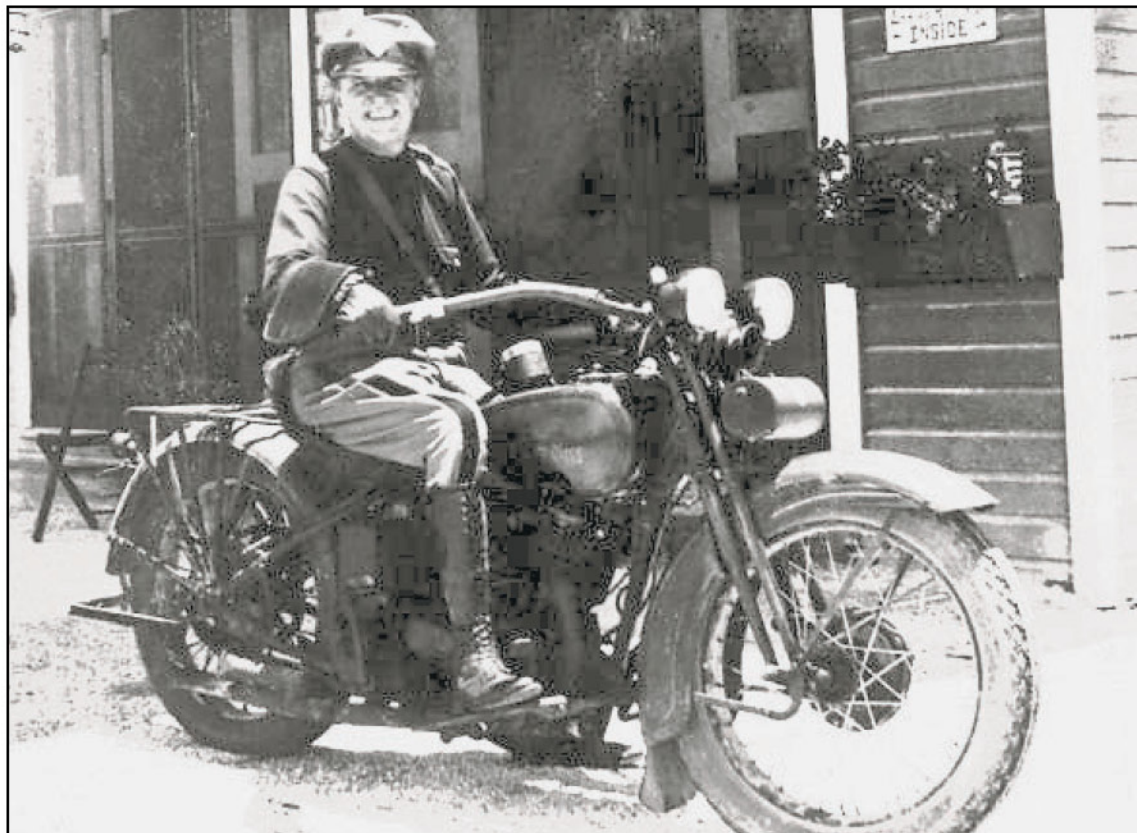
nation. In July, then-Sheriff Thorp announced the creation of the South West Mounted Police.

The SWMP patrolled the Tamiami Trail from six aid stations built every 10 miles from Naples to Miami: Belle Meade Station, Royal Palm Hammock, Fakahatchee Station, Turner River Station, Monroe Station, and Paolita Station.

An officer and his wife was assigned to each station. Each officer mounted his Harley-Davidson and patrolled 5 miles on each side of their assigned station to enforce speed laws, assist stranded motorists, search for poachers, and intercept rum runners who were smuggling alcohol during the Prohibition era, while the wives remained at the stations helping to meet the needs of travelers.

The first six SWMP deputies were appointed by the Collier County Board of Commissioners in November of 1928 and assigned these stations:

- John Andrew "Buster" Pike (Royal Palm Hammock)
- Edward T. Bayman (Paolita)
- S. Malcolm "Red" Weaver (Fakahatchee)
- Charles B. Waltz (Turner River)
- James Laury (Belle Meade)



SWMP Officer Luther T. Hardison is shown in front of Paolita Station along the Tamiami Trail. Hardison was assigned to Turner River Station on Dec. 1, 1929. In April 1930 he moved to Paolita Station (closest to Miami) where he remained until Dec. 19, 1934 when he joined the Miami Police Department. He later went to the Coral Gables Police Department as a constable, where he was killed in the line of duty on Feb. 17, 1951. Photo courtesy of Florida State Archives

-William Irwin (Monroe)

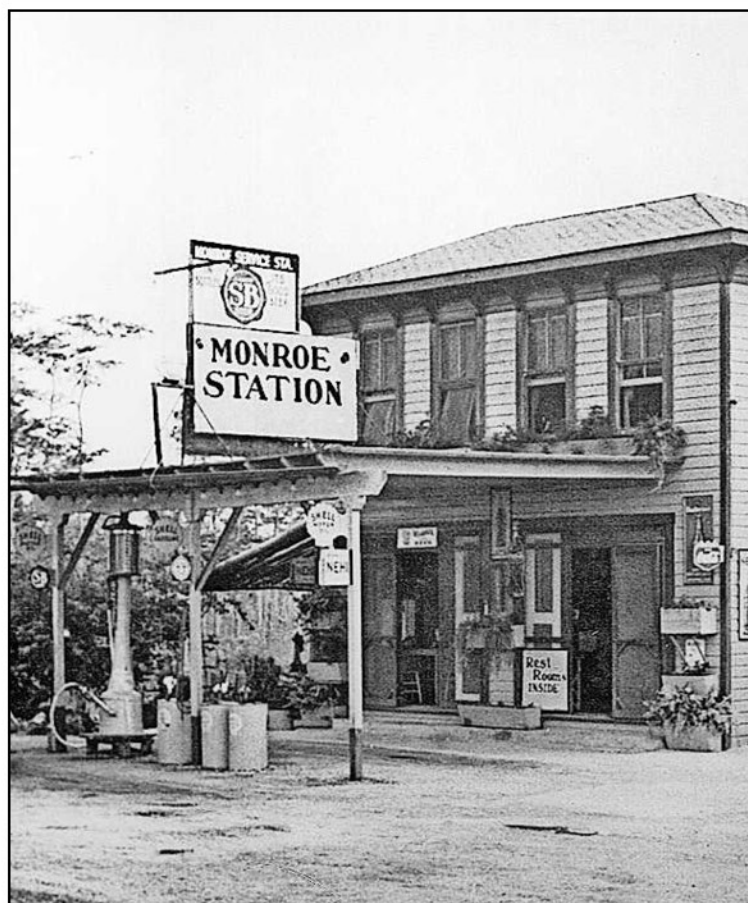
Each officer was paid \$100 a week (\$66 from the county's Fine and Forfeiture Fund, and \$33.33 paid by Barron Collier through an account at Manhattan Mercantile Bank).

Sheriff Thorp's orders for this mounted unit were published in a story in the Fort Myers News-Press after the deputies were appointed. The article said the newspaper was publishing the orders to show readers the "high character" expected of these deputies. Among the orders outlined, were "to act at all times and under all circumstances in such manner as to make the South West Mounted Police a model for patrol officers throughout the United States."

Two of the SWMP officers gave their lives in the line of duty.

Deputy Irwin died Jan. 20, 1929, after his motorcycle was struck head-on by a motorcar in heavy fog, while he patrolled from Monroe Station. He had been a deputy only 60 days before being killed.

Deputy W. B. Richardson was only 14 days into his



Monroe Station, one of the six stations along the newly built Tamiami Trail used during construction. Once the new highway opened each station was manned by a motorcycle riding member of the newly created South West Mounted Police. While patrolling 5 miles on each side of their station the officers' wives pumped fuel and served travelers. Small shacks would house overnight travelers.

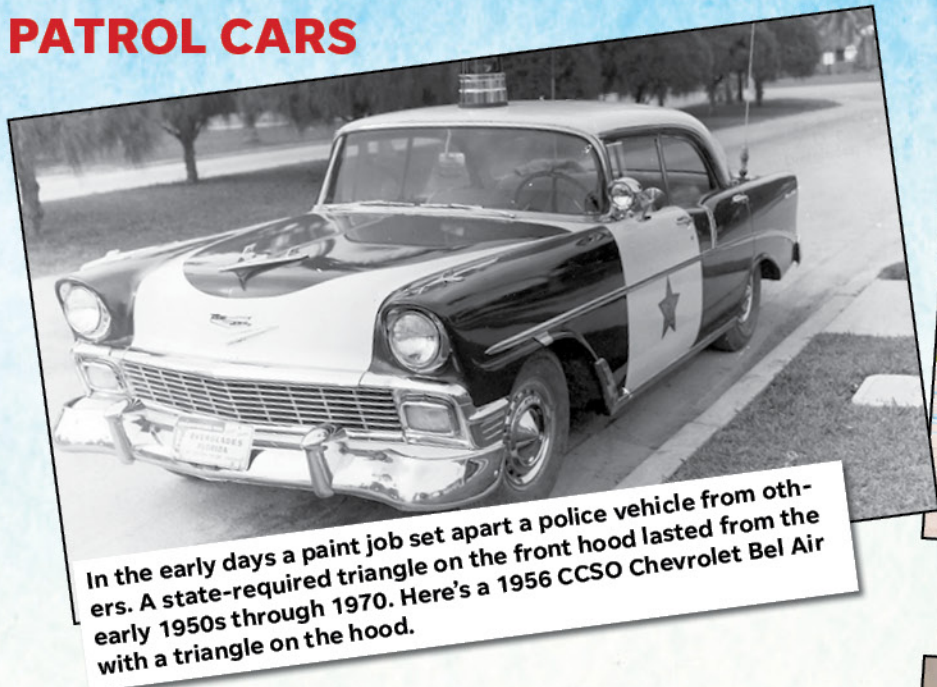
deputy career when he was killed Dec. 14, 1928, after his motorcycle struck a bridge near his Paolita Station patrol area.

In 1991, Irwin's and

Richardson's names were added to the Collier County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Memorial and to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C.

CCSO Then and Now

PATROL CARS



In the early days a paint job set apart a police vehicle from others. A state-required triangle on the front hood lasted from the early 1950s through 1970. Here's a 1956 CCSO Chevrolet Bel Air with a triangle on the hood.

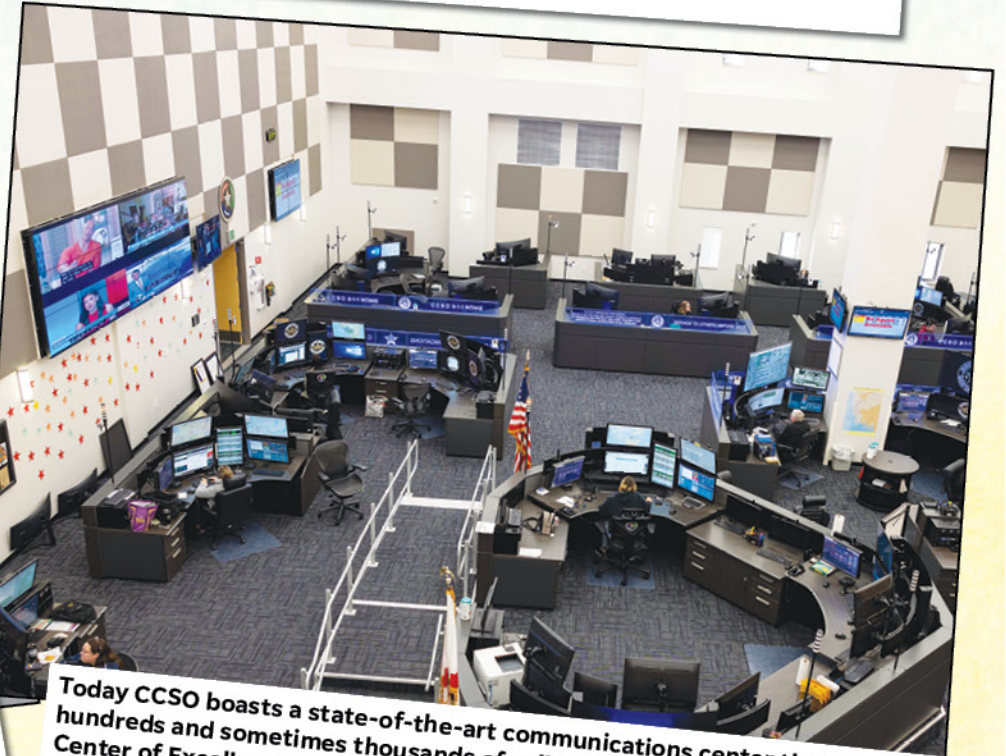


Today, vehicles are made specifically for law enforcement with larger batteries and alternators, and computer equipment, among other features.

COMMUNICATIONS



CCSO's first "radio operator," (what is now known as dispatcher) was Mary Morris in 1953. The first ability to communicate by radio was by two Civil Defense radios from the federal government. When the first in-car Motorola radios were acquired, a deputy in eastern Collier had to plug his radio into antenna cables mounted on local fire towers to reach back to Naples.



Today CCSO boasts a state-of-the-art communications center that handles hundreds and sometimes thousands of calls a day, and is an accredited Center of Excellence with the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch since 2001.

AVIATION



Initially, fixed wing aircraft were used for prisoner transports and then a small Bell helicopter, like the one shown here with Pilot Deputy David Cranor, from the mid-1970s, for marijuana eradication.



Today our Aviation Unit boasts two rescue helicopters, a Bell UH-1H Huey, and a Bell 429, the most recent addition to the fleet shown here. Both have infrared and hoist capabilities. They are used for tactical missions, searches and rescues, and firefighting.

DEPUTY



Communication was much different in decades past. Deputies had rudimentary car radios but there was no way to check in or call for backup if they weren't in their patrol car. For many years tall poles with a rotating light on top were installed in various patrol areas around the county. If the light was on it let the deputy in that area know they were needed in the office.



Cpl. Daniel Fano works from inside his agency vehicle. CCSO deputies don't "go to the office" every day; their patrol vehicle is their fully equipped office.

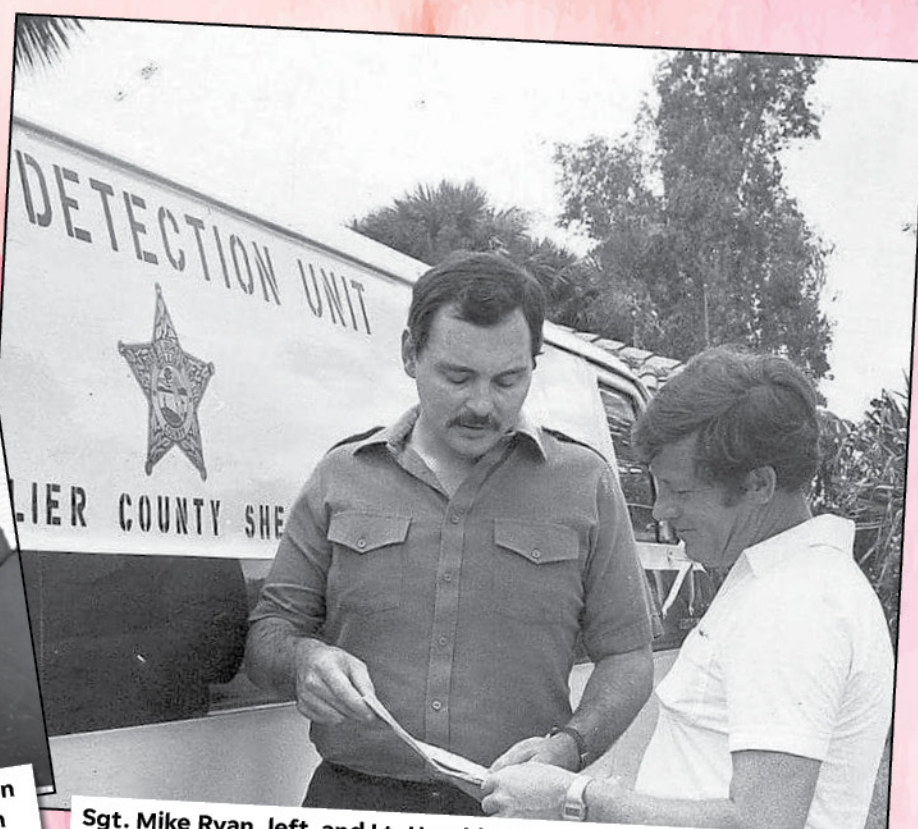
100 Years Of CCSO



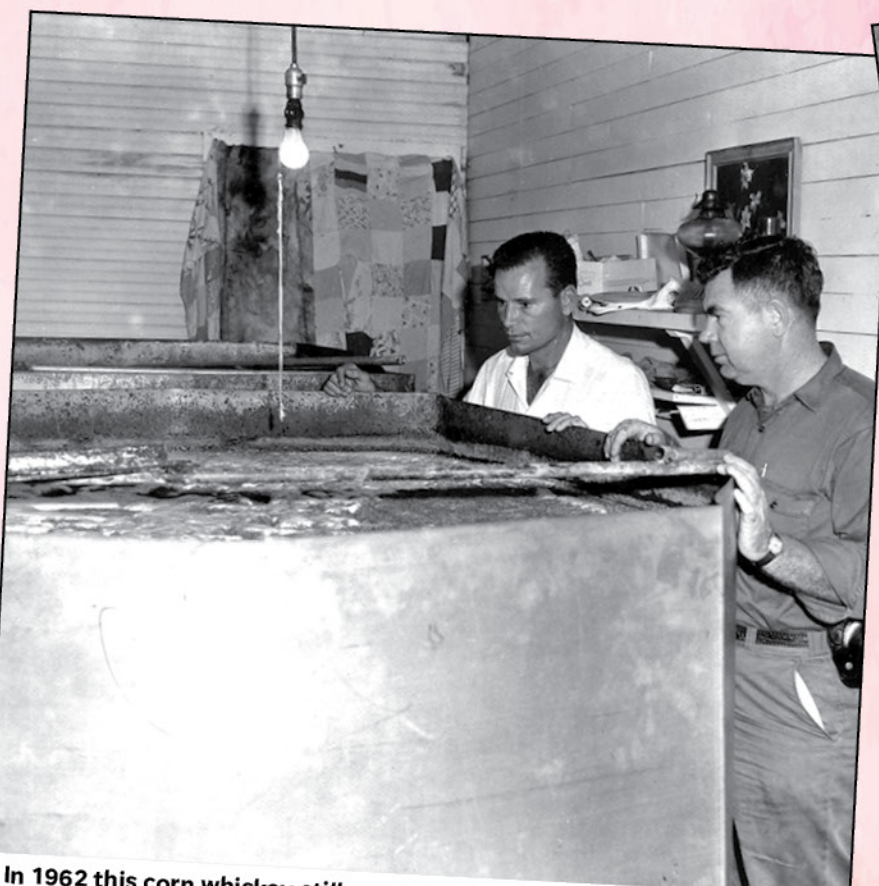
In September 1955, Sheriff Roy Oliver Atkins gathered his entire staff – seven deputies and four civilians - in front of the Everglades Sheriff's Office and Jail for a group photo. Shown front row from left: Howard J. Landon Sr. (accountant), Opal Harris-Dukes (radio operator who later would become CCSO's first female deputy and K9 deputy), Mable Florence Hunter (radio operator and wife of Deputy Joe Hunter) and Mrs. Sharp (Sheriff Atkins' secretary and wife of Deputy R. G. Stormy Sharp.) Back row from left: Deputy Richard Parks, Deputy James P. "Parker" Johnson, Deputy R.G. "Stormy" Sharp, Deputy Joe Hunter, Deputy Burt Morris, Deputy Ortiz, Deputy Gibb Gross, and Sheriff Atkins. The photo was re-created into a post-card that Sheriff Atkins used for his 1956 re-election campaign. Later Doug Hendry would see the value of this campaign postcard as a viable strategy and used one very similar in his future sheriff's campaigns.



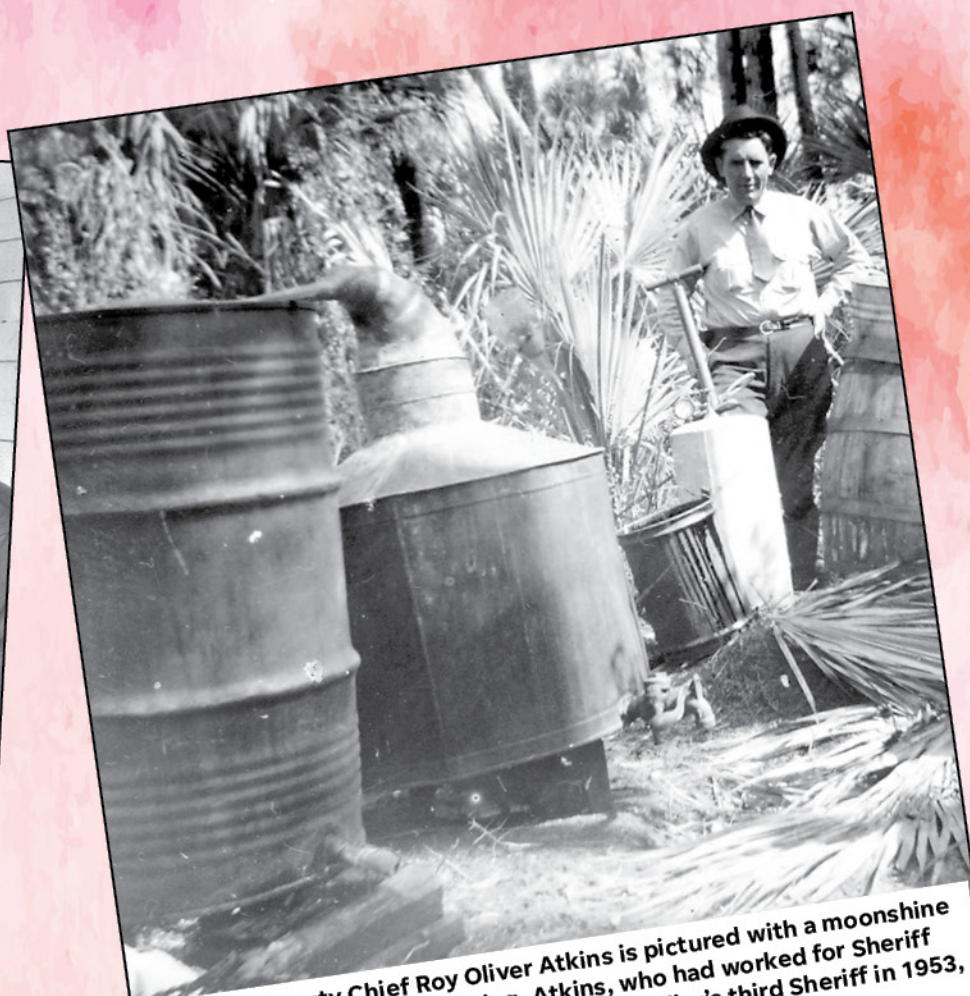
Youth Relations Cpl. Thomas Davis, left, and Deputy Steve Loyd teach students in a classroom in the 1990s. For 45 years CCSO Youth Relations deputies have been keeping school campuses safe, while mentoring and educating children.



Sgt. Mike Ryan, left, and Lt. Harold Young of the Homicide Bureau in the mid-1980s



In 1962 this corn whiskey still was seized on State Road 29 in Jerome, located between Everglades and Immokalee. Sheriff Doug Hendry, left, is seen here with his Chief Deputy Aubrey Rogers. (Rogers succeeded Hendry as Sheriff in 1975). These two stills were in the interior of a home. You can see the shelves on wall, quilt covering a doorway in background and a single lightbulb hanging with pull string.



Then-CCSO Deputy Chief Roy Oliver Atkins is pictured with a moonshine still setup in an Everglades setting. Atkins, who had worked for Sheriff Thorp since 1937, would later be appointed Collier's third Sheriff in 1953, when Sheriff Thorp died in office, serving two years.

100 Years Of CCSO



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers brought deputies into the Collier County schools with the creation of Youth Relations. Here Rogers is shown in November 1977 with the first group of Youth Relations deputies and their assigned schools. From left first row: Sheriff Rogers, Deputy Thomas "Tommy" Davis, East Naples Middle School; Deputy James Hanson, Lely High School; Deputy Jenny Aragon, Immokalee Middle School; Deputy Nancy Reed, Pine Ridge Middle School; Deputy Patrick Mullen, Gulf View Middle School; Deputy Nelson "Shad" Shadrick, Naples High School; Deputy John Kirchner, Co Tech. Back row: Deputy Paul McGee, Immokalee High School; Sgt. Douglas Caperton ran the Youth Relations program from 1977-1980. Cpl. Jeff Cox, oversaw the Junior Deputy Program in all the elementary schools.



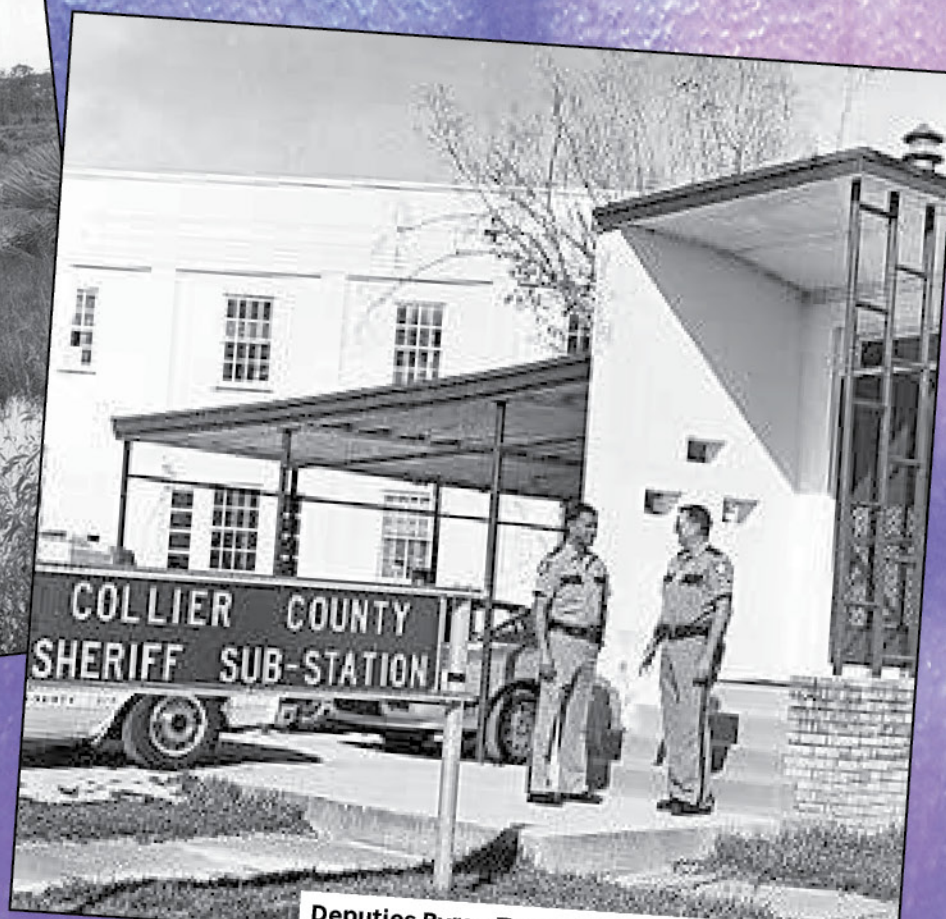
It's rare for three sheriffs to be in one image. This photo taken in 1950 includes three former Collier County sheriffs from left: then Chief Deputy Roy Oliver Atkins (who would later be third sheriff), then Sheriff Lewis J. Thorp (Collier's second sheriff) and his deputy Eldridge Albert "Doug" Hendry (who would become Collier's fourth sheriff)



Deputy Opal Dukes, CCSO's first female deputy and first female K9 officer, is seen here in August 1964 with "Old Belle" a 12-year-old bloodhound acquired in 1961 from Georgia State Prison. Deputy Dukes held a variety of positions at CCSO including bookkeeper, radio operator and jail matron where she also operated the "Drunk-o-Meter."



Sign on swampland at Airport-Pulling Road and Tamiami Trail East announcing the future site of the Collier County Sheriff's new main office, jail and courthouse. In 1962 the county seat was moved to Naples from Everglades City, and the Naples Jail was built (called Building A). The current Building J Naples Jail was opened in 1985.



Deputies Byron Tomlinson Sr. and Gene Davis outside the CCSO Everglades substation in the 1980s.

100 Years Of CCSO



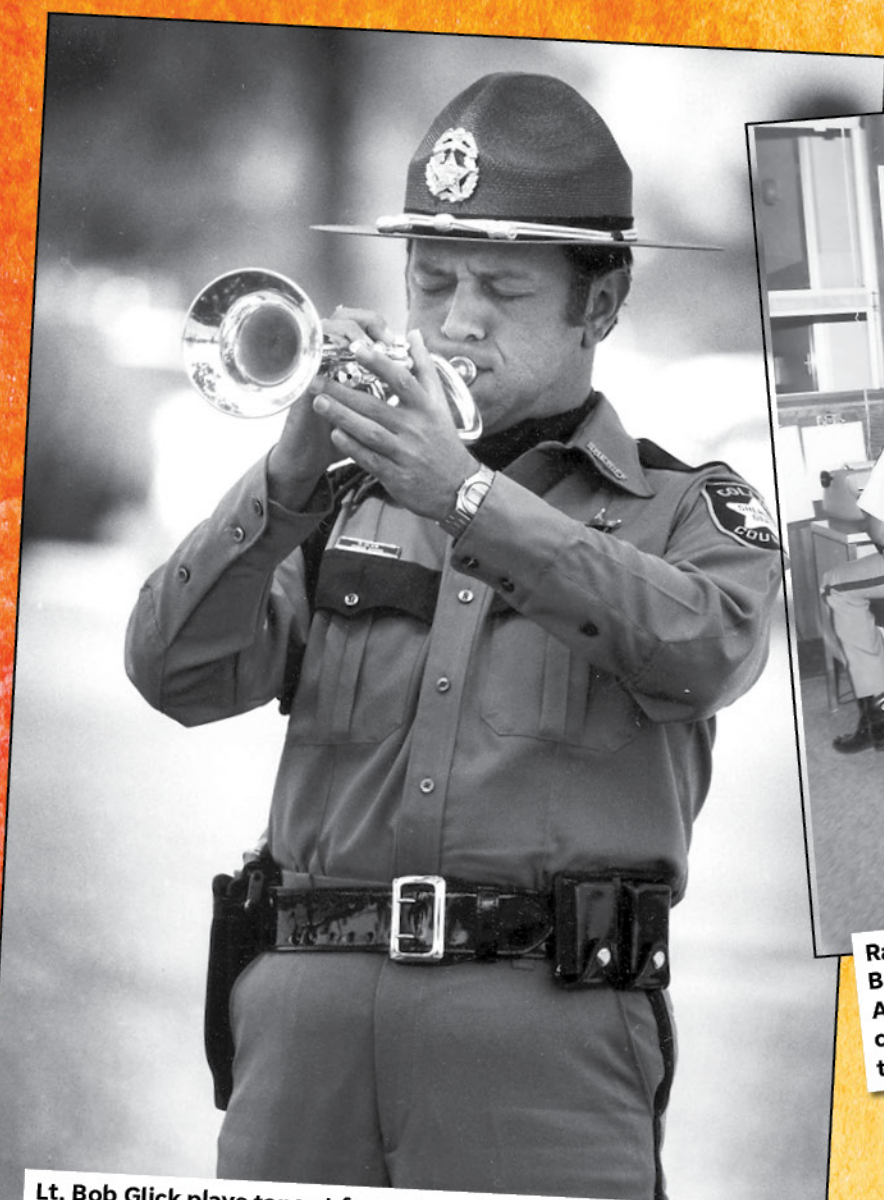
Sheriff Kevin Rambosk gets sprayed with water guns during a news conference on June 14, 2010, at North Collier Regional Park, where he announced the first Summerfest, the most ambitious summer youth program in Collier County Sheriff's Office history.



True to his promise county namesake Barron Giff Collier started building the Tamiami Trail within days of the county's creation on May 8, 1923. It was finished in April 1928 with a grand parade of cars from Miami and a celebration that featured dignitaries from across the nation.



Deputy William Hutto is shown in front of the first jail in Everglades in 1930. Hutto was the deputy head jailer and chief of police. Deputy Hutto would later be shot and killed in the line of duty on Christmas Eve 1931 while attempting to arrest a group of liquor handlers.



Lt. Bob Glick plays taps at funeral services for CCSO Cpl. Amedicus Quincy "Med" Howell. Cpl. Howell was shot and killed while pursuing five armed robbers on March 29, 1983 in Immokalee.



Radio operators (now called dispatchers) Deputy Paul McGee and Deputy Sharon Braswell in the old Building A, where the Collier County Courthouse currently is. A radio operator would take phone calls and write the information on a punch card which was inserted into the console which gave it a time stamp. A light on the map board would show what area was busy.

100 Years Of CCSO



Sheriff Aubrey Rogers was instrumental in founding the Collier County Junior Deputy League in the 1960s, bringing opportunities for children to go camping and to be mentored by deputies. Later, he helped establish the Junior Deputy Day at the Collier County Fair, a tradition that continues today.



First CCSO Honor Guard, 1980s: from left: Doug Caperton, Mark Caperton, Scott Black, Dave Johnson, Pat Mullen



Sheriff Rambosk is interviewed by the media in 2022 about how CCSO uses our Real-Time Operations Center (ROC) to keep Collier County safe. "We are using technology and our analysts in the ROC to help us not only address crime, but prevent it as well," Sheriff Rambosk said. "This is the future of policing and public safety."



From left, CCSO Deputies Bob Melin, Scott Barnett and Bert Morris shown in one of agency's first marine patrol boats during Operation Everglades, one of the nation's biggest marijuana smuggling crackdowns, in the early 1980s.



Sheriff Don Hunter rides along with the CCSO Mounted Patrol in the 2007 Swamp Buggy Parade in Naples. Don Hunter served as Collier's sixth sheriff from 1989 to 2009. He succeeded Aubrey Rogers, who retired.