

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GILL LINEBERRY, A VERY SPECIAL MAN.



Gilliam T. Lineberry

LINEBERRY, GILLIAM T. (N4VOX), died peaceably with family and friends surrounding him on August 22, 2008. Gill, born November 4, 1935, began his career as a young lifeguard in Jacksonville Beach, then onto the police department in Jacksonville rising to Deputy Chief. Moving to Orlando, he was employed by and retired from the City of Orlando Police Department. He was a volunteer with the Red Cross, at one time managing the Orlando offices. Gill also was an avid HAM radio operator and a member of the Navy Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) program. A memorial service to celebrate Gill's life will be held on August 28th at 7pm at the Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 1121 Oasis St., New Braunfels, Texas. Gill's life was dedicated to serving the public and saving others. His favorite position was as a lifeguard, and he will be honored with the lifeguard burial at sea ceremony in Jacksonville Beach on September 27th at 9am. Gill is survived by wife, Sue Lineberry of New Braunfels, Texas; stepdaughters Shawna Collins and Tamara Turner also of New Braunfels; daughter Meri Szikney (Raymond) of Orlando; sister Linda (Bill) McKenzie of Tampa; brother Tom (Debra) Lineberry of Orlando; granddaughters Claire Szikney and Toni Clemens of Orlando; grandsons Hayden Turner and "best buddy" MJ Collins of New Braunfels; best friend Marilyn Ward of Lexington, South Carolina; and numerous nieces and nephews. Gill is preceded in death by his daughter Lisa Lineberry. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Gill's name may be given to the Abundant Grace Church or the American Red Cross Volunteer Lifesaving Corp at #2 Oceanfront N., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250.

Published in the Orlando Sentinel on 8/26/2008

<http://www.legacy.com/OrlandoSentinel/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=116425455>

From: Marilyn Ward - mward@npstc.org

To: opdra@earthlink.net

Sent: 8/24/2008 11:38:49 AM

Subject: Gill services

There will be a memorial service for Gill Thursday August 28th at 7 p.m. at the:

Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship Church

1121 Oasis St

New Braunfels., TX 78130

The Web site is: <http://agcfnb.org/>

The phone number is 830-626-3700

Pastor Collins (Gill's brother in law) will be conducting the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Gill's name should be made to the church or the American Red Cross Volunteer Lifesaving Corps. Tropical storm Fay did a lot of damage to the lifeguard station and they can use the help for repairs.

Gill's family will bring his ashes to the lifeguard station in Jacksonville Beach located at #2 Oceanfront N (end of Beach Blvd) phone number 904/249-9141

for his burial at sea service on September 27th at 0900. This will be on the beach and casual attire is encouraged. For those who know Gill, they understand that he would want it that way!

The beach is not conducive to flowers, memorials in Gill's name to the church or ARC Volunteer Lifesaving Corps are appropriate. Mail to #2 Oceanfront N., Jacksonville Beach, Fl 32250.

Attached is also information on a Holiday Inn very close to the station. We have negotiated a \$109 room rate, which includes breakfast and is good Friday and Saturday nights. Please call the number on the brochure and identify yourself as the Linda McKenzie party for the group rate. If there is interest, we are thinking of a poolside get together Friday night, so if you would like to attend, please let me know. Their website is:

www.hiejaxbeach.com Marilyn

Marilyn Ward, Executive Director

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, NPSTC

318 Palmer Drive, Lexington, SC 29072, Call (803) 960.4339 npstc.org





From: Meri Szikney - mszikney@cfl.rr.com
Subject: My tribute to Gill in newsletter (See Meri with her Dad above.)

I am Gill Lineberry's daughter, Meri. I work in Recruiting at OPD and have been with the city 13 years. His other daughter, my sister, passed away in 2004. Would you please put this attachment from me in the newsletter? Thanks so much. Meri

A few words about my Dad: By Meri Szikney

My dad took good care of our family; my mother Miriam, my sister Lisa, and me. He worked hard to be able to provide for us, and beyond. He helped my niece, Toni, quite a bit and enjoyed visiting my daughter, Claire. Daddy always stayed home and had his friends over every week to play cards.

I remember, as a child, going out to the garage to play with his trains and talk on the CB radio. I remember him waking my sister and me very late one night to drive down to OBT to see a huge warehouse burning down. He'd heard the call go out on the radio. I'll never forget standing on the sidewalk in our nightgowns watching it.

When he belonged to the American Red Cross, I remember him bringing me to an over-with bad situation, probably a storm (I was about 10), to walk sodas and water down to different intersections where OPD officers were directing traffic. Every year when the fair came to downtown, he worked in the Red Cross trailer and could get us in for free. I remember thinking that was so much fun!

He was the parent who schlepped my friends and me around to the movies, roller skating rinks, and to my friend's homes. I will always remember the vacations we took together, and the times he gave me comfort and encouragement in my adolescent years.

He sure did enjoy helping people, and he taught me the importance of that. He had a very strong work ethic and taught me to endure the tough times in my work. He really wanted me to stay with the City and earn a retirement there. He strongly encouraged me to put all I could into deferred comp.

It was so hard watching him leave us for Texas. But, I was glad he was happy there. It turned out to be a great decision, and Sue and her family were very good to him. Of course, we stayed in touch and I sent him many cards and pictures. We got to see each other about every nine months, on average.

As a parent, I hope I will be the role model for my daughter that he was for us. It is clear that as he was declining in health the past few weeks, he was holding on for Claire and me to get there. He was admitted to ICU the very evening we left.

I miss him greatly and know that we will be together again. Thanks for reading.

TRIBUTES

FROM MARILYN WARD - mward@npstc.org

When Gill became ill, the Chapter President of the Communications Association we have been active in, APCO, asked me to write a tribute to him, and I was very honored to do so. I wrote it on the 8th of August and had Gill review and “approve” it. He loved it, and so I am going to use a large part of it here for the retirees to see how interesting his life was. Gill passed away **August 22, 2008** with a room full of his Texas family members present. I was fortunate to have gone back to Texas this week to be there also, and was able to say goodbye to my good friend.

I have been friends with Gill for over thirty years and have heard many of his exploits, some that I cannot write about here! I will miss him more than I ever could explain in words.

August 8th 2008,
Gilliam T. Lineberry

Gill worked as a teenager in the soda shop on Edgewater Drive by his family’s home. He hated making milkshakes so his way around making them was to dump all the little milk cartons out so he could honestly say the milk was gone! This was just a beginning – Gill taught us all to find an answer to our problems, jump over or go around those hurdles that get in our way. In his case, he had no tears for all that spilled milk.

Gill’s favorite job was as a lifeguard at Jacksonville Beach. He still keeps in touch with many of the guys he worked with and plans a lifeguard service when he passes. He loves the water, loves to teach people to swim, and often spoke about the fun he had body surfing with the sand sharks. Gill saved many people while at Jacksonville Beach and just recently he was honored for saving two people at one time in a strong current back in 1963 (report attached with pictures). This award meant so much to Gill, even though it took 45 years for him to be honored! As a hobby, he started painting small model trucks to look like the ones they drove when he was on the beach. Attached are some of his lifeguard pictures, young and thinner, those were the days!

Gill went from lifeguarding to the Jacksonville Beach Police Department where he was a K-9 officer. Always one to make a point, when the midnight patrol officers were told not to congregate in the station, he added a roll of toilet paper to his gun belt alongside his equipment and showed up to lineup with a grin on his face. Gill protected Martin Luther King, trained new officers, rebelled against management, and ended up the assistant police chief! They sent him to Chicago to attend a police management school for a year at Northwestern University where he learned how to think. He later figured I needed to think too, so sent me to a month long NWU police management school at IPTM where I was the first non-sworn student and a woman too. As you can imagine, that was an interesting month; however it did lead to many other non-sworn attendees at IPTM classes. Someday I will write another article about the card games in my room during that month! Or, maybe not.

Gill came to Orlando after being involved in a shooting that killed one of his visiting police officer friends from Northwestern University who was with him on a ride along. A bullet went thru Gill’s ear and his hat. After the shooting, he moved his wife and children to Orlando and helped his family manage their moving business. They moved Navy families into, and out of, the Orlando Navy Base. Gill is a natural leader and of course joined the Chamber Of Commerce. He was very active in Orlando politics, and during this time period also worked with trainers of Special Forces soldiers. He gave them fits during their drills!

When they got ready to sell the business, the mayor offered him a position with the City of Orlando where he became the Clerk of the Courts. As the Clerk, he managed the City’s courts system and did that until 1977 when a new state law dissolved the municipal courts and merged them with county courts. During this time he was also a volunteer in charge of the Red Cross in Orlando where he was responsible for several large operations and also taught swimming. He used the rescue tank (pool) in the police building to teach many employees how to swim, and officers how to life save in the water.

In 1977, the mayor promised him a job in the police department, so Gill turned down a deputy fire chief position. However, the mayor never said where the position in police department would be.

Gill wanted a city pension, so when offered to manage the administrative area of police records and ultimately communications, he took it. As an avid HAM operator, communications ended up being perfect for him. As a dispatcher at that time, I was thrilled to have him come to communications and improve our systems! Things were a mess, with no operational procedures, structured training, promotions, or civilian supervisory positions.

Gill provided the needed leadership and recognized that some of us troublemakers were trying to change things from the bottom up. He promoted five of us and my career, with him as mentor, took off. Gill introduced me to APCO and encouraged me to start a training program for OPD and FI APCO. I would never have stepped out without his constant encouragement. Many of us have Gill to thank for his involvement in our careers.

After Gill retired from the City of Orlando, he stayed very involved with communications at many levels. He is still active in the Navy MARS (Military Affiliate Radios System) program, taught HAM operators, worked HAMFESTS, tested for HAM operator licenses, and remained an APCO Florida frequency advisor for 2 years after moving to Texas to marry his wife Sue.

In Texas Gill got a new lease on life. His family is a very close religious family and his brother-in-law is a pastor. Gill's wife Sue is a wonderful person who loves him and takes care of him. She sings beautifully too which gives him great joy.

His grandson "MJ" is a 5-year old pistol, who is Gill's "buddy." MJ prays with Gill and I would guess will be the next pastor in the family when he grows up. I had reservations about him leaving Florida but it has been the best decision in his life. I am lucky to be able to visit and have also grown very fond of his family. The Lord does work in mysterious ways; my loss when he left Florida ended up being my gain in meeting Sue and her family. My first visit to Texas was to serve as Gill's "best woman" in their wedding, I had no idea I would get so attached to them all.

Gill is an interesting person who loves God, his family, his friends, and his work. Everyone should be as lucky as I to have him as a mentor and friend.

Gill passed away on August 22, 2008 at the age of 72. There was a service at his family's church in Texas and a date for a lifeguard funeral at Jacksonville Beach the last weekend in September.

STEVE MICCICHE - smicciche@systemsandmanagement.com

My condolences to Gill's family. While the years have passed and Gill's path and mine no longer crossed, I remembered him from my OPD days with fond memories. He always had a smile on his face and was a cheerful man.

FROM: RICHARD OVERMAN - roverman1@cfl.rr.com

What a loss. They don't come any better than Gill Lineberry, a true gentleman and a man's man. I count it a privilege to have known and worked with him. Our sympathy goes out to his family and close friends.
Rick and Sharon Overman

SAM INGS - Samuel.Ings@CityofOrlando.net

Thanks, Guy Ann and Marilyn for the updates on Gil. I have been praying for him and his family and friends.
Commissioner Ings

Many people cared about Gill. Most messages went to the family. We send our deepest sympathy for all you loved Gill.



Gill at a reunion.



Gill Receiving his award

GILL WROTE THIS IN 1990 FOR THE NEWSLETTER

GILL LINEBERRY

1973 – 1990

I was Clerk of the Municipal Court. I was an appointed level Dept. Head, appointed by Carl Langford. Bob Chewning was Chief and he and I were on the same level and both of us reported to the Mayor.

January 3, 1977 Municipal Courts were closed, and I was transferred to Police Department. A new division was created, Court Services Division by Chief Jim York and I was the manager. In the police department, I reported to Major/Deputy Chief Bob Strange.

In Court Services, my first squad was Lt. Jim Lovett, Sgts. Pegues, Dorough, Donalson, Chuck Murray, and a couple of others that reported to me.

The first car I was assigned had been Kitty Hutter's unmarked Nash, she wore spiked high heels and the floor mat had a big hole by the accelerator where her heel wore it out. Then I was assigned an ex-K9 station wagon that stunk, it had been repainted baby blue. I went out to airport one day to pick up some VIP that was coming to the department, and the front passenger door fell off when the VIP closed his door. I pulled up to MJB (now OPH) with the door in the back, and he was laughing his head off, just glad he had a seat belt. Later on, they reduced the number of cars and I lost my city car. I bought an old white Dodge from Sgt. Tom Leblanc for \$200.00. There were a lot of old white dodges that were ex-patrol cars still owned by the city. One day Major K.T. Smith called me up to his office and told me to take my Dodge out to motor transport and turn it in. I told him no way, and he said, "I gave you an order. Do it!" Then I dawned on me that he thought it was a city owned vehicle.

I used my personal car and it had several radios, ham and police in it.

As Clerk of The Court, the bailiffs worked for me and we had our own cell block, I was sworn in as a special officer and carried a Colt Detective Special. You just had to qualify on the range with the weapon you carried.

I think in 1977 there were 480 sworn and about 70 Civilian. This was after the Detention Bureau was transferred to the county.

We used Motorola UHF portable radios from 1968 until the 800 MHz trunked radio system came on line in 1995.

The only computer in the department until the early 1980s was the Boroughs main frame operated by Sgt. Jimmy Moore. In 1980 Orlando became the second city in the US to get Enhanced 911. I had just taken over communications and we had a constant stream of visitors from all over the country coming to look at our new 911 system. In 1983, Chief Walsh sent me to IPTM in Jacksonville for a 3 week school on personal computers. This was before even Microsoft and the PCs we were taught on used a CPM operating system.

When I got back, Chief Walsh asked me what I thought and I told him to have someone count how many desks there were in OPD and budget for that many PCs. Everyone laughed. Even I was wrong as some people ended up with two computers. I bought a Commodore 64 and used it at home with radio system passing information on the Navy-Marine Corps MARS radio system.

In 1985, I got the money for computer aided dispatching (CAD) and IBM came in with a low bid on an old System 36 system that was terrible. I also bought 4 IBM PCs, the first for the department. They had 10 megabyte hard drives and I was told I sure wasted the city's money; no one could ever use that much storage. Three of them almost immediately went up to the 3rd floor and in less than two years, they were outdated and used as door stops. Chief Walsh was a big supporter of computerization. He brought Lawson Lamar, who was sheriff then, in several times to look at our CAD system, but Lawson didn't think it was a good idea. OPD really led the way in most modern technologies.

Back in the days of paper reports, there was a unit called Report Review and there was a constant battle between patrol and report review. When I took over records, I was made the referee when they had big disputes. When the union first came in, they printed up t-shirts that said they would strike if they could. At one of the management staff meetings, we were discussing what we would do if there was "blue flu" or something like that. I said the first thing we will have to do is get rid of report review as no command officer would ever get a report past them.

I taught first aid in the police academy for the Red Cross before coming to work for the city. When MJB opened, I was invited to come down for the grand opening and I was taken on a tour by Cadet Jack Stacey. Jack was active with me in the Red Cross in his youth. After MJB opened, I also taught basic life saving skills in the pool to the recruit classes.

We had the Parramore riot and for several days radio was non-stop. I had to make up charts to help establish cordons that were required on every call into the area. We worked 12 hours shifts.

In the early 1980s we had the search for Regina May Armstrong. A command post was established in an old building at NTC and we had radio operators assigned there for several days.

We had a Rolling Stone concert in the Citrus Bowl and I knew that with all the noise that no officer would be able to hear their radios. Motorola used a weird way of using a head set, and they were very expensive. There was a small company on OBT that was building radios and I went to them and they showed me how to build a box that would permit us to use cheap headsets connected to the radios. What a weekend that was.

The department bought a mobile command post, and we had to change the radio systems in it a couple of times.

I had retired when World Cup Soccer came to town. Marilyn Ward and Chief Tom Hurlburt asked me to come help out set up communications for the games. This included building the command center at City Hall.

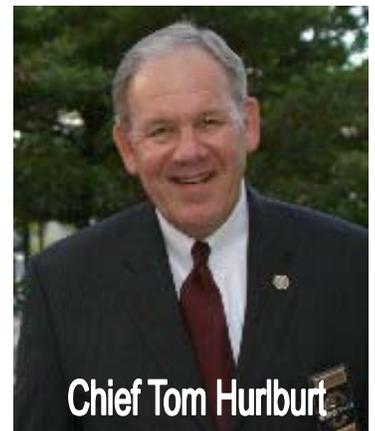
Tom Sorley got involved and we received many compliments. One pilot from the Border Patrol said he had been to events all over the nation, and this was the first one he had ever seen that thought about all of the units that would be involved and included them in the plans.

Early on in communications I started creating CIP budgets for major systems that I knew would be needed. The trunked radio system had a CIP number that showed it started in 1984, but was over 10 years getting it funded, built and put into operation.

When I was asked to take over five sergeants assigned as shift supervisors and I wanted them replaced with civilian supervisors. There was just no progression for civilian employees. The department agreed, much to the delight of Sgts. Mike McCoy, Digger O'Dell, Joe Dowling, Hoke Dorough and George Pegues.



Marilyn Ward



Chief Tom Hurlburt

I was always and still am critical of the city for not creating better career paths for employees. The federal government did very good when they created the GS, or general schedule, that permits an employee qualified to be a GS 3 or what ever level, to transfer to any job in any department where there is an opening for their GS level.

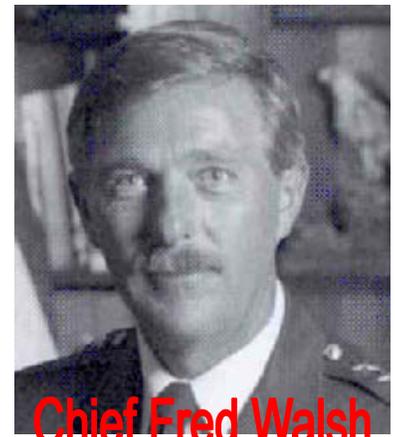
When I took over communications there were no breaks, no meal periods, nothing. You were expected to eat at your desk or console and lucky if you ever got to go to the bathroom. The turnover rate was almost 90% per year. It took a lot of battles but we finally got some over hires so we could give breaks, training improved and one year even got the turnover rate below 20%. I set my goal at a rate of 25% and it was hard to maintain. I was so very fortunate that I had good support from above and my first two promotions were Marilyn Ward and Carol Feagan. I could never have accomplished all that I did without the two of them.

One unique thing we did was to get City Hall to require building permits for structures over 3 stories to come through communications for comment. The tall building that started springing up downtown was killing our microwave system that connected the radio receiver sites. That system also became a model that was copied in many states.

I said earlier that the department was always a leader in technology, but another great thing about OPD was you could try new things. Not everything we did was a success, but you learned and moved on. I knew so many people that worked in departments that wouldn't let them try anything. In fact, at a state meeting of communications people there had been several presentations by Marilyn and myself. But the last meeting I warned the others that they may not work in an environment that permitted experiments. I was really worried that someone would try to copy us and get fired.

Little did I know that the primary reason I felt so bad was I had cancer. I didn't learn this until shortly after retiring. I wish I had know, it sure would have made a big difference, but I don't look back and don't have regrets. I found that I had lung cancer and it changed my life dramatically. I was never able to do many things after that I had dreamed of for years.

I was very proud of OPD and was so glad that I was given the opportunity to participate in its operation. I am sure that I was in pain in the butt to several chiefs, but I can truthfully say everything I ever wanted was for the department, not for me. Of course my sense of humor kept me in trouble. One morning as I was coming in to work, several detectives were waiting on the ground floor for the elevator. There was a great big box, it contained a five drawer lateral filing cabinet, by the elevator and was marked Communications. One of the investigators said, wonder what communications is getting now, very sarcastically. I said, "Oh that must be the new fire place I ordered for the break room." By the time I got to my desk, the phone rang and I was told Chief Walsh wanted to see me right now. I went up there and he asked me if I had bought a fireplace. I laughed and told him the story. I don't think Fred thought it was near as funny as I did.



FOLKS I FOUND A MESSAGE GILL SENT AFTER KATRINA. IT SHOWS WHAT A GREAT HUMANITARIAN HE WAS. THIS IS WHAT HE WROTE:

GILL LINEBERRY - glineberry@satx.rr.com

I don't know what the world's record for longest traffic jam is, but we had more than one today. From Houston to San Antonio is about 180 miles and it was solid jam for about 160 of those miles. We finally started getting evacuees from Houston this afternoon. The sad part is most them were on the road about 18 hours to get here. They came in tired, sweaty, hungry and frustrated. Gas was almost non existent and they had to turn off the air conditioning in the cars to save fuel. Most places had run out of food along the way. I felt so sorry for them.

We welcomed them, gave them chicken and dressing with corn. Plenty of cold drinks. Many wanted a shower. You have never such a change that about 30 minutes made. Anger turned to appreciation. They could not believe when they were shown where they were going to sleep and the privacy they had. One fellow said I'm not going to lie, it was not worth 18 hours, but this is one great place.

Another man walked in the door with his wife, his two children and an older woman. He said he had a travel trailer and had gone to several camping parks but they wanted \$75.00 per night with no utility hookups. He didn't know we were operating a shelter until he came in and saw the signs. He said he just felt that if he could find a church with a big parking lot they might let him spend a couple of nights. I told him we could do better than that. It was his choice, he could come into the building and we could give them a converted Sunday school room with beds for them all, or if he wanted to sleep in the trailer we had a place he could park it that has water, electricity and a sewer hookup. He asked me how much it would be to hook up his trailer. When I told him it was free, and he could come in and eat all of his meals with the rest of us if he wished. He looked at his wife and said "I told you we needed to find a church". By the time he got parked and hooked up he came in and asked if we really did have something for supper. He saw the serving line and for supper we had spaghetti with meat sauce, two different types of salad and mixed vegetables. That was one happy camper, including his whole family.

We got 51 people in this afternoon and there are more good stories. But to keep it short they were all happy to be with us.

The sad part is we have been talking via cell phone with several other families since yesterday. Many of them gave up after 10 or more hours and getting nowhere, no food, no gas except for the 5 gallons at a time the state started giving out if the car was on empty. These people were afraid they were going to be stranded out on the open highway with a category 5 hurricane coming at them. They turned around and said they would take their chances at home in Houston. I hope they all survive.

We had made commitments to man people that gave up and didn't continue. We had turned away other walkups that heard about us because we were saving the space. So those people had to go on to San Antonio to stay in the warehouse at Kelly Field. I'm sure there will be more tomorrow that will fill us up.

Your prayers worked, as the storm did turn more to the north than they expected and that means much less danger to us. I thank you for praying for us.

I must tell you this. Many people in Florida sent us donations. I have told so many people that the good things we have to offer came from many sources including a lot of people in Florida, many of whom are retired policemen. This is not a request for funds. I just want you to know that so many of you had a hand in making it possible to serve people in need. Many of the people that we have together helped have asked me to thank you for them. So thank you and when things calm down a little we will send you each a letter.

This time we opened up we had the complete backing of local government officials. Sadly, the Red Cross was not happy that we were again opening a shelter. At a meeting today, Bubba had a hard time controlling his temper with the Red Cross manager. Bubba finally said, "The church was helping people long before there was a Red Cross so we don't need any advice from you". I was the disaster chairman for the Central Florida Red Cross Chapter for several years. I tried to enlist churches and other groups all the time. I worked out an agreement with the Adventist for them to take over all clothing activities. When people donated clothing to us we turned it over to the Adventist. When we needed clothing they provided all we wanted. The Reformed Church in Pine Hills was a great ally and did so much for us. But now the Red Cross seems to want to do it alone. By the way, the local Red Cross office did tell some evacuees about us and told them how to get to our place. They fight us in public and then on the sly tell people about us. The Red Cross had nothing to offer in New Bruanfels.

Two other churches finally opened shelters this afternoon and we gave both of them some extra pillows and other supplies we had. We sure support other churches getting involved. The Catholic Church asked us to hold 20 beds for them until tomorrow. We said we would.

It's late; I'm tired and going to fall in bed. But I wanted you to know that your prayers mean so much, the money you sent continues to help people directly and that I feel we are all in this together. I have some of the best friends in the world and fell in with a great group of people in Texas. I going to bed happy and hope that you do also.

HERE IS A QUESTIONNAIRE THAT GILL ANSWERED:

gill lineberry <glineberry@prodigy.net>

05/05/2004 11:28 AM

YourName: Gill Lineberry

1. What years did you work at OPD?

1973 to 1977 I was Clerk Of The Municipal Court, I was an appointed level Dept. Head, Appointed by Carl Langford. Bob Chewning was Chief and he and I were on the same level and both of us reported to the Mayor. January 3, 1977 Municipal Courts were closed and I was transferred to Police Department. A new division was created, Court Services Division by Chief Jim York and I was the manager.

2. Who was Chief of Police? Who was Mayor?

see above

Who was your first supervisor?

In the police department I reported to Major/Deputy Chief Bob Strange.

4. Who was in your first squad?

Court Services I had Lt. Jim Lovett, Sgts. Pegues, Dorough, Donalson, Chuck Murray, and a couple of others that reported to me.

5. What make and model cars were used?

The first car I was assigned had been Kitty Hutters unmarked Nash, she wore spiked high heels and the floor mat had a big hole by the accelerator where her heel wore it out. Then I was assigned an ex-K9 station wagon that stunk, it had been repainted baby blue. I went out to airport one day to pick up some VIP that was coming to the department, and the front passenger door fell off when the VIP closed his door. I pulled up to MJB(now OPH) with the door in the back and he was laughing his head off, just glad he had a seat belt. Later on the reduced the number of cars and I lost my city car. I bought an old white Dodge from Sgt. Tom Leblanc for \$200.00. There were a lot of old white dodges that were ex-patrol cars still owned by the city. One day Major K.T. Smith called me up to his office and told me to take my Dodge out to motor transport and turn it in. I told him no way, and he said, "I gave you an order, do it!" Then it dawned on me that he thought it was a city owned vehicle.

6. What type motorcycles were used? N/A

7. What gear was carried in your mode of transportation?

I used my personal car and it had several radios, ham and police in it.

What gun was the most popular?

As Clerk of The Court, the bailiffs worked for me and we had our own cell block, I was sworn in as a special officer and carried a Colt Detective Special. You just had to qualify on the range with the weapon you carried.

9. Approximately how many sworn employees were there?

I think in 1977 there were 480 sworn and about 70 Civilian. This was after the Detention Bureau was transferred to the county.

10. What type of radios did you use?

We used Motorola UHF portable radios from 1968 until the 800 MHz trunked radio system came on line in 1995.

11. What technology did your era use?

The only computer in the department until the early 1980s was the Boroughs main frame operated by Sgt. Jimmy Moore. In 1980 Orlando became the second city in the US to get Enhanced 911. I had just taken over communications and we had a constant stream of visitors from all over the country coming to look at our new 911 system. In 1983, Chief Walsh sent me to IPTM in Jacksonville for a 3 week school on personal computers. This was before even Microsoft and the PCs we were taught on used a CPM operating system. When I got back, Chief Walsh asked me what I thought and I told him to have someone count how many desks there were in OPD and budget for that many PCs. Everyone laughed. Even I was wrong as some people ended up with two computers. I bought a Commodore 64 and used it at home with radio system passing information on the Navy-Marine Corps MARS radio system. In 1985, I got the money for computer aided dispatching (CAD) and IBM came in with a low bid on an old System 36 system that was terrible. I also bought 4 IBM PCs, the first for the department. They had 10 megabyte hard drives and I was told I sure wasted the city's money; no one could ever use that much storage. Three of them almost immediately went up to the 3rd floor and in less than two years, they were outdated and used as door stops. Chief Walsh was a big supporter of computerization. He brought Lawson Lamar, who was sheriff then, in several times to look at our CAD system, but Lawson didn't think it was a good idea. OPD really led the way in most modern technologies.

When you wrote your reports, was it by hand? Was it duplicated by carbon paper or electronically, or other?

Back in the days of paper reports, there was a unit called Report Review and there was a constant battle between patrol and report review. When I took over records, I was made the referee when they had big disputes. When the union first came in, they printed up t-shirts that said they would strike if they could. At one of the management staff meetings, we were discussing what we would do if there was "blue flu" or something like that. I said the first we will have to do is get rid of report review as no command officer would ever get a report past them.

13. What type of defensive gear did you carry? N/A

14. 15. I will leave this for retired sworn.

16. When the Patrol officers patrolled, did they I hope someone remembers the motor scooter that was used for downtown patrol.

18. Did you work in the "old" building? If so, give all memories you have of those times.
NO

19. Were you here when the new building was built? If so, give your memories of that time.
I taught first aid in the police academy for the Red Cross before coming to work for the city. When MJB opened, I was invited to come down for the grand opening and I was taken on a tour by Cadet Jack Stacey. Jack was active with me in the Red Cross in his youth. After MJB opened, I also taught basic life saving skills in the pool to the recruit classes.

20. List all major events that occurred during your era.

We had the Parramore riot and for several days radio was non-stop. I had to make up charts to help establish cordons that were required on every call into the area. We worked 12 hours shifts.

In the early 1980s we had the search for Regina May Armstrong. A command post was established in an old building at NTC and we had radio operators assigned there for several days.

We had a Rolling Stone concert in the Citrus Bowl and I knew that with all the noise that no officer would be able to hear their radios. Motorola used a weird way of using a head set, and they were very expensive. There was a small company on OBT that was building radios and I went to them and they showed me how to build a box that would permit us to use cheap headsets connected to the radios. What a weekend that was.

The department bought a mobile command post and we had to change the radio systems in it a couple of times.

I had retired when World Cup Soccer came to town. Marilyn Ward and Chief Tom Hurlburt asked me to come help set up communications for the games. This included building the command center at City Hall. Tom Sorley got involved and we received many compliments. One pilot from the Border Patrol said he had been to events all over the nation, and this was the first one he had ever seen that thought about all of the units that would be involved and included them in the plans.

Early on in communications I started creating CIP budgets for major systems that I knew would be needed. The trunked radio system had a CIP number that showed it started in 1984, but was over 10 years getting it funded, built and put into operation.

When I was asked to take over communications, I said OK, but at that time there were 5 sergeants assigned as shift supervisors and I wanted them replaced with civilian supervisors. There was just no progression for civilian employees. The department agreed, much to the delight of Sgts. Mike McCoy, Digger O'Dell, Joe Dowling, Hoke Dorough and George Pegues. I was always and still am critical of the city for not creating better career paths for employees. The federal government did very good when they created the GS, or general schedule, that permits an employee qualified to be a GS 3 or what ever level, to transfer to any job in any department where there is an opening for their GS level.

When I took over communications there were no breaks, no meal periods, nothing. You were expected to eat at your desk or console and lucky if you ever got to go to the bathroom. The turnover rate was almost 90% per year. It took a lot of battles but we finally got some over hires so we could give breaks, training improved and one year even got the turnover rate below 20%. I set my goal at a rate of 25% and it was hard to maintain. I was so very fortunate that I had good support from above and my first two promotions were Marilyn Ward and Carol Feagan. I could never have accomplished all that I did without the two of them.

One unique thing we did was to get City Hall to require building permits for structures over 3 stories to come through communications for comment. The tall building that started springing up downtown was killing our microwave system that connected the radio receiver sites. That system also became a model that was copied in many states.

I said earlier that the department was always a leader in technology, but another great thing about OPD was you could try new things. Not everything we did was a success, but you

learned and moved on. I knew so many people that worked in departments that wouldn't let them try anything. In fact, at a state meeting of communications people there had been several presentations by Marilyn and myself. But the last meeting I warned the others that they may not work in an environment that permitted experiments. I was really worried that someone would try to copy us and get fired.

21. Was your retirement medical? If so, would you give your medical reason? I took an early retirement at maximum penalty.

Little did I know that the primary reason I felt so bad was I had cancer. I didn't learn this until shortly after retiring. I wish I had know, it sure would have made a big difference, but I don't look back and don't have regrets. I found that I had lung cancer and it changed my life dramatically. I was never able to do many things after that I had dreamed of for years.

22. Write about any of you particularly fond memories of OPD and what the department meant to you.

I was very proud of OPD and was so glad that I was given the opportunity to participate in its operation. I am sure that I was in pain in the butt to several chiefs, but I can truthfully say everything I ever wanted was for the department, not for me. Of course my sense of humor kept me in trouble. One morning as I was coming in to work, several detectives were waiting on the ground floor for the elevator. There was a great big box, it contained a 5 drawer lateral filing cabinet, by the elevator and was marked Communications. One of the investigators said, wonder what communications is getting now, very sarcastically. I said, Oh that must be the new fire place I ordered for the break room. By the time I got to my desk, the phone rang and I was told Chief Walsh wanted to see me right now. I went up there and he asked me if I had bought a fireplace. I laughed and told him the story. I don't think Fred thought it was near as funny as I did.

Please send any updates on your life! (2004)

I am now getting back into communications. I was granted life membership in the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps MARS radio system and as such am not required to participate, but I am moving into a new home with a nice radio room so I am getting back active with them. I have also just completed the third and final on-line class for Emergency Communications under a grant from Homeland Security to the amateur radio groups. I am meeting with the sheriff in this small county that I live in and helping to set up a radio group. I once said that I was really lucky in that ham radio was my primary hobby and at OPD I got to mix vocation with my avocation. I have just been blessed all my life and expect to keep on keeping on. Gill Lineberry

GILL LINEBERRY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

From: Marilyn Ward - mward@npstc.org

Gill's service was wonderful! The Jax Bch PD and lifeguards did a one of a kind joint service. Here are some pictures- there was a 21 gun salute, and flag presentation, and the oars up on the lifeguard boat was when he returned to the sea. It was a beautiful day and I am sure he loved it!

Thanks for helping getting the information out to the retirees, it was great seeing them again. Marilyn





MIKE ROSS - MRGLKFL@GMAIL.COM

I am so sorry I can not make the service-I will be out of town that day, Gill was a great man I was glad to have known him. My prayers are with the family and friends of our "Everybody's Friend" Mike Ross

*So long, Gill. Hope we get to see you
again some day!*